

# executives

## Editor

Ashok Prim  
Director (Retd), Survey of India  
India  
Email: ashokprim@gisresources.com

## Associate Editor

Dr. Venkata Ravibabu Mandla  
Ph.D IIT Roorkee, Australian Endeavour Awardee  
Associate Professor, CGARD, NIRD&PR, Hyderabad, India  
Email: mvravibabu.nird@gov.in

## Advisory Board

Dr. Ch Ramesh Naidu  
Ph.D JNTU - Hyderabad  
Professor, Dept. of Civil Engineering, GVPCE(A), Visakhapatnam, India  
Email: rameshnaidu@gvpce.ac.in

Dr. Rajitha K  
Ph.D IIT Kharagpur  
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Civil Engineering, BITS-Pilani, Hyderabad, India  
Email: rajitha@hyderabad.bits-pilani.ac.in

Dr. Gourkishore Tripathy  
Ph.D IIT Bombay  
Independent Consultant  
Email: gktripathy@gisresources.com

Dr. T. Ranga Vittal,  
Ph.D (Geology)  
Project Manager - GIS, SATRA Group, Hyderabad, India  
Email: rangavitalt@satragroup.in

Mr. Karan Cariappa  
Senior Project Manager (Expert in UAV and Aerial Mapping)  
Secon Pvt Ltd, Bangalore, India  
Email: cariappa@sicon.in

Venkat Kondepoti,  
PMP, ITIL, Msc. Geography  
Independent Consultant  
Calgary, AB, Canada  
Email: vkondepoti@gisresources.com

## Regd. Office

GIS Resources  
B-24, Jawahar Vihar, Malik Mau Aima,  
Rae Bareli, Uttar Pradesh, India - 229010  
Phone: +91 790 010 6154, 911 981 1729  
Email: support@gisresources.com  
Website: www.gisresources.com

## Advertising and Marketing Queries

Email: support@gisresources.com

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A yellow excavator is positioned on a large pile of cut logs in a logging area. The excavator's arm is raised, and it appears to be working on the logs. The background shows a forested area under a cloudy sky.

# editor's note

## PRESERVE & CONSERVE FORESTS FOR HUMAN WELLBEING

**F**orests are a resource. Minerals are also a resource. Minerals are mined for development hence forests can also be exploited for development. This seems to be the logic that has set the course for development.

Ignoring the recommendations for the conservation and preservation of the Western Ghats has caused the excessive rains in Kerala to cause the kind of damage that Kerala has suffered. If the natural forests and geography of the area had been nurtured, the damage would have certainly been less.

Similar events are taking place in the development of Smart cities. Faridabad is covered by the National Conservation Zone regulations of the National Capital Region regional plans applicable to the Aravallis, forests and rivers. Will Faridabad be developed as a Smart city at the expense of the Aravallis?

In yet another case, the Hon'ble Supreme Court ordered to clear the land by demolishing all structures in an area spread over 425 acres where residential & commercial structures, parks and roads had been constructed in an ecologically sensitive zone of the Aravallis in Faridabad. The Hon'ble Supreme Court came down heavily on the Haryana Government for turning a blind eye to the ecological degradation of the Aravallis over the years and conniving with real estate developers to allow them to exploit protected zones for commercial gains.

The above is surely not isolated cases of a detrimental impact on forests. Such incidences can be found everywhere where there is a lack of appreciation of the beneficial role of forests on humankind.

The beneficial influence of forests and the detrimental impact of forest degradation on all forms of life are well known and need not be repeated here. It would be sufficient to say that forests need protection from human greed, development and over exploitation.

In one of my earlier editorial write-ups, I had stressed on a balance between development and environmental preservation. The above incidences of degradation of forests further strengthen the case for better planning for the conservation and preservation of the forests which are not only an integral part of the ecology but are also instrumental in influencing the environment for human wellbeing.

This is our planet and the only earth we know. Let us preserve and conserve these great forests.

**Ashok Prim**  
Editor