Paragliding can fulfill your dreams of a lifetime to fly like a bird. Get your own canopy wings to soar high in the sky. “The useful attributes to learn paragliding are good judgment, a concern for personal safety, and the ability to make reasonable decisions, a positive attitude and the will or desire to fly...” says Samson D’Silva a trainer and owner of “Space Apple” a paragliding school in Virar. Besides this you need to be physically and mentally sound. As you need to carry the 10-12 kg heavy backpack of the folded canopy and make quick decisions. Most importantly one must be of age above 16 years and weigh more than 35 kg. “Paragliding is comparatively cheapest air sports and relatively new to India” adds Mr. D’Silva. It costs around Rs. 8,500 for the beginner’s course (P1 course) within 3 to 5 days. This course includes initial basics and practicing take-off and small hops and then involves flying off the cliff. If you find more interest in the sport, which you definitely will, you can continue learning by joining the advance courses (P2) which takes maximum 20 sessions and costs around another Rs. 10,000. While there are many technicalities in advance course it will require you to refer to some books for the theory behind and watch videos to develop your flying skills. Nupur Malhani a 25-year-old investment banker recently got attracted towards paragliding in the urge to try new adventure sports. “The experience was very unique and it felt great to have conquered one’s fears and to experience through you remember the moment for all your life”. This enjoyment does not come merely; you need to be really alert as there are many risks involved. Paragliding being an adventure sport has inherent risks, so one should be prepared for the worst. “Once in the air, it was a heavenly ride, though mine ended with a crash landing” says Nupur. “Everything in life has some risks involved, in this sport if you follow your trainer chances of negative happening are least” says Johnwin M. So if you wish to have a paragliding experience your nearest destination is Virar as most of the Paragliding School are situated there and has ideal condition for paragliding. “Weather at Virar is very good for learning the sport because of laminar coastal sea breezes in the evening” says D’Silva.

Though this sport is not very famous in Mumbai but slowly it is gaining popularity among youth. So if you are adventure loving and wish to fly high then sky is the limit for you.

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Number Game

WATER AND GADGETS CAN NEVER GO HAND-IN-HAND BUT THIS ONE IS AN EXCEPTION - A WATER GUZZLING CALCULATOR

We all have studied in our school days that water is absolutely essential for proper functioning of our body system. Water is life! But not for most of the electronic gadgets! Can you imagine a gadget as cool as a calculator which runs by sipping a few millilitres of water? Believe it, a calculator which has become an everyday part of the professionals like such as accountants, students, etc. who requires it all the time. Those who want to avoid the hassle of charging their calculator batteries over and over again, this new stylish and easy to carry, water-run calculator is more than a gift.

With the advent of technology our lives have become speedy and better but it has also brought about an environment filled with pollution. We need sources which can work for us without harming our environment. It took us time to realise the potential of the vast and unexplored natural resources. Water is the resource which is free, environment friendly and abundant. So scientists are thinking of exploiting these resources to run the various gadgets like telephones, watches, alarm clocks which are the most used and most found gadgets in any home. But it is mind bogging to see an alarm clock or a calculator run on water. How does it happen?

Water is an electrolyte which contains different charged ions, when water is poured into these gadgets it comes into contact with electrodes and the zinc electrodes [cathode and anode] leads to liberation of energy. This is the energy which runs the battery and in turn runs the gadget such as the water-calculator. If this experimental gadget called water-calculator gets appreciated and accepted by the gizmo freaks, scientists can apply the same technology for complex gadgets as well. As of now this unusual hydro power is seen as the promising option.

So next time your calculator runs out of power, just look for a fountain around you!

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