

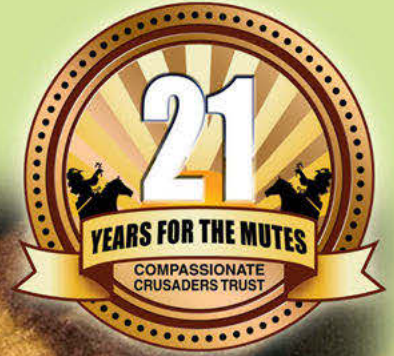
Newsletter of Compassionate Crusaders Trust



ANIMAL CRUSADERS

Annual Issue 2014

Stop telling the world how big the STORM is



Instead tell the storm how big your WORLD is



*Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend.
Inside of a dog it's too dark to read.*

~ Groucho Marx

Foreword



54A. A.J.C. Bose Road, Calcutta- 16 W.B

"As long as you did it to one of these My least brethren. You did it to Me"

27th September 1994.

Debasis Chakrabarti
Animal Welfare Charitable Trust
Chandi Road,
Calcutta-37.

Dear Friends of Compassionate Crusader's Club,

This brings you my prayer and God's blessing for the success of the programme which is to be held at St. Xaviers - for the purpose of spreading awareness that Social Welfare, Animal Welfare and Enviromental issues are all inter-linked. Let us remember that Animals are God's creatures, and we must use them for the purpose for which they were created.

I assure you of my prayers that this programme may benefit all, specially those closely concerned with this subject. Let us be God's love to all we meet.

*God Bless You
Lee Teresa MC*

Lee Teresa MC



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Young Crusaders



We are made wise
not by the recollection
of our past,
but by the responsibility
for our future.

~ George Bernard Shaw





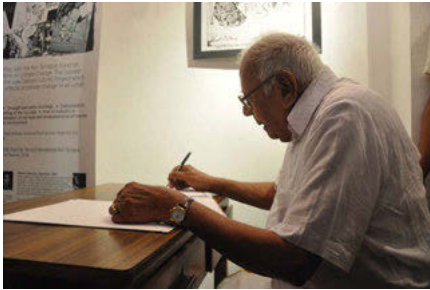
Rescue



The fate of animals is of greater importance to me than the fear of appearing ridiculous;
it is indissolubly connected with the fate of men. ~ Emile Zola



Voice for Voiceless



The Rights of Our Animal Brethren

JUSTICE V.R. KRISHNA IYER

"From an early age, I have adjured the use of meat, and the time will come when men look upon the murder of animals as they look upon the murder of men."

- Leonardo Da Vinci.

An issue of fundamental significance and universal relevance needs to be brought into the consciousness of the world community. Ecology and environment, life in every form and evolution, have certain harmony and intergrality that makes all creation kin. Spiritually speaking, the quintessence of the environmental movement, in its widest sweep, is that everything belongs to the supreme self and performs its karma with a functional nexus. In practical terms, there is a purpose for everything in Nature too sacred to be destroyed. Eknath Easwaran has exquisitely expressed this idea which I may excerpt here.

"Nobody has any right to pollute the air, water, or seas, to cut down forests, or to wash away the topsoil. We do not own the earth. We are just transients who have been entrusted to leave the earth a little better than we found it. This is everybody's job; nobody is exempt from it and, in this sense, nobody is unemployed."

"It follows that our environment crisis demands that every one of us play a useful part, in our own way, to improve the environment wherever we live. If a person fails to do that, even if he wins a prestigious prize, the Buddha would say, you haven't done what you have to do."

"When you have done what you have to do, you will feel very secure, very fulfilled. As you discover the self in your own heart, you discover it simultaneously everywhere, in the people and creatures around you. You will feel very much at home in this universe. You don't need to take my word for it. Try it and see for your self". ("Your life is your message" by Eknath Easwaran, Nilgiri Press, USA-p 92-93)

Ahimsa of Gandhi or "love thy neighbour" of Jesus proceed on the basic law of our being, the truth of our nature and our innate dignity. This a Davidic vision, is the soul of our cultural heritage: and when we meditate with this unitive

understanding, the mountains, the oceans, the forests and all living forms and inorganic things look divine. God (or call Him by whatever name you like) sleeps in the mineral, wakes in the vegetable, walks in the animal, thinks in man and reaches realization when the human ascent and the divine descent meet. If we are able to gain this vistic perspective, peace on earth becomes an easy essay to achieve. In the words of Adlai Stevenson, the human race is a family: men are brothers: all wars are civil wars. Such a holistic perception, makes the whole world kin and promotes a new order alive with a sublime presence.

The U.N. Conference on Environment and Development and the Declaration made at Rio de Janeiro emanate from these spiritual depths. The order of Nature is itself a manifestation of this conceptual globalization. The time has come for the nations and peoples everywhere to adopt the order of Nature as the cornerstone of the New World Human Order.

The philosophy of the Order may be tersely expressed thus: Nature is made up of an inanimate terrestrial, aerial and aquatic ensemble, on the one hand an animate vegetable, animal and human habitat, on the other hand.



Voice for Voiceless

The human species must consider itself an element of the terrestrial habitat and must respect co-existence and symbiosis. Any failure to respect these is an attack on nature, prejudicial to the whole ensemble of inanimate and animate beings.

'The actions to be rewarded concern, in particular, the safeguarding of the natural environment, the struggle against genocidal pollution, the safeguarding of the vegetable and animal species, animal protection, the teaching of the relations between humans and nonhumans, the fight against speciesism and more generally, all actions tending to render efficient the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Animals, the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Plants and the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Nature which is drafted by Prof. Georges Heuse. The declarations and the order of Nature will stimulate the perception of the cosmic integral Unity in human species.

There is no international nor national order comparable to the Order of Nature; the existing orders regard human beings as humans, and not as members of the community of Nature. The Order of Nature will be considered as the first supranational Order and the first planetary model.'

This vedic vision of the Indian seers of ancient vintage is our proud heritage. The radiant of this world of harmony and non-violence must persuade all humanity to adopt what Prof. Heuse, President of the World Foundation of Quality of Life, has called the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Nature. Animal Welfare, plant culture, organic and inorganic chemistry of existence find fulfillment only when everyone is conscientised into acceptance of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Nature. This declaration was drafted by Prof. Georges Heuse (Belgium), President of the World Foundation for the Quality of Life (University of Ghent), author of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Animals (1972) and proclaimed on 15th October, 1978 at UNESCO. I advocate the adoption of this declaration by Bharat of the Buddha and Gandhi and inspire humanity world-wide to attain harmony with everything everywhere.

MOBILISE PEOPLES' COMPASSION TO ACTIVATE ANIMAL WELFARE LEGISLATION

The universality of divinity is a fundamental faith of Indian humanity rooted in the Rig Veda and manifest in the spiritual core of all religions. "The ancients have stated that God sleeps in the mineral, awakens in the vegetable, walks in the animal and thinks in

man". The unity that runs through Creation is thus a basic truth. Nature has thus an integral relation with animalia and homo sapiens is an in severable part of the evolutionary spiral, the highest peak of ecological ascent. The ecological and environmental preservation is vital for life to survive on earth. These great values are reflected in our constitution, a rare good fortune and a binding recognition. The State and the citizen are duty bound to promote and preserve ecology and environment as mandated by Articles 48A and 51A.

Justice to animal citizens is as basic to humanism as social justice is to an exploited people. You are no true Hindu, Jain, Parsi, Christian or Muslim if you do not accept the indivisible unity of Creation and the power of the invisible Creator. So it is that love of animals, in the widest connotation, is integral to the divine vision. Be you secular or spiritual ecological fundamentals compel us to a compassionate relationship with our sub human brethren. Here, indeed, is the starting point of the deeper awareness of the harmony of Nature, Karuna and Ahimsa as apart of our cultural heritage.

The philosophical perspective of Animal Welfare is thus part parcel of our cultural heritage. Every time cruelty is practiced on man or beast



Voice for Voiceless

or bird or insect, we do violence to the Buddha and Mahavira. Every torture on an animal and every export of animals is a sin to the memory of the founders of Bharatiya Sanskar.

Rukmini Devi, that gracious lady who symbolized kindness to animals in her person, moved Jawaharlal Nehru to pass a legislation and thus we have today the Prevention of cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

Laws are decorative pieces on the Statute Book unless there are powerful movements supportive of their provisions. The anatomy of the 1960 Act has powers and, functions and infrastructure and has the funding and control of the Government. Cruelty to animals is an offence and experimentation on animals is regulated but not abolished. Performing animal in circuses and otherwise for exhibition imply torture and so the Act has provisions for policing such performances and exhibitions with view to prevent cruelty. With all this and one or two later amendments, cruel practices are continuing in the land where the cow is sacred, compassion is a constitutional duty but torture some entertainment, bleeding , butchery, animal sacrifice and other forms of cruelty

are still extant. Sans people's movement, cruelty to animals will never, cease.

Now that the western winds are blowing and the consumerist craze is growing, there is anew peril to our animal brethren. For instance:

"The fur industry wages war on wildlife, the lucrative leather market bolsters the cattle industry, and wool comes from sheep who suffer unanaesthetized tooth grinding, tail cutting and unskilled shearing. Angora is made from the hair of rabbits bred for a fast-growing intensive confinement industry.

By choosing products made with canvas, cotton, nylon, acrylic and other materials, we can clothe ourselves beautifully without endorsing cruelty.

The more we realize that animals have real lives like our own, the more courage we have to inform others. Most people prefer not to be associated with animal suffering, but may not know the facts. Our silence must not contribute to their ignorance."

IS THERE A SOLUTION?

Governments must be pressurized to do the right thing lest India's image and cultural heritage suffer severe damage. Let us not betray

the generations from the Buddha to Gandhi. Our tryst with destiny, made when India awoke to Independence, included an imperative that the nation will wipe every tear from every eye?. This applies to our animal brethren, parrots, doves and other birds with broken wings to be sold as pets or for delicate dish, lions and tigers cramped and doped in small cages and even elephants and bears brutally treated to perform impossible feats. Let us begin the crusade for compassion and we must win because our case is just.

"DARWIN TAUGHT US NOT THAT ALL MEN WERE MONKEYS ONCE, BUT THAT SOME MONKEYS HAVE NO TAILS NOW."

– George Bernard Shaw

(Excerpted from Random Reflections by Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer, Universal, ed. 2003.)

Courtesy:

LAWYERS UPDATE - JULY 2005

Thiruvananthapuram, Dec. 5, 2014: Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer, eminent jurist and former Supreme Court judge, passed away in Kochi this afternoon. He was 100.



Spreading the wings



Soudhriti's 'space' in Santragachi

L'amour de Liza

Shri Soudhriti Bhabani of Santragachi, Howrah, wrote to us "I evince my interest to do something for the betterment of animals". He went on to write about his conviction to "take a plunge and strive to make a difference". Soudhriti has shown his compassionate commitment by offering space with ready rooms to start an emergency pet care facility which will "cater to so many people in Howrah who love their pets. Being a resident of this twin city I feel a whole lot of people face the same problem as there is no such facility available in the district. As a result, people have to take their pets across the Ganges to Kolkata for treatment or arrange for treatment at home."

All these 'special' arrangement creates cost escalation and most importantly, critical loss of time. Soudhriti concludes with a touching note on how his 'elder daughter' Liza was a victim of such circumstance. He hopes to help 'many such Lizas in the vicinity' with the facility he creates in conjugation with the Compassionate Crusaders Trust (CCT).

To perpetuate the spirit of unselfish love & affection of Liza, he wants to open an Emergency Pet care unit in Howrah. Soudhriti's idea is to make a modest but sure start to make available the essential emergency care for the suffering animals and their hapless owners in Howrah.

A benevolent member of a North Calcutta house with traditional personal links with Sri Ma Sarada has also come forward with an offer of starting an animal welfare centre in conjugation with Compassionate Crusaders Trust (CCT) at their premises. The repair/renovation has already been undertaken at that space. Our supporters will be intimated as and when our North Calcutta centre becomes operative.



How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment
before starting to improve the world! ~ Anne Frank



Remembering Liza



Dear Liza,

As I sit in front of the terminal to write something about you, I can fondly recall those winter days last season when you used to curl up under a quilt with me. My eyes again welled up in tears. The screen of my monitor became blurred.

Such is life! Man comes, man goes but agony remains. You have always been an inspiration to me. Now when you are not here with me, I can still feel for you. It was November 18. God's finger touched you and you slept eternally.

Death ends a life, not a relationship. I know you are here, roaming around me all the time. It is about feelings. People may not see you anymore these days but I can sense your presence in my life. You will always remain at the core of my heart.

Love you,

Maa (Sukla Bhabani)



Death ends a Life, not a Relationship

Simple deeds...



Candolim, Goa



Dhanori, Pune



Tala Tank, Kolkata



Sequirem Beach, Goa



Bogmalo Beach, Goa



Dhanori, Pune

The whole idea of compassion is based on a keen awareness of the interdependence of all these living beings, which are all part of one another, and all involved in one another. ~ Thomas Merton



Overseas visitor

Message from Gail Palin

On Thu, Feb 20, 2014 at 12:14 AM

Hello,
I will be in Kolkata for a week in March, and would love to learn more about what your organization does. Do you allow visitors at any of your facilities? If so, would I be able to come and watch? Thank you,
Gail

On Sat, Feb 22, 2014 at 1:57 AM

Hi Debasis,
I would like to come visit on Wednesday, March 12th. Will that be a good day. I will be staying at the Oberoi Grand in Kolkata.
Can you let me know the address, so I can locate your facility on a map? Looking forward to visiting.
Gail

On Mar 3

I love your newsletters. I'm looking forward to seeing the sanctuary. I live in California, and I do a lot of volunteer work at our local animal shelter. Mostly work with dogs- walking them and getting them socialized and trained so that they might be adopted. We also foster dogs in our home, to give them more time to get ready for a new home.
I work with the cats, both at the shelter, and do trapping and fixing of the local stray cats.
I will have my camera, so I can get lots of pictures to share with people back home. I will also be sure to start distributing your newsletters.
Gail

On Fri, Mar 21, 2014

Dear Debasis,
Thank you so much for sending all of those wonderful pictures to me. I had a great time visiting your sanctuary, meeting your employees and seeing your sweet animals. You are doing an amazing job for the animals of Kolkata. I truly enjoyed my visit with you, and learned so much about what you do. I will be sharing the information and pictures with my friends here. Thanks again for your wonderful hospitality.



Use what talents you have. The woods would be silent
if no birds sang there except that sang best ~ Henry Van Dyke



Clinic Care



"I care not much for a man's religion whose dog and cat are not the better for it."

~ Abraham Lincoln



Clinic Care



Once birds were gods to men, Magical, strange and wise,
Now men are devils to them, on earth, on sea, in skies." ~ Joel Peters (1905- Who Cares)



Karuna Kunj – Dogs



We long for an affection altogether ignorant of our faults. Heaven has accorded this to us in the uncritical canine attachment. ~ George Eliot



Karuna Kunj – Cats



The Cat said, "Now you people have names. That's because you don't know who you are.
We know who we are, so we don't need names." ~ Neil Gaiman, Coraline



Karuna Kunj in Summer





Karuna Kunj Pet Memorial



Memory is not what we remember, but that which remembers us.
Memory is a present that never stops passing. ~ Octavio Paz



Sunderbans Crisis: Oil spill

India on alert after oil spill in Sundarbans

NEW DELHI Fri Dec 12, 2014 7:06pm IST

(Reuters) - Authorities on India's eastern coast are on alert after a tanker and another vessel collided, spilling more than 350,000 litres of furnace oil into the waters of the Sundarban tidal mangrove forests in neighbouring Bangladesh.

"We are taking all precautionary measures," Pradeep Vyas, additional director of India's Sundarban Biosphere Reserve, told Reuters on Friday.

The Indian Coast Guard and Border Security Force are both monitoring the situation, and boats are patrolling the rivers that connect the Sundarban region, which straddles the border between India and Bangladesh, he said.

On Tuesday, an oil tanker carrying 358,000 litres of furnace oil and another vessel crashed together. That caused the tanker to sink in the Shela river, in the Sundarbans, and spill its cargo into a complex

network of rivers and canals, according to Mohammad Yunus Ali, chief conservator of forests in the Ministry of Environment and Forest.

Both Sundarbans include large swaths of protected areas that host a diverse wildlife, including threatened species such as the Bengal tiger, rare dolphins and the estuarine crocodile.

Yunus denied that the oil slick was moving towards India and said clean-up efforts were continuing. "We have been trying seriously to clean it within the quickest possible time," he said. It was unclear when the process would be completed, he added.

Seven members of the sunken tanker's crew managed to swim ashore, but the boat's captain, Mokhlesur Rahman, was still missing as of Friday evening.

The Bangladesh government has filed a lawsuit against the owners of both ships.

The chief wildlife warden in the state of West Bengal told Reuters the spill had not yet had any impact on the tiger reserve territory or

marine life on the Indian side of the border.

"It may happen, and if it happens we have to deal with it," said Ujjwal Kumar Bhattacharya, the chief warden.

(Reporting by Serajul Quadir in Dhaka, Sujoy Dhar in Kolkata; Writing by Krista Mahr; Editing by Douglas Busvine, Larry King)

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/12/12/india-sundarbans-idINKBN0JQ1BT20141212>

The tanker, Southern Star VII, sank after colliding with another vessel early Tuesday [Dec 09] while trying to steer through dense fog. Bangladesh forest officials called the spill, spreading at least 20km every day, an ecological catastrophe.

The accident took place in one of the three dolphin sanctuaries in the area, which is a no-go zone for vessels. Activists and environmentalists said the brackish water shipping route through the Sunderbans violates ecological norms.

[Excerpts from TNN Dec 12, 2014]



Science may have found a cure for most evils; but it has found no remedy for the worst of them all — the apathy of human beings. ~ Helen Keller

আমার পুরী ভ্রমণ

ছোটবেলা থেকেই আমি সমুদ্র সম্পর্কে কৌতুহলী। ২০০৪ সালে আমার যখন ৯ বছর বয়স তখন আমি দীঘায় গিয়েছিলাম। কিন্তু তাও সমুদ্রের কাছাকাছি যেতে ইচ্ছে হত বারবার। সমুদ্রের ছবি আঁকতাম, বইয়ে সমুদ্রের ছবি দেখতাম, যারা বেড়াতে যেত তাদের মুখে সমুদ্রদর্শনের বর্ণনা শুনতাম।

দিনটা অক্টোবর মাসের ২ তারিখ। হঠাৎ পিসি
খবর দিল যে আমরা পুরী যাচ্ছি এই মাসের ১৯
তারিখ। আনন্দে মনটা নেচে উঠল, শুরু হল দিন
গোনা।

সুতরাং ২০১০ সালের ১৯ অক্টোবর আমি, পিসি, পিসেমশাই, দাদাভাই, বোন — আমরা সকলে মিলে পৌঁছে গিয়েছিলাম হাওড়া স্টেশন। ট্রেন — জগন্নাথ এক্সপ্রেস। ট্রেন ছাড়ার আগেই তিন জনের মজা হইটই শুরু হয়ে গেল। সময়মত আমরা হাওড়া স্টেশন ছাড়লাম। পরের দিন ভোরবেলা আমরা পুরী স্টেশনে নামলাম। সমুদ্র দেখার উত্তেজনায় কিছুতেই রাতে ঘুম আসেনি। সমুদ্রের ধারের একটি হোটেলের আগে থেকেই ঘর বুক করা ছিল আমাদের। স্টেশন থেকে বেরিয়ে রিক্সায় উঠে আমরা হোটেলের দিকে রওনা হলাম। কিছুদূর যাবার পরই সমুদ্রের গর্জন কানে এলো। আমার মনেও শুরু হল তোলপাড়। আরও কিছুটা এগোতেই তাকিয়ে দেখি আমার বহু কাঙ্ক্ষিত স্বপ্নের সমুদ্র। চোখে পড়ল অন্তহীন নীলের বিস্তার। সাদা ফেনা বুকে নিয়ে ছুটে আসছে ঢেউয়ের পর ঢেউ। যতদূর দেখা যায় শুধু জল আর জল।

হোটেলে পৌছানোর পর কিছুক্ষণ বিশ্রাম নিয়েই
চলে এলাম সমুদ্রতীরে। সেখানে লোকজনের
ছড়াছড়ি। কেউ বালিতে পাহাড় গড়ছে, কেউ স্নান
করছে, কেউ বিনুক খুঁজছে, কেউবা ছবি তোলায়
ব্যস্ত। আমি বিস্ময়ে চোখ ভরে দেখতে লাগলাম
সমুদ্রকে। বড়ো বড়ো ঢেউ গর্জন করে আছড়ে
পড়ছে বেলাভূমিতে। এখানে বসেই মনে পড়ল
রবীন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুরের সেই বিখ্যাত কবিতার পংক্তি—

“হে আদি জননী সিঙ্খু, বসুন্ধরা সন্তান তোমার
একমাত্র কন্যা তব কোলে, তাই তন্দ্রা নাহি
আর চক্ষুে তব, তাই বক্ষু জড়ি সদা শঙ্কা
সদা আশা, সদা আন্দোলন।”

প্রথমে সমুদ্রে নামতে একটু ভয়ই পাচ্ছিলাম।
দাদা অভয় দিল—চিন্তা নেই, নেমে পড়। যতক্ষণ
না পিসি বকল ততক্ষণ স্নান করা হল। স্নান করে

দুপুরের খাবার খেয়ে হোটেলে কিছুক্ষণ বিশ্রাম নিয়ে আবার আমরা মেলায় বেরোলাম। অনেককিছু কেনাকাটা করলাম। ঝালমুড়ি, ফুচকা খাওয়া হল। তারপর সমুদ্রসৈকতে বেশ কিছুক্ষণ সময় কাটিয়ে আমরা ফিরে এলাম।

পরের দিন জগন্নাথ মন্দিরে পূজো দিতে গিয়েছিলাম। ওখানকার প্রতিটি মন্দির সেদিন দেখা হয়েছিল। সারাদিন মন্দিরে মন্দিরে ঘোরা হল। বাইরে খাবার খেয়ে আমরা দুপুরে হোটেল ফিরে এলাম।

বিকালে আবার গিয়ে বসলাম সমুদ্রতীরে।
অনন্ত জলরাশির দিকে তাকিয়ে থাকতে থাকতে
একসময় কখন যে অন্ধকার নেমে এল বুঝতেই
পারলাম না। আকাশের তারাদের বিকম্বি ও নীচে
উত্তাল সমুদ্র। রাতের সমুদ্রকেও সব মিলিয়ে বড়ো
মনোহর অপরূপ লাগছিল। যাক্ সে কথা। যেহেতু
আমাদের পরের দিন বেড়াতে যাবার জন্য ভোরবেলা
উঠতে হবে, তাই আর সমুদ্র তীরে বেশিক্ষণ বসা
গেল না।

পরদিন সকালে আমরা তাড়াতাড়ি রেডি হয়ে বাসে করে বেরিয়ে পড়লাম আশেপাশের জায়গাগুলি দেখতে। প্রথমেই কোণারকের মন্দির দর্শন। এটি আমায় বিস্ময়ে অভিভূত করল। বহুকাল আগে তৈরি এই মন্দিরের অনেকটাই নষ্ট হয়ে গেছে। তবুও যেটুকু আছে, তা চমৎকার। আমাদের গাইড এই মন্দিরের ইতিহাস সম্পর্কে অনেক কিছু বলেছিল। এরপর একে একে আমরা উদয়গিরি, খণ্ডগিরি, ধবলগিরি, নন্দনকানন প্রভৃতি জায়গায় ঘুরলাম। নন্দনকাননে প্রচুর বাঘ, হাতি, সাপ, চিতাবাঘ দেখেছিলাম। একটি সাদা বাঘও দেখেছিলাম। তার নাম অন্ন। আর ছিল এক দুষ্টু শিম্পাঞ্জী। তার খেলা দেখে তো আমরা তিন ভাইবোন হেসে লুটোপুটি। তবে হাতিগুলোকে দেখে মনে হয়েছিল যেন ওদের ঠিকমত যত্ন করা হয় না। যাইহোক সন্ধ্যার পর আমরা আবার পুরীতে ফিরে এলাম। প্রতিটা জায়গায় প্রচুর ফটোও তোলা হয়েছে।

পরদিন দেখলাম সূর্যোদয়। সমুদ্রে মিশে থাকা
দিগন্ত ক্রমশ লাল হয়ে উঠতে লাগল। তারপর
ধীরে ধীরে যেন সমুদ্রগর্ভ থেকে উঠে আসতে
লাগল সূর্য। তার জ্বাকুসুমের মতো রং ক্রমশ হল
সোনালী রঙের। সেদিন যতটা সম্ভব সময় কাটিয়ে
ফিরে এলাম হোটেল। এবার আমাদের যে ফেরার

পালা। যে পথ দিয়ে এসেছিলাম সেই পথ দিয়েই আবার রিক্সায় ফিরে যাওয়া পুরী স্টেশন। যতক্ষণ দেখা যায় সমুদ্রের দিকেই তাকিয়ে ছিলাম। কিছুদূর যাবার পর আর সমুদ্র দেখতে পেলাম না। শুধু একটা বড় ঢেউ আছে পড়ার শব্দ শুনলাম। আমি মনে মনে বললাম, যাই। সেই শব্দে সে যেন আমায় হেঁকে বলল—“যাই বলতে নেই, বলো আসি।”

ট্রেনে ফেরার সময় মনটা খারাপ লাগছিল। কিন্তু কিছু কথা মনে খচখচ করছিল। সমুদ্রের ধারে তো নারকেল গাছ ভালো হয় কিন্তু একটাও নারকেল গাছ নেই? গাছগাছালিও নেই বললেই চলে। সমুদ্রের একদম কাছাকাছি এত বাড়ি বানানো হয়েছে কেন? ড্রেনের নোংরা জল সমুদ্রে পড়ছে কেন? উটকে কেন বাঁচে রাখা হয়েছে, যার মরুভূমিতে থাকার কথা।

এই উটের প্রসঙ্গে দুই ডেনিসের একটা গল্প
বলি। সে মায়ের সঙ্গে স্যান দিয়োগো চিড়িয়াখানায়
গিয়েছিল। তাদের কথোপকথন ছিল এইরকম—

ডেনিস : এতবড় ঘোড়া! একে কী বলে?

ডেনিসের মা : এটা ঘোড়া নয়, উট। একে
মরুভূমির জাহাজও বলা হয়।

ডেনিস : ওর পিঠে ওরকম উঁচু কেন?

ডেনিসের মা : এটাকে বলে কুঁজ। এর মধ্যে ফ্যাট থাকে, যার জন্য অনেক সময় হাঁটার পরেও জল পিপাসা পায় না।

ডেনিস : ও নাক বন্ধ করে আছে কেন?

ডেনিসের মা : মরুভূমিতে ধুলোঝড়ের সময়
বালি ও ধুলো যেন নাক দিয়ে না ঢুকে পড়ে।

ডেনিস : ওর চোখের পাতাগুলো বড় কেন?

ডেনিসের মা : ধুলোঝড়ের সময় যেন ধুলোবালি
চোখে না ঢুকে যায়।

ডেনিস : ওর পায়ের পাতাগুলো এত বড় কেন?

ডেনিসের মা : মরুভূমিতে অনেক সময় ধরে
চলার জন্য সবিধে হয়।

মা, তাহলে ও চিড়িয়াখানার মধ্যে কী করছে?

ডেনিসের মতো সকলে যদি ভাবতে পারত
তাহলে আমরাও যে কত ভালো থাকতাম, পৃথিবীটা
আরো সুন্দর হত। তাই না?

শ্রীজাতা দে

It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop. ~ Confucius



Righting the wrong

Nov 28 2014 : The Times of India (Kolkata)

'Cruelty' probe into snake park

Krishnendu Mukherjee
Kolkata

The Calcutta Snake Park on the fringes of the city has come under the scanner of the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) and Central Zoo Authority of India (CZAI) for alleged cruelty to animals.

The park, situated in Madhyamgram's Badu and inaugurated in 1977, is owned by conservationist, herpetologist and member of state wildlife advisory board Dipak Mitra.

Some conservationists have also demanded probe against the park alleging that "the place may well be a holding place for trafficking of wild animals".

In a letter dated November 17, a copy of which is in possession of TOI, AWBI had urged CZAI to conduct a probe into the allegations.

"It has been brought to the notice of the board through an email by several wildlife activists that the animals here are kept in a pathetic condition. The snakes are allegedly kept in small cages and monkeys in metal rusting bars in smaller cages. Tortoises are reportedly locked inside rusting boxes and crocodiles are found swimming amongst plastic bottles," the letter says.

"It was reported that several dogs were kept in kennels behind the bird cages. So, we requested CZAI to probe the matter so that the animals are not subjected to cruelty and take action against its owner," said secretary in charge of AWBI Vinod Sankaranicker. He added that CZAI has taken cognizance of their letter and started a probe.

When contacted, member secretary of CZAI, Bishen Singh Bonal, said a three-member committee has just finished the probe. "I can't comment till I receive their report," he added.

Gowri Mallapur of Madras Crocodile Bank, who was a member of the probe panel, said she was not at liberty to comment on this issue. Former member secretary of CZAI, S Sharma, who led the probe panel, said, "There were certain lapses. But the question here is about the quantum or degree of lapses, which we will disclose in our final report to be submitted next week." Chief wildlife warden Ujjwal Bhattacharya said the forest department has also conducted an independent inquiry.

"We received a complaint from a diplomat's daughter, who had visited the park recently, alleging cruelty against animals there. During our probe, we found certain lapses and will inform CZAI of this. Remedial measures too will be taken after consulting CZAI," he said.

Dipak Mitra, however, said that he was not aware of the AWBI letter.

"A three-member CZAI team had come to inspect the park a couple of days back. But, that's a routine evaluation. They have renewed our license at the beginning of the year and it will expire at the end of 2017," he said.

A 2002 report by Zoocheck Canada and Compassionate Crusaders Trust had suggested that CZAI and state forest department close down this facility considering 'numerous, serious deficiencies' and to relocate the animals to more appropriate accommodations.

Sources said a probe is being conducted against the functioning of the West Bengal Snake Park, adjacent to the Calcutta Snake Park also.

The backdrop

From: <chanti@odie.be>

Date: 16 November 2014 10:29

Subject: Kolkata Snake Park

To:

Aan: Central Zoo Authority, AWBI Board office, Ms. Umarani AWBI Secretary, Vinod Kumar awbi

To,

The Member Secretary,
Central Zoo Authority

Sir,

Please find below a link brought to my attention through social media, which reveals the pathetic condition of the Calcutta Snake Park situated at Badu 1st Main Road, Madhyamgram, Kolkata 700124.

The Park is owned by Deepak Mitra

While we hope that the allegations are exaggerated, we would request that a thorough investigation be made with immediate effect. Please read the report by Zoo Check on the same park a few years ago on <http://www.zoocheck.com/reportpdfs/indianreport1.pdf> Pages 44 - 48.

Anticipating an early reply from you and thanking you for the same in advance

With warm regards.

Calcutta Snake Park faces closure threat

Krishnendu Mukherjee, TNN | Jan 18, 2015

KOLKATA: The Calcutta Snake Park, owned by an eminent herpetologist and wildlife conservationist, faces a closure threat.

The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has just issued a showcause notice to the park owner, Dipak Mitra. He has also been asked to reply within a month failing which the zoo licence will be cancelled under Section 38H(6) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Keeping such a large number of animals in a small place, the CZA believed, was neither necessary for conservation education nor for planned breeding. "Hence, smuggling out some animals from the snake park cannot be ruled out," it observed.

CZA's member secretary B S Bonal confirmed that a letter dated December 31, 2014, has been issued to the park authorities. "Even if we have to close down a park some rules need to be followed first. This notice is the first step towards that," he added.

The CZA also said in its notice that the grant of renewal of recognitions issued to the snake park for a period up to January 31, 2017, also stands cancelled. Sources also said that action against the West Bengal Snake Park, which was also facing a 'cruelty' probe, was underway. [Excerpts]

The world is dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because
of those who look on and do nothing ~ Albert Einstein



Russi Mody: fond remembrances

**An animal lover,
Mody was
chairman emeritus
of Calcutta based
Compassionate
Crusaders Trust.**

Former Tata Steel chairman boosted welfare initiatives

Russi Mody, the sportslover

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Jamshedpur, May 17: Jamshedpurians will remember former Tata Steel chairman and managing director Russi Mody who died at the age of 96 at his Calcutta home last night, for reasons more than one.

Besides taking the steel major to new heights, the Padma Bhushan recipient helped groom the steel city into a sports hub. Mody also contested the Jamshedpur Lok Sabha seat as an independent candidate in 1996 and lost to BJP's Abhis Mahato.

Mody who joined Tata Steel in 1977 as an office assistant and went on to become joint managing director in 1979 before retiring in 1991, was sailing for the post three years.

He died of a cardiac arrest in his residence on Belvedere Road in Calcutta's Alipore.

"Russi Modyji will be remembered for his contribution towards improving sports in



FOND MEMORIES:
Russi Mody

franchise in Jamshedpur. He was a genuine sports lover and mingled freely with players of diverse disciplines. JRD Tata Sports Complex and Tata Football Academy were his ideas and came into existence during his tenure as managing director of the steel major," said Haribhaskar Singh, secretary of Jharkhand State Football Association.

Steel City Golf, one of Eastern India's premier amateur tournaments, was also Mody's brainchild.

He was known for starting super soccer that brought overseas clubs like Borussia Dortmund and Sao Paulo to play in the steel city. It was during his era that slogans like "We also make steel" and "Sports a way of life" were coined.

Mody's amiable nature and sense of humour might not have won him an election, but they won him many admirers, including Mahato who defeated him by over 90,000 votes in the 1996 polls.

"Time spent with Russi Modyji will remain etched in my mind for ever. He was amiable and always exchanged glances when we crossed paths during pre-poll campaigns. He had a quiet sense of humour. He used to say 'Abhisji, irrespective of the poll result, we would share the five-

year Parliament term'," recalled Mahato.

Mody also spared a thought for the poor.

Tata Steel Rural Development Society was formed under his tenure to better the lives of villagers based in Tata Steel operation areas.

An animal lover, Mody was chairman emeritus of Calcutta-based Compassionate Crusaders Trust.

Tata Sons chairman Cyrus P. Mistry said Mody was a stalwart who steered Tata Steel to become one of India's most respected corporations.

"His vision was all encompassing excellence in business, enduring commitment to society and focus on the dignity of the individual. He could indeed say the company did many things and also made steel. Russi Mody embodied the Tata principles of building trustworthy and socially oriented organisations," Mistry said.

Valuing a relationship is not merely done by seeing each other everyday. What counts is how much in our busy lives we remember each other.



On the way to Tokyo Airport noticed this Dog Rescue van (written in yellow at back). Pic: Tapan Chakrabarti, Yokohama, Japan



Bonding



Mr. K.P.S. Menon, our Patron for the last five years had sent a note at the fag end of last year.. "You have done me the honours of associating with your selfless enterprise these many years. I do feel it is now time I stepped down so that you can have the services of somebody active in such a good cause. May I say, however, that my best wishes will always be with you and the Crusaders."

Mr. Menon and his gracious wife Mrs. Lalithambika have been very kind in sending two Croton plants from their home garden at Thiruvananthapuram, for Sputnik's Garden in Karuna Kunj. Last year the Crotons were planted on their birthdays, April 11th & 28th.



Patron of the voiceless



Dr. Manu Chandaria has kindly consented to be the “voice of the voiceless” as the Patron of the Compassionate Crusaders Trust.

Manu Chandaria, OBE, EBS, is Founding Chairman of the East African Business Council and the Kenya Private Sector Alliance, an umbrella body representing over two hundred sectors and organizations. Dr. Chandaria is the Chairman of the Private Sector Advisory Council, Global Peace Service Alliance, Kenya. He has been appointed to numerous government boards and committees, including Chairman of the Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund, set up to reduce poverty, revive the economy through private sector initiatives, encourage technological modernization, and improve the lives of children. He is a Council member of the University of Nairobi which awarded him a Doctorate of Sciences. In 2003 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II conferred an OBE (Order of the British Empire) in recognition of his community work and promotion of Kenyan economic interests. His Excellency Hon. Mwai Kibaki, Former President of the Republic of Kenya, distinguished him with the honor of Elder of the Burning Spear (EBS) in 2003 in recognition of outstanding service to the nation.

SOME ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CHANDARIA FOUNDATION

- Chandaria Accident & Emergency Centre & Day Theatre at the Nairobi Hospital
 - Chandaria Accident & Emergency Centre at the Pandya Hospital at the Coast
 - Chandaria MIHV Health Centre at Dagoretti Nairobi
 - Chandaria Mji Wa Huruma Clinic in Runda Nairobi
 - Many medical clinics in the rural areas
 - Chandaria Medical Clinic at the Getrude's Childrens Hospital In Nairobi
 - Chandaria Bodi Health Centre & Chandaria Bodi Maternity Wing
 - Chandaria School of Business at the United States International University (USIU)
 - Chandaria Business Innovation and Incubation Centre at the Kenyatta University
- And many other initiatives

Man never made any material as resilient as the human spirit. ~ Bern Williams



Sponsor

**What wisdom can you find
that is greater than kindness?**

~ Jean Jacques Rousseau

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127A, Motilal Nehru Road Kolkata- 700026

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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 animal care camps. Sanjua, near Bibirhat, 24 Pgs(S). Ph: 28680526.
⌘ Horse treatment Camp at Maidan with the help from the Army.
⌘ Sterilization and anti-rabies vaccinations of dogs & cats.
⌘ Cruelty cases or Wildlife violations: 24647030, 22104365 (24Hrs)

ANIMAL CRUSADERS

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CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

- **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."