



Bullet Proof Leaders- Climate Proof Cheers



When President Obama alighted from his bulletproof car on Rajpath of New Delhi, on 26th January 2015, I was standing not far from there. President Obama was received by unstoppable rain and unrelenting Prime Minister Modi, who ushered him to the bulletproof enclosure built specially for him for viewing the Republic Day parade. Colossal, colorful and crazy crowd showed climate-proof enthusiasm. Climate-proof, because the rains have not been able to rein their fervor. The crowd trusted the leadership of Modi and Obama on cold, foggy and rainy day celebrations.

Historical data of New Delhi's meteorology shows that it rains on an average one or two days in month of January. Rains, particularly on 26th January are known to be quite rare. It was not really 'extreme' weather event, but that rain in the morning of Republic Day gave two symbolic messages. First, the inspiring leadership backed by whole-hearted people can adapt and even surmount the

rare climate event. Second, it was a gentle reminder to Obama and Modi to reflect if they needed to do more and faster than what they pledged earlier day to mitigate the climate change- the most formidable challenge of our times.

Bullet -proof enclosures could protect one from the growing violence and terrorism, however world also urgently needs climate-proof economies. If we have to act on the findings of 2014 assessment reports of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and if PM Modi's inspiring campaigns of Make in India, Skill India and 100 Smart Cities, all aimed at enhancing job potential and fulfilling aspirations of Indian youth, then we have to act decisively, out-of-box. The world economies -small and big, developed and developing- have to stand together to take on climate challenge head on without which, IPCC's report warns that, world will soon face 'severe, irreversible and pervasive' impacts.

A joint statement issued on the

International Youth CONFERENCE 2015

Water, Climate & Sustainable Energy (IYCWCSE – 2015)



Submitted abstracts have been shortlisted and the next phase begins...

Here are further details to your awaited conference!!!

Date: 20th and 21st February 2015

Venue: MITSOM, Paud Road, Kothrud, Pune

eve of India's republic day, PM Modi and President Obama is rare example of statesmanship where leaders are seeking to respond to such questions and at the same time strategizing to derive multitude of benefits for their respective people by agreeing to act on climate change. As per clean energy and climate package, the United States will provide support to advance India's capacity to address climate change and shift to a low-carbon and climate-resistant energy economy, while improving

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Rendezvous

Design a city for people not for vehicles

TERRE Policy Centre inaugurated its initiative, “Rendezvous”, on 15th of January 2015. The rendezvous, which will be held every month at Indradhanushya Environment Education and Citizenship Centre, Pune, are meetings of passionate and hardworking people contributing towards sustainability of environment and the common people searching for ways to contribute towards the same. These are not just the talk-talk conferences, it is more of talk-(inspire)-act sessions. The very inaugural session indeed exemplified the title as the audience was observed to begin talking ardently and candidly to the speaker. The chief speaker for the inaugural session was Mr. Ranjit Gadgil. Mr. Gadgil works with Parisar to help establish sustainable transportation means in society. With Mr. Gadgil’s excellent manner of communicating not just through well-chosen words but also his gestures and entire persona speaking out the significance of the topic, the audience was obvious to be mesmerized and moved deeply. So much so, that the session which was planned to be for one hour continued for 40 minutes more than planned! This helped to reinforce faith in goodwill of men and women, of all ages and professions, to help world become a better place to live on. The central idea of Mr. Gadgil’s presentation was to urge people to unitedly demand for transportation rules, means and modes with focus on facilitating people instead of cars. He said, “... constructing more and more roads will never solve the traffic problems. It is like stitching fatter pants in case of weight gain and not exercising to reduce the excessive fats. Activi-



ties like promoting public transportation, use of cycle, adopting walking practice and greening roadside will solve the problem.” He is deeply motivated by Paul Bedford’s opinion that, in a quality city, a person should be able to live their entire life without a car, and not feel deprived. The

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NUMBER OF TIGERS IN INDIA. PRESENTING THE FINDINGS OF THE LATEST TIGER CENSUS, ENVIRONMENT MINISTER PRAKASH JAVADEKAR SAID THE TIGER POPULATION HAD RISEN FROM 1,706 IN 2011 TO 2,226 IN 2014.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-30896028>

idea of designing cities for PEOPLE not for CARS was welcomed. He further explained that if you do not provide infrastructure, people will not use it and they will not walk or use the public transport. People will use whatever is convenient to them. So if public transport is convenient and sufficient they will use the same. Private vehicle carries 1.4 people at a time while public transport will car-

ry 80 people. So adoption of public transport is obviously desirable. He also showed the examples of developed country where infrastructure which is so huge but still it’s not sufficient to overcome the traffic jams. After this impactful presentation, Mr. Gadgil was showered with flood of questions and queries by audience which comprised of young, old, men and women. The efforts of such fervent workers as Mr. Gadgil, when reach to masses, they come with motivation and source of unifying with like-minded people. As Mr. Gadgil appealed, common man should give up bothering about false-impression of status symbols (of using fancy, expensive and eco-hostile cars) and encourage using sustainable modes instead.

Dr Vinitaa Apte, President TERRE policy Centre felicitated Mr. Gadgil and presented a token of thanks with a card-holder (made using waste newspapers) made under the Kalpakala initiative of TERRE. He was impressed by the idea as he connects himself to waste management issue also.

Rendezvous for next month will be in the month of February. We will be happy to see you there.

Thank you.

Erudition on Environment and Energy to emerging Engineers

In the very belt of substantial-sugarcane farming and sweet-sugar, in the city of Akluj (Maharashtra, India), Rajendra Shende, Chairman of TERRE and former director in UNEP, struck a soothing chord with the group college students to give a sight of potential of renewable energy in strengthening the Indian youth. “Renewable energy is the only sector that has continued to grow till today even during the financial crisis that started in 2008,” informed Mr. Shende. He was speaking at SMSMPITR institute of engineering on the occasion of invited lecture to the staff and students. “Climate change impacts are looming large in the developed as well as developing countries and may lead to major conflicts of unprecedented proportion. India’s youth however can opt for renewable energy as their future career and transform the crisis into opportunity”, Mr. Shende stated

Akluj report

further.

The present energy harvesting methods are archaic and unsustainable. Petroleum is not renewable, is exhausting rapidly and causes pollution. This is the time when engineers start changing their perspectives else, we will be soon posed with unconquerable challenge of meeting global energy demands. Thus, energy harvesting activities, if directed towards saving of Earth, our only home, will allow continuation of using technology and gadgets. As Mr. Shende pointed rightly, this is, in fact, a chance amidst a crisis. This chance will empower youth if they catch it. With erudition by Mr. Shende, 300 students and 60 staff members gathered got direction to this. Renewable energy can become cost effective, performance effective and profitable with smart initiatives and investments. The discourse proved to be not just exhilarating but also

prime director for changing the outlook of aspiring engineers for their future. This was the example of generation of hope in minds of confused and disoriented students to see the application of their education in truly productive and sustainable career activity.



Cartoonist:
Mr. Niraj Kumar

Kirloskar-Vasundhara Film Festival



TERRE had represented at Kirloskar-Vasundhara Film Festival (on 19th January). A 45 min show was co-ordinated by Project Lead, Mohit Kalani, in which six Earth Care Award winning films were telecasted. Following films were telecasted:

- 1. Ecodigester Solutions Pvt Ltd :** ECO+ focuses on developing accelerated eco methanation process based on anaerobic digestion principle.
- 2. Farmland Rainwater harvesting :** A technology which helped more than 5000 customers by improving yield level of borewells and providing sufficient water for daily use.
- 3. India One Solar :** Where spirituality meets science. World renewal spiritual trust, Abu Road, Rajasthan has developed the largest solar steam cooking system at Brahmakumari.
- 4. Lutheran :** Sunderban is a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site and forms the biggest mangroves forest in the world.
- 5. NEFORD :** Nand Educational Foundation for Rural Development has reached more than 40000 farmers in eastern UP.
- 6. AKRSP :** AKRSP has taken community dialogues at Bharuch, Narmada and Surat of South Gujrat.



“Smritivan” can be translated to its literal meaning as “Forest of memory”. We all have some really special people in our lives, be it family, friends or even ideals. Many reasons can do us apart from these people, be it circumstances, distances or even death. Though the aloofness of physical being of someone, we always cherish their existence in our minds through our memories. These memories, both sweet and sour, give us a warm feeling of being with our loved ones in an abstract way. TERRE has developed, in association with Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate change, a way to carry this idea a step further by embodying the existence of our dear ones in form of a tree! At Smritivan, each citizen can plant a tree in memory of their beloved family, friends and/or heroes or any incidence, moment, celebration. (its not only about person but also anniversary or any other celebration.)

The inaugural ceremony was on 30th of January 2015 at the hands of honorable minister of ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate change, Mr. Prakash Javdekar. He highlighted the significance of development of cities in harmony with nature. Thus the activity of tree plantation is extremely important and essential. The hills of city are barren at present and unclean too. People must carry a sense of responsibility towards city’s natural heritage. Through such



In the Forest of Memories...

campaigns as TERRE’s, local people get opportunity to associate with such initiatives. Honorable minister also underlined the duty by saying that our children should proudly thank us for the state of environment as we render it to them. This can happen only if we conserve and beautify the nature.

The barren and stark hills of the cities await for their latent heroes who come together actively and liven them. Smritivan is such an initiative that brings together such heroes by not just promoting tree plantation but in fact enlivening each hero’s inspiration and love. In her introductory speech, TERRE’s president, Dr. Vinitaa Apte, explained how this activity will be coordinated by TERRE. TERRE will be the caretaker of these plants after the participants plant them. It will look after providing of water and fertilizers (organic) to these plants. Each plant will bear proud name of the person in whose memory that plant has been planted. This new manner of conduct-

ing plantation drive will definitely succeed as it owns participation and support of politicians, NGOs, students and more importantly, each common man, as rightly pointed out by Mr. Rajendra Shende, TERRE Chairman. He said, that this plantation drive is unique because of such diverse participation. Readers can participate and thus plant a tree in memory of loved ones by registering on TERRE website. Details of registration can be obtained at: www.terrepolicycentre.com

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air quality and energy efficiency by making \$1 billion available to finance renewable energy and new research and development institutes for developing clean energies in India.

Leaders of two largest democracies have inspired us, now it is for us to act to make our societies climate-proof.

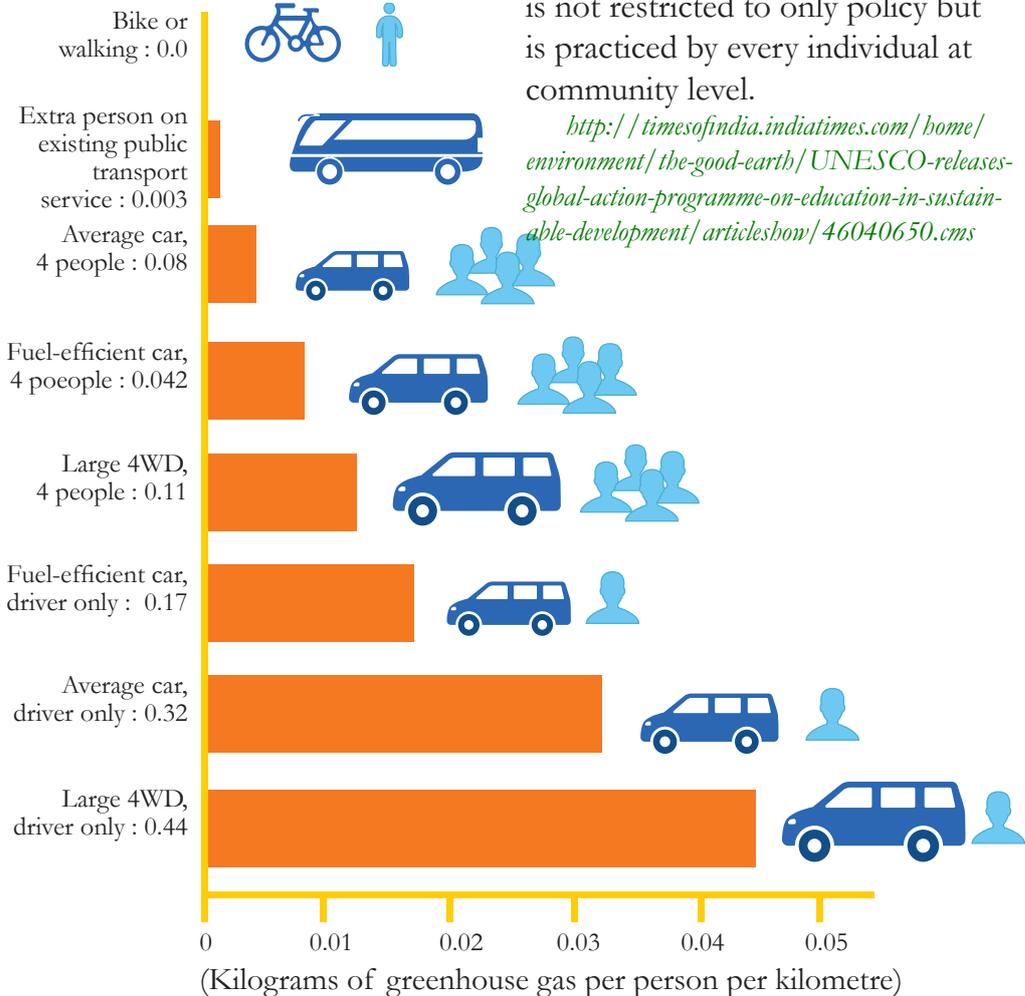
by **Rajendra Shende**,
Chairman of TERRE Policy Centre
former Director UNEP

Can Borneo's Tribes Survive 'Biggest Environmental Crime of Our Times'?



Ancient rain forests give ground to a barren landscape of oil palm plantations and access roads in Sarawak, one of two states in the Malaysian island of Borneo.

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2015/01/150111-borneo-rainforest-environment-conservation-ngbooktalk/>



Greenhouse gas emissions from different forms of transport

NEWS NETWORK

UNESCO releases global action programme on 'education in sustainable development'



As the world struggles to meet ambitious goals to slow down climate change, it has become imperative that planning and execution is not restricted to only policy but is practiced by every individual at community level.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/the-good-earth/UNESCO-releases-global-action-programme-on-education-in-sustainable-development/articleshow/46040650.cms>

The ugly truth: NCR is sitting on an environmental disaster



Experts on environment refer to Mangar Bani in Faridabad, Haryana, as the "last virgin forest" in the National Capital Region. However, despite several guidelines and court orders for preserving the "sacred" forest area in the Aravalis, the Haryana government has consistently failed to recognise the area under the category of forests, and if realty firms have their way, the "sacred" forest may soon vanish.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/newdelhi/the-ugly-truth-ncr-is-sitting-on-an-environmental-disaster/article1-1307995.aspx#environment-conservation-ngbooktalk/>

QUIZ QUESTION?

What is the percentage of increase in Tigers in India in past 3 years?

- A) 1.10%
- B) 2.20%
- C) 3.30%
- D) 4.40%



If you know the answer, send in your entry to us at :

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