

Cover page of the Journal

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Origin and Evolution of Peninsular India, Western Ghats, and its Diverse Life Forms



Pankajakshan P and Richard Scaria

1 Introduction

Western ghats is a chain of precipitous mountain range lying parallel to the western coast of India for a length of 1600 km and is a biodiversity hotspot with high endemism. The ghats running North to South through the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala cut across the Deccan Basalts and the Precambrian Peninsular shield. It is interrupted only by a gap stretching for a length of the 32 km, known as the Palghat Gap at 10° 45' North latitude. It is the home to the largest population of tigers and Asian elephants and host a variety of endemic species such as Lion-tailed macaque and Nilgiri Tahr. Apart from the significant diversity in fauna and flora, the ghats also harbours human population, often living adjacent to the forest areas.

The Western Ghats, the source of all peninsular rivers of India, play a crucial role in determining the regional climate. They are oriented perpendicular to the South-west monsoon winds forcing them to precipitate their moisture on its windward slopes. The copious rainfall thus received, together with the variation in climate due to the altitudinal gradation and its nearness to the equator transformed the Western Ghats into a unique biophysical region. Yet the significance of geology as a determinant of biodiversity cannot be overlooked.

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മാനവാനന്തരതയുടെ മാനങ്ങൾ

മലയാളവിഭാഗം, കെ.കെ.ടി.എം. ഗവണ്മെന്റ് കോളേജ്, പുല്ലൂറ്റ്, കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ

ഉള്ളടക്കം

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The Posthuman Body: Changing Dynamics of Pleasure

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Abstract: This paper is an attempt to analyse the posthuman body as a 'techno-biological' and 'techno-cultural' trope. The paper discusses the various discourses on posthuman body and its potential for pleasure. There are some reflections on the changing notions of sexuality and sexual pleasure in the virtual world as well as on body modifications and sex toys that create hybrid 'posthuman' bodies. Technology is used by modern humans to augment the bodily performances and even as an alternative to bodily functions. The basic assumption involved in the philosophy of body-modification is that the 'natural' body is incapable of facilitating the most perfect and intense physical experience to humans. So, technology is integrated with the 'natural' body thus converting the latter into a techno-cultural entity which is capable of better performances and experiences. The newly evolved techno-biological body transforms itself into a techno-cultural body. Posthuman, in that sense is post nature. The attempt is to overcome the limitations of nature by technology, projecting the capabilities of future humans. Thus, the emergence of posthuman techno-cultural body is a human attempt to triumph and even transcend nature.

Key Words: posthuman, techno-cultural, sexuality,