VANA PREMI

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Great Indian Bustard *(Ardeotis nigriceps)*

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EDITORIAL

World Environment Day: - World Environment Day on 5th June every year is an annual event that aims to be the biggest and most widely celebrated global day for positive environmental action. World Environment Day celebration began in 1972.It was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 on the day that United Nations Conference on the Human Environment began. The first World Environment Day was celebrated in 1973. Since then it is hosted every year by a different city with a different theme. World Environment Day is also a day for people from all walks of life to come together to ensure a cleaner, greener and brighter outlook for themselves and future generations. The United Nations describes World Environment Day as "a people's event." On World Environment Day, all sorts of activities take place in countries and communities around the world—from parades, street rallies and concerts to planting of trees, recycling and community clean-up campaigns—all designed to bring attention to a wide range of environmental issues and to help people learn how they can get involved and make a difference.

World environment day is also known, as Eco Day. It has been one of the greatest annual events for years which are being celebrated worldwide by the people aiming to protect the unique and life nurturing Nature on every 5th June. in order to raise global awareness about the importance of a healthy and green environment in human lives, to solve the environmental issues by implementing some positive environmental actions as well as to make aware common public worldwide that everyone is responsible for saving the environment and not only, the government or organizations working for it. World environment day annual celebration campaign was started to address the huge environmental issues like wastage and losses of food, deforestation, increasing global warming and many others. Every year the celebration is planned according to the particular theme and slogan of the year to bring effectiveness in the campaign all through the world. The theme of the year 2013 was "Think Eat Save." And slogan was "Reduce Your Food print". The theme of the year 2014 was "Raise your voice, not the sea level". The theme of the year 2015 would be "One World, One Environment". Heads of states, prime ministers and ministers of environment deliver statements and commit themselves to care for the earth. More serious pledges are made. This observance also provides an opportunity to sign or ratify international environmental conventions.

'Life on Earth without water is simply unthinkable'. Three-fourths of the Earth is occupied by water. Human beings are made up of about 70 per cent of water. Yet, water threatens to become the 21st century's most burning issue. Wars are expected to break out

in the name of sharing of river waters. We are seeing such incidents in our country between various States. Conservationists down the decades have been cautioning us that polluting the seas and oceans will not only kill marine life and food, once considered to be an unlimited resource, but also deprive us of fresh water. The Ocean is vital to life on earth. From the life-giving rain that nourishes crops, to life-saving medicines; from the fishes and prawns as our food, that come from the ocean floor, to the goods that are transported on the sea's surface — the ocean plays an important role in our life in some way every day. We are polluting even these oceans and damaging all the living organism of the oceans. We are also polluting all the tanks, lakes and rivers and the best examples are Hussain Sagar, Kolleru and Musi respectively. The industrialization growth, damages the world environment by its harmful gases in the air which also damage the ozone layer which is also very harmful for living creatures. Greenery and forests also decrease with the increase in population. So we all should understand this and take further steps to keep the environment clean. It is very important for us and also for our coming generations.

Variety of activities are planned to celebrate this great event in different countries of the globe to encourage more people towards the celebration. Various news channels, take part very actively in the celebration to cover the news and distribute messages about the celebration among common public through their news publications to bring effective and positive changes towards the environment to solve all the environmental issues. Some of the national and international level activities include street rallies, planting of saplings, garbage recycling, cleaning the surrounding areas, and many others. People of all age groups, actively involve during the celebration to save their planet in its original form as gifted by the nature. Especially modern day youths hugely take part in the celebration through many activities. Many awareness campaigns are also run at schools, colleges and other educational institutions to motivate students towards their environmental safety. The celebration takes place at national and international level by organizing various activities in the public places to make common public aware about the real causes of environment degradation as well as let them know what steps should be taken to solve such environmental crises.

Though we are celebrating World Environment Day from 1973 onwards every year, yet very little improvement is seen. I have mentioned in the Editorial of April 2015 of Vana Premi, issue that "the Earth will find some way to survive, with us if we love and respect it or without us. So, it's we who stand to lose. It is our fight to save the mankind from annihilation. But if we decide to do nothing and let things be as they are, it could just be worse. Earth might just decide to take revenge". The earth has already started taking revenge on us and the examples of revenge by earth in our country and

neighboring country is, havoc In June 2013, a multi-day cloudburst centered on the North Indian state of Uttarakhand caused devastating floods and landslides becoming the country's worst natural disaster in which more than 5,700 people were "presumed dead" besides huge loss of property, Hud hud in Andhra Pradesh, again saw loss of life & property in which Vishakhapatnam and surrounding districts were completely destroyed and till today have not been able to recover from the damages caused by it. Recent heavy rains & landslides in Kashmir, and the earth quake in Nepal in which more than 7000 people died & few thousands are injured with huge loss of property is a recent tragedy. Continuously tremors are felt with short intervals. It is not known what is next. It is for the readers to decide whether the above mentioned incidents are revenge by the earth or ringing of danger bells to caution the most eminent among all the created beings. It is now time for us to understand the situation, take suitable corrective measures and actions to protect our earth from vagaries of nature & live peacefully failing which our next generation will not excuse us.

Vana Premi wishes that we all should unite together to take part in saving the earth during this year's World Environment Day on 5th of June. Wishing you all very happy and successful World Environment Day 2015 which will save, mother earth from the man-made vagaries. **QMK**

TREES AND THE LAUGHTER

How do trees access the internet?*They log on.*

What did the tree do when the bank closed?*It started its own branch.*

Why did the pine tree get in trouble?*Because it was being knot*

What did the trees wear to Mother Nature's pool party?*Swimming trunks!*

What did *Betulapendula* say to her super-annoying sister?*Leaf me alone, birch!*

What type of tree fits in your hand?*A palm tree*

What did the beaver say to the tree?*It's been nice gnawing you!*

How do you properly identify a dogwood tree?*By the bark!*

Where do saplings go to learn? *Elementreeschool*

Why do trees make great thieves?*Sticky fingers*

What is a triangle palm's favorite school subject?*Treegonometree*

What is every single tree's least favorite month?*SepTIMMMBERRR!*

What must trees drink responsibly?*Root beer*

Why can't the lonely evergreen stop thinking about high school?*She's still pining to be one of the poplar kids.*

Why do trees hate tests?*Because they get stumped by the questions*

Collected and contributed by Sri V.Devachary, ACF (Rtd) Warangal with thanks

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Dear sir,

The hard copy of Vanapremi (for the month of May, 2015) was received by me and others at Bangalore 10 days after getting posted at Hyderabad, and we had the opportunity to enjoy the entire contents for the next 10 days, commencing from your impressive and informative editorial on "World No Tobacco Day"! Articles from Syts .Kamal Naidu, Mukherjee, Sharma, Hariprasad, Sudhir Reddy, Pradeep, Shivakumar, K B R Reddy and poetic renderings in Telugu & Hindi by Parakala Anuradha & V V Hariprasad were indeed very interesting and immensely readable. All the contents inclusive of a couple more, made the said issue of your monthly a memorable one. I envy you for motivating the (far & near)potential writers to contribute articles (on varied subjects) by contacting them in an exemplary manner, which trait our Editorial Board would like to follow for the KRFOA mouthpiece "Vana Vikas", hoping to succeed similarly.

As desired by you, a couple of short articles (in lieu of 'a long one' you indented for) along with scanned copies of a couple of Urdu write-ups are being attached herewith for perusal and further needful.

Sincerely,

Dr. Raghotham Rao Desai

Dear Sir,

In terms of conservation for the fantastic wealth of our Indian forests...

The website helps nature-lovers like me to indulge into the depths of the wonderful wealth of information…

Hidden in the minds of the many forgotten forest officers who deserve kudos for their hard work and did not seek publicity as against the officers of nowadays who thrive on merely on publicity and less of field work.

Cheers to you, KBR and your team...

N. Shiva Kumar,Noida, Delhi. 07.05.2015

GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD
(ARDEOTIS NIGRICEPS)

The great Indian bustard *(Ardeotis nigriceps)* is a tall, long legged bird. The underparts and neck are white, there is a black crown on the forehead and the upperbody is brown. The wings are marked with black, brown and grey. The sexes are similar in appearance although males have a larger black crown, long hind crown feathers and a black band across the breast.

Biology: -

In the 19th century, flocks of more than 20 birds were a common site on Indian grasslands but today groups are unlikely to number more than three individuals. Little is known about the breeding ecology of the great Indian bustard. Although it is possible for breeding to take place year-round, it seems to be mainly dictated by the monsoon. Nests are situated in the open ground and males take no part in incubation or care of the developing young; only a single egg is laid. The fledglings tend to remain with their mother until the following breeding season.

Great Indian bustards are opportunists, feeding on a wide range of items depending on their seasonal availability. Invertebrates such as grasshoppers and beetles are the preferred diet but in leaner times these are substituted with seeds such as Bengal gram, groundnut and soya

Range: -

Previously widespread and common across the Indian subcontinent, the great Indian bustard has today all but disappeared from Pakistan and populations in India are severely reduced.

Habitat: -

The great Indian bustard is found in dry grasslands and scrub where there are scattered bushes and some cultivation.

Status: -

The great Indian bustard is classified as Critically Endangered (CR) on the IUCN Red List, and listed on Appendix I of CITES.

Threats: -

The great Indian bustard has become extinct in almost 90 percent of its former range, principally as a result of loss of habitat and poaching. The conversion of the land for agriculture and widespread hunting, which became more prevalent with the onset of vehicle transport, have both contributed to the precipitous decline in this species

Conservation: -

The great Indian bustard is listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972 in India and international trade is prohibited by its listing on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) . A number of sanctuaries have been set up with the aim of preserving this species; however, this may not be the most effective means of conservation, as population numbers have continued to decline. The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) is urging the Indian Government to adopt a 'Project Bustard' scheme along the same lines of 'Project Tiger'. Such a high-profile project would be invaluable for raising awareness about the plight of India's 4 bustard species, and would be an important method of preserving the arid grassland habitat that is currently poorly protected in this country.

(Source Internet)

... AND MORE ABOUT OSMANIA UNIVERSITY

By
J. V. Sharma

On seeing my old friend Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai's article 'Osmania means' (Vana Premi – May 2015), I felt I should add a few more facts relevant to the topic. I was one year senior to Dr. Rao in the University and happened to see the institution even in 1949, hardly a year after Police Action. Those were the twilight years of transition just out of princely dispensation but the environment that existed prior to political change was still very much in evidence. It is only appropriate to look at the facts with reference to the period of Pre- and Post- change of rule.

Until and for quite some time even after Police Action, Osmania University was known better by its Urdu equivalent "*Jamai Osmania*". *Jamai* in Urdu means University. It is located over a sprawling expanse of about two thousand acres nearer to the developing areas of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. The Railway Station and the Post Office in the vicinity still go by that name. The sign boards and destination boards on NSR-RTD buses bore the same name. Even the logo had the inscription 'Jamai Osmania' in Urdu. Though Hyderabad Princely State was trilingual, all the three local languages (Telugu, Marathi and Kannada) were conspicuous by absence on the logo. The motto in Devanagari script and Telugu name were later additions after States Re organization in 1956.

The University had the magnificent Arts College building which also served as seat of Administration. It also accommodated the library and Room No. 57 served as Assembly Hall. Examination Branch and the Dispensary functioned from the dungeon besides a modest cafeteria. Other notable permanent structures in the campus were the Physics Building, the Chemistry Building and the Biology Building in a row to the left of Arts College having a view of Landscape Garden. The Biology Building, in addition to its two wings of Botany and Zoology, also accommodated part of Agriculture College. The other permanent structures were the Engineering College and A & B Hostels with attendant dining halls. Veterinary College, Chemical Technology Department and I, II and III Year classes of MBBS were run in barracks on the other side of the Landscape Garden. Three other hostels, C, D and E and dining halls were also housed in barracks. Translation Bureau was the other important department in the barracks and its function was to translate standard text books of other languages into Urdu. Excepting the Landscape Garden and the avenue trees along the internal roads, there was no greenery worth the name and all the open areas including the surrounds of the prestigious buildings were barren and desolate.

Medium of instruction was Urdu. It is said that students were required to wear bluish grey *sherwani* and white pajama and a headgear until the political change. Students were not many and the campus life was easy and leisurely. Understandably, Osmania University did not then rank among the well-known seats of learning in the country and much less abroad. Academic life was sedate and uneventful and the Alumni felt they were clearly disadvantaged for lack of outside exposure. Osmania University cannot be discussed in isolation without looking at the educational environment obtaining in the State in general and Hyderabad in particular. After all the health and ethos of an apex educational center depend much on these traits obtaining in its catchment area. The issue is also closely linked with prevailing socio-economic scenario during the corresponding period. Princely State of Hyderabad, better known as Nizam's Dominions within the overall suzerainty of the British, comprised of 16 districts with 8 Telugu speaking districts of Telangana, 5 Marathi speaking districts of Marathwada and 3 Kannada speaking districts of Karnatak. It was the biggest princely State in the sub-continent in terms of population and privileges as it had its own currency, customs, post, railway, police, judiciary and army which no other State enjoyed. Majority of population (more than 85%) were Hindus and the ruler was a Muslim. His Exalted Highness *AlaHazrat* Sir Mir Osman Ali Khan *Bahadur*, the Seventh in line of the *Asafjahi* Dynasty was the ruler when India attained independence. One has to construe that the University derived its name from that of the Ruler.
Though there is not much to differentiate between the socio-economic levels of the majority and minority communities barring the privileged among the both, the Muslim Community got used to the natural advantages of the Prince being a Muslim. While poverty, illiteracy and backwardness among Muslims in country side was as bad as that of their Hindu brethren, the elite and the enterprising among them reaped all the benefits in the form of lands, *Jagirs,* employment and patronage. Some feudal elements among Hindus too availed these benefits to some extent but the weightage always heavily rested with Muslim Community. In practice, the princely rule in the State was, by and large, propped by these feudal elements who exercised vice like grip over the populace helping monarchy to perpetuate its rule.

State effort in the fields of education, communications, health, agriculture and social welfare were abysmally insignificant and inadequate. Speaking of Telangana region alone, each district had hardly one High School. There was only one college in Warangal (outside Hyderabad) in the entire region where education up to Intermediate only was available. Perforce, students desirous of higher education had to reach Hyderabad. Many did not have the facilities or resources to prosecute higher education at Hyderabad and had to resign to their fate. Thus only the affluent and the elite and of course the enterprising, had access to any education worth the name. It is not an exaggeration to say that even primary education was available only at Taluq headquarters and the children from rural areas were deprived of the facility. There were only two Intermediate colleges in Hyderabad,

namely the City College for Sciences and the Chaderghat College for Arts and both of them with Urdu medium. For undergraduate courses, one has to join either Osmania University Campus where too the medium if instruction was Urdu or Nizam College affiliated to Madras University where it was English medium. Students from Urdu medium were generally denied admission in Nizam College. Barring one or two government schools in Hyderabad where the medium of instruction was English, all the government schools and colleges in the State had Urdu as medium of instruction. This had evidently forced the 85% Telugu speaking majority to go for Urdu medium. Telugu, the mother tongue, remained in curriculum as third language only up to 7Th class. Thereafter, the pupil had to opt either for Higher Mathematics or Telugu or English History or Arabic or Persian languages. A student hoping to study sciences for better prospects in higher education had to opt for Higher Mathematics which invariably meant bidding good bye to his mother tongue with VII Class itself. All the subjects except English were taught in Urdu. The weekly holiday was on Friday. More than 90% of the posts at all levels in administrative and regulatory departments like Revenue, Police, Excise, Forests etc. were given to Muslims. If suitable hands were not available in the State, Muslim gentry from North were encouraged to migrate with offers of sops. In order to popularize Urdu language, several Kayasth& Khatri families from North conversant with the language were also given employment in the State. The locals, by and large, were considered only for small and inconsequential jobs. Even for the petty jobs like security guards, the Arabs from Middle-East were preferred.

There was nothing to desire in the field of Public health either. There was a dispensary only at Taluqhqrs. Medical aid worth the name could be had only in Hyderabad and the prestigious Osmania Hospital was known more for its grandeur than the quality of medical aid. More than 90% of the State did not have access to even ordinary medical aid. Any serious health problem in country side meant certain death. In this connection, it would be pertinent to mention that Sir TezBahadurSapru, a very highly respected leader from United Provinces who came to Hyderabad to attend the Convocation of Osmania University during the Nizam's rule, said in his speech that he saw appalling poverty enroute to Hyderabad and the spectacular structures of Arts College of Osmania University, the High Court, Osmania Hospital in the Capital City, are meaningless when the backwardness is writ large over the rest of the State.

There is another institution at Hyderabad called Nizam College. It is older and fervently patronized by the elite. It was affiliated to Madras University and was held in high esteem for its standards of education and status. It had tried and tested teaching staff which had pan-Indian reputation. Most of the higher posts in government service were filled up with products of this college while crumbs were left for others to grab. It is relevant to mention that Madras University in those days catered to higher educational needs of almost the whole of South India.

Story is different after the princely rule. Some incursions and encroachments of the University area notwithstanding, there has been very significant improvement in almost all facets of University functioning. A number of new faculties have come and several buildings came up. It had acquired vibrant academic activity with vastly improved infrastructure. Barring a few dents in its reputation due to political and student agitations, the University made a name in the comity of sister institutions in the country. Not many universities can boast of the advantages this university now enjoys.

Genuineness of deeds is tested on the touchstone of objectives and intentions. They need to be put to strict proof before accepting them to be right. Nizam's*Firman* to establish the University comes under scrutiny in this context. It presupposes that there are defects in the modern system of education in the physical, intellectual and spiritual fields and the Crown desires that the modern & ancient and the oriental & western arts should be combined by the University to remove the defects. The University should aim at spreading of education with scope for improvement and reform of morals of the students. Basic principle of the University is ordained to have Urdu as medium of instruction for higher education. Barring the last part of the edict that Urdu, be the medium of instruction, the rest is too abstract to comprehend and much less to comply. I wonder whether any serious attention is paid to this narration either during Nizam's Rule or even thereafter. Urdu is a beautiful language. It is widely accepted for its rich vocabulary. It has great expressive potential. It is nice to hear and nicer to speak. Having studied in Urdu medium I have great liking for the language and find myself more comfortable with it. Above all, it is a native language enriched by anything best in other languages. While framing the Constitution, there was a strong bid to, make *Hindustani* (Urdu in other words) as national language. Great men like Nehru, C. Rajagopala Chari were in its favor. There was an equally strong section in the Constituent Assembly to make Hindi as *Rashtrabhasha*. No compromise could be struck and the matter was put to vote. An extraordinary situation arose when it turned out to be a tie. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly exercised his casting vote to clinch the issue in favor of Hindi.

The choice of Urdu as Medium of Instruction in OU needs to be seen in the context of circumstances then prevailing in the State. Question that should come foremost is; what prompted the Nizam to choose Urdu as medium of instruction at all? Then, if the choice is made in its favor to the exclusion of regional languages spoken by 85% of the population, what message does it send? Bitter truth is the Ruler sought to hijack this beautiful Urdu language to perpetuate his rule identifying it with a community which was in stark minority. Evidently he was trying to bring in a new class of educated people who will prop his rule as committed servants. This new generation is useless for any other purpose outside his administrative realm. As a corollary the local regional languages will get stifled and remain stunted initially to be forgotten totally with passage of time. These languages could eventually turn out to be only spoken languages, impoverished in literary content.

The Ruler did indeed succeed to great extent. Telugu (in Telangana context) which was vibrant in rural Telangana even without State patronage was gradually losing its relevance. Present generation may not believe that most of the Muslims in rural areas spoke Urdu but did not know it as a language. Instead, they were extremely proficient in the local language. Many Muslims were teaching Telugu in villages. Assault on local language was not confined to higher education alone and it percolated to even primary education. Parallel classes were run for Urdu and Telugu and it is obvious that Urdu was the preferred language for the advantages it would offer in future. Telugu was thus left to its slow death. About forty years of implementation of this policy rendered Telugu unimportant as literary language and Telangana people became less proficient in Telugu in time capsule. Consequences of this setback can still be felt even now.

Romanticism, quite often, tends to blur the core issues which influence the evolution of society. Humanitarian gesture by VI Nizam, *Nawab* Mir Mahabbob Ali Khan *Bahadur,* tying a holy thread at the time of Musi floods in 1908 on the advice of a Hindu priest or Maharaja KishenPershad marrying Muslim ladies are no standard symptoms of communal tolerance. It was a time of great distress when Mahaboob Ali Pasha obliged the Hindu Pandit. Similarly, if Maharaja KishanPershad married Muslim ladies (please note the plural) it was perhaps more to satiate his carnal desires than a favor to Muslims. There is no dearth of sycophants in history; they follow the power like a shadow. Similarly, it is unfair to invoke *Ganga-JamunaTehzib* in the context of establishment of Osmania University. It should not be the case of a misplaced credit where it is not due. Grouse is against the hidden intensions of the ruler in making Urdu as medium of instruction but not against Urdu or the university. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan did not opt for Urdu in Aligarh Muslim University nor did Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya bat for Sanskritised Hindi for Banaras Hindu University. Difference between the Nizam and they is the former had an agenda of his own while the latter did not have any.

Appreciations showered by C. Rajagopala Chari and Rabindranath Tagore for according a place of pride to a native language is understandable as do most of us. It is self-esteem that prevails in such circumstances. But in the longer run, issues get determined on hard realities. I had seen CR promoting Hindi in South as President of *Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha* and years later, when English was sought to be replaced as National Language by Hindi as ordained in Constitution, the same CR leading an agitation for continuation of English in the company of well-known Hindi promoters like Prof. Sunderlal and Dr. SaifuddinKichlew and I had the good fortune of hearing them in Lady Hydari Club Hall, Hyderabad. This event did not mean they were against Hindi and the fact was the change did not fit in the overall administrative logistics of the country. Hard realty today is that no university in India prefers a native language as medium of instruction for non-language subjects and English enjoys un-parallel patronage. India has perhaps a wider view of the world now.

It is necessary to allow the events to make history instead of opinions manipulating history.
(Editor's Note; Views expressed by author are his personal.)

AS I JOINED MADRAS FOREST COLLEGE....

Musings:

By
Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai

Heart pounding, misgivings aplenty and trepidation gripping every inch of me….I stood at the entrance of the vast compound of MFC on reaching it by taxi traversing long and meandering route from Coimbatore Railway Junction to the hundred-feet-road of Rathnasabapathi puram during the last week of June, 1954, awaiting the arrival of the Security Personnel from inside the premises to open the locked gate.

Having finally zeroed in on this profession after much dithering I was still unsure of the choice so made at that very young age of nineteen. My heart skipped a beat as I sighted a well-built, uniformed security guard and my mind started racing….I was diffident and wondered how would I fare in the intensive training course, which isn't considered a cakewalk, with the medium of instruction being English, while I had Urdu medium throughout as an Osmanian in a faraway State (which was of the opinion that those can serve better who are well-conversant with Urdu, since important basic records of the Forest Department were maintained in that language; and hence such candidates were preferred over others). Would I be able to get along with my peers and the seniors? With ragging being rampant in every college, the very thought sent shivers down my spine.

My mind clouded with multiple thoughts as I found myself walking from the gate inside, at the unobtrusive extreme-left-side of the approach-road, accompanying the Security who knew no other language than Tamil. Prayer on my lips, fingers crossed —— as the Security's Assistant carried my belongings —— I wondered whether I'd see the day through unscathed. At the moment, a few seniors encountered me: looking rather genial, they tried to dispel my fears palpable on my face. With a sceptical look, I tried speaking politely, incoherent gurgles spilling from my mouth as I revealed that I was from Hyderabad State! Feeling amused, they decided to leave me to myself.

Finally, as I entered the portals of the Institution by looking at the massive building of the College on the sprawling campus area, my initial apprehension vanished and slowly I made my way towards the college-block earmarked for juniors my heart thudding faster with each step I took. Along with my new friends who were met at the entrance to the class, I marched inside the classroom on the ground-floor —— all of us resembling soldiers heading to some warzone!

Well, that was years ago. After that, the time went fleeting by, with frenetic speed —— two years later, I was prepared to bid adieu to my alma-mater. On the last day of my Forestry training, I felt bombarded by nostalgia —— unforgettable times spent with amazing friends, the thrill of swotting and successfully sailing through annual exams, the tongue-titillating canteen-food (pun unintended), the innumerable un/planned outings, trips/tours, the staggering working hours during field-works, not to discount the shudders on seeing for the first time steep hill slopes to be ascended clothed with dense tree-cover.

Fast forward to the present: after having comfortably acclimatised myself to this new ambience, indeed I consider myself singularly fortunate to be surrounded by several competent, super-dynamic senior colleagues, amicable authorities and ever-graceful heads of the department, all of whom had made my learning and working supremely enjoyable and interesting. Truly, I'm eternally beholden to one and all of them!

IMPACT OF INTENSIVE FOREST PROTECTION IN RANGE, WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU IMPLEMENT LAW OF THE LAND IN LETTER AND SPIRIT

By
Ms. P. SYAMALA

As part of our two year Field training, I held one year Range charge of Bandiatmakur Range of Wildlife Division, Nandyal from October, 2012 to September 2013. As I had earlier been attached to Nandyal Wildlife Division from June, 2012, I am well acquainted with conditions prevailing in the division regarding protection.

The Bandiatmakur Range is part of G.B.M. Sanctuary, where Tiger is the flagship species. The total area of the Range is 12865.90 ha out of which the Sanctuary area is 8089.64 ha which constitutes 62.87% of the total area. The forest type is Dry mixed deciduous forest with Bamboo. The principal hill range is Nallamalas.

The major problem in the Range is smuggling of Bamboo. The villages like Narayanapuram, G.C. Palem, Lingapuram, Singavaram. ChinnaDevulapuram, Peddadevulapuram are mostly dependent on Bamboo for their livelihood. Of these Narayanapuram is very problematic and dependence on bamboo is high in this village. Mostly SCs, STs and Minorities in the village utilize bamboo and they are supported by the local politicians. They have been making *Thatties,* Baskets etc., from Bamboo and export to Hyderabad, Karnataka etc.

The people dependent on the Bamboo can be divided into two groups.

1) Labor — who usually get daily wages from middle man for making of *thatties*, Baskets, etc.

2) Middle men - who purchases bamboo from Government Depots as well as from the smugglers. They transport the finished products to other places. . Nearly 350 families are working as laborers with about 40 middle men. The middle men get Bamboo from Depot for Rs.30/ to 40/- whereas the same can be bought from smugglers at a low cost of Rs.15/-to 20/.

Bamboo is being smuggled in the following ways:

1. Illegal transport of finished goods in the form of *Thatties,* Baskets etc.
2. Illegal Bamboo cutting from Forest.

The middle men purchase some quantity of bamboo from Government depots to legalize the transportation of their finished products. The system is like that 30% of Bamboo is purchased from Government Depots and 70% is smuggled from forest mostly coming from the sanctuary area, which disturbs the habitat of Tiger. There is a huge gap between the bamboo purchased and finished goods transported.

Regularizing the permit system

To control the smuggling of finished goods the previous Divisional Forest Officer, Nandyal introduced aSelf-permit system i.e., the people

who are doing business of Bamboo, should take prior permission to transport their finished products through vehicle and should submit self-permit in Range Office indicating the Form II permit No., number of Bamboo utilized for making. *Thatties*or other products and the quantity of balance Bamboo available with them etc. The middle men usually smuggle finished goods during night time and to control this, the staff are facing sleepless nights. So they are unable to go regularly into the forest during day time to catch the Bamboo carts.

After taking the Range charge, to control this, the entire Range staff was divided into teams, and allotted duties in vulnerable routes to conduct night patrolling daily and permission has not been given for transportation of finished goods during day time also. Moreover the seized vehicles were not released immediately and even when released a hefty compounding fee was collected. Seized vehicles were kept for more than one month which caused substantial financial loss to middle men in the form of vehicle rent i.e., Rs.1000/day. Due to this, the middle men had no chance to do illegal transportation, the people fell in line and made a request to give permission to transport the Bamboo products and assured us that illegal transportation would henceforth be stopped.

Then the system was modified in a way that permission is given only for two vehicles per day after thorough checking of the permits. In this way the illegal transportation of finished goods was totally controlled within two months. Due to this the staff is now free from spending sleepless nights and is able to concentrate on field works during day time. Earlier the,self-permits were issued in duplicate, one for Range Office and another for party who had purchased the products. Due to this proper record was not maintained and there was chance of mischief that the same permit could be used several times. To avoid this, triplicate system was introduced. The extra one would be retained in the permit book. Hence, transparency is maintained.

More over the middlemen is instructed to maintain Self permit book and instructed to produce it whenever required. Every time it is not possible to count the *thatties* and other products loaded in the vehicle. To avoid this middle men were instructed to take prior permission and produce a request letter for transportation, along with number (Quantity) of products being transported, willingness to be subjected to departmental action, if any violation occurs. The illegal transportation of finished goods could be fully controlled within two months with these stringent measures and moral fear is created among middle men.

To further streamline the permit process, the following steps are suggested.

1) Maintaining the Register of Middlemen with their details in Division office as it is the problem of entire Division
2) The self-permit book should be certified by Divisional Forest Officer, Nandyal
3) The Middle men should submit abstract of transactions monthly to the concerned Range office and annually to Division office.

4) The concerned Forest Section Officer should submit monthly inspection report to Range office regarding the bamboo stock with middle men

Measures taken to control the Bamboo cases:

Earlier about 15 to 20 Bullock carts used to go into the forest daily for Bamboo, mostly from Narayanapuram village. There is a strong notion among the smugglers and staff as well that since Bamboo is such a species that it can grow rapidly, hence the Bamboo case need not be treated as a major case. But it is very important to avoid disturbance and destruction in this area because it is a Tiger habitat, apart from bamboo being food for herbivores. To control this, the staff was instructed to go into interior forest to catch the Bamboo carts, which brought a sense of fear in smugglers and they were not given any chance to escape.

Besides this there is strong opinion in the smugglers that the Bamboo carts which were left in forest would not be seized by department personnel due to conveyance problem. To prevent this, the Bamboo carts were brought to Range Office by engaging private vehicles. In this way moral fear was created among village people and smugglers that the department is very strong and committed in controlling Bamboo cases.

Usually the Bamboo carts are compounded with a meager amount like Rs.500/- to Rs.1000/-.To regulate this compounding fee was increased even u to Rs.15, 000/-. Moreover, the Bamboo carts are released after two to three months. At the time of release, a self-bond is taken from accused for not going into the forest and in case he repeats the offence, department has full power to take any action including confiscating the carts and prosecuting the offender. Earlier there was no practice of prosecuting the offender for Bamboo cases and confiscating the bamboo carts in the division. Hence a gradual change is brought in offenders and in village people through such regular counseling .

Due to this the number of smugglers is reduced and the village people and politicians have decreased their support to the smugglers. While releasing the carts, photos, ID cards of accused are taken and recorded in the Range Office. The soft copies are kept in Range computer for future use. The habitual offenders numbering nearly 10 members were arrested under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Counseling is given to owners of wood planning machines not to cut illegal timber for smugglers and notices are also given for seizing of machines if any such violation occurs. Due to this the smuggling of timber is stopped and people would go to the forest at the most for fire wood and that too for dry and dead ones.

Bringing Bamboo carts to Range office through villages is very difficult because entire village people would obstruct the staff and staff was assaulted earlier for this in so many instances. For this I would like to quote one instance that occurred in the month of August, 2013. I got information that nearly 20 Bullock carts have gone into the forest for Bamboo. Instructions

were given to the staff to seize the carts. By knowing this the bamboo carts were left in interior area by smugglers.We could not get private vehicles to bring the carts to Range Office due to fear of Narayanapuram village. For this a request was made to Divisional Forest Officer, Atmakur to provide Government vehicle. To escort this police support is taken from Deputy Superintendent of Police, Nandyal. Four Constables are provided. At around 05.30 PM I and staff started with Eicher vehicle to that place to bring the carts. In midst of Narayanapuram village, our jeep and vehicle were stopped by about 300 people of Narayanapuram village. Specially women lay in front of our Jeep and made *dharna*. At the time I was very stubborn and said only one thing to all that, there is no chance of leaving the carts whatever it may be. If they continue to obstruct Government officials, the entire Division staff will come to seize the carts. After long discussion, the village people agreed to hand over the carts to Range Office without any problem. At around 11.00 PM the carts were brought to Range office. I am quoting it as an example, but this is the prevailing condition in Narayanapuram village. Till now no Range Officer has taken any step to bring the carts from the notorious Narayanapuram village.

The same people along with people of Lingapuram, G.C. Palem on an earlier occasion had stopped the vehicle of Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, A.P., Forest Department and started*dharna* in Narayanapuram village for taking intensive measures to prevent the bamboo smuggling at very beginning of my Range charge i.e., on 27-11-2012, when the PCCF, AP, Hyderabad came for inspection of plantations. From this stage the situation has changed in a way that without any obstruction the staff is able to bring the carts to Range office by the end of my range charge. Besides this, thorough watch is kept on staff movement and Base camp members to stop their connivance. To prevent the Bamboo smuggling entirely, the following measures are suggested:

1. Confiscation of Bullock carts and booking cases under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
2. Further strengthening of Base camps at Narayanapuram and Honkaram.

Honesty and regular movement in the forest played a major role in curbing the Bamboo smuggling and timber. Due to K.C canal and TGP canal two rice crops are being produced and there is no need for the people to depend on forest for their livelihood, except *Erukalas* and *Medaras*whose traditional profession is making articles from Bamboo. For this the Bamboo should be supplied to them from Government Depots which will reduce their dependence on forest. For this request is made to Divisional Forest Officer, Logging Division, Nandyal to increase the supply of bamboo at subsidized rates to Middle men.

"AINA NENU ODIPOLEDU"(I HAVEN'T BEEN DEFEATED) A JOURNEY FROM FARM LABORER TO IT FIRM'S CEO

By
Sulogna Mehta

From the fields of Warangal, where she used to earn Rs. 5 per day, to becoming the CEO of Key Software Solutions in the US, it has been a long journey for D Anila Jyothi Reddy.

The story of the charismatic entrepreneur who employs 63 people is as dramatic as that of a Bollywood movie. "I never feel shy about speaking of my background, though some of the experiences were unpleasant and hurtful," said Reddy, who is in the city to take part in the International Women's Day celebrations being held at the UGC Academic Staff College, Andhra University.

Reddy was the second of five siblings of a poor family. Having lost her mother early in life, Jyothi was put in an orphanage so that she could get some education. She passed Class X in first division but extreme poverty forced her to discontinue studies and work in the fields.

When she was 16, Reddy was forcibly married off to a distant cousin and in the next two years she had two children. Tired of living in poverty and desirous of giving her children a good life, Reddy kept trying for various jobs. In 1988, she joined as adult education teacher at a remuneration of Rs 120 a month. "In those days, Rs 120 was a lot of money for me. I could at least buy fruit and milk for my children. Next, I worked as a National Service Volunteer for Rs 200 a month," she said.

"Despite my husband's disapproval, I moved out of the village, Mailaram, with my children and went to Hanamkonda town. I joined a typing institute, did a craft course and earned Rs 20-25 daily by stitching petticoats at Re 1 per piece. I also got a job as the librarian at JanasikshanaNilayam and joined an open school where I would go every Sunday to continue my studies," said Reddy.

"In 1992, I got an 18-month job as a special teacher at Ameenpet, 70 km from Warangal. The journey would cost me more than my salary. I used to sell Saris in the train every day to earn the extra money. Finally I got a regular job in 1994 at a monthly salary of Rs 2,750. I worked as Mandal girl child development officer and would inspect the schools," she said.

The ambitious woman was not satisfied with earning just enough to bring up her two children. When she saw her cousin, who had come down from the US to Warangal in 1998, she wondered about the differences in their

lifestyle and felt that she could learn software courses like her cousin and try to better her fortunes in the US.

"My next step was to learn software from VCL Computers in Hyderabad. I took a long leave from the office; got my passport and H1 visa ready and in 2000 I went to the US, where my husband's cousin was. I took a job in a shop earning $60 for a 12-hour job and stayed as a paying guest with a Gujarati family," said the Key Software Solutions CEO whose autobiography Aina Nenu Odipoledu (I haven't been defeated) is to be released on March 10.

"Then a contact in the US asked me to join as a software recruiter. Though I wasn't fluent in English then, I overcame all challenges and gradually started my own company," she said.

With her children, who are now engineering graduates, married and settled in the US, Reddy wants to focus on her dream project which is providing placement and training to 1,000 youth and to start a school that has classes from LKG to PG. Reddy, who is associated with numerous charitable projects, is also an ardent advocate of orphans' rights.

"I want to do much more. Women can also become better businessmen than men by sheer hard work and intelligence," she said.

"I want to tell women to be economically independent and take their own decisions instead of depending on their fathers, husbands and sons at various stages in life. They keep educational degrees as mere certificates and stop working after marriage unlike in the US. Be the master of your fate and remember, taking care of children is part of life, but not a life," she said. **(Source internet)**

NOTICE

The 76th GENERAL BODY MEETING of the Association of Retired Forest Officers of Telangana & Andhra Pradesh will be held on 14-06-2015 at K.B.R.Park Hyderabad at 11:30 A.M. All the members are requested to participate in the detailed discussions on implementation of Haritha Haram in Telangana and NeeruChettu in Andhra Pradesh. Suggestions and contributions are invited for improvement of green cover within and outside the forests. Al the members are requested to attend the meeting along with their spouses.

SECRETARY

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL BODY MEETING OF RETIRED GAZETTED FOREST OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF WARANGAL CIRCLE ON 26-04-2015.

The meeting started with the welcome address by Sri V. Devachary, General Secretary. Sri V. Kishan Reddy the senior member of the Association was invited as the Chief Guest and Sri G. Satyanarayana, President of the Association conducted the proceedings. Office bearers from Warangal and Karimnagar Districts occupied the seats on the Dias.

The senior member of the Association Sri C. JagannathReddy,Retired Divisional Forest Officer passed away at 11.45 PM on 7-02-1015 at his native place Nalapogula in Warangal district. He was 85 years and actively working in agriculture farm. After retirement he was practicing forestry and doing research on species like Teak, Eucalyptus, Sandalwood and Red sanders by raising nurseries, studying growth rate of various species. His farm was one of the demonstration plots for species Eucalyptus growing on saline soils by adopting soil conservation methods. He has planted Teak saplings of 20 feet height in his farm and made them to branch at the height 7-8 feet, so that each branch can grow as separate tree. He has planted Sandal trees under the shade of teak trees which are growing well. Members observed two minutes silence in memory of Late Sri. C. Jagannath Reddy and Late Sri K.Nagaraja Rao,

The General Secretary has submitted his report and also requested the members to give their opinion about taking part by interested members in the Harithaharam program in the districts during this rainy season.Sri A. Vijayakumar, member expressed his opinion about the program for taking part as third party inspecting team. But this was opposed by Sri S. Mallaiah and he gave his opinion that the Association has to take part in the program only to give technical guidance in planting, raising nurseries and to create awareness among the villagers to make the program a grand success. Sri V. Devachary also expressed same opinion.

During other discussions Sri V. Chakrapani, expressed his opinion that the Convener of the program may be requested to allot a location to be planted and the association can concentrate on such area and make it a successful planting. It was finally decided to submit a proposal to the Collector or the Convener regarding taking part in Harithaharam program only to the extent of giving Technical guidance in raising nurseries and planting and to bring awareness among the public. It is also decided to request the District Collector to allot a patch of common land proposed for planting preferably in district headquarters for adoption

by the Association for taking up planting and supervision.

The following new members who have attended the meeting for the first time were welcomed and introduced to the members.

1. V. Linga Rao, retired Divisional Forest Officer
2. M. PrabhakarReddy retired Sub Divisional Forest Officer.
3. B. Mothilal, retired Divisional Manager.
4 K. Sathaiah, retired Accounts Officer

The President thanked the Telangana Government for sanctioning the PRC to pensioners and gave a brief note of the G.O. No. 33 dated 7-4-2015.

Sri T. Karamchand the Treasurer submitted the Annual Accounts to the General Body and the same were accepted by the members.

Other items which were kept in the agenda were discussed in detail by the members and the following resolutions were passed in the meeting.

The Annual membership by the members is reduced from present Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 500/-. The members who paid Rs. 1000/-, will be adjusted for 2015 and 2016 years.

The General Body meetings will be conducted once in six months from now on wards at Warangal and another at Karimnagar.

The term of the Executive Committeemembera is modified from present two years to three years. As the term of the present committee is completed by today, the term of three years will be effected from next Executive Committee which will be elected today. It is also resolved to increase the number of Executive Committee members from present 12 to 15 by adding 3 more members. The following new posts are added. One Additional Joint Secretary for each district and one Executive Member, from any district.

Finally as the term of the present Executive Committee is completed today, it is decided to conduct elections today. Sri V. Kishan Reddy, Senior member is appointed as the Election Officer to conduct the Election assisted by Sri S. Mallaiah and Sri V. Linga Rao.

The Election Officer has invited nominations for all the posts. After discussions by the members and as per their desire all the Executive Members were elected unanimously.

The following members are elected to the posts mentioned against their names.

1. Sri G. Satyanarayana.
   President
2. Sri N. Srinivasa Rao.
   Vice- President from Warangal
3. Sri V. Chakrapani.
   Vice- President from Karimnagar
4. Sri V. Devachary.
   General Secretary from Warangal
5. Sri G. Krishna Reddy.
   Organizing Secretary from Karimnagar
6. Sri A. Vijaya Kumar.
   Joint Secretary from Warangal
7. Sri V. Puroshotham Rao.
   Joint Secretary from Karimnagar

8. Sri S. Chandramouli.
   Addl. Joint Secretary from Warangal
9. Sri S. Narsinga Rao
   Addl. Joint Secretary from Karimnagar.
10. Sri T. Karamchand.
    Treasurer
11. Sri Mohd. Tajuddin.
    Executive Member from Karimnagar
12. Sri S. Umapathy.
    Executive Member from Karimnagar
13. Sri K. Ramaswamy.
    Executive Member from Warangal
14. Sri S. M. Hussaini
    Executive Member from Warangal
15. Sri V. Linga Rao
    Advisor

All the newly elected members have thanked all the members for electing them and promised to run the Association to the expectations of the members.

It is also resolved to request the Manager ING Visya Bank/ KotakMahendra Bank , Subedari Branch to change the specimen signatures of the President, General Secretary and Treasurer of the Executive Committee elected today, in their records for operation of the Savings bank Account bearing Number 747010110474 of the Association

Mementos were presented by the Chief Guest to Sri K. Ram Reddy and Sri T. Karamchand who have hosted the dinner today. Sri T. Karamchand proposed vote of thanks and meeting came to an end..

V. Devachary
General Secretary

INVITATION

The Association of Retired Forest Officers, Telangana &Andhra Pradesh, Congratulates the following Forest Officers, who are retiring from service on attaining the age of superannuation on the dates mentioned against their names and cordially invites them to join the Association of Retired Forest Officers to keep in touch with their old colleagues and to keep themselves occupied.

Name of Officers	Retirement Date
Sri A. Kishan	30-06-2015
G. Ramakrishna Rao	30-06-2015

For further details they may contact the following –

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

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

-Secretary

Birth Day Greetings

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

S.No.	Name of the member	D.O.B.
	Sarva Sri	
1.	Masood Ali Khan	06-06-1941
2.	V.Janakiram Naidu	08-06-1936
3.	M.A.MaboodHazari	09-06-1955
4.	V.Devachary	09-06-1946
5.	T.Hanmanth Reddy	10-06-1943
6.	Md.Rahamatullah	13-06-1946
7.	K.Rameshwar	14-06-1936
8.	D. Sudhakar	14-06-1954
9.	M.V.S.Prakash Rao	15-06-1944
10.	Dr.N.R.K.Rao	15-06-1943
11.	QudrathMohiuddin Ahmed	15-06-1955
12.	P.Ashok Kumar	18-06-1953
13.	B.Malla Reddy	20-06-1937
14.	J.V.Sharma	20-06-1932
15.	S.Nauratan Singh	22-06-1942
16.	D.Ramnarayan	25-06-1950
17.	N.Linganna	01-07-1941
18.	M.Bullaiah	01-07-1952
19.	Sitaram Gupta	01-07-1952
20.	BadushaSaheb	01-07-1953
21.	Dr.E.Narasimhulu	01-07-1954

WORKING OFFICERS		DOB
1.	Munindra	06-06-1960
2.	N.Chandra Mohan Reddy	10-06-1961
3.	Mohan Chandra Pargaien	12-06-1964
4.	P.Madhusudhan Rao	15-06-1957
5.	Dr.B.V.Prasada Reddy	15-06-1957
6.	P.V.Chalapathi Rao	19-06-1968
7.	A.Kishan	20-06-1955
8.	Dr.C.Suvarna	24-06-1966
9.	S.Sri Sarvanan	25-06-1973
10.	Dr.Mohd.Iliyas Rizvi	29-06-1961
11.	Y.Babu Rao	30-06-1958
12.	Surendra Pandey	30-06-1957
13.	B.Anand Mohan	01-07-1957
14.	Ashok Kumar Sinha	01-07-1965
15.	TV Subba Reddy	01-07-1957
16.	Dr.K.P.Srivasuki	01-07-1956
17.	P.V.Ramana Reddy	01-07-1957
18.	J.S.N.Murthy	01-07-1958
19.	P.K.Sharma	01-07-1956
20.	K.Suryanarayana	01-07-1958
21.	V.Venkataramaiah	03-07- 1956
22.	D.K.Pandey	03-07-1956
23.	M.Ravikumar	04-07-1957
24.	G.Rama Krishna Rao	06-06-1957
25.	B.Venkateshwar Rao	08-06-1962
26.	A.Chandrasekhar	10-06-1965
27.	M.Srinivasa Rao	10-06-1961
28.	G.Srinivasulu	10-06-1968
29.	Smt. G.Mangamma	10-06-1983
30.	N.Rajendra Kumar	12-06-1969
31.	V.Satish Kumar	13-06-1968
32.	G.P.Anand	13-06-1967
33.	S.Madhava Rao	16-06-1968
34.	N.V.Sivaram Prasad	18-06-1966
35.	M.Janakiram	19-06-1964
36.	M.Raja Ramana Reddy	19-06-1968
37.	C.Venugopal Rao	20-06-1960
38.	M.V.Prasada Rao	20-06-1967
39.	Smt.T.Nagamaneswari	22-06-1974
40.	P.Jacob Benerjee	24-06-1958
41.	J.Venkateswar Rao	24-06-1967
42.	Smt.B.Praveena	25-06-1980
43.	K.Mohan	26-06-1964
44.	Smt.Ch.Balamani	26-06-1974
45.	Smt.P.Srilakshimi	27-06-1981
46.	G.Laxman	28-06-1963
47.	K.Somasekaram	01-07-1964
48.	B.V.A.Krishna Murthy	01-07-1967
49.	P.Sivashankar Reddy	01-07-1963
50.	S.Mustafa	01-07-1961
51.	T.Narasimhulu	01-07-1959
52.	A.Srinivasa Rao	01-07-1961
53.	Y.Sanyasi Rao	01-07-1962
54.	G.Dharma Raju	01-07-1963
55.	R.Srinivas	01-07-1986
56.	K.KhaderBasha	03-07-1960
57.	R.Srinivasa Reddy	05-07-1971

Secretary

FOR INDIA'S FARMERS, HARDER LIFE AHEAD: LATEST STUDIES

By
Max Martin

A wide range of reasons—including low productivity of land, market failures, debts, pests and uncertain weather—have led to a farming crisis in India, and farmer's suicides have become a serious humanitarian and political issue for more than a decade.

The unseasonal rain and erratic weather unsettling the Indian farmer—and the nation's agriculture, economy and politics—are no aberrations.

Extreme rainfall events in central India, the core of the monsoon system, are increasing and moderate rainfall is decreasing —as a part of complex changes in local and world weather—according to a clutch of Indian and global studies reviewed by **IndiaSpend**.

The stories of Indian farmers not only indicate changes over the past three years, as **IndiaSpend**recently reported, but longer-term patterns in India's agricultural lifeline, the monsoons.

Even when the average seasonal monsoon figure appear to be normal, fluctuations in rainfall in a country with 56% of sown area rainfed, can cause extreme wet and dry local conditions with wide economic, employment and social implications: about 600 million Indians depend on agriculture in India.

A wide range of reasons—including low productivity of land, market failures, debts, pests and uncertain weather—have led to a farming crisis in India, and farmer's suicides have become a serious humanitarian and political issue for more than a decade.

As the monsoons bring 85% of India's precipitation—all the water that falls to the ground as rain, snow and hail—fluctuations and uncertainties in weather can have serious impacts on farming.

Over 60 years, monsoon rainfall declines, variability increases

The average total rainfall during the peak monsoon season of July and August has declined since 1951, but the variability of rain during these months has increased—deluges are more severe, and dry spells more frequent. That is the finding of a 2014 Stanford University paper, which compares Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) data over two periods: 1951 to 1980, and 1981 to 2011.

"Our study focuses on multi-day wet and dry extreme events. We look at how often and for how long such events occur, and also examine their severity (intensity)," Deepti Singh, a graduate student and lead author of the Stanford study told IndiaSpend. "Our study shows that in the historical record for which we have good observations (about 60 years), we find significant changes in these characteristics—increase in the severity (or intensity) of wet spells and in the frequency of dry spells."

The occurrence of such dry spells can be important early in the agricultural cycle: longer and more frequent dry spells can lead to widespread crop losses. "Our findings match the experiences in recent years of farmers we interviewed in several regions within India," said Singh.

More robust evidence required—but the trend is similar

Other studies, using what is called IMD's high-resolution daily gridded rainfall dataset, a series of detailed rainfall data, have found a similar trend of increasing uncertainty.

Prof B N Goswami, former director of Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) and his Indian Institute of Science (IISc) colleagues have shown an increasing trend in the frequency and magnitude of extreme rain events over central India over the past half century.

In another study, Dr M N Rajeevan, director of IITM, Pune and his erstwhile colleagues at the National Atmospheric Research Laboratory, Tirupati, reported a long-term increasing trend of 6 per cent per decade in extreme rainfall. Such events also showed annual and decadal variations. For this study, Rajeevan and his colleagues used 104 years (1901–2004) of high-resolution rainfall data.

Both Goswami and Rajeevan considered rainfall events between 5 mm and 100 mm per day as "moderate" and those between 100 and 150 mm per day as "heavy" and those equal to or greater than 150 mm per day "very heavy" rain events.

Extreme rain could also mean disasters like the 2005 flood in Mumbai when 94.4 cm of rain was recorded in 24 hours—or similar experiences in Barmer desert (2006) and Leh hills (2010). IndiaSpend has previously reported that scientists predict fiercer floods in the Brahmaputra and the Indus rivers.

Although scientific methods are often different, the findings are consistent with climate-model simulations run on supercomputers: those extreme events—too much or too little rain—will increase with global warming. While scientists say such links require more robust evidence, the research indicates a correlation.

Local temperature changes most important in rainfall variation?

Changes in extremes of rain are not always related in a simple way to changes in the mean rainfall, and, in some cases, can be opposite to a change in such rainfall. Complex, global events, along with changes in local temperatures, appear to be precursors to extreme rainfall the latest research indicates.

Annual and decadal long-term trends of extreme rainfall events are influenced by variations in the temperature of the sea surface and the heat released or absorbed by water evaporation and condensation—technically called the latent heat flux—over the tropical Indian ocean, noted Rajeevan and colleagues in their study of extreme rainfall trends.

Climate change as well as shifts in large-scale phenomena such as the El Niño-Southern Oscillation—a fluctuation of ocean temperatures in the equatorial Pacific oceanor the monsoons, could affect the frequency and intensity of extremes in several regions, as a UN climate panel report notes.

Such large-scale influences, as well as local changes, were taken into account in a recent IISc studybased on IMD data. IISc Research Associate DrArpitaMondal and Prof P PMujumdar studied the summer monsoon and El Niño and found varying causes with little uniformity—except that at many locations, local temperature changes affected intensity and frequency of rainfall.

The significance of the new IISc study is that it looks at changes in three characteristics: intensity, duration and frequency of extreme rainfall. Different studies on extreme monsoon rainfall over India vary in terms of how the extremes are defined and how their changes are studied.

"Our analysis studies such variability, and we find that local effects are likely to influence extreme rainfall characteristics at small spatial scales, much more than large-scale phenomena," said Mondal.

In short, the studies show that extreme and uncertain weather trends are increasing, and they are linked with global phenomena including climate change as well as local changes. Better and more observation, early warning and rigorous research will reveal more answers.

*(***Martin** *researches and writes on how people respond to changes in the environment and climate.)*

NEWS AND NOTES

Government's Duty is To Protect Environment, But Unable to Do So: SC: - NEW DELHI: It is the government's duty to protect the environment but they are unable to do so and instead they accuse the judiciary of encroaching upon its territory, Supreme Court judge Justice Vikramajit Sen today said.

"It is government which is supposed to protect the environment but increasingly, we find, for various reasons, that the government is unable to do this task.

"But that is primarily because politics is the main chase. You need an electorate to give votes. It is expensive exercise and therefore you have to increasingly depend on big businesses which exploit environment," Justice Sen said.

Speaking at the release of Jindal Global Law Review's special issue on Environmental Law, the judge said no government is interested in environment and is on the lowest priority list and taken as an obstacle to industrialization.

"Increasingly, we hear from the government and bureaucracy that we are going into areas which are not expected of judiciary. What does the judiciary do? A, and B have a dispute and we are expected to decide. But what about the constitutional vision

"Are we supposed to look the other way when we see degradation at such a large-scale, or is it our duty, as a member of higher judiciary, to take note of it. Governments think that we are encroaching on their territory but the reality is that we are doing very little to protect the environment. Any judge who is mindful will put environment on his priority list," Justice Sen said.

Expressing concern that law students are preferring to take up jobs and not coming to courts, he said they should join courts as lawyers and even go for judicial services.

"Law students are preferring to take jobs and not coming to courts because they see a big salary package on the other side and see penury as a young lawyer. Courts have their own advantages. The job satisfaction is unparalleled here," he said.

NGT Chairperson Justice (retd.) Swatanter Kumar said that times have come when we have to balance between sustainable development and protection of nature and environment.

"Development is essential, who can dispute that fact? You need industries, you need aero planes, you need energy... Only thing is that how would you do it?
"We need to take some harsh decisions so that the people today and the next generations do not suffer," he said.

Addressing the gathering, Justice (retd.) Kumar said, "The earth, the nature, like a mother forgives you for all that you do. It tolerates every harsh thing, human beings are inflicting on it...

"But there is limit to this tolerance. When it gets beyond the tolerance, then the mother earth and the nature revolt. And when it revolts,

disasters are what you are seeing in Uttarakhand, Nepal, and other places."

"Development is essential, who can dispute that fact? You need industries, you need aero planes, you need energy... Only thing is that how would you do it? You cannot ignore what you are going to pass to your next generation."

Expressing concern over Delhi's bad air quality, he said that the situation is so bad that every child born in Delhi, Ghaziabad or Agra, within five years of his birth, would be asthmatic.

"Is this what we are looking for? Is this what we are going to pass on to our next generations? The kids today, half of them are living on antibiotics. What harm they have done to deserve that," he said.

Professor C Raj Kumar, Founding Vice Chancellor, O P Jindal Global University (JGU), SanjivGoswami, Managing Director, Springer, Dr. Vishwas H Devaiah, Associate Professor, JGLS also spoke on the occasion.

3 Quick Tips to Make Flowers Last Longer: -

It's amazing to see how much brightness and cheer a simple vase of flowers can introduce to a room. But like other forms of beauty, bouquets are a fleeting treat, and it's only a matter of days before they wilt away. Though you cannot prevent the inevitable, there are a few ways to forestall it. First, check to see whether the florist included a packet of flower food with your purchase. Believe it or not, that stuff actually works. If there's no flower food available—if, for instance, you cut the flowers in your own garden—try one of these time-tested tricks to keep cut flowers fresh just a little bit longer.

1. Container Conscious; Since bacteria and fungi accelerate the natural deterioration of cut flowers, it's imperative to wash—thoroughly wash—whatever vessel you're planning to display your blooms in. When cleaning the container, use hot and soapy water. Or, if you like, disinfect the vessel with a solution of diluted household bleach (one part bleach for every 10 parts water). Finish up by rinsing with plain water.

2. Careful Cutting; Clipping flowers from your garden? Try to do so early in the morning, before the heat of day saps vigor from the blooms. Along with your pruner, remember to bring a bucket of tepid water. As you cut each flower, place it into the bath so as to prevent the end of the stem from drying out and sealing off.

If working with store-bought flowers, remove about one inch from the bottom of each stem. Make your cut at an angle, under a running tap. Shortening the stem encourages the flower to take up water again. Before setting your bouquet into its container, remove the lower leaves to minimize decay.

3. Feeding Frenzy; Rather than simply filling your chosen container with water, many recommend keeping cut flowers suspended in a solution comprised of one part lemon-lime soda, three parts water, and, for every quart of liquid, a quarter-teaspoon of household bleach. Don't use diet soda; the full-calorie sugar provides valuable nourishment to the flowers. Meanwhile, the bleach keeps harmful bacteria at bay.

Having taken all the right steps toward keeping

your cut flowers flesh, go ahead and set them out on a surface in your home. Be aware, however, that not all surfaces are equally conducive to flower longevity. Avoid putting blooms in direct sunlight, near heating vents, or next to heat-generating appliances

The King Cobra finds a home in the capital — Delhi zoo: - The 14-foot-long king cobra, the latest addition to the National Zoological Park in Delhi, was in fact seized by the Rajhasthan Forest department from a resident who was trying to sell the snake.

This is the first king cobra that the Delhi zoo has had in the last 10 years. Officials said the snake weighs 7 kg and is between 25 and 30 years old.

"While I can't comment about whether the snake was being poached, I can confirm that the Rajhasthan Forest department had seized the snake from a resident of Kota district, who was trying to sell the reptile. The court then ordered that the snake be given to a zoo and that is how it came to us,"Dr N Panneerselvam, senior veterinarian at Delhi zoo, said.

Panneerselvam said the cobra has no fangs. "The fangs will grow back. The king cobra is one of the most venomous snakes in the world. Its venom is a powerful neuro-toxin and is capable of delivering a fatal bite. We were able to ascertain the snake's age on the basis of its length and weight," he said.

The king cobra has two short fixed fangs, which act like hypodermic needles, pumping venom into its victim. The toxin in its venom affects the central nervous system, resulting in severe pain, blurred vision, vertigo, drowning and paralysis. In serious cases, this is followed by coma, respiratory failure and death.

The animal is listed as "vulnerable" in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of endangered animals. According to IUCN, the "species is threatened by destruction of habitat due to logging and agricultural expansion, as Southeast Asia is experiencing one of the highest rates of deforestation in the tropics".

Officials said the snake is currently in quarantine in order to rule out any possibility of wounds or tick infestation. "The snake is shedding its skin and, as a result, it has become very reclusive and inactive," an official said. The snake will soon be released into the reptile house for public view, officials said.

The cobra is presently being fed half-a-kilogram of chicken once a week, though officials added that its natural diet consists of smaller snakes, especially the rat snake. "We are sticking to chicken, as this was what it was fed while the snake was in the custody of the private owner," the official said.

Lokamnath, a zoo official, has been assigned the task to train the animal. He reiterated that the snake was very inactive when it arrived at the zoo, but is now slowly moving about. "We make the animal exercise by releasing it in the park every day. It was very inactive when it was brought here, but gradually it is picking up its movements," the trainer said.

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has been adjudged the world's best airport for the year 2014: -Delhi's Indira

Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has been adjudged the world's best airport for the year 2014, under the category of handling 25 to 40 million passengers per annum. Airports Council International (ACI) presented the Airport Service Quality (ASQ) award to IGIA at a ceremony of the ACI Annual General Assembly on the 28th of last month in Jordan. The Delhi airport scored 4.90 on a scale of 5 points measured by 300 members of the ACI ASQ benchmarking programme. ASQ is the key to understanding how to increase passenger satisfaction and improve business performance.

The happiest countries in the world, according to neuroscientists, statisticians, and economists: - An international team of economists, neuroscientists, and statisticians just released their third World Happiness Report, which measures well-being in countries around the world to help guide public policy.

Switzerland topped the list of the happiest nations, and all of the top eight countries were in the global north. Switzerland was followed by Iceland, Denmark, Norway, Canada, Finland, the Netherlands, and Sweden.

The United States ranked 15th, behind Mexico and Austria. Still, that's a slight improvement from the last report, in which the US ranked 17th. The World Happiness Report isn't without a scientific basis.

One of its key findings, based on decades of neuro scientific and psychological research, suggests that keeping the brain happy relies on four main factors: 1) staying positive, 2) recovering from negative feelings, like a bout of sadness or anger, 3) caring about and spending time with family and friends, and 4) being mindful and allowing ourselves to feel "captured" by emotions like awe or joy.

Here are the 30 happiest countries from the study. Each color represents one of the six key factors (key below):

Here are the 30 happiest countries from the study. Each color represents one of the six key factors (key below):

Man-eater T24's transfer to zoo finds Supreme voice: - In an unusual move, the vacation bench of the Supreme Court on Wednesday decided to hear on Thursday a plea that has challenged the sudden shifting of a "man-eater" tiger famously known as T24 or Ustaad from the Ranthambore reserved forest in Rajasthan to a zoo.

Normally, a vacation bench only hears urgent cases.

Tiger lover and petitioner Chandra Bhal Singh, a Pune resident, knocked on the door of the Supreme Court after the Rajasthan High Court refused to give an urgent hearing to his PIL on the issue and posted it for hearing on May 28. The Delhi High Court had earlier dismissed the petition on the ground of lack of jurisdiction.

Forest officials said the sudden shifting last Saturday was done after the tiger had mauled to death a 44- year- old forest guard. T24 had also allegedly attacked three other people over the last eight years.

According to reports, the tiger has stopped eating after it was shifted out of the reserve forest.

The tiger was reportedly shifted out "abruptly and discreetly" even as the forest ministry was

in the process of setting up a committee to examine the decision.

Singh pleaded in his petition that the wildlife department of Jaipur had failed to take requisite permission under section 12 of the Wildlife Protection Act (1972) before proceeding to trans locate the tiger from the reserve.

Terming Ustaad had been given "capital punishment without a fair trial", he said there was no forensic evidence that the particular tiger had killed the forest guard and three other people.

The decision for sudden shifting is a U- turn from the stand maintained by the government till Friday when Rajasthan Minister of State for Forests Raj Kumar Rinwa had said that T24 would not be shifted to a zoo or a park till a committee of experts submit a report.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art turned 145 years old this month. : - Known colloquially as "the Met," it is the largest art museum in the United States. The venerable New York City institution contains works spanning 5,000 years. Attendance has never been a problem: The museum is one of the most highly attended in the world, with 6.2 million visitors last year. But now it's seeking to increase its presence online and via mobile technology.

When the Met created a position for its first-ever Chief Digital Officer, it turned to SreeSreenivasan, a former Columbia University professor. Sreenivasan had spent decades teaching journalism and technology before he came on board in 2013, but he says he couldn't resist the siren call of the Grand Dame of the art world. His motto as CDO: connecting the physical and the digital, the in-person and the online. "Our competition is no other museums. Our competition is Netflix, Candy Crush, life in 2015. We're fighting for attention," he explains.

To that end, he and his 70-person team create and weigh in on all things digital at the Met. That has included a partnership with Facebook, the release of 400,000 digital images of art works and a ban on selfie sticks, to protect the artworks from clumsy visitors. Then there's the website, MetMuseum.org, which had 29 million visits in 2014 and provides an ideal platform for the Met's digital efforts. It displays a "Timeline of Art History," digital galleries and previews of upcoming exhibitions.

Social media is key to Sreenivasan's digital strategy for the Met. It is active on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Pinterest. He cites the use of hashtags as his biggest achievement in his 18 months on the job. He encourages departments and curators to use hashtags throughout the building, on every exhibition and a few installations. The goal is to create a digital conversation with the Met's audience. Take for example, the popular emptymet. As Sreenivasan explains, "It is part of our effort to bring people in who are influencers. We started by bringing people who have lots of followers on Instagram, as a chance to showcase a place like the Met to folks who may not otherwise see it." The museum's Instagram feed, which sends out glimpses of the collection, won a Webby Award in 2014 (and it was nominated again this year).

The Met is one of five museums to share a $15 million grant provided by Bloomberg Philanthropies to ramp up the visitor

experience with mobile. Sreenivasan says that funds from the grant have been used for the museum's mobile app, as well as its audio guide. Take for example, Emanuel Leutze's famous painting "Washington Crossing the Delaware." While gazing at it in the American Wing, visitors can go on their smartphone, pull up an audio guide, get background information and see additional images. After you leave the museum, you can order a print of the painting.

The Met also plays a critical role today in light of the destruction of antiquities in Syria. The website highlights the museum's Syrian art collection and the danger that artworks face because of thedestruction that ISIS is wreaking on priceless artifacts. "We are absolutely devastated by what's happening, especially with what ISIS has been doing. We really value the art, wherever it is, and if it happens to be here, it is safe here. But we also want people to understand the art world and the ancient world," Sreenivasan says. Separately, the Met's media lab is working with the experts in its Department of Egyptian ART to use digital project-mapping to show what the Temple of Dendur looked like with colors in its original state in the first century B.C.

Connecting the physical to the digital, enhancing the user experience via technology, bringing the Met to people who may never visit the museum, these are all part of Sreenivasan's job description. As he puts it, "the institutions, that can do that better are going to survive and thrive in the 21st century."

Chinese builder puts up 57-story skyscraper in 19 days: - A Chinese Construction Company is claiming to be the world's fastest builder after erecting a 57-story skyscraper in 19 working days in central China.

The Broad Sustainable Building Co. put up the rectangular, glass-and-steel Mini Sky City in the Hunan provincial capital of Changsha using a modular method, assembling three floors per day, company vice president Xiao Changgeng said.

The company, which has ambitions to assemble, the world's tallest skyscraper at 220 floors in only three months, worked on Mini Sky City in two spurts separated by winter weather. Its time-lapse video of the rapid assembly has become popular on Chinese video-sharing sites since it was first uploaded on YouTube.

"With the traditional method, they have to build a skyscraper brick by brick, but with our method, we just need to assemble the blocks," company engineer Chen Xiangqian said.

Such modular approaches have been used for high-rise apartment blocks elsewhere, including in Britain and the U.S. Some critics say the method could lead to cityscapes with overly uniform architecture.

Liu Peng, associate director of the engineering consulting firm ARUP Beijing, said the method is worth developing because it could become a safe and reliable way to build skyscrapers rapidly.

"But it is not perfect, and it does not meet all kinds of personalized demands," Liu said. "People nowadays want more personalized architecture."

Mini Sky City, which has 19 atriums, 800 apartments and office space for 4,000 people,

goes on sale in May. The structure is safe and can withstand earthquakes, Xiao said.

The Changsha-based company spent 4½ months fabricating the building's 2,736 modules before construction began. The first 20 floors were completed last year, and the remaining 37 were built from Jan. 31 to Feb. 17 this year, Xiao said. The company has honed its technology to accelerate its construction speed from two floors to three floors a day, he said.

"This is definitely the fastest speed in our industry," Xiao said.The company is awaiting approval for its 220-floor Sky City in Changsha.__Tang reported from Beijing.

THE G.I.BUSTARD AND THE DOCTOR: -"It was love at first sight," says PramodPatil. A doctor, he first visited the Nannaj sanctuary in Maharashtra in 2003. It was a monsoon day and the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) was dancing in the grassland. "It was a fascinating experience," recalls Pramod, speaking over the phone from Pune. From that moment on, his life took a drastic turn. He devoted his life to the four-feet-tall bird that walks and runs the grasslands of our country. Pramod won the Whitely Award, popularly known as the 'Green Oscar', in April this year for his efforts in the conservation of the GIB. He was presented the award at the Royal Geographical Society in London. The award carried a cash prize of £35,000 from the U.K.-based Whitley Fund for Nature.

Pramod has been actively involving the people of Nannaj in the conservation of the bird, whose numbers are drastically reducing due to poaching and habitat destruction, for the last 13 years.

"I felt sad when I found out that my favorite bird was collapsing in number," he says. He spent hours at the grasslands, observing the birds, photographing and sketching them in his notebook. He also visited the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) to learn more about the bird.

"The males have a white-colored neck and grow a pouch through which they produce a booming call to attract females. This can be heard for over a kilometer," he observes.

Pramod's frequent visits to Nannaj got him acquainted with officials from the forest department and the locals. He initiated discussions on protecting the bustard — with help from farmers and forest guards, whom Pramod calls his "guides". He chalked out a roadmap for the conservation of the GIB.

"We looked into proper monitoring of their numbers, habitat management, and community and school-level awareness programmes," he explains.

The GIB, that's among the heaviest flying birds, is sought after for its meat. "Hunting it is considered a status symbol by the locals," says Pramod. "Shrinkage of grasslands is another reason for their depletion. They are present in six States in India, with the Thar in Rajasthan being a major stronghold," he adds. Lack of support from the community is yet another reason for the present state of the GIB. Pramod addressed the issue by taking the bird to the people.

He conducted awareness camps in schools, brought out books on the bird in the local

language, gave audio-visual presentations, printed posters, stickers…all in an effort to create an interest for the bird amidst the local community, which Pramod hopes will eventually translate into an urge to protect them. The school teachers and children are "messengers" who spread the word, he feels. He also set up a network of local coordinators who gave him field-level data by monitoring the bird in their localities.

Along the way, Pramod provided free medical consultation for people from nearby villages. He plans to use the funding from the award to work on a larger scale with institutions such as the BNHS and focus on the GIB of the Thar in the future. He continues to carry out medical research, although he doesn't practice medicine for a living. He adds: "When you love something, you invest everything in it." **(AkilaKannadasan)**
Courtesy: The Hindu dated 15.5.2015

(Pls see last cover page for photo)

America's oldest World War II veteran has turned 109, and he still smokes 12 cigars a day: - America's oldest-living veteran has turned 109 years old, and he still smokes 12 cigars a day. Richard Overton, an Army veteran of World War II now living in Austin, Texas, still enjoys his whiskey too.
Although Overton did not turn 109 until today, his Austin neighborhood threw him an early birthday party on May 3, consisting of burgers, milkshakes, and of course cigars.

"I smoke at least 12 Tampa Sweet cigars a day," Overton told The Wall Street Journal.

"I've been smoking cigars since I was 18 years old," he added to ABC. "I have over $100 worth of cigars now."

A celebrity in his own right, Overton had a long line of well-wishers attend his "Mighty Fine at 109"-themed celebration. Among the guests was the mayor of Austin, Steve Adler.

"You are just one of the treasures that we have in this city," Adler told Overton during the celebrations.

Born May 11, 1906, Overton is believed to be the oldest-living veteran, although it is impossible to verify because not all veterans are registered with the Department of Veterans Affairs. He served in the South Pacific during the war before selling furniture in Austin after his discharge and later working in the state Treasurer's Office, according to The Chronicle.

"I've gotten so many letters and so many thank you and I enjoy every bit of it, but I'm still going to enjoy some more," Overton told The Chronicle.

A giant man-made hole in Earth's atmosphere is finally closing up: - Now that summer is here, you'll likely be slathering up with sunscreen.

Earth, it turns out, is doing the same, according to an encouraging study recently published by a team of scientists at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and Goddard Earth Sciences Technology and Research at the Universities Space Research Association.

Earth has its own layer of sunscreen called the ozone layer, or ozone shield, which makes up part of the stratosphere and absorbs most of

the sun's ultra-violet (UV) radiation. But it doesn't absorb all of the UV light, and what gets through can cause skin cancer and cataracts in humans as well as reproductive problems in fish, crabs, and frogs.

The hole should finally, permanently shrink below 8 million square miles by 2040 and could even be fully recovered by the end of the century

Since 1983, scientists have observed a scary phenomenon: Earth's ozone was extremely weak over parts of Antarctica, letting in bouts of harmful UV radiation. The reason, in part, was because a series of man-made chemicals — namely chlorine and bromine — were eating away the planet's protective, sunscreen-like layer.

They called this weaker region Antarctica's ozone hole. Although the hole's size varies each year, it has been consistently larger than 8 million square miles since 1990 — more than twice the size of the entire United States!

In recent years, scientific reports have noted that the hole is slowly healing — thanks to a decrease in ozone-depleting chemicals in the atmosphere — but scientists were not sure when the hole would be completely regenerated.

Now, according to a study published in journal Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, the hole should finally, permanently shrink below 8 million square miles by 2040s and could even be fully recovered by the end of the century.

The source of the problem

For the middle half of the 20th Century, companies used ozone-depleting chemicals, called chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), in refrigerators and aerosol sprays that, through use, were getting released into the atmosphere. By the early '80s scientists were beginning to understand the damage that these chemicals were doing to the planet.

When CFCs float up to the troposphere, above the ozone, they interact with UV radiation from the sun releasing chlorine, which destroys ozone. As a result of this discovery, an international treaty called the Montreal Protocol was enacted in 1989 that began phasing out the production and subsequent emission of ozone-depleting chemicals.

By that point, however, the damage had been done.

These chemicals can hang out in the atmosphere for years after they've entered the atmosphere. Like a series of dominoes, the ozone hole continued to grow even after CFCs were banned. Here's a chart showing the size of the ozone hole, in blue, from 1979 through 2012:

(Images from NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, graphic by Business Insider)

Ozone depletion above the planet's north and south poles was exceptionally bad because Earth's wind currents were sweeping the chemicals toward either end of the planet.

Once these chemicals reached the poles, a large-scale cyclone, called the polar vortex, was trapping the chemicals where they accumulated over time to high concentrations, ravenously eating away the ozone (see the GIF below). This led to the Antarctic ozone hole as well as the Arctic ozone hole, which in 2011 reportedly had half the ozone it used to.

(NASA Goddard on YouTube)

Using NASA'S Aura satellite — an instrument orbiting Earth that sniffs out certain chemicals, including chlorine — the team of scientists studied the amount of ozone-eating chemicals above Antarctica from 2004 to 2012. From that, they identified a clear relation between the level of chlorine in the atmosphere and the size of the ozone hole.

They then looked at ozone hole sizes from 1979 through 2013 and predicted what future hole sizes will be based on how quickly chlorine levels are decreasing in the atmosphere above the Antarctic.

"With this new information we can look into the future and say with confidence that ozone holes will be consistently smaller than 8 million square miles by 2040," said Susan Strahan, a senior research scientist at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, in a video about the study. "And that will really be a milestone that we're finally past the era of big ozone holes."

India's rising tiger numbers may be victory only on paper: -SUNDARBAN TIGER RESERVE, India (AP) — At first, the numbers seem impressive: India's tiger population has gone up 30 percent in just four years. The government lauded the news as astonishing evidence of victory in conservation.

But independent scientists say such an increase — to 2,226 big cats — in so short a time doesn't make sense.

They worry an enthusiastic new government under Prime Minister NarendraModi is misinterpreting the numbers, trumpeting false claims of a thriving tiger population that could hurt conservation in the long run.

"The circus is not necessary," said tiger expert K. UllasKaranth, science director for the Wildlife Conservation Society in Asia. "All of this tom-tom'ing and arm-waving, claiming we've had stupendous success, is ridiculous and unscientific."

The first numbers were released in January. Last week, the government offered details of the data.

Even as scientists begged caution in presenting the count, India's government doubled down. Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar again boasted of a 30 percent population increase. And Prime Minister Modi rounded that up, saying tiger numbers had seen "about a 40 percent increase. Feels good to hear it!"

If only it were true. This census differs in an important way from earlier tallies: It estimates India's entire wild tiger population, while preceding counts focused only on cats in sanctuaries and reserves.

"I'd prefer to say there are 30 percent more known tigers, rather than say there is actually an increase in tigers. We might not have counted them all earlier," said AnuragDanda of the World Wildlife Fund in the Sundarbans, one of many groups that participated in the census.

A 30 percent increase within four years is implausible. Though tigers have high birth rates, they also have high natural death rates, and factors such as habitat loss and poaching haven't slowed. At least 110 tigers were killed in 2011-14, barely a drop from the 118 poached in 2007-10, according to the Wildlife Protection Society of India.

Globally, experts believe the best that can be hoped for is a 50 percent increase in the world

population over 10 years — a much more modest rate of growth.

Such incongruities have happened before. India claimed a 17 percent increase between 2006 and 2010, even while tiger habitats shrank by some 40 percent.

But while Danda interprets the latest numbers more conservatively than some government officials, he agrees they show that conservation efforts appear to be working: "Otherwise, how come we have so many tigers outside the tiger reserves?"

India is by far the world leader in protecting tigers, spending more resources and money than any other country. For decades it has faced immense challenges, from habitat loss and human encroachment to poaching, disease and pollution. Still, India manages to keep about 70 percent of the world's wild tigers on less than 25 percent of the world's tiger habitat. That's partly a credit to its vast rural population, which long ago learned to live in relative proximity to the secretive beasts.

If India can protect tigers, despite a human population 1.26 billion strong, that proves any country can do it, conservationists say.

"But they can't relax. And that's my biggest worry about this latest census and the way it's being presented," said Alan Rabinowitz, head of Panthera, a New York-based big-cat conservation group. "The worst outcome of that is it allows development and business interests to say, 'We've been doing really well. We can pull back a bit.'"

Desperate to develop its economy and alleviate widespread poverty, India faces intense pressure to convert forests for roads or industrial use, or to allow polluting factories or mining operations near forest reserves and water supplies. Conservationists worry more of those projects will be green-lighted around tiger habitats if the cats are seen to be thriving. The government has already cut the Environment Ministry's 2015-16 budget by almost 25 percent, with funds for tiger conservation dropping 15 percent.

Over the weekend, the Supreme Court allowed for the widening of a 10-kilometer (7-mile) road between two tiger sanctuaries in central Madhya Pradesh — work its own appointed committee warned would irreparably damage critical wildlife habitat and invite heavy traffic that might mow the animals down.

When India says it now is home to 2,226 tigers, what it is giving is an estimate — a best-guess based on a technique called index-calibration that combines small-scale cat counts and, through complex calculations, extrapolates them to a national total. Those counts are conducted by various groups — forest rangers, independent scientists, tiger charities — through various means, including photographing individual tigers and analyzing tiger droppings and paw prints.

The technique, which India adopted in 2006, is by no means perfect. An Oxford-led study published in February by the journal Methods in Ecology and Evolution suggested the data collection was too erratic for adequately predicting cat populations in areas outside census monitoring.

Scientists also question the absence of independent oversight in the government-

organized census. And some say that one census every four years is not enough.

"The criticism of the census is rubbish," said Rajesh Gopal, who headed the government's National Tiger Conservation Authority from its beginning in 2006 until January, when he joined the Global Tiger Forum.

"Out of the 2,226 tigers estimated in this census, we have photographic evidence for about 1,500 individuals, or 70 percent. And the statistical models are state-of-the-art. The detractors are not being very fair," he said.

Gopal agreed, however, that the government is overstating things by saying the overall population had grown 30 percent. "These are just the numbers we know of right now. We can't say anything beyond that."

Experts praise India for maintaining corridors for the tigers to move between sanctuaries and cracking down on poachers, including giving some state forest rangers the right to shoot suspected poachers on sight. Patrolling has improved in the country's 47 tiger reserves, covering less than 2 percent of India's total land mass, or about 53,500 square kilometers (20,700 square miles).

But India could do more, scientists say, such as establishing prey populations and anti-poaching patrols on some 300,000 square kilometers (116,000 square miles) of unprotected forest that is otherwise suitable as tiger habitat.

India's greatest conservation strength may be its human population. Villagers long ago learned to live alongside the predators and appreciate their importance to maintaining order within an ecosystem — for example, by keeping deer populations in check so they don't devour trees and plants. Though they are among India's poorest people, many villagers would sooner adjust their own behavior in the forests than see the big cats disappear.

In the vast deltas of the eastern Sundarbans region, Nepal Sardar wears two faces while searching for honey — one trained to the trees and looking for bees, the other painted on a mask strapped to the back of his head staring down any tigers that might approach. The mask works, he explains, because the stealthy tigers generally prefer to attack from behind.

Another villager, Anita Mondol, echoed many others in saying she lives in terror of tigers roaming into villages and attacking livestock. The tigers will swim kilometers between islands and ambush people on land. She worries one might break through the woven-thatch roof of her hut, enter her home and carry someone away. It has happened before to villagers she knows. She is certain it will happen again.

Still, "if it weren't for the tigers, there would be no forest," the 41-year-old said. "And with no forest, there would be no place for us."

LEGAL NOTES

G. Raja Vs. Forest Range Officer, Gudiyatham and another

G. Raja is the owner of a Two Wheeler Hero Honda Splendor bearing Registration No. TN 23 AU 5401. The vehicle was seized on 23.7.2009 in connection with a wildlife offence involving transport of deer and wild pig. Wildlife Offence No. 11 of 2009 was registered by the Range Officer, Gudiyatham. The offence was compounded by the D.F.O. Vellore and the compounding fee was also collected. The vehicle was in the custody of the D.F.O. and it was not released to its owner even after many days. It was given to understand that the vehicle was confiscated.

The owner of the vehicle filed petition (CMP No. 451 of 2012) in the Court of Judicial magistrate, Gudiyatham, requesting for release of the vehicle. The court held that the vehicle has already become government property and therefore the application was dismissed. It was pointed out by the Magistrate court that the petitioner could challenge the confiscation order before the appropriate authority.

The owner of the vehicle, aggrieved by the order of the Magistrate: Gudiyatham, filed Crl. R C No. 891 of 2012 in the Madras High Court under Sections 397 and 401 Cr.P.C. The petition was heard by The Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. Gajendran,

It was argued on behalf of the petitioner that when once the offence has been compounded, the vehicle ought not to have been confiscated. Even the confiscation order was passed without notice to the petitioner. In support of the argument, the case law of the Supreme Court in *Principal CCF and another Vs. J.K. Johnson and others* reported at page 794 of Supreme Court Cases 2011-10 was cited. A short note is published at page 36 of Vana Premi of March 2012 (Vol. 13 N0. 3).

On behalf of the respondents, it was submitted that the accused had admitted his guilt, and therefore in addition to the collection of compounding fee, confiscation of the vehicle was ordered. The petitioner could assail the confiscation order and he cannot seek release of the vehicle.

His Lordship adverted in detail to the Supreme Court judgment in *Prl. CCF Vs. J.K.Johnson,* which in short says that departmental officers who are authorized to compound an offence of a case under the Wildlife Protection cannot order forfeiture of case property. It was held, **"neither Sec. 54 (2) of the 1972 Act read with Sec. 39 (1) (d) or anyother provision of the 1972 Act empowers or authorizes the specified officer underSec. 54 on composition of the offence, to deal with the seized property**

much less order forfeiture of the seized property used by the person suspected of commission of offence agaist the Act".

His Lordship of Madras High Court held that the respondents ought to have produced the vehicle in question before the Magistrate who shall deal with it in accordance with law. Therefore the respondents have to be directed to produce the vehicle before the Magistrate concerned who shall deal with case property in accordance with law.

In the result the Revision Case was allowed on 5.12.2012 and CMP No. 451 of 2012 on the file of the Judicial Magistrate, Gudiyatham was set aside. **K.B.R**

BAJRA ALOO ROTI (IRON RICH RECIPE) KEEP ANEMIA AT BAY, THE BAJRA-POTATO WAY!

Preparation Time: 15 mins

Cooking Time: 20 mins

Makes 8 roti

This iron-rich roti maintains your body temperature and protects you from cold weather too. Rich in iron and fibre, it helps remove toxins from the body, and also helps transfer oxygen from cell to cell, enhancing the glow in your skin! Potato, a good source of energy, makes the Bajra Aloo Roti a soft and pleasant treat to your palate.

Ingredients

- 2 cups bajra (black millet) flour
- 3/4 cup boiled, peeled and mashed potatoes
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onions
- 1/4 cup finely chopped coriander (dhania)
- 2 tsp ginger-green chilli paste
- 1 tsp dried mango powder (amchur)
- 1/2 tsp garam masala (optional)
- Salt to taste
- Bajra (black millet) flour for rolling
- 2 tsp ghee for cooking

1. Combine all the ingredients in a deep bowl and knead into soft dough, using enough warm water.
2. Divide the dough into 8 equal portions and roll out each portion into a 150 mm. (6") diameter circle using a little bajra flour for rolling.
3. Heat a non-stick tava (griddle) and cook each roti, using ¼ tsp of ghee, till it turns golden brown in colour from both the sides.

When once nation begins to think, it is impossible to stop it. – Voltaire.

ఆర్టిఫిషయల్ రైపెన్ పళ్ళు ఆరోగ్యానికి హానికరం

రచన : ఉషా వినోద్ రాజవరం

పీచ్ లంట, స్ట్రా బెర్రీ పండ్లంట... గవి దొరల్దినే పండ్లు
మన అసుంటి వాల్లకు .. అరటి పళ్ళే చాలు!
అరటి పండు దింటే అన్నీ పోషకాలన్నరు...
సరే అనుకుంట మార్కెట్టుకు పోయి
బండి మీదున్న అరటి పండ్లు అర్ధ డజెను గొన్నా!
మందులు మింగే పని తప్పుతది కదా... అని..
ఇంటికి తీస్కబోయి చూస్తే.. గవి ఇంకా తినేటట్లు లెవ్వు..
సరేలే రేపు తిందాం తీ! అని పిల్లోనికి నచ్చజెప్పి
మన్నాడు పొద్దున్నే చూస్తి గదా!
పైకి బాగానే గొడ్తున్నాయి... తొక్కదీసి చూస్తే...
అరటి పండు గాదది.. మేడి పండు ! (పైకి మేలిమి లాగ గొడ్తుంది)
ఒక్కపూట దిననీక జ్వర డిలే జేసిన.. బస్!!
ఇంతలోనే గిట్టైంది.. కుళ్ళినట్లు.. కానీ గివి తింటే
ఏమయ్యేది? ఏందీ? అని శానాఫికరయ్యింది. నాకు..
పక్కింటి "నోట్లో పళ్ళు లేని" పెద్దాయిన అన్నడు.
మా కాలం పండ్లా గివ్వి? చెట్టుపైనే పండేవి. కోసి అమ్మేడిది
మా చిన్నప్పుడు మేము గట్లాంటి పళ్ళు కమ్మంగ దినేది. బిడ్డా!
ఎంత దిన్నా ఇంకా తినాలని పించేటిది.
ఒక్క పండు దింటే పొద్దు మీకి వరకు .. ఆకలన్నదే లేకపాయే
మరి గిప్పటివి? గా మందేందో – పొడి తీరు ఉన్నది – జల్లుతున్రట..
పచ్చి కాయని మర్నాటికే పండు జేస్తే ఏమైతది?
మరి మగ్గుతాయా? పాడయితయా? బిడ్డా.
మొన్న కడుపు నొప్పొస్తే గిట్లనే డాక్టర్ సాబ్ అడిగిండు నన్ను
అని ఎదురు ప్రశ్న వేసిండు బోసి నవ్వుల తాత...
అవాక్కయ్యి ఆయననే జూస్తున్న నన్ను నా కొడికడిగిండు..
అమ్మా! అరటి పళ్ళు దెచ్చి నాకెందుకిస్తలేవే? అని
నీ పైన ప్రేమ ఉంది కనుకనే కొడుకా!
నీకు ఆ అరటి పండియ్యలే ! అని అన్నాననుకున్నా
కానీ అనుకున్నా అంతే!
అది పండు గాదురా! అమృత కేళి గాదురా!
పళ్ళ వ్యాపారం చేసే కొందరు మోసగాళ్ళ యిషపు కేళి
(భయంకరపు చెలగాటం)
అని నా నోటితో నేను ఎట్లా జెప్పాలె కొడుకా! అనుకున్నా
వాణ్ణి దగ్గర దీసుకుంటూ!!

వన సంపదల పరిరక్షనం – ప్రజాప్రభుత్వాల ప్రధాన బాధ్యత

రచన : వేంకట రంగరామానుజాచార్య

అనాదిగా మానవులు, పశుపక్ష్యాదులు ఇతర ప్రాణులు అడవులపై ఆధారపడి బ్రతుకుతున్నాయి. అడవులను నివాసంగా ఏర్పరుచుకొని అక్కడ లభించే సంపదలను తగినంత మేరకు వినియోగించుకొని బ్రతికే వెసులుబాటు మానవులకు పశుపక్ష్యాదులకు కూడా సహజంగానే ఉంది.

రామాయణంలో రాముడు అరణ్యవాసం చేయడం కూడా ఒక విధంగా అటవీ సంరక్షణ బాధ్యతను నెరవేర్చడమే. పాండవులు అరణ్యవాసంలో చేసింది కూడా అదే. అడవులలోని వృక్షసంపదను ఆ ప్రాంతాలకు చెందని వారు అక్కడ నివసించనివారు, స్వార్థం కోసం, ధనార్జన బుద్ధితో, దొంగలిస్తే, చూస్తూ ఉదాసీనంగా ఉండటం రాజధర్మం కాదు. కౌటిల్యుడు తన అర్థశాస్త్రంలో అటవీ సంపదను దొంగలించేవారిని నిరోధించి, వధించాలని చాలా స్పష్టంగా నిర్దేశించాడు. అటవీ సంపదను దొంగిలించే చోరులను పట్టుకోవడానికి, అనేక ఉపాయాలను "కంటక శోధనం" అనే ప్రకరణంలో చెప్పాడు. అటవీ సంపదను దొంగలించే వారిని సంహరించడం రాజుల బాధ్యతయని యనభైయవ అధికరణంలో స్పష్టంగా చెప్పాడు.

కాల క్రమాన మనుష్యుల ఆలోచనల్లోనూ, న్యాయ వ్యవస్థలోనూ ఏర్పడిన మార్పులను బట్టి అటవీ సంపదను దొంగలించడం అనే ప్రక్రియ నిరోధించడంలోను, శిక్షించడంలోనూ, ఉన్న క్లిష్టతను ఈనాడు మనం గమనిస్తూనే ఉన్నాం. ధర్మశాస్త్రాలు, స్వార్థం కోసం తనకు లేని అధికారాన్ని తన చేతులలోనికి తీసుకొని విచక్షణారహితంగా వృక్షాలను నరికేవారు, "అసిపత్రవనం" అనే పేరుగల నరకానికి పోయి యాతనను అనుభవిస్తారని నిర్దేశించాయి.

విష్ణుపురాణం "అసిపత్రవనంయాతి వృక్షచ్ఛేదదీతు యోనరః" అని అంటుంది. ఈనాడు ప్రజలకు సంబంధించిన మాన ప్రాణాలు దోచేవారికి, ఇళ్ళల్లో చొరబడి, ఆత్మరక్షణం చేసుకోలేని గృహస్థులను చంపి, వారి సొమ్మును దోచుకుని పోయేవారికి, అందరికీ చెందిన సంపదలను స్వార్థంతో తామే అనుభవించాలని దుష్ప్రయత్నం చేసేవారికి, వారికి సహకరించేవారికి, సమాజంలోని ఏ వైపునుంచైనా మద్ధతు లభిస్తే, ఇది ఎంతవరకు సరి అయినది అని బుద్ధిమంతులు ఆలోచించవలసిన విషయం. ఇలా మద్ధతు ఇచ్చేవారిని కూడా సమాన దోషులుగా పరిగణించేలా చట్టాలు, శిక్షాస్మృతులు సవరించాలి. అడవులు జాతీయ సంపద. వీటిని

కొల్లగొట్టే అధికారం ఎవ్వరికీ లేదు. ఈ దేశంలోనే కాదు అనేక దేశాల్లోని సార్వజనీనాలైన సంపదలను స్వార్థపరులు కొల్లగొడుతూనే ఉన్నారు. అడవిదొంగ వీరప్పన్ చరిత్ర లోకానికి తెలిసిందే, వాడు పోయినా, వాడి వారసులు ఇంకా అడవులను దోస్తూనే ఉన్నారు. 'కూలీ'ల ముసుగులో సామాన్య జనానికి డబ్బు ఎరజూపి, స్వార్థపరులైన అడవి దొంగలు, వారిని నిప్పుల్లోకి తోస్తున్నారు. తాము చూస్తున్నది తప్పేనని తెలిసికూడా తప్పుచేసేవాళ్ళు ఆ తప్పులకు శిక్ష అనుభవించక తప్పదు కదా! అది ఏ రూపంలోనైనా ఉండవచ్చు. అయితే, ఈ క్రమంలో దొంగలను వారి కూలీ (దొంగ)లను నివారించే ప్రయత్నం చేసిన, చేస్తున్న ఎందరో అధికారులు, రక్షకులు బలైపోతూనే ఉన్నారు. విచిత్రంగా, దొంగలకు, దొంగకూలీలకు ఉన్న "మానవ హక్కులు" ఈ అధికారులకు లేకపోవడం శోచనీయం. ఈ విషయంలోనే కాదు, సమాజంలో ఎన్నో అరాచకాలు సృష్టించే తీవ్రవాదులకు, మతోన్మాదులకు సహితం "మానవ హక్కు"లున్నాయిని వాదించే నాయకులు, వారిచేతుల్లో ప్రాణాలు కోల్పోయిన నిర్భాగ్యులైన అమాయక జీవుల హక్కుల గురించి పట్టించుకోరేం? అని సమాజం ప్రశ్నిస్తుంది. తిరుపతి చుట్టు పక్కల అడవులు స్వార్థపరులైన చోరుల బారిన పడుతూ, ఎంతో విలువైన ఎర్ర చందనం లాంటి సంపద సమాజానికి వినియోగపడక దొంగల జేబులు నింపుతూ ఉంటే, వారిని వెనుక వేసుకొని వాదించేవారి, నిబద్ధత, వారికున్న ప్రయోజనాలు, వీటిని ఒకకంట కనిపెట్టి ఉండవలసిన అవసరం "న్యాయ వ్యవస్థ" కు ఎంతైనా ఉంది. మానవహక్కులకు అర్హతలేనివారికి హక్కుల సూత్రాలను అన్వయించే "దర్నయ వ్యవస్థ" నిర్వీర్యమయేలా చేసే బాధ్యతగల సామాజిక వర్గాలు, ఈ భారాన్ని భుజాన వేసుకొనవలసిన అగత్యం ఎంతైనా ఉంది.

నిర్దాక్షిణ్యంగా ఎదుటివారిని దోచి చంపే హంతకుల గుంపులకు, ప్రజలకు చెందిన సంపదలను దొంగలించేవారికి, మాదక ద్రవ్యాలు సమాజంలోకి తెచ్చి సమాజాన్ని నిర్వీర్యం చేసేవారికి, లూటీలు, మానభంగాలు చేసేవారికి మతం పేరుతోనో, రాజకీయ సామాజిక భావజాలం పేరుతోనో ప్రజలను భయభ్రాంతులకు గురిచేసి సామూహిక మరణానికి కారణమయ్యేవారికి, "మానవ హక్కులు' ఎంత మాత్రం ఉండకూడదు. బైలు మంజూరు కాకూడదు. వారినే కాక, బైలు రావడంలో సహకరించే వారిని కూడా సమాన దోషులుగానే పరిగణించి తీవ్రంగా శిక్షించే వ్యవస్థాపరమైన స్థైర్యం న్యాయ వ్యవస్థకు 'రక్షణవ్యవస్థకు' ఏర్పడినప్పుడు మాత్రమే ఈ సమాజానికి ముక్తి. ఈ దిశలో 'మానవ హక్కుల' గురించి పక్షపాతవైఖరితో వాదించే కుహనా మేధావుల నోళ్ళుమూయించ వలసిన అగత్యం ఎంతైనా ఉందని, బాధ్యతగల మేధావులు గుర్తించి, గుర్తింపచేతురు గాక!

భక్తినివేదన (మే 2015) సౌజన్యంతో....

عزیزی کے بی آر ریڈی کی

" TheJourny of my Life in the Wildemess (An Autobiography)"

کو چند بہترین آپ بیتیوں میں اس لئے شمار کیا جاسکتا ہے کہ اس کے دامن میں کوئی ایسی بات نظر نہیں آتی جو آپ بیتی کے دائرے میں نہ آتی ہو۔ عام آپ بیتی نگاروں کی طرح انہوں نے اپنے موضع سے کہیں انحراف نہیں کیا اور اپنے تجربات ومشاہدات کے بیان سے کام لیا ہے۔ واقعات کو خوش اسلوبی اور دل کش پرائیہ میں بیان کی ہے' حالانکہ اہل تحقیق سے اس کی توقع نہیں کی جاسکتی اہل تحقیق دلچسپ واقعات کو بھی غیر دلچسپ انداز میں بیان کرنے کو اپنے علمیت کے اظہار کا ایک ذریعہ سمجھتے ہیں۔

اس کتاب کو شروع کرنے اور ختم کرنے کے درمیان کوئی دوسرا کام کرنے کو جی نہیں چاہتا۔ یہاں تک کہ یہ سوچنے کی بھی فرصت نہیں ملتی کہ ریڈی صاحب نے جو کچھ لکھا ہے اس میں ''بیان'' کتنا ہے اور ''آرائش بیان'' کتنی۔ ویسے بھی بیان اور آرائش بیان کے فرق کو صرف وہی لوگ سمجھ سکتے ہیں جو منصف کو ذاتی طور پر جانتے ہیں اور ان واقعات سے براہ راست آشنا ہوتے ہیں جو اس کتاب میں بیان کی گئی ہیں!

یہ کتاب ایک بھرپور زندگی کی روداد ہے اور اس میں مصنف نے اپنے تجربات ومشاہدات کو اس طرح بیان کیا ہے کہ ایک پورے عہد کی زندگی کے نشیب وفراز ہمارے سامنے آجاتے ہیں۔ یہ دوسری بات ہے کہ ''نشیب'' عموماً دوسروں کے ہوتے ہیں اور ''فراز'' خود لکھنے والے کے جو کوئی اعتراض کی بات نہیں ہے!

آپ بیتی لکھنے والا جو کچھ لکھتا ہے اپنے نقطہ نظر سے لکھتا ہے' جو کچھ دیکھتا ہے اپنی آنکھوں سے دیکھتا ہے اور جو کچھ سنتا ہے اپنے کانوں سے سنتا ہے۔ ریڈی صاحب نے تو کوئی تحقیقی کتاب نہیں لکھی کہ دوسروں کے نقاط نظر کو سامنے رکھ سکتے۔ انہوں نے جو کچھ دیکھا اور سنا' کتاب ہذا اسی کی بازیافت ہے۔ اگر کسی کو ان کے دیکھنے اور سننے پر اعتراض ہو تو اسے ''فرد کی آزادی میں مداخلت بے جا'' کے مترادف سمجھنا چاہئے!

اس آپ بیتی کا مطالعہ بہت حوالوں سے کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ مثلاً اس میں سفرنامے کا خوبصورت انداز ملتا ہے تو شخصی خاکہ نگاری کے نمونے بھی ملتے ہیں۔ عملی زندگی کے ساتھ ساتھ ذہنی زندگی کے سفر کی روداد بھی ملتی ہے اور پرانی تہذیب کی مرقع نگاری کے آثار بھی مل جاتے ہیں۔ علاوہ ازیں اس میں تعلیمی اداروں کی داستاں بھی موجود ہے۔ غرض کہ دنیا جہاں کے قصے اس میں موجود ہیں۔

لہذا جن لوگوں کو قصہ گوئی سے کسی قدر دلچسپی ہے وہ بھی اس کتاب سے محفوظ ہو سکتے ہیں۔

مزاحیہ مضمون

خودنوشت آپ بیتی

ڈاکٹر بی رگھوتم راؤ دیسائی

خودنوشت ایک عجیب صنعف ادب ہے جس کا موضع بظاہر تو لکھنے والے کی اپنی ذات ہوتی ہے۔لیکن بحث عموماً دوسروں کے اعمال وکردار سے کی جاتی ہے۔لکھنے والے کو اجازت ہوتی ہے کہ ہر اس بات کو پھیلا کر بیان کرے جس کا اصل موضوع سے کوئی تعلق نہ ہو اور ہر اس بات کو نظر انداز کر دے جس سے اصل موضوع پر روشنی پڑنے کا امکان ہو!

خودنوشت اس لئے نہیں لکھی جاتی کہ لکھنے والے کو کچھ کہنا ہوتا ہے بلکہ اس لئے لکھی جاتی ہے کہ لکھنے والا بہت کچھ چھپانا چاہتا ہے اور بہت سے حقائق پر پردہ ڈالنا چاہتا ہے۔لکھنے والا اپنا ذکر ایسی عقیدت ومحبت سے کرتا ہے جیسے وہ اپنے حالات نہیں لکھ رہا ہے بلکہ کسی خوش اعمال بزرگ اور محترم ہستی کی قبر پر پھولوں کی چادر چڑھا رہا ہے۔اس مقصد کیلئے اپنے شجرہ نسب میں تبدیلی سے لے کر ہر قسم کے واقعات میں رنگ آمیزی کو جائز سمجھتا ہے! نتیجہ یہ ہوتا ہے کہ خودنوشت یا آپ بیتی میں سچائی کو دعویٰ خود سچائی کا نعم البدل بن جاتا ہے۔آپ بیتی یا خودنوشت لکھنے والے کو معلوم ہوتا ہے کہ وہ جو کچھ لکھ رہا ہے اس کیلئے کسی دستاویزی ثبوت کی ضرورت نہیں ہے کیونکہ اس کی ذات فیض رساں ہی تمام سچائیوں کا سرچشمہ ہے!

خودنوشت (آپ بیتی) یادوں اور یادداشتوں کا مجموعہ کہا جاتا ہے لیکن اس میں یادوں اور یادداشتوں کی ترمیم شدہ یا حساب ومنشا صورت ہی نظر آتی ہے' حافظہ اول تو کام نہیں کرتا اور کرتا ہے تو مصنف کی مرضی کے مطابق مواد فراہم کرتا ہے۔اسی لئے بہت سے ایسے واقعات بھی آپ بیتی میں شامل ہو جاتے ہیں جن کے وقوع پذیر ہونے کا امکان ماضی میں تو کیا مستقبل میں بھی نہیں ہوتا!

ان سب باتوں کا مطلب یہ نہیں کہ اچھی آپ بیتیاں نہیں لکھی جاتی ہیں۔چند میں تو بعض ایسی باتیں لکھی جاتی ہیں جو کہ دوسرے مصنفین اپنے بارے میں لکھنے کی جرات تک نہیں کر سکتے۔جیسے ایک صاحب کو میں نے یہ اعتراف کرتے ہوئے پایا کہ وہ خود پسندہ ہے اور وہ بھی اس حد تک کہ کسی دوسرے کی جائز تعریف بھی برداشت نہیں کر سکتا۔خوشامد اس کا دل خوش کر دیتی ہے۔! یہ جانتے ہوئے بھی کہ خوشامد بری چیز ہے خوشامدیوں کو وہ اپنے گرد وپیش دیکھنا پسند کرتا ہے۔خلاف ضمیر کام کرنے پر بھی اس کی طبعیت ہمیشہ آمادہ رہتی ہے۔میں نے ایسی آپ بیتیاں بھی دیکھی ہیں جن پر ''حافظ نباشد'' کے اصول کا اطلاق نہیں ہوتا۔ان میں بے شمار سچے واقعات ملتے ہیں لیکن ایسے واقعات جن کا بیان نہ کرنا بیانکرنے سے بہ درجہا بہتر ہوتا! چند تو اس قدر خشک نظر آئے کہ ان کو پڑھنا تو کیا دور سے دیکھنا بھی عام قاری کی صحت کو متاثر کرتا ہے۔ مجھے چوں کہ اپنی صحت کی زیادہ فکر نہیں رہتی اس لئے ایسے کتابوں سے استفادہ کرنے میں کوئی قباحت نظر نہیں آتی!

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