

ePaper

from the  
newsroom with  
student reporters

QUICK  
NEWS

2

WHAT'S ON

- Talk on vaccination
- Contest: Biodiversity

3

SONIC  
BOOM?

4

JULY 4, 2021 : 4 PAGES

# Y NEWS

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NEWS | INTERVIEWS | FEATURES | SPECIALS | PICTURES | INFO

## Naren Villuri collects seeds for a greener planet tomorrow

*Hussain Topiwala*



“After eating a fruit, do you throw its seeds away?”, asks 10-year-old Naren Villuri, studying in the sixth grade at Mahindra World School, Chengalpattu, just on the outskirts of Chennai.”

I ask this question to people I come across, and 95% of the time I receive a ‘yes’ in response. Seeds should not be thrown away, they are equivalent to plants. If you want a plant, you need a seed”, explains Naren.

Coming to know of the harmful effects of deforestation and climate change, Naren began collecting seeds at the age of 7.

“I collect seeds during the weekends”, says Naren. “I go to the houses of my neighbors, visit various apartments, schools, colleges and offices and collect seeds from everywhere.

I tell them not to throw seeds from fruits away, but instead wash them, clean them, dry them and give them to me.

Most of the people I request, provide seeds to me in this way and I am thankful for that.”

The young seed collector then donates most of these seeds to local nurseries, seed banks and farmers. He also turns the seeds into seed-balls or plants them into the soil directly. In the last three and a half years, he has managed to collect over 33,000 seeds and grow over 1,100 plants. “All the seeds I have planted a few years ago, have grown to become tall trees – taller than the front door of my house!”, he says gleamingly.

“I encourage people to make seed balls to preserve seeds for longer periods of time. A seed ball is a mixture of about five spoons of mud, three spoons of compost and some water molded into the shape of a ball. While making the ball, a single seed has to be placed within it. Once the ball has been made, it has to be dried under the sun. This ball can be put in the soil, and once it comes in contact with water, the seed would germinate”, explains the seed enthusiast. Young Naren has given presentations at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Trichy and Vidya Sagar Happy Skool, Mahindra World City, Chengalpattu. He was one of the speakers at this year’s TED-Ed Real Life Incredibles talk in March. He was also one of the speakers on climate crisis at The Global Pop-up Newsroom, a citizen journalism-style mobile news operation.

*Read full story on <https://yocee.in>*



# QUICK NEWS

for you and your friends

## 6 Yards of Hope



Eighteen classical dancers and musicians donated their saris to an online auction. The auction, held over two weeks, fetched around ₹2.5 lakh. The auction was held on the Instagram profile of Panjavarnam Silks.

The proceeds will go towards “Funds For Folk”, a fundraiser to support disadvantaged artists from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, say the organisers

Photo:  Panjavaram Silks

## Art for awareness



The facade of Tambaram Railway Station in Chennai is painted with thematic murals to generate awareness and alleviate apprehensions and fears regarding COVID-19 vaccines under a CSR initiative.

Photo:  RailMinIndia



## Awards for Teachers using tech in schools

National ICT Awards given by the Central Institute of Educational Technology, NCERT, New Delhi, for the years 2018 and 2019 have been declared.

The awards are given annually as per the guidelines of the Ministry of Education, to motivate teachers to use ICT (Information and Communication Technology) in school education and in their classrooms in a big way.

Details at: [https://ciet.nic.in/upload/ICT\\_Result\\_1819.pdf](https://ciet.nic.in/upload/ICT_Result_1819.pdf)

## Aquarium in Bengaluru train station



A movable tunnel aquarium was thrown open to the public at Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station in the Bangalore recently. The aquatic park, based on the Amazon River concept, houses a wide range of flora and fauna and aquatic animals such as alligator gars, sting rays, eels, sharks, lobsters and snails. Aimed to enhance passenger experience, the aquarium has an entry fee of ₹25 per passenger. The project is a joint initiative of Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation, SWR, and HNi Aquatic Kingdom.

# Talk on vaccination and immunity – July 10, 2021

Narayanan A N



For a bacterial infection, we take antibiotics that help destroy the bacteria. Why don't we have a similar antiviral to get rid of a viral infection? Why does vaccination involve getting jabbed two or more times? When our bodies have a built-in natural immune system, why then the struggle against corona virus? For answers to questions such as these, sign up for அறி (aRi) this coming weekend.

A monthly talk series in Tamil, curated by Karky Research Foundation (KaReFo) அறி (aRi) is an outreach program to spread and share knowledge among people. The talks are held the second Saturday of every month at 10.00 am IST live on Zoom app, and include topics from the varied domains of science, literature, law, music, history, business, technology and many more. KaReFo's presenters will give a 45-minute bilingual talk in Tamil/English on a topic and initiate a discussion at the end of the session.

The upcoming talk on Saturday, July 10th, 2021 is on 'Vaccination and Immunity.' Molecular biologist Duraisamy Navaneetham will be addressing the lecture. For free registration and more details check out <https://www.karky.in/ari/>

## CONTEST: Biodiversity in my Bengaluru backyard

Open to students of grades 9-12

Contest: Calling students of grades 9-12

Citizen Matters is organising a contest on "Biodiversity in my Backyard", in partnership with Mongabay India, an environment and conservation magazine, and apartment management software platform ADDA.

Participants can submit entries under the following two categories:

Category 1: Report submission of 600-800 words with 1-3 photographs. Research, talk to experts and residents, and refer to relevant studies and data related to the species you come across.

Category 2 Instagram post (a series of photographs, videos, or graphics designed by you with a caption of (approximately 2,000 characters)

The observations can be made in your garden, balcony, or a nearby nature spot – garden, park, lake, or any open space. Or even inside your house!

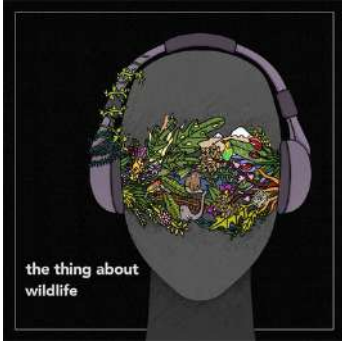
The five best entries will get prizes worth Rs 1000 in each category, sponsored by our partner ADDA.

The last date to submit entries is July 30.

Submissions must be submitted only through the form provided.

## The Thing About Wildlife

Two young wildlife biologists, Ishika Ramakrishna and Akshat Surendra, have launched a podcast to engage in conversations with ecologists and conservationists and their stories.



Titled The Thing About Wildlife, the podcast began its first episode about elephants as a discussion with Dr. Nishant Srinivasaiah, a noted behavioural ecologist.

Listen to TTAW podcasts at <https://anchor.fm/ttaw>



## Loud sound in Bangalore leaves residents puzzled



Residents across many areas in Bangalore heard a loud sound around noon on July 2, 2021. People exchanged messages through WhatsApp to know what the sound could be. Many took to Twitter and wondered if it was a sonic boom.

Last year in May, people heard similar loud boom. After people shared messages across social media, the Indian Air Force issued a statement that Aircraft & Systems Testing Establishment (ASTE) could have been doing

their routine test flying and they go supersonic at times.

This year, there was no such confirmation by ASTE or Hindustal Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

The Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) ruled out any possible seismic signals of an earth quake. Going by last year's experience of similar loud thud, many residents were speculating that this could be a sonic boom again.

### WHAT IS A 'SONIC BOOM'?

A sonic boom is a thunder-like noise a person on the ground hears when an aircraft or other type of aerospace vehicle flies overhead faster than the speed of sound, or "supersonic."

Air reacts like fluid to supersonic objects. As those objects travel through the air, molecules are pushed aside with great force and this forms a shock wave, much like a boat creates a wake in water. The bigger and heavier the aircraft, the more air it displaces.

Source: <https://www.nasa.gov/>