



Environmental Studies

Biodiversity Around us

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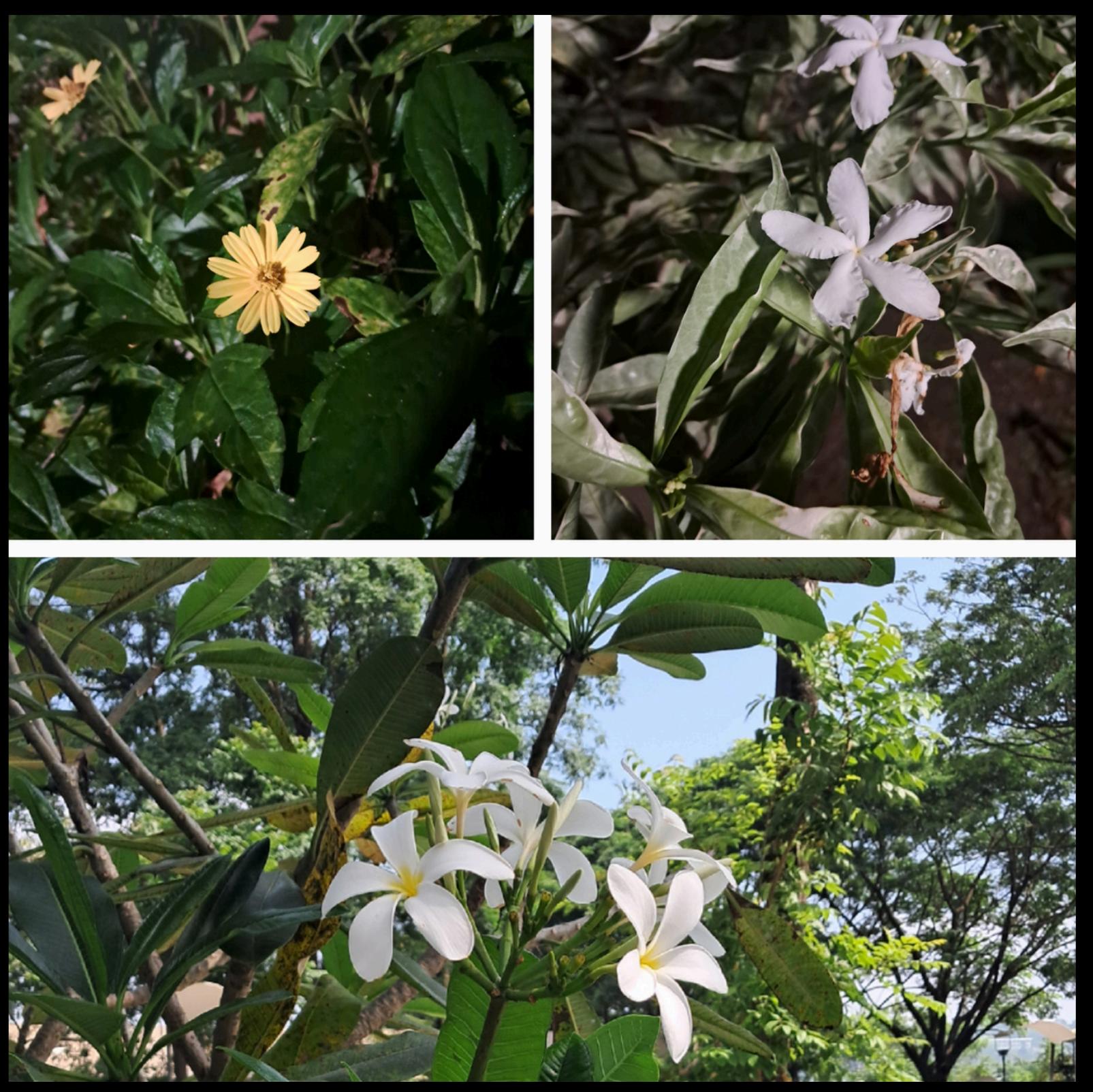


Date: October 3, 2024

Location: Flame Garden

The collage is of 3 flowers: Sphagneticola , trilobata , plumeria, and jasmine. All these flowers are pretty in color, but their plants are full of the Greenwich charm. I picked this collage as it symbolizes the beauty of nature and mathematics. Every flower on Earth follows the Fibonacci series, meaning their petals will be in numbers like 3, 5, 8, 13, and so on. Another reason is that these flowers are part of the ecosystem and provide nectar to bees. Due to this nectar, its smell, and its color, they attract bees and butterflies, which help with pollination and the reproduction of plants.

Humans do admire flowers for their beauty and make use of them for their various purposes, but these plants have formed part of the ecosystem and work on their own- coming out to attract pollinators and aid reproduction. There is no need for human interference for growth; that's why I consider this to be a "more-than-human" picture.



Date: September 25, 2024

Location: Mess Building Wall

In this picture a green algae growing on a damp section of a wall. I chose this image because it shows that how life can grow to unexpected places, even on man-made structures. Algae are organisms that perform photosynthesis and contribute to our ecosystem by producing oxygen during the process and it is also a food source for many organisms. Algae growth is a natural process despite being on a man-made wall and not requiring any human interaction.

I thought this algae was " more than human" because it shows how nature can reclaim any place if it wants. In the end, everything is made for it only. These algae are important parts of the ecosystem, especially for aquatic life, where they provide food and help increase oxygen levels. Hence, this image becomes a perfect example of nature's self-sustaining power.



Date: September 21, 2024

Location: West B Block Park, Flame University

THIS IS A PICTURE OF A BUNCH OF BAMBOO STALKS. BAMBOO, IN MY VIEW, HAVE MANY UNIQUE QUALITIES, SUCH AS THEIR STRENGTH, FLEXIBILITY, AND FAST GROWTH-A CHARACTERISTIC THAT IS SYNONYMOUS WITH RESILIENCE IN NATURE.

BAMBOO IS ONE OF THE FINEST PLANTS, WHICH TAKES YEARS TO GROW AN INCH, BUT DURING THAT TIME, IT IS STRENGTHENING ITS BASE BY DEVELOPING DEEP ROOTS. INSTEAD OF GROWING UPWARD IMMEDIATELY, IT HOLDS AND PENETRATES DEEP INTO THE SOIL, AND AFTER THAT, IT TAKES JUST WEEKS TO GROW TALL. THIS TEACHES AN IMPORTANT LESSON IN LIFE: IN THE EARLY STAGES, YOUR EFFORTS MAY NOT BE VISIBLE, BUT BY WORKING ON YOUR FOUNDATION, SUCCESS WILL FOLLOW.

BAMBOO IS CRITICAL TO MOST ECOSYSTEMS DUE TO THE FACT IT OFFERS SHELTER AND FOOD FOR MANY OF THE ANIMALS, INCLUDING BIRDS, INSECTS, AND SOMETIMES EVEN PANDAS IN LOCALITIES. I SEE BAMBOO AS "MORE-THAN-HUMAN" BECAUSE IT WORKS INDEPENDENTLY IN NATURE WITHOUT HUMAN INTERFERENCE AND ALSO TEACHES A VALUABLE LIFE LESSON.



DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2024

LOCATION: FLOOR OF WEST B BLOCK, FLAME UNIVERSITY

This is a photograph of a group of ants trying to collect some small pieces of food. I chose this image because ants are considered a most hard-working creatures. Although their size is small they are powerful symbols of teamwork in nature. In their colony, each person has their own specific role and they complete their task by dividing their work. Scientists have discovered many underground ant colonies of 2-3 k long and they are organized systematically which shows that they don't need anything from humans.

I found this image to a "more-than-human" because it shows how ants form complex networks and communities, sustaining their colonies through collective effort. Despite being one of the smallest creatures in nature they contribute significantly to the ecosystems by changing soil and decomposing organic matter. This picture shows an important workforce of nature that plays an important role in the ecosystem beyond human perception and control.



Date: September 7 2024
Location: Pune city road

This is a picture of two cows roaming on a road alongside a stream of water, probably in search of food. I picked this picture because it shows how animals, especially cows, suffer from human interference in their environment. Instead of grazing on green grasses, the cows are there searching for food in the dump yards and dirty streams. This is a picture that represents the sad reality of our society. Despite cows being sacred animals in India , it seems that they still undergo hardship.

This image portrays a "more-than-human" aspect as it shows how these animals have, in one way or another, adapted themselves to the degraded environments created by human beings. Such a scenario shows how animals, once integral to the balance of nature, are now struggling with human actions in their environment.

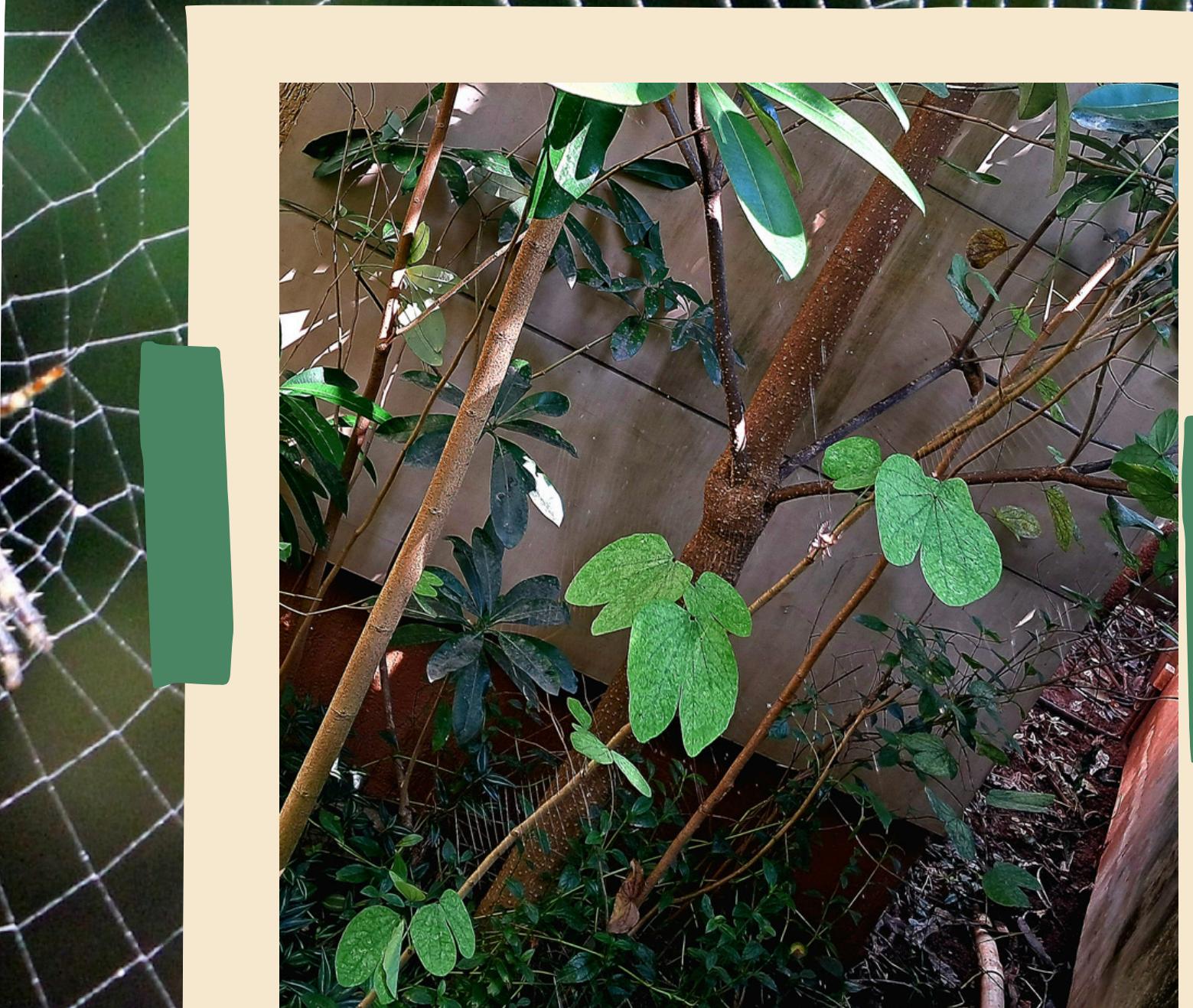


Date: September 7 2024

Location: Chandragupta Park, Flame University

It is the picture of a spider sitting in the middle of its web and waiting patiently for its next meal. This is the image I chose because the spider and its web present nature's handwork and also roleplayer in the food chain of predator and prey in ecosystems. The web is built with delicate attention, and the web serves as both a shelter and a hunting tool for spiders.

The fact that a spider can build and live without the interference of man makes it more than a human image. This spider web is engineering beauty within both strength and flexibility and it is made from the silk of the spider itself. The spider controls the population of insects and plays a crucial role in keeping ecosystems balanced thus Spiders are very necessary components of the natural world.



Date: October 2 2024

Location: Hall of Vikram Sarabhai,
Flame University

This is a photograph of a cobra snake whose body is coiled with its head lifted and it seems ready to strike. I chose this image because it perfectly demonstrates the instinct of survival and self-defense in animals. The position of the cobra gives a warning of its readiness to attack, which shows its need to protect itself in an environment that seems threatening to it.

I find this image as "more than human" because it shows the cobra's behavior in a dangerous situation. The snake's existence and defense mechanisms are part of a natural order and it does not require any human intervention. Despite being feared, the cobra plays a vital role in maintaining the balance of your ecosystem by controlling food chain populations.



Date: September 30, 2024

Location: Chandragupta Park, Flame University

This is a picture of decaying wood covered by mushrooms and fungi which break down slowly some parts of it as recycling by nature. This image was chosen because it perfectly shows what fungi do in an ecosystem: breaking down dead organic matter and returning nutrients of life to the soil. Mushrooms and fungi are the important decomposing agents of nature that can convert a living tree into components that will support new plant life.

This is more than human because it shows processes, which work naturally. The decomposing wood makes a place for fungi, insects, and microorganisms, an entire larger cycle of life. In decomposition, the process of decomposition plays a crucial part also in maintaining soil health and biodiversity.



Date: September 7, 2024

Location: Pune city AND Flame university

This is a collage of two dogs: one is a street dog searching for food in the garbage, while the other is a pet dog living peacefully.

I chose this image to highlight the contrast in the lives of street dogs and domestic pets. Dogs are considered the finest animals that can express their emotions through their eyes and their deep understanding of human emotions. While domestic dogs receive lots of love, care, and protection from everyone, street dogs face the harsh reality of the world.

Despite being one of the most loved animals, this love is only up to their pets which leave street dogs to feed on themselves. The street dog in the image searching for food in the dustbin shows the difficulties he faces daily. These differences show the "more-than-human" concept, of dogs, with their emotional intelligence and adaptability of dogs.



Date: September 20, 2024

Location: Chandragupta Garden.

This is a photograph of a beautiful banyan tree with its aerial roots that is going downward which creates an intricate web of life from above and below the surface. I chose this image because the banyan tree is symbolized as a self-sufficient tree. Its roots also grow from the branches and seek out the soil on their own to provide the tree with good water and nutrients. This process of finding new ways to sustain itself gives the tree a life extension.

The banyan tree is an example of the "more-than-human" concept because it describes how nature can evolve its survival mechanisms itself. The aerial roots not only enhance the structural integrity of the tree but also increase its reach and make it a living ecosystem that nurtures infinite numbers of animals, birds, and insects. How the banyan regenerates and adapts presents the self-sustaining power of nature.





Thank you