

VANA PREMI

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*Vana Premi wishes very happy, prosperous,
and healthy, Ganesh Chaturthi, and Eid al-Adha*



"I am having my lunch. Please don't disturb me"



**Telangana State Women Forest Employees
Planting saplings in Shamsabad on 18-8-2016**

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EDITORIAL

World Heart Day: - World Heart Day is observed on 29 September every year and is an annual event. World Heart Day was founded in 2000 to inform people around the globe that heart disease and stroke are the world's leading causes of death, claiming about 17.3 million lives each year. World Heart Day is a campaign established to spread awareness about the health of heart among common people all through the world. This initiative was founded to inform people to take care of their heart.

A large percentage of common public in the society is suffering from the heart diseases like stroke, heart attack, heart failure, etc. The cause of heart attacks and strokes are usually the presence of a combination of risk factors, such as tobacco use (Smoking, Chewing tobacco or using snuff), unhealthy diet and obesity (Excess of fat and salt), physical inactivity and harmful use of alcohol, hypertension, diabetes and hyperlipidemia (excess of Cholesterol). Stopping the use of tobacco, reduction of salt in the diet, consuming fruits and vegetables, regular physical activity (Like walking, swimming and cycling), and avoiding harmful use of alcohol have been shown to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease. Often, there are no symptoms of the underlying disease of the

blood vessels. A heart attack or stroke may be the first warning of underlying disease. Symptoms of a heart attack include: pain or discomfort in the center of the chest; pain or discomfort in the arms, the left shoulder, elbows, jaws, or back; difficulty in breathing or shortness of breath; feeling sick or vomiting; feeling light-headed or faint; breaking into a cold sweat; and becoming pale.

Heart attacks and strokes are usually acute events and are mainly caused by a blockage that prevents blood from flowing to the heart or brain. The most common reason for this is a build-up of fatty deposits on the inner walls of the blood vessels that supply blood to the heart or brain. Strokes can also be caused by bleeding from a blood vessel in the brain or from blood clots. Other steps we all can take include being sensible about alcohol intake, avoiding tobacco, exercising for 30 minutes a day and avoiding stressful situations as much as possible

Health data compiled from more than 190 countries show heart disease remains the No. 1 global cause of death with 17.3 million deaths each year, according to "Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics — 2015 Update: A Report From the American Heart Association." That number is expected to rise to more than 23.6 million by

2030, the report found. In such serious situation, World Heart Federation is a hope to prevent and control heart ailments through proper awareness campaigns and actions. Heart health and disease related information and ideas are shared among people for disease prevention and control through the promotion of healthy diets, physical activities, tobacco and alcohol free living including healthy life style.

Each year's World Heart Day celebrations have a different theme, reflecting key issues and topics relating to heart health. This year the theme is creating heart-healthy environments. Theme is prepared by keeping in mind the key issues of heart health. Together with World Heart Federation members, World Heart Day spreads the news that at least 80% of premature deaths from cardiovascular disease could be avoided if four main risk factors i.e. Use of tobacco, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and use of alcohol – are controlled.

The success of World Heart Day depends on the proactivity of organizations from around the world to help us spread awareness of Cardio Vascular Diseases, the world's number one killer. World Heart Federation, a nongovernmental organization, is based in the Geneva, Switzerland. An International Society of Cardiology was founded in 1946 and International Cardiology Federation in 1970. Both organizations were merged to form the International Society and

Federation of Cardiology in 1978. Later the name of International Society and Federation of Cardiology was changed to the World Heart Federation in 1998. This organization and its members are dedicated to lead a major global fight against heart diseases and stroke. The strategy of this federation is especially focusing on the vulnerable areas of the world such as low and middle income countries. This federation brings together strength of various medical societies and heart foundations all over the world (more than 100 countries from Asia-Pacific, East Mediterranean, Europe, the Americas and Africa

Various governmental and private organizations all around world are working to spread the awareness of Cardio Vascular Diseases. The places in which we live, work and play should not increase our risk of cardiovascular disease. But individuals frequently cannot make heart-healthy choices due to environmental factors, such as the availability of healthy food or smoke-free zones.

Vana Premi wishes that we all should reduce the intake of foods that are high in fat, sugar and salt, start physical activity like walking, swimming, or cycling at least 5 days a week and at least for 30 minutes every day, and to reduce harmful use of alcohol to remain healthy, and live long. **QMK**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Apropos JV Sharma's article: "Jammu & Kashmir: What it means to India?" (appearing in VP of Mar,'16 issue), followed by Dr.AR Maslekar's question: Why not go for "Plebiscite" (raised in his letter, appearing in VP of June,'16 issue) and Sri Sharma's rejoinder (appearing in the subsequent issue of the Journal), I would like to have my say through the following lines:

The present coalition Government in the State appears to have failed to restore people's faith in peace-process and governance due to inherent prejudice. As a result, Kashmir seems to have become a 'ghost place' — making one to act dead to stay alive. Perhaps the only movement which can be seen anywhere in the region at present seems to be that of 'security personnel', as all the Kashmiris could only be found grounded in their homes — several institutions, offices and markets being found closed, including small shops in villages. All communication-lines remain disrupted, resulting in having no phone-connections (in most parts), no internet connectivity in most of the region — resembling a picture of Dark Age in this enlightened 21st Century!

A way-out appears to be to stop Rhetoric, restore Dignity of Kashmiri people (by listening to them) while simultaneously looking back to see what was the original understanding of accession — perhaps according the autonomy of at least pre-1953 level. By reaching-out to Kashmiris thus, the huge trust-deficit might get eliminated, paving the way for a better understanding as to why they feel hurt and what they really want, so that everyone reaches a win-win situation in a dignified manner. Of course, Kashmir continues to be an integral-part of India and we can always claim it by raising Tricolor at various points, but the paramount aim should be to establish peace which has become a rare commodity, in the beleaguered state.

Sincerely,

Dr. Raghotham Rao Desai

Sir,

I came across an interesting fact on wild life, which may interest readers of VANAPREMI.

Jay Mazoomdar, an Investigative Journalist, in his book "The Edge of Endings" writes, "Veerappan and his dacoits killed so many elephants for ivory, that it triggered a genetic response in the elephant population: the average weight of the animal's tusks dropped by half, and the number of makhna calves - males born without tusks - rose sharply." If true it is a wonderful way of Nature to save the species!

(Pl. See India Today, 8th July 2016. Book Review; "Barbarian's at the gate"). Title of the book as well as the review are misleading and likely to be missed by common readers. My best wishes for 70th Independence Day.

Dr. Maslekar.

Editor's Note: In my opinion it is not because of hunting by Veerappan as he carried out his illegal activities for about 30 years only and it is a very short period for nature to take such decisions. But since last two centuries elephants are hunted for their tusks in Africa and Asia. It is mentioned in Elephant Wikipedia that "Hunting for elephant ivory in Africa and Asia has led to natural selection for shorter tusks and tusk less ness."

HIND-VIEW OF THE FORESTS OF TELANGANA

By
J. V. Sharma

Telangana region formed a part of erstwhile Nizam's Dominions along with Marathi speaking region of Marhatwada and Kannada speaking region of Karnataka. There were 16 Districts in the Princely State of Hyderabad of which eight were of Telangana, five of Marhatwada and three were of Karnataka, a few territories of the regions being bilingual. Khammam was a part of Warangal District and made a separate District later in 1951. So, when we speak of events of former Hyderabad State, it needs to be understood to mean not only the Telangana region as we see it now but also the areas which had merged with Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Forming part of Deccan Plateau and situated strategically in the heart of peninsular British India, the Princely State had a crucial and privileged role in the scheme of things obtaining in the contemporary period. Rail communication between North, East, South and West, connecting Delhi was very necessary for the British to have effective administrative control over the Country. For any such arrangement, the access had to be found through Hyderabad State in so far as surface communication in Central India is concerned. The Railway lines connecting North & South and West laid in this context. Being predominantly a dry zone and considered unsuitable for viable agrarian activity, the area did not attract colonization in a big way. Population was sparse. These situations gave rise to vast stretches of woodlands in Godavari & Krishna Basins. Land as such did not hold promise for economic growth and the State remained abysmally backward. The Ruler encouraged a feudal system of governance by doling out large extents of forest tracts as Royal Grants in the form of Samsthans, Jagirs, Makhtas, Ijaras etc. to local chieftains and elites even from outside the State to facilitate establishment of habitations. Not many people remember that this system was prevalent even till the first quarter of twentieth century.

The large woody tracts of the Hyderabad State have thus been the legacy of the past and the population did not interfere with them in any significant manner. The forests were under no significant pressure from people and remained safe and secure, not essentially due to State control but because they did not hold importance as a factor of sustenance and economy. Consumption of forest produce was minimal and its market potential was bleak. The forest wealth remained

undisturbed for a long time paving way for manifestation of eco-types of climatic climax. Old timers still remember with nostalgia the excellent undisturbed forests that once existed in Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal, Khammam and Nizamabad Districts. One could see good vegetation even in the outskirts of Hyderabad City, many areas of which have since formed a part of GHMC. Having been a member of Working Plan Party which prepared the second Working Plan for composite Karimnagar Division, I vouch stock-mapping II Quality Teak Type Forests (All India IV Quality) in Pratapagiri Series of Mahadevpur RF and Kamanpally(?) Serie of Singaram North Block. Present day foresters may not believe when I say that the minimum exploitable girth for Teak in Karimnagar Division was 48" at Breast Height. The Minimum exploitable girth for Teak in Adilabad District was 54" at BH and it was 60" for Nallamaddi. I still remember having marked (in 1957) a Teak tree of 104" GBH for felling in Coupe No. VII of Pochampally Series in Uttoor Block of the then Uttoor Range, of Adilabad Division. Endless vast stretches of forest Blocks after forest blocks of Pure Teak forests with more than 95% teak was a common sight, particularly in Godavari Basin. I narrate these facts to impress that there were extensive rich forests in Telangana even till '60s.

There was no Forest Department in India nor was there any forest administration or scientific management of the forests till the middle of nineteenth century. Lord Dalhousie, the then Governor General of India initiated forest conservancy for the entire country through a proclamation and appointed Dr. Dietrich Brandis, a highly qualified and brilliant forester as Inspector General of Forests, to establish Forest Department in 1864. Because of British suzerainty over the entire country, the princely States too adopted the principles of forest administration of British India sooner or later.

It took quite some time for Nizam's Dominions to devise a semblance of forest administration. Though the idea of a separate administration was conceived as early as in 1867, it did not materialize for several years thereafter. It was actually a period when the Government as well as the people did not attach any importance to forests and considered forests expendable for any other avocation if only available.

The land administration in Nizam's Dominions was in the hands of British officers loaned by GOI. For a long time, forests too were a part of Revenue Administration. To start with, an Englishman who was the Revenue Member of the State Cabinet (Sorry, I forget his name) created Forest Branch as a part of Revenue Department. Originally, it was called 'Sirishta-e-Choubeena' to mean Timber Branch. There was an interesting anecdote in this context often heard in Revenue Board Circles; the

Englishman in charge of Revenue was not conversant with Urdu and he had an Assistant who would provide a summary in English to enable the Boss to take appropriate decision. The Revenue Member found it cumbersome and time-consuming and decided to learn the Official Language himself. He engaged a Moulvi to teach him Urdu and Persian languages. After a few weeks when his Assistant took an English version of the office note to him, he insisted on reading it in its original form being confident of his newly acquired prowess in the new language. As the Revenue Member was trying to decipher the hand-written note in Urdu and reading loudly, the Assistant who was standing felt embarrassed and let out a shriek involuntarily. The Member looked at the Assistant and finding him terrified and frozen demanded an explanation. The Assistant was not willing to reveal the cause and went on begging for excuse. The Member then thought there was something amiss and persuaded the Assistant to spell out the reason which he did with utmost modesty and shyness. "Sir, Urdu language is written in Arabic script and read & understood phonetically by the strokes and dots given at appropriate places. Casual placement of dots in the manuscript made your Honour to misread 'Choubeena' to sound a different word which is vulgar and obscene." The Member had a hearty laugh and lost no time to find a substitute word for "Choubeena". It is how the expression 'Sirashta Janglat' came into existence.

Coming back to the forests Hyderabad, the subject remained with Revenue Department for quite many years. It did not have an identity of its own and was treated as part of revenue land. Management, much less the scientific management, was conspicuous by absence. It was considered expendable to facilitate establishment of new habitations. The staff and officers supposed to look after forests were not professional in approach. It was in these situations, fortune smiled on the forests of Hyderabad State in the form of appointment of Lt. Col. Nawab Hamid Yar Jung as Inspector General of Forests.

When historians sit down to write the history of forests of Hyderabad State, two men stand out for special mention in so far as forest administration is concerned. These two were personalities in contrast. The first one is Nawab Hamid Yar Jung and the other is Mr. S. A. Wahed, IFS. The forests and the people of the State owe a lot to them and should in fact be indebted to them forever. While the Nawab Sahib had provided much needed identity and respectability to Forest Department in the family of State establishments, Mr. Wahed provided the muscle of scientific temper and orderliness in administration laying down the rules and procedures.

Very strangely, the Nawab was not known to be a forester either by education or by training. Not

much is known about him and we are not sure of the authenticity of the little that is known. The undisputed facts about him are his love and commitment to the forests and his loyalty to the Nizam. He was one of the several Noblemen of the State and is said to be closely related to the VII Nizam of Hyderabad whom he served with dedication and distinction. The rank 'Lt. Col.' prefixed to his name is attributed to his stint in the British Indian Army prior to his active service under the Nizam. He played dual roles of Private Secretary to the Ruler and the IG of Forests. He looked after the affairs of the Department between 12 Noon and 4 PM. The rest of the time was at the disposal of the Ruler in the King Kothi (Royal Palace). He was versatile and gifted and known for efficiency. He did not leave any files un-disposed on any day before he rushed to the Palace.

He was a trusted aide of the Ruler and was privy to all the secrets of the State during the corresponding period. He was an essential part of confabulations with the British and took all the care to protect his Master's interests. In fact, his sudden and untimely death is said to be a suicide to extricate the Nizam from an uncomfortable situation *vis-à-vis* the British. Another story about the cause of death that made rounds was an overdose of '*Kushta*' an aphrodisiac drug. Above all, he brought the order and discipline among forest fraternity. Foresters whether at Aurangabad or Mahabubabad or at Adilabad felt the heat of his personality all the time. He insulated the department from undue interference from other powerful departments like Revenue, Police etc. The Forest Department gained its independent existence during his tenure. It is widely believed that even the present day Aranya Bhavan Premises at Hyderabad is 'Courtesy-Nawab Hamid Yar Jung'.

The other man who made immense contribution to the cause of forests in erstwhile Nizam's State was Mr. S. A. Wahed, IFS. He was a brilliant forest officer of Imperial Forest Service borne on the Cadre of Central Provinces. Highly reputed for his professional competence and administrative acumen, he was brought as Inspector General of Forests by the Nizam to modernize the department on the lines of more advanced States in British India. In his comparatively short tenure in the State he put the procedures in place for smooth and efficient running of the Department. He issued a number of Circulars for guidance of the staff which served well to streamline the administration. He ended the arbitrariness in decision making and issued clear cut guidelines for the field staff to follow. He was a stickler for details and kept close watch over the working of the department even at grass root level. He went to the extent of barring members of a particular place/community as ineligible for appointment as Forest Guards when he realized they are monopolizing the service

and are instrumental for unhealthy practices. He insisted upon recruitment of qualified persons in a big way and got them trained in reputed Forestry Institutions under the control of Central Government. He encouraged persons for education abroad in forestry and ensured they formed core of the man power in years to come. He initiated preparation of Working Plans for all Forest Divisions for systematic and scientific management of the forests. He transformed the Department and its personnel into a strong and competent institutional edifice which stood the tests of times that were to follow after Police Action and later with formation of Andhra Pradesh. Mr. Wahed left Hyderabad unexpectedly to migrate to Pakistan on the eve of Independence to become Inspector general of Forests in Pakistan. It is no exaggeration to say that the departmental personnel often fell back to his Circular directions in case of doubt even during the transitory period until the procedures are made uniform after Reorganization of States.

It is not my case to say that the forests were safe and secure only on account of these two gentlemen. The sweat and toil of scores of officers and hundreds of lesser functionaries has gone into effort. Settlement and consolidation of forests in those days was no easy task. It was the pain and passion of small men in departmental hierarchy which made it possible. The two foresters who spent the prime of their youth in surveying, demarcating and laying boundaries between the Paigah and Khalsa in god forsaken terrain of Domdhari, Alampally, Ragidubbanala, Sirchalama and in Kadam Basin of those days, were not mere foresters. They were legends. Such instances of sacrifice and dedication could be seen almost in every district. They were all Unsung Heroes and Unknown Soldiers of Forests.

It is particularly important to point out that the administrative culture that evolved in the Forest Department of Hyderabad State was work-centric and not much of attention was paid to documentation. A word of oral instruction was as good as a written memo and its acknowledgement. An oral instruction given is never disowned by a superior nor disputed by the subordinate. The elements of character, sincerity, respect and mutual confidence that existed cannot be missed. This rendered documentation irrelevant and several facts which merit mention in history have thus vanished unrecorded with passage of time.

There were officers and staff who were embodiment of truth, honesty and integrity. Immortals like Mir Nawazish Ali who never used government stationery for scribbling a private letter or spent duty hours for personal work and had even staked his life to protect the forests have no foot-prints left. Ghulam Mohammed Khan who rose from forester to become a Range Officer and who subsisted

on *Putnalu* (roasted Bengal gram or Horse gram) on tours and camped in Mosques because he could not afford a conventional meal or stay at a rest house or paid accommodation, is an extinct species today. He never accepted hospitality from others because he was unable to reciprocate. I have seen his grown up daughters carrying water from community well in earthen pots because he could neither buy a brass/iron pot nor engage a servant maid. He refused to budge from doing his duty even when he was stripped naked with a gun pointed at his head by extremists. These and such other many unknown men were of different stuff and deserve salutations from the posterity. We had one Mr. Mohd Sharfuddin Khan. Born in a rich trader's family, he chose to study forestry in Wales (England). He joined the Forest Department as an Extra Assistant Conservator of forests in Composite Karimnagar Forest Division. Soon it became clear why he renounced the family legacy of business to opt for the company of nature. He spent almost his entire time in forests to acclimatize himself to native forestry. His abiding interest in vegetation took him to all places of forest importance from Aurangabad to Ashwaraopet (Khammam) and Raichur to Mahadevpur. Despite his baptism in Continental forestry, he acquired unquestionable expertise on native forests and compiled a Forest Flora which was a Bible for many a forester interested in field botany. That people no longer use it with depletion in biodiversity and other more profitable avocations is a different matter. While stock-mapping, I came across two experimental plots laid by Mr. M S Khan, one in Kudurupally Beat and another in Nasturpally Beat of Mahadevpur Range.

Here is another anecdote. I spent an extra day at each of the experimental plots to locate the boundaries and study the crop. The one at Kudurupally was to clear the standing growth over an area of one acre with controls of equal extent on all sides in the midst of virgin forest. The purpose was perhaps to study the progression of natural regeneration in the cleared area. The second at Nasturpally was to raise teak in a cleared patch of one acre by dibbling seed in pits. At both the places my study did not yield definite results. In the first plot it was a uniform growth of healthy pole crop of various species, teak dominating the complexion. I could not undertake 100% enumeration and record growth statistics and compare the results for various species. As for the second plot, it was black cotton soil adjoining the Enclosure Line of Nasturpally and the whole plot was invaded by Nallamaddi (*Terminalia tomentosa*) natural regeneration with occasional teak here and there. There were huge trees of Nallamaddi by its side to provide the seed. I recorded my observations in the Field Description Sheet & Compartment History Sheet and brought these facts to the notice of my WPO.

Mr. M S Khan was the Conservator of Forests in charge of Working Plan Circle. He sent his advance tour programme of two weeks and the WPO was asked to chalk out the day-to-day programme and camping places. In my desire to garner credit and a word of appreciation from the CF by showing him his work done more than two decades ago, we included these two plots (Compartments) in the itinerary.

The CF WPC accompanied by Mr. Sarvottam Rao, WPO, Mr. M. Sakham, the DFO, Karimnagar and the Sub-DFO Mr. Maqboolul Haq and myself in tow reached the plot at Nasturpally. I wanted it to be a surprise for the CF and he was not briefed by my boss either. As I took the Party to the experimental plot, the CF looked around and signaled me to read the Field Description Sheet as is the practice in verification of stock-mapping. As I started reading "Mr. M S Khan while he was the Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests in Karimnagar, more than two decades ago, laid this plot to raise teak....." the CF shouted loudly "Stop it. Who told you?" He was angry and shivering with rage. I was aghast as were the other accompanying officers. Mr. Sakham, a great field forester himself who had immense liking for me, tried to defuse the situation by explaining that the RO will not write unless he was told by some body.

But the CF was unrelenting. He retorted angrily; "I don't claim to be a great forester. But I am not that simple fool either to plant teak on black cotton soil". Though I muttered that I had this information from a forester who was a Forest Guard in the related period, the CF was not prepared to accept any explanation and continued his tirade for at least for another five minutes giving me a thorough dressing down advising me strongly not to bring on to record anything on hearsay. I was crestfallen and miserable. Only thing that did not happen is; I did not break down.

I requested the WPO to delete the inspection of the other plot which was scheduled for the afternoon. My description of crop in other compartments inspected was appreciated and the CF had some kind words too for me. But I was sunken and sullen seething with a kind of cold anger accentuated by helplessness. There was no way I could prove my point and the officers present, though sympathetic, were equally helpless. After returning from field in the evening, Mr. Haq called me aside and consoled saying; "Sharma, I think you are right not because I believe what you wrote is correct but the vegetation on site compared to adjoining crop strongly indicates drastic interference."

I enquired for the forester who gave me the lead on the experimental plots. He was on earned leave for two months and was to retire on the expiry of leave. Soon it was night and I thought I am

destined to put up with the insult. In fact I was more pained because I was unable to defend myself. After dinner, I collected all papers and maps necessary for next day's inspection and tied them in a cloth. When I was about to go to bed the forester suddenly made his appearance. I forget his name – it was Sarwar or something like that. I could not believe my eyes. It was a big surprise and he was not expected to be there. He told me that he had come only that evening to take his leave salary and learning from the lower staff of events happened during inspection, he came to see me at that odd hour to reassure me that what I had written was correct and that he was prepared to testify the same before the CF. I suddenly felt relieved of the burden. I told him that it is not advisable to make an issue and it would be better if the CF, known for his integrity, is made to recapitulate the work instead of my presenting a witness to prove my innocence. I asked him to go to IB in the morning and pay respects which may lead to a discussion to vindicate my position.

As planned, the forester appeared before the CF and saluted him. The other officers too were present. The CF readily did not recognize the forester by name but felt it was a familiar face. The forester reminded him of his first visit to Mahadevpur and the days spent going round the forests and studying the vegetation. Their subsequent conversation for nearly 15 minutes revealed that the forester was then a forest guard stationed at Mahadevpur and the Extra-Asst. Conservator (Mr. M. S. Khan) who camped there for long periods. He liked him to an extent that he used to ask the FG to accompany him to even other areas of the range. The forester cleverly reminded of their sighting a tigress with cubs strolling lazily along the cart track abutting the cleared patch in Kudurpally Beat. Then the CF remembered the experiments conducted and promptly called for me. He said; "Look, your field description at Nasturpally was correct. We took up another experiment in Kudurupally. I would like to see the Kudurupally plot today. Take me there today". He was immensely pleased when I read out my field observation sheet at the second place. The gentleman forester he was!

“Should you find yourself in a chronically leaking boat, energy devoted to changing vessels is likely to be a more productive than energy devoted to patching leaks.”

GOVERNMENTS AND FREEBIES

By
Qamar Mohammad Khan

On 01-07-2016 a road accident took place in city of Hyderabad. It was Ramya's first day at a new school in Secunderabad and her family had come to pick her up. Ramya was the 10 year old daughter of Venkatramana. On their way back from school, as their Santro car neared the Banjara Hills, an i10 car driven by about 20-year-old Shravil came speeding from the other side. It rammed the road divider and toppled onto the family's car killing instantly Ramya's uncle Rajesh, who was driving the car. The other family members including Ramya's mother and grandfather were also seriously injured. Ramya died after few days and her grandfather died after few days of Ramya's death. Her mother is still undergoing treatment in the Hospital. Footage of CCTV showed that a short while before the accident, Shravil and his friends had consumed alcohol at a nearby pub. Police found that Shravil did not even have a driving license. Venkatramana, Ramya's father has seen three deaths in his family in less than three weeks and his wife Radhika has become bed-ridden after that tragic accident.

On July 23, 2014 twenty five school children and the driver of their bus were killed when the Nanded-Secunderabad passenger train rammed into it at an unmanned railway crossing at Chegunta in Masaipet village in Medak district.

The children, aged between seven and 14, from Islampur and Zakeerpalli villages, were on their way to the Kakatiya Techno School in Toopram when tragedy struck at 9.10 am. While most of them were killed on the spot in the mangled remains of the bus, that was dragged for nearly a kilometer, others who were pulled out died on the way or succumbed to injuries in hospitals. There were 40 students on board the bus. Eyewitnesses say that the bus driver did not notice the oncoming train and that led to the gory accident.

On 22-8-2016 early morning a bus met with an accident in Khammam district and 10 persons were killed along with 17 were injured. On the same day a car met with an accident in Chittoor District and three persons died.

The above four are only examples and road accidents have emerged as a major public health problem globally, and more so in India where almost 5 lakh accidents occurred last year, killing 1,46,000 people and leaving thrice the number injured, says a report on "Road Accidents in India 2015". The analysis of road accident data 2015 reveals that about 1,374 accidents and 400 deaths take place every day on Indian roads which further translates into 57 accidents and loss of 17 lives on an average every hour in our country. In Telangana state

21,252, and Andhra Pradesh 24,258, accidents were reported during the year 2015. Drivers' fault has been revealed as the single most responsible factor for road accidents. On 19th August Sri Nitin Gadgari Union minister for road transport and highways at Vishakhapatnam said that More than half of the 1.5 lakh road accident deaths recorded in India are caused either due to unskilled drivers or defective and poorly maintained vehicles. He also said that about 80% of accidents are a result of corruption. (Times of India dt. 20-8-2016)

Every morning when we open the TV news channel or look into the newspaper we see and hear news about vehicular accidents and deaths. These figures are steadily increasing every day. The following statement shows the population of Hyderabad city from 1951 to till date.

Year	1951	2001	2011	2016
Population	1026000	5742036	7749334	10,191,969

The total police personnel in Hyderabad and Cyberabad Commissioners of Police area are 13,000. Thus the police-public ratio would be 1:653 in the State capital. The ratio in other cities of our country is 1:334 in Mumbai, 1:262 in Delhi, 1:474 in Kolkata and 1:614 in Chennai. This shows that police protection for people in Hyderabad is the lowest. The sanctioned and actual strength of police personnel at the all-India level per one lakh population is 181.47 and 136.42 respectively which is fifth lowest among the 71 countries, less than half of the UN recommended figure of 222.

The following is the number of vehicles in Hyderabad city in the years shown.

Year	1951	2012	2016
No of vehicles	30000	3387000	4430000

If we analyze the increase of human population from 1951 to 2016 it is very clear that the population has increased by ten times, and number of vehicles has increased by 150 times, but the number of employees in various Government departments which regulate various activities as per law has not increased even by ten percent. This increase is also in the top level and at lower levels there is not much of increase. The reason shown by the Government is that it does not have money to pay their salaries as the State's budget is in deficit where as to form the Government and remain in power the same Government can give everything free of cost.

Road accidents and deaths are taking place due to abnormal increase of the population and vehicles and an abysmally low increase in personnel who regulate traffic and implement various Acts for the safety of the public. In our country about 400 persons are dying daily due to air pollution emitted by industries and vehicles. No concrete action is taken by the Police department, Transport department or Industries department to stop the pollution and save 400 lives daily. Bad condition of the roads in the cities is also the reason for accidents and traffic jams. In a democracy Governments are formed by the people, of the people and for

the people. It is the duty of the elected Governments to make various rules, implement the rules strictly and see that tax payers enjoy quality of life with safety. But the present elected Governments are not bothered to see that tax payers live safely and enjoy their life but all political parties want to form the Governments by hook or crook. To get their party elected and form the Governments the leaders promise everything in their election manifesto but don't fulfill them. The priorities of the Governments are incorrect and they never bother to increase the number of regulatory forces but try to reduce the number of employees even though the population has increased many folds. Governments spend tax payer's money in the schemes which are most suitable to the political parties and which can keep them in power. Some of the examples are mentioned below which need immediate increase of the staff of the concerned departments.

1. In cities garbage is not lifted for days together and heaps of stinking garbage dumps are seen in most of the streets. These garbage dumps stink badly, and become breeding grounds for mosquitoes that spread diseases. Yet GHMC supplies meals at Rs. 5/- which is not the duty of GHMC.
2. The drainage pipe lines get choked and drainage water overflows from the drainage line on to the roads which stinks badly and spreads all types of diseases.
3. The drainage line and drinking water pipes

line get mixed together and in drinking water, drainage water enters, which causes gastro intestinal diseases. When the workers are entering the manholes for cleaning it, they are dying due to presence of poisonous gasses. During rainy season with slightest rain the roads become like lakes.

4. There is no sufficient staff in the Municipalities to detect the unauthorized encroachments on the footpaths, and on the roads. No attention is paid for the safe walking of the pedestrians.
5. There is no sufficient Municipal staff to stop illegal constructions, which either have no permission to construct or violate the construction permission.
6. There is insufficient number of police personnel to regulate the traffic, or to curb the violations of various traffic offences prohibited under various Acts. All those police personal who are on traffic duty discharge their duty very casually, in disinterested mood and always seen using their Cell Phones when they are duty. Chains are snatched from the ladies in the streets.
7. There is insufficient number of personnel with the excise department to curb the adulteration of liquors due to which people are consuming adulterated liquor and dying.
8. There are insufficient numbers of

personnel to curb the illicit cutting of the trees from the forests and destroying the environment though the pressure on forest has increased many folds.

9. There are insufficient numbers of judges in the lower courts, High Courts, and Supreme Court and lakhs and lakhs of cases are pending in various courts.
10. There are insufficient numbers of Doctors in Government Hospitals, and no medicines are available in these Hospitals. Patients suffer when they use the medicine supplied from the hospitals. The buildings are in dilapidated conditions and no repairs or even white washing is done for years together.
11. There are insufficient numbers of teachers in Schools, with no proper buildings and infrastructure.
12. Transport department does not have sufficient number of staff, to issue driving licenses to hundreds of persons every day after thoroughly testing them.
13. In most of the other departments also increase in the number of personnel is required but unfortunately the Government turns a blind eye and a deaf ear.

The Government is not increasing the number of personnel in all the departments on the pretext of lack of funds, though the population has increased many folds. Many State Governments have deficit budget for years together, yet the same Government is distributing many things free of cost. By distributing freebies Government is depriving the citizens who are paying taxes, quality air, a garbage free environment and clear foot paths to walk safely. It is not able to protect Government lands, not able to regulate traffic in the required manner, not able to protect the lives of people who are forced to drink adulterated liquor, not able to protect the natural resources, not able to provide justice to the common man, not able to provide medical aid and medicines, not able to issue driving licenses to right persons and thereby prevent accidents and deaths. All this is happening due to wrong priorities of the Governments.

Time has come now that Central and State election commissions should bring legislation that no State or Central Government should give any freebies when the budget is in deficit and freebies can be given only after meeting the cost of fulfilling the basic requirement that will ensure a healthy, safe, and protected life to the common man.

“It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it. If you think about that, you’ll do things differently.”

SAGRESHEWAR WILD LIFE SANCTUARY- AN ENVIRONMENTAL PARADOX

By

I.A.Sattar

It was in 1972, I was reading an Article in 'Maharashtra Times' about Sagreshewar Forests of Sangli District in Maharashtra. I was so attracted by the article that I desired, in my heart, that I may be posted in this Development. I was surprised to be posted in Sangli District, very next week.

There I met D. M. Mohite a Marathi writer, Social worker, free-lance writer and Freedom fighter. He was interested in declaration of Sagreshewar Forest area 5 Sq. Km in extent as a Wild Life Sanctuary. His desire was refused by the Department as the area was refractory.

However, I promised him that I will make all efforts to make it green and make it Bio Aesthetically attractive place for the visitors who visit this area, in large numbers, due to various festivals.

He went on mobilizing the public opinion through News Papers and magazines and Virikshdindi. First Virikshdindi was taken in Sagreshewar. This was in line with the virikshdindi taken by the Nobel Laurel Rabindra Nath Tagore in Virindavan. It was presided by Her Highness Padmine Raje Patwardhan, the Ex Princess of Patwardhan Sarkar of Sangli. This Virikshdindi became very popular. Slowly a day came when the entire Sangli District used to have Virikshdindi on a single day. All the schools in the Districts used to participate.

The Tree Plantation Movement became very popular in Sangli District. On 1st May 1981 D.M.Mohite was awarded Virikshmitra Kitab by the Government of Maharashtra and in 1994 the

Virikshmitra award was given to D. M. Mohite by the President of India in New Delhi. For the same work I was awarded Vasundhara Award by the Kirloskar Brothers in the year 2010.

This work was not so easily done. Initially afforestation, soil and moisture conservation was done. Lot of grasses was introduced. Deer Park was erected in 30 Hectares. Deers were brought from Borivali, Amravati, Jalana and Bhimashankar. They multiplied and then released after 15 years of breeding and acclimatization.

We can say that it was rejuvenation of sick overgrazed forest, burnt and converted into a barren land. It was turned into lush green forests with lot of fauna and flora. Finally this place was declared as a Wild Life sanctuary.

All these developments have been well recorded by Late D. M. Mohite in the form of Diary, paper cuttings, photographs and films. They have been well preserved by his sons at his native place Mohite Wadgaon Dist. Sangli near Sagreshewar. It is very rare to note that 3 decades of Conservation movement and its related record is preserved so nicely by the family.

During my tenure my senior officer Mr. A. J. Oke had advised me to do research and do Doctorate in Conservation. But I could not do it. As we forest officers do good work and forget it, but get lot of job satisfaction. That itself is an award. We do not get awards, as we never expect it. We do only our duty and are satisfied.

LIFE

Life is a journey, complete it

Life is a promise, fulfil it

Life is a beauty, praise it

Life is a struggle, fight it

Life is a goal, achieve it

Life is a puzzle, solve it

Life is a gamble change it

Life is a challenge, meet it

Life is a gift, accept it

Life is an adventure, dare it

Life is a sorrow, overcome it

Life is a tragedy, face it

Life is a duty, perform it

Life is a game, play it

Life is a mystery, unfold it

Life is a song, sing it

Life is an opportunity, take it

Life is a dream realize it

Courtesy: internet (Collected and contributed by Sri P.V. Krishna Murthy)

NOTICE

October 2016 issue of Vana Premi will be a special issue on Wildlife. All the Members, In-service Forest Officers, Readers and Writers are requested to send articles on Wildlife for publishing in special issue of Vana Premi by 20th of September 2016 through e-mail to the Editor.

-Editor

AMERICAN RED CROSS ASKED ME TO SHARE MY STORY AND HERE IT IS....
WHY DO I CALL BLOOD DONATION “GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE”?

By
Dr. Sudhir K. Reddy

....Triple vessel bypass was in the works for my dad at 57. So many friends came forward to donate blood.

He is now 84 and still active. After surgery, he went to law school and did LL.B. at 60. “Second lease on life, son! I will live my life again”, he said to me; and he has been proving it every single day, inspiring others. Since that day, I am grateful and I donate religiously like it is a prayer to me....

I give the “gift of life, blood, that is” while I live,
And donate my organs when I am gone,
Recycle myself any which way I can,
Several gallons of blood I donated since 1995.
For, life is a gift, and we need to do good to all.
Got to make a difference in life,
Every single day, as we live it up!
God bless those who also believe in this prayer...

reddy20042004@yahoo.com

APPEAL

Members of Retired Forest Officers Association, In-service Forest Officers, Writers and Readers are humbly requested to Contribute Articles for Our Vana Premi Regularly as Editor is Feeling Shortage of Articles and Forced to Include Articles from News Papers Which Is Not Desirable.

-Editor

MEANING OF JOURNEY OF HUMAN LIFE

By
NAGABHUSHANAM DASARI

It is mere boon to born on this beautiful earth to my lovely parents
My respects to the Almighty, Mother & Father who have given birth
Taken care every minute in child hood just like handling of tender flower
Learnt walking with the assistance of their hands after falling several times
And alphabets, numerals, songs, stories, life style etc. by various Teachers
In the process of exams corrected all mistakes by regular reading and writing
Had good education amongst everybody with their vision for my bright future
Enjoyed well all the way in life with sacrifice of their precious labor and time
Achieved success in every step for my sincere efforts under their able guidance
I have to bow my head in front of their feet for the position acquired today
Now it is my duty to take care of my wonderful old parents like small kids
With affection duly leaving angry and agony by recollecting my early days
Spare time to talk small things to energize their joy and avoid monotony
Listen their words patiently by memorizing old depositions & dictations
Extend support when they become disabling to see, hear, talk, walk and move
Serve happily till the last minute by safe guarding their health condition
It is only the meaning of journey of life in the world of mankind with humanity

NOTICE

The 81st General Body Meeting of the Association of Retired Forest Officers of Telangana & Andhra Pradesh will be held on 25-9-2016 (Sunday) 11 A.M. at Aranya Bhavan, Hyderabad. All the members are requested to make it convenient to attend the meeting with their spouses. Sri Y. Rammohan Rao offered to host the lunch.

AN ABSOLUTE CLASSIC!

Why only Indians are Reborn (based on the Karma system) Angel Gabriel came to the Lord and said: 'I have to talk to you. We have some Indians here in Heaven and they are causing problems. They're swinging on the pearly Gates, my horn is missing, they are wearing Dolce & Gabbana saris instead of their white robes, they are driving Mercedes and BMW's instead of the chariots, and they're selling off their halos at discounted prices'.

They refuse to keep the stairway to Heaven clear or clean, since they keep crouching down midway eating samosas & drinking chai (tea). Some of them are even walking around with just one wing! They do not believe in discipline and push their way through the line. The Lord said, 'Indians are Indians. Heaven is home to all my children. If you want to know about real problems, give Satan a call.'

Gabriel calls Satan on the phone...

Satan answers the phone: 'Hello? Damn, hold on a minute.'

Satan returns to the phone, 'OK I'm back. What can I do for you?'

Gabriel: 'I just wanted to know what kind of problems you're having down there.' Satan says: 'Hold on again. I need to check on something.'

'After about 2 minutes, Satan returns to the phone and says: 'I'm back. Now what was the question?' Gabriel repeats the question: 'What

kind of problems are you having down there?'

Satan says: 'Man I don't believe this... Hold on.'

This time Satan was gone at least 5 minutes.

He returns and says: 'I'm sorry Gabriel, I can't talk right now. These Indians are trying to install air conditioning and are trying to make Hell a comfortable place to live in by putting out the fire, which is there to keep them uncomfortably hot!! And since they are so tech savvy, they were trying to start a telephone & Internet connection between Heaven & Hell, between ME & GOD!! They have started a social network service for the troubled, and believe in JB j Karma, and are good in convincing others. Some were trying to start a Chai Pakoda, Chole-batura, Dosa, Samosa, Barfi, Chakli and Dhokla shop, which I had to stop.

They are excellent in corrupting everyone, and my staff is being bribed by them. I am having difficulty in controlling the graft and corruption in Hell. They never complain as this place seems to be better than from where they came.

I am having such a hard time controlling and dealing with them. I am therefore requesting, "O GOD, PLEASE send them back to earth as soon as they arrive - for re-birth." So now you know - "why Indians are the only ones that are re-born.

Courtesy: K.J.M. Reddy.
reddy.kesari7@gmail.com

OF OFFENCES AND FUELWOOD

By
M. RAM MOHAN

The Telangana Govt. is taking up planting programme prestigiously under "*Telangana ku Haritha Haram*" involving all the Govt. Departments, political establishment and the common people as well by planting crores of seedlings to enhance the green cover in the state. It is time the Govt. also concentrates on protection of existing forests which are showing depletion thanks to encroachments, indiscriminate felling for fencing material, fuel wood, and timber, etc.

Thousands of plants, ranging from regeneration to pole size, are cut every year from the forests by the people of the every village located inside or on the fringe of forests for the purpose of erecting fences around their houses or farm lands. Crores of plants are being removed for this purpose across the state. This practice is carried out every year without interruption giving no respite to forests for recovery. Trees of sizes of 30 to 50 Cms girth are felled for usage as poles and very young regeneration of fresh growth is removed for fencing. The age of removed saplings, poles or trees ranges from 2 to 20 years. Hardy and slow growing species like *Chundra*, *Billudu*, *Bojja*, which are often preferred, take more time to reach to sapling/pole stage.

The fencing material is used by the villagers to prevent cattle entering their houses or farm lands lasts for one season or hardly for one year. The old fence is removed, as it becomes no more

useful, every year to put up a new fence in the next year. This practice has been perpetuated for years which lead to removal of younger generation of plants-the future trees- causing absence of succession to trees. It is sure that the new tree growth can't come up by the very next year filling the void created and tree growth left is removed in the next year causing irreversible depletion of forests and severe damage to the wildlife habitat. The lost trees cannot be replenished by the next year given the slow growing nature of the forest species. The continuous removal of saplings, the young regeneration, lead to absence of young recruits which affect seriously the process of succession which is akin to the absence of children who succeed the older generation to propagate the lineage. If this is continued for a few more years, serious ecological imbalance may arise for which a huge price has to be paid.

The necessity for the villagers for fencing material may be genuine. But the irreparable harm done to the forests and the wildlife, this practice need to be done away forthwith by educating the villagers, of the environmental loss and providing them alternative source of barbed wire fencing at subsidized rates, which lasts 5 to 10 years at least relieving the forests of immense pressure. The Government of Gujarat state, in Gir National Park, is providing subsidy to the farmers of forest villages for

erecting chain link fencing around their farmland to prevent wild animals entering the farm lands causing damage to the standing crops.

Collection of fuel wood from forests by the villagers is one more significant activity that is causing harm to the forest ecosystem. People often collect dead trees snags-standing dead tree-and logs from forest floor for fuel wood either for self-consumption or for sale. While collecting the dead material, some people resort to green felling in order to get fuel wood next time cause depletion of forest growth which is observed more in the forests adjacent to the villages or towns that are having high population and especially the eateries.

The dead trees are in fact harbor many a species of insects and worms which in turn sustain some of the reptile, bird species. Snags are also helpful for perching and more importantly act as nesting sites for some bird species such as Owls, Owlets, Parakeets, etc. Moreover, on decay, the wood material is transformed into elements that enrich the soil which sustain the forest ecosystem. Removal of the dead trees from forests, deny some of the insects, worms and other organisms their life and deprive some birds their natural habitat and soil cannot get replenished. As the LP Gas is supplied to every corner of the state, people are to be educated of the negative consequences of removal of dead trees from forests and the advantages of usage of LP Gas in economic terms and health aspects too.

The attitude of the villagers and the foresters in the issue of collection of fencing material and fuel wood is quite nonchalant. The people argue that these are their rights and are age old practices and mere removal of saplings, poles and dead trees from forests does not affect the forest health. But, the reality is the other way around. Gone are the days when the human population was meagre or less and the natural abundance was more which sustained the needs of the people of the forest villages. At present, the shrinking forests are not in a position to withstand the pressures of the burgeoning human population which increased manifold.

The attitude of the most of the foresters working on ground, is equally appalling that the collection of fencing material and fuel wood are not so serious offences like encroachments, smuggling, poaching. Hence, not much attention is paid.

The foresters at the field level be educated and motivated and introspect themselves and this practice be done away and recognize the importance of protecting the regeneration which are future trees and habitat for wild life and prevent the indiscriminate collection of fuel wood. It is high time all are realized that equal importance, even more, be given for the protection of the existing saplings, trees in addition to planting saplings in degraded forest areas and non-forest areas.

INSURE FARMERS AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE HOW INDIA'S AGRICULTURAL POLICY HAS MADE US STRUCTURALLY VULNERABLE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

By
Feroz Varun Gandhi

Bundelkhand is where India's marginal farming dream died. Known for the dacoits of Chambal and the Rani of Jhansi, the arid region, occupying districts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, has experienced drastic variation in climate in recent times. It faced a drought from 2003 to 2010, then floods in 2011, delayed monsoons in 2012 and 2013, and drought again since 2014. Farmers tried everything to adapt — growing a mix of dry crops during the *kharif* season, while interspersing the winter *rabi* wheat with cash crops like chickpea and mustard. They invested heavily in bore wells, tractors, threshers and seeds and fertilizers through formal and informal credit. The past two winters, with hailstorms and unseasonal rain, destroyed crops (chickpea yields were mostly wiped out, the *arhar* crop failed completely), leading to farmer suicides (3,500 since 2003) and mass migration. Mitigation has been lacking; contractors not farmers benefit, and instead of providing crop insurance, warehouses are built. Bereaved families, hoping for compensation from the Uttar Pradesh government (Rs.7 lakh on death), were instead offered wheat bundles.

India, a climate change hotspot: India is uniquely vulnerable to rising temperatures — it ranks in the top 20 in the Climate Change Vulnerability Index. Our average surface temperature, over the past four decades, has risen by 0.3°Celsius, accompanied by a rising incidence of floods, droughts and cyclones. With the majority of all landholdings in India measuring less than a hectare, marginal farmers face a steep decline in household income and a concomitant rise in household poverty through exacerbated droughts. Climate change would impact soil health, with increasing surface temperatures leading to higher CO₂ emissions and reducing natural nitrogen availability. Mitigating this by increasing, chemical fertilizer usage could impact long-term soil fertility, leaving the soil open to greater erosion and desertification? Meanwhile, migration patterns, farmer suicides and stagnating rural incomes, along with increasingly adhoc land acquisition in the name of public goods, have politicized the idea of climate mitigation. Marginal farmland will increasingly be useless for agriculture. Our dependency on rain continues to amplify —

rain-fed agriculture is practiced in the majority of our total cropped area supporting a significant proportion of the national food basket (55 per cent of rice, 90 per cent of pulses, 91 per cent of all coarse grain). Our regional crop patterns assume a specific range of weather variability, failing to cope with the recent high periods of heavy rainfall with long dry intervals. In 2013, large crops of wheat, gram, lentils and mustard, weeks away from harvesting, were destroyed in untimely rains. India's flood-affected area has doubled since Independence, despite generous state spending on flood protection schemes. Research has highlighted the deleterious impact of climate change on crop production. By 2100, the *kharif* season will face a varying temperature rise (0.7-3.3° Celsius) with rainfall significantly impacted. Limited temperature rises could lead to a 22 per cent decline in wheat yield in the *rabi* season, while rice yield could decline by 15 per cent. Other staple crops — sorghum, groundnut, chickpea — could see a sharp decline. Its impact is already prevalent: it is estimated that without rising temperatures and rain variability, India's rice production over the past four decades could have been 8 per cent higher. India is home to the largest hungry population — falling agricultural yields will only make matters worse.

Some policy prescriptions: Our low agricultural productivity remains a key constraint. According

to the Swaminathan Committee on Farmers (2006), for rice, we produce 2,929 kg per hectare, while China produces twice as much. For other staples, we remain woeful, producing 913 kg of groundnut per hectare, while Indonesia produces nearly half as much more. As suggested by the National Commission on Farmers, a rural spending plan, focused on investments in agriculture infrastructure, particularly in irrigation, rainwater harvesting and a national network of soil-testing laboratories is needed. Simple water harvesting and conservation measures (micro-irrigation, watershed management and insurance coverage) can reduce the majority of the potential loss due to drought (Inter governmental Panel on Climate Change, 2013). Drought strategies should be extended to the village level — for example, each village should have a village pond, created under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

Indian agricultural policy has made us structurally vulnerable to climate change. As suggested often by the National Commission on Farmers, conservation farming and dry land agriculture should be promoted. Each village should be provided timely rainfall forecasts along with weather-based forewarnings regarding crop pests and epidemics in various seasons. Afforestation, in a biodiverse manner,

should be encouraged to help modify regional climates and prevent soil erosion. Our agricultural research programmes need to be retooled towards dryland research — it has been argued that adoption of drought-tolerant breeds can help reduce production risks by nearly a third, while offering attractive returns to breeders. Changing planting dates could have a significant impact; research highlights that planting wheat earlier than usual can help reduce climate change-induced damage. Zero tillage and laser-based levelling can also help conserve water and land resources.

Crop planning can be conducted as per the climatic zones of different regions, while utilizing better genotypes for rainfed conditions. We should focus on expanding our formal credit system to reach all marginal farmers. Insurance coverage should be expanded to all crops while reducing the rate of interest to nominal levels, with government support and an expanded Rural Insurance Development Fund. A debt moratorium policy on drought-distressed hot spots and areas facing climate change calamities should be announced, waiving interest on loans till farming incomes are restored. The Centre and

States should launch an integrated crop, livestock and family health insurance package while instituting an Agriculture Credit Risk Fund to provide relief, in the aftermath of successive natural disasters.

Climate change will impact the entire food production chain, affecting our food security. Live stock production, often considered to be a substitute to farming for marginal farmers, would face reduced fodder supplies given a decline in crop area or production. With India's population rising, demand for diversified crops will be hard to square with diminishing yields. Agricultural investments in food crops, along with systemic support for irrigation, infrastructure and rural institutions can help move India beyond climate change-induced food insecurity, strengthening our stressed food production systems. Through adaptation and mitigation measures, we can overcome this Hobbesian crisis. (Feroze Varun Gandhi is a Member of Parliament, representing the Sultanpur constituency.) This article was first published in The Hindu dated 15.05.2016. Thanks to The Hindu

“You only have to do a very few things right in your life so long as you don’t do too many things wrong.”

RESCUING THE DYING FORESTS OF INDIA IV

By
Dr. Akula Kishan
 (Continued from last month)

7. Forest Survey of India, Dehradun:

The Forest Survey of India (FSI) was created in June 1981 with the objective of monitoring, periodically, the changing situation of land and forest resources and presents the data for national planning, for conservation and management of forests and the environment. After a critical review of its activities, the FSI was re-organized during 1986. The revised objectives of FSI are

1.To prepare a comprehensive State of Forest Report (SFR) including a National Forest Vegetation Map (NFVM) once every two years.

2.To collect, store and retrieve necessary forestry and forestry related data for national and State level planning.

3.To design methodologies for forest surveys and undertake their subsequent updating.

4.To undertake work with regard to preparation of forest inventories in selected States/Union Territories until the establishment of their own resource survey units

5.To impart training in modern forest survey techniques to Foresters at various levels.

6.To advise the States/Union Territories on the design and development of basic and regional

national forest inventory systems and

7.To Support and oversee related techniques and inventory work undertaken by the State Forest Departments.

The FSI is headed by a Director with headquarters at Dehradun. It has four zonal offices, each headed by an Additional Director, located at Shimla, Kolkata, Nagpur and Bangalore. The IFS officers are appointed on deputation. One Deputy Director (Statistics) is drawn from the Indian Statistical Service on deputation. Other administrative and technical staff is appointed on permanent as well as on a deputation basis. Major functions of each zonal office are to organize fieldwork to collect inventory data, interpretation of aerial photographs and to conduct wood consumption studies. The FSI is directly under the control of the MoEF and funded through regular budgetary provisions. The Shortcomings are:

1.Field staff in zonal offices is quite inadequate, because of which it is difficult to carry out extensive field verification of the data interpreted through satellite imageries.

2. The satellite imagery can be better interpreted and the upto date information is made into reports than preparing report reports based on old data.

3. It should take initiate and major role in creation of National data base on GIS and MIS.

8. Forestry Institutions at the State Level:

Twenty-six State forests Departments are having training schools/academies for imparting induction as well refresher training courses to the frontline staff (Forest Guards, Foresters and deputy rangers). Four States also have Forest Rangers College transferred by the Government to the respective States, during 1986. The duration of induction courses for Foresters and Forest Guards varies from State to State (six months to one year). The induction training of the FROs in forest rangers colleges is still being administered by the DFE under the provisions of the 'Entrance and Training Rules' for the FROs, revised from time to time.

Some States like Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh have forest training institutes/academies which conduct long and short-term refresher courses for officers at various levels and even organize courses sponsored by other agencies. Depending on the level of the post, the Principals/Directors and faculty are appointed by the State Governments concerned, and which generally do not have fixed tenures. The shortcomings are:

1. The financial resources available to run these schools/institutes are quite inadequate, which has resulted in poor infrastructure facilities

2. The training imparted is not of a high standard because of the lack of adequate training facilities and appropriate teachers in the schools.

3. Training is being given low priority by the States. Capable and willing officers are not available and are also not posted to manage these institutions, and hence the quality of training suffers.

4. The induction courses are not held regularly and on schedule because of delay in the recruitment process.

5. Adequate attention is not being paid in structuring/reviewing the course contents for the induction as well as refresher courses according to the changing/emerging local needs of the sector.

9. Forest Development Corporations: Based on the recommendations of the National Commission on Agriculture in 1976 to cater to the needs of forest based industries, to take care of marketing strategies, and to undertake agroforestry, the State Governments established Forest Development Corporations (FDCs) with varying objectives. As on today, 24 States have FDCs. These corporations have been leased forest land by the respective State Forest Departments (SFD) for undertaking commercial

plantations. Some FDCs undertake harvesting and marketing operations for the SFDs, while others have diversified into various other fields like ecotourism, raising cash crops, etc.

Most of the FDCs are incurring huge losses. In other cases, they survive financially because they harvest the forest produce, a function which can be carried out by the territorial divisions. Many of them converted forests to monocultures. They have not fulfilled the purpose for which they were created. They have substituted existing forests rather than create or restore forests. They have not extended forestry to non-forest areas, nor have they raised institutional finance and they are also not financially viable in most cases. The shortcomings are:

1. The FDCs are an outcome of the Forest Policy of 1952 which laid emphasis upon supply of forest material for industry and on the production of timber. This objective and priority has long been given up, with the present Forest Policy of 1988 bearing testimony to the changed approach and attitude. But the FDCs have not adapted themselves to the changed needs of society and are today anachronisms, which mainly serve the purpose of providing posts for senior forest staff.

2. They have mainly substituted existing forest instead of creating more forests or even restoring existing ones.

3. The corporations are not being managed as commercial organizations and most of them are

incurring huge losses. In fact, they function almost like government departments. They are not fulfilling the primary functions they were created for and do not carry out any function which cannot be carried out by the FD itself.

4. There is a considerable amount of political as well as bureaucratic interference in the affairs of the FDCs

10. State Forest Research Institutes: Only seven States namely Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, AP, and Uttarakhand have established their own forest research institutes which carry out research on local specific forestry and wildlife issues as it is not possible for the ICFRE, the apex forestry research organization, to undertake work on these local issues.

In other States, a separate wing within the forest department exists which undertakes small research activities through laying of sample plots, seed orchards, observation plots, etc. In some States, the institutes have been granted partial autonomy whereas in others they are directly under the administrative control of the SFDs. The recruitment of scientific, technical and administrative staff is done by the institutes through different recruitment rules. The heads of the research institutes are appointed by the Government on deputation, which may or may not have fixed tenures. The shortcomings are:

1. Inadequate financial resources resulting in

poor infrastructure in the institutes

2. Because of inadequate finances, the institutes are not able to pursue their research programmes

3. Being a low priority area, the posts in the research institutes/research wings of the SFDs either remain vacant for a long time or are filled with officers who do not have much interest or expertise in research activities.

4. The State Forestry Research Institutes do not have long term research action programmes drawn up according to the needs of the SFDs.

5. The silviculture research wings of the SFDs are poorly equipped to carry out research work.

11. FUTURE STRATEGY

1. The Indian Forest Act, 1927, needs revamping, taking into account current requirements, namely:

(a) The revised version must give emphasis to the conservation of forestlands and not only forest alone, it must address itself to the ecology, biodiversity and overall significance of forests including grasslands and wetlands and to forests as a biotic community and as a life-supporting factor to the local communities and to the populace downstream.

(b) The term 'forest' needs to be defined for the purpose of the Act

(c) Non-timber Forest Products need to be defined.

(d) Bamboo, including ringal and cane must be

included in minor forest produce and excluded from 'tree' under Sec. 2 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

(e) There needs to be greater control over unsustainable biotic pressures - especially over grazing and tendu leaves, sal seed and fuel wood extraction.

(f) Powers of summary eviction of encroachment may be vested with the local Divisional Forest Officer.

(g) Limits of penalties prescribed under the various sections of the Act be raised and there need to be more warrant cases and all offences should be made non-bailable.

(h) The protection of forests should be joint responsibility of Forest, Police and Revenue departments as the protection status depends on the local law and order situation.

(i) Forest officers should be given the power of Executive magistrates and power to confiscate, including of vehicles used for illegal purposes under the Act.

(j) A Central Board for Forestry with adequate functions and powers be set up.

(k) Special provision should be made for protecting Sandal wood, Red Sanders wood

2. Transit rules /regulations should be made to be implemented uniformly across the country.

3. There should be no restriction and regulation on the felling and removal of trees planted on private holdings except certain endangered or

valuable species as may be specified.

4. Under the Land Ceiling Act, no land ceiling shall be imposed on land under plantation of forest tree species. This will motivate the corporate sector and big farmers to invest in plantations.

5. As regards saw milling regulations / rules, the state government should assess the demand and supply of wood and grant licenses.

6. In respect of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, no agency has been identified for the implementation of this Act. The implementing agency may be the Forest Department (FD), in coordination with other agencies, in areas under the control of the FD.

7. With respect to the Environment Protection Act, 1986, no agency has been identified for the implementation of this Act at the field level. The Forest department may be considered as an implementing agency for this Act in areas under its control. It may coordinate its efforts with those of other agencies.

8. The Forest Conservation Act, 1980, should be re-examined to include encroachments and the penalty should be enhanced, and the local forest officers should be empowered to book the violation cases.

9. In respect of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 the list of endangered species in different schedules needs to be periodically reviewed and the changes may be notified from time to time.

10. The implementation of RoFR Act should be reviewed and the claims should be correlated with satellite imagery of relevant period and after tallying the ground situation the claim should be allowed. The claim should be allowed based on the recommendation of Forest officer supported by the evidence.

11. The implementation and impact of JFM should be assessed and the traditional forestry practices should be revived.

12. The objectives of management for Joint Forest Management (JFM) /Gram Van need to be revised and clearly stated to broadly include restoration and development of degraded forest areas in order to meet demands for fuel wood, fodder and small timber and also to contribute towards poverty alleviation. It must also be clearly understood by all parties that JFM is a social contract and that benefits and rights would only accrue if the people fulfil their obligations and duties.

13. The assistance of appropriate non-government organizations and Gram Sabhas/ Panchayats, etc., should be taken in the afforestation activity.

14. Tree planting in open areas along railway lines, canals and roads, and other community lands must be undertaken and adequate funds for both tree planting and their maintenance be provided for by the departments concerned.

15. In Urban areas, on non-forest lands and

house holds the tree planting should be made mandatory by promulgating Acts on lines of Andhra Pradesh Water, Land and Trees Act, 2002.

16. Management plans need to be prepared for tracts holding substantial natural vegetation and vested with the military, paramilitary and police and the overall authority in charge of management assigned. The effort should be to both preserve as well as propagate natural vegetation and wildlife in so far as these do not affect the functions of the area.

17. If any forest / habitat linkages with other natural vegetation growth/forest area exist outside of these properties of the army, paramilitary and police, that continuity should be maintained by the authority in charge of that area.

18. Water conservation in forests, deserves special attention and should be an important objective of forest and grassland management and adequate financial resources should be provided and should form an integral part of every forest working / management plan.

19. The Forest Act and rules there under should provide for regulating areas with tree growth but not under the control of the State Forest Departments and incentives should be provided for retaining tree growth for ecological security. The Government has obligation and must play an important role in extending technical advice to them for increasing both tree-cover and productivity.

20. Management plans for coastal and shelterbelt plantations including mangroves should be prepared and enforced through Wild Life Act.

21. The cadre management of IFS including disciplinary powers should be taken over by GOI so that the officers can function and discharge their duties without fear of victimization by local Government. By doing so vexatious and frivolous action by some local officers due to professional jealousy or otherwise can be avoided. The initiation of disciplinary case should be with approval of GOI and GOI should examine the relevancy and nature of irregularity before approving the proposals.

22. The posts on Horticulture, Sericulture, Agriculture, Pollution Control, Medicinal plants, Biodiversity Board etc. should be added to the cadre strength of IFS so that officers can be posted there whenever vacancy arises, rather than deputing them now and then.

23. The Forest, Environment and Wild Life wings in Government should be headed by IFS officer of the rank of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, as in the case of Police the IPS officer is heading the department in Government as Principal Secretary or Secretary.

24. The Officers should be given time scale promotions but should be retained in cadre posts till higher grade cadre post falls vacant.

The promotions should be given to those officers also against whom disciplinary cases are pending, subject to outcome of the cases.

25. In State Forest Service and Subordinate Services, the promotions should be given at periodic intervals and initiation of disciplinary cases should be minimal, except in special situations.

26. Proper land records of **all lands** under control of Forest Department should be prepared and copies should be kept at all levels from Range Office to Head Office to prevent tampering of records. The copies should also be given to local Revenue authorities to prevent irregular assignments by them. The document should be digitally photocopied and preserved.

27. All forest protection staff must have group insurance against death, disease and disability by the state to increase their morale and as a staff welfare measure.

28. In Wild Life cases the Compensation must be paid immediately and without hindrance, and it must be commensurate with the damage caused and there must be transparency in the whole operation. Attempt should be made to have crop insurance against damage by wild animals around major protected areas.

29. The focus of agroforestry must filter down to the tahsil / block levels. While the responsibility in this regard would rest mainly with the agricultural departments and institutions, the

forest departments must cooperate and support by providing quality seedlings and technical guidance and by enabling the farmers to freely harvest, transport and sell their produce. All restrictions on the harvest of trees, transport and sale of timber etc. must be removed.

30. Wood-based industries should also be encouraged to supply certified quality planting stock to farmers and to enter into buyback arrangements with them for the raw material produced by them. The farmers should be free to sell to the market if they get higher prices.

31. ICFRE (Indian Council of Forest Research and Education) institutes should focus on basic research, and on research relating to national or regional problems which cannot be handled by State Forest Research Institutions (SFRIs), such as genetics and tree breeding, wood science and technology, forest hydrology, chemistry of forest products and their utilization, bio-pesticides, global warming, biodiversity conservation and management, forest sociology including participatory management, and forest economics. Strong linkage should be ensured between SFRIs, ICFRE institutes and agricultural universities undertaking forestry research in the same State. Networking of scientists working in these research organizations on common problems needs to be done.

32. All the Forestry Institutions should be coordinated and made to work towards improving forest resources at cheaper methods and the Institutes may not duplicate the same work.

33. The outlay on forest research needs to be very substantially enhanced.

34. The Forest Development Corporations (FDCs), in their current mandate and functioning, are redundant. Their existing work can readily be transferred to territorial forest divisions and afforestation wings, if any. Some of the staff of the FDCs may be transferred with the charge. The mandate and role of Forest Development Corporations need to be reviewed and other functions assigned to them.

The Forest Development Corporations should be given the task of extending forestry to grassland/watershed management in government lands outside of forests, as well as to cooperate with agriculture departments in the extension of farm and agroforestry.

35. A separate Department of Forests and Wildlife within the Ministry of Environment and Forests should be created to ensure adequate importance and attention to the management of natural resources. Forestry related subjects of biodiversity, mangroves, wetlands, medicinal plants, forestry issues under climate change and combating desertification, which are being dealt mostly by the forest departments in the State governments, should be transferred to the

proposed new department, from the Environment Wing. This department should also handle coastal development, National Wasteland Development Board and watershed management in areas having forests, as well as coastal conservation involving the biota. The new department also needs to be given adequate resources to fulfill its duties.

36. For efficient administration and better coordination among the various wings of the State Forest Department, it is necessary to have a single line command. Only the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Head of Forest Force) should report to government on policy issues.

37. The State governments must complete demarcation of forest boundaries, and mutation in revenue records. The process requires financial and technical capacity building of forest settlement offices. A trained team of surveyors be equipped with global positioning system and other technical tools to carry out the process of demarcation. Forest maps should be updated after demarcation and be incorporated in the working plans.

38. Staff and vehicles of the Forest Departments are requisitioned for non-forestry purposes, the advantage of which is taken by wood and wildlife poachers. Such requisitioning must be avoided.

39. In view of prevalent threats to forests and forest personnel who unlike the police have to

function alone or in very small units, the forest field staff need to be armed and need to be given protection under the law in the exercise of their duties, as is given to the police and the paramilitary forces, under section 197 of the Criminal Procedure Code. They need to be safeguarded against wrongful accusations under the various anti-SC/ST (Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes) atrocities legislations and need to be provided reasonable and just indemnities in fabricated cases.

40. The number of beat guards needs to be substantially increased and a revision of beat areas needs to be done state-wise. No change has been done in this regard since before Independence. Each State needs to appoint a committee to go through the exercise of re-delineating beat boundaries.

41. The field staff is also poorly provided for by

way of transport, communication and other facilities required in the better exercise of their duties. A state-wise assessment needs to be carried out and these basic requirements have to be provided to make the field staff more effective for protection work, on a priority basis.

42. The National Forest Commission was of the considered opinion that the Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act would be harmful to the interests of forests and to the ecological security of the country. It would be bad in law and would be in open conflict with the rulings of the Supreme Court. The Tribal Act or RoFR Act should be suitably modified for providing the forest dwelling communities a right to, a share from the forest produce on an ecologically sustainable basis and Ministry of Environment and Forests could be asked to do the needful. (Concluded)

INVITATION

The Association of Retired Forest Officers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad Congratulates Shri. SBL Mishra, who is retiring from service on attaining the age of superannuation on the date 30-09-2016. The Association cordially invites him join the Association of Retired Forest Officers to keep in touch with their old colleagues and to keep himself occupied.

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

NEWS AND NOTES

Machli, the Ranthambore tigress who died, had fought 14-foot-long crocodile: -

Machli, the famous tigress from Ranthambore National Park of Rajasthan, died on Thursday (18-8-2016) after being critically ill for more than a week. Called the 'Queen of Ranthambore', the 19-year-old tigress was the longest surviving tigress in the wild, suggest reports. Forest officials were reported saying that Machli was barely eating or moving in the last few days and a team of veterinary doctors were monitoring her condition.

Park guides often recount the fierce bout with a 14-foot-long crocodile as one of the most remembered incidents about Machli. A video, that has been posted on YouTube, shows how ferocious Machli was during her prime years. In the video, Machli overpowers the massive crocodile using her heavily-built frame. Apart from twisting the crocodile, visuals show how Machli grabbed the aquatic reptile by her teeth causing major injuries to the back of its neck which ultimately led to its death.

According to reports, the tigress lost many of her canines in the bout. Subsequently, Machli was given baits to ensure her survival along with a team of forest guards keeping track of her movements.

Machli is also touted to be one of the most photographed big cats. Her popularity can be gauged by the presence of multiple Facebook pages dedicated to her. Tourists visiting the

Ranthambore Park were mostly looking for a glimpse of the tigress.

According to IANS reports, Machli's body has been taken for post mortem to the AmaGhati check post after which it will be cremated. Field Director of Ranthambore, Y K Sahu spoke to IANS and said that the cremation would prevent the harvesting of body parts. During her lifetime, Machli had given birth to eleven tiger cubs.

Vijayawada is third densely packed city: 31,200 people in every square km: -

Hyderabad: Vijayawada has been ranked third in the world in urban population density per square mile or square km of urban built-up area. Demographia, a US-based international urban agency, in its 12th edition of Demographia World Urban Areas: 2016 revealed that Vijayawada had a projected population of 17.7 lakh living in 57 square kilometers of land area – 31,200 people in every square km.

The city ranks third after Dhaka, Bangladesh, and Hyderabad, Pakistan, out of the 1,022 urban areas across the world that were considered for the study. Vijayawada ranked 278 among the world's built up areas. Tokyo stood at the top of the list in built-up area.

Demographia World Urban Areas is the only annually published inventory of population, corresponding land area and population density for urban areas with populations of more than 500,000.

The total population of the 1,022 cities that were studied is estimated at 2.12 billion in 2016, 53 per cent of the world's urban population. According to Demographia, new census data and estimates as well as later satellite imagery have led to some substantial revisions in the 2016 edition of Demographia World Urban Areas.

Kawal tigers face poaching threat in

Telangana: - Hyderabad: Two tigers, a male and a female, which inhabit the Kawal Tiger Reserve, are under severe threat from poachers. In the past five months three poaching incidents have occurred in the core area of the tiger reserve, raising concerns over the safety of the two tigers that have taken up residence here since last year. The worst of the three incidents occurred in June in Khanapur range when two poachers were booked for killing a Chowsingha and a Nilgai. Chowsingha is a threatened species protected under Schedule-I of the Wildlife Protection Act. The other two incidents occurred in April and May under Kadam and Pembi ranges.

Another incident, which also took place in June, is more worrisome though as it occurred in the buffer area of the tiger reserve. Mamda forest officials had arrested a total of five persons from Chandrayangutta and Golconda in Hyderabad while they were hunting for game.

The five were chargesheeted but they managed to secure bail and officials are awaiting the date for the next hearing. Also, activists say that this is just the tip of the iceberg and more such cases either go unnoticed or unreported.

Kawal measures around 2,000 sq. km in area but has just around 30-40 base camps with four-five

unarmed guards. The Centre had last year sanctioned the Armed Special Tiger Protection Force of 100 guards each for both Kawal and Amrabad Tiger Reserves in Telangana. The state government, however, has not done anything yet to realize this force.

PLANS TO BRING BACK EXTINCT GREAT AUK:

- Scientists are planning to bring the extinct great auk back from the dead, almost 200 years after the penguin-sized, flightless birds disappeared. Until the species' final extinction in the middle of the 19th century, great auks ranged across the Atlantic from Northern Europe to Iceland, Canada and the U.S. Flightlessness made the birds vulnerable to human hunting and exploitation for its meat and feathers. The scientists want to extract great auk DNA from fossils or preserved organs and then use digital data to sequence the animal's entire genetic code. Attempts to regulate the hunting, as early as the 16th Century were fruitless. In 1844 the last birds in the final known colony on an island off Iceland were killed.

INDIA ON 10 WEALTHIEST COUNTRY LIST, TAKES 7TH SPOT

India has figured among the top 10 wealthiest countries in the world with a total individual wealth of \$5,600 billion while the United States topped the chart.

The US is the wealthiest in the world in terms of total individual wealth held (\$48,900 billion) while China stood second and Japan third, with total individual wealth of \$17,400 billion and \$15,100 billion, respectively. Others in the top 10 club include the UK, Germany and France.

PTI

TO THE INDIAN FOREST SERVICE

You are the quiet men who do not boast
 Although you've done much more than most
 To make this land a sea of green
 From here to far Cape Comorin
Without some help to Nature's thrust ;
 Our land would be a bowl of dust;
 For land which has no forest wealth
 Must suffer in its natural health,
As herbs and plants all need green cover
 Before they help the sick recover.
And we need trees to hold together
 Beasts, and birds of every feather,
 And leaves, so that the air stays sweet
 All this and more is no mean feat.
Dear Foresters, you have not toiled
 for fame or favour,
Yours has been a love of labour
Our thanks! Instead of desert sand
You've given us this green and growing land.

Collected and contributed By
Sri Arakala Sudhakar
(With thanks)

Ruskin Bond
 Mussorie

Editor's Note : This poem was written on 10-4-2004 by Ruskin Bond (born 19 May 1934) is an Indian author of British descent. He lives with his adopted family in Landour, in Mussoorie, India. The Indian Council for Child Education has recognized his role in the growth of children's literature in India. He got the Sahitya Academy Award in 1992 for *Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra*, for his published work in English. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1999 and Padma Bhushan in 2014. He wrote his first short story, 'Untouchable', at the age of sixteen in 1950. In 2007, the Bollywood director Vishal Bhardwaj made a film based on his popular novel for children, *The Blue Umbrella*. The movie won the National Award for Best Children's film.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT: A TELLING SIMIAN SAGA

By
Manju Gupta

At the outset, I insist that only the believers read on. Sceptics and cynics please stay away. After thus alerting the spoilers, I will recount this story, but first some background.

We live in a small town in Haryana and run a nursing home that occupies a small part of a vast compound, which has a garden, vegetable patch and fruit trees. Monkeys are frequent visitors, and apart from the occasions when they go on the rampage, tearing clothes and uprooting plants, it is a story of peaceful coexistence. They take the fruits and vegetables they like, and we eat what is left. Since they are considered Hanuman's kin, no one wants to be overly stern with them. Initially our staff would shoot off the monkeys with sticks. On a good day they would run off, on a bad day they would impudently stare back. Then one day, which you will agree was worse than other days, a monkey snatched our stick and waved it threateningly back at us. Feeling utterly belittled, we then tried to scare them with firecrackers, but to no avail. That is when, out of desperation, we bought an air gun.

Initially, the sight of it was enough to scare them. I still wonder how the monkeys knew that firearms are fearsome gadgets. When the novelty wore off and the enemy figured out that we just aimed but never fired, their respect for our gun

died. Now we were left with no choice but to shoot at sight and show them that we meant business. And so we would fire in the air on seeing them. Sure enough, it sent them scurrying for cover.

After a while we ran out of pellets and started firing it unloaded, thinking the sound and sight of the gun would be enough to frighten them. Soon enough they called our bluff, and started ignoring our dry firing. They stepped up their destructive activities, awaiting our next move. Clearly it was a game of wits and we were losing.

A walk-in patient: And then one day, something happened which, we thought, would change the dynamics of our relationship. A monkey walked into our hospital through the front gates. Yes, you got that right; he walked on his hind limbs with an upright, almost humanoid gait. Didn't jump over the boundary wall, which was until then the preferred route. Moreover, he didn't leap around, leer or try to scare children. The menacing look, the threatening demeanor, all gone.

He then walked to the rear of the hospital and quietly lay down on an empty bed. That's when we noticed: he had injured his hand and it was bleeding. He lay there pleading with his eyes. Most of the staff, having heard stories of monkey

bites, was scared to do the needful. A male nurse bravely went ahead and dressed the wound. During the whole procedure the patient lay very still, without even a whimper. Afterwards, he gratefully walked out of the front gates.

For a few weeks thereafter the monkey menace ebbed and I thought we were being rewarded for the good deed. I began to dream of eating ripe, succulent fruits fresh off the tree. But soon enough, the simians returned to their usual misdeeds. Maybe our patient was from a different group; maybe he was low in the monkey hierarchy and couldn't influence the behavior of the rest of his clan; maybe word of the incident didn't spread in the simian community because they don't share stories. We had no way of knowing.

In any case, our mind was preoccupied with

more pertinent questions. How did the monkey know we were equipped to tend to his wound? Dressings and operations are done indoors, away from their gaze. What made him temporarily give up his simian habits and try to emulate humans? Did he think we were more likely to treat him if he behaved like one?

And the most important question of all. Did he think that by walking upright he could pass off as a coveted member of the *Homo sapience erectus* species? Is that the only difference he perceived between us?

This incident stays fresh in my mind, and since it happened before the era of readily accessible phone cameras, I can offer no photographic proof. As for those who are shaking their head in disbelief, you shouldn't even be reading this!

(dr_manjugupta@icloud.com)

“Honesty is a very expensive gift; don't expect it from cheap people.”

NOTICE

The Southern Forest Rangers College alumni meet as decided earlier will be held from 24th October to 27th October 2016. Those who have not yet contributed for participation in the meet can send their willingness to Sri Narayan Swamy President on phone number 09701336446 or Sri A. Kishan Secretary General on phone number 09963321321

LEGAL NOTES

Samir Thapar vs. Union of India and Others

Samir Thapar went on a hunting spree in Republic of Tanzania and hunted many wild animals of that country like, the Lion. Buffalo, Hippo, Leopard etc. in Farms of Solace Game Reserves, between 24.07, 2001 and 31.08.2001. He obtained a letter dated 08.07.2002 from Luke Samaras Safari Ltd., Tanzania and another letter dated 17.07.2002 from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, United Republic of Tanzania, in proof of hunting legally. He wanted to import into India Trophies/Articles from Tanzania; and, therefore submitted application to the Wildlife Authorities along with all required documents for issuing No Objection Certificate. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Delhi and Wildlife Officer, issued a letter dated 27.05.2003 addressed to the petitioner with reference to his application, granting No Objection Certificate and the petitioner was permitted to import from Tanzania into India, subject to certain conditions inter alia that import of animal trophies and articles of look-alike species will not be permitted. Another condition stipulated was that there should be License from DGFT (Director General Foreign Trade) and valid CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna) Export Permit from Exporting Country.

Authorities concerned with the implementation

of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act 1992 and Exim Policy have to accord permission for the import of the trophies/articles.

The Deputy Director, Wildlife, Regional Office, informed the petitioner by letter dated 16.02.2004 giving him a list of 14 hunted trophies to be imported from Tanzania into India subject to fulfillment of conditions of Exim Policy i.e. License from DGFT on the recommendation of the Chief Wildlife Warden. The list of 14 hunted trophies does not include trophy of Leopard -*Panthera pardus*. Import of trophy of leopard is prohibited in accordance with the Exim Policy, CITES, Wildlife (Protection) Act and other relevant policy provisions.

The bone of contention was regarding permission for import of trophy of *Panthera pardus* (look-alike species) as its import is not permitted. In this backdrop, Samir Thapar approached High Court of Delhi by filing Writ Petition No.17087 of 2014 which came up for consideration before the Hon'ble Justice G.S. Sistani. The writ petition was opposed by the respondents.

The court heard arguments of both parties and extracted in the judgment the following from the CITES:

"The contracting States, Recognizing wild fauna

and flora in their many beautiful and varied forms are an irreplaceable part of the natural systems of the earth which must be protected for this and the generation to come;

Conscious of the even growing value of wild fauna and flora from the aesthetic, scientific, cultural, recreational and economic points of view;

Recognizing that peoples and States are and should be the best protectors of their own wild fauna and flora;

Recognizing, in addition, that international cooperation is essential for the protection of certain species of wild fauna and flora against over exploitation through international trade;

Convinced of the urgency of taking appropriate measures to this end;

Have agreed as follows"

The court discussed the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 vis-à-vis the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act 1992 and Foreign Trade Policy. His Lordship concluded:

"Thus, a conjoint reading of the Foreign Trade Policy, Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 read with import licensing note leaves no room for doubt that there is an express bar in importing *Panthera pardus*."

Consequently, the writ petition was found to be without any merit and therefore, it was dismissed on 09. 04. 2010.

Source: Internet

K.B.R

Mrs. PANDURANGA REDDY PASSEDAWAY

Smt. Sandadi Padmaja W/o the late Sri Panduranga Reddy, Rtd. Conservator of Forests, passed away on Aug. 15, 2016 at her residence. She was 90 and was suffering due to prolonged illness. Her body was cremated at Vaikuntha Maha Prasthanam on August 18, 2016. She is survived by son Dr. Shyam Sunder Reddy and daughter-in-law Dr. Pushpa; and daughters: Dr. Samyuktha Vidyasagar, Dr. Arun Jyothi Prabhakar, Dr. Renuka Narasimha, and Dr. Mangala Sudhakar, two grand-daughters, five grandsons and nine great grandchildren.

May her soul rest in peace!

KBR

Birth Day Greetings

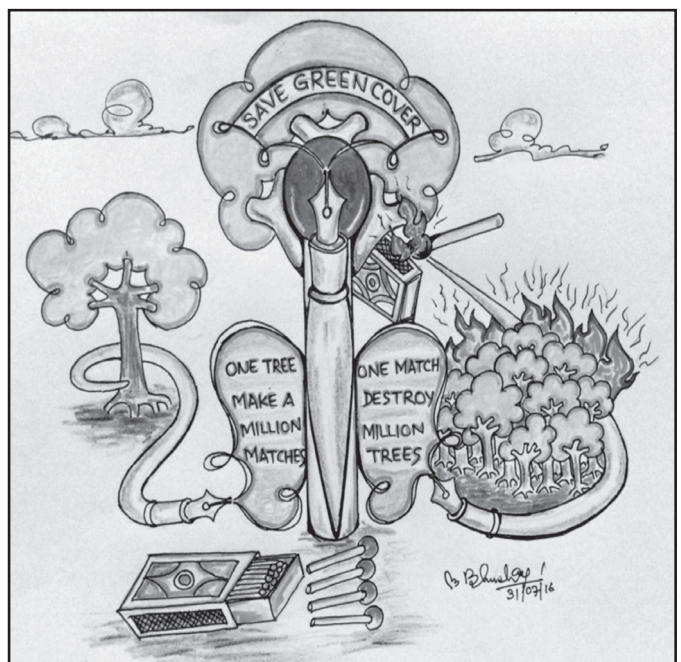
We wish the following born on the dates mentioned
“ A very Happy Birth Day ”

S.No.	Name of the member	D.O.B.			
	Sarva Sri		4.	S.B.L.Misra	30-09-1956
			5.	Dr.Rajendra Prasad Khajuria	05-10-1968
1.	A.H.Qureshi	07-09-1941	6.	D.Sudhakar Reddy	01-09-1966
2.	A.Raja Reddy	13-09-1926	7.	A.Sreenivasulu	11-09-1967
3.	J.V.Subba Rao	13-09-1934	8.	M.Samuel	12-09-1978
4.	Narpat Singh	15-09-1952	9.	N.Rama Chandra Rao	18-09-1984
5.	V.Kishan Reddy	20-09-1941	10.	S.Venkateshwarlu	22-09-1961
6.	G.Sagar	23-09-1952	11.	B.Jayachandra Reddy	01-10-1958
7.	V.V.Hari Prasad	25-09-1953	12.	S.Satyanarayana	04-10-1967
8.	K.S.Rao	26-09-1948	13.	K.Purushotham	05-10-1962
9.	D.S.Gangakhedkar	29-09-1934	14.	M.Keshavaram	05-10-1960
10.	P.S.Reddy	30-09-1932			
11.	P.V.Krishna Murthy	03-10-1933			
12.	P.Ranga Rao	05-10-1927			
13.	P.Subramanyam	05-10-1946			

Secretary

S.No.	Name of Serving Officers	D.O.B.
	Sarva Sri	
1.	Smt.Priyanka Varghese	08-09-1978
2.	K.S.Reddy	10-09-1957
3.	Chandan Mitra	27-09-1958





Art by **Nagabhushanam Dasari**

TOO HOT, TOO COLD AND TOO WET

By
J. DEVAPRAKASH

What can we do as responsible citizens to save our planet from irreversible climate change?

It's too hot. It is awful to live under this scorching sun. This year the heat is too much. These are the words that we often hear in summer.

The hot season in India extends from March to June with the average temperature ranging from 24°C to 45°C. Usually, the heat is more intense in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Jharkhand than most other states in the country. And, of late, the heat is much higher than the average. For instance, in May 2012, it was 52°C in some parts of Andhra Pradesh.

What happens when summer comes to an end and when we welcome a change: the monsoon? Do we stop blaming Nature? The answer is 'yes' and 'no'. It is 'yes' in the initial days. But as rain peaks, we complain.

It's raining so heavily. This heavy downpour disturbs everything. This year there is too much rain.

From July, the showers continue and grow in intensity in November. On an average, the country receives 125 cm of rainfall annually. While the Western Ghats, the North East region and the Sub-Himalayan areas get more rain

(more than 200 cm), it is scanty in places like Punjab, Rajasthan and Deccan Plateau (less than 50 cm).

Then comes winter. It gradually brings a chill to our world. Snowfall starts and beautiful winter flowers bloom. But as it gets colder, we too grow irritable...

It is terribly cold. It is difficult to cope with this harsh winter. This year it is excessively cold.. We say this "this year..." every year, and during every season.

How do animals and birds cope with the seasons, especially winter? They adapt something that humans hardly do. This trait of "adaptation" helps them get adjusted to the environment they live in, even if it is hostile. That is how camels survive in the desert, one of the hottest places on earth, and polar bears live in the biting cold minus 34°C temperature of the Arctic region. But birds and animals that cannot survive the harsh climate migrate.

In this context, our concern about the climate and the "this year." chant is genuine. Climate patterns on the planet have been disturbed and the average weather conditions are undergoing erratic changes. Global temperatures have

been on the rise since 1880. Some places on earth experience extreme heat and drought. At times, it rains unusually heavily and at other times, there is hardly any rain. Glaciers are melting and sea levels are rising. All these are attributed to a phenomenon called "climate change".

Why is it happening and who is responsible for it? In a world where more than eight millions species live, climate change is happening because of humans.

The dual effect of cutting trees and emitting huge amounts of green house gases leads to the increase in surface temperature which in turn causes climate change.

The changes do not affect only humans, but also the entire ecosystem. As a consequence, millions of other species are at risk.

While the damage caused to the environment is irreversible, there is some hope to stem it. Therefore, it is time for the humans to unite, to prevent it. Governments and organizations across the world are putting in their best efforts to limit emission of greenhouse gases by deploying resorting to clean and renewable

energy sources.

Besides decreasing dependency on fossil fuels, nations are striving to increase green cover. There are two things one can do to mitigate this global problem. One way is to use electricity and other forms of energy consciously - like reducing power consumption, unplugging electrical appliances when not in use, and using automobiles only when essential.

The second way is to plant and save trees in and around one's locality. As green cover increases, the absorption rate of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will increase, too.

It is never too late to follow these two ways - conserving energy and growing trees - in our everyday life.

And we must rephrase our "this year..." chant to:
This year I saved lots of electricity and reduced the emission of carbon dioxide. This season I planted several trees.

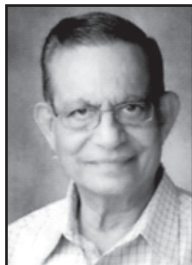
The author is Manager (Public Awareness and Press Relations) at Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project. He writes about nature, energy and communication.

Source : The Hindu with Thanks

"It's better to hang out with people better than you. Pick out associates whose behavior is better than yours and you'll drift in that direction."

OBITUARY

Sri K.Koteswara Rao
(15.07.1933 – 04.08.2016)



Sri. Kalla Koteswara Rao, Retired Dy. Conservator of Forests, passed away peacefully at Visakhapatnam in his sleep in the wee hours of 04-08-2016. He was 83. He has been ailing for some time

due to kidney problem and was undergoing Dialysis regularly. Sri. Koteswara Rao was born on 15-07-1933 at Rajahmundry to Late Sri. Kalla Venkatraju, and Late Smt.China Tholasamma. He was the second among the 8 siblings : 2 sisters and 6 brothers and was the eldest among the brothers.

He had his School education in Govt. Training College at Rajahmundry. He did his Intermediate in P.R.College,Kakinada and finally his B.Sc.(Hons) in Andhra University at Visakhapatnam. He started his career in the State Bank of India at Rajahmundry in the year 1955. He was selected for Rangers training course at the Southern Forest Rangers College, Coimbatore during 1957-59. After passing out of the Forest College, he worked as Forest Range Officer at Yeleswaram, Chintoor, Jangareddigudem, Sreehari Kota, Kavali, and Research Range, Nellore. He also worked as Instructor in AP Forest School, Yellandu. He was promoted to the State Forest Service as ACF in the year 1975 and worked as DFO in A.P. Paper Mills Rajahmundry; DFO Koyyalagudem Logging Division,

Rajahmundry and Divisional Manager in APFDC Kavali, Ongole and as DFO Eluru and finally retired as DFO & DCF, Social Forestry at Visakhapatnam in the year 1991.

After retirement, he worked as Private Secretary to Sri. U.V. Krishnam Raju, Former Minister of State at the Centre, till May 2004. Sri Koteswara Rao was married to Smt. Lakshmi kanthamma on 05-05-1955 and they had a son Suresh Kumar and a daughter Anuradha. Son Suresh Kumar predeceased him in 2013 after his marriage with Naga Padmavathi; the couple had a son Rahul, an Engineering Graduate. With the premature death of Suresh Kumar, a great misfortune had befallen the family of late Koteswara Rao. His daughter Anuradha married to Ch.Rama Joga Rao, who retired as Dy.General Manager, Indian Telephone Industry at Bangalore.

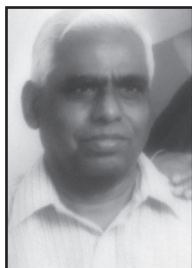
Sri. Koteswara Rao, wherever he worked, had won the hearts of everybody with whom he came in contact. He was loved by his superiors and was respected by subordinates. He left an indelible impression in every body's mind. The family is very well known for their love and affection, and, of course, their hospitality.

The demise of Sri Koteswara Rao has created a void in the circle of his friends which is difficult to fill. His loss is mourned not only by his family members but also a host of relatives and friends. **MAY HIS NOBLE SOUL REST IN PEACE.**

-V.SANTHASEELA BABU

OBITUARY

2. P. Lakshma Reddy 13.05.1929 – 05.08.2016



Sri Purmandla Lakshma Reddy left for his heavenly abode on August 5, 2016 at 06.00 a.m. in a private nursing home at Hyderabad. He was 87. He was under medical treatment during the last three months

for gastrointestinal bleed and acute kidney injury. Lakshma Reddy was born in Bakri Chepriyal village in Siddipet Mandalm Medak District in a family of agriculturists to Sri Shambi Reddy and Smt Rukmini.

He received school education in his native village and moved to Hyderabad for higher education in Chaderghat High School and City College. He was selected by the erstwhile Government of Hyderabad for undergoing Forest Rangers training during 1951–53 at Madras Forest College, Coimbatore. Sri Lakshma Reddy passed out of Forest College after successfully completing the forestry training. As Forest Range Officer, he worked in Nanded, Aurangabad in Marhatwada area of Hyderabad state. He was then allotted to Andhra Pradesh cadre in 1956. The other places where he worked as Range Officer in Telangana region are Nirmal, Mamda, Khanapur, Eturunagaram, and Mahbubnagar. He was promoted to the State Forest Service as Assistant Conservator of Forests and in that capacity he worked at Vikarabad and Warangal. Sri Lakshma Reddy was married to Smt Narsamma in 1942. They have two daughters and four sons. His life is a saga in as much as he

had given importance to education and values during his lifetime. All his children are well educated and highly disciplined true to his values. Among two daughters, one is a medical doctor Dr. V. Anasuya; and another, B. Vimala, a postgraduate, working as Bank Executive. Among sons, Eshwar Reddy is Chemical Engineer; Vijayapal, a Mechanical Engineer; Mahender, a medical doctor; and Ajay Kumar, a Mechanical Engineer. Needless to say that all of them are well settled. The eldest son Eshwar recently retired as Director (Engineering) from Ramky Infrastructure Ltd. and is presently the Executive Director of Bulk Drug Manufacturers Association (India). The other three sons are in USA.

Sri Reddy retired on superannuation in 1987 after serving the Forest Department for about 34 years. After retirement, he preferred to spend rest of his life in a rural area. He acquired a farmland in Turkapally village in Shamirpet Mandal, Ranga Reddy district and was pursuing his cherished desire of farming.

He was keen on serving the society and had donated huge sum to Reddy Jana Sangham, on behalf of himself and his family, for giving scholarships to deserving students and those who are in need of financial assistance.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son-in-law, four sons and daughters-in-law, five grand-daughters, two grand-sons and two great grand-daughters, and one great grandson.

He has many friends, relatives and colleagues to mourn his death.

May the Lord bless his soul in peace!

- KBR



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- The TSFDC is harvesting about 1,50,000 Lakh MTs of pulpwood every year. Besides this, it also produces about 15 Lakh Long Bamboo and 1500 MTs Bamboo industrial cuts for use as pulpwood.
- The TSFDC has also taken up the challenging task of Eco-Tourism development in the State. Already open to public – Hyderabad Botanical Garden near Hi-Tech City, Madhapur, Mahavir Nischal Van Eco-Tourism Centre, Vanasthalipuram and Shameerpet Deer Park, attracting increasing number of visitors.

Vice Chairman & Managing Director,

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

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- The corporation has bagged awards “ **Flavour of India- Fine cup awards** ” for producing quality coffee during the years 2003, 2005, 2007 to 2015.

Plant A Sapling And Protect The Environment

Vice Chairman & Managing Director,
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