

The Telegraph

calcutta, india

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Story



ares green flaws

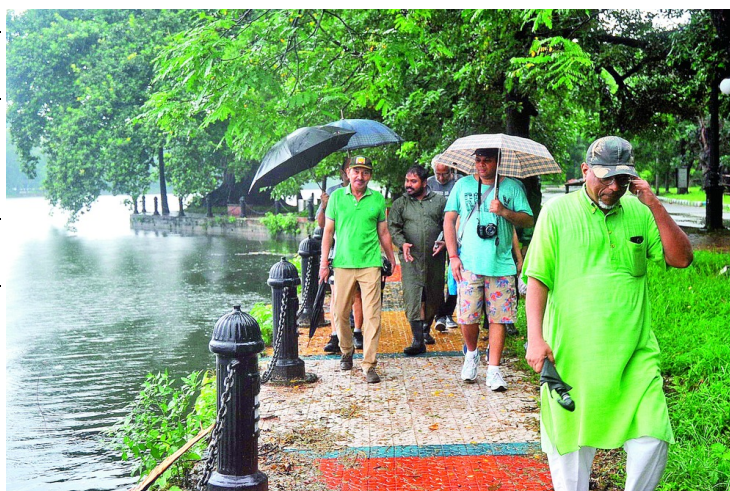
'e lovers, including former cricketer Arun Lal, brave a walk around Rabindra Sarobar.

, they started at 6am, speaking about the important, the practice of concreting the tree bases that is monoculture grassing that threatens to destroy th



An island in Rabindra Sarobar.

(Below) The walkers, including former cricketer Arun Lal and activist Mudar Patherya, say the tree by the edge of the island can topple over anytime because of soil erosion, leaving more than 100 birds homeless. Pictures by Bishwarup Dutta



The group started from the Bengal Rowing Club-end and walked till the gallery inside the Sarobar and back. It took them little over an hour.

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"We plan to make this a monthly affair and later a fortnightly walk during winter," Mudar Patherya, one of the walkers and the brain behind the walk, said.

Arjan Basu Roy, member of NGO Nature Mates that works on nature conservation, and birder Sudip Ghosh, who lives close to the Sarobar, explained to others the natural assets present on the campus.

Basu Roy said human intervention was needed for conservation as the Sarobar was a man-made lake.

he island, they discussed how to save it from shrivelled up. The erosion produced by rowing have eroded the island. It is a big tree by the edge of the island where the erosion will bring down the tree as the roots are

protective boundary of wood around the island so that the trees don't erode the island," Basu Roy said. "If the trees are cut, it will be disastrous."

and dead trees shouldn't be chopped off. Many insects are attracted to dead trees. Pruning branches of dead trees to prevent the spread of disease, one in the group said.

er, felt the biggest problem was the ignorance of people about the natural habitat of various organisms.

anyone will say weeds are bad. They don't understand that many organisms depend on them," Lal said.

I reached a corner by then which had monoculture of a single type destroys diversity, Basu Roy said where the trees that had grown on the other side naturally.

a natural grass bed had four types. "Each type of grass has its own uses," he said.

f space surrounding trees in the Sarobar compacts the roots from growing horizontally, a walker said.

me weak as they tilt towards the waterbody and crack under the weight.

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