



## **EDITORIAL**

**Dr. K.R. Sridhar**

I am happy to introduce the Volume 1, second issue of the newsletter GREEN HORIZON. The environment we inherit is the focal issue of survival of ourselves and other lives on earth. This issue mainly projects an important concept 'live and let live'. It has many concerns on the contemporary issues of COVID-19, floods, and ozone depletion. Nevertheless, several articles highlighted concern about the green earth, human interference on natural processes, birds in our environment, greenery in Uttara Kannada and so on. Some students have comprehended their liking towards nature by excellent art and poems. My warm appreciation goes to all the contributors for interesting articles and timely critical review by the editorial committee.

The first article lays emphasis on the leaves in our day to day life as well as its contribution to nutrient cycling. The leaf litter on the ground will be a potential source of nutrition to many microbes and invertebrates (including earthworms, millipedes, snails and others). Several specific leaves are used as source of nutrition, medicine, fragrance, packaging material and to produce attractive handicrafts. Three articles dealt with the recent pandemic, the COVID and its pros cons. Healing touch and recovery of environment by reduced human interference is the first topic, hazards of reckless disposal of masks, gloves and personal protective equipments (PPE) is another concern. Owing to lack of vigilance during the COVID months, deforestation, fishing and wildlife hunting were escalated! What will happen during the post-COVID period? Has this pandemic taught us any lesson or we continue tampering our environment as usual?

A concern raised about the drugs used to treat mental illness influence the behaviour of marine fauna by Mr. Sunang, while Mr. Viraaj tried to trace the human adaptation to the changing environment. Another environmental disaster which bothered us recently (not as much like the last year), the floods. Impact of human interference on floods and possible attempts to overcome or manage such disasters have been pointed out by Ms. Kadeejath. Concept of environment friendly green earth and green building have been discussed by Ms. Sheeptha. Two articles dealt with interesting aspects on birds. Firstly, how to watch and become intimate with birds in our backyard? A wide variety of birds love to play with water we offer in an open tank. It will be an interesting opportunity to census the bird population and their behaviour even in urban areas. Secondly, a migratory Eurasian bird whimbrel has been spotted by Dr. Shishupala in the seashores of Udupi. Its breeding ground is in North America (Alaska) and we are fortunate that our coast provides feeding ground to them.

There are many chances and novel occasions to act in our day to day life towards supporting the Mother Earth. Simple living is itself a big contribution towards environmental health. Waste will be a pollutant in a wrong place, but it will be precious if managed properly. Separation and right disposal of biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes will be an excellent gesture. One can make provision for green space in the backyard of an urban space, where the biodegradable wastes get disintegrated. Cultivation of flowering plants and vegetables, consume the biodegradable wastes as manure. Developing a mini compost generator to cater the needs of flower pot or vegetable pot is a good idea. We should be courteous to allow survival of tiny animals in the garden with natural grass than cement interlocks. One can attract birds with water in an open container and support their nest building activities. Educating children about the flora and fauna around us provoke them to develop ecofriendly hobbies. Ecofriendly birthday celebration (see article by Dr. Sunil) will attract the attention of neighbours and invitees to think on other such alternatives.

Let us hope the GREEN HORIZON introduces all of us to the new decade with plenty of hopes, aspirations and efforts towards pro-biodiversity and pro-environmental health to protect us as well as all life on the earth.