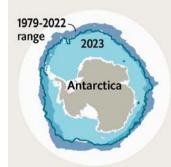
#GLOBAL-WARMING

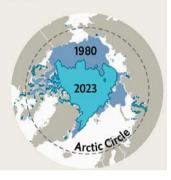
Arctic loses ice nearly twice India's size

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



Average sea-ice extent in September





it been declining in the Arctic,

but it has also been getting

younger. Spring melting

starts earlier, and autumn

freezes start much later,

meaning that melting seasons

reached its lowest maximum extent on record 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

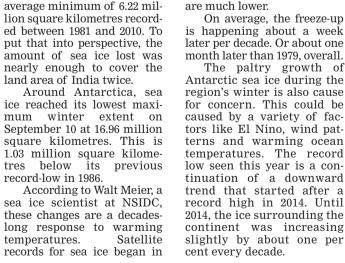
The period between June and September usually represents summer in the Arctic Circle and winter in the Antarctic Circle. To track sea ice extent,

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

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.

sea ice scientist at NSIDC, these changes are a decadeslong response to warming temperatures. records for sea ice began in















Immigrant ducks fill Keoladeo lakes during winter.

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



IC Srivastava IAS (Retd) and former Barmer District Magistrate (1970-72)

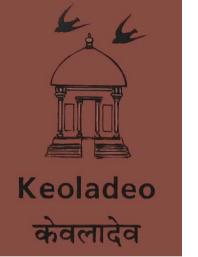
early winter days in Conservator of Forest. Bharatpur Shri VS in Ghana Sanctuary, after I had settled down to my first independent charge of SDO/SDM

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

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 kauvas (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

chicks, while others were busy in

Keoladeo Asian flyway for migratory birds, attracts thousands and thousands of ducks, geese and cranes every



#GHANA NATIONAL PARK

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

metres and we snapped them in the

old time black and white camera.

Such a large number of rare

Siberian Cranes were never wit-

nessed again in our umpteen visits

locally and colloquially called.

e. 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

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est in observing both flora and

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esmerizing sights of nesting and gliding birds all the way up to **VI** 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 Thousands of painted storks

journey of over 5000 kilometers. 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

and gliding birds all the way up to Keoladeo temple were a feast to the

ous 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 to 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 locally called 'bundliy' in Hindì. Lo was transferred back to Jaipur as and behold! Our eyes caught a Dy. secretary, GAD and Cabinet in July 1975 in the middle of glimpse of 60-70 Siberian Cranes, snow white feathered with typical red beak and face all huddled up We had several trips to Ghana together, from a distance of 50-60

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 to our very own Ghana as it was opportunity to make all arrange nents for the all powerful PM After my posting on promotion Indira Gandhi and family sched-

December 1970 and facing numer

as Collector and DM Barmer in 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

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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-

were witness to Shri VS Saxena Ex-

s 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.

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 heron-

With Salim Ali she had an excellent guided tour as her face beamed with joy even as myriad problems posed varied challenges in the ongo-

ing Emergency She wrote in the visitor's book. Forest Officer and Deputy Director of Ghana Bird Sanctuary then in Bharatpur faced severe and

pochards, pintail, coot, teals, shov-

The pinnacle of Peram Anand

came when my father in law Shri

PC Saxsena, an IAS Officer and then

in UP visited Mallah area talab in

December 1977 filled to full capacity

Anand kabhi nahin mila or n kabhi

life time experience.

milega. Kaise kahoon?"

Commissioner Rural Development

Shri Saini was a budding young

heavy flood and town was brings buses and noise in to the niddle of the sanctuary.' marooned with no train services for It was her visit that paved the a month or so. I had arrived with way for the closure of the arterial family by the last train before the oad passing through the heart of Deluge. Ghana too was flooded with Ajan bund overflowing for a day or except with the permission of the so with Gambhiri River flowing anctuary management furiously from Panchna Dam in The afternoon trip to Deeg Sawai Madhopur.

Palaces with family members As flood receded time passed accompanying Mrs. Gandhi was folslowly and steadily with the healing lowed by high tea and snacks perbalm of chirping of lakhs of birds sonally supervised by Kashmiri with painted storks dominating the Shri VN Kak, Chairman Hotel landscape with nesting and nurtur-Corporation and served in the ing their young ones. ourtyard along the main Palace Shri Saini and team including verlooking lake waters in the robust Hukum Singh, boat in ackdrop. As I walked along just to charge oozing confidence were versee arrangements, I thought of encouraging tourists to go out in olitely addressing Rajivji as a gesboats to enjoy sighting of storks, ture of courtesy but I refrained geese, herons, egrets, spoonbill,

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

'A delightful and peaceful experi-

ence, made enjoyable and interest-

ing by having Shri Salim Ali with

us. I hope some thing will be done

about the arterial road, which

sive 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.

from doing so as it might be intru-

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

Ghagghar 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 cover-

connection with Ghana, merely 6

months later I was posted back to

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As if to confirm my deep rooted

ing Gharsana Tehsil area on way.

I too was overwhelmed with joy embodied and we became emotional with words failing to express our consummate delight and feast to the

My relationship with this birds paradise continued even after my transfer from here. With my posting at Jaipur as a concomitant o Secretary's job at State level one is required to visit District headquar ters in connection with inspections or periodic meetings for various purposes. Thus I continued to visit Bharatpur with mandatory outing o Ghana Sanctuary as Secretary Tourism and Social welfare. But as Divisional commissioner Jaipur I more frequently toured districts including Bharatpur and Dholpur. Every visit had some new stories in our kitty with Snigdha and Palash my children, making them more eniovable and fruitful It was this time in 1990 that during one of my visits to Ghana I

dynamic forest officer. His knowl edge was amazing about the entire eco system of this World famed reserve. It was his passion for nature that in 2006 when Ghana was dying for want of water and chocking of the lakes by the fast spreading weed Prosopis juliflo ra.popularly known VilavatiBabool, he accepted the challenge of its revival as Director of the Park. He created new resources of water by taping flood waters of Chiksana canal and Govardhan Drain. Today these are lifelines to the Park. Prosopis juliflora shrubs to huge trees all were uprooted through people's participation, without spending a single penny from the Government

met Sunayan Sharma, a young

much appreciated this innovative initiative in their report. Revival of Ghana was hailed hirders World over and was a matter of special joy to us-as we were deeply passionate about this

exchequer. The joint World

Heritage Centre/IUCN Mission

with Surkhab shining in the morning sunlight and their golden hue However memories of 65-70 snow white Siberian Cranes in wings flapping with joy and filling us with unsurpassable joy -a once a 1969 and of Brahmini ducks with golden Surkhab wings have lingered long to make life more joy-Shri Saxena expressed his joy thus "Dinesh! (my nickname) Aisa

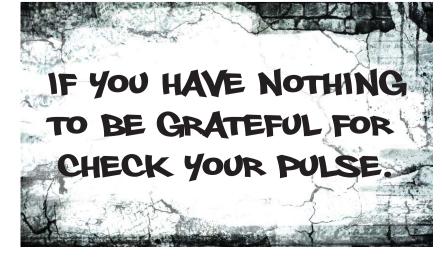
ful and worth living.

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com



Siberian Cranes, the most prized winter visitor to Keoladeo swamps

THE WALL



In Fab 76 Mrs. Indira Gandhi visited Ghana with family. Shri Hardeo Joshi, then CM Raj, presenting a gift to

BABY BLUES



A STUDENT SHE ONCE ASKED ME FOR EXTRA HOMEWORK.





By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott EXTRA HOMEWORK??

OH, SO YOU

MET MRS.

WICHOWSK



ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



