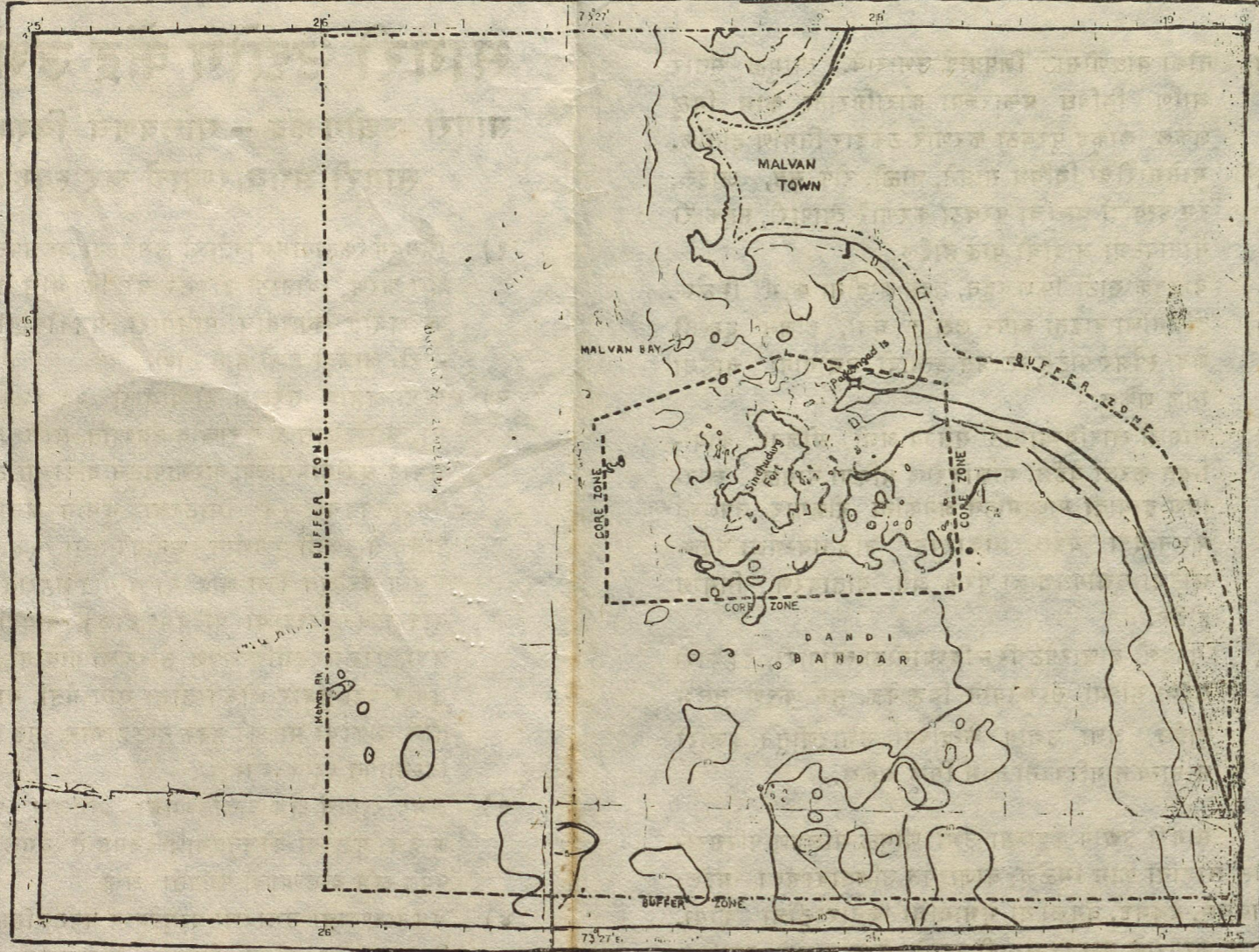


सागरी उद्योग केंद्र उभारा

सागरी उद्योग केंद्र - मालवणचे विकास द्वार
सागरी अभयारण्याचे खरे स्वरूप

- १) सिधुदुर्ग किल्ल्यासभोवताली असलेल्या जलसंपत्तीचे संरक्षण करणे. त्यासाठी ३.१८२ चौ. कि. मीचे गाभा क्षेत्र. या क्षेत्रात कोणतीच मासेमारी, यंत्रनौकांनी होणार नाही. आजही तशी होत नाही.
- २) गाभा क्षेत्राचे संरक्षण होण्यासाठी २९.१२२ चौ. कि. मी. चे संरक्षित क्षेत्र राखीव ठेवण्यात आले आहे. या क्षेत्रात धुरीवाड्याच्या कुरणापासून दांडीच्या टोकापर्यंत समुद्रालगतचा ५० मीटरचा भूभाग आणि दांडीपासून तारकलीं स्मशान भूमीपर्यंतचा ५०० मी. चा भूभाग संरक्षित केला आहे. या भागात शहरातील दांडी, वायरी, (गर्दरेडच्या पश्चिमेकडील) बायरीभूतनाथ, बंडा, काळेथर आणि संपूर्ण तारकली गावाचा समावेश. सुमारे दहा हजार लोकवस्तीचा भाग येतो. या भागातील लोकांचा मालकी हक्क नष्ट होणार. पुढे लोकांना विस्थापित व्हावे लागेल.
- ३) अभयारण्याचे क्षेत्र वाढविण्याचा अधिकार शासनाला आहेच. मूळच्या योजनेप्रमाणे देवगड ते वेंगुर्ला भागापर्यंत क्षेत्र वाढण्याची शक्यता आहे.
- ४) अभयारण्याची उभारणी प्रामुख्याने पर्यटकांसाठी आहे. शिवरायांच्या पवित्र सिधुदुर्ग किल्ल्यावर खोदकाम करून कृत्रिम जलाशय उभारणे व त्यात डॉल्फिन फिशचें करमणुकीसाठी खेळ करून दाखविण्याची योजना आहे.
- ५) जलचरांच्या संशोधनासाठी प्रयोग शाळा, सागरी उद्योग केंद्रांत अशी प्रयोगशाळा अपेक्षितच आहे. मत्स्य संशोधन हा मुख्य उद्देश नसून पर्यटन हा या योजनेचा केंद्रबिंदू आहे.
- ६) पर्यटकांच्या जलविहारासाठी काचेचा तळ असणाऱ्या नौका, त्यातून सागर तळाची सफर करण्याची योजना लक्ष्मीपुत्रांची सोय.
- ७) या प्रकल्पासाठी नैसर्गिक मालवण बंदर बंद करण्यात येणार. आठ/दहा कोटीची मच्छिमारीवर होणारी उलाढाल बंद होण्याचा धोका आहे.
- ८) सागरी संपत्तीचा उपयोग करून उद्योगाची कोणतीच योजना नाही. या योजनेत मालवण रहिवाशी आज ना उद्या विस्थापित होतील.



संकल्पित अभयारण्याचा नकाशा

१. सिधुदुर्ग किल्ल्या सभोवती गाभा क्षेत्र.
२. संपूर्ण चौकोन संरक्षित क्षेत्र.
३. - - - - - रेषांनी दाखविलेला भूभाग.

प्रकल्पाधिकार्यांचे दुरुटप्पी धोरण

- १) सागरी अभयारण्याची लिखित स्वरूपातील योजना प्रसिद्ध करण्यात आली नाही. खासदार सुधीर सावंत याना आराखडा देण्यास नकार देण्यात आला.
- २) सागरी उद्यानाची कल्पना प्रथम मांडण्यात आली. नंतर सागरी अभयारण्यात सदर योजनेचे रूपांतर करून वन्य पशू संरक्षण कायदा लागू करण्यात आला.
- ३) सागरी उद्यान योजनेला मत्स्यव्यवसाय संचालकांनी ठाम विरोध नोंदविला. दि. १७ मे १९८३ च्या सभेत त्यांचा विरोध मोडून काढला.
- ४) दि. १७ मे १९८३ च्या सभेत सिधुदुर्गाच्या मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी श्रीमती सिन्हा यानी मच्छिमारांना विश्वासात घेण्याची सूचना केली पण दि. १३, २१, १९८८ पर्यंत मच्छिमारांना सहेतुक अंधारात ठेवण्यात आले.
- ५) दि. २०-८-१९८५ रोजी राज्यमंत्री बापूसाहेब प्रभुगांवकर यांच्या अध्यक्षतेखाली निर्मात्रितांची फोन वरून सभा बोलावण्यात आली. सागरी उद्यानाचा गोषवारा सांगण्यात आला. वर्तमान पत्रांतून मच्छिमारांचा पाठिंबा जाहीर करण्यात आला.
- ६) दि. २-९-१९८५ आणि दि. २-१-१९८८ रोजी संपन्न झालेल्या मच्छिमारांच्या परिषदात प्रकल्पाची माहिती मिळविण्याचा ठराव करण्यात आला. दोन्ही वेळा ठरावांची पोचही देण्यात आली नाही.
- ७) दि. १२-२-१९८८ रोजी एकमताने मुद्दे निश्चित करण्यात आले. प्रकल्पाचे स्वरूप (प्रोजेक्ट रिपोर्ट) मराठीत प्रसिद्ध करण्याचे आश्वासन देण्यासाठी देण्यात आले.
- ८) दि. १३-२-१९८८ रोजी मालवण तालुका श्रमिक मच्छिमार संघाने सागरी उद्योग केंद्राची मागणी केली. या संदर्भात प्रकल्पाधिकारी यानी साधी पोचही दिली नाही. मात्र महाराष्ट्र मत्स्यव्यवसाय संचालक याना लिहितात, मरीन पार्क एवजी मरीन इस्टेट उभारा अशी मागणी मच्छिमार समितीने केली आहे. त्याबद्दल मला काही म्हणायचे नाही मच्छिमार संघाने केलेल्या सूचनेवर महाराष्ट्र मत्स्यव्यवसाय खात्याने निर्णय घ्यायचा आहे.
- ९) दि. १३-२-१९८८ च्या सभेत सागरी उद्यान प्रकल्पास सल्ला देण्यासाठी मालवण नगर परिषदेच्या अध्यक्षांच्या अध्यक्षते खाली समिती स्थापन करण्यात आली या समितीला अंधारात ठेवून दि. ६-३-१९८८ रोजी योजना एकतर्फी घोषित करण्यात आली.

- १०) दि. १७ मे १९८३ च्या सभेत संरक्षित क्षेत्रात रापण-करांना मच्छिमारीसाठी परवानगी द्यायची की नाही हे सागरी संशोधन संस्था (एन आय ओ) ठरवील असे ठरले पण जाहीर सभेत मच्छिमारांचे एका पैशाचे नुकसान होणार नाही असे प्रकल्पाधिकारी घोषित करतात.

सागरी उद्योग केंद्राचे स्वरूप

- १) मालवण हे सुरक्षित नैसर्गिक बंदर आहे. सिधुदुर्ग जिल्ह्याचा समुद्र किनारा विविध प्रकारच्या मासळीने समृद्ध आहे.
- २) या नैसर्गिक साधन सामुग्रीचा उपयोग करून मालवणात सागरी उद्योग केंद्र (मरिन इस्टेट) स्थापन करावे अशी आमची मागणी आहे.
- ३) या उद्योग केंद्रात प्रगत मासेमारी केंद्र (अॅडव्हान्स फिशिंग सेंटर) उभारावे.
- १) या केंद्रात मासेमारीची विविध साधने, आधुनिक पद्धतीची मासेमारी व शिक्षण देणे.
- २) कार्यक्षम प्रयोग शाळा उभारावी. या प्रयोग शाळेत मत्स्यबीज, मत्स्यजीव व मत्स्यखाद्य यांचे संरक्षण व संवर्धन करण्याची योजना तयार करून कार्यान्वित करावी.
- ५) समुद्रात होणारे प्रदूषण त्याची कारणे या केंद्राने शोधून प्रदूषण प्रतिबंधक उपाय योजावेत.
- ६) समुद्रातील विविध प्रवाह, माशांची वस्ती, मासळीच्या प्रवासाची दिशा, यांची निश्चित माहिती मच्छिमारांना उपलब्ध करून द्यावी.
- ७) विविध प्रकारच्या मासेमारी आणि मच्छिमार याना संरक्षण देणाऱ्या महाराष्ट्र सागरी मासेमारी अधिनियम १९८१ या कायद्याची कठोरपणे अंमलबजावणी करावी.

विविध सागरी उद्योग

मत्स्यव्यवसायाला पूरक असे उद्योग उभारावेत.

- १) मासळीच्या हंगामात मासळी साठविण्यासाठी शीतगृह उभारावे. बर्फाचे कारखाने उभारून बर्फाची सोय करावी.
- २) मासळीवर प्रक्रिया करण्याची व्यवस्था. मासळी हवा बंद करून ठेवण्याची योजना कार्यान्वित करावी.
- ३) मासळीपासून फिश ऑईल / कॉड ऑईल करण्याचे कारखाने उभारता येतील.

- ४) नौका बांधणीसाठी शिपयार्ड उभारावे. त्यामुळे सुतार आणि विविध प्रकारच्या कारागिरांना काम मिळू शकेल. लाकूड पुरवठा करणारे ठेकेदार निर्माण होतील.
- ५) मासेमारीची विविध साधने, जाळी, रोप, सूत, ऑईल, रंग इत्यादी वस्तूंचा पुरवठा करणारे व्यापारी, सहकारी सोसायटीचा आदींची वाढ होईल.
- ६) वाहतुकीसाठी फिश व्हॅन, ट्रॅक्स आदींना काम मिळेल.
- ७) इंजिनांचा वाढता वापर लक्षात घेता, इंजिन दुरुस्ती शोड, स्पेअर पार्ट्स स्टोअर्स इत्यादी उद्योगाना चालना मिळू शकेल.
- ८) मासळी खारविण्यासाठी सुसज्य अशी योजना कार्यान्वित करता येईल. माशांवरील प्रक्रिया मासळी खारविणे इत्यादी माध्यमातून अनेकांना रोजगार उपलब्ध करून देता येईल. बाजारपेठ उजितावस्थेला येईल. छोट्या उद्योगधंद्याला पूरक असे वातावरण निर्माण होईल.
- ९) परदेशी बाजारपेठ शिळविण्यासाठी व्यापारी, सहकारी संस्था यांच्या सहकार्याने विक्रीकेंद्र सुरू करणे सुलभ होईल. अशा उद्योग केंद्राच्या उभारणीतून हजारो सामान्य नागरिकांना काम मिळू शकेल.

सागरी उद्योग केंद्राच्या उभारणीमुळे मालवण परिसरातील लोकांना काम मिळेल. बाजारपेठ उजितावस्थेला येईल. मालवण, देवगड, वेंगुर्ला या भूभागाचा किनारपट्टीचा कायापालट करण्याचे सामर्थ्य सागरी उद्योग केंद्रात आहे स्थानिक लोकांवर, भूभागावर विविध बंधने लादणाऱ्या, उच्चभूस्राठीं उभारल्या जाणाऱ्या अभयारण्याच्या मृगजलामागे न लागता सागरी उद्योग केंद्राचा मालवणच्या जनतेने पाठ पुरावा करावा. हीच मालवणच्या विकासाची द्वारे हीच मालवणच्या विकासाची गुरु किल्ली.

मालवण ता. श्रमिक मच्छिमार संघ, मालवण

सिधुदुर्ग जिल्हा मच्छिमार कृति समिती

महाराष्ट्र राज्य मच्छिमार कृति समिती मुंबई

नॅशनल फिशवर्कस फोरम नवी दिल्ली



INSIST ON HOPE

For over half a century we've believed that Big Dams would deliver the people of India from hunger and poverty. The opposite has happened. Big Dams have pushed the country to the brink of a political and ecological emergency. They have uprooted 40 million people, most of them Tribal and Dalit, from their forests and rivers, from lands and homes where they and their ancestors have lived for thousands of years. They have lost everything. Everything. It is their children that you see begging on the streets. It is they and their children who pay our food and electricity bills.

Not a single Big Dam in India has delivered what it promised. Not the power, not the irrigation, not the flood-control, not the drought-proofing. Instead, Big Dams have converted huge tracts of agricultural land into water-logged salt wastelands, submerged hundreds of thousands of hectares of prime forest, and pushed the country deep into debt.

The era of Big Dams is over. All over the world they are being recognised as technological disasters. As Big Mistakes. Yet in India, our Government refuses to review the situation.

In February 1999, after a four-year stay, the Supreme Court allowed the construction of the Sardar Sarovar Dam to continue - even though every single one of its claimed benefits is scientifically questionable. It's true that Rs.7,500 crores has been spent on the project already. However, studies say that to complete it as planned would cost the Indian Public an additional Rs.35,000 crores. If it is completed, according to the Narmada Bachao Andolan, it will uproot almost half a million people. So far, only 25% of the submergence has taken place. If we act now, we can still save 300,000 people from certain destitution. We can still save Rs.35,000 crores of Public money and put it to better use. (It could probably finance far more effective local water harvesting schemes for every single village in India).

This monsoon, when the reservoir of the Sardar Sarovar Dam fills, the land & homes of 12000 tribal people from 60 villages will be permanently affected. Despite everything the Project Authorities say, the truth is that these people have nowhere to go.

Can we, as citizens, look away while people are being driven from their homes?

As the century comes to a close, it's time to own up to our mistakes. Time to say 'No' to these massive, obsolete, human-crunching, money-guzzling, technological disasters. Time to learn to step lightly on the earth. Time to insist on Hope. For our own sake, for the sake of our children, for the sake of the planet we live on, let's begin by saying 'No' to the Sardar Sarovar Dam. 'No' to the dams on the Narmada.

Arundhati Roy

PS

(+) put on Update list & return to me. AKC

done
11/9/99

PS

ashish kothari

From: bhagwan <bhagwan@nagpur.dot.net.in>
To: ashish kothari <ashish@giasdl01.vsnl.net.in>
Subject: Re: Need addresses
Date: Thursday, September 08, 1999 6:01 AM

PCCF Shri A. N. BALLAL.
PCCF, maharashtra.
M.E.C.L. BUILDING, AMBEDKAR BHAWAN.
SIMINARY HILLS,
NAGPUR.
ph o 536673, 526222

(*)

SECRETARY, Forests
Shri Satish tripathy.
secretary, Forests.
4th floor, mantralay, mumbai.
pri 2023363

DCF Pench - 712-524727 (o)
539907(R)

Tadoba - 717-51414 (o)
56382(R)

Mr irshad khan.
TASK MANAGER
world bank office, New Delhi.
ph o --4619491
4617241

Shree Bhagwan - 0712-528953(o)
539226(R)
552518 (fax)

----- Original Message -----

From: ashish kothari <ashish@giasdl01.vsnl.net.in>
To: Shree Bhagwan <bhagwan@nagpur.dot.net.in>
Sent: 08 September 1999 23:23
Subject: Need addresses

>Dear Shree Bhagwan,
>
>It was good to meet and discuss various aspects of conservation in Vidarbha
>with you. Let us hope that some of the things we are planning are able to
>get off the ground.
>
>I would appreciate your sending me the names and addresses of the
>following:
>
>1. PCCF, Mah.
>2. Secretary, Forests, Mah.
>3. World Bank officials dealing with Mah. Forestry Project.
>
>Thanks,
>Ashish
>



पक्षीमित्र

या अंकात

वेचण

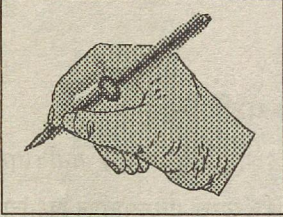
राजवाचन

महाराष्ट्रातील राजहंस

वर्ष १ ले, अंक ३

संपादक - रमेश लाडखेडकर, सहसंपादक - कौस्तुभ पांढरीपांडे

एप्रिल - जून १९९८



संपादकीय

पुढल पाअूल

महाराष्ट्र पक्षीमित्र संस्थेने अेक चांगला संकल्प सोडला आहे. नुकत्याच झालेल्या नाशिक बैठकीत पक्षीमित्रांचा अेक राज्यव्यापी पक्षी अभ्यासगट अुभारण्याचा निर्णय झाला आहे. पक्षीनिरीक्षणापलीकडे

जाअुन पक्षीजीवनाचा अधिक गंभीरपणे अभ्यास करू अिच्छिणाऱ्या महाराष्ट्रभरातील पक्षीमित्रांना अेक व्यासपीठ अुपलब्ध करून देणे हा या अभ्यासगट निर्मितीमागील हेतू आहे. या संकल्पाचे पक्षीमित्र हार्दिक स्वागत करतो.

गेल्या दशकात महाराष्ट्रात पक्षी निरीक्षणाचा छंद बऱ्यापैकी वाढला आहे. पक्षीनिरीक्षकांची, पक्षांचे छायाचित्रण करणाऱ्यांची संख्याही वाढली आहे. परिणामी मराठी वृत्तपत्रे व नियतकालिके यातून पक्षांविषयीचे लिखाणही वाढत आहे. नवनव्या लेखकांची पक्षीजीवनावरली नवी पुस्तके प्रकाशीत होअु लागली आहेत. हे स्वागतार्ह आहे. यारूपाने महाराष्ट्र पक्षीमित्र चळवळीच्या बाल्यावस्थेतले अेक स्वप्न प्रत्यक्षात अुतरले आहे, याचा आनंद आहे. मात्र खंत याची वाटते की मराठी लेखकांची नवी पिढी पूर्वसूरींच्या ललीत लेखनाच्या मधाळ शैलीत रूतून बसली आहे. मराठी भाषेतून पक्षीजीवनाविषयी शास्त्रीय शैलीनेही साहीत्य निर्माण होण्याची निकड आहे. या दिशेने आता पुढले पाअुल पडायला हव.

महाराष्ट्रात पक्षी अभ्यासकांची संख्या अगदी नगण्य नाही. गेल्या दोन दशकात पक्षी जीवनाचा परिश्रमपूर्वक अभ्यास करून शास्त्रीय क्षेत्रात चांगले योगदान करणारे मोजके का होईना पक्षी अभ्यासक महाराष्ट्रात पुढे आले आहेत. पण हे महाराष्ट्रीय चांगुलपण विखुरलेले आहे. अशी संपर्कहीनता शास्त्रीय अभ्यासाला मारक असते. पक्षी अभ्यासाच्या क्षेत्रात परिणामकारक स्थान गाठायच असेल तर संपर्कातली ही पोकळी भरून काढायला हवी. पक्षीमित्र अभ्यासगटाला हे साध्य करता आले तर या क्षेत्रातील कोंडी फुटेल आणि महाराष्ट्राच अेक पाअूल पुढे पडेल.

आकाशायेवढ विसतीर्ण क्षेत्र पक्षी अभ्यासार्थ आपल्याला अुपलब्ध आहे. यात पक्षीमित्र अभ्यासगटाने कुठल्या दिशेने पहिले पाअूल टाकावे ? महाराष्ट्राची नवी पक्षीसूचि संकलीत करण्याच्या दिशेने हे पाअूल असावे असे सुचवावेसे वाटते. महाराष्ट्र पक्षीमित्र चळवळीच्या अठरा वर्षांच्या वाटचालीत महाराष्ट्रभरात प्रयत्नपूर्वक किमान पन्नासअेक स्थानिक पक्षीसूची प्रकाशीत झाल्या असाव्यात. विदर्भ आणि कोकणात तर विभागीय पक्षीसूची संकलनाचा प्रयत्न सुरु आहे. महाराष्ट्रातील बहुतांश अभयारण्यांच्याही अधिकृत पक्षीसूचि वनविभागाने प्रकाशीत केल्या आहेत. (पान ८ वर)

महाराष्ट्र पक्षीमित्र

मागील दोन अंकात महाराष्ट्र पक्षीमित्र संस्थेच्या निर्मितीची पार्श्वभूमि व संस्थेची संकल्पित अुद्दिष्टे तथा ध्येय धोरण समजून घेतले. ३१ मार्च ९७ रोजी संस्थेचे अधिकृत पंजीकरण झाले. २७ अप्रिल ९७ रोजी संस्थेची साधारण सभा नाशिकला होअुन खालील संचालक मंडळ व संकल्पित कार्यक्रम निश्चित झाले.

संपादक

नवनिर्वाचित संचालक मंडळ

अध्यक्ष - डॉ. श्री. रमेश बिडवे, कार्याध्यक्ष - श्री. राजकमल जोब
कार्यवाह - श्री. अजय डोळके, सहकार्यवाह - प्रा. किशोर रिठे
संघटक - श्री. दिगंबर गाडगीळ, सहसंघटक - डॉ. श्री. निनाद शहा
संचालक सदस्य : - श्री. दिलीप यार्दी, औरंगाबाद, श्री. विश्वास काटदरे,
चिपळूण, श्री. दिलीप पाटील, मुंबई, श्री. अनील कुंटे, ठाणे, श्री.
गोविंद सबनीस, पंढरपूर.

नवे संकल्पित उपक्रम -

महाराष्ट्र पक्षीमित्र संस्थेच्या नव्या उपक्रमांच्या संदर्भात काही रचनात्मक सूचना पुढे आल्या. त्यावर चर्चा होऊन खालील निर्णय घेण्यात आला.

पक्षीमित्र अभ्यासगट

महाराष्ट्रातील पक्षी तथा पक्षी अधिवासांच्या शास्त्रीय अभ्यासास चालना देणे हे महाराष्ट्र पक्षीमित्र संस्थेचे एक प्रमुख उद्दीष्ट आहे. त्यासाठी महाराष्ट्रातील पक्षी अभ्यासकांच्या दरम्यान संपर्क व समन्वय घडवून नेमके प्रयत्न करण्याची गरज आहे. त्यासाठी एक अनौपचारिक पक्षीमित्र अभ्यासगट उभारण्याची जबाबदारी श्री. रमेश लाडखेडकर यांनी स्वीकारली.

महाराष्ट्रात पक्षी निरीक्षकांची संख्या वाढविण्यासाठी कुमार वयोगटाला लक्ष्य बनवून अेक मराठी अभ्यासक्रम राबविण्याची गरज आहे. अशा अभ्यासक्रमाचा प्रारंभिक मसुदा तयार करण्याची जबाबदारी श्री. दिगंबर गाडगीळ यांनी स्वीकारली. त्यांना सहाय्य करण्याचे डॉ. श्री. निनाद शहा यांनी मान्य केले.

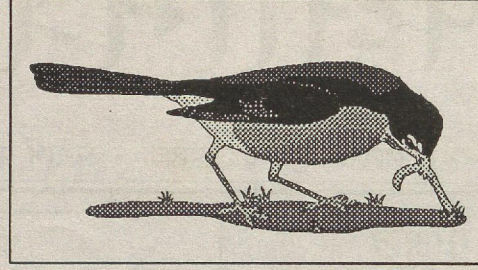
निसर्ग अभ्यास, संरक्षण तथा संवर्धनार्थ प्रयत्नरत असणाऱ्या महाराष्ट्रभरातील स्वयंसेवी संस्थांच्या दरम्यान पक्षी अभ्यासार्थ समन्वय निर्माण करण्याचा महाराष्ट्र पक्षीमित्र संस्थेचा प्रयत्न आहे. यासाठी प्रथम अशा समानध्येयी संस्थांची अेक माहीतीपूर्ण सूची (डिरेक्टरी) तयार व्हायला हवी. संस्थांची अशी सूची तयार करण्याची जबाबदारी श्री. दिगंबर गाडगीळ यांनी स्वीकारली.

महाराष्ट्रभरातील पक्षीमित्रांची माहितीपूर्ण सूची (डिरेक्टरी) तयार करण्याच्या प्रयत्न श्री. अजय डोळके यांनी यापूर्वीच सुरु केला आहे. यासाठीचा समयबध्द उपक्रम राबविण्याची जबाबदारी त्यांनी स्वीकारली.

वेचणा

महाराष्ट्रभरात विविध व्यक्ती तथा संस्था पक्षीविषयक कामं करीत आहेत. ह्या कामांचा आढावा घेण्यासाठी वेचणा हे नवे सदर ह्या अंकापासून सुरु करीत आहेत.

- संपादक



हाती घेतला आहे. ह्या प्रकल्पांतर्गत विदर्भातील गवताळ प्रदेशात (Grassland's) आढळणारे माळढोक, तणमोर आणि जेर्डनचा कोसर ह्या दुर्मिळ पक्षांचा शास्त्रीय अभ्यास होत आहे. २ वर्षांच्या ह्या प्रकल्पानंतर विदर्भातील गवताळ प्रदेश आणि माळरानांवर आढळणाऱ्या पक्षांच्या विषयीची शास्त्रीय माहिती प्रथमच संपादित होणार आहे.

नाशिक

पक्षीमित्र मंडळ नाशिकचे योगदान

सुप्रसिध्द पर्यावरण तज्ज्ञ डॉ. श्री. माधव गाडगीळ यांच्या मार्गदर्शनात पश्चिमघाटाच्या नैसर्गिक विविधतेचा अेक व्यापक अभ्यास सुरु आहे. या प्रकल्पाचा अेक भाग म्हणून नाशिक परिसराच्या अभ्यासार्थ महाविद्यालयीन विद्यार्थी तथा प्राध्यापक यांचा अेक अभ्यासगट निर्माण झाला आहे. अभ्यासगटाने त्र्यंबकेश्वर परिसराच्या नैसर्गिक विविधतेचा अभ्यास सुरु केला आहे. नाशिकच्या पक्षीमित्र मंडळाकडे या प्रकल्पातील पक्षीजीवन अभ्यासाची जबाबदारी सोपविण्यात आली आहे. हे योगदान नाशिक पक्षीमित्र मंडळासाठी पर्यायाने महाराष्ट्र पक्षीमित्र चळवळीसाठी अेक चांगली उपलब्धी ठरेल.

औरंगाबाद

पक्षीनिरिक्षण कार्यशाळा

औरंगाबाद निसर्ग मित्र मंडळ ही संस्था गेली अनेक वर्षे पक्षीमित्र चळवळीत सक्रीय आहे. मंडळाने ८ फरवरी ९८ ला औरंगाबादच्या हिमायत बागेत पक्षीनिरिक्षकांची अेक-दिवसीय कार्यशाळा आयोजित केली. सुमारे ७०/७५ पक्षी निरीक्षक या कार्यशाळेत सहभागी झाले.

सकाळच्या तीन तासांच्या पक्षी निरीक्षण भ्रमंतीने कार्यशाळेची सुरवात झाली. दुसऱ्या भोजनोत्तर सत्रात स्लाईड्स तथा फिल्मच्या सहाय्याने पक्षीनिरिक्षण तंत्रविषयी माहिती देण्यात आली.

समारोपाच्या कार्यक्रमात पर्यावरणीय क्षेत्रातील विशेष योगदानाबद्दल डॉ. श्री. जयश्री देशपांडे यांचा तर पक्षी अभ्यास क्षेत्रातील योगदानाबद्दल श्री. दिलीप यादी यांचा सत्कार करण्यात आला. यानंतर पक्षीअभ्यासाच्या क्षेत्रातील पाठपुरावा उपक्रमांची अपेक्षा.

विदर्भ

१) विदर्भ माळढोक शोध प्रकल्प

विदर्भ नेचर अॅन्ड ह्युमन सायंस (व्ही. एन. एच. एस.) सेंटरने, वनविभाग महाराष्ट्र राज्य ह्यांच्या मदतीने विदर्भ माळढोक शोध प्रकल्प

२) ताडोबा अंधारी व्याघ्र प्रकल्पातील पक्षीजीवन

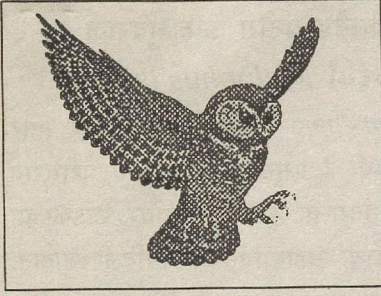
विदर्भ नेचर अॅन्ड ह्युमन सायंस सेंटरने (व्ही.एन.एच.एस.) वनविभाग महाराष्ट्र राज्य ह्यांच्या मदतीने ताडोबा अंधारी व्याघ्र प्रकल्पातील पक्षांचा आणि पारिस्थितीकीचा (Ecology) अभ्यास प्रकल्प हाती घेतला आहे. ताडोबा-अंधारी व्याघ्र प्रकल्पातील पक्षीजीवनाचा शास्त्रीय अभ्यास होऊन व्याघ्र प्रकल्पातील पक्षीसूची, वनविभागाच्या कर्मचाऱ्यांसाठी पक्षीजीवन माहिती पुस्तिका (Field guide) अशासारखे पक्षीविषयक संकलन प्राप्त होणार आहे. व्याघ्र प्रकल्पातील पर्यटन विषयक व्यवस्थापनात पक्षीजीवनाचा सहभाग कसा वाढवता येईल ह्याविषयी तयार होणारी महत्वपूर्ण टिपणी आधार संहिता म्हणून उपलब्ध होणार आहे.

३) विदर्भ पक्षीसूची

व्ही.एन.एच.एस. सेंटरने विदर्भाची पक्षीसूची तयार करण्याचे काम हाती घेतले आहे. त्यानुसार विदर्भातील विविध पक्षीमित्रांकडून, पक्षीमित्र संस्थाकडून आणि वनविभागाकडून पक्षीसूचीचे संकलन करण्यात येऊन विदर्भात आढळणाऱ्या ३४५ जातींच्या पक्षांची प्राथमिक सूची तयार करण्यात आली आहे. ह्या सूचीला अंतिम रूप देण्याचे काम चालू आहे. ह्यातून विदर्भात आढळणाऱ्या पक्षांची शास्त्रीय यादी उपलब्ध होणार आहे, त्याद्वारे पक्षी अभ्यासाची नवी दालने खुली होण्याची आशा निर्माण झाली आहे.

४) पक्षीजीवन अभ्यासक्रम

पक्षीनिरिक्षकांना पक्षीजीवनाची सर्वांगीण ओळख व्हावी ह्या उद्देशाने पक्षीजीवन अभ्यासक्रम आखण्याचे कार्य 'महाराष्ट्र पक्षीमित्र' संस्थेने हाती घेतले आहे, ह्या संदर्भात विदर्भातील भंडारा जिल्ह्यातील 'भंडारा निसर्ग मंडळाने' प्राथमिक स्वरूपाचा अभ्यासक्रम मराठीतून आखला असून, पहिल्या तुकडीचे प्रशिक्षण यशस्वीरित्या पूर्ण झाले आहे. ह्या अभ्यासक्रमावरील चिंतन प्रक्रीयेतून पुढचे पाऊल टाकण्याचा निर्णय भंडारा निसर्ग मंडळाने घेतला आहे. त्यातून महाराष्ट्र पक्षीमित्रच्या राज्य स्तरावरील अभ्यासक्रमाचा श्रीगणेशा होण्यास निश्चितच मदत मिळेल.



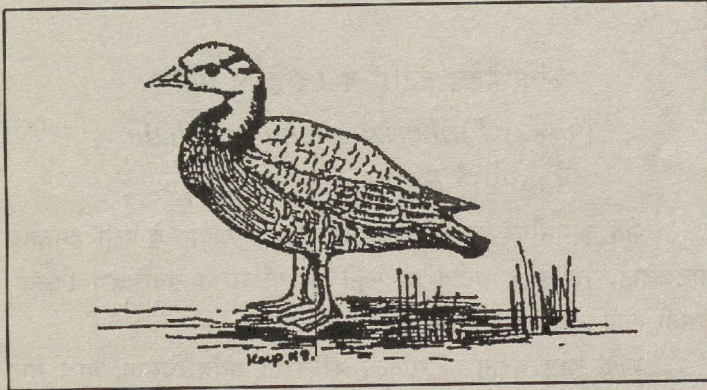
५) अति दुर्मिळ फॉरेस्ट स्पॉटेड आअुलेटचा शोध

एकाशतकापूर्वी १८८४ मध्ये भारतात फॉरेस्ट स्पॉटेड आअुलेट (Atbene bluecitti) बघितल्याची अखेरची नोंद होती. त्यामुळे हा पक्षी बहुधा कायमचा

नष्ट झाला (Extinct) असे मानल्या जात होते. पण नोव्हेंबर १७ मध्ये पामेला रॅसमसेन व बेन किंग या दोन अमेरिकन पक्षी तज्ज्ञांनी महाराष्ट्रातील शहादा गावाजवळ दोन फॉरेस्ट स्पॉटेड आअुलेट्स (बहुधा नरमादी) बघितल्याचा दावा केला आहे. ही मोठीच आनंददायक वार्ता मानावी लागेल.

महाराष्ट्र पक्षीमित्र संस्थेचे सहकार्यवाह प्रा. श्री. किशोर रिठे यांनीही यावर्षी अमरावती जिल्ह्यात फॉरेस्ट स्पॉटेड आअुलेट बघितल्याचा दावा केला आहे. संस्थेच्या नाशिक बैठकीत पारदर्शिकांसहीत त्यांनी ही माहिती सादर केली. ही मोठीच आशादायक घटना आहे. प्रा. रिठे अमरावती जिल्ह्यातील वरुड तालुक्यातील महेन्द्री जंगलात श्री. पदमाकर लाड, डॉ. श्री. खोडे तथा श्री. कुमार पाटील तथा अन्य पक्षीमित्रांच्या सहकार्याने ह्या दुर्मिळ पक्षाचा शोध घेत आहेत. या पक्षीमित्र चमूचे अभिष्ट चिंतन!

महाराष्ट्रातील राजहंस



राजहंस (Bar Headed Goose) ही अडचणीत असलेली पक्षी प्रजाती आहे. या प्रजातीच्या संरक्षणार्थ जागतिक पातळीवर अभ्यासाचा प्रयत्न सुरु आहे. भारतात Ecological Society - Pune च्या वतीने पक्षीतज्ज्ञ श्री. प्रकाश गोळे यासाठी विशेष प्रयत्नशील आहेत. त्यांच्या Journal of Ecological Society (Vol. 10-1997) च्या राजहंसां - वरील विशेषांकाने खालील माहिती (संक्षिप्त रूपात) घेतली आहे. विशेष माहिती तथा सहकार्यार्थ श्री. प्रकाश गोळे यांच्याशी संपर्क साधावा.

संपादक

* As pointed out by Joost van der Ven this goose was never abundant and disturbances on its breeding and wintering areas do cause concern about its future welfare. There is ample reason for all of us who love and admire

waterfowl to be vigilant and insist on proper conservation measures for this handsome goose.'

Prakash Gole

Coordinator for Anser indicus

Goose Specialist Group, Wetlands International,

1 - B, Abhimanashree Society, Pashan Road,

Pune - 411008

*अकोलंजीकल सोसा. जर्नलच्या संपादकीयाचा अंश

राजहंस पक्षांच्या महाराष्ट्रातील स्थलांतराचा अितिहास दीर्घकालीन असला तरी यासंबंधीच्या ज्ञात नोंदी खऱ्या अर्थाने १९८० च्या नंतरच्या आहेत. या नोंदी पुरेशा नसल्या तरी राजहंस पक्षांच्या हिवाळी स्थलांतर काळातल्या महाराष्ट्रातील अस्तित्वाची माहिती देणाऱ्या आहेत. प्राप्त माहितीचा आराखडा खाली दिला आहे.

क्र.	तलाव	वर्ष (नोंदीचे)	पक्षी संख्या	संदर्भ	शहर निरीक्षक
१)	परडगांव	१९९६	२३	नागपूर	गोपाळ ठोसर
२)	तेल्हारा	१९९६	१	नागपूर	गोपाळ ठोसर
३)	ताडोबा	१९९५	२०	चंद्रपूर	गोपाळ ठोसर
४)	बोदरा	१९९६	१२	भंडारा	नारायण पाटील
५)	इटियाडोह	१९९६	४०	भंडारा	नारायण पाटील
६)	गवराड	१९९६	१०	भंडारा	नारायण पाटील
७)	केलवाड	१९९६	२०	भंडारा	नारायण पाटील
८)	चोरखामरा	१९९६	८	भंडारा	राजकमल जोब
९)	घोडझरी	१९९३	३०	नागपूर	रमेश लाडखेडकर
१०)	चारगांव/चांदइ	१९९३	५०	चंद्रपूर	रमेश लाडखेडकर
११)	इरई	१९९४	५०	चंद्रपूर	अजय डोळके
१२)	सावरडी	१९९५	३	अमरावती	किशोर रिठे
१३)	सूर्यांगगा	१९९५	६	अमरावती	किशोर रिठे
१४)	वाडली	१९९६	१	अमरावती	किशोर रिठे
१५)	राजवाडी	१९८५	३०	पुणे	प्रकाश गोळे
					जोस्ट व्हॅनडर व्हॅन
१६)	राजवाडी	१९९५-९६	८०	पुणे	प्रकाश गोळे
१७)	वीर	१९९६-९७	४०	पुणे	प्रकाश गोळे/ जोस्ट व्हॅनडर व्हॅन
१८)	हिप्परगा	१९८५ पासून	१०	सोलापूर	
१९)		१९९३ पासून	२०/३०	औरंगाबाद	श्री. घाटे
२०)	सुखना	१९९४-९६	२/२		
२१)	जायकवाडी	१९९४-९६	६/४/२	औरंगाबाद	दिलीप यादी
२२)	ढेकू	१९९४-९५	२/२		
नवीनोंद (विदर्भ)					
२३)	घोडझरी	१९९७	६६	नागपूर	कौस्तुभ पांढरीपांडे

- दिगंबर गाडगीळ

बर्ड वॉचर्स सोसायटी ऑफ आंध्रप्रदेश यांच्यातर्फे दर महिन्याला 'पिट्टा' ही चार पानी पत्रिका प्रसिद्ध होते. सोसायटीच्या सदस्यांनाही पत्रिका विनामूल्य पाठविली जाते. (सोसायटीची वार्षिक वर्गणी रु. १००/-)

पत्रिकेत दर महिन्याला सभासदांनी कुठे पक्षीनिरीक्षणाला जावे याची सूचना असते. पूर्वीच्या सहलीवर छोटा लेख असतो. त्याखेरीज अन्य महत्वाच्या नियतकालिकातील मजकूर संक्षेपाने दिलेला असतो. अलिकडे कुमार घोरपडे यांची लेखमालाही चालू आहे. सर्वात महत्वाचे म्हणजे दक्षिणेतील चार राज्यातील पक्षी निरीक्षकांनी केलेल्या नोंदी संक्षेपाने दिल्या जातात. संगणकावर या नोंदी संग्रहीत करून सुरुवातीला तरी चार राज्यातील माहिती संकलित करण्याचा त्यांचा मानस आहे. सध्या 'पिट्टा' सातव्या वर्षात सातत्याने चालू आहे. पक्षी निरीक्षणाकडे जिज्ञासू वृत्तीने बघणाऱ्यांसाठी ही पत्रिका उपयुक्त आहे.

संपर्काचा पत्ता :

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सांगली परिसरातील भारिट आणि त्यांचा अधिवास

ही माहिती सांगली व भोवतालच्या परिसरातील गेल्या ६-७ वर्षात केलेल्या निरीक्षणावर आधारीत आहे. या निरीक्षणात सांगलीच्या पूर्व भागातील माळरानांचा प्रामुख्याने समावेश आहे.

सांगली जिल्ह्याचा पश्चिम भाग हा कृष्णा नदीच्या खोऱ्यामुळे व उत्तम पाऊसमानामुळे समृद्ध आहे. बागायत शेती - मुळे पडिक जमिनींचे प्रमाणही खूप कमी आहे. या उलट पूर्व भागात कमी पाऊस, मुरमाची जमिन, शेती पावसावरच अवलंबून, त्यामुळे माळराने व पडिक जमिनी मुबलक, हा परिसर भारिट पक्ष्यांना आवडता, या ठिकाणी निरीक्षणासाठी भरपूर वाव आहे.

सांगली परिसरात सहा जातीचे भारिट आढळतात. पैकी दोन क्रेस्टेड बंटींग आणि स्ट्रिओलेटेड बंटींग हे स्थानिक आहेत. बाकीचे चार म्हणजे ग्रे नेक्ड बंटींग, ब्लॅक हेडेड बंटींग, आणि रॉक बंटींग हे हिवाळ्यातील पाहूणे आहेत.

या चार स्थलांतरीत जातीखेरीज आणखी एक स्थलांतरीत बंटींग म्हणजे ओर्टलॅन बंटींग हा आहे. गेली दोन-तीन वर्षे या पक्षांना मी पहात आहे. पण पुस्तकांत हा पक्षी दुर्मिळ असल्याचे म्हटले आहे व आता पर्यंत मी ३ - ४ सायटींग नमुद केली आहेत. त्यामुळे सखोल निरीक्षण व सबळ पुरावे मिळाल्याशिवाय ठामपणे काही मांडणे संयुक्तिक ठरणार नाही.

प्रथम आपण स्थानिक भारिटच्या अधिवासाची माहिती पाहू.

खडक - गवत व झुडूपांनी युक्त डोंगर उतार

हा या पक्षाचा अधिवास. गवताचे बी हे प्रमुख अन्न. सांगली परिसरात याची घरे ऑगस्ट, सप्टेंबर मध्ये दिसली. डोंगर उतारावर खडकाच्या बेचक्यात काड्या, गवताचे तंतू यांच्या सहाय्याने घरे बनविली जातात. प्रियाराधनेच्या काळात नर पक्षी ऊंच झुडूप, झाड अगर खडकावर बसून गातो. बुश चॅट, स्ट्रिओलेटेड बंटींग व क्रेस्टेड बंटींग यांच्या ब्रिडींग कॉल्स मध्ये खूपच साम्य आहे. हा पक्षी खूपदा एकटा अगर जोडीने दिसतो, काही वेळा पाच सात पक्षांचे गट दिसतात.

स्ट्रिओलेटेड बंटींग

(२०५७) *Emberiza striolata*

स्थानिक पक्षांपैकी स्ट्रिओलेटेड बंटींग हा सांगली परिसरात माझ्या निरीक्षणानुसार दुर्मिळ म्हणावा लागेल. हा पक्षी सांगलीच्या पूर्वेस आटपाडी गावानजीक असलेल्या ढबई कुरणाच्या एका उराविक भागात दिसतो. ओढ्याकडे जाणारी उतरती जमिन, मुख्य ओढ्याला जाऊन मिळणारे नाले, खडक, गवत, झुडूपांनी युक्त असा हा परिसर आहे. झुडूपात निवडूंगाचा समावेश प्रामुख्याने होतो. स्ट्रिओलेटेड बंटींगचा उल्लेख Pictorial Guide to the Birds of Indian Subcontinent व The Book of Indian Birds या दोन पुस्तकांत आहे.

ब्लॅक हेडेड बंटींग व रेड हेडेड बंटींग

(२०४३) *Emberiza melanocephala*(२०४४) *Emberiza bruniceps*

शेत जमिनीवर ज्वारी व कडधान्यांच्या पिकावर हे पक्षी हमखास आढळतात. रेड हेडेड बंटींग हा पक्षी या परिसरात क्वचितच दिसतो. दिसतो तोही आटपाडी भागात.

ब्लॅक हेडेड बंटींग हा सांगली परिसरात सर्वत्र दिसतो. याचे मोठे थवे ज्वारीच्या अगर इतर धान्यांच्या पिकांवर पहायला मिळतात. कणसात दाणा, पोटरीवर असताना हा पक्षी हमखास पहायला मिळतो. तूर, चवळी, मूग या पिकांवर हा पक्षी मोठ्या थव्याने दिसतो. पिक काढण्याची वेळ ही त्याला हमखास पाहण्याची वेळ आहे. थव्यात नर माद्या आणि त्यांची पिल्ले यांचा समावेश असतो. ब्लॅक हेडेड बंटींग व रेड हेडेड बंटींग या दोघांची वीण हिदूस्थानाबाहेर होते. आक्टोबर ते मार्च या कालावधीत त्यांचे वास्तव्य सांगली परिसरात असते.

ग्रे नेक्ड बंटींग

(२०५०) *Emberiza buchanani*

उत्तर बलुचिस्तान, अफगाणिस्तान येथील रहिवासी. सांगली परिसरातील नोव्हेंबरमध्ये दाखल होतो.

मायणी तलाव परिसर, आटपाडी येथील ढबई कुरण, दंडोबा डोंगर

व आसपासचा भाग इत्यादी ठिकाणी हमखास सापडतो. समुहाने राहतो. जमिनीवर उतरून गवताचे बी खातो. जिथे गवत भरपूर आहे, त्या भागात दिसतो. शेत जमिनीवर सहसा आढळत नाही. न बुजणारा असल्याने निरीक्षण उत्तम करता येते. धोका वाटल्यास आसपासच्या झुडुपांचा आधार घेतो.

रॉक बंटींग

(२०५१ - २०५४) *Emberiza cia*

पश्चिम हिमालय, तिबेट, अरुणाचल प्रदेश या ठिकाणचा रहिवासी, गवत, झुडूपे व खडक असणारे डोंगर उतार हा ह्यांचा अधिवास. हिवाळ्यात पायथ्याच्या प्रदेशात स्थानिक स्थलांतर. श्री. व्हिसलर यांच्या नोंदीनुसार उत्तर भारतात हिवाळ्यात स्थलांतर करून येणारे पक्षी *Emberiza ciapar* या पोट जातीचे असून ट्रान्सकॅस्पिया ते चित्रल या ठिकाणचे रहिवासी आहेत. या झाल्या पुस्तकातील नोंदी.

सांगलीच्या पूर्वेस असणारा शुक्राचार्य डोंगर ह्या ठिकाणी आढळतो, १९९२ ते १९९५ सलग चार वर्षे डिसेंबर महिन्यात या पक्षांचा छोटा समुह मी पहात आहे. माझ्या सहकाऱ्यांनाही मी दाखविला आहे. १९९६ डिसेंबरमध्ये मात्र हा पक्षी दिसला नाही. गवताचे बी हे अन्न शुक्राचार्यशिवाय अन्य ठिकाणी आढळले नाही.

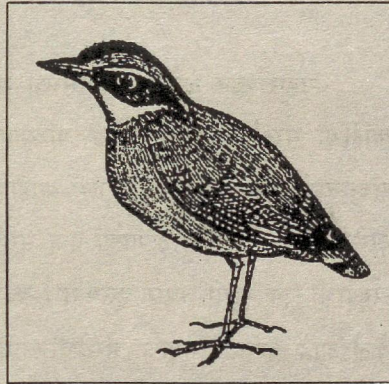
या भागात हा पक्षी स्थलांतर करून येत असल्याबाबत कोठेही वाचण्यात आले नाही. याबाबत ठाम दावा करतांना आणखी काही निरीक्षणे करावी लागतील.

शरद दत्त आपटे

१७६६, उषःकाल, गणेश नगर,
डॉ. आंबेडकर रोड, सांगली - ४१६ ४१६

नवरंगाचे घरकूल

रत्नागिरी जिल्ह्यातील लांजा तालुक्यातील गवाणेगाव म्हणजे माझा कार्यक्षेत्र. तालुक्यापासून साधारण ७/८ कि.मी. वर आहे. दिनांक १४ जून ९७ रोजी घरणाच्या कालव्यात (Canal) उभा असताना



कालव्याच्या कडेला साधारण ८ फूटाच्या अुंचीवर खैराच्या झाडाच्या बेचक्यात नवरंगाची (Indian Pitta) जोडी काटक्या गोळा करून घरट्याला लावण्यात गुंग होती. जवळपास दोन-तीन माणसांची वर्दळ असूनही त्याची त्यांनी दाद घेतली नव्हती. घरटं बरचसं पूर्ण झाल्याचं दिसत होतं, म्हणून थोड्या वेळात एकटाच घरट्याजवळ गेलो तर घरट्यात पाच अंडी होती. अंडी चकचकीत पांढरी व त्यावर लाल रंगाचे फराटे व ठिपके दिसत होते. घरटं जमिनीपासून बरोबर ७ फूटावर होते. छोटस मडकं उभं न ठेवता तिरकं

ठेवलं म्हणजे तोंड जमिनीला काटकोनात करून ठेवल्यावर जसं दिसत तसं ते घरटं दिसत होत.

दिनांक १६ जून रोजी पुन्हा निरीक्षण केल असता जोडी पैकी एक नवरंग अंड्यावर बसला होता. घरट्यात अंडी पाचच होती. त्याच दिवशी तिथूनच साधारण १०० ते १५० मीटर अंतरावर रातांबीच्या झाडावर (कोकमाचे झाड) नवरंगाचे आणखीन एक घरटे सापडले. त्यात देखील एक नवरंग अंड्यावर बसला होता. घरट्यात पाच अंडी होती. घरटं पहिल्या घरट्यासारखंच होतं, मात्र जमिनीपासून ४ फूट उंचीवर होत.

त्यानंतर दिनांक २१ जून, २३ जून, २५ जून रोजी दोनही घरट्याचे निरीक्षण केले असता दोनही घरट्यांमध्ये नवरंग अंडी उबवतांना आढळले. घरट्याजवळ गेल्यानंतर नवरंग मान तेवढीच बाहेर काढून बसत असे. डोक्याचा रंग तपकिरी असल्याने घरट्याच्या रंगात तो मिसळून जाई. डोक्यावरील दोन पांढऱ्या पट्ट्यामुळे, मात्र एखाद्या सापाचे तोंडच असल्यासारखे भासत असे. घरट्याच्या अगदीच जवळ गेल्यानंतर मात्र तो उडून जात असे.

दिनांक २ जुलै रोजी दोनही घरट्यात ५ / ५ पिल्लं आढळून आली. पिल्लांच्या अंगावर काळ्या रंगाची लहान-लहान पिसं दिसत होती. पिल्लांची चोच मात्र भगव्या रंगाची दिसत होती. ह्यावरून पिल्लं ३ - ४ दिवसांपूर्वीची असावीत. पिल्लांचे डोळे पण उघडे होते.

त्यानंतर ४, ५, ६ व ७ जुलै रोजी दोनही घरट्यांमध्ये दोघेही नवरंग पिल्लांना आळीपाळीने भरवतांना दिसत होते. ते मुख्यत्वे तोंडातून गांडूळ आणून पिल्लांना भरवित होते. दिनांक ८ जुलै रोजी घरट्याच्या जवळून पिल्लं पाहिली असता. पिल्लं बरीचशी मोठी झाल्याचे दिसून आले. पिल्लं घरट्याच्या तोंडाजवळ येवून चोची फक्त घरट्याबाहेर काढून बसत असतं.

दिनांक १० जुलै रोजी रातांबीच्या झाडावरील घरटे रिकामे दिसले. पण खैराच्या झाडावरील घरट्यातली पिल्ल मात्र माना बाहेर काढून बसली होती. पुन्हा दिनांक १६ ते १७ जुलै रोजी पिल्लांच जवळून निरीक्षण केल असता. खैराच्या झाडावरील पिल्लांना नवरंग भरवताना दिसला. ह्यावेळी पिल्ल पण चांगलीच मोठी झाल्याच जाणवलं. १९ जुलै रोजी पिल्लं घरट्याबाहेर माना काढून बघत होती. त्यानंतर २१ जुलै रोजी मात्र नवरंगाचं घरटं रिकामं आढळलं. म्हणजे गेल्या दोन दिवसांत पिल्ल उडून गेलेली असावीत.

राजेंद्र कोकाटे

सहाद्री निसर्ग मित्र, चिपळूण.

वडाच्या झाडातील ढोल्यांमध्ये पक्षीगणांची विश्रांती

मे महिन्यात संपूर्ण विदर्भात कडक उन्ह जाणवू लागते, जंगलातील पाण्याचे साठे अत्यंत मर्यादीत होऊन जातात. अशावेळी ज्या ठिकाणी थोडे फार पाणी शिल्लक असते तिथे पक्ष्यांची झुंबड दिसून येते, ह्या पक्ष्यांमध्ये Flycatcher, White eye, King Crow (Black Drongo) इत्यादी

पक्ष्यांचा प्रामुख्याने समावेश असतो, मात्र पाणस्थळावर फार वेळ थांबणे शक्य नसते. अशावेळी अत्यंत असह्य होणाऱ्या उन्हापासून वाचण्यासाठी अवलंबलेला वेगळा उपाय आढळून आला.

कोळसा रेंज मधील कारवा ह्या ठिकाणी वन विभागाचे विश्रामगृह आहे. ह्या विश्रामगृहाच्या मागे, एक डेरेदार वडाचे झाड आहे, ह्या झाडाच्या फांद्यांच्या गुंतागुंतीच्या रचनेमुळे अनेक लहान-लहान ढोल्या तयार झाल्या आहेत. ह्या ढोल्या झाडाच्या आतल्या बाजूला असून त्या सुमारे ६ X ६ इंचापासून १ चौ. फू. पर्यंत खोल आणि रुंद आहेत. ह्या ढोल्यांच्या आतील तापमान बाहेरच्या तापमानापेक्षा थोडे कमी आढळून आले. Indian Pitta (*Pitta brachyura*), White throated ground Thrush (*Zoothera citrina*) Ashy wren warbler (*Prinia socialis*) हे पक्षी ह्या ढोल्यांमध्ये शांत बसलेले आढळून आले. प्रत्येक पक्ष्याची ढोली ठरलेली होती व उडून आल्यावर तो पक्षी हमखास त्याच ढोलीत बसतांना आढळला. सकाळी सुमारे ११ वाजतापासून सायंकाळी ४ वाजता पर्यंत हे पक्षी ह्या ढोल्यांचा वापर करतांना आढळले. ह्या दरम्यान काही वेळाकरीता हे पक्षी ढोल्या सोडतात असेही आढळले.

कौस्तुभ पांढरीपांडे

३४-ब, 'तपोवन' सहनिवास, सोमलवाडा,

नागपूर - २५

'वर्ल्ड बर्ड वॉच' मधील भारतीय योगदान

"Bird-life International" या संस्थेने १९९७ साली 'वर्ल्ड बर्ड वॉच' हा कार्यक्रम आखला होता. त्यानुसार ५ ऑक्टोबर १९९७ या दिवशी जगात मोठ्या प्रमाणावर पक्षी निरीक्षण वा पक्षांची मोजणी करावी असे आवाहन करण्यात आले होते.

जगात ११११ पक्षीजाती नाहीशा होण्याचा धोका निर्माण झालेला आहे. या जातींना वाचविण्यासाठी जागतिक स्तरावर जागरूकता निर्माण करण्यासाठी 'वर्ल्ड बर्ड वॉच' हा कार्यक्रम आखलेला आहे. भारतात या कामाचे सुत्रचालन करण्याची जबाबदारी कोईमतूर येथील 'सलीम अली सेंटर फॉर ऑरनिथॉलॉजी अँड नॅचरल हिस्ट्री' या संस्थेने स्वीकारली आहे. या संस्थेमार्फत 'रेड डाटा बुक' तयार करण्याचे काम सुरू आहे. जी जात नष्ट होण्याचा गंभीर धोका असतो तिचा समावेश रेड डाटा बुकमध्ये केला जातो. भारतातील विविध ठिकाणच्या पहाणीतून जी आकडेवारी उपलब्ध होते तिचा उपयोग रेड डाटा बुक अद्यावत करण्याच्या कामी होतो.

ऑक्टोबर ९७ अखेरपर्यंत ज्यांच्या नोंदी सलीम अली सेंटरकडे पोहोचल्या त्यांचे संकलन जानेवारी ९८ मध्ये करण्यात येऊन जपानमधील जागतिक सूत्रसंचालन समितीकडे हा अहवाल गेलेला आहे. संकलित झालेल्या नोंदीनुसार ३८५ पक्षी जाती भारतभरात अडचणीत असलेल्या आढळल्या आहेत.

भारतात सुमारे १२०० जातीचे पक्षी आहेत. आणि राज्यांची संख्या ही ३२ आहे. पण केवळ ११ राज्यातून तुरळक प्रमाणात काम व्हावे हे निसर्गरक्षणाच्या दृष्टीने निराशाजनक म्हटले पाहिजे.

आमच्या पक्षीमित्र मंडळाचा अहवाल पाठवताना, पुढील वर्षी भरपूर सवड ठेवून व जास्तीत जास्त निसर्ग संस्थांना हे आवाहन पाठविण्याची आवश्यकता आहे. असे आम्ही सलीम अली सेंटरला कळवले होते. देशात निसर्गसंस्था आहेत तरी किती, याचीही एकत्रित नोंद कुठे उपलब्ध आहे का? याबद्दल शंका आहे.

द्वारा - पक्षीमित्र मंडळ,
नाशिक.

गाय बगळ्यांची प्रजनन वसाहत (Heronary)

व्ही.एन.अेच.अेस. सेन्टरच्या माळढोक शोध प्रकल्पातील नागपूर परिसरातील शोध यात्रेत प्रकल्प क्षेत्र-शास्त्रज्ञ (Field scientists) श्री. कौस्तुभ पांढरीपांडे व श्री. नितीन परांजपे यांनी गाय बगळ्यांच्या घरट्यांची अेक वसाहत १५ जुलै ९८ मध्ये शोधून काढली आहे.

नागपूर शहराच्या दक्षिणपूर्वेस ५ कि.मी. अंतरावरील तरोडी (बु.) या गावात ही वसाहत आहे. सुमारे १०० घरटी या गावातील चिंचेच्या झाडांवर आहेत. गेली सुमारे दहावर्षे अशी वसाहत नागपूर परिसरात शोधण्याचा व्ही.एन.अेच.अेस. सेन्टरचा प्रयास सुरू होता.

आवाहन

- दिगंबर गाडगीळ

संघटक, महाराष्ट्र पक्षीमित्र

महाराष्ट्रात अनेक निसर्गसंस्था आपल्या परीने काम करीत आहेत. काहींचा भर पशु, पक्षी किटक यांच्यावर असेल तर काही वृक्ष लागवड संवर्धनाचे काम करीत असतील. काहींचे कार्यक्षेत्र पर्यावरणाशी संबंधीत असेल. पण निसर्ग संरक्षणाचा एक समान थागा त्यात आहेच. अशा सर्व संस्थांची एक सूची तयार करण्याचे काम महाराष्ट्र पक्षीमित्र संस्थेने सुरू केले आहे. कृपया आपल्या संस्थेची माहिती सोबतच्या नमुन्यात कळवावी ही विनंती. आपल्या संस्थेखेरीज अन्य संस्था आपणांस माहित असेल तर त्यांनाही अशी माहिती पाठवावी, अशी त्यांना आमच्या वतीने विनंती करावी अथवा संपर्क साधावयास सुचवावे.

संपर्क पत्ता :-

३९, आनंदवन, कर्तोलेंज रोड,

नाशिक ४२२ ००५

फोन : (०२५३) ५७७९६८

महाराष्ट्रातील निसर्ग संस्थांची माहिती

- १) संस्थेचे नांव :- _____

- २) पत्ता :- _____

- ३) फोन /फॅक्स/इ. मेल :- _____
- ४) स्थापना :- _____

- ५) नोंदणीकृत असल्यास नोंदणी क्र. :- _____

- ६) प्रमुख उद्देश :- _____

- ७) सभासद संख्या :- _____

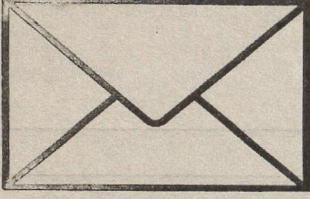
- ८) वर्गणीचे दर :- _____

- ९) अध्यक्ष :- _____

- १०) चिटणीस :- _____

- ११) आजपर्यंतची उल्लेखनीय कामे :- _____

- १२) संस्थेच्या मालकीची साधने (✓) अशी खूण करावी.
फिल्म प्रोजेक्टर () स्लाईड प्रोजेक्टर () टेपरेकॉर्डर () दूरदर्शन () व्हिडिओ रेकॉर्डर () चित्रफिती () ध्वनीफिती ()
लाऊडस्पीकर () इतर ()
- १३) आपल्या संस्थेतील तज्ज्ञ व्यक्ती अन्य ठिकाणी व्याख्यान/ शिबिर _____
यांना मदत करू शकत असल्यास त्यांची नावे व पत्ते :- _____
- १४) संस्थेचे ग्रंथालय आहे का ? _____
ग्रंथसंख्या (शक्य असल्यास यादी जोडावी) _____
नियतकालीके _____
- १५) सभासदांसाठी संपर्कपत्रिका निघते का ? _____
(असल्यास एखादा नमुना अंक पाठवावा)
- १६) अन्य माहिती :- _____



वाढ पत्रांच्या

मा. संपादक 'पक्षीमित्र'

मा. महोदय,

आपण पाठविलेला पक्षीमित्रचा अंक पोहोचला. अंक निश्चितच वाचनीय आहे. मात्र पक्षांवर माहितीपूर्ण असे काही वाचायला मिळाले नाही. हे जाणवले. पक्षीमित्र पक्षांविषयी अधिक लिहिल अशी आशा करतो. महाराष्ट्रातील पक्षांबद्दल अधिकाधिक माहिती उपलब्ध व्हावयास हवी. नुकतेच डॅनिअलचे नवीन इंग्रजी पुस्तक चाळले. महाराष्ट्रातील पक्षांबद्दल त्यात नवीन माहिती काहीच नाही. आपले पक्षीमित्र माहिती जमवितात, पण प्रसिध्द करीत नाहीत. पक्षीमित्र ही उणीव भरून काढेल असे वाटते.

आपला स्नेहांकित

प्रकाश गोळे,

१-ब, अभिमानश्री सोसायटी, पाषाण रोड,

पुणे - ४११ ००८

मा. संपादक 'पक्षीमित्र'

मा. महोदय,

आपली 'पक्षीमित्र' ह्या अंकाची (वर्ष १ ले अंक २) ही प्रत मिळाली त्याबद्दल धन्यवाद. अंक वाचनीय आहे. काही आणखी सहकार्य हवे असल्यास हक्काने मागणे.

आपला स्नेहांकित

रा. चं. प्रधान,

५९/३७ अेरंडवणे, मोहिनीराज, भारती निवास हाऊसिंग कॉलनी,

पुणे - ४११००४



बुक पोस्ट

प्रति,

या अंकात

वेवण

यनवायन

महाराष्ट्रातील राजहंस

खाजगी वितरणाकरिता हा अंक
श्री. रमेश लाडखेडकर यांनी
५०९, जुनी रामदासपेट,
नागपूर - ४४० ०१० अेथून प्रकाशित केला.
मुद्रक - सिक्कोन कॉम्प्युटर्स, नागपूर, फोन - ५५५३२३

संपादकीय - (पान १ वरून)

या साऱ्या पक्षीसूचिचे अेकत्रिकरण करून त्याचे संशोधनपूर्ण संस्करण करण्याची गरज आहे. हे घडवता आले तर महाराष्ट्र पक्षीमित्र चळवळीचे महाराष्ट्रातील पक्षी अभ्यासात मोठे योगदान ठरेल.

या क्षेत्रात पक्षीमित्र चळवळीला भविष्यात प्रदीर्घ प्रवास करायचा आहे. महाराष्ट्र पक्षीमित्र अभ्यासगटाची निर्मिती करून महाराष्ट्र पक्षीमित्रसंस्थेने पुढल पाअूल टाकल आहे. प्रवास आनंदमय असो ही शुभेच्छा!

From: Kishor Rithe /Date: Thursday, August 30, 2001 11:01 AM

Tipeshwar Sanctuary Threatened by Dam.

Tipeshwar Sanctuary in Yawatmal district of Maharashtra state is threatened by a proposed Lower Painganga irrigation Project. The surprising thing is the former forest Minister who took a initiation for declaring the sanctuary, is the person behind the proposal of Dam which is no doubt harmful for the sanctuary.

The Tipeshwar Sanctuary which is home to tiger, leopard, spotted deer, Sambar, pangolean and around 200 bird species is not only going to loose it's 4.82 Ha actual forest land but also the large and important corridors. The total forest land going under submergence around the sanctuary is 1105 Ha.

This project worth 1400 Crore (in 1995) on the Painganga river is the interstate venture and agreement is being made between Government of Maharashtra and Govt. of Andhra Pradesh which was principally granted in 1998. Yawatmal district, Chandrapur district of Maharashtra and Adilabad district in Andhra Pradesh are the beneficial districts for irrigation purpose. The total area to be irrigated is 1,60,050 Ha. at the cost of submergence of 20,000 Ha. of rich agriculture land.

It is very surprising that the Govt. of India is yet to clear the project under Forest conservation Act 1980 and the Vidarbha Irrigation Development Board, Nagpur have given the permission on 9 th June 1999 to start the project work. Not only this, Executive Engineer, Arunawati Canal, Division Yawatmal have issued the tender notice 1/2000-2001 to start the work of construction of Chimata Dam, lower Painganga project. It is also shocking that as per the Environment Protection Act 1986 no public hearing is conducted to seek the objections from the affected people.

As the project needs the forest land as well as the area of the sanctuary, the proposal was also sent to CF(Wildlife) Nagpur. The irrigation department says in it's report that CF(Wildlife) Nagpur have made the site inspection on 7/7/2000 and marked the queries which have asked to restrict the construction of the canal in minimum area, to set the wire fencing along the canal for the safety of wild animals (as this is the migration route of wild animals), constructing a bridge for wildlife to cross the canal. Irrigation department have agreed on these terms to fulfill it, once the construction work starts. However it is learnt that CCF(Wildlife) have given the permission to this project on the terms mentioned by CF(Wildlife) Nagpur.

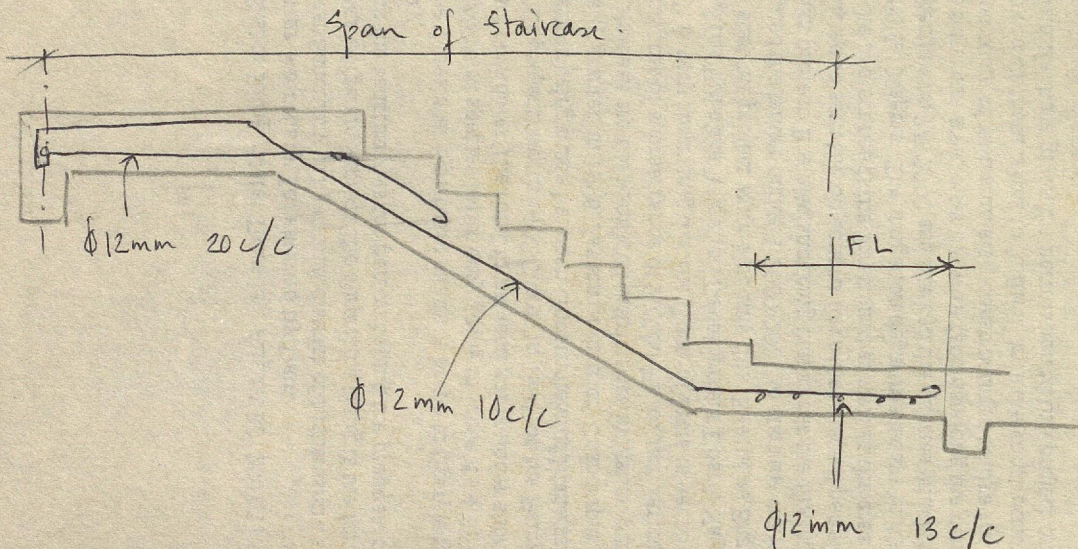
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SEKHSARIA ENTERPRISES

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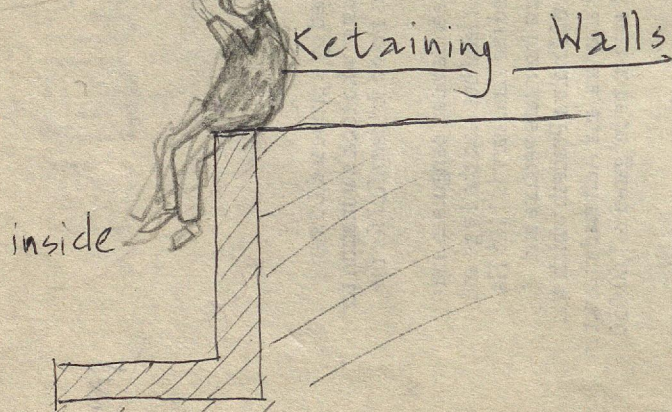
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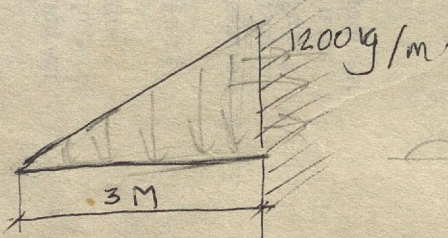
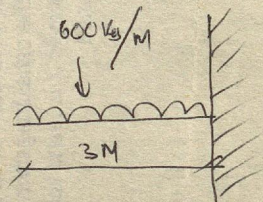


Moment : l^2 $l = \text{span}$

Steel : Moment



$W = 1800 \text{ kg}$



$$W = \frac{1200 \times 3}{2} = 1800 \quad \left(\frac{1}{2} \text{ base} \times \text{height} \right)$$

Mah 37 ✓

From: cranan_cho cranan123@rediffmail.com To: ashish@nda.vsnl.net.in
Subject: press note / Date: Monday, April 08, 2002 10:27 AM

PRESS NOTE

MTR opens a Website, Launches Eco-tourism on World Forestry Day

The Melghat Tiger Reserve which has about 28 years' history of Tiger Conservation as the first Tiger reserve in Maharashtra, has opened a website to introduce the eco-tourists and naturalists the world-over to its pristine glory of biodiversity and wildlife. The address of the website is www.melghattiger.com. The site is hosted by Conservator & Field Director, Melghat Tiger Reserve, Amravati Camp, Maharashtra, India.

The site has been prepared courtesy Shri. P. B. Nagolkar, Honorary Wildlife warden Pune and therefore no cost is incurred by the State/Central Government for launching this site. The website has been launched by Conservator & Field Director, MTR on the auspicious day of 21st March 2002, the World Forestry Day in the presence of distinguished member of the Press, NGOs, Senior Government officials and first batch of 25 eco-tourists visiting Melghats on 'World Forestry Day.'

The website on MTR gives details of conservation history, attributes and ecology and preponderance of Wildlife in enchanting natural valleys and ballas of Melghats. An ecological map shows the routes for tourists and gives details about start and halting points for the visitors. A click on 'Contact us' button gives the details of addresses and telephones of Officers who can be contacted for facilitating a visit to Melghats.

The website also has a 'photogallery' and a statement about infrastructure facilities like accommodation, tourist cottages, Rest Houses etc. for the benefit of tourists. On this occasion, MTR in collaboration with Territorial Conservator, NGOs and nature lovers like Nifin Mohod, has launched eco-tourism also for taking nature-lovers and eco-tourists to take them on a trip to Melghat by providing the open-bus called 'Holar' (The flying squirrel is called Holar in Korku). There has been a tremendous response from tourists as about 25 people have booked their seats for going to Melghats by paying a fee of Rs. 125/- per head. Members of the Press also accompanied the tourists to Melghats. The tour was flagged off by Conservator of Forests and Field Director, Melghat Tiger reserve, Amravati jointly in presence of press-members, eco-tourists and large number of spectator who attended the ceremony.

list of case studies
- Bhutan - Royal Manas Park (alternate income generation through handicraft)
- Durgam Cheruvu National Park (sustainable grazing practices, restoration of degraded forests, etc)

The Assam Tribune / 29/09/2001

Rain forest festival on Nov 17

By A Staff Reporter

GUWAHATI, Sept 28 — Sleepy township of Joypur in Dibrugarh will be the venue of country's first ever 'rain forest festival' to be held on November 17 to 19 next at the initiative of Nature's Beckon, a green brigade based in the region. According to Saumayadeep Datta of Nature's Beckon who addressed a press conference here this morning, the primary objective of holding this unique rain forest festival was to create mass awareness about rain forest conservation and facilitate people's participation in the process. He said although NE region was dotted with patches of rain forest which is a veritable store house of endangered wildlife species and unexplored alternative food, no systematic study so far had been carried out to highlight the importance of such a "stable and multi-structured eco-system."

He, however, pointed out that the effort to preserve rain forest area of the region would not end at holding the festival, which will be a part of the movement to create national and international alliance to save rain forests of the region. The festival is aimed at highlighting at national and international level, the fragile status of rain forest in the region, building global opinion for permanent protection of these forest areas, promoting peace initiatives among the indigenous people who live around the rainforests and whose cultures have been inspired and sustained by these forests, promoting responsible eco-tourism and adventure sports in rain forests areas.

The rain forest movement launched by Nature's Beckon is focussed on raising the status of 800 sqkm continuous rain forest area in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts to that of a protected area. Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi has already assured to take initiative to get the rain forest area declared as a wildlife sanctuary in view of its rich floral and faunal resources. Nature's Beckon proposes the name of this rain forest sanctuary as Joidihing Wildlife Sanctuary, rain forests grow in areas where there is annual average rainfall is more than 80 inches. Rain forests are important balancing factor in the global eco-system. Destruction of rain forests will lead to drastic change in world weather pattern. As the rain forests of the world contain more than 50 per cent of all plant and animal species on the globe, destruction of these will lead to extinction of large number of plant and animal species. Rain forest are the main sources of biotic resources of the earth and bio-sphere. Hence without rain forests the earth will be rendered a plant without life.

In Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts of the State there are three valuable rain forest areas namely Joypur reserved forest, Upper Dihing reserve forest and Dirak reserve forest. These three reserved forests are adjoining rain forests covering an area of about 800 sqkm including 500 sqkm core area full of endangered species like clouded leopard, Chinese pangolin, sloth bear, leopard, Indian bison, sambar, slow loris, capped langur, hollock gibbon, flying squirrel and bird species like wood ducks, eagles, owls, hornbills, munivests, drongos, et

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State Minister's license-to-kill worries wildlife enthusiasts

■ WILDLIFE enthusiasts and environmentalists have slammed the Maharashtra Forest Minister for permitting destruction of crop-rampaging wild boars and nilgai (blue bulls).

In a statement, Kishore Rithe, wildlife advisory board member from Amravati, said that the decision to kill all menacing animals was decided at a hastily convened meeting of the Maharashtra State Wildlife Advisory Board (WAB) last Thursday.

Activists suggested that instead of a blanket permission to kill crop-damaging animals, the Chief Wildlife Warden should exercise his powers under the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 to destroy specific animals only after the threat is established.

NGO members informed the WAB that the Bombay Natural History Society had sought to undertake a field project to study the problem and suggest ecologically suitable options to reduce the intensity of the problem which cannot possibly be eliminated totally.

It was also suggested that crop compensation be paid to farmers on the lines of compensation given for livestock killed by carnivores, since the problem of crop damage has indeed been critical in certain areas. But all such suggestions were brushed aside, Rithe said.

Facing stiff opposition from all NGO members, State's Chief Wildlife Warden B Mazumdar ended the meeting abruptly, claiming that a 1993 gazette notification empowers the State government to take unilateral action, without consulting the Central Government, Rithe said.

Shocked board members brought to the notice of the Minister and the Chief Wildlife Warden that the consequences of this ill-advised step would be large scale slaughter of the prey species, which would only aggravate the man-animal conflict.

Forest Secretary Nand Lal later told the NGO members that farmers would have to take permission from the Division Forest Officers before killing the animals. However, the Board members pointed out that the Forest Department was unable to prevent even routine poaching and had no mechanism to check the abuse that was inevitable, Rithe said.

Stir against bird sanctuary *IE 20/4/98*

NASHIK: Vice president of Swantanrya Bharat Party Jaywamt Bhimrao Bhosale threatened to undertake an indefinite fast to demand the cancellation of the proposed bird sanctuary to be set up at Nandurmadh m Eshwar in Niphad taluka of the district.

Bhosale told PTI that the proposed bird sanctuary, would render landless 50,000 farmers, including adivasis and harijans, whose only source of income was agriculture. The farmers from 10 villages, who had been practising cooperative farming for the past several years, would not be allowed to draw water from Nandurmadhmeshwar canal following the setting up of the sanctuary. Use of tractors, diesel pump sets would also be disallowed to cut down on noise pollution, which could affect the birds, in case the sanctuary was set up, he said.

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MUMBAI 3

21-42

'Networking of sanctuaries needed'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI, APRIL 19

THERE was an urgent need to establish a networking system among different national parks and sanctuaries within the country for conserving the gene pool for long term sustenance, according to chief conservator of forests, (wildlife) of Maharashtra, M G Gogate.

Delivering his keynote address at a two-day national workshop on 'Protection and management of national parks and sanctuaries', which concluded here, Gogate said the networking should also aim at providing information regarding studies in various aspects of biology, research conducted in catchment areas and major river systems and nature education.

Speaking about preservation of ecological niches in the country, Gogate said in the biogeographical map, the marine wetlands and the unique role played by scrub land in biodiversity preservation had been neglected.

According to R N Indurkar, retired chief conservator of forests (wildlife), lack of adequate staff and funds in the wild wing of the forest conservation department had been a major hindrance in running various programmes.

Adequate funds were essential to carry out relocation and resettlement of villages, communication,

equipment and development of infrastructure for tourism, he added.

Indurkar said the national conservation strategy had shown remarkable results after the Earth Summit in 1992 at Rio.

While the main stress was on the creation of national parks and sanctuaries, the Indian Board of Wildlife had recommended that about five per cent of the geographical area be set aside as protected areas out of which four per cent should be from forest area.

He said the states, therefore, set up many national parks and sanctuaries.

To achieve the above target, the number of national parks and sanctuaries had suddenly grown from 10 National parks and 127 sanctuaries, covering 25000 sq km area in the country in 1970 to 86 National parks, 421 sanctuaries, covering 132134 sq km area at present, Indurkar said.

Alok Jain, Joint Secretary of the two year old regional centre of the National Afforestation and Eco-development Board (NAEB), which has been set up at the head office of the Agricultural Finance Corporation Ltd here, said his centre facilitated afforestation and eco-development programmes in the western region covering Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat and union territories of Daman, Diu and Dadra.

Shrine of the Shooting Star

The world's third largest meteorite crater, Lonar, has been now declared a wildlife sanctuary

ANATIONAL park or sanctuary conjures visions of mega-mammals for which most of them have been set up, and to see which, most visitors really visit them. The Wildlife (Protection) Act emphatically provides for setting up of protected areas of ecological, floral and geomorphological significance. It was thus gratifying that the Government of Maharashtra, contrary to the current state policies of not declaring any more PAs and going about denotifying existing ones, has notified the intention to declare the Lonar Wildlife Sanctuary in the Buldhana district of western Maharashtra in June, 2000.

Lonar has no threatened animal or bird species. The largest wild mammals are langur and jackal. Volcanic craters are uncommon and microcosms of their own. But meteorite craters are much rarer and smaller. Lonar is the third largest meteorite crater in the world, the largest in the Indian sub-continent and with its neighbouring smaller sister

crater, the only one in granite hard basaltic rock.

Some 50,000 years ago a gigantic stony meteorite estimated to be about 60m in diameter and weighing 60 million tonnes, hit the earth in a cataclysmic impact. It is believed to lie buried below Lonar: 600m deep, leaving a crater 1,800m in diameter, 170m below the earth's surface and an almost circular rim 20m above it. Its geological specialties include the presence of shock metamorphism and cones in the rock formation, and the pressure of maskelynite and of apple-size black glass spherules resulting from the melting of rocks caused by the heat generated upon the tremendous impact, and their subsequent cooling.

The crater was once believed to be volcanic. In mythological and religious texts, however, Lonar has been referred to as Taratirth, the shrine of the shooting star. Its meteorite origin has now been confirmed by studies of the Geological Survey of India and of the US, and of the Smithsonian Insti-

tute of Washington. Boreholes were dug over 300m deep and microbreccia and other geology of the bedrock studied. But they were not deep enough to reach the actual meteorite, embedded much below. The major part of the crater bottom is covered by a lake notable for its extreme salinity and high alkalinity, which is why there is no habitation in the crater, barring some temples. This, in turn, explains why there is no motorable road within the crater. The combined effect of both these factors is that there is relatively little alteration and adverse human impact. However, a little away from the saline lake the groundwater is sweet, the advantage of which is taken by farmers growing vegetables, fruit and cotton in a little over 50 acres of the valley floor. This activity poses the greatest threat today to the crater soil, lake and groundwater due to the deployment of chemical fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides. The other threat is the use of detergents by bathers in the sacred Dhar

spring cascading into the crater below the Gaumukh temple.

The most striking feature of the saline lake is its blue green al-

gae and bacteria, remarkably adapted to thrive in alkaline water with a PH factor as high as 10.5.

Forest still clothes the inner sides of the crater. Predictably, the forest department has converted parts of the original vegetation into teak plantations and much worse, introduced the tenacious exotic *Prosopis juliflora*. With the establishment of a sanctuary one hopes its tinkering and so-called development will stop and past mistakes and adverse impacts rectified.

On the rim of the crater and within it are ancient temples, some with exquisite carvings, that testify to the antiquity of the religious reverence accorded to Lonar. The finest is the Daitya Sudana temple on the eastern rim and facing east.

Though the reigning deity is Vishnu, it was in all probability once dedicated to Surya the Sun



Nature Calls

DR M. K. RANJITSINH

God, whose superb image stands outside. In the crater there is another temple of Vishnu. All the temples have been damaged, some are derelict, all need conservation as much as the crater and the sanctuary.

Last month I was able to fulfill a long awaited desire to see Lonar. En route we visited Sindkhed Raja, 60 kms from

Lonar and the birthplace of Rajmata Jijabai, the revered mother of Chhatrapati Shivaji. The *samadhi* of Jijabai's father, in the custody of the ASI, is well maintained. The rest of the places and monuments with the State Archaeological department, are in shambles. So much for the heritage of the greatest human icon of Maharashtra.

Tourism poses problems for many a park and sanctuary. For Lonar it would be an asset, provided only select numbers are allowed to trek down to the crater bottom and no roads and rest houses built in it. It would be an added attraction to the many attributes of Aurangabad if a day's journey is provided from it, taking in Sindkhed, Lonar and the two *jiyotirlings* of eastern Maharashtra.

14 Vidarbha tourist spots identified for revamp

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NAGPUR, JULY 1

A MASTER plan will be prepared in the next three months to develop basic facilities at 14 tourist centres identified in Vidarbha for which grants have been sanctioned by the Central Government.

This information was given by Nagpur's Divisional Commissioner J S Sahariya at a meeting here on Wednesday to discuss the region's tourism potential.

Present in the meeting were MTDC Managing Director A Ramkrishnan, Joint Managing Director M Ramaswamy, Collectors of all six districts in Nagpur Division, B G Korwate of the Planning Department and Dr B C Pal, Joint Director of Social Forestry, besides other officials.

Sahariya said district-wise committees of experts under the respective collectors are preparing

proposals regarding tourist centres. Suggestions from officials of the Forest Department, Public Works Department, Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation and other concerned departments are being incorporated in the proposals.

Once the facilities are developed at these tourist centres, they would be handed over to private parties for operation and maintenance.

MTDC MD Ramakrishnan informed the meeting that the grants have been sanctioned as a part of the Central Government's policy to promote tourism in different states. Priority has been given to tourist centres in Vidarbha and schemes pertaining to their development would be completed soon, he said.

He said that suitable land should be made available to the MTDC at the district level to raise tourism development projects at

various centres.

MTDC Joint MD Ramaswamy accepted a suggestion made by Sahariya to conduct a workshop of officials and private operators connected with tourism to acquaint them with the centres in Vidarbha. Sahariya had observed that many spots in Vidarbha with excellent potential do not attract tourists owing to a lack of publicity in other parts of the State and the country.

The identified centres in Vidarbha include Khindsi, Sillari and Navegaon-Khairi (Nagpur district), Tadoba, Mahakali temple and Warora amenities centres (Chandrapur district), Nagzira, Navegaon, Itiadh and Gomukh (Bhandara district), Bor Dam and Keljhar (Wardha district), Markanda (Gadchiroli district), Way-side amenities centres are also to be set up at Kanpa and Butibori (Nagpur district), and Sakoli (Bhandara district).

Wildlife Week: No cause for cheer

MADHAV GOKHALE
OCT 1

THE 44th Wildlife Week beginning today should have been reason enough for celebrations of sorts. But the wildlife wing of the State forest department has other plans in mind — a single agenda of settling matters with the revenue machinery to bring to an end the agony of at least three national parks and 30-odd wildlife sanctuaries across the State.

Wildlife officials, who constitute what is often branded an infrastructure-starved machinery, now want their revenue counterparts to complete final inquiries about the protected areas.

Sources said that the two-year time frame set by the Supreme Court for revenue officials to settle the final awards related to pro-

ected areas across the country ended last August.

Entrusted with the responsibility of conserving endangered flora and fauna in diverse climatic conditions from the high-rainfall hot spots of Western Ghats to the semi-parched plains of madhya Maharashtra, the wildlife wing currently manages five national parks and 33 wildlife sanctuaries together covering an area of 15323.875 sq km in the State.

If a recently prepared status report on the sanctuaries and national parks in the State is any indicator, Maharashtra's first tiger project at Melghat and the national parks of Pench, Navegaon (all in Vidarbha)

were still to be notified under section 35 (4) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act.

The report underlines the need to amend the original notifications declaring the sanctuaries for many other protected areas. "In some cases we are back to square one," sources said, pointing to pending revenue inquiries over the decades.



Great Indian Bustard

Notifications for a few sanctuaries were found to have ignored private lands and *gaathan* (village) areas. This, remarked the status report, has defeated the idea of transforming the sanctuary areas into the wilderness areas. Notifications excluding the villages have left no room for settling the claims of the villagers who were needed to be shifted from the core

areas of the sanctuary.

The Great Indian Bustard (GIB) and the prestigious Bhimashankar sanctuaries in Solapur-Ahmednagar and Pune district top the list of sanctuaries which are now "back to square one."

Declared in 1979, the GIB sanctuary has been an intriguing case. Going by the notification, even Solapur city falls under the sanctuary and is needed to be evacuated along with a few other cities, towns and villages spread over 8496.44 sq km to create the "wilderness area."

This had led to a furore in the region and Dehradun-based Indian Wildlife Institute had recommended heavy reduction in the sanctuary area, resizing it to a mere 400 sq km.

Incidentally, the GIB sanctuary, as it stands today, alone accounts for over 55 per cent of the total

sanctuary and national park areas of Maharashtra. Yet the GIB sanctuary statistics are interesting. Over 88 per cent of the notified sanctuary area are private lands and a major portion of it has been under cultivation. The wildlife wing currently owns only 5.67 per cent of the total notified area.

The sanctuary status report lists as a major hurdle the fact that inquiries into claims of private land owners has come to a standstill.

"GIB sanctuary today is like a honeycomb area for us," sources said, adding that a two-prong renovation would soon be issued for the sanctuary. In wildlife official circles, the feeling is that revenue authorities should undertake status survey of forest revenue lands. Unchecked encroachments is construed another headache for the foresters.

Sanctuary status soon for some forests

MADHAV GOKHALE
PUNE, NOV 8

IE 9/11/99

THERE is good news at last for at least 11 protected jungles across Maharashtra. Lost for long in the fierce woods of red-tapism, the forests are all set to be accorded the status of wildlife sanctuary/national park.

"The final notifications are ready. The recent spell of political instability in the State had delayed the notifications," well-placed forest department sources told *The Indian Express* on

Monday.

Two meetings in October of forest and revenue officials — in Vidarbha and Mahabaleshwar — pushed forward the proposals.

The meetings were held on the backdrop of delays in settling the rights of occupants of the protected area, thus multiplying the threats to the State's bio-diversity.

Going by the well-laid procedures in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, not a single inch of the 35 protected jungles, spread over 15323.875 square km, has ever had statutory status of a

wildlife sanctuary or a national park. The treasure troves of endemic and endangered plant and animal species had remained enmeshed in land-related ambiguities all these decades.

Ashish Kothari of Kalpavriksha, who has been working on people's rights in protected areas, said the notification on uninhabited jungles, where there are no land rights, could be issued immediately. He stressed the need to properly document minor customary forest uses by people like honey-gatherers.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Sanctuary status soon for some forests

The infrastructure-strapped wildlife wing was contemplating to zero in on a single agenda of settling matters with the revenue machinery. Wildlife wing officials had recommended amendment of preliminary notifications for some of the protected forests.

At the Mahabaleshwar meeting, officials were informed that the final notifications could be issued immediately. They include Gugamal, forming part of the old Melghat sanctuary; Narnala, Katepurna and Wan (Akola district); Tipeshwar (Yavatmal), Naigaon (Beed), Dnyanganga (Buldhana), Yaval

(Jalgaon), Karnala bird sanctuary (Thane) and Rehkuri black buck sanctuary (Ahmednagar), forest department sources said. There were no land acquisition-related hindrances in any protected area.

The meeting agreed to prepare a set of guidelines on settlement of rights, sources said.

The authorities were asked to complete pending inquiries within a fixed time frame. The two-year time frame set by the Supreme Court for the revenue machinery to settle the final awards related to protected areas across the country ended last August.

Maharashtra

IE 24/4/2000

State to focus on water sports, wildlife sanctuaries

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, APRIL 23

BLESSED with a vast coastline, virgin beaches, ancient forts and hill stations, Maharashtra would focus on developing beaches, wildlife sanctuaries, resorts, water sports, caves, ropeways and arts and crafts of the villages to boost its tourism policy in the next five years.

Regional director of Government of India's tourism department, Ram Chopra, said here today that the State receives around 75 lakh domestic tourists and around ten lakh foreign tourists every year.

He said India's tourism earnings of Rs 12,000 crore, which is a mere 0.5 per cent of the global share, was expected to double in the next five years with efforts being made to project India as a major tourist destination by depicting its rich culture, heritage and bountiful natural resources.

With 720 km of coastline along the Sahyadri ranges replete with forts and hill stations, Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) has drawn up ambitious plans to promote tourism, which has been accorded an industry status.

Sixty-four places on national highways have been identified for setting up wayside motels. Three have already come up at Khapoli

on the Mumbai-Pune route, Belapur near Shegaon on Mumbai-Nagpur sector and at Sillod on Aurangabad-Jalgaon road, MTDC senior manager Prithviraj Patil said.

Three oil companies have approached MTDC for a tie-up to set up wayside amenities — combination of petrol pump and motels. Modalities were being worked out, he said.

While MTDC would procure land from government, the oil companies would invest in motels and petrol pumps and the two would share the profits.

Areas identified for wayside amenities include Khapoli, Khandala, Pandharpur, Islampur and Wadgaon (Mumbai-Pune route), Khed, Chiplun, Rajapur, Hathkhamba, Kankavli and Vengurla (Mumbai-Goa road), Bhigwan, Bhimanagar, Shetfal and Akalkot (Mumbai-Solapur), Chandwad, Malegaon, Arvi and Shirpur (Mumbai-Agra), Balapur, Khangaon and Bhandara (Dhule-Nagpur).

MTDC also plans to set up water sport facilities at 54 locations, provide tourist attractions at 54 forts all over the State, introduce hand gliding and rock climbing in hilly areas, develop lakes at ten locations, create jungle safaris and marine parks and harbour cruises near Mumbai.

Thirty-two locations along the Konkan coastline have been iden-

tified for beach resorts. Already 100 rooms have been put up by MTDC at Murud-Janjira, Harihareshwar, Ganpatiphule and Malvan. The need is for 6000 to 7000 rooms in delux segment, said

Ashish Kumar Singh, MTDC joint managing director.

Hotels Taj, Oberoi and Citade da Goa have acquired land from MTDC in Sindhudurg. Another land has been procured on lease by the Taj group near Harihareshwar, but work on these projects is yet to begin, he

the top.

With Mahabaleshwar and Matheran hill stations reaching a saturation point, MTDC also has plans to develop Panhala, Amboli and Jawahar hill stations by creat-

ing more tourist amenities.

Amusement parks have been planned at Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune, Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad) and Nashik. In view of rapid growth of industries, health farms are being set up in various parts of the State to attract tourist

BOOSTING TOURISM

MTDC plans to set up water sport facilities at 54 locations, provide tourist attractions at 54 forts all over the State, introduce hand gliding and rock climbing in hilly areas, develop lakes at ten locations, create jungle safaris and marine parks and harbour cruises near Mumbai.

said.

There are about 175 forts in the State, directly or indirectly linked to Maratha leader Chhatrapati Shivaji. These ramparts are still visited by scores of tourists who relive the bygone days. Efforts are being made to develop and conserve these forts. For instance, at Raigad fort, MTDC has set up a resort and has provided a ropeway to reach

and business travellers with luxurious accommodation, tennis and badminton courts, swimming pools, sauna and jacuzzi facilities.

Already a few health farms and naturopathy centres have been established at Lonavla and other places. The Vipassana (yogic meditation) centre at Igatpuri is attracting large crowds from all over the world.

An airport proposal on build-operate-transfer and build-operate-own basis is also on the cards in Sindhudurg district which has been identified as a special tourism area by the Union Government.

Special tourism areas identified in State are lakes in Mawal, Mulshi, Bhor, Velhe, Khed and Haveli talukas in Pune district, Panhala near Kolhapur, Chikaldara near Amravati, Ramtek near Nagpur, Soyegaon and Khultabad near Aurangabad and lastly the coastal areas at Dahanu, Palghar, Bassein, Alibag, Murud, Shrivardhan, Vengurla, Malvan, Deogad, Rajapur, Ratnagiri, Guhagar, Dapoli and Madangarh.

In the private sector, Suman Motels has set up 33 resorts all over the country. It enjoys the distinction of being the largest chain of resorts in India and plans to cross the 100 mark by 2005, its managing director Surendra Khandhar claimed.

Suman Motels is also the first to introduce microflight service in Lucknow and plans to introduce ropeway and an air strip at its resort at Mangaon in Raigad. It also provides emergency services such as ambulances and towing vehicles at a reasonable cost every 50 km on highways.

Under the new tourism policy, building and management of hotels and holiday homes have been left to the private sector which has

been offered tax concessions. The State is expected to invest in environment-friendly schemes like tent facilities and caravan camping besides providing infrastructural support.

The State Government has introduced a package scheme of incentives for certain areas including Sindhudurg district. The tax benefits extend up to 12 years and electricity tariff at industrial rates for ten years. Government lands are being made available at 50 per cent concessional rates.

An arts and handicrafts village is being developed at the film city in Mumbai. Besides, a water sports centre is being planned at Girgaum Chowpatty in the metropolis.

Plans are also afoot to popularise sanctuaries of Navegaon park by operating jungle safaris.

The tourism industry in India provides direct employment to more than six million people and indirect jobs to over eight million. The employment in tourism sector is expected to double from 13 million to 25 million in the next two years.

The concept of weekend-outings is fast catching up in India which has witnessed a spurt in resorts and clubs in the recent years. As the tourist traffic goes up, these resorts endeavour to offer a wide range of services and amusement games which provide utmost comfort and recreation to the guests.

Mah

Wild-life sanctuaries losing ground in state

27/16/00

By Ravindra Daftardar

The Times of India News Service

SANGLI: Actual land under ecological protection in the state is possibly much less than the percentage stipulated by the Central government in its wildlife policy.

Tanjirao More, a retired forest official and expert on wild-life sanctuaries, maintains that statistics put out by the state government in this regard are misleading.

Presently, the state has five national parks, 24 sanctuaries and three deer zones, totally covering an area of 15,300 square km, which is 4.97 per cent of the total geographical area of the state.

As per the wildlife policy of the Central government, the state should reserve at least four per cent of its total geographical area for parks, sanctuaries or protected areas, in order to preserve its ecological balance and biological diversity.

But according to Mr More, this statistic is misleading because often the geographical areas of various sanctuaries also include villages and agricultural land. "The actual protected areas in the state may be as low as three per cent," he says.

According to Mr More, when Maharashtra was formed in 1960, it had only two sanctuaries, the Tadoba national park at Chandrapur



A deer spotted at the Chandoli wild-life sanctuary in Kolhapur district.

and the Radhanagari sanctuary in Kolhapur district. Gradually, the number of national parks and sanctuaries in the state increased. "However, as compared to the other states, Maharashtra has lagged behind in preserving its ecological balance," says Mr More.

In the recent past, considerable public opinion has been generated to emphasise the need for special protected zones for the wild life.

Unfortunately, it is the urban residents who seem to be more involved in these movements, laments Mr More, adding that the rural folk who come in direct contact with the forest and its habitants, remain in the dark about these campaigns.

Traditionally, rural folk have been totally dependent on forest land - for their cattle grazing, as well as for collection of forest products like food and firewood. Indif-

ference and occasional opposition of these people to forest-conservation projects can be minimised only if they are given other alternatives to reduce their dependence on the forest for livelihood.

Mr More cites the example of Chandoli, which is the only area in the district which boasts of thick forest cover, with a large number of tigers, bison, stags and wild boar.

The state government has undertaken a project to develop Chandoli as a sanctuary bordering Kolhapur, Satara and Ratnagiri districts.

The state has undertaken a project to develop this sanctuary. However, in recent times, the work on this project has been stalled by paucity of funds and clashes with human population settled on its borders.

It has faced the usual threat of illegal tree-felling. Besides, the presence of wild animals near agricultural land has also posed problems to local farmers. Wild animals straying out of protected areas in search of food are increasingly falling prey to the wrath of alarmed villagers.

The Sagareshwar deer sanctuary is the other major wild life project in the region, which ran into problems at a very early stage.

To begin with the forest department itself was opposed to declar-

ing Sagareshwar as a protected area, on the grounds that it was technically unsuitable for the purpose.

The demand for declaring it as a sanctuary gained momentum after the success of department's forestation, which left it with thick green cover.

After much deliberation, it was agreed upon that the area be declared a deer park, considering it was known for a large deer population. The state fenced an area of about 60 hectares and reserved it for breeding different species of deer. Antelope, sambar and other species of deer were released into the area. The project was successful as deer population grew to a satisfactory numbers within three to four years.

The increase in the deer population led to the demand that these wild animals be released into their natural habitat and that the whole Sagareshwar area be declared as a sanctuary. The demand was conceded by the government and fence was taken-off. Gradually the deer started frequenting agricultural land and damaging standing crops.

The result today, is that an eco-friendly project is often in the news for frequent agitations by local farmers protesting against nuisance caused by wild animals.

products.

TOI 9/8/2000

State may get two wildlife sanctuaries

PUNE: The forest department is planning to declare the dense forests of Rajmachi and Tamini-Sudhgarh, bordering Pune and Raigad districts of Maharashtra, as wildlife sanctuaries to prevent wild animals from straying into cities and to preserve the flora and fauna of the areas.

Disclosing this to reporters on Tuesday, the deputy conservator of forest (DCF) wildlife, N.H. Sheikh said the idea was to form a sanctuary corridor, linking the western ghats and connecting Bhimashankar with Mayureshwar near the picturesque hill station of Mahabaleshwar.

Rajmachi lies between Bhimashankar and Mayureshwar while Tamini-Sudhagarh is a bridge between Mahabaleshwar and Chandori, he added.

The Rajmachi sanctuary would cover an area of 122 square km, which is the catchment area of Andhora, Shirota and Walwan lakes while the area of Tamini-Sudhagarh, covering an area of 228 sq kms, is the catchment of Mulshi lake. (PTI)

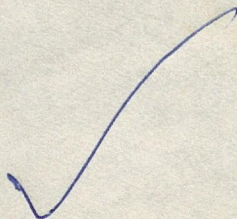
27/28
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Hindu
**Rs. 37-crore plan
to check poaching**

25/8/20
By Our Special Correspondent

MUMBAI, AUG. 24. The Maharashtra Government has started arming its forest staff who are often attacked by poachers and other offenders in jungles.

The State Government has launched a Rs. 37.27-crore plan aiming at arming 720 officers with pistols and equipping 514 squads, each having four other ranks, with one rifle each. The Chief Minister, Mr. Vilasrao Deshmukh, who announced the plan today at a press conference, agreed that the quantity and category of weapons would not be sufficient in view of the attacks the forest staff faced.



'अरण्यमित्र'च्या माध्यमातून वन, वन्य प्राण्यांचे संरक्षण

पोपटराव खोसे यांचा उपक्रम
(मिर्लद बेंडाळे यांजकडून)

नगर, ता. १२ : वने व वन्य प्राण्यांच्या व्हासाबद्दल सर्वत्र चिंता व्यक्त केली जात असतानाच नगर जिल्ह्यातील मलठण (ता. श्रीगोंदे) येथील शेतकरी पोपटराव खोसे यांनी 'अरण्यमित्र' संघटनेच्या माध्यमातून वन व वन्य प्राण्यांच्या संरक्षणाची चळवळ उभारली आहे. जेथे अभयारण्याला विरोध होत होता, अशा भागातील शेतकरी व कार्यकर्त्यांच्या साहाय्याने श्री. खोसे यांनी पर्यावरण संवर्धनाच्या जागृतीचे काम मोठ्या तडफेने सुरू केले आहे. मलठण हे गाव श्रीगोंदे तालुक्यातील

असले, तरी रेहेकुरी येथील काळवीट अभयारण्याच्या जवळ असल्याने, श्री. खोसे यांचे ते प्रमुख कार्यक्षेत्र आहे. या अभयारण्यातील काळवीटांना पिण्यासाठी पाणी मिळावे, म्हणून श्री. खोसे यांनीच प्रथम आंदोलन केले. काळवीटांना पिण्यासाठी पाणी तर उपलब्ध झालेच, पण त्यांच्या समस्यांकडेही सर्वांचे लक्ष वेधले गेले. श्री. खोसे यांची पर्यावरण विषयक जाण सूक्ष्म आहे. त्यांचे शिक्षण जुन्या मॅट्रिकइतके आहे, पण पर्यावरणाबद्दलचे त्यांचे ज्ञान प्रदीर्घ अशा अनुभवातून प्राप्त झाले आहे. सीना नदीचे पात्र पाहिल्यावर ते लक्षात येते. श्री. खोसे यांनी



पोपटराव खोसे

गावकऱ्यांच्या मदतीने या परिसरातील सीना नदीच्या पात्रातून गेली १५ वर्षे कोणालाही वाळू उपसू दिली नाही. त्यामुळे या परिसरातील नदीच्या पात्रात स्वच्छ निळे पाणी, त्याच्या दुतर्फा फुललेली हिरवाई दिसते. स्थलांतरित पक्षी येथे कायम दिसतात.

श्री. खोसे यांनी पर्यावरण संवर्धनाची सुरवात स्वतःच्या गावापासून केली. त्यांच्या प्रयत्नांमुळे मलठण, दत्तनगर या भागात पूर्ण शिकारबंदी आहे. कोणी पक्ष्यांवर गलोल उडवल्याचे कळताच गावकरीच त्यांना समज देतात. या भागातील शेतकरी मधाचे पोळेसुद्धा

कोणाला काढू देत नाहीत. मधमाश्यांच्या अस्तित्वामुळे परागीभवन होऊन, उत्पादनात वाढ होते, हे येथील सामान्य शेतकऱ्यांनाही माहिती झाले आहे. मानव व निसर्ग यांच्या परस्पर सहसंबंधाचे ज्ञान सामान्यांपर्यंत पोचणे, हे श्री. खोसे यांच्या प्रयत्नांना मिळालेले मोठे यश आहे. श्री. खोसे हे नेहमीच कल्पकतेने नवनवीन उपक्रम राबवीत असतात. मध्यंतरी त्यांनी पक्ष्यांची जातीनिहाय वैशिष्ट्ये लक्षात घेऊन, त्यांच्यासाठी कृत्रिम घरटी तयार केली. ही घरटी त्यांनी नगरमधील सिद्धीबागेत व इतरत्र लावली. त्यामुळे पक्षी व त्यांची घरटी हा शहरात कुतूहलाचा विषय झाला. निमगाव डाकू हे

(पान २ पाहा)

वन्य प्राण्यांचे संरक्षण

(पान १ वरून)

कर्जत तालुक्यातील एक छोटे गाव. या गावात मोठी बारव आहे. या बारवेशेजारी वडाची व इतर मोठी अशी खूप जुनी झाडे आहेत. या झाडांच्या ढोली मोठ्या असल्याने, तेथे उदमांजरांची व वटवाघळांची संख्या आहे. उदमांजरांविषयी जनसामान्यांच्या मनात मोठी भीती असते. या भीतीपोटी त्यांची हत्या होते. निमगाव डाकू हे गावदेखील याला अपवाद नव्हते. श्री. खोसे यांनी प्रमुख ग्रामस्थ व तरुणांना उदमांजर हे शेतकऱ्यांना कसे उपकारक आहे, हे पटवून दिले. आज तेथील उदमांजरे व वटवाघळांच्या संरक्षणाची जबाबदारी गावातील तरुणांनी घेतली आहे.

या भागात पर्यावरणविषयी मोठ्या प्रमाणात जागृती व्हावी, म्हणून श्री. खोसे यांनी त्यांच्या विनोबा भावे ग्रामविकास प्रतिष्ठानतर्फे २९ ते ३१ जानेवारीला रेहेकुरी येथे अरण्यमित्र संमेलन आयोजित केले होते. या संमेलनाला राज्यातील पक्षी अभ्यासक व पर्यावरणप्रेमी आवर्जून उपस्थित राहिले. रेहेकुरी अभयारण्याला विरोध करणाऱ्या कार्यकर्त्यांना व शेतकऱ्यांनाही त्यांनी या संमेलनात सहभागी करून घेतले व संमेलन यशस्वी केले. या संमेलनास येणाऱ्यांना नगरमधील श्रीपती तोडकर यांनी प्रयत्नपूर्वक वाढविलेले एकेक बेलाचे झाड भेट देऊन श्री. खोसे यांनी संमेलनाचे वेगळेपण जपले.

PAV 30

Rs 3 crore for lion safari

The Times of India News Service

SANGLI: The Union environment minister Maneka Gandhi has sanctioned Rs 3 crore for establishing a lion safari at the Sagarshwar wildlife sanctuary in the district.

This was announced by Ajit Advani, treasurer of the district BJP unit, who called on Ms Gandhi in New Delhi recently. Mr Advani said that officials of the Union environment ministry are convinced that the 27 lions from the city's Pratapsinh Park need to be released in their natural habitat. The zoo has witnessed the death of as many as 10 of its lions in two years, owing to poor zoo-keeping.

PAU 30 ✓

19-1-2001 701
State forest staff will be given firearms

By Ramu Bhagwat
The Times of India News Service

NAGPUR: Forest officers and guards in Maharashtra will be provided firearms for better protection of the green wealth even as the latest satellite imagery surveys indicate an increase of 2,991 sq. km in the dense forest area of the state.

Orders have been placed with ordnance factory for guns and pistols of various types, which will be provided to guards and range officers.

The first consignment of the arms is expected by the month-end, principal chief conservator of forests Ravindra Sule told this paper on Wednesday. As per a special arrangement worked out by the forest department, the state police will impart arms training to the forest staff at the Nashik police academy and the regional police training school in Nagpur. "Since the police department is insisting on providing training to our staff only on the arms they will subsequently handle, we are waiting for the arms supply. We have shortlisted 140 guards and 40 range officers for the first batch that will be sent for the

training", Mr Sule said. Initially the forest department will use the police armoury for depositing the arms they receive. The forest department will later set up its own armoury.

It was in 1981 that a committee headed by the then forest minister Nanabhau Embadwar recommended issuing firearms to forest staff and setting up of manned forest stations like police stations for prompt action against poachers and forest smugglers. However, it was only recently after the state high court, in response to a public interest litigation, appointed a special team to suggest measures for revamping the forest protection system, that the firearms proposal got a green signal from a high-power committee of the state government.

Meanwhile, the good news for the greens is that the satellite imagery surveys conducted by the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun during 1997 and 1999 indicated that there was a substantial rise of 2,991 sq. km. in the dense forest area of Maharashtra. Most of the new dense forest area was converted from open forests and scrubs proving the success of plantation projects, Mr Sule said. //

PA ✓ 30 ✓

MAHABALESHWAR, PANCHGANI BECOME FIRST ECO-PROTECTED HILL STATIONS IN COUNTRY

To 29/1/2001
Maha sensitive: New high for hill stations

By Gunvanthi Balaram

MUMBAI: The Union ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has just notified the entire Mahabaleshwar plateau as an eco-sensitive zone. With this, Mahabaleshwar and Panchgani have become the first hill-stations in the country to be protected in this fashion.

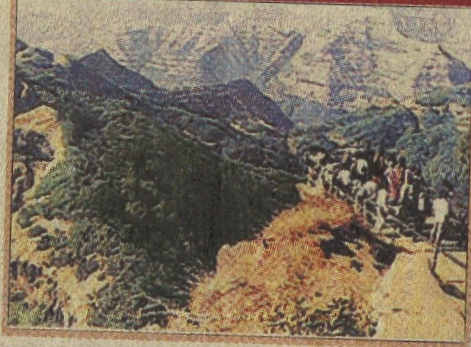
The MoEF notification, dated January 17, 2001, has been issued under the Environment (Protection) Rules of 1986. It outlines both the boundaries of the eco-sensitive zone as well as strict measures to regulate developmental and industrial activities within the zone.

The MoEF heard suggestions and reactions from the public to this notification over the last six months and has now put its final seal of approval on the document.

This marks a big victory for environmentalists, especially the Bombay Environmental Action Group, which has long been battling to save the plateau—the source of five rivers and one of the last surviving hotspots of bio-diversity in the Western Ghats—from being crushed by the juggernaut of reckless development.

"This is a trail-blazing notification," said an elated Shyam Chainani, BEAG activist. "We hope the government will soon extend such protection to other Indian hill-stations, most of

HOW GREEN IS MY VALLEY



which are under threat, like Matheran, Chikaldhara, Panhala and Khandala in Maharashtra, Pachmarhi in M.P., for which a preliminary notification has already been gazetted, and Munnar, Kodaikanal, Ooty, Darjeeling, Simla, Kurseong, Dalhousie, Lansdowne and Kasauli, to name some more."

According to the notification, "The eco-sensitive zone shall include the entire area within the boundaries of the Mahabaleshwar tehsil and the villages of Bondarwadi, Bhuleghar, Danwali, Taloshi and Umbri of Jaoli Tehsil of Satara district. A master plan will be drawn up for this zone."

This master plan, it adds, "shall clearly demarcate all existing forests, green areas, horticultural areas as strawberry farms, raspberry farms, orchards, tribal areas and other environmentally-sensitive areas. No change of land-use from green uses such as horticultural areas, agriculture and parks shall be permitted in the master plan".

Pending the approval of the master plan by the MoEF, the local authorities will not be allowed to make any reduction in the forest/green/agricultural zone or to increase the existing permissible floor area ratio, the number of storeys and ground coverage. As such, no structure will be allowed to exceed a height of nine metres or hold more than ground plus one storey. This is a slap in the face of those local hoteliers and builders who have reportedly been flouting the existing building byelaws to gain more commercial space in the twin hill-stations, as well as building illegal structures in the green and agricultural zones.

The notification also makes clear that mining and quarrying will henceforth be banned in the eco-sensitive zone and that the only industries that can come up in this zone will be "non-polluting, non-hazardous service industries and floriculture, horticulture or agro-based industries".

Cash-strapped state government brings down axe on wildlife wing

Experts allege mismanagement of World Bank loans

By Sanjeev Unhale

The Times of India News Services

AURANGABAD: The wildlife wing of the department of forests and environment is to be shut down after the World Bank loans that financed it came to an end last November. The state government says it has no money to continue the programme and 600 employees of the wing will be transferred to other sections of the same department.

The chief conservator of forests (development) B.K. Singh, issued a government resolution (GR) to this effect on February 17. According to the GR, the employees in eight divisions of the wildlife wing will be accommodated in vacant posts in the forest department.

Environmentalists are dismayed

at the decision. Kishore Rithe, a member of the Maharashtra State Wildlife Advisory Board, who heads the Nature Conservation Club here said that "wildlife management without an independent wildlife wing is unscientific." He is worried about the management of the five national parks and 40 sanctuaries in the state.

The forest reserves spread across 14,487 sq.km. The five national parks at Tadoba (Chandrapur), Navegaon (Bhandara), Pench park (Nagpur), Gugamal (Amravati), Sanjay Gandhi Park (Borivali), were formed after late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi introduced the 'Save the tiger' project in 1972.

The state government introduced the wildlife wing in 1985. In 1992, the World Bank offered

a grant of Rs 550 crore to support the wing. Experts allege that a substantial portion of this amount was not used towards strengthening the bio-aesthetics of the sanctuaries, but in construction activity, which did not directly benefit wildlife promotion and conservation.

Instead of creating waterholes, improving habitat, fodder development and updating communication systems in the sanctuaries, officials constructed buildings and residential quarters, some of which remain grossly underutilised.

Two boats worth Rs 10 lakh were provided for the Jayakwadi bird sanctuary near Paithan last year, but have not been used for the last 11 months for want of a trained boatman!

IB 23-2-2001

State okays killing of 'protected' nilgai, wild boar

PRERNA BINDRA
MUMBAI, FEB 22

A CONTROVERSIAL decision taken by State Forest Minister Sarupsinh Naik to allow the killing of nilgai and wild boar - both protected under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and suspected of damaging crops - has forest officers and conservationists up in arms.

The decision was announced at the State Wildlife Advisory Board meeting and came as a shock as in the last meeting it was suggested that Bombay Natural History Society would be commissioned by the State to arrive at an ecologically sound solution to the problem. Defending the decision, State Forest Secretary Nandlal said that they were merely following the law, referring to Section 11 (b) of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

IB 23-2-2001

Wild boar killings

Wildlife Protection Act, which says that the chief wildlife warden, if satisfied that any particular animal under Schedule II, III or IV has become damaging to human life and property, may permit the animal to be killed.

Nandlal admitted that these powers were not being utilised till date because the problem of crop damage was not "acute enough." He added that notices would be sent to concerned forest officers that they could issue such permits with immediate effect. "The Government was hesitant to take such a step before but now we just have no option," he stated and made light of the decision, adding that the animals were under Schedule III and therefore not rare or endangered.

A senior forest official pointed out that Maharashtra was the first state to take such a regressive step and was therefore setting a very bad precedent. "Section 11 is used by forest officers only in the case of an extreme eventuality as in the case of man-eating carnivores. Issuing permits to kill wild boar and nilgai is unheard of," he maintains.

The meeting was hastily convened and a forest officer present at the meeting said the Forest Minister explained to the members present that he had called the meeting since he promised his MLAs that favourable orders would be issued to allow the killing of animals that were destroying farmers' crops. According to Nandlal, they were under 'tremendous' pressure from the farmer lobby and their representative MLAs since the crop damage was huge.

PAUSE ✓

Condemning the move, environmentalist Bittu Sahgal said the consequences of issuing such permits will result in a major depletion of prey species. "Slaughter of prey species will aggravate the man-animal conflict as carnivores like tigers, leopards and wolves deprived of food will turn to domestic livestock or in extreme cases turn man-eaters for survival," points out Sahgal.

Agreeing that the problem could not be ignored, Sahgal said there were other and less extreme solutions that were ignored.

Compensation for crop damage, a solution practised by Tamil Nadu which suffers from a similar situation - was dismissed by the secretary and the minister as the State does not have the requisite funds. A quick and sarcastic repartee offered by a member was that it would take just one Enron installment to provide for crop protection.

Admitted Nandlal, "We do not have the funds to provide compensation at this stage." He suggested that the move was not so 'disastrous' since permission to shoot would be needed from the divisional forest officers or the chief wildlife warden. Some forest officers and members argued that poaching has been difficult to control because of lack of staff and arms, and that they have no mechanisms to check the abuse that is bound to follow this decision.

Debi Goenka of the Bombay Environmental Action Group said it will be impossible to control the number or identify the animals killed. NGOs have not ruled out the possibility of challenging the decision in court.

IE 5-3-2001

State abolishes 378 posts in wildlife wing

PRERNA BINDRA
MUMBAI, MARCH 4

THE State Government has abolished 378 posts in the wildlife wing under the State Department of Environment and Forests, kicking up a storm in the process. The posts, which have been abolished vide a Government Resolution (GR) dated February 27 (GR No 2000/PN 841/F-11(K-2), had been created under the Maharashtra Forestry Project funded by the World Bank in 1991 to strengthen wildlife conservation and management in the State. However, with the Rs 431.51-crore project coming to a close, the posts now stand abolished.

Apart from this development, forest officers are also up in arms because the GR specifically states that the salaries of these 378 officers and others will be paid only if no extension of these posts is demanded beyond February 28. Remarks a range forest officer in Nagpur: "It is a blackmailing tactic. We have been paid our salaries for January and February. Now, I don't know from where my next month's salary will come. And I have not been given diesel to run the jeeps for patrolling... telephone bills too have not been paid."

The GR has also deepened the conflict between officers posted in the field and "policy-makers". Explains A N Tripathi, deputy secretary,

Forest Department: "These posts were temporary, so they can be surrendered." Adds Kishore Rithe, member, State Wildlife Advisory Board: "Half the posts (8,000 of the total 19,000 in the Forest Department), including that of the principal chief conservator of forests, are temporary. Officers in the wildlife wing have been given specialised training in wildlife management. The project ended in April last year and the posts were extended till October 30. After that, there was a temporary extension every month. Protection work is at a standstill." He says the GR came as a surprise as it had been decided at a meeting on November 29, convened in Nagpur by the then

State Chief Secretary, Arun Bongirwar, that the wildlife wing would remain in operation even though the Maharashtra Forestry Project had ended. The meeting had been attended by Principal Secretary, Forests, K Nandlal, Finance Secretary Ravi Buddhiraja and senior forest officials.

Says Rithe: "This decision was taken in the interest of the State's wildlife and also to avoid violating the Government of India's norms regarding management and execution of Protected Areas and centrally-funded projects like Project Tiger. It was also discussed at the meeting that if we do not continue at least some of these 378 posts in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

IE 5-3-2001

State abolishes 378 posts in wildlife wing

the wildlife wing, it could cause funding problems apart from inviting legal hassles."

Forest officers say their plea to continue the posts have fallen on deaf ears. Tripathi dismisses the importance of the wildlife wing, saying the "GR has been made an issue because we are removing the posts of the 50 peons which the wildlife people have become used to." However, he admits that the GR will have serious implications.

Only 10 per cent of these posts (48) are of peons while the rest are conservators of forests (3), deputy conservators (5), divisional forest officers (4), assistant conservators

of forests (26), range forest officers (30), foresters (30) and guards (63). The rest are technical posts like surveyors, engineers, etc.

Rithe insists that the consequences will be "disastrous". It will have a direct bearing on three forest circles — Nagpur, Nashik and Borivali — since their management is completely under the Wildlife Wing. These forest circles include important national parks and sanctuaries like the Tadoba Tiger Reserve, Pench National Park, Sanjay Gandhi National Park and Tansa, Bhimshankar, Radhanagri and Penganga.

Strangely, Nandlal dismisses

the GR as "routine and having no meaning". He told *The Indian Express*: "We do not plan to abolish the posts though some will go as part of the restructuring of the Forest Department. About 100 posts might be retained. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests S K Balli refused to comment on the subject. "I will not speak on the issue. Why should I tell you if the posts are to be continued or not," he said.

Remarks a senior forest officer: "Officers in the wildlife wing will be adjusted in territorial wings. But there are no vacant posts for conservators and conservation is the lowest priority in territorial wings."

PAV 300

MAHARASHTRA

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Forest department loses yet another wing as WB stops aid

By Sanjeev Unhale
The Times of India News Services

AURANGABAD: The state forest department has decided to fold up its forest protection wings in four forest circles of the state, in the wake of the withdrawal of financial support by the World Bank (WB).

This comes as yet another setback to environment protection in the state, following the department's decision to close down its wildlife wing, earlier this year.

While the state government on its part is trying to upgrade its forest services by reorganising departmental staff and providing them with weapons, its failure

became evident after the Central Bureau of Investigations conducted raids in Nagpur revealing a thriving trade in tiger and panther skins.

The wild life and forest protection wings had been initiated at the behest of WB, which had provided the department with assistance worth Rs 550 crore since 1994-95. These steps had been taken in consultation with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) which received an honorarium of Rs 88 lakh. The idea was to ensure better forest management through the segregation of forest development and protection operations. The model was introduced on a pilot basis in Thane, Dhule, Nagpur and Chandrapur North forest circles.

ASHTRA

761 28/5/01

Wildlife census brings good news on endangered species

By Nandkumar Dhavalikar

The Times of India News Service

SATARA: The population of several endangered species, including peacocks, tigers, bears and hyenas in Satara district, has increased in the last five years.

This has emerged in the latest wildlife census conducted at the seven forest divisions in the district recently. The census has, however, revealed a considerable drop in the number of bisons, horned deer and sloth bears.

There's good news for peacock-lovers though. According to the census, the national bird's number has grown from 129 to 522

During the census, the forest officials found pug marks of tigers and panthers at Malharpeth, Helwak and Patan forests.

"After the scientific examination of these pug marks, it was concluded that the number of panthers increased during the past five years from 18 to 26, while the strength of tigers increased from two to three," said Jeet Singh, Satara forest subdivision officer.

The other wild animals whose number has increased considerably are panthers and bears. While the number of panthers has increased from 18 to 26, the number of bears has increased from 23 to 35.

The bad news is that the number of horned deer has come down from 55 to just six. The census has also indicated an alarming decrease in the number of *gavas* (bison), from 101 to mere 81.

Following were the respective numbers of other species in the dis-

trict: horned deer - 23 (previous census 15); giant squirrel - three (one).

The census indicates a rise in the number of wild animals in Radhanagari, Chandoli and Sagarshwar sanctuaries. The forest officials have attributed the decrease in the number of these animals in other unprotected jungles to large scale poaching.

The favourable or unfavourable changes in the natural habitat of these wild animals is another factor responsible for the increase or decrease in the number of these animals. The specific factors responsible for these changes will be studied and steps will be taken to maintain the ecological balance, the forest officials have said.

DAV 32 ✓

Matheran eco-sensitive: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JULY 18

Observations made in the study by Matheran Bachao Samiti

- 1) The State Government itself had prohibited entry of vehicles in the area, which curbed vehicular pollution and contributed towards preserving the forests. However, uncontrolled development in recent times has started seriously impairing the ecology.
- 2) The forest ecosystem supports three types of forests — ever green, semi-evergreen and moist deciduous. Matheran is also a home to endangered species like the Malabar Giant Squirrel and Mouse Deer.
- 3) Matheran's proximity to Mumbai has spurred unchecked growth in the tourism industry. As a result, on comparing the climate from 1920 to today, there has been a rise of 2 degrees Celsius in the average minimum temperature. The average rainfall has fallen by 780 mm.
- 4) Unchecked development has resulted in a substantial increase in the disposal of garbage of commercial establishments. The garbage is thrown into the forests. The plastic in the garbage has choked the soil and impaired regeneration of the forest. Consequently, 20 natural springs have run dry.
- 5) The MMRDA had commissioned a study of the heritage of the hill station. The report was submitted to the MMRDA in September 2000 and includes a critique of the existing Development (Master) Plan and the new draft Development Plan, and recommends that the entire area be treated as a Heritage Grade-I area and the identified eco-sensitive area be protected and declared as such under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

SC declares Matheran eco-sensitive

■ MUMBAI: In what will be only the second place to enjoy such a status in the country, the hill-station of Matheran in Raigad district has been declared an eco-sensitive zone by the Supreme Court. The order, dated July 12, was delivered on a petition filed by the Matheran Bachao Samiti. The only other area declared as eco-sensitive is the Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani Region which was conferred this status by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests on January 17, 2001.

DETAILS ON PAGE 4

IN WHAT will be only the second place to enjoy such a status in the country, the resort hill-station of Matheran in Raigad district of Maharashtra has been declared an eco-sensitive zone by the Supreme Court. The apex court order, dated July 12, was delivered on a petition filed by the Matheran Bachao Samiti. The only other area declared as eco-sensitive is the Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani Region, also in Raigad district, which was conferred this status by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) on January 17, 2001.

On the directions of the court, the MoEF will now have to publish a notification declaring Matheran as an eco-sensitive zone. The region will require a new master plan as well as a tourism master plan. Pending the approval of the new master plan, the court has ordered that development parameters will remain at current levels and that there will be no reduction in the forest and agricultural zones. Rules for the protection and preservation of Matheran's natural and man-made heritage will also have to be framed.

A heritage list for the hill station has already been prepared with the help of the Matheran Bachao Samiti, which was commissioned to do so by INTACH. The report, which had been sought by the Mumbai Metropolitan Development Authority (MMRDA), has since been forwarded to the Urban Development Department of the State Government.

While filing their petition in the Supreme Court in 1995, the petitioners had urged that the Union of India be directed to take steps to set

up a committee under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to protect the environment of the eco-fragile hill station.

Only recently, on May 2, 2001, the Matheran authorities had taken a decision to permit tractors and other vehicles to ply inside the hill station and to change the surface of the road from the present earthen road, which would have an adverse impact on the ecology and environment. After the petitioners challenged the decision in court on May 10, the court directed the State Government to file an affidavit within six weeks on the matter. In its order on July 12, the court had stated: "We make it clear and direct that no vehicle like tractor, tempo, car, truck or other mechanised vehicle, excepting an ambulance and a fire-engine, will be permitted to ply in Matheran irrespective of the fact that any permit has been granted or

not. Pending further orders, there shall be no movement of felled timber by natural causes or otherwise from Matheran nor there shall be any sale thereof."

In an affidavit filed in court, the State Government has said that it has communicated to the Government of India its principal approval to declare Matheran as an eco-sensitive zone in a letter dated November 21, 2000. The court, however, observed that the State Government's affidavit was "unfortunately very cryptic and lacks necessary particulars" and directed that "further details and documents should be placed on record along with an affidavit to substantiate the averments made in this affidavit. Further affidavit be filed within four weeks from today. The state is directed to file along with the said affidavit the survey report called for in the order dated May 10, 2001 of this court."

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9/2/02

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2002 5

Fresh move to preserve Mahableshwar's ecology

By Nandkumar Dhavalikar
Times News Network

SATARA: Three study committees and a technical panel will prepare reports to preserve the ecological balance of Mahableshwar and Panchgani.

The committees were constituted at a joint meeting of the regional planning board for Mahableshwar-Panchgani and the Central government's high-powered control committee, held at Mahableshwar on Saturday.

The committees have been asked to submit their reports on the implementation of a revised regional plan while taking into consideration limitations and constraints in the development of the two hill stations after these areas were declared as environmentally sensitive in January 2002 by the Centre. The move in this regard came following complaints that large-scale tree felling and illegal constructions had endangered the ecological balance of the hill stations.

The state government has constituted the regional planning board under the presidency of Pune divisional commissioner to prepare a revised regional plan. The first meeting of this board on Saturday, which was presided over by divisional commissioner Umeshchandra Sarangi, was attended by the control committee president, K.G. Kanga, del-

egates of environment organisations, elected representatives and government officials.

Speaking at the meeting, Mahableshwar municipal president D.M. Bawalekar and Panchgani municipal president Laxmi Karadkar complained that the local residents are facing difficulties due to the stringent conditions imposed after these areas were declared sensitive zones.

The representatives of environmental organisations have also complained against the apathy of the forest government officials towards the frequent fires in the local forests.

Kanga told the meeting that the draft for the planning of Mahableshwar and Panchgani for the next 20 years would be prepared on the basis of union environment department's recommendations.

Suggestions of various environmental and other organisations would also be taken into consideration before finalising the draft, he added.

Among those who attended the meeting were local MLA Madan Pisal, district collector Omprakash Gupta, Satara zilla parishad president Narayanrao Pawar, and environmentalists Sujit Patwardhan and Ravindra Surve.

The next meeting of the planning board and control committee will be held at Mahableshwar on March 6.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2002 5

State to open forests for eco-tourism

Times News Network

NAGPUR: Forests in Maharashtra would be opened up for eco-tourism from next month, the state's chief conservator of forests M.K. Sharma announced here on Thursday.

"Instructions have been issued to all divisions of the state forest department to identify tourist spots within forest areas and to make available the necessary staff for conducting tours. The scheme will be launched on the occasion of World Forestry Day on March 21," Sharma said.

To begin with, the Forest Development Corporation has been permitted to take-over the forest guest houses at Kolsa and Sillari in the Totlahdoh area near here for providing accommodation facilities to tourists. A nodal cell would be formed in every division to promote eco-tourism in a big way.

32/2/02 101

Matheran declared eco-sensitive zone

By Gunvanthi Balaram
Times News Network

MUMBAI: The hill station of Matheran and its surroundings have been declared an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) by the Union government.

A notification to this effect was issued on February 6 by the Union ministry of environment and forests (MoEF). It also upholds the supreme court ban on all vehicles inside Matheran except for an ambulance and a fire engine, and on new hotels in the hill station.

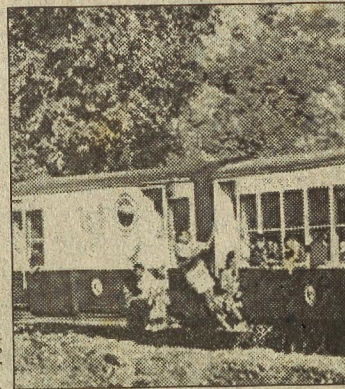
Matheran is the second hill tract in Maharashtra to get such protection, after the Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani plateau which was notified an ESZ on January 17, 2001. Local environmental groups and ecologists working in the Western Ghats are mighty pleased at this development:

"This notification has not come a day too soon because hoteliers are damaging the ecology and aesthetic value of Matheran with their tree-felling and haphazard new con-

structions," says Pилоo Albless Richardson of the Matheran Bachao Samiti. Adds former bureaucrat and Intach (Maharashtra) convener Dev Mehta: "It's a huge relief that the Central government has heeded our collective plea to protect Mumbai's very own hill station with more stringent laws and to promote damage-control exercises there."

Announcing that a new master plan for the Matheran ESZ will be drawn up by the state government within two years, the notification stipulates that there will no change in the meantime in the existing land use pattern and building bye-laws in the hill station.

It adds that no additional hotels and lodges will be allowed until its tourism master plan is in place. This will be based on carrying capacity and lay emphasis on eco-tourism, eco-education and eco-development.



The new master plan will demarcate and devise fresh guidelines for goathans, forests, green areas, horticulture areas, agricultural areas, orchards, natural and built heritage sites and other ecologically sensitive areas.

It will also specify the types of industries to be prohibited and those that can be permitted, provided certain specified criteria are met.

The Matheran ESZ notification is an improvement on the

Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani one in that it is more specific. It notes that the new master plan shall specifically provide for the restoration of denuded areas, management of catchment areas, the fuelwood and other needs of the local community and indicate areas where industries may be permitted.

"The instruction that the needs of the local people must be addressed in the master plan will ensure a better life for them," points out Samir Mehta of the Bombay Environmental Action Group (BEAG).

"There are misconceptions both in the local community and in government circles that notifying Matheran as an ESZ will block development and harm the interests of the locals. But that is not true. It allows for development - what's more, a development that's healthy and systematic," adds the BEAG activist. He and Richardson have worked hard on having these issues included in the notification.

Mehta

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Done

Mahajan

Eco-tourism could end up a paper tiger

MADHAV GOKHALE
FEBRUARY 22

16
27/2/02

ON paper the idea sounds good. If things work out the way Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) M K Sharma wants it, the cash-strapped State Forest Department could reap a windfall. But will it work out?

The idea is to encash the increasing interest in eco-tourism by opening up the state's forests to tourists. Eco-tourism combines pleasure with nature education. Tourists would be introduced to nature through morning and evening walks to waterholes with expert guides besides lectures and film and slide shows on nature. The concept has been very successful in wildlife sanctuaries including Dandeli, Nagarhole and Mudumalai.

But does the Maharashtra forest department have the infrastructure and the trained personnel to manage a large influx of tourists



Tapola tourist spot in Koyana sanctuary. Newline photo

since Sharma's deadline to kickstart the project is March 21, the World Forest Day.

"Eco-tourism is not something which could be initiated by switching on a button like an electric bulb," a senior forest official said on conditions of anonymity. The problem is not just the infrastructure. The major issue is the mindset of

the department itself, a cross section of forest officials this correspondent spoke to feel. "Entering the hospitality business with a five-odd weeks' notice would be rather difficult for those who always were entrusted with a job to protect the forests with lathis in their hands," said a forester.

The PCCF in his order dated February 7 stated that a Committee on Eco-tourism is expected to submit its report within a month. But directives have already gone to the deputy conservators of forest (DCFs) and wildlife divisions across the State even before the official committee has taken any step.

The haste on the part of the PCCF could be because the Maharashtra Forest Development Corporation (MFDC), an autonomous state body, is expected to commence a similar project in two wildlife sanctuaries in Vidarbha on March 21.

The PCCF directive asks all the DCFs to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Eco-tourism could end...

identify tourist spots within forest areas and enroute, in non-forest areas, and map them. And on March 21, the DCFs have been told to announce the launch of the project.

The task could turn out to be extremely difficult since except for the few national parks and sanctuaries, not many of the ranges in the state can offer tourists food or residential facilities. "There are rest-houses. But they are inadequate since they were never planned to cater to tourists. Creation of campsites too was hardly thought of," officials say. Additional people visiting and staying inside or on the periphery of a wildlife sanctuary means more exploitation of available natural resources there.

The forest dept also needs to put in place infrastructure like guides. The DCFs have been told to identify atleast five resource persons in every division who are "satisfactorily competent and familiar with the routes and loca-

tions" who could be hired by tourists as guides.

Forest department officials are skeptical if the project can begin such a short time. "The basic component like making field guides out of our own staff will take some time considering the existing work loads. Currently one forest guard looks after thrice a territory which he is otherwise supposed to take care of," a senior official said. "It's not just overburdened staff, it's a question of equipment as well."

The department needs to build up all these since does not even have any material which could be used to educate tourists. "There is not a single film available on Maharashtra's biodiversity," said an official. "What's the point in showing people visiting our sanctuaries foreign films or films on other sanctuaries." Even the forest information and interpretation centres need to be spruced up with involvement of local population and the greens.

23/25/02

State goes on eco-tourism trip

101
By Neil Pate
Times News Network

KOLHAPUR: The state seems set to take a big plunge into eco-tourism. After launching one-day safaris in the forests of Pune and Solapur districts, the Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd. (FDCM) has now brought eco-tourism to the jungles of Kolhapur.

The department on Wednesday introduced the concept of eco-tourism at five picturesque spots in the district —Panhala fort, Palsambe temple at Gaganbawda, Ramteerth forest area at Ajra, Donavde waterfalls and Kaladanka trek at Gargoti, besides Radhanagari forest area.

The district has nearly 50 first-rate eco-tourist spots, but keeping in mind the density of forests, approach routes, natural beauty, waterfalls and historic importance, the aforesaid ones were selected, said deputy conservator of forest (Kolhapur) G. Sai Prakash.

Apart from generating revenue, the eco-tourism circuit tours, which range between two and seven days, aim at creating awareness among people about wildlife, Sai Prakash said. During the tour, the participants are taught how to erect tents and set up makeshift kiosks, among other things, he added.



ECO-EXHIBIT: A bison at the Radhanagari wildlife sanctuary in Kolhapur district.

The forest department has delineated work to its various divisions to ensure that the tours run smoothly.

Sai Prakash said that at least five persons from every division of the forest department, who include guards and range officers, have been vested with the responsibility of guiding the tourists and catering to their demands, if any. Besides this, every division is expected to have a 'nodal cell for eco-tourism', spearheaded by a responsible officer, he said.

At the forest-circle level, the

conservator of forest is supposed to oversee, plan, implement and monitor eco-tourism projects, Sai Prakash averred.

Meanwhile, all deputy conservators of forest have been asked to submit their action-taken reports on eco-tourism to the respective conservators of forest. Who have been, in turn, asked to make a comprehensive report and submit it to the chairman of the eco-tourism committee draft policy and Maharashtra state principal chief conservator of forest M.K. Sharma within the next three weeks.

Kolhapur forest division to get Rs 2.16 crore

Times News Network

KOLHAPUR: The Kolhapur forest division has been sanctioned Rs 2.16 crore for a period of five years for afforestation and eco-development of forest villages.

The funds are granted by the Central government under its integrated village afforestation and eco-development project scheme.

"We have been allocated Rs 79 lakh for 2001-02, out of which the first instalment of Rs 40 lakh will be given next month," deputy conservator of forest (Kolhapur) G. Sai Prakash said.

He said the funds are released directly by the central government to the Forest Development Agency (FDA). Out of the 510 forest villages on record in Kolhapur, the division plans to develop 36 forest villages in this year's pilot project.

Twenty-five per cent of the allotted amount can be used for development of forest villages through water harvesting structures like check dams for irrigation and drinking water purposes, digging of wells, creation of roads, construction of sheds for schools, installation of energy saving and energy alternative devices, and rural electrification through solar power.

Sai Prakash said each FDA would be headed by the respective territorial/wildlife conservator of forests. Other members include representatives of the village forest committees.

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MAHARASHTRA

Hill stations may find it easier to get protection

By Vaishnavi C. Sekhar
Times News Network

MUMBAI: Hill stations in the country may soon find it easier to get legal protection against reckless development and deforestation. The Union ministry of environment and forests has appointed an expert committee to frame guidelines to determine what makes a hill station environmentally sensitive and important enough to merit preservation.

This follows Matheran being declared an ecologically sensitive zone in February and Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani getting the same status last year.

But environmentalists say the March 21 order which directs a committee of scientists, government officials and environmental group representatives to look at environmental sensitivity and not just ecological sensitivity, will enable more hill stations to qualify for legal protection. This is because the parameters for environmental sensitivity are much broader.

"Environmental sensitivity

includes heritage buildings even while ecological refers to more rigid natural criteria," says Shyam Chainani, of the Bombay Environmental Action Group, which has been lobbying for several years to have hill stations protected.

The new category would permit areas that wouldn't strictly be classified as ecologically fragile to also get protection.

The parameters established for ecological sensitivity are fairly scientific and include the number and rarity of species found in the area, specialised ecosystems and geographical features like uninhabited islands and steep slopes.

The factors that determine environmental sensitivity are more general, such as the extent of forest cover, proposed sanctuary areas, drinking water sources and outstanding natural beauty.

Environmentalists say that applying for eco-sensitive status is difficult and complicated, requiring massive amounts of information on the number of species in the area to be compiled,

for example.

Even though such hill stations as Kodaikanal, Munnar and Darjeeling are eligible for this status, they haven't asked for it. This is because the onus of applying for such protection isn't on the Union ministry of environment but on the state or local environmental and citizens groups.

This ministry's move is "a second step forward," said a delighted Chainani. "The first step was getting the parameters for ecological sensitive zones and this is the next step."

It took several years for the Union government to get the legislation for ecologically sensitive zones in place; it was passed after much lobbying from environmental groups for the hill stations of Pachmari in Madhya Pradesh and Mahabaleshwar. The new scheme has taken considerably less time.

Once an area is notified eco or environmentally sensitive, a number of protective rules come into place and a monitoring committee is set up to ensure they are followed.

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10-yr plans for three sanctuaries okayed

VISHWAS KOTHARI
KOLHAPUR, APRIL 3

1E
4/4/02

THE department of forests has approved a 10-year management plan for three of the four sanctuaries in Kolhapur wildlife division, aimed at providing fresh impetus to ongoing work on wildlife protection, eco-restoration and development projects with specific emphasis on tourism.

Deputy Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) Ashok R Salunkhe said the long-term plans for Radhanagari wildlife sanctuary in Kolhapur district, Sagarshwar in Sangli and Chandoli, which covers parts of Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara and Ratnagiri districts, were cleared recently by the Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) while the process of approval for Koyna sanctuary was on.

The department expects a substantial financial assistance from the Centre under these management plans wherein the thrust would be on categorising wildlife sanctuaries into four programme-specific zones and implement work accordingly, he said.

"For instance, core or no-activity zone which will remain a protected area for wildlife, and eco-restoration zone where the emphasis will be on revitalising depleted forests through village eco-development schemes,"

he pointed out. Similarly, infrastructural development like roads and tourist spots can be undertaken in tourism as well as development zones, he added. Salunkhe said the wildlife officials were also looking ahead to the Forest Development Agency (FDA) programmes, under the Integrated Afforestation and Eco-development Scheme funded by the Centre, at 31 villages in the four wildlife sanctuaries. "We are in the process of getting our plans approved by Ministry of Forests," he said while conceding that work on FDA had been delayed owing to unforeseen reasons.

Authorities from Kolhapur territorial forest division have already got a Rs 2.16 crore FDA plan approved by the Centre, which is to be implemented over a term of five years in 36 villages having forest areas. In this context, the wildlife division has been found lagging although Salunkhe would insist that work under FDA would commence soon in the wildlife sanctuaries.

Together, the four wildlife sanctuaries - constituting main forests in the Western Ghats - cover an area of over 1,104 sq km spread across Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara and parts of Ratnagiri districts, with Koyna (433.55 sq km) accounting for the biggest area and Sagarshwar (10.87 sq km) being the smallest sanctuary.

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Done

Population of wild animals in western ghats on the rise

To1 By Neil Pate
Times News Network 4/4/02

KOLHAPUR: There's a good news for wild-life lovers. A recent census conducted by a committee of conservators and deputy conservators of forests shows a major rise in the number of wild animals in all the four wild-life sanctuaries in the western ghats.

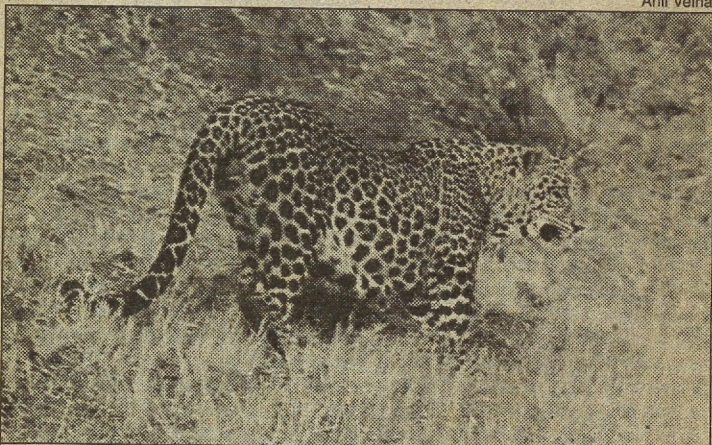
Deputy conservator of forests (wild-life), Ashok Salunkhe, who

He said the Radhanagari wildlife sanctuary in Kolhapur district has been identified as the second most important bio-diversity area in the state. The sanctuary is famous for bisons and many other wild animals.

Chandoli, Koyna, Radhanagari and Sagarashwar are the four main forests areas in the western ghats. Panthers, tigers, barking-deer and sloth bears are in abundance here.

The Koyna forest area also finds

Anil Velhal



CAT WALK: A leopard strolls gracefully in the Radhanagari wildlife sanctuary in Kolhapur district.

looks after Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara wild-life areas, said the forest department's efforts to protect wild-life sanctuaries in the state from harmful human activities, like illegal cultivation of land and grazing cattle in protected areas and felling trees for fuel, seem to have paid off.

Ten years ago, wild-life experts had expressed fears that the tiger population in the western ghats would decline considerably if efforts were not taken to conserve the sanctuaries.

However, the tiger and bison population in the ghats has increased since then, Salunkhe claimed.

place in the list of the 13 medicinal plants conservation areas earmarked by the state government.

The Idarganj plateau in Radhanagari wildlife sanctuary is popularly known as the 'Valley of Flowers' as it harbours over 1,500 flowering plant species and a number of ferns.

A report prepared by Dr Madhukar Bachulkar-Cholekar, head of the Botany department at Vivekanad college, Kolhapur, in 1998 states that many endemic endangered plant species and herbaceous ephemeral vegetation of botanical importance are found in the Radhanagari wildlife sanctuary.

TO THE WILDLIFE ENTHUSIAST'S DELIGHT

Sanctuary	Radhanagari	Koyna	Chandoli	Sagarashwar
Area in kms	351.16	433.55	308.97	10.87
Tigers	02	02	02	—
Panthers	09	17	03	—
Bisons	510	230	270	—
Barking deer	170	100	205	—
Mouse deer	70	50	260	—
Sloth bears	26	105	75	—
Sambar	120	180	155	74
Spotted deer	—	—	—	116
Black buck	—	—	—	169

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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
INDRAPRASTHA ESTATE, RING ROAD, NEW DELHI-110028

PA 17

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18 20/4/02

Forest crimes need special courts: dept

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLHAPUR, APRIL 19

THE forest department has submitted a proposal with the State Government, seeking establishment of independent courts at Nagpur and Thane for conducting a more efficient and speedy trial of forest offences.

Talking to reporters here on Thursday evening, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests MK Sharma conceded that the rate of conviction for offences like poaching and illegal tree-felling was quite low. The forest officials often face difficulties in establishing such offence, he said.

"Unlike common criminal offences where the police are alerted either by the victim or witnesses, the forest staff has to first search for and identify an offence and take action as per circumstances," he observed.

Proving their case beyond

doubt becomes a difficult proposition, resulting in the low rate of conviction, Sharma said.

Establishment of independent courts for forest offences would go a long way in solving some of the problems faced by the department, he added. Sharma said, the task of protecting core forest areas which account for 16 lakh hectares of the State's total forest area of 64 lakh hectare, has been entrusted with the special squads which are given necessary equipment and arms for checking poaching and tree-felling.

Protection of wildlife, increasing number of animals, ensuring effective check on human activity including poaching, and conservation of medicinal plants form part of the work carried out by the special squads, he said.

For the rest of the forest areas, mostly territorial, an apt forest development machinery was being created at district-level, Sharma said.

PA 17

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Govt to set up forest courts

PRAFULLA MARPAKWAR

MUMBAI, JULY 23

16 24/7/02

ALARMED by the exponential growth in litigation under the Indian Forest Act, Forest Conservation Act as well as the Wildlife Protection Act, the Congress-led Democratic Front (DF) government will soon set up Special Forest Courts to dispose of pending cases in a time-bound period.

"We have proposed setting up Special Forest Courts at Thane and Nagpur to dispose of pending cases in a time-bound period. If the cases are disposed of quickly,

then we will be able to curb the violation of the Indian Forest Act and Wildlife Protection Act in a more effective manner," K Subramanian, Chief Conservator of Forests (Protection) told *The Indian Express*.

According to Subramanian, at the moment a record number of 7,000 cases were pending before the courts and more than two lakh cases were pending before the forest officials empowered with quasi-judicial powers. If the proposal comes through, Maharashtra will be the first state in the country to take a lead in setting up such courts for the protection of forests

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Monday, September 16, 2002 5

10/9/02 83 401

Eco-tourism policy in offing

Mumbai: The government is finalising an eco-tourism policy for the state.

Disclosing this at a workshop on implementation of national wildlife action plan here on Saturday, secretary, ministry of environment and forests, Navin Kumar said it was heartening that the green cover of the state had increased during the last five years and wildlife sanctuaries could be now used as na-

ture education centres.

There are 35 sanctuaries, five national parks and 60 forest parks in the state and about 80-90 lakh people visit them every year, Kumar said, adding that negotiations were on with tour operators.

He said there has been a restructuring of the forest cadre to handle two independent wings, one for sanctuaries and another for general purpose. "Despite the ban on fill-

ing of posts, we could recruit additional 1,000 staff to manage forests," Kumar added.

For effective management of sanctuaries and parks, the ministry has formed a joint forest management committee (JFMC) with residents of villages on the fringes of forests, he said. The villagers can undertake plantation on forest peripheries and earn up to 50 per cent of the income, he added. PTI

PAI 7 40

19/10/02 -

Plastic clearance drive in Matheran

By Gunvanthi Balaram
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: At long last, there's a plastic clearance drive in Matheran.

Over the last few weeks, the municipal council of the hill station has, at the behest of the Matheran Bachao Samiti (MBS), cleared the forest trails and points of all plastic and other solid waste. This garbage has been packed and stored at a special site and will soon be carted away by a private agency to recycling units down in the plains.

According to the chief officer of the municipality, Sampatrao Shinde, the plastic bottles collected have even begun to be compressed to one-tenth of their size with a machine. The waste paper is also being packed and stored, while the wet garbage is in the process of being turned into compost.

"We will be clearing garbage on a daily basis from now on, not only from the forests but also from the local hotels and lodges, who have agreed to pay Rs 30 per room per month for the service. We've just added 60 contract

workers to our permanent conservancy staff of 25 for this purpose," he said.

"A private company has agreed to cart away the plastic waste once our staff have crushed and packed it, and that's a big relief because we don't have the manpower or the money for transporting it all to recycling units downhill," adds Shinde.

"We've also requested the company to provide us with a few more crushing machines — not like the manual one they've given us, but like the machines used to electrically crush sugarcane at roadside stalls in Mumbai. Those will be more efficient than the manual machines".

The municipal conservancy staff have been taught how to crush the bottles by experts from the Indian Council of Plastics in the Environment (ICPE), an organisation floated by the plastic industry to deal with the problem of plastics in the environment. "We were introduced to the ICPE by MBS activist Samir Mehta, who's taking interest in this project," says Shinde.

Jumbos stray in Konkan

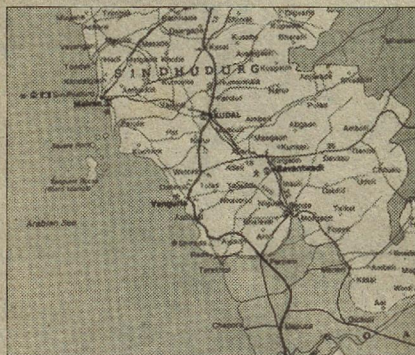
■ First time elephants sighted in the State: forester

MADHAV GOKHALE
PUNE, OCTOBER 31

DODAMARG taluka of Sindhudurg district in south Konkan is currently gripped by an elephantine problem. Over a dozen wild elephants straying in the vicinity of Dodamarg from neighbouring Karnataka have held entire region at ransom.

The elephants, divided in two herds, are now in the vicinity of Tillari irrigation project. The herds are from Kankumbi forests in Belgaum-Khanapur region:

"This is the first time that elephants are sighted in Maharashtra," State Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) Madhav Gogate told *The Indian Express*. While he has been seeking help from the Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India, the State wildlife wing has been contemplating an operation to drive out the elephants with the help of foresters in Karnataka and Goa, Gogate said.



Unconfirmed reports said that two persons were injured in a stampede in a village when they tried to drive them away by bursting crackers and beating drums.

Sindhudurg District Collector Vasant Khobragade ruled out compensations for the paddy fields, banana, coconut and beatle nut orchards

in the vicinity of Tillari project. Gogate on the other hand would like to keep his fingers crossed on the compensation issue for the time being. The elephants are estimated to have damaged paddy and other crops worth about a lakh rupees.

Earlier, speaking at a workshop here recently, environmentalist Prakash Gole referring to straying elephants had maintained that such conflicts were a pointer to nature resisting man's unscrupulous exploitative attitude and maintained that it could be an opportunity to give other consideration to the so-called models of development.

PA 17

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Centre okays State plan on forest land

■ Forest villages to be revenue land

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 27

THE Centre has approved proposals for diversion of 6145.01 hectares of forest land in Maharashtra for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests also approved regularisation of some agrisilvi plots and rehabilitation of people settled in a wildlife sanctuary, an official release said here today.

The approvals accorded include dereservation of 4073.95 hectares of forest land for conversion of 73 forest villages to revenue villages in Nandurbar district, diversion of 1658 hectares of forest land for regularisation of agrisilvi plots in the same district besides diversion of 413.06 hectares of forest land for rehabilitation of persons from villages in Koyna

wildlife sanctuary, the release said.

However, Union Minister for Environment and Forests T.R. Baalu urged Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh to ensure compliance of conditions imposed in this regard, it said adding it has been stipulated that 'pattas' will be given only on inalienable and inheritable right basis and the corresponding changes in revenue records be made only after the final judgement of the supreme court in respect of dereservation of forest lands.

As much as 4.32 million hectares of forest land was diverted for non-forestry purposes between 1950 and 1980 at the rate of about 1.50 lakh hectares per year which has been brought down to about 25,000 hectares per year since the Enactment of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the release added.

101 20/2/03

Matheran also gets 'eco-sensitive' tag

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Matheran and its surrounding areas in Maharashtra have been declared an eco-sensitive zone, putting a cap on industrial and other development in the region. The decision of the Union environment ministry applies to the Matheran municipal council area and adjoining region covering 214.73 square km.

The notification covers 70 villages in Raigarh district's Karjat taluka and 19 villages in Thane district's Ulhasnagar taluka. The other two zones that have been declared eco-sensitive so far in the state are Dahanu taluka and the Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani area.

This means that only non-polluting, non-hazardous, small-scale and service industries, agriculture, floriculture, horticulture and agro-based industries will now be permitted in the area. Quarrying and

mining will be banned; plastic bags may not be used.

Over the next two years, the state government is to prepare a master plan to restore denuded areas, manage catchment areas, watersheds, ground water, soil and moisture.

Till then, says the ministry, buildings within the Matheran municipal limits will see no increase in floor-area ratio, permissible height, number of storeys or ground coverage.

Repair and restoration will be allowed, but no new construction may come up. In adjoining areas, there should be no reduction in tribal area, forest zone, green zones and agricultural area.

All this will be monitored by a 10-member committee, chaired by an eminent person, with the Raigarh district collector as its convenor. Its job is to ensure compliance of the provisions of the notification.

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MAHARASHTRA

JANUARY 20, 2003 *

18 20/1/03

Matheran declared eco-sensitive region

■ No more polluting industries, masterplan to chalk out restoration of denuded areas

PRAFULLA MARPAKWAR
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 19

IT'S official now. Only non-polluting, non-hazardous, small-scale and service industries will be allowed to operate in Matheran, besides agriculture, floriculture, horticulture and agro-based industries.

The final notification declaring Matheran and the area surrounding it — a total area of 215 sq kms — eco-sensitive was promulgated by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests on February 4. The notification came just two days before the end of the stipulated period of one year from the draft notification.

The special notification promulgated under the Environment Protection Act, 1966, will be applicable to areas in the jurisdiction of the Matheran Municipal Council as well as surrounding areas in Raigad district and 19 villages in Ulhasnagar in Thane district.

"We welcome the notification, but would have been more elated if the plains below had been in-

WHAT'S OUT

- * Polluting industries of all types
- * Plastic bags - They're totally banned
- * Quarrying, mining
- * Discharge of nutreated effluents
- * New constructions

WHAT'S IN

- * Non-hazardous, small scale and service industries, agriculture, floriculture, horticulture and agro based
- * A zonal master plan for restoration of denuded areas, management of catchment areas, watershed and ground water management, soil and moisture conservation.
- * Repairs and restoration will be permitted in the jurisdiction of the Matheran Municipal Council.

cluded in the protected area too," said Samir Mehta of the Matheran Bachao Samiti. Incidentally, the de-

limitation area in the draft notification was 498 sq kms, nearly twice the area finally protected by the final notification. "Our contention was that the population around the hill, living in the plains, should be included in the planning process, so that they do not impact upon the forest," said Mehta.

After Dahanu and Mahabaleshwar, Matheran is the third region in the country to be declared eco-sensitive. Significantly, Dahanu was declared eco-sensitive following intervention by the Supreme Court. A high-level Dahanu Environmental Protection Authority (DEPA) headed by Justice C S Dharmadhikari was set up, as per the apex court's directions. But for Matheran, as for Mahabaleshwar, the implementation of the notification will be supervised by a ten-member monitoring committee headed by an environmental expert and with the Raigad Collector as convenor.

A senior official in Mantralaya says unless the monitoring committee is given quasi-judicial powers, the exercise will be somewhat futile.

41 ✓ A17

T01 22/3/03

Chiplun group comes to the aid of Olive Ridleys

By Neil Pate
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chiplun (Ratnagiri): It's World Water Day today. As in the last three months, hundreds of Olive Ridley turtles will swim to safety into the Velas sea along a small town called Chiplun in Ratnagiri district, thanks to Sahayadri Nisarga Mitra (SNM).

SNM, a group of villagers and nature-lovers, engaged in rescuing these endangered species, has saved over 2,000 Olive Ridleys and released them into the sea since December 2002.

The first informal "Marine Turtle Conservation Project" in the state, which started the initiative in the wake of the rising incidence of poaching of Olive Ridleys, their hatchlings and eggs in the Konkan belt, is planning to hold an informal awareness workshop on Friday.

"Poachers have been ruthlessly killing these turtles for meat and their eggs and

hatchlings are sold in the market by fly-by-night vendors," SNM founder Vishwas Katdare told TNN.

Katdare, who has been involved in various nature and marine conservation projects for the past 10 years, said that besides rescuing the hatchlings, they had protected 5,000 eggs and 48 nests along the Mandangad village coastline.

Coastal villages in Ratnagiri, with their picturesque settings and virgin beaches, have always been perfect getaways for tourists. However, for the past two decades, the serene coastal villages of Konkan have also become a safe haven and hideaway for smugglers, poachers and hunters.

"Last June, we informed the local police and stopped the smuggling of the Indian Swiftlet's (*collocalia unicolor*) nests in south Konkan. Now, we are working towards the conservation of the marine turtle," Katdare said.

After rescuing 2,000 turtles, SNM activists have now spread their project across 45 villages in Ratnagiri district. "We have installed awareness boards at vantage points along the beaches. With the help of the local forest department and the village panchayat, we have erected metal mesh hatcheries, which are well fenced to keep away natural predators," said an enthusiastic SNM member Sachin Palkar.

The group has also been submitting status survey reports of the *Whitebellied Sea Eagle* along the coast of Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts to the Bombay Natural History Society in Mumbai.

Last February, they found 35 turtle nests on the sandy beaches of Mandangad. "They usually lay eggs between October and March," Katdare said, adding that they were now planning to expand the project along the entire Konkan coast.

MSL 5/6/04

Maharashtra to tap tourist potential of Konkan, Vidarbha

United News of India
Mumbai, June 4

THE Maharashtra Government on Friday told the Assembly that it has made a comprehensive budgetary allocation to tap the tourism potential of the Konkan and Vidarbha regions.

Replying to the debate on the budgetary demands, the Tourism Minister, Mr Jaidutt Kshirsagar, said a budgetary proposal of Rs 34.50 crore has been made to upgrade tourism facilities in Konkan.

Similarly, an integrated tourism plan worth Rs 170 crore has been chalked out with the help of Tata Consultancy Services for the Vidarbha region, which would cover Ramtek, Nagjira, Tadoba, Chikhaldara and Melghat.

Stating that the State would focus on forest, eco and wildlife tourism, he said the Nagpur-Nagbhid train would start this year. For the Deccan Odessey luxury train, the Government has hired 12 agents with \$10,000 as deposit and the train's occupancy has touched 14 per cent, Mr Kshirsagar said.

The train's inaugural run got delayed till January this year because of which the bookings could not be completed by April.

The Minister told the House that the Palace on Wheels luxury train in Rajasthan in the first five years of its service had an occupancy rate of not more than 10 per cent.

He said Taj caterers were being hired for the maintenance and upkeep of the interiors of the train.

MS 17.

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प्रति. मा. श. शशिजा भाई.
सुप्रेम नमस्कार.
शा. प्र. या. माहितीसाठी पाठविलेले
आहे. आपल्या कार्यक्रमासंदर्भात
माहिती तसेच काही करता
येईल तर बधा.

* पत्ता

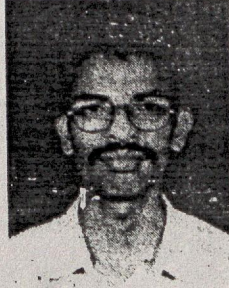
प्रवीण मोते.

मु. मदिना मस्जिद जवळ,

तूकूम-५

ता.जि. चंद्रपूर

युवा पर्यावरण तज्ञ- प्रवीण मोते!



प्रदूषणाच्या विळख्यात सापडूनही यास विरोध करणारे हाताच्या बोटांवर मोजण्या इतकेच. संघटित नसल्याने आवाज क्षीण. आपले पोटापाण्याचे व्यवसाय सांभाळून कथित समाजसेवा करणाऱ्यांची ताकद किती असणार? हे प्रश्न, या समस्या प्रवीण मोतेला आव्हान देतात. पर्यावरणीय संतुलन

बिघडत असताना सर्वसामान्य नागरिकांसारखा शांत बसण्याचा पिंडच मुळी त्याचा नाही म्हणून मागील ५ वर्षांपासून तो समस्यांचा पाठपुरावा करतोय.

पीस चाईल्ड इंटरनॅशनल या आंतरराष्ट्रीय संघटनेची एक चमू भारतात पर्यावरण क्षेत्रात काम करू इच्छिणाऱ्या युवकांचा शोध घेण्यासाठीच आली होती. बालकांच्या विकासासाठी ही संघटना कार्य करते. अशा मुलांचा शोध घेण्यासाठी या संघटनेचे अध्यक्ष डेव्हिड आपल्या सहकाऱ्यांसह भारतात आले होते. प्रवीणचे विचार ऐकून ते प्रभावित झाले. त्यांची मुलाखत घेऊन त्यांनी त्याला संघटनेचे सदस्य बनवून घेतले. आज या संघटनेचे सदस्यत्व देशातील केवळ ७ तरुणांचा देण्यात आले आहे. यावरून या संघटनेचे सदस्यत्व मिळणे किती कठीण असते हे लक्षात येईल!

१९९३ साली रिओ दि जेनेरो येथे 'वसुंधरा परिषद' (अर्थ समीट) पार पडली. जागतिक पर्यावरणाचे संतुलन राखण्यासाठी व प्रदूषणाच्या संकटाचा मुकाबला करण्यासाठी एक आंतरराष्ट्रीय जाहीरनामा येथे तयार करण्यात आला. १९९५ साली या कलमांच्या अंमलबजावणीबाबत प्रत्येक देशाने केलेल्या प्रगतीची माहिती

घेण्याचे संयुक्त राष्ट्रांनी ठरविले. त्या अंतर्गत प्रत्यक्ष सर्वेक्षण करण्याचे ठरले. हे सर्वेक्षण पर्यावरण क्षेत्रातील जागृत असणाऱ्या मुलांकडून करून घेण्याचे ठरले. चाईल्ड इंटरनॅशनलवर ही जबाबदारी सोपविण्यात आली. प्रवीणने चंद्रपूर जिल्हातील सर्व प्रदूषणग्रस्त भागांना भेटी दिल्या. तेथील हवेतील धुळीचे व अन्य घटकांचे प्रमाण (सस्पेन्डेड पार्टिक्युलेट मॅटर) यांची नोंद घेतली. महत्त्वपूर्ण शिफारसीसह त्याने हा अहवाल संयुक्त राष्ट्रांकडे पाठविला. विविध देशातून अनेक सदस्यांनी पाठविलेल्या अहवालांचा अभ्यास करून संयुक्त राष्ट्रांने एक अंतिम अहवाल तयार केला. या अहवालात जगभरातून करण्यात आलेल्या निवडक शिफारसीनाच स्थान देण्यात आले. त्यात प्रवीणने केलेल्या शिफारसीलाही सामावून घेण्यात आले, हे येथे विशेष उल्लेखनीय!

संधी हुकली

प्रवीणच्या अहवालामुळे त्याने स्वतःची छाप आपल्याशी संबंधित वतुळात पाडली. पहिला अहवाल लिहिला, तेव्हा प्रवीण अवघा २० वर्षांचा होता. त्याच काळात नोबेल पुरस्कार समितीने भविष्यात पर्यावरण क्षेत्रासाठी नोबेल पुरस्कार देण्याचे ठरविले. यासाठी त्यांना तज्ञ अधिकारी आवश्यक होते. नोबेल पुरस्कार समितीवरील भावी अधिकारी म्हणून प्रवीणची निवड झाली. १ महिना जागतिक पातळ्यांवरील ५ प्रमुख संघटनांमध्ये प्रशिक्षण व त्यानंतर ५ वर्षांनी अधिकारी म्हणून नियुक्ती असे या प्रक्रियेचे स्वरूप होते. ५ देशांमध्ये दिले जाणारे प्रशिक्षण, निवास भोजन आदींचा खर्च नोबेल पुरस्कार समितीच करणार होती. अट एकच होती ते म्हणजे लंडन ते भारत प्रवासाचा खर्च प्रवीणने करावा. मात्र घरची आर्थिक परिस्थिती बेताचीच असल्याने व प्रयत्न करूनही हवी तेवढी आर्थिक मदत न मिळाल्याने अखेर प्रवीणला या संधीकडे पाठ फिरवावी लागली.

१९९८ साली संयुक्त राष्ट्रांच्या मानवाधिकार जाहीरनाम्यास ५० वर्षे पूर्ण होत असल्याने संयुक्त राष्ट्र मानवाधिकार आयोगाने जगभरातील मानवाधिकारांच्या अंमलबजावणीची वस्तुस्थिती जाणून घेण्याचे ठरविले. प्रवीणही यात सहभागी झाला. मानवाधिकार या आणखी एका विषयाचे सखोल ज्ञान त्याला या अनुसंगाने प्राप्त झाले. १० साली 'जागतिक पर्यावरणाचा आढावा' (ग्लोबल इनव्हायसमेंट आऊटलुक) नामक एक प्रकल्प संयुक्त राष्ट्र, पीस चाईल्ड इंटरनॅशनलने राबविला. जगाला भविष्यात भेडसावणाऱ्या

समस्यांची माहितीच या प्रकल्पाच्या अहवालात देण्यात आली. प्रवीणने चंद्रपूर, गडचिरोली, भंडारा, नागपूर आदी जिल्हाच्या पर्यावरणाचा अभ्यास करून अहवाल पाठविला. संयुक्त राष्ट्र पर्यावरण कार्यक्रम युएनईपीने त्याने उपस्थित केलेला एक मुद्दा गांभीर्याने घेतला. आपल्या 'एनडॅजरड प्लॅनेट' या अहवालाच्या कच्च्या मसुद्यात त्यांनी हा मुद्दा पृष्ठ क्रमांक ५१ वर प्रसिद्ध केला. "चंद्रपूर शहराला सध्या आत्यंतिक वायू प्रदूषणास सामोरे जावे लागत आहे. हे शहर कोळसा खाणी, औष्णिक वीज केंद्र, सिमेंट फॅक्टरी आदींनी वेढले आहे. या सर्वांमुळे भयंकर वायू प्रदूषण होत आहे. ९५ टक्के लोकांना गंभीर स्वरूपाचे आजार होत आहेत. सरकारला हे माहीत असूनही ते गंभीर पावले उचलत नाही." प्रवीणने उपस्थित केलेल्या या मुद्द्याची गंभीर दखल घेऊन युएनईपीने भारत सरकारला त्यात लक्ष घालायला सांगितले. त्याचे पुढे काय झाले? हे मात्र प्रवीणसह कुणालाही माहित नाही.

सध्या प्रवीण 'मानवी विकास २०००' या प्रकल्पावर काम करीत आहे. पर्यावरण क्षेत्रात काम करण्यासाठी 'सृष्टी' नामक एक संस्था स्थापन केली आहे. मुलांमध्ये पर्यावरणविषयक जागृती करण्याचे ध्येय त्याने उराशी बाळगले आहे. त्यासाठी तो विविध शाळांच्या मुख्याध्यापकांची परवानगी घेऊन विद्यार्थ्यांशी संवाद साधतो. प्रदूषणामुळे सामान्य जनता व कामगार यांच्या आरोग्यावर होणारे परिणाम, त्यांच्याशी संबंधित कायदे आदींचा सखोल अभ्यास त्याने सुरू केला आहे. आज पर्यावरण, कामगार, पक्षी निरीक्षण आदी क्षेत्रातील त्याचा अभ्यास पाहून तज्ञही आश्चर्यचकित होतात. खूप अभ्यास करून ज्ञान मिळवावे ही प्रवीणची मनिषा. पण यासाठी लागणारी महागडी पुस्तके घेणार कशी? त्याचे वडील पोलीस विभागात साधे हेडकॉन्स्टेबल आहेत. प्रवीणच्या पायावर शाबकिया झाली असल्याने त्याला सायकल वा अन्य वाहने चालविण्यास मनाई आहे. आजही आर्थिक समस्या, मदत करणाऱ्यांची मोजकी संख्या, पर्यावरणविषयक जनमानसातील सुस्ती आदी कारणांमुळे आपले अनेक संकल्प तो तडीस नेऊ शकत नाही. विदर्भात पर्यावरण क्षेत्रात कार्यरत व्यक्तींचे मार्गदर्शन लाभल्यास व युवावगनि सक्रिय मदत केल्यास प्रवीण भविष्यात पर्यावरण क्षेत्रात भरीव कामगिरी करून दाखवेल यात शंकाच नाही!

प्रमोद चुंवार

दि. २७.३.२००० - द. लोकमत.