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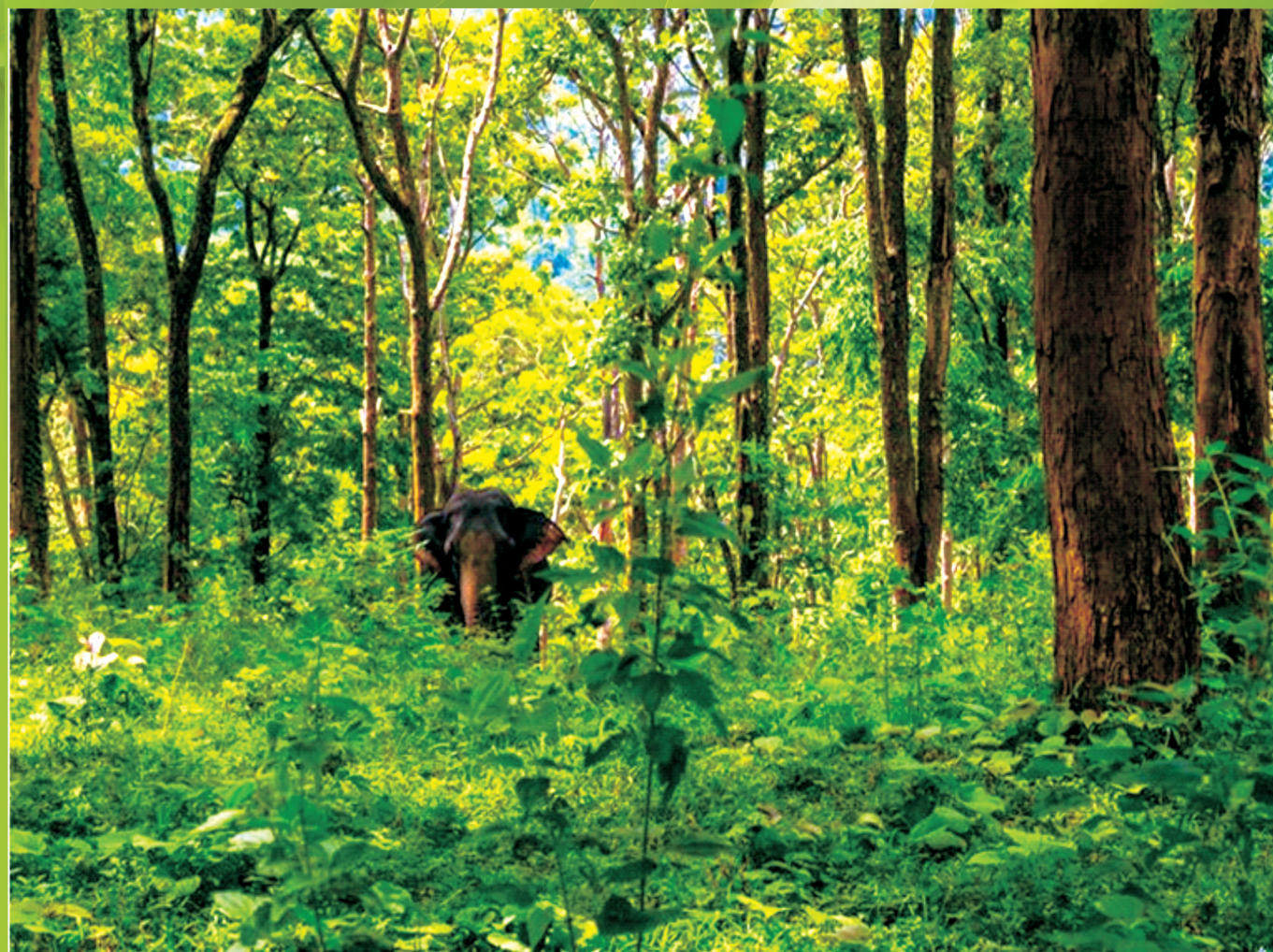
Yearly Subscription - Rs. 300/-

Single Copy Rs. 30/-

Vol .17

AUGUST - 2016

No.08



MADHU (MADHUVANA) FOREST, UTTAR PRADESH

**"For me there are two types of people: the young and the experienced. "
(A. P.J. Abdul Kalam)**

JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FOREST OFFICERS TELANGANA & ANDHRA PRADESH
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Date of Publication: 26-07-2016

Total pages 52

EDITORIAL

World Mosquito Day:- World Mosquito Day is observed every year on 20 August, and is a commemoration of Doctor Sir Ronald Ross's discovery in 1897 that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans. Dr. Ronald Ross is responsible for the annual observance, having declared shortly after his discovery that the day should be known as World Mosquito Day in the future. It is a salute to the work of Sir Ronald Ross and his assistant Subedar Major Dr.P Ratnam Pillai. It also aims to raise awareness about the causes of Malaria and how it can be prevented. Sir Ronald Ross was a British medical doctor. Ronald Ross was born on May 13, 1857; at Almora (presently in Uttarakhand), which is considered the cultural heart of the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand. His father Sir C.C.G. Ross was a General in the British army. Ronald Ross entered the Indian Medical Service in 1881. He received the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1902 for his work on the transmission of malaria, becoming the first British Nobel laureate. His discovery of the malarial parasite in the gastrointestinal tract of a mosquito proved that malaria was transmitted by mosquitoes. He worked in the Indian Medical Service for 25 years. Dr. Ratnam Pillai was born in Madras Presidency in 1863, did his medicine from the Royapuram Medical School. He migrated to Hyderabad at a young age in 18th Century and joined the Indian Medical Services as a Hospital Assistant at the Military hospital,

Bolarum Secunderabad. Though Dr. Ratnam Pillai was also associated along with Dr. Ronald Ross in discovery of transmission of Malaria through mosquitoes, unfortunately he was totally forgotten by Ronald Ross and subsequently by all. His name was not found anywhere in this discovery.

Dr. Ronald Ross commenced the study of malaria in 1892. Ross succeeded in demonstrating the life-cycle of the parasites of malaria in mosquitoes. On 20 August 1897, in Secunderabad, Ross made his discovery. While dissecting the stomach tissue of an anopheles mosquito fed four days ago on malaria's patient, he found the malaria parasite and went on to prove the role of *Anopheles* mosquitoes in the transmission of malaria parasites in humans. He received many honors in addition to the Nobel Prize.

Sir Ronald Ross Institute of Parasitology is a malaria research institute located in Hyderabad, established in 1955. The institute is named after Sir Ronald Ross. It was in this building on 20 August 1897 Dr. Ross made the discovery of the malarial parasite inside the body of a mosquito. His study confirmed that mosquitoes were the carriers of malaria parasite. The day Ross discovered the malaria parasite he wrote a poem and sent it to his wife. In 1935 the Secunderabad Cantonment Board, the local civic agency installed a marble tablet in

appreciation of Ross' achievement. (Please see last cover page for photo)

Mosquitoes are known to carry many infectious diseases from several different classes of microorganisms, including viruses and parasites. Mosquito-borne illnesses include malaria, West Nile virus, elephantiasis, dengue fever, Chikungunya, yellow fever, Japanese encephalitis, and Zika virus disease etc. Malaria is the rampant disease among all the diseases mentioned above. In 2013 WHO estimated 198 million cases and 584 000 deaths worldwide, 90% in Africa where an estimated 437,000 children died before fifth year of their age due to malaria.

At the time of independence in 1947, out of a population of 330 million, about 75 million people were estimated to be infected with malaria every year, and the direct mortality due to the disease was estimated at 0.8 million per annum. Govt. of India launched the National Malaria Control Programme in April 1953. The programme proved highly successful and the number of malaria cases significantly declined to about 2 million by 1958. Encouraged by this, the programme was changed to a more ambitious National Malaria Eradication Programme in 1958. By 1961 the incidence dropped further to a mere 49000 cases, with no deaths. At this stage we humans started interfering with the nature and predators of mosquitoes like frogs were killed for exporting

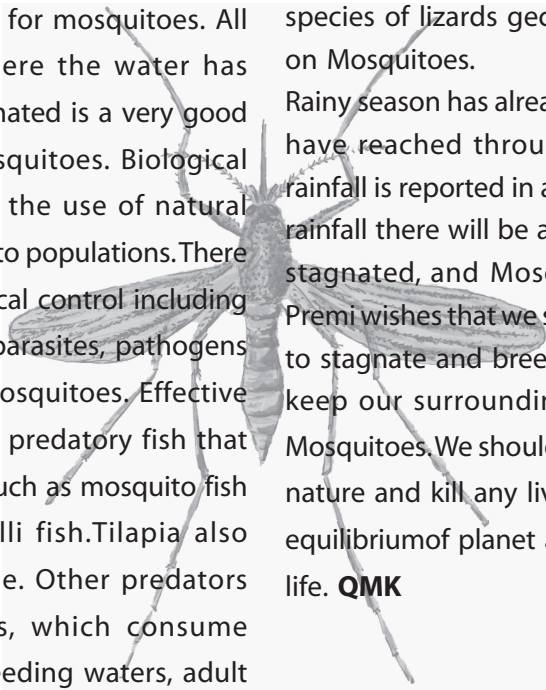
their legs to other countries, some of the fishes, geckoes, and lizards which were using mosquito larvae and adult mosquitoes as food were also reduced in number. Some of the species of Geckoes and lizards were killed due to extensive use of insecticides, in homes, fields and horticultural plants, which again increased the population of mosquitoes to many folds, and incidents of diseases caused by mosquitoes also started increasing. In the late 1960s malaria cases in urban areas started to multiply, and upsurge of malaria was widespread. As a result in 1976, 6.45 million cases were recorded by the National Malaria Eradication Programme, highest since resurgence. According to the estimates of a 16-member committee set up by the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme to assess India's actual malaria death burden, the total annual number of cases of Malaria in India were about 9.7 million, with about 40,300 deaths on an average. Telangana State, Tamilnadu, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, and Jammu and Kashmir are the States where since last four years no deaths due to Malaria are reported. Maximum deaths are reported from Odisha followed by Meghalaya, Mizoram, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Goa, southern Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand during the same period.

The best way to reduce mosquito population is to eliminate the places where mosquitoes

breed. Standing and stagnated water provides the ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes. All along the River Musi where the water has become dirty and contaminated is a very good place for breeding of Mosquitoes. Biological control or "bio-control" is the use of natural enemies to manage mosquito populations. There are several types of biological control including the direct introduction of parasites, pathogens and predators to target mosquitoes. Effective bio-control agents include predatory fish that feeds on mosquito larvae such as mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*) and killi fish. Tilapia also consumes mosquito larvae. Other predators include dragonfly naiads, which consume mosquito larvae in the breeding waters, adult

dragonflies, eat adult mosquitoes and some species of lizards geckoes and frogs also feed on Mosquitoes.

Rainy season has already started and monsoons have reached throughout the nation. Good rainfall is reported in all the States. Due to good rainfall there will be areas where water will get stagnated, and Mosquitoes will breed. Vana Premi wishes that we should not allow the water to stagnate and breed Mosquitoes; we should keep our surroundings clean and free from Mosquitoes. We should also not to interfere with nature and kill any living organisms to disturb equilibrium of planet and live long and healthy life. QMK



**POEM WRITTEN BY SIR RONALD ROSS
AFTER THE DISCOVERY AND SENT TO HIS WIFE ON 22 AUGUST 1897**

This day relenting God
Hath placed within my hand
a wondrous thing; and God
be praised. At His command
seeking his secret deeds
with tears and toiling breath
I find thy cunning seeds
O million-murdering Death.
I know this little thing
myriad men will save.
O Death, where is thy sting?
Thy victory, O Grave?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

Vana Premi July 16 issue reached here yesterday. Nice reading. Your Editorial was excellent. Population explosion itself will be a limiting factor for all further development.

I would like to thank JVS for his elaborate reply to my doubt on Plebiscite in J&K. Unfortunately successive rulers there did not support accession wholeheartedly. Please see Mr. Dilip Padgaonkar's article in Times of India, dt. 12 July 16. Anyway matter may now rest.

"Which is the healthiest nut?" is interesting. My grandfather, used to eat roasted peanuts, a fistful, after every meal. He used to give few to all grandchildren who would be around. He lived till 89 yrs. Only problem is cost of these nuts. All may not afford.

Thanks and regards.

Dr. Maslekar (anand.maslekar@gmail.com)

Sir,

I keenly went through both the instalments of Dr. Akula Kishan's piece titled 'Rescuing The Dying Forests of India' which appeared in June and July 2016 issues of your esteemed journal but was disappointed as I could not find any inkling of his rescue operation or any suggestion therefor. In view of what he furnishes in the table showing the extent of forest cover of the country jumping up from 39.94 million hectares in 1946-47 to 68.02 in 1950-51 (an increase of over 70% in just 4 years!) and then to 75.18 million hectares in 1986-87 (increase of over 88% in 40 years!), there may not be any need for a rescue operation as the forest area of the country appears to have almost doubled by now!

2. The fact is that the exact extent of the geographical area of the country as we know it now was not known during 1946-47. McMahon line was a nebulous concept yet to be translated on the ground and Radcliff line was in the process of being drawn up. Barring the bigger ones, the majority of 562 princely states that merged with Indian Union had no record of exact extent of their geographical area not to say of the extent of their forest area. In a large number of these princely states even cadastral survey had not been carried out to assess land revenue payable. In these cases how could one expect information on the extent of forest area? Vast areas of North East with dense forests were yet to be surveyed. Consequently little was known about the forest cover of the country during 1946-47. In the meanwhile destruction of forests on large scale was taking place. Therefore the table depicting the forest area of the country during the early years of Independent India as provided by the author may not be classified even as a good conjectures.

3. The first attempts to have a comprehensive picture of the forest cover of the country was made only during 1970s by the NRSA and before that in a very limited and sporadic manner by the Pre

Investment Survey of Forest Resources. The first comprehensive picture of the forest cover of the country emerged only during 1987 with the publication of the first State of Forest Report by the FSI which was based on the data collected by the agency during the period 1981-83. Thus we have little information of forest cover lost during the first 35 years since the dawn of Independence. Estimating the forest cover of the country, say during 1950-51 calls for a very serious research effort which should be undertaken on a priority basis to clear the ambiguity on the subject.

4. Similarly Dr. Akula's observation "The subject of forest is in concurrent list and therefore some of the states in Indian Union have separate state laws" may be at variance with historical perspective. Till 3rd January 1977 the subjects of 'Forest' and 'Protection of Wild Animals and Birds' were in the State List of the Constitution. Similar was the position under the Government of India Act 1935 and earlier enactments. Quite a few of the provinces then and the states had their separate forest laws as listed by the author.

5. Apart from these minor points, Dr. Akula Kishan's article is good informative piece especially for aspiring job seekers at lower executive levels in the forestry sector.

S.B. Singh. (email: sbsingh39@yahoo.co.in)

Sir,

I congratulate you for bringing out our beloved and bewitching Vana Premi for July 2016 in its usual colours with a thoughtful editorial. I urge to you to reduce the size of the editorial. An editorial in brevity can still convey the same message and meaning.

It is the good fortune of Sri Kamal Naidu to visit his daughter and son-in-law in London which coincided with the 90th birthday of Queen. His article including the nostalgia of his school days in Lovedale in Udagamandalam is lovely.

The article of Dr. A.R. Maslekar on his art of learning is so very interesting. The description is amusingly anecdotal and also biographical; I wish Dr. Maslekar would find time to write a few more such instances for the benefit of the readers in general and the young generation of foresters in particular. The life-sketch of Komuram Bhheemu and his martyrdom is not known to many except those who worked in Adilabad district. His name and fame have come to light after the separation of Telangana State. Sri. J.V. Sharma painstakingly culled material relating to tribal revolt against the then Nizam's Government and relevant historical facts from the writings of Prof. Haimendorf. Sharma, during his long years of working in Adilabad district, would have interacted with Prof. Haimendorf to know his nostalgic memories of his past life in Marlavai. It would benefit the readers if Sri Sharma appropriately writes his impressions on the work of Prof. Haimendorf.

The two cartoons by Sri Dasari Nagabhushanam and his poem on water have added attraction to the magazine.

K.B.R. Reddy (buchiramkeesara@yahoo.co.in)

“STOP HAVING ILLITERATE FOREST DEPARTMENTS”

By
J. V. Sharma

The Nation had an unsavory experience of witnessing a public spat between two Ministers of the Central Cabinet on 9th June 2016. Ms. Maneka Gandhi, Hon Minister for Women and Child Development, said that the MoEF was writing to every State Government asking them to provide a list of animals that can be killed to afford the Centre to give necessary permission. Reaction or rather a rejoinder from the concerned Minister, Mr. Prakash Javadekar was prompt and quick. He said; “As per law, when farmers’ crops are damaged and when the State sends the proposal, only then we allow (culling) and grant approval.”

These statements, by themselves, may not sound serious enough to grade them as public quarrel. They need to be seen in true perspective of the issue concerned and the propriety it is dealt with. There is nothing uncommon for two ministers to have different views over an issue. There are procedures and channels to sort out the differences away from the public glare. Prime Minister’s Office usually takes care of the contentious issues and if the issue is more serious, Cabinet is there to look into it. But none of such happened here. Ms. Maneka Gandhi openly criticized her cabinet colleague and accused him of encouraging/facilitating wild animal killing. She is known as an aggressive animal protection activist and held the MoEF portfolio earlier in Vajpayee cabinet. She is an activist first and a politician later. She is strong on her opinions and not known to have relented even against odds. Rumors were thick that she managed to differ even with her Prime Minister on occasions. Vajpayee was a skillful manager of men and matters.

Hon Minister for MoEF & CC, Mr. Javadekar is junior to her in all respects. He is not burdened by strong views like Ms. Gandhi on basic issues of public welfare and more adept at matters of political importance. He is known to go about the business of the Ministry in routine manner with no fixed notions. Environment Minister could have waited for public reaction to Ms. Gandhi’s statement. He, unwittingly, gave himself away and the public opinion, going by coverage in electronic and print media, is critical of the Ministry. Even Sambit Patra, the all-weather BJP spokesperson did not emphatically argue that culling is the right solution. For once, he and his traditional rival from JD(U), Pawan Varma, seemed to be on the same side. Mr. Varma’s predicament is understandable; Bihar is one of the States which sought permission for killing of wild animals (Nilgais) which are

said to be destroying the crops. Farmers' lobby is vociferous in highlighting its woes of crop losses and physical threat to farmers.

The issue under dispute is whether it is right to kill wildlife which destroy crops and cause attendant hardship to population outside the forests. On the request of Bihar Govt. the MoEF permitted culling of Nilgais and more than 200 of them were culled within few days engaging sharpshooters. There are requests to declare such animals as vermin which also include monkeys and wild boars. Hardship alleged to have been caused by the animals to people, in all probability, may be true and cannot be dismissed. Moot question is; whether it is right to declare such animals as vermin and kill them.

It will perhaps be right to look at what the law says. There has been an intense public debate over the issue including the legal angle, for days together and it is therefore not proposed to discuss all the details here except a few very pertinent points. The legislation we look to in such circumstances is Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. To go into history of the legislation, "it is an Act to provide for protection of wild animals, birds and plants and for matters connected therewith or ancillary or incidental thereto with a view to ensuring the ecological and environmental security of the country". As the Parliament did not have the power to make laws for the State with respect to these matters which then figured at Entry 20 of the State List of Schedule VII of the Constitution (42nd Amendment later gave the necessary muscle to Centre), provisions of Clause (1) of Article 252 were invoked to bring in this legislation by obtaining resolutions from all the Houses of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal to the effect the matters in question should be regulated by an Act of Parliament. The Act and subsequent Amendments provided a mechanism to ensure protection of wildlife in India. It is pertinent to emphasize that protection of wildlife is the objective of the legislation.

To draw relevance to the problem on hand, section 9 of the Act imposes blanket ban on hunting of all animals mentioned in Schedules I to IV except as provided in sections 11 & 12. Section 12 provides for hunting for special purposes under the permit granted by Chief Wildlife Warden subject to conditions imposed only for the purpose of education, scientific research, scientific management and collection of specimens. It has been sufficiently clarified that scientific management means (i) translocation of any wild animals to an alternative suitable habitat and (ii) population management of wildlife without killing or poisoning or destroying any wild animals. Collection of specimens can only be for zoological gardens, museums and similar institutions and for derivation of snake venom for manufacture of life saving drugs. Hunting of wild animals can be

permitted by the Chief Wildlife Warden under section 11 if the wild animal in Schedule 1 is dangerous to public life or is so disabled or diseased beyond recovery subject however to that it cannot be captured, tranquilized or translocated and that it cannot be rehabilitated in the wild. Only provision of law that can remotely justify killing is section 62 of the Act which empowers Central Government to declare any wild animal (with certain exceptions) to be vermin for any area for a period the notification will be in force. Such a declaration by Centre would include the animal in the list of vermin i.e. Schedule V. There are at present only four species in the list of vermin (Schedule V) which can be legally eliminated and they are; Common Crow, Fruit Bats, Mice and Rats. Nilgai is herbivore and is as docile or aggressive as any domesticated animal is. Even a cat becomes aggressive and attacks when feels threatened. We have seen even cows attacking humans at times. So the selective appraisal of Nilgai proving dangerous to humans is patently incorrect and indefensible. That this exclusive power of declaring an animal as vermin is vested only with the Central Government and not with States and other functionaries amply conveys that it is exercisable only in rarest of the rare cases. If we extend the need to declare animals as vermin for being dangerous to humans, in puritanical sense, particularly in the context of biodiversity and ecology, applying mundane logic and rhetoric, man would eminently qualify to be declared as one on priority.

To provide greater clarity on the intent, purpose and content of the legislation and to dispel doubts, if any, it would be necessary to visit the 'Statement of Objects and Reasons' accompanying The Wild Life (Protection) Bill, 2002 (Later became Act No. 16 of 2003). A detailed reading would convey that killing wild animals on any pretext is not at all the legislative intent and if any loss or harm was caused by wildlife, the loss should be adequately compensated but reprisal on wild animal is not permissible. Nilgais of Bihar of instant case do not qualify to be brought under any of these two sections to deserve killing. That the Chief Wild Life Warden, Bihar did not exercise his powers under sections 11 & 12, could be for the same reason.

By now it should be evident that the Central Government has erred gravely in permitting culling of Nilgais in Bihar. Monkeys and wild boars are on the firing line. Ironically, those very States which passed resolutions asking Parliament to enact 1972 Act are now asking the Centre to kill wild animals. Now arises, the question as to where the buck should stop in Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. It is a well-known fact that it is the Hon Minister who calls the shots. I consider it appropriate to cite an interview given by Ms. Maneka Gandhi published in *The Hindu* dated 15th June 2016, about a week after her first reaction to culling of wild animals mentioned in

Para one above. The caption of this article "Stop having illiterate forest departments" is borrowed from what she said in the interview. I reproduce the following excerpts of the interview for focused attention of the readers:

"For example, you cannot kill wild animals just because you have created a situation in which they have to leave the forest."

"We need to learn to live with them. We have to stop setting forests on fire and stop having an illiterate forest department, which only knows how to kill. Our fence is eating the grass, as we speak. We must teach the fence to guard. We need forest services to be made a specialized subject and train people. We need to start teaching forest management in colleges. We should learn to do it scientifically."

"Ministry (Environment) has asked for every-thing horrible to be restarted, including culling."

Ms. Maneka Gandhi said it all, of the malady the forests are afflicted with, in fewest sentences. A careful reading of the observations makes us realize that she has been quite harsh by describing forest department illiterate. This one phrase is an eloquent commentary on the performance of the forest department. An illiterate at the helm can only 'do what he should not do and at the same time, doesn't do what he should do'. That is the difference between an illiterate and literate. If at all something good happens in the department, though it may be rare, it happens by default more in ignorance than by volition. The remark is all pervasive taking into its fold the entire mechanism of decision-making in forest department. Hinting specifically at the permission issued for killing wild animals, she is more forthright in emphasizing that the man recklessly interfered with the wildlife habitat forcing the animals to leave their abode. She held the humans and more particularly the administration responsible for creating such situation to emphasize that killing of such displaced and strayed animals is wrong.

If Ms. Gandhi placed the blame at the door of the forest department (please see the singular number used), she certainly meant it to be the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF & CC). Forests being on the Concurrent List, the MoEF (GoI) has the constitutional obligation to ensure that everything goes right with forests, wildlife and environment at large. The States are bound to fall in line. If there is any deficiency in the legal support or in the operating mechanism, it is the Centre's responsibility to remove the roadblocks either by legislation or by executive orders. States are certainly responsible in managing their forest departments but Centre cannot absolve itself of the responsibility when something goes wrong in States. Under the circumstances,

if Ms. Gandhi blamed the forest department for its ineptness, it is MoEF which has to take the blame, the States sharing their apportioned liability. If the Centre fails to act decisively on critical issues of policy either for political reasons or the exigencies of Centre-State relations, it is a breach of Constitutional provision in Art. 48-A

The last mentioned observation is that the Ministry is re-starting every horrible thing that was stopped in the past. It is a serious allegation the Ministry needs to clarify. The observation in other words means that the Ministry is encouraging or reintroducing activities prejudicial to the very ethos of the conservation and preservation of environment and more importantly those very undesirable practices which were given up in the past and for good reasons. It is clearly a situation of retrograde management of environment. If Ms. Gandhi said it, she must have done her home work well. At least, I am not surprised at the remark. We have any number of examples to cite that the Governments at Centre and States, the former with larger collateral responsibility, crossed the *Lakshmanrekha* more often than not, be it in legislation making, implementing Forest Conservation Act, mining, encroachments and handling of sensitive environmental issues.

Coming back to the remark of forest department's illiteracy, the remark cannot be taken lightly. The department is managed by officers of Indian Forest Service to reflect a uniform work culture of pan-Indian character. It is one of the elite All India Services. A prestigious outfit like IFS cannot be dismissed lightly branding it as illiterate. Persons of high academic qualifications with fair amount of supportive skills are recruited and put to specialized training in forestry, forest management and allied matters in a National Forest Academy. If the forest department is damned as illiterate, it casts serious reflections on the cadre, its educational competence and the credibility of the Academy itself; –which is highly improbable in literary sense. So, what comes for reckoning is their commitment to professional norms & ethics. If the things did not move despite the elite work force, it only means they did not live up to standards they are expected to maintain. It may be fair to assume that the phrase illiteracy was used by Ms. Gandhi figuratively, as a hyperbole, to emphasize the ineptness of the department in general. Even this interpretation should not bring solace to the decision making officers in the hierarchy of the department in as much as they have not lived up to professional challenge they are expected to meet. The comment implies that foresters should think and act as professionals in the interests of forests & environment and not to be carried away by extraneous circumstances. They should learn to distinguish difference between service and servitude.

These are all systemic faults and deficiencies in performance of individuals at key positions. But

the buck should stop somewhere. There will be safety valves in the administrative set up to bail out the erring people. But it is dangerous when 'erring' becomes a habit. It only means that the system is being taken for ride. Informed circles are really concerned and rather afraid that they are being forced to believe, on the basis of performance, that the MoEF&CC and corresponding State Units are bent upon sabotaging the forests and environment. If Ms. Maneka Gandhi said that "Our fence is eating the grass", we are left with no other option to think otherwise.

"Fence" used figuratively by Ms. Gandhi should only mean the Hon Minister, MoEF&CC, Mr. Prakash Javadekar. Buck will stop only at him because he is the top executive and others in the scheme of things are not decision makers. He did not provide any confidence to environmentalists in the two years he had been at the helm, what with his tryst with Review of Forest Laws and identification of "NO-GO" areas in forests to facilitate diversion of remaining 90% forest area for mining, industries and development. MoEF appears jinxed. The Hon Minister was very faithfully following the roadmap prepared by UPA. But, we should not blame him, for he gave enough hints of his agenda when he took over the Ministry and changed the name of the Ministry adding "Climate Change". He is truly the Hon Minister for climate change!

When I was about to end this article, there was a Cabinet reshuffle and Dr. Prakash Javadekar was promoted to Cabinet rank and entrusted with the prestigious high profile portfolio of Human Resource Development. Significantly, he was the only one to be elevated to cabinet rank from out of the pre-shuffle pack. Evidently, the Prime Minister must be having a great deal of confidence in Mr. Javadekar to replace incumbent HRD minister, Ms. Smritilrani who was rated high for her performance in Parliament as well as Ministry. Fears and apprehensions continue to haunt because of track record. Mr. Manish Tiwari, Congress spokesperson said on 6th July 2016 ("Javadekar's loyalties with private sector"-*The Hindu dated 07.07.2016-Hyderabad Edition*) that "Given his kindness in his previous avatar, there is a need to protect the public sector" (*Emphasis added*). Mr. Tiwari was levelling allegation that Mr. Javadekar favored the private sector as Environment Minister and would encourage the private sector at the expense of public educational institutions as HRD Minister. Be it what it may, it is the prerogative of the Prime Minister. We can only wish well for HRD.

Mr. Anil Dave, MoS takes over MoEF&CC as independent charge. Considering the hostile environment the forests are placed in, we hope and pray there will at least be a reprieve if not reversal in its fortunes.

HOW MUCH BIZARRE WE FIND SCOTLAND TO BE?

By

Dr. B Raghotham Rao Desai

“Of all the small nations of this earth, perhaps only the ancient Greeks surpass the Scots
in their contribution to mankind”

— Sir Winston Spencer Churchill

To a Scot the past appears to cling like sand to wet feet. With its battle-scarred past, a long & romantic history and incomparable majesty of its wild peaks & mysterious lochs, Scotland has a great claim on the traveler's imagination. Beyond its natural glories, Scots had so much talent to invent **Tarmac** (John Loudon McAdam), **the telephone** (Alexander Graham Bell) & **television** (Reith), **world's first adhesive postage & postmark** (to prevent re-use of stamps, by James Chalmers), **proposing worldwide standardized time-zone, 24-hr-clock** (Sir Standford Fleming), **fax machine** (Alexander Bain), **electric clock & tele-printer** (Graham Creed), **macadamized road** (John Loudon McAdam), **first practical steam engine** (James Watt), **pneumatic tyres** (John Boyd Dunlop), **bicycles** (Kirkpatric MacMillan), **overhead valve or pushrod engine** (David Dunbar Buick), **speedometer** (George Keith Buller Elphinstone), **hypodermic syringe** (Alexander Wood), **permanent color photograph** (James Clark Maxwell), **ultrasound scanners** (Ian Donald), **forensic finger printing** (Henry Faulds),

world's first dunce (to describe an idiot) (Theologian John Duns Scotus), **flushing lavatory** (John Harrington), **kaleidoscope** (Sir David Brewster), **water proof fabric** (Charles Macintosh), **penicillin: an antibiotic** (Alexander Fleming), radar and microwave oven (Robert Watson), **Bank of England & Bank of France** (William Paterson), **automatic Telling machine & PIN** (James Goodfellow), **Encyclopedia Britannica** (Collin Macfarquhar), **New York Herald** (James Gordon Bennett), **chloroform: practical general anesthetic** (James Young Simpson), **logarithms & decimal point** (John Napier), **Establishing BBC** (as an institution) **and got cars built-up by ladies for ladies!**

And believing that nothing broadens our minds more than travel does & being a way to keep growing and learning with life experience, as we moved travelling around the region's countryside (by surface transport) during recent week-long stay (April-May, 2016), we came across or were amused with numerous bizarre incidents & stories while crisscrossing Scotland

adventurously, such as:

A builder was engaged in 1994, to knock down a wall at Edinburgh's Royal Museum of Scotland, spotted something in the stonework: fossilized remains of a 336-million-year-old swamp- tree in the sandstone, a lycopsid or scaled-tree which would have flourished during the carboniferous era, when Scotland was situated close to the Equator (& such trees grew to more than 110 feet in height): **a strange museum stowaway!**

Edinburgh's former Craiglockhart military hospital is home to **Scotland's rarest fungus**, believed to be *Clavulinopsiscinereoides* — found nowhere else in the United Kingdom — travelled from the trenches on the boots of soldiers brought for treatment!

The 450-year-old Fernie Castle Hotel in Fife (S.E. Scotland) has **a unique guest suite housed in a treehouse** located high up in between six lofty sycamore trees!

In Inverness (Central Scotland), the local maritime museum includes the **world's largest model of the Titanic**: though the town has no formal connection with the famous vessel, except that a local unemployed man spent more than a decade building the 100 feet replica before putting it on display in time for the centenary commemoration of the ill-fated liner! Ben Novis (also in Central Scotland) is the home to the **deepest lake in the British Isles (Loch Morar)** whose depths plunge to 1107 feet —

easily deep enough to sink Europe's tallest building! Opposite Elgin Cathedral, **Britain's only Biblical Garden** contains examples of every plant species mentioned by name in the Bible (a total of 110), together with sculptures depicting various stories from the Testaments (Old & New) and the Ten Commandments!

In Aberdeen, **city's Central Library, the Church of St. Mark, & HM's Theatre** all stand in a row when viewed from Union Terrace and hence locals refer to the trio as 'Education, Salvation and Damnation'!

In Pittochry (Central Scotland) is Edradour — **Scotland's smallest distillery** — just having a capacity to produce only 90,000 liters' of malt whisky annually but welcomes 100,000 visitors through the doors!

Rothiemurchas Forest (South of Aviemore) is a unique and important natural survivor — **a remnant of the great Caledonian Forest** that grew up after the last Ice Age (8000 years) — one of the last refuges for wild cats & red squirrels!

Scotland's only lake is near Aberfoyle (Lake of Menteith) — result of a cartographer's mistake — the name actually coming from 'laich' meaning a low-lying area! **Britain's tallest tree** (212-foot-high Douglas fir) is at Dunkeld, while **Europe's oldest tree** is a heavily twisted Yew in Fortingall (both in Central Scotland) — believed to have stood there for

3000 or even 5000 years, making locals think that Pontius Pilate was born in its shade & played beneath it as a child!

The site (near Dalmally, inside Ben Cruachan) having been used as a location for the James Bond Film *The World is not Enough*, Scotland's **greenest power station** produces 440 MWs of electricity using gravity & water, and in times of low-demand, pumps everything backwards to replenish its high reservoir with water from Loch Awe, nicknamed as Hollow Mountain!

The Scots love a ghost, and with the long nights, dark history & ancient folklore it's perhaps little wonder this country enjoys a reputation as one of the most haunted on the globe! Scotland is the very last nation in Europe to repeal its anti-witchcraft legislation & the last to execute a person publicly for the crime of witchcraft (1944)!!

While concluding, let me mention that in his celebrated dictionary, Samuel Johnson memorably defined oats as 'a grain, which in England is generally given to horses, but in Scotland supports the people,' but then was honest enough to admit in his *Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland* that, 'if an epicure could remove by a wish, in quest of sensual gratifications, wherever he had supped he would breakfast in Scotland' — a fair statement to the fact that Scottish cuisine has never quite enjoyed the reputation it probably deserves!

"Oh, Be it East and be it West, the twain were there bound to meet" — (with apologies to Rudyard Kipling)!!

A RARE GESTURE TO VANA PREMI BY A MEDICAL DOCTOR OF USA

Dr. Sreenivas Reddy Chintalapani, a medical practitioner in Illinois State, USA, and son of a Retired Surgeon, Dr. C. Madhusudan Reddy, was given a copy of Vana Premi, when he came to India for performing the first death anniversary of his late father. He was impressed with the get-up and content of the magazine. He asked a few questions as to how the magazine is being run, and then offered to pay some money as donation.

The doctor generously arranged for payment of a sum of Rs. 50,000/- to Sri K.B.R. Reddy on the

82nd birthday of his late father on May 10, 2016. K.B.R. made a Fixed Deposit of the money received which earned an interest of Rs. 470/- This entire amount of Rs. 50,470/- was handed over to the Editor of the journal on June 26, 2016 in the General Body Meeting of the Association of Retired Forest Officers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, which was received to the accompaniment of a warm applause of the members of the Association. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to the donor doctor and thanks to K.B.R. for getting the donation. **Q. M. K.**

THE JUDGEMENT?

By
V.V.HARIPRASAD

"We made a tryst with destiny",
Said Nehru on 15th August'1947
The invaluable sacrifices of the national heroes,
Mahatma's strategy of non- violence,
Made us witness the dawn of independence,
Dispensing with the dark days of colonial rule,
Making us the Indians, the masters of our own destiny,
Not in the recent past,
But about seven decades back,
The day which we celebrate every year,
As a mark of great achievement
But,
The backbone of the nation, the farmer,
Is still desperate in committing suicide,
Still devoid of a morsel of food per day,
Are the poverty stricken masses in millions?
Still very much a cry in the wilderness,
The agony of jobless youth has become
Prevalent Corruption political and bureaucratic
Proves to be the Frankenstein's monster of the nation
The need of the hour I am afraid is,
"Another freedom struggle",
For freedom from poverty, corruption and exploitation
The patriotic intellectuals,
Are the ones to lead it?
For both stemming the rot, and
Rekindling the light of faith in democracy
The yawning gap between the haves and the have nots,
And the nexus between the corrupt,
Be it the politicians or the bureaucrats,
Speak volumes of the fact that
Far ahead is the destination,
In achieving the real independence,
The day on which all of us,
Witness the smile on the face of every Indian peasant,
Find the Indian youth reaching its goal aimed at,
See the nepotism and corruption being rooted out,
And make the religious fanaticism driven into obscurity,
It will become the one of real independence
To be celebrated in future with abundance of joy and pride!
Are we inching towards it?
History reveals it
And the posterity shall judge it?
(On the eve of 70th Independence Day celebrations)

18 FOODS YOU'RE EATING WRONG

You could be depriving yourself of some major nutrients—and not even know it!

The way you eat and prepare certain foods can actually make or break the health benefits they provide. You may not think twice about boiling veggies, peeling apples, or drinking a cup of coffee as soon you wake up—but there are actually better and healthier ways to consume them all.

So, we're taking a second look at 18 foods that are probably staples in your diet and offering up the best ways to slice, dice, cook, and devour them so you'll be sure to reap every vitamin and nutritious compound it offers. Take a deep breath; you'll never eat some of your favorite meals and snacks the same again! Inspired? Then cross-check your kitchen with this list of 40 Things Healthy Cooks Always Have in Their Kitchen!

1. Apples: If you're eating your apples peeled or in sauce form, you're missing out on some major nutritional value. "Apple skin is particularly rich in nutrients such as fiber and antioxidants," explains Edwina Clark, MS, RD, APD (Aus), CSSD and head of nutrition and wellness at Yummy. "If you remove the skin, you may miss out on important health benefits such as improved fullness, cholesterol control, and inflammation reduction." Speaking of inflammation, don't miss these 20 Anti-Inflammatory Foods for Weight Loss!

2. Veggies: If you boil your veggies for your family dinners, you're actually sending key nutrients (like vitamin C) into the water—and therefore down the drain—rather than into your system. For maximum nutrient retention, Clark suggests always steaming your veggies.

3. Meat, Poultry, and Seafood: If you're char-broiling meat, poultry, and seafood, the high temperature causes the proteins in the meat to change—and even become dangerous. "Cook your meats at a lower temperature to reduce carcinogen build-up on your dinner," suggests Clark. Marinating meat and flipping frequently can also help minimize cancer-promoting (yikes!) compounds.

4. Tea: Tea and milk go together like peanut butter and jelly—but it's a pairing that needs an intervention. When you add milk to your teacup, you instantly take away the heart-protecting benefits of drinking tea. "The milk proteins called caseins decrease a compound in tea called catechins, which boost protection against heart disease," explains Dr. Susan Albers, a clinical psychologist specializing in eating issues, weight loss, body image concerns, and mindfulness. Instead, drink your tea plain or add just a splash of lemon. The connection between weight loss and tea is amazing—find out more with these 23 Ways to Melt Fat with Tea.

5. Pistachios: If you're a fan of salty treats, pistachios are a great choice. Not only are they the lowest in calories of all the nuts—but also they're the lowest in fat. But if you're buying pre-peeled pistachios, then cutting out that extra step is actually doing you harm. "You can save almost 200 calories by purchasing them still in the shell," says Dr. Albers. "Having to open them up will slow you down and also create a pile so you can visually see how much you've eaten."

6. Dairy: We live in a low-fat, low-calorie world but that doesn't always mean that those offerings are the healthiest. When it comes to dairy, you don't always need to grab the low-fat variety because you're going to end up eating a lot of sugar—yes *sugar*—instead. "The issue is that when you remove a nutrient like fat, you need to add another—sugar—in order to make it palatable to the masses," explains Dr. Raymond Tolmos, DC, DABCI and Founder of Frontier Spine and Health Care in Miami. "This tradeoff, however, is more deleterious. The fat provides not only a creamy flavor but also allows your body to absorb essential fatty acids and fat-soluble vitamins, promoting a lower glycemic response and keeping you feeling full for longer." Never feel that full? Find out 20 Reasons why you're always hungry now!

7. Nuts: Grabbing a handful of raw nuts is a fast fix to curbing your hunger—but there are a few extra steps you need to take before consuming them if you want to benefit from all the nutrients

they offer. "Nuts naturally contain anti-nutrients such as lectins and phytic acid that prevent them from being properly digested, thus decreasing the amount of nutrients absorbed and possibly also causing irritation in the gut," explains Dr. Tolmos. "To decrease the content of anti-nutrients in nuts, soak them and dry them prior to consumption." As a rule of thumb, soak pecans, walnuts and peanuts for 12 hours, almonds and macadamias for seven hours, and cashews for no more than four to six hours. After soaking, dry in a 150F oven or a dehydrator.

8. Spinach: Raw spinach makes a great base for a salad, but you should opt for a warmer version and lightly steam your spinach instead. "Cooking spinach decreases oxalic acid and increases the bioavailability of vitamins A and E, protein, fiber, zinc, calcium and its most popular nutrient—iron," explains Dr. Tolmos. Another trick? Pair your raw spinach with vitamin C (tangerines, oranges, etc.) to give your body the tools it needs to absorb the iron.

9. Garlic: So, you're always cooking away and chopping/crushing/mincing garlic just seconds before throwing it into a hot skillet? You actually need to wait a bit—five to ten minutes to be exact—*before* cooking your garlic. "What happens is that alliin and the enzyme alliinase that catalyzes the conversion of alliin to allicin—its health promoting compound—are physically separated and only come into contact once the garlic is crushed," says Dr.

Tolmos. "If you immediately apply heat to the garlic after crushing it, there's not enough time for this reaction to take place."

10. Salad Dressing: Just like dairy, going low fat with salad dressing is actually not the healthiest way to go. It's much better to reach for a dressing with fat. "Along with increasing the feeling of fullness, the bioavailability of certain nutrients, including lutein and beta-carotene, is higher when the full-fat counterparts are consumed," says Jessica Holst, RDN, LD and Wellness Dietitian at the Mayo Clinic Healthy Living Program. "Good choices include oil and vinegar or herb-infused olive oils."

11. Bananas: A banana is one of the easiest snacks to take on the go and there are 21 Amazing Things That Happen to Your Body When You Eat Bananas. But if you're eating them solo, you're actually eating the yellow fruit all wrong. "Never eat them plain," says Dr. Daryl Gioffre, a health and wellness coach to celebs. "Always eat them with some kind of fat like almond butter because the fat helps metabolize the fruit's high sugar content." Mind blowing.

12. Juice: Are you adding chia to your juice, even your green juices? No? Then you're missing out! "Chia is a very healthy fat, containing 50 percent omega-3 fatty acids and 20 percent protein. All juice, even alkaline green drinks, contains a small amount of sugar since they're complex carbohydrates," says Dr. Gioffre. "Chia slows down the metabolization of any of these sugars, thus

preventing an insulin spike in your blood. By adding the chia, you will turn this short burst of energy into a slow burning fuel—just like how coal burns—that will give you energy all day long."

13. Yogurt: Straight up plain yogurt is out. Mixing your yogurt with hemp seeds, flax, or chia is in! "Yogurt is loaded with sugar and yeast, both of which are highly acidic to your body. Chia, hemp, and flax are very alkaline," explains Dr. Gioffre. "They will help neutralize the acid in your body created by the yogurt, and they will also help prevent the sugars in the yogurt from fermenting in your body, causing all sorts of problems in your digestive system." Side note: Yogurt can actually clog your digestive system. The fiber in the chia, hemp, or flax helps your body digest the yogurt and prevent constipation from happening.

14. Whole Grains and Beans: Whole grains and beans are delicious and versatile—eat them as part of a main course or a side dish and you've got a great and nutritious meal. But not if you've been taking the grains/beans right from the box to the stove. According to Ashvini Mashru, MA, RD, LDN and author of *Small Steps to Slim*, you actually need to soak them overnight before cooking. "These healthy foods contain an antioxidant called phytates. But the problem with this compound is that it binds to vitamins and minerals and prevents your body from absorbing them," she explains. "To release the

phytates, soak whole grains and beans overnight." An added benefit of soaking is it means less work for your digestive tract. But note that semi-refined or unshelled types of grains like pearled barley or instant oats do not need to be soaked.

15. Strawberries: Ahh, nothing is more delicious or nutritious than a bowl of fresh, juicy strawberries. But if you slice them up ahead of time, you're literally letting the good stuff air out. "Whole strawberries contain eight to twelve percent more vitamin C than their cut counterpart," says Mashru. "That's because vitamin C is sensitive to light and oxygen, and when you cut a strawberry, this compound begins to break down." Try storing this fruit in the fridge and eat it whole the next time you need a berry fix.

16. Coffee: For some, caffeine is such necessities that your coffee pot is on a timer so it's ready for you to guzzle down the minute you've woken up. But if you're drinking coffee first thing, then you're actually drinking it wrong! Your body's cortisol levels are highest in the morning—it peaks up about 20-30 minutes after you wake up—and then is lowest at night to help your body relax for sleep. Mixing high levels of cortisol with caffeine can increase your tolerance, making caffeine less effective. Moral of the story? Train yourself to drink your much-needed cup of joe in the mid-morning (or mid-afternoon) when your cortisol is lowest. You can watch and share

this video on Facebook to help others understand, too!

17. Onions: Sure, raw onions are guaranteed to make you tear up. And yes, there's nothing more delicious than some sauteed onions on a burger. But raw onions have minerals and oils that help to break down fat deposits and speed up your metabolism. "It has more power than garlic and with the milder smell, and they will make an excellent addition to your diet," says Dr. Goglia.

18. Flax Seeds: If you're sprinkling flax seeds on your salad, in your yogurt (as we suggested above) or into your smoothies, then you know that you're on track to reducing your risk of cancer, stroke and heart disease. But if you're using the whole seed and not grinding up—then you're not getting the most out of this powerful plant. "Inside these little pods are heart-healthy omega-3s, lignin's that contain cancer-protecting properties and a high content of fiber," explains Mashru. "Your body will not break down the whole flaxseed thus not providing you with its best nutrients." So, either buy them already ground or make sure to do yourself before sprinkling them on anything. But you *must* store your ground-up flax seeds in the fridge because otherwise they turn toxic. It's one of the 11 Surprising Foods You Should keep in the Fridge. Check it out to find out why opened peanut butter and other common foods are on the list!

SALUTES TO THE VEER JAWANS!!

Nagabhushanam Dasari

Nobody could scale the sacrifice of the soldiers for Our Nation
Pay salutes to the Jawans who are always away from their lovely families
Sparing each and every minute for the safety of entire citizens of country
No system of communications for them as we are enjoying freely here
Visualising their kith & kin only in their dreams with profound happiness
Extending duty round the clock to the core with devotion & dedication

Never thought service as burden but they treated it as boon of the God
At any level of altitude no arrogance no ego in their approach & attitude
Entire year moving in frozen ice, scorching sun, dark nights & deep valleys
With all these hassles no fluctuation in their primary aim against enemy
In hungry also no anger blood is filled with full of passion & patriotism
Even in their last moments we could hear the words of Bharat Mata jai

The awards & rewards may not bring them back physically to the earth
To fill up the vacuum of immortal martyrs in the despaired looks of their heirs
Let us mingle with their families with humanly support & affection
By fulfilling the aspirations & ambitions of their families and dependents
Sharing the feelings strengthens the hearts from condition of sorrow
Their souls are roaming here only with the intension to born & serve again

MR. B. SOMA SEKHAR REDDY BEREAVED:

Retired PCCF, Sri BSS Reddy's mother, Smt. Swarajyam, left for her heavenly abode on 6.7.2016. She was 78. She was ailing for some time following a fall and leg fracture. The 11th day ceremony was solemnly performed on 16.7.2016; homage and floral tributes were paid at the picture of the departed soul. Vana Premi expresses its deep sympathy and sorrow to the bereaved family. **MAY HER SOUL REST IN PEACE**(Contributed by Mr. KBR)

COPY OF LETTER ADDRESSED TO SRI NARENDRA MODI PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA BY SRI J.V. SHARMA IS PUBLISHED HERE UNDER. EDITOR

Date: 26th July 2016-07-25

To
Honourable Sri Narendra Modi,
Prime Minister of India,
Prime Minister's Office,
South Block, New Delhi.

Respected Sir,

Sub: Environmental concerns in India – Meaningful action- Requested.

I heard Your Honour's address to Indian Diaspora at Nairobi on 10th July 2016. The Nation is proud that its endeavour to be the epicentre for human values and a model for peace and progress on the globe is extremely well presented and gone well before not only the persons of Indian origin but also the people of the host country and other countries of Africa as well. Towards the end, you spoke of two challenges the humanity is faced with; one the terrorism and the other, global warming. You were kind to place the global warming in perspective saying:

1. That the nature provided everything for the needs of all living creatures but not for their greed,
2. That abnormalities linked to global warming are essentially man made,
3. That our ancestors had been responsible enough to bequeath the greenery and livable environment we are now enjoying and it is our duty and responsibility to pass it on intact to coming generations, and
4. That the entire world community should do everything possible to contain the global warming.

The statement coming from the Prime Minister of the Country has to be taken as the mind and policy of the Government. The state of environment in general and forests in particular, has been progressively deteriorating over the years and legislations made to contain the negative trend, like Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 are seen more as impediments to development than absolutely necessary regulatory mechanism. It is pertinent to mention that that the UPA Government diverted more than double the extent of forest land during their 10-year tenure than the forest land diverted between 1980 and 2004. The impression among the informed circles is that matters did not improve much even during the last two years. On the other hand, initiatives for review of forest laws, identification of NO-GO areas of forests to facilitate diversion of other forest areas for non-forest purposes, proposed review of Forest Policy etc, give rise to more apprehensions than confidence among the environmentalists.

Now that your Good Self has clarified the position *vis-à-vis* environment on foreign soil, it is only appropriate that this policy assertion is conveyed to MoEFCC for strict compliance and a mechanism is put in place for proper monitoring. In all advanced countries, environment is on the priority next only to Nation's security. It is all the more necessary to be so in a populous country like India.

The following initiatives become imminent for the course correction in this regard:

- a) Unequivocal declaration by Government of India that Environment is its top most priority ranking next only to national security.
- b) All environmental resources, particularly forests, are sacrosanct and inalienable.
- c) Suitable amendment to forest laws to incorporate the definition of 'forests' as clarified by the Supreme Court in Godavarman case.
- d) All encroachments of forests are *ipso facto* illegal and liable for summary eviction within the executive domain. Judicial scrutiny to be made available to the affected only after eviction.
- e) In the light of Supreme Court Order in Lafarge Mumium case holding conflict of interest for MoEF in granting Forest Clearance as well as Environmental Clearance and Apex Court's directions to create a mechanism of Regulator, law and procedures to be made accordingly.
- f) Indemnity available for acts done in good faith should be dispensed with in environmental matters and blatant professional misconduct should be made a cognizable offence, not excluding statutory bodies like Forest Advisory Committee under FCA.
- g) Development projects are money spinning enterprises and do not deserve sops like concessions of land allotment, water, power etc. They invest to multiply their money and can afford to build their required infrastructural facilities at par with open market.
- h) It has become customary to encourage Public-Private Partnership in development ventures to attract finance. Investors in such cases gain control of environmental assets on a permanent basis though infructuous clauses like ownership remains with the government or the property will revert back to State after certain period, are incorporated. It is necessary that Forest lands are made out of bounds for PPP projects.

It is requested to kindly consider the above and be pleased to take necessary action to avoid further damage to environment.

Yours faithfully,

(J.V.SHARMA)

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Birth Day Greetings

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

S.No.	Name of the member	D.O.B.		
	Sarva Sri		17.	Dr.Bhaskara Ramana Murthy 24-08-1961
			18.	Smt.Sunita Mahesh Bhagwat26-08-1970
1.	P.Rajendranath	10-08-1953	19.	B.Srinivas 02-09-1962
2.	V. Kishan	16-08-1950	20.	Srikanthanatha Reddy 25-08-1974
2.	M.Mohan Rao	12-08-1952	1.	V.Ram Mohan 06-08-1967
3.	L.R.Sekhar	13-08-1953	2.	A.Narsimha Reddy 08-08-1983
4.	S.Appa Rao	08-08-1925	3.	T.Venu Babu 09-08-1969
5.	M.Kamal Naidu	21-08-1939	4.	K.Mahender Raju 10-08-1959
6.	M.Pradyumna Reddy	23-08-1955	5.	A.Rama Murthy 10-08-1969
7.	N.V. Jayanth Babu	23-08-1953	6.	S.Venkatesh 15-08-1977
7.	A.Sudhakar	24-08-1948	7.	Smt.P.Sunitha 15-08-1980
8.	P.Vishweshwaraiah	27-08-1951	8.	M.Venu Madhav Rao 16-08-1967
9.	P. Satyanarayana Rao	27-08-1953	9.	M. Yogaiah 16-08-1956
9.	C.Muralidhar Rao	28-08-1941	9.	Ch.Sivaiah 20-08-1967
10.	P.Ranga Raju	30-08-1952	10.	S.Rajasekhar 20-08-1970
11.	T.V.Ranga Rajan	31-08-1935	11.	Kasi Vishwanadham Raju 20-08-1967
12.	M.Narasimha Reddy	03-09-1954	12.	S.M.Hussainy 20-08-1961
S.No.	Name of Serving Officers	D.O.B.		
	Sarva Sri		13.	S. Rambabu 21-08-1980
			13.	P. Adhi Lakshmi 23-08-1970
13.	A.V Joeph	05-08-1956	13.	Ms.E.Harika 24-08-1984
13.	Smt.M.Revathi	09-08-1970	14.	P.Anil Kumar 30-08-1965
14.	P.S.Srinivasa Sastry	14-08-1962	15.	K.Ashok Kumar 31-08-1976
15.	A.Bharath Kumar	15-08-1959	16.	M.Ravi Prasad 04-09-1966
16.	Sunil Kumar Gupta	19-08-1958		

Secretary

HOW ONE MAN AND HIS TEAM BROUGHT ABOUT A COMPLETE BAN ON GUTKA SALES IN ODISHA

Meet Imran, a young Odisha resident who has taken the battle against tobacco addiction in the state as a personal crusade and is fighting it with all his might. "This campaign is like our addiction in the fight against addiction. We have decided to donate one rupee and one hour for the country each day," says Md. Imran Ali about his crusade against tobacco and alcohol addiction in Odisha. Imran came across the menace of tobacco in the city while pursuing his Master's in Social Work degree. During one of his field visits to the Shantipali slum in Bhubaneswar, he was shocked to see kids as young as 10 years old addicted to tobacco products, especially gutka. On further investigation, he found that the easy availability of tobacco products in the market and ignorance of parents make it easy for children to access these items. This addiction, in turn, becomes a stepping stone to other addictions, like alcohol and drugs, as the children grow up.

The gravity of the situation and its irredeemable impact stuck with Imran. He ended up writing and self-publishing a book named *Bloody Gutka*, in which he talks about the immense harm done by tobacco products.

This was followed by awareness programmes that he organized with his friends in the slums, where they talked to parents about this problem.

Gradually, he brought together some like-minded young people in Bhubaneswar to form NashaMuktiYuvaSankalp(NMYS), a voluntary campaign against tobacco/alcohol addiction and substance abuse. The group comprises about 30 young people who work on a voluntary basis to contribute towards the cause whenever they can. They started by conducting awareness programmes in schools and colleges across the city, slowly moving on to advocacy in a planned manner.

A senior HC advocate, BirenTripathi, agreed to take up the case for free and it resulted in victory. The court ordered a ban on the sale of tobacco products in Odisha milk parlors in 2011.

"Winning the case gave us a lot of confidence. I felt that when you are doing some good work, it gets noticed and recognized," says Imran. Soon, the group started campaigning for a complete ban on the sale and business of gutka in the state to address the rising number of mouth cancer cases. According to reports, smokeless tobacco accounts for more than 40% of all cancers in Odisha. Over 43% of the population consumes smokeless tobacco in one form or the other. When awareness drives and online campaigns did not lead to any positive impact, they filed another PIL in the High Court. This

time, an NGO named CLAP (Committee for Legal Aid to Poor) stepped forward to help them. NMYS was successful once again and the state implemented a complete ban in 2013.

Continuing with his mission to make people aware about the hazards of tobacco, Imran directed an Odiya documentary called *Salaam Jeevan*, addressing the health, economic and environmental hazards of tobacco. It was shown in 2,500 colleges in the state with the help of the youth wing of the Odisha government. Imran also wrote a book with the same name, which was followed by yet another documentary called *Silent Killer*. It is a short documentary that shows the effect of tobacco consumption on families in general and Imran circulated it on WhatsApp to reach more people. Members of NMYS also assist mouth cancer patients by directing them to the Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer Centre that treats underprivileged people for free. Imran has started a counselling center for tobacco users with one of his friends B Nayak, who is a doctor.

"Mouth cancer does not develop suddenly. It has many warning signs and symptoms, which if caught and medicated early, can help in the treatment of the disease. We focus on the preventive part of the disease at the counselling center," he says.

Imran feels blessed that he has people who are willing to help his team by contributing towards

the cause in kind. Professional editors, voice-over artists, cameramen, etc., agree to volunteer for his movies for free.

All the members of the group work on a voluntary basis. They come from varying backgrounds – education, health, business, etc. Imran too works part time as a teacher in a college. He is originally from the Bhadrak district of Odisha but moved to Bhubaneswar after completing his graduation in sociology. Imran decided to dedicate his life to social work when he applied for a post-graduation course. No bank was willing to give him an education loan. He wrote to the then President of India, APJ Abdul Kalam, seeking help. And the President's office replied with a notice to the bank demanding immediate attention. "I received the loan within two days. The incident made me think that if the first citizen of the country is so dedicated towards the welfare of common people like me, then my duty and responsibility toward the country become even greater," he says.

"Every time we take patients to the hospital and help in their treatment, they show so much gratitude that I feel richer than any millionaire. It is a traumatizing experience for people when they come to know about cancer. It is important for someone to support them and give them courage in such times. That is why I have decided to keep doing what I am doing," he concludes with a smile.

RESCUING THE DYING FORESTS OF INDIA III

By
Dr. Akula Kishan
(Continued from last month)

9. Status of forest areas

The strategy adopted by the forest department for protecting forest resources is of policing and persuasion. Patrolling is done by the SFD staff and offences are dealt with in accordance with various enactments, rules and orders. The SFD is generally ill-equipped to fight against forest offenders. The SFD is required to take protection measures against illicit felling, encroachments, forest fires, grazing in areas closed for regeneration / plantation purposes, poaching of wild animals, illegal quarrying and mining, theft of gene pool material, unauthorized removal of medicinal and aromatic plants, etc.

Protection against illicit felling and poaching is becoming increasingly difficult. Organized gangs of offenders sometimes use faster means of communication and lethal weapons. The Forest Department (FD) has been following traditional approaches in protecting the forests. A Beat Guard is supposed to patrol his beat for prevention and detection of offences spread over an area ranging from 11 to 200 sq.km. It is noteworthy that while the upper echelons of the FD has had a very sizeable increase in strength over the years there has been no increase in the

overall number of Beat Guards. Apart from protection responsibility, a Beat Guard is required to handle other forestry operations such as nursery and plantation work, construction and maintenance of forest paths, fire lines and boundary pillars, soil and water conservation works, silvicultural operations, arranging labor, maintenance of muster rolls, etc. The beat guard is ill-equipped to handle all these works. In case of JFM areas, lot of his time is taken by activities relating to community participation. The area of the beat is vast and the beat guard has not been provided with any means of transport. The protection work consequently suffers. He also has the responsibility of seeking peoples' co-operation and participation in protection activities. He mainly deals with compounding of offences under the Forest Acts, and has not been trained to make search, seizure and gather evidence necessary for the prosecution of offences. As a result, a large number of cases fail due to procedural faults and weaknesses.

Likewise, the jurisdictions of other SFD executive staff members senior to the Beat Guard are very large and in the absence of transport facilities, effective forest protection

is not possible. It is not uncommon to find one Forest Guard manning a check-post all the 24 hours without proper facilities for quick communication or of arms to confront organized gangs of offenders. Compared to the magnitude of protection problems and other responsibilities, the staff and facilities provided at all the levels in forest administration are too meagre and primitive. At times, SFD staff members risk their lives in protecting the forests. There have been several incidences of murder of forest staff by forest offenders.

Staff strength needs to be considerably increased and modern facilities need to be provided to fight forest offenders to ensure effective protection to forests. People's participation is essential in protecting forests as there have been few cases of illicit felling, fire, and encroachments in areas where the people have realized the importance of forests. The methods of fire control adopted by the SFDs are obsolete and old, involving cutting and burning of fire lines and beating fires manually. Fire incidences are deliberately under-reported because the staff would be held responsible for the occurrence of fire. The assessment of damage due to fire is not given any importance and, in fact, knowledge in this regard is also very scanty. The loss due to fires includes destruction of humus including micro-organisms, leaf litter, regeneration, herbs and shrubs, and wildlife, decrease in annual increment, physical burning of felled wood, increased soil desiccation and

resultant increase in soil erosion and run-off, susceptibility to diseases and pests, change of forest community structure, replacement of more valuable tender species by less valuable hardy species etc.

Because of policies which promoted extension of agriculture into new areas including forests and the establishment of large public sector infrastructural projects in the Nehru era, while the area under the management control of Forest Department was increasing, the actual forest cover was receding very fast in the country. Besides loss of forest area due to legal or illegal use of forestland for agricultural and industrial development purposes, degradation in terms of quality of forests also occurred because of a host of factors including exponentially increasing biotic pressure.

India in the 2003 assessment had 5.13 million ha of forests with over 70 per cent crown density, 33.93 million ha with 40 to 70 per cent density, 28.78 million ha with 10 to 40 per cent crown cover and 4.03 million ha of scrub area.

Changes in Dense Forest Cover in India

Year	Dense Forest Cover (million ha)
1972-75	46.72
1980-82	36.14
1985-87	37.85
1987-89	38.50
1989-91	38.56
1991-93	38.58
1995-97	36.73
1997-99	36.72

2000-01 41.68

2001-03 39.05

Whereas the Change in the Recorded Forest Area (between 1951 and 2001)

Year	Recorded Forests(in million ha)
1951	71.80
1961	68.96
1971	74.83
1981	75.00
1991	77.00
2001	76.84

Thus there is hardly any significant change in recorded forest area.

The State of Forest Report of 2009 brought by FSI shows that there is overall gain in forest cover by 728 sq.km. over the assessment of the year 2005. The States showing significant net increase in forest cover are Mizoram(640 sq.km), Manipur (328 sq.km), Jharkhand(172 sq.km), Meghalaya (116 sq.km) and Orissa(100 sq.km) where as significant but decrease in forest cover is seen in States of Nagaland(201 sq.km) Andhra Pradesh (129 sq.km), Arunachal Pradesh(119 sq.km.) Tripura (100 sq.km.), Assam (66 sq.km. and Chhattisgarh (59 sq.km.)

10. Forest Institutions:

1. Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun: The erstwhile Indian Forest College, Dehradun, established in 1938 to train officers of the superior forest service in India, was upgraded as the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA) in May 1987, to function as a staff college for the Indian Forest Service (IFS).

The objectives of the Academy are to prepare a cadre of competent forest officers to manage India's forest resources and serve as an apex institution for capacity building among forestry personnel.

The shortcomings are as follows:

1. Selection of faculty personnel is not appropriate. No special efforts are made to select officers having special aptitude and interest for teaching and training. Teaching requires a special aptitude and a good DFO or CF is not necessarily good teachers.

2. The refresher courses should be a continuous process and data base on all the IFS officers should be maintained by IGNFA and training needs should be accordingly planned.

2. Directorate of Forest Education, Dehra Dun:

The Directorate functions independently of ICFRE under direct control of MoEF for conducting trainings to State Forest Officers.

The faculty in the colleges under control of DFE is not adequate as the professionals are not willing to participate in imparting the trainings. The infrastructure in State Forest Colleges is not being utilized to optimum levels due to very low recruitment of State Forest Service officers.

3. Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehra Dun:

ICFRE was established in 1986 and is governed by ICFRE Society and Board of Governors and functions as autonomous Institution. It has eight research Institutes at Dehra Dun, Shimla, Ranchi, Jorhat, Jodhpur, Bangalore and Coimbatore and

research centers at Allahabad, Chindwara and Hyderabad.

The vision of the Institute is to assist in efforts to increase the forest cover and enhance forest productivity through operationalizing the National Forestry Action Programme and the national Forestry Research Plan

The shortcomings are as follows:

1. Institutes were created to carry out research on particular item of forestry, but now all Institutes have switched over to general forestry topics.
2. Inadequate research staff
3. Inadequate funding for research work
4. Research results are not transferred to field applications
5. The research projects are not prepared in tune with field requirements, thus the utility of research is lost.

4. Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal:

The Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) was established as an autonomous Institution in 1982 under the MoEF. The objectives of the Institute are to provide training in management and related subjects to persons and personnel of forest related industries with a view to equip them to practice the profession of forest management, prepare outstanding talented persons for careers leading to management responsibilities in forestry and forest-related systems, to provide up-to-date information on forest management and to carry out research in matters concerning

management and in allied techniques and methods conducive to the development of forestry.

Activities of the Institute are governed by the IIFM Society and a Board of Governors (BOG) which oversees planning, administration and financing of the Institute.

The shortcomings are:

1. Senior faculty positions have not been filled for long periods.
2. In the absence of a perspective faculty development plan, promotions of the faculty have not taken place and this is a cause of frustration. Under the guidelines of the Government of India, the posts lying vacant for more than a year are deemed abolished.
3. Due to various administrative problems, the Institute could not sell its expertise and generate resources for its development.
4. The Institute has had to face staff problems and confrontation with the staff union, with indiscipline emanating therefrom.

5. Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Bangalore:

The Indian Plywood Manufacturers' Research Association (IPMRA) was formed in 1962 as a co-operative research laboratory under the umbrella of the CSIR, for undertaking applied research on plywood. It was re-designated as Indian Plywood Industries Research Institute (IPIRTI) in 1970. Its administrative control was transferred to the Ministry of Industries in 1978. Recognizing its greater role in conservation of a natural resource, its administrative control was

further transferred to the MoEF during 1990.

The activities of the Institute are governed by the IPIRTI Society and there is a Board of Governors which oversees its planning, administration and financing. The Institute is headed by a Director on deputation for a fixed tenure. The other personnel of the Institute include permanent administrative, technical and scientific staff.

The Institute has been established with the objective to undertake research on all aspects of production of sawn timber, manufacturing of plywood and other allied engineered products. The shortcomings are:

1. The present infrastructure of the Institute is inadequate and it does not have the stature and wherewithal of an institute of national standard.
2. The Institute lacks a long-term vision and the extent of consultations with the plywood industries about the type of research required by them, seem to be inadequate.
3. The extension of the research work done and the scope and dimensions of the activities being carried out are not adequate.

6 .Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun: The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) was set up at Dehradun in 1982 and was accorded autonomy in April 1986. It has a mandate to produce a cadre of trained wildlife managers and field biologists who could collect scientific information on wildlife and PAs for their effective management, and to train personnel at various levels for nature

conservation. It advises governments on matters of conservation and management of wildlife resources and PAs. In more than 20 years of its existence it has trained 756 wildlife managers. Sixty-eight students have done their post-graduation in wildlife sciences.

The activities of the Institute are governed by the WII Society and there is a Board of Governors which oversees planning, administration, and financing. The Institute is headed by a Director. The faculty includes both wildlife scientists and IFS officers on deputation.

The shortcomings are:

1. Many positions in the faculty remain vacant for long periods.
2. Much of the research being carried out by the WII does not find field applications.
3. Trainees do not get wildlife postings on their return to the respective States after receiving training.
4. States do not fully utilize the training facilities available at the WII.
5. Despite the mandate, the Institute has not devoted sufficient attention to the crucial matter of reduction of man-animal conflict, especially that pertaining to the development of techniques for capture, translocation and rehabilitation of animals.
6. It has not taken up expected role in overseeing the implementation of Wild Life Act, by creating data base of offences and result of Court cases. (To be concluded)

THEILERIASIS IN GAUR (*BOS GAURUS*) AT NZZP/HYD- A CASE REPORT

By

**Dr. M. Navin Kumar, Assistant Director & Dr. Md. Vikaruddin Ali Akbar, VAS,
Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad.**

The status of *Bosgaurus* during 2003-2004 in Nehru Zoological Park Hyderabad is 2+3=5 ie; two males and three females out of which the recently born second male was sent to IGZP, Vizag on 29-1-04. Now the zoo is left with one male and three females.

The adult male Gaur born on 10-11-1996 and named as Gopal with a proven breeding record with its own mother, successfully bred and second male and female calves were born from which the male was transferred.

On 20th Feb 2004 the keeper observed the male Gaur slightly limping on its right hind leg. Inflavet (Anti-inflammatory) bolus, two boli once daily orally administered in Jagary On the second day there was no limping observed, but the keeper reported that the animal did not consume cattle feed and consumed only para grass. Injections of Inimox (Amoxycillin and Cloxacillin) 2g intramuscularly administered along with Liver extracts 4ml like Belamyl intramuscularly. The animal did not show any clinical signs of sickness but was found dead in the early hours of 21-2-04 inside the enclosure. The symptoms observed were only off feed and sluggish, but consumed paragrass.

Post mortem was conducted on 21-2-04 at 12.00 noon by the VBRI Pathologists and ourselves from the zoo. Since the animal was heavy it was decided to dispose the carcass after post mortem near the Bison safari enclosure. The post mortem findings revealed.

1. Externally no wound or injury could be detected. There was no lacrimation from the eyes, no discharges from the nostrils and mouth. There was only slight bleeding from the anus.
2. To rule out any possibility of Anthrax, blood smears from the ear vein were collected and examined for spores, which did not reveal any anthrax spores but the microscopic field showed presence of theileria organisms, however the carcass was opened, which revealed the following.

- i. Petechial hemorrhages were found all over the mesentery, and vital organs.
- ii. Sterile heart blood swabs were collected for culture and also sections of liver, lung, heart, spleen, kidneys, which were severely congested abomasum, which was highly congested and ulcerated, mesenteric lymph nodes and intestines in 10% formalin and 50% glycerol were collected by the VBRI

scientists for Histopathology and Biological Tests respectively. Impression smears of all the vital organs were collected for confirmation of probable cause of death.

iii. Telephonic confirmation by the Joint Director VBRI for the presence of Theileria organism in the smears collected was positive.

Summary: **-Theileria are protozoa found in the erythrocytes. They differ from Babesia in that their schizogony takes place in the lymphocytes and monocytes of blood, lymphnodes and spleen.**

On entry into the body through the bite of the vector (tick), the sporozoites infect the lymphocytes and monocytes of the blood, lymph glands and spleen where they become schizonts. The schizont is about 3 to 10 µ in diameter and contains many red coccoid dots, which are the infective organisms. These schizonts are called Koch's blue bodies and are pathognomic of this disease. These bodies may be found in the

peripheral blood or in the biopsy material from the lymph gland pulp.

Conclusion: **- There were no marked clinical signs and there were no reports of theileriosis in the zoo in the past 2 decades. There was only one case report by Dr. Gowhar Ali Khan in a 4 months old gaur calf with symptoms of high fever (105 degree F) and corneal opacity, which was successfully treated and recovered in the year 1969. Ever since then there were no reports of Theileriosis.**

Acknowledgements: -

The Authors are thankful to Dr. RamaKrishna, Joint Director (A.H), D.I, VBRI, Hyd. for deputing Dr. MujeebAther, Assistant Director, Pathology, VBRI and Dr. Sudha Rani, VAS, D.I.(Cattle) who were helpful in conducting the Post mortems and Diagnosis of the disease and also thankful to the Joint Director in suggesting of follow up of prophylactic measures in other Gaurs

MR. L. KRISHNA BHOOPAL RAO BEREAVED:

Retired CCF Sri L. Krishna Bhoopal Rao's mother Smt. Lingala Andamma passed away on 05.07.2016. She was 104. She lately became a little weak but maintained good health and was agile. She was fond of reading religious scriptures like Ramayanam, Bharatam, Bhagavatam, and memorized Vishnu Saharanamam. The 12th day ceremony was performed on 16.07.2016 and swargapatra on 17.06.2016 respectively. Vana Premi expresses its deep sympathy and sorrow to the bereaved family. **MAY HER SOUL REST IN PEACE** (Contributed by Mr. KBR)

GOD'S PLAN FOR AGING

Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things requiring them to bend, reach & stretch.

And God looked down and saw that it was good. Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.

Nine Important Facts To Remember As We Grow Older

#9 Death is the number 1 killer in the world.

#8 Life is sexually transmitted.

#7 Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

#6 Men have 2 motivations: hunger and hanky panky, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.

#5 Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.

#4 Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.

#3 All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

#2 In the 60's, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.

#1 Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you do today may be a burning issue tomorrow.

Courtesy: K.J.M.

Reddy

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"But as population became denser, the natural chemical and biological recycling processes became overloaded, calling for a redefinition of property rights". – Garrett Hardin

COCA-COLA IS IN TROUBLED WATERS (AGAIN) FOR A FACTORY IT WAS FORCED TO SHUT DOWN 12 YEARS AGO

For 70-year-old K Kanniamma, the irony was stark. Rain from the fresh monsoons was badgering the roof of her house at Vijayanagaram colony in Plachimada village of Palakkad district in Kerala, but the water would be of no use to her once it settled on the soil.

For Kanniamma, it was more than a bitter taste left behind by the Coca-Cola plant that was forced to shut down in her neighbourhood in 2004. "Before the factory opened here we were dependent on our water requirements on our wells," she said.

Trending

"Once the factory opened the water level in the wells started going down," Kanniamm added. "Initially, we did not know the reason for it. When we used that water, our eyes and skin had a burning sensation. Only then we realised that our water had been poisoned."

As many like her recount their plight, Kerala police last month filed a fresh [First Information Report](#) against Coca-Cola under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The case has been registered at Meenakshipuram Police Station against the company's all India head at Noida, Regional head

at Kochi and the local head of the Plachimada unit, on a complaint lodged by Plachimada Samara Samithi.

The Coca-Cola unit, which has been shut since 2004, has been accused of having depleted the water source, exploited and "wilfully polluted" the ground water of the Scheduled Tribes community called the Eravalas, at Plachimada, in Palakkad district, Kerala.

There are about 2,000 residents in this south Kerala village, and their main occupation is agriculture and farm labour.

"This is the monsoon time," said Murugesan, a resident of Plachimada. "The whole district is happy due to the rains. In older days we could just take water from the wells with our hands, the wells used to be so full. But now, since the water has been poisoned, while the others [in other parts of Kerala] use the sweet water from the wells, we [in Plachimada] have to queue up near the taps for our water needs. The water from the wells cannot be used for consumption," he added.

The Coke trail

This is not the only complaint. Coca-Cola and its subsidiaries have been accused of creating severe water shortages for the community by

extracting large quantities of water for their factories, affecting both the quantity and quality of water in a number of districts of India.

The company has the largest soft drink bottling facilities in India. Water is the primary component of the products manufactured by the company.

There have been numerous public protests against the company's operations throughout India, involving thousands of citizens and several non-governmental organizations.

Protests against the Coca-Cola factories have taken place in a number of districts including Mehdiganj near Varanasi, Kala Dera near Jaipur, Thane district in Maharashtra and Sivaganga in Tamil Nadu.

The company did not respond to emails asking for comment on the situation.

Time line: Coke vs Plachimada

1999: Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Private Limited, a subsidiary of the Atlanta-based Coca-Cola Company, established a plant in Plachimada. The Perumatty Village Council gave a license to the company to commence production in 2000. Coca-Cola drew around 5, 10,000 liters of water each day from boreholes and open wells. For every 3.75 liters of water used by the plant, it produced one liter of product and a large amount of waste water.

2002: Protest by local residents became almost a daily occurrence. Local communities

complained that water pollution and extreme water shortages were endangering their lives.

2003: Women from the Vijayanagaram Colony in the village of Plachimada, protested that their wells had dried up because of the over-exploitation of groundwater resources by the Coca-Cola plant. They complained that they now had to walk nearly five kilometers twice a day to fetch water. They also argued that the little which was left was undrinkable and when used for bathing, the water burned their eyes and led to skin complaints. Health issues apart, the depletion of groundwater resources also affected the ability of local residents to raise their crops of rice and coconuts.

April 2003: Perumatty Grama Panchayat (Village Council) refused renewal of Coca-Cola's license to operate on the grounds that it was not in the public interest to renew the license: "...the excessive exploitation of ground water by the Coca-Cola Company in Plachimada is causing acute drinking water scarcity in Perumatty Panchayat and nearby places..."

The Village Council considered revocation of the license to be necessary in order to protect the interests of local people.

December 2003: The Village Council's decision was challenged in the High Court of Kerala. The Court considered two issues: the question of the over exploitation of ground water, and the justification for the Village Council's decision

to revoke the license.

The Court recognized that the State, as a trustee, is under a legal duty to protect natural resources. It considered that these resources, meant for public use, cannot be converted into private ownership. Justice K Balakrishnan Nair hearing the case asserted that the government had a duty to act to "*Protect against excessive groundwater exploitation and the inaction of the State in this regard was tantamount to infringement of the right to life of the people guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.*"

The High Court ordered the plant to stop drawing the groundwater within a month, ruling that the amount of water extracted by the plant was illegal. But at the same time, it ordered the Village Council to renew the license and not interfere with the functioning of the Company as long as it was not extracting excessive ground water. Coca-Cola refuted the accusations of excessive exploitation and pollution and lodged an appeal.

The next few years saw a long drawn and complex legal battle between the Village Council and the company.

2005: The divisional bench of the High Court granted permission for the company to extract 500,000 liter's from the common ground water per day in the year 2005-2006. The Court also affirmed that the Village Council was not justified in cancelling Coca-Cola's license to operate until

a full scientific assessment had been made of the facts.

June 2006: Then newly elected state government of Kerala assured community leaders that it would take proactive measures against the Coca-Cola bottling plant in south India. On June 15th 2006, then Chief Minister VS Achutanandan and other cabinet members submitted a memorandum outlining their demands. These demands included the permanent closure of the bottling plant in Kerala, compensation for the affected community members and prosecution of the Coca-Cola Company for criminal offences

August 2006: The battle took a new twist. The Kerala State Pollution Control Board ordered a ban on the manufacture and sale of Coca-Cola in the state, questioning the safety of the product itself, based on allegations that it contained pesticides and harmful chemicals in a report by an NGO, the Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi.

Kerala's State Food (Health) Authority was quick to grab the opportunity and banned the manufacture and sale of Coca-Cola in the State. Coca-Cola, in its defense, put out a press release on August 9, 2006 stating:

"We are completely confident in the safety of our soft drinks in India because they are produced to the same level of purity, regarding pesticides, as the stringent EU criteria for

bottled water. We support the adoption of stringent, science-based rules by the Indian government regarding levels of pesticides in soft drinks. The rules should be based on sound and validated testing methodologies. We continue to work with relevant government bodies, industry associations, nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and the scientific community to develop and finalize criteria and associated testing methods for pesticides in soft drinks.

We have the same uncompromising commitment to product safety and quality in India and everywhere we offer our beverages around the world, and independent third parties regularly audit all plants for compliance. The Coca-Cola Company has stringent criteria for all of the ingredients used in our beverages. These criteria are backed by internationally accepted

analytical testing protocols for these ingredients. Our soft drinks in India have been regularly tested and evaluated by the world renowned and independent Central Science Laboratories (CSL) and all tests show no detectable level of pesticides."

September 2006: The Kerala High Court set aside the orders of the government of Kerala and the State Food (Health) Authority banning the manufacture and sale of Coca-Cola in the State. The High Court observed that the ban could not be justified since it was based solely on a report by an NGO.

The State Government of Kerala challenged the extraction of water by Coca-Cola in proceedings before the Supreme Court. The State Government argued that the company was taking water from poor communities.

APPEAL

Members of Retired Forest Officers Association, Forest Officers in service, Writers and Readers are requested to contribute articles for our Vana Premi regularly on Forestry, Wildlife, Environment, Tourism, Climate Change and on any other important subject, through E mail to Editor Vana Premi, latest by 20th of every month for the issues of succeeding months.

-Editor

NEWS AND NOTES

Unemployment can turn population dividend into population liability: President Mukherjee:

Mukherjee: -New Delhi, July 16 (ANI): Stating that India is a 'young nation' with 62 percent of its population in the working age group, President Pranab Mukherjee has said that young minds are the assets of our country.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of India Skills Competition -'India Skills-2016' yesterday in New Delhi on the occasion of the World Youth Skills Day, President Mukherjee said, "India is a young nation with 62 percent of its population in the working age group and more than 54 percent of the total population below 25 years of age. As a consequence, around 15 million youth enter the workforce each year. Young minds are our assets. This is our demographic dividend which we need to harness. As policy makers, we have a duty to empower our youth by providing skills to them. We need to seize this opportunity."

He, however, cautioned that if we cannot provide jobs to the huge number of people entering the job market every year, the population dividend could turn into a population liability.

"This explosive situation has to be prevented," he stressed.

He also launched an International Skill Centre, a PMKVY 2.0, a Labour Market Information System and Skills Online.

Addressing the gathering, the President also congratulated the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) for their

achievements in a short span of time. He said the Ministry was extremely important for the socio-economic development of our country. He mentioned that recently skill development of 1500 employees of the Rashtrapati Bhavan was undertaken by the MSDE. He stated that unemployment is a serious challenge for India. In India, in the age group of 18-29 years, the unemployment rate is 12.9 percent. Therefore, he believed in the importance of infusing skills in our youth as this would improve the employment situation which would in turn generate wealth and translate our vision of economic development into reality. (ANI)

Quality of life: Which is the best Indian city to live in?

Quality of life: Which is the best Indian city to live in? One of the most difficult financial decisions one has to make in life is to decide the place where they would choose to stay. The location one chooses is influenced by a host of pros and cons. The costs of living, the availability of economic opportunities, the quality of life, education facilities, among others are some of the many deciding factors.

Mercer, the global human resources consulting firm, has released its 18th annual Quality of Living Survey, listing 2016 city rankings of best places to live in.

Mercer evaluated local living conditions in more than 440 cities surveyed worldwide according to 39 factors, grouped in 10 categories such as political and social environment, economic environment, socio-

cultural environment, medical and health considerations, schools and education, public services and transportation, recreation, consumer goods, housing, and natural environment.

As per the Mercer ranking, Hyderabad has been ranked as the best city in India to stay in with a ranking of 139 out of 230 cities in the world. Pune has been selected as the second best Indian city with a rank of 144. Other Indian cities that found a place in the list are: Bangalore (145), Chennai (150), Mumbai (152), Kolkata (160), and New Delhi (161).

From all around the world, Vienna continues its reign in the top spot for overall quality of living, followed by Zurich (2), Auckland (3), Munich (4). Vancouver at the 5th position is North America's highest ranking city, while Singapore is the highest ranking Asian city, holding 26th place. Out of 440 cities assessed by the Mercer, no Indian city was able to make it to top 100.

Bone Makers and Breakers: We have 300 bones when we are born but as we grow, some bones fuse and we are left with 206 bones! Bones make red blood cells which help carry proteins and oxygen to tissues, and white blood cells which help fight infection. They contain nerves, marrow and blood vessels. Bones also protect our organs from damage and hence need to be strong. As we age, our bones weaken and atrophy sets in, and they become lighter and porous which ultimately causes osteoporosis.

We need to feed our bones well to help the body function optimally. Calcium and Vitamin D are the bone builders. The recommended dietary

allowance of calcium for adults is 1,000 to 1,200 milligrams per day.

Drink milk, preferably organic cow's milk, and consume other dairy products like tofu, paneer, cheese and yoghurt.

Several beans like kidney beans, white beans and black beans are rich in calcium.

Other sources include Soya bean products and til or sesame seeds.

Nuts are an important source, especially Almonds which contain 75 mg calcium in around 20 pieces.

100 gms. ragi or Finger millet has 344 mg calcium. Introduce ragi in your diet.

Fruits like dates, custard apple, banana and guava are also high in calcium. Amongst dried fruits, figs is your best bet. Even fresh figs are packed with calcium; 5 fresh figs have approximately 90 milligrams of calcium.

Eating greens give you not only calcium, but also vitamin K and potassium. Dark leafy greens such as spinach, Chinese cabbage and turnip greens are a great source.

Salmon, tuna and most kinds of fish are very high in calcium. So if you are a sea-food lover, you have one more reason to indulge!

Orange, grapefruit and other citrus fruits apart from giving that extra tang, help your bones strengthen.

Exercising regularly including walking and dancing also help strengthen the bones.

Be aware that there is some calcium sapping foods which you should steer clear of. Canned soups, processed meats, alcohol, excessive sugars, carbonated drinks, tobacco, salt and

caffeine are all bone sappers. Their intake should be minimized as much as possible.

If you need to take calcium supplements, ensure that you do not take it along with iron as it interferes with its absorption.

Our bones are the strongest in our late twenties and early thirties but begin to weaken and lose density thereafter with increased risk of osteoporosis and fractures. Adding calcium to your diet and taking the recommended daily limit will ensure that you will never have any bone to pick!

Mexico to plant 18 million trees against

pollution: - The greater Mexico City area was hit by the worst air pollution in more than a decade in March 2016, prompting authorities to restrict traffic (AFP Photo/Yuri Cortez). Authorities will plant 18 million trees in Mexico City and its surrounding suburbs as part of efforts to combat air pollution, the government said. Environment Minister Rafael Pacchiano on Monday dubbed it a "historic reforestation" to reinforce the "green belt in the megalopolis." The greater Mexico City area was hit by the worst air pollution in more than a decade in March, prompting authorities to restrict traffic for the 5.4 million vehicles that circulate daily. Pacchiano said that the lack of wind and record high temperatures in March contributed to an increase in ozone levels.

Other new measures announced by Pacchiano include replacing 1,000 taxis that are more than 10 years old with hybrid cars and stepping up a program to renew cargo and passenger transport vehicles.

Anti-pollution rules will also be tightened in industry.

The government imposed temporary car restrictions between April and June 30, forcing all vehicles to stay home at least once a week. Normally, older vehicles and those that fail emissions tests have traffic restrictions.

Last month, the environment ministry unveiled new rules to prevent corruption at emission inspection centers that have allowed polluting cars to remain on the road.

IUCN List has some bad news: -Growing human pressure is driving species such as the Bornean orangutan and the whale shark towards extinction: conservationists. : The Bornean orangutan is on the verge of extinction, a top conservationist body said, also warning that the world's biggest fish, the whale shark, and a hammerhead shark species were endangered. In an update to its "Red List" of threatened species, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature said growing human pressure was driving the three species ever closer to destruction.

"It is alarming to see such emblematic species slide towards extinction," Jane Smart, head of IUCN's Global Species Programme, said.

The Bornean orangutan, which along with its cousin the Sumatran orangutan are Asia's only great apes, has moved from being classified as "Endangered" to "Critically Endangered" — "only one step from going extinct," IUCN said.

"As orangutans are hunted and pushed out of their habitats, losses to this slow-breeding species are enormous and will be extremely

difficult to reverse," Erik Meijaard, an IUCN assessor of the species said in the statement.

Around 1,00,000 of these great apes are estimated to live on the island of Borneo, which is divided between Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia, down from 288,500 in 1973 and with their numbers expected to shrink to 47,000 by 2025.

The majestic creatures have seen their habitat shrink dramatically as the island's rainforests are increasingly turned into oil palm, rubber or paper plantations.

Compounding the loss of habitat, surveys indicate 2,000 to 3,000 of the orangutans have been killed every year for the past four decades by hunters and sometimes villagers who view them as pests.

That represents a loss of as many as 66,570 individuals over a span of 40 years, IUCN said, warning that the great apes could be extinct within 50 years.

IUCN also warned that the slow-moving whale shark, which has been known to measure up to 12.65 meters, had been placed on the "Endangered" list.

IUCN said that unregulated fishing was also behind the fast-falling numbers of the winghead shark, a species of hammerhead shark, which had also been moved from "Near Threatened" to "Endangered".AFP

?IUCN warns the great apes could be extinct within 50 years. The Bornean orangutans have seen their habitat shrink dramatically as the island's rainforests are increasingly turned into oil palm, rubber or paper plantations. As many

as 3,000 orangutans are killed every year by hunters and sometimes villagers who view them as pests.

?The slow-moving whale shark has been placed on the "Endangered" list. The shark is fished for its meat as well as its fins which are used to make soup in some parts of Asia, but is also often caught by accident by fishermen casting nets for tuna.

?IUCN said unregulated fishing was also behind the fast-falling numbers of the winghead shark, a distinctive species of hammerhead shark, which had also been moved from being considered "Near Threatened" to "Endangered".

Eagle attempts to carry off boy at birds of

prey show:A young boy attending a bird show in Australia got more than he bargained for when an eagle swooped down and tried to carry him off. The incident took place at the Alice Springs Desert Park during a popular "Birds of Prey" show that features a wedge-tailed eagle as the main attraction.

Those in attendance say the boy was playing with the zipper on his hoodie, pulling it up and down repeatedly. The sound may have agitated the bird, because instead of flying to a log for a photo opportunity as expected, the eagle flew directly at the boy and attempted to grab his head.

The BBC reports that the boy, estimated to be between six and eight years old, screamed as the bird flew directly at him from some 15 meters away.

According to the Melbourne Herald Sun, the boy is believed to be from Albury Wodonga,

Australia, and was left with a large but "superficial" gash on his face.

The wedge-tailed eagle is Australia's largest bird of prey, with a wingspan of up to 2.5 meters. Bystander Keenan Lucas told us that the park staff shut down the presentation as soon as the attack occurred.

"He screamed, the mother was distraught, and the presenters wrapped up the show very quickly," said Lucas.

Bystander Christine O'Connell was quick enough to snap a photo of the attack in progress, and posted it to Instagram. "Those talons are huge, wrote O'Connell. "He was a very lucky young boy."

(Please see last cover page for photo)

10 least corrupt countries in the world: -

Among 180 countries of the world on the worldwide Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), prepared by independent international agency Transparency International, India has been ranked 74. With this data in mind, let us take a look at countries world over which have consistently been ranked as the least corrupt. Take in the beauty of the landscape from each of these countries while you understand why they are the least corrupt.

Airbus plane's incredible take-off: -This is the moment an Airbus A350 makes a near-vertical take-off. The incredible footage, captured at the Farnborough Air Show in Hampshire, UK, shows the giant plane rise rapidly into the air seconds after taking off. The display of acrobatics was to demonstrate the new model's capabilities.

The A350 – an extra wide-bodied aircraft – can seat up to 325 passengers, has a range of

15,000km and a wing span of 64.75 meters.

An Airbus spokesman said the A350 XWB "is the world's most modern and efficient jetliner, delivering Xtra efficiency with its 25 per cent lower operational costs".

Pune's 'gold shirt' man murdered, police nabs 4: -

A 44-year-old Pune man Dattatray Phuge who had shot to fame three years ago for making a Rs 1.27 crore shirt entirely of gold was stabbed to death in the wee hours on 15 July 2016 (Friday). Police has arrested four people in connection to Dattatray's death, including his nephew.

(Please see last cover page for photo)

These nations have the world's happiest employees: -

There are many factors that drive happiness at the workplace - emotional bond with the organization, recognition, workplace facilities and the work environment. A healthy work environment is the most essential part of any organization's success.

The World Economic Forum said that according to the Edenred-Ipsos Barometer, which surveyed more than 14,000 people across 15 countries, almost 71 percent of the employees on an average feel positive about their work.

India tops the list with the happiest employees, 88 percent, as per the survey.

Salman Khan acquitted in black buck

poaching cases: - Jaipur, July 25 (ANI): In a huge relief to Bollywood actor Salman Khan, the Rajasthan High Court on Monday acquitted him in the 1998 black buck and Chinkara poaching cases.

The Rajasthan government is likely to move the

Supreme Court against the high court verdict in the case.

Meanwhile, Salman lawyer, welcoming the court's decision, claimed that the 1998 poaching case against his client was a 'planted case'.

Salman Khan had earlier appealed before the High Court challenging the lower court's verdict that had handed him one and five years' imprisonment in the two separate cases of poaching.

Tiger Mauls Woman To Death At Beijing Park:

- A woman was mauled to death and another was seriously injured when they were attacked by Siberian tigers at a wildlife park in Beijing. The pair reportedly got into an argument while driving round Beijing Badaling Wildlife World, which ended when one of the women decided to get out of their car.

CCTV footage shows the moment a tiger leaps at the woman from behind, grabbing her and

pulling her away from the vehicle. The attack prompted a man and a woman to get out of the car to chase after the tiger in a bid to help. The second woman was killed by a tiger, which then carried her body away.

It is reported that park staff rushed to help the pair, but were only able to save one of them.

The injured woman is recovering from her wounds in hospital, while a child who was also in the car escaped unharmed. Beijing Badaling Wildlife World allows customers to drive their own cars through an open space where animals roam free, but visitors are not allowed to leave their vehicles in certain enclosures.

A spokesperson for the park refused to comment on the attack and said the attraction was closed for two days due to forecasts of heavy rain, the Associated Press news agency reported.

A security guard was reportedly mauled to death at the park by a tiger in 2014, reports said.

INVITATION

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

1. Sri. A.V. Joseph

2. Sri. M. Yogaiah

A Personal request to all the Retired Forest Officers who have not joined the Association to kindly join the Association. Please contact the following for further details

Sri. B.M. Swami Das Secretary

Mobile No 9000817781

Sri. A.V. Govindarajulu, Joint Secretary cum Treasurer **Mobile No. 9440764611**

Secretary

LEGAL NOTES

Thilakamvs C.I of Police and Others

In this judgment, Their Lordships Justice K. Balakrishnan Nair and Justice T.R. Ramachandran Nair of Kerala High Court have explained succinctly the scope of Article 21 of the Constitution of India to include right to have decent environment as part of the fundamental rights. It was held that no person can claim absolute right to indulge in activities resulting in environmental degradation. The concept of sustained development that emerged in the competing interests is also explained.

In this very case filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India seeking police protection by issuing writ of mandamus as the police had not acted positively to help the petitioner in exercise of his right created by an agreement in the teeth of opposition of many people is also answered very clearly.

The facts giving rise to this writ petition are that Thilakam, the petitioner, had entered into an agreement with owner of a land of an extent 97 cents in Vallachira village of Thrissur district. Under the agreement with the land owner, the petitioner was granted right to cut and remove trees standing in the land. In terms of the agreement Thilakam, the petitioner, had cut and removed the trees from the land. When he started removing the earth engaging workmen

and JCB machinery, the people of the locality with the support of the Gram Panchayat obstructed and raised objection. The petitioner then sought police help, but it was not provided. Therefore, the petitioner approached High Court of Kerala with a prayer to issue writ of mandamus directing the police to give necessary help to the petitioner so that he could remove the ordinary earth. The writ petition was opposed by the police, the villagers and the Gram Panchayat.

Extracts of the judgment from para-phrase as reported is reproduced below:

“The writ petition is filed seeking police protection for removing ordinary earth on the basis of an agreement entered into, between the land owner and the writ petitioner. The attempt of the writ petitioner to remove earth was obstructed by the local people. Thereupon, the police assistance was sought for removal of earth and when that was not forthcoming, the writ petition was filed. The petitioner contended that, since earth was being removed without violating any law and was based upon an agreement, no person had any right to obstruct the activity. The respondents contended that large scale removal of earth in the locality had lead to depletion of water level and was posing

environmental problems. The Division Bench expressing anguish at the large scale environmental degradation leading to depletion of natural resources, placing reliance on precedents and drawing inspiration from the wise words of Red Indian Chief and that of a renowned poet, held that right to decent environment is part of fundamental right and that, even if it is one's own land, no person has got an absolute right to indulge in activities leading to large scale environmental degradation."

"Rejecting the prayer for police protection, it was held that that the point for determination is whether this constitutional court should direct the police to help the petitioner to assert his private right, ignoring the protest of the public and Gram Panchayat. The petitioner may be right when he contends that there is no law prohibiting removal of ordinary earth. The people have the right to have decent environment, which is part of their fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. No one can be conceded any unfettered freedom to excavate and degrade the land owned by him. It will have repercussions on the neighboring land and its owners and the ecosystem of the area in general. No man can claim absolute right to indulge in activities resulting in environmental degradation in the land owned by him. The concept of sustainable development is now a

part of environmental law, in view of various decisions of the Apex Court. The competing claims of the present generation for development and also the claims of the future generations to inherit a healthy environment have to be balanced. While exploiting the resources, the capacity of the environment to repair and replace has also to be taken note of. If a tree is cut and removed, another tree to grow to the same size, it may take several years. If a bucket of soil is removed, to generate the same the earth may take a few hundred years. The same is the case of other natural resources also. The length of time varies. The revenge of mother earth has started displaying in the form of earth-quake, tsunamis, unusually wild cyclonic storms etc. Therefore, it is high time to think of putting a stop to the defiling and degrading of mother earth. In the background of the environmental concerns of the mankind and the decisions of the courts concerning the same we feel that the claim of the petitioner about his absolute right to remove the ordinary earth has to be considered. It is true normally citizen is free to do anything not expressly prohibited by law. In this case, there is no law restraining removal of ordinary earth. But, the principle of customary international law concerning sustainable development is now part of the municipal law, as held by the Apex Court in *Vellore Citizens' Welfare Forum* [(1996) 5

S.C.C 647] will clog the right of the petitioner. We also feel that the right to have pollution free environment, flowing from rights under Article 21 of the Constitution of India of the local people will act as a fetter on the rights of the petitioner. In the context of the profound issues involved concerning the impact of removal of ordinary earth, the police protection cannot be granted to the petitioner for the mere asking of it."

"While hearing the application for police protection, this court is exercising its power under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a writ of mandamus to the police is co-terminus with the duties of the police. If there is failure of duty from the part of the police, this court will remedy that. In this case, the police have no power or authority to adjudicate on the competing claims of the land owner / his assignee and of the persons in the locality. It is a complex issue and the police cannot be conferred jurisdiction to adjudicate this to render protection to the person, whose right is upheld by them. If the police have no duty to adjudicate the rights of the parties, this court also cannot do that in this police protection jurisdiction, where, as we stated earlier, this court

is concerned only with the failure of duty from part of the police and the consequential remedial action. The competing claims between the proprietary right of the petitioner and the rights of the persons of the locality under the concept of sustainable development and Article 21 of the Constitution can only be adjudicated by the competent civil Court. If the competent civil court finds that the petitioner is entitled to remove earth without infringing the rights of the neighbors in the locality, it can injunct them from obstructing the petitioner. It can also address the police, if necessary, to render protection to enforce the orders. So, the civil court, which is authorized to decide any civil dispute between the parties, can effectively resolve this question. As mentioned earlier, this writ petition is not a suit and therefore, this court cannot adjudicate on the rights of the parties. This court is only concerned with the failure of duty from the part of the police."

The writ petition for the reasons stated is dismissed on 23.10.2007. **Source:** Indian Law Reporter & Internet.

KBR

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*Sometime life doesn't give something
you want, not because you don't deserve it,
but because you deserve more.*



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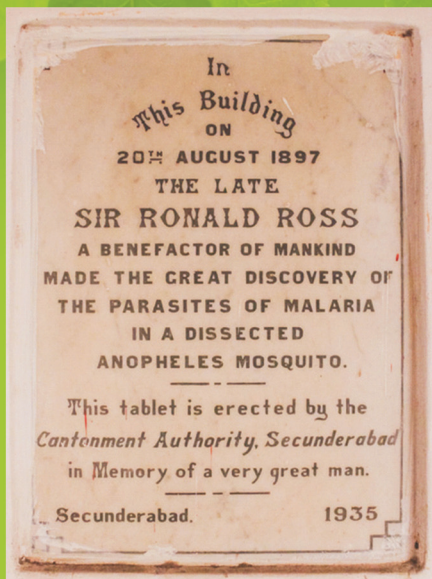
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Date of Publication: 26-07-2016 **Total pages** 52 **Date of Dispatch :** 4th or 5th of every month