



Jane Ripley

## TWO C OR NOT TWO C: PARIS CLIMATE SUMMIT A CONUNDRUM



MESSAGE BY RAJENDRA SHENDE, CHAIRMAN TERRE POLICY CENTRE

Probably there is no other best-known and widely used phrase to express a dilemma and conundrum than “To be or not to be”! More than four centuries back in Hamlet, William Shakespeare, coined that line to express the impasse of Hamlet over comparison between inevitable sufferings of life and fear of uncertainty of death and damnation of suicide.

I cannot find a better term to express the dilemma of 196 countries of the world that have gathered in Paris to decide not only on the new ‘next-Gen’ climate treaty that would replace Kyoto Protocol, but to make hard choices about time targets for future decarbonized world, to devise the concrete legally binding plans to limit global warming to not more than two deg Celsius above the pre-industrial level, to ensure that climate justice is respected by deploying the common but differentiated

responsibility .

The urgency to make a hard choice, comes from the fact that Earth’s temperature has already increased by 0.8 deg C, signaling that human induced emissions of Green House Gases (GHGs) have crossed earth’s capacity to absorb them through natural processes (like absorption by forests and oceans). The unabsorbed GHGs are accumulating in the atmosphere.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has made an estimate of total the carbon budget of our Earth in order to keep the temperature rise below two deg C. As per that estimate, we have already emitted two thirds of the GHGs and only about half a billion tonnes of GHGs remain to be emitted to keep the temperature rise below two deg C. With the current rate of our emissions, that available carbon budget will be exhausted by 30 years.

Our ‘carbon balance’ like our bank balance is fast depleting. And nature does not have an overdraft facility. Continued spending will result into warming more than two deg C, that would herald bankruptcy for the life on the earth. And IPCC has not taken into account the contingency factor that may result into accelerated warming. We are living on the edge of precipice.

Let us see how Paris summit addresses the Hamletian question ‘two C or not two C’.



### DR. APJ ABDUL KALAM FELLOWSHIP REGISTRATION BEGINS



The most awaited, national level fellowship, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Young Scientist fellowship initiated by TERRE Policy Centre has been launched. The registration began on the 14th of November i.e. on ‘Children’s Day’ up until 15th February, 2016.

Students and those interested can visit our website, [www.drkalamfellowship.com](http://www.drkalamfellowship.com).



“Environment is what you make it and destiny is how you react to your environment: whether you try to overcome it or just resign yourself to it.



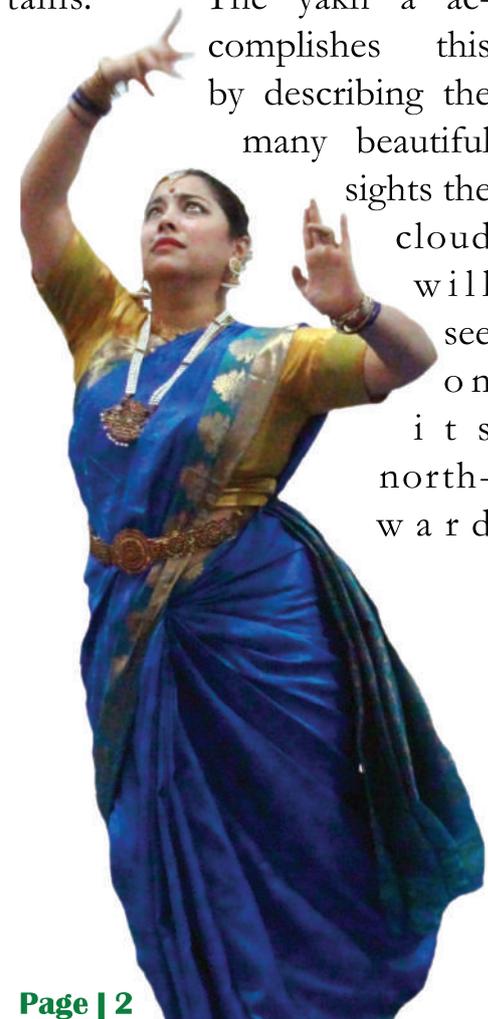
Nick Joaquin



**RENDEZVOUS**

Meghadoota is a poem written by Kalidasa in the 5th Century. Originally written in Sanskrit, it was then translated into several languages. The poem recounts how a yaksha, a subject of King Kubera (the god of wealth), after being exiled for a year to Central India for neglecting his duties, convinces a passing cloud to take a message to his wife at Alaka on Mount Kailasa in the Himalaya mountains.

The yaksha accomplishes this by describing the many beautiful sights the cloud will see on its northward



**MEGHADOOTA**

course to the city of Alaka, where his wife awaits his return. A beautiful piece of literature, this poem forms the true essence of Indian Mythology and is rather popular amongst various scholars with an affinity for poetry and Sanskrit. Kalidasa’s knowledge of the Human heart and his understanding of the complex play of human motivation are profound. A keen observer of nature in all its varied aspects, one often finds present day relevance of Kalidasa’s Meghadoota within current environmental debates.

The two day event on Kalidasa’s Meghadoota was curated by Dr. Vinita Apte- President TERRE. Several enlightening talks, nostalgic readings of the poem itself and depiction of the natural biodiversity elaborated in the poem were the highlights of the event.

Dr. Saroja Bhate, a well renowned Sanskrit scholar and esteemed speaker for the event, spoke about the narrative style, and the philosophical aspect of Kalidasa’s poetry. By reiterat-

ing various stanzas from the poem, she appreciated the beauty of nature as described by Kalidasa. Speaking of the eternal and unflinching romanticism of the poem she drew humorous parallels to present day romanticism. Mr. Rajendra Shende, Chairman TERRE spoke about the relevance of Kalidasa in current scenarios. He spoke of an interesting similarity between Meghadoota as etched out by Kalidasa in as early as the 5th Century and the latest buzzword “The Cloud Network” The fictional ability of “the cloud messenger” to send a message on behalf of the yaksha is interestingly compared to the convenience of instant messaging and technology hosted by the cloud.



“ Environment has its own ways of limiting us tightly. But leaders have their own ways of escaping those limitations narrowly.



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## MEGHADOOTA

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Dr. Arundhati Vartak, a Sanskrit scholar spoke elaborately of the natural biodiversity described in the poem. The detailed and precise description of the environment, the lush landscapes, the majestic rivers and the fauna only broaden the readers mind to imagine the widest range of possibilities. Dr. Arundhati Vartak herself travelled the entire route described in the poem and spoke of experiences from her travels. Her lecture highlighted several environmental concerns along the way that may need some attention. Water pollution, uncontrolled urbanisation, waste management and loss of endemic species to name a few.

Dr. Vinita Apte and Ms. Dhanashri Ganatra concluded the two-day event with a recitation of the poem.



## PLANTATION & VOLUNTEERING WORK HELD AT SMRITIVAN, WARJE, PUNE



The dawn of 30th October, 2015, teachers and students of Pumpkin Nursery & pre-primary school had a tree plantation programme at SmritiVan. The aim of the event for the group was to increase the compassion & awareness among children, (our future generation) towards the importance of preserving nature. Various indigenous species of trees like Neem, Badam, Golden Bamboo were planted. The TERRE team along with guards appointed by the forest department was present for the event. On 28th November, 2015, young & enthusiastic volunteers of Persistent Foundation had a volunteering work at SmritiVan, Warje, Pune. Unwanted wildly growing grass & weeds were removed and the area

was cleaned by all the volunteers, in presence of the TERRE team and officials of the Forest Department.



# COP21

## CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

ACTION FOR PEOPLE  
AND PLANET



*Examples of actions*

### SOLUTIONS EXIST

WE NEED ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

#### RENEWABLE ENERGIES, ENERGY EFFICIENCY



#### PRODUCTION: CLEANER PRODUCTION AND RESILIENT AGRICULTURE



#### LIFESTYLES: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY



#### BETTER WARNING SYSTEMS



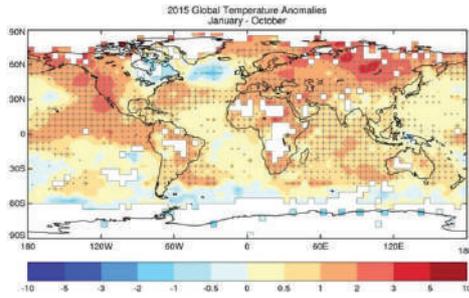
#### ECOSYSTEMS: SUSTAINABLY-MANAGED COASTS PRESERVING HEALTHY FORESTS



“ This is where the will to grapple with our hard and pressing environmental problems begins: in relationship to something other than that you love beyond any utility, beyond any logic



Susan Freinkel



### COP21: 2015 likely to be warmest on record, says UN weather body

Global average temperatures in 2015 are likely to be the warmest on record, according to the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). Data until the end of October showed this year's temperatures running "well above" any previous 12 month period. The researchers say the five year period from 2011 to 2015 was also the warmest on record.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-34915448>

## NUMBER OF MONTH

3

Across the globe, there are approximately 3 trillion trees.

## QUIZ

What is the theme of COP 21 in Paris?

1. Biodiversity Protection
2. Climate Change
3. Deforestation
4. Pollution

If you know the answer, send in your entry to us at : [info@terrepolicycentre.com](mailto:info@terrepolicycentre.com)

Last Quiz Winner is  
*Mr. Akshay Nayar*

## NEWS NETWORK



### Emission from firecrackers less this Diwali: study

The emission from firecrackers was 26 per cent less this Diwali as compared to previous years, but the levels of the dangerous pollutant PM 2.5 saw a spike from last year, as per a study released on Saturday.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/emission-from-firecrackers-less-this-diwali-study/article7906803.ece>



### Climate optimism builds ahead of Paris talks

The road to a new global climate treaty has been slow and plodding. But years of delicate negotiations have given way to cautious optimism as more than 190 nations prepare for the marathon climate talks that begin in Paris on 30 November.

<http://www.nature.com/news/climate-optimism-builds-ahead-of-paris-talks-1.18863>

