

Greenolution *Digest*

Greenolution e-Newsletter, November 2017

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COVER STORY

International Mountain Day 2017

Mountains are under threat from climate change, land degradation, over exploitation and natural disasters, with potentially far-reaching and devastating consequences, both for mountain communities and the rest of the world.

Mountains are early indicators of climate change and as global climate continues to warm, mountain people — some of the world's hungriest and poorest — face even greater struggles to survive. The rising temperatures also mean that mountain glaciers are melting at unprecedented rates, affecting freshwater supplies downstream for millions of people. Mountain communities, however, have a wealth of knowledge and strategies accumulated over generations, on how to adapt to climate variability.

This year on International Mountain day, Greenolution team asked employees to share their trekking stories.





1. Mehul Vast

Welcome to Exploring.

Everything was on time. The wait was over and we were on route. Morning was just showing itself. It was going to teach me, show me what I am, and tell me what I waited for. Clouds and fog surrounded the ranges, en route. White on dark green was the color. We the only people to get down from the train at Palasdari, started walking on the tracks to find a trail just before the first tunnel.

The trail entered a dense jungle. We walked through a water stream gushing down the slope. Thick vegetation gave us horse blinder view of the route ahead. On reaching a plateau we found a rock bed, large enough to rest all our bodies at once. Here on my back i looked up in the sky. Grey darkness laid above me, which blinded my eyesight to make way for sound of chirping birds and distant sound of axe on wood, both of which were constantly drained by railway engines whooshing on their way.

How pleasant it was to watch and hear the roar of engines and tracks from up there, like a thousand drums beating together to create a rhythm syncing at every tunnel mouth, to present in tune frequencies. I Had not realized then but by that time my sense of direction and navigation was somewhere in that fog and clouds.

Now when I think about it, it was pretty simple. I just had to walk in straight direction. But the numerous cattle trails deceived me(Or I just got deceived), taking me from the straight poorly beaten path on to much clearer but not going to the top path. We went towards left, came back then right, again came back then went back up from between. This was followed a couple of times hence. Till we reached the col which leads to the top.

Still I had not realized to which extent my navigation and sense of direction had wandered. On the North West edge I stooped down to see grey nothingness. Fog had completely blocked the view. We were on some floating basalt. Then far away down I could see a long train coming in. It's trail well marked and defined. It came closer as it went from north-west to south-east curving the entire range from south. That's where we wanted to go. To meet the start of the ridge which takes the railway lines over it towards the Deccan Plateau. Now it seems like I had found my direction.

We got down the col to south of the plateau, to find a trail over the edge of the mountain which with a slight decline moving alongside its stretch to the east. Here Mountain on our left and valley on our right with a narrow path, just to place one foot at a time, I found my right leg going in the valley at times. I decided the trail was too treacherous to carry on, it was getting narrower and less beaten with every step. Here we decided to get back to the col and look out for a better path.

From the north of the col I descended a few meters to find the slippery trail to end with vegetation and steeper descends. I headed back towards the col. Here Akash decided to climb the spur on the eastern side and check out if there was a way from up there. Finding a not so steep but slope with a slight decline, with lots of place to place our feet, Akash called us up.



We found an open space to have our lunch. Silence and openness of the space made me realize how alone we were up there. Western Ghats emerging towards the East couldn't fit into our narrow eye sight. From end to end on the horizon, the ranges were scattered. I knew Rajmachi was there somewhere, scattered in the fog. With bellies satisfied with food and spirits filled with hope, we made a trail through the un-trailed grass.

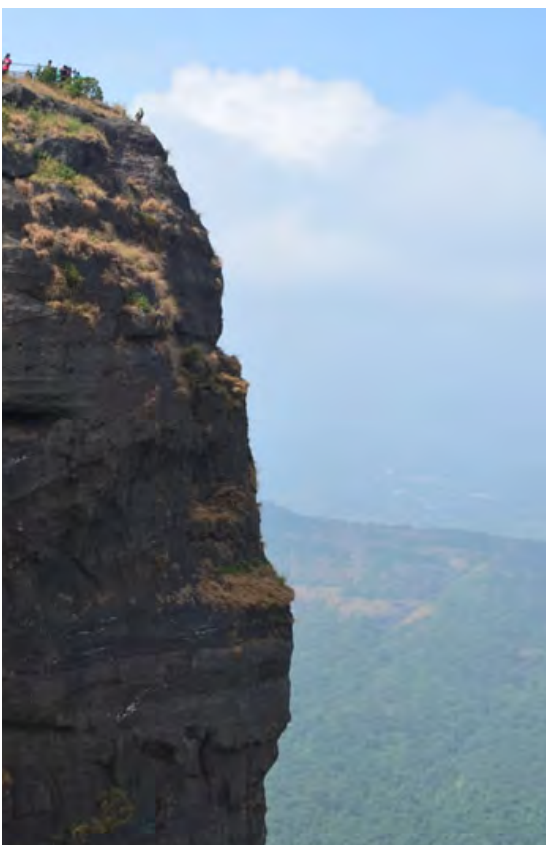
Carefully placing our feet, looking out for resident reptiles we reached the edge of the spur. With a trail visible about a fifteen feet below. While descending this patch we were blessed by insects who still give me an itch.

After a long rest we trailed again ahead. Wait! Not so ahead. We lost track once again. Exploring a bit more the correct path was found which calmed the newbies nerves to some extent.

Going further southeast we reached a long plateau. Railway tracks and tunnels were in the view now. Somewhere alongside those tracks was our next milestone, Jamrung cabin. Here in this plateau, short grass was carpeted over a huge rock bed. It was green with tiny yellow spots of flowers. Sky above the Sahyadris was violet & red, dark at places where the light could not reach the sky through the clouds.

After losing the way one more time we found our milestone. Some people were waiting besides the tracks near the cabin to go to Pune. We headed towards our last milestone. Beed village was about a hundred meters down the ridge, towards north. Green was its color with streams rushing through its chest. The way was well beaten but I was not. We took a transport to reach the tracks, which I realised were always with us through the hike.

2. Trek to Duke Nose



Covering around 27 percent of the Earth's land surface, mountains play a critical role in moving the world towards sustainable economic growth. They not only provide sustenance and wellbeing to 720 million inhabitants around the world, but indirectly benefit billions more living downstream.

International Mountain Day provides an occasion to highlight the variety and richness of mountain cultures, promote the vast array of mountain identities and ensure that indigenous rights and traditions are recognized. Celebrated every 11th December, the goal of this day is to build alliances that will bring positive change to mountain peoples and environments around the world.

As a part of celebrating 'International Mountain Day', Tata Power Khopoli organised Trekking on 10th December 2017, wherein 10 employees from Khopoli and Bhivpuri divisions joined for the trek.

The trek started from Forebay, covering 5 Km through the serene forests of Lonavala alongside the boundary of INS Shivaji ended at Duke's Nose (Nagphani) at Khandala. The beautiful view from 743 m height was mesmerizing which took away the fatigue and a small temple of Lord Mahadev situated at top of nagphani boosted our energy level and team took blessing for their well-being and health.

COVER STORY

International Mountain Day 2017



Team Hydro



International Mountain Day 2017



3. Mr. Ratnadeep Acharya

So, it all began one day when I stumbled upon a photograph of Valley of Flower nestled on the high grounds of Nanda Devi Biosphere reserve, Uttarakhand. Little did I know then, it caught my imagination to that extent that I became obsessed with its enchanting beauty and mystifying aura.

My love for the mountains was well known in my family, every other vacation I would eventually end up high on the hills, I feel liberated kind of free from the bonding of plains up there. And when I saw the photo of Valley of Flower, I knew someday I will be up there, breathing the intoxicating air and bathing in the scented mist.

Finally, on 25th June 2015 my entire plan came together, synchronized. In my quest of VOF (valley of flower), I found one of colleague from Tata power Mr. Deepak Mall, and a dear friend was too interested in VOF and the folk fore of it. Viola!

Read more: https://sangam.tatapower.com/irj/portal/?NavigationTarget=pc-d:portal_content/com.tp.Tatapower_CG/com.cg.NonSAP/com.cg.lviews/com.tp.HomePage/com.tp.Great_Gateways/com.tp.mightyhimalayas

4. Trekking and Adventure team completed Ratangadh & Sandhan Valley trek in Ahmadnagar district of Maharashtra on 19th to 21st Nov 2017.

Ratangadh fort is famous for the fascinating view of Sahyadri range from its top. One could view highest peak of Sahyadri range Kalsubai peak (5400ft), famous Alag-Mandan-Kulang forts, mighty rock wall of Ajoba fort, breath taking view of three rocky pinnacles Khutta- Baan-Agniban and beautiful Wilson (Bhandardara) lake. Ratangadh is also famous for the ancient (more than 2000 years old) and beautiful Amruteshwar temple at its base village.

Sandhan valley is the miracle of nature. It is a Narrow rocky valley of more than 150 feet deep and just 2km long. Sandhan Valley, also known as Valley of suspense or Valley of Shadow, is one of the greatest canyon in Sahyadri Western Ghats.



L to R- R M Kharade, S R Kondekar, C V Naidu, P M Kadam, M J Talekar, D M Hirekurbure, Suresh Kumar, S R Chawan, A V Ghadge and D K Sherdiwala

GREEN QUIZ

Quiz

1 Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary is the largest bird sanctuary in this state and is known as "Pakshi Kashi". Name the state

- A. Karnataka
- B. Kerala
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Andhra Pradesh

3 Name any three lepidopterists of India

2 Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh is the source of three rivers. Which one of the following is not among the rivers?

- A. Son river
- B. Johila River
- C. Narmada River
- D. Chambal River

4 Which animal is extinct in India?

- A. Snow Leopard
- B. Clouded Leopard
- C. Tasmanian tiger
- D. Cheetah

Send in your answers to
greenolution@tatapower.com



Winner of Greenolution Quiz -
October 2017 - Mr. Larsen Dmello
(SMC, Vikhroli Node)





Mr. Chandraprakash Mahulkar (Walwhan Renewable Energy)



Mr. Md. Gufran Khan O & M Engineer Industrial Energy Ltd.



Mr. Kishore P Salunke - Dharavi Receiving Station