

VANA PREMI

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No.10

Vana Premi Wishes Happy, Prosperous and Healthy Dussehra, Bakrid & Diwali



Owl in flight

*Owls are considered being bad omen by few, which is a blind belief.
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**JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FOREST OFFICERS
TELANGANA & ANDHRA PRADESH**



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EDITORIAL

North East Monsoon: - The word "monsoon" is derived from the Arabic word "*mausam*" which means season. A monsoon is a seasonal prevailing wind which lasts for several months. Monsoons blow from the land towards the sea in winter and from the sea towards land in the summer. The term was first used in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and neighboring countries to refer to seasonal winds blowing from the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea bringing heavy rainfall to the region. South peninsular India experiences a large portion of the annual rainfall during the northeast monsoon season October to December. Indian agriculture which accounts for 25% of the GDP and employs 70% of the population is heavily dependent on the south west and north east monsoons, for growing crops especially like cotton, rice, oilseeds and coarse grains. North East monsoon supports the main cultivation season, known as Rabi in southern India and Maha in Sri Lanka. A delay of a few days in the arrival of the monsoon, and deficit monsoon can badly affect the economy as it happened this year. The monsoons are widely welcomed and appreciated by city-dwellers as well, for it provides relief from the climax of summer heat in June.

Tamil Nadu, located in south east peninsular receives the major part of its rainfall during the north east monsoon season. Coastal Tamil Nadu receives about 60% of its rainfall.

Monsoons are large-scale sea breezes which occur when the temperature on land is significantly warmer or cooler than the temperature of the ocean. These temperature

imbalances happen because oceans and land absorb heat in different ways. Over oceans, the air temperature remains relatively stable for two reasons: water has a relatively high heat capacity and because both conduction and convection will equilibrate a hot or cold surface with deeper water. In contrast, dirt, sand, and rocks have lower heat capacities and they can only transmit heat into the earth by conduction and not by convection. Therefore, bodies of water stay at a more even temperature, while land temperatures are more variable.

During warmer months sunlight heats the surfaces of both land and oceans, but land temperature rises more quickly. As the land's surface becomes warmer, the air above it expands and an area of low pressure develops. Meanwhile, the ocean remains at a lower temperature than the land, and the air above it retains a higher pressure. This difference in pressure causes sea breezes to blow from the ocean to the land, bringing moist air inland. This moist air rises to a higher altitude over land and then it flows back toward the ocean (thus completing the cycle). However, when the air rises, and while it is still over the land, the air cools. This decreases the air's ability to hold water, and this causes precipitation over the land. This is why summer monsoons cause so much rain over land.

In the colder months, the cycle is reversed. Then the land cools faster than the oceans and the air over the land has higher pressure than air over the ocean. This causes the air over the land to flow to the ocean. When humid air rises over the

ocean, it cools, and this causes precipitation over the oceans. (The cool air then flows towards the land to complete the cycle.)

Around September, with the sun fast retreating south, the northern land mass of the Indian subcontinent begins to cool off rapidly. With this air pressure begins to build over northern India, the Indian Ocean and its surrounding atmosphere still holds its heat. This causes cold wind to sweep down from the Himalayas and Indo-Gangetic Plain towards the vast spans of the Indian Ocean south of the Deccan peninsula. This is known as the Northeast Monsoon or Retreating Monsoon.

Northeast Monsoon season is the major period of rainfall activity over south peninsula, particularly in the eastern half comprising of Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema and Tamilnadu-Pondicherry. For Tamilnadu this is the main rainy season. Coastal districts of the State get nearly 60% of the annual rainfall and the interior districts get about 40-50% of the annual rainfall. The period October to December is referred to as Northeast Monsoon season. Though the principal rainy season for Interior Karnataka, Kerala and Lakshadweep is the Southwest Monsoon season, rainfall continues till December in these areas, the period October-December is Northeast Monsoon. Normal date of onset of the northeast monsoon is around 20 October with a deviation of about a week on either side.

While travelling towards the Indian Ocean, the dry cold wind picks up some moisture from the Bay of Bengal and pours it over peninsular India and parts of Sri Lanka. Cities like Chennai, which

get less rain from the Southwest Monsoon, receive rain from this Monsoon. About 50% to 60% of the rain received by the state of Tamil Nadu is from the Northeast Monsoon. The Northeast Monsoon is a season running from October to December in parts of India. It is a season with major rainfall activity in those areas. South peninsular India experiences a large portion of the annual rainfall from October to December during the northeast monsoon season. Over the land, rainfall peaks during the late afternoon/evening, while over the oceans an early morning peak is observed.

Normally expected to last till December-end, the monsoon is beneficial to Tamil Nadu, Kerala and parts of Andhra Pradesh such as Rayalaseema and coastal areas in south Andhra Pradesh. Some areas in coastal Tamil Nadu receive more than 100 cm. The monsoon also extends to parts of Sri Lanka, especially over the eastern coast.

The monsoon season is a divine blessing for the Indians. It is eagerly and anxiously awaited by one and all from the ordinary man to finance minister of the country. Monsoon brings lot of cheers in our lives. Men and women obtain respite from the sweltering heat and increasing blackouts and above all the farmers whose dreams of a bumper crop starts taking shape with the onset of monsoon.

Vana Premi wishes that our country gets normal rainfall from southwest as well as from northeast monsoons, year after year so that good agricultural yield is obtained by the agriculturists of our country and they contribute substantially towards the development of country. **QMK**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir

For the obvious reason of taking personal interest in posting VanaPremi (Sept 2014) issues meant for Karnataka subscribers this month and informing me thereof over 'phone, myself and all others received the Monthly on 12th instant itself. We were all pleased to go through the hard copy wherein of particular liking was your editorial on "International Literacy Day", which was celebrated globally on the 8th of September, and hence was quite appropriate to take its editorial pouch, being so informative while being exhaustive as well. Congratulations.

After having been so well taken of your suggestion (during our telephonic talk this forenoon) to contribute a fresh article to cover 2-3 pages, I was in the lurch in search of a suitable subject. Fortunately the topic first struck on my way back home by evening, and lo! The article is ready covering an ordeal which was hanging around me for the last several years and which had been accomplished only a fortnight ago. Hope it fits in in the scheme of things which go to fill the pages of your ensuing issue.

Sincerely,

Dr. Raghotham Rao Deasai

Sir,

I am very happy to write this letter after attending the 'Silver Jubilee Celebration' function of our Association in K.B.R. Park at Hyderabad on 21-09-2014. It was very well organized and meticulously conducted. The attendance of our Retired Officers was very much encouraging. It was heartening to note that even the senior members of our Association who have crossed the age of 85 years also have taken pains to attend the function. It was a '**grand feast**' to the eyes to witness so many of our old officers, who were stalwarts and carried a great reputation by rendering yeomen service for the cause of Forestry at one place. It is a rare opportunity indeed.

The lecture delivered by Dr. N. Krishna Reddy about 'Heart Care' was very interesting. The 'feast' arranged by the 'Retired officers Trio' Sri. P. Bhaskar Reddy, Sri. P. V. Padmanabham and Sri. Yousuff Sheriff was very delicious and my personal Thanks to them. I congratulate all the Office Bearers of our Association who have spared their time and taken pains in making the function so exciting and memorable forever. The Souvenir was also very well brought up and Sri. J. V. Sharmaji deserves all appreciation. I have attended the function with my wife all the way coming from Vizianagaram and I returned with utmost satisfaction with sweet memories of the celebrations. Regards

V. SANTHASEELA BABU.

Dear Sir

Thank u for your reply, the collection of articles in your V.P. of Sept. issue are all good and interesting to read. Congratulations. Read the article on greening Thirumala- I liked the dynamic decision of the CF in granting spl SR for the greening of Thirumala hills after perusing the difficulty in execution of works in hilly range. I have seen the beautiful result of greening Thirumala hills during my visit to Thirumala during 2002 and 2010. Wonderful job was done to green the rocky hills. I have put my book- Glimpses of Indian Wildlife- in Hundi during 2010. It has a chapter on fire protection. You may please inform the concerned wild life officer to get it. It may help in controlling fires in Thirumala hills.

With regards

Rajeev

THE CONSERVATOR AND THE TIGER

By

V.S. Krishnaswamy

This is a Rayalaseema incident. So I am describing it here. The Conservator of Forests concerned, was my Conservator, when I was serving in Coimbatore North division in 1932-33. He was Rao Bahadur K.R. Venkataramana Iyer, greatly respected by one and all for his knowledge of forestry; an eminently practical officer to whom work was religion. He told me about this incident. It was at Pecheruvu, one of the forest camps in the Nallamalais of Kurnool District, when Mr. Iyer was camping along with the Working Plan Conservator, an Englishman and two District Forest Officers, that this incident occurred. It was dusk and Mr. Iyer's post and office files had arrived from his office. He sat at his table in his room, which had only the front door open and one window. The Petromax light was lit and he was doing his office work. It was soon dark and after some time he casually looked behind him and he saw something yellow with stripes. He realized it was a tiger. It was lying and it was licking its paws. The tiger was evidently oblivious of the presence of the human being. When Mr. Iyer realized his predicament, he slowly, without attracting the attention of the tiger, which was luckily facing away from the open door, walked lightly, got passed the door and closed it and bolted it. He also closed the open window. Then he ran to the tent, where his colleagues were having their drinks and told them that there was a tiger in his office room and that he bolted it inside. He requested Mr. X (this was the Working Plans Conservator) to shoot the tiger. Mr. X will not believe him at first and it took some time for Mr. Iyer to convince that he was telling the truth. Mr. X took his rifle and accompanied Mr. Iyer. Mr.

Iyer offered to open the door or the window so that Mr. X, may shoot the tiger. Mr. X would not risk it. Ladders were brought and he got up the roof (grass roof) in which a portion was cleared. Mr. Iyer gave him also an electric torch. From the roof Mr. X saw the tiger still lying behind the chair. The Petromax was still burning. By its light he shot the tiger but it was not killed. The tiger rolled the office table, shook and the Petromax fell down to the floor and petered out as they all do, at the slightest provocation. However it did not create a conflagration. Then with the help of the torch light, so thoughtfully given by Mr. Iyer, Mr. X fired two more shots and the tiger lay dead. Mr. X got down, the door was opened and the tiger was dragged out and the room was cleaned. The Petromax was lit and Mr. Iyer sat down again for his office work. I believe in the incident, one of the Demi Official letter papers, which was on the top of the table got stained with couple of drops of the tiger's blood. Mr. Iyer did not like the idea of wasting Government stationery, on account of two mere spots of tiger's blood and used it for writing a demi official letter to one of his District Forest Officers. The District Forest Officer was preserving it as a memento. What a nerve Mr. Iyer had, to get out of the room with a live tiger in it, licking its paw.

(The Author, joined, Indian Forest Service, in 1926, and had been Central Silviculturist; Editor, Indian Forester; and the Chief Conservator of Forests, of Composite Madras, Province). **(The author wrote a book namely "Thoughts on Indian Forestry" and this article is an extract from the book)**

USEFULNESS OF WILDLIFE

By

M. Kamal Naidu

What they said: King George VI stated; "Wildlife today is not ours to dispose as we please. We hold it in trust and must account for it to those who come after".

Gandhiji said: "arrogant assumption to say that human beings are lords and masters of lower creation. On the contrary being endowed with greater things in life they are trustees of the lower animal kingdom".

Mahabharata said: "Just as life is the most desired object to one, so it is the most desired object of all beings. The seeker after truth applying the same standard to all, as they apply, to themselves, show kindness to all creatures".

Carl Heath said: "If the future of mankind is to be worthy of its promise, if human endeavor is not to end in chaos and self-destruction, then we must have vision and recognize that life in its divine and creature sense is not concerned only with man, and that the human life is an integral life that should be expressed in social existence of graciousness and consideration towards every living creature."

Therefore during the decade 1967-76, debates intensified in the country over "How to balance the various demands of the Nation on the forests". As a consequence in 1976 the 42nd amendment was made to Part IV of the Directive Principles

of State Policy in the Constitution. This was to bring the forest and wildlife under the concurrent list from the State list in the VII Schedule, by adding it to the "List III Concurrent List as Entry 17-B". This transfer empowered the Central government to act directly in managing India's forest. The Centre thus had direct administrative jurisdiction over the National forest policy and development, and the Indian Forest service.

This amendment made India one of the few countries, whose Constitution makes specific reference to the need of protecting the natural environment and promoting ecological security. The Constitution adopted the amendment:

Art. 48 (A) making it the responsibility of the state to protect environment and nature by adding "The State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safe-guard the forest and wildlife of the country"; and

Art. 51 (A)(g) requiring every individual to be responsible by adding "It shall be the duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living things".

India is a country of vast bio-diversity lying

at the junction of the African, Eurasian and Orient bio-geographic provinces. Thus with this fact and the varied extensive occurrences of topographical and latitudinal variations has been recognized as one of the world's top 12 mega-diversity nations, having two of the 18 hotspot areas in Western Ghats and the Eastern Himalayas.

Uses of Wildlife:

Wildlife (plants and animals) are used for a number of uses like medicine, food, clothing, shelter, fuel, fiber, income, income and cultural needs (religious, ceremonial, recreational, intellectual and aesthetic).

Wildlife resources are economically significant in most countries and vital to economic and cultural survival of many communities.

Harvesting reduces the genetic diversity of population when it:

1. Concentrates on particular age and size class;
2. Includes geographically distinct or genetically well differentiated population;
3. Includes population at latitudinal or altitudinal extremes of species range.

Uses are an activity by which human beings derive benefits from a population or ecosystem. Uses can be either 'consumptive' or 'non-consumptive'.

Uses maybe for personal or domestic (subsistence).

It maybe for trade—local, national or international market.

Its benefits maybe shelter, food, clothing, recreation, scientific knowledge, education medicine, religion, aesthetic enjoyment or income.

Use does not include undesirable species which need to be controlled.

Consumptive Use:

It is an activity by which human beings derive benefit from a population or ecosystem by permanently removing organisms or its products from the population or ecosystem concerned. It involves activity like hunting, egg collection, trapping, live gathering, fishing, logging, plant gathering, mushroom collecting, etc. these are activities that permanently remove whole organisms.

Tapping wild trees for exudates and similar activities involving animals (musk, milk, venom, etc.), gathering fruits, collecting honey, cutting plants for thatch or fodder, putting livestock to graze on wild vegetation are examples of uses that permanently remove only a certain product and not the producing organism.

Non-consumptive uses:

They are activity by which human beings derive benefit from a population or ecosystem without permanently removing organisms or their products from the population or ecosystem concerned. It includes wildlife

viewing, visiting sacred groves and other culturally important ecosystems and managing wild insects for crop pollination or pest control. Wildlife, which include flora and fauna have their positive and negative values to environment and mankind. The former are over-whelming greater than the later. The values of wildlife are as follows:

1. **Biological Values:** Animals need plants for food and shelter, and the plants need animals for pollination and dispersal of seeds. Animals are maintaining a balance in nature. If we reduce pythons and rat snakes the rat population increases. This was experienced in South Africa. The virtual extermination of rabbits in France, England and Australia to protect crops deprived the foxes and wolves of their natural diet and so they turned to domesticated poultry. In Lincolnshire destruction of owl resulted in increase of wood mice and these devoured huge quantities of wheat. Therefore complete immunity from pest and predators may not always be to the best interest of man. This was also noticed with killing of sparrows in China when increase in pests occurred and reduced agriculture yields. Similarly in Java when DDT was applied to control pests these were fed by lizards and they died. These were fed by cats and they died and so the population of rats increased and these damaged the thatched roofs of huts. Therefore in the scheme of nature everything including the lowliest of low has a place and

there should be a place for everything.

2. **Economic Values:** Wildlife is a natural resource and plays an important role in the economy of the nation. The economic value arises from the benefits and profits we obtain from the use of wildlife either directly or indirectly, that is, either by sale of the animals or its products.

The fee levied for licenses to shoot or fish, for import of arms and ammunition and fishing paraphernalia fetch revenue. India earns large sum by export of animals and birds for keeping as pets and also through the products like skins, horns, ivory, musk-pods, etc.

It is a source of great revenue as tourism. The entire economy of Kenya is sustained by Wildlife Tourism, which is the third biggest industry after coffee and sisal. It brings revenue by travel, stay in hotels, and employment as guides, business flourishes at these places, etc.

3. **Scientific Value:** These have provided man the incentive for gaining mastery over his environment. Beavers built dams, birds fly in the air. These inspired man to do the same for his comfort and economy.

The efficacy of new medicines and procedures in surgery is tested in animals before application to human use despite protests. The world's first astronaut was preceded by a dog. The entire knowledge of anatomy, physiology and psychology were derived from study of

animals.

4. **Aesthetic Values:** Our late PM Pandit Nehru described it as "Life would become dull and colorless if we did not have these magnificent animals and birds to look at and to play with". Can anything be more magnificent than the Indian elephant, more majestic than the lion or gaur, more stately than the tiger, more splendid or beautiful than the spotted deer, more elegant and attractive than the peacock dance. If flora gives color and exuberance to the forest, the fauna gives it the sound and splendor. It was so the word forest derived from Latin word 'ForestaubiFerrastat' meaning 'Where wild beast stands'. Therefore forest will become unfounded and undeserving if the wild beast misses from it.
5. **Recreational Values:** These accrue from a more active pursuit of animals whether it is by hunting, angling or photography. In pursuing these hobbies one feels exhilarated and refreshed in body and mind in such peaceful surroundings.
6. **Cultural Values:** Our sacred and legendary love for animals is the richest in the world. Our mythology and literature are connected with it. They are the main characters in *Panchatantra* and *Hitopadesha* for propagation of wisdom and dispelling ignorance. The appeal of Ramayana would

not have been the same had it not had the hanuman, *Sugriva*, *Jatayu*, and the Bali. The most touching scene of Kalidasa's immortal play 'Shakuntala' is the leave taking of animals by Shakuntala in Kanva's Ashram.

Thus birds and animals have found a very prominent place in our emotional life in our art, poetry and folklore. They are very popular as illustrations in poems, stories and romances. They find an important place in our sculptures and paintings.

India without the majestic lion, her lordly elephant, magnificent tiger, beautiful chital, colorful peafowl and the elegant egret will be like India with the Taj and the Ajanta caves. These are all things of beauty that appeal to the mind and together constitute the rich cultural heritage of our country.

7. **Religious Values:** The distinct parallelism in the chronological sequence of the 10 avatars of the Hindu god Vishnu with Darwin's theory of evolution is remarkable. So in India due recognition is given to the common bond that exists between man and animal as evidenced by the important place of honor given to animals in the Hindu pantheon. Animals and birds have great religious associations with religious beliefs like the squirrel, owl, etc.

MODI GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST

By
S.D. Mukherjee

With the massive mandate Modi government has given a new hope for a better future. Modi has been sending positive signals for establishing the rule of law. Number of decisions has been taken for removing the bottlenecks on the road of development. There is continuous effort to establish cordial relation with the neighboring countries- Bhutan, Nepal, Japan and China – focusing mainly to improve the economic relation. Government looks to be in hurry to improve the economy by accelerating the growth of gross domestic product (GDP) that nosedived in the last two years of the UPA government to less than five per cent. A healthy growth of GDP, 7 to 8 per cent, is necessary to alleviate poverty and provide better livelihood to the people of India. It has to be ensured that short term economic gains should not sacrifice the long term gains from environment and forest that benefits most the poor and deprived forest dependent communities. It would be of interest to the lover of nature, in general, and to the foresters, in particular, to examine the various decisions taken in the first 100 days of Modi government on environment and forest.

Soon after Shri Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister of India, Narmada Control Authority announced the decision to raise the height of Sardar Sarovar Dam (SSD) from 121.92 meters to 138.72 meters. It is claimed that with the raising of dam height it will irrigate 1.8 million hectare and provide drinking water to 9,631 villages and 131 towns. Surely, the gain from the increase in height will be substantial to the people receiving the water. However, this increase is reported to submerge 245 additional villages, mostly the tribal villages. Over 2,50,000 people in three States- Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujrat- were already displaced by SSD and yet to be resettled. *Narmada Bachao Andolan* headed by Medha Patkar has been continuously agitating for the proper resettlement and rehabilitation of the affected people who have lost their land and the forests on which they survived. The Supreme Court order to resettle the affected families is yet to be fully implemented. Narendra Modi must act to ensure that before the decision to raise further height of SSD is implemented the affected families are taken care so that fruits of development are equitable.

The Central government convened a meeting on 12-13 August 2014 of the Standing Committee for National Board for Wildlife and cleared more than 100 cases that were pending approval of MoEF for number of years. Those who attended the meeting say Shri Prakash Javadekar, Minister for Environment and Forests, took great pains to discuss each and every case threadbare before taking decision. Unfortunately, Supreme Court stayed all the decisions in response to a petition filed by a Pune resident, Chandra Bhal Singh, on the ground that the decisions were not consonance with the section 5A of the Wildlife Act 1972. In the meantime the government has filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court after constituting the National Board for Wildlife. The Committee has nominated ten eminent conservationists including some retired IFS Officers with good experience in the conservation of wildlife. It is hoped that government decisions may be upheld and pending projects are grounded to accelerate the developmental projects while giving due consideration to the demand of environment and forests.

In order to speed up the process of approval for the diversion of forestlands for developmental projects, Ministry of Environment and Forests has empowered its Regional Offices on the implementation of Forest Conservation Act (FCA), 1980, for the projects requiring forestland

up to 40 hectare as against the limitation of 5 hectare. The Minister has clarified that there is no dilution in the norms specified under FCA but the decentralization is done to reduce delay. This is definitely a good decision to reduce the bureaucratic delays in decision making. However, it would be the responsibility of the regional officers and forest officers working in the State to ensure they do not succumb to political pressure and strictly follow the rule to safeguard the interest of the forest while reducing the delay in the approval of pending cases.

In order to open up the interior areas affected with Left Wing Extremism and to enable the security forces to effectively combat Maoists, the Home Ministry has extended general approval under the FCA 1980 for diversion of forestlands to construct all categories of public roads, except those falling in Protected Areas, irrespective of the extent of forestland involved in 117 LWE districts. It is hoped this single decision would open up the areas that were kept undeveloped- benefiting the Maoists and causing hardship to the forest dwellers- for the movement of security forces fighting with the risk of life in remote forested regions. Further, relaxation under FC Act has been extended for diversion of forestland from the present one hectare to five hectare for the execution of public utility projects of 15 specified

categories in LWE districts. It is hoped that adequate measures would be taken towards the protection of forest as roads may facilitate smuggling and poaching.

Government has taken a decision to allow the construction of roads and other infrastructure projects up to 100 km from the border that require forest clearance to safeguard the border areas from external aggression and infiltration. In the past several infrastructure projects in the border areas were delayed due to non-clearance of the diversion of forestlands. It should be appreciated that safety of the nation is of paramount importance and cannot be sacrificed on environmental consideration. However, at the same time it should be ensured by the government that defense units in the border areas are sensitized towards the protection of forest and check on poaching. Defense units can always be involved to improve greenery and control soil erosion from hill slopes.

While the government looks proactive on the economic front, there is hardly any signal showing its concern on the vanishing forests and wildlife. Mr. Modi must be briefed of the threat to forest from developmental projects, land

hunger, forest encroachments, poaching and rising population. In the last eight months at least 49 tigers were killed and 8 tiger skin were seized. Poaching of tiger has increased due to inadequate surveillance. The 'State of Forest Report -2013' shows the forest cover extends over 6, 97,898 km², which is 21.23 per cent of the geographical area (GA) of the country as against the requirement of 33 per cent. Out of this, very dense forest is only 83,502 km² or 2.54 per cent of GA. Rest of the forests is in different degree of degradation. There are talks of massive tree plantation but very little discussion on improving the forest protection- the only solution to improve the forest and wildlife- to serve the ecological function of the forests. The forest officers of the country must find ways and means to impress upon the government on the prevailing condition of forest and wildlife and ways to improve it. The forest officers should also develop sympathetic attitude towards the forest dwellers, support them for a better livelihood and seek their cooperation in the protection and development of forest. It should be understood that poverty and hunger is the biggest enemy to the environment and forests.

Do not trust appearances; they are often false. Do not interest yourself in the wealth; it will disappear. Seek somebody who communicates with you in laughter, because one laughter could turn a sad day into a joyful day.

FARM SECTOR – A LAYMAN’S VIEW

By
J. V. Sharma

There are some interesting findings on farm sector in a study sponsored by *Bharat KrishakSamaj* and carried out jointly by the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies & *LokNeeti*. The survey was conducted in 137 districts of the country in 18 States covering 11000 farmers of 5000 families. Respondents comprise 20% SCs, 12% STs, 40% BCs, 14% Minorities and 14% others. There were 4298 woman-farmers among the respondents. Important findings are:

1. 60% of the persons in farming sector say that their children are not interested in pursuing farming and would rather prefer to migrate to urban areas and seek any other employment.
2. 47% feel that farming sector is not at all healthy.
3. 58% of the respondents allege that the State and Central Governments are responsible for their miseries.
4. 74 % said that they do not receive any suggestions or guidance from the agricultural officials. Only 3% say that they get regular guidance on farming.
4. 62% say that they are totally unaware of the Minimum Support Price announced by Government.
5. 90% opine that that Government Programmes benefit only rich farmers.
6. 70% said that they did not hear about Direct Cash Transfer Scheme. 34% said that such a programme, if implemented, would however be beneficial to farmers.
7. 83% said that they do not know anything about Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). More than half of the remaining are strongly against introducing FDI in Farm Sector.
8. 15% admit that they are aware of farmers' suicides in their area. But, very significantly, 41% opine that domestic problems are the cause for suicides while 35% attribute it to indebtedness and only 14% place the blame on crop damage.
9. 67% of the women respondents said that income on farming is inadequate and it is not sufficient to meet the family needs.
10. Of the 2116 young farmers interviewed, 80% emphatically told that they would not continue in farming.
11. 57% said that no political party cares for their plight.
12. Only 10% of the interviewed believed that poor and small farmers got the benefit from farmer related schemes.
13. Education, health and employment are

the major responsibilities that worry Indian farmers.

Considering the huge size of farmer population in the country, the sample may not stand to acceptable rigid standards. Yet, it should serve as good enough indicators to project the trends, keeping the hard statistics aside. Though the sample is small, it covered all the disadvantaged sections of the society like the SCs, STs, BCs and Minorities and their opinion can be taken as a barometer to read the prevailing situation. It would have improved the study if economically backward sections are also included as respondents and responses analyzed of all weaker sections on the basis of poverty matrix. However the findings made available can be taken as a feedback on the success or otherwise of various policies & programmes undertaken in farm sector.

A close look at the findings gives out an unmistakable impression that all is not well with farm sector in general. The following findings are too glaring to miss attention:

- a) Younger generation is not at all interested to pursue farming as avocation.
- b) Farmers consider that education, health and employment are their major responsibilities.
- c) There is serious communication gap between the farmers and State machinery.
- d) There is no scientific interpolation on farming technology.

e) Farming, as such, is not a profitable avocation in the present form.

It is however necessary to note that the survey did not cover the salient aspects of farming practices and other crucial factors which could have provided clearer view of the prevailing situation. Nevertheless, it is apparent that farmers in general find their profession not encouraging and feel like rats in a sinking ship ready to desert at the earliest opportunity.

The findings also convey that there is serious perception deficit on the part of Government and also defective governance as a natural consequence. To go over the entire gamut of agricultural sector may end up in writing a book. It would therefore be better to confine the present discussion to major issues as to how they had evolved over a period of time.

It may not be of much use to discuss about farm sector of pre-Independence era in detail. All the same, it cannot also be ignored either, in as much as, it provides insight into vital information about rural life as it was at that period of time with valuable inputs about socio-economic aspects. It also acts as a benchmark to assess the progress made during subsequent period. It was 90% Rural India and the mainstay of population was agriculture and ancillary activities. The Governments, whether in British India or Princely States, had practically no say or involvement. The Agriculture

Department, even if existed, had no notable constructive role in guiding the farmers. Farming was considered as a vocation for self-sustenance than an activity for community. Farmers were left to fend for themselves and they were practically on their own. Farming practices were primitive. Fertilizers and pesticides were unknown. There was no concept of high yielding varieties of seeds. Irrigation facilities were minimal and it was essentially rain-fed agriculture. Productivity was extremely poor. Farmers opted only for traditional crops necessary for self-consumption. Communication systems were practically absent and there was too much of dependence on the local *Bania* for marketing. Yields were dictated by monsoons and erratic monsoons and draughts often gave rise to famine conditions. Money was in short supply and transaction of goods was mostly by barter. Demand and supply factors operated largely with village as a unit. Facilities to bring goods of short supply into village were scarce. People preferred to suffer at their place of living rather than looking for succor outside. State did not consider it an obligation to go to the rescue of suffering people.

These adversities spread over countless generations gave rise to a reflexive mechanism in the village society where the people reconciled to their fate without complaint. They were content with what they had. If they did not have anything to eat, they starved. But these

hardships taught them evolve village centric mechanism of taking to avocations which will complement the needs of fellow villagers. If the farmer has to go about his activity, he needed plough, cart and other agricultural implements. Thus the village had to evolve a system of mutual dependence and community living in which there were carpenters, blacksmiths, washer men, potters, barbers, farm labor etc. That these sections came to be identified as castes subsequently is a different story. It must be said in all fairness that all these so called castes lived in peace and harmony and shared their miseries and happiness with equanimity, barring some examples of exploitation and tyranny as is common in human history. Limited objective of this article is to emphasize that various sections of the people in the village were either directly or indirectly involved in farming and allied activities. It is for this reason, Gandhiji advocated *Gram Swaraj*, the village being the nucleus of democratic system.

Then India became independent. Independence brought sea-change in the obligations of governance. With acute shortage in availability of food grains in the earlier years of Independence, agriculture was the priority sector in First Five Year Plan. It was very difficult period for nascent democracy. Despite population being modest at 30 crores, the country did not have enough food grains to feed or the money to purchase. It was a harrowing

period for the Nation. We have bitter lessons of that period in that even a country like US did not consider it as humanitarian gesture to supply food to starving people and tried to attach strings to supply food grains. Then to the surprise of international community, India made a great turnaround.

We are now in 12th Five year Plan from 2012 onwards. Food grain shortage is a thing of past despite population being quadrupled. We have enough to eat and more to waste. We hear stories of food grains rotting in the open under sun and rain making headlines quite often. Ironically stories of starvation deaths also appear now and then. The Supreme Court had very harsh words for this mismanagement. Mismanagement is perhaps the mildest comment because the farm sector if subjected to critical study may deserve much worse. The malady the farm sector is afflicted with is total absence of scientific temper. Yet, the Indian farmer should be credited for his brave efforts to make farming succeed. Latest position of food grain production as per the second advance estimate put out by Govt. of India is as follows:

1. Total food grain production for 2013-14 is 263.20 million metric tons. It is 3.91 MMT more than 259.29 MMT produced in 2011-12. It will be the highest production the country seen.
2. Last year's (2012-13) production, hit by delayed monsoons, was 257.13 MMT.
3. Rice output for 2013-14 will be 106.19 MMT as against 105.24 MMT of 2012-13.
4. Wheat output for 2013-14 will be 95.60 MMT as against 93.51 MMT of 2012-13.
5. Pulses output for 2013-14 will be 19.77 MMT as against 18.34 MMT of 2012-13.
6. Coarse cereal production too increased this year by 1.5 MMT to 41.64 MMT from last year.
7. Total oilseed production in 2013-14 will be 329.83 lakh tones as against 309.43 lakh tones last year.
8. Production of rapeseed and mustard will be an all time high of 82.51 lakh tones compared to 80.29 lakh tonnes of last year.
9. Sugarcane output is expected to be 3459.23 lakh tones in 2013-14 compared to 3412.00 lakh tones last year.
10. Central Government contends that the farm sector is presently at its best with a growth rate of 4.6% and it is a firm foundation for implementing the ambitious Food Security Programme to provide subsidized food grains to 67% percent of the population.

These figures confirm that our country is a land of plenty. In fact, we had seen in the past that the country, with annual output hovering in the range of 220 – 240 MMT, could feed its more than a billion population and build buffer to see us through a couple of years draught and famine. By all standards the present position is

comfortable and in the right direction. But then arise some hard questions which need credible answers.

A. Why should the farmers want to quit farming when it is doing so well?

B. *Why farming, as a profession, is unprofitable?*

While I have no pretensions of being an agricultural scientist or agricultural economist, a layman's rustic sense prompts me to believe that farm policy is a classical example of foolhardiness. Country has vast infrastructure in State Agriculture Departments and a host of research institutions spread over the length and breadth the country. But unfortunately, all these arrangements are of no practical utility to the farmer in that their functions are mainly confined to advisory and of extension work. No regulatory function is assigned to these bodies. To put the matter in simple words, farming should be guided by scientific considerations rather than the arbitrary decision of the farmer. It is not to suggest that the rights of the landlord should be subjected to restrictions but it is paramount to ensure that farming at large conforms to national requirements and farmer is completely indemnified against vagaries of climate and market variations.

Now that there are strong indications that farm sector is fairly doing well, it is time to link farm sector performance to actual requirements of the country and optimize the production of different farm products to avoid uncertainty of

market fluctuations. Now the choice of crop is with the farmer. He exercises his discretion with an eye on high yield and better financial returns. There are innumerable examples where the farmers exercised this discretion wrongly and incurred heavy losses. Knowledge on soil fertility and its suitability at the farmer's doorstep will effectively counter several risks of farming. The farmer should have wide variety of options to choose a viable and profitable option. This will not only save the farmer of avoidable losses but will also facilitate him to save expenditure on excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides, an undesirable practice that had become very common among farmers in their anxiety to maximize the yield. These initiatives will in turn help improve environment by reducing pollutants.

Populism is the most important factor threatening farm sector. I know this statement will not be taken kindly by many just for the reason the 'holy cow' image the sector enjoys. Paradoxically, the holy cow attitude does not get translated to the benefit of the farmer. To explain it further; land is the main resource in farm sector and the people have compulsive weakness for land. India being a populous nation, per capita land is among the lowest in the world. Politicians lure the poor with an offer of land for the landless. They do not look at the problem beyond the distribution of land. In a country steeped in tradition of treating farming

as an individual's venture, community farming and the like are unthinkable. The average land holding of a common man is hardly an acre in India. Farming in such cases becomes unviable and unprofitable. These lands tend to become capital assets rather than sources of sustained returns. Certain policies of the Government meant for the benefit of certain sections of the society turn out to be against the interests of some other sections. The Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme meant to provide employment to the landless poor of the village, generated acute shortage of farm labor resulting in steep escalation in costs of farming.

So are the policies to go for large irrigation projects. Long term adverse effects of extensive irrigation apart, it is likely to create a sense "plenty" of farm products leading to glut in the market. We always face the problem of 'plenty' and 'scarcity' –a classical paradox. For example, the onion-tomato, syndrome of India. Any venture can be profitable only when a healthy balance is maintained between the demand and supply and its time. Cultivation of paddy in flooded rice fields results in emission of large quantities of Methane gas. Agriculture sector accounts for about 12.5 % of annual greenhouse gas emissions.

Having thus discussed the brighter aspect as well as challenges the farm sector is besieged with, it is no surprise to learn why the younger generation is disenchanted with farming. They

are not prepared for the uncertainties and risks involved. The most visible factor is that the prices in industrial sector are linked to costs of production and go on increasing and are dictated by the industrialist. Unfortunately, the farmer does not enjoy this luxury. The prices of commodities produced by him are dictated by market controlled by middlemen. Minimum Support Price the Government offers also gets hijacked by others.

The farm sector therefore needs some radical reforms and the Government should initiate proactive measures to take stock of all farm lands, classify them scientifically under various workable parameters and provide support mechanism to optimize production only to the extent necessary with a regulatory framework in place. Prime object should be to secure the farmer his due in terms of financial returns. As for the losses, the farmer should be totally indemnified.

As a forester, I wish these changes to come about for two reasons. One, changes will bring a paradigm shift in the thinking of farming community to opt for an organized and object oriented regime with assured returns. The emphasis will then be on the nature of crop and productivity. And the second, the assault on forests for agricultural use can also be arrested effectively as the State will have a close watch on the farm lands and their use.

ON THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS A LEXICOGRAPHER

By

Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai

It must be obvious to everyone that the student of an alien language, desirous of speaking and writing, as well as reading it, should have not only the words of such alien language explained in his own or in lingua franca, but also the words of his own or known tongue rendered into that alien language; and that any Dictionary confined merely to one department is essentially defective.

The wealth of a language is in the spoken tongue; and how rich and expressive that is, those know better who are familiar with the diversified phases of every-day speech of the impressionable and imaginative Oriental. The best portion of the language cannot be left out, if the language is to be represented in the integrity. The living utterances of the people are almost absent from our Dictionaries. Their place is filled instead by a great many Arabic, Persian and Sanskrit words which are seldom used in written or spoken Urdu. The scholars are the autocrats who have banished people's mother tongue, and forged in the place the artificial language which divides the people and the ruling class—they have labored to keep out the spoken vernacular from the written language of books and legal procedure and official correspondence; and what they were unable

wholly to thrust out of sight, they have mutilated, and mangled and crushed. "They have emasculated a vigorous racy language, and substituted for its living strength and fire stiff pompous words"—strange Arabic sounds which have no meaning for the people, and the dull cold clay of Sanskrit forms which "speak not, fire not and win not how." They refuse to admit these earliest friends of their youth into the new-found courts and palaces in which they have been installed by the royal favor. They speak one language in their houses, and another when they appear in public. When they give vent to their inmost feelings of the heart in the privacy of domestic life, they employ their own vigorous native tongue. When they go out among strangers and utter about the common conventional life or the sentiments which they do not feel, they clothe themselves with the gaudiest alien frippery and fustian, which serve both for display and concealment of their thoughts. With their lips they lavish the most extravagant panegyric on the pedants who are skilled in weaving elaborate pot-pourris of curious Arabic inflexion, flowing Persian compounds, and mystic Sanskrit "words of lengthening sound".

The language given in this Dictionary as a chief

constituent of the spoken tongue, as far as time and space will permit, will be a material help to all classes whose duties bring them in contact with the people; for the language of books and the Dictionaries yet extant do not enable to understand the language of the illiterate classes and the peasantry, which is, in all regions, more or less distinct from the literary language. The Dictionary includes as an important integral part of the spoken tongue, the vocabulary of women (rekhti or zananiboli) strongly overlooked and never before given in any work known to the compiler. The divergence is greatest where the men are educated residents of towns, while the women with whom they may be brought into relation are illiterate country bread persons; and it is least where the men and women are illiterate of the rural class, the seclusion of native females in our country has been the asylum of the true vernacular, as pure and simple as it is unaffected by the pedantries of word-makers. It is also the soil in which the mother-tongue has its most natural development. The larger portion consists of familiar colloquialisms which float on the lips of living men and women, but have as yet no abiding place in the written page.

A language is not learnt from Dictionaries. It is acquired, as all knowledge is acquired, by much exercise in the order and combination in which words, like things, are presented to the mind in real life. The office of a Dictionary is to make the student to "remember" in the Socratic phrase; to give definiteness to what is vague; to throw a

bright light on the dim shadows of faded recollections and things imperfectly apprehended; to present to the mind its own image——

"What oft was thought, but ne'er so well expressed"

In scanning the groups of equivalents, it will further occur to the critical reader that every word and phrase purporting to the equivalent of the principal word, has its own equivalent.

The large number of Urdu words from a single root, and their usually numerous secondary meanings testify to the flexibility of the living root, which continually throws out new shoots as it assimilates fresh matter from its ever changing environment.

No language could have been formed on an elaborately devised and regular system of inflexions, and concord, and government. The formal look of a language is not its essential character in the development of knowledge; the morphological classifications inevitably come before the physiological.

Grammar becomes associated with the easiest triumphs and greatest feats of scholarship, and grammar is ever after a subject of the greatest reverence. Grammar was the key which helped to unlock the hidden mysteries and incomparable beauties of a classical language. What are non-classical languages in comparison? With grammar we interpreted. With grammar we may construct.

Whether or not the growth of language is in the order ascribed to it by philologists, it is certain that Urdu, like other living languages, exhibits at this day the integration and disintegration which is the law of nature.

The truth is that the language which is associated with the toils and triumphs of our earlier years, and the sounds, and periods, and turns of expression which have gained expressiveness from frequent repetition, will always have for our ears a music and a meaning which we are unable to associate with other languages which were learnt later, or of which we know much less or nothing at all. A good deal has been written, likewise, about the greater definitiveness and precision of words borrowed from the classics. Men whose natural taste is yet uncorrupted and who possess some command of the popular language and its folklore, cannot read and write; and those who can read and write have vitiated tastes, without a due command of the mother tongue.

The task was not a small one and it was beset with difficulties inasmuch that if the general result of this somewhat novel attempt should be considered an improvement on the labors of the past, sufficient to serve as a basis for further extensions and improvements in the future, as much will have been done as could reasonably be expected. The magnitude and difficulty of the undertaking are considerable. It is always difficult to draw the line between deficiency and excess. It is not easy to beat once full and accurate.

Lexicographers, who give only the most ordinary and well-marked significations of a word, are shattered under a prudent reserve which is not so satisfactory to those who have to consult the Dictionary. But he who ventures to do more and attempts to grasp the comprehensive, runs the risk of being, or seeming to be, at times inaccurate. A lexicographer, who ventures beyond the safe boundary of the written literature, in an attempt to fix and give permanence to what yet lives only in individual minds and in the passing utterances of the tongue, treads on dubious ground. Moreover to set them down as they are heard or remembered, and afterwards compare, would be the work of a lifetime, or rather of an Academy. And to give examples for every sense would be to swell out the Dictionary to an inordinate size.

If this work should help to excite in any degree a greater interest in the people, and in their language and literature; if it should tend to promote that close interaction to which a knowledge of the people's language is the key, and afford that insight into the minds of the people; if it should be established that people's language is sufficiently definite, copious, and expressive for all literary and scientific purpose, medium for the widest, most effective, and speediest diffusion of knowledge and the moral and social observation of the people, I might then see a higher degree of prosperity and real contentment in the people.

(On the completion of compilation of Trilingual Dictionary: U-R-K, presently at the Press at New Delhi—— an assignment of the Min. of HRD, Gol)

MY SERVICE IN TTD – WITH THE BLESSINGS OF LORD A MEMOIR – (3)

By
V.Santhaseelababu

Sri Venkateswara Vriksha Prasadam: The pilgrims visiting Tirumala, after having 'Darshan' of Lord, will purchase the sacred 'LadduPrasadam' and take home with them. With a view to promote the planting of trees, the scheme of "**Sri Venkateswara Vriksha Prasadam**" was introduced by T.T.Deavasthanam. Our Conservator of Forests Sri V. Janaki Ram Naidu IFS; conceived the idea and initiated the scheme and as DFO, Tirumala I had the privilege of implementing this holy project. The scheme was inaugurated by the Chairman of TTD.

The nursery site was selected at a vantage point located at the junction of the exit of 1st Ghat Road and the entry of 2nd Ghat road at Tirumala. Large boards exhibiting the name of the nursery were erected to attract the attention of pilgrims travelling by road and by walk. Species of plants suitable for raising in the backyards of dwelling houses like *Karivepaku*, *Pomegranate*, *Guava*, *Gorinta (Henna)*, *Lime* etc. Tree species like *Gulmohar*, *Peltophorum*, *Pongamia*, *Ficus species*, *Millingtonia*, *Nagalingam (Couroupitaguianensis)*, *Parijatham (Nyctanthes arbor-tristis)*, etc. and the flowering species like *Nandivardhanam (Ceylone Jasmine)*, *Kanakambaram (Crossandra)*, *Ganneru (Nerium)*, *Bougainvillea*, etc. were sold at a nominal cost of Re.1/-each. We also used to keep the plants at the Bus station so that the pilgrims

travelling by Buses were also able to get the opportunity of buying the plants. The scheme has picked up very well and thousands of seedlings were being taken away by the pilgrims every day. Thus TTD has contributed to greening of the earth not only in the TTD area and its surrounds but also throughout the areas from where pilgrims were coming to Tirumala.

Procurement of 'musk' for the Lord: "Kasthurithilakamlalataphalake"

Lord Venkateswara is adorned with 'musk' (Kasthuri) on His forehead every Friday after *Abhishekam*. After a series of correspondence with the Forest Department of Himachal Pradesh, the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, Himachal has informed that there is some quantity of 'musk' available with them and requested the TTD to depute a responsible person to take delivery of the 'musk' from them. The Executive Officer, TTD requested Sri. V. Janakiram Naidu IFS; Conservator of Forests to depute an officer from the Forest Wing to take delivery of the 'musk' from the office of the Prl.CCF, Shimla. The C.F. instructed me to proceed to Shimla and take delivery of the 'musk' from them. I was very happy that I had the very rare opportunity of rendering my services to the Lord. The rate of 'musk' was fixed equal to that of the current market rate of Gold on the day of taking delivery.

(Contd. on page no. 29)

SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION PHOTOS



Welcome address by
Sri B.M. Swami Das, Secretary



Address by
Sri S.K. Das, President



Felicitation to Past Jt. Secretary
Sri L. Lohit Reddy



Felicitation to founder member
Sri S. Apparao



Felicitation to founder member, Past President & Above 85 Years Sri T. Krishna Murthy



Felicitation to Past President
Sri K. Sitarama Rao



Felicitation to Past President
Sri K. Janakirama Naidu



Felicitation to Past President & Above 75
years Sri M. Kamal Naidu



Felicitation to Past President
Sri S.D. Mukherji



Felicitation to Past Vice President
Sri Y. Ram Mohan Rao



Felicitation to Past Vice President
Sri C. Muralidhar Rao



Felicitation to Past Vice President
Sri L. Krishna Bhoopal Rao



Felicitation to Past Secretary & Awardee of Out Standing Service Sri T. Narayan Swamy



Felicitation to Past Jt. Secretary , Convener Souvenir 2014 & Awardee of Outstanding Service Sri J.V. Sharma



Felicitation to Past Jt. Secretary Sri M. Narayan Rao



Felicitation to Past Jt. Secretary Sri J.V. Subbarao



Felicitation to Past Jt. Secretary Sri P. Upender Reddy



Felicitation to Past Editor Vana Premi Sri B. Bhooma Rajam



Felicitations to Above 85 Years
Sri B. Pratap Reddy



Felicitations to Above 85 years
Sri A. Raja Reddy



Felicitations to Above 85 years
Sri P. Laxma Reddy



Releasing of Souvenir by Chief Guest
Dr. N. Krishna Reddy, M.D., D.M



Presentation of memento to
Dr. N. Krishna Reddy, M.D., D.M.
by Sri. S.K. Das



Lecture by Chief Guest
Dr. N. Krishna Reddy, M.D., D.M

(Contd. from page no. 24)

So I was provided with sufficient cash for the purchase of 'musk'. Before proceeding to Shimla, I took sufficient quantities of *Laddu* and *VadaPrasadams* along with me for distributing them to the Officers whom I was going to meet at Shimla. I proceeded to Shimla along with my wife. The travel from Kalka to Shimla was very much exciting especially by the Train. After reaching Shimla I met the concerned CF who was in-charge of wildlife wing and gave him the *Prasadams* which I took along with me. With high reverence the CF received them and thanked me for the same. He advised me to visit 'Kufri' where the Musk deer farm is located and maintained by the Forest Department of Himachal.

He arranged a vehicle for us to go there and sent a Range Officer along with us. I proceeded to the Farm and had the rare opportunity of seeing the musk deer and the process of extraction of 'musk' from them. En-route we visited 'Naldehra' about 22 kms from Shimla at an altitude of 2,200 Mts. which is a hill station and a tourist spot also famous for its Golf Club. Since it was the month of November, we experienced a very chilly weather. After returning from the Farm we halted at Shimla for the night and next day again I went to the PCCF's office and took delivery of the 'musk' by paying the market rate of gold as on that day. They gave me the official receipt and issued a 'Permit' to carry the 'musk' along with me from Shimla to Tirumala. From Shimla we proceeded to Rishikesh, Haridwar and visited New Delhi and

Agra and returned to Tirumala. I kept the musk in my suitcase carefully and after removing it from the suitcase the fragrance was still there in the suitcase and the clothes for about more than a month. Thus I had a rare opportunity of serving the Lord, thanks to My CF, Sri.V. Janakiram Naidu for having, given me the opportunity **Darshan Arrangements of Lord:** Since I was working at Tirumala right with the TTD, Our Departmental Officers, friends and relatives were naturally banking upon me for the Darshan of Lord. As long as I was the DFO, TTD, Tirumala, the task of arranging the *Darshan* of Lord was practically nil on the Territorial Forest Department at Tirupati.

I have entrusted the duty of receiving Telephone calls in the Division office at Tirumala by drafting Telephone Messengers, who were educated NMR persons, on turn duties round the clock along with a Logbook of Telephone calls. Their duty was to receive the messages from the persons contacting the Division office on various purposes including the information of occurrence of fires and incidents of smuggling and cattle menace. Simultaneously I kept another book for noting down the informations that were being received about the arrivals of our departmental officials, friends and relatives. The informations received by the Telephone messengers were being passed on to the Range officers/Section Officers and myself depending upon their urgency. Some NMR persons were drafted for the duty of monitoring the supply of fuel wood to the temple. They were looking after the

accommodation and *darshan* arrangements of the visiting guests.

Many a times I used to personally accompany our Officers, close friends and relatives to see that they have a convenient and comfortable *Darshan* of Lord. At that time whenever we go for *Darshan* of Lord during the breaks, we were made to stand at the "*KulasekharaPadi*" the place located immediately at the door of the '*sanctum sanctorum*' and have the *Darshan* of Lord and '*Harathi*' was being rendered to the Lord in our presence so that we get the best glimpse of Lord. Now days this type of *Darshan* is restricted only during the morning or evening breaks to the Protocol VIPs listed in "L-1" category by the TTDs. All my friends and relatives whenever we meet recollect those days and tell me that they never had such a good *Darshan* of Lord neither before nor after as they had during my period.

'Sevas' in the Temple: Different '*Sevas*' will be performed to the Lord in the Sanctum Sanctorum and the Temple premises on different days. "*Visesha Puja*" on Monday, "*AshtadalaPadaPadmaradhana*" on Tuesday, "*SahasraKalashabhishekam*" on Wednesday, "*Thiruppavada*" on Thursday and "*Abhishekam*" on Friday are the main weekly rituals performed to the Lord. Of course everyday *Suprabhatham*, *Thomalaseva*, *Archana*, *Kalyanothsavam*, *Dolothsavam*, *Vasanthothsavam*, *Bramhothsavam*, *UnjalSeva*, *Ekanthaseva*etc; will be performed. On Thursdays in the evening "*PoolangiSeva*" will be performed in which the main Deity is completely decorated with flowers

and one will have the opportunity of viewing this on Thursday evening only. On Friday in the early morning immediately after "*Abhishekam*" "*NijaPadaDarshanam*" will be there in which the Lord gives *Darshan* covered by a small white cloth and the holy feet of the Lord will be visible with his eyes open (generally from Friday to Wednesday the eyes of the Lord would be covered with '*PachaKarpooram*' and on Thursday the eyes will be visible and that is called "*NethraDarshanam*"), This is a very rare *Darshan* one would be getting on every Friday morning. For having worked in TTD on deputation, with the blessings of Lord, I and my family had the unique and very rare opportunity of participating in all the *sevas* and witnessing them in a very close quarter. At the time of *Bramhothsavams* the *UthsavaMurthies* (Mobile Deities) of Lord would be taken in Procession daily both in the mornings and in the evenings on different '*Vahanams*' like *Pedda Sesha Vahanam*, *Chinna Sesha Vahanam*, *Hamsa Vahanam*, *Simha Vahanam*, *Muthyala Pallaki Vahanam*, *Kalpa Vruksha Vahanam*, *Sarva Bhoopala Vahanam*, *Garuda Vahanam*, *Hanumantha Vahanam*, *Swarna Ratham*, *Gaja Vahanam*, *Surya Prabha Vahanam*, *Chandra Prabha Vahanam*, *Wooden Ratham*(Chariot) and *Aswa Vahanam*. On the last day there will be '*Chakra Snanam*' in which Lord's '*Sudarshana Chakram*' (*Chakrathaalvar*) will be dipped in the Holy '*Swami Pushkarini*,' at *Varaha Swamy Temple* after conducting the '*Snapana Thirumanjanam*'. In all these *VahanaSevas* we, along with our families, had the privilege of

being in the processions along with the Executive Officer, Joint Executive Officer, Chief Vigilance and Security Officer and other TTD officers.

Regularization of NMR Workers: Right from the advent of Bio-aesthetic Plan, labor was being engaged in TTD Forest Department for execution of various works. Some works were carried out by entrusting them to the petty contractors and some works were executed by maintaining muster rolls. By the time we joined in TTD by 1986 the number of NMR workers in all the Ranges both in Tirupati and Tirumala Divisions has swollen to a number 300 to 400 persons. Influenced by some political parties they were agitating for regularization of their services. This was a burning problem in the Forest wing of TTD. They were also approaching the Labor Courts and High Court for getting their grievances redressed. In one such incident there were orders of High Court for regularization of the services of people who have completed a certain period of service up to a cutoff date. We took out all the Attendance Registers and Muster Rolls maintained right from the beginning and by going through enormous record, finalized the names of the eligible persons for regularization. When the proposals for their regularization were submitted, the Executive Officer and the TTD Board have approved them and finally all of them became the regular employees of TTD. They were paid the salaries along with Pay, DA, HRA and other admissible allowances.

This was a big achievement for them and they were all grateful to the Officers who verified the

record and finalized the list transparently in a judicious manner without showing any favoritism. Finally when I was repatriated back to the Department from TTD, they organized a grand get together at Tirumala and expressed their gratitude by presenting me a memento in the shape of a bronze idol of Lord Venkateswara.

Forest Range Officers who worked in TTD during my Tenure:

As I have already mentioned in my 1st episode of this Memoir, to start with Sri.K.Prabhu Prasad, Sri.A.Parthasarathy, Sri.L.Ch. Thirupelu Reddy, P. RajendraNath worked as Forest Range Officers in my Division. Subsequently Sri K. Chandrasekhara Pillai, A.B. Srinivasa Murthy, Sri. P. Chandrasekhara Naidu, Sri. Reddy Satya Narayana, Sri. Sambasiva Reddy have also worked in Tirumala Division. All the Range Officers have sincerely done their best in execution of works and up keeping the prestige of Forest Wing in TTD. Their hard work and dedication in discharge of duties had resulted in successful raising of plantations and development of attractive gardens and protection of forests on Tirumala hills and the surrounding Reserved Forests.

Rapport with officers in other Departments of TTD:

During my tenure in TTD, I maintained very cordial relationship with officers of other Departments of TTD. All the Deputy Executive Officers, Asst. Executive Officers, Engineers, Medical Officers, Vigilance Officers were being contacted by me very frequently and I used to make it a point either to call on them or invite

them to my cottage and discuss with them the various issues pertaining to the Forest wing. As a result I was able to get many problems solved at our level. When I was transferred from TTD, all of them remarked that they felt that I was an officer of TTD service only and never felt that I came on deputation from a foreign service to TTD.

Guidance from my Conservator of Forests: I was able to successfully carryout my duties with the fullest support and guidance of my C.F. Sri.V. Janakiram Naidu, IFS. Many a time I used to pose my problems to him over phone from Tirumala and seek his advice and he was patiently listening to me and was guiding me thoroughly. I feel I was quite lucky for having worked with such a nice, sincere, knowledgeable and honest officer who had been so affectionate towards me.

Indira Priyadarshini Vriksha Mithra Award: It may not be out of place to mention here that during the year 1992, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam was awarded with "Indira Priyadarshini Vriksha Mithra Award" (Institutional) by the Govt. of India because of the untiring, sincere and dedicated efforts and the hard work put in by Sri K. Rajasekhar, IFS, the main Architect and the Author of the Bio-aesthetic Plan Sri V. Janakiram Naidu, IFS and Sri T. Sankar Reddy, IFS, DyCF and all the Officers of Forest Department who worked on deputation to TTD right from the inception of Bioaesthetic Plan from the year 1980 onwards and the staff of Forest wing. But alas! (Informed by Sri P.S. Sankara Reddy IFS Retd) who was the Dy. C. F. TTD at that time), when the Award Presentation Ceremony

was scheduled at New Delhi, neither the officer who was in-charge of Forest Department in TTD at that time, nor the Executive Officer, TTD were allowed to receive the award but a politician, who was the Chairman of TTD at that time and who never contributed an atom of his effort at any point of time in greening Tirumala Hills, forcibly grabbed the opportunity and received the award from the Hon'ble Prime Minister posing himself to be the hero responsible for the achievement. That was a very sad state of affairs.

Finally I attribute that whatever success I have achieved in my service in TTD, it was only due to the Blessings of the Lord Venkateswara. He only called me from Nizamabad through Sri. K. Rajasekhar, IFS (Retd), who included my name in the list of officers whom the TTD proposed to take on deputation, and gave me this great opportunity of serving Him. He got the things done by me according to His choice and I was an instrument in His hands. Whatever I have narrated in all these three episodes was possible only with His Blessings and that is the reason why I have named this article with the caption "**MY SERVICE IN TTD –with the blessings of lord**"

"Venkatadri Samam Sthanam Bramhande Naasthi Kinchana

Sri Venkatesa Samo Deva Na Bhutho Na Bhavishyathi"

(There is no place in the world that is equal to Venkatadri, There is no God equal to Lord Venkateswara either in the past or in future)

WILDLIFE WEEK - TIME RIPE TO REORIENT THE THEME

By
B. M. T. Rajeev

The nation is preparing for the celebration of the Birth Day of the father of the Nation- Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd of October. It is a national holiday on par with the I-day and R-day, this day is selected for launching '**Wildlife Week - from 2nd to 8th of October**'; to spread the awareness among younger generation and the common man about the importance of conservation of wildlife – denizens of our ecosystems for the benefit of science, education, economy in the interest of future generation and also as our national heritage and also to maintain our ecological balance.

The wild animals were very close to heart of Mahatma Gandhi as they are the creatures that do not have power to plan for their living or comforts and survival in nature but, continue to perform the functions fixed by the nature upon individual species of animals from the day of their evolution through their actions for survival-feeding. The food chain of the wild animals is the vital role they play in nature that keeps the ecological balance in nature most favorable to the human and his domestic animals and crops.

Wildlife includes the vegetation and the animals in wild. Wildlife was considered sacred as per

the Hindu Religion, Mythology, Vedas, Jainism and Buddhism and enjoyed protection as per the *Kautilya's Arthashastra* and Ashoka's inscriptions. But, suffered during the medieval age and *Moghal* periods; and subjected for persecution during the British rule. Even after independence wildlife suffered a lot due to unchecked hunting as game, for meat and for trade of animals' articles in the international market till '**Indian Board for Wildlife**' (IBWL) was constituted by the Union government in 1952. The IBWL started a movement called- wildlife week- to spread the message for the conservation of wildlife among the youths and public and also to gain their sympathy and cooperation for wildlife conservation; and decided to celebrate it from 2nd of October... the birth day of Mahatma Gandhi as a mark of respect to the father of the nation, since, the wildlife was very close to his heart as government sponsored programme every year.

The IBWL initiated all measures to control the indiscriminate hunting of wild animals threatened in India, as identified by the IUCN (The International Union for Conservation of Nature) and banned the trade in animals articles

in collaboration with the CITES (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora) and finally succeeded in forcing the Government of India to enact the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. And launching of Project Tiger, 1973 for the conservation of our national animal-tiger; the representative of our ecosystem and other wildlife conservation projects.

The persecution of wild animals was brought under check; but, the fragmentation of their habitats-forests continued unabated due to diversion of forest lands for construction of major irrigation/ hydroelectricity projects, expansion of agriculture, housing, mining, communication and for rehabilitation of repatriates and displaced people from the submersion areas of the projects under taken till enactment of Indian Forest Conservation Act, 1980. Again the threat of fragmentation of the habitats is looming large with the enactment of Forest Rights Act, 2006 and increased mining activities.

India has achieved considerable success in conservation of wildlife by bringing nearly 20 % of the forest areas under the network of Protected Area (PA) network, which comes to about 5% of the geographical area of the India.

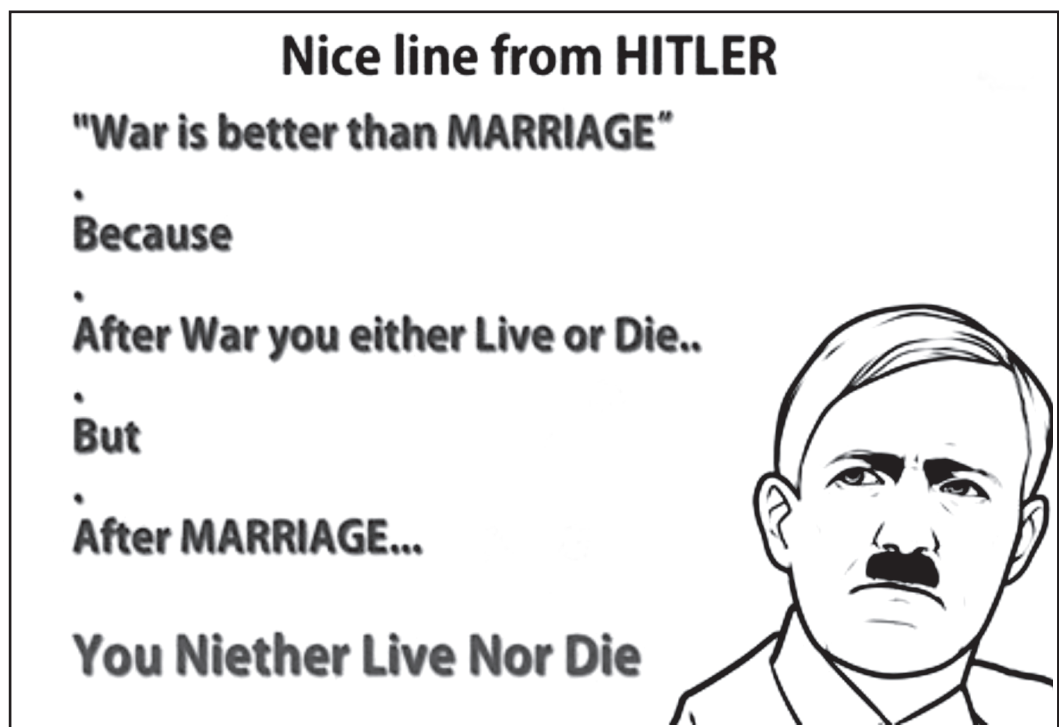
The wildlife management prescribes maintenance of habitats undisturbed for the wildlife to flourish in nature. But, the present

practice is a myth rather than reality due to many interwoven problems surfacing in the wildlife management in India. Most of the PAs' vegetation in the tropical regions of deciduous forests, left to nature without interference or manipulation for more than 4 decades is under different stages of succession and some are nearing the ecological climatic climax- the natural phenomena for any vegetation. The climatic climax- is the culmination of any plant or a vegetation in given environment - a stage of grey vegetation. Whereas the wild animals are diverse in nature and they require diverse food, shelter and space to spread their gene. Only forests in diverse stages can meet the diverse demands of the diverse wild animals and not the habitat in grey condition. In addition to these natural phenomena- the exotic weeds like *Lantana camara*, *Eupatorium odorata* and *Parthenium hysterophorus* and some local weeds have become menace in most of the deciduous habitats and have occupied the forest floor leaving no scope for grasses to survive, causing dearth of fodder for herbivores and hindrance for the movement of animals. The resultant problems are - depredation of herbivores in to agricultural fields; and predators do following the herbivores in to human habitations causing man-animals' conflicts, summer fires and depletion of habitats.

With the dedication of many channels for the wildlife conservation and tourism, colorful printing media with write ups on wildlife and nature; and the improved economy of the people in the modern world has given opportunity for the people to learn more about the importance of conserving the wildlife for the good of the human race. The public does not need talks, screening of films, debates and propaganda to learn on the importance of wildlife conservation anymore. But, the wildlife management needs new scientific inputs to resolve the problems cited above. The governments are more enthusiastic to allocate sufficient funds for conservation of wildlife. The need of the hour is

to find solutions for the burning problems of man-animals' conflicts rather than educating the people on wildlife conservation.

Now, the time is ripe to reorient the theme of 'wildlife week' to conduct scientific seminars and debates on the problems being faced by wild animals, PAs and the people cohabiting the wildlife to find out solutions to provide viable and sustainable habitats.. .. as there is no chance to increase the existing habitats on par with the increasing population of wildlife...and solutions to man-animals' conflicts in the best interest of the wild animals, ecology and the future generation.



PLACE OF BIRDS IN THE PATTERN OF OUR LIVING

By
V.S. Krishnaswamy

It has been said that, but for the trees the insects would perish, but for the insects the birds would perish, but for the birds the trees would perish and to follow the inexorable laws of nature to their logical conclusion, but for the trees the world would perish. So birds are necessary as –

- 1.They help the propagation of tree; and
- 2.They control the population of insects, which feed on the trees.

The variety and fecundity and voracity of insects are unbelievable. Practically all living animals, as well as plants, furnish food for these incomputable hordes of insects. A caterpillar is said to eat twice its own weight of leaves per day. Certain fresh larvae consume within 24 hours, 200 times the original weight. It is affirmed that the food taken by a silk worm in 56 days equals 86,000 times its original weight at hatching. Locusts are as notorious for their prolific reproduction as their prodigious appetites. Their swarms are sometimes so thick as to obscure the sun.

A large proportion of the normal food of birds consists of insects, including many that are in the highest degree injurious to man and his concerns. Birds of many species not only take

heavy toll of the marauding locust hordes, all along their flight lines, but also scratch up and devour their eggs in vast quantities, as well as in the different stages of growth of the young locust, after it is hatched. This warfare is waged not only when the insects are at the peak of their periodical abundance but incessantly, relentlessly and in all stages of the lives of the insects. Therefore where the birds have not been unwisely interfered with, they constitute one of the most effective natural checks to the increase in the insect population. White stork and Rosy Pastor are well-known locust destroyers.

As destroyers of other vermin, Owls, Hawks and the birds of prey are amongst the most important of nature's checks upon rats and mice, some of the most fecund and destructive pests affecting man. These vermin do enormous damage to crops and agricultural produce and are besides carriers directly or indirectly of diseases often fatal to man. It is computed that every pair of rats destroyed by birds, means an annual suppression of potential increase of 880 rats, and these birds, with their digestion, which is a continuous and rapid process, it is

conceivable that large number of rats are destroyed by them. As scavengers they play a very useful role. Vultures, Kites and Crows are invaluable scavengers. They speedily and effectively dispose of carcasses of cattle and other refuse, dumped in the precincts of our villages, that would otherwise putrefy and befoul the air and produce veritable culture beds of disease. The services of the birds are of special importance at the time of famines and cattle epidemics, when large numbers of domestic animals perish. The speed and thoroughness with which a party of vultures will dispose of carrion is astounding.

As flower pollination agents the birds are indispensable. The large part played by birds as pollination agents is not adequately appreciated. A large number of birds of diverse families and species are responsible for the cross fertilization of flowers many of them possessing special adaptations in the structure and mechanism of their tongue and bill for the purpose of extracting honey, from the base of the flower tubes.

It is little realized that the silk cotton tree, which is important for the match industry is mainly cross pollinated by the agency of birds. Its large showy crimson flowers as they contain a plentiful supply of sugary nectar are eagerly sought after by nearly 60 species of birds. Similarly Erythrina, the coral trees are fertilized chiefly if not exclusively by birds.

As seed dispersers, the activities of birds are not always of a beneficial character, from the economic point of view. The seeds of Lantana and Loranthus, both the despair of forest officers, are dispersed by birds. But Bulbuls and Barbets try to redeem their name, by dispersing sandal seeds. Mulberry owes its abundance mainly to propagation by birds.

The case for protection and conservation of birds in a country like ours, so largely agricultural and forested and therefore at their mercy, is clear and needs no special plea. Quite apart from the purely materialistic aspect however, it must not be forgotten that Man cannot live by bread alone. "By the gorgeousness of their plumage and the loveliness of their forms, by the vivaciousness of their movements and the sweetness of their songs, birds typify life and beauty. They rank beyond doubt among these important trifles, that supplement bread, in the sustenance of Man and make his living worthwhile."

(The author belongs to the first batch of I.F.S. trained in India at Dehra Dun in 1926. He served in several capacities in the composite Madras Province and retired as the Chief Conservator of Forests in 1959. After retirement, he worked as Forest Consultant for the National Council of Applied Economic Research at New Delhi **(The author wrote a book namely "Thoughts on Indian Forestry" and this article is extract from the book)**)

MINUTES OF THE LXVII GENERAL BODY MEETING AND SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS HELD ON 21-09-2014 AT HYDERABAD.

The Secretary of the Association Sri B. M. Swamidas, invited the president Sri S.K.Das, Vice-President Sri T. Narayan Swamy, Jt. Secretary – cum treasurer Sri Govinda Rajulu and the Editor Vana Premi Sri Qamar Mohd. Khan on to the dais and occupy the chairs.

2. The President of the Association, Sri S. K. Das took up Agenda and conducted the proceedings. There was a prayer by Kum. Prasanna. After the prayer, the President informed the members about the sad demise of Late Sri Sarvotham Rao, late Smt. Sumathi Malla Reddy and late Sri Kurien, I.F.S. a senior retired Forest Officer of Kerala State. The members stood in silence for (2) minutes as a mark of respect to the departed souls.

3. The Secretary Sri Swamidas welcomed the members, ladies and the Honourable Guests Sri Rajesh Mittal, I.F.S., Vice-Chairman & Managing Director, A.P.F.D.C. Telangana and A.P., Sri S. B. L. Misra, I.F.S., Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, Telangana and Sri R.G. Kalaghatgi, I.F.S., Prl. C.C.F., A.P. He also welcomed Sri Raghotham Rao, I.F.S. a senior retired Forest Officer & Editor 'Vana Vikas' Karnataka State.

4. The Secretary introduced the following newly joined members:

1. Sri B.S.S.Reddy, 2. Sri V.Kishan, 3. Sri A.Shankaran, 4. Sri D. Sudhakar, 5. Sri Rajendranath and 6. Sri Abdul Aleem.

5. The President Sri S.K.Das in his presidential address informed the members that the Association of Retired Forest Officers completed (25) years of its formation and as decided by the General Body, the Silver Jubilee celebrations are being held today. The President has informed the members that the Association has successfully achieved its main objectives mainly due to the efforts of Sri. T. Narayan Swamy, Sri. K. Buchiram Reddy, Sri J.V. Sharma, Sri K. Santokh Singh, and Sri Qamar Mohd. Khan. The Executive committee decided to felicitate the above members and the past Presidents, past Vice-Presidents, past Secretaries, past Jt. Secretaries and past Editors. He has also thanked Sri H. K. Desai, a senior member of the association for meeting the expenses on purchase of Shawls and Mementos. He also thanked Sarvasri Yousuf Sharief, P.V. Padmanabham and P. Bhaskar Reddy, for hosting, special lunch today. He further informed that on this occasion a Souvenir 2014 is brought out for which Sri J.V. Sharma is the Convener and that the Souvenir will be released shortly by the Chief Guest

6. The Vice-President Sri T. Narayan Swamy, narrated briefly the history and activities of the association since its formation. He informed the members that he has given

detailed information in the Souvenir. He said that the association of Retired Forest Officers was formed on 29-05-1989 with (18) members, gained strength year after year and the present strength is (165). In the last (5) years, (55) new members have joined the association. He further informed that the expenditure on lunch till 2002 was borne by the Association but from 2003 onwards, the lunch is hosted by members individually or shared by batch mates or friends. So far (72) General Body meetings and (84) Executive Committee meetings were held. The association conducted (22) Visits/Tours to different places of interest and conducted (39) Guest Lectures by inviting distinguished persons to enlighten the members with updated knowledge in their field. Some of the members of the Association whose services of excellence have been recognized by the Govt. of India were felicitated earlier by the Association. They are Sri M. Kamal Naidu for receiving '*Shourya Chakra Award*' Dr. N. Ramakrishna Rao, Sri M. Padmanabha Reddy and late Sri Papa Rao for receiving '*Priyadarshini Vrikshamitra Awards*'. Likewise, the Association felicitated the following sons and daughters of members who attained eminent positions

- i. Sri C. V. Anand, I.P.S. S/o Late Sri. C. Damodar Reddy for receiving Presidents Gallantry Medal.
- ii. Sri Madhukar Reddy S/o Sri K. Mohan Reddy, M.S (Ophthalmology), Specialist Doctor in Corneal and Corneal transplantation.

- iii. Dr. Navneeth Sagar, M.D., FCCP(USA), S/o Late Sri P. Kista Reddy – Professor and Head of the Dept. Pulmonary Medicine

- iv. Sri Ravi R Pragada, M.A.(Rural Development) S/o Sri R. K. Rao- He founded non-Governmental Organization "Samata" with focus on welfare activities of Tribal Communities.

- v. Mrs. Tanu Singh D/o Sri. Santokh Singh for receiving 'Gladrags Beauty Contest Award 2008'.

6. The history of the Association will not be complete unless I mention about the important role played by the 'Vana Premi. Mr. K. Buchiram Reddy converted the Half-yearly News Bulletin in to monthly journal by putting in hard work. He is singularly responsible for making 'Vana Prenmi' a popular journal among the foresters which since gained recognition all over the country. Sri Qamar Mohd. Khan who succeeded Sri K.B.R.Reddy, proved to be a worthy successor. He transformed this journal in to a magnificent edifice and now the journal is acclaimed all over for its attractive look and quality content. Another member who is also responsible for the success of the journal is J.V. Sharma, who is a prolific writer and enriched the content of Vana Premi by writing extensively on environment, forests, tribes & tribal problems, law and matters of public interest. He is considered a tire less crusader in the cause of forests. Yet another member who contributed his mite for the success of the Association is Sri K. Santokh Singh, who discharged any difficult task entrusted to

him with ease and in excellent manner. The Association is also thankful to Sri B. S. N Prasad who is assisting in office work of the Association.

8. The Association felicitated the following members on the occasion:

(i) FELICITATIONS TO FOUNDER MEMBERS OF ASSOCIATION :

1. Sri T. Krishna Murthy. 2. Sri S. Appa Rao

(ii) FELICITATIONS TO PAST PRESIDENTS

1. Sri T. Krishna Murthy, 2. Sri M. Sita Rama Rao, 3. Sri V. Janaki Rama Naidu, 4. Sri M. Kamal Naidu, 5. Sri S. D. Mukherji

(iii) FELICITATIONS TO PAST VICE-PRESIDENTS

1. Sri Y. Ram Mohan Rao, 2. Sri C. Muralidhar Rao, 3. Sri Krishna Bhoopal Rao

(iv) FELICITATIONS TO PAST SECRETARIES

1. Sri T. Narayan Swamy, 2. Sri K. Santokh Singh

(v) FELICITATIONS TO PAST JOINT SECRETARY CUM TREASURERS:

1. Sri J. V. Sharma 2. Sri M. N. Rao, 3. Sri L. Lohit Reddy, 4. Sri J. V. Subba Rao 5. Sri P. Upender Reddy

(vi) FELICITATIONS TO PAST EDITORS

1. Sri B. Bhooma Rajam 2. Sri K. Buchi Ram Reddy

(vii) MEMBERS ON COMPLETION OF (85) YEARS OF AGE

1. Sri S. Appa Rao, 2. Sri A. Raja Reddy, 3. Sri T. Krishna Murthy, 4. Sri B. Pratap Reddy, 5. Sri P. Laxma Reddy

(viii) MEMBERS ON COMPLETION OF (75) YEARS OF AGE

1. Sri M. Kamal Naidu

(ix) AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

1. Sri Qamar Mohd. Khan, 2. Sri K. Santokh Singh.

(x) OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE ASSOCIATION

1. Sri T. Narayan Swamy 2. Sri K. Buchiram Reddy

3. Sri J. V. Sharma

9. LECTURE BY CHIEF GUEST Dr. N. KRISHNA REDDY, MD, DM:

Dr. N. Krishna Reddy is a native of Nizamabad District. He is the Son-in-Law of Sri K. Mohan Reddy, a Senior Retired Forest Officer and a member of this association. Dr. Krishna Reddy, graduated from Osmania Medical College with University Rank and Gold Medal in final M.B.B.S. He did his M.D. in internal medicine from the prestigious National Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh. He did his D.M. in Cardiology from Delhi University. He is a founding member of Care Hospital as Cardiologist both in clinical and administrative roles. He introduced advanced technologies in the areas of Echocardiography, Electro Physiology and Cardio MRI imaging in the state. He built the largest 50 member Cardiology Professional Group as Managing Director. Co-founded Care Hospitals in 1997, a chain of tertiary Care Hospitals located in 5 states across India. Care Hospital caters to 1 million out patients and 100,000 in-patients every year. He is currently Vice Chairman of the chain of tertiary Care Hospitals.

Dr. N. Krishna Reddy addressed the members and enlightened them on general heart problems. It was a brilliant and authoritative speech reaching its audience straight with utmost clarity. He put his listeners at ease with simple logic tempered with professional

expertise. He explained lucidly what a heart discomfort is and how to identify it. He advised about the precautions to be taken when needed. He said there is no need to panic and the heart ailment is manageable. It was a masterly exposition of the subject which made even confirmed heart patients comfortable. At the end of speech there was an interaction session where he answered the questions raised by the members and ladies. After his speech, Dr. Krishna Reddy was honored by Sri S. K. Das, President of the Association and a memento was presented.

11. RELEASE OF SOUVENIR: Sri J. V. Sharma was nominated as the Convener of the Souvenir Committee and was entrusted with the task of bringing out a Souvenir to commemorate the

Silver Jubilee celebrations of the association. Sri J. V. Sharma brought out an excellent Souvenir, putting in lot of efforts which is appreciated by all. The Souvenir was released by the Chief Guest Dr. Krishna Reddy.

12. VOTE OF THANKS: The Joint Secretary-cum-Treasurer Sri Govinda Rajulu proposed vote of thanks and thanked members, ladies and Guests of Honor. He requested the members to collect a copy of Souvenir and a small gift item, zip-bag, after lunch.

The members disbursed after special lunch hosted by S/Sri.YousufSharief, P. V. Padmanabham and Sri P. Bhaskar Reddy

B.M.SWAMIDAS

Secretary

INVITATION

The Association of Retired Forest Officers, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad. Congratulates Sri Ajaz Ahmed State Forest Officer, who is retiring from service on attaining the age of superannuation on 31st October, 2014. He is cordially invited to join the Association of Retired Forest Officers to keep in touch with his old colleagues and to keep himself occupied.

For further details he may contact the following –

Sri. B.M.Swami Dass, Secretary Mobile Number.... 9000817781

Sri. A.V.Govindarajulu, Jt.Secretary Mobile Number....9440764611

**B.M.Swami Dass,
Secretary**

Birth Day Greetings

We wish the following born on the dates mentioned
“ A very Happy Birth Day ”

S.No. Name of Members

	Sarva Sri		7.	R.D.Venkateshwarlu	13-10-1960
1.	T. Krishna Murthy	07-10-1926	8.	K.Appala Narasimha Chary	03-11-1961
2.	K.Ramakrishna	28-10-1926	9.	C.P.Vinod Kumar	21-10-1963
3.	K. Rama Krishna	28-10-1930	10.	Lokesh Jaiswal	22-10-1963
4.	L. Lohith Reddy	08-10-1931	11.	Y. Madhusudan Reddy	04-11-1963
5.	M. Narayan Rao	10-10-1932	12.	P. Krishnamachary	07-10-1964
6.	R.K.Rao	20-10-1935	13.	M.Ashok Kumar	13-10-1965
7.	A. Rasheed Khan	06-10-1937	14.	Smt. G.A.P. Prasuna	21-10-1979
8.	K.Jagan Mohan Rao	05-11-1941			
9.	C.Subba Rao	24-10-1943			
10.	V.Ranga Rao	20-10-1945			
11.	G.Prakash	02-11-1950			
12.	U. Govind Rao	08-10-1953			
13.	B.M.Swamydas	24-10-1954			

S.No. Name of Working Officers

	Sarva Sri	
1.	D. Nagabhushanam	05-11-1955
2.	Dr.Harish Chandra Misra	07-10-1955
3.	Ajaz Ahmed	30-10-1956
4.	Dr.G. Narsaiah	24-10-1957
5.	A.Laxman	10-10-1958
6.	P.Ramesh	10-10-1959



నిన్ను తలచి నన్ను నేను మర్చిపోయా! (సింగిల్ సాంగ్)

రచన : చింతమళ్ళ ప్రకాశరావు

- పల్లవి : తల్లి తల్లి ... అడవీతల్లి ... || 2సార్లు ||
 ఎక్కడకు వెళ్ళిన ఎటువైపు చూసిన || 2సార్లు ||
 అన్ని చోట్ల నీ రూపమే కనిపిస్తుంటే...
 నిన్ను తలచి నన్ను నేను మర్చిపోయా ||తల్లి తల్లి||
- చరణం1 : విశాలమైన గార్డెన్, పార్క్లలో... || 2సార్లు ||
 ప్రయాణించే నేషనల్ హైవేలలో... || 2సార్లు ||
 వికసించే పూవులతో, విరజిమ్మే సువాసనలతో
 అందమైన ఆకారాలలో... నీవు ఆనందంగా కనిపిస్తుంటే...
 నిన్ను తలచి, నన్ను నేను మర్చిపోయా ||తల్లి తల్లి||
- చరణం2 : కొండా కోనల్లో... కోనా సీమల్లో... || 2సార్లు ||
 నీలి మేఘాలలో... చల్లని గాలుల్లో... || 2సార్లు ||
 పగటి వేళల్లో... పచ్చని వర్షంలో...
 అందమైన దృశ్యాలలో... నీవు ఆనందంగా కనిపిస్తుంటే...
 నిన్ను తలచి నన్ను నేను మర్చిపోయా ||తల్లి తల్లి||
- చరణం3 : పల్లెల్లో పాకల నుండీ... పట్టణాలలో బంగ్లా వరకూ... || 2సార్లు ||
 కూర్చునే కుర్చీల నుండీ... పడుకునే మంచాల వరకూ... || 2సార్లు ||
 నివసించే రంగుల నిలయాలలో... మెరిసేటి పాలిష్ వర్ణాలలో...
 అందమైన ఆకారాలలో... నీవు ఆనందంగా కనిపిస్తుంటే...
 నిన్ను తలచి నన్ను నేను మర్చిపోయా ||తల్లి తల్లి||
- చరణం4: పుట్టిన పసిపిల్లలకూ... ఊయలలై నీవూ... || 2సార్లు ||
 కడవరకు సాగానంపే... కాటికి పాడెలై నీవూ... || 2సార్లు ||
 ప్రాణవాయువులిచ్చి... సకల జీవులకు మనుగడతో నీవూ...
 అందరి అవసరాలలో... నీవు ఆనందంగా ఉపయోగపడుతుంటే...
 నిన్ను తలచి నన్ను నేను మర్చిపోయా ||తల్లి తల్లి||
- చరణం5: జన్మలంటూ ఉంటే... మరో జన్మలలో... || 2సార్లు ||
 చెట్లలో చెట్టునై, పుట్లల్లో పుట్టినై || 2సార్లు ||
 జంతువుల్లో జంతువునై, పక్షుల్లో పక్షినై
 అడవిలోనే ఉంటూ... నీ సేవ చేస్తాను...
 నీ రూపం తలచుకుంటూ... నీ రుణం తీర్చుకుంటాను... ||తల్లి తల్లి||

ALARMING FALL IN NUMBER OF WINGED VISITORS TO AP, TS

By
HumayunTaher

It is estimated that the erstwhile state of Andhra Pradesh (comprising the present states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh) had a list of some 500 plus species of birds. Of these, 175 are migrants (or about a little over 30 pc). Migration basically means the physical movement of animals or birds from one location to another. Migration can be either local (movement within a single area, state or country) or long-range (usually cross-country or continent).

The prime reason for migration is a search for food and warmth. Most of our long-distance migrants come in during the winter season which is when the weather in their winter quarters becomes extremely harsh, in many cases snow covers the ground and the birds either risk being starved of food or frozen due to the extremely low temperatures. So to ensure that they get sufficient food and do not fall prey to the cold, they migrate to warmer places where they get both these protections. Several species of birds that visit us are extremely long-range migrants, some crossing the open ocean and many coming in from over the Himalayas and down through the country to the extreme end of the peninsula in the south.

Arriving in this part of the world, the birds have only one thing on their minds: sufficient protection and sufficient food to enable them to survive and refuel themselves for the long return flight to their own regions once the winter is over. But over the years, the situation here has deteriorated to such an extent that the birds are unable to get sufficient protection. As such, we are seeing an alarming decline in the number of birds coming in over the past few years.

The data available with the Birdwatchers Society of Andhra Pradesh for the past few years shows an alarming decrease in the number of migratory birds coming into the state over the past six years. The reason for this is not far to seek: thoughtless misuse of our natural resources and drastic reduction of the natural areas of the region are the prime causes of this decline.

Places which had earlier used to support populations in excess of a million birds now get less than a few thousands! Some places which used to have large populations of migratory visitors now are so badly polluted and disturbed that nothing remains and no

birds come there at all nowadays. It is a very sad state of affairs to think that some of our visitors travel thousands of kilometers, crossing through dangerous terrain, braving the open ocean (even non-swimming birds often venture out across the open seas), and when they eventually do arrive here, instead of welcoming them, we are denying them the very simple requirements that brought them such a long distance.

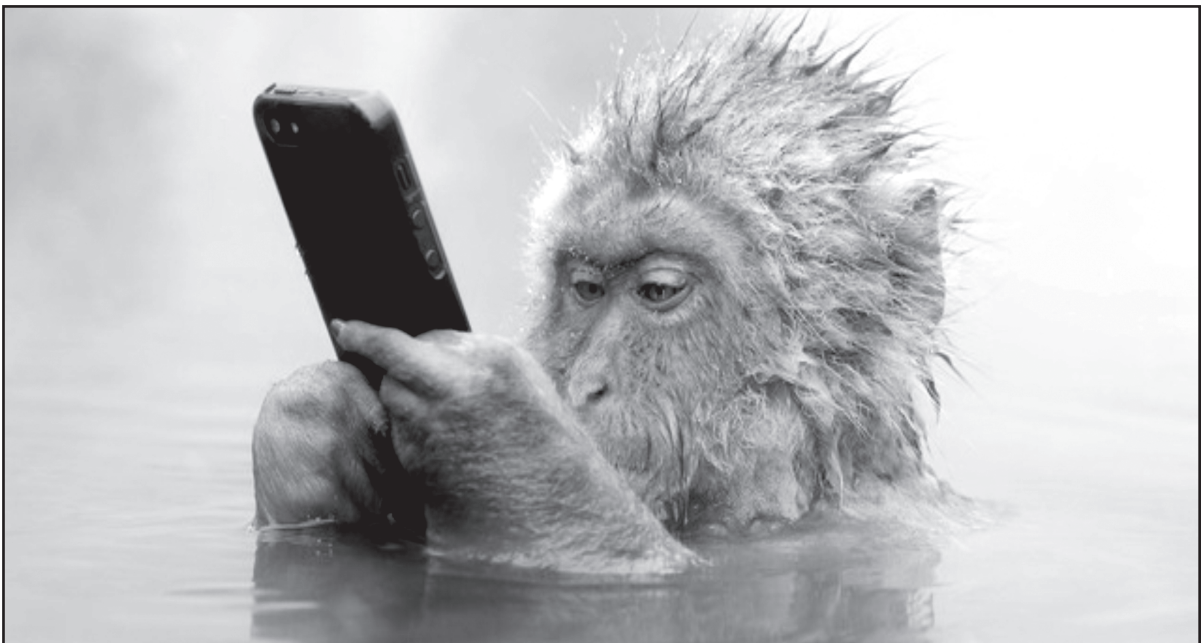
We are all so pleased to welcome relatives and friends to our own homes. Why can we not extend the same courtesy to our winged visitors, many of whom travel such long distances simply to be with us and to enthrall us with their colorful presence and the beauty of their melodious

songs? Are we really so unfriendly and inhospitable?

It is a simple matter to rectify, but if we act together and with sound management practices and principles, it will not take long.

Above all, we must act with emotion. Wildlife today can only be saved by a crusade; it is our task to ensure that we protect our natural heritage today so that the future generations also can enjoy it in the years to come. (The author is a noted ornithologist and member of Bird Watchers Society of Andhra Pradesh)

Courtesy: The New Indian Express, Hyderabad



Ham Kisi say Kam Naheen.

NEWS AND NOTES

India loses more foresters than any other

country: -India loses more forest ranges to poachers and attack by wild animals each year than any other country. As many as 72 Forest Rangers were killed in India in the past three years. Other forested counties in Asia, Africa and the Americas lost less than 10 Ranges in the same period, according to the statistics made available to Times of India by International Ranges Federation, a nonprofit organization to raise awareness of the work of Park Rangers.

"We are extremely concerned that Rangers continue to face high level of violence and are being murdered (by poachers) at an alarming pace", International Rangers Federation president Sean Wilmore said. Nearly 60% of Ranges killed are in Asia said the federations report.

India lost 34 Ranges in 2012, a year in which United States which had the second largest number of forester's death lost only six. India recorded 14 forester's death in 2013 and 24 in 2014, the largest among all countries for both years.

The Philippines and Congo lost 9 Forest Guards each in 2013, Uganda 7, and Kazakhstan and Chad 6 each. Kenya has recorded 10 Foresters death this year, Thailand 6 and Tanzania 3. Wild animals and poachers were responsible for most Ranges death but some have also been claimed by

diseases like Dengue and Malaria, as well as Forest fires and road accidents. "India's forests establishment must be the largest in the world, Wild life conservation society Director UlhasKarnath told TOI." We have thousands of forest Officials, Guards and Rangers. Our Tiger reserves are manned by thousands of people employed by the states and Central Forest Departments. They come in contact with wild animals while patrolling, so often their job involves putting their lives on the line."

The country, by demarcating protected areas, has been successful in protecting wild animals from hunters but this has also led to officials, coming under attack, he said. Armed poachers at times have no compunctions about gunning down Forest Ranges, Karnath said.

A report by International Rangers Federation, an organization that works to spread awareness of the work of the park Ranger, says 72 Forest Ranges died in the country in the past three years. Other countries lost 10 Rangers or fewer in the same period.

White tiger kills youth in Delhi zoo: - NEW

DELHI: A 20-year-old boy was on Tuesday(23-09-2014) killed by a white tiger after he jumped into the animal's cage in Delhi Zoo, an official said.

"The youth himself jumped into the tiger's cage. We are trying to ascertain his identity," R.A.Khan,

curator, National Zoological Park, Delhi.

The tiger mauled the youth, who was later identified as Maqsood, killing him. The tragic incident occurred at around 1.30 pm.

According to TV reports, some eye witnesses present on the spot claim the barricade at the zoo was too low. The boy accidentally fell into the tiger's enclosure as he attempted to get a closer look at the carnivore.

The tiger latched on to the student's neck over the barricade.

Eye-witnesses say there were no security guards around the tiger's enclosure. (With inputs from agencies)

Supreme court cancels 214 coal blocks, spares only 4: - The Supreme Court cancelled all the coal blocks allocated from 1993 to 2011, except four vested with the NTPC and other

public sector undertakings.

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court today (24-09-2014) cancelled 214 of the 218 coal blocks allocated between 1993 and 2010. The four coal blocks that escaped the axe are state owned ventures.

However, the apex court bench, headed by Chief Justice R.M. Lodha, in their order said that as many as 42 coal blocks under production or about to commence production will remain with their present management for the next six months till the Centre decides on their reallocation.

The court said that the management of these 42 coal blocks will have to pay a royalty of Rs.295 per metric tonne of the extracted coal during the period of six months.



Probably none of the legal giants can frighten a person who is 'Married'

LEGAL NOTES

Kuttiraja and anr. Vs. State of Kerala through Forest Range Officer, Murayoor

The FRO Murayoor prosecuted the accused persons viz., Kuttiraja and Thulasimadan for an offence involving sandalwood, under the Kerala Forest Act, before the Court of Judicial First Class Magistrate at Devikulam. The prosecution case was that the accused persons trespassed into Vannanthara reserved forest (R.F) and removed one dried sandalwood tree, causing damages to the government of Rs. 9,900/- The prosecution examined 5 witnesses, marked 4 exhibits and produced 2 material objects. (M.Os) The Magistrate convicted the accused and sentenced them to undergo 6 months simple imprisonment each and to pay a fine of Rs. 1,500/- each with default sentence for 3 months each.

Against, the order of conviction CrI.A.No. 82/2001 was filed; but the appeal was dismissed by the Additional Sessions Judge, Thodupuzha and the conviction and sentence were confirmed.

Thereupon the convicts filed revision petitions CrI.R.P. Nos. 1164 & 2556 of 2004 in the High Court of Kerala at Thiruvananthapuram. The revision petitions were heard by The Hon'ble Justice S. Siri Jagan

On behalf of the petitioners, four contentions were raised which are summarized below:

1. Conviction is ordered on the basis of signatures

of the accused on the Mahazar prepared while they were in custody and it is in violation of Ss. 25 and 26 of the Evidence Act.

2. No arrest Memo is produced for arrest of the accused. There is no evidence to show that the petitioners / accused were arrested in a R.F. There is only R.F. Notification.

3. Under S. 190 Cr.P.C. only a police officer is competent to file a complaint.

4. It was a fallen tree of sandalwood and therefore there is no loss to the government.

On behalf of the respondent, the Public Prosecutor argued that the contentions raised are untenable and unsustainable in law. It was submitted that Mahazar was only a document for seizure. Taking signatures of accused on such a document does not invalidate the document which was proved by the evidence of the P.Ws. As for the proof of R.F. Notification, the Range Officer has given categorical evidence to prove that the petitioners were actually arrested in R.F. As for laying the complaint before the Magistrate, it was argued that forest officers under the Forest Act have the same power as police officers to seize property and arrest persons. Under the Forest Act, the seizure has to be reported to the Magistrate having

jurisdiction and the arrested persons have to be produced before the court for taking action in accordance with law. These provisions have been complied with. On filing the Occurrence Report in the court, the court took cognizance of the matter and thus the legal requirements are complete. On the fourth contention i.e. loss to government, the P.P. argued that it has no force, because trespass and removing trees, felled or fallen from a RF is an offence punishable under the Forest Act.

The Hon'ble Justice did not find merit in any of the arguments advanced on behalf of the petitioners. It was observed that Mahazar is prepared for seizure. It was further observed that if the forest officers obtained signatures of the accused on the Mahazar, the Mahazar does not lose the evidentiary value. It is settled law that defect in investigation made by the Investigating Officer does not ensure to the benefit of the accused. This finding is supported by a case-law of the Supreme Court. R.F. Notification is marked as an exhibit to show that the scene of offence is in RF. Further, the P.Ws.

(Forest Guards) have deposed that while they were on beat duty in the forest, they heard noises of somebody cutting tree, they followed the noise and found the petitioners / accused cutting the sandalwood tree into logs.

The High Court meticulously examined the provisions of the Kerala Forest Act and the Rules and having satisfied with the case of the prosecution, dismissed the revision petitions on 5.11.2012. One observation made in the judgment is interesting which throws light on the mistake committed by the Magistrate and the negligence of the Forest Officer. That is, the minimum punishment in a sandalwood offence is one year imprisonment but the Magistrate imposed six months imprisonment only, which is obviously a mistake committed by the Magistrate. But the prosecution has not filed any revision against the judgment of the court below. In the circumstances the matter was left at that stage.

Source:

Internet

K.B.R

Charity is the decoration to the hand. Truthfulness is a necklace for the neck. Scripture is an adornment for ears. Then what use is other jewelry?

*Talent does it what it can, genius does it what it must.
– An ancient adage.*

OBITUARY

E.K. Kurien**1.5.1925 – 1.9.2014**

Enchakattu Kurien Kurien (popular as E.K. Kurien) passed away on Sept. 1, 2014 at his home in village Velloor-Pampady, Kottayam (Kerala) due to age related ailments and

dementia. He was 89.

Mr. Kurien was born on May 1, 1925 at a place called Velloor-Pampady near Kottayam. He was the fourth of the eight siblings of his parents - the late Mr.E.K.Kurien and the late Mrs.Saramma. His father was a planter and worked with European planters to raise tea and rubber plantations in hill regions of present Kottayam, Idukki and Trissur districts situated in the erstwhile princely states of Travancore and Cochin. He had five sisters and two brothers. His elder brother (94) is a Retired Assistant Commissioner, Sales Tax in Kerala; younger brother (81) is a Cor Episcopal (Senior Cleric) of the Syrian Orthodox Church. Out of the five sisters, only three widowed sisters are alive.

Mr.Kurien was married to Ms.Susan in 1950. She predeceased him in 2001. They have two daughters (Saramma and Liz) and one son (Thomas).Mrs.and Mr.Thomas and their two kids nursed Kurien when he was disabled and was in

the sick bed.

Mr. Kurien, after his early education at his native place, did B.Sc. with Botany from St. Berchman's (S.B.) College at Chenganacherry near Kottayam. He then took up a job as Curator of Forest Museum at Thiruvananthapuram. While so, Kurien was selected as Forest Ranger and had his forestry training during 1954-56 at S.F.R.C., Coimbatore. He worked as Forest Ranger at Thrissur, Thiruvananthapuram and Malappuram (Nilambur) Districts. He was promoted as A.C.F. in 1971 and worked as such in Kannur and Kollam districts. He retired on superannuation in 1980. Kurien was interred in the Cemetery of St. Thomas Syrian Orthodox Church at Vellore, after a well-attended funeral service.

Mr. Kurien was well versed in many forestry subjects and has been a source of inspiration to his colleagues. He will be remembered for his contribution to the cause of forestry in the state of Kerala. He was friendly with every one and led a simple and disciplined life. His pet name was BABY and his grand-children addressed him as "Baby Appachen". He is survived by two brothers, three sisters, two daughters, a son, daughter-in-law, six grandchildren, four great grandchildren and a host of friends and relatives to mourn his loss.

May his noble soul rest in peace!

P.K.Z



The Sole coal producer in South India and a key partner in the country's economic and industrial progress, Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) is more than committed to caring for the environment. Company's mission statement aptly reflects the emphasis given to protection of environment and ecology. Company has established benchmark practices and internationally accepted soil conservation, Overburden bio-engineering measures in its Open Cast mines. Mine plans include development of Siltation ponds, timely back filling and regeneration of original species on the back filled areas etc.



- Monitoring of air / water / noise / ambient pollution at each mine on a regular basis. Establishment of 16 effluent treatment plants (Oil and Grease traps) at mines / stores / workshops
- Constructed 7 Sewerage Treatment Plants
- Introduced LPG to its staff for cooking in lieu of the supply of 20,000 tonnes of coal per month
- Rehabilitation of mine sites / over dumps with a due emphasis on biological engineering. This has been done through protective and mechanical engineering works like gabions, cribs, rock fill dams, toe walls, garland canals, siltation ponds and contour stretches along with plantation of sapling of local suitable species
- Large scale greening of colonies through plantation of suitable shade and flowering species, free supply of saplings to households
- Adoption of environment friendly technologies like Input Crusher, Conveyors for reducing consumption of diesel and oil. Replacement of timber supports in mines with steel supports resulting in a 20% reduction in usage of wood and protection of natural resources
- Introduction of "Environment" as a subject in 13 schools run by SCCL, about 200 of SCCL's teachers trained on environment by WWF
- Construction of 641 rain water harvesting structures and 236 Sulabh complexes

AWARDS

- Best practices in Bio-medical waste disposal in the State during the 2007 from APPCB, Hyderabad
- Greentech Environment excellence Gold Award -2006 from Greentech Foundation
- Good Green Governance Award-2006 from Srishti Publications (P) Ltd
- Golden Peacock Environment Management Award - 2006, by the World Environment Foundation
- TERI Environmental Award - 2004/05
- Fly Ash Utilisation Award, jointly instituted by Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Environment & Forests and Ministry of Power
- Indira Priyadarshini Vriksha Mitra (IPVM) award 2004 from Ministry of Environment and Forests, Gol



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