

CREW

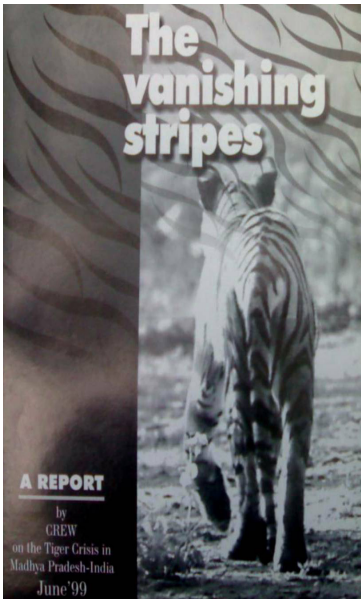
CRUSADE FOR REVIVAL OF ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE

CENTRAL INDIAN HIGHLANDS WILDLIFE FILM FESTIVAL 2012

SATPURA-MAIKAL LANDSCAPE
THE ULTIMATE TIGER HABITAT



BHOPAL
February 26 & 27, 2012



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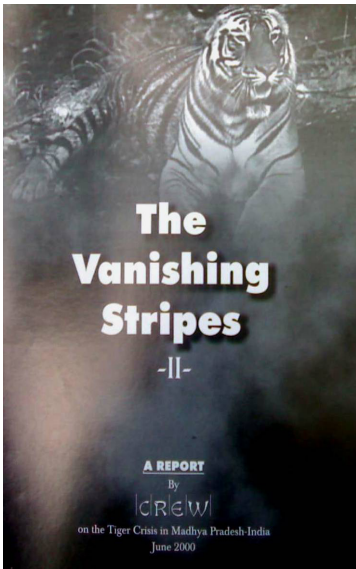
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US Officials Plan Conservation Campaign; More
Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Leading officials in the Clinton administration, the US Senate and industry, academia and environmental groups last week announced a new initiative in support of tiger conservation. As part of the Tiger Conservation Challenge Campaign, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt announced 14 tiger conservation grants totaling \$260,000 to be awarded through the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS release, 11 Jun). Senate Environment Committee Chairman John Chafee said he will write to 400 companies that use the tiger as a mascot, trademark or logo and urge them to contribute funds to the campaign (World Wildlife Fund release, 11 Jun). And Chafee also announced he is sponsoring legislation to create a federal grant program "to protect and preserve foreign endangered species" (Senate Environment Committee release, 11 Jun).

Group Warns That Tiger Enclave In India Is In Danger
Meanwhile in India, the Crusade for Revival of Environment and Wildlife (CREW) warned that the tiger population in the state of Madhya Pradesh could become extinct unless officials address poaching and the loss of prey and habitat. A CREW report issued this week casts doubt on the state's tiger census, which in 1997 counted 927 of the felines (*Times of India*, 14 Jun).

**SAVE
TIGERS**



Crew had released two reports Vanishing Stripes (1999) and Vanishing Stripes-II (2000) to issue the firm warning that Tiger's survival is threatened by poaching and loss of prey-base. Our forests are shrinking at an alarming pace. Human pressure on forest is immense due to rapidly increasing population. The situation gets aggravated by reckless destruction of green cover by the timber and the mining mafia. Forest land is also getting rapidly encroached. Unhindered grazing, minor forest produce and firewood collection are also activities adding to the crisis.

Though the number of tigers in the country have gone up, the fact remains that Our forests are shrinking at an alarming pace. Human pressure on forest is immense due to rapidly increasing population. It is important to save the tiger in its natural habitat.

**A Souvenir to mark the
Central Indian Highlands Wildlife Film Festival 2012**

Produced by **CREW**
Crusade for Revival of Environment and Wildlife
(exclusively for in-house circulation)

Reg. address: 34, Sagar Garden Homes, Chuna Bhatti, Kolar Road, Bhopal 462016; Phone 0755-2421183;
email: crewfortigers@gmail.com; website: http://cihfestival.in/

Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Chief Minister



Government of Madhya Pradesh
BHOPAL - 462 004

S.No. 160 , 18 Jan. 2012

Message

I am delighted to learn that the Crusade For Revival of Environment and Wildlife - CREW is organizing Central Indian Highlands Wildlife Film Festival 2012 in Bhopal.

Madhya Pradesh is privileged to have an enviable faunal diversity. The bio-diversity comprising dense forests make it an ideal habitat for wildlife. Survival of fragile eco-systems depends greatly on human sensitivity. Conservation needs human enterprise expressed in a myriad ways.

The event is a sensible enterprise to raise popular awakening for the wildlife through a creative medium. The CREW deserves praise for this.

I wish the event a grand success.

Regards.


(Shivraj Singh Chouhan)

सरताज सिंह
मंत्री
वन विभाग



मंत्रालय - कक्ष क्र. 513
वल्लभ भवन, भोपाल
दूरभाष - 0755-4252390
विधानसभा - कक्ष क्रमांक - 210
दूरभाष - 0755-2523160
निवास - विन्ध्य कोठी, जेल रोड, भोपाल, (म.प्र.)
दूरभाष - 0755-2550492, 2760082
फेक्स - 0755-2550492

क्रमांक : 83

दिनांक : 18/02/2012

Message

I am happy to know that CREW [Crusade for Revival of Environment and Wildlife] is organizing the Central Indian Highlands Wildlife Film Festival 2012 in Bhopal to build awareness about nature and wildlife, which is so crucial for survival of humankind.

CREW has taken an important lead by ensuring the participation of students and youth in the Wildlife Film Festival. This event should go a long way towards keeping the people informed about the importance of forests. It is a great idea to focus on the theme "Tiger Habitat" and showcase Satpura-Maikal ranges known for their rich diversity of wildlife.

I convey my best wishes for the success of CIHWFF 2012 and wish this becomes an annual event.

(Sartaj Singh)

Minister of Forest

Government of Madhya Pradesh

AJAY SINGH
Leader of Opposition
Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha



C-19, Shivaji Nagar,
Bhopal-462 016 ((M. P.)
Tel. : (0755) 2555355
Fax : (0755) 2572284

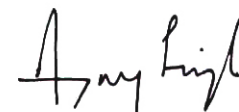
Message

The adverse change in the world climate is a matter of concern for human and other living beings. We need to bring awareness among people especially in youth for protection and preservation of Environment and wildlife.

The holding of the Central Indian Highlands Wildlife Film Festival 2012 is a commendable initiative in this direction, which is being made by the CREW. Such programmes acquaint our coming generation with the protection and preservation of water, forest and soil as well as informing about their importance.

I hope this initiative of the organization will be an important contribution regarding protection and preservation of environment and wildlife

With best regards


(Ajay Singh)

Dr. H.S. Pabla
IFS

Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) &
Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya-Pradesh



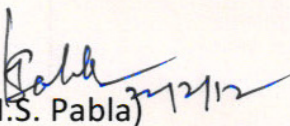
Government of Madhya Pradesh

Office 0755-2674206, 2674337
0755-2674213 (R)
e-mail : pablahs@sancharnet.in
e-mail : pccfwl@sancharnet.in

Date

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate CREW and the partnership that has brought the Central Indian Highlands Wildlife Film Festival [CIHWFF] from just an idea to reality. The organizers deserve special praise as they have provided a unique platform to students and youth to empower the masses by keeping them informed about forests and wildlife.

It is my hope that CIHWFF 2012 will mark the beginning of a new era in the production of wildlife documentaries in this part of the world. I am told that students from different parts of the country joined the 3-day workshop linked with CIHWFF 2012 and they have submitted a few excellent documentaries for the competitive section. This is a tangible contribution to the goal of wildlife conservation and the participants deserve complements.


(Dr. H.S. Pabla)

Chief Wildlife Warden, M.P.

CENTRAL INDIAN HIGHLANDS

Located to the south of Vindhya hill range, the Central Indian Highlands include the states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, parts of eastern Maharashtra as well as some parts of northern Andhra Pradesh. The forests in this area are categorized as Tropical and Subtropical Dry Broad-leaf Forest.

THE CENTRAL INDIAN HIGHLANDS ARE RICH IN BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND ENCOMPASS UNIQUE FEATURES OF EXCEPTIONALLY PRISTINE NATURE.

Satpura-Maikal Landscape

The Central Indian Satpura-Maikal Landscape (SML) is the region surrounding Satpura in West and Maikal hill ranges in East. The major carnivores here are the tiger, leopard and sloth bear. This region is famous for the hard ground barasingha. The herbivores are represented by gaur, sambar, cheetal and barking deer. Other common faunal species are wild pig, jackal and common langur. The area also supports rich avifauna. The region is a part of the dispersal bridge which connects the Eastern Himalayas with the Western Ghats. These are some of the most productive habitats for tiger and its prey species in the Indian subcontinent.

SML has in it many of India's best known protected forests. Many of the PAs here have been synonymous with the tiger. Put together, around 17 per cent of the world's tigers are found in the landscape. Any improvement of the habitats here would not only benefit the tiger and its prey, but more importantly will directly help the millions of humans who depend on these forests as a water as well as for non-timber forest produce (NTFP), herbs and traditional medicines among others.

Project Tiger

The Central Indian Highlands have remained a perfect habitat for the Tiger that sits at the apex of the biotic pyramid. Due to growing human population and the man-animal conflict the tigers are now threatened in their own habitat. To save tigers from extinction, "Project Tiger" was launched in 1973 with an objective "to ensure maintenance of a viable population of tigers in India for scientific, economic, aesthetic, cultural and ecological values, and to preserve for all times, areas of biological importance as a national heritage for the benefit, education and enjoyment of the people".

The network of tiger reserves include the Central Indian Highlands of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Maharashtra, and the plateau of Chota Nagpur (Jharkhand), the hilly tropical and evergreen forests of Orissa, the evergreen forests of Western Ghats in Kerala and Karnataka, the dry deciduous forests of Andhra Pradesh and the Southern moist deciduous forests of Tamil Nadu, high mountainous terrains of Arunachal Pradesh, the heavy rainfall areas of Assam and West Bengal, the estuarine mangroves of Sunderbans, the dry forests of Rajasthan, and the foothills of the

Himalayas in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

For the purpose of management, the tiger reserves are constituted on a 'core'- 'buffer' strategy. In the core area, forestry operations, collection of non-timber forest produce, grazing, human settlement and other biotic disturbances are not allowed, and is singularly oriented towards conservation. The buffer zone is managed as a 'multiple use area', with conservation oriented land use, having the twin objectives of ensuring habitat supplement to the spillover population of wild animals from the core, apart from providing site specific eco-developmental inputs to fringe dwelling, stake holder communities. The main thrust of the project is protection and mitigation of deleterious human impacts with a view to comprehensively revive the natural ecosystem in the reserves.

Narmada River

The Narmada River flows in a rift valley flowing west between the Satpura and Vindhya ranges constituting a large part of the Central Indian Highlands. It flows through the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat. Only if the biodiversity and the forest in the catchments of the Narmada River remain protected, the river and its tributaries would be charged perennially and adequate water would be available to irrigate our fields. Conservation and protection of this huge biosphere is necessary for survival of humankind.

The Central Indian Highlands are rich in biological and cultural diversity and encompass unique features of exceptionally pristine nature. Due to the availability of plenty of minerals and increased efforts to exploit them, the region might see more serious conflicts of development versus locals and wildlife in future.

In this backdrop, the goal of CREW is to create awareness and work for conservation of this wonderful landscape and its immense biological diversity and wildlife, along with the cultural heritage. CREW is committed to fostering economic and human development which is culturally and ecologically sustainable and to provide support for research, monitoring, education and information exchange. The Central Indian Highlands Wildlife Film Festival is an attempt aimed at using the creative media to build greater awareness for the sake of conservation and protection of ecology and wildlife.

Ram Bhuwan Singh Kushwaha

Editor

CIHWFF2012

Central Indian Highlands Wildlife Film Festival 2012 has been organised in Bhopal, the capital of the central Indian State of Madhya Pradesh, on the theme "Tiger Habitat". The idea is to showcase Satpura-Maikal ranges to build a national-level campaign among students and youth and create greater awareness about nature and wildlife, which is so crucial for survival of humankind.

The wildlife wing of Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, Environmental Planning and Coordination Organisation, Madhya Pradesh Ecotourism Development Board, Sanctuary Asia, CMS Vatavaran, National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research, Bhopal and Regional Museum of Natural History are associated with CREW in organising this Festival.

KIDS FOR TIGERS -A SANCTUARY ASIA PROGRAMME

There was a huge turnout of school students, who joined the Kids for Tigers rally in Bhopal--a Sanctuary Tiger Programme--on January 27 to raise their voice for the cause of tigers. Students from more than half a dozen schools marched on the road from Palash Residency Hotel to Polytechnic square at rush hour and converged at Priyadarshini Park, where they took part in a rally addressed by the state Chief Wildlife Warden Dr. H.S. Pabla. Kids for Tigers, Bhopal along with CREW organised the event to carry forward the spirit of wildlife conservation and awareness about the importance of saving the tiger and its forests.

THREE-DAY WORKSHOP

A 3-day workshop linked with Central Indian Highlands Wildlife Film Festival was held from January 27 to January 29. On the first day of the workshop the participants from Asian College of Journalism (Chennai), Symbiosis Institute of Media and Communication (Pune), People's University and Makhnallal National University of Journalism (Bhopal) attended an introductory session at National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research. This was followed by a visit to Van Vihar National Park in Bhopal. The next day, everyone drove to Churna in Satpra Tiger Reserve (a five-hour road journey from Bhopal). The participants had the opportunity of going on an elephant safari and shooting nature and wildlife in the dense forest.

CREW

CREW is a society registered in 1997 under the Madhya Pradesh Society Registration Act 1973. CREW is Central India's primary centre for policy and enforcement regarding conservation and management of natural resources, wildlife and biodiversity. The Central Indian States of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have distinctive characteristics that set this region apart from other areas of the Indian sub-continent. Besides the wealth of natural resources--both forest and mineral--some of the most important archaeological sites, dating back to ten thousand years are located in Madhya Pradesh.

CREW uses the visual media and releases b-rolls in digital broadcast quality format on crucial environment related issues to different sections of the media for direct relay and wider dissemination of knowledge and information relating to natural environment and factors threatening environmental balance. As a major initiative to build awareness regarding the importance of wetlands and their conservation, Crew launched an awareness campaign with its documentary "water Birds of Bhopal" shot mainly around Van Vihar National Park, a huge wetland recognized by the Ramsar Convention as an important wetland site in Central India.

CREW has continued to campaign for the protection of environment, biodiversity, wildlife, forest cover, endangered species and wetlands.

CREW is concerned about a number of risks and practices threatening forests, wildlife, wetlands and the environment.

These threats include:

- Disintegration of natural habitats and the remaining forest corridors due to rapid development and human pressure.
- Pollution due to the reckless dumping and disposal of waste and the destruction of the ecosystem and the threat to aquatic and avian species.
- Destruction of natural habitats because of unlawful mining, logging of timber, grazing, man-made forest fires, large-scale commercial exploitation of minor forest produce, use of chemical pesticides, and fishing practices.

• Crew released two reports Vanishing Stripes-I (1999) and Vanishing Stripes-II (2000) to issue the firm warning that Tiger's survival is threatened by poaching and loss of prey-base.

• These reports reveal the gravity of the problem and point out how gravely the tiger is threatened in one of its most fantastic habitats.

Our Associates



The wildlife wing of Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research, Regional Museum of Natural History, Sanctuary Asia, CMS Vatavaran, Kids for Tigers and Madhya Pradesh Ecotourism Board have collaborated and joined hands with CREW to organise Indian Highlands Wildlife Film Festival 2012

FORESTS AND HUMAN PRESSURE

-Lalit Shastri

Our forests are shrinking at an alarming pace. Human pressure on forest is immense due to rapidly increasing population. The situation gets aggravated by reckless destruction of green cover by the timber and the mining mafia. Forest land is also getting rapidly encroached. Unhindered grazing, minor forest produce and firewood collection are also activities adding to the crisis.

We are now confronted with a national crisis. It is important to save the tiger in its natural habitat. The tiger sits at the apex of the biotic pyramid and is an important link in the entire food chain. The tiger will be safe in the wild only when there is prey-base. This would in turn depend on the survival of the flora, i.e. grasses, fruit bearing trees, herbs, shrubs and the water bodies along with all other factors linked with the natural habitat. Only then our rivers would be perennial and the underground water would remain charged.

FIREWOOD EXTRACTION IS ONE OF THE MAJOR CAUSES OF THE RAPID DEPLETION OF FORESTS. WHAT ADDS TO THE FIREWOOD PROBLEM IS THE FACT THAT WE HAVE FAILED TO PROVIDE ANY VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO FIREWOOD, FOR EXAMPLE COAL OR BIO-GAS ENERGY.

Madhya Pradesh once was very rich in wildlife as well as in forest cover. There was a time when population was less and as a result pressure on forest for timber and firewood was reasonable. Gradually the population increased putting ever-increasing pressure on the forests both for timber as well as firewood. Successive governments have not shown the desired will to control illegal logging or encroachments on forest land. The fact that ecological protection gets only lip service and skin-deep concern is clearly brought out by the fact that there is no national cooking fuel policy. This despite the fact that nearly 80 per cent of the country's population still lives in villages or in small towns and uses firewood for the domestic requirement that is met through illegal or irregular over exploitation of existing forest resources.

Studies on environmental consequences have revealed that firewood extraction is one of the major reasons for depletion of forests. The firewood problem is worst compounded since the forests are not distributed uniformly all over the State to meet the requirements of the people. While the southern and eastern parts of the State have more area under forests, the South-Eastern parts lack forests.

Firewood extraction is one of the major causes of the rapid depletion of forests. What adds to the firewood problem is the fact that successive Governments have failed to provide any viable alternative to firewood, for example coal, biomass or biogas energy. Consequently, the massive requirement of firewood continues to be met from the already dwindling forests. We have reached the present scenario where the Government has permitted the use of precious timber in the name of firewood at the cost of ecology and the already reduced forest cover.

Permanent pastures constitute only about 6 per cent of the land and are too insufficient to sustain

millions of cattle heads in the State as well as the cattle coming from the neighboring States of Rajasthan and Gujarat during the drought season. According to authentic assessment by State agencies, due to excessive pressure on forest, about 50 per cent forestland in Madhya Pradesh has become degraded or depleted. The people are encouraged to cut forests or encroach and settle on forest land.

The requirement of wood for buildings and furniture is the next major burden on the forest cover. Most of this requirement is met either through legal logging by the forest department, which has to show ever-increasing revenue year after year, or through illicit logging, which is a more damaging problem since there is nothing scientific about it. An illicit logger does not see which tree is to be cut and which is to be saved for future.

If there had been any concern either at the Center or the State level there would have been a sharp control on the use of timber for furniture and construction purposes since alternative materials are now readily available. There is also a firm opinion that if the saw mills could be banned and sawing of wood and timber could be nationalized, much of the illegal logging could get controlled because it is at the saw mills that the plastic surgery to convert the illicitly felled logs is performed to convert them into undistinguishable sawn timber, which cannot be linked to its stump in the forest.

Whatever remains of the forest cover is further threatened through the cancerous growth of the so-called forest villages deep inside the forests because these are the nodal points that provide vital information and help to poachers and illicit loggers.

The situation on the forest front is aggravated further by destruction of forests through shifting cultivation, their burning for getting better tendu leaves (used for rolling Bidis) or improved sal seed collection (the Sal seeds are consumed by the chocolate industry as a raw material) or organized fires for destroying evidence of illicit logging or lack of performance in State sponsored plantations.

WATER CRISIS

Water conservationists have reached the conclusion that “a lot more water is now flowing into the rivers during the rainy season since the forests were either dying a slow death or were being systematically destroyed.” As a result, a vast area of land was losing its porosity and most of the rain, instead of generating the underground resources, was washing away the top soil and flowing into the rivers and tributaries that were getting flooded in the process. Recurring floods are a reminder that it is important to identify and build low cost ‘bunds’ (dams) across river beds that remain dry for most part of the year instead of concentrating on major and minor irrigation schemes. Moreover, what is being lost sight of by those in authority is that reducing the flow of water into the big dams by bringing maximum catchment area under forests can control the intensity of floods. What is even more important is that the Forest Conservation Act should be made more stringent in order to protect the existing forest cover. If concrete steps are not taken in this direction, the Narmada basin as well as other areas are bound to be flooded during the normal monsoon period and for remaining part of the year dry river beds would become a common sight.

WILDLIFE FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE

Wild life experts and environmentalists are seriously concerned as most of the wildlife species, once so prolific, are today fighting a losing battle for their survival. Their existence is vital to human existence because they work as vital links in the ecological chain of balance and survival. Human disrespect and lack of concern for other forms of life and species has led to the interna-

tional demand for the skins, bones and flesh of even those species which such human lack of concern has already brought to the levels of endangered species even in the Protected Areas. Wildlife activists and naturalists express their concern, cite statistics and relate grim scenarios to explain the need to save and protect whatever remains today of some of the most magnificent forms of wildlife.

Skin, bones, horns do not have local markets. These require networks, extending till the so-called forest villages located deep inside the forests where in return for money, the locals provide information concerning the availability, location, forest tracks, salt licks and water points frequented by the animals on the hit lists of the gangs-operated by influential kingpins. They purchase the services of locals through attractive monetary gains and use their help and resources for flaying the skins, for cutting the bones, for packing these articles for transporting them and ultimately reaching them to their desired destinations. Thousands of rupees are spent by such illicit traffickers of wildlife for maintaining this clandestine infrastructure but millions are made through ultimate marketing of these.

The authorities also need to demonstrate adequate action to ensure that the so-called crop protection guns, licensed by the thousands in each district, do not get converted into instruments of wildlife destruction.

In this scenario wildlife could be saved only through punitive action and use of their influence and clout by the powerful nations to see that the trade in products based on wildlife comes to an end and the use of the might of the State to demonstrate its political will to see that the protected forest areas get really protected by agencies that have the manpower, means, communication, expertise and the commitment to show results. It is rather unfortunate that out of the billions of rupees that the different States are earning through the so-called scientific State controlled working of forests and several times more that are being lost through illegal logging and illegal trade, some fund could not get earmarked or found for a Central Wildlife Protection Force with resources of its own to provide security cover to the protected forest areas and the ability and expertise to take up investigations of all forest and wildlife related offences. Such organization alone can have the time, resources and commitment to reveal all aspects of conspiratorial conduct which permits illicit logging, illicit transport through various barriers on the roads, illicit sawing at the saw mills and the ultimate sharing of the booty between the kingpins and the concerned authorities.

WILDLIFE UNDER SIEGE

There is tardy progress in terms of the whole exercise to relocate the so-called forest villages lying deep inside the reserved forests. These villages are also operating as a nucleus for poaching because it is from here that the professional poachers get information concerning the presence of wildlife. It is these persons who trap the wild animals by locating their water holes and mating areas and then informing the professional poachers for a price which ultimately leads to the destruction of wildlife.

A kill at the water point or a kill during the mating season-does not kill only one animal but generally kills a whole family and destroys their way of life. As far as forestland is concerned, successive governments have been trying to give away to the villagers the so called degraded forest land or land lying on the borders of the forest for agriculture purposes. Besides, nothing is done against those who encroach upon these lands or cut down the forests and create areas that can, over a period of time, be classified as degraded forestland. This phenomenon persists and the borders of human habitats are gradually going deep into the so called forests only because they know that either the Government of the day or the successive Government would regularise the degraded forest areas.

Precious little is being done to ensure that investigations in cases, where wildlife remains-only in the form of horns, skins and bones-have been confiscated, are conducted on priority basis through CID teams or specially selected investigating officers so that the man behind the poaching operations and trade, who is making millions out of this illegal activity, is caught. Generally the so-called poachers bribe the local people and they ensure, by using their influence-financial, administrative and political-to see to it that the issue dies at the seizure stage. Whenever something is seized from someone, he is challaned and time takes care of the witnesses. In this way cases lying pending in Law courts mostly end up with those involved in poaching getting acquitted.

Under the present scenario, it is obvious that for saving the wildlife and protecting the forests, honest efforts are needed. This would involve unpalatable decisions by those in authority and demonstrate that they have the political will to annoy or to some extent cause inconvenience to those who are now more and more instrumental in getting the poachers kill the wildlife or whatever little now remains of the once prolific wildlife.

Role of Museums in Conservation of Biodiversity through Non-formal Activities

Manoj K. Sharma* and S. Sethuramalingam**

Introduction

Natural History Museums are the non-formal educational institutions creating awareness of environment among general public, students and teachers through in-door as well as outdoor activities aimed at the conservation of biodiversity. The conservation of the diversity related to varieties of micro and macro level organisms deserves more academic as well social attention than ever before during this present biodiversity crisis period. The Biodiversity Conventions, agenda 21 from Rio to latter Johannesburg are yet to achieve the desired results. This conservation of the diversity assumes greater significance in our country since India is one among the seventeen mega diversity centers whose forest cover is 21 % of the geographic area. The Biodiversity bill cleared recently (11-12-2002) by our Government. To control bio-piracy and clean development mechanism suggested by Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India gives a lot of hope to save diversity by creating awareness. Museums are the desired destinations and their exhibits are the delivery vehicles to either convey Forest Protection Act 1980 or Forest Right Act 2008 to general public as well research communities.

Biological Diversity and Biodiversity Education

Biodiversity refers to number, variety and variability of all life on earth or in an area and deals with different ecosystems, varieties of habitats biotic communities within array of species and varieties of genes within a species. It is the sum of genetic, specific and ecosystem richness of the planet

according to shah etal (1999). Biodiversity at species level is said to be species richness in a particular area ((Shah etal 1999). Formal or non-formal education promoting the conservation of this biological diversity is called biodiversity awareness education.

Biodiversity status in India

India is one of the seventeen mega biodiversity centre in the entire world. This diversity is unmatched in sixteen agro climatic zones, ten vegetative zones and fifteen biotic provinces across the country. These areas form varied platform to conduct biodiversity related activities and awareness programmes, since the status of biodiversity education in the area of non formal environmental education is not at appreciable level.

Biodiversity values

The value or worthiness of diversity and its education is measured always as their importance or significance in bringing positive changes in global, national, regional state and local levels. The economical, biological, ecological conceptual, scientific, physical, recreational, educational, religious, historical and cultural are the different value categories generally listed. To highlight these values, Natural History Museums work by four cylinders by their display and story boards.

Biodiversity loss

World wide natural stock of bio resources are depleting fast. It is generally felt that the concern for preservation of nature is rapidly declining among indigenous community. The gigantic spectrum of biodiversity and the fast changing world economics scenario like ecological globalization with ecologically ever unfolding newer global order make it imperative to take a serious view of current bio assets and unforeseen future liabilities. Most of the breeding animals vanish from the planet before genetically characterized. Ananthkrishan (1999) remarked the loss of biodiversity is the loss of species, genes and ecosystems. The complex erosion of ecosystem are depicted in a simple common man's language at natural History Museums.

Similarly increasing amount of sediments load, effluents and pollution into the rivulets, streams and rivers cause serve biodegradation. Ashish Kothari (2002) reported that the Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI) estimated that the economic loss due to soil degradation, diseases caused by pollution, pesticides and insecticides. Most of the bookish knowledge on biodiversity actually remains in the racks of libraries ! Natural History Museum are the media , easily take these information to the grass root level.

Loss of diversity is found to be due to fragmentation of habitats, unscientific and unsustainable use of resources, man made factor, illegal hunting and poaching, unplanned constructional developmental activities, pollution, rapid increase of human population. All the above said factors are exhibited in the natural History Museums through their dioramas.

Constrains in Conservation of Biological Diversity and its Education

Joshi and Joshi (1998) studied constrains involved in the conservation of biodiversity in Nepal forests and reported the ineffective implementation of the National level polices related to biodiversity conservation. Though forestry is a state subject, the lower level awareness among rulers, local administration, lack of techniques, funds, shortage of man power as well resources, lesser degree of exchange of information- communication were his observations. In general rigid sectorial approach, minimum inter-sectorial planning and co ordination have been noticed as constraints by many conservators. Further it could be stated that conflicting priorities are given in the area of the biodiversity conservation and different resource management agencies working in the same area found not helpful in sustainable management. The overlapping responsibilities and lack of data

bank in the area of biological diversities have been further identified as few others constrains. It is believed an awareness created through the environmental education would be helpful to sort-it out such issues.

The following suggestions are made by contemporary biodiversity educators as a subject matter for the display in Natural History Museums

Create awareness among stakeholders.

Effective implementation of acts and develop better mechanism to enforce them.

Inventory, documentation and monitoring of endemically – exotic plants at local levels.

Maintain data bank on distribution, genome, ecological genetical characterization of species, encourage bio prospecting with minimal sampling.

Conserve bio-esources bordering protected areas, sanctuaries and national parks by educating, creating awareness.

Continuous monitoring- bio prospecting.

Strengthening existing institutions, universities, colleges engaged in biodiversity conservation.

Networking researchers- conservators at local as well as national level.

Habitat protection and regeneration of threatened, endangered species working on in-situ, ex situ conservation of biodiversity.

Sharing of benefits to avoids conflicts.

Awareness education to mobilize public- teacher- students- support – devise a curriculum.

Biodiversity education through public participation, eco-development projects.

Biodiversity Education at Bhopal

Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal has created awareness about the biological diversity of Narmada River at Hoshangabad among student communities attended special Summer Nature study Programme- 2009. Also the subjected participants studied the various geo-biological aspects of the river like water flow, phytoplankton, zooplankton, aquatic plants and animals. To enhance the qualitative dimension of the study experts in the field of limnology acted as a resource persons to identify the collections. A simple and effective drive followed by the awareness education, now found to be very workable in conservation. Besides as the part of biodiversity awareness education, RMNH, uses street plays mask making, puppetry and modeling as the tool to convey the messages of conservation to teaching community and this has been found to be very effective in imparting biodiversity awareness.

Conclusion

Because of the social relevance, society would be more readily willing to accept and fund this type of biodiversity awareness education. The interest that may be generated among teaching and student communities by any of the above suggested mechanism would enhance educational, practical and personal value significantly. This is sort of biodiversity conservation attempt made may add an entirely new dimension keeping genetic resources to human use in the form of food and life

saving medicine. Recently technical developments have opened up the commercial possibilities to biological Heritage. Let us wake up. Let us learn to live and share the resources of the increasingly interdependent single earth by the education and awareness created.

Acknowledgement

Taxidermist, Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal*

Email- manoj_museum@indiatimes.com

*Scientist-E**, Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal.*

Email- museumsethu@yahoo.co.in



Kids for Tigers Bhopal -A Sanctuary Asia Programme



Save Tigers-Save Mankind

-Bobbie Jamwal

When God created the universe, he chose our magnificent earth as the sole planet as His favourite and most preferred creation and filled it with life taking into account the minutest of details. This flawless work of His was based on the principle of interdependence and coexistence, thereby giving us an endless life span to enjoy and live happily within His environ. This self sustaining eco-system was a marvelous gift to mankind, so that he could flourish and cherish his stay on this earth. Everything was provided for with a condition, that Man should not interfere with the system in place, which is Nature.

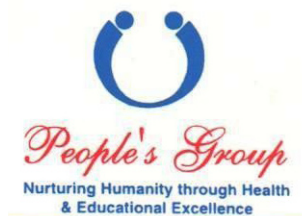
Alas! It was not to be so and man had to prove his supremacy over all other beings and meddled with his surroundings, changing things for his own greed out of selfishness. He started killing innocent and unsuspecting forms of life to make his own comfortable and this planet saw the changes taking place rapidly towards a global crisis today.

When God created the Bumble bee, He also created a flower for it, so that both would flourish in each others company and the result of that happiness is the Nectar we get today. Similarly all existence of plants depends on the insects, the birds, the animals and vice-versa - breathing pure air under His solar care and the change of seasons completed His life cycle so meticulously planned for us.

The Life cycle for sustenance was based on a simple system, yet so complicated for man to understand that one day his own life would be jeopardized by his undoing. Man was clearly made the most intelligent species out of all the inhabitants of our planet, so that he would be the caretaker of God's own creations, but he chose to be destructive, not realizing that any imbalance he would create, would making a gaping hole in the connectivity and break the chain, which would lead us to disaster... and we are witnessing just that... The Global warming, the food security, the Crop failures, the Ice Melt down, the deforestation leading to erratic weather patterns and reducing our water table. Tsunami's have hit us time and again, Earthquakes are God's way of telling us "be warned". All this degeneration and chaos is attributed to our science and technology and the destruction that is done to produce against His will, we call it progress. Yes, progress for immediate gains, so that our immediate generations benefit from bio-technologically produced clonal and engineered foods, artificially produced water which we say has minerals and then medicines and more medicines to set our aggravating metabolism in order. This is all done at the expense of cutting trees for producing more to cater for an ever increasing human population, Commerce and Government are just made of collective human bodies and do not have feelings, they work on a principle called "Bottom Line" and that should spell profit - always , so laws for humans have precedence above laws of Nature, resulting into decimation of trees, plants, animals, insects, micro-organisms--so vital for maintaining and balancing the Ecological system of our Earth.

Basic life cycle that nature provided us constitutes the Predators that are on top of the food chain, they will monitor the population of Herbivores, which we call natures "Culling" or averaging out, so that the right amount of forest produce is consumed – not too much and too less. This in turn maintains a perfect weather pattern and the Birds and bees, insects and other organism work in sync together, giving natural produces in abundance, helps pollination. The forest produce and our crops too are maintained organically, which means lesser medical worries and we don't lose any species in this chain, including Human beings.

Our future generations will have to seriously take up these issues of technology, science and destructive policies designed erratically for commercial gains, Hence they must make a start today, as we run out of time. Every child needs to take a stand now and understand the nature and it's contribution to our life, which is one of coexistence, so that they can formulate future policies on grave and crucial ecological issues confronting us today. This is best done by taking a walk in the park and by following your heart, for the brains might develop according to what is taught in schools, colleges and universities which is profit linked – It's not always about Mankind alone.. Look around, feel it and smell the dangers – You'll see them everywhere and You can change that and the message is - Save the Tigers – Save the Trees – Save Mankind.



MESSAGE

I am happy to learn about the efforts and hard work of CREW, the **Crusade for Revival of Environment and Wildlife** is putting for tiger conservation in Madhya Pradesh. It is important for the youth and students to understand that Tigers occupy the pinnacle of the food chain and a healthy tiger population is an indicator of the well being of the whole forest.

I sincerely feel that we all should come together to save the habitat of this beautiful animal by collective efforts. Madhya Pradesh needs to earn back its title of being the top tiger state of India.

I appreciate the efforts of CREW and many such organizations in helping to conserve tiger population and its habitat.

(S.N. Vijaywargia)

CHAIRMAN

सिकुड़ते वन और बाघ पर विनाश के बादल

—ललित शास्त्री

मध्यप्रदेश में बोरी-इटारसी-होशंगाबाद क्षेत्र में बहुरूपिए बाघ का भेश धारण कर दशहरे पर गाँव-गाँव नाचते है और बाघ की महिमा का खूब बखान करते हैं। यह परम्परा पीढ़ियों चली आ रही है। आज जब बाघों की संख्या घटती जा रही है तो इन बहुरूपियों को देख प्रश्न उठता है— क्या आगे आने वाले समय में हम बाघ की इसी रूप में देखेंगे।



आज जो बोरी अभयारण्य है, उसे अँगरेजों ने 1861 में भारत की प्रथम संरक्षित क्षेत्र घोषित किया था। बोरी सतपुड़ा का जो व्यापक वनाच्छादित क्षेत्र है, वहाँ आज भी हम जीवित जंगल देख सकते है। मध्यप्रदेश व देश के अन्य भागों में जो संरक्षित क्षेत्र हैं वहाँ अब भी जंगल जीवित बचे हैं। यही वे क्षेत्र हैं, जहाँ बाघ बचे है। इन जंगलों को बाघों का प्राकृतिक निवास कहा जा सकता है, यहाँ भी ज्यादा आश्वस्त नहीं रहा जा सकता क्योंकि राजनीतिक इच्छा शक्ति की कमी के कारण इन संरक्षित क्षेत्रों पर मनु य का दबाव बढ़ता जा रही है। जंगल को जीवित रखना होगा :- यह जरूरी है कि जगर हम नैसर्गिक वातावरण में बाघों

को बचाना चाहते हैं तो हमें अपने जंगलों को जीवित रखना होगा। जीवित जंगलों से आशय है कि हमारे वनों में एक ही स्थान पर बड़े-बड़े वृक्ष, छोटे झाड़, वृक्षों की कोंपलें, घास, पतझड़, कीड़े-मकोड़े, केंचुए, पतंगे तितलियाँ, अनेक प्रकार की चिड़िया, मांसाहारी व घास पर आश्रित वन्य प्राणी सब रहते हों। यही सब मिलकर इको सिस्टम की रचना करते हैं।

जब वन जीवित होते हैं तो जमीन की सतह पर पर्याप्त नमी रहती है और चारों तरफ हरियाली और घास रहती है, जो कि हिरन, सांभर आदि का भोजन है। इस अनुकूल परिस्थिति में बाघ व अन्य मांसाहारी वन्य प्राणियों के लिये भी पर्याप्त भोजन उपलब्ध रहता है। जब जमीन पर घास हो और केंचुए व अन्य सूक्ष्म जीव बसते हों तो जमीन में बरसात के पानी को सोखने की क्षमता बनी रहती है। इससे जल स्तर बढ़ता है और हमारी नदियों को साल भर पर्याप्त पानी मिलता रहता है अन्यथा जब पानी बरसाता है तो वो सतह की मिट्टी लेकर बह जाता है। इस प्रकार बारिश के मौसम में नदियों में बहुत कम समय में बहुत अधिक पानी पहुँच जाता है और बाढ़ जैसी स्थिति निर्मित हो जाती है।

वनों में आग लगने से व जंगलों का अधिक दोहन होने से भी वन जीवित नहीं रहते और उनकी पुनरोत्पत्ति की क्षमता भी नष्ट हो जाती है।

मरुथल की बीच टापू:— यहाँ ये बताना बहुत उपयुक्त है कि बाघ यदि अपने नैसर्गिक वातावरण में सुरक्षित हैं तो सब कुछ ठीक है। परन्तु यह देखने में आ रहा है कि हमारे संरक्षित वन क्षेत्र अब तेजी से फैलते जा रहे मरुस्थल के बीच टापू समान बचे हैं और उनको जोड़ने वाले कॉरिडोर भी या तो नष्ट हो गए हैं या विनाश के कगार पर हैं।

बीस लाख साल पहले आए बाघ :— बाघ ने पृथ्वी पर अपने जीवन का सफर लगभग बीस लाख वर्ष पूर्व सबसे पहले एशिया की धरती पर शुरू किया था। बीस लाख वर्ष अर्थात् चौदह हजार लाख दिन और रात बाघ लगातार वनों में घूमते-फिरते बिना भोजन के अभाव में अपने शावकों को पोसने और अपनी प्रजाति व विभिन्न उप प्रजातियों को बचाकर रखने और आगे बढ़ाने में सफल रहा है।

कई प्रजातियाँ लुप्त :— यह दुःख का विशय है कि पिछले लगभग पाँच दशकों में बाघ में अस्तित्व को जबरदस्त झटका लगा है। बाघ की कई उप प्रजातियाँ जैसे कैस्पियन, बाली और जावा बाघों अस्तित्व में नहीं हैं। सौ से भी कम दक्षिण चीनी प्रजाति के बाघ अब चीन में बचे हैं। इनमें से आधे से अधिक तो चिड़ियाघरों में हैं। आज सुमात्रा के इन्डोनेशियन टापुओं में लगभग 500-600 सुमात्रा बाघ हैं। इसी प्रकार लगभग 1500 इन्डोचीनी बाघ थाईलैंड और उसके आसपास, लगभग दो हजार बंगाल बाघ भारत के जंगलों में और करीब 400-500 साईबेरियन बाघ रूस और चीन के जंगलों में बचे हैं।

पाँच प्रोजेक्ट टाइगर:— जब बाघों की गणना विलुप्त होती जा रही प्रजातियों में होने लगी तो भारत सरकार ने 1973 में 'प्रोजेक्ट टाइगर' की स्थापना की। मध्यप्रदेश का कान्हा राष्ट्रीय उद्यान देश भर में फैले नौ संरक्षित क्षेत्रों में से एक है, जहाँ 'प्रोजेक्ट टाइगर' की शुरुआत हुई। अब मध्यप्रदेश में पाँच 'प्रोजेक्ट टाइगर' क्षेत्र हैं। ये हैं— कान्हा, पन्ना, बाँधवगढ़, पेंच और सतपुड़ा। प्रदेश के वन विभाग के वाइल्ड लाइफ विंग की वन्य प्राणी संरक्षण और प्रबंधन

की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है और इसे कार्य का दायरा विस्तृत है।

प्रदेश के वाइल्ड लाइफ विंग का ध्येय है कि वह वन्य प्राणियों के संरक्षण के लिये संरक्षित क्षेत्रों के समूह का सही प्रबंधन करें व जैव विविधता को बनाए रखें। इस सरकारी तंत्र का यह भी प्रमुख कार्य है कि वह बच्चों व अन्य वन्य प्राणियों के शिकार व उनकी खालों और अंगों की तरस्करी पर रोक लगाए।

हालात जस के तसः— इन सारे प्रयासों के बावजूद और साल दर साल बढ़ती या टस से मस न होने वाली बाघों की संख्या दर्शाते 'बाघ सेन्सस' के आँकड़ों के बावजूद जब वाइल्ड लाइफ विशेषज्ञों ने पाया कि अनेक संरक्षित क्षेत्रों में बाघ विलुप्त होते जा रहे हैं। तब जाकर 2005 में भारत सरकार ने देश भर में बाघ 'एस्टिमेशन' की नई तकनीक दिसम्बर 2005 में जून की और फरवरी 2006 तक जबरदस्त 'डाटा' इकट्ठा किया गया यह तकनीक देहरादून के 'वा. इल्ड लाइफ इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इंडिया' ने विकसित की थी। इसमें जो तथ्य सामने आए हैं वे चौंकाने वाले हैं।

सिर्फ चार सौ बाघ बचेः— जहाँ पिछले टाइगर सेन्सस में प्रदेश में 710 टाइगर बताए गए थे, वहाँ प्रारंभिक सरकारी प्रोजेक्शन के (डब्ल्यूआईआई का आंकलन) अनुसार अब केवल 400 के कैट समूह में बाघ सबसे बड़ी प्रजाति है। भारत में पाए जाने वाले बंगाल टाइगर इसी प्रजाति की उप-प्रजाति है। बाघ प्राकृतिक भोजन श्रृंखला की एक महत्वपूर्ण कड़ी है और उसका स्थान जैसे पिरामिड के सर्वोच्च शिखर पर है। बाघ अपने नैसर्गिक क्षेत्र में अकेले ही सांभर, हिरन, गौर, जंगली सूअर आदि का शिकार करते हैं। जब वे बूढ़े, बीमार या जख्मी हो जाते हैं तो वे इन्सान अथवा जंगलों में चरने गई गायें या भैसों पर भी आक्रमण कर देते हैं। ऐसे बाघों को नरभक्षी कहाँ दिया जाता है।

जंगल का राजा :— जंगलों में एक नर बाघ का क्षेत्र 60 से 100 वर्ग किमी तक फैला रहता है और वह इस क्षेत्र की दूसरे बाघों से एक हाल में पहरेदारी करता है। एक दूसरे बाघों से हर हाल में पहरेदारी करता है। एक मादा बाघ का क्षेत्र करीब 20 वर्ग किमी होता है। अनेक बार नर और मादा बाघ के क्षेत्र एक दूसरे में मिले रहते हैं। परन्तु दो नर बाघों के क्षेत्र हमेशा अलग-अलग ही होता है। यदि कोई नर बाघ दूसरे नर बाघ के क्षेत्र पर अतिक्रमण करने की कोशिश करता है तो दोनों के बीच जमकर युद्ध भी होता है और किसी इसमें जान भी होता है और किसी इसमें जान भी जा कसती है। नर बाघ अपने क्षेत्र की पहचान वृक्षों पर खरोंच लगाकर या मूत्र से बनाए रखते हैं।

मनुष्य है बाघों के लिए खतराः— यह सर्वविदित है कि मनुष्य ही बाघों के लिए सबसे बड़ा खतरा है। जंगलों पर अब मनुष्य का जबरदस्त दबाव है। इसके कई कारण हैं। जैसे जलाऊ व इमारती लकड़ी, लघु वनोपज जिसमें प्रमुख हैं— तेंदूपत्ता, साल के बीज, महुआ, आँवला, गोंद आदि की बढ़ती माँग और इसके साथ ही साथ वनभूमि का दूसरे कार्यों के लिए 'डायवर्सन' व खेती के लिए वनों की अंधाधुंध कटाई व आग का लगाया जाना। वनों का निरन्तर हो रहा अतिक्रमण चराई के लिए उनका अंधाधुंध व बेरोकटोक उपयोग तथा वनों पर आश्रित लोगों द्वारा वनों में बार-बार आग लगाया जाना भी वनों के विनाश के कारण हैं।

सिकुड़ते वन :- तेजी से होते विनाश के कारण हमारे वन सिकुड़ रहे हैं। इस प्रकार बाघों के रहने का नैसर्गिक स्थान कम हो रहा है और दूसरी और उनका शिकार भी हो रहा है। मध्यप्रदेश 'टाइगर सेल' जो कि वन विभाग व पुलिस विभाग का एक मिलाजुला संगठन है, के अनुसार प्रदेश के अनेक जिले जैसे सिवनी, मंडला, बालाघाट, पन्ना, छतरपुर, जबलपुर, होशंगाबाद, बैतूल आदि शिकार की समस्या से बुरी तरह ग्रसित हैं। बाघ व अन्य बिल्ली प्रजाति के वन्य प्राणियों की खाल, हड्डियाँ व अन्य अंगों की तस्करी करने वाले प्रमुख तस्कर संसार चंद के तार भी मध्यप्रदेश में फैले हुए हैं। पिछले अनेक वर्षों से लगातार कई बाघ व अन्य वन्य प्राणियों के शिकार के प्रकरण, जिनमें कई संसार चंद से भी जुड़े हैं, रजिस्टर किए गए हैं। उन पर कार्यवाही हो रही है।

शेर के अंगों की माँग:- जहाँ तक बाघ व अन्य वन्य प्राणियों के शिकार का सवाल है तो ये सोचने का विषय है कि जनता को यह तो बता दिया जाता है कि कितनी खाले जब्त हुई, पर उनकी हड्डियों व अन्य अंगों के बारे में कहीं जिक्र भी नहीं होता। इसी कारण इन मूक प्राणियों का सबसे अधिक शिकार होता है। सामान्य नागरिकों को ये भी जान लेना जरूरी है कि शिकार के मामलों में अभियोजन तो शुरू हो जाता है, कुछ लोग पकड़े भी तो हैं, खालें भी जब्त होती है पर देखने में यह ज्यादातर आता है कि सबूत इकट्ठा करने में बहुत खामियाँ रह जाती हैं। सबूतों में अभाव में वे भेजड़ चाल चलती जाँच के कारण मुजरिम अधिकांश तौर पर छूट जाते हैं। छूटकर ये शिकारी दुबारा कम पर लग जाते हैं। कुछ महिला शिकारी भी पुरुषों के साथ इस कार्य से जुड़ी रहती है और वे 'ट्रैप' में फँसे बाघों को डंडे से पीट-पीटकर बेरहमी से मार देती हैं।

वन प्रबंधन में खामियाँ:- जहाँ बाघों के शिकार पर पूरी तरह रोक लगाना जरूरी है वहीं वनों के प्रबंधन की ओर भी अधिक ध्यान देने की जरूरत है। वन प्रबंधन में कई खामियाँ देखी जा सकती है। एक ओर वनों में लकड़ी की चोरी व बेरोकटोक चराई व खनिजों का अंधाधुंध अत्खनन हो रहा है वहीं आग से जंगलो को बचाने के उपाए भी ठीक से नहीं अपनाए जा रहे हैं। वनों की आग रोकने के लिए सरकार से जो धन उपलब्ध कराया जाता है उसे वन समितियों में बाँट दिया जाता है। ये पैसा प्रायः राजनीतिक रैलियों में खर्च हो जाता है और सरकारी तौर पर यह प्रमाणित कर दिया जाता है कि केन्द्र से प्राप्त धन का उपयोग सही दिशा में किया गया है।

अभी भी जागें:- इन सारी परिस्थितियों में बाघा पर विनाश के बादल मँडरा रहे हैं। पर अभी भी देर नहीं हुई है। यह मनुष्य पर ही निर्भर करता है कि वो बाघ को बचाकर अपनी आने वाली पीढ़ियों का भविष्य सुरक्षित करे।

बाघप्रदेश' में बाघों का संरक्षण एक राष्ट्रीय पुनीत कार्य है

—रामभुवन सिंह कुशवाह

जिस बात को भारतीय मनीषी सदियों से कहता आ रहा है, उसे आधुनिक विज्ञान अपनी झेंप मिटाता हुआ अब मानने लगा है कि सम्पूर्ण जगत में कोई भी वस्तु निरर्थक नहीं हैं प्रकृति में प्रत्येक जीव ही नहीं तो प्रत्युक्त वस्तु उपयोगी हैं सृष्टि में बाहर से विविधता भले ही दिखती हो, पर अंदर से उनमें अद्भुत समन्वय और एकता है। आधुनिक विज्ञान के जनक माने जाने वाले अल्बर्ट आइंस्टीन ने जहाँ यह सिद्ध किया है कि जो विशालता और विविधता बाह्य जगत में है, वही स्थिति अंतर्जगत में व्याप्त है। आइंस्टीन ने विज्ञान में आध्यात्मिकता के दर्शन किए, इसीलिए उसे लोग वैज्ञानिक से ज्यादा दार्शनिक मानते हैं। उनके इस कार्य को कुछ सीमा में कॉल्फोर्निया विश्वविद्यालय के भौतिक विज्ञानी फ्रिट्ज़ ऑफ कापरा ने आगे बढ़ाया। उन्होंने कोई एक दर्जन गोथपूर्ण पुस्तकों में जैव विविधता के सिद्धान्त को मान्यता देकर उसे व्यावहारिक अमलीजामा पहनाया। उनकी 1975 में आई 'ताओ ऑफ फिजिक्स' पुस्तक ने जहाँ दुनिया को प्रकृति और जीवन को देखने का नया नज़रिया दिया, वहीं 1975 में प्रकाशित 'टर्निंग पॉईंट' ने जैसे वैज्ञानिकों को सोचने की दिशा ही बदल दी। सन् 1982 में 'द वेब ऑफ लाइफ' ने वैज्ञानिक शोध और भारतीय विचार को एक धरातल पर समन्वय के साथ खड़ा कर दिया।

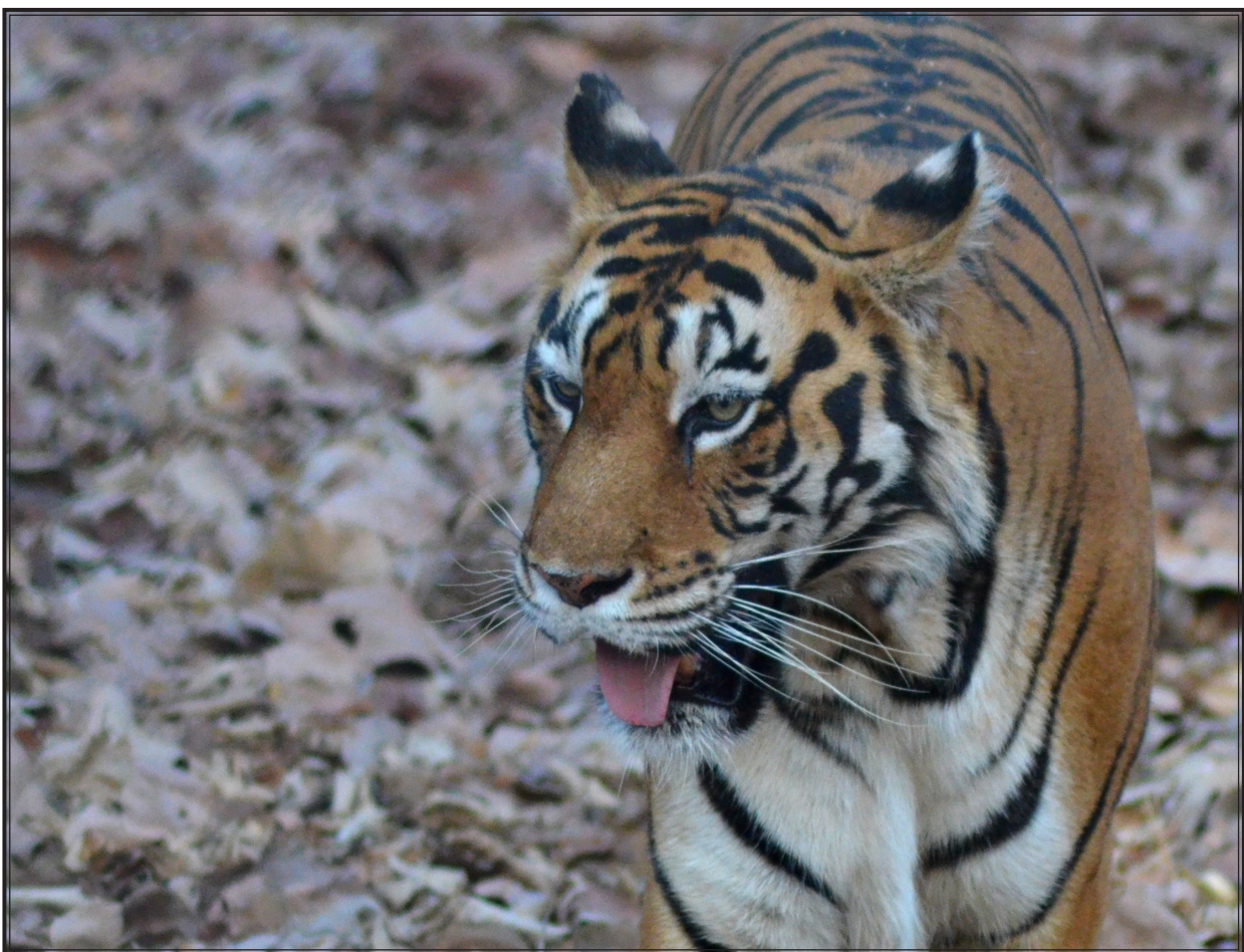
मेरा यहाँ कहने का आशय यह है कि व्यक्ति के अस्तित्व के लिए प्रकृति पर्यावरण और वन्य प्राणियों का संरक्षण आवश्यक है। एक समय भारत में चींटियों को आटा और पंक्षियों को दाना चुगाने की परम्परा थी, उसी भारत में अपने स्वार्थों के खातिर सबसे बलशाली वन्यप्राणी बाघ का शिकार शान और स्वाद के लिए किया जाने लगा और निरीह वन्य प्राणी की हत्या करके अपने पुरु ार्थ का प्रदर्शन करने लगा। जबकि हम भलीभांति जानते हैं कि वन्य प्राणियों के अस्तित्व पर ही मानव का अस्तित्व टिका है। यही नहीं तो पेड़ जो कभी वन्य प्राणियों के संरक्षक हुआ करते थे, वे बड़ी मात्रा में काटे जाने लगे और वनों के बिना ट की कहानी जंगली जानवरों की विनाशलीला बन गई।

'टाइगर सेन्सस ऑफ इंडिया' की ताज़ा रिपोर्ट के अनुसार भारत के जंगलों में 1411 से 1706 बाघ मौजूद हैं। मध्यप्रदेश 2006 तक 'टाइगर स्टेट' के रूप में माना जाता था और अब लगता है उसकी यह गद्दी खतरे में है। मध्यप्रदेश का यह सम्मान कर्नाटक को जाता दिखता है। अब मध्यप्रदेश शासन इस ओर सचेत हैं तो सरकारी के साथ 'असरकारी' प्रयास भी तेजी से शुरू हो गए हैं। इस दिशा में जनजागृति और जनचिंतन आवश्यक है। आशा की जाती है कि अगले कुछ वर्षों में कुछ अच्छे नतीजे सामने आ सकते हैं।

मध्यप्रदेश का विंध्यक्षेत्र रीवा कभी 'सफेद शेर' के लिए सुप्रसिद्ध था। जंगलों की बेहताशा कटाई और शेर की शिकार के झूठे दम्भ और फिर वन्य प्राणियों के अंगों की तस्करी करने

वालों ने विंध्य के अधिकतर भू-भाग को 'सिंहविहीन' कर दिया है। रीवा के तत्कालीन महा राजा मार्तंडसिंह ने 1951 में पुनः सफेद शेरों को लाने का प्रयास किया भी तो उनका यह पवित्र कार्य राजनीति का शिकार हो गया। उसके बाद राजनीति में तो 'सफेद शेर' चर्चित रहे पर हमारे वनों से गायब होते चले गए।

भारत एक समय वन आच्छादित देश माना जाता था और आदमी व पशु पक्षी मिलकर सह-अस्तित्व के सिद्धान्त के अनुरूप रहते थे। आज भी भारत में स्तनपायी की 350, पंक्षियों और रेंगने वाले जन्तुओं की 408, उभयचरों की 187, मछलियों की 2546, कीटों की 57548 और पौधों की 45286 प्रजातियाँ हैं। हमारे यहाँ मनोहारी और तमाम तरह की विविधताओं से भरे जंगल हैं। भारत की गणना दुनिया के जैव विविधता से सम्पन्न देशों में प्रमुखता से की जाती है। देश के लगभग एक चौथाई भूभाग में वन है, जिनमें 606 वन्य प्राणियों के लिए आरक्षित अभ्यारण्य हैं। मध्यप्रदेश को तो 'टाइगर प्रदेश' कहा ही इसलिए जाता है क्योंकि हमारे यहाँ 'जंगल का राजा' कहा जाने वाले बाघ का साम्राज्य था। सन 2006 में मध्य प्रदेश के जंगलों में 257 बाघ देखे गए थे। पर आज जितने टाइगर अभ्यारण्य में होने चाहिए उतने टाइगर नहीं हैं। बाधवगढ़, कान्हा, पेंच और पन्ना में अभ्यारण्य के लिए बहुत बड़ा भू-भाग तो उपलब्ध है पर बड़ी बिल्ली प्रजाति का बाघ तो क्या छोटी बिल्ली भी नदारद होती नजर आ रही है।



CIHWFF 2012 PANORAMA

1. Climate Change – An Untold Story, 52 Minutes, English --- A collection of short films commissioned by the British Embassy.

- Climate's First Orphans by Nila Madhab Panda – As the Global debate on climate change heats up, this film tells the story of 20,000 homeless villagers in the coastal districts of Orissa, whose existence has been wiped out by the rising sea level.
- The Weeping Apple Tree by Vijay S. Jodha – This Film illustrates the complex issue of climate change by focusing on the shifting apple-growing belt in Himachal Pradesh.
- A Degree of concern by Syed Fayaz – This Film Looks at the implications of climate change on Glaciers, and how artificial Glaciers are improving the water supply of Ladakh for now.
- A Green Agony by Geeta Singh – This film explores the unique ecosystem of the sundarbans and analyses the impact of global climate change on this Indian coastal zone.

2. Preserve the Future – Conserving India's Wild Heritage: UK Environment Film Fellowship (Compilation of 7 short films)

- The Last Dance (10 min; 2006; English); Director: Ashima Narain

Though entitled to the same protection as the tiger, the sloth bear is often captured and made to dance. Through a rescue operation and the surrender of a dancing bear, The Last Dance shows how this crime can be brought to an end.

- The Hunted (15 min; 2007; English); Director: Jay Mazoomdar

India is the tiger's best chance for survival. But even here its future looks threatened. In The Hunted, tiger hunters tell their story. The film seeks hope for most effectively curbing the tiger trade by offering the tribal hunter a new way of life.

- Turtles in a Soup (10 min; 2008; English); Director: Kalpana Subramanian

Though richly diverse, many species of freshwater turtles are heading towards extinction. Turtles in a Soup is the untold story of a silent crime - the illegal trade of freshwater turtles.

- The Silenced Witness (10 min; 2008; English); Directors: P. Balan & Radha R.

About 60 per cent of the world's Asian elephants live in India, but their survival is under threat. Filmed by Wildscreen Award winning directorial team, The Silenced Witness attempts to bring out why.

- Diminishing Resources (15 min; 2007; English); Directors- Himanshu Malhotra & Sabina Kidwai
- The coral reefs are under threat from an endless string of assaults - souvenir markets, aquariums, coral constructions. Diminishing Resources seeks to sensitise audiences to the threats faced by Coral reefs.

- Once there was a Purple Butterfly (10 min; 2008; English); Director: Sonya V. Kapoor

The film focuses on the crimes against butterflies. This small species quietly becomes extinct. The film travels from remote regions of India to outbound destinations investigating the reasons for this wildlife crime.

- Leopards in the Lurch (15 min; 2008; English); Director: Gurmeet Sapal

Not professional poachers, but common village folks are the major perpetrator of crime against leopards. Leopards in the Lurch captures the cat's threatening as well as threatened existence in Uttarakhand.

3. 'THE TIGERS, THEY'RE ALL DEAD' By Ms. Reema Sengupta

15 min political satire, English.

'The Tigers, They Are All Dead' is a political satire. It is a panoramic reaction of Mumbai to the death of India's last tiger under undisclosed circumstances. The protagonist of the film, a 3 year old child, tries all he can to bring back his favourite animal while everyone else, from politicians and policemen to religious leaders, react in their own idiosyncratic ways to the incident. The short

film addresses important issues such as politicization of religion, superstition, nature of discussions on 24-hour news channels, terrorism, media saturated nature of our world, hypocrisy of those in power and the desensitization of the people of a city that has taken too many hits to care anymore.

4. The Earth Savers

Earth Savers is a series of 6 fully animated documentaries, available in both 8 and 14 minutes long versions, that introduce you to some unique people. Each film relate real-life stories of people who have contributed in a unique way making planet Earth a better place. We have interviewed the actual people involved; in the films their words will be "spoken" by animated characters. Discover the heroes you never knew existed – meet the Earth Savers!

1. Virunga's Last Mountain Gorillas: Can Dr. Emmanuel de Merode, a Belgian prince, ensure the survival of the world's 700 remaining mountain gorillas? Appointed director of the Virunga National Park in August 2008, he has been involved in nature conservation in the Congo for the past 15 years. Follow his work in an area where civil war never seems to end.

2. Price of an Eco System: Douglas and Kris Tompkins decided to become full-time environmental activists after selling their businesses. In order to protect endangered rainforests they bought land in Chile and Argentina and donated it to the governments – 2,2 million acres to be precise, about the same size as the country of Cyprus.

3. Back From Near Extinction: Leatherback turtles were being butchered on the beaches of Trinidad and were on a fast track to extinction. Suzan Baptiste, a local woman, just couldn't stand by and witness the slaughter. She started patrolling the beaches herself despite all threats and slowly the population of leatherbacks started to increase.

4. Architecture of Trash: Rebel, visionary and garbage warrior, Mike Reynolds has been called many things. He's an educated architect but his buildings are far from conventional. They're called "Earthships" and what makes them unique is not only that they are built out of garbage; they are also environmentally friendly and 100% self-sustainable homes.

5. No Blue - No Green: Meet Dr. Sylvia Earle. Seventy-four years old, she has spent her entire life trying to save the world's dying oceans. Our oceans are the source of most of the oxygen in the Earth's atmosphere. They are also home to 97% of all life on Earth. No water, no life! No blue, no green!

6. The Indian Tiger Boy: Madhav Subrahmanyam is a 12-year-old boy on a mission. Get to know him and follow his struggle to save the last wild Bengal tigers in India. This is a fight against time, fought by a few deeply dedicated heroes.

5. The Truth About Tigers: Director: Shekar Dattatri. Duration: 40 Minutes.

The tiger, India's National Animal, is disappearing at an alarming rate from our forests. Government estimates reveal that there may be fewer than 1500 left. Why have India's tigers declined so drastically? What exactly are the problems facing their conservation? And are there any solutions to the crisis? These and many other questions are answered succinctly in 'The Truth about Tigers', an educational documentary by award-winning wildlife and conservation filmmaker, Shekar Dattatri. The film also provides useful pointers on how ordinary citizens can contribute towards saving the tiger.

6. Sandesh Kadur's North-Eastern Diaries: Chapter 1: Kaziranga :

Director: Chinmay Rane | Producer: Sandesh Kadur

Genre: Documentary | Produced In: 2010 | Story Teller's Country: India

Join Sandesh Kadur as he goes on a mission to document the natural and cultural treasures of the Eastern Himalayas. For years, this region was considered too volatile, too dangerous to allow outsiders. As a result, very little was known of the wildlife and people of this region. In this series of short films, Sandesh Kadur, a wildlife photographer and film-maker with a passion for conservation explores these remote regions on a quest to document some of the rare inhabitants from golden langurs to clouded leopards in a hitherto unseen region of India. Technology: this is also perhaps the first wildlife film made primarily with the use of the new breed of HD DSLR cameras.

Also...

Project Tiger-Ensuring Survival

Naresh Bedi

Amongst Tigers and Elephant
(Wild Adventures—Ballooning with Bedi Brothers

Naresh Bedi

Battle to save the Tiger

Mike Birkhead

Touching the issue

Anil Yadav

Email:- anilyadav@india.com

Mr. Yadav's film for the panorama section is **Pardhies: The Unheard Voice**

Before the enforcement of Wild Life Protection Act, Pardhis would earn their livelihood from hunting wild animals. Their Business of "Flash Trading" had its acceptance in society. They would protect crops from the herbivores and help the rulers in hunting. The Kings and Nawabs would appoint Chitah Pardhi to train Chitahas in their shelter. Due to the Wildlife Protection Act, what used to be a traditional means of sustenance for the Pardhis became a criminal offence overnight. In the absence of any other skill the poor and illiterate Pardhis started poaching. They still indulge in illegal hunting. These day's they have become infamous for the poaching of Tigers. Their Children, who are deprived of basic amenities, have no option but to learn the traditional skills from their parents to earn their livelihood.

Experts joining the CIHWFF 2012 Panel discussion at Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal on February 27 (2 p.m. to 5 p.m.)

Mr. Bittu Sahgal

An Environmental activist and writer, is the founding editor of Sanctuary Asia, India's premier wildlife and ecology magazine. He is a member of the National Board for Wildlife of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (India). He is also at the forefront of the battle to protect India from the worst impacts of climate change. He founded Sanctuary Asia in 1981 and also the Cub Magazine. He has authored numerous books on wildlife and has produced over 30 conservation-related documentaries.

Mr. Sahgal also founded Kids for Tigers, the Sanctuary Tiger Programme in the year 2000. It is a mass contact campaign that reaches out to over 650 schools in 15 Indian cities and covers over a million children. Kids for Tigers wishes to convey to adults that: "The tiger will only be saved if its forests are saved. By saving these forests, India protects over 600 of its purest rivers and in the process the forests sequester and store carbon in the most effective way possible."

Dr. Gowri Ramnarayan

With PhD in Comparative Aesthetics, she has enacted quite a few roles. As a columnist, she writes on literature, theatre, cinema and Indian Classical Music. She has written three books and has directed plays like Rural Phantasy, Dark Horse- Walking Down Arun Kotlakar's Lane and The Flame of the Forest. She has also been a vocal accompanist to MS Subbulakshami's concerts. She is also a member of the FIPRESCI [Fédération Internationale de la Presse Cinématographique International] or Federation of Film Critics Jury, an international association of film critics.

Mr. Sundeep Srivastav

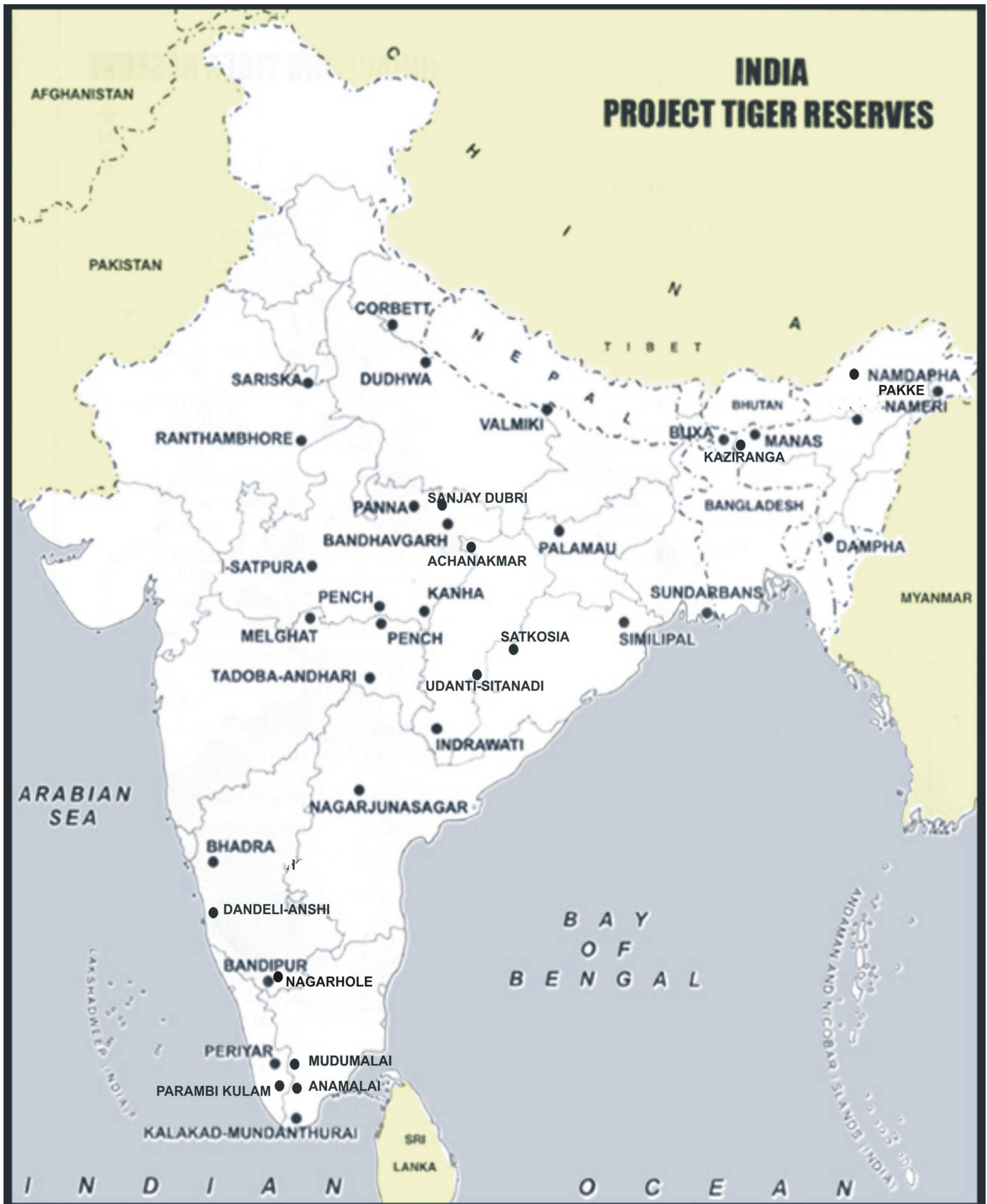
Senior Project Manager CMS Vatavaran. He has 23 years of experience in the field of theatre, radio, television, films, print media and programme management. His profile includes coordinating and implementing CMS programmes and projects, logistics management, promotions and publicity, audience outreach, software or educational material development and overall coordination.

The jury for the CIHWFF 2012 competitive section is headed by:

Mr. Rajendra Janglay

Creative Director (Films) with Madhya Pradesh Madhyam a multi-media agency of the Government of Madhya Pradesh. He is a renowned filmmaker and cinematographer, who has made over 100 documentary and short films. He has won four National Awards.

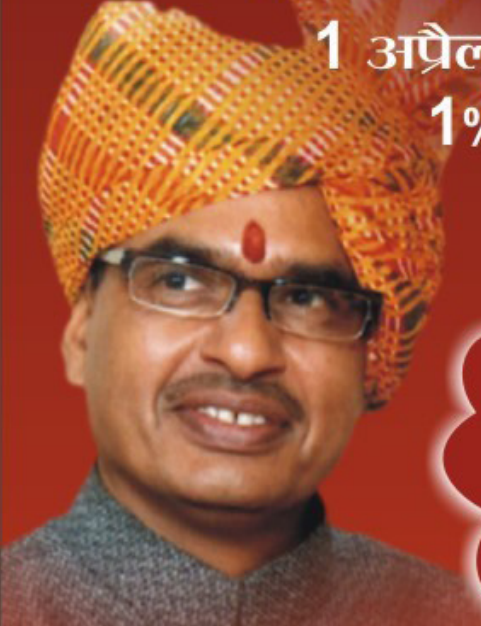
He has won the National Film Award for "Sankalp" - best documentary film on social issues – 1988; National Film Award for "Baiga" -best anthropological film, 1990; National Film Award for "Rendezvous with Time" - best promotional film, 2006; Indian Critic Award for "Raga of river Narmada" at 10th Mumbai International Film Festival 2008; certificate of merit in IDPA film award 2007 & National Film Award for best cinematography 2006.



स्वर्णिम म.प्र. की ओर बढ़ते कदम..

तादा नहीं - हमने कर दिखाया

1 अप्रैल 2011से प्रदेश के किसानों को
1% ब्याज दर पर फसल ऋण



श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान
मुख्यमंत्री म.प्र. शासन



श्री गौरीशंकर बिसेन
मंत्री, सहकारिता म.प्र. शासन

50 लाख किसानों
को दस हजार करोड़
के फसल ऋण
वितरण का लक्ष्य

प्रदेश के किसानों को 1% वार्षिक ब्याज दर पर फसल ऋण के प्रणेता एवं शिल्पकार मध्यप्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान ने ऐतिहासिक एवं क्रांतिकारी निर्णय लेकर प्रदेश को देश में अग्रणी राज्य के रूप में स्थापित कर 'किसान युग' की शुरुआत की है।

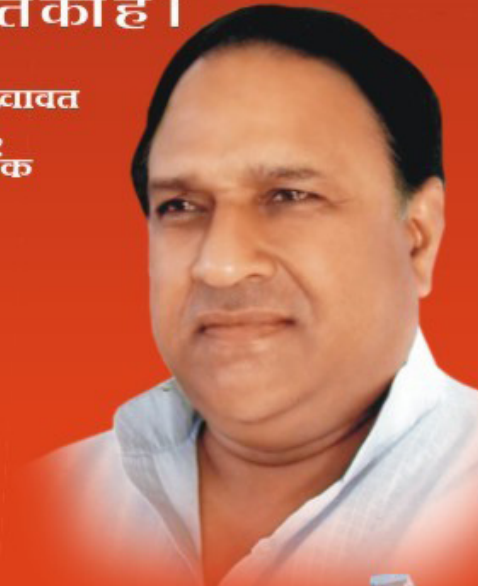


श्री कैलाश सोनी
उपाध्यक्ष



श्रीमती सरिता सिंह सेंगर
उपाध्यक्ष

भँवरसिंह शेखावत
अध्यक्ष,
अपेक्स बैंक



अपेक्स बैंक

म.प्र. राज्य सहकारी बैंक मर्या.
(सशक्त सहकारिता; समृद्ध मध्यप्रदेश)



BETI HAI TO KAL HAI



I would really like to say that specially blessed are those who have daughters. And the family should celebrate when a daughter is born. I believe that a daughter brings fortune with her.

- Rani Mukherjee



I whole heartedly support Beti Bachao Campaign of Govt. of Madhya Pradesh. I appeal to the people to join this movement to take it forward as our future depends upon them. "Beti Hai To Kal Hai".

- Meghna Malik

**She Shapes
The World
Let Her Shape
Her Life Too**



In favour of daughters **Madhya Pradesh**