



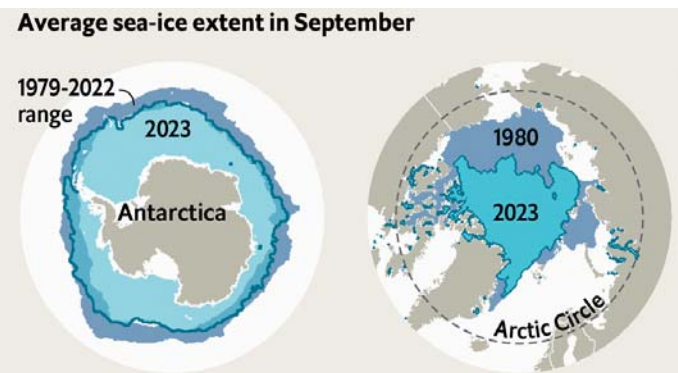
World Maritime Day

Many people do not realize that more than 80% of the world's global trade is transported through international shipping. That means that most of the consumer goods that enter business and homes all over the world were shipped to get there. As the most affordable and efficient form of transportation for goods, maritime activity continues to be a vital part of the world's trade industry. Connecting markets across the world — from container ships to tankers, this vital industry keeps goods flowing and economies growing.

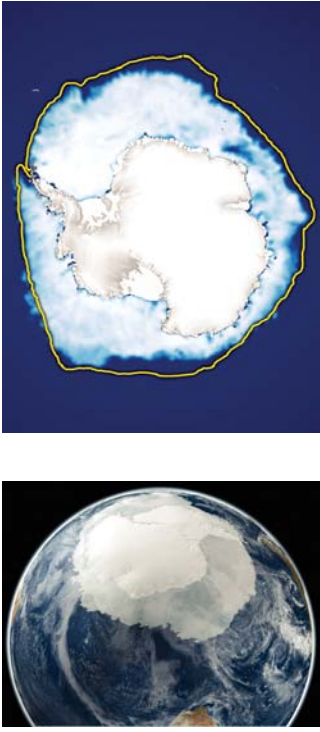
#GLOBAL-WARMING

Arctic loses ice nearly twice India's size

As ice growth in the Arctic reached a record low, the melting of ice in the Antarctic is going towards historic highs.



Antarctic sea ice reached its lowest maximum extent on record on September 10 at a time when the ice cover should have been growing at a much faster pace during the darkest and coldest months, shows a new study using satellite data. In the meanwhile, Arctic sea ice reached its annual minimum extent on September 19, making it the sixth-lowest year in satellite records. The period between June and September usually represents summer in the Arctic Circle and winter in the Antarctic Circle. To track sea ice extent, researchers at NASA's National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) use satellites to measure sea ice as it melts and refreezes. It is defined as the total area of the ocean in which the ice cover is at least 15 per cent. In the period between March and September this year, Arctic ice cover shrank from a peak of 14.6 million square kilometres to 4.23 million square kilometres. That figure is around 1.99 million square kilometres below the average minimum of 6.22 million square kilometres recorded between 1981 and 2010. To put that into perspective, the amount of sea ice lost was nearly enough to cover the land area of India twice. Around Antarctica, sea ice reached its lowest maximum winter extent on September 10 at 16.96 million square kilometres. This is 1.03 million square kilometres below its previous record-low in 1986. According to Walt Meier, a sea ice scientist at NSIDC, these changes are a decades-long response to warming temperatures. Satellite records for sea ice began in



Immigrant ducks fill Keoladeo lakes during winter.



Alert flock of Lesser Whistling Teals.



Spotbill ducks.



Painted Storks Feeding on fishes



World famed Heronry at Keoladeo National Park.

In February 1976 as State Protocol Officer, I had the historic opportunity to make all arrangements for the all powerful PM Indira Gandhi and family scheduled to visit Ghana Sanctuary and Deeg Palaces. Mrs. Gandhi stayed in the newly constructed ITDC Lodge along with her entire family comprising her sons Rajiv, Sanjay with their wives and both the grand children Rahul and Priyanka. Herdeo Joshi, the then Chief Minister of Rajasthan stayed at Shanti Kutir Forest Rest House. Early morning before dawn, we were witness to Shri VS Saxena Ex-DFO Bharatpur on driver's seat of the station wagon kind of a vehicle and Padma Vibhushan recipient the great ornithologist and naturalist Dr Salim Ali, popularly known as 'Birdman of India', standing behind Mrs. Gandhi as her guide. Mr. Joshi was a mute spectator from the roof top of Shanti Kutir like us. Apart from the sanctuary personnel, much to the disappointment of her own Party's leaders of the region, no one was allowed to be seen roaming around in the sanctuary through out the Prime Minister's visit.

When Mrs. Gandhi Visited Paradise

#GHANA NATIONAL PARK



Memory clearly recalls early winter days in November of 1968 when Deputy Conservator of Forest, Bharatpur Shri VS Saxena invited me to visit Paradise of Birds in Ghana Sanctuary, after I had settled down to my first independent charge of SDO/SDM Bharatpur as IAS Officer. Though main breeding season of the 13 piscivorous birds was over yet some late breeders from painted storks, the most fascinating one among these colony breeders, were hanging on the nests with their

chicks, while others were busy in training their grownup young ones to catch fishes from the wide spread lakes of this wonderland. Several species of emergent vegetation had created green prairies in various patches over these lakes, providing perches to egrets and herons while the jet black pan kauwas (cormorants) were displaying their swimming talent in open waters. They have developed a unique technique of fishing through surrounding and trapping them in a corner and then devour. The large cormorant, as big as a duck in size works like a killing machine while fishing. This bird sanctuary working as a central station on the Central Asian flyway for migratory birds, attracts thousands and thousands of ducks, geese and cranes every



Keoladeo केवलादेव

eye. A newly wedded person in me looked forward to taking out to Ghana my wife Archana who was studying in MSC Final at Kanpur. In Christmas Vacation, Archana, a Botany student, showed keen interest in observing both flora and fauna of Ghana on her very first outing. Finally, she joined the family after appearing at MSC Final Examination exams in summer of 1969. But summer outings in Ghana were few and far between. With the arrival of winter we had frequent outings on our small two light wheeler mobike. A sudden weekend trip added another story to our kitty. Mr JK Sharma ADM invited both of us to Maharaja's Kothi Kadamb Kunj in the interior of Ghana. In hush tone we quietly sat on the edge of small bund also

Mesmerizing sights of nesting and gliding birds all the way up to Keoladeo temple were a feast to the eye. A newly wedded person in me looked forward to taking out to Ghana my wife Archana who was studying in MSC Final at Kanpur. In Christmas Vacation, Archana, a Botany student, showed keen interest in observing both flora and fauna of Ghana on her very first outing.

winter. By this time lakes were full of these charming winged creatures on visit to this magic land, taking trans- Himalayan arduous journey of over 5000 kilometres. Thousands of painted storks and hundreds of other species including geese, herons, coots, ducks etc. had made nests in trees standing in 2-3 feet of water in their wintry sojourn. Mesmerizing sights of nesting and gliding birds all the way up to Keoladeo temple were a feast to the



as Collector and DM Barmer in December 1970 and facing numerous challenges of historic Indo-Pak War in December 1971, I returned to Jaipur but was posted out to Banswara as Director. Kadana and Mahi Rehabilitation Project and after witnessing agreement there reached at the level of CM H D Joshi with Gujarat in the presence of the then Irrigation Minister GOI Shri Jagjivan Ram in Parliament, I was transferred back to Jaipur as Dy secretary GAD and Cabinet in July 1975 in the middle of Emergency. We had several trips to Ghana and enjoyed the Birds' heaven in its different moods, till I got transferred from here but luck brought me again to this paradise. In February 1976 as State Protocol Officer, I had the historic opportunity to make all arrangements for the all powerful PM Indira Gandhi and family sched-

uled to visit Ghana Sanctuary and Deeg Palaces. Mrs. Gandhi stayed in the newly constructed ITDC Lodge along with her entire family comprising her sons Rajiv, Sanjay with their wives and both the grand children Rahul and Priyanka. Hari Dev Joshi, the then Chief Minister of Rajasthan stayed at Shanti Kutir Forest Rest House. Early morning before dawn, we were witness to Shri VS Saxena Ex-DFO Bharatpur on driver's seat of the station wagon kind of a vehicle and Padma Vibhushan recipient the great ornithologist and naturalist Dr Salim Ali, popularly known as 'Birdman of India', standing behind Mrs. Gandhi as her guide. Mr. Joshi was a mute spectator from the roof top of Shanti Kutir like us. Apart from the sanctuary personnel, much to the disappointment of her own Party's leaders of the region, no one was allowed to be seen roaming around in the sanctu-

ary throughout the Prime Minister's visit. The party also availed the boat ride after breakfast. The Prime Minister in particular showed great interest in the Siberian Cranes as well as other migratory and heronry birds. With Salim Ali she had an excellent guided tour as her face beamed with joy even as myriad problems posed varied challenges in the ongoing Emergency. She wrote in the visitor's book,



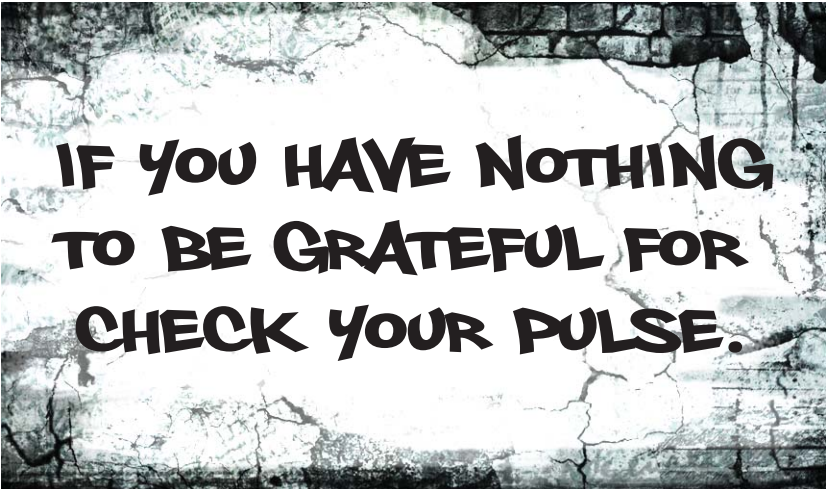
Early hours bird watching while boating in Keoladeo lakes is a heavenly bliss

'A delightful and peaceful experience, made enjoyable and interesting by having Shri Salim Ali with us. I hope some thing will be done about the arterial road, which brings buses and noise in to the middle of the sanctuary.' It was her visit that paved the way for the closure of the arterial road passing through the heart of the sanctuary, for all kinds of traffic except with the permission of the sanctuary management. The afternoon trip to Deeg Palaces with family members accompanying Mrs. Gandhi was followed by high tea and snacks personally supervised by Kashmiri Shri VN Kak, Chairman Hotel Corporation and served in the courtyard along the main Palace overlooking lake waters in the backdrop. As I walked along just to oversee arrangements, I thought of politely addressing Rajivji as a gesture of courtesy but I refrained from doing so as it might be intrusive to their privacy. In the evening before dinner, two large paintings were presented to Mrs. Gandhi by CM Joshi. We were also witness to the occasion. Mrs. Gandhi directed that apparently ugly looking Facilities newly built between ITDC lodge and Shanti Kutir road should be demolished. Orders were complied with even though it caused immediate inconvenience to public and staff. Ghaghar Nali River named as such gushing from Otu head in Haryana. Supervising rescue and relief operations in Hanumangarh town along riverside we reached border Bhed Tal in Pakistan covering Gharsana Tehsil area on way. As if to confirm my deep rooted connection with Ghana, merely 6 months later I was posted back to Bharatpur transferred as Collector & DM to Bharatpur in August 1977 only to face unprecedented floods of three rivers namely Banganga from Jaipur, Gambhiri from Sawaimadhopur and Ruparel from Alwar side. Shri Saini was a budding young Forest Officer and Deputy Director of Ghana Bird Sanctuary then in 1977.



Siberian Cranes, the most prized winter visitor to Keoladeo swamps.

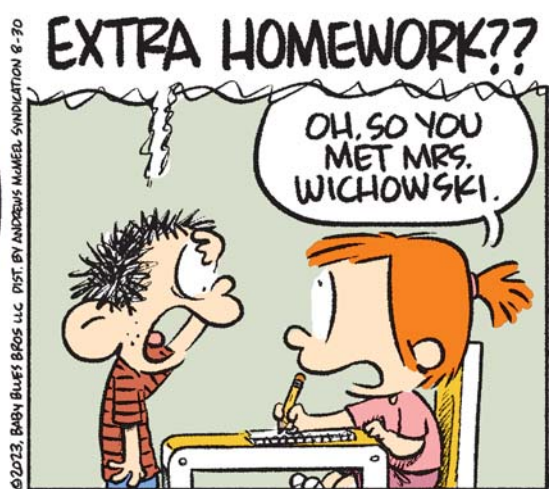
THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman