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# Lakes Attract *but some are Dangerous*

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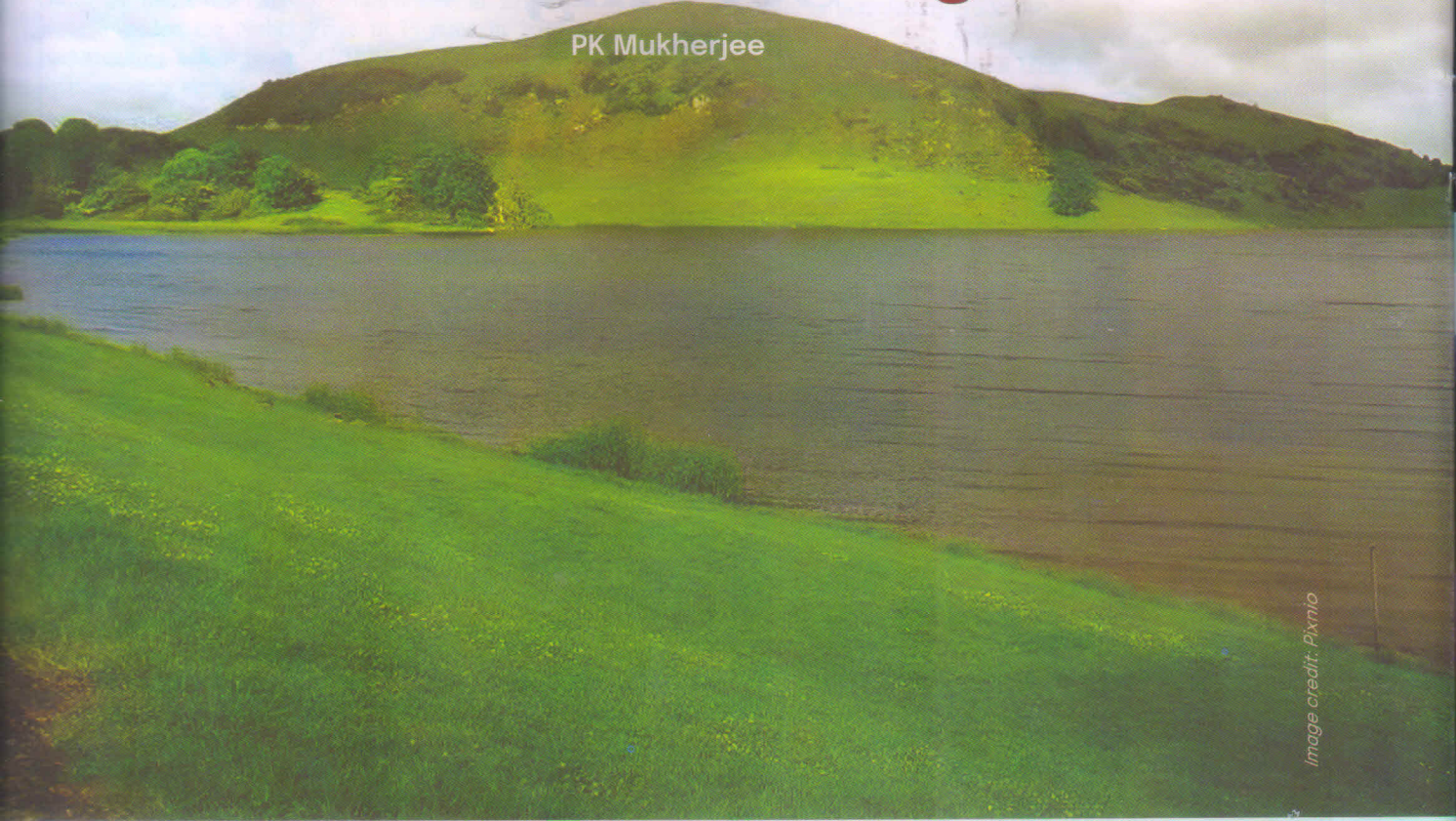


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**A** lake, precisely, is a body of water that is surrounded by land. There are innumerable lakes in the world, which are found on every continent and in every kind of environment — in mountains and deserts, on plains and near seashores.

Lakes are formed in several ways; many of them form as a result of volcanoes. When a volcano becomes inactive, its crater may be filled with rainwater or melted snow. It may so happen that the top of a volcano gets blown off or collapses during an eruption, leaving a depression called a caldera, which may then later be filled by rainwater and become a lake. Crater Lake, in the US State of Oregon, which is one of the deepest lakes in the world, was created when ancient Mount Mazama's volcanic cone collapsed.

Lakes may also be formed due to the impact of a meteor falling on the Earth. There are several examples of such lakes having formed in this manner. The Lunar Lake in our country, located at Lunar in the Buldhana district in Maharashtra, is an example of a lake of this kind, which was created by a crater formed as a result of a meteor impact.

Lakes are valuable resources for people in a variety of ways, and because they are so naturally fascinating, they serve

as popular recreation and vacation spots. People, irrespective of age group, seek out their sparkling waters to enjoy boating, swimming, water skiing, fishing and sailing. During winters, when the lakes are virtually frozen, people may enjoy ice skating, ice boating and ice fishing. Lakes are great picnic spots, too. That is why many popular parks are built around lakes, allowing people to picnic, camp, hike, and enjoy the wildlife and scenery the lake provides.

Certainly, lakes hold charm and fascination for people. However, there are some strange lakes in the world which are so hostile that people are really scared of them. In such lakes, carbon dioxide gas keeps accumulating at their bottom waters, which dissolves in the water at the bottom. Because of this, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the water keeps rising, and when it reaches the saturation point, the lake explodes. Due to the explosion, a massive carbon dioxide build-up occurs at the bottom waters of crater lakes. They are also known as exploding lakes. These explosions are given the name limnic eruption by limnologists. Certainly, this eruption is different from a volcanic eruption because in this eruption, no fire, smoke, ash or lava, etc., is ejected; instead, carbon dioxide gas is ejected at a very fast pace that quickly spreads all over