Demoiselle Crane—a symbol for co-operation, harmony and dignity

EDITORIAL

The 2016 is a decisive year. There is a greater struggle for people living on this planet, facing discrimination, unemployment, disasters and forced migrations. To achieve the Sustainable Development goals, to mitigate global warming and climate change great efforts are needed. UN Sustainable Development Summit and the COP21 are landmark events of 2015.

Cities! Are they liveable? As global urban population is inevitably increasing. Making cities liveable is an important agenda. People should strive for the right policies. An article with focus on Hyderabad is presented in this issue.

Hope this issue sensitises on the above issues and strive for a better world.

Every year thousands of small cranes cross over the Himalayas at an altitude of 8000 m in ‘V’ formation for their seasonal migration. They are called as Demoiselle cranes and they are the smallest species in the crane family of birds. During the summer, they reside in the steppes of Mongolia. As winter approaches, they form groups and begin their southward journey to India. At 8000 meters, the temperature is minus thirty Celsius and the oxygen saturation is only one-third of the terrestrial oxygen levels. Those brutal conditions make their migration a life or death journey in the truest sense.

This grueling root would be impossible for a small number of birds. By flying in a large V formation, each bird can make use of the backflow of air over the wings of the other birds in front of them and by doing so, reduce the total energy expended. The leading bird spends the greatest amount of energy so it is necessary to continually rotate new birds into the position. The demoiselle crane depends
upon the co-operation and harmony of every other member of the flock. While each bird is small, every bird has great dignity. The determination demonstrated, as well as other characteristics of teamwork, and their family structure, have endeared the crane to multiple cultures. In Japan, the crane has traditionally been a symbol of long life. In the Japanese art of the origami, the crane is the most basic and representative form that all children learn how to make. There is a custom of folding cranes and giving one to a loved one who is suffering from disease or injury as a way to say, “We wish you a quick recovery and long life”. The folding of origami cranes is a meditative act that shows the heartfelt wishes of friends and family for the ill to become well again. But the crane has also become known as the symbol of peace. The cranes were an important symbol in many civilizations like in Indus Valley. It’s an important symbol in Indian folklore.

A Word from Prof. K. Purushotham Reddy, Renowned Environmentalist and Advisor, CGR

In 2015, the global community has set afresh the commitments, like a new set of sustainable development goals adopted for 2030 and Paris accord to contain global warming. The times are crucial for all our survival and future. We all must take responsibility and adopt a proactive mission for our common future. Think Globally-Act Locally. We are not the last generation on this planet. We must all strive to re-establish a symbiotic relationship with our background ecosystem.

Conference on Green and Liveable Hyderabad 31st Dec.2015

Urbanization had been identified as an important challenge by World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) in 1987. Since then UNO has been focusing on making cities the world over,
more people-centric and environment-friendly. Conceived as a brainstorming platform by CGR to discuss the social, political, administrative and environmental conditions in Hyderabad, this conference looked into the concerns of commoners, vulnerable, poor and committed citizens. The conference discussed many of the issues and challenges that are faced by a commoner in Hyderabad, and with the objective of contributing towards efforts of ‘Making Hyderabad Green and Livable City’. A green manifesto for Hyderabad was released by CGR in the conference to public domain and shared with all political parties.

HYDERABAD – A LIVEABLE CITY?

Dr. D. Narsimha Reddy, Environment and Development Policy Expert, nreddy.donthi@gmail.com

Built Environment creates comforts and discomforts, as human’s moves away from natural world to towns and cities, a maze of issues entwine with their growth... a case of Hyderabad.

Today, Telangana is aspiring to become a major industrialized States in the country, even while its economy is considered to be predominantly agriculture-based. This State is continuously and deliberately trying to move away from the agricultural economy towards industrial development. The pace of industrialization was particularly rapid in the past decade. More than three and half decades of "development" had transformed the State, particularly in the last ten years.

However, the impact of these changes in general on the society and particularly on the poor has sometimes gone unnoticed, sometimes ignored, and most of the times not understood at all. Some of these changes are fundamental: the key to survival itself. This impact was negative on rural employment and food security, leading to large-scale migration to Hyderabad and other urban areas.

Giving top priority to employment and food availability, poor generally tend to compromise upon their living conditions. They tend to set up their houses in the following areas:

i. Poor site conditions, wherein the land is not suitable for any other purposes—often these are environmentally hazardous areas.

ii. Land with property disputes and litigation

iii. Government land – Central, State and municipal

iv. Unattended private land

v. Religious institutions land
vi. Open areas – parks, cemeteries, pavements, etc.

Government through various schemes had been trying to provide housing and tenurial rights to the poor people. But these are inadequate in the face of multifarious threats. For survival, the land is the most important resource. Its control pattern decides the socio-economic conditions of a vast number of people. Its usage pattern determines the level of food security. In this regard, it is important to look at changes in land ownership and relevant policy prescriptions, like the changes in land lease Act in the last fifty years. Hunger for land increased enormously due to the lure of high profits, especially in urban areas. Large-scale changes in land use pattern in the age of urbanization, modernization, and mechanization had a detrimental effect on food production and survival patterns of poor people. Consequent to changes in land use pattern and real estate boom, there is growing pressure on the land owned or used by the poor.

Among India’s 3,119 towns and cities, Hyderabad is one of the fastest growing cities. However, there are other urban centers like Vishakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Warangal, Tirupati, Ananthapur, Kurnool, etc., which are equally the end points for migration. Their growth pattern and the affect on poor people are similar to what is happening in Hyderabad. Deliberate promotion of industrial development has gradually altered the socio-economic scenario. In the past 8-9 years, Hyderabad has become the new boom city due to some of the factors, which range from natural, social, and economic to political. Few factors which led to rapid growth of Hyderabad are: Annual phenomena of cyclones in coastal areas; continuous dry conditions in Rayalaseema and parts of Telangana; social upheavals in the Telangana region; planned economy in which centralization is the key word; disparity in standards of living in rural & urban areas, and decimation of local self-governments. Though Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada are also part of these phenomena, their growth rate is not on par with that of Hyderabad.

The result is that there is enormous pressure for shelter and services, fraying the infrastructure. Though migration is general to every section of the rural society, there are large sections of rural poor who are forced to migrate. These people most possibly end up in slums and clustered areas, with poor living conditions. The Urban development process has not been able to find solutions to their problems, mainly with regard to housing, physical and health services. The legal and institutional impediments that the poor have to deal with are formidable. In fact, except the wealthy sections, every other urban social section faces these problems. However, the result of such impediments is more on poor people. Of several problems they face, the important problem is that of housing and tenurial rights.
There are several factors, because of the very nature of modern economy, which tend to displace the poor from their place of residence and work. Their tenure position is affected by:

- Land development/development projects
- Value addition to the land
- Employment patterns
- Natural calamities, riots and accidents
- Site conditions
- Litigation
- Crime and corruption
- Socio-economic influences (caste, religion, indebtedness, etc.)

However, on the other hand, the government itself has been encroaching upon their rights in the name of development projects. One such project was Nandanavanam project on river Musi in Hyderabad.

**SITUATION ANALYSIS – OF HYDERABAD**

As per 1991 census, Hyderabad is spread over an area of 726.64 sq. km., with a population of 43,44,437; a population growth rate of more than 4 percent per annum. Being the State capital, this city is attracting investments, people, and institutions at an unprecedented rate. However, the city is clogged with traffic, choking in its automobile pollution, is facing perennial drinking water crisis, water pollution, housing problems, growing garbage mountains, mushrooming slums and chaotic conditions. Wastes and pollutants are concentrated and thus often creating hazardous conditions for the people and the surrounding natural systems. Agreeably, this scenario of a city is no different from any other urban conglomeration in the range of problems. But, being a city, which is on the verge of becoming a metropolis, Hyderabad lacks proper infrastructure and proper planning even at this stage.

Master Plans at best remain on paper with improper or no implementation of its recommendations. For that matter, there is no proper, integrative perception of the problems, alternatives and strategies at the decision-making levels.

Trained human resources are at a premium in this prime city of Andhra Pradesh. Over and above, the State government dominates the legal and administrative hierarchy, with minimum autonomy for the local government. Compartmentalization of infrastructure services into independent corporations and Boards has made them entities which work at cross purposes without a coordinating body. Hyderabad Urban
Development Authority (HUDA) confines its role to layout approvals, real estate business and construction of housing colonies and buildings. Whereas it should have acted as a coordinating body with the objective of achieving a balanced growth of the city with all the infrastructural facilities. The role of political parties has always been dirty, not meriting any mention here. Equally, there is no appreciation among the people about the problems involved in solving the infrastructural knots. There is no recognized pressure group working with a positive programme on these aspects.

The area under Municipal Corporation limits is 172.6 sq.km. If urban agglomeration is added to it, the area occupied by the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad would be 727 sq.km at present. Its population estimated at 2.2 million in 1981 has reached 6 million in 1992. Reasons for this are not hard to understand. Hyderabad has several ‘pull’ factors. Firstly, it is the seat of the power structure. Secondly, it houses several industrial areas. Thirdly, it has become an important centre for several national research organizations and six universities. Thus, Hyderabad attracts all sections, of the society due to the unlimited scope of employment, real or perceived.

Continuous migration meant a rapidly expanding population leading to ever increasing hunger for infrastructural facilities. The government has failed in assessing and planning for infrastructural facilities ahead of this growth. Now the need for such facilities is of such a magnitude that the entire budget of the State, if placed for the development of Hyderabad, would not suffice. Yet, comparatively, it is generally known that cities like Hyderabad tend to have the highest concentrations of water, sanitation and health care facilities, but as many as 30-60 percent of the population do not have access to them.

In this regard, attempts like provision of low-cost sanitation, slum improvement programmes, special infrastructural projects like laying down pipelines, bridges, flyovers, etc., have failed to meet the objectives for which they have been intended or could not be completed due to various reasons.

Reacting lately, in recent years, the government has initiated an ambitious Mega City project, which envisages an investment of crores of rupees. However, various components in this project do not address the real problems. Also, whatever it addresses is planned for the needs of the present levels of population. There is no scope for the projected rate of expansion in future. As studies indicate, urbanization is a growing phenomenon in the developing countries due to different factors; in the next decade, the rate of urbanisation may double up on the present rate. Recently, UNDP (in
one of its report) observed that the growth rate of Hyderabad is far ahead of many other cities, not only in India but also globally.

In urban planning, quantitative projections of population, employment and infrastructure needs alone may lead to unrealistic conclusions unless we take into account the likely changes in technology and communications, changes in the political and economic environment, changes in lifestyles, etc.

The government has been pursuing urban development in Hyderabad on the premise that there is a need to achieve a higher density so that the cost of providing services becomes affordable. Consequently, floor space index was redefined giving permission for much intensive ‘development’ of the city. This policy is itself questionable, as there is no scientific basis for this premise: no studies have been done so far to establish the level of this affordability factor. However, taking advantage of this policy, real estate sector has made havoc of the natural resources available in the city by encroaching upon them. Even the government agencies and departments have adopted this ‘profit-aggrandizement’ approach, selling away public land for commercialization and encroaching on lands for which they are custodians. Urban poor have become pawns in the hands of these land sharks, who are used to legitimize housing and other construction done on ‘unsuitable’ lands wherever, without consideration either to natural geographical factors or its value for public utility. This includes lakes, slopes, grassland, shrubland, hillocks, rocky terrain, catchment areas, canals, streams, parks, playing grounds, footpaths, etc.

A study of the land use statistics reveals that:
1. There is no plan and space of urban poor, who provide vital service support for the entire urban infrastructural needs and requirements.
2. There is almost no space for recreational purposes.
3. Area for public utility has become drastically low.

Most important aspect of concern here is the way urban land gets allocated among alternative uses. Social implications of land use assume larger connotation in the event of increased urbanisation, and under the umbrella of welfare concept. Urban areas are places where large amounts of labour and capital are combined with small amounts of land in producing goods and services. Intensive development of the core areas of the cities is another way of saying that the ratio of non-land to land inputs is greater there than in the outskirts. A major determinant of the location of production within an urban area is the extent to which large amounts of capital and labour can be combined economically with small amounts of land. Other things being equal, goods and services
are produced in the city if their production functions permit substitution of capital and labour for land. If not, they are produced in the outskirts, or as in the case of agriculture, outside urban areas altogether. Therefore understanding how the urban economy ticks is mainly a matter of understanding how markets combine land with other inputs in varying proportions at different places to produce goods and services.

Households try to maximize their satisfaction on the consumption of housing, goods, and commuting, subject to a budget constraint. The budget constraint says that expenditures on housing, goods, and commuting must not exceed income. Wherever the household decides to live, it consumes the amount of housing services and goods that yields the greatest satisfaction at that location. The key is to understand the location pattern of the population in an urban area.

Space has become a premium in this city. For any human settlement, there are certain essentials for maintaining a social living; much more so for a civilized and developed (modern) community. These essentials are as varied as parks, markets, milk booths, police stations, footpaths, roads, lakes, streams, etc. The span of each unit of these essentials can be very limited to say a population of 10,000. To cater to a population of more than 46 lakhs, there have to be as many units of these essentials.

The impact of non-availability of public space is more on urban poor communities, though it also leads to spiraling prices, the high cost of living standards, an artificial boost to real estate prices, disharmonious conditions for community living and violation of tenurial rights, environmental and ecological degradation.

Being the capital city, and in the context of the government reform programme, aimed at promoting the interests of the superstructure, Hyderabad is fast becoming the Centre for the aggrandizement of vested social interests. It is in this situation that the city is already witnessing the implementation of policies and programmes which are detrimental to the livelihood and survival of the poor people. The dominant paradigm of development, which is focused on globalization and privatization, has debilitated democratic institutions (media, judiciary, legislature, administration, universities, etc.) and had incapacitated citizens with a conscience.

There is a need for a movement to protect the interests of the poor people, public properties, common lands and natural resources. Given the existing scenario, a monitoring group has to be established to counter these trends at all possible levels. Fundamentally, there is a need to build a coalition of citizens of conscience. However,
this coalition to be effective requires access to information, on a continuous basis, and also a supporting structure of a network of organizations.

i. To ensure necessary legal, administrative and community initiatives to protect and sustain the usage/restoration of housing and tenurial rights in Andhra Pradesh, especially in vulnerable areas like Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Warangal, Vishakhapatnam, Tirupati and other urban areas, and also development project-displaced people.

ii. To monitor all development projects and policies with potential impact on the urban scenario, & urban poor through different means and advocate policy changes and educate decision makers.

iii. To undertake campaigns and awareness programmes.

iv. To identify land for common use, existing and encroached.

v. To study the land use pattern, and changes therein

vi. To formulate strategies for using or restoring the land used by urban poor

vii. To develop an integrated urban development plan, based on research; alternative (Sustainable) Town Plans in Hyderabad (2000-2010), and other urban areas

viii. To collect relevant information and disseminate the same through different means and processes.

ix. To build a coalition of institutions, organizations and individuals

x. To promote communication among different sections of society, exchange of ideas and perspectives

xi. To sensitise broader civil society on the struggles of the urban poor for housing rights.

xii. To specifically, involve interested, sincere, educated and committed individuals from the slums at every stage of the campaign to prepare them to lead and manage the activities into the future.

xiii. To support similar initiatives at different levels, including the National Campaign for the Housing Rights.

THE DECISIVE YEAR 2016
Dr. N. Sai Bhaskar Reddy, Environmentalist, The Earth Centre

Globally, the year 2016 is very crucial for steering the world towards the historic commitments made in 2015. It was an extraordinary opportunity to bring the countries and citizens of the world together to embark on a new path to improve the lives of people. The United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 21 or CMP 11 was held in Paris, France, from 30th November to 12th December 2015. A historic agreement to
combat climate change and unleash actions and investment towards a low carbon, resilient and sustainable future was agreed upon by 195 nations. The universal agreement’s primary aim is to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius and to drive efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets, demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new Global Agenda. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what these did not achieve. They try to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.

The above two decisions are most important in the present context of global uncertainties. Frequent droughts affecting the underdeveloped and developing countries; depleting freshwater water sources; land degradation; loss of biodiversity; increased inequities and poverty; and increased, forced migrants, asylum seekers and refugees as a result of some of the above reasons. The 2 degrees’ rise is a compromise by nations. At 2 degrees rise, all the SDGs would become more vulnerable to address. 2015 is the hottest year, records of the hottest years are being broken now.
Submergence of islands and coastal areas; frequent droughts and storms leading to floods are some of the impacts to be experienced in the future too.

Global economies are highly volatile. The consumer based economy is a vicious cycle. The unemployment rate is very high in many countries even up to 40%. The Chinese economy, one of the largest global economies is in doldrums. Therefore, the dependent countries’ economies are also in poor condition. The good sign is that there is less demand for oil. As a result, the oil price has come down drastically, after so many years. Oil prices are less than $30 per barrel. Less usage of fossil fuels reduces the global CO2 emissions. Now it is the right time for countries to switch to alternative renewable energy sources. International Solar Energy Alliance formed at COP21 is a good initiative.

The governments taking sustainable development seriously should not sacrifice the environment for economic benefits. The immediate targets under SDGs are massive, how do we source funds and establish systems to achieve them. The grassroots civil society organizations are disappearing. The international funding is discouraged. The corporate social responsibility funds are the primary sources of funds. In the areas of education and health, the sources of financing would be better. The polluting industries would rarely support the organizations working for environment and ecology. Finding civil society movements for the environment and ecological issues are rare. The movements and revolutions would be more common for livelihoods.

The natural resources sustainability is of utmost importance to all life on earth. The priorities given to industries are not given to the rural sector. Food security is an important aspect, for which the farmers and the farming system should be sustainable. Farmers are highly vulnerable and soon there would be a shortage of ‘farmers’.

Each person should emerge as an earth leader for whom “ecosystem matters.” We want institutes for earth leaders for harmony and good governance. The collective global leadership is rare to find. Several governments are taking the role of corporates and also civil society. The existing leaders are too political and mean, not even able to represent their own people. The inflation is very high even in the large countries. Ways to strengthen the economies of countries through petrol, military might, traditional
consortiums and through interference in the policies of other countries are less relevant. The virtual currencies based economies would not last longer. The super-rich people would find themselves poorer than Bushman in Kalahari. New models and relationships between countries are emerging on the principles of “survival of the opportunist”. In these systems, there are not many values and it is very dangerous. The whole world already beyond the carrying capacity, becoming less ‘human’. This earth is virtually divided into many ‘earths’, with increasing borders and stringent laws preventing peoples’ movement.

Each and every individual should strive for small ecological footprints. The way of living also matters, what we eat and how much we waste; per capita usage of water and energy; materials used in the buildings; etc. To begin with, 2016 is a crucial watershed year in the history of Human Beings, for making right decisions and strive for the common good.

**Sankranti A festival of nature and harvest celebrated**

Makar Sankranti is a Hindu festival celebrated in almost all parts of India, Nepal and Bangladesh - in many cultural forms. It is a harvest festival that falls on the Magh month of the hindu solar calendar. Makar Sankranti marks the transition of the sun into the zodiacal sign of Makara (Capricorn) on its celestial path. The day is also believed to mark the arrival of spring in India and the Magh month in Nepal and is a traditional event. Makara Sankranthi is a solar event making it one of the few Hindu festivals which fall on the same date in the Nepali calendar every year: 14 January, with some exceptions when the festival is celebrated on 15 January.

It is one of the important festivals and is celebrated for four days in telugu speaking Andhra Pradesh and Telangana: Bhoghi, Makara Sankranti (the main festival day) and Kanuma and Mukkanuma. Bhoghi is when people discard old and derelict things and concentrate on new things causing change or transformation. At dawn, people light a bonfire with logs of wood, other solid fuels and wooden furniture that are no longer useful. The disposal of derelict things is where all old habits, vices, attachment to relations and material things are sacrificed in the fire of the knowledge of Rudra, known as the "Rudra Gita Gyana Yagna". It represents realization, transformation and
purification of the soul by imbibing and inculcating divine virtues. In many families, infants and children (usually less than three years old) are showered with the Indian jujube fruit Ziziphus mauritiana, called "Regi Pandlu" in Telugu. It is believed that doing this protects the children from the evil eye. Sweets in generous quantities are prepared and distributed. It is a time for families to congregate. Landlords give gifts of food, clothes and money to their workforce.

The second day is Makara Sankranti. People wear new clothes, pray to God, and make offerings of traditional food to ancestors who have died. They also make beautiful and ornate drawings and patterns on the ground with chalk or flour, called "muggu" or "Rangoli" in Telugu, in front of their homes. These drawings are decorated with flowers, colours and small, hand-pressed piles of cow dung, called "gobbemma". For this festival all families prepare Chakinalu, Nuvvula Appalu, Gare Appalu or Katte Appalu or karam appalu, Madugulu (Jantikalu), Bellam Appalu, kudumulu, Ariselu, Appalu (a sweet made of jaggery and rice flour) dappalam (a dish made with pumpkin and other vegetables) and make an offering to God.

On the third day, Kanuma is celebrated where the animal kingdom is remembered and, in particular, cows. Kanuma is very intimate to the hearts of farmers, because it is the day for praying and showcasing their cattle with honor. Cattle are the symbolic indication of prosperity. Nowadays Kanuma is not celebrated as widely as it used to be, but it is an integral part of the Sankranti culture and is meant for thanksgiving to cattle. Girls feed the animals, birds and fish as a symbol of sharing. Travel is considered to be inappropriate, as these days are dedicated for reunion of the families. Sankranti in this sense demonstrates their strong cultural values as well as a time for change and transformation. And finally, gurus seek out their devotees to bestow blessings on them.

The fourth day is called Mukkanuma which is popular among the non-vegetarians of the society. On this day, farmers offer prayers to the elements (like soil, rain, fire for helping the harvest) and the (village) goddesses with their gifts which sometimes (and these days mainly) include animals.

The festival call for celebrations with union of families, friends, relatives followed by fun activities, which mainly include cockfighting, bullock/ox racing, kite flying, and ram (pottelu) fighting. On this occasion, in every town and city, people play with kites and the sky is filled with beautiful kites. Children and elders enjoy this occasion. Another notable feature of the festival in AP is the Haridasu who goes early in the morning around with a colourfully dressed cow, singing songs of Lord Vishnu (Hari) hence the name Haridasu (servant of Hari). It is a
custom that he should not talk to anyone and only sing songs of Lord Vishnu when he goes to everyone's house.

**GrACE Corner**

Greens Alliance for Conservation of Eastern Ghats (GrACE) was launched by CGR to provide an ideal platform for a national level broad spectrum movement for the protection of the unique biogeosphere 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)

**Forthcoming-Fifth Regional Convention, Bhubaneswar**

CGR is organizing fifth convention on easternghats in association with Utkal University on 16th & 17th April 2016. Odisa has about 25% of Easternghats. The Simlipal Biosphere Reserve, Mahendragiri, Kandamardan hills, Koraput upper plateaus with rich biodiversity, primitive tribals, minerals like bauxite, iron ore etc. are all part the Easternghats. Keeping in view of the significance of Easternghats in the state of Odisa, we propose to organize a convention at Utkal University at Bhubaneswar. For further details contact: conservetheghats@gmail.com, blog:conservetheghats.wordpress.com

“When words become unclear, I shall focus with photographs. When images become inadequate, I shall be content with silence.”—Ansel Adams

**Ansel Adams** was an American photographer, Naturalist and Environmentalist best known for his iconic images of the American West, including Yosemite National Park. Adams rose to prominence as a photographer of the American West, particularly Yosemite National Park, using his work to promote conservation of wilderness areas. His iconic black-and-white images helped to establish photography among the fine arts. Ansel Adams was born in on February 20, 1902, in San Francisco, California. His family came to California from New England, having migrated from Ireland in the early 1700s. His
grandfather founded a prosperous lumber business, which Adams’ father eventually inherited. Later in life, Adams would condemn that industry for depleting the redwood forests.

In 1916, following a trip to Yosemite National Park, he also began experimenting with photography. He learned darkroom techniques and read photography magazines, attended camera club meetings, and went to photography and art exhibits. He developed and sold his early photographs at Best’s Studio in Yosemite Valley. In 1928, Ansel Adams married Virginia Best, the daughter of the Best’s Studio proprietor. Virginia inherited the studio from her artist father on his death in 1935, and the Adamses continued to operate the studio until 1971. The business, now known as the Ansel Adams Gallery, remains in the family.

Adams’ professional breakthrough followed the publication of his first portfolio, Parmelian Prints of the High Sierras, which included his famous image “Monolith, the Face of Half Dome.” The portfolio was a success, leading to a number of commercial assignments. Between 1929 and 1942, Adams’ work and reputation developed. Adams expanded his repertoire, focusing on detailed close-ups as well as large forms, from mountains to factories. He spent time in New Mexico with artists including Alfred Stieglitz, Georgia O’Keeffe and Paul Strand. He began to publish essays and instructional books on photography. During this period, Adams joined photographers Dorothea Lange and Walker Evans in their commitment to affecting social and political change through art. Adams’ first cause was the protection of wilderness areas, including Yosemite. After the internment of Japanese people during World War II, Adams photographed life in the camps for a photo essay on wartime injustice. Weeks before the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Adams shot a scene of the moon rising above a village. Adams re-interpreted the image—titled “Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico”—over nearly four decades, making over a thousand unique prints that helped him to achieve financial stability. By the 1960s, appreciation of photography as an art form had expanded to the point at which Adams’ images were shown in large galleries and museums. In 1974, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York hosted a retrospective exhibit. Adams spent much of the 1970s printing negatives in order to satisfy demand for his iconic works. Adams passed away California, at the age of 82.
News and events

SDGs & Paris Accord A way forward...One Orientation on Environmental Science

CGR in association with Telangana State Council for Higher Education is organizing a One day orientation programme on environmental science for university and college teachers in the state. The programme aimed to sensitize teachers to create change makers for the common cause of environment and sustainable development. Please visit our website www.cgrindia.org for further details or contact us at greenrevolutionap@gmail.com, mobile: 967695 7000

WORLD WATER DAY
22 MARCH 2016 - WATER AND JOBS

World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. An international day to celebrate freshwater was recommended at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The United Nations General Assembly responded by designating 22 March 1993 as the first World Water Day. It is all about understanding the worth of water and its role in Sustainable Development.

Every drop of water is not only precious but also crucial for survival. This is true not only for mankind but for all species living in Globe. Without water there is no development on the Globe. Water is at the core of sustainable development. From food and energy security to agriculture, forestry, human and environmental health, water is most essential. It contributes for improvement in social well-being and inclusive growth, effecting the livelihoods of billions.

Each year, World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of freshwater. In 2015, World Water Day has the theme “Water and Sustainable Development”. In 2016, the theme is “Water and Jobs,” in 2017 “Wastewater” and in 2018 “Nature-based Solutions for Water”. CGR observed 2015 water day inviting Sri Harish Rao, Telangana Irrigation
Minister. Focus was on Mission Kakatiya, restoration of neglected, dilapidated age old minor irrigation system in the state and sustainable water management for the development and progress.

*Save water save future, water is livelihood, wealth and welfare*

*Let us conserve and sustainably manage water*

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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 April 2016. For further details, you may visit our website [www.cgrindia.org](http://www.cgrindia.org).

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)