

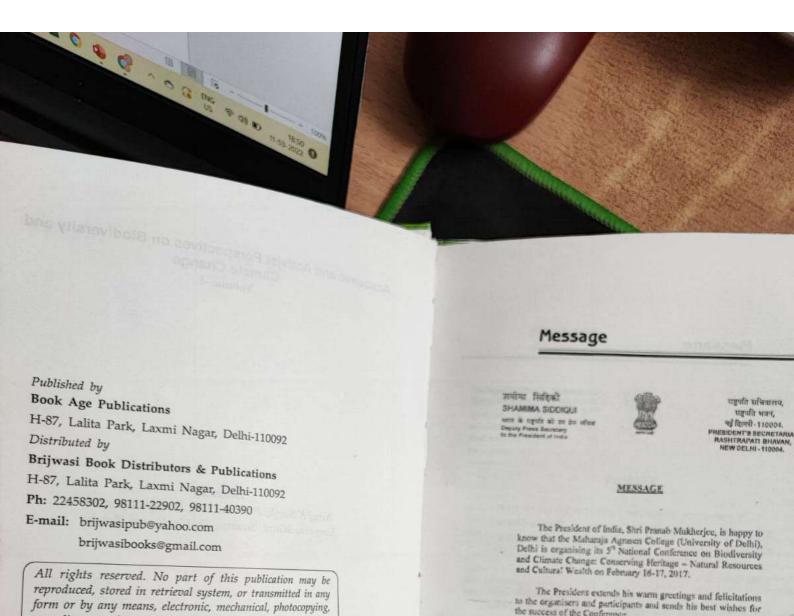
Academic and Activist Perspectives

BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Annual Issue, Vol. 1, 2017



Niraj K Singh, Pratibha Rai, Puneeta Agrawal Sangeeta Mittal, Saumaya Shukla, Swami Nand



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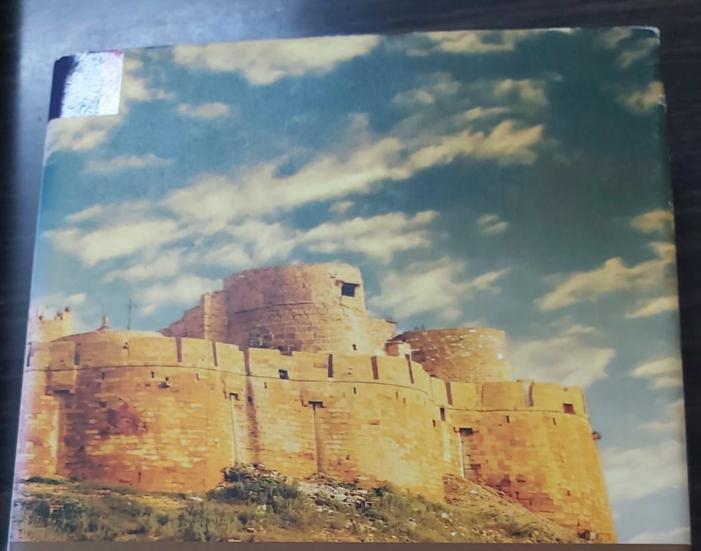
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The President extends his warm greetings and felicitations to the organisers and participants and sends his best wishes for the success of the Conference.

Deputy Press Scorbury to the President

New Delhi February 15, 2017

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Revisiting the History of Medieval Rajasthan

Essays for Professor Dilbagh Singh

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Mitigating Climatic Adversity in Seventeenth-Eighteenth-Century Rajasthan

A Study of the Socio-Political Negotiations

BHUPINDER K. CHAUDHRY

ISTORICALLY, IN A tropical landscape like the Indian peninsula, famines have occupied an important place in human life. They exert pressure on the availability of water for potable as well as irrigation purposes, thus affecting the basis of sustenance. As agrarian production is affected, it leads to shortage of food supply, and thus its impact is felt at all levels of society—both by those who suffer directly for want of basic subsistence and by those whose authority, security and profit is threatened as an indirect consequence of death and mass starvation.1 The historical texts of antiquity bear witness to famine as being one of the oldest and most traumatic travails of human history, same is the case with the history of nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Failure of rains, the most prominent cause of most famines in India, has been mentioned from the earliest times. Atharva Veda² and Jatakas³ record damaging of crops and droughts. Kalhana in Rajtarangini mentions a terrible famine that occurred in Kashmir in AD 917-18, when one could scarcely see the water of the river Vitasta (Jhelum), as the river was entirely covered with corpses.4 Though a connected and complete account of all the famines that occurred in the pre-British period of Indian history is lacking, it has been suggested that in the earlier times the local/regional famines occurred in cycles of five years and the major famines happened once in fifty years.5

Though references to rain water deficiency as a primary cause of ancient appear at short intervals in the historical and religious texts of