

TRADITIONAL BURNING GHAT – “MUKTI DHAM”

(SIGNATURE PROJECT OF LIONS CLUB OF KALUNGA)



Lions Club of KALUNGA has dedicated itself for the Humanitarian Service activities for over a decade. With service activities embracing the life cycle, i.e., from infant to adolescent, adolescent to adulthood, then to old age and even during the last journey for the Heavenly abode, KALUNGA not only manages a Homeopathy Clinic, where free treatment is given to all and also provides emergency services through two ambulances.

Despite this, in case of death, which is the eternal truth, KALUNGA provides a hygienic - respectful transport through its dead body carrier "SWARG WAHAN" to the "SWARG DWAR" through their signature project.

Lions at KALUNGA were pained to notice that people used to throw un-burnt fire wood, highly contaminated wearing apparel, including bandages of burn cares into the river Brahmani during the process of disposal of mortal remains, thereby causing immense pollution to the river.

This prompted Lions at KALUNGA to venture for installation of an Electric Crematorium at Vedvyas, but because the project requires a huge investment, one "Traditional Crematorium" with two improved Cast Iron Pyres was constructed which was dedicated to the people since October'2001.

It is also a modest initiation to save river Brahmani from pollution and saving the virgin forest. Gradually, with the pool up of resources and a Mega Fund Raising project in Nov, 05, a full-fledged Crematorium with all required amenities has come up on a 2 acres land at VEDVYAS spending around Rs.100 lakhs and following major facilities have been added:

- ❖ Two new structures housing Cast Iron Pyres.
- ❖ A Welcome gate.
- ❖ Three waiting sheds for mourners
- ❖ Toilets, Internal Metal road, water supply for drinking / general utilities
- ❖ Well maintained garden / landscape and illumination.

Notable features of improved Traditional Crematorium:

- Location of the Crematorium has been so selected that in course of disposal of the mortal remains, mourners cannot pollute water of river Brahmani by throwing contaminate of wearing apparels and highly contaminated bandages of decomposed burn corpses.
- Improved pyres have been so designed to save at least 40% of firewood required to put the mortal remains into ashes. This comes to around 2 quintals (statistics show that about 5 quintals of wood on an average is consumed for total disposal of mortal remains). Statistics further show that on a average, at Rourkela, 6 bodies are put to flame daily, leading to a saving of 4380 quintals of wood per annum. This comes from 22 nos. of trees (A 50 year old tree yields about 200 quintals of wood on an average). Thus 22 trees per annum are saved from being cut.

Benefits derived from a single 50 Year old tree:

- Oxygen worth Rs.2.5 Lakhs.
- Pure air worth Rs.5.0 Lakhs.
- Improved soil quality and conservation worth Rs.3.0 Lakhs.
- Monitoring water cycle and maintenance of humidity worth Rs.3.0 Lakhs.
- Bio-diversity conservation and offering shelter for animals Rs.2.5 Lakhs.
- Production of Proteins for consumer worth Rs.0.3 Lakhs. Besides, It provides fuel, fodder and fruits as the case may be throughout its life which just can't be computed in values.