

“Vasundhara Geet making waves all over the globe. 26th April 2015 nusond radio UK broadcast it in there very popular Marathi programme

GIVING BACK-THIS TIME TO OUR SOIL

BY RAJENDRA SHENDE, CHAIRMAN TERRE POLICY CENTRE



The greatest hurdle to solving a planet's problem today is the people's mind-set.

While the world leaders and diplomats are busy in going from one meeting to another to negotiate endlessly on binding treaty on Climate Change and Sustainable Development Goals, there are down-to-earth practitioners that are seriously talking about the most neglected issue i.e. , SOIL, on which we walk, play, drive, build houses and produce food.

2015 is International Year of Soil. While steep rise in global population, more than 50 percent over last 50 years, was mostly fed by the soil, humanity has degraded that soil to the

unprecedented level creating huge uncertainty about feeding 2 billion more humans by 2050. According to FAO estimates, we need to increase food production to 60 percent for 25 percent more people.

The tragedy is: while humanity prospered, the soil degraded. Natural resource intensive approaches to farming come at a huge environmental cost. It increased production, but also increased soil degradation, water pollution, and emissions of greenhouse gases and caused the loss of biodiversity.

Climate-smart agriculture, for example, emerges as a way to increase *continued on page 2*

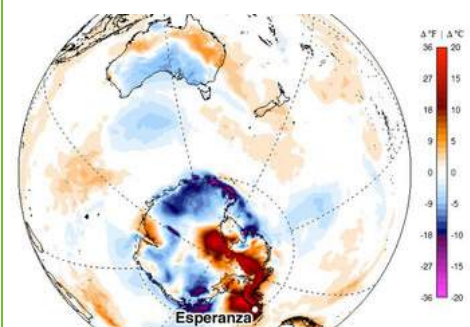
TERRE EXPRESSES SYMPATHIES FOR ALL THOSE SUFFERING FROM EARTHQUAKE IN NEPAL



NUMBER OF THE MONTH

17

A remarkable heat wave warmed Antarctica's northernmost peninsula to slightly above 63 degrees Fahrenheit (17 degrees Celsius) in March - a record high for the normally cold continent.





The difference between animals and human is that animals change themselves for the environment, but humans change the environment for themselves.



Ayn Rand

CHAIRMAN MESSAGE

GIVING BACK-THIS TIME

From page 1 food production while adapting to climate change, reducing and removing greenhouse gas emissions.

Two approaches stand out:

First, restoring degraded lands through sustainable grass land management through improvement of pastures which would protect the soil, increase grassland biodiversity and the capacity of soils to hold water and lock in more carbon.

Second, we have to follow the practice of improved soil management through no-till farming, crop diversification and by using natural nitrogen fixation methods, diminishing the need for fertilizers.

The critical change needed, however, is behavior change and mind set. Consumers in rich countries waste around 222 million tons of food every year. That is almost as much food as the entire net food production of sub-Saharan Africa, around 230 million tons. And the same consumers degrade the soil, limiting its fertility for ever.

Can we give back to soil its own life so that we sustain our lives?



TERRE TEAM CELEBRATED THE WORLD EARTH DAY



World Earth Day is celebrated globally on 22nd April. TERRE Policy Centre, being an association working for the environment was one of the most enthusiastic groups to celebrate this occasion. TERRE celebrated not by initiating a new work, but in fact by analyzing the work so far.

The team visited Smritivan at Varje, the afforestation site of the organization. So far, around 80 trees are planted at Smritivan since the inception on 30th January 2015. All trees are growing a healthy growth and have been observed to have grown by 2-3 feet on an average.

New plantations are easy to do. Keeping the planted ones alive is more significant task. TERRE is proud to give a successful example of its tenacity to keep alive so

many plants. The site is location of a rocky hill.

But with contribution from government officials, local people and fellow society members to TERRE's efforts, many challenges are met successfully.

Trees here are regularly watered and provided manure. No exotic trees will be planted here. Only native trees like peepal, banyan, native fig are planted.

Do visit Smritivan and plant a tree in memory of your beloved person or idea. Enliven your memories.

**SAHYADRI FORTS WITH THEIR OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUES COULD BE IN UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES**

'Sahyadri forts are not only defense architecture of stones and mortar but are strong conveyors of messages of freedom from oppression, survival against all odds, well-being of the people, living with the nature, and be resilient to the changes. To inscribe these forts as World Heritage sites would mean not only conserving these structures but preserving the messages of living with the nature and sustainability given by the nation builders like Chhatrapati Shivaji'. This was the outcome of today's expert meeting held in TERRE Policy Centre office at Anandashram, Pune, on the occasion of 335th anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji. The meeting, was organized to consider the scientific and organized manner to facilitate to the process of inscribing Sahyadri forts as UNESCO's World Heritage. It was attended by young trekkers, representatives of the management education through outdoor adventures, RTI activists, IT experts and TERRE Policy Centre project leaders.

Out of more than 1000 World Natural Heritage sites, India locates 32 sites of which Maharashtra has only 4 such sites (fifth site of Western Ghats are shared by 6 States including Maharashtra). Even in tentative

list approved for submission India has 47 WNH sites, Maharashtra has only two sites.

There is a need to enhance the efforts to inscribe Sahyadri forts. This shall inspire the youth, provide sustainable living for communities around forts and conserve the heritage of outstanding universal value. Rajendra Shende, Chairman of TERRE who had played significant role in inscription of Western Ghats as UNESCO World Natural Heritage, provided the details of the guidelines by UNESCO and his discussion with Member-Secretary of central committee charged to submit the proposals. The discussion concluded by formation of an action plan with a bottom-up approach of engaging local communities in a dialogue to get their views. Following are the highlights of the plan:

- Engaging local youth (in the vicinity of forts) in activities
- Initiating community dialogue
- Proposal to government of Maharashtra to initiate the process in organized and scientific way for inscribing Sahyadri forts in the UNESCO's WNHs.

QUIZ

How many trees can be saved by recycling 1 ton paper?

- 17 trees
- 12 trees
- 100 trees
- 1 tree



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

info@terrepolicycentre.com



RENDEZVOUS WITH MR. ANIL KHAIRE

very uncommon and rather peculiar when accounted for the circumstances. With use of simple tools and logic, we can avoid being affected by their presence. This include: adroit use of snake tongs, venom extractor and calling snake experts or sarpa mitra for help.

Readers need not feel that the neighborhood is only fearful. Birds and insects make it pleasant as well. Commonly found bird species in cities are: bulbul, sparrows, parrots, shrike, Myna, Parakeet, Pond Heron, Coucal, Grey Babblers, Copper Smith, Iora and dove. There are some more birds that are not as friendly or appealing as these. But they are also present around us. Owls, kites and bats are common of all amongst those. They need to

be handled by experts who are now just one call away. These make our living more lively and exciting. Mr. Khaire explained of few how these pleasant birds can be attracted in our neighborhood. He also gave an account of how his friendship had developed with such birds.

Some unexpected visitors can include monkeys, leopards, camels, elephants. These enter human habitats mostly mistakenly. They lose track of their area or reach too far in search of food, water or shelter. In such cases, human, being an intelligent animal, should act responsibly. The words of an experienced ecologist opened a new world to all the audience present on this session of Rendezvous.

Cacophonous and overpopulated cities are houses for more than just humans. Mr. Anil Khaire opened the whole new aspect of our neighborhood and housemates also on 10th of April during the Rendezvous arranged by TERRE Policy Centre at Indradhanushya Paryavaran Kendra, Pune. In moist terrace gardens or other such places, when one sees an earth-worm like worm, a very few of urbanites are aware that they are in fact seeing a snake! A blind, harmless, Brahminy Blind Snake. We have more nonvenomous species of snake common in our neighborhood: Banded Kukri, Banded Racer, common Wolf Snake, Yellow spotted Wolf Snake, Trinket Snake, Checkered Keelback Water Snake and Green Keelback (or Grass Snake). Some slightly poisonous species are: Rat Snake (or Dhaman, as commonly known in Maharashtra), Cat Snake. And the venomous ones: Saw scaled viper, Russell's Viper, Bamboo Pit Viper, Pit Viper, Common Krait, Wall's Sind Krait and Cobra. These have been residents of our cities and towns since a long time. They thrive in their own ecosystem and intervene human activities only when they feel threatened by humans. Thus despite the presence of so many kinds of snakes, snake bite accidents are

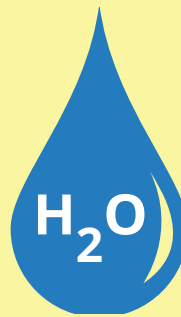


RAGHAV P

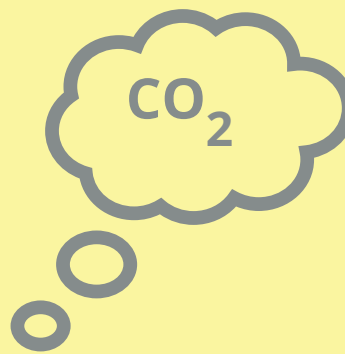
By Raghav Patankar
Standard: II
Age: 7 years
School: The Global Edge school, Madhapur,
Hyderabad



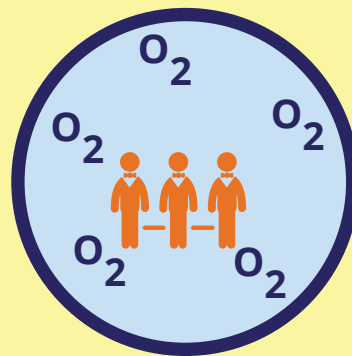
plant trees this **earth Day!**



25 Mature trees can intercept up to 25,000 gallons of water annually.

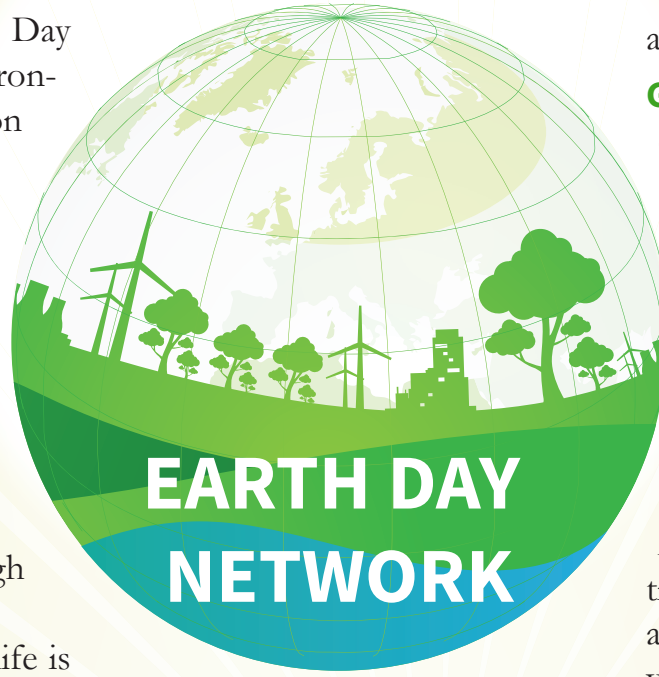


100 trees can sequester up to 4,800 pounds of carbon per year



250 trees provide enough oxygen each year for 125 people to breathe clean air !

Earth Day Network is founded by organizers of Earth Day 1970. It promotes environmental citizenship and action world-wide. EDN's international network reaches over 22,000 organizations in 192 countries, while the domestic program assists over 30,000 educators, coordinating thousands of community development and environmental protection activities through the year.



Earth's ability to sustain life is determined by the condition of its resources like: air, water, soil. Today all of these resources are in a plight due to irrational human activities. Earth Day, which falls on 22nd of April every year, is ob-

served globally so that every person who uses Earth's resources remembers to give back something to the bountiful Earth.

Even small steps contribute to a big change. This time, participants

from Mumbai, Nagpur, Nasik and Pune competed for “शहर

GREEN करो'. They participated in the activities like: afforestation, cycling, use of public transport, waste segregation and practiced an hour without electricity. The enthusiastic participants also joined the grand celebration at Mumbai on 22nd of April as a mark of their sincere efforts of 45 days.

At Mumbai University, many activities were held. This included a cycling rally, lecture from environmental experts and release of Earth Song. This song was launched in Hindi and Marathi. The lyricist of Marathi version is Mr. Vivek Patankar and Hindi by Dr. Vinitaa Apte.

“ Mother earth, our home since beginning and forever

Blossoms with rain, forest and river

Though we hurt her whilst enjoying her generosity

Never does her love towards life diminish

Continually pleases mankind in prayer and wish

Selfish human forgets her blessings

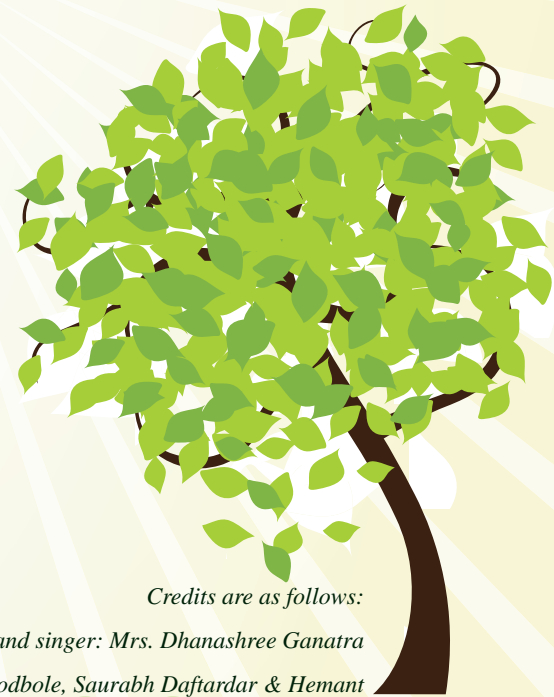
“Cut trees, blast mountains” is the roaring slogan

Devastation of flora and fauna is still on

It's time we arduously work to save her

‘Plant trees, save trees’ be our goal

Stop polluting water and save the entire greenery...



Credits are as follows:

1. Music composer and singer: Mrs. Dhanashree Ganatra

2. Chorus Singers: Bhagyashree Abhyankar, Asawari Godbole, Saurabh Daftardar & Hemant Walunjkar

3. Lyrics: Marathi: Vivek Patankar, Hindi: Dr. Vinitaa Apte

Hindi : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEOoMMNbyW8>

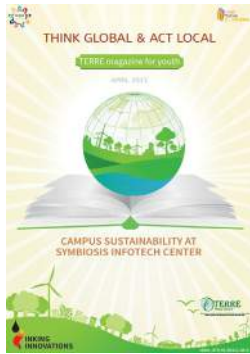
Marathi : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REp-R6ax6cU>



The earth we abuse and the living things we kill, will in the end, take revenge; for in exploiting their presence, we are diminishing our future



Marya Mannes



LAUNCH OF E-JOURNAL ON 22ND APRIL

TERRE Policy Centre launched the e-journal of TERRE YuCon on the issues of Climate and Sustainable energy. TERRE had organized International Youth Conference on 21-22 February 2015. The water issue was launched on 22nd March on the occasion of World Water Day. This month, TERRE published the Climate and Sustainable Energy issue on the occasion of Earth Day.

<http://www.terrepolicycentre.com/TERRE-Journal>



Common birds bring economic vitality to cities

A new study tries to determine what economic value residents in two comparable cities place on having birds in their backyards and parks. Researchers compared two types of common birds -- finches and corvids -- in both cities, asking residents how much they would pay to conserve the species and what they spend, if anything, on bird food. In Seattle, that value of enjoying common birds is about \$120 million annually and in Berlin, \$70 million.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/04/150407152324.htm>



NEWS

NETWORK



Ordinary clay can be used for carbon capture

Carbon capture will play a central role in helping the nations of the world manage and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Many materials are being tested for the purpose of capturing carbon dioxide. New results show that ordinary clay can work just as effectively as more advanced materials.

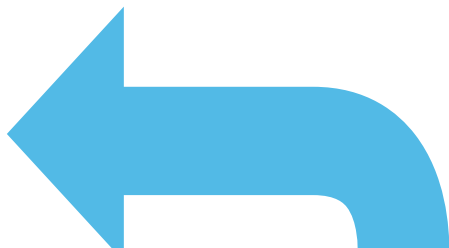
<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/04/150408090319.htm>



Deforestation Drives Changes in Climate, Food Production

Deforestation is driving changes in the climate that threaten to impact global food production, according to a new study.

<http://www.natureworldnews.com/articles/13847/20150402/deforestation-drives-changes-in-climate-food-production.htm>



The economic cost of climate change

There are clear economic and labour market impacts associated with global environmental change. How are these impacts nuanced on small island states and territories like Malta?

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20150408/environment/the-economic-cost-of-climate-change.563292>

For feedback, suggestions and contributions contact us at info@terrepolicycentre.com | www.terrepolicycentre.com

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