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# PREFACE

Throughout the world the environmental change is taking place. There have been instances in the geographical past where the environmental, climatological, biological, geological change was observed, but it was purely natural. Presently, there is a scientific report published that has again painted a grim picture of climate change. But this time changes are more inclusive of manmade changes along with the natural cycle.

Increasing population, rapid industrialization, extensive deforestation, reclamation and pollution have increased the pace of climate change. These human interventions have affected the natural processes resulting into the ecological imbalance.

Increasing temperatures, enhanced precipitation, increase in number of cyclones, sea level rise, frightening earthquakes followed by tsunamis are some of the events those are taking place. Formation of ozone holes over Antarctica is also working event. At the international level, series of high level meetings of environmentalists are organized to find out appropriate solution to overcome these problems.

Coastal zone is one of the areas of the earth which is also very much threatened. Naturally, all the living ecosystems in this area like corals, mangroves, sand dunes, seaweeds, sea grasses, fisheries and coastal population are also affected. Mangrove Society of India is concerned about the conservation and management of mangrove ecosystem in India. The major task of MSI is to create awareness among the society. MSI is a registered NGO having its network throughout the Indian coast. MSI organizes international, national and regional conferences, exhibitions, lectures, film shows etc. It also publishes a newsletter "MANGAL-VAN".

For a long time, there was a need felt for this type of book on mangroves for common people. This would also reduce the communication gap at different levels. Hence, while writing this book different scientific and technical terms have been avoided.

Mangrove plants and animals are also used for various economical and food purpose. Hence, at the end of the book a few recipes of Gomantak style for fish, crabs, oysters, bivalves and plants found in mangrove ecosystems are given to make the book more useful and interesting. We hope that the book would answer at least some of the questions of a common reader. Of course, MSI is always there to clear other scientific doubts.

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