

A deeper look at  
Co-Creating **Eco-Habitats..**

Organo Newsletter - February 2021

# Lessons from Saptha Patha

## Part 1 - Air

There were many issues during the execution of the Earth Air Tunnel Draft than what we had anticipated. Adding to it, there was a gap in our marketing communication, which created an unrealistic expectation. We realised that we were not specific that the Earth Air Tunnel Draft lowers temperature considerably but does not function as a replacement to an air conditioner. This made us realise how important it is to communicate in detail, especially in the context of a sustainable community.

Post excavation, the fume pipes collapsed after installing them in the ground. We had no other alternative but to disturb the land where organic farming was underway, in order to remove them. We not only lost money but also time and we had to instal new pipes.

Handling so much excavation, keeping that soil, refilling, consolidating, adjusting, benching etc. were tedious processes and new learnings for us. We learnt that it wasn't worth the effort for the amount of time and money we had spent on installing, uninstalling and reinstalling.

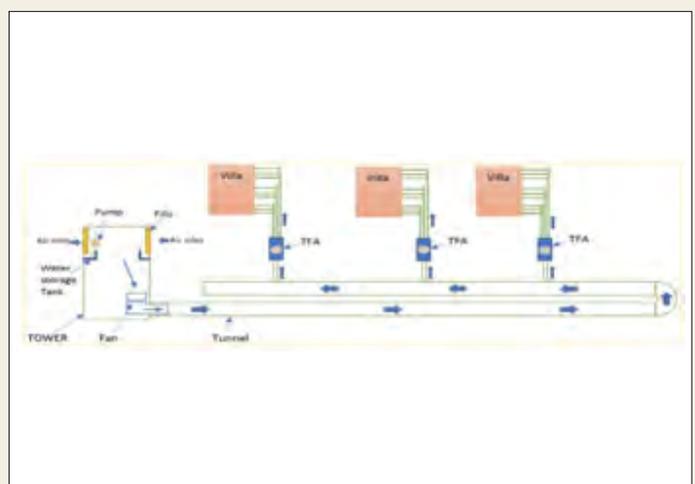
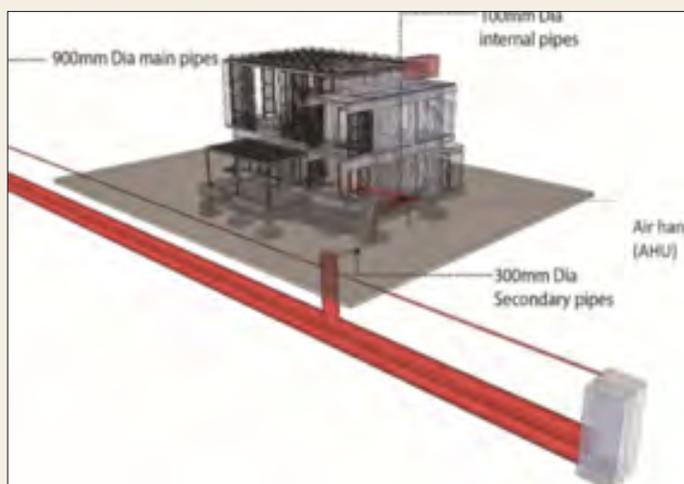
From the customer point of view, they need not spend so much money to get temperature reduction of 6 to 8 degrees Celcius when there



are more affordable options available alternatives. Rather, air-coolers worth 45000/- for all rooms in the house could have given better comfort and are financially viable. Considering all these, we feel the Tunnel Draft would not be a successful plan. We recommend people not to go for this unless there is an excavation happening naturally, like a basement work which is already under construction and density is low, where one can take advantage of Tunnel Drafting.

As an alternative, we suggest focusing on best-filling energy modelling where shading devices can make a huge difference. Even greenery on buildings would enable a drastic change in heat reduction. For example, if a creeper covers the building walls, it would give natural shading and actually cost nothing.

**Watch out for Lesson 2 - ENERGY in our next edition**



# Emerging Suburbs & Modern Day Development



The evolution, growth and development of any city is the aggregate of a set of processes that have been effective in that area over a period of time. The problems created by the unsystematic and unrestricted extension of a city give rise to issues like unhygienic slums, polluted environment, uncoordinated development of residential, industrial, and commercial areas resulting in traffic bottlenecks and many other difficulties all known and felt by the residents of the city. A particular method leads to a particular model. In turn, the process itself is dependent on several factors like the history of the region, its site and situation, ecological conditions, social customs, population, planning laws, administration, so on and so forth.

Hyderabad is one of the main metropolitan cities of India. The city has undergone a significant socio-cultural change in the past and continues to experience rapid and

dynamic changes due to the accelerated phase of Industrialization and urbanization. These changes had a deep-rooted influence on the design and developmental trends in the city. With the pandemic, the situations have further evolved with a trend of the urban crowd slowly moving towards the suburbs.

## The suburban benefits

Being self-sufficient and the importance of sustainable living is crucial among the many things that this pandemic taught us. A conducive environment to achieve any of these has become difficult in an urban space where there is hardly any space left to breathe. Taking positive advantage of the 'work-from-home' possibility, people are moving beyond the city limits, to the suburbs that offer better residential spaces. There may arise a debate on preserving the ecosystem with the crowds shifting but luckily, times have changed with

alternate design approaches that embrace both preserving the ecology and sustainable human existence.

The suburban areas have more space to offer along with the bliss of farming opportunities and abundance of tranquillity presented by nature. It is up to us whether we are intending to preserve it for peaceful coexistence or exploit it as we did with the urban spaces.

### The new 'RRR' possibilities for Hyderabad

While we talk about the benefits of moving to the suburbs, there are still a lot of inhibitions about the connectivity and facilities that the city offers. People are divided over this thought of having to let go of fortunes and opportunities that a metro city provides. However, positive for the people of Hyderabad

and the Telangana state, on the whole, the Regional Ring Roads are going to flush out the connectivity issues. This 370 km spanning project is going to pass through 125 villages, joining three major Telangana highways.

According to the state government, the regional ring road is proposed to be developed on par with global standards, connecting Sangareddy, Narsapur, Toopran, Gajwel, Jagdevpur, Bhongir, Choutuppal, Ibrahimpatnam, Chevella and Shankarapalli. With the possibility of good connectivity, the real estate in these regions is bound to take a leap. Therefore, for Hyderabad urban crowd, the suburbs will lie between the city and its more traditional suburban communities, it would be a perfectly placed investment to take advantage of the amenities of both areas.

[ Much-awaited Project ]

# Regional ring road on track

Centre gives in-principal approval, asks Telangana government to begin land acquisition

STATE BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

In a major boost to infrastructure development in Telangana, the Central government gave in-principle approval for the much-awaited Regional Ring Road (RRR) during a meeting held in New Delhi on Friday. The State government was instructed to commence land acquisition for the project based on a detailed project report submitted to the Centre earlier.

TRS MPs were pursuing the project proposals with the Centre for several months now, and recently met Union Minister for Road Transport and Water Resources Nitin Gadkari seeking his intervention.

Gadkari immediately directed the officials of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to convene a meeting with National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and examine the State government's proposals. The TRS MPs, who met the officials on Friday, explained the need and importance of the project for the State.

The Rs 5,500-crore RRR over a stretch of 362 km with 60-m width is proposed to

**Key connectivity**

- Project cost estimated to be around **Rs 5,500 cr**
- The RRR project will cover **362 km** length
- To strengthen existing roads connecting major NHs passing through State easing regional road connectivity
- Both State and Centre to fund the project on **50-50** basis
- RRR to be developed on par with international standards over a stretch connecting Sangareddy, Narsapur, Toopran, Gajwel, Jagdevpur, Bhongir, Choutuppal, Ibrahimpatnam, Chevella, Shankarapalli and Kandi
- To have amenities such as parking, food courts, toilets, parks, children's play area, shopping malls, drinking water, in an area of **300-500 acres** each

**It will be 60 metres in width**

**Present outer ring road in Telangana 158 km**

**BRAINCHILD OF KCR GARU, REGIONAL RING ROAD CONNECTING THE SOURROUNDING DISTRICTS TO HYDERABAD CITY WILL SOON BE A REALITY. TRS MPS HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH THE NHAI & FACILITATING WITH THE TS AUTHORITIES FOR A SPEEDY SANCTION OF THIS WORK (SIC)**  
K KAVITHA, Nizamabad MP

strengthen the existing roads connecting major national highways passing through Telangana, easing the regional road connectivity. "The Centre already gave in-principle approval for the northern part of RRR in August. But, we were requesting it to consider the entire 362-km stretch of the project for funding. The in-

principle approval was given for the entire project today," TRS Lok Sabha floor leader AP Jithender Reddy said.

Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao instructed the Telangana government officials to release the State government's component of 50 per cent of the project cost towards land acquisi-

tion for the road infrastructure project. The remaining amount will be borne by the Central government towards laying of the expressway road stretch around Hyderabad city on the lines of Hyderabad Outer Ring Road (ORR). The road will be developed on par with international standards over a stretch from Sangareddy to

Kandi via Narsapur, Toopran, Gajwel, Jagdevpur, Bhongir, Choutuppal, Ibrahimpatnam, Chevella and Shankarapalli. The RRR will have comprehensive development with amenities such as parking, food courts, toilets, parks, children's play area, malls and drinking water, provided in an area of 300 acres to 500 acres each.

# Introduction to Isha Yoga - Workshop at Rurban Nest

Author: Shilpi Shukla



It was a warm Sunday morning, 31st January 2021; Organo Et School welcomed residents of Rurban Nest Community, Nizamabad who were all excited to attend the Isha Yoga workshop. Despite their hectic schedule these residents woke up earlier, rolled their mats, carried their bottle of water, and lots of energy to the venue.

It was a pleasure to have Francesco Marelli and Deepa, certified Hatha Yoga Teacher from Isha Yoga Centre to introduce all our inquisitive participants the basic of Isha Yoga. The session began with Francesco talking about how by practicing yoga everyday one can experience a profound sense of harmony both within oneself and the world around.

Francesco explained about the fundamentals of "Classical Hatha Yoga" and its various forms while Deepa demonstrated "Siddhasana", "Naadi Shudhi" and directional movements of the arms through "Upa Yoga". Upa Yoga is a practice is a simple way to activate the energy



nodules in our joints and exercise the muscles, bringing ease to the whole system. The hour long yoga session concluded with questions being answered by the yoga expert, networking and relishing fresh fruits.



A deeper practice will be achieved through upcoming workshops in the coming weeks that will give a substantial platform for those who have a desire to get acquainted with Classical Hatha Yoga. The participants will work with their body, then you move to their breath, then to their mind, then to the inner self to get a significant learning of his/her own body.

# The Organo experience



## Kranti Gutta

We were driving by one day and came across this place. We simply fell in love with the place and the more we explored and learned about life at Naandi, the more eager we were to move out of our city apartment. The decision to buy a home here was quick and easy.

I have always enjoyed living around greenery and nature. And this felt like the ideal home for us to move in, having spent a good number of years in the heart of the city.

I love walking around the wide open spaces. The air is so fresh, it is not possible to find the same in the city. The calm here and the like-minded people only add to the overall positive feel of the living experience. I loved meeting everyone from the community. Each person and family is so unique in their own ways and yet what binds us together is a set of common shared values.

There is quite a bit about farming that I have learnt after coming here and there is so much more to learn every day. I look forward to waking up to bird sounds and greenery every day.

I wish there were many more such places that come up in India and the world. Organically produced safe food, fresh air and a community of like-minded people coming together can only add years to one's life!

We couldn't have asked for a better home to live in.

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## My little adjustments

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### Jyotsna Damera

I love everything about Organo. We had a whole lot of family visiting us during the housewarming and after. And everyone had only good things to say about our new home at Naandi that we moved into six months ago. My brother-in-law, said, "what more could one possibly want!"

There is no doubt that I love this place immensely. However, there is one thing that I miss my city apartment for and that is the absence of a hundred little creatures around! I am not used to having insects and little creepy crawlies come inside the house. So that is something that I am still getting used to. I am not exactly afraid of them but somewhat apprehensive about having them all around. However, I am sure, I will get used to it overtime.

My husband keeps telling me that we are, in fact, living in their space. So it is only obvious that they would find their way into our homes too. It is a matter of accepting this and enjoying it, eventually. Having decided to adopt a lifestyle that is all about living in the midst of nature, this is only a minor adjustment that I am having to make on a daily basis.

I suppose, it has to do with me as a person and expanding my comfort zone just a little bit. I am looking forward to the time when I will be far more comfortable with having the dozens of little creatures around.

# Natural Pond for Swimming

## What is a natural swimming pond?

At Organo, we build natural swimming ponds and not chlorinated pools.

These ponds are closer to diving into a freshwater lake than into a typical pool. The advantage is that after a refreshing swim, we do not have to worry about taking a bath to wash the chlorine away from the body and it does not leave you with itchy red eyes, or dry skin.

Along with creating a chemical-free environment, the ponds also act as a habitat for flora and fauna.

Generally, swimming pools try to maintain an algae-free environment by adding different salts and chemicals. A natural pond, on the



other hand, is a living aquatic eco-system with a whole range of species co-dependent on each other such as dragonflies, butterflies, frogs, insects, etc.



## How does a natural pond function?

Water quality is maintained through aquatic plant filters (called Regeneration Zone) and a combination of UV filters, sand filters, and mechanical aeration. These plants in turn act as a habitat for many organisms such as dragonflies, frogs, and insects.

Bacteria is also artificially added onto the rock layers where they colonise and help in breaking down organic matter that might accumulate into the system.

These bacteria depend on aerobic decomposition to break down organic matter. That is why mechanical aeration through bubblers is very important.

By decomposing organic matter, these bacteria release nutrients which sustain plankton such as Rotifers. These plankton act naturally as algae predators.

The plants also help with absorbing these nutrients which further hinder the growth of algae.

**Will there be harmful substances in the water?**

Although the bacteria and plants have the ability to absorb organic matter and nutrients, they cannot neutralise pathogens like E-Coli. To do this, the water from the pond is sent through UV filters.

**How are the plants selected?**

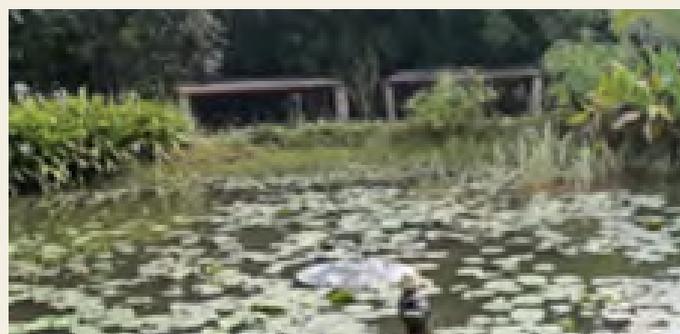
Typically there are three types of plants that are selected:

a. floating plants to provide shade and protect the micro-organisms from UV rays

**What are the typical Maintenance Issues?**

In a natural swimming pond, there will always be algae since it is an ecosystem where different organisms are dependent on each other.

Although bacterial colonies and floating & oxygenating plants control the growth of algae



b. oxygenating plants which are typically submerged or free floating which absorb nitrates and phosphates

c. biological filter plants which absorb nutrients and remove contaminants through their root systems.

to some extent, bacteria must be added annually or whenever required. This can be decided based on the pH level of the water which must be between 5.5 to 7.0.

Skimmers and leaf nets must be used to remove dirt and dead leaves at least once in two days and depending on the usage of the pool, the U V filters must also be replaced once every 3 to 4 years. "Life In an Organic Pond" - By Ashalatha, Naandian. This is a great article written by Naandian, Ashalatha detailing microscopic life in the bio pool at Organo Naandi. The article also has short videos showing plankton and other micro-organisms in the pond which are essential to keeping the water free from algae and maintaining the ecosystem in the pond.

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<p><b>Co-Creating Eco-Habitats that Celebrate Living</b></p>	