

# NEWSLETTER of the NILGIRI NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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NATURAL HISTORIANS OF THE NBR

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Cover Photo: Dr. R. Tolstoy  
Pied Buschat: *Saxiola caprata*  
Found in cultivated fields,  
sparsely scrubbed hill sides,  
tamarisk, reeds and coarse  
grass near water and cultivation. Found across the Indian  
Sub continent.

# EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

We're happy to present to you the second issue of the Newsletter of the Nilgiri Natural History Society (NNHS). The past half-year has been an eventful period in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and for us at the NNHS. We have tried to capture some of the happenings in this issue.

We begin two new features this issue. Under **Natural Historians of the NBR**, we introduce and profile individuals from the NBR, some famous and some unsung, who in the midst of their everyday life, observe and document various facets of their natural surroundings. The second feature will be an ongoing column, **From Amongst the Blue Hills**, in which Rev Philip K Mulley, avid local historian and storyteller, recounts from history and folklore, interesting anecdotes about Nature and people's reflections on it.

**Under the Lens** carries three reports. i.) A preliminary summary of the study on human wildlife conflict in the NBR which highlights the nature and frequency of conflicts and also government and civil society responses to these. ii.) The conservation village awards report is an exciting account of conservation initiatives by Keystone Foundation at the grassroots. iii.) The Conservation Education Network's annual retreat and the thought provoking discussions from it.

In the **Research Initiatives** section, P A Vinayan reports on the ongoing Malabar Ornithological Survey from Wayanad, with some initial observations. In reports from across the world, Pratim Roy and Sumin Thomas report on civil society initiatives for nature conservation from the United Nations and Lancashire, UK respectively. **The Buzz** about happenings at the Bee Museum in Ooty, is featured - as also are compilations from vernacular wallpapers from the three village conservation centres - *Bidaru Saddba* from Vellaricombari, Kotagiri Tamilnadu, *Nisarga Suddbi* from Punganjanur in Karnataka and *Kaattu Poovu* from Appankaapu in Nilambur, Kerala. In the **Species Focus** section, we feature the Black-and-orange Flycatcher as an endemic to the Western Ghats.

We look forward to receiving your feedback on the Newsletter. We would also be happy to take your nominations for Natural Historians of the NBR and hear from you about any interesting research work in the NBR. Do write to us at the address given alongside.

And finally, as we enter 2011 - The International Year of Forest, let us join to celebrate and renew our commitment to the cause of Forest for People. With best wishes for the New Year.

Chief Editors

# Human wildlife conflict

Sumin George Thomas

The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR) is known for its high biodiversity, extensive regions under protection and a complex social structure of both indigenous and non indigenous communities. The region has a history of co-existence between people and biodiversity. However, instances of human wildlife conflict have become more frequent in recent times. Human wildlife conflicts have far reaching environmental impacts and affect both wildlife and humans. The levels of tolerance have been reducing and this has had impacts at various levels. Numerous incidents of conflict have been reported and yet an effective mitigation strategy is elusive.

In our study of this issue, we analyse at a landscape level, the driving factors behind the diversity of conflicts with wildlife over livelihoods to determine effective site-specific mitigation measures that will be best-supported by key stakeholders.

The Study also looked into the response by the government and other agencies in terms of setting up electric fences and trenches to alleviate conflicts and also the effectiveness of these measures. The objective is to focus on areas that are not surveyed by other agencies and those that require immediate action in terms of

mitigating conflicts. These areas are primarily out of protected area jurisdiction. Ecologically sound management plans for these affected areas are envisaged through this Study.

A baseline survey was conducted across four regions of the NBR viz. Kotagiri, Pillur, Sathyamangalam and Sigur. A round of consultations has been held with the villagers to obtain a fair idea of the history of these conflicts. However this information is anecdotal and often from the memory of events, which may not provide evidence of the actual conflict events. To make progress on this front, a collaboration has been initiated with the Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) based in Mysore. NCF is known for its work on human-wildlife conflicts in different parts of the country. A student from the University of Leeds, associated with NCF has provided adequate inputs into the research and methodologies. Based on Keystone's experience in the NBR, 62 villages have been chosen across 6 regions in the NBR namely Kotagiri, Sigur, Nilambur, Wayanad, Pillur, Sathyamangalam/Chamraj Nagar and Silent Valley for a perception survey to understand the perceptions of conflicts over livelihoods and life; and also to investigate protective, compensatory and

retaliatory measures used to counter conflicts.

A detailed analysis has been done on the data that was collected from these 62 villages. Based on several criteria like livelihood dependencies on agriculture, livestock, threats from large mammals, history of conflicts in the village etc. 18 villages have been chosen. These villages have undergone a more detailed survey, monitoring of conflict incidences and gathering household level information on perceptions, losses and decision making processes. The monitoring of conflicts is underway in these villages. Volunteers from each of these villages have been chosen and trained on data collection and the data is being maintained at the field stations. The data is to undergo detailed analysis after monitoring incidents over a period of time.

A study of this nature is vital for managing conflicts efficiently and suggesting sustainable solutions. Field implementation of conflict management is currently not based on research data and has resulted in badly positioned and maintained electric fences, trenches and other solutions. Technological solutions need to be backed with suggestions on institutional mechanisms that can sustainably manage mitigation measures. The key to solving this problem would be to engage for long term in understanding the complexities of these interactions and providing solutions that are appropriate to the problem.

*Sumin is Additional Coordinator, Conservation at Keystone Foundation and can be contacted at [sumin@keystone-foundation.org](mailto:sumin@keystone-foundation.org)*



*Banana crop damaged by elephant at Parakkad, Coimbatore*

# Conservation Education: Approaches and Ideas from a National network

Nimesh Ved



Members of the Conservation Education group in a brainstorm session

The Conservation Education group, an informal network of over 67 voluntary agencies, schools, government agencies from across the country organizes annual retreats for members to deliberate on their experiences with conservation education. Attempts are made to conduct these retreats at locations where participants can also put in time and learn from actions of the host organization. Keystone Foundation was the host for the 3rd annual retreat of the group, this year. Following is a report of the discussions at the Retreat.

The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, at the current juncture, is bereft of a legal status as a unified protected area and as a corollary is managed by multiple agencies. This does not help towards its conservation. However with the Western Ghats Expert Panel appointed by the government the anomaly stands a good chance of being addressed. Keystone members shared their initiatives on bee-keeping and conservation education. The latter in particular, is a novel concept that has elders share their knowledge on medicinal plants and other wildlife as also myths and legends with younger folk, in and around their villages. Oral knowledge is thus transferred to the next generation that follows a lifestyle very different from that of their grand-parents.

As a first, the group members had invited an expert to share views on education, Dr. Vasavi from National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), who gave an interesting talk on 'Elements towards Ecologies of Knowledge'. She shared

issues confronting rural India that ranged from education to challenges faced by youth and also pointed out the dichotomy between the rush for primary education and disillusion with higher education. The talk outlined the 3 pronged crisis that one encounters today; ecological, economic & social and also brought out the overlaps and interlinks in issues confronting conservation, education and rural India.

Members faced challenges when interacting with different segments of the society and a session had been planned on 'Communication strategies for different audiences'. As participants shared their experiences from diverse situations across the country their co-participants chipped in with questions and comments. These deliberations touched issues that include:

1. Education Communication -dire need to pay more attention to this, which in turn could also lead to separate strategies for each section of the audience.
2. Investing in time- for nurturing relationships and trust as also to understand the nuances associated with location and stakeholders.
3. Marketing- need to sell the concept of conservation education and potential role media could play therein.

Blogs are an interesting tool for communication and the participants planned for a session on blogs in lieu of one that could not be held due to unavoidable circumstances. Existing blog

of a member was discussed threadbare during the session at the end of which a fresh blog was created for another member while most of those present seemed to agree that blogs could play a pivotal role in process documentation of their efforts. Questions on creation and maintenance of a blog were discussed. These include:

1. Upload; Can all files be uploaded on a blog; be they image files, music files or video files?
2. Comments; Could comments be made by anybody? Was it possible to control them? Are they seen by all visitors to blog?
3. Presentation; Can template of the blog be changed? How many posts can be seen on the home page? What kind of external products can be put on the blog?

Apart from formal discussions, participants took time out to visit local sites of interest, including an early-morning walk to Longwood Shola, forested areas in Kotagiri (located within tea-estates, plantations, villages) and besides other species also visited by gaurs and leopards. Another enthralling walk was to Sullivan's cottage; a monument that boasts of an interesting collection of artifacts depicting the history of Nilgiris and the movement to conserve the landscape. There was also a visit to Bee Museum – where participants spent some time perusing the educational and interactive material.



Robert Leo of Keystone explaining activities of Keystone to Conservation Education group

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# CONSERVATION VILLAGE AWARDS FOR THE NILGIRI BIOSPHERE RESERVE

K. Sudhakar & C.S. Saneesh



Members of Chokkanalli present their village's application for the Conservation Village Award.

Starting this year, Keystone Foundation has instituted the Conservation Village Awards to be presented annually to an adivasi village within the region of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. The award carries a prize of Rupees One Lakh. Villages were invited to submit applications detailing ecologically and culturally sound initiatives that they have undertaken in their village. These initiatives could be about shelter, agriculture, forest use, water, drainage systems, waste management, energy consumption, mitigation measures to avoid conflict with wildlife, education and health that they have implemented anytime within the past five years and which are still in practice. The application needed to also propose an innovative action plan on how the award money would be invested.

**The Conservation Village Awards 2010 presentations were held at Keystone in June 2010.** People from Kotagiri, Coonoor, Sigur, Pillur, Hasanur, Punganur and Nilambur participated in the *Hubba* (festival) and presented their applications. The panel of judges was Rev.Mulley from Coonoor, Manoharan from Gudalur (ACCORD) and Snehata Nath, Director, Keystone Foundation.

Nilambur of Malappuram, Kerala was represented by villages Nedungayam, Kumbalapara and Appankappu. Kotagiri

of Nilgiri, Tamil Nadu was represented by villages Garikiyur, Neramukkai, Bikkapathy mund and Vellaricombai. The Sigur plateau by villages Anaikatty, Chokkanalli, Kurumbarpallam; Hasanur of Erode, Tamil Nadu by villages Bejalatty and Ramranai; Coonoor of Nilgiri, Tamil Nadu was represented by Sengalpudur and Pudukadu. Representatives of all villages gave a detailed account of their respective villages - number of families, government schemes, self help group working mechanism, traditional agriculture, traditional leadership, education, health systems, systems of conserving forests, transfer of traditional knowledge to the younger generation and NGO activities in their village. The session went on for the entire day including discussion about what they were going to do if they got the Award.

The Award was won by Chokkanalli village, Sigur Area and jury's special award was given to the Kumbalapara village in Nilambur Area.

## Chokkanalli village

Chokkanalli, in Kadanadu Panchayat in the Sigur plateau, is surrounded by forests of the dry deciduous and scrub types. There are about 40 households of the Irula tribe in the village. The people are involved in cattle grazing, agriculture and non-timber

forest produce collection. They are also involved in many conservation related work like, planting forest trees around their village and temples, documenting the wildlife and birds, and conservation of medicinal plants. The youth have been involved in monitoring their forests by walking a fixed route twice a month and monitoring the climate condition, flowering, fruiting, disturbances (fire and invasive plants) and wildlife movement.

In the presentation to the Award committee, Chokkanalli village elder Veeraiah, explained the efforts of the village in forest conservation. He mentioned the planting and community monitoring efforts. He also explained how the people were dependant on the forest. 5 other youth from the village came forward to explain the effort they were all making in preserving their knowledge about the forests. The youth spoke about the monthly visits to the forest that were organized by Veeraiah for children in which he explains about the medicinal plants and other aspects of the forest.

The village has two *Mariyamman* temples and during the month of March festivals are held there. After the festival, a lot of plastic waste and other garbage is left behind. The youth organize the children of the village and they clean up the festival grounds. Veeraiah also told the committee about the book that he has produced on the uncultivated edible plants of the Sigur plateau called "*Trula sappu dagn*" and he also mentioned the pictorial guide to the forest plants of the Sigur region.

They explained about how they are planning to utilize the award money. In 2002, an electric motor was given to the village for irrigation by the Forest Department. However, most of the farmers in the village being small scale farmers, they have been unable to pay the



Members of Kumbalapara village discuss their application to the Conservation Village Award

electricity bills leading to their power supply being disconnected. The village hoped to use part of the award money towards settling these bills and renew subsistence farming which in turn would lead to reduced pressure on the forest. Similarly, in 2008, the Forest department had installed a solar powered electric fence around the village to prevent crop raiding within the village, by wildlife. Due to poor maintenance, the fence did not work for more than a year. As a second proposal, the village wanted to spend some money to repair the solar fence. A third proposal for the utilization of award money was to repair a kerosene powered motor given to the village by Quiet Corner, an NGO based in Mavanalla, to promote agriculture, in 2002.

Once the solar fence becomes functional, the two motors would easily provide enough water from the Sigur River for all agriculture practices in the village.

### Kumbalapara Village

Kumbalapara village in Pothukal Grama Panchayath of Malappuram district, Kerala is surrounded by semi- evergreen forest. There are 13 households belonging to the Kaatunaicka tribe living in this village. All the villagers are members of Vaniyampuzha Adivasi Vana Samarakshana Samiti (AVSS) associated with the Nilambur North Forest Division. Through the AVSS, the village is involved in forest protection activities like preventing forest fire, raising medicinal plant nurseries and assisted natural regeneration

of plants in forest etc. Most of the people are involved in NTFP collection and few of them have daily wage work in a nearby rubber Estate. Villagers do not have *patta* for their land holding and agriculture is on a nominal scale. The village depends on the adjoining forest for fuelwood to cook and also for the nighttime watch and ward against elephants.

Kumpalpra villagers, in their application mentioned, "We live an eco-friendly life. We are living in a place which is 3 kilometres inside the forest from the forest boundary. There are thirteen Kaatunaicka families in this village. All of them are forest gatherers with- no ration card, no electricity, no public water supply (of course, there is a beautiful stream running near the village), not even a single well, even though we have concrete houses we are not staying in it, no livestock (couple of dogs), no gas connection. We have a peripatetic school and a teacher who is staying in the village".

They said- "We will not do any sort of planting inside our forest with the award money because if we protect our forest from fire plants will automatically come up. We collect lots of fire wood (daily around 15 kilograms) to burn at night, to see elephants walking in between houses. We would like to reduce the collection of firewood from the forest by setting up a solar lighting system". The jury's special award was given to the Kumbalapara village on their presentation.

*Sudbakar is a Research Assistant. Saneesh is Subject Manager, Conservation Education. They are both at Keystone Foundation and can be contacted at [sigur@keystone-foundation.org](mailto:sigur@keystone-foundation.org)*



A view of the solar powered fence in Chokkanalli.

# Bird sampling in Kerala

## A Reports on the Malabar Ornithological Survey at Wayanad

P A Vinayan



Brown Rock Pipit

The Malabar Ornithological Survey (MOS) is underway in the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary from November 1<sup>st</sup> 2010. The survey team has covered the Wayanad Wildlife sanctuary and South Wayanad Forest Division and is now working in North Wayanad Division. The study area is North Kerala, north of the Palghat Gap (including the gap), covering Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur, Kasaragode and Wayanad districts extending from the Ghats through midlands to the seacoast. The team is covering the entire Kerala part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. All the heronries in North Kerala will be surveyed in the study and a pelagic bird survey also will be conducted in the seas of North Kerala. Kerala is the first State in India to do bird sampling in the entire State.

C Sashikumar is the Principal Investigator of the team and C K Vishnudas, S Raju, Shebin and P A Vinayan are the Research

Associates. Kerala Forests and Wildlife department is conducting this study for 12 months.

A three hour transect survey each day between 6.00 am and 11.00 am, line transects with variable-length distance bands are the methodologies being used to record the data. Bird species, flock size and distance band of each encounter in the transect time will be noted. Density of bird species will be estimated from the collected data by using the DISTANCE software. The additional species observed after the transect are included in the checklist of each site. The track of each transect is recorded in GPS. A botanist associated with the team collects the data on vegetation and the phenological aspects of plant associated birds, also photographs of birds and their habitat.

Some of the findings from this ongoing survey are as follows:

- Oriental Tree Pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*) from the Amba area of South Wayanad and Brown Rock Pipit (*Anthus similis*) recorded from Elambileri peak, are first record of these species to north Kerala.

- The team came across the endemic Black-chinned Laughing thrush (*Garrullax cachinnans jerdoni*) at the Camel's Hump Mountain

- Observed breeding of critically endangered Indian White-backed Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) and seen Red-headed Vultures (*Sarcogyps calvus*) in Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary.

The MOS itself is in continuation with a survey titled 'Along the trail of Salim Ali, a study of avifauna, their habitat and ecological history: Travancore-Cochin ornithological survey 2009', also commissioned by the Forest Department of Kerala. Seventy-five years after Salim Ali conducted his famous Travancore-Cochin bird survey, a team of researchers, followed the same route and corresponding dates, identified 338 bird species.

The latest survey reveals the "extent of ecological damage that took place over a period of seven decades since 1933 and changes in the composition of bird species," The annual forest fires in the higher altitude grasslands threaten the ecosystem and birds such as the Nilgiri



Survey team (L to R) C K Vishnudas, S Raju, Shebin and P A Vinayan

pipit and the brown rock pipit and the broad-tailed grass warbler. The lesser fish eagle, a globally threatened species, is a significant addition to the avian fauna of the State. A DNA analysis should be conducted on the species found in Kerala, as published literature says its distribution range is in the lower Himalayas.

P A Vinayan is one of the Research Associates in the 'Malabar Ornithological Survey' ([pa.vinayan@gmail.com](mailto:pa.vinayan@gmail.com)) and also affiliated with Ferns, Society for Naturalists, Mananthavady, Waynad.



Red-headed Vulture



# பீதரு சத்த

வெள்ளெரிகோம்பே ஊர் சிறுவர்களால் உருவாக்கப்பட்ட இயற்கை மாத இதழ்



பிக்கபதி மந்தில் இருந்து வந்த பள்ளி மாணவர்களுக்கு சுற்று சூழல் கல்வி பயிற்றுவித்தல்

## அறிவு சார்ந்த சுற்று பயணம்

பிக்கபதி மந்துவிலிருந்து விழிப்புணர்வு கல்வி சுற்று பயணமாக வெள்ளெரி கோம்பே என்ற கிராமத்திற்கு சென்றிருந்தோம். மாமரம் என்ற இடத்தில் இருந்து 45 நிமிட நடை பயணமாக அந்த கிராமத்தை சென்றடைந்தோம். அங்கு ராஜேந்திரன் என்பவர் எங்களை வரவேற்றார். எங்களது குழுவில் 9 பேர் இருந்தோம். சக்திவேல் என்பவர் தலமையில் எங்களை அறிமுகம் செய்து கொண்டோம். பின்னர் காடுகளின் வகைகள் பற்றியும் எங்களது ஊரில் உள்ள காட்டிற்கும் இங்கு உள்ள காட்டிற்கும் உள்ள வேறு பாடுகளை அவர் கூற அறிந்து கொண்டோம். ராஜேந்திரன் என்பவர் சைகல் என்ற தாவரம் பற்றியும் அதன் பயன்பாடுகள் பற்றியும் அது அழிந்து வரும் நிலை பற்றியும் எங்களுக்கு சொல்லி தந்தார். அவற்றின் பயன் பாடு எங்களுக்கு வியப்பை ஏற்படுத்தியது. சக்திவேல் என்பவர் யானைகள் பற்றியும் அவற்றினால் என்ன பயன் என்று கூறினார்.

## கண்ணால் பார்த்தது காதால் கேட்டது

முதல் நாள் நடந்த நிகழ்வுகளை நபகபடுத்தினார்கள். காலை உணவிற்கு பிறகு சைகல் செடியை காண்பதற்கு அழைத்து சென்றனர். நாங்கள் இதுவரை அந்த செடியை பார்த்தது இல்லை. பூச்சிகள் என்றால் என்ன? என்றும் அவை எவ்வளவு வகைகள் உள்ளது கேட்டனர். இவை கண்டறிவதும் பற்றியும் சொல்லி தந்தார். நாங்கள் பார்த்த பூச்சிகளை பட்டியலிட்டு கூறினோம்.



ஊசி தட்டான்

## குறிப்புகள்

1. காடுகளில் வன உணவு சேகரிக்க செல்லும் போது கிழங்கு கொடி இருப்பதை நன்கு தெரிந்து கொள்ளலாம். கிழங்கு கொடியின் நிறம் சிவப்பாகவும் மஞ்சள் நிறத்தில் கொடியில் முற்றிய கிழங்கு இருப்பதை அறிந்து கொள்ளலாம்.
2. காட்டில் செல்லும் போது பச்சை தழை உடைக்கப்பட்டு இருந்தால் காட்டில் செல்லும் போது பார்த்து செல்ல வேண்டும். ஏன் எனில் யானை இருப்பதின் அறிகுறியாகும். யானை இருப்பதை அதன் வாடையினாலும் தெரிந்து கொள்ளலாம்.

## தெரிந்து கொள்ளுங்கள் இவரை:

ஜானகி: வெள்ளெரிகோம்பே என்ற கிராமத்தை சேர்ந்த இந்த பெண் இக்கிராமத்தில் வசிக்கும் மக்களுக்கு மூலிகை மருத்துவம் செய்து வருகின்றார். வாந்தி பேதி மற்றும் மகப்பேறு எளிமையாகவும் மருந்து கொடுத்து சரிசெய்துவிடுவார்.



## வன விலங்குகள் பற்றிய தகவல்கள்

1. காடுகளில் கழு கு வட்டமிட்டால் விலங்கனங்கள் இறந்து கிடப்பதற்கு வாய்ப்புகள் உண்டு.
2. காட்டாடு மற்றும் குரங்குகள் கத்தினால் அந்த இடத்தில் புலி அல்லது சிறுத்தை இருப்பதின் அறிகுறியாகும்.

எழுத்து பாறை: வெள்ளெரி கோம்பே கிராமத்திலிருந்து வனத்தின் உள்ளே 1 கிலோ மீட்டர் தொலைவில் உள்ளது. இது பல நூற்றாண்டுகளாக இங்கு காப்படுகிறது. இதில் உள்ள ஓவியங்கள் அக்காலத்தில் உள்ள சிறப்புகளான கோயில், காலாச்சாரம், வன விலங்குகள் மற்றும் பறவைகளின் உருவங்கள் இப்பாறையில் இடம்பெற்றுள்ளன.



ஈந்த கீரை

## இந்தமாதம் காட்டில் கிடப்பவை:

1. ஈந்த கீரை, சீங்க கீரை, மூங்கில் குருத்து போன்றவை கிடக்கின்றன.
2. நெல்லிக்காய் அறுவடை செய்யும் மாதம் இதுவாகும்.
3. நவம்பர் மாதத்தில் மூங்கில் குறுத்து, சீங்ககை கீரை, நூரை, பெக்கலி காச கிடைக்கலாம்.



நூரை காச



நெல்லிக்காய்





# കാട്ടുപൂവ്

നിലമ്പൂരിലെ കുട്ടികൾ തയ്യാറാക്കിയ പരിസ്ഥിതി മാസിക



### നാട്ടുവിശേഷം

ജൂൺ മാസത്തിൽ കീസ്റ്റോൺ ഫൗണ്ടേഷൻ സംഘടിപ്പിച്ച പരിസ്ഥിതി സംരക്ഷണഗ്രാമ അവാർഡിൽ അപ്പൻകാപ്പി കോളനി പങ്കെടുത്തു.

ജൂൺ 27 ന് അപ്പൻകാപ്പിലെ 'യുവ ശക്തി' സംഘടനയിലെ ആളുകൾ കോളനിയിലേക്കിറങ്ങുന്ന പാലവും വഴിയും വൃത്തിയാക്കി. ജൂലൈ മാസത്തിൽ കൊതു കുനിവാരണത്തിനായി ശുചീകരണപ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ നടത്തി. കൂടാതെ അപ്പൻകാപ്പി കോളനിയിൽ സ്ത്രീകൾക്ക് മാത്രമായി പോത്തുകൾ ആശുപത്രിയിലെ സിസ്റ്റർ വന് ക്ലാസ്സെടുത്തു. ആഗസ്റ്റിൽ അപ്പൻകാപ്പിൽ മഹിളാസമഖ്യയുടെ കീഴിൽ പ്രായമായ ആളുകൾക്ക് ഭക്ഷണം നൽകുന്ന പരിപാടി തുടങ്ങി. സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യദിനം സമുചിതമായി ആഘോഷിച്ചു. അംഗനവാടിയിൽ വച്ച് നടന്ന ഓണാഘോഷ പരിപാടിയിൽ അപ്പൻകാപ്പിലെ എല്ലാ ആളുകളും തന്നെ പങ്കെടുത്തു. സെപ്റ്റംബർ മാസത്തിൽ

പഞ്ചായത്തിന്റെ ആഭിമുഖ്യത്തിൽ അപ്പൻകാപ്പി കോളനിയിൽ ആദിവാസി കലാപരിപാടി നടത്തി. 14-ാം തീയതി രാത്രി കോളനിയിൽ ആനവന് വാഴകളെല്ലാം നശിപ്പിച്ചു. 28 ന് രാത്രി മണിക്കൂറുകൾ നീണ്ടുനിന്ന മഴയെത്തുടർന്ന് കാരാടൻ പുഴ കവിഞ്ഞൊഴുകി മൂണ്ടേരി ചളിക്കൽ കോളനിയിൽ വീടുകളിൽ വെള്ളം കയറി, വീട്ടുസാധനങ്ങൾ ഒഴുകിപ്പോയി, രണ്ട് വീടുകൾ അപകടാവസ്ഥയിലായി.



### ഇവർ ഇങ്ങനെ

അപ്പൻ കാപ്പിൽ താമസിക്കുന്ന ആളാണ് ചാത്തി. ഇവർ ഇവിടുത്തെ മരിച്ചുപോയ മുപ്പന്റെ ഭാര്യയാണ്. ഇവരാണ് ഇപ്പോൾ ദൈവം കൊടുത്തിക്കും ഉത്സവത്തിനും നേതൃത്വം നൽകുന്നത്. ഉത്സവത്തിന് കോമരം കെട്ടുന്നതും ഇവരാണ്. ഇവർക്ക് കാട്ടിലെ പച്ചമരുന്നുകളെ കുറിച്ചും അവയുടെ ഉപയോഗങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ചും നന്നായിട്ടറിയാം



### അറിഞ്ഞോ ?

കീസ്റ്റോൺ സംഘടിപ്പിച്ച പരിസ്ഥിതി സംരക്ഷണ ഗ്രാമ അവാർഡിൽ പ്രോത്സാഹന സമ്മാനം കുമ്പളപ്പാറ ആദിവാസി കോളനിക്ക് ലഭിച്ചു.

### പേരിനു പിന്നിൽ

ഏട്ടപ്പാറ : ഇവിടെ ഒരേ രൂപത്തിലുള്ള രണ്ട് പാറകൾ ഉണ്ട്, ഇവയെ ഇരട്ടപ്പാറ എന്നാണ് വിളിച്ചിരുന്നത്. പിന്നീട് ഇത് ഏട്ടപ്പാറയായി മാറി.

നിലമ്പൂരിന് ആ പേര് വന്നതെങ്ങനെയെന്നറിയാമോ ? 'നിലമ്പ' എന്നാൽ സംസ്കൃതത്തിൽ മുള എന്നാണർത്ഥം. മുളകൾ ധാരാളമുള്ള നാട് എന്നർത്ഥമുള്ള 'നിലമ്പ ഊർ' പിന്നീട് 'നിലമ്പൂർ' ആയി മാറി.



### തന്ത്രങ്ങൾ

മഞ്ഞപ്പിത്തം വന്നാൽ- കീഴാർനെല്ലി സമുലം പാലിൽ അരച്ചു കുടിക്കുക  
കടന്നാൽ കുത്തേറ്റാൽ- കടന്നാൽ കുത്തേറ്റാൽ തകരയുടെ ഇല പിഴിഞ്ഞ നീര് തേച്ചാൽ മതി  
ശരീരവേദന- കാട്ടുകുരുമുളകിന്റെ വള്ളിയിട്ട് തിളപ്പിച്ച വെള്ളം കൊണ്ട് കുളിച്ചാൽ ശരീരവേദന മാറിക്കിട്ടും

### പ്രകൃതിയിൽ

പക്ഷിനിരീക്ഷണം തുടരുന്നു. ഓഗസ്റ്റ് മാസത്തിൽ പകൃതിയിൽ ഒരു ചെറുതേൻ കിളിയെ കണ്ടു. പ്രകൃതിയുടെ പരിസരത്ത് ഔഷധ സസ്യങ്ങൾ വച്ച് പിടിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ ആരംഭിച്ചു. ഓരോവീട്ടിലെയും ഈന്ത് നഴ്സറി നിരീക്ഷിക്കുന്നു കൂടുംബശ്രീയോഗത്തിൽ വലിയവർക്ക് പരിസ്ഥിതി ക്ലാസ് സംഘടിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനെക്കുറിച്ച് സംസാരിച്ചു. നെടുങ്കയത്ത് ബദൽ സ്കൂളിലും, അപ്പൻകാപ്പിലും, തമ്പുരാട്ടിക്കല്ല് സ്കൂളിലും, പാട്ടക്കരിമ്പ് ബദൽ സ്കൂളിലും, ഞെട്ടിക്കുളം എ. എൽ. പി സ്കൂളിലും പരിസ്ഥിതിയെക്കുറിച്ച് ക്ലാസ്സെടുത്തു. ഓഗസ്റ്റ് മാസത്തിൽ ഈന്ത് നഴ്സറി നിർമ്മിച്ചവരെ ചേർത്ത് മീറ്റിംഗ് നടത്തി, 5 പേർക്ക് വിത്ത് നൽകുകയും ചെയ്തു.



ചെറുതേൻ കിളി



ഈന്ത് നഴ്സറി നിർമ്മിച്ചവരുടെ മീറ്റിംഗ്

### വിരുന്നുകാർ

ആന വന്നത് - കൊമ്പൻ 7. ആനയെ കാട്ടിൽവച്ച് കണ്ടത്- കൊമ്പൻ -6, പിടി - 7 കുട്ടി - 4

### കാട്ടുവിശേഷം

ഈന്ത് വിളവെടുക്കുന്നു, ഈത്തിൻ കായ ഉപയോഗിച്ച് പലതരം വിഭവങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കാം. അച്ചാറുണ്ടാക്കാൻ വള്ളിമാങ്ങ, ശതാവരി, എന്നിവ ശേഖരിക്കുന്നു. കൂടാതെ നാഗാന്തി, പാടക്കിഴങ്ങ്, നന്നാറ, കാട്ടിഞ്ചി, കൊടിത്തൂവ, മുവില എന്നിവയും വിളവെടുക്കുന്നു.



വള്ളിമാങ്ങ



# ನಿಸರ್ಗ ಸುದ್ದಿ

ಪುಣಜನೂರು ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿದ ಮಾಸಿಕ ಪರಿಸರ ಸುದ್ದಿ



ಕಿರುಬೀಜವು

## ಉಪಾಯಗಳು

ಕಿರುಬೀಜಿನ ಸೊಪ್ಪನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ಅದರ ಜೊತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹರಿಸಿನವನ್ನು ಬೆರಸಿ ಚೆನ್ನಾಗಿ ಹರೆದು ಮೈತುಂಬ ಹಚ್ಚುವುದರಿಂದ ಅಮ್ಮ(ಒಂದು ವಿಧ ಕಜ್ಜಿ) ವಾಸಿ ಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. **ವಾಗೆಲ - ಹೊಸಪೇಟೆ.**



ಕುಣಿಯುವ ಹಳ್ಳ

## ಕುತೂಹಲಗಳು

ಈ ತಿಂಗಳು ಅತ್ಯಧಿಕವಾಗಿ ಬಿದ್ದ ಮಳೆಯಿಂದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಹಳ್ಳ ಕೊಳ್ಳಗಳು ತುಂಬಿದವೆ. ಪುಣಜನೂರು-ಬೇಡಗುಳಿ ರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡ್ಡಲಾಗಿ ಇರುವ ದೊಡ್ಡಹಳ್ಳವು ಸುಮಾರು 15 ದಿನಗಳವರೆಗೆ 30 ರಿಂದ 1 ಗಂಟೆ ಸಮಯವರೆಗೆ ವಾಹನಗಳ ಸಂಚಾರ ತಡೆಹಿಡಿದಿತ್ತು. ಕಾರಣ ಸೇತುವೆಯು ಚಿಕ್ಕದಾಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ನೀರು ಸೇತುವೆ ಮೇಲೆ ಹೋಗುತ್ತದೆ, ಮತ್ತು ಸುವರ್ಣಾವತಿ ಜಲಾಶಯವು ಭರ್ತಿಯಾಗಿದೆ ಈ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಜನರು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ ಈ ತರಹದ ಮಳೆ ಬಿದ್ದು ಸುಮಾರು 10 ವರ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ.

## ಪ್ರಾಣಿಗಳ ಚಲನವಲನ

ಈ ತಿಂಗಳು ಅಂದರೆ ನವಂಬರ್ ತಿಂಗಳು ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಆನೆ, ಕಾಡುಹಂದಿಗಳ ತೊಂದರೆ ಜಾಸ್ತಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾರಣ ಈ ತಿಂಗಳು ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಬೆಳೆಗಳು ಚೆನ್ನಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆದು ಕಟಾವು ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವುದರಿಂದ ಅವುಗಳಿಗೆ ತಿನ್ನಲು ತುಂಬಾ ರುಚಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಆಹಾರವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಹೊಸಪೇಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಸೇರಿದ ಚಿನ್ನೇನೋಡನ ಜಮೀನಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಆನೆ ನುಗ್ಗಿ ಸುಮಾರು 100ಕೆಜಿ ರಾಗಿ ಯನ್ನು ತಿಂದು ನಾಶಮಾಡಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಮತ್ತು ಭದ್ರೇನೋಡನ ಜಮೀನಿಗೂ ನುಗ್ಗಿ ಸುಮಾರು 50ಕೆಜಿ ರಾಗಿಯನ್ನು ತಿಂದು ನಾಶಮಾಡಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

## ಮುಖ್ಯ ಸಮಾಚಾರಗಳು

ದಿನಾಂಕ 30-08-2010 ರಂದು ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸಪುರ, ಮುನೇಶ್ವರ ಕಾಲೋನ, ಹೊಸಪೇಟೆ. ಎತ್ತೇಗೌಡನ ದೊಡ್ಡಿ 90 ಜನರಿಗೆ ಈ ಭಾಗದ ಶಾಸಕರು, ಸಂಸತ್ ಸದಸ್ಯರು, ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಜಮೀನಿನ ಹಕ್ಕು ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಕೊಡಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟರು.

## ಇವರ ನೆಪ್ಪು ಇದೆಯಾ

ಮಾದಮ್ಮ - ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸಪುರ ಕಾಲೋನಿ ಇವರು ಹುಟ್ಟಿದ್ದು ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿನ ಹಾಸನೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನಂತರ ಅವರ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಕರು ಪುಣಜನೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಧಿಕವಾಗಿ-ದ್ದುದರಿಂದ ಇವರು ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಬಂದು ವಾಸವಾದರು. ಇವರ ತಾಯಿಯು ಸುರಕ್ಷಿತವಾದ ಹೆರಿಗೆ ಮಾಡಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಪುಣೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದಳು. ಇದಲ್ಲದೆ ಇವರ ಅಪ್ಪನೂ ಕೂಡ ಪೂಜಾರಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಯಾರಿಗೆ ಕಾಯಿಲೆಯಾದರು ಇವರ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು ಇವರು ನಾಟ ಷಧಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊಟ್ಟು ವಾಸಿಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಮಾದಮ್ಮ ನಿಗೆ ಸುರಕ್ಷಿತ ಹೆರಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ನಾಟ ಷಧಿಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತಿಳಿಯಲು ತುಂಬ ಸುಲಭವಾಯಿತು ಇದಲ್ಲದೆ ಇದುವರೆಗೂ 12 ಸುರಕ್ಷಿತ ಹೆರಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ಅನೇಕರ ಎದೆನೋವು, ಕಾಲುಮುರಿತಕ್ಕೆ ಹೀಗೆ ಅನೇಕ ಕಾಯಿಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಷಧಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊಟ್ಟು ವಾಸಿ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ನಡೆಯುವ ಪರಿಸರದ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಶಾಲೆ/ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಕಾಡಿಗೆ ಕರೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗಿ ಷಧಿ ಸಸ್ಯಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ, ಕಾಡು ಪ್ರಾಣಿಗಳ ಪಕ್ಷಿಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಇವೆಲ್ಲವುಗಳ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ ತಿಂಗಳಿಗೆ 2 ಭಾರಿ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಈಗ ಇವರಿಗೆ ವಯಸ್ಸು 60.



ಮಾದಮ್ಮ ಬೆಡಗುಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ

## ನಿಮಗೆ ಗೊತ್ತಿದೆಯೇ ?

ಪುಣಜನೂರು ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಈ ಗ್ರಾಮವು ಎತ್ತೇಗೌಡನ ದೊಡ್ಡಿ ಎಂದು ಹೆಸರು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕಾರಣವೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಆ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥನ ಹೆಸರು ಎತ್ತೇಗೌಡ ಯಾವುದೇ ನ್ಯಾಯ ತೀರ್ಮಾನ ಗಳಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಈತನದೇ ಅಂತಿಮ ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿರುತ್ತಿತ್ತು ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಆಗ್ರಾಮಕ್ಕೆ ಎತ್ತೇಗೌಡನದೊಡ್ಡಿ ಎಂದು ಕರೆಯಲಾಯಿತು.

## ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು

- ಈ ತಿಂಗಳು ನವಂಬರ್ ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಬೇಡಗುಳಿಯ 12 ಯುವಕರಿಗೆ ಜೇನುಸಾಕಾಣಿಕೆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತರಬೇತಿಯನ್ನು ಕೊಟ್ಟು 12 ಜೇನುಪೆಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ವಿತರಿಸಲಾಯಿತು.
- ಪುಣಜನೂರು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಹಿರಿಯ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಸರ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತರಗತಿಯನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಯಿತು ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿ ನೀರು, ಅರಣ್ಯ, ಗಾಳಿ ಅರಣ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಉಪಯುಕ್ತ ವಸ್ತುಗಳ ಮತ್ತು ಷಧಿ ಸಸ್ಯಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ವಿವರಣೆ ಕೊಡಲಾಯಿತು
- ಗೆದ್ದೆಸಾಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲೂ ಕೂಡ ಪರಿಸರ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತರಗತಿಯನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಲಾಯಿತು. ಬಿಳಿಗಿರಿರಂಗನ ಬೆಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸಿಸಿದ್ದ ಜನಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆಯ 3500 ವರ್ಷದ ಇತಿಹಾಸ, ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಜನಗಳು ವಾಸವಾಗಿರಲು ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರಣಗಳು, ಮತ್ತು ಆದಿವಾಸಿಗಳು (ಸೋಲಿಗರು) ಎಂದರೆ ಯಾರು, ಅವರ ವಸತಿ ಮಾದರಿ, ಅವರ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಒಟ್ಟು ಪೋಷಕಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಒಟ್ಟು ಜನಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಯಿತು

## ನಾವು ನೋಡಿದ್ದು ಕೇಳಿದ್ದು:

27/11/2010ರಂದು ಶಾಲಾ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಪರಿಸರ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು, ಕಲ್ಲುಮೊಟರೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸಿಸುವ ಹಾವುಗಳನ್ನು ನೋಡಿದವು, ಮತ್ತು ಅವುಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತಿಳುವಳಿಕೆ ಪಡೆದವು. ರಾಜೇಶ, 4 ನೇ ತರಗತಿ.



ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಕಿರಿಯನ್ನು ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದು

## ನಿಮ್ಮ ಅನಿಸಿಕೆ

ಈ ನಮ್ಮ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಆಗುವ ಸಂಧರ್ಭಗಳು ನಮಗೇ ತಿಳಿಯುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಆದರೆ ಈ ಸುದ್ದಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹದಿಂದ ನಮ್ಮ ಮತ್ತು ಬೇರೆ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆಯೂ ತಳಿಯಲು ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗಿದೆ. - ರಾಜು. ಕೆ. ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನವೂ ಚಿತ್ರ ಬಿಡಿಸುವುದರಿಂದ ನನ್ನ ಚಿತ್ರಕಲೆ ಬಿಡಿಸುವ ರೀತಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. - ರಾಜೇಶ

## ಮುಂದಿನ ತಿಂಗಳು:

- ಶಾಲಾ ತರಗತಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸುವುದು (ಪುಣಜನೂರು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಹಿರಿಯ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆ ತಾರೀಖು-13,23-12-2010 ಮತ್ತು ಗೆದ್ದೆಸಾಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆ ತಾರೀಖು-14,24-12-2010
- ಜೇನುಸಾಕಾಣಿಕೆ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೊಡುವುದು(ಬೇಡಗುಳಿ) ತಾರೀಖು-16-12-2010
- ಪರಿಸರ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ವಯಸ್ಸಾದ ಹಾಗೂ (ಪರಿಸರ)ಅರಣ್ಯದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತಿಳಿದಿರುವವರ ಜೊತೆ ವಿಧ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂಚಾರ. ಹೊಸಪೇಟೆ ತಾರೀಖು-23-12-2010 ಮತ್ತು ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸಪುರ ಕಾಲೋನ ತಾರೀಖು-25-12-2010.
- ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ ಸಂಘದ ಉಳಿತಾಯ ಸಭೆ 3 ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸಪುರ ಕಾಲೋನ ಮತ್ತು ಮುನೇಶ್ವರ ಕಾಲೋನ ತಾರೀಖು-16-12-2010, ಹೊಸಪೇಟೆ -ತಾರೀಖು 30-12-2010



ಗೆದ್ದೆಸಾಲು ಶಾಲಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ

# From amongst the Blue Hills

Rev. Philip K Mulley, folklorist and keeper of the many stories that abound amongst the Nilgiri Hills begins this column with interesting snippets about the *kurinji* - *Strobilanthes*.

The deep mauve or lurid purple colour of *Strobilanthes* has been termed "blue" by several writers. Consequently, an unphilosophical claim is often made that the "Blue Mountains" or "Nilgiris" derive their name from the profusion of this plant obtained on these terrains. But



interestingly and importantly, this shrub in Nilgiri vocabulary is characterised by its leathery dark stem and hence called 'KATTE'. Ancient Tamil Sangam texts (e.g. Akam.208) also offer the same connotation, although the separate name 'Kurinjī' for the flower, seems to pertain to the eco-hermeneutics of those times.

In the native Nilgiri speech, *strobilanthes* is pronounced KATTE or KAT, like "cut" in English. Todas, Kurumbas and Kasavas used to reckon their physical age by the number of times they saw the blooming of the flower which easily had fourteen to eighteen years as the interval.

Badagas sometimes stretched it to periodise lineage-levels. Kasavas and Irulas were little more aesthetic. They analogized it with the "burst of the brilliance of colour". Kotas in their parlance denoted it for "an eye-ful view". While for the Todas "blossoming into womanhood" has a poetical association, Badagas too hyperbolically complimented their belles on attaining their full physical maturity "as that of KATTE". Violating the limit in the behaviour towards them was considered sinful and so recited at the Badga funeral-litany and forgiveness was asked for. A pun is also employed in the same context and butchering a bush of

this plant or the bunch of its flowers is also considered sinful. Certain Toda texts found in their songs distinctly convey an erotic meaning with reference to *strobilanthes*.

A major outcome of the gregarious flowering of *strobilanthes* is the large increase in bees found in the vicinities during the flowering period. Immense quantity of honey becomes available, not to mention the utter deliciousness of it. Badagas, once upon a time great honey gatherers, had entertained an interesting restriction during this particular season. Young

Badaga girls collecting fagots or firewood were prohibited from going anywhere near this shrub for the fear of Kurumbas (hiding and competing for honey) trying to stalk or molest these maidens. The honey season of *strobilanthes*, for the Badagas also provided an intriguing antidote, because they anticipated a severe spell of dry season or rainless days immediately following.

Loops of *strobilanthes* were used by Badagas in thatching their ancestral shrines. Todas used to associate themselves in this 'ritual renovation'. Todas too probably used *strobilanthes* when traditional laths were not available. The

Of all the famous people, who had something or the other to do with the Nilgiris, it was Sir Thomas Munro the governor who bothered at all to refer to *Strobilanthes*. Visiting Kotagiri, in the month of September, 1820 and writing to his wife, he said - "The sights of the hills are at present covered with a purple flower of the size of 'your Bangalore geraniums', which makes them look as if they were covered with heath".

"hoary times" recalled in Badaga tradition (something similar to dream-time concept of many an aboriginal tribe) shares lexical association with *strobilanthes*.

Rev. Mulley can be contacted at [philipk.mulley@gmail.com](mailto:philipk.mulley@gmail.com)



## Natural Historians of the NBR

R SIVALINGAM, Aggal, Kotagiri

Sivalingam, aged 43, is a small farmer practising agriculture and cultivating tea on the Kotagiri slopes. His interest as a natural historian is in birding and insects, especially butterflies. For over 20 years he has been cultivating this interest and is very apt at identifying birds and following their nesting patterns and seasonal behaviour. His expertise is also in identifying the bird calls in the forests. He has a good record of nesting sites of black eagle for 5 years and has good photos of other species like crested sparrow hawk, and shikras, to his credit. He is also interested in photography and has been documenting his observations for more than 8 years. He has tracked black panthers for six months from January 2006 to July 2006 near his home, and has a clipping of 24 minutes of documentary to his credit.

Sivalingam has accompanied many well known ornithologists at his surroundings for studies and other documentation work. He also guides natural wildlife photographers and bird watchers. He is an active participant in many wildlife related activities in the Nilgiris. He has recently been awarded the Wildlifer's Award through the Sanctuary Asia RSB group for his efforts in conservation and wildlife related work.

Profiled by Senthil Prasad, Additional Coordinator, Training and Information, Keystone Foundation. He can be contacted at [senthil@keystone-foundation.org](mailto:senthil@keystone-foundation.org)

# ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE & GREEN ECONOMY

**Pratim Roy** participated in a UNEP Civil Society Brainstorm held in October 2010 to contribute towards Rio +20 and thinks aloud about elements of a Green Economy in the Western Ghats

Many would remember the United Nations Conference on Environment & Development, at Rio, Brazil 1992. It was the largest meeting to protect the planet by all heads of states. In 2012, twenty years from Rio – another big Summit is expected to discuss sustainable development and a green economy. In this context, as a countdown to Rio + 20 the UNEP has created a Civil Society Advisory Group on International Environmental Governance for Civil Society input into the UNEP Process.

This group met in Geneva, this year with almost 65 persons participating from different NGOs, INGOS, UN Bodies, EU, UNEP – Europe, Russia, Oman, Brazil, Sri Lanka, US, Bulgaria, Canada, UK, Africa, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Romania, Denmark, India among others. Some of the questions debated were:

The discussions in the Major Groups & Stakeholders Forum noted that while reforms of international environmental governance (IEG) are not new, civil society participation remains critical to the IEG process and success. Deliberations were around - how to make this change possible? How to make it work with Government or Civil Society pressure and different approaches for individual demonstrations or pilots? Among the crucial dimensions of international environmental governance would be a Green Economy, looking at the complexity of 'greening' the economy which will call for a significant change in all spheres.

I think that this concept of a Green Economy is crucial for us here in the Western Ghats. I see that to attempt elements of a Green Economy even on a small scale across the Western Ghats, we need to zone this Green Economy in terms of sustenance of nature and natural

resource cycles, livelihoods and sustainable growth engines that support local economy and context. There are good examples that can be scaled up and this could be a good opportunity for declaring Ecologically Sensitive Areas as Organic and Fair Trade zones through Participatory Guarantee System certification which is alternative and has a firm bottom-up approach. Green Economy does not only mean – marine, forest, horticulture, agriculture or ecotourism, wildlife tourism product – but goes beyond. We need to redefine Green Economy in our own terms and contexts. This has to be the investment for the future generations and for the ecology of the Western Ghats, akin to a nursery or germination chamber where good practices are experimented, tried and tested. It could be in terms of institutional models, new ways of thinking and living. Only then would a Green economy apply pressure and show the way to approaches of Natural Resources use and practices and to Governance in a larger context.

**People's monitoring, evaluation & feedback** has to be constant for it to be validated, corrected from time to time and innovations re-visited. Often such ideas and processes get forgotten due to lack of a simple, embedded mechanism of feedback and "back to the drawing board" initiatives. I think what we need most at this hour within the Western Ghats Environmental Movement is a re-check on what is the politics all about and how we as citizens of these hills and this country can have a fresh, innocent start to a process which leads to a result that is fair, different and has a promise for the future.

*Pratim is Director, Organizational Development and Networking at Keystone Foundation and can be contacted at [pratim@keystone-foundation.org](mailto:pratim@keystone-foundation.org)*

## MARTIN MERE Wetland CENTRE

Martin Mere Wetland Centre is home to over 100 species of rare and endangered birds, geese, swans and herons. This spectacular reserve hosts the only 2.5m long and 1.5m wide 'Wetland' in the world, an artificial wetland of reeds, sedges and other plants.



A permanent programme of talks, tours, workshops, talks and family events is held in the centre, all of which are free of charge.

Open from 9.30am every day except Christmas Day  
every season is a new experience  
[wwt.org.uk](http://wwt.org.uk)

## CONSERVING WETLANDS

Sumin George Thomas,  
writes in from Lancashire  
on his engaging visit to the  
Martin Mere Wetland.

I got an opportunity to visit the Martin Mere Wetland Centre along with a group of members from the Royal Society for Protection of Birds on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2010. The Martin Mere is a wetland nature reserve managed by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) at Burscough, Lancashire, England, on the West Lancashire Coastal Plain. It is one of nine reserves managed by the charity, and it is designated an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest), an SPA (Special Protection Area) and a Ramsar Site. The WWT is a leading conservation organisation saving wetlands for wildlife and people across the world. It was founded in 1946 by Late Sir Peter Scott. The WWT is committed to the protection and management of over 2000 hectares of wetlands that supports over 200,000 water birds, wetland plants, amphibians and mammals.

Also known as the WWT Martin Mere Walkabout, a well designed walkabout takes you through the entire length and expanse of the mere (a type of wetland). A well equipped visitor's centre is one of the highlights of this reserve. The visitor's centre is a unique log cabin complex built to a Scandinavian design. The turf on the roof of these buildings provides insulation, and also ensures that the building blends with the surrounding flat landscape and protects it from the wind.

The name of the centre comes from the mere on the west side of the reserve which is ringed by 11 observation hides. On the east side of the reserve there are a number of pens providing habitats for birds from Africa, Australasia, North America, South America, Siberia, and Asia. The reserve has special enclosures for otters and beavers. This reserve is at its best in winter, attracting huge flocks of flamingos, swans, geese and wigeons and occasional rarer birds. Apart from these, over 100 species of wildfowl visit this reserve annually. It is also excellent for wintering birds of prey such as hen harrier, peregrine and merlin.

It was indeed overwhelming to see the interest in natural history and the efforts that has gone into the conservation of this wetland. The hydrology and ecology of this reserve has been thoroughly studied which has led to the effective management of this reserve. The information provided at the visitor's centre and along the walkabout gives a first time visitor the importance of these reserves and their rich biodiversity. The passion shown by people towards conservation is something worth admiring and a source of inspiration to carry out similar initiatives in one's home country.

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## Happenings at the Bee Museum, Ooty

Pushpinder Khajuria

The Bee Museum at Ooty is an initiative of Keystone Foundation. The museum is the first of its kind with a focus on honey bees of India and is a tribute to the Ecology of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and the Livelihoods of the Honey Gatherers. The Museum hosts special programs for visitors and activity modules for children.

The new Nature Discovery section at the Bee Museum has made a niche for itself attracting the attention of adult and child visitors alike. Due to this we have been observing an increase in the average number of daily visitors.

### A glimpse of Bee Museum Events :

- Mr. D. Srinivasan, from the Perks Photography Institute, Coimbatore presented a slide show on the NBR and techniques of filming and aesthetics of photography, in July.
- A meeting of the Conservation Education Network Meeting on "Communication Strategies" was held at the Bee Museum on 21st October. Experts from various organizations discussed and planned better capacity building strategies to expand the outreach and extension methods for environment education.
- Mr. Kalyan Varma made a presentation of Conservation Issues in the Western Ghats.
- Members of the Irula community from Sigur Plateau came up to the Bee Museum in September and presented a programme of their lively song and dance.
- There were a series of visits by school children.
  - August saw two visits. One by a group of 44 students accompanied by 3 staff members from the Kendriya Vidyalaya, Ooty and the second brought 28 students and 2 faculty members of the Aditi International School, Bangalore.



Smt Sinthamani, a Kota elder from Tiruchigadi village, lights the lamp at the inauguration of the Nature Discovery section. Smt Archana Patnaik, Collector, Nilgiris, Shri Rajiv Srivastava, Field Director, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and Shri Yogesh Singh, DFO, Nilgiris South Division look on.

- 80 students and 8 staff members from the Good Earth School, Chennai visited in September.
- October saw 30 students and 4 faculty members from the Cliff School, Ooty.
- November had 15 students from the Netherlands.
- 15 children from Hebron School came to the Museum in December as part of their module on rural entrepreneur development.
- School children from schools in Garikkiyur, Mavanahalla and Vazhithottam also visited the Museum for an interactive session at the Nature Discovery section.



Garikiyur School Children at the Bee Museum

The Nature Discovery segment at the Bee Museum was inaugurated by Smt. Archana Patnaik, Collector, Nilgiris. Shri. Rajiv Srivastava, Field director, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Shri Yogesh Singh, DFO, Nilgiris South Division and several village elders were present, along with team members from Keystone Foundation and the Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore. The inauguration was followed by a sharing of conservation education methods, by individuals and non-governmental agencies working in the NBR.

Pushpinder Khajuria is Educator at the Bee Museum. Also the Secretary of the NNHS (beemuseum@keystone-foundation.org)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear NNHS team,

Very glad to receive your Newsletter which I read carefully. All your articles are of great practical value and I see that your Bee Museum is already very popular. It must also have helped in improving the lifestyle of the local bee-keepers

One suggestion I would like to make, from my experience of editing the Newsletter for Birdwatchers for 44 years that there should always be at least one article for the enjoyment of the general reader. This helps to spread an interest in the subject and naturally increases membership.

My congratulations on your good work.

Zafar Futehally, Bangalore

Dear Editors,

As a researcher interested in conservation issues I welcome the formation of NNHS and its newsletter as a means of communication among its members. I am happy to see that the newsletter has material not only in English but also in the regional languages.

It will be a good idea to have a meeting of NNHS members to exchange views about our expectations from it. For example, I do look forward to participating in excursions through Shola forests and in bird watching trips, which would make me more directly familiar with the biodiversity of the region. Apart from awareness generation on ecological issues I hope NNHS will also help catalyse student and citizen action for conservation.

Best wishes,

Pranjali Bandhu, Ooty



Giant Rock Bee



The newsletter of the Nilgiri Natural History Society (NNHS) aims to cover the many dimensions of natural history - conservation issues, lay observation, cultural representations and traditional knowledge. The newsletter will carry communications about research in Keystone Foundation in the areas of conservation, environmental governance, culture, livelihoods and enterprise. In keeping with the pan Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR) nature of the Society, space will be allocated for reporting of events/views from elsewhere within the country and from outside the country. Additionally a section will be devoted to research summaries by students who work in the region of the NBR. Guest editors will be invited for special editions. News items gleaned from printed sources about the NBR will be featured. Separate sections will carry information on NNHS and Bee Museum activities. The species focus will feature species of special conservation status, endemic to the Western Ghats and present in the NBR.

## SUBMISSION OF ARTICLE

The NNHS newsletter articles are reviewed by the Chief Editors and a member of the editorial board

Articles are invited for the following section: i. Natural History News from India (400 words); ii. Natural History News from the World (400 words); iii. Research Initiatives in the NBR - student contributions (400 words); iv. Species focus (250 words)

Articles should be submitted by email to: [anita@keystone-foundation.org](mailto:anita@keystone-foundation.org) or [archana@keystone-foundation.org](mailto:archana@keystone-foundation.org)

Authors should provide complete information including an email address and phone numbers. Articles need to be submitted in standard word processor formats only. Rich text content and other forms are not accepted. Figures and texts need to be sent in separately with adequate labelling and numbering in context to the articles sent. Pictures in the manuscript also need to be sent in separately in TIFF, JPEG or PNG formats with resolution not less than 250 dpi

### Reference style:

Papers in Journals and other periodicals

Hanely, T.A. and Hanley, K.A. 1982. Food resources partitioning by sympatric ungulates on Great Basin rangeland. *Journal of Range Management* 35: 152-158.

Papers in Edited Books, Symposia Proceedings, etc

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### Books

Lieth, H. and Whittaker, R.H. (eds.). 1976. *Primary Productivity of the Biosphere*. Springer-Verlag, Berlin.

Reports, Dissertations, etc

Sollins, P., Reichle, D.E. and Olson, J.S. 1973. *Organic Matter Budget and Model for a Southern Appalachian Liriodendron Forest*. Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, U.S.A.

## *Ficedula nigrorufa*

Sumin George Thomas



**Common Name:** Black-and-orange Flycatcher

**Distribution:** The species is endemic to the Western Ghats. The main population of this bird is found in the high elevation plateaus (above 1500m) areas of the Nilgiris, Palani Hills, Biligirirangan Hills and Kannan Devan Hills. To the north, it occurs in the Kudremukh National Park and the Bababudan Hills and south to the Ashambu Hills. Found in dense evergreen sholas with ample undergrowth, edges of coffee plantations and dark ravines.

**Characteristics:** The male is distinctly black headed with black wings. The female has the black replaced by dark brown and has a light eye-ring. They are usually seen singly or in pairs. The breeding season is from March to May. They feed on insects by fly catching low over the ground (under 2m height) and also pick insects from the ground. Territories are maintained by a pair throughout the year. The nest is built by the female, placed in a low bush or fern. Two greyish speckled eggs form the usual clutch. Young birds are brownish and speckled. The nest is unlike that of most flycatchers and is large, coarse, ball-like and made from sedges. The nest has a foundation of dry leaves and ferns. The nest is placed usually at the centre of a bush at about 1 to 3 feet height with an entrance hole close to the top.

**Threats:** The species is under the near threatened category of the IUCN Red List. Land use change and loss of habitat are the immediate threats to this species.

References:  
Ali, S.2002. The Book of Indian Birds.Bombay Natural History Society,Mumbai.