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The Hindu

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

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M.P.Chronicle

Aaj (Hindi)

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The Times of India (A)

Blitz

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'Wildlife, environment protection in India dates back to Kautilya, Ashoka's time' 12/10

SAMUDRA GUPTA KASHYAP
GUWAHATI, NOVEMBER 9

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION, particularly protection of elephants, in India dates back to fourth century BC during the time of Kautilya and Chandragupta Maurya, and there were severe penalty for those found guilty of cruelty to animals, US-based environmental attorney and author Bruce Rich said here on Wednesday.

During Ashoka's time, the focus was on a clean environment, and burning of farm chaff after harvest was banned, he said.

"India has a rich history and tradition of wildlife conservation. While Chandragupta Maurya was a great patron of con-

servation, his minister Kautilya had not only authored detailed procedures of wildlife conservation, but had also prescribed severe penalty provisions for those found guilty of cruelty to animals," Rich said at the two-day Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics Forum convention organised here by the Balipara Foundation.

While Kautilya focused on elephants as the Mauryan empire had a large elephant cavalry, his *Arthashastra* clearly defined a set of basic rules for protection and conservation of wild animals, Rich said.

"Chandragupta's successor Ashoka had not only introduced forest protection laws, but also ordered that all kinds of animals should be protected from being slaughtered. One of his several edicts had

also said four-footed animals had to be absolutely protected," Rich, best-known for his book *Mortgaging the Earth*, said.

Referring to contents of inscriptions on pillars and rocks of Ashoka's reign, Rich said: "Ashoka had strictly banned burning chaff after harvest. One must remember how much importance Ashoka had attached to environment back in the third century BC," he said, pointing out how chaff burning in rural areas adjoining Delhi has contributed to thick smog in the national capital region in the last few days.

He added, "The first veterinary hospitals in the world were probably set up by Ashoka. Fa Hien, the Chinese traveller who came to India during his reign had written about veterinary hospitals in Pataliputra".

New Delhi

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SC frames issues in Neyyar river dispute

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday framed the issues to be heard in the Neyyar river water dispute between Kerala and Tamil Nadu, including whether the river can be classified as inter-State.

A Bench led by Justice Ranjan Gogoi decided to move ahead with the long pending suit between the two States.

He agreed to hear on several disputed issues, including whether the supply of water to Tamil Nadu by Kerala since 1965 was only a gesture of goodwill or a legal obligation imposed by Section 108 (2) of the State Re-organisation Act, 1956.

The court agreed to hear

both the States on whether the stoppage of water by Kerala in 2004 was an unlawful variation of the Neyyar Irrigation Project protected under the 1956 Act.

Technical question

The apex court would also look into the technical question of whether Stage II of the project can be said to have "been taken in hand, but not completed" before the appointed day of November 1, 1956.

The other important issue which would be considered by the apex court would be whether domestic supply of water in Kerala has a first charge over the claims of Tamil Nadu for water under the Neyyar Irrigation project.

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HE CALLED GLOBAL WARMING A HOAX

At climate change meet, fears that the charge might slow

Trump may not carry out threat of tearing up Paris deal, but he may choose not to help with money



EXPRESS IN MARRAKESH
AMITABH SINHA

THE CLIMATE change community, currently in Marrakesh for its annual conference, was spooked by the election of Donald Trump who has in the past described global warming as a hoax and threatened to pull out of the Paris Agreement that was finalised last year.

Most country delegates were wary of saying anything on record, but congratulatory messages from some world leaders, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President François Hollande, did mention climate change as one of the subjects on which their countries needed to work together.

A group of small island countries, who face the worst impacts of climate change, was the only official negotiating party in Marrakesh to make a public statement on the election result. "America has led this technological transformation and can continue to create jobs and opportunity in this area, something people everywhere will benefit from," the group said in a cautiously-worded statement.

Hilda Heine, President of the Marshall Islands, said Trump would need to live up to his responsibility to protect his people and others around the world. "President-elect Donald Trump has been the source of a lot of bluster on climate change over the last year, but now that the election campaign has passed and the realities of leadership settle in, I expect he will realise that climate change is a threat to his people and to whole countries which share seas with the US including my own," she said in a statement.

Some, like Alden Meyer of the Union of Concerned Scientists, expressed hope that Trump would be forced to become much more realistic on climate change once he assumes office. "Trump is set to be one of the most powerful persons in the world... but even he does not have the power to change the laws of physics, to stop the impacts of climate change, to stop the rising sea levels. He has to acknowledge the reality," Meyer said.

The US, like more than 100 other countries, has ratified the Paris Agreement that seeks to keep global temperatures from rising beyond 2°C as compared to pre-industrial levels. Walking out of the Agreement, as Trump said the US would if he was elected, would need at least 4 years. This is because no country is allowed to withdraw in the first three years after it has ratified the agreement. After that, it must serve at least a year's notice to withdraw.

Most negotiators said they didn't expect Trump to take the extreme step. But they said there were other ways in which the momentum on climate change could be derailed if the US President wasn't a climate enthusiast.

"One of my biggest concerns is about the mobilisation of finance. The climate process desperately needs more money to support vulnerable countries and communities. The US is extremely important in this regard. But mobilisation of finance requires an enthusiastic administration. Even if Trump remains neutral, and does not continue to be a climate sceptic, the process of raising money will get seriously affected," Harjeet Singh, Action Aid's global lead on climate change, said.

Developed countries have promised to raise at least \$100 billion per year from 2020 as part of their obligation to provide financial help to countries that are most vulnerable.

"Trump's election has brought an element of uncertainty into the climate process. It would be premature to say that the process has already met with a disaster. But yes, uncertainty does bring in its set of complications," Siddharth Pathak, climate change lead at the Climate Action Network said.