

VANA PREMI

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Telephone Nos. 040-23395750/23392652 Fax: 040-23326420

Email: vcmd.tsfdc@gmail.com

Editor : Qamar Mohd. Khan

Associate Editor : V.V. Hari Prasad

I/C Editor : J.V. Sharma

Contents**The Association of Retired Forest Officers, Telangana & Andhra Pradesh**

(Regd. No. 557/1990)

- President** : Sri.S.K.Das,I.F.S.(Retd.)
Cell: 9550681964, 23115085
- Vice President** : Sri. T. Narayana Swamy, I.F.S. (Retd.)
Cell: 9701336446
- Secretary** : B.M Swami Dass Dy C.F. Retd
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5. Sri G. Raman Goud, 9391499119

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1. **President** : Ex-Officio President of Assn.
2. **Editor** : Qamar Mohd. Khan
Tel:40121132,9849233624
e-mail : qamar_asima@yahoo.com
3. **Associate Editor** : Sri V.V. Hari Prasad
7893673767
4. **Member** : Sri. J. V. Sharma, IFS (Retd.)
e-mail : jvsharma32@gmail.com
9441319151
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EDITORIAL

By the time this issue of Vana Premi is out, our Editor, Qamar Mohd. Khan must be amidst us in Hyderabad. He is eagerly awaited and I welcome him back to take charge of the journal. I extend my sincere thanks for all the help he rendered even while abroad. I wish him all the success and I have no doubt that he would take the journal to new heights. I gratefully thank all those who have been kind to contribute articles. I feel indebted to the Association for reposing confidence in me nominating me as Editor while Mr. Qamar is away.

Coming to the substantive part of the editorial, I am not tired of repeating that the voice in support of forests and environment is still too feeble to make the desired impact on the public opinion. Governments in power tend to take notice of the criticism only when they realise that the people are enraged at the raw deal meted out to forests. Few sounds made now and then often go unheard. While serious concerns are expressed in social media, the issue is yet to catch serious public attention. It is time new initiatives are devised to bridge the gap. There is any number of concerned citizens worried about the state of affairs on the environmental front and all that needs to be done is to harness their potential.

But what is more worrying is that even the fraternity is not able to get its act together even when the challenge is gigantic. A few periodicals and newsletters brought out from here and there hardly attract the attention of the powers that be. A nation-wide apparatus comprising of foresters, serving and retired, is the need of the hour. There is no way in the existing set-up for foresters to effectively express an opinion or tender an advice. Serving fraternity has its own limitations and is required to operate within the contours and facilities dictated by the Establishment. What is required in this scenario is a frank expression of opinion with incontrovertible scientific evidence, without bias or prejudice & fear or favour. This is the challenge before the foresters of the present generation.

Colonial legacy the foresters inherited by training and operational environment is essentially 'not to be vocal'. Some would even call it passive. A certain degree of reluctance is discernible in their approach to problems. The emphasis has always been on compliance of the task entrusted rather than knowing more about the task itself to be totally convinced. Compliance without conviction is more a formality than real service. Unfortunately the Forest Departments in the country did not encourage open debates over emerging situations. As a result, the thought process of the foresters

generally gets stunted and frozen. Situation is so pathetic that we are badly stuck at ground zero. It is obvious that the policy makers consider the fraternity irrelevant and inconsequential. We had all witnessed disastrous consequences when the Central Government ignored the Ministry of Environment & Forests and entrusted the making of Forest Rights Act to Ministry of Tribal Welfare. A credible, potent and vocal All India Forum of Foresters, if there was any, could have made the difference.

The proposal is neither unusual nor uncommon. Professionals in various fields of operation maintain their exclusive identity. Lawyers, Doctors, Engineers, Architects, Chartered Accountants, Geographers, Historians, Scientists of various hues, Journalists etc have professional organizations which are strong, purposeful, relevant and credible. Foresters with their active presence in almost a quarter of the geographical area of the country need to become relevant in their sphere of activity which is possible by organizing themselves into a Forum with all attendant facilities. I appeal to fraternity to think over the proposal seriously. Once in principle consenses is achieved, working out the modalities can only be a formality.

THE NATION :

Addressing the Joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament, the President, Sri Pranab Mukherjee, exhorted all Honourable Members of Parliament to discharge their responsibility in a spirit of cooperation and mutual accommodation. He said; "Democratic temper calls for debate and discussion and not disruption or obstruction. *Aa No Bhadra Kratvo Yantu Viswatha* – Let noble thoughts come from all directions – should be the spirit behind debate in this temple of democracy. Being a member of this great institution bestows great honour as well as important responsibilities." The President must have said it with great anguish than anger. It is not as though the President was trying to impart a new precept. All MPs must be surely aware that they are in the service of people and receive remuneration for the service rendered. There is an obligation cast on them to prove that they are worth the salt. If one individual or a party had behaved in a particular manner, and that would entitle the other to pay back in the same coin, is a sickening logic devoid of nobility. Instead, right conduct even in the face of adversity will strengthen the moral fibre that many fold. Besides, the Parliament by itself is apolitical; it is an institution. It is the responsibility of all Members and the political parties they owe allegiance to, to secure the sacred nature of the Parliament. The

Honourable Members cannot be called that Honourable if the Parliament's honour is in question as a non-performing body. President's Message is particularly significant because 'The President' constitutes Parliament together with Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. He has a reason to be worried because the executive power of the Nation is vested in the President and he is bound by Art. 53 to exercise that power directly or through officers subordinate to him. Further, he is on oath to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution. He cannot remain a mute spectator when people with vested political interests hijack the Temple of Democracy.

The President, while reminding the Members of Parliament that we owe a great debt to freedom fighters, said; "It is time to repay that debt, by building the country that they envisioned and fought for. In the words of Subhas Chandra Bose, 'Nationalism is inspired by highest ideals of the human race, *Satyam, Shivam, Sundaram*', let us embrace those ideals as we stake our claims on the future." Obviously, the President is concerned about the extreme interpretations of nationalism. He counsels to repose faith in the basic ideals original to country and move forward to build the nation than wasting time on polemics.

-J. V. Sharma

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sri Sharma,

By the grace of Almighty, I'm happy I could fulfill the promise made to you to explore possibilities of someone belonging to Western Ghats to write an article and send to you or in case of no such response, I should do it myself, availing the service-connection I had in that region. Only the latter alternative proposed by you had been possible and I had to take it upon myself to do the needful, which I hope justifies the expectation you had in dealing the subject. The said article is being attached for a possible inclusion in the ensuing issue of VP -if you consider it favourably. Though I'm a bit late in reaching out to you (since so much of notes of that period had to be referred), I hope it is not that late for you to consider it for inclusion in the issue of March 2016.

With warm regards, I remain,

Yours Sincerely

Dr Raghotham Rao Desai

SWACCH BHARAT ABHIYAN – SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

By
S. D. Mukherji

On the initiative of Prime Minister of India, Sri Narendra Modi, thrust is being given to Swacch Bharat. Under this programme, Government wants to make India free of open defecation by the year 2019 to pay homage to Mahathma Gandhi on his 150th birthday. It also has an ambitious plan to make the holy rivers, specially the Ganga, pollution free by arresting the discharge of untreated waste into the rivers. Large tree plantation programme to improve the greenery in the urban and rural areas is also a part of Swacch Bharat Abhiyan. Lately, it has become a fashion for the Politicians, Industrialists and other prominent citizens of India to post their pictures in the News Paper showing brooms in their hand and sweeping the streets. Unfortunately, the waste generation is increasing day by day endangering the health of the people. One can see garbage piled up everywhere including Metro cities

Change in the life style and rise in population and industrial advancement have resulted in generation of huge quantities of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW). The total quantity of MSW generated is much higher than the quantity collected, transported and disposed, leading to piling up uncollected waste in streets, public places and drains. Even the collected waste is mostly dumped on the outskirts of the towns and big cities and has created serious

environmental and public health problem. Studies have shown that a high percentage of individuals live near or on disposal sites are infected by Gastro intestinal parasites, worms and other pathogenic organisms. Plastic Waste has emerged as one of the biggest challenges in Municipal Solid Waste management, leading to an acute problem of choking of rivers and drains, ruining landscape and killing the cattle. Adding to this, the inert materials coming from street cleaning, drain cleaning, construction, demolition and renovation are being mixed with normal waste, aggravating the problem.

Though, MSW Management (MSWM) is an essential and obligatory function of the urban local bodies (ULB's), but, in reality, MSWM is confined mostly to metros, leaving the of the area without any scientific attempt for collection, transport, treatment and disposal of MSW. The launch of National Urban Sanitation Policy provides assistance to Integrated MSW projects under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and the Urban Infrastructure Schemes for small and medium towns. In spite of this there is hardly any noticeable improvement in the Solid Waste Management. With rapid urbanisation and economic growth annual municipal solid waste generation is estimated to grow more than fivefold from the current level of about 70

Million Tonnes per year. Attempt is made discuss the Solid Waste Management with respect to Hyderabad (GHMC area) for the information of the readers of Vanapremi.

IMSWM in Hyderabad:

The Solid Waste generated is treated under the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 which were notified by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, on September, 25, 2000. The rules seek to achieve an integrated waste management, resulting in safe and sanitary disposal of MSW and maintain a healthy environment. GHMC desires that its municipal solid waste management systems to be a “model system” for the Country. Its goal is to scientifically collect, transport and dispose waste and have maximum recycling, recovery of wealth and create public awareness.

Waste generation is from different sources such as domestic, commercial and construction activity. It is classified into hazardous and non-hazardous waste. The former has to be segregated at source and treated for disposal in accordance with the regulations. On an average daily waste generation from GHMC area is around 5030 M. Tonnes with per capita generation of about 599 grams. This excludes the Hazardous Waste generated at Hospitals, E-waste from IT industry and chemical industries which are separately collected, treated and disposed. Domestic household waste is about 37% of the total MSW produced. Next major generators of wastes are the Hotels and Restaurants that generate about 14% of the waste. The construction and demolition waste is about 13%,

but it is not classified as MSW. Rest of the MSW is from other sources such as industries, parks & gardens, street sweeping, and from drains.

There are three stages of MSW collection. Primary collections are from door to door, street sweeping, markets and bulk collection from Hotel, Restaurants and commercial establishments. In a ideal situation the waste should be segregated into bio degradable- such as food items, vegetables, fruits, meat, fish waste, leaves, grass, etc and non-biodegradable & recyclable dry waste such as paper, plastic, glass, metal, ceramic, rubber, wood, stone, sand, ash, thermo coal and other packing materials- at the point of origin. Lately, GHMC has started distribution of two bins per house hold to separate degradable and bio-degradable waste at the point of origin but enforcement of this practice is found difficult till the system is followed at all stages. Secondary collection is made at dumper bins placed at open point by the GHMC for storing the waste collected from door to door and taken by the tricycles/ auto trolleys. The third stage is shifting the waste from secondary collection centres to transfer stations and finally to the waste treatment locations.

The objective of GHMC is to develop and implement an environmentally sustainable Integrated MSW Management system in Hyderabad. It would be a model system for the country. To achieve this GHMC has entered into a Public Private Partnership (PPP) agreement with the Ramky Enviro Engineers Ltd, Hyderabad and signed a concession agreement on 21-2-2009. Under this agreement the

concessioner has built a treatment plant and safe disposal facility at Jawaharnagar. It is functioning since February 2012. Although the agreement is to give entire responsibility from primary collection up to the treatment and disposal to the concessioner by GHMC but presently the role of concessioner is confined only to treatment and disposal (T&D) at Jawaharnagar site.

Out of the total MSW generated in GHMC limits, 5030 Metric Tonnes per day, about 4000 Tonnes is transported at the T&D Site through 400 to 450 trucks. The remaining waste is not properly collected, treated and disposed, as we see waste lying at different places. Once the truck carrying MSW reaches the T&D site, it passes through the main gate and on to the way bridge where the weight is electronically recorded. A camera is installed at the weighing machine to check the quality of the MSW received through the trucks. The data recorded indicates the type and composition of the incoming waste, quantity (in tonnes), the origin of the waste and the waste declaration as MSW for treatment. Integrated facility accepts only MSW as defined in MSW Rules, 2000 and excludes Hazardous Waste & Bio-medical waste. The non MSW is sent to landfill.

MSW Processing:

The incoming waste is dumped at the waste storage area that is provided with impermeable floor with facility to collect leachate and surface water runoff into lined drains leading to a leachate treatment and disposal facility. Precaution is taken to minimize foul Odour, Flies, Rodents, Bird menace and fire hazard. Permission is given to the rag pickers to take away the

recyclable waste. The remaining waste is passed through 100 mm rotating sieves that separate MSW +100mm size from the rest. The +100 mm size is passed through shudders and then passed through 50 mm sieves. MSW of 50 and less mm size is called as Refused Derived Fuel (RDF) which is separately stored for conversion of waste into energy. About 40% of RDF is generated from the waste received. It is proposed to generate 19.5 MW power from this waste. Some of the waste between 100mm to + 50mm size is supplied to cement plants as fuel. The remaining waste is sent to land fill site and safely deposited.

100 mm and less size waste are kept in the open for about two months and it is regularly up turned on a weekly basis for allowing aerobic decomposition. Here also the rag-pickers are permitted to take useful material for recycling. The remaining waste is shifted to monsoon shed where it passes through 35 mm sieve, 16 mm sieve and finally 4 mm sieve in curing shed. The balance MSW of +35 mm, +16 mm and +4 mm also goes to the land fill. The -4mm waste is used for compost purpose. On an average 30 percent MSW goes for the land fill and about 6 to 8 percent goes to composting. About 300 tonnes of compost is generated each day at the integrated facility which is sold out at Rs.1.50 per Kg. The integrated centre ensures safe quality of water, air and monitors the health of the people living in surrounding areas to protect them from any adverse impact from T&D facility. Greenery is maintained around the site for improving the environment.

THE WESTERN GHATS AND THE BIODIVERSITY

By

Dr. B Raghotham Rao Desai

1. Introduction:

Biological diversity means variation within species, between the species, within an ecosystem and between the ecosystems. An Ecosystem is considered as a setting, to understand lives of the community of plants, the animals, the microorganisms and their environment, collectively. Basic knowledge about the physiographic divisions is therefore, necessary to understand such a diversity of flora and fauna, and their destruction. The **Peninsular Plateaus** (of southern India) **consist of Western Ghats, North Deccan Plateaus** (comprising Satpura Range & the Maharashtra Plateaus), **South Deccan Plateaus** (comprising the Telangana & Karnataka Plateaus), **Eastern Plateaus** (comprising Chota-Nagpur Plateau, Mahanadi Basin & Dandakaranya) and **Eastern Ghats** (Northern portion of a mountainous tract abutting against Dandakaranya).

The Western Ghats, collectively called the Sahyadri, can be divided into **Northern, Middle and Southern Sections**. 'The Northern Section', stretching about 650km north-south, is part of the Deccan Plateau and typical of **trap-**

landscape built of **horizontal-sheets-of-lava**.

The 'middle section', running up to the Nilgiris for almost same length, is of **granitic and gneissic origin**, quite different from trap. **It is a rugged terrain with dense vegetation and sparse human population**. The two sections, serve as important watersheds for east-flowing-river-systems of Godavari, Krishna and the Cauvery. The Godavari rises near Trimbak (Nasik District), the Krishna near Mahabaleshwar, with its tributaries: the Bhima (near Bhimashankar), the Tunga and the Bhadra (near Gangamula peak, Southwest of Sringeri). The Cauvery rises from Brahmagiri hills of Kodagu (Coorg) and the Sharavathi (the West-flowing-river forming the Gersoppa falls) on the West of the crest. The 'southern section' is south of the Palaghat-Gap — the Palani Hills and the Nilgiris, having been noted for their beautiful rolling downs, part of it having been planted with exotics like eucalypts, wattles and pines. The 'Cardamom Hills' consist of ridges and valleys through which the Vaigai flows, taking with it the Periyar and the Suruli river-waters — the southernmost perennial river being the Tamirabarani, rising in Tirunelveli district.

2. The Main features and ground realities of the issues involved:

2.1. It is proposed to deal only with the 'middle section' of Western Ghats here, having served therein for a decade-and-a-half, (in the districts of Chikmagalur, Mysore/Coorg and Shimoga) covering most of Karnataka State, comprised mainly of Tropical rainforests which happen to be quite ancient, stable and highly complex. The great number of species, the exciting variety of life-forms and the intricate patterns of time-and-space sharing, efficiently fitted into a flux of delicate interrelations, is the **hallmark of nature's way of organizing a magnificent plant-community**. Over the ages, they have evolved with their environment, and reached a stage for the appropriate utilization of abundant sunshine, rain and long growing-period, its constituents (viz., trees and other lesser plant forms, microbes, insects, birds and other animals) having become highly adapted to the available food, shelter, space, etc., **Each of the member has an ordained 'niche' in the web-of-life, and the entire community functions as a well-orchestrated-symphony**, with its flow of energy and cycling of nutrients.

2.2. If these cyclic movements are disrupted by human activities, directly or indirectly, ecosystems get endangered. So long as it remains undisturbed, the forests on Western

Ghats maintain their characteristic physiognomy and floristic diversity, due to the inherent dominance of trees and 'tolerance of its constituent species' — maintaining mineral cycling at a certain pace, through the collective activities of soil, flora and fauna, regulating its own microclimate — particular temperature and humidity — thereby acting as a natural home for the dependent-species. Though elaborately patterned, and intricately designed as a system of community life, it is vulnerable however, to adverse influences of fire, heavy-grazing and anthropogenic activities — though having the capability of weathering environmental changes to a limited extent. Beyond its resilience, however, if it is pushed, it reaches a 'point of no return'. Any attempt to modify the ecosystem (in order to increase production of a desired commodity-species, whether occurring naturally or 'introduced', with the support of high technique agriculture) leads to disruption of the ecosystem, resulting in an irreparable damage — man would be grossly mistaken if he goes on to extract 'more' out of it.

2.3. The concept of climax is a great advance to our understanding of forest dynamics: there could be only one climax-community for a climatic region — given the unlimited time for development in an area under uniform climate, all 'Seres' tend to converge to a 'climatic

climax', climax-formations, however, not being uniform throughout: some areas being more suitable for one species and some for others, some even favouring more than one species (at times a good number of 40 families, comprising nearly 80 genera and not less than 200 species). Climax can be viewed as an average of most probable population, since forest vegetation is, after all, the product of combined influence of all factors viz climatic, edaphic, biotic and others like 'availability of species' & their characteristics, dispersal-chances, etc.,

2.4. The shola-grassland assemblage (found above an elevation of 1500 M of the Western Ghats) **is a characteristic landscape** — its striking feature being typical vast expanses of grasslands dotted with isolated compact growths of stunted evergreen trees called sholas, confining to the heads of 'streams of converging slopes', hollows — where soil, moisture, drainage and shelter are favourable. Though viewed as ecologically 'not robust', shola is capable of regenerating wherever conditions are favourable. The ecological capacity of perpetuation is a proof of it being a 'climatic climax'.

3. Biodiversity of Western Ghats: The international biodiversity year was in 2010. Biodiversity is not found distributed evenly on the Earth: it is consistently richer in tropics and poorer towards polar-regions. Coming to the

Western Ghats they are geologically more lasting and ecologically more suitable — they are treasure-troves of plants and animals for more than one reason: the Ghats change from one of mountainous-country to that of plateaus (eastwards), rendering them 'highly varied' topographically. **The unique characteristics of Western Ghats** (such as south-north orientation, equatorial proximity, maritime vicinity, calibrated rainfall and dry-season-gradient) **thus make it indeed a unique setting for a very large number of habitats, microhabitats, and biodiversity.**

Covering about 5% of land area, they contain about a quarter of India's angiosperm and gymnosperm flora, while there is such a great diversity of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fishes and butterflies!

Well-developed ecosystems are stable, resilient and capable of repairing damages, and resume functions of primary production and ecological processes. If they are degraded by selective removal of top-storey-trees (in rainforests), the ecosystem is put at risk. **Ecosystems are natural laboratories for study to understand clues about evolution of plants and animal species.** They have many cultural values viz., aesthetic values as well as use-values.

4. Conclusion:

4.1. For the people dwelling in the

Western Ghats region: much of the ecology, economy and culture are forest-based. The health and functioning of the forests depend on the sustainable management of resources. Developing value-added products from wild-fruit-crops (with high commercial potential) needs to be encouraged — wild tropical fruits comprising about 30% of the forest revenue and **Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) having recently been included in the 'National Working Plan Code'** of the forest Department, since they comprise about 25% of income of tribal families (who are often landless, while being most vulnerable to climatic change).

4.2. A few of the species that contribute significantly to the local ecology (as they provide food for wild animals and are useful as traditional preparations and medicines), being part of rich biodiversity of Western Ghats, some species yielding in certain seasons and some throughout the year, happen to be: **Artocarpus lakoocha** (Nakkarenu/vaate), **Alangium salvifolium** (Udaga/Ankola), **Artocarpus hirsuta** (Ainior wild jack), **Aporosa lindleyana** (Challa-pandu/Sarali or challe hannu), **Buchanania lanzan** (Char or Sara/Nurkal), **Carissa carindas** (karaunda or Kalivi/Kauli), **Chrysophyllum roxburghii** (Adam's apple or star apple/ Pulichakka or haale), **Diospyros melanoxylon** (Tumri or Tumiki/ Tupra), **Elaeagnus conferta** (Kulangi/halage),

Flacourtia montana (Attak/Sampige), **Garcinia gummi-gutta** (Kodapuli/Uppage or Punarahuli), **Garcinia spicata** (Pidatha/Kokottai), **Garcinia xanthochymus** (Iwara mamidi/Devanahuli or betta hunase), **Garcinia morella** (The Gamoge tree or Arishina andi/Kadampuli), **Gardenia gummifera** (Dikemali or Gurudu/Bikki), **Mimusops elangi** (Pogada/Ranjalu or Pokkalathu), **Phoenix sylvestris** (Wild Date palm: Ita/Ichalu or Khajur), **Rourea santaloides** (Pullamajjiga-pandu/hulimajgehannu) **Semecarpus anacardium** (The marking nut tree or Jidi/Guddageru), **Syzygium cumini** (Jamun or Neredu/Nerula), **Zanthoxylum ovalifolium** (Pepuli or aramadlu) and **Zizyphus oenoplia** (Pariki/Mullannu or Soorimullu).

4.3. Over the years, the traditional knowledge of wild tropical fruits — from identification of the species to usage, medicinal properties and harvesting-norms — is gradually disappearing: there is every urgency to ensure, therefore, that it does not get lost, to achieve which, participatory research and development activities with focus on documentation of knowledge, linked to these species' and fruits' conservation, has to be initiated.

Global warming, depletion of natural resources and loss of natural habitat due to tinkering with biodiversity, exploitation and absence of

harmonious life are plaguing the contemporary world. Can the man not adopt his imagination for a more balanced progress?

4.4. Environmental damages on account of economic development, increasing demands of forest-lands for cultivation of strategic & beverage crops (such as rubber, oil palm, coffee, tea, cocoa), uncontrolled illegal logging (with the tacit support of developed countries), and explosion in human population, have created destructive impact, **on forest biodiversity of inestimable value —some rainforests being patently unique. The fast growing knowledge, however, about environment, biodiversity, climate change, global pollution, the finite natural resources and the inevitable cataclysmic-consequences, is fairly wide-spread.** In spite of it, the abusive exploitation of Nature poses a serious challenge to the earnest endeavors of World-bodies like the UN — unless there is a change of mindset, it seems well nigh impossible to turn the planet livable! **The world is riddled with umpteen**

number of problems — if we want to redress them: no single person, single team or single organization hope to achieve success. Society appears to have been gripped by **devilish forces bent upon to force the man to indulge in various antisocial & destructive activities including indiscriminate abuse & tinkering of the environment, disrupting the delicate fabric of natural resources which grace the planet** and resorting to self-conceit — thus sabotaging by vandalizing peaceful co-existence. By re-establishing these values alone can New Age be ushered in. And to bring about a radical change in the attitude, it has to be done unitedly —everyone without exception must contribute his or her mite for the mighty cause making sure that each one puts aside differences and work with complete commitment, not buckling down to the hassles: **being in a harmonious equation with Mother Nature is the panacea for all the ills.**

We should not give up and we should not allow the problem to defeat us

“Unselfishness is more paying, only people have not the patience to practice it”

GADDEGUEM ROCK FORESTS

By

B. Bhagavanth Reddy

Introduction:

Our village, Devarkadra is located near holy Manyamkonda hills in Mahabubnagar District. Gaddegudem is a small village nestled in the lap of Nature amidst beautiful rocky hills locally known as pedda Gattlu. They are visible from our village standing majestically at a distance of about 7 kms.

The Gaddegudem Reserved Forest is a Beat under Mahabubnagar Forest Range. Surrounded by other small villages like Adivi Ajilapuram, Pothenpally and tribal hamlets like Bolloni Thanda, Somla Thanda and Moddula Kunta, this is a picturesque place endowed with rich biodiversity.

Together with adjoining rock forests of Malkapur, Perkiveed, Veeranna Gattu etc, they are spread in clusters and chains continuously covering an area of about 100 square kms. compactly. A panoramic view of these eye catching hills can be seen from the top of Koilkonda rock fort and Koilsagar rock dam located in the vicinity. It is entirely a rock world.

In my childhood there were many stories in circulation about these Pedda Gattlu. some factual and some imaginary. However they always fascinated me. I left the village for higher education and a better livelihood. Time ran way. But my desire to visit these hills to see what is there inside never died. After 20 years I got a

good opportunity. I was posted to Undyal village near here as bank manager of Central Bank of India in 1987. I started visiting these forests with my friends and local villagers every now and then in all seasons.

With surprisingly balanced big rocks and boulders, unique flora and fauna, bird songs honey combs, ant hills, bird nests, wild flowers, lichens, streams, water tanks, deep caves, wildlife dens and tribals all added beauty, wonder and awfulness to these forests.

They are located at a distance of 125 kms. from Hyderabad, 25 kms. from Mahabubnagar and easily reachable from Devarakadra.

What are these Rocks:

Scientists believe that the universe was formed by a Big Bang about 13700 million years ago. The galaxies and the solar system were formed during further evolution of the universe. The earth was formed about 4600 million years ago. The earth's outer solid layer called Lithosphere is made up of rock. There are several kinds of rocks on earth. Granite is one such rock which is found abundantly here. All rocks are minerals but all minerals are not rocks.

The earth's mantle which extends from the core to the earth's crust is largely made up of molten igneous rock called magma. When this liquid magma was pushed upwards from the interior of the earth it solidified slowly under the crust

as domes and sheets of granite. Horizontal and vertical cracks developed. When top layers of the earth's crust eroded slowly and washed away, the hard granites were exposed.

The exposed granites weathered slowly through millions of years along the horizontal and vertical cracks to create the present day bizarre shapes. Thus the Gaddegudem rocks were formed in such a manner about 2500 million years ago. Infact such rock formations are common in Mahabubnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Warangal and around Hyderabad as also more or less in the entire Deccan region and hence they are also called as Deccan Rocks. It is surprising that being only 450 million years old, the Himalayas are infants before these Gaddegudem rocks.

Bio diversity:

Life originated through chemical evolution in water, about 3500 million years ago, in the form of micro organisms like bacteria. Various kinds of plants and animals were evolved later through biological evolution over millions and millions of years. However, life appeared on land only 400 million years ago during Silurian period. Dinosaurs ruled the earth 200 million years ago during the Jurassic period. Primitive humans were evolved only 2 million years back and the story of modern humans is not more than 10000 years old. This lovely forest provides shelter to a variety of plants and animals.

During a continuous marathon four days forest walk with friends like Golla Dasharath, Maktadeer we made night halts in interior places of the forest. Sri. Noore Gopal, President of VSS and

Muthyam Ramulu active VSS member used to take care of us including needs for food, water and shelter. A little camp fire would keep all the wild animals away from us. These villagers know the language of the Nature better than us and locate the presence of insects, snakes and birds etc. easily though they exhibit mimicry and camouflage for their own self protection.

(a) Flora:

Apart from various kinds of twines, grasses, tubers, shrubs and herbs the plant life includes trees like teak, peepal banyan, flame of the forest, Indian laburnum, Terminalia, mitragyna, bamboo, soap nut, neem etc. This forest is famous for sitaphal.

Good patches of dense forests are seen in places like Mukkidisani Gandi, Edaavula Loddi, Bhootharathi Moola, Doollagattu Sari etc.

(b) Fauna :

Wild animals living here range from mammals like leopard, sloth bear, wild boar, hyena, porcupine, langur, fox, jackal, jungle cat, bats, mangoose etc.

Bird life includes peacock, jungle fowl, koel, parakeet, woodpecker, kingfisher, eagle herons, water ducks, owl, Indian roller, quails etc. Vulture became extinct from this forest during our own generation.

Reptiles found here include rock python, cobra, viper, krait pangolin, monitor lizard, tortoise, chameleon, colored lizards etc., Field biologists have observed 35 kinds of butterflies here.

I have participated in the census of leopards once with forest personnel who have estimated

a population of about 12 leopards in these forests including the adjoining areas, based on pugmarks obtained.

At our request the forest Dept. has accelerated payment of compensation to the farmers for killing their cattle by leopards.

Medicinal plants: These forests are known for a variety of medicinal plants which are cheap and reliable source of medical care in rural areas. Some important of them are Abrus precatorius, Gloriosa superba, Indian aloe, prickly poppy, aristolochia, asparagus, calotropis etc, There is treatment for curing ulcers, bone fractures, jaundice, paralysis, skin diseases, rheumatism etc, effectively.

We have seen a very old palm leaf manuscript with Sri Noore Narayana, an aged local Vaidya of Gaddegudem village. Every poem describes symptoms of a disease, the plant part that is used as medicine, dosage and timings for usage. On an assignment from the Forest Dept, we have conducted a Survey on Medicinal Plants of this forest and submitted a report to them.

Dancing rocks:

Rocks are treated as dead and non-living. But they too have silent expressions, hidden beauty and wonder. This forest is famous for curiously shaped amazingly balanced rocks and boulders. Some of them are aptly named as Gadda Gundu, Padige Rayi Nemali Kuche, Onkarathi Thippa etc., We have produced a short video film on these Dancing Rocks with assistance from INTACH. There is need to protect the rocks too because if once cut, they will never grow again.

Natural Bonsai:

Some trees grow entirely on rocks. Nature has taught all living beings how to face struggles and survive successfully. Due to inhospitable environmental conditions, lack of sufficient water and nutrients, these otherwise big trees like banyan, peepal zizyphus etc, have become stunted and took dwarf forms giving beauty and color to the bare rocks. Hanging from crevices and cliffs, at some places they look like a hanging garden.

Waterholes on rocks:

Due to scanty rainfall and semi-arid climate, the forest is dry throughout the year except during the rainy season. Some water holes on top of these rocky hills are nothing but the Nature's gift to wild animals. They look as if specially carved out of rock to store rain water even during the summer. They are seasonally water filled rock pools.

They are named as Gavi Dona, Neella Gundu, Raivada Dona, Nandi Dona etc, by local people for easy identification. Man has to learn much from this unique way of rain water harvesting system of the Nature.

Deforestation:

Unfortunately, about 75 years ago the Govt. has auctioned some parts of this forest to prepare charcoal to get revenue. All big trees were cut down and burnt. Forest fires spread. Wild animals lost their habitat. It was an ecological disaster.

People could foresee the dangers involved for their survival. They prayed the Govt. to exempt

Naravepa trees from the purview of the auction as they supply nutritious fodder for their milch animals. If there are any big trees in this forest in villages like Adivi Ajilapuram they are surely of Naravepa only.

Owing to population pressures in fringe areas, this unique forest has undergone many turmoils. Except Man, all other animals follow the laws of the Nature strictly. Timber smuggling, expansion of agriculture into the core area, overgrazing, denudation for firewood etc. has resulted in shrinkage and loss of prime forests. Many wild animals became rare and endangered. Thus, what was once a luxuriant and wealthy forest lost it's past glory and degenerated to a large extent.

We have distributed portable and fixed smokeless chulhas in Gaddegudem village with the help of NEDCAP to reduce pressure on firewood.

Efforts of Forest Dept:

Apart from implementing their own schemes for forest protection and regeneration, the dept. has extended excellent support to us for our nature conservation activities. Sri. M. Padmanabha Reddy worked here as DFO for a long time. He was a man of action. Mancham Cheruvu was built during the Nizam period in the deep forest exclusively to meet water needs of wild animals. But a breach was made by the farmers and precious water was diverted to their fields down below the hills, making the tank to go dry soon. When we informed, the DFO took immediate steps to increase the water retaining capacity of the tank. The breach was plugged

permanently. The tank was de silted. Tank bund was strengthened. It became a picturesque spot for nature camps with rocky hills all around. We have built a watch tower in it's vicinity with help from forest dept.

The dept has assisted us in conducting several nature camps for rural students and awareness camps for V.S.S members in these forests.

I became a good rock photographer and photo journalist only due to these rocks. Sri. P. Mallikharjuna Rao, Director of A.P. Forest Academy invited me to give guest lectures at Dulapally and sponsored a One Man Photo Exhibition titled "Namaste Gaddegudem" at the Academy for which VSS members of Gaddegudem were also invited by sending a mini bus to their village.

Sri. M. P. Raju, Sri. K.A. Somayajulu our Zonal Managers were invited as Guests of Honour who spoke well on the need to protect rocks and the Nature.

Our Efforts:

We have established a NGO called Friends of Nature at Devarkadra in my own house and running Manyamkonda Nature Club with the help of WWF – India since last 30 years, advocating local people should protect local flora, fauna and the Nature.

At our request nature groups from Society to Save Rocks, WWF – India, A.P. Photographic Society, Bird Watchers Society of A.P., INTACH, of which I am a Life Member have visited these rock forests from time to time and expressed endless joy.

We have participated in Bird Counts and submitted reports to BNHS, Mumbai.

Central Bank of India too has encouraged me a lot. Photo articles were published in bank's magazine. An exclusive Photo Exhibition on Dancing Rocks was sponsored by the bank at Telugu University, which was attended by Sri. S.D. Mukherji, IFS, Sri. K.B.R. Reddy, and Sri.M. Kamal Naidu and other dignitaries. All the photos were shot by me in these forests only.

The District Collector sri. M. Purushotham Reddy, IAS, has inaugurated yet another photo exhibition in Mahabubnagar. Officials from the forest dept. Central Bank, NABARD, DRDA, the Lead Bank etc. have attended with enthusiasm. We have conducted several photo exhibitions in the schools and colleges. This has generated much publicity in print and electronic media.

Rock Tourism:

On a project from A.P. Tourism Development Corporation, Hyderabad we have surveyed this area for rock tourism and submitted a report to them in 2005. Some of the routes suggested by us are:

- 1) Gaddegudem to Pothenpally via Mancham Charuvu - 6 kms.
- 2) Adivi Ajilapuram to Veeranna Gattu via Bolloni Thanda - 5 kms
- 3) Koilsagar Rock Dam to Koilkonda Rock Fort Via Moddulakunta - 6 kms

"Rock walks in these forests are really exciting" says Frauke Quader (a German lady) Secretary of Society to Save Rocks, Hyderabad who has visited this place several times, accompanied by the author.

Amused by these Deccan Rocks, Dr. Rabindranath Tagore has expressed his thoughts in a poetic manner such as

" A Friends Embrace in the Air"

" An Open Invitation in the Sky"

There are ancient rock cubicles on top of some hills indicating human presence since ages. The deep rock caves are excellent wild life dens.

Conclusion:

Nature has created every creature with a definite purpose. Every species, plant or animal has a specific role in maintaining ecological balance. Man is the only animal who is violating all laws of the nature and bringing his own race into jeopardy.

People kill wild animals brutally unnecessarily attributing cruelty and danger. Left to themselves most of the wild animals do not attack human beings easily, unless provoked or disturbed.

These granite rocks are known especially for their hardness, compactness and appearance making them a good building material for roads, buildings, dams, etc., They are destroyed indiscriminately.

Millions of years to create, seconds to destroy. If one person dies another person is produced. But if one rock is destroyed another rock cannot be produced.

The best way to conserve this beautiful rock forest is to fence it from all sides and declare it as a Rock Sanctuary by Govt. It would be a precious gift from us to our future generations.

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.	M.Guru Prabhakar	28-03-1965
			12.	G. Satish	29-03-1984
1.	M. Anjaneyulu	01-03-1954	13.	G. Ram Mohan Rao	29-03-1957
2.	C.Laxma Reddy	09-03-1934	14.	B.Venkataramana	31-03-1960
3.	K. Bal Reddy	10-03-1956	15.	Y.Ramaiah	01-04-1962
4.	D.Satyanarana	11-03-1949	16.	V.Srinivasa Rao	01-04-1965
5.	S.Ashiah	15-03-1949	17.	Ch.Prakasa Rao	02-04-1963
6.	D.V.Jayaram Prasad	15-03-1942	18.	Y.Srinivasa Reddy	04-03-1971
7.	S.M.Rasheedullah	15-03-1939	19.	G.Hari Kumar	05-04-1958
8.	M.Sitarama Rao	19-03-1933			
9.	I.Janardhan	23-03-1954			
10.	K.Muralidhar Rao	01-04-1946			
11.	P. V. Padmanabham	02-04-1952			
12.	B.Rangiah	05-04-1946			

Secretary

S.No.	Name of Serving Officers	D.O.B.
	Sarva Sri	
1.	M. Ravi Sankara sarma	07-03-1967
2.	P.Srinivasa Rao	10-03-1966
3.	B.Shafiullah	13-03-1976
4.	B.Chandrasekhar	13-03-1962
5.	B.Dhanunjaya Rao	15-03-1960
6.	Ch.Nagabushanam	15-03-1967
7.	Smt.Shivani Dogra	17-03-1980
8.	Vinay Kumar	26-03-1968
9.	K.Ravinder	27-03-1961
10.	D.Phani Kumar Naidu	27-03-1988



APFDC: A FEW INNOVATIONS TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS

By
Dr. C. N. Rao

After seeing an article "Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation Limited: The Success Story" by my esteemed friend Mr. S. K. Das in February 2016 issue of Vana Premi, I thought I should share my experiences too with the readers firstly to set the record straight for the benefit of younger generations and then to highlight the innovations that contributed to the success of the Corporation. In a way this small narration could as well be a prelude to the Mr. Das's experiences as my tenure in APFDC preceded by nearly a decade. Building of institutions is a continuing process and enrichment depends upon contributions by individuals and I wish these experiences serve as motivation for succeeding officers to take the institution to greater heights.

I had the privilege of being associated with APFDC first as Regional Manager, Khammam and then Vice Chairman & Managing Director and the same provided me an opportunity to have close look at problems at the grass root level and then to have a holistic view of the issues at stake. I must acknowledge the trust and reliance placed in me by the then Heads Mr. P. A. Mukhedkar and Mr. M. Sitarama Rao and the support rendered.

During my tenure as RM, Khammam:

(a) It was a practice to undertake uprootal of stumps in the areas selected for plantations involving huge expenditure. With an intention to save, we stopped uprootal at Corporation expense and fixed a rate as low as a rupee. It

resulted in saving considerable amount on the time. From next year onwards, we permitted charcoal burning in lots of the uprooted material within the selected area and contractors came forward to purchase the right doing uprootal themselves. Corporation, instead of spending on uprootal started earning revenue on this item. With ash spread over the entire area, it improved not only the soil texture but also enriched it with nutrients.

(b) Replication of this method became difficult for RM, Rajamundry who was an excellent officer as the contractors were not willing to take to new system. I was asked to help him sort out the problem and we successfully managed to convince all the concerned. The officer later went on to head the Department in later years.

(c) We had difficulty in bamboo extraction and the plantations remained un-harvested for some years. The situation naturally blocked the flow of revenue. The bamboo clumps were awfully congested making removal extremely difficult. With the support of MD and the CGO (Sri M. Sitarama Rao), we felled the entire clumps totally on experimental basis and covered them with earth making mounds. It gave excellent results as extraction had become easy and felled clumps rejuvenated with astonishing results.

As VC & MD, APFDC:

(a) The APFDC was incorporated in 1975.

Yet, the financial health of Corporation was not sound enough to pay dividends for a long time. The dividend was paid for the first time to Government in

(b) Available funds of the Corporation were locked up in FDRs. I took the initiative to encash them to repay loans consortium of banks to whom the Corporation was paying heavy interest which was much more than the FDRs earned.

(c) One of the bold decisions taken was to go for aerial spraying in Cashew plantations. The earlier practice of manual/tractor mounted spraying was not found to be effective.

(d) I found very uneven yields from Cashew plantations. On close observation, I felt it was due to genetic character. We started maintaining yield record from different trees and could identify the high yielders. We started raising plantations with seeds obtained from high yielders and the results were excellent. We also undertook grafting.

(e) There was the practice of applying chemical fertilizers in Cashew and Coffee plantations to boost yields. Insufficiency of fertilizer or improper application or misuse of the fertilizer was serious constraints. In order to curb these unhealthy trends, I had taken to organic manures using neem or castor as fertilizer and spray. Incidentally, the practice so initiated is almost two decades ahead of times seen in the context of prevailing trend of organic manures.

(f) I feel that I should rightly claim credit for the concept of clonal plantations of Eucalyptus. I had observed in the field that Eucalyptus Plantations are drying up on large scale. First, drying starts at the top and eventually the entire tree dies. Even the wood is not useful for any

purpose. When I reported the matter, the PCCF asked me to tour various places in the State and assess the situation. The unaffected trees were identified zeroing down to the best clones and their seed was used to raise Eucalyptus nurseries. Loud-thinking on my part made ITC, Bhadrachalam wiser and were quick to latch on to the concept of clonal plantations. The rest is history.

(g) I found that abnormal delays were taking place in harvesting Coffee seed and transporting the same for pulping to Narsipatnam. I had purchased TATA Mobile Vehicles to tide over the problem. While the move improved the work efficiency the purchase was seen kindly in some quarters.

(h) The Corporation recruited some staff at the lower levels while much of the work force at supervisory and managerial level was drafted on deputation. This has seriously blocked the advancement of in-house personnel. I took the initiative to provide for intra-corporation promotions for vertical rise.

(i) There were couple of other financial matters which were also settled in the best interests of the Organization.

I must also say that innovative thinking and out of box solutions do not bring instant laurels. One must have the patience for the truth to prevail. There were a couple of other financial matters which were settled in the best interest of

IT MAY NOT BE OUT OF PLACE TO MENTION THAT THIS ACTION OF MINE WAS WRONGLY MISCONSTRUED. INNOVATIVE THOUGHTS AND OUT OF BOX SOLUTIONS DO NOT ALWAYS BRING BOUQUETS. ONE HAS TO WAIT FOR THE TRUTH TO PREVAIL.

SOME LACUNAE IN THE SCHEDULES OF WILD LIFE (PROTECTION) ACT, 1972

By
B. M. T. Rajeev

While writing a book on 'Indian wild animals' in Kannada – a translation of my earlier book in English, Glimpses of Indian Wildlife, I tried to orient the description of different animals of India with reference to schedules of IWLPA, 1972, to enable the readers to visualize the status of the wild animals. This made me to look in to the details of all the animals named in Schedules I to IV to explore their details in my book. The exercise gave me an opportunity to find some lacunae and bring them in to the notice of the authorities through a letter to set-right the same in the interest of the conservation of wild animals; and to the readers for reference.

The details are as follows:

Schedule I

Part- I

1) Sl. No. 1-B, Bharal (*Ovis nabhura*)..... The name is wrong. The Bharal's scientific name is *Pseudois nayaur*.

2) Sl. No. 25... Musk Deer (*Moschus moschiferus*)... This scientific name refers to Siberian musk deer while what we have is white bellied musk deer. Its scientific name is *Moschus leucogaster*. This needs to be corrected.

3) Sl. No. 31-B.... Otter (*Anonyx cinerea*): It has been again named along with other 2 otters of

India in Schedule-II, Part-II at Sl. no 4. It gives rise to confusion for the authorities to name it as Sch-I or Sch-II Part II . It needs correction.

Part-III

5) Sl No. 7-C Monal pheasants (*Lophophorus scalteri*) and at Sl. No. 13... Sclater's monal (*Lophophorus scalteri*), is the same bird with different English names which is common. It needs to be deleted at any one place.

Part IV...

6) Sl. No. 1. Butterflies and moths...The heading of the columns needs to be stated as scientific name like common English name.

Sch-II Part-II

7) Sl no. 1 Beetles – 13 families of beetles have been identified as against hundreds of scientific names of the beetles. The field staff or for that matter any in the field, can only try to identify some beetles with the common English names by translating into local names as in the case of birds and animals. But, with out this clue, it is impossible to identify the beetles in the field to make out a case against the offenders. No Entomologist will be available in the field to help. Hence, the authorities should ask the entomologist who gave the list of beetles to the schedule to supply common English names

to help the men in field or in court cases.
Schedule needs incorporation of common English names.

Schedule IV

Sl. No.11 Birds:

8) Sl. No.11 Birds and sub nos. 13-Comb duck (*Sarkidiornis melanotes*) is part of Sub no. 21- Ducks (Anatide). There is no necessity of sub. Sl no. 13. The entry needs correction.

9) Sub Sl. No. 16...Cranes (Anatide). In fact cranes belong to the family 'Gruidae'. It should be corrected as –Cranes (Gruidae).

10) Sl. No. 12 Snakes

1. Sub Sl No. 1 Amblycephalidae- No details are available for this family- instead, it leads to

Amblycephalus, a marine fish

2. Sub Sl. No. 2 Amilidae- It leads to no where? Needs correction.

3. Sub Sl. No. 5 Dasypeptidae (Egg-eating snake)- It is a snake of 'Colubridae' family and called as The Indian egg-eating snake or Indian egg-eater (*Elachistodon westermanni*); it needs correction.

4. Sub Sl. No. 7 Glauconidae – Leads no where; needs correction.

5. Sub Sl. No. 8 Hydrophidae (Fresh water and sea snake)- It is an elapidae- family- Coral snake and not a fresh water and sea snake—There are only two species of this type of venomous snakes called 'Fresh water and sea snake'; but, not found in South Asia. It needs to be deleted.

NOTICE

The 79th General Body Meeting of the Association of Retired Forest Officers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh will be held on 20-03-2016 (Sunday) 11 a.m. at Aranya Bhavan, Hyderabad. Dr. Phani Prasanth M.D. (NIMHANS), an eminent Psychiatrist will be the Chief Guest and will deliver an informative and useful talk on " OLD AGE RELATED PROBLEMS & GERIATRICS" followed by INTER ACTIVE SESSION.

All the members of the Association are requested to attend the meeting with their spouses. Sri. B.S.S. Reddy, IFS, PCCF Retd. member of the association will host the lunch.

***Don't read success stories, you will get only message...
Read failure stories, you will get some ideas to get
success!!***

ARREST OF A RED SANDERS SMUGGLER IS NOT EASY

By
P. Visweswaraiah

It was on January 25, 2016, I had rung up Mr. Gopinath Jatti, IPS, Superintendent of Police, Urban Police District, Tirupati and the conversation was on the following lines.

P. Visweswaraiah (P.V): Good Morning Gopi Sir, how are you?

Gopinath Jatti (S.P): Fine Sir. Tell me, it has been long time since we met.

P.V: I am seeing your name in the newspapers almost every alternative day, but not able to meet you, you were too busy.

S.P: Of Course. Tirupati is a famous Religious Centre. Police work in Tirupati will always be busy. Today I am in the office. What Else? Anything important?

P.V: Gopi Sir, you did extraordinarily marvelous work in arresting Kollam Gangi Reddy, an international Red Sanders smuggler at Mauritius and bringing him to Andhra Pradesh safely, for which I congratulate you. But I want to share some more information from you in this regard.

S.P: May I know what is it?

P.V: You must be aware that there is a Journal by

name "Vana Premi" with all India circulation brought out by the Association of Retired Forest Officers of Telangana & Andhra Pradesh. I feel that arresting a Red Sanders smuggler abroad, bringing him to the country with Police custody and presenting him before the court of law in accordance with provisions of Cr. PC and AP Forest Act etc, is significantly a commendable job and this news deserves sharing with all Forest officers inside and outside the State, both serving and retired.

S.P: Then it is ok. Kindly meet me in the weekend, may be on 23rd or 24th January.

I met the Superintendent of Police, Tirupati Urban District, Sri Gopinath Jatti at his office on 23rd January 2016, around noon, just before the lunch.

P.V: Good afternoon sir. I have come to you in to learn more on your Mauritius experiences in arresting the notorious criminal/ forest offender.

S.P: Good afternoon sir. Yes, Kollam Gangi Reddy is a native of Pullampet Mandal, YSR Kadapa District, who has been evasive always by not

furnishing correct address either at his native district Kadapa or his temporary abode at Tirupati which falls within Tirupati Urban Police District. While entering Mauritius also, he gave his residence address as Dubai and proposed place of stay as Lee Bambous Hotel, Mehebourg, Mauritius. But he did not check into the hotel and was not available even for Mauritius Police.

P.V: Then how Kollam Gangi Reddy was caught? Is it because he is an accused in all kinds of offences?

S.P: Crime reports prepared in every district are reported to the office of Director General of Police. The DGP of our State, Sri J.V. Ramudu was very keen to arrest this notorious criminal, because Kollam Gangi Reddy was involved in one murder case, 4 cases of attempt to murder, 13 cases of Red Sanders smuggling, 2 cases of Forgery and Passport fraud case etc.

P.V: Oh! The Red Sanders cases are there on him from Forest Department also. I thought that he was only Red Sanders smuggler, but he is an offender in all types of cases.

S.P: Yes, Sir. There is a long history for him. He started his criminal activities with illegal arrack / liquor business from the year 1994. He was also involved in an attempt to murder case and even got convicted in Kadapa District. He attempted to murder the then Chief Minister of A.P in 2003

at Alipiri Ghat road while on his way to Tirumala, for which a crime was booked u/s 307, 326, 324 read with sections 34 and 147, 148, 120(B) of Indian Penal Code, Sec 3 of Prevention of Terrorism Act and Sec 3 and 5 of Explosive Substance Act at Tirumala II town police station. Later on, he entered into Red Sanders wood smuggling and earned crores of rupees.

P.V: With all this criminal background, was he ever convicted? Because, conviction and imprisonment are the final outcome that every criminal has to undergo.

S.P: Yes. He was convicted for 5 years in one attempt to murder case in Kadapa District and got convicted for second time for 7 years with rigorous imprisonment in the year 2010 on Alipiri Ghat Road (car explosion) case. In both cases, he was acquitted in appellate courts.

P.V: Then what were the other incidents that threatened him to flee to other countries? He is also identified to be an international smuggler doing illegal business with Red Sanders wood.

S.P: It is true. Presently, his main activity is illegal trade on Red Sanders wood. He is the conspirator and a master mind to employ his henchmen and agents to fell the precious Red Sanders trees in the forest and transporting logs illegally. Thus he earned crores of rupees during the last 10 to 12 years. In May 2014, Kollam Gangi Reddy got renewed his passport fraudulently

and fled the country. He was a wanted man in several Red Sanders cases, SC/ST (prevention of atrocities) Act and passport fraud case and other cases.

P.V: Then how could he be traced and what efforts AP police could take to trace such a notorious criminal?

S.P: On one side, he was managing various Law-enforcing officials not to get his activities on record. On the other side, he was evading by not furnishing the correct address. When Red corner notice was issued against him, even Mauritius police could not apprehend him immediately.

P.V: Please tell me Gopi Sab, what was the role of Interpol in this case?

S.P: Interpol is an international police organization with membership of 190 countries, which links up police authorities all over the world. They keep the record of all criminals relating to forbidden activities like Terrorism, Human rights violation, Genocides, Organizing crimes and Trafficking. Interpol authorities will get the data on criminals from Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) India, which is nodal agency for Interpol in India. The CID (police) of AP will give list of criminals to CBI when they are involved in the above said forbidden activities. When the reports are convincing, the Interpol will issue Red Corner Notice (RCN) to the

criminals. In this case, a Red Corner Notice (RCN) was issued against Kollam Gangi Reddy mainly basing on Fraudulent Passport Case. When Gangi Reddy protested through his lawyers, Indian High Commission at Mauritius brought to the notice of Judiciary of Mauritius about all other crimes committed by him in India and hiding in a foreign country. That being the situation on 22-2-2015, the said criminal wanted to stealthily leave Mauritius for Dubai/ UAE. He was arrested at the Airport, by Mauritius police on 22-2-2015 night and the same was informed to Government of India and AP Police.

P.V: Then it took such a long time to get him back to India till October 2015. Was there any tedious procedure involved?

S.P: Yes. Extradition is one official procedure that the convicted person or suspected person can be transferred from one country to another country. This is normally done by regulating treaties. The DGP of AP police utilized all channels to accomplish the task. Though extradition request was sent to Mauritius government, Kollam Gangi Reddy used his ill gotten money and employed local top legal brains to delay the procedure. The government of India has requested to deport the criminal Kollam Gangi Reddy. The Government of Mauritius has rendered maximum help in this matter. As he was already involved in fraudulent

passport case (of Tirupati East PS), the Passport of Kollam Gangi Reddy was impounded by Passport Authority of India. Due to that, Government of Mauritius served notice on him that he was not eligible to stay in Mauritius and thus liable for deportation. The Government of Mauritius has acted swiftly and deported this criminal by informing AP Police. Then on the instructions of DGP, A.P., I had to go to Mauritius to take him to Police custody.

P.V: Kindly tell me how you were nominated to go over to Mauritius?

S.P: The deportation of Kollam Gangi Reddy got materialized mainly due to the passport fraud case registered against him at Tirupati East P.S. Hence I might have been chosen to go to Mauritius to bring Kollam Gangi Reddy. On the instructions of DGP, Police, I had to immediately rush to Mauritius and took him to police custody and brought him back to India on 15.11.2015. He was handed over to judicial custody in ADJ court, Kadapa and now Kollam Gangi Reddy is lodged in Central Prison, Kadapa.

P.V: Thank you SP Sab. You have given a good narration of the case. But for police efforts, such a notorious criminal hiding in a foreign country could not have been arrested. I wish your continued efforts would definitely curb antisocial activities in this district.

Achievements of *Sri. Gopinath Jatti, IPS., IN*

CONTROLLING RED SANDERS SMUGGLING during his tenure from 30.07.2014 till todate.

In Tirupati Urban Police District, a total 143 Red Sanders Cases were booked and 908 accused were arrested. Out of these accused 182 belonged to Andhra Pradesh and 762 belonged to other States i.e. Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. 11 PD Act cases were initiated against 11 Notorious Red Sanders smugglers and they were detained. During this period 2,451 Red Sanders logs were seized, weighing 58.999 tons worth approximately Rs. 14,23,67,550/-. Also, 148 vehicles were seized. — As per the information from the office of SP Urban Dt, Tirupati.

Sri Gopinath garu has special interest on saving forest wealth as he was first a forest officer and then got into All India Service as IPS Officer. He has separate Red Sanders Task Force within Tirupati Urban Police district to hunt Red Sanders smugglers. This is besides AP Government's Red Sanders Task Force Team under the control of one DIG cadre Police Officer with headquarters at Tirupati operating in active collaboration with CCF, Wild Life Management, DFO, Tirupati and Forest & Police staff. The Royal trees of Red Sanders species are endemic to only Seshachalam Hills and a comprehensive review of AP Forest Act becomes an absolute necessity with more stringent sections and more stringent punishments.

“FOREST MAN OF INDIA” -JADAV “MOLAI” PAYENG

(Source; Internet)

Padma Shri **Jadav “Molai” Payeng** (born 1963) is a Mishing tribe environmental activist and forestry worker from Jorhat. Over the course of several decades, he planted and tended trees on a sandbar of the river Brahmaputra turning it into a forest reserve. The forest, called Molai forest after him, is located near Kokilamukh of Jorhat, Assam, which was single-handedly planted by Payeng in a time span of 30 years and encompasses an area of about 1,360 acres / 550 hectares. In 2015, he was honoured with Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award in India.

Career; In 1979, Payeng, then 16, encountered a large number of snakes that had died due to excessive heat after floods washed them onto the tree-less sandbar. That is when he planted around 20 bamboo seedlings on the sandbar. He started working on the forest in 1979 when the social forestry division of Golaghat district launched a scheme of tree plantation on 200 hectares at ArunaChapori situated at a distance of 5 km from Kokilamukh in Jorhat district. Molai was one of the labourers who worked in that project which was completed after five years. He chose to stay back after the completion of the project even after other workers left. He not only looked after the plants, but continued to

plant more trees on his own, in an effort to transform the area into a forest.

The forest, which came to be known as Molai forest, now houses Bengal tigers, Indian rhinoceros, and over 100 deer and rabbits. Molai forest is also home to apes and several varieties of birds, including a large number of vultures. There are several thousand trees, including valcol, arjun (*Terminalia arjuna*), ejar (*Lagerstroemia speciosa*), goldmohur (*Delonix regia*), koroi (*Albizia procera*), moj (*Archidendron bigeminum*) and himolu (*Bombax ceiba*). Bamboo covers an area of over 300 hectares. A herd of around 100 elephants regularly visits the forest every year and generally stay for around six months. They have given birth to 10 calves in the forest in recent years.

His efforts became known to the authorities in 2008, when forest department officials went to the area in search of a herd of 115 elephants that had retreated into the forest after damaging property in the village of ArunaChapori, which is about 1.5 km from the forest. The officials were surprised to see such a large and dense forest and since then the department has regularly visited the site.

A few years back, poachers tried to kill the rhinos staying in the forest but failed in their attempt due to Molai who alerted department officials. Officials promptly seized various articles used by the poachers to trap the animals.

Molai is ready to manage the forest in a better way and to go to other places of the state to start a similar venture. Now his aim is to spread his forest to another sand bar inside of Brahmaputra.

Personal Life: Jadav Payeng belongs to a tribe called "Mishing" in Assam, India. He lives in a small hut in the forest. Binita, his wife, and his 3 children (two sons and a daughter) accompany him. He has cattle and buffalo on his farm and sells the milk for his livelihood, which is his only source of income. In a recent interview he revealed that he lost around 100 of his cows and buffaloes to the tigers in the forest, but blames the people who carry out large scale encroachment and destruction of forests as the root cause of the plight of wild animals

Honours: Jadav Payeng was honoured at a public function arranged by the School of Environmental Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University on 22 April 2012 for his remarkable achievement. He shared his experience of creating a forest in an interactive session, where Magsaysay Award winner Rajendra Singh and JNU vice-chancellor Sudhir Kumar Sopory were present. Sopory named Jadav Payeng as "Forest

Man of India" In the month of October 2013, he was honoured at Indian Institute of Forest Management during their annual event Coalescence. In 2015, he was honoured with Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award in India.

In popular Culture: Payeng has been the subject of a number of documentaries in the recent years. A locally made film documentary, produced by Jitu Kalita in 2012 *The Molai Forest*, was screened at the Jawaharlal Nehru University. Jitu Kalita, who lives near Payeng's house, has also been featured and given recognition for good reporting by projecting the life of Payeng through his documentary.

The 2013 film documentary *Foresting life*, directed by the Indian documentary filmmaker Aarti Shrivastava, celebrates the life and work of Jadav Payeng in the Molai forest. These are also the focus of William Douglas McMaster's 2013 film documentary *Forest Man*. With 8,327 USD pledged on its Kickstarter campaign, the film was brought to completion and taken to a number of film festivals. It was awarded the Best Documentary prize at the Emerging Filmmaker Showcase in the American Pavilion at the 2014 Cannes Film Festival. Would have risen by less than half the observed 20th century increase.

(Courtesy : QMK)

HELICONIAS

Introduction to Heliconias: - Heliconias are tropical plants related to Bananas, Cannas, and Gingers. There are about 100 different individual species and most species then have a large number of hybrids and cultivars, with flowers styles varying significantly from the original. The actual Heliconia flower is fairly insignificant. What most people would call the 'flower' is actually a group of colourful specialised leaves called bracts. The true flowers are hidden inside these bracts.

Heliconia leaves look more or less like Banana leaves. They are generally green but some are tinged slightly with colour particularly when young and sometimes the leaves and stems are coloured or patterned slightly. Some foliage is widely coloured. Heliconia grow from an underground system of Rhizomes. Rhizomes are a type of root (the ginger that we buy in the market is a piece of rhizome from common eatable ginger plant).

Most Heliconia species do not tolerate cold weather and will suffer injury when temperature falls below 13 C. The general climatic conditions required for healthy growth are warm and humid. Most varieties of Heliconia will grow well in full sun, where others require partial shade. They tend to grow taller if grown in shadier areas. Heliconia

prefer freely draining soils with high organic matter. They are heavy feeders and they need lots of water. They are best grown on slopes or raised beds for good drainage and they need plenty of space. Heavy mulching is recommended to protect the soil from drying out, and enhance the soil organic matter. Additional irrigation is important for low rainfall areas. The only significant pest for growers are grasshoppers, scale and mealybugs. Diseases are rare but wet feet, especially in winter, can rot the root system.

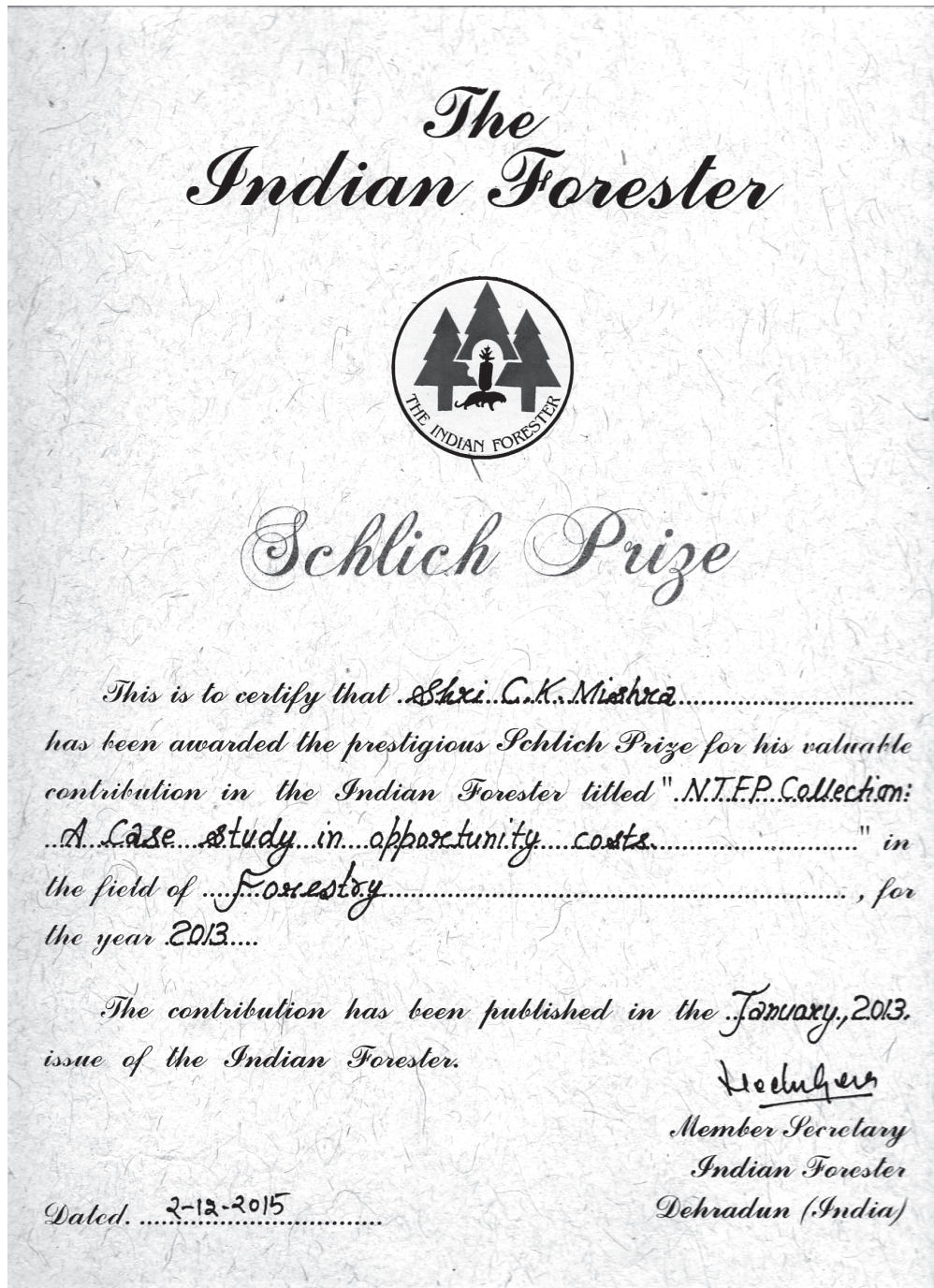
You should not prune your Heliconias as the stem is actually made up of rolled leaf bases and the flowers emerge from the top of these 'pseudo stems'. However each stem will flower only once, so after flowering you can cut that stem out. This is recommended to encourage more flowering, to increase airflow in between the stem of your plant and also to generally tidy it up and improve the appearance.

Heliconias are fairly quick growers if given plenty of good rich soil and fertilizer. Most of the larger species will take 12 to 24 months to flower when grown from a rhizome. Heliconias may be propagated by division of rhizomes or from seed, although dividing rhizomes is by far the most common method. Heliconias are seldom grown from seeds

NOTICE

Editor VanaPremi Sri Qamar Mohammad Khan is returning back to Hyderabad on 2-3-2016, after availing three months leave. Writers are requested to send their articles through e-mail to Sri Qamar Mohammad Khan on his e-mail I.D. qamar_asima@yahoo.com for publishing in

April issue of VanaPremi. (In charge Editor)



Facsimile of the certificate issued by THE INDIAN FORESTER to Shri. C.K. Mishra, IFS for his article "NTFB Collection : A Case study in opportunity costs"

NEWS AND NOTES

Sea levels rising faster than ever:- Sea levels rose faster in the past century than during than previous 27 centuries due to manmade global warming, a group of scientists has said in an alarming report.

Global sea level rose by about 14 Centimetres or 5.5 inches from 1900 to 2000, the scientist said in a latest report, adding that without global warming, global sea level would have risen by less than the half the observed 20th century increase. "The 20th century rise was extra ordinary in the context of the last three millennia and the rise over the last two decades has been even faster," said Robert Kopp, the lead author and an associate professor in Rutgers' Department of Earth and Planetary sciences.

The study published in proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences used a new statistical approach developed over the last two and half years by Kopp, his postdoctoral associates Carling Hay and Eric Morrow and JerryMitrovica, a professor at Harvard University. "No local record measures global sea level" Kopp said. "Each measures sea level at a particular location, where it is buffeted by a variety of processes that cause it to difer from the global mean. The statistical challenge is to pull out the global signal. That is what our statistical approach allows us to do" he added.

Notably the study found that the global sea level declined by about eight centimetres from 1000 to 1400 a period when the planet cooled by about 0.2 degrees Celsius. (Source: Deccan Chronicle with thanks)

City most liveable in India: Study: - Despite its 49th spot in the Swach Bharat survey Hyderabad has emerged as the best city in terms of quality of living in India for the second year in a row. It is also the second safest city in India. Worldwide the city slipped one rank from last year to 139 on account of increased power disruptions and extreme weather according to the Quality of Living 2016 index compiled by global consulting major Mercer.

The list ranks 230 countries. Pune is ranked at 144, Bengaluru 145, Chennai 150, Mumbai 152 and Kolkata 160.(Source: Deccan Chronicle with thanks)

9 Foods that pack more Vitamin C than an Orange: - The orange might be the poster child for Vitamin C, but there are plenty of other foods that pack more of this essential nutrient per gram.

For normal growth and development, adults should consume between 65 to 90 milligrams of Vitamin C a day. The average orange will get you about halfway there while a red pepper will cover a full dose.

We explored the USDA's National Nutrient Database to identify which foods give you more bang for your buck — Vitamin C wise. Here's how much Vitamin C you'll get from eating 100 grams — about one orange of these foods: Orange 45 mg, Pineapple 48 mg, Cauliflower 48 mg, Strawberry 59 mg, Papaya 61 mg, Green pepper 80 mg, Broccoli 89 mg, Kale 120 mg, Red pepper 128 mg, and Guava 228 mg.

From US to Mandya – Why a Software Engineer Left America to Run a Farmers' Co-Op in Rural India: - This software developer left the US to return to India and become a farmer. Now, he is also working for the welfare of other farmers by helping them grow and market organic produce. He made his mark in the US but was unable to resist the call of his homeland. Madhuchandan, a software engineer, started his own company, Verifya, in San Jose, a few years ago. This firm's software is now used all over the world. So, in terms of professional success, Madhuchandan felt he had achieved everything he wanted to. It was around this time that he contemplated coming back home. Madhuchandan and his wife decided it was better to return while they were in their 30s, at an age where they could work towards making a difference in India, rather than wait for retirement. So they packed their bags and headed to Mandya, Karnataka, in 2014.

"I came home with the plan of becoming a

farmer. However, once I got to my hometown in Mandya, I realised that the farmers here were facing a lot of problems. This is when I decided to work for their welfare," says Madhu.

According to Madhuchandan, farmers have a native wisdom, which they employ in their farming practices. They know what is needed to yield a good harvest. But they have been misguided into using pesticides and chemicals, thereby compromising on soil quality and yield. Madhuchandan set up the Mandya Organic Farmers' Cooperative Society in 2015, with the aim of bringing organic farming to the forefront again. Although there were some farmers in Mandya who were doing organic farming, they were not getting a good price for their produce. The objective of the Society is to uplift the farmers and help them grow, says Madhuchandan.

The membership fee to join the cooperative is Rs. 1,000. The Society, which started with 270 farmers, has now grown to include 350 farmers. "We have a lot of membership applications. However, we have a thorough selection process. We strictly accept only those farmers who practise organic farming," he says.

These farmers have a passion for organic farming and the Society educates them on the best organic practices they can take up. Only marginal or small land-holding farmers — with holdings ranging from 0.5 to 2.5 acres — are

part of the Society.

"After starting the Society, we realised that there was a need for a good marketing channel. The money pooled in by the Society wasn't enough to take care of the marketing of the organic produce. This is how Organic Mandya was born," he says.

Organic Mandya bridges the gap between the farmers and the consumers. Madhu and four of his IT friends got together and pooled in Rs. 1 crore to set up Organic Mandya.

"One of the first few things we did was to start an organic zone on the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway," he says.

This zone has a supermarket, an organic food restaurant, and an oil extraction mill. The response has been phenomenal, according to Madhuchandan. The reason they set it up on the highway was so the urban crowd would have easy access to the organic products.

When asked about the higher prices organic products are sold at, Madhuchandan says, "I never understand how people are willing to spend hundreds of rupees on medicines, but when it comes to shelling out a little extra money for organic products they think twice. In fact, I would recommend that everyone try going completely organic for a year. And then see how much money you save on hospital bills and medicines."

Apart from educating farmers and marketing their produce, Organic Mandya also holds other programmes — the most prominent being the 'Donate Your Sweat' campaign.

Basically, the programme is about asking people from urban areas to contribute their efforts for something productive. "Instead of going to the gym to burn calories, we encourage them to come work in the fields for a day. In this way they are working out as well as getting a better idea of the process of farming," he says. When asked if he has any regrets about giving up his comfortable job in the US to return to Mandya, Madhu says, "Yes, I have regrets. Sometimes, I regret going to the US. I wish I had stayed back and worked with the farmers a couple of years earlier. The satisfaction I get now is something I will never get anywhere else."

Mysuru declared cleanest city of country in Swachh Sarvekshan-2016: - New Delhi, Feb. 15 (ANI): Urban Development Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu on Monday announced the top 10 cities which are among the cleanest in the country. It was a part of the second cleanliness survey 'Swachh Sarvekshan' which began last year.

Mysore from Karnataka topped the list of 10 cities, while Chandigarh is in the second position and Tiruchirappalli bagged the third position. The national capital came fourth in the list,

whereas Visakhapatnam, Surat, Rajkot and Gangtok were in fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth position respectively.

Pimpri-Chinchwad and Greater Mumbai ranked ninth and tenth in the list.

The cities were declared as a part of the Swachh Bharat Mission in urban areas which is done every year. In 2014, the ministry had carried out a similar exercise in 476 cities and municipalities which have a population of over 1, 00,000. Performance of the city is judged on the basis of sanitation parameters which includes open defecation and solid waste management facilities.

In last year's survey, Delhi was among the dirtiest city to live in. In the 2015-16 survey, the cities were judged on the basis of their performance on each of the components of the mission, which is solid waste management, construction of individual, community and public toilets and sanitation strategies and behavior change communication. (ANI)

Add these five healthy herbs to your everyday cooking: - A path breaking research by scientists from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) may provide relief to the many people who suffer from Alzheimer's. According to preliminary findings, the ashwagandha root (an Ayurvedic extract) could help cure Alzheimer's. While research is still under way, if proven, this could be the answer that researchers have been

searching for – a cure for Alzheimer's.

That the herbs found in our backyards contain immense health benefits, is known to all. But, in the process of saving time, we tend to rely on artificial ingredients, and not use the goodness that nature gives us. While we don't need to go in search of the exotic variety, there are many common herbs that we can incorporate in to our daily cooking, and avail of their health benefits.

Here we take a look at the common herbs we use and their medicinal properties:

Tulsi: Tulsi, or the holy basil, is found in many Indian houses, and is high in medicinal value. The herb is known to provide relief from respiratory problems, and is useful in the treatment of asthma, fever, cold and cough, and heart diseases. It also has a strong fungicidal property, hence is used in oral care products. Being high in antioxidants, the humble herb is also known to prevent the progression of some forms of cancer, such as breast and oral cancer. It also purifies the blood, and helps prevent the appearance of acne on the skin. Add it on to your tea, make tomato basil soup with it, garnish your food with tulsi, or just chew a handful of the leaves – this is one herb which is loaded with goodness.

Mint: The fresh smelling mint, or pudina leaves, widely used in making pudina chutney, is another staple in many Indian homes. The herb

is known to help relieve stomach cramps and aid in digestion. Pudina reduces pains and aches – the cooling effect of the leaf helps to numb the area, hence providing a relief from pain. It also helps soothe itchy skin and cure acne. A number of face washes have mint leaves as an ingredient – the presence of antioxidants and anti-inflammatory properties prevent the growth of bacteria in the skin. Chewing mint leaves also helps remove bad breath and cleanses the teeth naturally. For expecting moms suffering from morning sickness, chewing on pudina leaves is known to help settle the stomach – it activates the enzymes needed for digestion, thus helping relieve nausea.

Sage: Though not as widely used in Indian cooking, sage is another herb that has a number of health benefits. It contains a high amount of antioxidants, such as rosmarinic acid, which are known to help reduce DNA oxidative damage, thereby improving brain function. It also helps aid in digestion, and is useful for treating inflammatory conditions such as asthma and rheumatic arthritis. It can be used as a seasoning, or as a stuffing ingredient for samosas, salads and other dishes. You can use sage in its natural, dried or preserved form.

Brahmi: This is one herb which should be getting much more importance in our kitchens. The Indian herb, Brahmi, is packed with health

benefits. It has been found to be beneficial in the treatment of mental fatigue and anxiety, improve IQ levels and concentration in children, contain cancer fighting properties, aid the liver to flush toxins from the body, help prevent neonatal hypoglycemia, or low blood pressure in newborns. Add brahmi as a seasoning to your food, or use it in chutneys.

Amla: Amla, or gooseberry, is a definite superfood that must be included in your diet. It is packed with antioxidants and contains anti-inflammatory properties. Mix amla powder with honey and consume it three to four times to help cure cough and cold, gargle with amla juice and water to heal mouth ulcers, or use it for relief against constipation. Being high in fibre content, amla is good for the stomach. Amla also contains anti-ageing properties which are beneficial for your skin and hair. Eat the fruit, dry it and mix it with coconut oil to form a paste that you can apply on your scalp, drink its juice – whichever way you decide to use it, the Indian gooseberry is packed with goodness.

Leopard that injured five escapes from zoo:

– A male leopard which injured five people in southern India earlier this month has escaped from a zoo, sparking a frantic search for the big cat, wildlife officials said Monday.

The 45 kilogram (100 pound) feline squeezed out of the narrow bars of an iron cage at the

Bannerghatta zoo in Bangalore city late Sunday, the chief wildlife warden of the state Ravi Ralph said.

"About 50 officials divided into six teams have been scouring for the leopard in and around the zoo and trying to trace where it has escaped by following its pug (paw) marks," Ralph told AFP. He added an inquiry was underway to find out how the leopard managed to escape from captivity.

The zoo does not have CCTV cameras and officials were worried the leopard might have sneaked into an adjacent national park which spread over 202 hectares (500 acres).

"Even in the cage, the feline was restless and appeared agitated. We are hoping to trap it again soon within the park limits, as it would not have gone too far," Ralph said.

Earlier this month, the leopard hit the headlines after photos in Bangalore showed the animal prowling around a closed school and trying to maul forestry officials, a wildlife activist and others who came too close.

It was caught and caged after being trapped in a room with one tranquiliser shot through a wire-meshed ventilator in an operation that lasted nearly four hours.

Leopard's number is between 12,000 to 14,000 in India, according to a national survey released last year. They are increasingly venturing into

populated areas as their habitats become depleted.

A leopard killed a five-year-old boy in the courtyard of his home in central India in 2014. Video footage from Mumbai in 2013 showed a leopard creeping into an apartment block foyer and snatching a small dog.

Planet shatters warming records, 2015

hottest 'by far' :-Blistering heat blanketed the Earth last year making 2015 by far the hottest year in modern times and raising new concerns about the accelerating pace of climate change. Not only was 2015 the warmest worldwide since 1880, it shattered the previous record held in 2014 by the widest margin ever observed, said the report by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "During 2015, the average temperature across global land and ocean surfaces was 1.62 degrees Fahrenheit (0.90 Celsius) above the 20th century average," said the NOAA report. "This was the highest among all years in the 1880-2015 record." Compared to 2014, last year was 0.29 degrees Fahrenheit warmer, the "largest margin by which the annual global temperature record has been broken."

The US space agency NASA, which monitors global climate using a fleet of satellites and weather stations, confirmed that last year broke records for heat in contemporary times.

NASA said that the temperature changes are largely driven by increased carbon dioxide and other human-made emissions into the atmosphere.

"Climate change is the challenge of our generation," said NASA Administrator Charles Bolden.

"Today's announcement not only underscores how critical NASA's Earth observation program is, it is a key data point that should make policymakers stand up and take notice — now is the time to act on climate."

- Planet-wide heat -

The latest finding adds to a steady rise in heat across land and sea surfaces that have seen records repeatedly broken over the years.

"Since 1997, which at the time was the warmest year on record, 16 of the subsequent 18 years have been warmer than that year," said the NOAA report.

Last year alone, 10 months had record high temperatures for their respective months.

The heat was felt worldwide, with unprecedented warmth covering much of Central America and the northern half of South America.

Hot temperatures were observed in parts of northern, southern and Eastern Europe as well as western Asia and a large section of east-central Siberia.

Regions of eastern and southern Africa experienced more scorching days than ever, as did large parts of the northeastern and equatorial Pacific boosted by the El Nino weather phenomenon.

But according to Tom Karl, director of NOAA National Centres for Environmental Information, new heat records would have been set even without El Nino, which leads to warmer waters in the equatorial Pacific.

"But El Nino pushed it way over the top," Karl told reporters.

- More warming ahead -

NOAA's announcement came against a backdrop of the recently completed Paris climate talks, at which the goal of capping global warming at two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels was enshrined.

Many scientists say the planet is already about halfway to that milestone, with no sign of slowing down.

As a result, melting ice sheets and warming oceans will lead to rising seas in the coming years.

Rain will become heavier and some storms more severe as the globe heats up, and cold snaps may become rarer.

"This trend will continue," said Gavin Schmidt, director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

Because of the strong El Nino influence at the beginning of this year, "2016 is expected to be an exceptionally warm year and perhaps even another record," he told reporters.

According to Astrid Caldas, climate scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists, the news of 2015's record was no surprise, but the year-over-year jump merits attention.

"It's significant that 2015 was hotter than the previous record by so much in both calculations because it points to a strong warming trend that's been observed lately," she said.

"A massive ramp-up of renewable — and low-carbon — energy will be essential to stay within two degrees Celsius of warming and avoid new records being set."

SC: Fine construction sites Rs 50,000 for dust pollution: - The Supreme Court Thursday (21-1-2016) favoured imposing a fine of Rs 50,000 on a daily basis on construction sites for generating high levels of dust in Delhi and the national capital region (NCR).

"You (governments) should impose recurring cost of Rs 50,000 on daily basis. The EPCA can go around and check polluting construction sites with the help of volunteers," said a bench led by Chief Justice T S Thakur as it heard a PIL seeking directives to curb rising pollution in Delhi and the NCR.

The bench also directed the Uttar Pradesh government to inform it about the steps taken

to ensure diversion of heavy commercial vehicles from National Highway 58 and State Highway 57, connecting Delhi to Ghaziabad and Saharanpur, respectively.

The court also directed the National Thermal Power Corporation to respond to the Delhi government's plea to shut its Badarpur plant for allegedly contributing to pollution.

Sarah the cheetah, world's fastest land mammal, dies in Ohio zoo: - CLEVELAND - An Ohio zoo said on Thursday that Sarah, a cheetah designated the world's fastest land mammal by National Geographic magazine in 2012, has died at the age of 15.

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden said in a statement that it had euthanized Sarah on Wednesday due to her "diminishing quality of life." The average life span of a cheetah, the fastest land mammal, is eight to 12 years, the zoo said.

Sarah was dubbed the fastest cheetah when she ran 100 meters in 5.95 seconds, or 61 mph (98.2 kph), during the filming of a National Geographic special, beating her previous world record of 6.13 seconds in 2009.

Cameras captured the record-breaking run on Sarah's first attempt as she chased a fluffy dog toy lure on a specially designed course certified by the Road Running Technical Council of USA Track & Field, the national governing body for running and walking organised sports.

That record was more than 3 seconds faster than human runner Usain Bolt of Jamaica, who holds the Olympic record for the same distance.

Sarah was brought to Ohio at the age of six weeks and raised by Cathryn Hilker, founder of the Zoo's Cat Ambassador Program. She was one of the first cheetah cubs to be raised with a puppy companion, named Alexa, a now-common practice intended to serve as a calming influence.

"She lived a full life and was a phenomenal ambassador for her species," said Linda Castaneda, lead trainer for the Cincinnati Zoo's Cat Ambassador Program. Castaneda added that Sarah had a "very expressive face" that communicated what she wanted.

The population of cheetahs has shrunk to an estimated 9,000-12,000 worldwide compared with about 100,000 in 1900, zoo officials said.

17000 MBAs, B Techs apply for 114 sweeper jobs in UP:- 17000 MBAs, B Techs apply for 114 sweeper jobs in UP. Unemployment, insecurities of private job and migration hassles are some of the issues that are making professional degree holders to take up a sweeper's job.

Around 17,000 youth have applied for 114 posts of sweepers in Uttar Pradesh's Amroha district. While there is no educational qualifications required for the posts, surprisingly MBAs, B Techs, BSc are ready to work as a sweeper at a salary of

Rs 17,000 per month.

The Uttar Pradesh government has put the selection process on hold after sweeper's organisation demanded that "safaikarmachari" post be reserved only for the Valmiki community.

A similar case has happened recently in the Bhatinda district where 8,500 applications were received for 19 posts of class IV. The applicants were MBA, MCA degree holder.

Umaid Bhawan Palace bags world's best hotel award:- New Delhi, Jan 21 (IANS)

Umaid Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, bagged the award of the world's best hotel at the Travellers' Choice award organised by TripAdvisor, a popular travel website.

The winners of Travellers' Choice Award, which entered its 14th year, were determined on the basis of the reviews and opinions collected in a single year from TripAdvisor travellers worldwide.

Umaid Bhawan Palace Jodhpur comes out on top this year by not only taking the first position in the Top hotels category in India and the world, but also winning the most number of awards (7) by an Indian hotel across categories.

"We are extremely proud to have been recognised by millions of TripAdvisor travellers who have voted us as Best in the World through their unbiased reviews. These awards are

testament to Taj's legacy of world-class service, rooted in the nobility of Indian heritage and traditions," said chief revenue officer of Taj Hotels resorts and palaces, Chinmai Sharma.

Not just Umaid Bhawan Palace, but it was a day for Indian hotels to make a remarkable imprint on travel, accommodation and tourism platforms worldwide. 113 Indian hotels were awarded at the event across 6 categories: top hotels, luxury, best service, bargain, B&Bs and Inns, small hotels. "An Indian hotel is the No.1 hotel in the world, as determined by the truest yardstick possible, the reviews and opinions of the world's largest travel community. I doff my hat to the Umaid Bhawan Palace hotel for achieving this extraordinary distinction, and to all the other distinguished Indian hotels that stud each of the 6 different category lists," said Nikhil Ganju, country manager, TripAdvisor India.

The Oberoi Vanvilas, Taj Rambagh Palace, Orange County Resorts and Bougainvillea Guest House are other resorts that made it to the world's best hotels. In the best hotels Asia category too, it was Indian hotels that grabbed the limelight with 26 awards, gaining the top spot.

Eleven hotels secured spots in the top ten ranks across five categories - Top, Luxury, Best Service, Inns and B&Bs and Bargain. In the best hotels category across India, Oberoi Vanvilas, Rajasthan bagged the top spot for its luxurious offering

while Wildflower Hall, Himachal Pradesh was awarded the top prize for its best service.

Casa Da Praia and Bougainvillea Guest House of Goa got the top award for B&B and Inns and bargain respectively. Rajasthan retained the first spot amongst the Indian states with 58 awards followed by Kerala with 26 awards and Karnataka with 20 awards.

And among the metro cities, it was the national capital that swept the top rank with 12 awards

4 endangered snakes rescued from New

Delhi station: - 4 endangered snakes rescued from New Delhi station. A bag containing four endangered snakes was found on a train from Allahabad at New Delhi railway station Friday. The snakes were rescued by Wildlife SOS.

Railway officials said a suspicious bag and an unclaimed basket were detected by cleaning officials in one of the compartments on the Manduadih Express that arrived from Allahabad. On finding snakes in the bag, the Railway Protection Force called Wildlife SOS on their emergency line, 91-9871963535, at 8.40 pm. A team from Wildlife SOS — which runs the only 24-hour wildlife rescue cell in the National Capital Region — arrived quickly and saw to it that neither people nor snakes were harmed.

The bag contained an Indian python, two red sand boas and a common sand boa, all of which are endangered species under the Wildlife

Protection Act, 1972. Suvidha Bhatnagar of Wildlife SOS said, "Incidents like these are not frequent, but they are not unheard of. Not too long ago, we had found two women with a bag containing a rare species of turtle at the station." Geeta Seshamani, co-founder of Wildlife SOS, said, "Illegal trade of exotic and endangered snake species continues to be prevalent in India on account of various superstitious myths and beliefs attributed to them. Awareness regarding the illegality of the offence and the abominable treatment of these animals is incredibly important to curb cruelty and poaching of wildlife."

The snakes will be kept under observation to see if they will be able to survive in the wild, following which they can be released, said officials.

While nobody was harmed, the Delhi Police have not yet managed to track down the owner of the bag or why it was left behind.

'Venom Man' Lets Deadliest Snakes Bite Him:

- An amateur scientist can shockingly take back-to-back bites from the world's deadliest snakes on purpose and claims to be making himself immune from their venom. Divorced Tim Friede, 37, has self-inflicted more than 160 bites in 16 years of research and is hoping his experiments will help to develop a human vaccine for snake

bites. To prove his self-immunisation theory works, Tim from Wisconsin, USA, recently took back-to-back bites from two of the world's deadliest snakes – a taipan and a black mamba whose bite can kill in minutes.

Like a boss: Bride enters wedding hall on a bullet in Ahmedabad:

- A bride's entry to the hall has become a very important part of wedding planning these days — all thanks to the pomp and show marriage ceremonies have been reduced to. Brides enter in a doli, a clad-in-flowers rickshaw, sometimes even a chariot but recently, 26-year-old Ahmedabad girl Ayesha Upadhyay surprised everyone when she arrived at the venue on a Bullet.

Being called 'the real Bullet Rani' on social media, Upadhyay chose to break the stereotype where the bride has to smile sheepishly and blush while making an entry with a typical song playing in the background. A computer science professor, Upadhyay has been riding bikes since she was 13, she told ABP live. "I love bullet and I told my parents that I want to enter the stage on the bike and not in doli," she was quoted as saying. Interestingly, Upadhyay intends to take her husband on a bike ride who incidentally does not know how to ride a bike.

NURTURE - NATURE

By
Konda Mohan

I am the Nature ! I am your Creator !!
Protect me for your better Future!!!
I am the base for existing Creation
I am the basic ground for your Civilisation
I am the Profound resource for your Evolution
I am the Mother to your Mother!!
I am the Mother of Mother Earth & Universe!!
Protect me for the Protection of Mankind
Without ME your life is undetermined
I am giving you the Cradle and Coffin
I am Providing you paper to write on
and fruits, water, rain and Soils
For your Happiness without any bias
don't destroy My Dear but enjoy
with "Live and Let Live Policy forever!!
Don't cut trees protect forests!!
Conserve Nature for future generations
Avoid depletion of Ozone layer
Protect the Mother Earth and Protect Mankind
Go for planting ! Oath for Greening!!
Avoid the Danger of Global Warning !!
Plant a Sapling and keep under Caring
Conserve the Nature for better future!!
Nurture the Nature for our Future!!!

LEGAL NOTES

Podian Vs. State of Kerala (Revision Vs. Complainant(s) Not Party)

On November 5, 1992, forest officers seized a piece of tusk of an elephant from the possession of Accused-1 while he was carving picture over the ivory. When questioned, he said that A-2 has sold the piece to him. On this information, the forest officers went to the house of A-2 and found another piece of tusk. It was confirmed that both the pieces were of the same tusk. A-2 did not have any license, permit or any document for possessing the tusk. Both A-1 and A-2 were prosecuted.

In the course of trial, three official witnesses were examined on behalf of prosecution. Independent witnesses did not support the prosecution. The court found no reason to reject the seizure mahazar which was considered contemporaneous record. The Magistrate convicted the accused under Sec. 40 (2) and 57 read with Sec. 51 of the Wildlife Protection Act but the convicts were released on probation for one year under Sec. 4 of the Probation of Offenders Act on execution of a bond for Rs. 5,000/- The accused were directed to pay Rs. 3,000/- each as compensation to the aggrieved.

That conviction and sentence passed against A-2 was challenged before the appellate court. The learned Additional Sessions Judge concurred with the conviction but noticed that trial court did not award the proper sentence as mandated

under the relevant provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act and so the case was remitted back to the trial court for consideration of the sentence to be awarded against A-2. The order of remand passed by the appellate court is challenged in a revision petition before the High Court of Kerala. The Crl. R. P.No. 1170/ 2002 came up for consideration before the Hon'ble Justice N.K. Balakrishnan.

The counsel for petitioner submitted that it is beyond the powers of appellate court to remand the case for proper sentence while confirming the conviction. He had cited case-law in support of his submission.

The Special Prosecutor, who appeared on behalf of the state, vehemently argued quoting extensively rulings of Supreme Court and submitted that it is permissible for the appellate court to remand a matter after upholding the conviction and setting aside the existing sentence for imposing an appropriate or just sentence.

The ratio laid down by the Supreme Court was that where impropriety/injustice has resulted, the revision court cannot consider itself to be powerless. It must intervene to reverse the injustice. Following the judgments of the Supreme Court it was held that the objection

that the appellate court has no jurisdiction to confirm the conviction and remand the matter to the trial court only for passing appropriate sentence is unjustifiable, is bereft of any merit.

It was contended by the petitioner's counsel that the petitioner was an artisan, so the seizure of the ivory cannot attract the penal provisions contained in Se. 51 of the Act. This contention was held as devoid of any merit. The reason for this finding is that any license – holder after amendment to the Act with effect from 02.10.1991 and after the specified date shall not be entitled to carry on the business as dealer in articles made from or manufacture such articles of ivory.

In view of the presumptive clause in Sec 57 of the Act and the onus of proof on the accused, it was held that if a person is found in possession of animal article it shall be presumed that such person is in possession of animal article. The burden of proof is on the accused person.

Another crucial question before the court was whether the Magistrate was right in giving the accused the benefit of the Probation of Offenders Act for an offence involving tusk of an elephant, a schedule-I

According to Section 51 of the Wildlife Protection Act, the offence in question demands a minimum imprisonment for three years and it may extend to seven years and also fine of a minimum amount of Rs. 10,000/- The High Court

of Kerala followed two judgments of the Supreme Court viz. *Pyarali K. Tejan Vs Mahadeo Ramchandra Dange & Ors* (AIR 1974 SC 225) and *Precious Oil Corporation & Ors Vs. State of Assam* (AIR 2009 SC 1566) under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and the Essential Commodities Act respectively. It was held that the benefit of Probation of Offenders Act should not be given to the accused. The offences under the Wildlife Protection Act and the Forest Act have to be treated as provisions which are enacted with the object of protecting the natural forest wealth; and persons who plunder the natural wealth should be dealt with properly awarding deterrent punishment. The aforesaid judgments were followed by the Supreme Court in *Sunil Kumar Vs. State of Haryana* (AIR 2012 SC 1756).

It was finally held that the Learned Appellate Court was perfectly justified in confirming the conviction. The Learned Additional Sessions Judge is also justified in remanding the case to the trial court for awarding proper sentence as mandated under Sec. 51 of the Wildlife Protection Act. The Learned Magistrate is directed to take up the case, hear both sides and dispose of the case at the earliest.

In the result the revision petition was dismissed.

Source: Internet

K.B.R



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- ✿ The APFDC is harvesting about 3.00 lakh M.Ts of Pulpwood every year. Besides this it also produces about 35 Lakh Long bamboo and 10,000 MTs bamboo industrial cuts for use as pulpwood.
- ✿ The APFDC has also taken up the challenging task of Eco-tourism Development in the State. Already opened to public - Hyderabad Botanical Garden near the High-tech City, Madhapur, Mahavir Nischal Van Eco-Tourism Centre, Vanasthalipuram, Shameerpet Deer Park and Rajeev Eco Park at Idupulapaya near Kadapa. Those are attracting increasing number of visitors.
- ✿ The corporation has bagged awards “ **Flavour of India- Fine cup awards** ” for producing quality coffee during the years 2003-2005-2007 to 2014.

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Natural Bonsai – ModdulaKunta



Nandi Dona - a water hole on rock at Manyamkonda



Dancing Rock at VeerannaGattu



Dancing Rocks at BolloniThanda

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