

Newsletter of Compassionate Crusaders Trust



# ANIMAL CRUSADERS

Annual Issue December 2012

Stop telling the world how big the **STORM** is

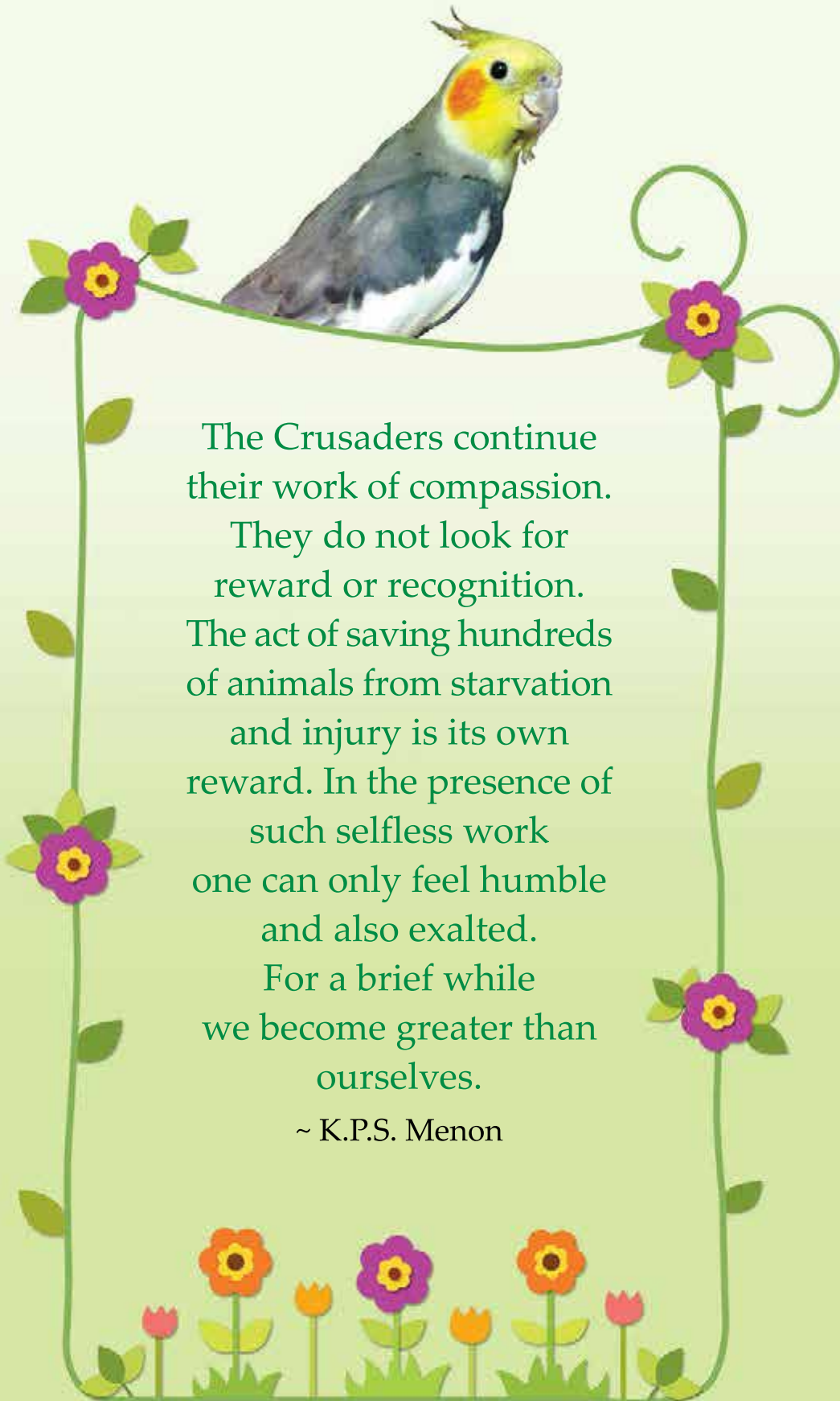


Instead tell the storm how big your **WORLD** is



**Anything else you're interested  
in is not going to happen if you  
can't breathe the air and drink the water.  
Don't sit this one out. Do something.**

~ Carl Sagan



The Crusaders continue  
their work of compassion.

They do not look for  
reward or recognition.  
The act of saving hundreds  
of animals from starvation  
and injury is its own  
reward. In the presence of  
such selfless work  
one can only feel humble  
and also exalted.

For a brief while  
we become greater than  
ourselves.

~ K.P.S. Menon



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# Sunderbans

## Hungry tides in India's Sunderbans

Rising sea levels have submerged several islands and created thousands of refugees.

Sujoy Dhar in Sunderbans Archipelago, India

## Wildlife and marine nurseries

The Sunderbans extend across southern Bangladesh and West Bengal in India in the vast delta formed by the confluence of the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers that empty themselves in the Bay of Bengal.

Mangroves in this region act as natural buffers against tropical cyclones and also as filtration systems for estuarine and fresh water. They also serve as nurseries for many marine invertebrate species and fish.

The archipelago of crisscrossed islands, which is spread over a 20,000 sq km area of mostly swamp land, is home to the endangered Royal Bengal variety of tigers, crocodiles and around 4.3 million people.



Underneath beauty lurks danger

The Sunderbans, which has been declared a World Heritage site by Unesco and became the backdrop of writer Amitav Ghosh's celebrated book *The Hungry Tide*, face a threat from global warming and attendant climatic change. It is the living reality of what world leaders and experts are debating in Copenhagen.

A United Nations study has estimated that a mere 45cm rise in sea levels will destroy 75 per cent of forests spread over a 10,000 sq km area in the Sunderbans.

"About a year ago there were about 7,000 environmental refugees in the Sunderbans. The figure can only increase as the rising sea submerges more and more lands," says Pranabes Sanyal of the School of Oceanographic Studies in Jadavpur University (JU).

"Sunderbans lost more than 28 per cent of its land in the past 40 years owing to global warming. About 70,000 people can turn [into] environmental refugees in the next 30 years," he warns.



Post-Aila



Post-Aila



# Sunderbans



Enchanting fauna



Post-Aila

## Shrinking mangroves

JU's oceanographic department conducted a 10-year study in and around the Bay of Bengal and concluded that the sea is rising at 3.14 mm a year in the Sunderbans against a global average of 2 mm.

As sea levels rise, two islands have already disappeared and others are prone to inundation.

"There is no one to care for the people of Sunderbans where the impact of global warming is severe. In 30 years

we lost 90 sq km of area which included two islands," says a bitter Sugato Hazra, the director of the School of Oceanographic Studies in JU.

Experts say the shrinking mangroves are leaving India and Bangladesh vulnerable to the effects of severe weather patterns in the Bay of Bengal. The recent Cyclone Aila wreaked havoc in the islands uprooting more than two million people.

"High intensity cyclones and associated surges are increasing in Bay

of Bengal because of the rise in the sea surface temperature," Hazra says, ruing a lack of government initiatives to help the climate refugees.

"They have no one to speak for them anywhere," he says.

## Royal Bengal tigers

Climate change is also threatening the famous Royal Bengal tiger population of the Sunderbans archipelago.

The number of tiger attacks on people is rising in Sundarban islands as core habitat loss and scarcity of prey force



Post-Aila



Desolation, post Aila

The presence of those seeking the truth is infinitely to be preferred to the presence of those who think they've found it.

~ Terry Pratchett



# Sunderbans



Desolation, post Aila



Documentation

the big cats to stray into human habitation for food.

“The tigers are carnivores and they prey on herbivores like deer and pigs which are also dwindling in population because of loss of land and grazing ground from the rising sea,” animal expert Debasis Chakrabarti says.

“With the food security under threat, tigers also breed less. They become more endangered,” he says.

The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.  
~ Isaac Asimov

Meanwhile, with the climate change conference entering its final week, students from the Sunderbans took to the streets of Kolkata with the message to save the region.

Whether their voices can reach the conference halls in Copenhagen remains to be seen. [Excerpts]

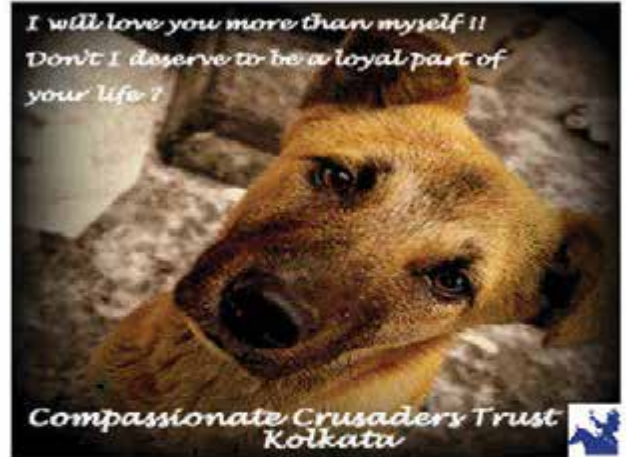
Source: Al Jazeera English



A serenity that hides the threat



## Symbiotic Crusade



Symbiosis Institute of Media & Communication, Pune (SIMC) sent their first batch students in 2009 for Internship, the relationship continues every year ever since.

This year they sent 11 students in November 2012.

The media students Basabdatta Dasgupta, Nandini Chandra, Titaas Mitra, Nikita Bhayani, Avaneesh Pandey, Arnab Paul, Sayok Ray, Amir Tameem, Suchirupa Aadhikary, Shantanu Pramanik and Shikha

Rajmohan visited our clinic and shelter, wrote stories, articles, made promotional posters and more.

The SIMC Bangalore had also sent a batch of post graduate students last year.







# Symbiotic Crusade



 **COMPASSIONATE CRUSADERS TRUST**

**We cannot imagine our childhood  
without these cats and dogs,  
today THEY NEED US!!  
Show a little compassion  
HELP CATS AND DOGS!!!**



## City of joy, for 'them' too

Our Kudos for the present board of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) for being country's only urban local body (ULB), with a declared policy of "looking after" the free-roaming pariah dogs living on the streets of the city. This is in addition to KMC's general dog control service which is part of the community health programme of ULB's in India.

This is a landmark decision on the part of a more than century old KMC. We get a special satisfaction for the fact

that during our twelve year (1996-2008) stint of animal handling and control on behalf of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation ; we have reconstructed and remodeled the erstwhile "killing field" of the dogs, turning it into a mini hospice cum animal birth control & rabies control centre exclusively for our city's free-roaming dogs. That premises known as Dhapa Dog Pound has now become the hub of this humane effort on the part of the KMC.



Community dogs or just Strays



## City of joy, for 'them' too

### Dog hospital gets a cool facelift

TIMES NEWS NETWORK Dec 21, 2012

**Kolkata:** Old and frail stray dogs in the city will now be spared the winter chills. The health department of Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) opened its doors to an old age cum healthcare centre for stray dogs at Dhapa on Thursday. The civic body

which had taken over the dog hospital from an NGO has given a facelift to the hospital.

The centre has 250 cages for dogs that may fall ill owing to old age. Besides, the civic health officials may also pick up dogs from the streets to sterilize and vaccinate them.

With three modern operation theatres and an expert team of veterinary

surgeons and paramedics, the hospital can operate on 900 dogs every month, said Atin Ghosh, the member, mayor-in-council who opened the dog hospital at Dhapa.

The hospital will be operated by KMC alone. "We will build the required infrastructure to run the hospital," added Ghosh. [Excerpts]

Saving one dog will not change the world,  
but surely for that one dog,  
the world will change for ever.

### Model City

BEST FRIENDS MAGAZINE,  
Utah, U.S.A

January/February 2005 17

Calcutta, India, was given kudos by Animal People for the way it controls its street dog population. The efforts are carried out by the Calcutta Municipal Corporation and Compassionate Crusaders Trust. The program operates in public places, including government offices, hospitals, and housing developments. The animals are trapped, fixed and, if healthy, are released back. Sick and injured dogs are taken off the streets. It's an overwhelming effort in a poor community, but the first steps are gaining praise the world over.



Caring Calcuttan



## Media Medley

We [journalists] tell the public which way the cat is jumping. The public will take care of the cat.

~ Arthur Hays Sulzberger

**The survival of the Jarawa tribe of the Andaman Islands is threatened by a disturbing new trend: human safaris.**



(Photo: Survival International)

A tourist videotapes a member of the Jarawa tribe dancing.

First exposed by tribal rights group Survival International in 2010 and brought to light by an unsettling video uploaded by British newspaper The Observer, dozens of visitors to the remote Andaman Islands — between India and Burma in the Bay of Bengal — queue up daily at dawn to drive through a jungle reserve set aside for the Jarawa tribe. The tourists then toss scraps of food to the half-naked natives, commanding them to dance.

The video footage posted online is the kind of exotic encounter some tourists dream about when they set out on a so-called safari, but the practice is both devastating and humiliating for the tribe involved.

Some 400-strong, the Jarawas live in the thick forests of South and Middle Andaman hunting pig and monitor

lizard and fishing with bows and arrows. Short, dark-skinned with curly hair, they resemble African bushmen in appearance. They are a nomadic people that live in bands of 40-50 and are thought to be amongst the first people to migrate successfully from Africa to Asia.

The Jarawa people lived successfully on their island without contact with outsiders for probably about 55,000 years, until 1998. Today, a road runs right through their forest home and they risk decimation by disease. They call themselves the Ang, which means 'human being,' yet they are being ogled at like animals in a game reserve.

The very last member of the neighboring Bo tribe died in January. We must not allow the same fate to befall the Jarawa, or the world will lose yet another vibrant, knowledgeable and complex part of humankind.

The Andaman and Nicobar tropical island chain is home to four other rare tribes — Onge, the Great Andamanese, the Sentinelese and the Shompens, each numbering less than 350 members. [Excerpts]

### Supreme Court bars entry of tourists in Jarawa tribe habitat

By Dhananjay Mahapatra, Times News Network | Jan 22, 2013

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday wanted to know from Andaman & Nicobar Island administration whether it intended to keep in isolation the extremely endangered Jarawa tribe, which numbered just over 300, and banned all tourist movement in their habitat.

"We need to know the policy of the government. Whether they want the

Jarawas to be kept in isolation or to be assimilated in the mainstream," asked a bench of Justices G S Singhvi and H L Gokhale before banning till February 26 movement of all tourist vehicles through the forest road passing through the tribe's habitat.

This order of the court will stop 60 vehicles carrying tourists every day under police escort on the 46-km Andaman Trunk Road that links North Andaman to its southern part, mostly passing through reserve forests and the habitation of Jarawas exposing them to tour operators' antics.

"In India most of the laws are observed in breach," it said before banning tourist movement through the 46-km road link. However, on Kuhad's request, the bench allowed plying of government vehicles carrying essential commodities for Jarawas and other tribes residing in the reserve forest.

The "no-go" zone order resulted from the pitiable sight of semi-clad Jarawa men, women and children being made to dance in front of tourists in return for food. [Excerpts]

### Jarawa zone

January 31, 2013

Port Blair (PTI): The Andaman and Nicobar administration has made Andaman Trunk Road, passing through the Jarawa zone, out of bound for tourists and made identity cards mandatory for locals to purchase tickets to travel in commercial vehicles. The move follows a Supreme Court order

Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws.

~ Plato



## Media Medley

### Lifeline express crushes 6 elephants

The Telegraph, Calcutta, BUREAU Monday, December 31, 2012

Six elephants were mowed down and a train attendant was hurled to death when the Chennai-bound Coromandel Express ploughed into a herd in Odisha at 110km per hour, far above the speed limit prescribed for migration corridors.

The Howrah-originated train, eastern India's most dependable lifeline to healthcare facilities in the south, left behind a gut-wrenching trail at Ganjam district last night, dragging a pregnant elephant for half a kilometre and ripping out its two-month-old foetus.

The dead elephants were a tusker aged 25 to 30, three female elephants aged between 45 and 47, and two babies.

The tragedy has again brought to the fore the man-animal conflict and raised questions about the efficacy of the warning systems.

Forest officials blamed the train's speed. "Railway tracks cut through the migration corridor. It is one of the most perilous tracks for wild elephants. We have placed 10 signboards saying 'Elephant Crossing Zone' along the tracks to remind train drivers that they are supposed to keep the speed below 20 kmph in this zone. [Excerpts]

There is only one nature — the division into science and engineering is a human imposition, not a natural one. Indeed, the division is a human failure; it reflects our limited capacity to comprehend the whole.

~ Bill Wulf

### Neglect animals at your own peril

Swine flu pandemic infected at least one in five Indians:

Study By Kounteya Sinha, Times News Network | Jan 27, 2013

LONDON: The 2009 global H5N1 swine flu pandemic - the first in over 41 years that swept throughout the globe in record time — infected at least one in five Indians with the highest rates of infection being among children.

A joint Imperial College, London, and the World Health Organization global study released on Saturday found that 47% of those aged five to 19 showed signs of having caught the deadly influenza virus in India.

The study analyzed data from 19 countries, including India, UK, US and China, to assess the global impact of the 2009 pandemic.

It collated results from over two dozen research studies involving more than 90,000 blood samples collected before, during and after the pandemic and showed that the virus that continues to infect and kill Indians now affected 20-27% people studied during the first year of the pandemic.

The study was published in "Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses" journal on January 26.

The WHO in August 2009 issued the swine flu alert to the highest pandemic level, signaling that a global epidemic of the H1N1 virus had begun. It first

detected the novel pandemic influenza H1N1 virus in Mexico and the US in April 2009.

The last flu pandemic was declared in 1968 when H3N1 virus strain killed an estimated 1 million people.

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, recently said India may have grossly underestimated the might of 21st century's most aggressive pandemic.

"An additional 83,300 cardiovascular deaths associated with the 2009 pandemic influenza were estimated to have occurred in people older than 17 years globally, resulting in a total of 284,400 respiratory and cardiovascular deaths. Around 20% of these deaths occurred in people older than 64 years," the CDC study said. [Excerpts]

When you're lost in those woods, it sometimes takes you a while to realize that you are lost. For the longest time, you can convince yourself that you've just wandered off the path, that you'll find your way back to the trailhead any moment now. Then night falls again and again, and you still have no idea where you are, and it's time to admit that you have bewildered yourself so far off the path that you don't even know from which direction the sun rises anymore.

~ Elizabeth Gilbert

As the eagle was killed by the arrow winged with its own feather, so the hand of the world is wounded by its own skill.

~ Helen Keller



## Kalu the alpha dog of Karuna Kunj



'Showing around' a visitor



Kalu, always in the frontline



Ronaldo



A Guardian to the weaker residents



Whitey

Karuna Kunj shelters around fifty dogs on an average at any point of time. This way in its sixteen years of existence it has been a home, both temporary and permanent, for a few thousand distressed canines. But in the last sixteen years there have been three outstanding canine guests who have left indelible mark in the heart of animal lovers, internationally. All three of them had been endeared by the visitors; starting with Whitey (nine year stay), followed by Ronaldo (six year stay) and latest being Kalu (four year stay.) All of them got coverage from media from home and abroad. One

common factor in all three of them is their friendly nature and well mannered demeanor.

Kalu left us in the morning of 24th December last. Kalu had been a self appointed guardian of all the residents of Karuna Kunj, including our staff apart from all the animals. We must mention one remarkable incident with Kalu upholding the title "Man's best friend". Santosh, our staff got up in the middle of one night by incessant barking of Kalu. As he stepped out of his room he was faced with a full grown cobra standing up with the open hood. Santosh was naturally mesmerized by the suddenness of it, but Kalu was alert enough to pounce on the snake and bit its head apart killing the snake before it could harm Santosh.

Santosh was dazed for a few moment only to be brought back to his senses by Kalu's warm furry touch. We all will lovingly remember our dear friend Kalu.

Without close and reciprocal relationships with other animal beings, we're alienated from the rich, diverse, and magnificent world in which we live. ~ Marc Bekoff



# Rajani



Rajani inside transport-cage, in cosy familiar company



'Initiation in safety' on arrival



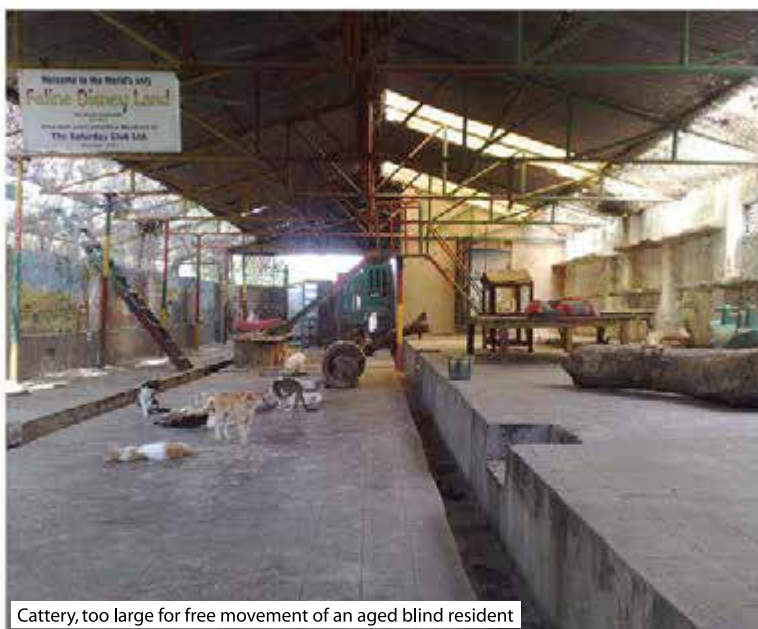
Searching 'eyes'

Rajani came to us from his home in Santinketan. Her owner's family had to arrange for a permanent home at Karuna Kunj along with five other cats and one dog, all family pets. As Rajani was blind and aged we could not let her free inside our spacious cattery. Initially she was kept in a cage for her own safety, gradually allowing her to roam around in an enclosed area. To add enrichment to her quality of life

she was kept in a room with a half door which had access for other feline friends to enter her room once in a while to give her company. Rajani breathed her last in the afternoon of 18th September last and her family members in U.S.A were informed. We are fortunate to have been able to provide a life of reasonable comfort in the last phase of Rajani's life on earth.



A friend's company



Cattery, too large for free movement of an aged blind resident

Many who have dedicated their life to love, can tell us less about the subject than a child who lost his dog yesterday ~ Thornton Wilder



## Rescue



Critical care continues during inclement weather



Dogged dedication : Flooded clinic is no deterrent



Rescuing the emaciated, outdoors



Even the cutest one may lose home if not adjusted to the human family



Our support-team helps the owner to adjust with the pet, for their 'mutual interest'

Somewhere in the rains, there will always be an abandoned dog,  
that prevents you from being happy ~ Aldous Huxley





# Tiny Crusader

Arnab Nandy, Journalist, wrote in February 2010 online lead story of India Blooms News Service;

"You've surely heard the saying that a dog is a man's best friend. But in the case of Sputnik Sylvels Mickays Mustard, it is humans who want to be friends with this Chihuahua. Sputnik has been part of several online campaigns on animal and environmental issues. Here are some of the groups on Facebook this cute dog is a part of: Say "NO" to the slaughter of horses in Australia, Stop Veterinary schools from performing deadly operations on live animals!, Save The Panda, All Groups Unite To Stop Animal Cruelty, Stop the Live Pigeon Shoots, Stop The Cruel Slaughter Of "Meat" Bunnies, Save the Whales, Worldwide Support for Sea Shepherd and Operation Waltzing Matilda, Sea Shepherd Switzerland, Sea



A story of the crusade

Shepherd Conservation Society New Zealand, Global Anti-Hunting Coalition (GAHC), Greek Animal Rescue, Meatmeanzmurder, Campaign to stop Harrods selling real fur, Stop the Nova Scotia Grey Seal Slaughter, Stop Animal Experiments at Bradford (SAEAB) and The HSUS Animal Cruelty & Fighting Campaign."

Sputnik had left for his 'next destination' on the evening of 14th December, 2011.

**During Christmas of 2012 Mrs. Heather-mae Celins Chelsea Victoria, Australia, wrote..**

Hello dear Bro,  
 I've been thinking a lot about Sputnik the last few days and what he stands for and what has been achieved in this world, through his wonderful little presence, I thought to honor him and recognize his significant contributions of unconditional love and care for all suffering, hungry and neglected creatures who are without a voice, that it would be appropriate to have a 'Sputnik Foundation' that would recognize and encourage the selfless, compassionate actions of another. This could be in the form of a trophy or a document or put to financially supporting him or her, etc. With this in mind I have posted off a small parcel, which includes a letter and a small amount of money to begin the process. your Sister, Hea



Hits front-page of a national daily on Sputnik's birthday



Cartoon by Ms. Dana Suki Waltz, USA

For life is eternal and love is immortal; and death is only a horizon;  
 and a horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight ~ Rossiter Raymond



## New Look



### CLINIC RENOVATION

Courtesy

Mrs. Subhra Ghosh  
Mr. Subrata Ghosh  
Mr. Pradip Kumar Bose



If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, "thank you," that would suffice.

~Meister Eckhart



## Care



Compassionate Crusaders' Centre for Animal Welfare, popular as Tollygunge Animal Clinic is the hub of our 'Round the Clock' helpline



Look back and get experience, Look forward and see hope,  
Look around and find reality, Look within and find confidence.



## Araucaria Cookie

**Christmas Tree** বা অর্কিরিয়া কুকি এই নামে কোলকাতার একটি সমবায় আবাসনের বাগানে অনেক গাছের মধ্যে দুটি গাছ ছিল। গাছ দুটি সত্যিই খুব সুন্দর। ভারি সুন্দর এর পাতাগুলি। গাছের গড়ন অনেকটা একটি ছাতা খুলে ধরে তার ওপর আর একটি ছাতা খুলে ধরলে যেমনটি দেখতে হয়, ঠিক সেই রকম। এই গাছের শাখা-প্রশাখাগুলি এমনিভাবেই বেড়ে ওঠে। এই গাছের পাতা কখনই সম্পূর্ণভাবে ঝরে পড়ে না। থাকে বলে চিরহরিৎ গাছ। গাছের তলায় খুঁজে দেখতে হয় এর কটা পাতা এক মাসে ঝরেছে। এই গাছের পাতার রং অনেকটা কালচে সবুজ। তবে নতুন পাতার রং অতটা কালচে নয়। এই গাছের কোন ফুল হয় না। অনেকে বলেন, ফুল ও ফলের জন্যই নাকি গাছের শ্রীবৃদ্ধি হয়। কিন্তু আমি বলবো, এই কথা কিছুটা সত্যি হলেও পুরোপুরি সত্যি নয়। কারণ যার দর্শনই এত সুন্দর, তার আবার শ্রীবৃদ্ধির জন্য ফুল ও ফলের প্রয়োজন কি?

দুটি গাছের মধ্যে একটি গাছের মাথা চারতলা বাড়ির ছাদ প্রায় ছুঁই ছুঁই করতো, আর একটি গাছের মাথা প্রায় তিনতলার সমান। বাড়ির দক্ষিণ দিকের বাগানে গাছগুলি ছিল। ঐ দিকের কোন বাড়ির মধ্যে ঘুরতে ফিরতে জানালা বা বারান্দার দরজা দিয়ে গাছগুলির দিকে চোখ পড়ে যেত। সবুজ গাছের দিকে খানিকক্ষণ তাকিয়ে থাকলে ভারি ভালো লাগতো। বিভিন্ন রকমের পাখি এসে গাছটিতে বসতো নানা সময়ে। তার মধ্যে একজেড়া ঘুঘু পাখি দুপুরবেলা অনেকক্ষণ বিশ্রাম করতো গাছটিতে বসে। আরো ভালো লাগতো বিছানায় শুয়ে গাছের ডালের ফাঁক দিয়ে রাতের তারা দেখতে।

গাছের উপকারিতা সম্পর্কে আমাদের সকলেরই কমবেশি জানা আছে। বিশেষ করে পরিবেশ শিক্ষা যখন আমাদের পাঠ্যসূচির একটি আবশ্যিক বিষয়। গাছ আমাদের পরিবেশের একটি বড় জায়গা অধিকার করে আছে।

বর্তমান সময়ে যখন উন্নত আমাদের সহের সীমা ছাড়িয়ে উর্দ্ধমুখী, বন্যা নিয়ন্ত্রণ, ভূমিক্ষয় রোধে আমাদের দেশের পরিকাঠামো ব্যবস্থা প্রায় অক্ষম, এমনি সময়ে পরিবেশ রক্ষার তাগিদটা বেশি করেই

অনুভব করা যায়। অবশ্য বিজ্ঞান মহল অনেক আগে থেকেই পরিবেশ রক্ষা করার নানা উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ করলেও, সাধারণ মানুষের মধ্যে সচেতনতা বিস্তারে যথেষ্ট সার্থক নয়। না হলে পরিবেশ রক্ষা নিয়ে আলাপ আলোচনা, খবরের কাগজ, পত্র-পত্রিকা, টেলিভিশনে প্রচার সত্ত্বেও কেন এক শ্রেণীর কিছু লোক এখনও গাছ কাটার মতো অন্যান্য কাজ করে চলেছে, তাও কেবল নিজের স্বার্থের জন্য।

সমবায় আবাসনের সদস্যদের সুবিধা অসুবিধা দেখার জন্য ভারপ্রাপ্ত **Secretary** একদিন বড় **Christmas Tree** -টিকে লোক দিয়ে কাটাবার ব্যবস্থা করেন। গাছ যিনি লাগিয়ে ছিলেন, সেই মহিলা তাঁকে বলেন, কেন গাছ কাটছেন? **Secretary** বলেন, পুরো গাছটা কাটবো না। মাথা থেকে কিছুটা অংশ ছেঁটে দেব। কারণ কাক আমার গাড়ির ওপর নিয়মিত নোংড়া করছে।



Araucaria cookie

আমার গাড়ির ইঞ্জিন খারাপ হয়ে যাবে। মহিলা বললেন, এই গাছ মাথা কেটে দিলে দেখতে খারাপ লাগবে। **Secretary** বলতে থাকেন, গাছের পাতা আমার গাড়ির ওপর পড়ছে, গাড়ি নোংরা হচ্ছে, ইত্যাদি। যাই হোক, একথায় ওকথায় তখনকার মতো গাছ কাটা বন্ধ হয়। কিন্তু এর কিছুদিন পর **Secretary** ফোন করে মহিলাকে বলেন, আপনি আমাকে লিখে দিন যে গাছ যদি আমার গাড়ির ওপর ভেঙে পড়ে, তবে তার জন্য আপনি ক্ষতিপূরণ দিতে রাজি আছেন। না হলে আমি গাছ কেটে দেব। কয়েকদিন পর **Secretary** আবার ফোন করে বলেন, আপনি কি ব্যবস্থা করলেন? মহিলা বলেন, আমি কয়েকজন অভিজ্ঞ লোকের সঙ্গে এই বিষয়ে কথা বলেছি। তাঁদের অভিমত, এই ধরনের গাছ খুব শক্ত। এর শিকড় মাটির খুব গভীরে চলে যায়। অনেক মালিকেও দেখিয়েছি। সকলের একই মত যে এই ধরনের গাছ প্রচণ্ড ঝড়ে নুয়ে পড়লেও কখনও ভেঙে পড়েনি। উত্তরে **Secretary** বললেন, আপনাকে আমি অনেক সময় দিয়েছি। আর সময় দেওয়া যাবেনা। কথায় কথায় ভদ্রমহিলা বলেন, যে আইন আছে, আপনি এইভাবে কোন গাছ কাটতে পারেন না। **Secretary** বলেন, এমন অনেক আইন তাঁর দেখা আছে। প্রয়োজন হলে তিনি যা খুশি করতে পারেন।

বৃদ্ধা মহিলা আবাসনের কয়েকজন সদস্যকে ব্যাটারটা জানান। কিন্তু কোন সুফল হয়নি। কেউ কেউ তাঁকে থানায় অভিযোগ জানাতে বলেন। কিন্তু প্রকৃতপক্ষে কেউ এগিয়ে আসেননি।

নিরুপায় হয়ে ভদ্রমহিলা বনদপ্তরে গিয়ে একটি লিখিত অভিযোগ করেন, কী উপায়ে গাছটি রক্ষা করা যায় জানতে চান। কিন্তু দুর্ভাগ্যবশত বনদপ্তর প্রয়োজনীয় ব্যবস্থার প্রতিশ্রুতি দিলেও কোন ব্যবস্থার প্রতিশ্রুতি দিলেও কোন ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করেনি।

বেশ কিছুদিন পর গাছটি কেটে ফেলা হয় কয়েকজন সদস্যের উপস্থিতিতে। গাছের অবশিষ্ট অংশটি ধীরে ধীরে শুকিয়ে যায়। বর্তমানে সেটিরও কোন চিহ্ন নেই।

আমাদের পরিবেশ সচেতনতার এটি একটি জীবন্ত উদাহরণ।

রেবা প্রামানিক

When asked what he would do, if he knew the next day he was going to die, Martin Luther replied, "I would plant a tree".



## Indian Lions

### Lions at risk as Indian states feud

Plan to relocate Asiatic lion stalls as states compete for tourism business. Krittivas Mukherjee 21 Aug 2012;

**NEW DELHI** - The world's last remaining Asiatic lions could become the victims of success of a plan to save them from extinction, as their swelling numbers in a small jungle in India make them vulnerable to disease, a shrinking prey base and territorial fights, animal conservationists say.

Yet a ready plan to move some of them to a new home in another patch of forest is caught in a bureaucratic catfight between two Indian states. The dispute has reached the Supreme Court, which now has to rule on the fate of these big cats.

There were fewer than 50 Asiatic lions at the Gir sanctuary in the western state of Gujarat at the turn of the last century, but successful conservation saw their population grow to 411 at last count in 2010.

But their fragile comeback from near-extinction is being threatened by overpopulation in the 1,400 sq km Gir sanctuary, which is quickly running out of space. Gujarat has created a smaller semi-sanctuary close to Gir but that is not enough.

Unless they are moved, experts warn, the big cats are still at risk of extinction from a single epidemic or a natural disaster. Overcrowding also means a



Gir lions



A Maldhari with cattle inside Gir Forest

shortage of prey, inbreeding and more frequent deadly turf fights.

Smaller grazing grounds have also increased man-animal conflict as Gir's lions have begun straying into nearby farms and villages. Over the past decade, some two dozen lions have drowned after falling into wells used by villagers living in the buffer zone.

Wildlife experts blame humans.

"Lions are not entering villages, humans are entering their habitats," Mr Debasis Chakrabarti, founder of animal rights group Compassionate Crusaders Trust told The Straits Times.

Conservationists saw a solution in a new home for the lions, far away from Gir in a rugged and hilly sanctuary called Kuno in neighbouring Madhya Pradesh state. But Gujarat has refused to send any of its lions there.

The tussle saw an ecologist involved in getting Kuno ready seek the court's intervention.

Earlier this month, Gujarat told the Supreme Court that Madhya Pradesh had failed to keep its dwindling tiger population safe from poachers, and hence relocating any of its lions there would be unwise.

"Asiatic lions are our unique pride, what is the need to send them anywhere when we are doing a great job of conserving them," Gujarat's environment secretary S.K. Nanda argued.

Almost as large as their African cousin, male Asiatic lions have less fluffy manes and their tails have larger tufts. This sub-species once roamed the jungles from Morocco and Greece across the Middle East to India. By the 20th century, trophy hunting had nearly decimated their population.

In India, though, the last few dozen Asiatic lions were given a shot at life after a princely ruler banned hunting in 1901.

Under protection, the Asiatic lions have thrived in Gujarat even as tigers and other wildlife across India have continued to be hunted or poached, pushing them ever closer to extinction.

The tussle between the two states, many experts say, is actually a fight for pride and tourism business, rather than concern for the big cats - Madhya Pradesh for boosting wildlife tourism, Gujarat for retaining its unique branding as the sole sanctuary of Asiatic lions in the wild in the world.

Mr Chakrabarti says the first option should be to try to secure and enlarge the buffer zone for lions in Gir itself.

"Airlifting these lions should be the last option," he said.

"There are issues with relocation like availability of prey and suitable conditions. Often translocation results in deaths of a species". (Excerpts)

**Source: Straits Times**



Gir lions



## Crusader-couple



Compassionate-couple Rochelle and Aniruddha

A rare compassionate gesture by young Australian couple Rochelle and Aniruddha from Perth, Western Australia, touched all the members and well wishers of Compassionate Crusaders Trust. Rochelle-Aniruddha who got married in December 2012, had put a request on their wedding invitation card "Gift: If you wish to help us celebrate our wedding with a gift, a donation to an organization close to our hearts 'Compassionate Crusaders Trust' Kolkata, India [www.animalcrusaders.org](http://www.animalcrusaders.org) would be the most meaningful gift you could give us. Thank you. Rochelle and Aniruddha."

All animal lovers would, hopefully, join us in wishing this special couple a long life of love.

### Gifts

*If you wish to help us celebrate our wedding with a gift, a donation to an organisation close to our hearts 'Compassionate Crusaders Trust' Kolkata, India [www.animalcrusaders.org](http://www.animalcrusaders.org) would be the most meaningful gift you could give us.*

*Thank you*

*Rochelle and Aniruddha*



CCT Patron, KPS Menon and his wife Lalitha greets the couple at the Reception in Kochi, Kerala



Sukriti Chakravarty from Pune, a staunch supporter of the mutes' is being complimented by our Patron

## Love Changes Everything



# Pet Memorial



**A special request  
to all animal lovers**

The burial ground at Karuna Kunj is the only proper place for the last rites of the pets of greater Kolkata. As our staff are involved with maintenance of the resident dogs and cats of the premises along with an all-animal out patient facility from the villages around Karuna Kunj; they can not spare much time to keep the memorial plaques as spick and span as we would like to. Though we keep the whole place clean and tidy all the time, some visitors, rightfully, suggested for "spit and polish" maintenance of their beloved pets' memorial plaques.

We appeal to all the visitors of Karuna Kunj to spare a few minutes of their stay at the premises for cleaning the marble plaques.



A caring visitor from Kalimpong cleaning the Memorial Plaques

Solar Light, a gift from Pradip Mitra of North Calcutta

Those who dream by day are cognizant of many things which  
escape those who dream only by night. ~ Edgar Allan Poe

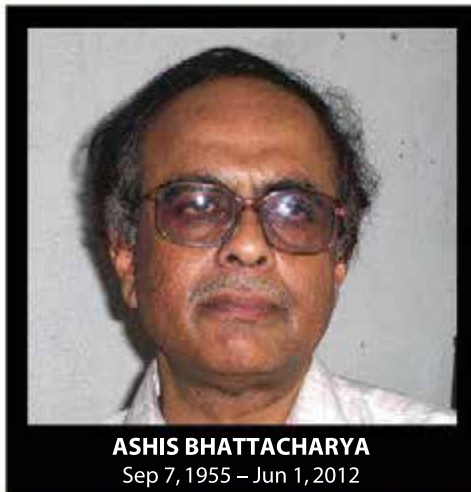


# Ashis



Remembrance at Karuna Kunj

Fondly called Ashismama by the staff of Compassionate Crusaders, Ashis has been the longest serving volunteer. As a guardian cum motivator, he worked tirelessly for the residents, both humans & non-humans of Karuna Kunj. Through his effort since early germinating stage of Karuna Kunj, Ashis has almost single-handedly created the humane atmosphere of Karuna Kunj as a unique oasis for the destitute 'mutes', that we see now.



**ASHIS BHATTACHARYA**  
Sep 7, 1955 – Jun 1, 2012

As a mark of respect to his fond memory, a friend's family has facilitated in creating ASHIS BHATTACHARYA MEMORIAL FUND with the Compassionate Crusaders Trust, as a corpus fund to support our 'care-givers of the mutes' in their effort in initiating primary education/ further studies for their children. This will surely help in creating a new generation of compassionate citizens, a dream Ashis had nurtured!



Ashis, a fond remembrance by Gobinda his life-long assistant



In memory: Planting a 'rakta karabi' (red oleander plant) by Ratna Ganguli, trustee

Where can we go to find God if we cannot see Him  
in our own hearts and in every living being. ~ Swami Vivekananda





## Hemantika Puri

7th November 1944 ~ 26th November 2012



Mrs. Hemantika Puri & co-crusaders with Dr Manu Chandaria (on her right), ace philanthropist from Nairobi in 2008

Late Hemantika Puri is fondly remembered by everybody in Compassionate Crusaders Trust. She was our trustee for three years. Her first interaction with us dates back to 1995, when she had arranged for the most vital installation of a deep tube well at Karuna Kunj. That tube well not only served the animals in our care but it was also the only source of clean drinking water for the villagers living nearby for more than ten years. Apart from her most sincere zeal in helping any worthy cause, her benevolent nature was truly reflected in her personal interaction also. May her noble soul rest in peace.





## Gratitude

Dr. Ambarnath Chakravarty, Kolkata



Mrs. Anita Nugara, Yanchep, W.Australia



Mrs. Archana (Ruchi) Kohli , Baltimore USA



Mr. Ashis Dey, Faridabad (Haryana)



Mr. C. Chandran, Palakkad (Kerala)



Mr. Gopala Kurup & Family, Malaysia



Ms. Indira Bose, Kalimpong (Darjeeling)



Mr. Neelashish & Mr. Harsh Chowdhry, Palampur (Himachal Pradesh)



M/s. Radiant Advertising & Marketing (I) Pvt. Ltd.



Mr. Subir Kumar Ghosh, New Delhi



Mr. Sudarshan Kumar Birla, Kolkata



Mr. Sukriti Chakraborty, Pune

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more.  
It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast,  
a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. ~ Melody Beattieon

## Team HR

Advisor : Pawan Kumar Lohia ☞ Executive Editor : Debu Chatterjee  
☞ Production : Arunava Dey, Pradip Chattopadhyay  
Amar Nath Ghosh, Arup Pal, Partha Sarathi Bhattacharyya  
☞ Concept & Publisher : Debasis Chakrabarti

## Blue Pages

The services rendered : ANIMAL HELPLINE: 24647030/ 22104365

☞ Round the clock emergency Ambulance and Veterinary service, Pet Clinic.  
☞ PetXpress trauma care for pets.

☞ Karuna Kunj : Shelter for destitute dogs and cats, other pets. Burial ground for pets.  
Free cattle camps. Sanjua, near Bibirhat on Bakhrahat Rd. 24 Pgs(S). Ph: 28680526.

☞ Horse treatment Camp every Sunday at 9 am with help from the Army personnel,  
at the Fountain of Joy, opposite the Victoria Memorial.

☞ Sterilization and anti-rabies vaccinations of street dogs & cats.

☞ Cruelty cases or Wildlife violations: 24647030, 22104365 (24Hrs)

## ANIMAL CRUSADERS

Newsletter of the COMPASSIONATE CRUSADERS TRUST (CCT)

For Private Circulation only

Designed & Printed by : Media Inc. Ph: 22802202

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- **Article 48-A of the Indian Constitution-The directive principles:**  
The state should protect and improve the environment and safeguard the forests and wild life of the country. This directive was added by the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976.
- **Article 51-A(g) of the Indian Constitution-The Fundamental Duties :**  
"It shall be the fundamental duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the Natural Environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for all living creatures."