

Gulf of Mannar once again gets a live coral cover

NCCR had launched the restoration project in October 2018

D. J. WALTER SCOTT
RAMANATHAPURAM

After the coral reef colonies in Gulf of Mannar (GoM) witnessed massive bleaching between 2005 and 2010 and 2016 due to high temperature and other factors, the Field Research Centre of the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) had launched coral restoration project and has successfully extended the live coral cover in dead coral reef areas.

The NCCR had launched the restoration project during October 2018 around the islands in GoM region and used species such as acropora porites, favites, goniastrea and montipora corals for the restoration programme, an official release said.

"Initially we used the coral fragment sizes of 6 to 9 cm and after an year's interval, we observed 12 to 20 cm growth rate. The acropora species gained maximum growth rate compared to other species," the release said.

Thanks to the success, the NCCR proposes to place these restored coral colonies in sites where no corals exist-



Coral reefs in various stages of growth in Gulf of Mannar. •

ed previously, through transplantation method whereby developing a new 'habitat creation', it said.

"Also these restored corals will be replaced in the dead reefs areas to rebuild and maintain sustainable reef ecosystem," the release said.

Restoration of corals in the dead reef areas in GoM became imperative to protect reef biodiversity after massive bleaching events recorded during the years 2005 to 2010 and in 2016, it

said.

"Coral reef restoration is one of the important management strategies to restore reef ecosystem from degraded, damaged, or destroyed state to healthy reef condition," it said.

The NCCR has studied coral reef monitoring in GoM, Lakshadweep Islands, Andaman Islands, Malvan and Gulf of Kutch under the World Bank project, it said adding the NCCR has set up Field Research Centre at Mandapam for long term

monitoring coral reef status in respect of climate change and also focused on restoration of corals.

Ministry of Earth Sciences has implemented the Research and Development activities in the GoM, under the guidance of NCCR Director M.V. Ramana Murthy. T. Shunmugaraj, Scientist-F, Project coordinator and Project scientists CH. Ramesh and S. Koushik were involved in studies to find out the status of coral reefs in GoM.

EOW seeks complaints against online trading firm

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
TIRUCHI

The Economic Offences Wing-II here has asked depositors to lodge complaint against Chendur Fincorp - a private firm involved in online trading at Thillai Nagar here after it found during investigation that the firm had cheated several depositors after accepting deposits exceeding ₹ 250 crore from them and failed to repay.

The unincorporated entity was being run by its CEO Mutharamalingam and his wife Bharathi without obtaining permission from the Reserve Bank of India and the SEBI. The firm promised to pay ₹300 per day for five days a week to depositors if they invested ₹ 35,000 and promised to pay 40 per cent dividend along with the principal amount at the end of maturity period."

The Economic Offences Wing has asked affected depositors to lodge complaint against the firm with relevant documents. They could contact the mobile number 94981-05856 for more information in connection with the case.

A ticket to trouble

Is the sale of banned lottery tick-

A. SHRIKUMAR
THENI

Last month, the Cumbum North police caught two men near the 18th Channel on the Cumbum Mettu Ghat Road and confiscated 1,320 lottery tickets worth ₹39,600. In another case earlier this month, the police seized lottery tickets worth ₹28,800. In the past two months, the police have booked over 10 cases under the Tamil Nadu Lottery Regulation Act and seized lottery tickets worth over ₹76,000.

"We are finding it a challenge to curb the sale of banned lottery as the district borders Kerala. Information from sources help us find offenders who are people belonging to a large spectrum. People indulging in sale of lottery tickets see it as easy money. And procuring the tickets is also handy as they just have to cross the border. There are habitual offenders whom we have identified. Even cases range from lottery tickets worth as little as ₹150 to bulk tickets worth more than ₹30,000," said a senior police official.

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