

Newsletter of Compassionate Crusaders Trust



ANIMAL CRUSADERS

Annual Issue 2016

Stop telling the world how big the STORM is



Instead tell the storm how big your WORLD is

মায়ের ঝাঁপ



Look deep into Nature,
and then you'll understand
everything better



Saint for the world Mother for Crusaders



Let us remember
that Animals are God's creatures, and we must
use them for the purpose for which they were
created.

*God bless you
Lee Teresa Mc*



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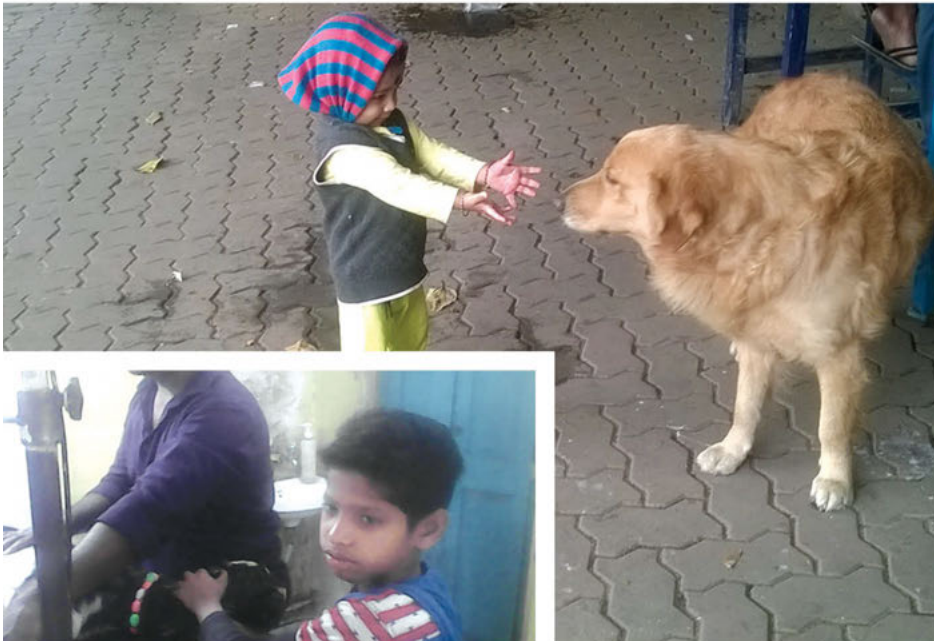
Animal-Soldiers – Excellence Rewarded



Thunderstorm, the horse & Sofia, the dog

Our flag does not fly
because the wind moves it,
it flies with the
last breath of each soldier
who died protecting it.

Young Crusaders



It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken adults



Tree of Life : Appu

Karuna Kunj, though a pet-memorial space, is unique in the country where families perpetuate the memory of their departed members by planting trees and feeding the sheltered animals.

Souradipta (Appu, named after 1982 Delhi Asian Games' Mascot) was the only child of Swapna & Pankaj Kayal.

Souradipta was born on 20th June 1982.

On 1st July 1994 a fatal road accident snuffed his life out at the tender age of 12 yrs.

He, then, was studying in class VI at Ramkrishna Mission Shiksha Mandir, Sarisha, South 24 Pgs.

A prize/ scholarship on Souradipta's name has already been instituted at his School on Indian Culture, his favourite subject.

On this Friday 1st July, Souradipta's parents, influenced by media write up on continuity of life as a tree, have requested Compassionate Crusaders Trust to arrange a tree

Dainik Jugasankha • 01.07.2016 • Page 05

‘যেথা চির শ্যামল বসুন্ধরা, চির জ্যোৎস্না নীলাকাশে’ চম্পার মধ্য দিয়েই বেঁচে থাকবে আশু

অশোক সেনগুপ্ত

কলকাতা, ৩০ জুন: তিন ২২ বছর আগে কারুণ্যকর এক পথপুঁজিয়ার মায়া গিয়েছিল সূটমুটে এক বালক। সে সময় গর, মানে আশুর বয়স ছিল ১২। যে বছর গর জন্ম, সেই ১৯৮২-তে হয়েছিল বিল্লির এশিয়ান গেমস। গেমসের মাস্কটের নামেই ছেলের নাম রেখেছিলেন পঙ্কজ আর স্বপ্না কয়াল। আশু গরকে সৌরশীল ছিল একমাত্র সন্তান। গরুর প্রাণের আরাম, আশুর আদম, মনের শান্তি।

প্রতি বছর ১ জুলাই মানে আজকের দিনে গরুর কাছে বেঁচে থাকার সংজ্ঞাটা যেন সত্যতাই বদলে যায়। ১৯৯৪-এর এ দিনেই চিরকালের মত বিশ্ব থেকে চলে গিয়েছিল সরিষা রামকৃষ্ণ মিশন শিক্ষা মন্দিরের ক্রাশ সিলের আশু। ভারতের সংস্কৃতি ছিল গর খুব পছন্দের বিষয়। সরিষার কুলে গর নামে ওই বিষয়ের গুণের পুরস্কার চালু করেন পঙ্কজ আর স্বপ্না। প্রতি বছর এই ১ জুলাই নানা জনহিতকর কাজের মধ্যে দিয়ে গরার স্মরণ করেন আশুর। আজ শুভ্রাবার সেই



এই চম্পা গাছই আজ শনিবার বসানো হবে ঠাকুরপুকুরের করুণাকুলে। ইনসেটে আশু।

স্মরণবিবস। একদিন কয়াল দম্পতি এসেছিলেন ঠাকুরপুকুরের করুণাকুলে। খোলা আকাশের নিচে গাছাছালির ফাঁকে সেখানে সমাবিষ্ট প্রায় ছ'হাজার কুকুর আর বেড়াল। গত দু'শুধকে এই অবলা জীবরা এখানে সমাবিষ্ট হয়েছে। 'করুণাকুল'-তে আছে নিরাক্রম বা অসুস্থ আরও প্রায় দু'শ কুকুর-বেড়াল। জায়গাটা ভাল লেগে গেল

পঙ্কজ-স্বপ্নার। মনে পড়ে গেল 'যেথা চির শ্যামল বসুন্ধরা, চির জ্যোৎস্না নীলাকাশে'। ডায়ামন্ডহারবারের কাছে ফতেপুর। সেখানকার একটি ছুলের অধ্যক্ষ ছিলেন স্বপ্না কয়াল। থাকতেন ছুলচত্বরের কোয়ার্টারেই। ২২ বছর আগের সেই কালান্তিক ঘটনার স্মৃতি এখনও যেন গভীর ক্ষত সারাতে দেখনি। — 'আশু গর জেটুর

হাত ধরে গিয়েছিল দোকানে। সকাল তখন ন'টা। ৮-৩ নম্বর রুটের একটি বেসরকারি বাস আচমকা মূল রাস্তা থেকে নেমে বাইপাস ধরে বেপেরোয়াভাবে চলতে লাগল। সতর্ক হওয়ার সময় পায়নি আশু। বাসের ধাক্কায় ...' গলা ধরে এল সন্তানহারার মারের।

বৃহস্পতিবার সন্ধ্যা কয়াল দম্পতি পাহুর স্মরণে 'করুণাকুলে' রোপন করলেন চম্পা-র চারা। গাছটা যত বড় হবে, ফুলের সুবাস জড়িয়ে পড়বে চারদিক। সেই সুবাসের মধ্যে বেঁচে থাকবে আশুর স্মৃতি।

'করুণাকুল'-র বয়স হল ২০। এটি দেখাশোনার দায়িত্ব 'কম্পেশনস্ট্রিট ক্রসেডার ট্রাস্ট'-এর। এর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা দেবাশিস চক্রবর্তী জানান, "এতদিন এখানে এসেছেন মূলত পশুপ্রেমীরা। প্রাণের চেয়েও প্রিয় মৃত কুকুর-বেড়ালের সমাবিষ্ট শ্রদ্ধা-ভালবাসা জানাতে অনেকে প্রতি বছর নির্দিষ্ট কেন্দ্রে দিনে এখানে আসেন। কিন্তু এই প্রথম কেন্দ্রও সংবেদনশীল মানুষ করুণাকুলের সঙ্গে জড়িয়ে যেতে চাইলেন তাঁদের আদরের সন্তানের জন্য।"

Tree Planting for Souradipta at 6 PM on July 1, 2016

Pic: the chosen Champa sapling from Sputnik's Garden is being handed over by Karuna Kunj staff, on Souradipta's birthday, 20 June. Champa (চম্পা) (Magnolia champaca) is counted among the topmost fragrant flowers in the world and are used to make the world's one of the most expensive perfumes 'Joy'.

to be planted at the animal shelter site of Karuna Kunj. Swapna has chosen a fragrant flowering Champa tree to commemorate Souradipa.

Mother Swapna is a retired school principal and father Pankaj is a practicing advocate. They presently

reside at ASHABARI Hsg., Patuli Township.

This is the very first time in the 22 years' existence of Karuna Kunj, a family has decided to commemorate a departed child on the site. Till now only pets' have been commemorated in such manners at Karuna Kunj.



Tree of Life : Dady



A tribute to

DADY CURSETJEE DADY

son of the late Naju
and Cursetjee Dady
Dady (Kelso),
brother of the
late Pilu C. Dady,
the late Ruty C. Dady
and the late Bhikhu
Dhun R. Ratnagar.
Uncle of Diana
Ratnagar-Irani,

**Expired on
11 November 2016**

When a noble life has
prepared old age, it
is not decline that it
reveals, but the first
days of immortality.

~ Muriel Spark



A Star pine (Araucaria heterophylla) in Dady's memory



Mrs. Dipika Sapui, a Central Govt. employee. had visited Karuna Kunj along with her son. She planted a Karabi (করবী), Indian oleander, an Indian medicinal plant is botanically named as *Nerium odoratum* Sol.) inside Sputnik's Garden in memory of her young daughter who was killed in a tragic accident.



Two sides of a “Gold Coin”

উপহাস উপেক্ষা করে এঁরা লড়ে যাচ্ছেন কাদের জন্য?

উমা রাও। গত বছরই রিটারার করেছেন তিনি। ছোট থেকেই এ শহরের বাসিন্দা। সেই সঙ্গে ‘বন্ধু’ তাঁর অঞ্চলের জন্য কুড়ি লালু-ভুলু-কালুদের। দেশপ্রিয় পার্কের খুব কাছেই থাকেন উমাদেবী। রোজ সকাল সাতটা নাগাদ প্যাকেটে করে ভাত-মাংস আর বিস্কুট নিয়ে বেরিয়ে পড়েন। মোটামুটি এক ঘন্টার প্রোগ্রাম। এ-গলি ও-গলি করে ফিরে আসেন বাড়িতে। কোনও কোনও জায়গায় তাঁর জন্য অপেক্ষা করে থাকে কাকের



দলও। রিটারারমেন্টের পরে তাঁর চিন্তা একটাই, বাচ্চাগুলোর খাবারে যেন টান না পড়ে।

অনেকেই আছেন যাঁরা রাস্তার কুকুর-বেড়ালদের খেতে দেন। নিজেদের সাধ্যমতো তাদের দেখভাল

করেন। এই মানুষগুলোকে নিয়ে আমরা মজা করি, ব্যঙ্গোক্তিও করি। এর কি প্রয়োজন রয়েছে? আপনার হয়তো ভাল লাগে না রাস্তার ওই সারমেয়গুলোকে, তা বলে ওদের আঘাত করারও কিছু নেই। ‘ইগনোর’ করুন। ওরা থাক ওদের মতো। যাঁরা ওদের ভালমন্দের ভার নিয়েছেন, তাঁদের করতে দিন তাঁদের কাজ। রাস্তার থাকে ঠিকই, কিন্তু অনুভূতি ওদেরও ‘ব্রিড ডগ’-দের থেকে কিছু কম নয়।

উমা রাও মতো না হলেও, আপনিও পারেন আপনার পাড়ার ‘বাচ্চা’দের বন্ধু হতে।

(এবেলা থেকে নেওয়া)



Now, gold coins for culling stray dogs in Kerala

PTI | Updated: Oct 30, 2016

Four persons have lost their lives in canine attacks in last four months.

Over 700 have been injured in canine attacks in the state.

This year, 53,000 people had to take treatment for dog bites in government hospitals alone.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The alumni association of a prominent college has announced gold coins to the civic authorities which would kill the maximum number of stray dogs till December 10 in Kerala where four persons have lost their lives and over 700 have been injured in canine attacks in the last four months.

In the wake of increasing stray dog menace in the state, office bearers of Old Students Welfare Association of Pala-based St Thomas College said the “gift” would be given to the heads of panchayats and municipalities across the state where most stray dogs are killed.

The outfit had hit headlines recently for providing air guns at subsidised rates to deal with violent dogs.

Earlier, cash incentives were also offered by a state-based industrialist for culling dogs.

“We are planning to give the gift to panchayat presidents and municipality chairmen in the state who lead in killing maximum number of stray dogs. Our aim is to ensure the safety of people from violent canines,” James

Pambaykkal, Association General Secretary, said.

Accusing the government of inactivity on the stray dog issue, he said the association was attempting to end the menace with the participation of people.

The gold coins would be bought with the contributions, collected from the representatives of the 1200 member-association, he said.

The weight of the coins would be decided according to the total amount collected, James, a physics post-graduate who passed out from the college in 1984, said.

He said the civic authorities, who apply for the gold coins, should submit day-to-day figures of the culled dogs.

Those who find ugly meanings in beautiful things are corrupt without being charming. This is a fault. Those who find beautiful meanings in beautiful things are the cultivated. For these there is hope. They are the elect to whom beautiful things mean only beauty. ~ Oscar Wilde

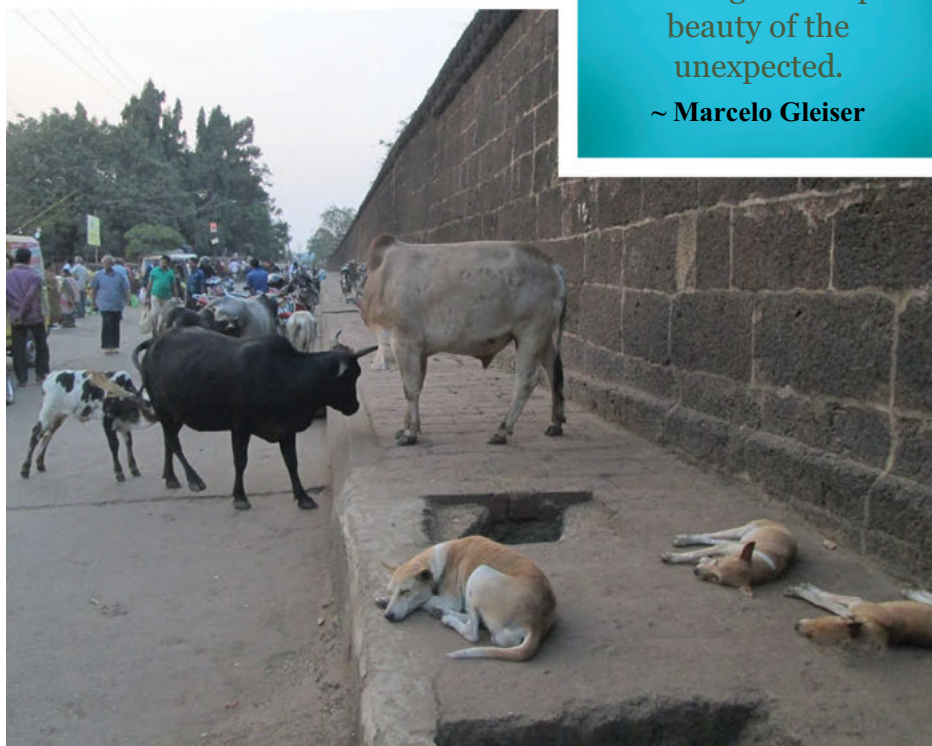


Community & Animals



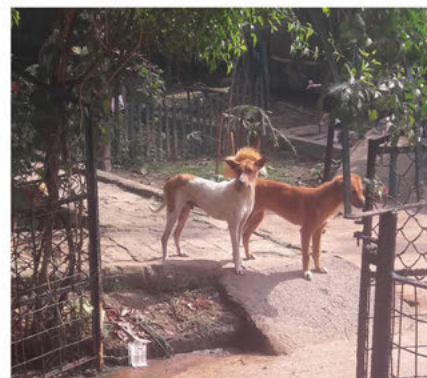
If we are persistent,
once in a while we see
Nature stir, even jump,
revealing the simple
beauty of the
unexpected.

~ Marcelo Gleiser





Shelter for Dogs



As long as
you live in love,
you Live,
rest is
just existence



Shelter for Cats



'No,' said the cat. '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.'





Pet Cemetery

We Have A Pet Cemetery Just A Little Away From Kolkata & You Can Immortalize Your Pet There!- Karuna Kunj

By Santana Fell Posted November 10, 2016
In People of Interest, Place of Interest

“Such short lives our pets have to spend with us, and they spend most of it waiting for us to come home each day.”

– John Grogan

An important part of loving someone immensely, is the fear of losing them. Love for our pets is no different, a bond that only a pet owner can understand. These furry/feathery, selfless friends light up our world while making us the centre of their world. They show us what true love really means. So, when they bid adieu, the loss is something so devastatingly heart-breaking, we can't even begin to express how it feels.

In honor of our beloved little friends and the memories that they leave behind, **The Compassionate Crusaders Trust** runs a burial ground (and animal shelter) called **Karuna Kunj** situated in South 24-Parganas, that provides a befitting way to say goodbye to these little creatures that occupy a huge space in our hearts. A final resting ground that signifies the dignity that our little buddies rightly deserve.

This pet cemetery has the solitude, peace and quiet like all other cemeteries along with many grieving families who offer prayers and flowers (even sweets and cakes on special occasions) at the grave of their departed little friends.

“The burial ground is not restricted to any particular kind of pets. Dogs, cats, parrots, pigeons etc lay buried on these grounds. It was remarkable to see that in a society where most people love to eat animal flesh,

a lady, loved and pet three roosters who she buried here over a period of time... there have been more than 6000 pet burials in the last 20 years in Karuna Kunj... this only goes to show what a stupendous response we have got from pet owners and animal lovers.” – said Mr. Debasis Chakrabarti, founder of Karuna Kunj, who also started the first burial site for pets named Dog's own as a pilot project in 1991.

“Pets are loved and cared for. When they die, they are either buried in a garden or personal space or (out of no choice) have to be thrown into garbage dumps... even the thought of it is very degrading.” This was a major driving force behind the initiative of a pet burial ground – to provide a dignified burial to pets, who have, over time, become family members. Mr. Chakrabarti felt that there should be a vivid symbol of remembrance after they depart.

The burial procedure involves the deceased pet being brought in a





Pet Cemetery



hearse till the gate of Karuna Kunj, from there it is covered with a new white cloth and then carried on a stretcher by a family member or staff (as preferred) till the burial site, which is a 50m walk from the gate. The grave is dug in advance according to the pet's size. All this is done at the cost of Rs.2000. There are optional charges for memorial plaques.

Usually, they do not allow any pet to be buried in the same place as another within 6 months of the previous animal's burial. Normally, the soil is recycled every 4-6 months. Once a year, the leftovers of pets are taken out and fresh soil is put for hygiene purpose. There are two portions of the burial ground. When one portion's

soil is being changed, the other portion is used.

Right here is a cemetery with a difference. Not only is it a pet cemetery, but also the idea of 'perpetuation of life' is encouraged here.

How? You ask. Well it's simple. It is believed that a body may die but a soul never dies. So, when people bury their pets in Karuna Kunj, they are advised to plant a tree in the name of their pet. The idea is in believing that the pet has given life to the tree and continues to live in the form of the tree. Only plants that can sustain calcium, phosphorous can be planted there. These plants are planted in Sputnik's garden, named after a pet dog that was maintained by the Chakrabarti family.

There are about 60 varieties of plants here. In the past 1 year, there have been two families who have even planted trees in the name of their deceased family

members. The idea of recyclable burial ground is in-fact spreading globally and being acknowledged as an eco-friendly approach to human burials.

In light of the recent animal abuse trend on social media, Mr. Chakrabarti said, "there is nothing new in that. People have been doing it since ages but when they do something like this and upload it, this only shows that they want to prove that they are stronger by torturing a weaker one. It is a mental problem. According to a research, animal cruelty is a sign seen in most hardcore criminals."

Karuna kunj provides 24 hours service. The Helpline No. is: 24647030.

"Compassion for animals is intimately associated with goodness of character, and it may be confidently asserted that he who is cruel to animals cannot be a good man."

– Arthur Schopenhauer





Visit



Never stop doing little things for others.
Sometimes those little things occupy the biggest part of their hearts



Intern's story

কলকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে MA-তে ভর্তি হব বলে ঠিক করেছি। সবে Part-III পরীক্ষা হয়েছে। রেজাল্ট বেরোতে দেরি আছে। মনে হলো যদি পাশ করার পরে চাকরী করতেই হয় তাহলে এই সময়টাকে কাজে লাগানো দরকার। ট্রেনি হিসাবে কয়েক জায়গায় এপ্লাই করেছি। এপ্রিল ২০১৬তে সাদা পেলাম সিসিটি থেকে। সিসিটি মানে Compassionate Crusaders Trust-এর টালিগঞ্জ এর প্রাণীসেবা কেন্দ্রে আমাকে ইন্টার্নশিপ করতে সুযোগ দেওয়া হলো।

ছোটবেলা থেকেই পশুপাখিদের সঙ্গে খুব ভালো লাগতো আর আমার পোষা কুকুর সাকা (সাদা-কালো রং বলেই এমন নাম)কে

দেখাশোনা করার সূত্রে সিসিটিকেও আমার পছন্দ ছিল। তাই ওখান থেকে ডাক পেয়ে উৎসাহ পেলাম। ভাবলাম, কিছু যদি শিখতে নাও পারি, পশুপাখিদের সঙ্গে সময়টা ভালোই কাটবে।

টালিগঞ্জ - এর Compassionate Crusaders Centre for Animal Welfare বা এর পরিচিত নাম Tollygunge Clinic-এ এপ্রিল-২০১৬ এর ১৮ তারিখে গিয়ে হাজিরা দিলাম।

সব দেখে শুনে মনে হচ্ছিল আমি এখানে কী করব, যা করতে হবে সেটা আমি পারব কিনা? ভুল ভাঙল দু'একদিন ওখানে কাটার পর। Clinic-এর সমস্ত কাজকর্ম শেখার ব্যাপারে

সবাই সাহায্য করল আমাকে। ভাবতেই পারিনি সেদিন যে এটা আমার ভবিষ্যৎ জীবন তৈরী করতে এতটা সাহায্য করবে।

রোজ অনেক পশু-পাখি চিকিৎসার জন্য আসে। ডাক্তারবাবুরা যথাসাধ্য চেষ্টা করে ওদের সারিয়ে তোলেন। চিকিৎসা সংক্রান্ত অনেক কাজ সেখানে করতে হয়, যেমন Bill করে দেওয়া, Medicine Register-এ Entry করা, Bill-এর হিসাব করা ইত্যাদি। আমি চেষ্টা করি যতটা সম্ভব আমার কাজগুলো ঠিকমতো যেন আমি করতে পারি।

এ কাজগুলো শিখতে ওখানকার সকলে আমাকে সহায়তা করেছেন। এ ব্যাপারে সবাইয়ের কাছেই আমি কৃতজ্ঞ।

একটু মজার কথা বলি, ওখানে একটা কুকুর আছে নাম 'আবির'। ও পর্যন্ত ওখানকার কাজে সাহায্য করার চেষ্টা করে।

এখানে রোজ কত মানুষ তাদের পোষ্যদের নিয়ে আসে, চিকিৎসা করতে। কতরকম পশুপাখির প্রাণ বাঁচানো আর উদ্ধার (rescue) করা হয়। এছাড়াও কত রকম সমস্যা আর তার সমাধান করা হয়। সবচেয়ে বড় কথা, পড়াশোনাতে হয়তো নম্বর উঠবে মার্কশিটে, কিন্তু রোজ এত মানুষ দেখা আর তাদের কাজকর্ম আর সমস্যা সমাধান নিয়ে যে বিশাল কর্মকাণ্ড চলেছে, তার অভিজ্ঞতার দাম কোনও ইন্সটিটিউট-এর ম্যানেজমেন্ট ডিগ্রীর চেয়ে বেশি দামী বলেই আমার ধারণা। এগুলো আমার ভবিষ্যৎ জীবনে খুবই কাজে লাগবে। এখন আমার কন্ফিডেন্স লেভেল অনেক বেড়ে গেছে, যেটা সত্যিই খুব ভালো লাগছে।

শ্রীজাতা দে



Everybody can be great... because everybody can serve.
You don't have to have a college degree to serve.
You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve.
You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

- Martin Luther King Jr



Ganga - the lifeline of India

অবরুদ্ধ গঙ্গা

[20.10.2015 তারিখে "The Statesman" পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত Bharat Jhunjhunwala-র প্রবন্ধ "Destroying the Ganges"-এর সারাংশের বঙ্গানুবাদ।
সৌজন্যে : রেবা প্রামাণিক ও অপালা চক্রবর্তী]

দেশের অর্থনৈতিক উন্নতির জন্য অতি আগ্রহের কারণে সম্প্রতিকালে উত্তর-ভারতের প্রধান নদী গঙ্গাকে নানাভাবে ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত করা হচ্ছে। বিশেষভাবে এই নদীর নিজেকে অকলুষ রাখবার ক্ষমতাকে, প্রধানত নদীর গতিপথ স্থানে স্থানে রুদ্ধ করে।

National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERT)-এর গবেষণায় দেখা গেছে যে গঙ্গার এই ক্ষমতা বিশেষ করে তার জলে দু'ধরনের জীবানুর উপস্থিতির কারণে। প্রথমত, গঙ্গায় নিক্ষিপ্ত বর্জ্য থেকে উৎপন্ন ক্ষতিকর জীবানু-(১) এবং দ্বিতীয়ত জীবানু-(২), বা ঐ জীবানুকে বিনষ্ট করে। লক্ষ্য করবার বিষয়, বিশেষ বিশেষ প্রকারের জীবানু-(১)-কে প্রতিরোধ করবার উপযোগী বিশেষ বিশেষ ধরনের জীবানু-(২) আছে। আবার

কোন কোন জীবানু-(২) একাধিক প্রকারের জীবানু-(১)-কে বিনষ্ট করতে পারে। এই ক্ষমতা অন্য কোন নদীর জলে নেই। জীবানু-(২) নদীর তলদেশে সুগভীরে নিহিত থাকে এবং বিশেষ ধরনের ক্ষতিকর জীবানুর উপস্থিতি টের পেলেই সক্রিয় হয়ে ওঠে। তবে এর জন্য প্রয়োজন নদীর গতি অব্যাহত থাকা, যাতে পর্বত থেকে নিঃসৃত জলধারার সঙ্গে জীবানু-(২) নদীর সমগ্র অববাহিকায় আনীত হয়।

কিন্তু হরিদ্বার এবং নারোরা বাঁধ নির্মাণের ফলে এই অব্যাহত ধারা অনেকটাই বাধাগ্রস্ত হয়েছে। বস্তুত, নারোরার পরবর্তী স্তরের জল প্রকৃতপক্ষে গঙ্গার নয়, রামগঙ্গার যাতে এই পুষ্টি বর্তমান নেই। সামান্য যা অবশিষ্ট থাকা সম্ভব ছিল, ফরাক্কা বাঁধ নির্মাণের কারণে তাও আর নেই। কোলকাতার গঙ্গার জলে অতএব এই স্ব-বিশুদ্ধিকরণের ক্ষমতা থাকতে পারে না।

এই উপকারী জীবানুটির বিনষ্ট হবার আর একটি কারণ, নদীর নাব্যতা অক্ষুণ্ণ রাখার জন্য নদীর তলদেশের পলির বারবার নিষ্কাশন। আর এই সঙ্গে উল্লেখ করা যায় গঙ্গার উজান গতিকে বাধনগ্রস্ত করে ফরাক্কা বাঁধ বিশেষ করে ইলিশ মাছের স্বাভাবিক চলাচলের পথকেও বিঘ্নিত করছে।

অন্যদিকে, টেহরী বাঁধ নির্মাণের দ্বারা গঙ্গার শাখানদী ভাগীরথীর স্বচ্ছন্দ প্রবাহও কিছুটা অবরুদ্ধ হয়েছে। অলকানন্দার ওপর “বিষ্ণুপ্রয়াগ” জলবিদ্যুৎ প্রকল্পের সম্পর্কেও একই কথা বলা যায়। গঙ্গার অব্যাহত ধারাকে এটি স্থানে স্থানে ব্যাহত করেছে।

ইতিমধ্যে অলকানন্দার ওপর আর একটি বাঁধ নির্মাণের কাজ শুরু হয়েছে। IWAI (Inland Waterways Authority of India) কেন্দ্রীয় জাহাজ মন্ত্রক-এর সহায়তায় হলদিয়া থেকে এলাহাবাদ অবধি বৃহৎ জলযান চলাচলের উপযোগী নদীর নাব্যতা বাড়ানোর পরিকল্পনা হাতে নিয়েছে। এর জন্য অবশ্যই প্রয়োজন হবে তলদেশের পলি নিষ্কাশনের বিশেষ উদ্যোগ। বলা বাহুল্য ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হবে জীবানু-(২)-এর অস্তিত্ব।

আর্যাবর্তের সভ্যতা বহুলাংশে গঙ্গানদীর অববাহিকা অনুসরণ করেছে। গঙ্গার তীরে গড়ে উঠেছে নগর ও তীর্থস্থানগুলি। গঙ্গার জলকে ভারতবাসী চিরপবিত্র বলে মনে করে। এই বিশ্বাসের বৈজ্ঞানিক ভিত্তি এই প্রবন্ধে আলোচিত হয়েছে। গঙ্গার জলের এই বৈশিষ্ট্যটি সংরক্ষণের প্রয়োজন অবশ্যই দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণের যোগ্য।

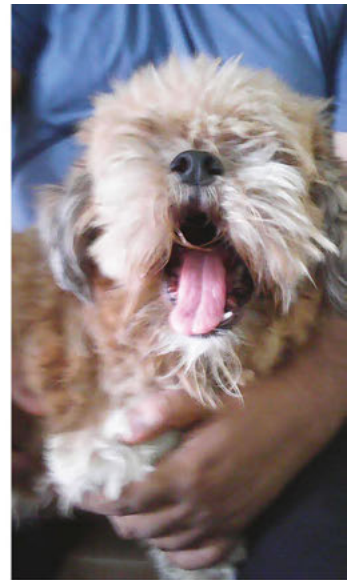


It's the questions we can't answer that teach us the most. They teach us how to think. If you give a man an answer, all he gains is a little fact. But give him a question and he'll look for his own answers.

~ Patrick Rothfuss



Clinic care



With their parallel lives, animals offer man a companionship which is different from any offered by human exchange. Different because it is a companionship offered to the loneliness of man as a species. Such an unspeaking companionship was felt to be so equal that often one finds the conviction that it was man who lacked the capacity to speak with animals ~ John Berger



Tail tell : Tigers of Sunderbans

The tiger (in Sunderbans) does not burn bright

Media reports of 2008, 2015 and 2017 reflect the state of affairs of the sunderban tigers.

2008- The tiger does not burn bright in the Indian jungles any more. But as the tragic decline in the big cat population becomes official, a mystery shrouds their number in India's largest tiger habitat, the Sunderbans. Are there 279 tigers there, or 75? According to the latest tiger census released by the government on February 12, 2008, their number stands at 1,411, a dramatic fall from 3,642 in the 2001-02 census. The latest census did not cover the Sunderbans. While releasing it, head of the National Tiger Conservation Authority Rajesh Gopal said the number in the Sunderbans would have to be verified through radio collaring. The last time a census was done, officials in the West Bengal forest department had said there were 249 tigers in the Sunderbans Tiger



Reserve (STR) and 279 in greater Sunderbans. That number was based on pugmarks of individual tigers. But analysing the same pugmarks, the Indian Statistical Institute said in July 2006 there were only 75 tigers in the Sunderbans. The ISI was asked by the West Bengal government to develop a software programme to process field data on tiger pugmarks. But once it came out with its figure of 75, the state government was quick to trash the report and find fault with the software. (Excerpts IANS)

2015- Monday 27 July 2015 Only around 100 tigers remain in Bangladesh's famed Sunderbans forest, far fewer of the endangered animals than previously thought, according to a census.

Some 440 tigers were recorded during the previous census in 2004 in the Sunderbans, the world's largest mangrove forest and one of the last remaining habitats for the big cats.

But experts said better methodology was the reason for the huge drop in the numbers, saying hidden cameras used this time around, rather than pugmarks, gave a much more accurate figure.

Pan India tiger population is now at 2,226, with campaigners hailing the latest statistics

Tapan Kumar Dey, the government's wildlife conservator, said analysis of camera footage from the year-long survey that ended in April found numbers ranged between 83 and 130, giving an average of 106.

"So plus or minus we have around 106 tigers in our parts of the Sunderbans. It's a more accurate figure," Dey told Agence France-Presse about the survey, which has not yet been publicly released.

About 74 tigers have previously been counted on the Indian side of the Sunderbans, which makes up nearly 40% of the forest straddling both countries over 10,000 sq km (3,860 sq m).

Bengal tigers live mainly in India, where nationwide there are 2,226, with smaller populations in Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, China and Myanmar.

Monirul Khan, a zoology professor at Bangladesh's Jahangirnagar University and the nation's foremost tiger expert, said the survey confirmed his worst fears.

"It seems the population has declined more than we had

Perhaps it is better to wake up after all, even to suffer,
rather than to remain a dupe to illusions all one's life. - Kate Chopin



Tail tell : Tigers of Sunderbans

feared," Khan said, saying his studies showed the figure was no more than 200. (Excerpts Agence France-Presse)

2017- The latest on sunderbans tigers is a study published in PLOS ONE, a scientific journal published by the Public Library of Science (PLOS)

Apart from rare insights into the behaviour of the tigers, the radio telemetry study also sheds light on the mysterious Sunderbans terrain. Spanning eight years between 2008 and 2016, the study shows the habitat of the Sunderbans tiger is perfectly stable and much better than both the Russian Far East and tropical rain forests of south-east Asia. Here, female tigers have a home range of 57 square kilometres and males 110 square kilometres. Home range is an area over which an animal regularly travels in search of food or mates.

"The home range of swamp tigers suggests higher resource availability here," said Y V Jhala of the department of animal ecology and conservation biology at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

Bolstered by the findings the state has now released a collared tigress in the forests outside the Sunderbans core area. "On January 25, a tigress captured earlier from Tridibnagar village was released in the forests of Ajmalmari in South 24 Parganas

forest division. In the long run, this will help us get an idea on the habitat outside the tiger reserve area," said chief wildlife warden Praadeep Vyas.

A forester said a collar can give signals on the tiger's locations five times a day. While a set of data is received by the officials of WII, another set is transmitted to the state's chief wildlife warden. A brand new collar can give signals up to a year depending upon the draining of battery.

(Excerpts Times of India)

Both protection and conservation of Sunderbans tigers are the urgent need of the hour. The tigers' actual habitat may not be shrinking in area but environmental degradation all around has reached a critical level.

Encouraging anti-conservation activities for the sake of eco-tourism or human rehabilitation can be self-defeating in the long run. There have been instances of even rainforest areas turning into deserts on the face of this earth.



Braves are kind to the mutes



A firefighter rescues a Abruzzo puppy from the avalanche-hit Farindola, central Italy



Diwali

Fewer injuries during Diwali leave animal lovers relieved

Oct 31 2016 : The Times of India (Kolkata)

They can't speak for themselves but they feel everything - excruciating pain, uneasiness and more often than not, helplessness. Animals have stronger hearing abilities than humans and are thus more sensitive to noises. Every year, during Diwali, at least 15 strays and pets are brought in at a vet's chamber with burn injuries or severe trauma inflicted by the sounds of firecrackers. But this year, with enormous campaigns running to make Diwali pet-

friendly, the scenario has been pleasantly different. Animal rescuers and vets have claimed that this Diwali has been easy on birds and stray animals with little to no burn injuries reported.

NO BURN INJURIES REPORTED

With no injury cases reported till Sunday noon, animal welfare organisations and vets were heaving a sigh of relief. Said Debasis Chakrabarti, founder, Compassionate Crusaders Trust, "Last year we had reported about 10 burn injury cases in and around the city. This year, we haven't heard of any case so far. It's great to see that our efforts in sensitising people have paid off." According to Dr Shubhajit Ghosh



A traumatized doggy being comforted by Avisweta, a CCT volunteer on Diwali day at Tollygunge clinic [Photo courtesy The Times of India]

from Chhaya Foundation, there have been reports of a few road accidents but none that of burn injuries." There were approximately 10-15 burn injury cases, all of them deliberate, last year. This year, things have taken a positive turn," he said.

Actress and animal activist, Debasree Roy, is happy that animal safety has been ensured this year. "I took rounds in the surrounding localities and figured that the craze for sound crackers has gone down considerably. No burn injury or animal cruelty cases were reported at my foundation till Sunday. I'm happy that people are more aware and sensitive now. I'd like to request everyone to be equally cautious during immersions."

Tushar Ray, member, Ashari, PFA Kolkata, echoed similar views. "Of late, I've observed positive changes in people when it comes to a pet-friendly environment. The awareness is catching up and that we didn't receive any case of



Clever canine: safe inside a sandpit of a 'Baji (fireworks) Bazar'

Truth is so obscure in these times, and falsehood so established,
that, unless we love the truth, we cannot know it. ~ Blaise Pascal



Diwali

animal injury this Diwali is testimony to that. Dr Chandrakanta Chakraborty, consultant veterinarian, small animal practitioner and surgeon, thinks sound crackers are man-made nuisance. "Animals, when traumatised, tend to hide and isolate themselves. The psychological distress is massive. I received only one call from a Salt Lake resident this year. Someone burst a chocolate bomb near a pet dog and he was shivering from trauma. In cases such as these, it's important to calm the animal down by socialising with it."

TRAUMA CASES HIT A LOW

On being asked about trauma cases, Debasis said, "Twenty trauma and anxiety cases were reported with us on the night of Kali Puja. Last year, the number raked up to a whopping 100." Dr Dipak Dey from Calcutta Canine Clinic, too, had similar views. He said, "Till Sunday morning, I had attended to only two stressed dogs. The number of anxiety cases owing to noisy firecrackers has gone down. Last year, I had treated 25 stressed pets and strays." Tushar, however, differed on this point. "I think the number of trauma cases have gone down by a mere 10%. On Saturday night, two stray dogs, traumatised by the smoke and noise, took shelter at my place."

SOCIAL MEDIA PLAYS A BIG ROLE

With awareness messages being circulated on WhatsApp and



social media, more people have taken notice. It has greater reach and the impact, so far, have been positive.

Dr Chandrakanta notes, "Social media plays a big role in spreading positive awareness. Pet-friendly Diwali isn't trending on social media for nothing. Then again, psychopaths are everywhere. We can't ever say with conviction that strays will be unharmed. But since such cases are now highlighted and taken up seriously, cruelty and indifference towards animals have reduced. This year, the tendency to burst sound crackers has reduced to a great extent. It's a great start and we can only hope that this continues."

FEWER REPORTS OF BIRDS LEAVING THEIR HOMES

Animal activists unanimously

opined that there were fewer cases of birds disturbed by the noise of crackers or leaving their natural habitat.

"I just heard of one crane leaving its natural habitat on Saturday. Last year, the number went up to 30. We've indeed come a long way," said Debasis.

Kushal Mookherjee, celebrated birds' activist, said, "In comparison to last year, the trend of sound crackers has gone down by a handsome 20%. I go for morning walks to Tolly Club every day. Last year, at least one thousand crows gathered in the compound. But this year, I haven't seen many. My friends and family members too haven't noticed any abnormalities in the behaviour of birds in their locality."



Media medley

Journey of Jallikattu: From local sport to Tamil totem

- Kalyanaraman M

Chennai: Until recently, Jallikattu was a Pongal event restricted to a few southern districts. But, in a matter of days, it has turned into a symbol of Tamil culture for college and school students across the state.

The ban is being opposed by Tamils who've probably never seen Jallikattu. People living abroad, and across faiths, and women are supporting it.

What got Jallikattu into national headlines was when a few thousand protesters arrived at Marina Beach -a day after protesters in Madurai, were evicted from the site.

The students were assembling in Chennai.

They knew that cows and bulls are celebrated, even worshipped, as an indispensable part of village life on Mattupongal, which is a part of the three day Pongal festival.

Pongal has been an important but secular festival. Sangam literature, nearly 2,000 years old, talks about 'eru thazhuvuthal' -hugging the bull -as a rite of passage for a man seeking a girl's hand for marriage, says Stalin Rajangam, a dalit writer who opposes Jallikattu.

In districts near Madurai, it is observed as 'manju virattu', or bull-chasing. The name Jallikattu is a

corruption of a Tamil term that refers to coins tied onto the bull's forehead, and the winner is said to have tamed the bull if he could yank the coins off. Rajangam says, "The actual Jallikattu event as a competitive sport and spectacle is only a few centuries old and restricted geographically." (Excerpt)

Middle ground of custom without cruelty

Jan 21 2017

The prospects of an end to mass protests across Tamil Nadu against the ban on jallikattu appeared to be in sight with the state government clearing an ordinance to be sent to the President seeking the lifting of the prohibition on the custom by this weekend.

This may convince lakhs of protesters across the state to call off their spontaneous and peaceful agitation.

The Tamil Nadu government seems to have heeded the advice of the attorney general of

India, Mukul Rohatgi, first aired on TIMES NOW.

Speaking to the news channel, the country's top law officer shed light on the legal recourse available to the state government to get around the Supreme Court ban on the age-old bull taming tradition.

Rohatgi reminded the government to enact a law treating jallikattu as a traditional sport, saying, "While drafting the law, the state must take care to evolve guidelines to ensure the sport is carried out so as to ensure that neither the animal nor the participants are injured."

He also said that the guidelines must make it "illegal and punishable" for spectators and participants to torture the animal.

Talking about the way ahead, Rohatgi said: "While PCA is a Central law and can be amended only in Parliament, the instant case concerns a regional sport and, therefore, the onus should be on the state and not on the Centre." (Excerpt)



Bulls love to fight but not with humans

When two opposite points of view are expressed with equal intensity, the truth does not necessarily lie exactly halfway between them. It is possible for one side to be simply wrong. ~ Richard Dawkins



Media medley

3,000 freshwater turtles seized

TNN | Jan 2, 2017

In one of the biggest seizures of freshwater turtles in the state, the forest department with the help of local cops seized more than 3,000 flapshell turtles, protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, in Burdwan since December 29.

While 1850 turtles were sized on December 29, another 1625 were seized on Sunday at Memari.

Confirming Sunday's development, chief conservator of forest (CCF) Kalyan Das said this is the second time in the last four days that such a huge consignment of these turtles was seized in Burdwan. "Earlier on

Wednesday, 1850 such turtles were seized in Burdwan and five persons, all residents of Uttar Pradesh, were arrested," he said.

The seizures assume significance as the turtles enjoy the same protection status accorded to the Bengal tiger. "On Sunday, we arrested four persons, all residents of UP. Memari police had suspected their activities and stopped their car before informing us. After reaching the spot, we seized the turtles and arrested them," Das said, adding that they have also informed the officials of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) who are now investigating the case. The consignment was heading towards Kolkata from UP's Sultanpur. (Excerpt)

Peacock trafficking

The Telegraph, Calcutta | Sunday, December 18, 2016

Calcutta, Dec. 17: Police have recovered 12 peacocks and peafowl from a house in north Calcutta and arrested three persons who had allegedly planned to smuggle the birds out of the state.

India bans import of exotic skins, furs

TNN | New Delhi: Jan 06 2017

Acting on the demand of animal rights activists, India has banned import of exotic skins of reptiles like



crocodiles and alligators and furs of certain animals including foxes and minks which are used to manufacture leather or for fur clothing and accessories.

A notification to this effect was issued by the Directorate General of

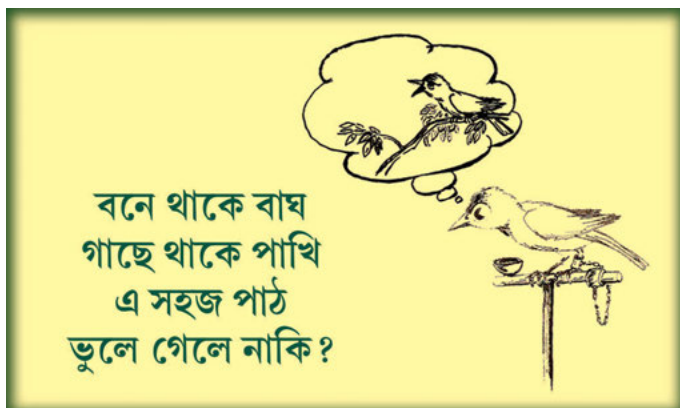
Foreign Trade (DGFT) of the commerce ministry on January 3.

Animal rights activists highlighted instances of extreme suffering of reptiles and other animals killed for leather or fur clothing and even produced evidence before the central ministries for the same. TIMES NEWS NETWORK (Excerpt)

Cloud of uncertainty looms over three circus elephants

TNN | Dec 20, 2016

PURULIA: As the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) is still deciding whether to acknowledge the captive animal facility of Ajanta Circus, the circus' three elephant trio -Chanda, Laxmi and Padma -who had been performing three shows daily during Rash mela at Purulia have been left behind after their last show on Tuesday. After their stint in Purulia, the circus has now moved to Midnapore. Currently, the elephants are in a catch 22 situation as the troupe is unable to take them anywhere and the government pleading helplessness. The government finds it difficult to take care of the pachyderms as south Bengal lacks infrastructure.



Media medley



Currently, they are in a tent at the GL Church ground under the watch of a Circus caretaker. Bimal Kumar, DFO, Kangsabato north, said, "We are unable to take responsibility for the upkeep of the three elephants as we have no

facility anywhere in south Bengal for keeping captive elephants."

Ajanta Circus manager T Jairaj said, "It is true we no longer have permission to stage shows with elephants. But we will do our best to look after the elephants."

According to CZA guidelines, the state circuses can chain their elephants only on one foot and it can only be chained on more feet if it creates problems.

"CZA had identified 21 circuses, including Ajanta Circus, which were barred from using elephants. We have already rescued four elephants from circus shows and the way the elephants were treated at the Purulia circus shows that it is not acceptable. We will inquire into the violations," said Vinod Kumar Yadav, member secretary of West Bengal Zoo Authority. (Excerpt)

The Supreme Court says No to Kerala captive elephants' ownership certificates.

New Delhi (PTI): The Supreme Court has restrained the Kerala government from issuing ownership certificates to elephant owners. The direction comes after a PIL was filed seeking to quash a state government notification that offered an amnesty period for those keeping 289 captive elephants without valid ownership certificates.

Kanan of Nandankanan

The memory of Kanan, the wild tigress who strayed into the Nandankanan zoo in 1976, will be kept alive with a statue that will be unveiled on the premises of the famous zoo on Thursday. Nandankanan has long been known for its tiger population and the Royal Bengal Tiger is the most sought after animal for visitors at the zoo. The statue will act as a memorial for the species and will attract both tourists and researchers who are studying the long history of tigers at Nandankanan.



Sources at the zoo say that Kanan's statue will be erected at the very enclosure where she was housed after straying into the premises.

"We have taken care to preserve the enclosure so that it can be used as a memorial. The female

predator was only kept in the enclosure after it showed signs of wanting to adapt to the atmosphere of the zoo," said zoo director, Sisir Kumar Acharya.

The zoo currently has 24 tigers. The total has risen recently, after the birth of

three cubs in August. One of the three newborns is a melanistic tiger. Such tigers have darker stripes, very close together, and are extremely rare. These cubs were born to a male tiger at the zoo, named Manish.

Earlier in April, two cubs were born to an erstwhile wild tiger named Nandan and a tigress named Megha.

The zoo acquired them because the wild gene in cubs would help breed healthy tigers in the future, revealed a source at the zoo. Like Kanan, Nandan too had strayed into the zoo in 2013 on his own.



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