

VANA PREMI

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EDITORIAL

Parliament in crisis:

Concerned citizens of the country are hugely worried about the non-functioning of the Parliament. It looks as though it is held captive by Honourable Members. Any reason, however insignificant and trivial it is, is seen good enough to stall the proceedings in Parliament. Remaining consistently indifferent for almost the whole of Winter Session, Rajya Sabha suddenly became active to clear the Juvenile Justice Bill when it became clear that the nation is angry. Passing of Bills in haste or without proper discussion and debate is no good parliamentary practice. It only reflects Hon Members' lack of concern and seriousness for the job they are required to do. It puts a question mark on the institutional relevance of Rajya Sabha. Undeniable fact is the Rajya Sabha had wasted more than half its available hours in the winter session. Question Hour had functioned in the House for only 15 per cent of the allotted time — in contrast to 88 per cent in the Lok Sabha. There has been criticism of the Rajya Sabha's capacity to hold up non-money bills passed by the Lok Sabha. This is due to NDA's lack of numbers in the House of elders. Then the question arises; should the lack of numbers in Rajya Sabha stall the legislative process? It implies that the legislating bodies will have to rise above politics in the service of the nation.

Framers of the Constitution were brilliant persons capable of finding solution to each and every situation to incorporate suitable provisions in the Document leaving nothing to chance. Besides creating Fundamental Rights to Citizens, the Constitution laid down clear contours for governance creating institutions necessary and a Parliament to make laws for the Nation. Nation being the Union of States, enough space has been provided to States operate without undue interference from the Union of India. To uphold the principle of Rule of Law, a thoroughly independent judiciary has been created to act as watchdog against arbitrary legislation and implementation of laws. It all appeared that there is no scope for any 'miss' in going about the Constitution.

As years passed by, we encounter situations we never anticipated. A strange disease had set in. Parliament, proudly touted as Temple of Democracy, does not function. Disquiet, ruckus, obstruction, invasion of well of the House, shouting down the speakers, intolerance for dissent and lack of patience to hear the opponent have all become more common than exception. Even the innocent children viewing the proceedings in Houses are forced to believe that street fighters are settling their scores.

Old timers still remember the dignified manner the Houses transacted business in the initial years. Despite the political divide, the focus was always on the matter under discussion. Instead of who spoke and to which political outfit he belonged, the Hon. Members were concerned more about what was spoken. A good point made by an Opposition Member was promptly acknowledged by the Treasury Benches by thumping the desks and there were several instances where the ruling party members disagreed with the party line and spoke against. Criticism, by either side, was taken in good humour and treated as an essential feature contributory to enrichment of the debate and an acceptable parliamentary practice. Even Nehru was criticized by his party members while he was very much present in the House. Members respected each other irrespective of

their party affiliations. Nehru never referred to any Member, ruling party or otherwise, without the prefix of "Honourable". Speeches were heard in rapt attention. It is sad that political decorum across the polity has since declined.

There were heated debates, sharp exchanges and edgy comments too but the context was always justifiable. Banter and repartee were common which was enjoyed by all sections of the House. Disagreement was on issues but not on personalities. If the majority had its way, it was taken as a dictum of Democracy with no bitterness and hostility. There also used to be charged atmosphere and disruptions in the House at times and they were few and far in between. Legislative business was largely unimpeded. In short, the Parliament 'functioned'. If and when a Member exceeded limits in a fit of anger or anguish, he or she promptly took back the remarks and apologised. The environment in the House was a picture of dignity and decency.

Things appeared to drift from early seventies. Jayaprakash Narayan's call for removal of elected governments and the no holds barred political war between the ruling and opposition parties leading to Emergency, legitimised the illegitimate practices. Indiscipline in Parliament had become an acceptable form of protest. Disruptions had become too frequent and the malady had become so acute that session after session had become total washouts. Parliamentary business often comes to grinding halt, the government and opposition blaming each other for the pass. We invoke May's Parliamentary Practice for guidance but not the British tradition of decorum in the House. There will be shouts and counter-shouts even before a Member rises to speak. The essence of democracy is majority rule where the Opposition is to act as watchdog against arbitrariness. Both should work in the interest of the Country. By stalling the functioning of the Parliament the Honourable Members are doing exactly the opposite.

In the existing political scenario, the BJP has numbers in its favour in Lok Sabha and the legislative business in the House during the just concluded winter session was largely undisturbed. It was exactly the opposite in Rajya Sabha. Important legislative work was effectively stalled in Rajya Sabha prompting a BJD Member of Lok Sabha, to suggest review of the powers of Rajya Sabha. By all accounts, it is a serious situation. It is a bi-cameral legislature in India. A close look at the Constitution will reveal that the two Houses are different nature but each has its importance. Lok Sabha, comprising of members directly elected by the people, gives a Prime Minister to the Country who heads the 'Executive' to govern the country. But it has a limited term. Rajya Sabha on the other hand is indirectly elected and is permanent House. It acts as a check against any hasty legislation by Lok Sabha. Every Bill, has to have approval from both the Houses and the President to become a law though Money Bills are exempted from Rajya Sabha clearance under special circumstances.

Proposal to review the powers of Rajya Sabha therefore needs to be seen in this context. It is not advisable to make structural changes for occasional hiccups. If Rajya Sabha is proving to be an impediment in making laws, the reasons should be studied and irritants removed. I see hope in Article 79 according to which the Parliament does not comprise of merely the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha but also the President of India. The President, in his Republic Day Message, had called for greater cooperation between the political parties for smooth functioning of Parliament.

-J. V. Sharma

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To
The Editor, Vana Premi,
Hyderabad
Dear Sir,

The Editorial of January, 2016 about the ills of Climate Change and the intrinsic behavior of the developed countries in not taking responsibility for their ills done in the past; and their argument for sharing the equal responsibilities of controlling the Global Warming by all the countries; and its ill effects on the development of developing countries is worth reading; and think on the issue for the better of human kind and the environment and ecology of the mother Earth.

2. Apropos to the write up "Before Elephants in Nagarahole" by an IFS probationer is a good observation of the life & behaviours of elephants in herds and on the present status of invading exotic weeds- thickets of Lantana, Eupatorium & Parthenium etc thickets responsible for degrading the carrying capacity of PAs in terms of herbivores.... Here the irony is.....a beginner can visualize the impending catastrophe due to weeds in PAs but not so by the PA managers/government. But, I fail to understand about his reading about the....The family members of an elephant died 'perform burials,....carefully covering it with earth and brush'..... This behavior is unheard and unread.....I wishes to read such reference...

Bengaluru

B M T Rajeev, IFS (Retd);

Dear Sri Sharma,

While wishing you happy Makara Sankranthi & congratulating you on the beautiful editorial you got up on a contemporary subject (in line with earlier Editorials by the learned editor-on-leave), as also a thoroughly enjoyable article: "Bridge on River Musi" in the January issue of VP, I would like to express my appreciation for expertly compiling articles from other contributors, concluding the same with an eminently readable 'Legal Notes' by KBR. You are indeed a rare example of an expert in journalism while being a dedicated member of the Indian Forest Service. We are grateful to Almighty for having gifted a rare talent like you to us. May your tribe increase! Amen!! Please find attached here-with a couple of articles for inclusion in the ensuing issues for February, and March. Thanking you,

Bengaluru

Yours' Sincerely
Dr.Raghotham Rao Desai

AIR POLLUTION BY VEHICLES IN CITIES

By

Qamar Mohammad Khan

The present day vehicles, like cars, busses or Lorries are very fast moving and comfortable, but when they were first invented they were not in the present form, shape and condition. They were very slow moving and not very comfortable. In 1768, the first steam powered automobile capable of human transportation was built by Nicolas-Joseph Cugnot in France, and in 1886 the first petrol powered automobile was invented and got patented by Karl Benz in Germany. From its invention till today car industry has undergone tremendous changes. Cars were rapidly adopted in the United States of America, where they replaced animal-drawn carriages and carts, but took much longer to be accepted in Western Europe and other, less developed, parts of the world.

In 1897, the first car ran on an Indian road in Calcutta. The next year, i.e. 1898, there were four cars in Bombay, one of them owned by Jamshedji Tata (who was an industrialist and formed Tata group). The other three cars were also owned by Parsis of Bombay. Madras, the first recorded date of a car being in regular use is 1901. In 1903, Samuel John Green of Simpson & Co, Madras, built India's first steam car and caused a sensation on the roads of the city. Two years later,

Simpson's built the India's first steam bus. It ran between Vijayawada and Machilipatnam, in what was possibly the first motor bus service in the country. The first car which rolled out in Hyderabad was a Luxurious Rolls Royce originally ordered by HEH the, Nizam VI of Hyderabad Mir Mehboob Ali Khan, in 1911. However, he died in August 1911, and it was delivered in the year 1912 to HEH the Nizam VII Mir Osman Ali Khan, who used it only for ceremonial occasions. In India indigenous car manufacturing factories, Hindustan Motors Ltd, Calcutta (which later produced Ambassador Cars), and Premier Automobiles Ltd Bombay (which later produced Premier Padmini Fiat Cars), were established in 1942 and 1944 respectively to progressively manufacture complete automobiles

When cars were invented perhaps it was a boon for the people and were very few in number, as the vehicles were in the reach of few elite people of the town or city, but with the passing of time and development slowly vehicles were purchased by most of the citizens for their personal and other uses. During the initial period when vehicle industry developed, large areas were under forests and there was no

pollution problem throughout the globe.

Exhaust gas or flue gas is emitted as a result of the combustion of fuels such as natural gas, petrol, biodiesel blends, diesel, kerosene or coal. According to the type of engine, exhaust gas is discharged into the atmosphere through an exhaust pipe. Vehicle pollution is primarily caused by the dangerous by-products produced, as petrol or diesel is burnt in an engine to provide the energy necessary to power the car. The following are the major pollutants or exhaust gases from motor vehicles: Particulate matter (PM). These are the particles of soot and metals and give smog its murky colour, Hydrocarbons (HC), Nitrogen oxides, Carbon monoxide (CO), Sulphur dioxide (SO₂), Hazardous air pollutants (toxics), and Greenhouse gases (like carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone).

With the passing of the time number of vehicles increased tremendously, and area under forest started shrinking due to many other reasons. Pollutants started damaging the environment which caused ill health among human beings, damage is caused to plants and buildings. (Charminar is living example of this damage). The first widespread introduction of pollution control in the gasses emitted by the vehicles was taken by U.S by introducing Catalytic converters. To comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's stricter regulation of exhaust emissions, gasoline-powered vehicles starting with the 1975 year

were equipped with Catalytic converters. United States automobile industry first tried to reduce the pollution by fitting a device known as Catalytic converter in the vehicles. A Catalytic converter is an emissions control device that converts toxic pollutants in exhaust gas to less toxic pollutants by catalysing a redox reaction. Catalytic converters are used with internal combustion engines fuelled by either petrol or diesel. Catalytic converter was invented by French chemical engineer Eugene Houdry in the United States, on May 5, 1950 and receiving his patent four years later on April 6, 1954. Catalytic converters will serve efficiently for 150000 Km. to 200000 Km.

The first emission norms were introduced in India in 1991 for petrol and 1992 for diesel vehicles. These were followed by making the Catalytic converter mandatory for vehicles and the introduction of unleaded petrol in the market. Implementation of mandatory Catalytic converters in 1995 for the four Metro cities was introduced. The standards, based on European regulations were first introduced in the year 2000. Progressively stringent norms have been rolled out since then. All new vehicles manufactured after the implementation of the norms have to be compliant with the regulations. Since April 2010, Bharat stage III norms have been enforced across the country. In 13 major cities, Bharat stage IV emission norms have been in place since October 2010.

and Bharat stage V emission norms are proposed to be introduced in our country from April 2017. But the Central government has decided on 5-1-2016 to skip BS V and roll out BS VI fuel norms directly across the country from 2020 year (D.C. 6-1-2016). In fact this is a backward step according to me. Bharat Stage (BS) emission standards are emission standards instituted by the Government of India to regulate the output of air pollutants from internal combustion engine equipment. The standards and the timeline for implementation are set by the Central Pollution Control Board under the Ministry of Environment & Forests and climate change. The phasing out of 2 stroke engine for two wheelers, the stoppage of production of Maruti 800 & introduction of electronic controls have been due to the regulations related to vehicular emissions.

Today pollution by vehicles has reached to the maximum and is an acute problem of various cities of the world including India. Due to this pollution, environment is degraded. Scientists now believe that the various illnesses are exacerbated by air pollution which is due to emission of vehicles. These illnesses include cardiovascular diseases, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, hyper tension, lung cancer, and diabetes. These pollutants also can cause mild to severe irritation in the eyes, nose, throat and lungs. They can also be absorbed into the body and cause deterioration in general health.

Delhi Government has already started restrictions on the movement of vehicles and allowing only odd or even registered number of vehicles on odd and even dates respectively to ply on Delhi roads with exemption of some vehicles. Supreme Court of India on 16-12-2015 banned the registration of diesel SUVs and vehicles above 2000 C.C. in Delhi and on 5-1-2016 refused to modify at this stage its earlier order of dated 16-12-2015. Rome has temporarily banned cars for three days from their roads in the last week of December 2015, in a bid to battle air pollution. Smog levels in the Italian cities have exceeded healthy levels for more than 30 consecutive days prompting authorities to take the drastic measure. Capital city of Lombardi, of Italy, Milan second most populous city has banned the cars, motorcycles and scooters from 10 AM to 4 PM. Vienna city in Austria with population of 1800000, Brussels city in Belgium with population of 200000, Lyon city of France with population of about 500000, Warsaw city of Poland with population of about 1900000, Moscow city of Russia with population of about 12000000, Seville city of Spain with population of 700000 and Zurich city of Switzerland with population of about 400000 have banned their vehicles from the roads in past for some time. The city of Florence has also announced that it is restricting access to city centre for those travelling by cars, or motorbikes. In 2012 the European Environment

Agency found that the country had the most air pollution related deaths in Europe. A study in 2013 by Massachusetts Institute of Technology indicates that 53000 early deaths occur every year in the USA alone because of vehicle emissions. On 02-01-2016 China has warned the people living in Beijing for air pollution and alerted people living in several other cities and provinces asking them to stay indoors and take precautions due to air pollution (mainly smog). It issued orange alert which is only next to red. China has four tier colour code 'weather warning system' with red showing most severe weather, followed by orange, yellow and blue. (Deccan Chronicle dated 4-1-2016). These are the cities which are very much conscious of health of their citizens. Esteemed readers can understand that the situation has become very grave and unless steps to check this pollution is taken we will suffer significantly.

The following statement shows the increase or decrease of pollutants from vehicle emission in Hyderabad which is on the rise except Sulphur dioxide. (Source; Deccan Chronicle dated. 6-1-2016, with thanks)

Pollutant	1994	2015
Carbon monoxide	126.17	212
Particulate matter	1.9	11.9
Nitrogen Oxide	16.84	138
Hydro Carbons	56.33	59.0
Sulphur dioxide	1.56	0.5

Even the inventors who invented vehicles, which

was a boon for the general public when invented, were also not knowing that their inventions will become a bane just after 125 years of their inventions, due to neglect by us. Today pollution by vehicles is the biggest problem for most of the countries. The banning of vehicles is not the solution. If we consider the odd and even number which is implemented in Delhi from 1-1-2016 (on experimental basis) is not the solution for the problem. We are allowing only 50% of the total vehicles of Delhi to ply on the roads on any day but what about the other 50% which are not allowed to ply on roads on that day, and purchased with heavy investment for some purpose? People somehow or the other will find a solution to overcome this rule with the passing of time and all the vehicles can be seen on the road on some pretext or the other. We have to study the problem and find out permanent solutions. There should be honest attempt, political will and strict implementation of rules and regulations by the authorities. If this is not tackled now perhaps it will go beyond control in our country, and cannot be tackled in future. Most of the State Government's welfare measures of our country are laudable but where is point in spending thousands of crores of rupees annually without providing clean air which is available free of cost in the environment, which now Government is not in apposition to provide and

due to this condition public is suffering with all types of diseases. We have to take some action to improve the quality of air. What is to be done? If we implement following practices in addition to strict emission restrictions perhaps we may get positive results and air quality can definitely be improved, as we have reduced Sulphur dioxide due to our efforts.

Average speed of the vehicles in cities. The following is the average speed of the vehicles in different countries and cities. In cities of USA 30 Miles/h or 45 Kms/h, in Sydney (Australia) 42Kms/h, in London it is about 36 Kms/h, in Hyderabad 22.Kms/h, in Bangalore 20 kms/h, in New Delhi 20 kms/h, Mumbai 22 kmp/h, in Kolkata 18 kmp/h, and in Chennai 20 Kms/h. These are the some of the examples of average speeds of vehicles and by observing the above figures we can conclude that for travelling a distance of 45 kilometres in cities of USA we take one hour, in Sydney it is 1.07 hours, in London it is 1.25 hours and in cities of our country it is about 2.04 hours, which means to travel same distance engine of a vehicle, in USA and Australia will be running for about one hour in London for about one hour fifteen minutes and in Indian cities almost for about 2 hours. Unnecessarily we are not only polluting the atmosphere for one hour extra than USA and Australia, but also burning 100%extra natural resources i.e. petrol LPG, CNG or diesel. There is a need for increasing the average speed of the vehicles in our cities by widening and

maintaining roads in very good conditions, removing all the encroachments from the road, following the traffic signals, People have to become traffic conscious, maintaining the engines of the vehicles in good conditions by properly repairing/tuning engines, changing engine oil /gear oil as recommended by the manufacturer, and following the lane driving system,

Average age of the vehicles. In Australia the average age of the vehicles is 10.5 years, the average age of vehicles on the road in the U.S., is 11.5 years, the average age of vehicles listed in Saudi Arabia is 3.8 years and 5.2 years in the UAE. No statistical data is available for any state, state capital or for national capital of our country. It is estimated that in Hyderabad alone 8.0 lakhs vehicles mostly two and three wheelers, which are above 20 years of age or more, and not fitted with Catalytic converters or following any norms of emissions as prescribed by the Govt., are plying on the roads and polluting the city. The same must be the condition of the other cities of India with slight differences in number. Even if some of the vehicles are fitted with catalytic converters its life has expired and needs replacement of Catalytic converter.

Lane Driving system. In our country we have all types of the vehicles on the roads like Cycles, Pedal rickshaws, Motor cycles, Scooters, Auto rickshaws, Cars Lorries, & Busses which are

plying on the road and no lane system is followed. Every vehicle driver has the right to move on the road from extreme right to extreme left in order to overtake a vehicle, any number of times and disturb the free movement of all other traffic. It is really herculean task to control such a mixture of the vehicles in which slow and fast moving vehicles are travelling together in a group according to their wishes. There should be separate lanes for buses on the extreme left side and no other vehicle should be allowed to come over to this lane and busses should not be allowed to go on any other lane of the road except while turning. This system is followed in Australia. Likewise in the next lane only Pedal rickshaws, Scooters Motor cycles and Auto rickshaws should be allowed. Cars should be allowed in the next lane, if required two to three lanes can be provided for cars depending on the traffic. Lorries of any type should be allowed to ply on the roads in the city only from 10 PM to 7 AM. There should be separate 3 feet wide Cycle paths provided on either side of the road on foot paths and travelling by cycles should be encouraged. The prices of Cycles should be reduced by reducing taxes. Awareness should be brought in public to increase the use of cycles for short distances. Foot paths should be provided on all the roads, pedestrians should be given utmost importance and given full protection. For all this roads have to be widened. Pedestrians should be allowed to cross the road

only at a point where traffic signals are provided. Police may restrict the entry of certain types of vehicles like rickshaws and auto rickshaws on certain important main roads at some peak hours. These rules should be strictly followed and if not followed should be heavily fined, as ordered by the Hyderabad High Court. High court of Hyderabad had ordered that if motorcyclist are not putting on helmets they should be fined more than the cost of helmet to deter them from committing same offence repeatedly.

Issue of driving licences and vehicle registrations.

In our country it is very easy to get driving licences, through agents, but in all the developed countries including Gulf countries it is very difficult to get the driving licences. Initially learner's licence is issued and its validity is six months. During six months period one has to attend fixed number of classes and then only he can appear for a driving test. If he is successful in this test he will be given a provisional driving licence with red 'P' plate of one year validity. Again after expiry of one year, he has to appear for a test and if he comes out successfully provisional licence with Green 'P' plate with a validity of two years will be issued and finally after two years again he has to appear for a final test and permanent licence will be granted to him if he is successful. These colour 'P' plates are to be fixed to the vehicle in front and back at conspicuous places so that

other drivers can see this vehicle and be careful with this vehicle. No corruption is involved in this process. This long duration of about three and half year is needed to perfectly train the driver who drives safely and happily throughout his life.

In our country new vehicles if once registered no one will think of it till completion of 15 years' time and again without any inspection by qualified mechanic, it will be re-registered for another 5 years whatever may be the condition of engine. In developed countries like America and Australia the new vehicles are to be registered every year for next five years without inspection by the mechanics. But after five years the vehicle is to be taken to the authorised mechanics every year, who will inspect the vehicle, with electronic machines after payment of prescribed fees, and will forward his report online to the concerned RTA, who in turn will register the vehicle for one year. From sixth year onwards without inspection of the mechanic no vehicle will be registered by the concerned authorities. The mechanic will inspect engine, emission, gear box, breaks, body, tyres, colour, and upholstery and issues a certificate for the roadworthiness of the vehicle and no leniency is shown by mechanic. Mechanic will do his job honestly. All this is done without the involvement of any illegal money and without wasting any time. Police will not allow any vehicle to ply without registration and imposes

heavy fines. In Saudi Arabia, UAE, and other Gulf countries even the owner or the driver cannot get the vehicle repaired or painting done without the NOC from Police authorities.

A system known as 'demerits' is followed in Australia where 14 points are credited into the accounts, maintained by the authorities, on the 1st of January every year to all the drivers having licences and for any traffic rule violations 3 points will be deducted from his account, in addition to the fines. When all the points are deducted (14 points) for violation of traffic rules, licences will be suspended for various durations or permanently cancelled depending on the type of offence committed. During the long weekends and vacations, like Christmas and other vacations, double the demerit points i.e. 6 points per traffic violations will be deducted for violation of one traffic rule in addition to heavy fines. This is followed to compel the drivers to drive very carefully in heavy traffic of long weekends or vacations. Large number of police personnel on all the roads, day and night will be patrolling and checking the vehicles for any violations and for effectively implementing this demerits rule. In our country if once driving licence is issued nobody thinks of cancelling it without bothering about all the violations of traffic rules.

Public Transport System and Parking areas.

There is an urgent need of improving public transport system and parking areas in all the

cities of our country in general and in Hyderabad in particular. Metro rail should be provided in all the areas of city and should be very economical when compared to own vehicles. It should be in the reach of all. Incentives like cash awards in the shape of lotteries should be given to the ticket numbers of passengers every week to attract them towards public transport.

Government should encourage electric cars by totally waiving all the taxes on it and giving 50% subsidy for purchasing this car. All the Government cars in Hyderabad should be replaced by the electrically operated cars for all their officers except for some vehicles. In my opinion only this move will substantially reduce air pollution in Hyderabad. Present office timings should also be changed and office timing should start before school timings which will reduce congestions on the road.

Supply of pure fuel and oils. Use of vehicles in Australia and America is increasing every year, yet, air quality is actually improving because of tighter controls on car emissions. Quality of fuel plays a major and important role in emissions. In Hyderabad city there are hundreds of petrol pumps and the purity and quantity of fuel supplied from these pumps is not known. Government should see that concerned departments check for quality and quantity of the fuel and oils supplied from these pumps frequently without any information to the pumps

and if found adulterating or supplying less quantity of fuels, licences should be immediately cancelled. It is believed that used engine oil is recycled and sold in some of the pumps.

Increasing the strength of law enforcing agency.

Name of country	Police/100000 persons
USA	373
India	131
Australia	217
Austria	376
Belgium	421.

If we see the above statement we will find that India is having the minimum police personnel per 100000 persons though it is the second highest populous country of the world next only to China. Out of the above numbers also around half of the posts may be vacant. There is an urgent need to increase the strength of Police and Transport department personnel, simultaneously reducing the corruption and improving sincerity among personnel of law enforcing agencies which will definitely improve the conditions on the roads of our cities and towns and much cleaner air will be available for all of us.

Let us hope our Government will protect us from vagaries of vehicular air pollution and from pollution related diseases.

ANDHRA PRADESH FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED: THE SUCCESS STORY

By
S.K. DAS

One Evening in December 2015 Mr. R.H. KHAJA IAS (Retd) came to my residence and gave me his book. He has Co-authored the Book titled "Acrobatics of Change" in which in one part of the book he has discussed the innovative measures undertaken by him to make the loss making company Singareni Collieries Company limited (SCCL) into a profit making company during his tenure as Chairman and MD. I would like to record my heartfelt thankfulness to him for his exceptionally good gesture. I have been quite inspired from the book and my interaction with him as almost during the same period I was the V.C & MD of APFDC Ltd, and reform measures undertaken by my team turned the APFDC Limited a big success. But there is almost no comparison between the SCCL and AFDC Ltd as the SCCL is one of the biggest public sector companies in our country employing more than one lakh employees whereas the APFDC Ltd has less than thousand employees. However the only similarity is that both are public sector undertaking and both were in financial distress at that time.

I took over as the full additional charge of the post of V.C & MD APFD Ltd. In the afternoon of 31st Dec. 1997 when my esteemed predecessor Mr. Satish Chandra IFS (Retd) laid down the office on superannuation, and subsequently on 30th June 1998 as the regular V.C & MD on my promotion in the rank of Prl. CCF and worked till 30th June 2002 when I was posted as the Prl. CCF of APFD. I retired from there on superannuation

on 31st Dec 2007.

Prior to my posting as VC & MD APFDC limited, I worked as the Chief General Manager of APFDC Limited for a period of almost six months. My V.C & M.D Mr. Satish Chandra IFS (Retd) used to always encourage me to take up frequent tours in order to assess the situation properly. I am really much thankful to him.

APFDC Limited was in-corporated with a share capital of 7500 Lakhs in 1975 with the main objective to raise industrial plantations in degraded forest lands taken on nominal lease from Forest Department.

Accordingly large scale Eucalyptus and Bamboo plantations were raised from 1976 onwards in degraded forest lands under different schemes financed by the public sector Banks under NABARD Refinancing Schemes. Later the Govt. advised the corporation to take over the cashew plantations raised by the forest department and further expand it in coastal area under loan for commercial banks so that those plantations may act as shelterbelt to arrest the sand casting and protect the valuable agriculture land of the farmers. Also the govt. advised the corporation to take over the coffee plantations raised by the Srilankan repatriates and further expand it in the eastern *ghat* area in order to contain the *podu* cultivation.

The clear picture that appeared before us during my initial period of inspection and thorough discussion with the office and field staff are as follows:

1. The plantation did not give yield as anticipated; particularly the Eucalyptus plantations in the second rotation gave the yield as low as less than 25% of the first rotation.
2. All the plantation areas were under different stages of soil erosion and even the inspection paths over a long period of time have been converted into something like drains to send all rain water away from the plantation very quickly.
3. Plantation watchers were not effective as they did not turn out any physically measurable work.
4. The Eucalyptus clonal plantations financed by the World Bank in Rangareddy and Medak which were 3-4 years old were wilting from the top.
5. There was only an amount Rs 8.00 corers with the corporation at that time whereas the liability was huge due to loan and interest burden more over the existing plantation were not in a good condition due to several factors.

The most alarming indication was the wilting of the Eucalyptus clonal plantations as indicated in para (4) above. We had no doubt in mind if the world bank Aided Eucalyptus clonal plantations had failed, the corporation would cease to exist. A very practical analysis of the desperate situation revealed the following:-

PROBLEMS (Weaknesses)

1. The wilting of the clonal Plantations from the top was not due to any fungus or Insect attack (it was ruled out by lab exam of soil) it was therefore concluded that the wilting was due to heavy moisture stress.
2. The low yield of the plantations in general and the 2nd rotation eucalyptus plantations in particular is due to the existence of heavy misc. thorny under growth which were frequently subject to annual fire in the summer. The problem described in para 1 above did exist for these plantations also.

We had therefore set the following:-

GOALS:-

1. An aggressive soil and moisture conservation measures in the plantations so that the effective utilization of rain fall is almost 3 times of actual rain fall in less rain fall areas and two times of that in high rain fall area as the moisture requirement for good growth of the species like bamboo and eucalyptus is high and for clonal plantation the requirement is much higher.
- I refrain from writing about details of calculation of the method to arrive at the above Goal.
- If may be mentioned that the leading experts in the field were consulted. If any reader is interested, he is welcome to discuss the subject with me.
2. To keep the plantation floor free from any weed growth from the beginning to the end, and the ground soil loose for easy percolation of rain water.
3. To improve the nutrient status of the soil in the plantation area by broad cast showing of leguminous plant seeds and plough back in the soil repeatedly after raising the plantations by tractor.
4. To achieve the target of a minimum of 90% survival in each plantations and 100% survival at least in one plantation under each

plantation manager.

To achieve the above goals, the following

Strategies were worked out:-

1. Detailed technical guidelines on how to prepare the plantation, site fix the ploughing direction, soil and moisture conservation measures were issued to the officers and field staff.
(Dt. 21/1/98, 16/02/98, 09/03/98, 20/05/98, 22/05/98, 07/11/99, 16/05/2000 04/05/2001, 11/10/2001)
2. Instead of bulldozers, excavators of 20 tons or more were used for site preparation as a result the soil was quite loose and hence quite conducive to easy percolation of rain water.
3. The operation: Cutting of copies growth in the plantation area: was replaced of the operation

up-rootal of misc. Growth and removal of it outside the plantation boundary.

4. Leguminous annual plant seeds of DHAINCHA (*Sesbaniaaculeata*) were to broadcast sown at the rate of 10 Kg/ha in the plantation floor and was ploughed back in the soil with tractor in the raising year of the plantations (Dt. 20/05/98).
5. Detailed guidelines were issued to the officers as to how to achieve higher survival percentage or cent percent survival (Dt 22/05/98, 20/04/99)
6. Detailed technical guidelines were issued to officers and field staff for improving the conditions of the old plantations (Dt. 09/05/98, 23/06/98)

We had a few opportunities also:-

1. The state Govt. had adopted drought relief work. The Govt. allotted us some budget for

carrying out certain works in the plantations as proposed by us.

2. The World Bank agreed to our entire proposal for modification of schedule of operations and therefore the project was almost rewritten by the time it was taken up for large scale implementations.
3. Through a constant process of interaction, formal and informal training the staff rose to the occasion right from the level of plantation watcher to the all levels of office and field staff. They became a great asset to the corporation. (Dt. 23/09/97, 15/06/2002)
4. Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding Coimbatore which acted as the consultant for the corporation with respect to world Bank funded clonal eucalyptus plantations was headed by my batch mate and a good friend- Mr. K Subramanian IFS (Retd). He was the gold medalist in the university. He is an eminent forester.

We had also additional problems (Weaknesses)

1. The income tax authority seized the corporation money in the Bank Account to a tune of Rs. 3.56 Crores as the corporation did not pay the Tax as assessed by them to a tune of Rs. 7.29 Crores and interest of Rs. 5.14 Crore. It happened some time in 1995.

The entire confusion was due to the classification of corporation produce as " forest produce" whereas the corporation plea has always been that it is an agriculture produce and hence not Taxable.

The corporation went to the High Court against the demand of the income tax authority and

won the case. However the income tax authority did not release the amount and it was given to understand that they were contemplating to go on appeal to the Supreme Court. That was the time when I took charge of the corporation.

I was fortunate in a way that at that time the chief commission of income tax happened to be my batch mate. We represented the case to her saying for lack of budget the corporation which is engaged in eco restoration program in general is in difficult financial condition to maintain the existing plantations. Ultimately an amount of Rs. 3.25 Crores was returned while the tax authority retained an amount of Rs 0.31 Crores.

We claimed very strongly for payment of interest but it could not be paid immediately as the demand was huge. However ultimately an amount of Rs2.21 Crores was paid in 2003-2004 as the interest.

1. Bank loan - Interest and penal interest:

The corporation failed to pay back the loan in time as the return from the plantation was not as forecast in the different projects. The banks started to impose penal interest to the extent of 30 – 50% more than original agreed rate with a provision of compounding the same every year. The entire plea from the corporation was rejected by them and NABARD was not in a position to offer any help to the corporation.

We invited all the bankers in the head office of the corporation for lively debate on the subject, while the bankers cited the agreement conditions and justified their demand but from our side we put forward reasoning that here was an organization which paid its staff without any Govt. grant, engaged in improvement of environment by way of raising tree covers in

degraded area with loan from the bank with interest. Examples were brought to their notice the, huge amount Govt. spends in tree planting, eco-restoration and watershed management, whereas the corporation was doing the same job with loan from the bank and the corporation is ready to pay the amount with interest.

The Bankers accepted the logic but they said they would send the proposal to the respective HQ for decision by the competent authority. Ultimately the problem was solved. The Bankers agreed to take only an additional simple interest of 1% (One).

OUT COME:-

1. The results from the implementation of technical guidelines in the plantation area were much more than expected. The wilting Eucalyptus clonal plantations started growing vigorously.
2. We could raise eucalyptus plantations with cent percent survival. One director from the World Bank spent one full hour in the midday of May in a plantation to find out any causality. He could not find any subsequently in the review meeting in Aranya Bhavan, he mentioned it quite happily.
3. We could raise Bamboo plantations in khammam and RJY area which at the end of 3 years only gave back the capital with 12% interest. Many teams from outside the state visited these plantations. The World Bank team was not ready to accept "such a miracle". Any how Mr. N. Prateep Kumar IFS who was then Regional Manager, RJY took the team members to the plantations site and they were shown, the series of plantations. They were quite surprised.

4. More and more success of plantations boosted the spirit of corporation team and there was a lot of fraternity I could even remember the names of the many of our plantation watchers who got Khaki Pant, Khaki Shirt, one axe, one spade and one bill hook, they were always found in the plantations doing some tending operation. I have personally checked it many a time in surprise inspections.

This was the toughest reform for us to introduce in the corporation.

5. The loan to all Banks was paid back with interest.

6. (A) Many old plantations of eucalyptus where survival percentage was good were brought under the main stream of maintenance by up rootal of misc, growth carrying out SMC works cutting the stumps properly and protecting the coppice plantations at least for six months by watcher till the singling operation was carried out.

(B) The enormous success by implementation of the technical guidelines were brought to the notice of the Board of APFDC and the APFDC Board approved these technical guidelines so that they are not changed frequently without the approval of the Board. The idea was to bring a technical frame for working which should be changed only when something better is found.

Accordingly in the fourth week of June 2002 field companion (a Compendium of circulars of the V.C & M.D) a printed Booklet was distributed to all officers and field staff for ready reference.

7. There was a balance of 26 Crores with the

corporation when I left for the Department and a huge extent of green gold in the form of very successful eucalyptus and bamboo plantations. Most important is the spirit and work culture of the staff that developed in order to overcome the challenge.

I must mention it very clearly and repeatedly that the entire credit goes only to team members of the corporation who rose up to the occasion and discharged their duties much beyond the normal call. However some of the officers who exhibited brilliance with total commitment are mentioned below.

1) Mr. C. Muralidhar IFS (Retd).

2) Mr. N. Prateep Kumar IFS.

3) Mr. Dr. N. Ramakrishna Rao.

4) Mr. D. Saibaba Financial Controller (Later G.M, Finance).

5) Ch. Venkappiah Asst Engineer.

Other senior officers like Mr. P.K Sarangi IFS, Mr. Partha Sarathi IFS (Retd), Mr. Krishna Bhoopal IFS (Retd) did really an outstanding job.

I was succeeded by brilliant officers like Mr. K.S Rao IFS (Retd), Mr. C. Madhukar Raj IFS (Retd), Mr. C. Siva Sankar Reddy IFS (Retd), Mr. Omkar Singh IFS (Retd), etc. etc. who have all tried to improve the condition further from stage where it was left by me. I am also sure that the two young and dynamic officers Mr. P.K. Sarangi IFS and Mr. D.K .Pandey IFS who are heading at present the split corporations of Andhra Pradesh state and Telangana State will further improve the condition of the corporation as I believe sincerely that there may be limits to many things in the world but there is no limit to progress.

CLIMATE CHANGE: HOW IT AFFECTS BUSINESS

By

Dr. B Raghotham Rao Desai.

[As promised in the preamble of an Eastern Europe travelogue (which appeared in the previous issue of this periodical) containing a 'rollicking' brief account (from a 'tourist's point of view') of my sojourn, following is an article dealing with **climate change**, studied from 'business point of view']

I would like to share with the readers the 'awesome' experience I happened to have recently when I travelled as part of a cultural delegation to Eastern Europe.....

.....As we visited Budapest (Hungary) and explored the 'most visited city', by the end I emerged as an enlightened traveller and an avid admirer of Europe where history and modernity co-exist almost naturally.

Introduction: Climate change is serious business! It is a fundamental business issue as it affects the bottom-line. Hence, there is no escaping it: it will only continue to grow in importance over the course of time — such are the times that **climate change might well have become an industry in itself.** According to Climate Change Business Journal, "climate change industry" is worth about a whopping \$ 1.5 trillion globally in 2015.

The climate change consulting global market is about \$ 1.9 billion: this figure is expected to multiply quickly in the coming years. The report released in April, 2015 states that "Growth in the Climate Change consulting market continues to shift from Green House Gas (GHG) management and mitigation to climate change risk assessment and adaptation".

It continues, "adaptation is increasingly folding into a broader concept of resilience which itself lines up with the even broader goal of sustainability — a focus on how companies, communities and nations can grow economically while enhancing environmental and social values".

So, just who would need climate change consultants?

Well, looks like, lot of us might need them!

Big retail firms, real estate businesses, food producing companies and many more will need them. The report points out that climate change consulting for large firms is moving further down into supply chains. **Climate change can lead to frustrating and costly business interruptions** — another compelling reason for being a fundamental

business issue is that it affects the Perception of the brand. With growing focus on it business might be difficult to source from regions known as “dirty polluters!”

Facts and figures: Climate change will also change the nature of business forever.

Given that since 2000, the global losses from it and extreme weather events have reached well over \$ 2 trillion, this is no surprise.

Climate change offers serious business opportunities as they exist in every sector related to global warming and renewable energy.

Technologies for adapting to climate change could be something like:

- (i) **Changing architecture of buildings,** or even moving homes;
- (ii) **Buying hazard insurance,** or changing insurance premiums;
- (iii) **Devising new consumer products,** or buying air conditioning systems;
- (iv) **Installing early warning system,** or offering compensation / subsidies;
- (v) **Establishing new building codes,** or enforcing building codes;

And **reactive effects** could be (a) **longer or shorter growing seasons,** (b) **Migration of wetlands,** and (c) **changes in ecosystems.**

Need of the hour: The need of the hour is building bridges between the knowledge base and end users to ensure effective use of the

knowledge. There is an important dimension which is not discussed much, but it is perhaps the most critical as well as elusive of them all: it is the moral dimension. **Developing countries contend that developed countries have created the problem,** but the reality is that by 2030 developing countries will be responsible for 50 percent of cumulative emissions. Trillions of dollars’ worth of capital is needed to finance a lower carbon and more climate resilient global economy. **And for that to happen, investors, banks, insurers and politicians must work together.** That is, **climate change now involves global politics at the highest level which is subject to an intricate juxtaposition of national and global self-interests.** A global climate agreement will be impossible to achieve if developing countries insist on unconditional financial transfers from rich countries.

People disagree because they have differing perspectives on what is fair distribution of effort and who will bear the costs. Countries have very different national interests. **We must seek ingenious synergies, where initiatives satisfy other national priorities** at the same time that they provide emission reductions as co-benefits.

One answer to climate change is about people and nations following their Dharma, as Dharma exists for the general welfare (or abhyudaya) of

all living beings — hence by which the welfare of all living creatures is sustained, that for sure is Dharma. **It is important to remember that Dharma is not religion** — it is rather a template on which a religion or a social system can be based. It does not identify with any particular doctrine. Hence, **it is universal!**

Conclusion: This is the scenario: the temperature of our planet is rising and it is due to excess of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere which in turn are due to human activities, and it is leading to rapid climate change which is creating extreme weather events on earth. If we take a look at ourselves and the situation around, we will realise that we are supporting 17.5 % of world population while we have only 2.4 % of world surface, and house largest proportion of global poor, still 24 % have no access to electricity and 30 % still rely on biomass for cooking, while about 9 crore have no access to safe drinking water. With development indices, our per capita GHG Emissions are much less than most of developed

countries. However, we are duty-bound to make the community climate friendly. **If we do not take action to mitigate climate changes then it will cause a global catastrophe.** If we reduce the emissions of GHG then we can arrest global warming and thereby fix climate change — we must act as one.

If the two degree limit is breached, the impact would include water crisis, extreme weather conditions like droughts, floods and hurricanes, reduction in coral reef, extinction of some plants and animals, drowning of islands and coastal areas, and spread of malaria & other diseases. There are two distinct alternatives as per my thinking: 1. Change our development strategy by giving up the race of maximum gross national product (GNP) and continue to decarbonize the economy. 2. Reduce energy needs, decarbonize the economy but continue to maximize per capita GNP in developing and developed countries.

This is as simple as it gets. From here on it becomes complex: **we act because we must!**

***“When there is conflict between the heart and the brain,
let the heart be followed”***

***“Goodness is our nature, purity is our nature, and that
nature can never be destroyed.”***

(Collected and contributed by Y .Usha)

FALL OUT OF COP21- CAN WE REACH 22ND CENTURY?

By

Chinmay K. Mishra

To remember my school days - I have been born and brought up in a village on the outskirts of Cuttack town, Odisha. In my childhood days we used to shiver in cold during the months of November to January. These are the things of the past. Surprisingly, during my recent trip to Bhubaneswar, the capital of Odisha, during December 2015 I felt like using the air conditioner for getting good sleep. What a change! I could realise that something serious is happening to our climate; the talk on global warming has lot of relevance to mankind's very survival.

What is happening to our climate? Now it is a hot topic for scientists, political leaders as well as the common man. The combined average temperature over global land and ocean surfaces for November 2015 was the highest for that month in the 136-year period of record, at 0.97°C (1.75°F) above the 20th century average of 12.9°C (55.2°F). This topped the previous record of 2013 by 0.15°C (0.27°F). It also marks the seventh consecutive month that a monthly global temperature record has been broken. (NOAA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration report). The Earth's climate has changed throughout history. Just in the last 650,000 years there have been seven cycles of glacial advance and retreat, with the abrupt end of the last ice age about 7,000 years ago marking the beginning of the modern climate era — and of human civilization. Most of these climate changes are attributed to very small variations in Earth's orbit that change the amount of solar energy our planet receives. Whether climatic change is due to variations in orbit or due to greenhouse gas emission is debatable. But Ninety-seven percent of climate scientists agree that climate-warming trends over the past century are very likely due to human activities, and most of the leading scientific organizations worldwide have issued public statements endorsing this position. (NOAA)

Why CO₂:-

CO₂ does not directly absorb heat from the sun. The fact is that earth absorbs energy from sun in the short wave and emits in the long wavelength. CO₂ absorbs heat in the longer wavelength from the earth's radiation. CO₂ remains in the atmosphere longer than the

other major heat-trapping gases emitted as a result of human activities. It takes about a decade for methane (CH_4) emissions to leave the atmosphere (it converts into CO_2) and about a century for nitrous oxide (N_2O). In the case of CO_2 , much of today's emissions will be gone in a century, but about 20 percent will still exist in the atmosphere approximately 800 years from now. This literally means that the heat-trapping emissions we release today from our cars and power plants are setting the climate our children and grandchildren will inherit. CO_2 's long life in the atmosphere provides the clearest possible rationale for reducing our CO_2 emissions without delay. (Union of concerned scientists)

If we verify data of the CO_2 concentration in the atmosphere and global rise of temperature; we find a direct correlation. Before the industrial revolution the CO_2 concentration in the atmosphere varied between 180 to 280 ppm; less in summer due to increased photosynthetic activity and more in winter. In the last November 2015 we have reached 402.23ppm, a global record. Mind-numbingly arcane numbers such as "400 ppm" will determine what life looks like in the future of our planet. How many people will be killed by heat waves? How many species — not just polar bears, but amphibians, protease and pikas — will go extinct? What percentage of the world's coral reefs will be lost? How many

low-lying island nations will have to be abandoned as the seas swallow them up? Which regions will be newly exposed to malaria and other tropical diseases? The national geographic magazine wrote that survival of mankind may be jeopardized if the concentration of CO_2 goes beyond 450 ppm. We are not very far from the deadline. Atmospheric CO_2 concentration is accelerating upward from decade to decade. For the past ten years (2005 - 2014), the average annual rate of increase is 2.11 parts per million (ppm). This rate of increase is more than double the increase in the 1960s. Earth is burning about 93 million barrels of petroleum per day and about 9 billion tons of coal per annum. All the fossil fuels combustion produced about 38.2 billion tons of carbon dioxide in 2015. 80 percent of our energy requirement is from fossil fuels only.

Global warming is always deleterious to survival of species, but 2 degrees Celsius of warming (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) is when things start to get Earth-changing badly? Water is expected to become much scarcer. A significant percentage of the world's plants and animals will be at risk for extinction. Coral reefs will be heavily bleached if not gone. Some island nations could be underwater, or saltwater intrusion from rising seas could make them uninhabitable. (John. D Stutter, CNN). It is

estimated by NASA that world's forests absorb only about 2.5 billion tons of carbon dioxide out of which tropical forests account for 1.4 billion tones. It is estimated that 50 percent of CO₂ goes to land and oceans and rest 50 percent goes to the atmosphere.

To address the above issues major international conventions on climatic change are: -

Rio Summit (1992):

United Nation's Framework Convention on Climatic Change was a treaty signed by 195 countries, who agreed to work together to curb climatic change.

Kyoto Protocol (1997):

As we all know Kyoto Protocol extends the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climatic Change; was the first attempt to commit the countries to reduce emissions. The countries agreed with a different target of 3 to 30 percent reduction in emissions by 2020. World CO₂ production in 1992 was about 21.56 billion tonnes. A minimum of 5 percent reduction would have brought it to about 20 billion tonnes. But it is almost double today, indicating a failure of the countries to ratify and abide by the targets.

COP 21(2015):

It was recently held in Paris from 30th November to 12th December; 21st annual session of the COP to 1992 UNFCCC and 11th session meeting of the parties to 1997 Kyoto Protocol. The conference

negotiated the Paris Agreement, a global agreement on the reduction of climate change, the text of which represented a consensus of the representatives of the 196 parties attending it. The agreement would become legally binding if joined by at least 55 countries which together represent at least 55 percent of global greenhouse emissions. Such parties will need to sign the agreement in New York between 22 April 2016 and 21 April 2017, and also adopt it within their own legal systems (through ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession). According to the organizing committee at the outset of the talks, the expected key result was an agreement to set a goal of limiting global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius (°C) compared to pre-industrial levels. The agreement calls for zero net anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions to be reached during the second half of the 21st century. In the adopted version of the Paris Agreement, the parties will also "pursue efforts to" limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C. The 1.5 °C goal will require zero emissions sometime between 2030 and 2050, according to some scientists. However the negotiations could not bear fruit. When coming to action front on key issues, the countries failed to arrive at any consensus as follows: -

(i) Historic Responsibility: Developed countries like U.S.A. and European Union do not

agree to shoulder their historic responsibly for causing large scale emission during industrialization, so don't want to reduce emissions.

(ii) Green Funds: The developing countries argued that the developed countries provide funds for mitigation and adaptations to climatic change on the basis of "polluter must pay" principle. The developed countries argue that \$100 billion has been set aside for this purpose, ignoring India's contention that much of this funding is provided under ODA (oversees development assistance).

(iii) Adaptation: Developing countries demanded a fund of \$200 billion annually to brace them for facing natural calamities and adaptation to climatic change. On this account there was no firm commitment from the developed nations.

(iv) Mitigation: There was no imposition of carbon cuts. It was made voluntary called Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). 196 member countries pledged to reduce carbon emissions. But when added together this would increase global temperature by 3.5 degrees Celsius. India argued that developed countries must make more carbon space available to developing countries. But developed countries insisted that developing countries should take up more ambitious commitments.

(v) Transfer of Green Technology: The developing countries insisted on transfer of green technology by the devolved countries to reduce emissions. Developed countries replied that much of the R & D is under the private sector and is limited by IPR (Intellectual Property Rights). The developing countries insisted that developed countries contribute for GFC (Green Climate Fund) under the U.N. to take care of the IPR issue. But the developed countries are yet to make any commitment.

(vi) Efficiency in Energy Utilisation: The developing countries again insisted on developed countries to transfer clean technology for efficient utilization of fossil fuels.

(vii) Capacity Building and Loss Compensation: The developing countries asked for a mechanism, with insurance, to provide a safety net when disaster strikes because of irregular climatic patterns. They wanted richer counter parts to come up with a financial mechanism with insurance to provide a safety net. But developed countries did not heed to this demand.

It appears that the two worlds – developing and developed shall never reach any consensus on climate agenda. Thus the emissions will go on rising. The spectre of extinction now stares at our face. As Prince Charles commented, "we do not have a plan – B to save this earth." World does not lack resources. World's expenditure on

armaments was \$1776 billion in 2014 (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute), whereas world does not want to spare at least \$500 billion for saving the mankind. In spite of our material progress we still feel insecure. As if the species Homo sapiens gives more priority towards destruction rather than self-preservation. Nobody wants to compromise on the unsustainable lifestyle.

In her new book, *This Changes Everything: Capitalism and Climate Change*, Naomi Klein states our predicament succinctly: "What the climate needs to avoid collapse is a contraction in humanity's use of resources; what our economic model demands to avoid collapse are unfettered growth . . ." We are living in a vicious cycle of highly consumptive pattern of life style resulting in unchecked population growth with dwindling resources. After all the green initiatives are said and done, the basic ecological contradiction of capitalism still remains: maximizing profit and saving the planet are inherently in conflict and cannot be systematically aligned even if, here and there, they might coincide for a moment. CEOs can embrace environmentalism so long as this increases profits. But saving the world requires that the pursuit of profits be systematically subordinated to ecological concerns – and this they cannot do. To save the humans, we need to

radically cut fossil fuel consumption, close down coal production, sharply retrench oil and gas production, suppress all kinds of fossil-fuel dependent industries from autos to airlines, construction to tourism. But no corporate board can sacrifice earnings, let alone put themselves out of business to save the humans. Green capitalism is not a solution. It's a delusion. There is no capitalist solution to our ecological crisis. Either we save capitalism or we save the humans. We can't save both.

I remember Albert Einstein's maxim - "*we can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.*" If technology has created the problem of climatic change can we solve it through more improved technology??? I can only pray to mother earth to guide us to save us from the devastation: -
(by mother Maya)

Om Beloved Mother, keep our faith firm,
Fill our heart with healing light
Give us strength to restore our earth
Give us courage in the mind of peace

I offer you love

I offer you gratitude

I offer you friendship

I ask forgiveness for our harmful actions

I ask for your blessings.

Om Tat Sat

THEORY OF RELATIVITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

By
Surendra Pandey

I do not remember, I had seen an air-conditioned Car during 1983-85 in Dehradun, the year I was there for my training in IFS. My seniors used to tell fables, even there were no fans in rooms till 1975 in the Old Hostel. In Mussoorie, in normal hotels there were no fans then. During my joining in Andhra Pradesh, in Hyderabad, I do not remember I have seen air-conditioned cars, they were luxuries. Rail trains used to have only air cooled first class coach for luxurious people travelling with their own bedding, food and water, rather than present air conditioned trains for commons. "GaribRath" is such an innovation. Now, in all these places, normal rooms and almost all the cars are air-conditioned. Roaming in Paltan Bazar on holidays used to be pleasure. Now the same market places are over-crowded with men and vehicles. This all because, that time, there was probably no need and scientific innovations, financial liberalisation have not made the men sensitive. We as children used to walk to schools, bicycled to colleges and there used to be space on roads, where all these space disappeared. We were developing. My vague memory confirms, till 2005 there used to be talk on sustainability. However, the definition remains the same but less use of this word is now found in newspapers. Now different luxury cars are ruling the road, bigger and bigger are the norms. We feel irritating if electric current goes out for fractions of minute. Our all these small activities are adding fuel to fire to increase

the global temperature. Now most of countries believe that raise in temperature of Earth is not normal variations. The IPCC has given sufficient evidence to prove it.

The most polluting countries are China, US, Brazil, Indonesia, Japan, Russia, India, Germany and Canada. They all are aware of the need to reduce their emission but despite of several agreements like Kyoto Protocol etc., Carbon Dioxide emission continues to rise. The International Energy Agency's assessment states, if we continue not to remedy it, emission will be up 130% by 2050. Most of the emission that reaches the atmosphere come from Coal (43%), followed by Oil (33%). Can we reduce it? The Standard Unit of Measurement for "Classic" contaminants such as SO₂, Oxides of Nitrogen, particles etc., for safety limit was fixed by WHO 20mcg/m³. Cities like Paris, the annual average was 38mcg/m³, Beijing it has even exceeded 300micrograms (as a result Orange alert was declared). In New Delhi on 15.01.2016 it was 191. This air pollution is generally linked to heart disease, strokes, obstructive and chronic pulmonary disease and also to lung cancer and acute respiratory infections. Furthermore, may cause more damaging climate change.

But, what is new in it. It had been happening since Palaeocene-Eocene thermal maximum period, when the average temperature of the Earth was about 23°C, compared to today's

average of around 14.6°C.

There was no ice at both the poles. However, the difference is only in change in speed. It used to be 0.025°C every century compared to about 1°C. Mythologies and history reveals that number of cities have gone under oceans in last 5000 years. We all know, Ice will melt, ocean level will increase, species may disappear, and potable water may go down, all this is happening since increase in population & change in our behaviour of consumption. As a species are we not becoming more sensitive to our own comforts? We are cocooning ourselves in modern technology of comforts without consideration of the impacts being created by every individual activity.

However, sometime data are misleading, i.e the way we want to interpret it, we can do it. But one thing is seems to be true that we are adding tremendous amount of Carbon in the atmosphere as a token of our development mechanism.

If we see the table below, different countries are adding their might in doing so. Recently concluded Paris talk, only negotiator and expert can decipher what has been achieved, which will be useful to the poor.

Countries	CO2 emissions (kt)	Emission per capita (t)
World	35,669,000	5
China	10,540,000	7.6
US	5,334,000	16.5
EU	3,415,000	6.7
India	2,341,000	1.8
Russia	1,766,000	12.4
Japan	1,278,000	10.1
Germany	767,000	9.3

Iran	618,000	7.9
Canada	565,000	15.9
Brazil	501,000	2.5
Saudi Arabia	494,000	16.8
UK	415,000	6.5
Australia	409,000	17.3
France	323,000	5

(2014 Data including only Thermal, Oil and Cement sources)

All the countries of the world who are below world's average are having potential to reach that stage and increase Carbon addition to get developed tag. But ultimately who will be sufferer, certainly we all, as a species. Governments and Industries/entrepreneurs are making their efforts to find out alternate source of energy, solar chemical power etc.

Countries are adding thermal power with great speed, most of the places no or very little attempts are made to suck back CO₂ produced and store temporarily till other uses are established. Another question is where to store this CO₂. The Carbon capture and storage of emissions is not currently available.

As a result this is to be added in the atmosphere to have Green House Effect. Moreover, these greenhouse gases will remain in atmosphere for centuries.

From the first demonstration of electric light in Calcutta on 24 July 1879, Bombay in 1882 at Crawford Market and first hydroelectric installation near a tea estate at Sidrapong for the Darjeeling Municipality in 1897 and the first electric streetlight in Asia on 5 August 1905 in Bangalore, electricity sector in India had an installed capacity of 281.423 GW as of 30 November 2015, 72% of it comes from non-

renewable sources. The Vindhyachal Thermal Power Station (NTPC) in the Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh, with an installed capacity of 4,760MW, is currently the biggest thermal power plant in India. We have planned to provide "Power to All" by 2022 to a scale of 24/7 to all households to celebrate platinum jubilee of our Independence.

Currently the Taichung in Taiwan with 5500MW and the Three Gorges Dam in China with 22500 MW capacity are the biggest thermal and hydroelectric power plants respectively. India became the world's third largest producer of electricity during year 2013 with 4.8% global share in electricity generation, surpassing Japan and Russia.

The world's power demands are expected to rise 60% by 2030. In 2007 there were over 50,000 active coal plants worldwide and this number is growing. The International Energy Agency estimated that fossil fuels will account for 85% of the energy market by 2030. Scientist have estimated that the economic damage from one tonne of CO₂ emission at US \$ 242 (Moore & Diaz 2015). A typical coal plant generates about 4.4 million tonnes of CO₂ per year. There are about 2100 new coal plants being planned worldwide i.e enough to cook the planet. The IPCC during 2014 has suggested to keep the CO₂ emissions between 870 and 1240 billion tonnes (Gt) during 2011 to 2050 if we want to keep global temperature rise less than 2°C.

It is around 55 tons of Coal/per hour is required to generate 100 MW, it depends on the type of coal being used, boiler, combustion temperature and other such parameters. Water consumption is another big requirement. It is about 0.6Kg to

1kg (depending on coal & power plant) of CO₂ produced for production of 1 KW power from Coal burning. Globally, from thermal power more than 10 billion tons of CO₂ per year is emitted.

Our forests are losing volume, Oceans are heating up resulting in aquatic species reduction, then where all this CO₂ to be kept. A tree of about 40 years of growth roughly of 2 tonne of volume may store about 0.8 tonne of Carbon, if so then how much area is required to plant so many trees.

The great scientist, Albert Einstein given a theory "general theory of relativity". He deduced that everything is moving relative to everything else. Putting this theory into theory of pollution (if such thing exists) is resulting an American, viewing the pollution differently than an Indian farmer whose wish is at least 10 hours of Electricity per day, mostly thermal. Whether philosophy of pollution due to thermal power will help him. But reducing bigger energy guzzlers, air conditioners in glass building, reducing the number of our species, reducing habit of over-consumption and becoming little bit more resistant (to make equilibrium with fans) will certainly yes. This theory also says "matter tells space how to curve and curved space tells matter how to move". We shall be made responsible for our per capita consumption of coal and oil and emphasis be on renewable sources.

Our environment already signalling us how to move, it is for us to take note for our future generation. And to develop respect for environment. .

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		11.	Smt.P.Shyamala	02-12-1980
			12.	P.Ramulu	02-14-1963
1.	B.Chandramouli	08-02-1944	13.	Ch.Suryanarayana	02-15-1966
2.	M.G.Purushotham Naidu	01-02-1932	14.	Ms.J.Vasanth	02-23-1980
3.	P.Bhushanam	10-02-1947	15.	V. Krishna	25-02-1963
4.	K.Rajasekhar	12-02-1936	16.	N.Kondala Rao	03-02-1961
5.	Mohd. Thayyab	16-02-1956	17.	Y.Narasimha Rao	03-02-1962
6.	Sultan Mohiuddin	17-02-1942	18.	V.Saibaba	03-04-1980
7.	Sharda Prasad	20-02-1953	19.	K.Vinod Kumar	03-05-1979
8.	A.Kishan	20-02-1952			
9.	A.V.Ramakrishna Rao	23-02-1935			
10.	P.Rajender Reddy	27-02-1956			
11.	L.Krishna Bhoopal Rao	03-02-1942			
12.	V.V.Rajam	03-02-1945			

Secretary

S.No.	Name of Serving Officers	D.O.B.
	Sarva Sri	
1.	K. Mohan Rao	04-02-1963
2.	S. Narender Reddy	05-02-1960
3.	P.K.Sarangi	06-02-1959
4.	VSNV Prasad	10-02-1979
5.	Smt.R.Shobha	11-02-1962
6.	Chiranjeevi Chowdhary	16-02-1965
7.	Anil Kumar Mourya	21-02-1960
8.	B.S.S.Prasad	03-01-1956
9.	Smt.A.Soni Bala Devi	03-01-1974
10.	Sanjay Gupta	05-03-1962



ARE FOREST PROTECTION AND POVERTY MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE? A PERSPECTIVE

By
V.V. Hariprasad.

I was present on that day in the general body meeting of retired forest officers' association which was conducted on 6th December 2015 during the weekend. I recollect the deliberations made, discussions conducted and viewpoints expressed by the members of the "Retired forest officers association", on different issues relating to the conservation of forests and also on the approach of the present Governments especially in Telugu speaking states of India towards increasing the green cover either in the name of "*Haritha haram*" or in the name of "*Neeru-Chettu*". I remember the subtle humour in the spontaneous repartee of the president when he said, "The rose does not smell less by which ever name you may call it", in the context of an issue raised by another senior member in the process of serious exchange of views by the erudite senior citizens. The discussions were meaningful. The views expressed were candid and some of the members did not hesitate to call a spade, a spade while putting forth their viewpoints without mincing words.

One of the senior members was trying to recollect the hey-days of his tenure as a senior forest officer a few decades back when the general public was afraid of the government

machinery and was not inclined to destroy the forests in spite of the fact that poverty was very much there. He added that poverty did not make them to resort to cutting of tree growth in the forest areas and fear of laws was very much prevalent at that point of time contrary to the present day scenario.

Another senior member who is also highly knowledgeable pointed out to the nexus between poverty and forest protection. He added that because of poverty people would be inclined to destroy the natural habitat and its wealth in the process of eking out their livelihood. He was trying to espouse the cause of poverty stricken common man by saying that a forest officer at the district level should not only be entrusted with the routine job of forest protection and its ex-situ conservation, but should also be delegated with the powers as those of a District collector in his jurisdiction even to deal with the poverty alleviation programmes so that the poverty stricken masses should not depend upon forests to have a square meal a day and he should be able to attend to their other grievances as well at all costs. He added, "He should be treated as if he were the Collector of that area".

Now the billion dollar question crops up. Are poverty and forest protection mutually exclusive? Let us ponder over the issue thread bare because it is highly a debatable issue

At this juncture let us have a peep into "India State of Forest report 2011" and "India state of forest report 2013" so that an effort can be put into identifying the nexus between poverty and decline of forests in our country. Though there is high probability that there can be umpteen reasons for the increase or decrease in forest area of a particular state in our country we may try to analyze the impact of poverty in this regard.

According to "India State of Forest Report – 2011", forest cover has decreased in 14 states namely Andhra Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Assam, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Meghalaya Tripura etc.

The forest cover has increased in Bihar, Goa, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka and Andaman Nicobar as per the report. "Three states- Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and Sikkim have maintained their forest cover", states the report.

The Planning Commission estimates levels of poverty in the country on the basis consumer expenditure surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) of the Ministry of Statistics and programme implementation. Normally these surveys are conducted on

quinquennial basis (every 5 years). The last survey was conducted in 2009-2010 by NSSO. Since 2009-10 was not a normal year because of severe drought in India, the NSSO repeated the large scale survey in 2011-12 (NSS 68th round). The following table shows state wise poverty estimates for 2011-12.

S.No.	Name of the State	% below poverty line
1	Chhattisgarh	39.9
2	Jharkhand	37.0
3	Manipur	36.9
4	Arunachal Pradesh	34.7
5	Bihar	33.7
6	Odisha	32.6
7	Assam	32.0
8	Madhya Pradesh	31.7
9	Uttar Pradesh	29.4
10	Karnataka	20.9
11	Mizoram	20.4
12	West Bengal	20.0
13	Nagaland	18.9
14	Maharashtra	17.4
15	Gujarat	16.6
16	Rajasthan	14.7
17	Tripura	14.1
18	Meghalaya	11.9
19	Tamilnadu	11.3
20	Uttarakhand	11.3
21	Haryana	11.2
22	Jammu and Kashmir	10.4
23	Delhi	9.9

24	Pondicherry	9.7	India State of Forest report 2013 was released by Union Environment Minister on 9 th July 2014. The report identified maximum increase in forest cover in West Bengal, Odisha and Kerala.
25	Andhra Pradesh	9.2	
26	Punjab	8.3	
27	Sikkim	8.2	
28	Himachal Pradesh	8.1	Basing on the India state Forest Report 2013 the following observations can be made.
29	Kerala	7.1	
30	Goa	5.1	

By adopting the analytical approach and by going into the statistics one arrives at the following conclusions:

- ❖ The Forest area **declined** in Andhra Pradesh (integrated) where only 9.2% of its population was below poverty line.
- ❖ The forest cover **increased** in Bihar where 33.7% of the population was below poverty line.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh with 31.7% of its population below poverty line maintained its forest cover.
- ❖ Forest cover **increased** in Goa, Haryana and Karnataka where the population below poverty line was 5.1%, 11.2% and 20.9% respectively.
- ❖ Forest cover **decreased** in Kerala where population below poverty line was only 7.1%. In India during the period of collecting the data on poverty, after Goa, Kerala stood second where the highest percentage of population was **above poverty line**.
- ❖ In Odisha where 32.6% of its population was below poverty line **maximum increase** in **forest** cover was noticed.
- ❖ In West Bengal and Kerala also the **increase** in first cover was maximum where the population below poverty line was 20.0% and 7.1% respectively,
- ❖ The forest cover in Andhra Pradesh where only 9.2% of its population was below poverty line showed a **decline** whereas the forest cover in West Bengal where population below poverty line was 20.0% showed maximum **increase** along with Kerala and Odisha.
- ❖ The following are the states where the population below poverty line was more than 30% and where the forest cover **increased** either as per the 2011 report or 2013 report
1.Bihar 2.Odisha
- ❖ Despite the fact that the population below poverty line in Andhra Pradesh was only 9.2% and the state being one of the developed states in India identified taking

poverty as the criterion, forest **declined** as per the report of 2011 and 2013 as well in the state.

The observations made probably make anybody arrive at a conclusion that there is no direct nexus between poverty and forest protection in our country. Poverty may be one of the contributing factors because there is no denying the fact that even today poor villagers inhabiting the villages abutting the forest areas go into the forests for fetching the fuel wood to meet their daily requirement.

The reasons for the destruction of forests on a big scale in number of states were identified to be inter alia open cast mining, construction of huge projects, shifting cultivation and smuggling activity which are well in the perception of every forest officer. It is an established fact that target oriented approach in the implementation of ROFR Act which was implemented keeping the vote bank in view along with other reasons as well led to the constant decline of forests in the integrated state of Andhra Pradesh. Poverty being one of the contributing factors to a certain extent political will, awareness among the public, law abiding nature of the citizens and above all the commitment of the ruling classes who are at the helm of the affairs will be able to minimize the destruction forests or the greenery in our country.

Forests and poverty reduction

Close to 1.6 billion people – about 25% of the

world's population – rely on forest resources for their livelihoods and most of them (1.2 billion) use trees on farms to generate food and cash. Moreover, many countries in the developing world draw on fuel wood to meet as much as 90% of energy requirements. Despite the importance of these resources for the range of economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits they provide, data on such dimensions are either sketchy or not available. Therefore, the extent to which they contribute to national development, reduce poverty, and enhance food security for vulnerable populations is not well recognized or appreciated. Increasingly however, case studies and other convincing evidence are documenting the role forests and trees outside forests play in national economic growth, rural development and livelihoods. Scientific research also is improving our understanding of how forestry contributes to achieving all UN Millennium Development Goals, not only those pertaining to poverty, hunger but also the environment.

For millions of people living in poverty, forest and tree resources not only provide food, fuel for cooking and heating, medicine, shelter and clothing, but they also function as safety nets in crises or emergencies – for example, when crops fail owing to prolonged drought or when heads of households can no longer engage in productive activities because of HIV and AIDS

or other devastating diseases. Forest resources generate income through employment and through the sale of surplus goods and services. Consistent with its mandate, Food and Agricultural organization has been working with countries since its foundation in 1945 to ensure people have enough quality food to lead healthy and productive lives. It is also assisting to develop rural areas where 70 percent of the world's poor and hungry people reside – where, in many regions, forests and trees outside forests perform a range of economic, ecological, cultural and social functions which are critical to the health of the planet and its inhabitants.

During an international forum which took place in 2001 fourteen years back to discuss the potential of forestry to reduce poverty, experts developed a four-point agenda for action which calls for:

- ◆ strengthening the rights of poor people, local capabilities and governance;
- ◆ reducing vulnerability of poor people;
- ◆ removing constraints to access profitable and dynamic opportunities in forestry;
- ◆ working in partnerships.

Building on these priorities, FAO published *Better forestry, less poverty* which suggests ways to prevent, mitigate, and reduce poverty through forestry-based interventions in rural areas. The document outlines key issues and provides examples of successful case studies. It highlights the importance of using participatory

approaches and of tailoring activities to local circumstances. Emphasis is on making changes that will improve the lives of people living in or near forests, on helping users to better understand the various forms of rural poverty, and on showing how decisions made at the local level affect segments of poor communities in different ways – women, children and the elderly being the most vulnerable.

FAO has been examining how forestry is considered in national poverty reduction strategies and is working with countries to strengthen linkages through its Community-based Enterprise Development Programme. FAO is also helping rural areas to set up small-scale businesses for processing tree and forest products. Such initiatives not only improve income but they also provide an incentive to better manage and protect the resource base.

One probably may have to understand that poverty is one of the reasons for the destruction of forests to a limited extent along with other major contributing factors and that forests play an important role in reduction of the poverty levels of the people along with other remedies such as population control, improvement of science and technology, poverty alleviation programs and above all equitable distribution of wealth through Government sponsored programs among the under privileged, the faceless multitude of this country. (Source: internet)

NEWS AND NOTES

10 awesome benefits of practising Surya

Namaskar every morning: Sun salutation or popularly known as the Surya Namaskar is a versatile Yoga posture that has in recent times gained popularity among fitness enthusiasts. The Surya Namaskar is considered as a highly beneficial exercise for the body and the mind and most celebrities swear by it. We take a look at 10 awesome benefits of practicing this popular exercise every morning.

1. Shed those extra kilos; First and foremost suryanamaskar helps you keep your weight in check and sheds the extra kilos to keep your body toned and fit. With just one round of suryanamaskar you lose close to 13.9 calories!

2. Improves digestion; Due to stretching and compressing, your digestive system is strengthened and you can bid goodbye to indigestion and dyspepsia forever. Think of that!

3. Cleanses your breathing organs; One of the biggest benefits is that, due to the rhythmic breathing the exercise involves, it cleanses your breathing tract and lungs and also detoxifies your body, helping you to get rid of harmful gases that might have entered your system.

4. Strengthens your back; Recurring backache is often caused by lack of movement of the muscles and joints. By making you stretch and bend, suryanamaskar keeps your joints and spine in tip-top condition and also strengthens the overall skeletal system.

5. Makes you look younger; As clichéd as that

sounds suryanamaskar actually does this. How? By increasing and maintaining healthy blood flow in the body. It brings glow to your skin and also helps prevent wrinkles for a long time.

6. Childbirth goes easy on you; Girls, irrespective of the faith you belong to, this exercise will help you strengthen your immune system and regularize periods. It also has a positive effect on childbirth and keeps complications at bay.

7. Gives you a 'Goodnight' ; Surya Namaskars help you get your proper quota of sleep every day and keeps anxiety at a distance. When your body stays strong, you tend to keep away from bodily and mental dysfunctions.

8. Tones your look; Surya namaskar broadens your chest and makes your waist flexible on the whole, making you an easy mover and also helps you look fit!

9. Easy to remember stuff; Surya namaskar improves the neural system and improves your memory. That means you will not forget that easily and retrieval of memories will also be bettered.

10. Suits your pace; These days, it's difficult for most working people to follow an exhaustive exercise routine. Surya namaskar fits the demand and helps you fit the regime within the restricted time frame by choosing the number of namaskars you want to/can do. It's a slick routine that is fast, yet effective.

Sad & Hopelessly Lost Lion Saved By the Good People of Jafarabad:

- A lion that had ventured out of its habitat in Gir got hopelessly lost and nearly drowned in the Arabian Sea near the port city of Jafarabad, Gujarat.

Onlookers called the authorities to rescue the cat. They had spotted the lion sitting perilously on the wave-breakers near the coastline. The lion then jumped into the water and swam 500 metres across the creek to reach a light house on the other side. The lion, said to be a six-year-old male, was tranquilized and rescued by local officials. It's not clear how it had got so far away from his home (***Please see last cover inner page for photo***)

Bottom of Form

Canberra (Australia) named the best place in the world...again:-

OECD (Organization For Economic Co-operation and Development rankings have yet again confirmed what many Canberrans have long known; that our city is the best place to live in the world.

A story on the 'The New York Times's new site *The UpShot*, titled "Want an easy life? Try Canberra", trumpeted the results from a second report from the OECD, ranking 362 regions according to an increased nine measures of well-being from their 34 member countries.

If each topic, across access to broadband, education, income, jobs, environment, health, safety, housing and civic engagement is equally weighted then Canberra was found to be the top ranking "region" in terms of well-being worldwide.

In June the agency released a smaller data set of eight measures, which also gave the territory a perfect score on crime, average household disposable income, and voter turnout, and the top Australian rating.

OECD rankings have yet again confirmed what many Canberrans have long known; that our city is the best place to live in the world. The data was collected from a number of different sources by the OECD from measurable indicators such as air quality indexes and education attainment levels in the labour force. The newly added housing dimension was measured by the ratio of rooms per person - at 2.4 rooms a person in Canberra.

Canberra performed similarly to Western Norway, Sweden's Stockholm, New Hampshire in the US and British Columbia in Canada.

Other Australian states such as WA, Queensland and NSW also made the top ten in regional ranking along with Minnesota, New Hampshire and two regions in Norway.

Apart from all the good news, however, the report ranked Australia at 25 out of the OECD's 34 countries on education, behind Chile, Hungary and Slovenia, saying there were "concerning inequalities" across the country.

The agency also found Australia has some of the highest regional inequality in household income.

This is not the capital's first appearance in the prestigious newspaper's pages this year. In June a travel profile said "what the "bush capital"

lacks in big-city tousele, it makes up for in big-sky beauty, breezy civic pride and a decidedly hipster underbelly”.

ACT Chief Minister Katy Gallagher said she thought the latest *New York Times* article added “weight to the argument that Canberra is one of the most liveable cities in the world”.

She said living in the city could make locals take the “amenity and quality of the environment” for granted.

“It is nice to be reminded sometimes that Canberra has a lot of positive characteristics and when you rank us against other cities in the world that we come out really strongly,” Ms Gallagher said.

Federal Member for Canberra, Gai Brodtmann, was more dramatic saying the new figures confirmed “that Canberra is the best city to live in on earth”.

While many in Canberra have reacted with an “I told you so” pride to the news, debate has broken up among Australians living abroad

Lion dies at Etawah safari, Akhilesh sacks

official: -Days after being brought from Gujarat for breeding purposes, a lioness died at Etawah Lion Safari Saturday morning prompting CM Akhilesh Yadav to remove Principal Forest Conservator (Wildlife) S K Upadhyay with immediate effect. The CM also constituted a high-level committee headed by retired IAS officer V N Garg to investigate the incident and identify other officials and employees responsible for laxity leading to the death of the lioness.

The death of three-and-a-half-year-old lioness Tapasya comes as a major setback as it has once again derailed the process of breeding at the Lion Safari, a dream project of Samajwadi Party chief Mulayam Singh Yadav.

Tapasya, along with another lioness Jessica and a lion Pataudi, were brought from Gujarat on December 28, director of the Lion Safari Sanjay Srivastava said. Tapasya was taken ill soon after her arrival and was being treated by a local veterinarian as well as doctors from Bareilly, he said. It died on Saturday around 4 am, after which CM Akhilesh Yadav was informed. The post-mortem was performed by a team of doctors from Bareilly, Srivastava added.

Taking note of the incident, Akhilesh directed immediately removal of Upadhyay from the post of PCF (Wildlife), an official spokesperson of the state government said. The spokesperson said Upadhyay has been removed as Tapasya’s “illness was not taken seriously”.

He informed that several water reservoirs in bird sanctuaries at Nawabganj in Unnao, Sandi in Hardoi and Lakh Bahosi at Kannauj have dried up, affecting the arrival of migratory birds. Besides this, there were complaints of poor upkeep of forest areas, the spokesperson said. Sources said the state government brought the three lions to Lion Safari for breeding as earlier all five cubs born there had died. Four cubs died in July soon after birth while the fifth died in August. Before that, lioness Laxmi and lion Vishnu had died. The Lion Safari now has four

lions — Manan, Gigo, Kuber and Pataudi — and four lionesses, Heer, Kunwari, Girishma and Jessica. Lion Safari was conceived in 2005 by Mulayam and its development is Akhilesh's top priority. (Source: Indian Express with thanks)

Chandigarh: From flipping burgers to village

head: -A routine day for 21-year-old Rekha Rani used to revolve around taking orders, frying burgers, packing fries and serving with a smile at a popular fast food chain. But on Sunday, she got a job that involves a different kind of service. She won the sarpanch elections to her village Chapla Mori.

Rekha is the first sarpanch from her family and of the village, which once shared a common panchayat with two other villages. "I completed class 12. Then I received training under the DeenDayalUpadhyayGrameenKaushalyaYojana for two months. They arranged for my placement and I came to Chandigarh, where I got the job. My parents were very supportive," she said.

Rekha is a beneficiary of the government's move to ensure a minimum education qualification for panchayat candidates. The village sarpanch's seat was reserved for a Schedule Caste woman this time.

"With the criteria, I was among the few people who could contest," she said. But again, it was her family who supported her. "My father Bansi Lal asked me to file nomination. My family campaigned for me," she said. On Sunday, she polled in 610 votes, beating Nirmal Rani by 220 votes.

"I feel girls should be independent. This is our contribution to the BetiBachao, BetiPadhao cause. I am very proud of my daughter," said Bansi Lal. Rekha has a tough job on her hands.

"Children of our village have to go to the next village to study. Due to this, many parents prefer not to send their children to school. I will ensure that all children in the village are encouraged to study. I also plan to pursue my graduation through correspondence," she said.

Mysterious death on the shore: Some reasons for mass whale beaching in TN:

- The mass stranding of more than a 100 whales and the death of at least 45 along a 15 km stretch on a Manpad beach in Tamil Nadu's Tuticorin (or Thoothukudi) district presented a shocking spectacle on Tuesday (12-01-2016). On Wednesday, the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) confirmed the death of at least another 12 whales. Interestingly, Tuticorin had witnessed a similar beaching 40 years ago, and the reasons are no clearer now. Whale stranding is not uncommon and has been recorded since 300 BC. While dead individuals often naturally wash up ashore, the phenomenon of mass beaching still baffles scientists.

Typically, whales living in large social groups — such as the pilot whales that beached on Monday and Tuesday — are more susceptible to mass beaching. A pod (a group of marine mammals) can strand itself by following a disoriented leader or volunteer into shallow

waters in a suicidal rescue mission if a member accidentally beaches itself.

Other 'natural' causes for whale beaching include following prey-rich water currents towards land or panicking at the presence of a mega predator such as a killer whale. Scientists also blame gently sloping shorelines that can deceive whales dependent on echolocation for navigation.

Active SONAR (sound navigation and ranging) — low-frequency sound released under water to detect marine vehicles — can have a similar or worse impact. The sound waves can cause internal bleeding in ear and brain tissues, killing or disorienting whales which may end up stranded. Some scientists also argue that whales may interpret the SONAR sound as an approaching predator, triggering a panic reaction and subsequent beaching.

Climate change or unnatural weather phenomena can affect whales. In one recorded event, after a strong El Nino in 1982-83, a resident population of short-finned pilot whales apparently disappeared from the areas along southern California.

In fact, even though the animals are found in the deep, warm waters of the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic oceans, short-finned pilot whales are known for frequent stranding. Their pods of up to 50 animals form ranks that can stretch for over a kilometre. This may explain how dozens beach themselves across several kilometres but it is not clear why they approach shallow waters.

In India, the first recorded beaching of short-finned pilot whales dates back to 1852 when a pod was stranded near Kolkata. Tuticorin also witnessed a mass stranding of 147 animals in 1973. Repeated beaching in one area may suggest a flat slope — a drop of mere 5-17 metres in 3 kilometres from Manpad beach, for example — or a current factor unique to the shoreline. Then again, there has been no mass beaching at Tuticorin since then, until Monday. So far as the role of SONAR is concerned, it may be worthwhile to note that the last stranding in Tuticorin occurred not long after the 1971 war that might have necessitated intense and prolonged scanning of these waters. *(Please see last cover inner page for photo)*

This Park In India Has The Largest Bird Structure In The World & Is All Set To Open For Tourists: This Park is located in Chatatayamangalam in Kollam district and is slated to be open for tourists in its phase one from January 2016. It has the largest bird structure in the world and many other fun activities to do *(Please see last cover page for photo)*

Hundreds of tortoises found dead on Shore of Mayurkashi River in Ranchi: -Hundreds of tortoises found dead on Shore of Mayurkashi River in Ranchi

A large number of tortoises released in a dam after being seized by the police from a truck in Dumka district on January 11 have turned up dead on the Shore of Mayurakshi River in the

district. Their number could be in hundreds.

The police said that over three thousand tortoises, apparently being smuggled from somewhere in Uttar Pradesh, were being taken to West Bengal when they were seized and handed over immediately to the forest department.

The Forest Department officials said that they were assessing the exact situation and attributed the deaths to the fact that the tortoises were kept in highly suffocating conditions. The officials said that the number of dead tortoises could be in hundreds, though an exact count would take some time.

Dumka Superintendent of Police Vivek Shukla said that a truck was seized by the force at Dumka police station on January 11 on suspicion. "The truck appeared to be carrying haystack. It was only when it was brought to the police station and a check started that we came to know of the tortoises packed in gunny bags and hidden beneath a tarpaulin over which the haystack was kept," said Shukla. A case under Wildlife Protection Act was registered in this regard.

The police removed the tarpaulin to find more than nearly 100 such bags with 30-35 tortoises kept in those bags. Shukla said that the total number of tortoises could be in the range of 3,500. "We immediately realised that the tortoises were packed in very poor condition and handed them over to the forest department officials. They took a decision to release them

immediately in the waters of Massanjore dam to enable them to survive. Now, we are getting reports that many of them have died and turned up ashore," said Shukla. It was the locals who spotted the dead tortoises washing ashore, who alerted the police this morning.

Incidentally, the truck driver and his assistant managed to escape even before the police could realise that tortoises were being carried in the vehicle. "The driver and the assistant managed to sneak out on some pretext, even before we realised that they had kept tortoises in it. The truck owner is being traced. It appears that the truck was headed towards West Bengal. Further investigations are on," said the SP.

Dumka Regional Chief Conservator of Forests F B Singh said: "We had to shift the tortoises immediately in a pollution-free environment. That is why they were released in Massanjore dam, where there is adequate water. We do not know for how many days these tortoises were kept in the truck. Obviously, they were kept in inhospitable conditions. It is possible that some of them were already dead, when seized. I have called a meeting of all the officials concerned this evening to assess the situation and take further action. Our effort would be to try and save as many of them as possible. Detailed post-mortem reports would reveal more on the cause of deaths." (Source: Indian Express with thanks)

CHANGING STAGES OF COMMUNICATION

By
Suresh Deshpande

Millions of years ago homoceprians were born on our planet "Earth" There have been so many changes in that "primitive man" & today's civilised man .The change has been in his living style, feeding habits, language, social behaviour, communication and so on. The change came slowly as he faced many problems on earth. His brain developed and became active and his thoughts were the response of memory that has been stored through knowledge which was gathered through experience and information stored in our brains. The whole process repeated for many million years.

We learned about Harappan Sanskriti, Shila-Leah of king Ashoka, ancient coins Tec. It was their way of Communication in that period. We are going to see the evolution of Communication process. One thousand years ago all religious books were hand written on Bhurja-Patra or on wooden pattis or on copper sheets. Then the printing of single wooden alphabet method was in vogue. Johannes Gutenberg (1398-1438) was the inventor of printing for mass use. He introduced moveable type process of printing that revolutionized the world. Information was in written form and reached faster.

Sammuel Morse (1791-1872) from USA was an inventor of wire telegraph remembered by his name (Morse code). In memory of his wife he made 'signal wire machine' in 1837 and brought people of 2 continents near and started new era of Science in the world. Then Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937) an Italian inventor of 'Wireless telegraph' the fore runner of 'Radio'. He was awarded Nobel Prize in 1909 for Physics. Government of Italy neglected his invention hence he went to UK and took loan of 50 thousand pounds from the bank and started his company. He contracted shipping companies and sold them his 'Transmitters'. He sent 1st message 2100 miles to New Founland & minted money, thereafter. He joined Army in 1st world war and intercepted two short wave messages of the enemy. When he died of Heart attack in 1937, all Radio Stations in the world observed silence for 2 minutes.

Graham Alexander Bell (1847-1922) invented Telephone in the year 1873 and Thomas Alva Edison (1847-1931) recorded sound/song of human beings on francophone records. Only because of this we can listen today the famous lecture of Swami Vivekananda delivered in USA

during World Religions Congress. Then sensational invention of Mr. Martin Cooper, USA born in 1928, had invented a mobile phone in 1993. He established his company "Motorola". The portable phone weighed 450 grams and costing \$ 3500 each. It was a prestigious gadget to have. It was almost impossible to think life without mobile handset.

Then Mr. Morita Akio of Japan (1921-1999) and founder of SONY Corp. introduced Transistor Radio & consumer electronics. He developed magnetic Recording tape and first transistor T.V. came to market. There after a physicist from USA Mr John Kilby (1923-2005) invented the "Integrated Circuit" which was termed as "Microchip" laid the foundation of microelectronics that is feature of every day Semiconductor- lab at Dallas on 12th

September 1958. It revolutionized electronics industry. He was awarded Nobel Prize in the year 2000.

Then came the star of inventions in USA Mr. Steve Jobs (1955-2011) who changed communication and entertainment across the world. His company "Apple" improved Computer technology all together. Makintosh computers, I-pod music players, byte, I-phone & I-pad changed software. At that time in 1955 Bill Gates was born in USA. He developed (MS - DOS) micro disk operating system in his company IBM. He developed Laptop computer with "Windows" software. He became richest businesses man in the world. He donated his wealth for many charitable works. Even in India he donated huge amount to various Institutions. India is committed to adopt 4G technology in its programs of "Make in India".

INVITATION

The Association of Retired Forest Officers, Telangana & Andhra Pradesh, Congratulates Sri B.S.S. Prasad I.F.S who is retiring on 1-3-2016 from service on attaining the age of superannuation and cordially invites him to join the Association of Retired Forest Officers to keep in touch with his old colleagues and to keep himself occupied.

For further details he may contact the following –

Sri. B.M.Swami Dass, Secretary	Mobile Number	9000817781
Sri. A.V.Govindarajulu, Jt.Secretary	Mobile Number	9440764611

-Secretary

VII CENTRAL PAY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS : EARLY SIGNALS

BY
T.NARAYAN SWAMY

The VII Central Pay Commission submitted its report on 19th November 2015 and it is supposed to be under the consideration of the Government of India. It needs to be remembered that the Commission's recommendations are not mandatory and the Govt. has the right to accept or reject or amend or modify the recommendations at its wisdom. Instances galore where the recommendations had been drastically modified giving altogether a new look and content.

The report made a general comment that enough has been done by the VI CPC, meaning that they did not have much to add. This statement cannot be taken on face value for the simple reason that Government's intervention would not have been necessary if only its conclusions were perfect and error-free. Bottom line is no increase in rate of pension has been recommended.

Though the V CPC recommended restoration of commuted Pension at the end of 12 years instead of the existing 15 years, the Govt. did not accept the recommendation. The VI CPC was silent over the issue and the VII CPC followed suit.

Some of the important highlights of VII CPC report are:

- 1 An increase of 23.55% in general of pay and allowances.
- 2 The Commission recommended two formulae to work out and fix the pension in the new scales from 01.01.2006, the probable date of implementation of recommendations as detailed below:

(a) Pension shall first be fixed in the Pay Matrix on the basis of the Pay Band and Grade Pay at which they retired, at the minimum of the corresponding level in the Matrix. This amount shall be enhanced to arrive at the Notional Pay of the retiree, by adding the number of increments he/she had earned in that level while in service at the rate of 3% per annum. Fifty percent of the total amount so arrived shall be the revised pension.

(b) The second formula is to multiply the pension fixed under VI CPC recommendations by a blanket factor of 2.57 to arrive at the alternative value for the revised pension.

(c) Pensioners will have the option to choose whichever formulation is advantageous to them.

ILLUSTRATION ON FIXATION OF PENSION BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE VII CPC.

i. Basic Pension fixed in VI CPC as on 1-1-2006	Rs. 39,500
ii. Initial pension fixed under VII CPC (using a multiple of 2.57) Option I	Rs. 1,01,515
iii. Minimum of the corresponding pay level in VII CPC	Rs. 1,82,200
iv. Notional Pay fixation based on 3 increments - Option II	Rs. 1,99,100
v. 50% of notional pay so arrived	Rs. 99,550
vi. Pension amount admissible (higher of option 1 & 2)	Rs. 1,01,515

NOTE : We may have to wait for the acceptance by the Government and the orders issued thereon as the calculation in the example needs some more details to arrive at the amount of pension

3. Recommendations to be implemented from 1-1-2016.
4. The rate of annual increment retained at 3%
5. Ceiling of Gratuity enhanced from Rs. 10 Lakh to Rs. 20 Lakh. Ceiling on gratuity to be increased by 25% when ever D.A. rises by 50%.
6. Cabinet Secretary to get Rs.2.25 Lakh per month.
7. Financial impact of implementing recommendations will be Rs. 1.02 Lakh crore; Rs.73,650 Crore to be borne by Central Budget and Rs. 2845 by Railway Budget.
8. Total impact of commission's recommendations will be a rise in the ratio of expenditure on salary & wages to GDP, from 0.65 percentage points to 0.7 %.
9. One Rank one pension proposed for civilian Govt. employees on the line of OROP for armed forces.
10. In Indian Forest Service the cadre strength of IFS is 3131 which includes 2182 direct recruits and 949 promotion posts. In its memorandum the IFS Association averred that the pace of promotion in the service is slow. It has been emphasized that to attract the best talent to the Service and to retain skilled IFS officers and those with highly regarded academic and professional competencies, the pay and incentive structure for the IFS Officers needs to be improved. A uniform pay scale for all three All India Services has been sought. The Association has pointed out that as of now there are 7 levels of Pay in the IFS as against five for the IAS. The Association sought abolition of the two extra levels. There is a specific demand for removal of Grade Pay 8900 which is currently attached to the post of C.F. and merger of this post with

C.C.F.(GP 10,000) along with change in designation to Inspector General of the Forests. Association has also demanded merger of the HAG + scale Rs. 75,000 -79,000 that is attached to the PrI.CCF with the Apex Scale ensuring in situ award of pay scale to all seniors irrespective of cadre across the country, if a junior officer is promoted in any state.

COMMENTS OF COMMISSION : The Commission is unable to accept the demand for merger of the post of CF with CCF as it does not see any reason to disturb the relativities established by the earlier Commissions. Accordingly the Grade Pay 8900 may continue to remain operative for IFS officers as would the HAG + Level

INDIAN FOREST SERVICE

CATEGORY	RANK	SCALE	Gr.Pay	LEVEL	TOTAL	INDEX	Recommended Basic pay (TxI)
Jr.Scale –	ACF	15600 – 39100	5400	10	21,000	2.62	Rs. 56,100
Sr. Scale	DCF	15600 – 39100	6,600	11	25,350	2.67	Rs. 67,700
Jr.Ad Scale	DCF	15600 – 39100	7600	12	29500	2.67	Rs. 78,800
Selection Gr.	DCF	37400 - 67000	8700	13	46100	2.57	Rs. 1,18,500
Super TimeScale I	C.F.	37400 - 67000	8900	13(A)	49100	2.67	Rs. 1,31,100
Super Time Scale II	CCF	37400 - 67000	10000	14	53000	2.72	Rs. 1,44,200
Above Supertime scale	AdI.PCCF	67,000 -	-	15	67000	2.72	Rs. 1,82,200
Above Supertime scale	PCCF	75500 -	-	16	80000	2.72	Rs. 2,05,400
head of Dept.		80,000		17	80,000	2.81	Rs. 2,25,000

Note : For actual figures, we may wait for Govt. of India Orders.

Give to the world the best you have, and the best will come back to you.

*Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day
Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.*

A TEAR OF GRATITUDE

By
Konda Mohan

*A Tear of Gratitude
he is sitting all alone
He is away from his Kith and Kin
He is visiling on freezing Ice
He is watching from desert dunes
He is the Soldier of Mother India!
He is the blessed son of Mother India
He never thinks of safety of his life
He least bothers for his family and wife
He is the cause of our peace and happiness
He is the realon for our vision and dreams
He is our protector
He is our guardian
He is the martyr died for India!
He is the beloved son of Mother India!!
What can we do for this great person
Who has died for the cause of Nation
Let us bow our heads with emotion
Touch his feet with tears of compassion
He is the beloved son of Mother India
He is the great soldier of India
Letus Salute with tears of gratitude
Letus bow our heads with tears of compassoin*

LEGAL NOTES

Kamla Kant Pandey Vs. Prabhagiya Van Adhikari and Anr

Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary, with an extent of 921.82 ha, was constituted by a notification of the Government of Uttar Pradesh dated 10.08.1982. This is situated in a tract of Vindhya Plateau. It is said to preserve within its fold some very rare species of flora and fauna like tiger, panther, *cheetal*, sambhar, black buck etc. River Sone, which gives shelter to *gharial* and *magar*, forms the southern boundary.

In a portion of this sanctuary, Government of U.P. permitted mining operations to the petitioner for a period of three years from 12.03.2003 to 11.03.2006. On the proposal made by the Wildlife Department, the mining lease was cancelled by an order of the Government dated 21.04.2004 and consequential order of the District Magistrate dated 29.05.2004. The petitioner questioned the validity of the cancellation of lease order by filing a writ petition in the High Court of Allahabad and the following grounds were urged in the petition:

1. The order reflects non-application of mind and it is in violation of principles of natural justice.
2. There was no enquiry in the matter and no opportunity was given to the petitioner.
3. The mining lease granted to the petitioner does not violate the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act.
4. The lease area does not fall within the Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary.
5. The impugned order is liable to be set aside. The Government opposed the petition and tried to justify passing impugned order by refuting

the allegations. It was submitted that mining minerals is prohibited in the sanctuary and it cannot be permitted in view of the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act. The lease was granted in violation of the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act. The grant of lease was illegal and therefore the order has been rightly passed. The petitioner does not deserve any relief.

The matter was heard by a Bench comprising Justice Mr. R. Mishra and Justice A. Sahi. Their Lordships discussed, in the judgment dated 20.11.2006, all the relevant provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act as also the amendments made to the Act in 1991 and 2003.

The writ petition was filed initially against forest officers orders dated 16 and 17.05.2004 whereby transport of minerals was prohibited. A Show-cause-Notice was issued to the petitioner on 08.04.2004 and the petitioner gave reply to the show-cause-notice on 24.04.2004.

Their Lordships quoted extensively the relevant portions of the Wildlife Protection Act as well as the Statement of Objects and Reasons and followed the judgment of the Supreme Court in Pradeep Krishen Vs. Union of India vide AIR 1996 SC 2040. It was observed that after 42nd amendment to the Constitution, it is obligatory on the State and citizen respectively to protect and improve the natural environment and safeguard the forest and wildlife of the country. Mining activities or for that matter any other activity which is detrimental in any way to the protection of wildlife is prohibited unless

permitted in accordance with the provisions of the wildlife protection Act. The provisions are stringent enough to prevent any activity in the economic development except with the permission of the wildlife authorities and appropriate orders from the State Government under the Wildlife Protection Act.

The State and its authorities are under the law, obliged to objectively assess all such factors which may arise for consideration of permitting any activity in a Sanctuary. The State and its authorities have to make the exercise without fail.

The petitioner had taken a plea that the two plots of lease are not in the sanctuary area. This matter has not been adjudicated. The State Government and the District Magistrate have simply recorded conclusions presuming that the activities are in violation of the provisions of law unsupported by any material.

The core question involved in this case is whether the mining lease is within the sanctuary or not. The Court observed that the State Government has not made any effort to identify the location of the area with reference to the boundaries of the sanctuary. The State Government and the District Magistrate merely passed order on assumption without notice or opportunity to the petitioner. The impugned order is passed without proper application of mind.

The mining lease was granted under the Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1962; and its cancellation is quasi-judicial in nature. The Authority to decide the matter is expected to adjudicate the matter independently and must give adequate reasons. When the lease was granted, the wildlife authorities ought to have

been consulted and if the lease was feasible particularly in wildlife interest, necessary permission of wildlife authorities, following the procedure, ought to have been obtained.

In the considered opinion of the court, permission to carry out any activity in the sanctuary area has to be necessarily and compulsorily modulated in accordance with the Wildlife Protection Act and for that matter consultation process, as well as decision making process both have to include the officials under the Wildlife Protection Act.

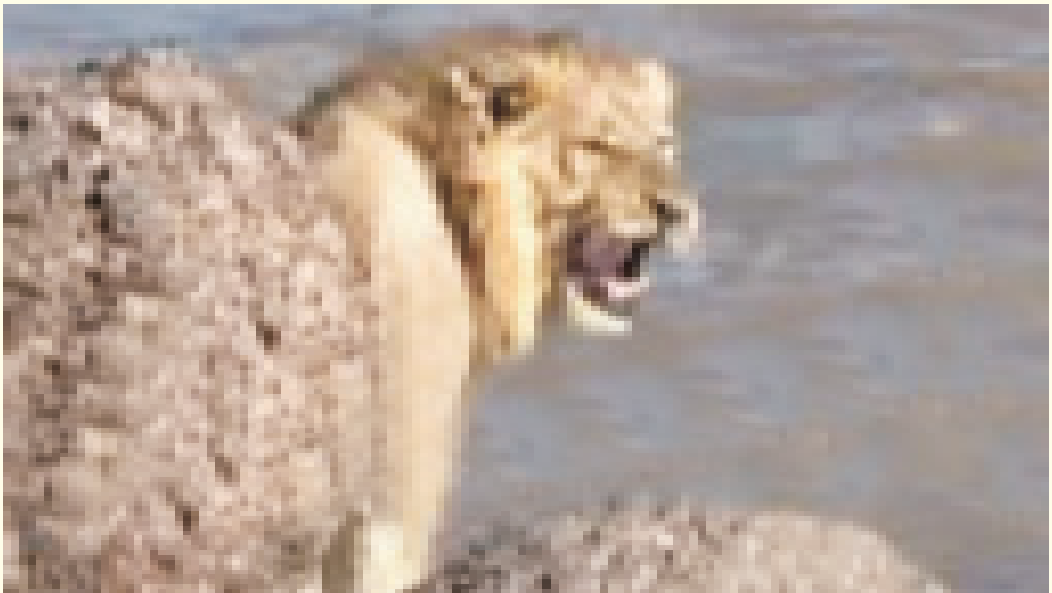
While dealing with the lease deed, it was held that according to the terms of the lease it imposes restrictions and the lease is hedged by limitation. Under Rule 41 of the Minor Mineral Concession Rules, the petitioner is under legal obligation not to carry out mining operations which may result in imbalance of ecology. The Government has the power to terminate the lease in such a situation.

In conclusion it was held that the lease shall stand suspended temporarily. If the authorities chose to grant permission, the lease can be operated for the period of its subsistence

In the circumstances the petition was partly allowed. Yet it was directed that the petitioner cannot operate the lease until the entire matter is re-examined in the light of the judgment. The order of the Government dated 21.05.2004 and that of the District Magistrate dated 29.05.2004 are set aside. The State Government is directed to take a fresh look at the matter and take appropriate decision within six weeks from the date receipt of the judgment.

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K.B.R



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