# VANA PREMI

*Nau Say Navvay Sall Tak Ke Bachon Ka Sathi*

LIfe Time Subscription - Rs. 2000/- Yearly Subscription - Rs. 200/- Single Copy Rs. 20/-

Vol .16 JANUARY - 2015 No.1

**VanaPremi wishes Happy, Prosperous & healthy New Year And Sankrantri**

**Coppersmith Barbet (Megalaima haema cephala)**
**This bird is best known for its metronomic call that has been likened to a coppersmith striking metal with a hammer**

JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FOREST OFFICERS TELANGANA & ANDHRA PRADESH

Website : www.vanapremi.com

# ANDHRA PRADESH FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION Ltd.

- A fully owned, financially well managed State Government Company. Raising massive plantations to cater to the needs of the wood based industries.
- Watershed approach adopted for raising plantations, to make them ecologically sustainable, socially acceptable and commercially viable, with the long-term goal to improve the site quality of plantation areas.
- Single largest grower of about 43,000 Ha of Eucalyptus Clonal plantations in the country. Bamboo also grown as an important crop over 10,000 Ha.
- Besides this, it has Coffee, Cashew and teak plantations over 13000 Ha.

- The APFDC is harvesting about 3.00 lakh M.Ts of Pulpwood every year. Besides this it also produces about 35 Lakh Long bamboo and 10,000 MTs bamboo industrial cuts for use as pulpwood.
- The APFDC has also taken up the challenging task of Eco-tourism Development in the State. Already opened to public - Hyderabad Botanical Garden near the High-tech City, Madhapur, Mahavir Nischal Van Eco-Tourism Centre, Vanasthalipuram, Shameerpet Deer Park and Rajeev Eco Park at Idupulapaya near Kadapa. Those are attracting increasing number of visitors.
- The corporation has bagged awards " ***Flavour of India- Fine cup awards*** " for producing quality coffee during the years 2003, 2005, 2007 to 2012.

**VICE CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR,**
A.P. Forest Development Corporation Ltd., 3rd Floor, UNI Building, A.C. Guards, Hyderabad - 500004.
Telephone Nos. 040-23395750/23394392/23392652, Fax: 040-23320032,
Grams: "FORESTCORP", Website: http://apfdc.apts.gov.in, Email: vcmd_apfdc@yahoo.co.in

# VANA PREMI

Vol : 16 January - 2014 No. 1

**Editor : Qamar Mohd. Khan**

***The Association of Retired Forest Officers, Telangana & Andhra Pradesh** (Regd. No. 557/1990)*

**President** : Sri. S.K. Das, I.F.S. (Retd.)
Tel : 23115085, 9550681964

**Vice President** : Sri. T. Narayana Swamy I.F.S. (Retd.)
Tel : ....., 9701336446

**Secretary** : B.M Swami Dass Dy C.F. Retd
Tel : 9000817781

**Jt. Secr. Cum Treasurer** : Sri.A.V. Govindarajulu (Retd.)
Tel. 9440764611

***Executive committee members***

1. Sri C. Muralidhar Rao, I.F.S. (Retd.)9848390004
2. Sri K. Santokh Singh, I.F.S. (Retd.)9848808101
3. Sri P. Upender Reddy, 9848754778
4. Sri V.V. Rajam, 9348322236
5. Sri G. Raman Goud, 9391499119

***Editorial Board***

1. **President** : Ex-Officio President of Assn.
2. **Editor** : Qamar Mohd. Khan
Tel : 40121132, 9849233624
e-mail : qamar_asima@yahoo.com
3. **Associate Editor** : Sri V.V. Hari Prasad
: 7893673767
4. **Member** : Sri. J. V. Sharma, IFS (Retd.)
9441319151
5. **Convenor** : Ex-officio Secy.of Assn

1. **Auditor** : Sardar Iqbal Singh

**TARIFF RATES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Back side of front and last cover page (Colour) for one year | Rs. 20,000/- |
| Outer Cover half (Colour) for one year | Rs. 15,000/- |
| Inner Center Spread (Colour) for one year | Rs. 20,000/- |
| Inner full page (B&W) for one year | Rs. 15,000/- |
| Inner half page (B&W) for one year | Rs. 10,000/- |
| Inner full page One Time (B&W) | Rs. 2000/- |
| Inner half page One Time (B&W) | Rs. 1500/- |

**Associate Editor : V.V. Hari Prasad**

## *Contents*

1. **Editorial ..... QMK** 4
2. **letters to the Editor ..** 7
3. **Coppersmith Barbet** 8
4. **High Level Committee Report ..... J.V.Sharma ..** 10
5. **The English Language you Happen to know ! ..... Dr.B.Raghotham Rao Desai** 17
6. **Hyderabad to Bhubaneshwar Via Varanai, Patna & Bodhgaya ..... S.Navratan Singh** 18
7. **XV S.F.R.C. Alumni Meet 2014 Bhubaneswar and puri ..... V.Santhaseela Babu** 24
8. **Have a Test to know your knowledge on Wildlife .....B.M.T.Rajeev** 28
9. **Fat-Burning drinks to boost your weight Loss .....** 29
10. **Natural Wonders of Nutmeg** 31
11. **News and Notes .....** 32
12. **Birthday Greetings ... Secretary** 35
13. **Laughter the best Medicine** 36
14. **Home Remedies from your Kitchen** 38
15. **Mumbai Rickshaw Driver - Very rare** 41
16. **In Furtherance of good Governance .....R.K.Raghavan** 42
17. **Legal Notes..... .....** 45
18. మాతుర్యే సలాం...కొండా మోహన్‌విలియన్ 47
19. చెట్టు..... **ఉషా వినోద్ రాజవరం** 48
20. బాజా భజంత్రీలు.... వి.వి.హరిప్రసాద్ 49
21. **Obituary..... .....** 50

*Date of Publication: 24-12-2014* *Total pages 52*

# EDITORIAL

**New Year's resolutions: -**A New Year's resolution is a tradition, in which a person makes a promise to do an act for self-improvement or something better, such as to donate to the poor more often, to become more assertive, or to become more environmentally responsible, Volunteer to help others, practice life skills, give to charity, Improve physical well-being, eat healthy food, lose weight, exercise more, stop consumption of alcohol, quit smoking, stop biting nails, get rid of old bad habits, Improve mental well-being, think positively, laugh more often, become more organized, reduce stress, be less grumpy, manage time, be more independent, and perhaps watch less television and play fewer sitting-down video games. According to a study involving 3,000 people that 88% of those who set New Year resolutions fail. But let us resolve this New Year a special type of resolution about which you will come to know at the end of this editorial. This resolution will not only save lot of money for you, but also light up others houses, save the lives of hundreds of people and provide livelihood to thousands of destitute provided we strictly adhere to our resolution

The first demonstration of electric light in our country was at Calcutta and it was conducted on 24 July 1879 by P W Fleury & Co. On 7 January 1897 Kilburn & Co secured the Calcutta electric lighting license. Enthused by the success of electricity in Calcutta, power was thereafter introduced in Bombay. Mumbai saw electric lighting demonstration for the first time in 1882 at the Crawford Market, and Bombay Electric Supply & Tramways Company (BEST) set up a generating station in 1905 to provide electricity for the tramway. The first hydroelectric installation in India was installed near a tea estate at Sidrapong for the Darjeeling Municipality in 1897. Hyderabad electricity department was established in the year 1910 during the period of 6$^{th}$ Nizam HEH Mir Mahboob Ali Khan and R.L. Gamlen was appointed its first chief.

In the modern world Electricity is not just a convenience but it is a dire necessity. It helps us live comfortably in our homes all the year-round, regardless of the weather. A safe, reliable and adequate supply of electricity is essential for businesses, farms, factories, hospitals and homes. Today we cannot dream of living without electricity even for few minutes. We all become panicky if the power is disrupted even for a few minutes.

The marginal farmers of our country are using power to draw water from the ground to irrigate their lands, for the production of crops, but there is shortage of power. Government is restricting power supply mainly to Industrial and farming sectors due to large gap between production and consumption. Due to short supply of the power marginal farmers are not in a position to produce sufficient quantities of agricultural crops which can make their agriculture a

profitable venture. Farmers are taking loans from the banks and incurring heavy losses. As they are not in a position to pay back their loans agriculturists are committing suicides. Due to power cuts in Industrial sector the industrial labourers are losing their livelihood as the industrialists cannot pay their wages without work and many industries are being closed down due to power cuts.

Power is produced in our country mainly by two methods and they are 1. Thermal and 2 Hydro All other methods of power production like Nuclear power, solar power, wind power, and using ocean waves are in their nascent stage and therefore the production is negligible. The Nuclear power production is more dangerous. There are also some disadvantages of power production by Hydro and thermal methods which are as follows.

**Disadvantages of Hydropower stations: -**

1. In this process Methane and carbon dioxide is produced. The plants and trees in them, starts rotting and get decomposed.
2. Hydroelectric power plants may affect fish.
3. Its high initial capital costs, and the possibility that drought can limit its capability to provide power. It takes a great deal of money and resources to build large hydro plants and dams.
4. Like all energy projects hydropower affects the environment. For example, hydropower reservoirs modify natural habitats. Planned measures such as reforesting land, establishing wetlands, and restocking fish stocks can minimize these impacts.

**The disadvantages of Thermal power stations: -**

1. The fuel (coal& gas) needed may be exhausted by gradual use, as it is a non-renewable resource.
2. Efficiency of the plant decreases with time.
3. Transportation of fuel (coal and gas) is one of the major difficulties for the plants located away from coal fields.
4. Power generation cost is considerably high compared with hydro plants.
5. Air pollution causing smoke in the surrounding areas and liberation of carbon dioxide in to the atmosphere is a major problem with thermal plant.
6. Life of the plant is hardly 3 to 4 decades compared with hydro-plant (1 to 2 centuries).

For lighting purposes when the electricity was produced, at Calcutta initially incandescent bulbs were used which consumed higher quantity of electricity and gave lesser light. Then Florescent Tube lights were invented, which consumed slightly less power than the incandescent bulbs and produced more light. After this Complete Fluorescent Lamps (CFL) were introduced in the market, which consumed much less power when compared to incandescent bulbs and tube lights and gave more light. But the disadvantages of the CFL lamps are as follows

1. If the lamp is installed where it is frequently switched on and off, it ages rapidly.

2. Under extreme conditions, its lifespan may be much shorter than a cheap incandescent lamp.
3. If a fluorescent lamp is broken, a small quantity of mercury can contaminate the surrounding environment.
4. Fluorescent lamps emit a small amount of ultraviolet (UV) light

Recently LED (Light Emitting Diode) bulbs have been introduced in the market. Their initial cost is high but LED bulbs consume very less power and emit more light. These bulbs not only save up to 70% of power, but also serve for a longer period. They serve up to 10 years. Due to their long service and power saving capacity these bulbs not only save money for us but they also save lot of Electricity which can easily be diverted to light others houses, the farm and industrial sectors which in turn can produce large quantities of food material to feed the hungry bellies and stop suicides and also help in providing lively hood to thousands of Industrial workers who are losing employment due to closure of factories. No adverse results have been published yet and the LED bulbs are safe. We are not the only people paying the power bill for the power consumed by us, but there are many other people who are suffering and sacrificing many things for the production of Hydro and Thermal power. Hence it is our duty to save power. Power saved is power generated. The best way to save power and have same or more lumens of light is to adopt LED bulbs.

Solar power is the conversion of sunlight into electricity,directly using photovoltaic (PV). Photovoltaic systems use solar panels, on rooftops converting sunlight directly into DC power. Sun shining on solar panels produces direct current electricity, (DC), the only kind of power stored in batteries. This DC power is stored in deep cycle lead-acid batteries, which give back the electricity as needed, even when no power is being produced.**Solar (heat) energy** is a carbon-free, renewable alternative to the power we generate with fossil fuels like coal and gas. In this system except the cost of installation no running cost is involved and in the long run this power is vey cheap.

Though this magazine will not be reaching you all on the 1st of January 2015 but as soon as the magazine reaches you, please make a strong resolution not only to replace all types of bulbs with LED bulbs in our homes, offices, business places, and industries for lighting purposes but also educate others and bring awareness among people to replace incandescent bulbs, tube lights, CFL bulbs with LED bulbs to save power and save money which will help scores of agriculturists and Industrial workers to get their lively hood. Readers who can afford are requested to adopt solar power system. **QMK**

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Indeed "VanaPremi" has done an excellent job in publishing the key note address on the Tribal Act delivered by Sri J.V. Sharma for National Workshop of IFS officers held at Hyderabad. It is a befitting tribute to his crusade against this draconian Tribal Act. It was only after drawing inspiration from him that I had followed his foot-steps in filing the writ petition in the Supreme Court on behalf of the Karnataka Forest Officers Association and instigated our friends in Tamil Nadu and Odisha to file similar petitions, though all of them ended as damp squib. I have been an ardent admirer of Sri *Sharmaji*, ever since I observed him extra-ordinary vocabulary, legal acumen and lucid presentation of his case in his inimitable style. Age has not withered him nor has his indomitable crusade waned in spite of the set back in the Apex Court. History has shown us that a real crusader of a noble cause will not accept defeat in the face of adversities, however formidable they may be. I am astonished to see the facts and figures which have been accumulated from different States, sitting at home and incisive analysis of the tempers and temperaments of various pressures groups which have deep vested interests in dolling out our forests for the individual, electoral dividends.

Though Karnataka State is not that much harmed comparatively by this Act even today consistent efforts are going on in the back stage by a District Minister to doll out forest in north Kanara district by intimidating forest officers. This district is the most important Biodiversity hot-spot in Karnataka state with 35% forest cover.

This speech is a treatise on the genesis and evaluation of the Tribal Act and its subsequent impact and ramifications, which most of the Forest Officers are not aware of.

May *Sharmaji* live long, may his crusade last long and may his tribe increase!

With regards,

Yours Sincerely

S.S. Joshi

Editor's Note: Thank you very much sir. Vana Premi also wishes "*Sharmaji* to live healthy and long as said in this Urdu couplet". ***"Umar HoTumhari Hazar Baras- Har Baras Kay Din Hon Pachas Hazar"***

***" There is some self-interest behind every friendship. There is no Friendship without self-interests. This is a bitter truth. "***

# COPPERSMITH BARBET

The **coppersmith barbet**, **crimson-breasted barbet** or **coppersmith** (*Megalaimahaemacephala*), is a bird with crimson forehead and throat which is best known for its metronomic call that has been likened to a coppersmith striking metal with a hammer. It is a resident found in the Indian subcontinent and parts of Southeast Asia. Like other barbets, they chisel out a hole inside a tree to build their nest. They are mainly fruit eating but will take sometimes insects, especially winged termites.

This species of barbet is found to overlap in range with several larger barbets in most of South Asia. In the Western Ghats, it partly overlaps with the Malabar barbet which is of a very similar size but having a more rapid call. The red forehead, yellow eye-ring and throat patch with streaked underside and green upperparts, it is fairly distinctive. Juveniles are duller and lack the red patches. The sexes are alike. The Sri Lankan form has more black on the face, more red on the breast and darker streaks on the underside.

**Habitat and distribution: -** Throughout their wide range they are found in gardens, groves and sparse woodland. Habitats with trees having dead wood suitable for excavation is said to be important. Birds nest and roost in cavities. In the Palani Hills of southern India it is said to occur below 4000 feet. In the Himalayas it is found mainly in the valleys of the outer Himalayas up to 3000 feet. They are rare in the dry desert zones and the very wet forests.

**Behavior and ecology: -** Keeps solitary, pairs, or small groups; larger parties occasionally on abundantly fruiting Ficus trees. Fond of sunning, themselves in the morning on bare top branches of tall trees, often flitting about to sit next to each other. The flight is straight, with rapid flaps.

They compete with other cavity nesting birds and frugivores. *Megalaimaasiatica* (Blue-throated barbet )have been noted to evict them from their nest holes, while red-vented bulbuls have been seen to indulge in kleptoparasitism, robbing the male of berries brought to the female at the nest.

The nest holes are also used for roosting and some birds roost alone in cavities and these often roost during part of the day. Immature will roost with the parents but often return to roost early so as not to be prevented by the parents from entering the roost cavity.

**Vocalization: -** The call is a loud rather metallic *tuk…tuk…tuk* (or *tunk*), reminiscent of a copper sheet being beaten, giving the bird its name. Repeated monotonously for long periods, starting with a subdued *tuk* and building up to an even volume and tempo, the latter varying

from 108 to 121 per minute and can continue with as many as 204 notes. They are silent and do not call in winter.

The beak remains shut during each call - a patch of bare skin on both sides of the throat inflates and collapses with each *tuk* like a rubber bulb and the head is bobbed.

**Diet: -**Prefers Banyan, Peepul, and other wild figs, various drupes and berries, and the occasional insect, caught in aerial sallies. Petals of flowers may also be included in their diet. They eat nearly 1.5 to nearly 3 times their body weight in berries each day.

**Breeding: -** Courtship involves singing, puffing of the throat, bobbing of the head, flicking of the tail, ritual feeding and all preening. They breed through much of the year with local variation. The breeding season is mainly February to April in India and December to September in Sri Lanka. Both sexes excavate the nest on the underside of a narrow horizontal branch. They may also roost inside the nest holes. Three or four eggs are laid and like in many hole nesting birds the incubation period is not well known but has been estimated to be about 2 weeks. Both sexes incubate. Often two broods are raised in quick succession.

**Mortality factors: -**Adult birds are sometimes taken by predatory species. In urban areas, there are records of collisions with structures including white walls. Pesticide poisoning has also been noted.(Source Internet)

# HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE REPORT: FIRST IMPRESSIONS(PART – I)

**By**
**J. V. Sharma**

The High Level Committee under the chairmanship of former Cabinet Secretary, Mr T. S. R. Subramanian, IAS, submitted its report to the Central Government. To go by the leaked version of the Report, its best part is the quotation from 'Isha Upanishad" at the beginning of the Preamble which reads as *"Nature is the source of all material things: the Maker, the means of making, and the things made. All actions take place in time by the intervening of forces of Nature; but the man, lost in selfish delusion thinks that he himself is the actor."* I am not equally convinced in respect of the second quotation of Holland and Rawles, cited in the report, reading *"Environmental conservation is about negotiating the transition from past to future in such a way as to secure the transfer of maximum significance."* The intended expression is vague if not incorrect. I continue to try to understand its true import, but at present, have reason to fear whether environmental conservation is expected to be a casualty in the process of transition. The earlier quotation, however, is complete in itself and also expressive.

After the change of Government at the Centre, the Ministry for Environment, Forests & Climate Change constituted the High Level Committee to review various environmental laws and to recommend specific amendments needed in each of the Acts so as to bring them in line with current requirements and to draft proposed amendments to give effect to the proposed recommendations. Initially, five Acts, namely Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (EP Act), Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (FC Act), Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (WLP Act), The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (Water Act) and The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 (Air Act), were to be reviewed by the Committee but later, the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (IF Act) was also added for review by the HLC. The Committee, constituted on 29th August 2014, was given two months' time to submit the report which included a month for public consultations. The Committee submitted its report to the Ministry in November and the leaked version is making rounds since and in the absence of any contradiction, it is fair to assume it as correct.

The Indian Forest Act has been on the statute for almost 90 years. It can be said that it stood the test of time with reasonable success. If the forests are impoverished in size and quality over the years, the reasons are too many. Having been associated with forests for nearly six decades and having seen changes that came about in this long span of time, it is not difficult to identify the reasons for deterioration, notable among them being uncontrolled increase in population and consequent

steep rise in demand on the forest land & forest produce; absence of political will in enforcement of forest laws; undue interference of politicians in forest administration and their nexus with those who cause harm to forests in one way or the other; and spineless, insincere and debased forest regulatory mechanism which is very eager to crawl when asked only to bend. Forest offenders may have become wiser and more innovative than the law anticipated at the time of its enactment. But this would call for only more stringent provisions in law and improvement of logistics. That the Committee found no significant fault with the Forest Act is indicative of the fact that the law cannot be blamed for the shortcomings in forest administration and fault lies with the governance.

In this context two observations of the Committee become very relevant. While the Committee did not hesitate to say at one place that *"The legislations are weak, monitoring is weaker and enforcement is the weakest",* it did not have any qualms to comment at a different place and context that *"While India has a strong environmental policy and legislative framework, much of the problem relates to weak implementation of the various acts and rules made thereunder".* It is evident that one statement is at variance with the other indicating that the Committee had some difficulty in coming to grips with the task assigned.

Before we come to discuss various aspects connected with the issues under reference, it may be seen that the Committee comprises of six members including the Chairman and the Member Secretary. Barring the retired Judge of a High Court and a Senior Advocate of Supreme Court, the others are bureaucrats/administrators, serving or retired. The Committee was expected to undertake in-depth study of six legislations which are being administered and more importantly, they cover the entire gamut of environmental law of the country. Technical and scientific expertise needed for review and recommendations on the issues referred, is conspicuously absent within the Committee nor an opportunity or time is provided to the Committee to muster the same from outside. It is thus essentially another bureaucratic exercise of cosmetic value to achieve predetermined goals than aiming at best solutions. The conclusions drawn by Committee, therefore, become vulnerable for critical evaluation.

The terms of reference given to Committee are:

1. To assess the status of implementation of the legislations vis-à-vis objectives,
2. To examine and take into account various court orders and judicial pronouncements relating to these Acts,
3. To recommend specific amendments needed in each of these Acts so as to bring them in line with current requirements to meet objectives; and
4. To draft proposed amendments to give effect to the proposed recommendations.

The HLC identified five areas for their review. They are; (i) Forests, (ii) Wildlife, (iii) Environmental Governance, (iv) Legal framework and (v) Institutional Reforms. The Committee made 55 recommendations in all. While seven recommendations relate to 'forests', 13 recommendations are on 'Wildlife', 8 recommendations on 'Environmental Governance, 6 recommendations on 'Legal Framework' and 21 recommendations are on 'Institutional Reforms'.

The problem with administrative system in India is it is terribly dishonest (Kindly see it differently from 'corrupt' which will compound the malady). Honesty, as I mean in this context, is honesty of purpose, sincerity, commitment and transparency. Administration of laws cannot be fair if the system is dishonest. So, the priority should be to find honest implementers rather than making a more stringent law. Creation of other elite 'Service' may not be the right solution as there is every possibility of that service too is prone to degeneration. A candid recommendation for an independent and foolproof mechanism which ensures totally objective performance, is the need of the hour. It calls for two-fold strategy; one to reform the existing system that is rotten and two, to ensure that new institutions do not go the way of the old ones with necessary checks and balances. It would have done a world of good to environment in general and forests in particular if only the grey areas are precisely identified and specific remedial measures suggested. It also gives rise to a question; why should the legislation be faulted if its implementation is tardy, defective and counterproductive? It is clearly a governance deficit and administrative ineptitude on the part of those responsible.

In view of the fact that the Committee dealt the issues itemwise, it would be appropriate to discuss the report in the same order and we begin with 'forests':

**Forests:**

I may invite kind attention of the readers (to save repetition) to my article 'Is NDA Government Environment-friendly?' and another reprinted article 'Inviolate Forests – A Ruse to Usurp Forest Lands' published in November 2014 Issue of *VanaPremi* in which I tried to place the issue in perspective. The recommendations of the HLC vindicate my worst fears that identification of "No-Go" areas (which I called "Inviolate") is actually to catalogue the 'violable' forests for diversion.

The High Level Committee, while emphasizing that the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 are the legislations providing legal mandate for the growth and protection of forests and wildlife in the country, took notice of the fact that the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 provided some salutary effect by slowing down the momentum of diversion of forest lands for other purposes. It noted that as against 4.3 million hectares of forest land diverted for other purposes between 1950 and 1980, the diversion could be

contained to 1.19 million hectares since then on account of the FC Act. Even this diversion is alarming enough in a country with growing population and spiralling environmental concerns. In the light of fact that the land under tree cover is already well short of one-third of the geographical area envisaged in the National Forest Policy, 1988, should, prima facie, serve as a dampener for any future diversions. Given the mood of the Committee stated expressly in words "*In the race for development, which ideally ought to improve the quality of the life of the citizen, the relationship with environment is often lost sight of. That environment is sacrosanct; that the knowledge and application of science warrants harmonious use of natural resources without destabilizing the cycles of nature; that the purity of air, water and land has been inherited by a generation to leave the environment to the next generation in a better state than they found it",* is not truly reflected in its recommendations. When odds are heavily loaded against the environment, it is only rational that that the quality of life of the citizen of this generation and future generations is looked at priority than thinking of mitigative mechanism, the success of which is not certain.

It is evident that the Committee did not review the diversions made so far either for justification or their impact on environment in general and forests in particular. Study of functional aspect of the mechanism put in place is an essential factor to decide the efficacy of the system. They seemed to go by material furnished by authorities rather than seeking material that would harm them with undeniable facts to facilitate at right solutions. In the absence of this objective exercise, there is every possibility of the opinions formed going awry and recommendations made defective.

It is in this backdrop the recommendations of the Committee need to be seen. It is clear by now that the 'objectives' mentioned in the terms of reference are the objectives of the Government as to how best the environment can be compromised to accommodate present day interests of development. The argument of striking healthy balance between the environment and development is a myth and one cannot have the cake and eat it too. The Committee itself warned of disasters like Kedarnath and Srinagar Valley. Needless to say that commercial angle in the name of development in environmental issues is unacceptable in civilized societies and should be shunned at any cost. For once the Committee is right when it said that environment is sacrosanct. Having said that why should the Committee think of compromise at all? It is a climb down.

The HLC recommended a strategy comprising of following six strategic milestones to focus upon:

1. Notify forest areas with 70% or more canopy cover and Protected Areas (PAs).
2. Finalise statutory definition of what should be construed as 'forest'.
3. Encourage wide scale farm forestry on poor quality agricultural land and on peripheries of landholdings.

4. Streamline the process of Forest Clearance.
5. Facilitate Compensatory Afforestation.
6. Use Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Geographical Information System (GIS) and other advanced technologies as a tool in forestry management.

The strategy, viewed in holistic manner, sends out an unmistakable message that the entire exercise is to identify 'No-Go' areas of forests with 70% and more density and PAs, to facilitate consideration of the remaining forests for diversion. It is pertinent to point out that the 'No-Go' areas proposed to be identified account for only 12.06% of the area under forests in the country. It otherwise means that the Government will be at liberty to play with the balance 87.94% of forest area as it pleased. Secondly it will be a significant dilution of the provisions of FC Act. Thirdly statutory definition of forest will be so tailored as to make it liberal to circumvent the interpretation given by the Supreme Court. Fourthly the fig-leaf of stringent procedures can be effectively done away with. Strategic milestones suggested like encouraging farm forestry, compensatory afforestation and usage of advanced technologies are at best cosmetic measures to please the gallery with no impact of substance for the good of forests.

A final word has already been said by the Supreme Court as far as definition of forests. An occasion arose where the Apex Court had to remove misconception in certain quarters about the true scope of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and the meaning of the word "forest" used therein. The Supreme Court in its order dated 12.12.1996 held that the Act was enacted with a view to check further deforestation which ultimately results in ecological imbalances and therefore, the provisions made therein for forest conservation must apply to all types of forests irrespective of the nature of ownership or classification. The Court also held that:

a) The word "forest" must be understood according to the dictionary meaning. It was also clarified that this description covers all the statutorily recognised forests whether designated as reserved, protected or otherwise for the purpose of Section 2 (i) of the Act.

b) The term "forest land" as occurring in Section 2 will not only include "forest" as understood in the dictionary sense, but also any area recorded as forest in the Government record irrespective of ownership.

c) The provisions enacted in the Act, for the conservation of forests must apply clearly to all forests so understood irrespective of the ownership of classification thereof.

In the light of legal position enunciated by the Apex Court, there cannot be any ambiguity about what constitutes the forests. The definition is very clear. Notification, recognition or classification under any law or the ownership cannot take away any land from out of the ambit of definition of forests. What is of greater importance is the Supreme Court's assertion that their order dated

12.12.1996 will operate and be implemented notwithstanding any order at variance, made or which may be made by any Government, or any authority,…….including High Court. It otherwise means there is a virtual embargo against any action which is at variance with the orders of Supreme Court.

**There are in all seven recommendations by the HLC in respect of 'Forests'. They are:**

1. Identify and pre-specify 'no-go' forest areas, mainly comprising PAs and forest cover over 70% canopies.
2. It is suggested that the Ministry may define the term 'forest' at an early date.
3. To offer economic incentives for increased community participation in farm and social forestry by way of promoting and proving statutory safeguards to 'tree-lands' as distinct from 'forest'.
4. Plantation of approved species on private lands could be considered for compensatory afforestation with facility for 'tree-land' trading.
5. Revise procedure for clearance under FC Act as above, which is intended to reduce the time taken, without compromising the quality of examination. For linear projects, it is recommended that FR Act needs amendment to consider removal of the condition of Gram Sabha approval.
6. The Compensatory Afforestation guidelines be revised; CA on revenue land to be enhanced to 2:1 as against 1:1 at present; CA in degraded forest land be now fixed at 3:1; the NPV should be at least 5 times the present rates fixed. An appropriate to be created to ensure receipt of the CA funds, and their proper utilization, delinking the project proponent from the CA process, after he obtains the other approvals, and discharges his CA financial obligations.
7. The quantum of NPV for CA needs to be sharply increased. A reliable mechanism for ensuring that CA is actually implemented, utilising either private or forest land, needs to be put in place.

It is relevant to mention here that the National Forest Commission gone over the issue of 'forests' and allied matters in great detail not very long ago and submitted a voluminous report to the Government. It was headed by a former Chief Justice of Supreme Court of India. The Report contains very valuable data and information on forests not to speak of the well-considered recommendations made. It would have proved to be treasure trove for the HLC benefiting it have a clearer view of the task on hand. The HLC did not appear to be aware of the very existence of the NFC, leave alone its contents. Similarly, the spirit of National Forest Policy, 1988 is not reflected adequately in the recommendations made.

The pit-falls in respect of Recommendations 1 & 2 have been discussed above to some extent. Both the recommendations are not in the best interests of forests and on the other hand, they are highly prejudicial to the conservation, preservation and safeguarding of the forests mandated by

the Constitution. They are at stark variance with the judicial pronouncements, especially of Supreme Court and are therefore not tenable. Recommendation 2 in particular amounts to reopening of a settled law.

An argument is touted in some quarters that the policy making is the prerogative of the Government and the Courts have no role to interfere with the process and judicial intervention is possible only when the policy made is not in tune with Constitutional Provisions. This could be the reason the HLC asked the Ministry to define the 'forest'. This contention is unlikely to stick for the reason that the Apex Court's interpretation of 'forest' is based on how it was defined in the Forest Act read with Articles 48-A and 51 (g) and 21 (Fundamental Rights) of the Constitution. The Governments do not enjoy the unfettered freedom of Policy-Making in so far as Fundamental Rights are concerned.

As regards the third recommendation, the Government is not barred from extending economic incentives for community participation in farm forestry and social forestry. The recommendation presupposes that there is enough land in the country to undertake these activities to make any significant difference on the extent under tree cover. The average landholding in the country is hardly 1.5 hectares and with increasing population it is getting fragmented fast. The revenue and community lands which once existed in plenty are no longer available. Farmers are generally disinclined to plant trees on farm land or boundaries for obvious reasons. There is very little possibility of the recommendation becoming success.

The fourth recommendation of planting approved species on private lands towards CA with the facility of tree-land trading is also impracticable because it is beset with too many uncertainties. The CA is prescribed for the loss of tree growth over the diverted forest land. The objective is to make up for the loss of environmental resource. Raising CA over private lands, per se, may not be objectionable but it is essential to ensure that it continues to contribute to good environment. CA should not be seen as a mere formality but as a positive contribution to good environment. This apart, the recommendation presupposes that private lands are available for CA which is no longer the position on the ground. Land is a scarce commodity in a populous country like India and it is not advisable to expect a farmer to spare his land for tree crop for ever.**(To be continued in next Issue of *VanaPremi*)**

***"Before you start some work, always ask yourself three questions - Why am I doing it, What the results might be and Will I be successful. Only when you think deeply and find satisfactory answers to these questions, go ahead."***

# THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW!

By
Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai

Fellow Foresters, Friends, Readers, spare a few moments of yours!

I might have earned my PhD in Urdu, but by writing this article I am trying to 'prove' or 'demonstrate' my 'ability' or 'skill' that each sentence that we 'frame' or 'write' in English——the alphabet of which we had learnt "twice" (once in 'upper case' and later in 'lower case'), as it perhaps happens to be only such language on this planet——can be expressed in 'many' or 'diverse' ways. Hope you will 'enjoy', 'relish' or appreciate':

Why should anybody 'weep' when one can 'cry'? And also 'sob' too? Similarly, when you can get 'hurt', should you be 'injured' also? Talking of subtle differences one is 'injured' not 'hurt' in an accident, and similarly one is 'hurt' by a remark not 'injured'! Well, we can do all these because English Language is generous enough with words. The choice or selection is all yours – go ahead and choose. After all, you have the 'liberty' or 'freedom' to do so. Such examples can be 'dime a dozen' or 'plenty'.

That's why, if somebody gives me a job I can manage that 'work' or 'task', or if my April-born grand-daughter is a 'kid', she can as well be a 'child'.

In this world we come across 'varieties of people', or is it 'kinds of people'? The two are 'similar' or can we also not say 'equivalent' words——like an 'enemy' or a 'foe'? That is the beauty of this language, not being a burden just because we have to remember so many words with similar meanings. Though it is difficult——at least for me——to list out the number of such words, but a cursory glance throws umpteen examples. You might have noticed or seen, that the 'dictionary' is also a 'lexicon' and 'umpteen' can as well be 'countless'. It 'proves' or 'demonstrates' your ability in the task, if you 'try' or 'attempt' to 'think over' this or if you want you can 'ponder over' it, provided you do the same thing even if you 'mull over' it!

Someone might ask or question to you: Which 'part' or portion' of your body you like? What 'answer' or 'reply' will you 'give' or 'tender'? Don't get 'angry', 'frustrated', 'furious', 'incensed' or 'enraged'!

Are you 'building' a house or 'constructing' one? And surely we know or 'comprehend', 'understand', 'realize', 'perceive' or 'discern', that a 'home' is not a 'house' although the two sound similar——that is another beauty of this language: prima facie the words appear to be similar in meaning, but there will always be a subtle difference. A 'present' or a 'gift' might appear to be similar but you can 'gift' a house to someone but cannot 'present' it, 'right'? Or am I 'correct'?

Did you like or 'enjoy' or 'appreciate' the foregoing article? Keep listing them or make an inventory——that in fact will quite be a 'task' or 'undertaking' but you will surely find it a 'pleasant' or a 'pleasurable' assignment or a job!

# HYDERABAD TO BHUBANESHWAR VIA VARANASI, PATNA & BODHGAYA

By
S. Navratan Singh

"That is the dumbest thing anybody would ever do. He has gone crazy."My friends thought."He is nuts and quite capable of this," Others opined. Some of them started enquiring for availability of accommodation, facilities and quality of treatment etc., with lunatic asylums around the city.

The only soul absolutely happy with the itinerary was my mother. This soon to be nonagenarian lady was always wary and deeply upset about the Bohemian ways of her wayward son .A jaunt with so much religiosity pumped into so many miles and so few a days could never be imagined by her. The long years of her bon Vivian son were spent with conviction, that 'one man's religion is the other man's belly laugh'. And laugh he did heart fully and loudly too at both these men and their beliefs.

For me on the other hand this junket made sense. A circular journey for two in 3AC of our all benevolent Bharatia Rail ,with access to, Pachmari, Varanasi, Patna, Gaya, Ranchi, Sambalpur, Bhubaneswar and Vishakhapatnam costs hardly Rupees one thousand more than a direct round trip to Bhubaneswar. It gave us the facility of online reservation of retiring rooms, some of them excellent and some not so great. "You are going to the birthplace of a great soul. Visit all the spots he played around in his childhood and Pray". She told me. She was referring to a nationalist, probably the first one with a clear idea of India. With his supreme sacrifice and a short life grilled through fire he raised a force that reversed the direction of onslaught on this country .from the North west Down to South East Up .A force that ran a chill into the bones of the marauders and vandals to shiver, even to dream of ransacking this land of peace. In medieval times, the picture was different. On the wrong side of the hills of Hindukush, any disgruntled youth on being thrashed by relatives, could then collect together a few hundred ruffians and pass through the Khyber. They reached Delhi nonstop and returned with heaps of gold, and diamonds. One individual adversely influenced by my decisions is my wife, bound by oath taken from her by the *Gianiji* performing her marriage to me. She would be with me shoulder to shoulder in Rain or Sunshine, Health or Disease, Opulence or Penury, till death does us apart. Worried about my advanced stage of arthritis and her own

initial signs of this malaise she was sceptical whether we could make it, or fall by the wayside, in to pieces in one of these holy lands.

With a break at Itarsi, a brief train trip to Piparia (I started calling it Pachmari Road) and a delightful bus Journey we reached one of the rare hill stations of our country still in their pristine glory. A town with two lakes, a large cantonment and abutting a large tiger reserve makes it ideal for people with a particular itch, me included. Still un spoilt by mad rush of people, covered by verdant wilderness and pocked with hilltops, one of them highest in the Satpuras, waterfalls and caves attributed with legends of lord Shiva's delightful escapades.

This ingenious lord had a fetish for locating caves to hold him in and the Demons with their diabolical physical proportions, out. With his supple and compact muscular body he could have free ingress and egress in the narrow holes. These are usually single lane tracks, scraping your shoulders. If you wish to enter any one of them, Cry aloud " Is anybody home" and make it sure or you may have to retreat all the way back.

I could visualize scenarios like this.Shivjj undergoing hot pursuit by a Goliath of a Demon, stops at his hole, looks back, sneers and jeers at him.The Demonise mad with rage. Our lord gives him another rebuke. This time a rather prickly one.The Demon is frothing with rage. He pounces on him rattling his huge saber. Shivji ducks down giving him a miss and hops inside his cave. The Demon now in total frenzy makes a huge lunge forward, gets trapped, and makes himself a standing duck for our lord. Shivji gives him another snigger, leaves him to stew in his own juices and escapes by another secret route.

Indian Gods, by their own design had all the frailties and failings of the humans. They got into situations we often get into and show us how to bail ourselves out. That may be the reason why we are evolved as a leading race in ingenuity.

We approached *Kashi* in the evening. We observed sudden excitement among the fellow travellers. Some of them started giving blow by blow account of our progress. "Now it is a matter of half an hour". "We may get a glimpse of the *Arthi* if lucky". Now Gangaji is five minutes away" When It stopped longer than expected, they started getting impatient. I had never seen such enthusiasm for any other river earlier. They referred its name with a reverence and affection I had never seen before. The train moved slowly and soon Ganga was there in its full grandeur. The *Aarthi* was on in a distant bend, which looked like bejewelled crown of a majestic queen. It was spectacular .They called it Dasashwamedh Ghat.

Next day it was for us to explore. The most popular mode of commuting short distances in *Kashi* is the ubiquitous Cycle Rickshaw .Structural designers of this machine have

provided its load bearing angler a bend protruding out for us to put our leg on it as a step for climbing it. A valuable hint for you is to keep your eyes focused on the rickshaw , even missing ,no matter how many, beautiful faces, that pass by you .Then you hold the back rest of rickshaw seat with one hand ,the pipe with the other and pull yourself up.

On day one we took a rickshaw from station to *ChowkChauraha* for a brief up by the Dy. Director UP Tourism. Then a Sharing Auto took us to Pandepur fly over. That is the point for another Auto to Sarnath.

Buddha is an amazing example of the power of one and proves "*Log Saath Aathegaye aur Karwan banta gaya* ." His first sermon at Sarnath translated in English is engraved in cement blocks and makes fascinating reading. Life is full of misery .The cause of misery is desire. The eight fold paths, the moderation (*Madhyamarg*). Each and every word of his sermon is relevant now and will always be. Five people embraced his teachings instantly, and then there was no looking back. About one third of humanity is under its influence now. We returned to Varanasi in the afternoons.

Varanasi is full of Ghats, and a hell of a lot of them. They were now on our agenda only next to finding a good eating joint. Kerala Cafe is a good one for South Indian snacks.

The Ghats were always full of devotees taking their *Ganga-snaan*, a dream of all since time immemorial. So many people taking bath in the Ghats for so long had taken its toll. It turned most of the *Gangajal* into Bath water. Now the fish in the Ganga were left only with two choices, either to die or to flee towards the sea. They did both .Their exodus en masse had its own repercussions. The y flooded the mouth of Ganga.

In its last lap the Ganga flows through a land, many people call Bengal. The fascinating feature of Bengal is that it is full of Bengalese. Nowhere in the world at large will you find so many Bengalis in so few acres of land, and speaking Bengali to their hearts content. In order to counter any jealousy or bad eye, they started calling the river Hooghly. The waters of Hooghly were getting more and more of fish. One of them discovered that it was so easy to catch a fish. Just throw a stone anywhere in the Hooghly and you get a fish. He taught them how to fish. Soon they started eating fish, whole fish more fish and nothing but fish. This enlarged their brains infinitely and raised them up a plane, a notch higher than the rest of the country.

Patna Junction is still un spoilt by the *Swachch Bharat Abhiyan*. It retains the respect we all are reputed for, with ample dirt and trash all over. We emerged out of it and looked around .On one side, what we thought was a rally in making. On the other there was a grave yard of auto

rickshaws. We were ambushed by a group of *autowallas* dying to take us on a ride. We engaged one of them. The deal struck, he briskly walked towards the grave yard .With a thunderous sound he brought one back from the dead. We settled down in the jalopy lock stock and barrel. With a loud roar it started racing menacingly towards the rally. We were terrified .He appeared to be a homicidal. Soon half a dozen people would be dead we thought. But then a miracle happened. The rally split up. Swallowed us in and as we advanced ahead closed up again.

Adaptation to conditions is the hallmark of humans and the reason why they proliferate all over the planet. These maddening crowds exhibit the great wisdom that, if we cannot afford private spaces exclusively for ourselves, better share them. The roads here are bumpier and more clogged than anywhere else. Nonetheless they provide cost free and rent free spaces, to some even for their whole life. We stayed in the *Gurudwara* for two days eating high fibered *Phulkas, Daal,* and Greens which cleaned our system.

Next to Mughlsarai, Gaya is the biggest hub of The Railways in North India. After tasting food in several joints, we zeroed in on *Ajatashatru* a hotel named after a warrior tyrant who ruled here with an iron hand, luckily much before we arrived on the scene.

Travel brochures guided us to divide our two days here into Bodh Gaya and Rajgir. Bodh Gaya has the *Pipal* tree which dripped down Enlightenment to the Wise one. It has a piece of land for each of the several countries of Orient, Asia, (Central, East, South East and Far East). We enter into an ambience and ethos, globalised and free of xenophobia, which could have been retained in the whole of India as well. Poet Iqbal had written

"*Shamm-e-Gautam jal rahi hai mehfil-e aghyar mein*".

"*Baarish e rehmat hui lekin zameen qabil na thi*".

Translation; The Torch of Buddha is giving light to others. And Providence showered mercy on it but the soil (India) was not ready.

Next day it was our date with Rajgir, earlier the Capital of the Magadh kingdom. A sharing auto crossed us across the river Falgu by a bumpy causeway and dumped us into *Naddipaar* bus stand named Asapur obviously with the hope that it is not cut off by flood. The road to Rajgir is better maintained and the ride was pleasant with a soothing effect on our nerves. It goes through forest which is amazingly well stocked around Rajgir. Local transport from Rajgir to the *Vishwa Shanti Stupa* is by *Tongas*. This is a commendable move by the environmentalists to keep down pollution as well as providing jobs to men and the horses .Vehicles getting package tours from Patna and Gaya only are allowed to go up to the stupa.

Tonga junket from Rajgir was an ecstasy we have been missing since decades. A horse's presence near a man is sufficient to soothe him down .I mean the man. The tranquillity on his face and the vibes exchanged between the best of the friends cannot be missed, even by a casual onlooker. On the way our *tonga* man was talking to lakshmi his mare, and intermittently telling us about the place.

The alighting point of the Chair lift has well equipped canteens. We have to take care that we keep moving at speed equal to that of the chairs while getting in and out of the chairs because the chairs move on without stopping. The return trip was most satisfying. We had fallen in love with Lakshmi .I gave a pat on her forehead and she nodded acknowledging it.

We started our return journey feeling lost. Next day we would go away from this wonderful land which gave so much soothing to our hearts in turmoil. But all was not lost in vain. Enlightenment was going to strike us too.

Packing our belongings I thought about the futility of our travel while wiser people sitting in the comforts of their homes were enjoying the pleasures of life. Then suddenly with a spark the enlightening truth struck me.

"Being wise is not half as good as, getting wiser, and that is the exclusive right, rather the prerogative of the mutton headed." I gave this doctrine a reality check, and observed that, the wise men sitting at home can hardly think of the exhilaration experienced by the dumb heads on aimless move.

Our next station was Ranchi but we opted for Hatia seven kilometres away because the next train was starting there. Hatia is a small sleepy outskirt of Ranchi. There is a good canteen for the railway staff in the Railways administrative office, but open to all. Ranchi is a neat city and capital of Jharkhand. The advantage in being at Ranchi is that there is nothing of significance to see here. You can have a good time, eating drinking, and merry making, by being yourself. Sambhalpur was in our breaks for a day because of the Damodar Valley project. Hirakud Dam has a very impressive reservoir a revolving Café high on a hill top showing the scenic landscape all around. A ropeway also is proposed here. It has all the potential for a great tourist spot. The temple of the deity *Sambhleshwary* revered by many is one reason for this. In the night we got into the train with the mystic name, Tapasvini Express, which took us to Bhubaneswar next morning, exactly as scheduled.

By the grace of Lord Jagannath, we had some of the best hosts we could hope for at the meet. Their concern for us, our convenience and the efforts they made, to make us comfortable, over whelmed us. These good and very old men of

the East took so much pain upon themselves that, it made us feel a little guilty.

However some tricky things started happening. One bus got involved in an accident and got held up, another bus missed an important exit and took a long detour. One was running half empty and other was overloaded with some very senior members breathing down the neck of the driver .Drivers were talking intensely with their wives and girlfriends and not with each other and losing their way in the bargain.

One of these fine gentlemen was Sri Hota. An esteemed Botany scholar, his name itself reminded me of a couplet of Ghalib. My batch mate MS Dubey was sitting by me. I told it to him. He soon became quiet, figuring out what in the hell it meant. I looked at him after a few more minutes. He was still trying to find what it meant. I had earlier gone through the same situation. Ghalib is understood to be a poet behind every couplet of whom there is a hidden chapter of philosophy. It read,

*Na thaa kuch to Khuda thaa, kuchch na hota to khuda hota*

*Duboya mujhko hone ne, nahota main to kya hota.*

Literally It meant, "When nothing was there, there was God, when nothing will be there will be God. I could be destroyed because I am here, even though it makes no difference if I am not. Sri Hota was our monitor, friend philosopher and guide. But '*Chakkar ye thhaa ke jab hamen Hotaji ki zururat hoti to Hotaji Nahin hote*'(the paradox was that, whenever we needed him he would not be around). Poor Hotaji including the whole managing committee was really extremely hard pressed.

Hotaji is a devoted scholar and is compiling a book on medicinal plants. On the day of Valediction he made a fervent appeal to all the members to send material about medicinal plants (and animals too ?). Perhaps he did not know that our interest in, Botany and Zoology was limited, only to the culinary delights of the vert and venison we got as our occupational perks.

After the meet we had still two days for our returning back. Our own Vishakhapatnam, we had neglected this long, and which can be called a real Smart city came handy for this.

***It costs 38 Trillion dollars to create OXYGEN for 6 months for all Human beings on earth.***
***"TREES DO IT FOR FREE" "Respect them and Save them"***

# XV S.F.R.C. ALUMNI MEET 2014BHUBANESWAR AND PURI

***BY***

***V. SANTHASEELA BABU***

This year the XV SFRC Alumni Meet was conducted under the hospitality of the Alumni of Odisha State from 30th November 2014 to 3rd December 2014 at Bhubaneswar and Puri. The Organizing Committee had Mr. Rangadhar Mishra as Advisor, P.C. Patnaik as Chairman, R. Panigrahi as Vice-Chairman, Mr. A.K. Nayak as Secretary, Mr. K.C, Das as Jt. Secretary and Mr. S.K. Mishra as Treasurer.

**Day-1:30th November 2014:** All the participants arrived at Bhubaneswar and were accommodated in Hotel Empire and Hotel Seetal. The venue for the meet was fixed at Hotel Empire and all have assembled in the Conference Hall by evening. Registration of participants and the distribution of material with folders took place. It was informed that altogether 84 Alumni participated in the meet with their spouses and 34 have participated singly.

At the Inaugural function Mr. A.K. Nayak, Secretary invited the dignitaries to the Dias and the function was presided over by Mr.P.C. Patnaik The meet was inaugurated by lighting the Lamp on the stage. At the beginning of the meeting homage was paid to the Alumni who left for their eternal abode since the past meet by observing silence for a minute and praying for resting their souls in peace.

All the members introduced themselves to the meet along with their spouses. The presence of Mr. D.S. Periyasami an Alumnus of SFRC 1949-51 batch from Tamil Nadu of about 90 years of age and physically quite fit who attended the meet with his spouse was an attraction for the meet. His presence in the meet was very well recognized and received by the members with big applause. He was felicitated in a befitting manner. All the speakers at the meet expressed their happiness for the reunion of the Alumni and paid rich tributes to the *Alma matter* which paved way for their successful conduct of their lives. Mr. H. Rajagopal Shetty who himself was a student of SFRC during 1949-1951 batch and was a batch mate of Mr. D.S. Periaswamy. He was Instructor for most of the Alumni of SFRC had joined the meet and shared his experience of his association with the SFRC. He expressed his joy to see so many Alumni joining the meet. Mr. D.S. Periyasami addressed the gathering and expressed his feelings.

Sri Qamar Mohammed Khan, the Editor of 'Vana Premi', presented the December – 2014 issues of 'Vana Premi' Magazine and it was released in the inaugural function and was distributed to all the participants.

The meeting was followed by a Cultural Programme consisting of Odyssey Dance

programme by Odisha Dance Academy. In this Dance programme, the Artists displayed the various items showing different *'Rasas'* (Moods) like *Bhayanaka, Karuna, Rowdra, Shantha* etc; Subsequently an item called *"Swargadapi gareeyasi"* was displayed with *'Vandematharam'* song.

**Odyssey** is one of the eight classical dance forms of India. It originates from the state of Odisha. It is the oldest surviving dance form of India on the basis of archaeological evidences. It was suppressed under the British Raj, but has been reconstructed since India gained independence. It is particularly distinguished from other classical Indian dance forms by the importance it places upon the Thribhangi (literally: three parts break), the independent movement of head, chest and pelvis and upon the basic square stance known *Chauka* or *Chouka* that symbolises Lord Jagannath. This dance is characterized by various **Bhangas** (Stance), which involves stamping of the foot and striking various postures as seen in Indian sculptures. The common **Bhangas** are *Bhanga*, *Abhanga*, *Atibhanga* and *Tribhanga*.

This was followed by the "Gottipua" dance where the young boys of 8 to 10 years of age were dressed as girls and performed "Abhinaya, Pallavi and Bandha".

**Gotipua** is a traditional dance form in the state of Odisha and the precursor of Odyssey classical dance It has been performed in Odisha for centuries by young boys, who dress as women to praise Jagannath and Krishna. The dance is executed by a group of boys who perform acrobatic figures inspired by the life of Radha and Krishna. The boys begin to learn the dance at an early age until adolescence, when their androgynous appearance changes. In the Oriya language Gotipua, means "single boy" (*goti-pua*).Raghurajpur, Orissa (near Puri) is an historic village known for its Gotipua dance troupes.

Immediately after the dance programme, majority of the gentlemen left to enjoy their 'Happy hours'. My wife Mrs.Bhagya Lakshmi and I with the help of Mr.Varaprasad, Retd. DFO have conducted a game "Passing the Doll" in which all the ladies were made to sit on the chairs in a circle and a Teddy Bear was given to them and was asked to be circulated among them. A steel plate was taken by me and I started beating on the plate facing my back towards the participants so that I will not be able to see in whose hands the Teddy Bear was. I was beating the plate with the spoon and stopping the sound at intervals. The lady in whose hands the Teddy Bear was there when the sound was stopped was declared as out of the game. Chairs vacated by the outgoing participants were removed as and when they left the game and it was seen that there was no gap between the participants and the game continued. This went on till the last three participants remained in the fray. The last participant who remained in the game was awarded the 1st Prize and the previous two were awarded the second and third prizes respectively. After having our dinner all of us returned to our respective places of stay and retired for the day.

**Day-2:1st November 2014:** Today in the morning the programme was to go to Puri after breakfast. Before that I and my friend Mr P. Subrahmanayam proceeded to Lingaraj Temple at Bhubaneswar with our families and had the Darshan of Lord Lingaraj and came back to the lodge. After Breakfast we were taken to Puri and after finishing our lunch there we were taken to Konark Sun Temple. Konark Sun Temple is a 13th-century Sun Temple also known as the Black Pagoda. It is believed that the temple was built by king Narasimhadeva-I of Eastern Ganga Dynasty around AD 1250. The temple is in the shape of a gigantic Chariot with elaborately carved stone wheels, pillars and walls. A major part of the structure is now in ruins. The temple is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is also featured on NDTV's list of Seven Wonders of India and Times of India's list of Seven Wonders of India. The temple has been built in the form of a giant ornamented Chariot of the Sun god, Surya. It has twelve pairs of elaborately carved stone wheels which are 3 meters wide and is pulled by a set of seven horses (4 on the right and 3 on the left). The temple follows the traditional style of Kalinga architecture. It is carefully oriented towards the east so that the first rays of sunrise strikes the principal entrance.

Then we were taken to witness the Inaugural Function of Konark Festival organized by the Tourism Dept. of Odisha Govt. from 1st November to 5th November in an open air auditorium with the temple as the backdrop. The festival was inaugurated by the Tourism Minister of Odisha State and the odyssey dances were performed by the groups of artists. From there en route to Puri we visited the International Sand Art. By the time we reached Puri it was almost midnight.

**Day-3: 2nd November-2014:** This day the programme was to visit Chilka Lake Wildlife Sanctuary. Chilka Lagoon is a brackish water lagoon spreading over Puri, Khordha and Ganjam districts of Odisha State. It encircles an area of about 1100 sq.kms. It is the largest coastal lagoon in India and the second largest in the world. It is also the largest winter ground for migratory birds in the Indian Sub-Continent. This year the Birds did not make their presence yet as we could not come across them during our visit here. The lagoon also harbors a viable population of Irrawaddy Dolphins categorized as 'Critically Endangered Species' under IUCN and included in Schedule-I of Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

We reached Chilka Lake by about 12 noon by buses and from where we were taken by boats in batches of 10 members per boat to have a glimpse of the Dolphins in the Lake. During our Boat Ride for about 2 hours we could see the Dolphins performing acrobatics by coming out of water with their heads upright and again diving in to the water for about 15 to 20 times and enjoyed the scene. Within the Chilka Lake we travelled in the boats to the Rest Houses located in an island. We had taken rest for some time and a lunch was arranged there for all of us. After finishing the lunch we returned to the entry point by boats and got in to the buses. From Chilka we returned to our place of stay at

Puri. After refreshing ourselves we proceeded to the famous PuriJagannath Temple and had the *darshan* of Lord Jagannath.

The temple is an important pilgrimage destination for many Hindu traditions, particularly worshippers of Krishna and Vishnu, and part of the *Char Dham* pilgrimages that a Hindu is expected to make in one's lifetime. Even though most Hindu deities that are worshiped are made out of stone or metal, the image of Jagannath is wooden. Every twelve years when there are two *'AshadhaMasams'* in a year, these wooden figures are ceremoniously replaced by using sacred trees, that have to be carved as an exact replica. The reason behind this ceremonial tradition is the highly secret '*Navakalebara*' ('New Body' or 'New Embodiment') ceremony, an intricate set of rituals that accompany the renewal of the wooden statues. During 2015 there will be two '*AhadhaMasams*' in the year and hence the wooden deities would be replaced during this year. The temple was built in the 12th century atop its ruins by the progenitor of the Eastern Ganga dynasty, King AnantavarmanChodaganga Deva. The temple is famous for its annual RathYatra, or chariot festival, in which the three main temple deities are hauled on huge and elaborately decorated temple cars. The central forms of Jagannath, Balabhadra and the goddess Subhadra, the two brothers and sister constitute the trinity of deities sitting on the bejeweled platform or the Ratnavedi in the inner sanctum. The Sudarshan Chakra, deities of Madanmohan, Sridevi and Vishwadhatri are also placed on the Ratnavedi. The deities of Jagannath, Balabhadra, Subhadra and Sudarshan Chakra are made from sacred Neem logs known as DaruBramha.

**Day – 4: 03-12-2014:** In the morning after having our breakfast I and my wife got all the ladies assembled at the meeting hall and conducted 2 games for them before the commencement of the valedictory function. Mr. A.K.Nayak, the Secretary invited the senior members of the participating states to the dais. On behalf of AP and Telangana States, Sri. R.D. Reddy IFS (Retd.) addressed the gathering. I and my wife have sponsored the prizes for the winners of the games conducted by us and got them distributed to the winners through the dignitaries on the dais. It was decided that the next year's SFRC meet (XVI) will be held in Chhattisgarh state and venue will be decided by the alumni of SFRC from Chhattisgarh state. Flag was handed over to Chhattisgarh alumnus.

After the conclusion of valedictory function we had early lunch and all the participants dispersed from Puri with heavy hearts bidding goodbye to each other towards their destinations. We came back to Bhubaneswar and returned to Vizianagaram.

Editor's Note: In Tamil Peria means large or big or more and Sri Periaswamy's age is true to his name and he is the oldest SFRCian. VanaPremi wishes that he should live long and healthy as said in this Urdu couplet.

**Tumhari Salgirah Ke Din Ye Dua Hai Hamari Jitne Hain Chand Taray Itni Ho Umar Tumhari"** ***(For phots please see last coer page)***

# HAVE A TEST TO KNOW YOUR KNOWLEDGE ON WILDLIFE:

**by**
**B.M.T.Rajeev**

Each question carries one mark; score of 25-outstanding, 20 & above - excellent, between 15 &19- very good, 10 & 14- good, below 10- pl. take interest to….

1. Find the animal not in this group... … *a. tiger, b. civet cat, c. cheetah, d. Muntjac*
2. Find the animal not in this group..*a. Gaur, b. Mongoose, c. Swamp deer, d. Elephant*
3. The Reptile that give birth to young ones..*a. king cobra, b. python, c. viper, d. Chameleon*
4. Mammal that give birth to tiny one.. ….. *a. dhole, b. jackal, c. Kangaroo, d. Ibex*
5. Animal not found in temperate region is…. *a. sloth bear, b. brown bear, c. Ibex, d. brow antlered deer*
6. Animal with longest gestation period among..*a. lion, b. elephant, c. bison, d. swamp deer*
7. An adult Indian elephant's requirement of green fodder per day is…. *a. 200 kgs, b.250 kgs, c. 300 kgs, d. 400 kgs*
8. All India tiger census is conducted once in… ***a.*** *3 years,* ***b.*** *4 years. c. 5 years, d. 6 years*
9. Project Tiger launched in the year … …… *a. 1972, b.1973, c. 1974, d. 1975*
10. Project elephant was launched in the year… *a. 1972. b. 1982. c.1992, d. 1993*
11. Animal that not shed the antlers every year is *a. spotted deer, b. sambar, c. swamp deer, d. black* buck,
12. Find the animal not in this group *a. Nilgai b. Chinkara, c. Four honed antelope. d. chital*
13. Find one not in this list of extinct animals….*a. Indian cheetah, b. pink-headed duck, c. bay owl, d.* mountain quail
14. Which are 2 senses poor in birds…*a. smell, b. colour vision, c. good hearing, d. taste.*
15. Point out two senses poor in tiger …*a. vision, b. smell, c. taste, d. hearing*,
16. Find out one sense poor in elephants…….*a. smell, b. sight, c. taste, d. hearing,*
17. Elephants generally digest — % of fodder they eat…….*a. 40, b.50, c.60, d.70,*
18. India is 2nd in faunal richness to……. *a. America, b. Africa, c. Australia, d. Russia,*
19. Our National animal is…….*a. elephant, b Gaur, c. tiger, d. chital*
20. Our National bird is ……. a. *Koel, b. Pea-cock, c. Brahminy kite, d. parakeet*.
21. Find the animal not critically endangered… *a. python, b. leopard, e. pea-fowl, d. wild* dog
22. Find out mammal..*a. Blue whale, b. Indian river tern, c. Red sand boa, d. Whale shark*
23. Largest animal in existence is ……a. *elephant, b. rhinoceros, c. shark, d. blue whale*
24. There are 9 sub-species of tigers, out which—are survivinga. eight, b. seven, c. six, d. five
25. Name the animal joined man, ape & monkeys with the brain of advance thinking as per a recent research report……..a. dolphin, b. parrot, c. elephant, d. crow

***For Answers pl. see page No. 30***

# 8 FAT-BURNING DRINKS TO BOOST YOUR WEIGHT LOSS

We have often told you about foods that can help you to achieve your weight loss goals and can bless you with a healthier and fitter body. Well surely, you have added those to your grocery list and your diet plans. But, all this can go for a toss if you are planning to drink some cola or packaged juice to gulp your salad and fruits down. Yes, what you drink is as important as what you eat, especially when it comes to boosting your metabolism and aiding weight loss. So, here are some excellent drinks that will provide a positive boost to your diet.

Adding moderate amounts of skimmed milk at regular intervals in your daily diet can help you to accelerate your weight loss process. Being rich in calcium, it can trigger faster dissolution on fat cells in the body. So, this will help you to lose a few inches as well. It is also rich in other essential nutrients, which boost your metabolism.

**1. Fat free milk: -** Adding moderate amounts of skimmed milk at regular intervals in your daily diet can help you to accelerate your weight loss process. Being rich in calcium, it can trigger faster dissolution on fat cells in the body. So, this will help you to lose a few inches as well. It is also rich in other essential nutrients, which boost your metabolism.

**2. Water: -** This is one drink which nutritionists, dieticians, fitness instructors, and even your grand mom would advise you for weight loss. Water turns your food into fuel, helps to work away your fat deposits, keeps you hydrated and boosts your metabolism. Here is a something more to convince you: University of Utah has found that those who drink 8 or more glasses of water daily burn more calories than those who drink less than four glasses of it.

**3. Coconut water: -** We know it is your favorite drink during the hot summer months, now here is an added advantage that will make you add this to your daily diet. Coconut water naturally helps in speeding up your metabolic rate and provides you with more energy. It also keeps you hydrated and makes you feel satiated for a longer time. This in turn, reduces your hunger pangs and sugar cravings. Coconut water also flushes toxins out of your system, and

**4. Vegetable juice: -** Not as tasteless as it sounds, if you know how to make it properly, and realize its various health benefits. Vegetable juice is a power packed drink for those aiming at weight loss. It is filled with some essential nutrients, like vitamins and minerals. Mix a few

of your favorite vegetables together to prepare a healthy juice. Say, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, spinach, tomato and lettuce. Add some honey and salt to it for the Fat free milk. Adding moderate amounts of skimmed milk at regular intervals in your daily diet can help you to accelerate your weight loss process. Being rich in calcium, it can trigger faster dissolution on fat cells in the body. So, this will help you to lose a few inches as well. It is also rich in other essential nutrients, which boost your metabolism.

**1. Water: -** This is one drink which nutritionists, dieticians, fitness instructors, and even your grand mom would advise you for weight loss. Water turns your food into fuel, helps to work away your fat deposits, keeps you hydrated and boosts your metabolism. Here is a something more to convince you: University of Utah has found that those who drink 8 or more glasses of water daily burn more calories than those who drink less than four glasses of it.

**2. Coconut water: -** We know it is your favorite drink during the hot summer months, now here is an added advantage that will make you add this to your daily diet. Coconut water naturally helps in speeding up your metabolic rate and provides you with more energy. It also keeps you hydrated and makes you feel satiated for a longer time. This in turn, reduces your hunger pangs and sugar cravings. Coconut water also flushes toxins out of your system.

3.

**4. Vegetable juice: -** Not as tasteless as it sounds, if you know how to make it properly, and realize its various health benefits. Vegetable juice is a power packed drink for those aiming at weight loss. It is filled with some essential nutrients, like vitamins and minerals. Mix a few of your favorite vegetables together to prepare a healthy juice. Say, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, spinach, tomato and lettuce. Add some honey and salt to it.

**Green tea: -** Green tea is rich in antioxidants that help to purify your blood. It is a tested diet and agility drink and can be consumed without any milk. The soothing taste of green tea has other additional properties like- protection against cancer, keeping the skin supple, and other herbal benefits. Studies have also shown that you can burn about 35-43 per cent more fat if you drink 3-5 cups of green tea every day.

**Answers for Quiz on page No. 28 :** 1-d, 2-b, 3-d, 4-c, 5-a, 6-b, 7-c. 8-b, 9-c, 10-c, 11-d, 12- d, 13-c, 14-a & d, 15-b &c, 16-b, 17-a, 18-b, 19-c, 20-b, 21-d, 22-a, 23-d, 24-c, 25.d

# NATURAL WONDERS OF NUTMEG

Today, in natural wonders, let's talk about the healing benefits of nutmeg. This aromatic spice is packed with medicinal properties and is also considered an aphrodisiac in Arab countries!

What is nutmeg?Nutmeg is an egg-shaped seed of the nutmeg tree, mostly used in powdered form.

Health benefits of nutmeg

Nutmeg is full of minerals such as manganese, potassium, calcium and iron. It not just enhances the flavor of your food, but also keeps your immune system strong. The other benefits include:

**Clear skin:**Nutmeg is excellent for your skin, whether it's to get rid of the acne mark, remove blackheads or clean the clogged pores. Make a paste with honey and nutmeg powder, apply on the acne marks and they'll soon start to fade. A face scrub made with nutmeg powder and dried orange peel can effectively remove blackhead, clean dead skin cells, leaving your face glowing, soft and supple.

**Pain relief:**Nutmeg is packed with anti-inflammatory properties. People in China have been using it in since ancient times to treat inflammation and abdominal pain. Nutmeg oil is amazingly beneficial if you or your loved ones is suffering from arthritis, sore muscles or aching joints and you'll notice the pain disappear in no time!

**Brain power:**Nutmeg has been used since ancient times to improve health and also for various ailments.Nutmeg is an excellent remedy for anxiety and depression. The natural organic compound myristicinin nutmeg stimulates your brain, keeps it sharp and gets rid of stress and fatigue. Nutmeg also helps improve concentration, keeping you alert and focused throughout the day. Myristicin is also known to protect your brain against diseases such as Alzheimer's.

**Detox:**It is important to detoxify your body regularly. A whole lot of external factors such as smoking, pollution, stress, unhealthy eating can lead to build-up of toxin in your bodies. And these toxins especially get stored in your liver and kidneys. Nutmeg, when taken as a tonic can remove these toxins, cleanse your liver and kidneys and help them function better.

**Toothache:**Nutmeg oil, packed with antibacterial properties can help relieve toothache as it contains eugenol. It can also be used to treat bad breath. Nutmeg kills the bad breath-causing bacteria, keeping your mouth fresh. It is used as a common ingredient in toothpastes for this reason.

And last but not the least; nutmeg is an effective sleep aid. Add a pinch of nutmeg powder to a glass of milk and drink it before going to bed. It helps you relax and induce sleep, allowing you to wake up refreshed and alert!

A word of caution- Nutmeg should be used in moderation as overuse can lead to hallucinations, palpitations, nausea, vomiting, convulsions and dehydration! Keep it away from children and pets as it may cause allergic skin reactions in some.

# NEWS AND NOTES

**India's top 10 bird habitats in danger: -** Unsustainable developmental policies and rising insensitivity towards nature have put "in serious danger" at least 10 of the country's famous bird habitats including Gujarat's Flamingo City, a new study say.

Conservation society Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) said that its recent findings clearly show that at least 10 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) — as they are now called globally — are in serious danger of being lost forever.

BNHS studies and monitoring across the country have shown that the IBAs, including Kutch's famous Flamingo City, Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary in Solapur-Ahmednagar of Maharashtra and Sewri-Mahul Creek in Mumbai are among the most threatened habitats in the country.

Only breeding ground; Flamingo City is possibly the only breeding ground of the migratory bird in a great magnitude in Asia.

The scattered grassland plots of the Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary are home to the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard. Their population at the sanctuary has plummeted from 27 birds in 2006 to 12 in 2012 and a mere three birds in 2013.

The other bird habitats which are in grave danger of losing tree cover include SailanaKharmor Sanctuary in Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh; Tillangchong in Andaman Nicobar; DihailaJheel and Karera Wildlife Sanctuary in Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh; Basai in Gurgaon, Haryana; SardarpurFlorican Sanctuary in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh and Ranebennur in Haveri, Karnataka.

"Many other IBAs, although not on this list, are also threatened by various types of unsustainable human interference," says the new research titled "IBAs in Danger" by BNHS and its global partner BirdLife International.

**Zoo Tiger Attack: Cops Ask HC to Reject Compensation till Probe Done: -**The city police today requested the Delhi High Court to dismiss a plea seeking compensation of Rs 50 lakh for the family members of a youth who was mauled to death recently by a tiger in the zoo here, saying the probe in the matter is pending and the action will be taken as per law.

A senior official from the police department in its affidavit filed before Justice VibhuBakhru said that in "the interest of justice" the plea filed by the deceased' wife Fatima be rejected with "cost"."In the interest of justice... This court may be pleased to dismiss the present writ petition of the petitioners with cost as the investigation of the case is still pending. "Appropriate legal action will be taken as per the law. Thus, the matter is fit to be dismissed as it is devoid of any merit and it involves no question of law," the affidavit filed by Delhi Police said.

It further said that as per the inspection of the Medico Legal case (MLC), dead body and the circumstances, offences under section 304 of the IPC was made out and an FIR was registered in this regard.

The police reply was filed after the court had on October 27 sought responses from the Centre, National Zoological Park, Delhi government, Central Zoo Authority, a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Delhi Police Commissioner within four weeks.

The notices were issued while hearing the plea filed by the deceased' wife who alleged the government is liable to pay them the compensation for their "act of negligence, safety and security lapses which resulted into the tragic death of 22-year-old Maqsood who was mauled to death by a white tiger at National Zoological Park here on September 23".

The police in their affidavit also said that a letter has also been sent to the Editor of the TV channel to provide the details of eye witnesses of the incident, if any available with them, and to provide the details of the maker/supplier of the video clip in which the incident was recorded.

Meanwhile, the counsel for the Centre informed the court that an identical matter is pending before the bench.

The court has listed the matter for January 28, 2015, before the bench headed by Chief Justice G Rohini for further consideration.

The petitioner's counsel Mohammed Faisal told the court that the deceased was the only earning member in his family that included his wife, who is seven months pregnant, his mother (43) and 18-year-old brother.

The counsel said Maqsood's father had deserted him and his family members 15 years ago.

"On September 23, 2014 deceased Maqsood went to National Zoological Park, Mathura Road, New Delhi after taking entry ticket and at around 1.00 PM, suddenly he fell into the dry moat of the white tiger's enclosure.

"According to some eyewitnesses and by some TV channels, as soon as he fell, his leg was fractured and he was unable to move. On seeing the white tiger which was roaming nearby the place, the deceased started calling for help. However, the white tiger, on seeing him in his enclosure, ...Looked at him from sniffing distance for about 15 minutes," the petition said.

The plea submitted the white tiger attacked Maqsood and dragged him away to the other end of enclosure and mauled him to death. "His lifeless body was then dragged around for some time before the tiger lost interest. However, the zoo authorities did not take a single step to save him even as they had sufficient time of around 15-20 minutes before the attack of the tiger on Maqsood. Moreover, there were also serious safety and security lapses on the part of Zoo authorities," it alleged.

"The police failed to find any witnesses and registered an FIR against unknown persons which shows that they did the formalities of

registering the FIR" and took it just as a "normal incident", it said.

"The zoo authorities have committed gross negligence and did not follow the guidelines, rules, norms as given under the Wildlife Protection Act," the plea alleged.

**First five-star hotel in India's North East opened in Guwahati: -** Guwahati (Assam), Dec.19 (ANI): The first five-star hotel in India's northeastern region was inaugurated in Guwahati, Assam, recently. Guwahati, known as the gateway to Northeast, has now become a growing hub for trade and commercial activity. In the last few years, the city has witnessed a mushrooming of shopping malls, showrooms, apartment complexes and hotels. The changing face of the city coupled with an expanding tourism sector is attracting many investors. Recently, the Radisson Blue was officially inaugurated. The hotel group is prospecting to open hotels in the state capitals of Northeastern states. Three more 5-star category hotels are coming up in Guwahati.

The growth of hospitality sector has also opened new job avenues for the youth in the region.

ArindhamMitra, a hotel employee, said, "Almost 70 per cent of the employees and hotel staff is from the Northeast and 60 per cent is from Assam only. It's very important. Also, it is a very good platform for young hoteliers who are working in this hotel to get groomed and become trained for the next level which is very important for them."

Boby Singh, an employee from Manipur, said, "This is amazing. This is the first of its kind hotel here in Northeast and it has created a lot of interest. It has created a lot of job opportunities as well."

The gradual return of peace and normalcy has brought about significant socio-economic change in the entire Northeast.

And in the coming years it will prosper manifold. (ANI)

**Richard Verma to be appointed US Ambassador to India tomorrow: -** Richard Rahul Verma will be sworn-in as US Ambassador to India on Saturday 20th December 2014, becoming the first Indian-American to hold the post.

Verma, 46, was confirmed by the US Senate by a voice vote last week. Secretary of State John Kerry would host the swearing in ceremony of Verma. Verma is expected to head for New Delhi and present his credentials to President Pranab Mukherjee, ahead of the visit of US President Barack Obama to India to be the chief guest at the Republic Day parade on January 26.

The US Embassy in New Delhi is currently headed by charge d'affaires Kathleen Stephens. Verma's association with Obama goes back to 2008, when he worked on presidential debate preparations for the then Illinois senator.

His parents came to the US in the early 1960s. Verma will replace Nancy Powell.

# Birth Day Greetings

*We wish the following born on the dates mentioned*

## " A very Happy Birth Day"

| S.No. | Name of Members | |
|---|---|---|
| | Sarva Sri | |
| 1. | C.Jagannath Reddy | 03-02-1930 |
| 2. | D.V.Rao | 09-01-1931 |
| 3. | K.Koteshwar Rao | 10-01-1933 |
| 4. | T.Narayana Swamy | 30-01-1933 |
| 5. | K.Mohan Reddy | 16-01-1934 |
| 6. | H.K.Desai | 23-01-1936 |
| 7. | R.D.Reddy | 14-01-1938 |
| 8. | Dr.C.N.Rao | 26-01-1938 |
| 9. | V.P.Adinarayana | 23-01-1940 |
| 10. | P.Upender Reddy | 05-02-1942 |
| 11. | P.Gracious | 24-01-1949 |
| 12. | P.Bhaskar Reddy | 21-01-1953 |

| S.No. | Name of Serving Officers | |
|---|---|---|
| | Sarva Sri | |
| 1. | M.Sudhakar | 10-01-1957 |
| 2. | R.G.Kalaghatgi | 20-01-1957 |
| 3. | Dr.ManoranjanBhanja | 22-01-1958 |
| 4. | A.K.Jain | 05-02-1959 |
| 5. | Dr.K.Tirupathaiah | 23-01-1959 |
| 6. | M.Prutviraj | 09-01-1960 |
| 7. | S.Narender Reddy | 05-02-1960 |
| 8. | P.Ashok Rao | 10-01-1961 |
| 9. | Dr.P.Subbaragavaiah | 25-01-1961 |
| 10. | K.Mohan Rao | 04-02-1963 |
| 11. | P.Samuel | 07-01-1964 |
| 12. | M.Nagarjuna Reddy | 30-01-1965 |
| 13. | V.Srihari Gopal | 14-01-1966 |
| 14. | RameshkumarSuman | 03-02-1966 |
| 15. | B.Venkateswara Rao | 31-01-1968 |
| 16. | B.Sunder | 20-01-1970 |
| 17. | R.Kondal Rao | 15-01-1970 |
| 18. | I. Prakash | 09-01-1977 |
| 19. | K.MahaboobBasha | 25-01-1986 |
| 20. | Ms.D.Samhita | 21-01-1988 |

**Secretary**

# LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

A husband went to police station to report his missing wife:

Husband: I've lost my wife; she went shopping yesterday and has still not come home. Sergeant: What is her height?

Husband: Oh, 5 something .. . .

Sergeant: Build?

Husband: Not slim, not really fat.

Sergeant: Colour of eyes?

Husband: Never noticed.

Sergeant: Colour of hair?

Husband: Changes according to season.

Sergeant: What was she wearing?

Husband: Dress/suit/blue jeans — I don't remember exactly.

Sergeant: Did she go in a car?

Husband: Yes.

Sergeant: What kind of car was it?

Husband: 2014 Corvette Stingray 3LT with the Z51 Performance Package, shark grey metallic paint, with the 6.2 litre V8 engine with Direct Injection generating 460 HP.8-speed paddle-shift automatic transmission and GT bucket seats, and has a very thin scratch on the front left door. At this point the husband started crying....

Sergeant: Don't worry sir.....We'll find your car.

---

Ek ladki exam mein Ek ladke se : "Excuse me , Bhai Jaan"

Ladka : "Ek to paper confusing hai aur upar se tu aur confuse kar rahi hai ...

.. Ya to Bhai bol ya Jaan bol "

---

ROCKING GENERATION"KID FAILS IN EXAM"

Father: Aaj Se Mujhe Papa Mat Kehna...!

Son : Oh, come On Dad,

It Was Just A 'School Test' Not A "DNA" Test...!

---

Tchr: Murgiyo ki taange chhoti kyu hoti hai?

Reply: Sir, agar murgiyo ki taange Lambi hoti to Ande it ne upar se gir kar toot jate na.

Teacher- Chand par pehla kadam kis ne rakha?

Pappu- NEIL ARMSTRONG

Teacher- Aur doosra?

Pappu- doosra bhi usi ne rakha hoga .....Langdi khelne thodi gaya tha woh!!!!

---

Doctor: Roz 5km. walk karo, to 1 sal me 50kg wazan kum ho jayega..

1 saal baad santa phone pe: Wazan to kam hogaya, magar ab main ghar kaise jau 1825 km. door aa gaya hun.

---

1st. Friend— 8th mein aathvi Baar Fail Hogaye

2nd friend: Chal Suicide kar le

Banta :Pagal Ho Gaya Hai ??

Agle janam main phir NURSERY se shuru karna padega

---

Customer: shirt ke liye ek acha kapda dikhaiye.

Sales man: plain main dikhau.

Customer: Nahin helicopter main dikha bandar ki aulad… Yahin pey dikha!!

---

Doctor: Do exercise daily for good health.
Patient: Sir I play football, cricket, daily.
Doctor: how long do you play
Patient: until battery in my mobile goes down!!

---

Techer pani me rahne vale 5 jiv batao.?
Student- mendak.
Tech- very good, baki char bolo.
Student- uski maa , uska baap, uski behan aur uska bhai.

---

Son was filling an application form.
Son: papa, mother tongue kya likhu?
Papa: Likh de, very long and uncontrollable...

Aadmi: Doctor sab umer Lambi Karne ka Koi upai bataye....
Doc: Shaadi kar lo..
Aadmi: really isse Life lambi ho jae gi??
Doc: nahi per 2 advantage zaroor milenge..
1. Long life ki khawish khatam hojaen gi
2. Jo bachi kuchi Life hai woh lambi lagne lagegi.

---

A man was being interviewed for a post of a commando in Army!
Interviewer: We want a person with suspicious mind, always alert, merciless, ready to attack, acute sense of hearing, detective ability and most importantly having a killer instinct!!! So do you think you are eligible???
Man: Sir.... Can my wife apply?

---

**Who is Marylou? :** A woman came up behind her husband while he was enjoying his morning coffee and slapped him on the back of the head.

"I found a piece of paper in your pants pocket with the name 'Marylou' written on it," she said, furious. "You had better have an explanation."

"Calm down, honey," the man replied. "Remember last week when I was at the dog track? That was the name of the dog I bet on."'

The next morning, his wife snuck up on him and smacked him again.

"What was that for?" he complained.

"Your dog called last night."

---

**Three Wishes:** A blonde, a brunette and a redhead are stuck on an island and discover a magic lamp. They rub and rub, and sure enough, out pops a genie.

The genie says, "Since I can only grant three wishes, you may each have one."

The brunette says, "I've been stuck here for years. I miss my family, my husband and my life. I just want to go home."

Poof! The brunette gets her wish, and she is returned to her family.

The redhead says, "I've also been stuck here for years, and I wish I could go home, too."
Poof! The redhead gets her wish, and she is returned to her family.
The blonde starts crying uncontrollably.
The genie asks, "My dear, what's the matter?"
The blonde whimpers, "I wish my friends were still here."

# HOME REMEDIES FROM YOUR KITCHEN

Before you panic and rush to the chemist for first aid, try these quick and ready-to-use remedies from your fridge.

**To relieve hangover**: Honey is known to keep your blood sugar level fairly constant which is what you need after last night's party. Take two to six teaspoonful of honey every twenty minutes upon awaking, depending on the severity of the hangover. Once you start feeling better, take four tsp with your first meal. The potassium in the honey helps counteract the effects of the alcohol. In addition, honey contains fructose, a type of sugar that helps your body metabolize alcohol more quickly.

**To soothe mild burns and scalds:** If you thought onions only had culinary value, you certainly do not know the value of this edible bulb. It also helps treat minor burns and scalds. Cut an onion in half and place it on the spot until the pain subsides. Onion juice has chemicals like sulphur compounds and quercetin that are present in many over-the-counter drugs. Yes, you may have watery eyes due to burning but that's a fair trade-off. Isn't it?

**To relieve headache and migraine:** Who doesn't experience occasional headaches? Most of us do. Headaches often reflect the kind of lifestyle we maintain; too much stress and not enough rest. People also suffer headaches due to weather changes. Use cold to help numb the pain. Hold a bag of frozen peas on the pain site for 10 minutes. Wait for twenty minutes and then repeat. Frozen peas bag makes a great mouldable and reusable ice pack. The cold compresses blood vessels which eases pain.

**To reduce puffy eyes:** Puffy eyes are usually the result of staying awake till late in the night, drinking too little water or the natural ageing process. Puffy eyes are caused when fluid is trapped in the tissue under the eye. For any skin swelling, a cold compress is an ideal remedy. After preparing your morning or afternoon cup of tea, place the bags in the refrigerator until chilled. Squeeze out any excess fluid to make sure tea water doesn't drip all over your face while you are trying to relax. Place the bags over puffy, swollen eyes for around 10 minutes. Apart from removing puffiness, it also reduces dark circles and makes you feel fresh.

**NATURAL REMEDIES FOR AN UPSET STOMACH**: All of us have suffered from food poisoning at some point in life. Here are few home remedies, submitted by YAHOO! Readers to tackle an upset tummy.

You may have had those mouth-watering Frankie's from the roadside stall, or gobbled

down a plateful of *golguppas* in a go, only to find severe stomach ache and diarrhoea within a couple of days. It's probably food poisoning you're suffering from and you've caught it at least once in your life, from the deceptively harmless looking contaminated foods.

With symptoms ranging from mild to severe abdominal cramps, diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting, headache, dizziness and dehydration, food poisoning is a condition not to be ignored. Listed below are a few effective home remedies to cure food poisoning, right from grandma's own medicine chest.

**Tea with moti Elaichi can take care of a bad stomach**: The rind of the pomegranate fruit (as well the bark of the pomegranate tree) is an old and well-known remedy used for treating diarrhoea.

Aloe Vera juice is good for treating an upset stomach. 60 grams of aloe Vera juice, taken three times a day, can have you feeling good as new the next morning.

Curd (or yogurt) is full of micro-organisms that are beneficial for the stomach and can combat the effect of harmful bacteria that causes food poisoning.

The acidic properties in lime kill bacteria, and make it a great natural remedy for food poisoning. 3-4 glasses of lime juice over the course of the day will ensure you're back to normal the next morning.

Mint or *Pudina* is very helpful in treating food poisoning. Mint tea or a paste of *Pudina*leaves will help relieve stomach trouble. Combining it with curd is doubly effective since it uses the beneficial properties of curd as well.

It adds flavor to your dishes, but is also an excellent home remedy for curing almost all types of digestive problems. Take a tablespoon of honey with a few drops of ginger juice to reduce inflammation and pain.

Cumin or Zeera seeds are a good way to soothe the inflammation in your stomach, reduce the tenderness and aid healing. Crush a tablespoon of cumin seeds and add it to your clear soup.

Do you know a great home remedy for an upset tummy? Share it with us in the comments below!

Basil is another excellent home remedy to cure infections of both – the stomach and the throat. Strain the juice of a few basil leaves and add it to a tablespoon of honey. It's bound to show positive results within a couple of hours.

Bananas are a rich source of potassium. They aid recovery and reduce the effects of food poisoning to an impressive level. Mash a couple of bananas and apple, or whip up a quick banana shake.

Apples are as effective against food poisoning as they reduce heartburn and acid reflux. Apples are known to have enzymes that inhibit the growth of the bacteria that cause diarrhoea and

stomach ache.

The acidity of the lemon juice kills most of the bacteria that cause food poisoning. Squeeze the juice of a lemon and add a pinch of sugar to it. Drink it as you would take any medicine, or you can even add lemon to your tea.

Activated charcoal absorbs all the unwanted gases and substances that may be harmful to the delicate lining of the stomach, thereby aiding speedy recovery.

It is very important to keep yourself fully hydrated during the period of food poising, as your body tends to lose more water through diarrhoea. Also, keeping up your water content, rapidly flushes out the toxins and bacteria, which enhances your recovery.

Being alkaline in nature, vinegar, specifically apple cider vinegar soothes the gastro-intestinal lining. Also, it makes the environment of the stomach inhospitable for the bacteria to breed in, which helps speed up the recovery.

It's not just aromatherapy. Peppermint oil is known to have a soothing effect, which is extremely beneficial for people suffering from stomach spasms due to food poisoning. Add a few drops to your tea; your cramps will vanish in a couple of hours.

# CHOSE TO LIVE A LIFE THAT MATTERS

What will matter is not what you bought; but what you built,
Not what you acquired, but what you gave.
What will matter is not what you learnt, But what you taught.
What will matter is not how many people you know,
But how many will feel a lasting loss when you are gone.
What will matter is not your memories,
But the memories that live in those who loved you
Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident,
Chose to live a life that matters

**— Annonymous**

***"Treat your kid like a darling for the first five years. For the next five years, scold them. By the time they turn sixteen, treat them like a friend. Your grown up children are your best friends."***

***Just as the rain water flows down into the ocean, so also all worship offered to any God, ultimately reaches the Godhead.***

# MUMBAI RICKSHAW DRIVER - VERY RARE

Suvendu Roy of Titan Industries, who shares his inspirational encounter with a rickshaw driver in Mumbai:

... One Sunday, my wife, kid, and I had to travel to Andheri from Bandra. When I waved at a passing auto rickshaw, little did I expect that this ride would be any different?

I looked in front and there was a small TV. The driver had put on the Doordarshan channel.

My wife and I looked at each other with disbelief and amusement. In front of me was a small first-aid box with cotton, Dettol and some medicines. This was enough for me to realize that I was in a special vehicle. Then I looked round again, and discovered more - there was a radio, fire extinguisher, wall clock, calendar, and pictures and symbols of all faiths - from Islam and Christianity to Buddhism, Hinduism and Sikhism. There were also pictures of the heroes of 26/11- Kamte, Salaskar, Karkare and Unnikrishnan.

I realized that not only my vehicle, but also my driver was special. I started chatting with him and the initial sense of ridicule and disbelief gradually diminished. I gathered that he had been driving an auto rickshaw for the past 8-9 years; he had lost his job when his employer's plastic company was shut down. He had two school-going children, and he drove from 8 in the morning till 10 at night.

No break unless he was unwell. *"Sahab, gharmeinbaithke T. V dekhkarkyafaida? Do paisa income karegatoh future meinkaamaayega."*

We realized that we had come across a man who represents Mumbai – the spirit of work, the spirit of travel and the spirit of excelling in life. I asked him whether he does anything else as I figured that he did not have too much spare time.

He said that he goes to an old age home for women in Andheri once a week or whenever he has some extra income, where he donates tooth brushes, toothpastes, soap, hair oil, and other items of daily use. He pointed out to a painted message below the meter that read: "25 per cent discount on metered fare for the handicapped. Free rides for blind passengers up to Rs. 50

My wife and I were struck with awe. The man was a HERO! A hero who deserves all our respect!!! Our journey came to an end;

45 minutes of a lesson in humility, selflessness, and of a hero-worshipping Mumbai, my temporary home. We disembarked, and all I could do wasto pay him a tip that would hardly cover a free ride for a blind man. I hope, one day, you too have a chance to meet Mr Sandeep Bachhe in his auto rickshaw: MH-02-Z-8508. Be a Reason for Million Smiles….But Never be a reason for even a singles Grudge… (Courtesy: DeedarSahoo)

# IN FURTHERANCE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

By
R. K. Raghavan

Amid the din raised over the case involving the All India Anna DravidaMunnetraKazhagam (AIADMK) leader J. Jayalalithaa, an important and recent ruling by the Supreme Court of India in an entirely different domain has gone virtually unnoticed. This judgment was in the cause of good public administration, a sector vital to economic development. The message that the top court possibly wanted to send through its order was that an honest civil servant can bank on the Court if blatant injustice has been done to him or her by an unfair executive.

**Black money case: -** The judgment possibly took cognizance of the fact that over the years, the Indian bureaucracy has become a spineless structure that cannot stand up to unethical pressures by the Executive or the moneyed in society, thereby belying the worthy dream of SardarVallabhbhai Patel, free India's first Home Minister. It was the doughty Sardar's vision and resoluteness that ensured that efforts in some quarters in post-Independence India to abolish the centrally recruited and overseen All India Services did not succeed. The nation has greatly benefited from the continuance of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and the Indian Police Service (IPS) in particular. Certain events since 1975, *viz.*, the period post-Emergency, have however been the cause for dismay among those who have been looking for a professional, honest and independent civil service that would bolster an equally dedicated political class. It is against this backdrop that one should analyze the recent Supreme Court decision.

It all began in 2010 when V.S. Pandey, a senior IAS officer, Uttar Pradesh cadre, joined hands with Julio Ribeiro, the former police chief, and a few others, under the auspices of a non-governmental organization-styled India Rejuvenation Initiative (IRI), to file a writ petition on the need to ferret out black money owned by Indians and stashed abroad. The petition culminated in the Supreme Court decision (2011) known as *Ram Jethmalani and Others vs the Union of India*. Reacting to this, Pandey was served a charge sheet by the U.P. government on five counts for alleged violation of four clauses of the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968.

**Charges, exoneration: -** The gravamen of the charge against Pandey was that, in being a co-signatory to the said writ petition by Ribeiro and others, he had endorsed an affidavit by one Jasbeer Singh that was critical of some senior officers of the Government of India (mainly from the Enforcement Directorate). The charge sheet added that in not having obtained the government's permission before joining the

said NGO and deposing in an inquiry where the Central and State governments were likely to be criticized, he had violated the conduct rules. An enquiry officer appointed to look into the charges against Pandey exonerated him of all the charges on August 30, 2012. Strangely, a copy of this report of exoneration was not served on Pandey. On September 9, 2012, a selection committee that was considering cases of IAS officers in U.P. for promotion to the super timescale ignored Pandey's case, although he had been exonerated and was eligible for promotion. The committee's decision was in a sealed cover, a usual practice in respect of officers against whom disciplinary action was pending. Worse was to follow. The enquiry officer's finding was rejected by the U.P. government on September 26, 2012, on the ground that his report was cursory and that he had failed to properly investigate all relevant facts. The State government went on to invoke the Public Servants (Inquiries) Act, 1850 and appoint a two-member committee to look once more into the charges against Pandey. Significantly, the State government's action came on the same day as the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) dismissing Pandey's appeal seeking his promotion. Following this, Pandey went to the Supreme Court on a writ that was recently disposed of by a bench comprising Justices Chelameswar and Sikri in favor of Pandey. In doing so, the judges made some comments on what was palpably an act of rancor and vindictiveness by the government. What was striking about this remarkable judicial order was the thoroughness with which the bench demolished each averment against Pandey.

**Upholding an individual's right: -** First, the Court held that since Pandey never disputed the charges made against him, there were no facts to be investigated by the enquiry officer. Second, relying on the decision (1971) of the Supreme Court in *K.R. Deb vs Collector of Central Excise, Shillong*, and the bench held that a second inquiry against Pandey was untenable. There could at best be a further inquiry, but not a second one on the same facts. And, in the Pandey case, the facts were such that a further inquiry was hardly warranted. As regards violation of a stipulation of the All India Services (Conduct) Rules that an officer could not depose before an individual, or committee or any other authority without the sanction of the government, the bench held that joining in averments made in a writ petition before a court was equivalent to taking part in a judicial process for which no citizen needed to get the government's nod. An individual's fundamental right did not get diminished just because he was a member of the civil service.

The two judges were categorical that this was a clear case of harassment of a hapless civil servant. ("The purpose behind the proceedings appears calculated to harass the appellant since he dared to point out certain aspects of mal administration ... The whole attempt appears to be to suppress any probe into the question of black money. A part of the strategy to intimidate not only the appellant but also to send a signal to others who might dare in future

to expose any mal administration.") They did not also fail to notice that while the government chose to proceed against Pandey, it ignored the action of another official, Jasbeer Singh, who had filed an additional affidavit that was critical of the government. The bench allowed Pandey's petition and went beyond, to award him the costs involved. In doing so it said, "The requirement of (a) democratic republic is that every action of the State is to be informed with reason. State is not a hierarchy of regressively genuflecting coterie of bureaucracy."

**The need for support:** This landmark judicial order comes at a time when, in my view, an intimidated civil service needs support. In many States, public servant morale is at its nadir and it requires the oxygen of an unequivocal imprimatur from the highest court of the land that would help to halt the hands of a meddling political class. Nothing else would bring about at least a marginal improvement to what is an undeniably appalling situation. Wide publicity to its salient features would go a long way in reinstalling courage into large sections of the bureaucracy which is baulking in fear of reprisal for its legitimate actions and has been coerced into condemnable passivity.

Civil servant independence in the country is at best nominal. Nonconformity even to spurn whimsical and arbitrary directives received from above is widely recognized as a very risky proposition. Signs of defiance are fraught with such serious consequences that even the most courageous civil servant thinks many times over before turning down even a palpably unethical and illegal direction. The few mavericks who display a semblance of remonstrance are heavily penalized so as to deter potential dissenters. It is this sordid state of affairs that convinces me that Justices Chelameshwar and Sikri will have to be hailed for coming squarely to the rescue of a hapless senior official of the U.P. government for his alleged intransigence.

I view the judgment as bold and imaginative. It sends out a strong signal that the honest and upright civil servant can depend on the higher judiciary for unequivocal support. Wide publicity to the facts of the case and details of the judgment is a must.

I am not pleading here for a total license to honest civil servants to do whatever they want or indulge in intemperate criticism of a constitutionally installed government. What is required is a freedom to speak their minds in furtherance of good governance. I am happy that Prime Minister NarendraModi in his first meeting with the Secretaries to the Union Government exhorted exactly this and made himself available to hear them, especially when they were at loggerheads with their Ministers. There cannot be a better way to get the best out of each government official whatever be his status in the hierarchy. The Prime Minister's Office has again to be complimented for issuing a directive to the bureaucracy that it should not act on oral instructions. I am confident that this stand would greatly promote transparency and honesty in governance.

*(R.K. Raghavan is a former CBI Director.)*

# LEGAL NOTES

## Chandran and two others vs State of Kerala

The prosecution story in C.C. No. 213 of 1998 on the file of the Judicial First Class Magistrate at Wadikancherri is that the Accused Nos.1 and 2 unauthorizedly entered 1985 Elanad Bamboo Forest, which is a part of the reserve forest, cut and removed 37 chinks of teak wood, bamboo and other trees and attempted to remove the same from the forest area. The 3rd accused received the same knowing to be forest produce. Thus, it was alleged that the Government suffered a loss to the tune of Rs.1, 500/- and thereby, the petitioners committed the offences alleged against them.

The prosecution examined four witnesses and marked three documents as exhibits. The petitioners did not adduce any evidence. The Magistrate found the petitioners guilty of the offences under the Kerala Forest Act and sentenced A-1 and A- 2 to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a period of one year and to pay a fine of Rs. 500/- with a default sentence of rigorous imprisonment for a further period of six months each. The 3rd accused was also convicted under the Forest Act and sentenced him to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a period of one year and to pay a fine of Rs. 500/-, with a default sentence of rigorous imprisonment for a further period of six months. The petitioners filed Criminal. Appeal No.91/ 1999 before the III Additional Sessions Judge (Fast Track Court No. I) Thrissur. The Sessions Judge dismissed the appeal. The petitioners challenged the judgments of the courts below in the High Court of Kerala in Criminal. R. P. No 577 of 2002.

The revision petition came up for consideration before the Hon'ble Justice S. Siri Jagan. The petitioners raised several contentions. The first is that the seized material objects were not produced before the court. Secondly, no weapons were seized at the time of apprehension of accused Nos.1 and 2 and, therefore, they could not have cut and removed any forest timber as alleged. Thirdly, they would contend that the prosecution has not proved with any reliable evidence that the area from where accused Nos. 1 and 2 were stated to have been apprehended was a forest area. They would further contend that there is no reliable evidence to connect the petitioners with any crime. It is submitted that after seizure of the chinks, the prosecution claimed to have stored it in the premises of one Thankachan, who has not been examined to prove the same. Lastly, the learned counsel for the petitioners would contend that, in any event, there was no evidence to connect the 3rd accused with the crime alleged against him.

On the other hand, the learned Public Prosecutor would point out that the non-production of the seized materials before the Magistrate does not vitiate the prosecution. He

submits that neither Section 52 of the Kerala Forest Act nor any other provision of the Act mandates production of seized materials before the Magistrate. In this connection, he relies on the Supreme Court decision in State of Kerala v. Ancy Phillip, 2008(3) KLT 477 (SC), wherein the Supreme Court has held that disposal of property in forest offences need not be after physical production of timber before the Magistrate, which would show that the production of forest produce is not mandatory for successful prosecution. Regarding the other contention, the learned Public Prosecutor would contend that accused Nos.1 and 2 were apprehended from an area, which is proved to be a forest area, by Ext.P3 notification and the official witnesses have given cogent evidence to prove the seizure of the forest produce from them while they were attempting to remove the forest produce from the forest. As far as the 3rd accused is concerned, the learned Public Prosecutor would point out that it is pursuant to the confession made by petitioner Nos.1 and 2 that the forest produce cut by them were seized from the possession of the 3rd petitioner. It is pointed out that under Section 69, onus is on the petitioners to prove that the produce seized from them are not forest produce.

The Hon'ble Justice S. Siri Jagan heard the arguments advanced by both the parties and considered the rival contentions in detail.

Section 52 of the Forest Act speaks only about the reporting of seizure to the Magistrate having jurisdiction to try the offence, on account of which, the seizure has been made. Neither Section 52 nor any other provision of the Forest Act mandates production of seized property before the Magistrate for a successful production. The decision in Ancy Phillip's case (supra) also points to the said law only. Therefore, I am of opinion that for successful prosecution, for a forest offence, the Forest Act does not mandate that the seized forest produce should be produced before the Magistrate as material objects, if the other provisions of the statute are complied with. The prosecution has produced and proved Ext.P3 notification showing that the area in question is a forest. The forest officials have given cogent evidence to prove that petitioners 1 and 2 were apprehended while removing forest produce from the forest and on the basis of the confession made by petitioners 1 and 2, forest produce were seized from the premises of the 3rd petitioner as well. The petitioners were not able to produce any evidence that the seized materials are not forest produce. In such circumstances, going by Section 69 of the Act, it is for the petitioners to prove that the seized materials were not forest produce. No attempt has been made in that regard. Therefore, the court was satisfied that the prosecution has succeeded in proving the guilt of the respective petitioners beyond any reasonable doubt. Therefore, court did not find any merit in the Criminal Revision Petition and accordingly, the same is dismissed on 1.11.2012.

**Source:**Internet K.B.R

# మా తుఝే సలాం!

- కొసనావ కొండా మోహన్

*శత్రుదేశాల నుంచి ఉగ్రవాదులను*
*పక్కదేశాల నుంచి ముష్కర మూకలను*
*ఒళ్ళంతా కళ్ళు చేసుకొని*
*రేయింబవళ్ళూ కనిపెడ్తూ*
*క్షణకాలమైన కంటిపై రెప్పను వాల్చకుండా*
*ఈషణ్మాత్రమైనా ఏమరుపాటు చెందకుండా*
*తన దేశ పౌరులు కంటి నిండుగా*
*ఆదమరచి నిద్రిస్తుంటే..*
*వారి సౌభాగ్యమే తన భాగ్యమని*
*శీతల చలిలో, హిమనన్నగంలో*
*తన భార్యాపిల్లలు జ్ఞాపకాలే ఆశయై..*
*దేశ రక్షణ బాధ్యతయే శ్వాసయై..*
*తన మానప్రాణాలను తృణప్రాయంగా నెంచి*
*భరతమాతకు రక్షణ కవచమై*
*మువ్వన్నెల జెండా రెపరెపల్లోనే*
*సేదతీరే ఓ సైనికుడా !*
*మన దేశ ప్రజలందరి తరపునా నీకిదే సలాం!! సలాం*
*నీతో మేమూ గొంతు కలుపుతాం!!*
*మా.. తు ఝే.. సలాం..!!!!*

*(గణతంత్ర దినోత్సవం సందర్భంగా సరిహద్దు భద్రతా సైనికులను స్మరించుకుంటూ..)*

# చెట్టు

జ్వరం వచ్చినప్పుడు తెలుస్తుంది..
ఆరోగ్యం విలువ ఎంతటిదో...
అర్ధరాత్రయిన కంటిపై కునుకు రానప్పుడు తెలుస్తుంది
నిద్రలోని మాధుర్యం ఏమిటో..
ధరలు ఆకాశాన్ని అంటినప్పుడు తెలుస్తుంది..
కూరలు, పళ్ల విలువ ఎంతనో...
వ్రాసి చూస్తేనే తెలుస్తుంది
ఒక కవిత వ్రాయాలంటే పడే తపన ఎంతటిదో..
మరి.. చిమ్మ చీకటి లోపే తెలుస్తుంది
సూర్యుని వెలుగు రేఖల విలువ ఎంతటిదో..
సూర్య కిరణాలు కూడా విద్యుత్ కాంతులై వెలగాలంటే
మనిషి సాంకేతికంగా ఎదగక తప్పదు
భవిష్యత్తులో కరువు రాకుండా
నివారణ చర్యలు ఎంత ముఖ్యమో...
అలాగే మరి.. ఎండల్లో మధ్యాహ్నపు వేళ రహదారిపై
నడిచినప్పుడే తెలుస్తుంది
చల్లని నీడ నిచ్చే చెట్టు విలువ..
తమ ఫ్లాట్‌లో అలారం మోతతో నిద్ర లేచే వాడికే తెలుస్తుంది
పక్షుల కువ కువల విలువ..
చేతిలో చిల్లి గువ్వ లేకపోయినా..
నీవు ఎప్పుడో నాటిన మొక్క ఉంది కదా..!
నేడు చెట్టై.. నీ ఆకలి బాధ చూసి తన కొమ్మ నుంచి పండును రాల్చి
నిన్ను కన్న తల్లిలా కాపాడుతుంది.
నీడనిచ్చి తన ఒడిలో సేవ దీరుస్తుంది కదూ..
అందుకే ఇక ఆలస్యం చేయకుండా
నీ పుట్టిన రోజే కాదు నీ స్నేహితుల పుట్టిన రోజుకి కూడా
మొక్క నాటే ప్రయత్నం చేస్తే అదే..
నీ భావి తరాల వారికి నీవిచ్చే విలువైన కానుక...
అదే ధరణి మాతకు నీవందించే హరిత హారం..
ఏమంటావు మరి...

- ఉషా వినోద్ రాజవరం.

# బాజా భజంత్రీలు

వి.వి.హరి ప్రసాద్

నాడు
ఎన్నికల జోరులో
ఉపన్యాసాల హోరుతో
మారిన ఓటరు తీరుతో
ఏర్పాటయితే కొంగ్రొత్త ప్రజా దర్బారు !

నేడు
కంటి తుడుపు ఋణమాఫీలతో
కన్నీరు యింకిన రైతన్నలు కొందరైతే
కరెంట్ అందక గరళం మింగిన
అన్నదాతలెందరో !!

"పవర్ కట్" లతో
పాలిపోయిన రైతన్నల నాట్లు
కలిసి రాని కాలం తో
ప్రకృతి కన్నెర్ర చేస్తే వచ్చిన పాట్లు
కానీ
ఎప్పుడో కదా రాలాలి ఓట్లు
అందుకే పాలకులకు మాత్రం
అవి చంద్రమతి మాంగల్యాలు !!
అయినా
వాగాడంబరాలు
అంబరాన్ని తాకుతుంటే
గెలుపు సంబురాలు
మిన్నంటుతుంటే
నిజం పలికే పలికలకు మాత్రం
ఏనాట చూసినా కొదవే !!

వర్తమానం ఎలాగోలా గడిస్తే
భవితలో
ఓ చోట బంగారు ప్రాంతమే ధ్యేయం
మరో నోట స్వర్ణ రాష్ట్రమే వ్యూహం
ఏతా వాతా తెలుగు నేల
పసిడిమయం కావటం ఖాయం ?

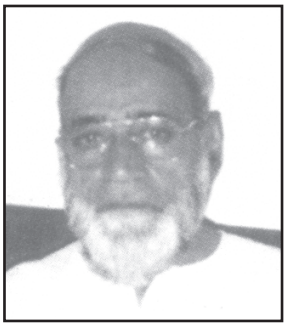
అందుకేనేమో
ఎండ మావుల్లో నీరు తోడటానికి
కుహనా మేధావులు ఏతాలు
సిద్ధం చేస్తున్నారు !

రాజకీయ వాగ్దానపు
నేతి బీరకాయలలో పరులై పారే
నిజాయితీ ఘృతంతో
అభివృద్ధి ఫలాల వంటకాలు చేస్తే
ఆస్వాదిద్దామని
అమాయక ప్రజా బాహుళ్యాలు ఎప్పటిలాగే
ఆవురావురంటూ ఎదురు చూస్తున్నాయి!!

రాబోయే పసిడి రేపును ఉరేగిద్దామని
ఆశల పల్లకీనీ
సిద్ధం చేశాయి
బాజా భజంత్రీలతో కదలి రండి
మందలు మందలుగా పల్లకీని మోద్దాం !!

# OBITUARY

## MUNAWAR HUSSAIN, IFS (Retd.) (09.04.1924 to 14.12.2014)



It is with deep sense of grief, we record the sad demise of Mr. Munawar Hssain, IFS (Retired), former Head of Andhra Pradesh Forest Department, in the night of 14th December 2014 at Naperville, IL, USA. He was ailing for some time when the end came. He was 90.

Born on 9th April 2014 at Hyderabad, he had his education at various institutions in the City, obtaining M. Sc. Degree from Osmania University. He was directly recruited as Asst. Conservator of Forests in the Princely State of Hyderabad in the year 1947 and deputed to Indian Forest College, Dehra Dun for training in 1947-49 batch. After undergoing training for a year at IFC, he was sent to Pakistan Forest College, Murree on account of partition of the Country and the communal disturbances that followed. He passed out from Murree College and joined the Hyderabad State Forest Service in 1949.

Mr. Munawar Hussain started his field career as DFO, Gulbarga and went on to be Working Plan Officer at Gulbarga before working as DFO of important Divisions like Warangal & Karimnagar. He assisted the Head of the Department as his Technical Assistant and later served as State Silviculturist and Forest Utilization Officer. After his promotion as Conservator of Forests, he worked in Vizag, Kurnool, Adilabad, STC, Khammam and Guntur Circles. With the advent of Indian Forest Service, he became a Member of the Service in Initial Recruitment. He went on to be the Vice-Chairman & Managing Director, AP Forest Development Corporation and later the Chief Conservator of Forests (HoD) during 1981-82 finally retiring from service on superannuation on 30.04.1982. He has several academic credentials to his credit. He went to Oxford to study land use planning and gained rich experience from his visits to UK, Holland, France and Switzerland.

In a pioneering effort, he introduced and implemented State Trading in Abnus Leaves successfully in the State against all odds. His contribution after retirement is singularly noteworthy as he was instrumental in formation of the Association of Retired Forest Officers, Andhra Pradesh and was its Founder President. He founded Madarsa-e-Arabia Fatima, Mallepally, Hyderabad, giving shelter to several hundreds of poor and destitute children, particularly the girls, whom he took under his wings to protect, to educate and make them self-reliant. The institutions he so created and nourished with utmost devotion and commitment speak volumes of his sacrifice and are standing testimony to the vision and sagacity of Mr. Munawar Hussain.

Acknowledged by all as a man of character, he was a perfect human being. A strict disciplinarian who brooked nothing even remotely unethical, he had a golden heart. He was never miserly in kindness or magnanimity. A man of impeccable integrity, he was the hallmark of honesty, rectitude, righteousness and simplicity in public life. His stern exterior belied the soft veneer of compassion inside. He left an indelible mark on the minds of those who worked with him and will be remembered as long as the institutions he created are around.

He is survived by his wife Mrs. Nuzhat Hussain, two daughters, four grandsons and three grand daughters and a host of admirers who include thousands who had the benefit of his guidance and several hundreds of poor children, who benefited from his munificence. Deeply religious, Mr. Hussain always believed that he did what God had ordained him to do. The Almighty must have surely assigned a respectable place for the Noble Soul in His Kingdom.

**-J V Sharma**

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

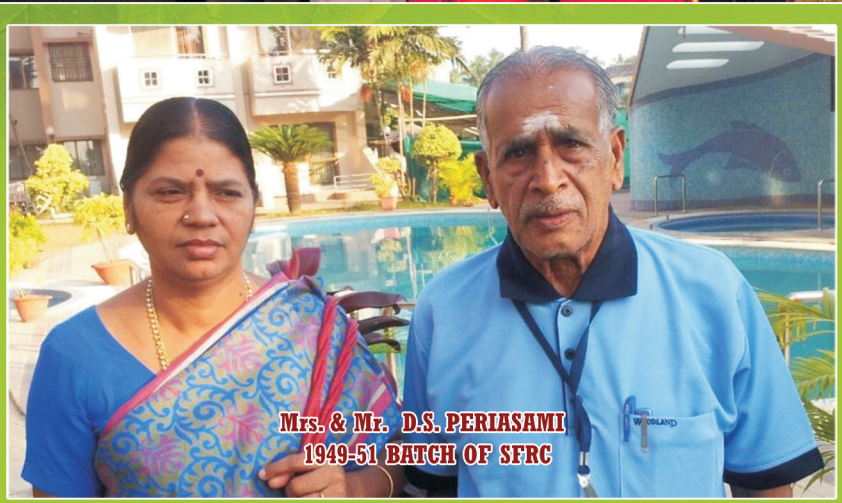
- Best practices in Bio-medical waste disposal in the State during the 2007 from APPCB, Hyderabad
- Greentech Environment excellence Gold Award -2006 from Greentech Foundation
- Good Green Governance Award-2006 from Srishti Publications (P) Ltd
- Golden Peacock Environment Management Award - 2006, by 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, GoI

**THE SINGARENI COLLIERIES COMPANY LIMITED**

Kothagudem, Khammam District, A.P. 507 101. India. **www.scclmines.com**

**One Family. One Vision. One Mission-The Spirit of Singareni**

PARTICIPANTS FROM TELANGANA & ANDHRA PRADESH



Mrs. & Mr. D.S. PERIASAMI
1949-51 BATCH OF SFRC

TUMHARI SALGIRAH KE DIN YE DUA HAI HAMARI
JITNE HAIN CHAND TARAY ITNI HO UMAR TUMHARI

## BOOK POST

**Registered with RNI R.No. Apeng/2002.2185**
**Postal Regn. No.LII/RNP/HDC/1154/2015-17**

**To** _____

_____

_____

**If Undelivered, Please return to :** Editor : VANA PREMI, Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Aranya Bhavan, 5th Floor, Room No. 514, Saifabad, Hyd - 500 004, T.S.

*Date of Publication: 26-12-2014* *Total pages 52* *Date of Dispatch : 4th or 5th of every month*

Venu Graphics, Hyderabad , 9246332717