EDITORIAL
It has been a shortest month there have been important happenings at CGR.
CGR could complete the dispatch of 50,000 environmental pocket calendars posted across the state. We have been receiving acknowledgments and encouraging feedbacks.
A info-brochure on World Wetlands Day was shared through soft media and Dr. K. Thulsi Rao has presented brief perspective on wetlands.
A massive youth leadership programme was organized in collaboration with NIRD and SRMC.
CGR convened KPR Foundation Day lecture on 14th February 2019 along with other organizations.
Without water there is no future, the team is planning widespread the cause on the occasion of World Water Day ensuing on March 22.

Wish You a Happy Holi-2019
Nature wears colours every season and fill our minds filled with joy. Flame of the forest (Butea monosperma) is a species of Butea native to tropical Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia. Its blooming is associated with spring. Holi was celebrated using the dye from its flowers. It is used for timber, resin, fodder, medicine, and dye. Spoons/Ladles made of this tree are used in various Hindu rituals to pour Ghee (clarified butter) into the fire. Leaf plates are made from its leaves. However the trees are drastically dwindled across India and elsewhere.

Save our colourful nature
Celebrate Natural Holi
Training on “Youth leadership for Sustainable Development”
Council for Green Revolution, environmental organization in collaboration with NIRD PR and Sri Ramachandra Mission organized a training programme on “Youth leadership for Sustainable Development” which was organized at SRMC Ashram, Chegur, near Hyderabad during 15th, 16th, 17th February 2019. A total number of 223 youth from 50 villages have participated in the programme. The trainees are The programme was a blend of sessions on social leadership, environmental leadership and personality and personal leadership. The trainees were imparted with heartfulness sessions on medication, relaxation, focus and goal setting. Faculty of NIRD have delivered key comprised of 4 serpanches 10 ward members and rest of others are active villages youth who are graduates and above qualified. This included 20 students of Master of Social Work form MG University. There are about 20 young women have were also participated in the programme. The inaugural session was graced by Dr. Murugeshan, Dr. WR Reddy, DG NIRD. Sri K. Laxma Reddy, Founder, CGR and Smt. K. Leela Laxma Reddy, President, CGR and Sri Gangadhar Reddy, Heartfulness, Mr. Ramakrishna Mallela, Trainer, Heartfulness. development related opportunities and approaches. CGR members and advisors have elucidated on the need and means to safeguard nature and to emerge as earth leaders. Certificates were given to all participants and mementos were given to all participating villages.
Cash prizes (Rs.3000) were given to 10 youth who have been selected for their perspectives written for their village development. Mr. N.L. Narsimha Reddy has spoken on vision building for sustainable development. T. Ravinder Rao Founder, VMF has emphasized the role of youth in nation building. Dr. D. Narsimha Reddy has spoken on sustainable development. Sri. K. Padmanabha Rao NIRD has delivered lectures on skill development. Mrs. Surekha explained about rural development schemes role of youth. Mr. Md Khan NIRD RTP briefed about RTP case study for promoting entrepreneurship. Mr. Suryanarayan Reddy, NIRD PR spoken on local governance, decentralized planning through GPDP. Mr. Suryachandra Reddy shared about his experience on the making of Chinna Mandadi as model village. Mr. Madhava Reddy, State General Secy., VMF inspired on youth by asserting on self-appreciation and selfless service. Dr. N. Jagan from Silver Jubilee College, Mr. Naresh from NIRMAN organisations have spoken. Dr. Indrasena Reddy, Mr. Kesav Reddy NRIs have interacted with the participants. Prof. K. Nageshwar has said that quality education for all shall be the priority in the villages. Mr. Ch. Siva Prasada Rao interacted with the student. Mr. Lenin with his grand voice enthused the youth with inspiring songs. Mr. Harsha has spoken on RTI. Prof. K. Purushotham Reddy explained about SDGs. Mr. Dileep Reddy garu spoken on valedictory and administered the pledge. Mr. Venkatesh and Krishna have worked commendably for making this programme successful.

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**Monthly meeting at Raviral**

On 2\textsuperscript{nd} February 2019, CGR members joined at Farmstead at Raviral on ORR, Hyderabad. Members discussed the proposal shifting office to the farm where a facility shall be created for the purpose. Dr. K. Thulsi Rao has spoken on the importance of wetlands.
Wetlands our biosheilds and water reservoirs
-Dr. K. Thulsi Rao, Biodiversity and Wild Life Expert

Dr. Thulsi Rao spoke on the importance of Wetlands. He said the lakes are like overhead tanks to secure water regimes. They recharge underground water. Reduce pollution. They are crucial in global avian corridors. India’s wetlands are visited annually by the varied flocks of migratory birds from Siberia and Africa. These birds are farmers’ friends as they enrich with the field with their droppings. The wetlands act as biosheilds. Reduced ecological flows in rivers causing the desiccation of coastal wetlands such as eateries, mangroves etc. The riverine alluvium supports the wetlands in the form of detritus material supporting zooplanktons, catadromus and anadromus fish. Many fish spawn in Mangroves and upstream in the rivers. The changed water regimes in the river impacting the fish’s ecological niches. Once a wonderful wetland, the estuarine ecosystem of Krishna River is completely disappeared now. Similarly, estuarine ecosystems of Nagavali, Vamshadara, Sharada and many other rivers are lost over recent past. The wetlands in Visakhapatnam are faced off by Port and other developments. Chavaladara in the city is classic case for the urbanizations taking over the ancient ecosystem. Nature has a technology. The mangroves moderate the fury of waves during tsunamis, and act as biosheilds. The structure, mosaic and functioning of the ecosystems are so great and complete. We cannot match
its ecological function, even if we spend millions and billions of money. The wild boar is a good farmer in the forest; God has given a four inch snout enough to poke holes, but not deep to damage the deeper soil. The plows and holes by these boars function as seed holes, water rechargers etc. We need to look back to nature farming models such as permaculture. We need to steer revolution for the sake of biodiversity restoration. Convention on Biological Diversity made treaty urging all countries to have their own Biodiversity Strategic Plans. CBD advocated having Biodiversity Management Committees for all habitations. The BMCs are mandated to prepare Peoples Biodiversity Registers for their areas. However the formation and functioning of the committees are not encouraging. An intensive campaign with lobbying, awareness and citizen led action is the need of the hour to protect vital ecosystems. The meeting opined to send a brief note on wetlands to the chief minister and union government.

KPR Foundation Day Lecture on 14th February at Telugu University where Sri K. Padmanabhaiah, IAS, Chairman ASCI addressed as Chief Guest. Two books on Prof. K. Purushotham Reddy authored by Dr. N. Sai Bhaskar Reddy and Mr. Raji Reddy Were released on the occasion.
Compassionate, Selfless, Gentel and Peace Loving Women are by nature pacifists-Farida

Happy Women’s Day

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; contact@cgrindia.org


Editors: Dr. N. Sai Bhaskar Reddy, Sub-Editor: C. Umamaheswar Reddy

Published by: Council for Green Revolution (CGR), 1448, Road No. 12, Banjara Green Colony, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, Telangana, India- 5000 034. Mobile: 96769 57000, e-mail: greenrevolutionap@gmail.com, contact@cgrindia.org, Website; www.cgrindia.org