

“What's the use of a fine house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?”

— Henry David Thoreau

Lex Terra

News Updates on Environmental Law

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The rate at which we are exploiting the Earth at present is at its highest. A bit of awareness can help change this. *Lex Terra* is a mode of creating awareness. An effort made by the Seventh Semester Environmental Law Specialisation Students of B.A.,LL.B, it is an extension of a classroom exercise which the students under Asstt. Prof. Chiradeep Basak intend to put forward to the entire family of NLU-A. A bit of contribution here and a bit of contribution there from each one of us is what the Earth desperately needs at this point of time. Through *Lex Terra*, the students intend to highlight important happenings in the field of Environment which we all must be aware of. Every issue of *Lex Terra* would be a collection of various Environment specific news items which will be touching various facets of environmental law as well. Law is the best instrument to usher in any kind of change and change in our approach towards our interaction with the environment is a necessity right now.

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About CELAR

The primary mission of Centre for Environmental Law, Advocacy and Research (CELAR) of National Law University, Assam is to engage in advocacy and research on public interest environmental issues. For the purpose, it will organize workshops and seminars to educate and develop skills, convene conferences to promote exchange of ideas, conduct training programmes for capacity building in environmental law issues, undertake research on legal concerns and publish

periodically, newsletters and journals.

The objectives of the CELAR are as follows:

- To inspire and educate students by providing hand-on advocacy experience and direct exposure to the issues.
- Strengthen access to justice by undertaking high quality multi-disciplinary research on contemporary legal issues pertaining to environment.
- Advocate for reforms in environmental law through

scientifically sound legislative proposals.

- Organise training programmes for strengthening the legal capacity building on environmental laws and civil servants, law enforcement authorities, non-governmental organizations and media personnel.
- Publish periodically journals and newsletters on environmental law.

— **Professor (Dr.) Yugal Kishore,**
Centre Head, CELAR

Message from Team *Lex Terra*

Lex Terra is an initiative by the Environmental Law Specialisation Students of the batch of 2012-2017 under the able guidance, leadership, and supervision of Assistant Professor Mr. Chiradeep Basak. It is a first of its kind initiative within the National Law University, Assam, through which the students under the umbrella of the newly constituted CELAR are making an attempt to enhance the awareness of the society with regard to the environment. The power and capacity vested within humankind to alter the course of nature has not been channelized in a productive manner and through this platform, we seek to achieve this very status quo which we tend to lose sight of.

We are proud to present the second issue to *Lex Terra*. It has been made after a thorough and detailed analysis of the response which we had got from our readers. All the suggestions and

advice of our valued readers have been kept in mind while framing this issue of *Lex Terra*. The approach to preparing the report has been to build on existing knowledge of environmental issues and the everyday environment related news which comes up across the globe.

This issue of *Lex Terra* has been framed based on analysis of the best data available. The report targets the general public as well as policy and decision makers in public and private sectors. Data has been collected from reliable national and international sources, and cross-checked by each and every member of our team. One of the main constraints in preparing this report has been a lack of reliable and coherent national data in various sectors and a detailed analysis of the same. To overcome this difficulty, each news item was prepared individually by doing a thorough and in-depth research and analysis of the topic and coming up

with a commentary upon the same.

The report provides an easily understood overview of environmental law issues for the non-scientist without frustrating the scientific accuracy of the issues discussed.

The team of *Lex Terra* wishes to thank all of those who supported this initiative, and specifically Mr. Chiradeep Basak, who was a source of inspiration from the outset, alongside his unrelenting contribution to all phases of the job, from planning, to setting clear goals and appraising the outcome. Thanks are also due to all our esteemed readers who made an outstanding effort in inspiring us to come up with a second edition with better analysis and more coverage.

Our special thanks goes to CELAR which backed this project from its inception.

NATIONAL NEWS

TEMPERATURE IN INDIA INCREASED BY 0.6 DEGREE CELSIUS

- Swastik

It has been found that the mean Temperature has increased by nearly 0.6 degree Celsius over the last 110 years and around 2037 deaths were the result of heat waves caused due to this increase in Temperature as stated by the government in the Parliament. These heat waves were found to be 'abnormally' high leading to such a loss across the country.

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana faced the maximum casualties with both these states together recording 93% of the total deaths

due to heat wave in 2015 and it has been the warmest decade for the country as well as for the globe. According to the report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the mean surface temperature of the globe has risen by 0.85 degree Celsius.

Various issues have to be resolved in order to tackle with this problem of climate change. There is need to abide by the provisions provided in various legislations in this regard i.e. The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 which put constraints on the emission of polluting gases from

industries, vehicles etc. Various provisions of The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 also penalize individuals and agencies for polluting the environment. Government needs to take action in this regard and look in provisions of various acts, whether they are able to cover up all environmental issues or there is a need to amend them. A proper legal mechanism is to be set up in order to check whether people and government abide to them or not. (Courtesy: Vishwa Mohan, Times of India, August 5, 2015)

TRIBALS OPPOSE COLOUR GRANITE MINING

- Sweden Doley

Taking strong exception to the proposed mining of colour granite at Bodikondalu, tribals of Budharavada Panchayat in Parvathipuram mandal have warned of intensifying stir, if the authorities go ahead with the plan. The government has sanctioned the lease for mining colour granite in 30 hectares to the Hyderabad-based M/s Pokarna Granites Limited. During a public hearing meeting held as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment of the project chaired by Joint Collector Rama Rao and Parvathipuram RDO Govinda Rao recently, tribal associations and the Andhra Pradesh Rythu Coolie Sangham vehemently opposed the project, citing that mining activity in the area would have a

deleterious impact on farming and livelihood of the tribals living in 12 hamlets in the vicinity of Bodikondalu.

No different from other development and mining projects that threatens the livelihoods and dependency of the indigenous people on the local resources, this is yet another fresh issue that has come up after the government has sanctioned a mining project in Bodikondalu. The government has again failed to take into consideration the interests of the tribals living in that area before leasing out the mining project. There is no doubt that such developmental projects are very essential for the purpose of self sustainance and self sufficiency of the country, but such development should not be at the cost of some group of people, even if they

form a minority group, who would be adversely affected from such activities. In this particular case, the tribals are involved in a number of agricultural activities and collection of rainwater which is their sole source livelihood. Once such projects get the green signal, then it would lead to disruption of livelihood of the locals; not to mention the question of the displacement from their place of habitation. (Courtesy: The Hindu, 5 Aug 2015)

Oirfanhasieb

PM PITCHES FOR SOLAR ENERGY AS ULTIMATE SOLUTION TO INDIA'S ENERGY PROBLEM

-Sucheta Ray

Describing solar energy as the ultimate solution to India's energy problem, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called upon Indian scientists to work towards developing more efficient equipment which could revolutionise the entire sector, during his interaction with 30 eminent scientists from top institutions of India at a gathering which was meant for discussing scientific solutions to the country's various problems. The PM has asked the scientists to come up with new ideas and strategies so that India can contribute to fight climate change as a global leader. While discussing about the critical negotiations during the upcoming UN Conference on Climate Change (COP 21), he emphasised on solar power and stated that this alternative energy assumes significance in the context of India's goal to generate 100 GW of electricity from solar energy by 2022. The country is expected to scale up its target quite substantially (almost double) by 2030. India's new goal will be reflected in its 'climate action plan' (Intended Nationally

Determined Contribution - INDC) which is to be submitted to the UNFCCC next month.

The use of solar energy clearly diminishes the country's dependency on fossil fuels. Although solar energy is abundantly available, it is also variable and intermittent. Solar power cannot generate electricity at night without storage mechanisms, and is less effective in overcast or cloudy conditions. For this reason, solar power is often used in conjunction with base-load generation from coal, natural gas, nuclear, and hydro sources of power that can provide reserve generation in times of intermittency. The climatic condition of India is very diverse. Thus, the use of solar energy cannot be uniformly used at all places. Also, India has not yet been able to use cost-effective technologies which will be able to convert solar energy in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

Electricity generated from solar power remains more expensive than other forms of electricity in many places.

Moreover, in recent years, the supply of rare earth minerals commonly used for PV manufacturing has become constrained. Solar power, especially solar PV, is constrained by intermittency issues because of weather factors and the fact that daylight hours are limited and integrated storage still remains costly. Solar power is also constrained by the uneven geographic distribution of solar resources, which ultimately encumbers integration with the larger electric grid. Solar power is also held back by a lack of transmission infrastructure which is necessary to access solar resources in remote areas, such as deserts, and transport the electricity to end users. These areas often have the highest potential for solar generation but the same is under-utilised. Therefore, until the aforementioned shortcomings are not solved, the abundance of solar energy available in India will remain unexploited. (Courtesy- Vishwa Mohan, TNN, 19 Aug 2015)

NOTIFICATION BANNING DIESEL, PETROL VEHICLES IN ROHTANG PASS ISSUED

-Nishigandha Paniphukan

The Kullu district administration on Sunday (August 16) imposed a ban on plying of diesel and petrol-driven vehicles in Rohtang Pass in compliance with the orders of National Green Tribunal (NGT). A notification to this effect was issued by Kullu Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Kanwar. It cited the May 5 orders of NGT banning all vehicles except those run by CNG/electric to the 3,978-metre Rohtang Pass.

Meanwhile, this sudden decision of the Himachal Pradesh government

has sent shock waves among the people engaged in tourism industry and other stakeholders. Although Rohtang is a very eco sensitive region but it is also the gateway to tribal Lahaul valley and the ban would also hit the passenger and goods transportation to tribal areas. The farmers would be badly hit if diesel and petrol driven heavy vehicles are not allowed to cross the Rohtang pass and transportation of crops would be a big challenge. Moreover, the eco tourism industry would also suffer due to this order. But on the positive side the region is located deep into Himalayas and

contain many glaciers and such a step would indeed help preserve the environment in the area. (Courtesy- PTI, Times of India, 16 Aug 2016)

The hotel association and other stakeholders in the area of Kullu had moved the Supreme Court against the NGT order of the banning of the diesel but did not get any relief and NGT also declined to revise its orders.

HC, GREEN TRIBUNAL AT LOGGERHEADS OVER NH7 FELLING

- Shweta Sachdeva

In a case that highlights the recurring problem of jurisdiction and power-struggle – the National Green Tribunal and Bombay High Court (Nagpur Bench) are unable to see eye-to-eye with regard to the extension of the NH-7 Highway.

The issue of Environmental Clearances being granted easily by the MoEFCC and other authorities was severely criticized by the NGT and especially, the Bombay High Court's decision in contravention of its own order directing for no felling of trees along the Chorbahuli and Khawasa corridor.

The Bombay High Court claimed that the NGT was 'just another quasi-judicial body that was created under some statute' and they were not bound by its decision being placed at a higher pedestal than them.

The majority of problems in India are

created by this notion of superiority that one body or agency does not fall under the other, but what they incessantly forget is that all these bodies, agencies and authorities were created for the welfare of the society and its components. When one transgresses its powers or does not do its duty – the Constitution and other corresponding laws are in place to ensure such a transgression is avoided (separation of powers etc.).

NGT is not the only guardian of the Indian environment and it calling out the Government, the High Court and other agencies for their actions should be taken in stride by all the parties since all of them are major stakeholders in the protection of the Environment. Additionally, this also becomes another case of Environment versus Development and also crops up the problem of Man-Animal conflict. By

reducing the forest cover for the widening of the Highway, we are not only uprooting trees but also altering the lives of several animals who reside within them. When these animals are left 'homeless' and enter 'human areas' they are then called as 'vermin' and 'enemies of the society'. But seldom is it realized that such a situation arose on account of the actions undertaken by them.

If such a move is indeed imperative, then at the least, the damage to the environment should be handled and measures for afforestation and translocation of the animals & other species to appropriate habitats has to be ensured prior to such destruction. This will go in sync with the Precautionary Principle (Agenda 21) to which India is a party of. (Courtesy-Vijay Pinjarkar, Times of India, 6 Aug, 2015)

A NEW COURSE FOR IRON ORE MINING IN ODISHA

-Noor Kutub Alam

Rejection of regularisation of mines operating beyond lease areas and compensation for other violations being used for tribal welfare are among the recommendations of a recent report on mining in the state. The discourse around iron and steel in India has taken a huge political turn since 2007. In 2007, the Karnataka state government, while recognising the problem of rampant illegal mining in the state in the light of steep increases in iron and steel prices had sought the intervention of the Lokayukta. An interim report of the Karnataka Lokayukta was put out in December 2008, which highlighted several instances where mining activity was taking place beyond the leased area. This included trespassing into forest areas, illegal dumping and other

violations linked to the parameters set out by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) as well as environment and forest regulations. The Lokayukta's final report in 2011 found incriminating evidence of illegality in the sector from 2003 onwards.

The latest Central Empowered Committee report relating to iron ore and manganese in the state of Odisha draws its mandate from a few ongoing cases in the Supreme Court (SC). The most prominent of these has been the writ petition filed by Common Cause, a registered NGO which has taken a lead in filing several public interest litigations (PILs), addressing issues such as criminalisation of politics, coal block allocation irregularities and many oth-

ers. In W.P. (C) No. 114/2014, relating to illegalities in iron ore and manganese mining in Odisha, Common Cause sought a range of reliefs and orders from the SC. This includes directing the central government and the Odisha government to immediately stop any illegal mining in the state and terminating all leases found to be in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (under which the permission for diversion of forest land for non-forest use such as mining needs to be sought) and other environmental laws.

It also draws from the report of the M.B. Shah commission and asks for directions to be taken against violators listed in the five-volume (including sub volumes) report on mining in Odisha. (Courtesy– Economic Times, 24 Aug 2015)

SUPREME COURT PANEL SAYS NO TO MEGA RAIL LINK THROUGH WESTERN GHATS

— Irfan Hasieb

The Rs 2,315-crore Hubli-Ankola railway line, cutting across the Western Ghats in Karnataka, has been shown the red signal by a Supreme Court panel on forest and wildlife, which said that the project's "huge and irreparable" ecological impact would "far outweigh" its "actual tangible benefits".

In its report submitted earlier this month, the Supreme Court's Central Empowered Committee (CEC) underlined that the net present value of the modified requirement of 727 hectares of forest land for the project works out to Rs 7,426 crore. More than triple the project cost.

"These figures most effectively demonstrate the extraordinary high ecological and economic value of the forest land involved in the project," it said, recommending that the apex court may direct the Environment Ministry not to reconsider or approve the project it had earlier rejected.

A joint venture between the Railways and the Karnataka government, the original project involved construction

of 329 bridges and 29 tunnels, and required felling of more than 2.5 lakh trees on 965 hectares of forest land.

The proposal was rejected by the Environment Ministry in 2004 but revived with modifications in 2006. Pushing the rail link in 2008, the Karnataka government claimed it was "inevitable that the Western Ghats has to be pierced through at some point to ensure this connectivity between coastline and eastern plains of the state."

In 2002, the Karnataka forest department observed that no national interest would be served by dissecting the forest landscape of Uttara Kannada with a new rail link when the potential of the existing alternatives such as Hubli-Vasco, Hospet-Chennai and Hospet-Vizag lines was yet to be tapped fully due to the low volume of iron ore traffic.

It further reasoned that the deposit of Bellary-Hospet itself would not last beyond 20 years, making mining economically unviable.

But by then, the Railways had already started work on the project in a non-forest stretch. In 2003, the then

Karnataka forest chief reiterated that "the forest and terrain really do not permit a railway line" but the proposal "has to be considered in the light" of "more than one commitment" already made by the state government and the Railways Ministry.

Submitting the proposal to the Union Environment Ministry, Karnataka's then principal secretary (forest) acknowledged that the rail link "will further fragment the forest and expose fresh areas to anthropogenic pressure", before concluding that "these appear inevitable given the importance of the line".

This is a perfect instance of impact assessment which has yielded a very positive result in terms of the fact that unnecessary anthropogenic pressure on the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats was tactfully avoided. There would have been no justification available for investment of such huge sums of money for extracting iron ore from a source that would not have survived even for 20 years. (Courtesy- The Indian Express, 24 Aug 2015)

CNG-RUN VEHICLES EMIT DANGEROUS NANOCARBON, CSIR STUDY FINDS

- Abhishek Chakravarty

The compressed natural gas (CNG)-run buses are harmful for humans as they emit "nanocarbon" particles which can cause cancer, reported a study conducted by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Though the study was conducted on a very limited sample size in Delhi, CSIR took the findings seriously owing to the health hazard it poses to humans and alerted the central government for further

follow up, CSIR's director general Dr M.O. Garg had said.

The nano carbon particles formed from natural gas combustion are very harmful for human health. These particles go straight into our lungs through our nose, entering our blood, thus posing a grave danger on account of them being carcinogenic. Although in recent years the Government had given emphasis on using CNG as it was

believed to be less harmful for the environment; but a recent study has made the government re-think about popularizing CNG. (Courtesy- Express News Service, 6 Aug 2015)

"Natural gas is supposed to be a clean fuel when used in internal combustion engines, right? But, I don't think people realize that what you see (smoke) is perhaps better than what you don't see (no smoke from CNG vehicles)"
- Dr. M.O. Garg, Director General, CSIR

RELOCATION OF PEOPLE IN TIGER RESERVES TO BE TIMELY: PARLIAMENTARY PANEL

- Shweta Sachdeva

The three-phase relocation programme of people residing within the core areas of Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) has to be enforced suitably- in a statement given to the Centre by the Parliamentary Panel. It also recommended the Government to provide twenty-three (23) crore rupees towards financial assistance to effectuate the move.

MTR is adjoining to the Wyanaad Wildlife sanctuary on the West and Bandipur Tiger Reserve from the North. The residents have agreed to the move and the plan for the same has also been prepared.

What has to be scrutinized here is

how the funds are utilized and whether they actually reach the concerned people or are going to fill the pockets of bureaucrats, middle-men.

The Centre needs to also see that the residents are rehabilitated and relocated in a proper place where they get housing facilities, economic opportunities, and educational institutions for their children as well as health and safety safeguards. The government should seek the help of local NGOs to take stock of the situation since administrative agencies will not be able to present a true picture (as is seen in most cases).

Just as the areas around and near the stadiums for the 2010

Commonwealth Games were cleared – the residents and pavement-dwellers were promised settlements and proper relocation, yet they continue to live in slums in Savda Ghevra colony (South-West Delhi) without even the provision of basic amenities. (Courtesy- All India, PTI, 12 Aug 2015)

People living inside the core area of the tiger reserve are voluntarily willing to be relocated and the relocation plan has been worked out by the TN government and the proposal seeking financial assistance for the first phase of relocation has been sent to NTCA

MAJORITY OF ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE ZONES STILL NOT NOTIFIED

- Sucheta Ray

Of the 629 national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, the Union environment ministry has been able to provide a protective buffer zone, called ecologically sensitive zones (ESZs), to only 26 so far.

According to the national wildlife policy, each of these wildlife zones was to have a protective zone demarcated around it, where polluting and detrimental activities would be restricted. The ESZ is based on the principles of providing sanctity to protected areas and strengthening the buffer zones and corridors around such areas. All forms of infrastructure projects of commercial or public purpose, including mining, industries and hydro-power projects are prohibited within such zones, according to the ministry guidelines. But data from the Union environment ministry shows only 26 such ESZs have been formally

notified so far.

The environment ministry notified an ESZ around Okhla Bird Sanctuary in Noida through a notification dated 19th August 2015, which has caught public attention because it impacted thousands of home buyers in the country's capital. But the vast majority of such proposals for other national parks and wildlife parks are still in limbo.

According to a 2006 Supreme Court order, all states and Union Territories were required to send proposals detailing the site-specific geographical extent of ESZs around environmentally protected areas falling within their boundaries. Again, according to Supreme Court orders, unless site-specific ESZs are declared, a 10-km area around each of these wildlife zones is treated as an ESZ. But despite repeated deadlines the states failed to submit their proposals.

While the states themselves have played

truant in sending proposals within stipulated time, the slow pace by the ministry too cast a shadow on the project. Officials suggest that procedural complexities were primarily to be blamed for the delays.

The lax attitude of the States and the Union paves a way for irreparable damage of the sensitive economic areas. Also, the existence of such discrepancies makes it easier for the private corporations and individual to make use of the resource rich ecologically sensitive areas. There is, thus, a need for strict adherence and implementation of the orders and rules passed by the Ministry by the different States; if it is seen that there is no compliance to such orders within the stipulated time frame, then there should be certain penalty imposed on them. (Courtesy: Subhayan Chakravarty, Business standard, 20 Aug 2015)

ACTION SOON AGAINST INDUSTRIAL UNITS POLLUTING GANGA: GOVERNMENT

- Swastik

The Government has asked Pollution Control Boards to initiate action against industrial units discharging contaminated effluents in river Ganga. Uma Bharti, the Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Minister and her ministry, would soon finalise a plan in this regard and send it to the Cabinet for approval.

“Namami Ganga” has been launched by the Government to rejuvenate the river which is fully funded by the centre and proposes to encourage public participation for the cause, especially of those

living on the banks of the Ganga and nearby areas in its efforts to rejuvenate the river. Under the programme, an amount of Rs. 528 crore has been earmarked for public participation, including raising of Ganga Task Force, for a five-year period (2015-2020).

An Eco Task Force is being raised which will be primarily manned by the ex-servicemen living on banks of Ganga to aid local participation. Apart from rejuvenation of Ganga, the programme also covers all the tributaries of the river. “Yamuna Action Plan”.

Gomti Action Plan. Damodar Action Plan are already under operation and work on Ramganga and Kali are under implementation,” the Minister claimed.

We can see here that Indian Government has been focusing on encouraging Public Participation in all its projects with respect to environmental issues. This will definitely encourage people to come forward for the cause; spread awareness regarding such issues and maintain transparency regarding the working of the government. (Courtesy-PTI, Times of India, 6 August 2015)

HMC WAKES UP TO POLYTHENE BAN SENSING REPRIMAND BY NGT

- Shweta Sachdeva

India is a land of devout persons and religion is a driving force for most of the population, which sees several celebrations of the same occurring throughout the realm. This however, leads to severe pollution in the areas of religious importance that has come to notice of the NGT. The Ganga Ghats are a prominent place where hordes of tourists and pilgrims descend – but leave the surrounding areas full of litter and waste primarily in the form of polythene and plastic bottles. Taking up this issue on the basis of a report filed by the local commissioner with regard to the matter, the NGT ordered for a strict ban on such materials in the area and called for measures to be undertaken to ensure the cleanliness of the hugely-popular religious locale. However, the Haridwar Municipal Corporation (HMC) had done precious little in

compliance of the order passed on a previous date, and is only now taking cognizance of the affairs.

Only recently has it begun installing dustbins in appropriate places throughout the area and put in force a machinery to seek the compliance of the ban. However, restaurants and Plastic factories nearby remain outside the purview of their jurisdiction, which makes it difficult for them to ensure their compliance.

The HMC should not have waited for the NGT order to wake up to their responsibilities, since they are trustees of the society – they themselves should have taken care of the situation before it got out of hand. Despite NGT’s pro-activism, the Municipal authorities should have enforced such guidelines and especially having such an area of religious and ecological importance under its nose –

more attentiveness and care should be taken by them.

What strikes one as an irony is the fact that people gather here to profess their love and devotion to the Gods – but do not in actuality abide by the principles of the Gods or religion which calls for respect and care towards the environment and nature. Owing a moral, religious and legal duty to protect the environment, the people themselves shy away from doing their bit and call for the enforcement of their “Right to a Healthy Environment” which is violated by their own actions. This is what is meant by the Garrett Hardin’s Tragedy of Commons and continues to concern the human race. (Courtesy-Sheo S Jaiswal, Times of India online, August 17 2015)

“Nothing on this earth lasts forever. Except maybe plastic.”

- Patricia Dunn, *Rebels by Accident*

NEW ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL TO POSE MAJOR THREAT TO ECOSYSTEM

- Sweden Doley

Amravati, the proposed capital of Andhra Pradesh, will face eight major environmental challenges that may affect the local atmosphere and lead to adverse climatic events in the region, a document prepared by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has identified. According to the document, degradation of vegetation, uncontrolled concretization, lack of control on automobile and industrial emissions, unchecked mining activity in the hills all around, emissions from paddy fields and agro-processing activities are responsible for the fragile ecology of the region. It said the authorities in the capital region must take appropriate mitigation

programmes to overcome these factors influencing climate change.

The city of Amravati is of great historical, cultural and religious significance in India for which it is one of the cities chosen for Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana of the Government of India. But even before the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority Bill was introduced, the new capital located at the Eastern coastal areas, have been facing several sustainability challenges. Since the last two decades temperature has been on the rise due to the change in land use pattern which has caused changes in sunlight reflected from the ground. Further, for accommodating the

development of the capital area, the infrastructural projects that are to be initiated will have adverse affect on the ecosystem around the area. The reclamation of land that for development that generally takes place during such urbanisation projects would also affect the agricultural land thereby affecting not only the ecology, but also raise questions on the livelihoods on the local people. The sudden population explosion would also exert extreme pressure on the limited resources around the area, particularly on the nearby Godavari River. (Courtesy: TNN, The Times of India, 10 Aug 2015)

CLIMATE CHANGE: ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY, SUBRAMANIAN AT ODDS

- Irfan Hasieb

The Environment Ministry does not support the proposed change in the country's stand on climate change suggested by Arvind Subramanian, India's chief economic advisor, the ministry told the Prime Minister's office (PMO).

In what is being viewed as a turf war brewing between the two sides, the ministry has said it does not agree with Subramanian's view that India should align with coal-rich countries and distance itself from poor and developing countries. Subramanian's stand was first reported by the

Business Standard newspaper on 12 August.

This comes in the backdrop of expectations of a meaningful climate change pact at the UN climate conference in Paris in December. The summit is expected to finalize a global agreement to cut greenhouse gas emissions. India's intended nationally determined contributions to tackle climate change, which will form the basis for negotiations at Paris, are expected to be submitted to the UN shortly.

Because of the rapid development

being going on in the country the nation must strike a balance between achieving its developmental goals and at the same time maintaining its environment. So, the targets taken by the GOI is encouraging on the backdrop of the fact that the developed countries in the world owe a lot of environmental liability to the rest of the World. (Courtesy- Mayank Aggarwal and Utpal Bhaskar, LiveMint, 27 August, 2015)

Climate change does not respect border; it does not respect who you are - rich and poor, small and big. Therefore, this is what we call 'global challenges,' which require global solidarity.

- Ban Ki-moon

CENTRE MAY USE TIGERS TO AMBUSH LION TRANSLOCATION

- Swastik

The Central government is planning to stop the translocation of lions from Gir to Kuno using Tiger conservation as leverage. Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary (M.P.) is gaining importance in regard to tiger conservation. The Wildlife Conservation Trust has filed a petition against National Tiger Conservation Authority in the Supreme Court with respect to translocation of Lions to Kuno on several grounds.

Even the 12-member committee

formed after the April 2013 Supreme Court judgment ordering lion translocation to Kuno has sought the opinion of the NTCA. The committee plans to involve the chief wildlife warden of Rajasthan as a member. The question put forward by the committee to NTCA is that whether they want Kuno to develop as a Lion- Tiger cohabited sanctuary or only a Tiger Sanctuary. Currently, the case is in the apex court and the question regarding the clashes between the two big cats will be highlighted in the court, which was raised

by the petitioner as one of the ground against the translocation of lions to Kuno.

The Environment ministry has stated that there have been no instances of these two species living together and hence they have to look at the entire issue from beginning. Rajasthan's involvement in the case will be important as it will have to clarify the dangers that translocation pose. (Courtesy: Himanshu Kaushik, TOI, 5 Aug 2015)

Each generation takes the earth as trustees. We ought to bequeath to posterity as many forests and orchards as we have exhausted and consumed.

- Julius Sterling Morton

DELHI GOVERNMENT GOES DIGITAL TO MONITOR FOREST LAND

- Shweta Sachdeva

Development and Environment has always been at the centre of most debates when it comes to the success of a nation. It has always been difficult to achieve a proper status quo between the two aspects, but the Delhi Government has found a noble way to balance them.

The Delhi Government's Forest Department has initiated an 'online monitoring system' by way of GPS-enabled camera phones and other devices in a bid to oversee the reserve forests of the city and filed an affidavit for the same before the Delhi High Court (dated August 21 2015). The extent of the cover has been asked to be properly presented

and justified by the Department by the respected Judges. Geospatial Delhi Ltd. (GDL) has been approached to prepare the maps for 2008, 2012 and 2014-15 for a proper comparative analysis. Several encroachments and illegal/unauthorized constructions have also been covered in the affidavit filed by them present in the forest areas.

This move comes as a breath of fresh air in the literal sense of the word in response to the recent news of 'Death by Breath' (re: Death by Breath: What's happening to Delhi air will have you gasping for breath, The Indian Express, April 4, 2015) which is plaguing the capital. With Delhi being called one of the most polluted cities of the world,

this move to inculcate technology to overlook the state of affairs of the forest in Delhi is definitely a move in the right direction.

But as always, the implementation has to be seen through and whether this noble method will fall prey to political ambitions and corruption practices has to be witnessed. The provision of data and authorities work should have a transparency to it as well the inclusion of public participation to ensure both the State and people have the opportunity to abide by their duty as defined under Article 48 and Article 51 (a)(g) of the Constitution of India, 1980 respectively. (Courtesy- Aneasha Mathur, The Indian Express, August 23 2015)

CLOSE TO 6,000 GREEN CRIMES REPORTED IN 2014

India had reported over 5,800 environment related crimes last year with maximum over 83% of it being recorded for violation of the Forest Act, 1927 where the offenders were booked for illegally cutting trees in forest areas and transiting forest produce without required permission. The figures of environment related crimes in the country, compiled for the first time by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) of the home ministry, reveal that over 8,600 persons were arrested in connection with alleged violation of all these environment related laws in 2014 in which the maximum 4,901 cases were reported under the Forest Act followed by 770 under Wildlife

Protection Act, 101 under Environment (Protection) Act, 48 under air pollution law and 15 under the Water Pollution.

These great numbers show the clash which exist between the human and the environment. While the humans have the right to make use of the environment, they do not have the right to injudiciously exploit the ecology and the other organisms residing in it. Environmental sensitization is an important factor in order to save the environment from the atrocities of the human beings.

Also, the official data on green crimes is nowhere near the actual numbers. Most of the cases go unreported where the violators are seldom caught by the

- Sucheta Ray

enforcement machinery. In many cases, they are not even aware of the existence of certain laws. Awareness among the people regarding environmental crimes is little.

In order to curb the menace of the green crime, public participation is mandatory. Sensitization at the grass-root level should be carried out by the government for the interest groups and locales. Institutions like the Gram Sabha and the Gram Panchayats should also be given responsibilities and powers with regard to the controlling of the crimes related to environment. (Courtesy: Vishwa Mohan, TNN, 19 August 2015)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CHINA PASSES NEW POLLUTION LAWS TO CAP COAL CONSUMPTION

- Abhishek Chakravarty

The Chinese Government has finally approved amendments to its 15-year old pollution laws which will make it more stringent and effective to combat the problem of environmental degradation on the national and international level. The draft amendments were passed by 154 votes to 4.

The same has been criticised by some of the environmentalists and researchers however. In recent years due to its rapid mushrooming of industrial projects and growth oriented economy, a lot of harm has been caused to the environment.

Therefore the new law which aims to cap coal consumption will be very important not only to China but the

entire globe which is facing affects of Chinese pollution.

Recently we have also seen the US President making claims to reduce coal consumption and emissions in the wake of the upcoming Paris Climate Change Summit. These are quite positive steps from many of these industrialized nations to tackle global warming.

This new Chinese law is expected to make local governments directly responsible for meeting environmental targets and also ban firms from temporarily switching off polluting equipment during inspections as well as outlawing other behaviors designed to distort emission readings. Such "pollution accountability" at the grass root level would be something worth

looking forward to which would hopefully bring up good results in future. Moreover in the capital city of Beijing too there is a plan to invest \$7.6 Billion to combat air pollution in the next five years, with special focus on coal-fired pollution, vehicle emissions, industrial pollution and dust. The Chinese government has also claimed that improving air quality has become its priority of priorities, thus giving a strong emphasis on the curbing of air pollution. It has also given rules whereby Government, Party officials now will face punishment for causing pollution and would be fully liable for any environmental degradation. (Courtesy-David Stanway and Kathy Chen, Reuters, 29 August 2015)

PAK MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE AGAINST INLAND TRANSPORTATION THROUGH INDUS RIVER

- *Shweta Sachdeva*

In a move that could avoid the hindrance of River Indus to be created by the Provincial Government to set up an Inland Water Transport Development Corporation (IWTDC) throughout the river to connect various cities along its banks.

Global Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC) has come up with these observations that will greatly impact the aquatic ecosystem and natural course of the river system. These constructions across and on the river shall be in violation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, 1971. Additionally, the Central Government has also pointed out

that the necessary EIA standards have not been met by the proposed project and giving the green flag to such a venture would be fundamentally flawed.

The Ramsar Convention opposes hard engineering or structural approaches to control flood and encourages an integrated approach to flood management by soft engineering or non structural approaches. Under the convention, the contracting parties identify some of their important wetlands as Ramsar sites. The convention has mechanisms to help parties take steps necessary to maintain their ecosystem components, processes and benefits.

The Pakistan Government should be

lauded for its efforts to avoid permanent damage to its water body and such care should also be exercised by other neighboring nations. This is a cry from news reports saying the Pakistani Government was 'unprepared to tackle climate change issues' and that its policies were a 'joke'. The Pak Government is yet to present its reports as the world prepares for the Paris Convention. Such conflicting reports are certainly a matter of concern and the government should take all measures to mitigate climate change adaptation plans for its welfare. (Courtesy- Shahzad Anwar, The Express Tribune, 17 August 2015)

US EPA PROPOSES REGULATIONS TO REDUCE METHANE EMISSIONS FROM LANDFILLS

- *Noor Kutub Alam*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued two proposals on 11 August under President Obama's Climate Action Plan to reduce methane-rich emissions from municipal solid waste landfills. One proposal updates the 1996 Emissions Guidelines for existing MSW landfills, and a supplemental proposal will reduce emissions from new and modified landfills. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas with a global warming potential more than 25 times that of carbon dioxide. Climate change threatens the health and welfare of current and future generations. Children, older adults, people with

heart or lung disease and people living in poverty may be most at risk from the health impacts of climate change. In addition to methane, landfills also emit other pollutants, including the air toxics benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and vinyl chloride.

Such proposals would strengthen a previously proposed rule for new landfills that was issued in 2014, and would update the agency's 1996 emission guidelines for existing landfills. The proposals are based on additional data and analysis, and public comments received on a proposal and Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking EPA issued in 2014.

The move comes in the wake of the upcoming UN Meet due in December where the majority of nations will gather to decide the fate of the world with regard to the issue of climate change. US finally taking steps to make itself responsible and accountable for its activities and their consequent effects on the environment are admirable. The Implementation and transparency of the system has to be ensured to truly achieve any positive results. (Courtesy- United States Environmental Protection Agency, 14 August 2015)

UN ADOPTS RESOLUTION TO ATTACK WILDLIFE CRIME

- Abhishek Chakrabarty

The UN has adopted a resolution in its 69th session to combat wildlife crimes collectively titled “Tackling the Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife” and is the culmination of 80 nations on account of diplomatic efforts spread across the past three years.

This historic resolution has committed all countries to ramp up their collective efforts to end the global poaching crisis and tackle the vast illegal wildlife trade.

The UN has recognised that only a comprehensive approach like this can curb the current crisis, and all 193 UN member states agreed to enhance regional and international cooperation along the entire illegal wildlife trade chain, including measures to stop the

poaching, trafficking and buying.

Along with strengthening judicial processes and law enforcement, the resolution encourages countries to actively involve local communities in the fight against the illicit trade by enhancing their rights and capacity to manage and benefit from wildlife resources.

Although a pound of rhino horn today yields more than a pound of gold on the black market, and the tusks of a hundred thousand elephants that are poached each year hold an enormous economic value, but still it is only a fraction of the value of living elephants for tourism and also form the economy

of many African and Asian countries.

We have seen that in case of Nepal, they have already proved that this comprehensive approach works, having achieved three years of zero poaching of rhinos since 2011 thanks to a combination of high-level political will, dedicated rangers, and genuine community participation – now it is up to other countries to follow Nepal’s lead and the measures outlined in this historic resolution. Even India too can follow Nepal’s lead and implement these measures in Assam, which has been facing rhino poaching as a major crisis. (Courtesy- Associated Press, New York Times, 30 July 2015)

DUTCH GOVERNMENT TO APPEAL AGAINST CARBON EMISSIONS RULING

- Noor Kutub Alam

The Dutch government will appeal against a district court ruling ordering it to cut emissions of greenhouse gases faster than currently planned, in a politically sensitive case that is being closely watched by policy-makers abroad. Deputy Minister for the Environment Wilma Mansveld wrote in a letter to parliament on 1st September that the government would contest the 24 June ruling which ordered it to slash emissions by 25% from 1990 levels by 2020. But the government said it will also begin implementing the lower court’s ruling because the filing of an appeal does not undo its obligation to comply. Urgenda, an environmental group that filed the lawsuit on behalf of 900 Dutch co-plaintiffs, said it looked

forward to the appeal process and urged the government to do more to slow climate change. The Director of that Group said that the government could choose to let the result stand but ask the highest court for a ruling on whether such kinds of cases – i.e. those challenging government decisions – can be brought in future.

The ruling, a rare intervention by the judiciary in the global warming debate, is being closely watched by policy makers and environmentalists as a legal precedent. The government of conservative prime minister Mark Rutte questions “the application of international law,” and agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol on climate change. The Netherlands, a laggard among developed countries in cutting

emissions after reducing spending on alternative energy during the financial crisis, used record amounts of coal in the first five months of this year.

Dutch greenhouse gas emissions fell 5% in 2014 from a year earlier, Statistics Netherlands (CBS) said on 1st September, citing the mild winter and lower fossil fuel use. These lower emissions were dampened by higher use of coal and less gas by electricity producers. Emissions were 15% than 1990 levels. Based on current government policy, the Netherlands will achieve a reduction of 17% at most in 2020, which is below a norm of 25-40% for developed countries, a summary of the ruling said. (Courtesy- The Guardian, 23 July 2015)

You could warm Mars up, over time, with greenhouse gases.

NEW VARIETY OF RICE DEVELOPED BY CHINA TO ADD LESS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

- Shweta Sachdeva

New variety of rice – SUSIBA2 – developed by Chinese Scientists addresses the criticisms faced by the cultivation of rice which adds to global warming. The cultivation of rice it is said to emit high levels of atmospheric methane (CH₄) which is considerably damaging for the environment. This new variety of rice is not only high-yielding but also emits less methane than conventional varieties. The impact and

success of this variety is yet to be analyzed on a large-scale, but this certainly is a commendable instance of synchronizing technology with nature to put forward a comprehensive and sustainable alternative that can be adopted by all economies for overall welfare of the world.

A lot of developing countries (India, Brazil etc) primarily have agrarian economies and majority of their

populations depend on such cultivations for earning their bread and butter. They do so without understanding the impact such 'seemingly harmless' activities have on the environment. The use of this variety can certainly bring about a major change and generate awareness that will make farmers reconsider their actions with regard to the environment. (Courtesy- ANS, NDTV Food, 11 August 2015)

AIR POLLUTION KILLS OVER 4,000 EVERY DAY IN CHINA

- Nishigandha Paniphukan

A new study by Berkeley Earth shows just how bad things have gotten in China, despite some positive steps in the right direction lately: The new study shows that air pollution kills an average of 4,000 people every day in China, 17% of all China's deaths. For 38% of the population, the average air they breathe is "unhealthy" by U.S. standards.

"Air pollution is the greatest environmental disaster in the world today," says Richard Muller, Scientific Director of Berkeley Earth, co author of the paper. "When I was last in Beijing, pollution was at the hazardous level; every hour of exposure reduced my life expectancy by 20 minutes. It's as if every man, woman, and child smoked 1.5 cigarettes each hour," he said.

The paper maps the geographic sources of China's toxic air and concludes that much of the smog that routinely shrouds Beijing comes from emissions in a distant industrial zone, a finding that may complicate the government's efforts to clean up the capital city's air in time for the 2022 Winter Olympics. According to the data in the paper, about three-eighths of the Chinese population breathe air that would be rated "unhealthy" by United States standards. The most dangerous of the pollutants studied were fine airborne particles less than 2.5 microns in diameter, which can find their way deep into human lungs, be absorbed into the bloodstream and cause a host of health problems, including asthma, strokes, lung cancer and heart attacks.

Air pollution is now the greatest catastrophe that China is facing and they're doing least to mitigate it. Although they have made certain recent amendments to Air pollution laws but that has come of late and is yet to be implemented. The damage done to the environment in China is way too high to be reversed so soon and might take many decades. The Chinese government is also sensitive about public data showing that air pollution is killing its citizens, or even allusions to such a conclusion and such stand by the government is not positive to mitigate the problem. (Courtesy- Emma Fierberg, *The Guardian*, 14 August 2015)

CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION APPROACHES PIVOTAL SHOWDOWN WITH OIL INDUSTRY

- Noor Kutub Alam

One of the two main bills, SB 350, calls for a 50% reduction in petroleum use by vehicles by 2030, the equivalent of removing 36m cars and trucks from the road. It also calls for 50% of the state's electricity supply to be derived from renewable resources by that date, and 50% better energy efficiency in buildings

through retrofits and upgrades. The other cornerstone of the push is SB 32, which continues cap-and-trade emissions requirements for large industrial polluters like oil refineries and power companies, implemented in California's groundbreaking 2006 climate change law. SB 32 increases those pollution reduction goals –

specifically from man-made greenhouse gases, requiring the state to reduce emissions to 40% below its 1990 levels by 2030, and then increasing that to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. (Courtesy– Anita Chabria, *The Guardian*, 28 Aug 2015)

CASE ANALYSIS

Rohit Choudhury v. UOI, order dated 25 Aug 2015

- *Irfan Hasieb*

The NGT in the instant case has ordered the State Government of Assam to ensure that no construction activities are allowed around Kaziranga National Park, a World Heritage Site. The NGT order further stated that even land patta holders cannot raise any constructions in the eco-sensitive area or buffer zone. The Tribunal further asserted that the *pattas* give land rights primarily for agricultural purposes and nothing else.

The Tribunal has also asked the State Government to file a status report within two days, along with comprehensive map of the National park with boundaries and offending structures existing within a 5 km radius

of the park's boundaries.

A report of the CAG in 2014 on the KNP pointed out that in the Bokakhat circle of the Park, 29 resorts and dhabas have been operating for 40 years within 2-3 km of the Park's boundaries. Majority of the land belonged to the agricultural category. Even resorts have been constructed on government lands. The report, further, highlighted that in the Kaliabor circle, 71 dhabas, resorts and other commercial establishments were running without obtaining no objection certificates from the park authorities. Further out of the 71, 62 were running within 1 km radius of the Park's boundary while the remaining were 9

were located within 3 km radius of the Park's boundary.

The dhabas, resorts and other commercial establishments result in constant men-animal conflict. The establishments attract settlements and such settlements often serve as base for poachers. Plus, in a situation of conflict, if the park and forest authorities are not active enough and the people are not aware, often the animals are captured, tortured and killed mercilessly. (Courtesy- TNN, Times of India, 27 August 2015)

Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre v. Union of India, SCC Online SC 732, decided on 18 August 2015

- *Nishigandha Paniphukan*

Expressing concern over the cruelty meted out to elephants owned by private persons in the State of Kerala, the Division Bench of Dipak Misra and R. Banumathi, JJ., in strict terms directed the Chief Wildlife Warden to keep a count of all captive elephants in the State of Kerala as well as ensure that the requisite declarations and certificates under Sections 40 and 42 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 are duly obtained by such owners. The Court further imposed an obligation upon the State to ensure that various temples in the State are registered with the District Committee as per requirements under the Kerala Captive Elephants (Management and Maintenance) Rules,

2012. The temples are also to mention before the District Committee the number of elephants they will be using during various festivals.

The present case highlights the need to put a stop to cruelty on animals. The counsel for the petitioner, stated that several private owners have not declared and registered their captive elephants. The contention of the petitioner was vehemently opposed by R. Basant, appearing on behalf of the State.

Adopting a strict approach, the Court cast a duty on the State, the District Committee, Management of the temples, and the owners of the elephants to ensure that no cruelty is

meted out to the elephants, failing which the consequences will be severe including confiscation of the elephants to the State.

Such a step by the Supreme Court on issues like cruelty to animals has to be highly applauded, especially in a state like Kerala which houses one of the highest populations of domesticated elephants. Many of Kerala's elephants are temple elephants which are kept and reared in temple. However, on account of lack of natural surroundings and food in these temples, elephants suffer a lot. They are chained and abused thus becoming rogue. Hence, the intervention by the Supreme Court in this issue is expected to bring about positive results.

Kallpavalli Vrishka Pempakamdarula & Ors. v. Union of India & Ors.

(NGT, dated 25 August 2015)

- *Shweta Sachdeva*

The Principal Bench of the NGT addressed the matter of adverse affects of windmill projects in the area of Kallpavalli, Ananth District, Andhra Pradesh in this case.

The area was chosen by the Company ENERCON Ltd. which specializes in wind energy, for setting up windmills and generation of wind energy based on its optimum potential. Despite the area being covered in a thick and dense forest cover and having active drives for afforestation, the area was marked as 'wastelands' in government documents which the State and Company went with ignoring the reality of the situation.

The Gram Panachayat was not included in the discussions as is necessitated by the Constitution of India, 1950 under Part IX.

The villagers were also misled about the constructions occurring and grew increasingly concerned with regard to the massive environmental degradation from

2011. They demanded for compensation and reparation of damages whereby the Company agreed on an amount of Rs. 20 lakhs as part of its CSR and to share other relevant information and data with regard to the work. However, the same was never realized leading to severe losses – economic, social and ecological to the area. The wildlife, grazing patterns of animals, water availability along with temperature fluctuations and construction of roads further destroying more of forest cover were cited as the major deal-breakers of the project.

The Respondents relied heavily on wind energy being a torch-bearer for renewable energy production to put India on the path of 'Green Development' and that it had no such previously calculated effects on the ecology. Also, as per the Supreme Court, such projects required to be treated differently from others and it comes under the internationally recognized 'Clean Development Mechanism' (CDM) which certifies it not to pose any environmental hazards.

Compensatory afforestation paid amounting to 1075 lakhs under a scheme and thus not liable to compensate more for the forest lands over which construction for mills was undertaken. But, the damage suffered by the ecology for the construction of roads for transportation purposes was significant and ordered to pay environmental compensation of fifty lakh rupees, along with plantation of trees alongside the roads constructed, around the turbines and ensure no litter is scattered causing pollution in the area. A compliance and progress report has to be filed within 3 months and six months respectively.

The biggest lacuna that can be noted here is the fact that as per the MoEF notification of 2006, wind mill projects do not require Environmental Clearance (EC) from the authorities. With no such legal considerations, these projects can easily exploit and hurt the environment. The NGT showed its activeness here by reversing the damage, but not all projects are/can be scrutinized with such care. The Government needs to come up with more efficacious guidelines to regulate such ventures in the future.



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ONGOING RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Meat Plants and the current scenario in Guwahati, Assam

Slaughterhouses have for long been the least discussed and least-loved topic of discussion for the 'ignited minds'. No matter the gruesome fates animals face within the four walls, there exist laws and regulations to check their operations and regulation of the sale of meat in an organized and social-friendly manner.

What started out as a classroom discussion and a general feeling of resentment towards the sad reality of animal welfare laws in our country, sprouted the idea of an exercise which would not only be of legal importance, but clear our conscience along the way!

Meat Plants – as environmentalists prefer it to be known as, as opposed to slaughterhouses – are places where animals and birds are slaughtered: in an albeit debatable 'humane' manner, to be served as food on our plates. There are municipal as well as State and National laws regulating their working as well the sale of the end-products thereof. But how far are these regulations adhered to, we are yet to comprehend.

Thus, we have taken the initiative of analyzing the truth behind this industry and how far the laws in place are abided by, by all the stakeholders involved.

Since our temporary campus resides in the heart of a blossoming city, we found it to be the perfect sample for our research.

The team comprises of Environmental law specialization students of the 2012-2017 batch: Abhishek Chakravarty, Irfan Haseib, Nishigandha Paniphukan, Noor Kutub Alam, Shweta Sachdeva, Sucheta Ray, Swastik and Sweden Doley with Assistant Professor - Mr. Chiradeep Basak at the helm of this research.

The objectives as identified by the Researchers for the Study are as follows:-

- To see whether the Bye-laws and other Slaughterhouse regulations specific to Guwahati are followed by the local meat shops.
- To check and analyze the actions taken by the Authorities concerned and whether they co-operate to ensure the implementation of the laws.
- To identify whether the transportation of the animals and birds is in accordance with the PCA Act.
- The disposal of waste – what methods are followed generally

and whether they are done properly.

- To observe the general awareness of the local residents and the police with respect to the animal welfare laws specific to Slaughterhouses.
- To collect and compile data to forward the appropriate authority and/or Ministry for them to take actions accordingly.
- As social engineers, we have undertaken this research to actualize and culminate the discussions we undertake in our classes to a real situation and bring about a change if possible.

Our study comprises of collection of extensive literature on slaughterhouse laws applicable in the country and Guwahati, Assam along with field research to see how far the implementation of the said laws is followed. We will be documenting our research in the form of a report with appropriate and relevant suggestions that would hopefully help the system become more efficacious. The timeline spans over six months, which began in July – December 2015 with the doctrinal research already underway.

“If slaughterhouses had glass walls, everyone would be a vegetarian.”

Paul McCartney

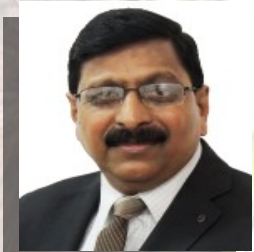
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