



# CNN

# CGR'S NATURE NEWS

Volume1/Issue2

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## EDITORIAL

This is the second issue of bimonthly Newsletter called “CGR’s Nature News (CNN)”, from CGR. This newsletter enables the Earth Leaders to share and get connected for sustainable Earth. The newsletter focuses on Ecology, Environment, and Developmental issues. Geographically we would like to cover issues globally. This is made available in digital form for wider circulation and to save trees. We Request the readers to send their comments and also articles for publication in this newsletter.



## The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development comes into effect 1st January 2016

The new global framework is to help eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development by 2030. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its ambitious set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) officially comes into effect upon expiry of the Millennium Development Goals on 1st January 2016. It will run through 2030 and applies to every country.

The new objectives, a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), formally adopted by the international community at a dedicated UN Summit from the 25 to 27 September.

The 2030 Agenda was informally agreed by consensus at the UN in August this year. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda agreed in July also forms an integral part of the 2030 Agenda by setting out tools, policies and resources that need to be put in place to ensure that it can be implemented.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will respond comprehensively to global challenges. It incorporates and follows on from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, and the Financing for Development Conferences. The 2030 Agenda addresses poverty eradication and the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development together.

The new 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets integrate and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, covering areas such as poverty, inequality, food security, health, sustainable consumption and production, growth, employment, infrastructure, sustainable management of natural resources, oceans, climate change, but also gender equality, peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice and accountable institutions.

The 2030 Agenda is a universal agreement; its implementation will require action by all countries, developed and developing. It will be underpinned by a Global Partnership, mobilising governments and stakeholders (citizens, civil society, private sector, academia, etc.), at all levels.



The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are: 1) End poverty in all its forms everywhere, 2) End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, 3) Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, 4) Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, 5) Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, 6) Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all 7) Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy

for all, 8) Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, 9) Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation, 10) Reduce inequality within and among countries, 11) Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable 12) Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, 13) Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, 14) Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for

sustainable development, 15) Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss, 16) Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, 17) Strengthen the means of implementation

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K. LeelaLaxma Reddy, President, CGR, Hyd.

CGR has facilitated planting 8 lakh saplings during monsson 2015 as part of Bangaru Telanganaku Balala Haritha Haram. With this lakhs. CGR has distributed 1000 saplings of sacred trees through Prakrithi-Samskrithi on the eve of Dasara 2015. We are experiencing drought like situations and unpredictable weather conditions this year adding to the woes of farmer's agrarian crisis. There is an imminent need for climate resilient strategies and adaptation measures. Culture of planting and protecting tress beside agriculture would help to some extent in coping drought and farming externalities. Day by day our soils are becoming dead. They are prone to erosion, poor in organic content, contaminated with chemical pesticide residues and fertilizers, vulnerable to salinity and alkalinity. We have to save our soils healthy; make them living soils. Health of the soils is the health of whole biome. Wealth and welfare of society depends on our soil resources. Take pledge and swing into action for living soils. We can do many things in this front. Plant trees, practice sustainable, nature friendly organic farming, conserve soil and water resources, reduce consumption and input cost to proof farming from externalities.



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ENVIRONMENT– Dr. N. Sai Bhaskar Reddy, The Earth Center

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**Bathukamma, a signature festival of local ecosystem** of telangana, heralding the beauty of vibrant nature in multitudinous flowers,t's a devotion to the Mother nature and sustainability,

Bathukamma is a colourful floral festival of Telangana and is celebrated by womenfolk with exotic flowers of the region. Bathukamma comes during the latter half of monsoon, before the onset of winter. The festival begins a week before the 'Saddula Bathukamma' (the grand finale of the Bathukamma festival) which falls two days before Dassera. The monsoon rains usually bring plenty of water into the ponds, tanks of Telangana and it is also the time when wild flowers bloom in various vibrant colours across the uncultivated and barren plains of the region. The most abundant of these flowers are 'gunuka' (or 'gunugu') and 'tangedu'. There are other flowers like the 'banti', 'chamanti', 'nandi-varadhanam' Mutyam poolu etc.

The sitaphalalu' (custard apples, are another great attraction during this season. The custard apple is tasty fruit that grows in the wild with little or no water and is often called the 'poor man's apple'. Then there is corn ('jonna' and 'mokka jonna') waiting to be harvested.

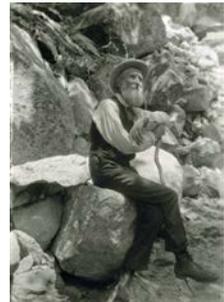
It is a celebration of the inherent relationship human beings share with earth and water. During the entire preceding week, women make 'boddemma' (a deity of Gowri – mother Durga – made with earthly mud) along with Bathukamma and immerse it in the pond. This helps reinforce the ponds and helps it retain more water.

The flowers used in Bathukamma have a great quality of purifying water in ponds and tanks and flowers so immersed in abundance are environment friendly. In times when the fresh water ponds are gradually diminishing and dwindling away, it is indeed a matter of pride for Telangana that its womenfolk (with mostly agrarian background) inherently know how to rejuvenate them by celebrating the festival of flowers. The festival heralds the beauty of nature, its biodiversity, and its importance as a mother for our survival. It is a sign of reverence and harbinger for sustainability and resilience. It proclaims the indomitable spirit of womenfolk and also the ecological spirit of the agrarian people in preserving the natural resources in a festive way.

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John Muir (April 21, 1838 – December 24, 1914) was a Scottish-American naturalist, author, environmental philosopher and early advocate of preservation of wilderness in the United States. John Muir founded the Sierra Club and helped establish Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks.

Born in Dunbar, Scotland, John Muir immigrated to the United States with his family when he was 11 years old. As early as 1876, he urged the federal government to adopt a forest conservation policy through articles published in popular periodicals. In 1892 he founded the Sierra Club. He served as its first president, a position he held until his death in 1914.



After first visiting California's Yosemite Valley in 1868 and taking on work as a shepherd, Muir landed a mill job working with James Mason Hutchings, though the two would later have a falling out. Muir began having his ecology-oriented articles published via newspapers in the early 1870s, with his first printed essay appearing in the New York Tribune. After acute observations, he offered groundbreaking theories about Yosemite's geological structures being formed by glacial activity, countering previous scientific assertions.

Muir became known for his articles that praised the natural world, speaking in poetic, spiritual terms about his affection for the ecology and humanity's earth connection,

garnering a large and varied readership. He also published a grouping of essays pushing for the establishment of Yosemite National Park, which was created in 1890. Muir became a major figure in the creation of parks for the Grand Canyon and Sequoia regions as well.

"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike."

Muir co-founded the Sierra Club in 1892, acting as president of the environmental-advocacy organization for more than two decades. In the new century he continued to make history with his 1903 three-night camping trip with Theodore Roosevelt, which helped shape the U.S. president's own conservationist policies. Muir was also a world-traveler who at age 73 took an extended trip to the Amazon, studying its fauna and topography and being swept away by the region's beauty. A host of honors and accolades were bestowed upon him during his life.

John Muir died on December 24, 1914 in Los Angeles, California and his legacy lived on not only in the establishment of parks and his environmental activism but in the scores upon scores of articles he penned. He was the author of several books as well, including *The Mountains of California* (1894), *Our National Parks* (1901), *Stickeen: The Story of a Dog* (1909) and *My First Summer in the Sierra* (1911).

The 211-mile (340 km) John Muir Trail, a hiking trail in the Sierra Nevada, was named in his honor.[2] Other such places include Muir Woods National Monument, Muir Beach, John Muir College, Mount Muir, Camp Muir and Muir Glacier. In Scotland, the John Muir Way, a 130 mile long distance route, was named in honor of him.

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#### Nature snippet

Elephants have groupies. Thirsty olive baboons follow African elephants around and drink from the wells they dig in the ground. The elephants benefit by using the baboons as a tree-top early warning system in danger. The friendship between the olive baboon and African elephant is an example of a symbiotic relationship. The baboons help endangered elephants escape danger in exchange for water. Symbiosis, or a symbiotic relationship, is when animals help each other in order



to survive. Sometimes, these bio-buddies must work together or they will both die. Other times, it's just nice to have a helping hand out in the wild.

## GrACE Corner

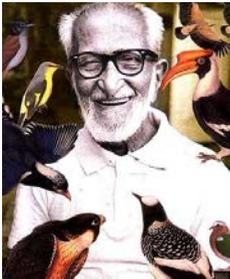
### Greens Alliance for Conservation of Easternghats(GrACE)

was launched by CGR to provide an ideal platform for a national level broad spectrum movement for the protection of the unique bio-geosphere along the east coast of India, which has great environmental, social, economic, cultural and spiritual significance in the sub-continent. A series of regional conventions have been organized by CGR so far in local universities in the Eastern Ghats region. The feature shares all about the hill ranges and its ecosystems to make it a national level conservation priority.



[www.graceindiainfo.org](http://www.graceindiainfo.org)

*Amrabad plateau on the north bank of the river Krishna, used to hold maximum number of tigers. Dr. Salim Ali in his famous book *The fall of the sparrow* writes that the "highest concentration of tigers ever seen in India was at Amrabad plateau".* The fact denotes the biological richness of the central easternghats in the days bygone. Known as the "Birdman of India", Dr. Salim Moizuddin Abdul Ali's (or Dr. Salim Ali, as he is



better known) (12 November1896–20June1987) name was synonymous with birds. To his many associates however, he was much more than that. A great visionary, naturalist he made birds a serious pursuit when it used to be a mere fun for the most Salim Ali was among the first Indians to conduct systematic bird surveys across India and his bird books helped develop ornithology. He became the key figure behind the Bombay Natural History Society after 1947 and used his personal influence to garner government support for the organisation, create the Bharatpur bird sanctuary (Keoladeo National Park) and prevent the destruction of what is now the Silent Valley National Park. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1958 and the Padma Vibhushan in 1976, India's third and second highest civilian honours respectively.

he collected birds here in the former Hyderabad State in the early 1930s as Hyderabad state Ornithological Survey and collected hundreds of bird species from the jungles. The specimens were preserved in the Department of Zoology, Osmania university. As pointed out by Rao et al. (1997), Ali recorded 105 species of birds from this region, especially at Mannanur, Amrabad Plateau and at Farahabad. Some of the dense forest species recorded by Ali, such as Indian Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus*

horsfieldii, Malabar Trogon Harpactes fasciatus and Nilgiri Wood-Pigeon Columba elphinstoni are no longer seen. The latter species is confined to the Western Ghats (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett et al. 1998) and is listed as Vulnerable (BirdLife International 2001).Ali 1933; Ali and whistler 1933a, 1933b, 1934a, 1934b).

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CGR is pleased to institute “**Green Awards**” for the individuals who have done excellent work in protecting the environment, for the year 2014-15 as well as Lifetime Achievement Award and present the same in a function to be hosted in the month of January, 2016. For further details, you may visit our website [www.cgrindia.org](http://www.cgrindia.org) which will be uploaded very shortly.

[Green Screen](#)

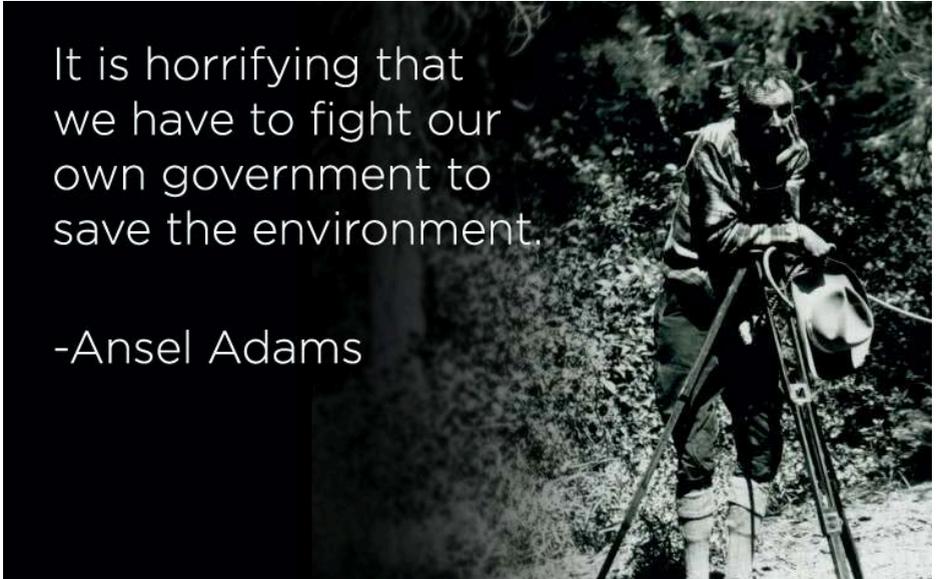
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#### References;

<http://didyouknowblog.com/tagged/animals+%26+nature>

It is horrifying that  
we have to fight our  
own government to  
save the environment.

-Ansel Adams



GGR invites articles, experiences, case studies etc. for the newsletter on environment, ecology and sustainable development issues. The articles shall not exceed two pages. Mail us; **[cgrnaturenews@gmail.com](mailto:cgrnaturenews@gmail.com)**



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