



INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION A BIG HURDLE IN WAY OF MIGRATORY BIRDS

GREATER FLAMINGO, SARAS CRANE, BRONZE WINGED JACANA, GLOSSY IBIS, GREY HERON, LARGE EGRET ARE SOME BIRDS SPECIES WHOSE NUMBERS HAVE BEEN DECLINED



Polluted Khan river is not a stop over now which was once a cross over bridge for migratory birds.



Urbanisation and industrial pollution leading to breaking of interconnectivity of lakes at Indore.

■ By Tara Chettur

THE alarming industrial pollution levels in the region has affected adversely to the influx of migratory water birds in Indore lakes. Especially, at Sirpur lake which is a major abode for around 150 exclusive species of the birds there has been sharp decline in water birds. When it comes to shore birds, Pipliyapala lake is witnessing declining migratory shift.

The Indore lakes were interconnected earlier and the aquatic ecosystem has played a major role especially to cater attention of migratory birds for food and shelter during spring season. But with few lakes surviving now the bird population of these lakes are at highest risk. Dinesh Kothari, environmentalist, says that the migratory birds of wetlands mainly look for resource of food and wetlands are characterised by open shallow water less than 6 feet deep and pollution level at effects the aquatic organisms much at faster rate. The arrivals of migratory birds are highest at around January and February months. The 100-year-old beautiful lake is situated on Indore-Dhar road and covers 600 acres.

Bhalu Monde from Nature Volunteers, the group which has pioneered in conservation of Sirpur lake says that considering the declining population of migratory birds an environment interpretation centre at a budget of 2.5 crore to study the migratory influx patterns in the State has been proposed which is waiting for approval. The Centre will be opened for ornithologist and wild life students to understand the pattern of migratory influx. The centre will also serve as main area to correlate the pollution parameters and bird population effects in the region.

The proposal has been submitted to the State government to consider this. The centre will be opened besides Sirpur lake so that the students can have better knowledge about influx of migratory birds throughout the year including its eating and breeding patterns.

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Water-level rises at wetland making tough for water birds to get food resources



Migratory birds looking for food at wetland in Sirpur.

Out of the eight main lakes, four mainly Yashwant lake, Bilawali lake, Pipliyapala lake and Sirpur lake, serves are of importance to shore birds. Each lake has got its own specialisation like Saras cranes and other water birds are seen at immense earlier at Yashwant Sagar lake which abode to around 160 plus species of exclusive varieties of birds. Other lakes include, Kishanpura Tank, Dhar Road, Indore (110 plus species) Yashwant Nagar Tank,

Manpur (90 plus species) Nakheri Dam, Sanjay Jalashay near Mhow (70 plus species) Choral Dam (50 plus species). Lakes like Khajrana lake has died natural death due to urbanisation and industrial pollution which has 50 plus species till mid 1980s.

Greater Flamingo, Saras Crane, Bronze winged Jacana, Glossy Ibis, Grey heron, large egret are some birds species whose numbers have been declined. The purpose of interpretation centre is mainly to correlate different pollution parameters which includes industrial air pollution, water sewage pollution and urbanisation effecting the lake reservoirs in the area.

NOW WOMEN GUARDS TO KEEP VIGIL ON TIMBER THIEVES

Forest Department will induct women employees in flying squad

■ By Arun Kumar

TO CONTROL the timber thefts in State forests due to which every year the Government losses about Rs 50 lakhs' revenue has decided to induct its women employees in flying squads.

In most parts of the State not only men, but village women were also found indulged in wood thefts and male employees found them preventing from timber thefts. The Forest Department has thought that there are many women employees in field and they might be assigned job of catching the women thieves stealing wood and causing lakhs of rupees revenue loss to the Government.

According to sources it will be for the first time when the Forest Department has decided to include women in flying squads that usually go to the forests where more complaints of wood thefts by the village women are received.

However, it has not yet decided how many women employees and at what cadre will be included in flying squads to control wood thieves. They will not only catch the village women, will catch men thieves and even keep watch on the poachers also.

"In flying squads, the duty of the employees is not certain, it may be in the day or evening and it is also not decided where the flying squad will be asked to go to raid. Besides, some more powers to the flying squads will also be delegated soon, said a senior forest officer in the office of Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF).

It is learnt that usually women employees whose job is in the field are not sent in to field due to their personal reasons. They are attached to the offices. These days, in tiger reserves and national parks and even the State capital's offices the

women employees whose work is in field are posted in the offices. But now, with consent of women employees their duty will be with men employees in flying squads. To which they will be imparted training what they have to do in the forests. The complaints from the field offices will be forwarded and some facilities will also be given. The Forest Department will do it to few places of the state as experiment basis and if succeeds will be implemented it in other parts of the State. When contacted, Narendra Kumar, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF), admitted of inducting women employees in to flying squad. Where we will need their services in flying squad will include them to control wood thefts, he said.



Forest Department, timber thefts.

