



Chief Editor

Sayali Joshi, CEO

Editorial Board

Dr. Pramod Salaskar
Priyamvada Joshi
Yogesh Padwal
Shrikant Joshi

Executive Editor, Design

Susmit

Advisors

Dr. Jayant Mandlik
Dr. Suresh Karkhanis
Dr. M. S. Kodarkar

Contact: Executive Editor, Shrishti Eco-Research Institute, B-106,
Devgiri, Opp. P. L. Deshpande Garden, Near Ganesh Mala,

Pune – 411 030. India. Phone: 91-20-24253773 /Telefax: 91-20-66206539

Website: www.seriecotech.com Email: seri_news@yahoo.co.in

Point for discussion this month Symbiosis of plants for survivals

(For private circulation only)

Pl. note that the ownership of views expressed by the author lies with him / her only. SERI's management does not endorse or own them.

Eternal Words

Of all the beautiful truth pertaining to the soul which have been restored and brought to light in this age, none is more gladdening or fruitful of divine promise and confidence than this – that you are the master of your thought, the moulder of your character, and the maker and shaper of condition, environment and destiny.

- James Allen

Life affords no higher pleasure than those surmounting difficulties passing from one stage success to another, forming new wishes and seeing them gratified. He that labours in any great or laudable undertaking has his fatigues first supported by hope and afterwards supported by joy.

- Samuel Johnson

Dear Readers,

Networking is a big energy which can transform not only the area or development pattern but the minds of people also. Elite people having sufficient comfort in home and at workplace have come together to clean the polluted drains due to throwing habits of the population. It is a great thing! They are prepared to pick up the waste thrown by others voluntarily. Habits are changing and it has started from Pune. There is a consistency in people's action and movement for cleaning the polluted streams in the city. Some are taking up such actions as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

People's network is as effective as symbiotic relationship of various natural species to clean up the wastes generated. This ecological intelligence is useful for the survival of living things on this mother earth. The cover photo shows the co-existence of many floating plants. It's a photograph of Sewage Treatment Pond in Hyderabad. No doubt there is a competition of nutrients but the nutrients get recycled in the system through degradation of waste generated by so called weak link of ecosystem - detritivores. Developed man ignores this very basic multi-species intelligence of survival of billions of years.

Pune is known for its positivism (activism involved actions for better environmental health). There are many such groups active in correcting the aberrations created by the modern urbanisation process. This is in-built in Pune's citizens. If they decide, they don't wait for orders or somebody to take initiative. Vinod Bodhakar's article gives detailed account on the positivism. Mr. Bodhakar is well known for his networking skills while interpreting every action positively towards the hassle free life.

Our SERInews is completing its third year. We are indebted to you all for your constant support and encouragement. In these three years, we tried to handle many issues encompassing modern life style, survival of humanity, environmental psychology, economics, business etc. We assure to continue the same with newer issues. Finally, the aim is sustained development with environmental health for all.

Thank you,
Chief Editor

Shrishti Eco-Research Institute, Pune

People's Own Responsible Movement for Clean and Green Environment

The work of a million kilometres of coastline and river bank begins on a 100 metre section which is the easiest accessible from where we have our camp. Through experience I can say - The starting section can be 300 metres for a group of our size. Working twice a week we can get it thoroughly cleaned up. We must of course search a few kilometres upstream and downstream to select the most polluted 300 metres as the first patch to clean up. Work can be undertaken on a tributary too. Or a stream. Or under a bridge, such as Lynn is doing already.



It is easiest to work with 'Pickers'. It is a stick with a grip handle and picking claws at the other end. Depressing the lever on the grip by merely Strengthening the grip closes the grabbing claws. One can deftly pick up even a 1 inch square piece of paper in this picker.

A picker would be available in Gardening Equipment shops. In the absence of pickers we can use gloved hands, but it means a lot of bending and straightening. What is needed also is bins in which the litter/rubbish can be deposited at the spot where it is picked up. The bin must have handles on two sides to enable two people to fetch it to the gathering place. Here we use standard garbage bags to finally deposit the rubbish. We collect only dry rubbish, so there is no question of segregating wet and dry waste here. Dry rubbish includes paper, cloth, plastic, glass, metal, thermocol, rubber, etc.



After a neighbourhood clean-up group is set up, it is made aware of the 5 most important facts:

1. The worktime for each person must not exceed 1 hour.
2. The work MUST happen ceaselessly at least 1 hour per week FOR THE REST OF THAT VOLUNTEERS LIFE - on one or the other bank or coastline - WHETHER OTHER VOLUNTEERS DROP OUT OR NOT.
3. One more hour every week is spent on recruiting at least one new volunteer for the project.
4. Safety. Use gloves, goggles, pickers as the most basic safety equipments to protect eyes and hands and back.
5. The local government authority in charge of keeping the area/town/city clean must be recruited in too. But the ball is never assumed to have been handed over to their court. The ball always and forever remains in our court. If all the local government begins to cleanup the local river, its time for us to begin work in the next river - till we cover the entire earth with cleanup-culture. The last frontier to be cleaned on earth will be the oceans. Then we start cleaning up the rubbish we have left in orbit in space....

Shrishti Eco-Research Institute, Pune

Its a kind of green-leadership training of the simplest and yet the most difficult type. Its an external-meditation-focus which is pursued for infinite-time over an increasing-geographical-region - else 'inner-surrender' is not real but a pretence. 50% lack of science, spirituality and statesmanship (25 : 25 : 50) in one's cultural upbringing. This is the lack of:

- intellect, interest, application
- verification, sensitivity, dynamism
- understanding, self-motivation, responsibility
- planning, involvement, initiative
- creativity, patience, refinement
- mass-communication, mass-action-motivation-skills, leadership-through-field-activity
- coordination, cohesiveness, cooperation
- decisiveness, perseverance, implementation
- recording, internalizing, course-correcting
- green-orientation, green-passion, green-practice
- Maturity of Head, Maturity of Heart, Maturity of Hands
- Truth, Love, Justice (through Team-Work)
- Ignorance of Law, Disrespect for Law, Inability to create new Laws (Pre-occupation with 'flogging' dead-Laws which have failed anyway)
- Scientific Culture, Spiritual Culture, Pioneering Culture
- quick-thinking, quick-feeling and quick-action

It is not my responsibility, I said.

God said, yes it is.

I do not have time, I pleaded.

God said, yes you have.

I do not have strength, I protested.

God said, you are lying.

Why me, I said.

God said, because I need you to show that this can be done. I need you to support others who bravely began long before you did. I need your future generations to grow into an action-responsibility culture which gives them a fair chance.

Its a big job, God.

Then call more people. Intensify your individual contribution to gather more people into the first steps.

Why people, God, why not machines?

People clean ups are zero-pollution, zero-expense and zero - corruption initiatives, child. Begin pure, stay pure. Forever.

But the machines will do the job faster.

Machines will clean the streams and rivers, child, who will clean you and every human being from inside - and who will clean the rubbish about 'fast development' and 'quick success' which clots your thoughts and ideologies and activities - and is the cause of all the rubbish?

But...

God smiled and said gently - Shall we begin the work to clean up the rubbish now, or do you want to keep on talking rubbish?



Should we Goksu clean with hands
Or pick the plastics from Seyhan
Shall we sieve the Buyuk Menderes
Or desilt the bed of the Ceyhan?
Gediz, Corus, Aras and Lake Van,
Murat, Sakarya and Yesilirmak
Shall we clean the banks of these
And also of the Kesilirmak?
Best would be if we all go to the
Mothers of civilization, two:
The Tigris and the Euphrates -
Our debt to them is due, anew !
Lest we forget our debt to the seas
And oceans which do tide for us
Let us clean the beaches of
The Med, the Black and the Bosphorus...
Come then, Huri, while others loiter
And burden our waters with every waste
Let us at least clean their banks
And pay our overdue dues post-haste.....

- Vinod Bodhankar

---x---

International Conference on ILBM for Ujjani Reservoir scheduled on 14th & 15th Aug. 09, has been postponed due to swine flu in Pune.

Newsviews

More money to clean rivers, lakes

The Government of India has planned to allocate Rs.562 crore (\$110 million) in fiscal 2009-10 for cleaning India's rivers and lakes. Finance minister Pranab Mukherjee announced this rise from Rs.335 crore last fiscal while presenting the Union Budget in parliament.

The government had unveiled its National Action Plan on Climate Change last year and that eight national missions under it were being finalised, Mukherjee committed that the government would provide necessary funds for all the missions.

The annual economic survey had estimated that India is now spending over 2.6% of its GDP to adapt to climate change, which is affecting farm output, making droughts, storms and floods more frequent and more severe, and raising the sea level.

---x---

Bhimtal Lake dries up in Nainital

Well-known Bhimtal Lake, a perennial lake in Bhimtal town in Uttarakhand, is drying up due to human encroachment, silting and scanty rainfall. Illegal construction in the catchment area and increasing levels of silt and pollution, threaten the existence of the lake, one of the ecological assets of the region.

The lake once had massive bamboo forests around that helped retain water, but now its just weed. The forests have been cleared for construction. The monsoons have been way below normal and the lake that used to be water filled this time of the year, presents a dismal picture.

The situation of the lake also threatens the various aquatic species it houses. Environmentalists believe that the lake can replenish if the ground water table increases, which can only happen with rainwater, which this time is a distant possibility.

---x---