

646, Vastunirman, Gandhinagar- 382022. 24th June 1995.

28/6

Dear Aashish,

Thanks for sending me Vol. 10, 1993 of Mayur. I have enjoyed going through the articles. Of particular interest is your write up on your visit to Rottapada. What, pray, is the position today? Like all sanctuaries, there is great noise to start with and then corruption seeps in and neglect follows. A fall in population of the species sought to be protected makes the Forest Department very paranoid.

What I have always found disturbing is the total absence of management. The more efficient the protection, the quicker the changes in the vegetal composition and once an optimum is reached, there is a rapid decline. Forest takes over and while small saplings a couple of feet tall a welcome, young trees topping the birds makes the habitat unfit. So, once again, what is the position in 1995 - your visit I note was in 1988, almost six years ago and six years can mean a long time to cause dramatic changes.

Actually domestic stock should be kept off only during the breeding season - this would get the local people on the side of the birds. In any case, what is the involvement of the villagers in the sanctuary or is it that they see it as their land being taken away from them. Do respond.

भारी धर कर खोलिए TO OPEN CUT HERE

अन्तर्देशीय पत्र कार्ड
INLAND LETTER CARD



Shri Ashish Pitte

14-7-370 Begum Bazaar,

Hyderabad,

Andhra

पिन PIN

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Regards

Yours
Ashish

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तीसरा मोड़ THIRD FOLD

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दूसरा मोड़ SECOND FOLD

646, Vastunirman, Gandhinagar - 382022.
Wednesday, 13th November, 1996.

Dear Gasteesh,

Just received "MAYURA" Vol. 1994.

An extremely neat and well brought out booklet. Congratulations!

The line drawings of birds are extremely good though I hope you had not selected the Roller - it looks like a Tern!

I am so glad you have kept the articles Andhra related. Going through the pamphlet, I thought we should have one for Gujarat. What would we call it? "The Flamingo", "The Crab Mover", "The Horiken"?

What perplexed me is your dating this as Vol. II 1994 - there are articles from 1996 and the obituary of Pt. Tyabji. Can you explain this?

What is my current status on your rolls?

Season's Greetings.

Regards,

Yours

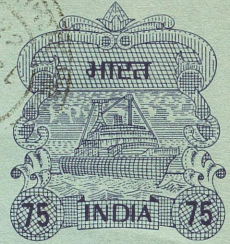
S. Kumar

P.S.

I did not attend the Pan Asian Conference because I was saddened by the unpleasant preliminaries. We must send out very strong signals to prevent such mudslinging. There are so few of us and why can we not enjoy each others company, contacts and bird gossip? You younger people must make yourselves

अन्तर्देशीय पत्र कार्ड
INLAND LETTER CARD

RECEIVED
18/11/96



Shri Aashesh Pille,
8-2-545, Road 7,
Banjara Hills,
Hyderabad पिन PIN

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पहला मोड़ FIRST FOLD CSP

Jelt.

In any case, the affair must have gone off well
as all such assemblies do. I hope you
attended.

Lakshman

21 November, 1996

Ref: Yours dated 13/11/1996.

Mr. Lavkumar Khacher
646 Vastunirman
GANDHINAGAR 382022

Dear Lavkumar Sahab,

Thank you for the kind words in your above letter. The problem I face with keeping the publication to 'Andhra only' is that work in the state is very little and so matter for the *Mayura* is almost non-existent ! For your information, we are thinking the pros and cons of actually accepting material from the entire country or even perhaps the four states of south India. What do you think? I have the apprehension that we will begin to do what the *Newsletter for Birdwatchers* is doing so ably since 30 years!

The numbering of the *Mayura* is only a continuation of earlier issues (which have to be maintained). I guess we are in a situation like the *JBNHS*. The backlog issues have to be brought out, without skipping the continuity of serial numbering. Therefore I have mentioned a 'publication date' above the contents.

A newsletter for Gujarat would be wonderful. For a name, how about something in the local dialect, e.g. *Surkhab?*

I missed you at Coimbatore. Your reason for not coming is strong enough, but then when all the senior birdwatchers (Z. Futehally & Prakash Gole, who both did not come) 'boycott' such a meeting, it becomes an all scientist affair. This one however, did have a great deal of amateur colour to it. Things went off well, except for the fuss made by the 'Bangalore Group'. What childishness!

With best wishes

Yours sincerely



646, Vastunirman, Gandhinagar, 382022.

3rd December, 1996.

13/12/96

Dear Aaseesh,

I saw your letter of 21st November today morning on my return from the South.

Frankly, I had no heart to come to Coimbatore since I find all the one upmanship terribly saddening. But, as Tapanbhai told me, lets not discuss the matter further. Rather, Aaseesh, all of us must establish contacts and strengthen our personal regards for one another. We all have jailings but if we concentrate on our strengths, we will all move forward with growing strength. While everyone talks about networking, we are all finding attempts to make centers in the net! You will recollect I have always urged that the Birdwatchers' Newsletter be strengthened. Thus we are operational at various levels. We must discuss this concept in an ongoing manner. Right now, I would urge your Society to affiliate itself with BNHS and WWF-I. You could encourage your friends to join through Society - eg. Andhra members' subscriptions could be routed through you.

I would urge you to intensify the Andhra NL by upgrading the "Pitta" and downgrading "Mayura". I am not sure I have clarified myself. But think over the confusion. It would be useful if you produced old bird papers in the BNHS archives on the area of Andhra and reproduce them. Also, you might survey old areas and write on

their present status.

I like your writing on the backs of old papers. It may not make a great difference to paper wastage but a new trend can evolve.

Rasheesh, we amateurs must get to know each other better and this will get us on the move.

More later.

How about a group coming to birdwatch on our coastline?

Yours,

Radhwan

24 April, 1997

Mr Lavkumar Khacher
646 Vastunirman
Gandhinagar
Gujarat 382022

Dear Lavkumar Sahab,

Greetings !

What a wonderful paper you have written in the latest *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* (vol. 93 no. 3 December 1996) ! For some time (while I read through the article) the *Journal* became the enjoyable publication it used to be in the early part of this century. Simple, flowing style. Readable, interesting, educative natural history. If only more people write in a similar vein and desist their temptations to write papers full of graphs and equations — one wonders sometimes whether it is a mathematical journal that one is reading!

I think I would like to use parts of it in *Pitta* (Bulletin of the Birdwatcher's Society of Andhra Pradesh), so that members who do not get the *Journal* will get chance to read your observations. a/

Wishing you all the best and hoping to meet you sometime in the future,

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely



BACK TO NATURE PROGRAMME

646, Vastunirman, Gandhinagar - 382 022 INDIA. © 23116

11/7/97

Tuesday, 8th July, 1997.

Dear Rashish,
Your letter of 24th April was lying at the Post Office here where they kindly accumulate my mail for May and June when the house is closed and we are away in the Himalaya. We are back now and the first thing I am doing is to thank you for the nice things you have to say for my Gujarati overview in the BNHS Journal and to say "Use the article as you wish" of course giving the Society full credit.

When Daniel suggested I write the piece, I was hopeful there would be a similar set from other areas surveyed by SA and Hyderabad was one area. How about us — you and I prepare a project to visit all places where he surveyed in the former state and produce a similar account?

Perhaps you could also provide me with your youthful and organisational support to conduct a migratory bird observation camp on the southern side of the Great Rann of Kachchh.

Regards,

Yours Sincerely,

Karttumar

8-2-545 "Aem Parvat",
Road No. 7, Banjara Hills,
Hydrabad 500034.

Ref: Yours dated 8-7-1997.

12 July, 1997

Mr Lavkumar Khacher
646 Vastunirman
Gandhinagar 382 022

Dear Lavkumar Sahab,

Greetings !

Thank you for your above letter. Mr Daniel did ask me to write on a couple of districts (with which I am familiar) for the *Journal* under discussion, but something or the other used to come up whenever I made an attempt and in the end I had to write him a sorry note. Alas, in retrospect those 'things which came up' assume such a small stature when compared with the article which could have been compiled.

But as your letter inspires, it is not yet late. We should re-survey the areas covered by Salim Ali in erstwhile Hyderabad State. The one big problem is the extremist activities of naxalites in most of these areas and the resulting break-down of law-and-order. We will have to give it some thought, as the exercise will take considerable time and effort. The forest dept. should be roped in to help. The carrot for them would be an upto date report on the avifauna of the state. Tentatively I would suggest that we postpone this project for a year—perhaps tying up logistics till then, and take it up in the winter of 1998. One could do groups of 2-3 districts at a time and spread the project over 2 years. If you have some other suggestions?

I am excited about your "migratory bird observation camp". I will most certainly and happily help with its organisation. If you could elaborate the plan you have for this camp and how I could help, in your reply, we could work on it further. It sounds so wonderful!

With best wishes and regards,

Yours sincerely



646, Vastunirman, Gandhinagar, 382022. 17th July, '97.

J. 21/7/97

Dear Ashish,

Receiving your very prompt reply was like a shot of adrenaline to an aging body. Yes, of late I am feeling the effect of time more so since much — or rather the only things that have driven me are precisely those that are lost — youth and nature — particularly birds. Your excited response suggests that the former is not all lost and in fact there are many young people doing great things despite all the obstacles and, Nature is still alive and can make a vigorous comeback, if —

I would suggest you get copies of all reports in BNHS Journal by SA ~~in the journal~~ from the former Hyderabad State and also get anything on the other areas that have gone to make the present AP. Let it be a project of (your) AP Club and BNHS.

You might consider getting donations from large Companies in the state. You and I should meet a couple of times and work out the movements. The Nascelite lot should not be taken too seriously as I suggest we keep a low profile. Besides, for me it would be great publicity for the birds — "Ornithologist kidnapped by Terrorists..." I am sure some of these are very serious young men like yourself and Ashish Kothari! Who knows we might lead a movement wanting "Jobs for the People." Joking aside, write a line to Bombay asking for xeroxes. About the Kachch observation stations I will get back soon.

Regards.

Yours Sincerely,

Kulkarni

अन्तर्देशीय पत्र कार्ड
INLAND LETTER CARD



Shri Ashish Pitte,
8-2-57A5 "PREM PARVAT"
Road No. 7, Banjara Hills,
Hyderabad पिन PIN 500034.

तीसरा पत्र THIRD FOLD

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6/6, Vastunirman,
Gandhinagar
पिन PIN 382012



Aasheesh Pittie

8-2-545 "Prem Parvat", Road No. 7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500 034. India.

Phone: Off: 040-3320269 Fax: 040-3314064 Res: 040-3315683

Ref: Yours dated 17-7-1997.

22 July, 1997

Mr Lavkumar Khacher
646 Vastunirman
Gandhinagar 382 022

Dear Lavkumar Sahab, Greetings!

I have with me all the publications of SA on erstwhile Hyderabad State and also a Xerox copy of his personal notes in which there is a lot of information from Hyderabad. SA's *Hyderabad Survey* was reprinted by our Society and so is available in a single volume. I presume you have a copy of this publication? Most probably I also have all that has been published on Hyderabad since SA's papers. We are ready on this account.

Most of this literature survey and collection has been done with a view to write a book on the Birds of Andhra Pradesh, in the future and is also a result of my indexing activity.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely



26 July, 1997

Mr Lavkumar Khacher
646 Vastunirman
Gandhinagar 382 022

Dear Lavkumar Sahab, Greetings!

I have been entrusted to write the species accounts for the following species, for the Red Data Book, which will be published by BirdLife International in 1999.

1. Blewitt's Owlet *Athene blewitti*
2. Sykes's Crested Lark *Galerida deva*
3. Malabar Crested Lark *Galerida malabarica*
4. Brownheaded Kingfisher *Pelargopsis amauropterus*
5. Brownwinged Flycatcher *Muscicapa muttui*
6. Broadtailed Grass Warbler *Schoenicola platyura*

Your Gujarat Paper in the recent *Journal* (*JBNHS* 93(3): 331-373) states "The Sykes's Crested Lark *G. deva* is more partial to the Deccan trap plateaux of Saurashtra and Kachchh," (p. 356-357). If I remember correctly, in a meeting in Coimbatore, while the list of Red Data Birds was being compiled, you had expressed your reservations about including this particular bird, as it was pretty common in Gujarat ?

I would be grateful if you could send me some more details about this species from Gujarat, as I am writing up the Species Account on this bird. Do you suggest I contact anyone else for info? If yes, could I have their addresses? For your information, specimens of *Galerida deva* in the BNHS collection are reportedly from the following places:

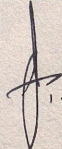
GUJARAT: Mandvi, Padhar, Chaduva, Bhuj, Kutch, Dalkhania, Amreli, Kodinar, S. Kathiawar, Sait, Kaira, Dohad. Are they all in Gujarat?

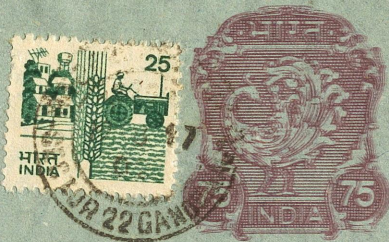
Could you please list them under their respective Districts for me? Many are not available in atlases or postal pin-code directories.

I trust you would have received my letter with the project proposal for gathering baseline data on Indian birds, by now. What do you think would be the pitfalls we have to guard against?

Awaiting your response eagerly, with best wishes,

Yours sincerely





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INLAND LETTER CARD

Shri Ashish Pillie,
8-2-545 "Prem Parvat"
Road No. 7 Banjara Hills,
Hyderabad

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or the same and produce species clusters around them.
Do give this some thought.

The project for gathering the size of the country and birds is great but consider the paucity of birdwatchers. Even Andhra is huge and with varied habitats. I would not like to see you overburdened but, the concept is great provided people will respond. You might give this a thought. I would like to see SA's Hyderabad survey reports —

if you have spare copies of the reprint. Let us start a family - genera - species-wise compilation for the areas. — indicate the natural protected areas so you go along. Concentrate on this project. We would have a paper for the journal.

Regards,
Yours Sincerely,
G.M. M. S.

Monday, 18th August, 1997.

23/8/97

Dear Hashish,

I had been away for a fortnight to enjoy the monsoon gales in central Saurashtra rounded off by two days in the Gir.

In response to your letter of 26th July, I will first give a very specific reply to the matter of the Syke's Crested Lark *G. deva*. You are right, I did wonder why this lark was being singled out for special treatment. How many people are doing regular and ~~p~~ in depth birdwatching in such a vast country? This lark is a bird of rocky, dark soils and should be looked for in such country.

Basalt yes, but also the dark rocks with other minerals. In fact, if my memory holds true, Azad Island of the Saurashtra coast in the Gulf of Kachchh had lots of these larks though I would like to have a look again. All the places you have listed rock country except Sait and Kaira. They are all in Gujarat - Mandvi, Padhar, Chadwa Bhuj in Kachchh, Dalkhania, Amreli, Kodinar in

S. Kathiawar (Saurashtra) Sait, Kaira and Godhra in mainland Gujarat. Regarding *G. malabarica* please refer to my paper on Gujarat (BNHS Jern.). Who else

could give you information? A million rupee question! Who watches larks, pipits, warblers?

Incidentally, which atlas do you refer to? Only places likely to be not shown are Padhar, Chadwa (near Bhuj) and Dalkhania (Amreli Gir).

You will have noted I was not too excited about the Red Data Book. It is a concept we all are being stamped ed into. In India I would like to see a concentrated effort in identifying habitats that need nurturing. Within these habitats, the specifics can have species. This would immediately highlight wrong forestry and land use practices and develop a macro view of the Indian Region. Using the conservation lingo, we could have "flag ship" species like the *G. 113* or the Pied

Ref: Yours dated 18-8-1997.

15 September, 1997

Mr Lavkumar Khacher
646 Vastunirman
GANDHINAGAR 382 022

Dear Lavkumar Sahab,

Namaskar!

Thank you for your above letter which I received on the 23rd of last month. Please excuse the delay in this reply.

Thank you for the information on Syke's Crested Lark.

I feel that your argument about species-clusters looks at the same issue from another angle. Whether we promote flagship species or highlight species-clusters, the beneficiary of any conservation activity these ideas promote will definitely be the environment in which they exist. We have seen this happen in two projects at least i.e. Project Tiger and the Grasslands project of Dr Rahmani, where the GIB was used as a flagship species. Identifying and focusing on Red-Data Book (RDB) species will also bring the focus on environment. I think this has happened in the identification of areas known as Biodiversity Hot Spots. I feel that the two cannot be separated nor can they be individualized or prioritized. Both go hand-in-hand.

People are gradually responding to the telegraphic Birding Notes proposal I floated a month ago. As usual, V Santharam has picked up the cause in earnest and begun sending his notes for publication. Mr Futehally too has re-directed some notes for publication in *Pitta* under this banner. As you will see from the latest issue of *Pitta*, BNHS has also agreed to publicise, as have Bikram Grewal and others. If you could speak about the column to fellow birdwatchers in your area, I would be grateful.

I enclose a copy of Dr Salim Ali's Hyderabad Survey report, as reprinted by the BSAP. As it is a Society publication, it costs Rs. 50/- per copy. I request you to send a MO / DD for this amount, payable to The Honorary Secretary. The address will be Birdwatcher's Society of Andhra Pradesh, P.O. Box 45, Banjara Hills Post Office, Hyderabad 500 034.

Thanking you, with best wishes and regards,

Yours sincerely



Encl: as above.

646, Vastunirman, Gandhinagar, 382022. 19K September, 1997.

f. 23/9/97

Dear Aashish,

Thanks for the SA papers. Money for the publication will gladly be sent.

He must visit all the places and rewrite things. I plan to visit Hyderabad where I have a very, very old and dear friend who has been pestering me to come over. He lives on Banjara Hills and so must be your neighbour.

Shri Bij Batra,

"SUTLES",

Rd. No. 14,

Banjara Hills, Hyderabad.

You might like to contact him.

You are doing great work and I have one word of caution — in your enthusiasm, do not get snowed under — or doubted under — with irrelevancies as indeed JC Daniel has cautioned you re. "Hoopoe on the ground".

That there are not more young people like you is the failing of the old guard who were unhappily a terribly self centered lot. Any criticisms from "above" should be casually accepted with a smile. Look after yourself.

Yours.

Radhika

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Shri Ashish Pittie,

8-2-545 "Pam Parvat"

Rd. No. 7, Banjara Hills,

Hyderabad पिन PIN

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तीसरा मोड़ THIRD FOLD

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Aasheesh Pittie

8-2-545 Road No. 7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500 034. India.

Phone: Off: 040-3352269 Fax : 040-3356064 Res: 040-3350683 E-mail: aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in

7 March, 1998

Mr Lavkumar Khacher
646 Vastunirman
GANDHINAGAR 382022

Dear Lavkumar Sahab, Greetings!

I hope this letter finds you in good health. How have you been finding the bulletins of the Birdwatchers' Society of Andhra Pradesh, *Pitta*?

I write primarily with a request. I have been asked by my old school to design a syllabus for classes 6, 7 and 8 which will integrate bird watching with their current syllabuses of history, geography, science and the languages. The idea being that ultimately a study course should develop which teaches (if I may use the term) environmental sciences. I know that this is a subject close to your heart and that you have spent a life-time doing just such things, though on a much larger scale. What ideas and suggestions do you have for me? If you have material which could help me, I'd be most grateful.

I have planned a trip to Kanha National Park from 16-3-98 to 21-3-98 along with my family. Will tell you all about it when I return.

With best wishes and regards,

Yours sincerely



Aasheesh Pittie

8-2-545 Road No. 7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500 034, India.

Phone: Off: 040-3352269 Fax: 040-3356064 Res: 040-3350683 E-mail: aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in

7 March, 1998

Mr Lavkumar Khacher
646 Vastuniraman
GANDHINAGAR 382022

f. 17/3
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Carried Pitta #84

Dear Lavkumar Sahab, Greetings!

I hope this letter finds you in good health. How have you been finding the bulletins of the Birdwatchers' Society of Andhra Pradesh, *Pitta*?

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I have planned a trip to Kanha National Park from 16-3-98 to 21-3-98 along with my family. Will tell you all about it when I return.

With best wishes and regards,

Yours sincerely

646, Vastuniraman,
Gandhinagar - 382022.
12th March '98.

Dear Aasheesh,

It is always good to hear from you. Your Society's "*Pitta*" is interesting. I am keen that you concentrate on Andhra Pradesh. It is, as I had told you, absolutely essential that we have in-depth regional news. The intrinsic value of your and your friends' enthusiasm and effort would be considerable in the years to come. We would have, as it were, an ongoing survey of the area. Could I suggest you use the excellent bibliography you have compiled to serialise old material on the State from the Journal and elsewhere? Perhaps, too, you could have a sketch map showing hill ranges, plateaux, rivers and lakes and indicate where a specific article or note comes from. This would in fact be a novel

Content sheet eg:



The brief bird records should be concentrated to Andhra.

Yes, I would like to assist you in preparing a syllabus for your school. Why not send me the books? Perhaps, we should meet in Hyderabad. The problem is the cost of travelling. Let me know when it would be worth my while to come over. I believe there is a direct train from here. Of course this would have to wait till my return from the Himalaya in July. Coincidentally an old pupil of mine has invited me to Kachchh for a similar exercise. We could link up the project — if it is the Central Board it would be great. I am also in the process of having an active programme for Tata Chemicals at near Okha. All these could be tied up.

Do keep writing.
Yours,
Sankar

P.S. Saving paper! Hope you don't mind.

646, Vastunirman, Gandhinagar - 382022.

18th October, 1998.

Dear Anish,

Tomorrow is the celebration of
noise and aerid smoke. All the best
and for the year that follows more
commitment to the conservation concerns
for birds.

Now back to business! I saw a
rather exhaustive bibliography on bird
papers put together by you. It was
Humayun who showed it to me. Could
I have a copy? Would happily pay.

I am trying to get all material
published in the journal on birds of what
is now Himachal Pradesh hopefully to
produce an overview like the one on
Gujarat.

The lesser flamingos have had a
great success in the little Rann. What
magnificent birds!

Regards,

Yours sincerely,

Callan

P.S.
Can you believe it? Your address is missing
from my ad-book. All the PITTA are with friends.
So this round about route.

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भारत की स्वतंत्रता की 50वीं वर्षगांठ
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE



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Pin-500012

Shri Aashish Pittie, ex Director,

BNHS, Hornbill House,

Shahid Bhagat Singh Marg,

Mumbai

पिन PIN

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दूसरा मोड़ SECOND FOLD

इस पत्र के भीतर कुछ न रखिए NO ENCLOSURE ALLOWED

पते में पिन कोड लिखें WRITE PIN CODE IN ADDRESS

प्रेषक का नाम और पता :- SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS :-

646, Vastunirman,

Gandhinagar

पिन PIN

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परी कोट कर खोलिए TO OPEN CUT HERE

परी कोट कर खोलिए TO OPEN CUT HERE

Aasheesh Pittie

8-2-545 "Prem Parvat", Road No. 7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500034. India.

Phone: Off: 040-3352269 Res: 040-33350683 Fax: 040-3356064 E-mail: AASHEESH@HD1.VSNL.NET.IN

Ref: Yours of 18-10-1998

November 3, 1998

Shri Lavkumar Khacher
646 Vastunirman
GANDHINAGAR 382022

Dear Lavkumar Sahab,

Thank you for your above letter. It has reached me safely, though via a round-about way.

I am enclosing a list of citations for HIMACHAL PRADESH, from my database. I hope it is useful. You will have to forgive the many un-edited items like all-capitals, funny characters before and after latin names, etc. As I said, this is an unedited list. If you could add to this list, or send corrections, remarks, etc., I would be most grateful.

The Bibliography, which you saw with Abdulali Sahab, is for sale. Rs 150 per copy and Rs 25 for postage. I will mail you one, once I receive confirmation.

With best wishes and regards,

Yours truly,



Encl.: a/a

646, Vastunirman, Gandhinagar, 382022.

17th December, 1998.

22/XII
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Dear Aashish,

Have just returned from a month's retreat in the Himalaya. Am writing to tell you that all your letters, copies of responses to Rahmani and Hussain are with me, also the Himachal bibliography. Thanks. A pity there are not more, efficient young men like you in our movement.

By all means use anything I write to you in PITTA. In fact, it would be more interesting to receive if candid notes, responses and observations appear as a regular feature.

Remember my suggestion of covering Andhra — please do seriously think of arranging a series of visits. We might ask for funding for travel — it is expensive even if all local hospitality is paid for — the country is so large.

Regards,

Lakshman

Shri Aasthich Pillie,

PO Bosec 45,

Banjara Hills PO,

Hyderabad - 500034