

VANA PREMI

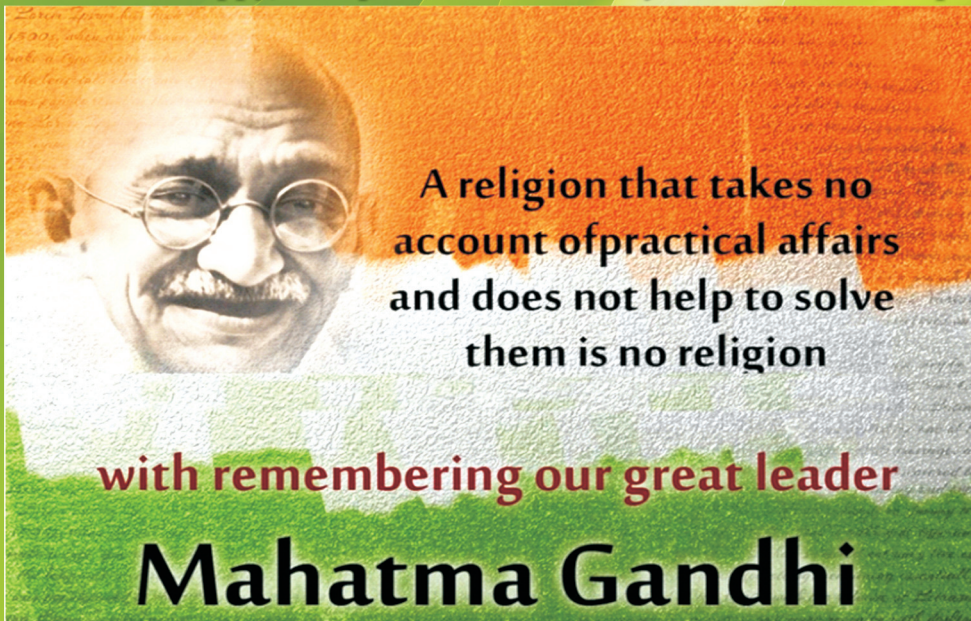
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EDITORIAL

Wildlife week: -India was ruled by many dynasties. The Mauryan Empire was the first major empire in the history of India and ruled the country from 322 BC to 185 BC. Almost the entire subcontinent was conquered by the Mauryan Empire. India was last ruled by the British Raj. The rule of the British Crown in the Indian subcontinent was between 1858 and 1947. Britishers came to India as Traders in 1765 and finally assumed the task of administering India in 1858. For ninety years the Britishers ruled India. Many people in India wanted to be free from British rule. The struggle for independence was long and difficult. Thousands of freedom fighters sacrificed their lives for achieving independence. The most important leader of the struggle for Indian independence was Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi believed in a non-violent opposition towards the British. On 15 August 1947, British Indian Empire was partitioned into two countries, India and Pakistan. With this the British Raj in the Indian subcontinent ended. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi or Mahatma Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869, at Porbandar. He came to be considered the father of the nation. Gandhiji is internationally esteemed for his doctrine of nonviolent protest (*Satyagraha*). In the eyes of millions Gandhiji was the 'Mahatma'.

2nd October is the birth day of our great leader Mahatma Gandhi who was an apostle of

nonviolence. The wildlife week is celebrated from 2nd of October every year with the view to preserve the fauna of the India as this is the most appropriate time of the year which coincides and starts with Mahatma's birth day. Celebration of wildlife week was first started in the year 1952 with the great vision of saving the life of the India's wild animals by taking some critical steps. Our Constitution places the responsibility for wildlife protection on both the government and the citizens of the country. Article 48-A says that "The State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country" and Article 51 (A)(g) reiterates that it is every Indian's fundamental duty to protect wildlife.

Wildlife conservation is a global concern as species and their habitats face an increasing number of threats, many of which are caused by human activities. Wild animals and their habitats are at risk from use of forest land for non-forestry purposes, leading to habitat destruction, poaching, the illegal wildlife trade, pollution, and the effects of climate change. Polar bears rely heavily on Arctic sea ice, which is rapidly disappearing due to global warming. Ducks, geese and other waterfowl across the country are **changing behaviors and migration patterns** and suffering the consequences of more extreme weather,

including drought and floods. Climate change has altered food availability for migratory species; birds arrive on schedule to find their food sources—insects, seeds, flowering plants—have hatched or bloomed too early or not at all.

In order to arouse a general awakening in the common man in favor of protection of wildlife, the Indian Board of Wildlife decided to observe the Wildlife Week to improve the awareness as well as the consciousness of the Indian people towards the wildlife preservation and since then from October 2 to 8 every year organizes different activities related to wildlife conservation.

Over the years illegal wildlife trade has emerged as a form of organized crime that has threatened the existence of many wild species. In India, it includes diverse products of wildlife, including mongoose hair; snake skins; Elephant tusks; Rhino horn; musk pods; Tiger and Leopard claws, bones, skins, whiskers; deer antlers; Shahtoosh shawls; turtle shells; bear bile; medicinal plants; and caged birds such as parakeets, mynas, munias and many more. A large part of this trade is meant for the international market. The illegal wildlife trade is worth billions of dollars annually. Though trade in over 1800 species of wild animals, plants and their derivative is prohibited under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, yet it is flourishing in India due to our negligence.

Have we ever thought what life would be like, if we did not have wildlife in India? Without earthworms, the soil would deteriorate. Without

butterflies, flowers would disappear. Without monkeys and birds, many forest trees would vanish. Without turtles, our waters would become polluted. Without vultures, hyenas, burying beetles, blowflies, yellow jackets, and raccoons, carcasses would rot in the fields everywhere. Without tigers, number of herbivores will increase abnormally and destroy our crops. Without insects there would be no pollination and no food for us. And without forests, there would be no rain, no rivers and eventually no life. Each and every species from the bees to the bears forms a protective shield for human life and a role is played in betterment of human beings.

The exploitation of land and forest resources by humans along with hunting and trapping for food and sport has led to the extinction of many species in India in recent times. Some of the species include mammals, such as the Asiatic cheetah, Indian Javan rhinoceros, Northern Sumatran rhinoceros, Malabar Civet, and giant squirrel, birds like pink-headed duck (*Rhodonessacaryophyllacea*) and the Himalayan quail (*Ophrysiasuperciliosa*). While some of these large mammal species are confirmed extinct, there have been many smaller animal and plant species whose status is harder to determine. In India 16 species of birds, 21 species of fishes, 28 species of reptiles and amphibians, 14 species of mammals are in critically endangered animals list, 38 mammals

are in endangered list and 9 species of mammals, and 1 species of reptiles are in vulnerable list. If no strict action is taken to save them, very soon these species will become extinct. Humans cannot live without wildlife but wildlife can live very comfortably and much better without humans. This is the reason we have to protect wildlife in our own interest and not because of any kindness on Wildlife.

Wildlife week is observed every year by organizing some special activities connected with the wild life conservation. The aim of the week is to raise awareness, of the plight of the animals we share our planet with, and to see what can be done to help their struggles. To make the wildlife saving plans successful, varieties of sanctuaries and national parks have been already declared in the country under W.L. Protection Act 1972. Today in India we have 536 wildlife sanctuaries, 103 National parks, 67 conservation reserves and 26 community reserves. There are 49 tiger reserves in India which are governed by Project Tiger scheme, and administered by the National Tiger Conservation Authority. We have 18 Biosphere Reserves in India. Protected Areas cover an area of 160901.74 sq. km. in India. We have 7 01,673 sq. km. of total area under forest, which is 21.34 per cent of the country's geographical area. The area under P.As is approximately 23% of total forested area. India has some of the most biodiverse regions of the world that is, the Western Ghats, the Eastern Himalayas and Indo-Burma area. Since India is

home to a number of rare and threatened animal species, wildlife management in the country is essential to preserve these species. As being a mega-storehouse country, India has stored a variety of faunal species. India is one of the seventeen megadiverse countries. According to one study, India along with other 16 mega diverse countries is home to about 60-70% of the world's biodiversity. India is home to 70 percent of tigers of the world and lying within the Indo Malaya ecozone, is home to about 7.6% of all mammalian, 12.6% of avian, 6.2% of reptilian, and 6.0% of flowering plant species. Can we afford to lose such a rich Biodiversity of our country? No we cannot, we have to protect all this.

The Government of India and State Governments organize a variety of activities during this period of one week through the environmentalists, activists, educators who encourage and accelerate the people's mind to become aware of the wildlife conservation. Every year several conferences, awareness programmes, public meetings etc. are held to manage this big plan. Various schools and institutions aware their students through the wildlife related movie screening, essay writing, painting competition, debate competition and many more.

Vana Premi wishes that we all together shall save the wildlife of our country for the betterment of human beings and all other living organisms. **QMK**

EPITOME OF NON-VIOLENCE

By
V.V.Hari Prasad

"Half naked seditious Fakir"
Churchill an arch imperialist,
Described Gandhiji
"Mahatma" a great soul,
Tagore christened him.

"A role model
For the generations to come",
Said Albert Einstein, the scientist
"A real hero of mine"
Declared Obama, the American President

"Christ gave us the goals,
Gandhi the tactics"
Asserted Martin Luther King the Jr
"The world is sick of violence
India dare to be worthy of Gandhi",
Exhorted Pearl S. Buck
The American Writer

Are we worthy of Gandhi?
A prudent average, Indian questions unto himself.
Unabated violence against hapless women,
Corruption in all walks of life,
Unscrupulous aggrandizement of wealth,
By the career politicians,
And the ruthless bureaucracy,
Do remind us of the fact that
We are far away from the goals,
Aimed at by the Father of the Nation

Can we strive for it?
Towards reaching the goals envisioned by Mahatma,
It is time to ponder over,
And pave the way for it,
By all who revere Gandhiji the personification of truth?
And the epitome of nonviolence

(Note : The author is a Retd. Dy.CF from Andhra Pradesh)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

Hats off, for your well researched editorial essay on “World Heart Day” published in the Vana Premi of Sept. 10, 2016. I read the editorial with interest particularly, because I am a heart patient myself. I suffered a silent heart attack. A physician friend referred me to a cardiologist, who in turn referred me to a cardiac surgeon. I did undergo bypass surgery, as advised, in February 1989. I recall with gratitude the kind help I received from Sri A.H. Moosvi who prepared me for my surgery in Nizam’s Institute of Medical Sciences. Moosvi Sahib was in fact my savior. I have no major heart problem since then over the period of more than 26 years. I followed a 3-pint formula – regular medication, constant exercise and strict diet. Of course, periodical review is indispensable.

J.V. Sharma’s ‘Hand View’ is a gripping story and a true reflection of Telangana forests. He made a strenuous effort to gather several historic facts to present a perspective of the past. I congratulate him and implore him to continue his art and the skillful writing for the benefit of Vana Premi’s readers.

M. Ram Mohan’s excellent article on “Fences and Firewood” uncovers the malady and the author’s suggestions are worth considering for implementation.

K.B.R. Reddy

Dear Sir,

Apropos to the article ‘Rescuing the Dying Forest of India’ by Dr Akula Krishan published in series in 4 consecutive issues in your esteemed magazine; I wish to express my appreciation to the author for his labour and pains taken to discuss in detail with explanations about the forest legislation, constitution of forests, forest conservation, utilization, development and management with the present status; wildlife legislation, protection & management with present status; and researches in both the fields in India right from the days of inception of forest department in the center & in states till date; Kudos to his spirit in enlightening the mass through the media for the benefit of the forests, wildlife & nation.

His arguments of future forestry in Para 11 with technical inputs in 42 sub-paras are most versatile to be considered by the authorities to improve the lots of forest and wildlife in India. His suggestions for better research, technical, administrative and financial inputs for modernization of the dying forests need to be seriously viewed by the working foresters for the good of India.

Further, I wish to suggest that the working foresters need to be united to voice against the Legislature when it enacts draconian laws without taking the foresters in to confidence;. Eg:1) FRA, 2006 ; and 2) Banning of Eucalyptus & Acacia raising in the forests of Karnataka, in reality these spp are flooding the arable fertile lands affecting the food production.

B.M.T.Rajeev, Bengaluru

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Dt.15.09.2016

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Managing Director,
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ERRATUM

The article published on page number 24 in September 2016 issue of Vana Premi, by Sri M. RamMohan captioned as “Of offences and fuelwood” was printed wrongly. It is to be read as “Of fences and fuelwood” instead of “Of offences and fuelwood”. The error is regretted. Editor

RESOLUTION OF MAN ANIMAL CONFLICTS

By
R.K. Rao

The recent news [HINDU .AUG.21] that stray dogs mauled a person to death is shocking. Dogs are not the only animals we have to contend with; monkeys, snakes, rats in the urban environment and tigers, panthers, elephants, wild boar and *Nilgai* in rural areas adjoining forests are becoming a threat to life and crops. The method adopted to control dog population is to catch and kill this has been going on in almost all urban areas for over a hundred years without any effect any serious dent on dog populations. The second method adopted is animal birth control; the females are caught, operated and released back into the population. This method has some measure of success, but due to the large populations involved it is difficult to implement. Habitat is the key to manage populations; as long as food, water and shelter are available populations will thrive; out cities, towns and villages provide plenty of these essential elements! We cannot control availability of water and shelter, but garbage, the main source of food for stray dogs, can be controlled; NO GARBAGE NO DOGS. The city authorities should use the funds being spent on killing dogs to

manage garbage, the more success we achieve to remove garbage, the less the growth in dog populations; we are adopting nature's methods AND it is also the most humane way of solving the stray dog menace. A method so far not attempted is to promote adoption of the dogs by homes/apartments as watch dogs; they being territorial animals, make good watch dogs.

Monkey populations have multiplied tremendously and a rough estimate put their number at over fifty million in the country! we venerate them and rightly we stopped their export for experimental purposes; some success has been achieved in population control by oral administration of a vaccine in Himachal Pradesh; Attempts at translocation to forest areas has led to their migration into nearby villages; the populations are too large for success; in Thailand and some Asian countries monkeys are used to harvest coconuts and a monkey can harvest 400 coconuts a day against 80 by man! As long as they are not subjected to cruelty it is a better alternative to birth-control. Thailand has a monkey training school!

Elephants have become a threat to life and crops in several states; annually 400 people die from elephant attacks and over 100 elephants get killed by irate farmers; the argument that man has encroached on their habitat etc. does not hold much water as they have been reported to raid crops even in ancient times; growing crops are an attractive food for most herbivores including elephants; Some animals get habituated to such raids; with our cultural reservations and veneration for this animal, the solution lies in using them in our sanctuaries and national parks for taking round visitors, instead of motor vehicles. The over 500 protected areas can absorb over 5000 elephants. They do not require roads, the wildlife is not disturbed on seeing the elephant, the visitors enjoy an elephant ride and government saves on fuel imports and in reduced pollution. They can live in the forest environment; they have been used in logging operations by the forest departments

from a long time; and Tamilnadu has even a pension scheme for retired elephants!

Carnivores like tiger and panther have been sighted far from the forest boundaries in recent times and reports of attacks and fatalities of men and animals are increasing. And even the Gir lions were found twenty to thirty kilometers from the park boundaries. These sort out of the forest are in search of prey and an indication that the carrying capacity of the forest has been reached; presently the forest departments are trapping them with tranquilizers and releasing them back in the forest or sending them to zoological parks; the time has come to open up some areas for hunting. Every being on earth has to pay for its survival in Nature. That is the harsh law of survival of the fittest. How best we can manage wildlife population vis-a-vis human populations is the challenge we have to solve in the most humane way.

Mrs. J. PRABHAKAR RAO PASSED AWAY

Smt. Juvvadi Pramila Devi W/o the late J. Prabhakar Rao, DFO, passed away on September 4, 2016 at Hyderabad. She was about 80. She was suffering from Rheumatoid arthritis during the past few years. She is survived by two sons: Pradeep & Ramana; daughter Pramada; three grandsons and three grand-daughters, all well settled. All rituals following the death are solemnly performed under the supervision of her son-in-law Dr. P. Venkateshwar Rao.

May her noble soul in peace! K.B.R

MANAGEMENT OF MONKEY POPULATION

By
R.S. Bhadauria

I have witnessed as well as actively participated in various phases of wild life management since early sixties when it was started by regulating hunting by introducing fortnightly shooting permits, during defined shooting season with prescribed limits of animals and birds, allowed to be shot. But this system covered only reserved Forests (R.F) as revenue areas outside R.Fs were beyond the control of Forest dept. and there was no law to protect the wildlife.

After the enactment of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 (WLPA), its implementation started but full scale implementation, could be enforced till about 1980, by which time all exploitable methods of wildlife like shooting for game or trophy or pot (meat), trapping and snaring for pet trade, medical research and study, were stopped. Subsequently catching from the wild even for zoos was banned. Since the said Act is applicable to entire territory of the country (forest as well as outside forest areas), the wild life recovered its lost ground quickly and by about the year 1990, even the most endangered species fared well.

During this period besides banning all kinds of exploitation, there was spate of declaring Protected Areas (National Parks, Sanctuaries & Bio spheres reserves) creating safe havens for wild life which further hastened the recovery

process of wildlife. Widespread awareness programmes also added to the success of conservation movement. All these efforts were then necessary to turn the tide of destruction which had started with the advent of British, with high velocity fire arms, particularly high caliber rifles.

Man & Animal Conflict and Sustainable

Conservation: By the turn of century, complete protection from exploitation on one hand proved beneficial to all the species in general, but on the other some quick- response species, due to rising population, started posing management problems of Man & Animal conflict. Needless to say that ideal conservation strategy is **Sustainable Management** and to achieve this, wildlife management will have to be divided in to two categories, (1) for Forest areas and (2) for areas outside forests- human habitation areas. This is necessary because in the first category the food chain of wildlife (intra-relationship amongst animals and inter-relationship between animal life and plant life) has to be managed within the forest areas, which are beyond human use, while in the second category, inter- relationship between humans and wildlife comes in to picture and has to be taken care of. The fact remains that Humans being at the apex of nature's food chain,

are the ultimate controller of all natural food sources (Plant and Animal life both) on the earth. Therefore existence of both of these sources is safe as long as humans realize their importance and have pathetic attitude towards them. **Thus it is a plain truth that for protection of Wildlife (Plants & Animals), cooperation of public is must.**

In this context, wildlife managers can take any unilateral decision regarding management of wildlife **inside forests** but for managing wild life **outside forests**, interests of other stakeholders (humans) will have to be taken care of, otherwise conflict between humans and wildlife will be more disastrous for the later.

While considering the present scenario of wild life, outside forest areas, the population status of Blue bull, Wild boar, and Monkeys has gone up alarmingly high causing serious man and animal conflict. Of these, **blue bull and wild boars** are crop raiders, destroying field crops of farmers beyond tolerable limits and **monkeys** have become danger to human life, cause damage to fruit orchards and become nuisance in human habitations and particularly pilgrimage places around temples. Besides this, in some areas leopards and elephants, because of their overpopulation, come out of forest areas and enter habitation areas in search of food, posing threat to property and lives of human beings and their cattle.

Because of these conflicts, public has been crying hoarse for quite some time, bearing losses to human life and property and urging the state and central Govt. to mitigate this problem. As a

consequence, GOI has already decided to deal with Blue bull and Wild boar problem, by allowing them to be treated as vermin for one year, outside forest areas, wherever the state Govt., recommended it to be so. Therefore, in this write up, I will deal with the monkey problem only, for which lasting solution is yet to be found out.

Because of religious sentiments attached to them, and also not being palatable, monkeys have never been shooter's target. Also their preferred habitat is not the forest but human habitations where there is no natural predator to control their population. Therefore monkeys in India never faced any threat to their existence and were in fairly large number even before the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, came in to effect. But their population remained controlled because their trapping was allowed by the Forest dept. through annual auctions, and trapped monkeys were exported to be used in medical research all over the world and also used internally by *MADAREES* to show their antics in public for fun and recreation. **Thus there was an outlet to harvest at least part of additional annual growth of population and population remained under control.**

In the year 1980, the Govt. of India banned their exports and monkey trapping came to a complete halt. Because of this development, monkey population started rising and by the year 2000, conflict between Man and Monkeys started raising its ugly head and thereafter year after year, monkeys became ever rising threat to humans in various ways because they live

mostly in human habitations. So much so that in Delhi, around 3-4 years back, Langurs had to be deployed, though illegally, to protect Rashtrapathi Bhavan, PM. house and several other VVIP's houses and some school premises, from the depredation of monkeys. Also in early 1915, Langurs had to be deployed by the Police to scare monkeys during Mathura temples visit by Hon'ble President of India. Thus need for controlling monkey population has become a national issue to be resolved.

Methods

A- Sterilization:At the outset, culling by shooting monkeys was not considered desirable; therefore sterilization was considered and tried as a method to control their population. Though this method appears sound in principle, but it has not given desired result in Himachal Pradesh, where this operation has been going on for quite some time and did not prove effective and of late, under pressure from public the GOI, had to allow Shooting. Sterilization method of population control suffers from following drawbacks.

1—Monkeys being intelligent animals are difficult to trap and normally they abandon the place temporarily for some time where trapping operation is commenced. Thus sterilization process gets slowed down.

2— Monkeys live in troupes, and a trapped monkey after getting traumatized during sterilization process, when released back, alert others in its troupe and then it becomes more difficult to trap others.

3- Sterilized and released monkeys, due to stress

in the process, often become vicious and become more dangerous to humans.

4— Some monkeys suffer from subsequent infection in the sterilized part and die after long suffering, prompting animal rights groups to protest.

5— Since the agency doing this process, gets paid for no of monkeys sterilized, they often cook up figures of treated monkeys, resulting in to corrupt practice on one hand and adversely affecting the outcome of the exercise, on the other.

6—This exercise even if implemented honestly and sincerely, yields slow results, exhausting public patience for quick relief, and also entails considerable annual expenditure year after year

One word of caution against the sterilization method is that since long time this method is being used to control population of stray dogs in cities but nowhere population of dogs has been successfully controlled. It is because the method is tedious and full of pitfalls, being prone to corruption (fictitious figures of trapping are generated) which becomes difficult to prove.

Due to these and some other reasons, exercise in H.P. has not yielded desired result and public pressure was mounting for quick relief. Therefore state Govt. recommended it to be declared vermin outside forest areas and recently the GOI had to accede to this demand and monkeys outside forest areas have been declared Vermin by GOI, as per law.

B—Trapping for Export and Other

Uses: Monkeys becoming nuisance notwithstanding, people in general do not like their shooting for sentimental and religious reasons. Under such situations, alternatively, why not revert back to earlier method of managing monkey population, which remained in vogue for more than a century until 1980, when monkey trapping and sale was banned. In this system monkeys used to be auctioned by the Forest dept. every year, as **Minor Forest Produce**. In this system, contractors were allowed to trap only sub-adult monkeys leaving infants and adult breeders intact, **ensuring their sustained but controlled growth**. Trapped monkeys were, utilized in medical research, within India and outside the world over and were also in demand globally as exhibits in zoos. This system ensured harvesting, part of annual growth (as due to trapping difficulties, whole of annual growth, allowed during limited trapping period, could never be trapped) leaving the rest to be taken care by other means like natural death and predation by leopards and other carnivores, etc. Thus monkey population remained controlled at **sustainable level** and did not attain **menacing level even after more than 100 years of its management under this system**.

C- Trapping and Translocation: Quicker method to provide relief to monkey infested cities/ towns and temple areas, is to trap them and translocate them in some remote interior areas of high forests, inhabited by leopards. Some

of them will settle in new surroundings and will fall prey to leopards, supplementing the food chain of leopards and thus their population will naturally be controlled. But some monkeys may come out from released area in to adjoining human habitations, to become nuisance there. If this happens, the same process of trapping and relocation to different far away forest area should be resorted to repeatedly.

Auction for trapping will serve dual purpose. Trapper can export sub-adult ones and sell also for internal consumption in medical research, and the rest can be translocated to remote forest areas. With these stipulations and conditions, monkeys can be auctioned to trappers. In this way Forest dept. instead of incurring expenditure, will earn some revenue by means of auctions and monkey problem will be solved.

Action Required: For reverting back to old system, GOI, will be required to permit export of this species as before. Since monkey menace has assumed alarming proportions, across the country, there is public pressure on GOI and state Govt. to solve this problem. On the recommendation of state Govt. to resume the old practice, the GOI should relent and do the needful. This is time tested method which has been in vogue in the country and the problem being faced now fully justifies resumption of old method to control menacing monkey population. This method is better alternative than allowing shooting of monkeys, as vermin, and disposing them by burial as it is not eaten

by anybody.

By doing so, not only monkey menace across the country will disappear but also the medical science and research will benefit and Forest depts. will be relieved of public pressure and earn some revenue instead of incurring unnecessary recurring expenditure on capture and sterilization and even then solving the problem only partially.

As regards the myth about monkey representing Hanuman Ji, there is no ground to hold this belief, because of following reasons. But such mistaken belief still existed when monkeys were auctioned by Forest dept. but nobody ever objected to their trapping and rather welcomed trapping to get rid of menacing monkeys. However this belief, if felt necessary, can also be dispelled from public mind by sustained awareness programmes educating public with following reasoning.

1. Hanuman Ji, as depicted in paintings, has long, tufted tail whereas Rhesus macaque, has small smooth tail. Hence, by resemblance it is Langur (not Rhesus macaque) which has better claim to represent Hanuman Ji.

2—In Wild Life literature (The Book of Indian animals—S.H.Prater) also Langur is referred to as Hanuman Monkey and not the Rhesus macaque.

3—Langur unlike Rhesus lives a dignified life in the forests and does not like habitation areas, avoiding any conflict with humans. Therefore it commands respect and reverence from humans. On the other hand, monkeys prefer to live near

or inside habitations, outside forest areas, becoming nuisance and harmful for humans and in turn earn their ire instead of respect. Thus equating monkey with highly revered Hanuman ji amounts to disrespecting the deity- Hanuman Ji

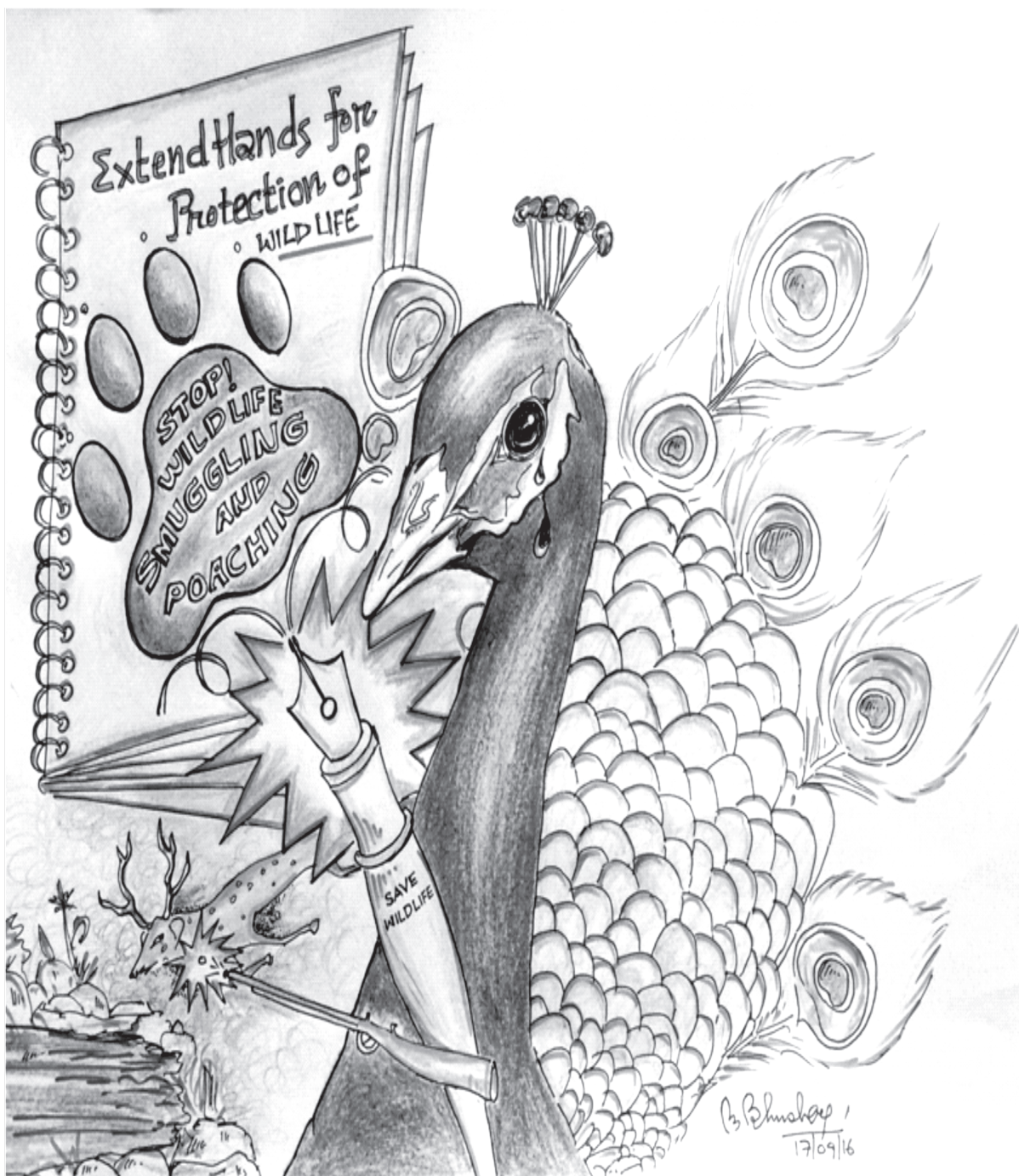
4— Monkeys by behavior are mischievous, frighten and attack people unprovoked, steal and also snatch food from human hands and therefore can never qualify to be equated with revered Hanuman Ji

5—Monkeys are omnivorous in dietary habits and eat insects and small mammals as well and therefore cannot represent Hanuman Ji, whereas Langurs are purely herbivorous and qualify to represent Hanuman Ji.

6— Monkeys are scared of Langurs as the latter is more powerful and larger in size & stature. This comparative analysis of body features, physical prowess, behavior, food habits and interface with humans, actually lead to the logical conclusion that Langurs may represent Hanuman Ji, while Monkeys represent Asuras (clan of Rawana). Thus worshipping monkeys would amount to worshipping Asuras and not Hanuman Ji.

This kind of sustained publicity and awareness amongst general public should go a long way in dispelling the myth about monkeys being equated with Hanuman Ji. Thereafter public would cooperate with Forest dept.'s efforts to control their population in any befitting manner.

(Note : The author is a Retd. PCCF of UP)



ICRISAT PANTHER

(The panther which made the city its home)

By
A.V. Joseph

It was like any other day I was sitting in my office and waiting for the day's work to commence when Mr.Naik, IFS, CCF (WL) came to my chambers and hesitantly confided the reporting of a panther at ICRISAT by a security guard. He ended the conversation that it was most likely a Hyena which the security staff of ICRISAT had mistaken for a panther.

Working in the WL wing of AP for many years and from past experiences one cannot off hand dismiss the reports of sighting wildlife however trivial it could be. Human brain numbed with alcohol and long working hours and in fading light may visualize images of strange creatures and a broad berth has to be given for such reports from a security guard. Nevertheless I enquired whether anybody had sighted the animal and any evidences were collected to corroborate the existence of any wild animal? To this he produced a grainy mobile picture of a silhouette of an animal and was very sure that it was a domestic cat or at the most a hyena which had strayed into the ICRISAT campus. I had one look at the picture and I realized it could be a panther from its form and structure and immediately embarked on a program to confirm the identity of the animal.

ICRISAT campus is a large area of 1600 acres with grassland, water bodies and wooded patches. The campus housed the offices, residential area, the trial fields and vast wilderness. The operation capture of panther commenced on 23rd March,2014 and camera trap ten in numbers were procured from Srisailem NSTR and installed hurriedly and the services of *Chenchus*, the experts in animal tracking and identifying signs were engaged. In no time the presence of a young adult panther in ICRISAT campus was confirmed. The animal appeared to be in the prime of youth, an adult male which had probably strayed out of its habitat in search of new territory or was displaced by a more powerful male. Emergency discussions were held with the wildlife team, Mr. Naik, Mr. Shankaran, Dr. Naveen and it was decided to keep the govt. informed and gently break the fact of the presence of a panther to ICRISAT officials in their campus and the precautions to be taken to safeguard the staff, workers and families from any conflict with the animal. The think tank of WL sat and pondered over the steps that can be taken for the safe capture of the animal. The trap cage is the safest method of capture of any wild animal and

immediately two trap cages were requisitioned from the zoo and wildlife wing and installed in the campus. Lamb and dogs were kept as bait in the safe chute of the trap cage and the panther tempted. There was no success as the clever animal refused to be baited. The D.F.O. Anantapur had ordered for two brand new, improved version of panther trap cage from Maharashtra for addressing the panther problem in Anantapur dist. and these were on way which were diverted to the ICRI SAT campus for 'operation panther capture'. Baits like goat, chicken, rabbit, beef pieces, mutton pieces and liver pieces were tried and they all failed to tempt the animal. The analysis of the camera trap which were set up in the campus and the near the cages revealed that the panther went on a regular saunter around the ICRI SAT sprawling campus every night but never attempted to catch the prey in the trap cages. Meanwhile the behavior of the panther was to be appreciated as it never threatened or injured any of the staff or labor working in the campus. It was a gentleman to the core and it lived like the proverbial phantom 'the ghost who walks' but was never sighted or confronted.

The ICRI SAT campus harbored a good population of small animals like wild boars, hares, peafowls and other small animal apart from domestic animals kept by the staff. The small wild animals formed the main feed for the stray

panther. The wildlife team went into a huddled brainstorming session and it was suggested that since the panther is shy of entering the trap cages why not the feed be kept in the open and the animal tempted to overcome the shyness of consuming the baits. This was attempted and lamb, goat, rabbit, chicken were tethered and left as bait in the night for the panther. Dressed chicken, mutton, beef and liver pieces were kept strewn on the beat path of the panther but all attempts failed to make the animal either take the live bait or the dressed ones. Someone had the bright idea that probably a female panther in estrus if kept in a secure cage will tempt and attract the young male to come close to the trap cage and fall for the honey trap. This idea did not find favor and was quickly dispensed with. Mr. Shankaran meanwhile contacted Wildlife Institute of India, Dehra Dun and procured the spray (scent) that attracts all cat family. All the above discussed methods were tried and the efforts failed while weeks slipped to months with no sign of capture of the animal.

The ICRI SAT officials who were totally associated with 'the operation panther capture' and were very cooperative reached the final stage of breakdown. The press somehow got wind of the free ranging panther in the ICRI SAT campus and the failure of the forest dept. to

capture the animal. Their reports carried regularly the various attempt made by the forest dept. and its failures. My well intentioned NGO friends intervened and questioned the wisdom in capturing such a well behaved gentleman of an animal that had so far neither harmed or threatened any human being nor stole a dog from the campus. They were of the opinion to call off the operation as it is unlikely to succeed and on the other hand it will be for the mutual benefit that the animal be left unmolested to live and be free in the ICRISAT campus which is its adopted natural home. Their logic is very sound that if you capture and remove the panther another one will migrate and occupy the vacant territorial slot. In Maharashtra extensive studies by the renowned Wildlife NGO had revealed that the panthers have learnt to adjust with the human activity in towns like Thane, Nasik etc. which are densely populated with human habitations, the animals co-exist with humans. Only the camera traps have revealed the presence of the free ranging panthers in such towns which human eye have never encountered but the animals live an unobtrusive life in the hustle and bustle of manmade concrete jungles with the human activity never intersecting the other.

The ICRISAT authorities by now had reached the last tether and planned to flush the animal out

of the campus. This would have been disastrous; imagine a wild panther that was driven out of ICRISAT campus strutting proudly around the industrially developed Patancheruvu. What commotion it would have created is unthinkable. Anyhow they were convinced to be patient and try the conventional method of capture which will finally succeed. While dealing with wildlife it is only patience that ultimately pays as accounted by the world famous conservationist and hunter none other than Sir Jim Corbett. Again the wildlife team that has taken the capture as a challenge sat closeted and planned the further course of action. Some of the suggestions though very well-meaning were impractical and dropped. The pit method of capture was suggested, flushing the animal out from its lair and tranquilizing etc. were suggested. It was decided to try and tranquilize the free ranging panther at night by positioning two teams of zoo veterinarians when the animal comes out for its nightly walk. It easier said than done as both Dr. Naveen and Dr. Srinivas Reddy sat many a night sacrificing sleep and keeping awake to try a shot of tranquilizing drug when the animal was glimpsed. It was as if the animal could read the human mind (telepathy) and knew what was being planned and made its appearances more difficult for any attempt to be made. As

the media highlighted all the attempts being made by the forest dept. and its failure, in jumped an expert who opined that the strategy adopted by the forest dept. is faulty and success lies in entering the den of the animal and capturing it. The least said the better as that plan fell flat. The thick cover and foliage of the wooded ICRISAT campus defeated the plans of entering the lair of the animal and tranquilizing it.

Meanwhile an analysis of the camera trap clips threw interesting observations. For instance in one of the clip the panther is led and followed imperially by domestic dogs with the panther in the middle!! Panthers are partial to dogs and have a sweet tooth for retrieving sleeping dogs from under a cot from forest guest houses for consuming them as food. Here was the animal totally shunning the dog as a source of food. In another clip the panther tried to attack the openly tethered goat which reared on its haunches and repulsed the attack by trying to butt. The panther slunk away immediately with its tail firmly lodged between its haunches!! No self-respecting large carnivore can be repulsed by a domestic goat which has no wherewithal to fight leave alone to survive an attack of a panther. When the security head was informed about the presence of stray dog in ICRISAT campus he was very surprised.

As time passed and the patience of both the

ICRIST officials and the forest dept. staff began to wane all concerted efforts were made to capture the free ranging panther alive. It would have been very easy to shoot down the animal but that was the last and final option left if the situation had warranted it. So with renewed vigor the team of forest officials both field personnel, the zoo veterinarians and the ICRISAT staff made all available efforts to capture the animal with trap cages, the baits, the lures and the animal finally fell into the trap in the early hours of 25th August 2014 . The wild panther was safely released back into the Mannaur forests to lead a peaceful life.

The operation capture panther commenced during the time when the state division was on and the animal was finally captured after division of the state. The many unanswered questions that arise in my mind are was this animal a previously captured and rehabilitated one that had migrated to the ICRISAT campus and made its home. The animal was so intelligent that it never fell for any of the baits and lures that were provided. It was a clever animal that it could read our mind and plan of action and steer clear from falling into any trap. In my entire service I have never encountered a cleverer panther than this animal that could outwit professional hunter and baits. I admire its wild instincts.

(Note : The author is a Retd. PCCF of AP)

THE GENTLEMAN TIGER

By
J. V. Sharma

While I was Asst. Range Officer (Probationer) in Utnoor Range of Adilabad Division, I was entrusted with the marking of trees for felling in coupes of Improvement Felling Series of the Range. The Contractor system was in vogue and annual sales of the coupes were scheduled in December 1957. Frequent shifting of regular Range Officer delayed the marking work appreciably and we had to race against the time. The coupe in Sirichalma Series posed real problem as there was abnormal deviation in the area. It required approval from higher authorities and it was November by the time green signal came. I was asked to camp at Sirichalma village with staff and complete the work as fast as possible to facilitate preparation of upset price and inspections by the DFO & Conservator of forests, well before the sales.

Silvicultural system adopted for these unexploited forests was "Improvement Felling System" (IFS). The standing growth consisted mainly of Teak. On account of absence of cultural operations and repeated annual fires, fairly large percentage of vegetation was mature, over-mature, dead, dying, moribund, crooked, hollow, forked and unsound. The silvicultural system is aimed at removal of such defective stock to afford better growing conditions for the

remaining crop. Exploitable girth for teak at maturity was fixed at 54 inches at breast height. The trees were to be selected for felling and the selection was quite arduous and time consuming job. One has to judge on the spot whether to retain or remove a tree keeping a number of factors in view. Removal was not automatic because it should not result in creating blanks while removal of congestion was equally important.

The actual marking involved a number of activities. Selection of the tree, its blazing (*chilwayee*) & removal of bark of 5x5" size on the bole to write the serial number of the tree, creation of space at the bottom at ground level on lateral root to emboss the serial number in digits so that the authenticity of tree felled could be ascertained even after removal of felled material. These works quite often took weeks together and the staff was required to camp at site for coupes situated in the interior. The coupe was to be divided into four strips and the first two days were spent in cutting strip lines. The Dy. RO and me were to select trees, independently, heading two groups. Strips I & 2 were to be done by Dy. RO and the remaining were to be done by me. We started the marking process on the third day and continued for 22 days.

On the last day, I had lesser work to do and completed it by about 3 PM. A cart track leading to Sirichalma village formed the eastern boundary of the coupe (also of the 4th strip). As the Dy. RO and myself, both were busy selecting the trees, I did not find time to see his work and therefore thought it would be better if I have look at the work done by the Dy. RO. I asked the accompanying Forest Guards and the labor to wait at cart track and set out alone to do the job. I told them that I would return to them along with the other group after seeing the marking at random in strips 1 & 2. I started walking along a stream (*Nala*) which was in the middle of the coupe cutting across all the four strips of the coupe. My intention was to check the marking done by the Dy. RO enroute on either side of the *nala*. It was a fairly big stream with undisturbed sand bed. It was not flowing but the late rains left some isolated pools of water here and there. I was walking along the *nala* bed with a bamboo stick in hand with which I tapped the floor continuously. I passed the strips 4 & 3 without halting anywhere because I personally did the selection of trees in these strips. As I entered the 2nd strip, I got on to the bank and saw the trees marked and noted their numbers for verification with the marking book. Then I walked for some distance and then entered the forest on the other side of the *nala*. I may have repeated the process a couple of times when I suddenly

saw pug marks on the *nala* bed. I looked around but could not find any animal. Then a doubt arose in me whether the pug marks were fresh and since what distance they were there. I may not have noticed them earlier. To clear my doubt, I retraced my steps and started walking in the opposing direction. After covering a short distance, I saw the pug marks getting on to the bank. I followed the pugmarks and entered the thicket. I suddenly felt a whiff of strong scent. I can't say it was stench but it was certainly not pleasant. Suddenly fear gripped me and chill ran down the spine. I had goose bumps and I started perspiring. I retraced my steps as surreptitiously as possible and that short distance to the *nala* looked miles at that time. I started walking along the *nala* brooding over the experience unable to make out anything. I may have walked about half a furlong when I suddenly heard a man shouting "Saab, Saab". There is a small hillock and the *nala* actually skirted round this out crop. I saw the young man running down the slope heavily perspiring. He was the cook of the Contractor of the adjoining coupe now under working. When questioned why he was there, he explained he came there to collect a few bamboo fishing rods and a few such bamboos were in his hands. He asked me whether I was coming alone. I nodded in affirmative. He started walking behind me on the *nala* bed. I did not have the mind or courage

to enter the foliage in the vicinity. There was no further conversation between us.

Both of us reached the other party and waited for about half an hour for them to complete their work. I was with the Dy. RO's group while at work and the contractor's cook too was with us. After they finished the work, all of us took the *nala* route for our return journey. This time my eyes were firmly fixed on the *nala* bed. For some distance mine and contractor's cook's foot prints were seen. Then the pug marks joined in the opposite direction. Then the pug marks getting on to the *nala* bank. And mine too. After a short distance, the pug marks were there back on the *nala* bed. After some distance the pug marks vanished into forest.

I made a sort of loud thinking that the pug marks could be of a tiger. Even before the staff members reacted, the contractor's cook screamed: "*Kya Saab, aapaursheraamnesaamne the. Main dekha. Main bahutdargaya Saab. Sher nalekesaathchala :woh jane kefouryaapuskesaamnekitaraf se aarahehain. Aapnazaraatehi main bhagtheaap se mila*". (What Sir, you and the tiger were opposite to each other. I have seen. I was very much afraid. Tiger walked along the *nala*. Immediately it walked off, you

were coming. No sooner I saw you I came running to you.)

The event as he explained was; the tiger and I were walking along the *nala* from opposite directions. The contractor's man was on the slope of the hillock facing the *nala*. There was a kink in the course of *nala* near hillock as it skirted hillock. There are some bamboo clumps on the slope from which the man was removing bamboos. He was perched on the slope in a vantage position having a clear view of the *nala* on either side of hillock. No sooner he saw the tiger in *nala* bed, he fell silent. The tiger walked along the *nala* and turned the corner. Soon after I emerged from the same direction as the tiger went. He concluded that I had seen the tiger.

Basing on these facts, it was concluded that the tiger had seen me on the *nala* bed walking. I did not see the tiger because I was looking at trees on either side of *nala*. The tiger slipped into the forest and was perhaps still tucked in the thick bushy undergrowth when I ventured into its vicinity to clear my doubt. After making sure I went away, the tiger came out of the bush on to *nala* bed and continued its journey.

The Gentleman Tiger! (Note : The author is a Retd. Dy.CF of Telangana State)

“Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s needs, but not every man’s greed”.

– Mahatma Gandhi

WILD LIFE - WEALTH IS HEALTH OF NATURE

By
NAGABHUSHANAM DASARI

Wild life is Nation's wealth which keeps nature's health
Needs always love & affection of everybody on the earth
Flora & fauna are the bouquet beauty of forests
In absence of these the world appears like desert
Maintains accurately the whole food chain balance
Thus protect endangered and rare from disappearance
Blossoming flowers thinking about chirping sounds of birds
Glowing flames destroying darkness from the lives of blinds
It is proud to have magnanimous wonderful animal Tiger
Duty of everybody to take care this from clutches of danger
Indiscriminate installation of electromagnetic towers arrow
Acted in diminishing of homely tiny avian species Sparrow

O, Homo sapiens! Don't become like monsters,
To destroy these wonderful creatures created by the God
Show humanity towards them & avoid ruthless poaching
Stop the strategy of wild life connected items smuggling
Strengthen vigilance with stringent punishments
Enforce the acts & rules to curtail the culprits' strategy
Better not to disturb free moments of those in their territory
Take the help of vicinity tribe's to protect the wild environ
Inculcate strength of oneness bondage in every brain
Reinforce the healthy relation between mankind & wilderness
Educate children about importance of these wild animals
Celebrate every year *WILD LIFE WEEK* like one of the festivals
(Note : The author is a Retd. C.F of Telangana State)

NEED TO PROTECT OUR AVIAN TREASURES

By

C. Achalender Reddy

Goa is a state of outstanding natural beauty with silvery beaches, swaying palms, pleasant monsoons, historical monuments, thick mangroves, meandering rivers and lush vegetation which provide an ideal habitat for a variety of birds.

Tourists flock to Goa to enjoy the blue sea, sunbathers on its beaches and also experience the night life. But there are a section of people who have special interest in our colorful feather friends. Goa has some more than 440 species of birds as documented by Heing Lainer and Rahul Alvares which includes a bewildering variety of endemics, migrants, common birds of prey which are expert aerial hunters.

Being blessed with luxuriant vegetation in the Western Ghats in addition to farm lands, spice gardens, coastal areas, wetlands khazan lands, Goa offers a variety of favorable habitats to various types of birds.

Out of all feathered species, the birds of prey constitute a special category and are dominants in the bird kingdom as they hunt other terrestrial animals, reptiles, fish, lizards as well as birds. Their body structure, with powerful talons to catch their prey and curved breaks keep vision on extraordinary maneuvering and hunting capabilities bestow them with a special place in the realm of avifauna. Birds with these characteristics include eagles, hawks, falcons, ospreys, shikras and occupy top position in the food chain.

I never imagined that the theater of hunting would one day be enacted in front of my official residence at Altimho in Panaji. The photograph shows how stealthily and deftly the apex predator attacked, killed and carried away a

pigeon, which was the residence of my quarters. It was around 06.00 a.m. when I heard an unusual cacophony of bird calls and shrilled chattering of squirrels. I, being familiar with the dozen odd pigeons that roost below the roof of my bungalow continuously enough and sensing something odd, opened the main door of my house cautiously enough to avoid making any sound and slipped outside. As I craned out my neck, I was amazed to see pigeon feathers scattered on the floor of the garden. I scanned the open spaces and was shocked to see a macabre event unfolding before me at the far end of the garden. A bird of prey, shikra (as identified by one of my colleagues in the forest service as the Eurasian Sparrowhawk) was feasting on a pigeon. I quietly rushed inside to grab my camera and took a couple of photographs. As I became more ambitious, it sensed my presence and flew away with the pigeon.

I gave myself a pat on my back for being a little curious and vigilant about the alarm call of birds and squirrels and also for having captured the scene on my camera. I was happy to share the experience to motivate the young children and people of all ages to watch nature and capture such special events that depict the laws of nature

Let us rededicate ourselves in protecting different habitats of birds in Goa and truly celebrate the "Bird Festival" proposed by Forest Minister Rajendra Arlekar recently.

Note: *The author is the Managing Director, Goa Forest Development Corporation. The article was first published in the Times of India (Goa Edition) dated 06.05.2016.*

A TALE OF TWO LIONS AND A GORILLA KILLED AND TWO LIONS SAVED

By

K.B.R. Reddy

A Chilean Zoo in Santiago, South America, was sadly in the news in the month of May 2016, where two lions were reportedly shot to death in an attempt to save a man. What prompted the 20-year old Franco Ferrade Roman to jump into the Lions enclosure, the world did not know. On Saturday May 21, 2016 at about 11.30 in the morning the young man broke into lion's enclosure, took off his clothes and made a vain bid to feed him to the lions. Other visitors to the zoo were horrified to witness the man heading towards the lions. The lions pounced on him and played with him for a while. An attempt was made to sedate the lions but the tranquilizer dart hit the neck of the man. Fast activating tranquilizer was not available in the zoo. The zoo managers became desperate and killed the lions to save the man, who was making religious proclamation as he entered the enclosure. He suffered severe injuries and was then sent to a hospital for treatment.

In May 2016, again there was ghastly and unpleasant news in circulation in the media relating to Cincinnati Zoo in Ohio State, USA. A 180 kg Gorilla named Hirambe was killed by the zoo personnel.

A 3-year old boy, because of the negligence of his mother, slipped into the moat and the gorilla pulled the child from the moat. The people around clamored and there was a huge commotion. The zoo staff arrived on the scene

and in a spur of the moment, decided to kill the gorilla as they thought that the life of the child was in danger. They shot at the gorilla and the gorilla was no more. The child was rescued. He did not suffer any major injuries.

The gorilla came to the Cincinnati zoo only about a year ago from Brownsville zoo in Texas State. The zoo director Mr. Thane Maynard felt devastated for the loss of Hirambe. But Mr. Jerry Stones, the man who reared and raised the male gorilla in Texas, aged about 74, took tears and was inconsolable. He said, "Hirambe was a gentle giant. He was my heart. It is like losing a family member. I raised him from a baby. He was a smart little guy". Hirambe was a dumb primate. It was therefore not difficult to kill him. A Delhi based author, Aseem Shrivastava, after watching the video clip, expressed his opinion saying that, "the animal was being carefully protective towards the child." People in Cincinnati felt sad for the gorilla's killing.

In June 2016, "a jaguar featured at an Olympic torch ceremony was shot dead by a soldier shortly after the event in the Brazilian Amazon city of Manaus as the animal escaped from its handlers. The jaguar was killed at a zoo attached to a military training center where the Olympic torch ceremony was held. A soldier fired a single pistol shot when the animal escaped despite being tranquilized". It was a mistake to associate jaguar, a wild animal, with Olympic torch

ceremony, which is a symbol of peace and unity. This shooting of jaguar caused uproar among the animal rights activists. The jaguar did no harm to anybody; it was just an attempt to escape.

These three instances raise a question – whether killing the animals was imminent? The zoo managers say “human life” is more important than “animal life” and therefore killing animals had to be resorted to. But the wildlife enthusiasts, animal rights activists did not agree with the opinion of the zoo personnel. We are apparently confronted with two contradictory statements. Killing of the animals in the zoo is an outrageous act and it was avoidable by proper application of modern scientific methods and advanced technology.

We capture the wild animals from their natural habitat that in legal parlance tantamount to arrest without warrant. They are then awarded life imprisonment without trial and kept in a place for public gaze, which we call a zoological park or zoo. They are dumb denizens of forest; being voiceless they cannot offer any defense. We console ourselves saying that natural environment is created artificially in the zoo for their stay with comfort. This is the superiority claimed by *Homo sapiens*. Be that as it may, Killing the wild animals in the zoo on flimsy and unjustifiable grounds is bad and inhuman.

An incident of the kind stated above occurred almost during the same period in the Nehru Zoological Park at Hyderabad. The problem was resolved tactfully and with presence of mind by the animal keeper.

An inebriated Rajasthani laborer, Mukesh,

jumped into the lion's enclosure on May 21, 2016 and made strange gestures as if he was in love with the lioness, Radhika. Watching the unexpected and unseemly act of the intruder, the visitors of the zoo around raised alarm and started shouting. In the meantime, the lion, Krishna, appeared on the scene. The alert Animal Keeper, Rampalli Papaiah, grasped the situation and commanded the lions to stay back, while the intruder was advancing from the moat towards the lions.

An idea struck to Papaiah's mind instantly. It was feed time to the lions and he asked his colleagues to give a feed call. They did so. The lions retreated to their cage. A major catastrophe was averted. Then the intruder was helped by lowering a long pole into the moat and he was persuaded to climb up and come out of the moat. He was then handed over to the Police for committing prohibited acts of trespass into the lion's enclosure and teasing the animals. That was the end of the episode. Animal keeper Papaiah did a commendable job. The Zoo Curator Ms. Shalini Dogra stated to the Press on the episode: **“The intruder was rescued by the Animal Keeper Papaiah with the assistance of security personnel.”** The two lions were saved and the tipsy intruder was rescued. It is refreshing alacrity, intelligence, tact, presence of mind, maturity of experience of the Animal Keeper Papaiah which saved the lions and the intruder. The event attracted the attention of media – print and electronic – and it was widely publicized. (The author is a Retd. Dy.CF of Telangana State)

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SOME INTERESTING FACTS & NOTABLE FEATURES OF ELEPHANTS

By

Dr. B Raghotham Rao Desai

Facts: 1. Elephants belong to the Order Proboscidea — derived from Latin 'proboscis', meaning trunk — both Asian and African being the only living members of the Order. Asian Elephant — *Elephas maximus* — is smaller than its African Cousin — *Loxodonta africana* — with smaller ears (roughly shaped like that of Indian map), while African elephant has larger ears (roughly resembling African map)! Elephants fan their ears (to cool their blood—flowing through the network of arterial and Venous system), since they have no sweat glands on their body and hence their body temperature cannot otherwise be regulated like in other species such as humans. The ear is thus an important organ in removing body heat, apart from hearing — the blood from various parts of an elephant's body being transported to the ears to get cooled thus with the fanning motion. Asian female lacks tusks, unlike its African counterpart!!

2. An Asian cow elephant weighs 2.5 – 3.5 tons, while a bull 3.5 – 5 tons. Elephants have short necks to balance their huge heads. Tip of the trunk is one of the key differences between Asian and African — an Asian Elephant has only one 'finger like' while its African counterpart has two 'fingers -like' (enabling it to grasp an object, while the Asian uses to scoop & hold objects against the underside of the trunk).

3. Asian elephants are of five strains: Indian, Burmese, Ceylonese, Sumatran and Malaysian,

having been classified into 7 sub-species (based on their geographical distribution). Bull elephant without tusks is called '*makhna*' — the tusk-less males represent about 10% of Indian Elephant Community, while it is 90% in Sri Lanka. The energy saved from not growing tusks goes into bigger and stronger head as also more powerful trunk — to compensate absence of tusks in fighting. It is not yet clear if '*Makhna*' coproduces only '*makhnas*' or is there a segregation of genes into tuskers in the next generations. Tusks are the modified upper incisors — they are a status symbol and are potential lethal weapons in self-defense. They have regenerative capacity, like nails in humans.

4. Elephants are very tactile (or touching others in a friendly or sympathetic way) in nature — using all parts of their body to interact with one another in all forms of behavior (including parental—offspring play—aggressive, defensive, exploratory, sexual and anti-predatory). The trunk is a tactile appendage—used in stroking, touching, exploring, caressing or re-assuring in care-taking. It is formed by the fusion, of the upper lip & the nose.

5. Elephants assert their absolute right over jungle tracks, not tolerating any intruders, while respecting humans' & vehicular right of way on highways! Elephants often express what can be perceived as 'joy' in different facts of their lives — showing explicit joy with the arrival of a new baby in the family!!

6. Elephants hear and respond to each other's loud calls from 4 kms.away — they can also communicate within about 50 Sq.Km. range through infrasonic communication system.

Features:

1. Twice the circumference of the front foot-print gives the approximate height of an elephant in the wild. Upper ridge of the ear of an elephant starts folding from the age of 10 years, and folds about an inch in 20 years — bulls of this age are considered competent to pass on their genes to next generation.

2. Elephants have to keep themselves feeding (on all 3 tiers of plant life: lower grass, middle bush and upper canopy) for more than 16 hours as their food requirement is enormous. They drink 50-60 liters of water at a time, 3-4 times a day (the requirement calculating to 200-255 liters of water a day), the trunk normally holding 6-7 liters (or even 10 liters) of water each time.

3. Elephants can run short distances quite fast: 25 kms. / hour — even with hobbles they can hop very fast, but cannot gallop like horses or run like oxen.

4. The skin is very thick and hence is called 'pachyderm', but is very sensitive and an elephant experiences pain when pricked.

5. The gestation period is 21-22 months and a calf at birth weighs 80-100 kg & 90-100 cms.in height.

6. Elephants can stand for long periods — they generally sleep standing, occasionally lying down if they find the place safe. They are efficient "seed dispersers" — hard coated seeds passing through their alimentary canals

(and out in the elephants' dung) are highly viable and germinate easily. They defecate 15-20 times and urinate 10-15 times (expelling 50-60 liters totally) a day.

7. Elephants have a remarkable memory for events and people and are believed to be emotional towards their members of clans. They are matriarchal society, the leader of a herd usually an eldest and wisest cow — males being loosely attached to the herd.

8. Elephants captured from the wild can never be completely domesticated — they always have a craving to return to the wild, unlike the ones born in captivity which come back home.

Conclusion: Elephants being valuable "commodity", they need to be handled with care and respect. Chanakya prescribed (in Arthashastra) capital punishment to a person who killed an elephant — and this was in the Maurya – period (some 2500 years ago) of Indian history!

"An elephant is the largest of all living mammals. So elegant and versatile among all wild animals, A sight to behold when a Gajagamini is in motion

But a tusker remains victim of man's greed & persecution!"

["Features" could be compiled....relying on the notes made about three-and-half decades ago in Hunsur Division where there were three elephant camps at Thithimathi (a very large one of over 4 dozen elephants on the banks of The Laxmanatheertha), Kalhalla (a smaller one of a dozen elephants near Murkal) and Balekove (a similar one with a dozen kumkis on the banks of river Nagarahole.) (Note :The author is a Retd. Dy.CF of Karnataka State)

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		8.	M.Ashok Kumar	13-10-1965
			9.	R.D.Venkateshwarlu	13-10-1960
1.	A.Rasheed Khan	06-10-1937	10.	D.Sudhakar Reddy	14-10-1966
2.	T.Krishna Murthy	10-07-1926	11.	Smt. G.A.Prasuna	21-10-1979
3.	L.Lohith Reddy	08-10-1931	12.	Ajaz Ahmed	30-10-1956
4.	U.Govind Rao	08-10-1953	13.	K. Kamalakar	02-11-1958
5.	M.Narayan Rao	10-10-1932	14.	K.Appala Narasimha Chary	03-11-1961
6.	R.K.Rao	20-10-1935			
7.	V.Ranga Rao	20-10-1945			
8.	C.Subba Rao	24-10-1943			
9.	B.M.Swamidas	24-10-1954			
10.	G.Prakash	02-11-1950			
11.	K.Jagan Mohan Rao	05-11-1941			
12.	D.Nagabhushanam	05-11-1955			

Secretary

S.No.	Name of Serving Officers	D.O.B.
	Sarva Sri	
1.	C.P.Vinod Kumar	21-10-1963
2.	Lokesh Jaiswal	22-10-1963
3.	Dr.G.Narsaiah	24-10-1957
4.	Y.Madhusudan Reddy	04-11-1963
5.	P.Krishnachary	07-10-1964
6.	A.Laxman	10-10-1058
7.	P.Ramesh	10-10-1959



A DUMB PRIMATE

By
Aseem Shrivastava

"An old man can cry, too. He was a special guy in my life... a gentle giant. Harambe was my heart. It's like losing a member of the family... I raised him from a baby he was a sweet cute little guy. He grew up to be a pretty, beautiful male. He was very intelligent, Veryvery intelligent. — Jerry Stones, 74, from Texas, who raised 17-year-old gorilla Harambe since birth.

Long decades ago, back in the third quarter of the last century, the ecologically astute anthropologist, Gregory Bateson, gently reminded his social-Darwinian colleagues across the reigning sciences and humanities that the unit of survival is never an isolated organism. It is always the organism plus its environment.

"We are learning by bitter experience that the organism which destroys its environment destroys itself."

A species that endangers other species endangers itself. This simple lesson in interdependence is the first principle of ecology, a common sensical science of such far-reaching, enduring, and contemporary significance as to merit a compulsory course at one stage of education or another for all humans alive; for nothing is more perilous for human destiny today than ecological illiteracy and myopia.

The opposite is also true. **A species that itself feels endangered endangers others in turn.**

This may be more a principle of psychology than of ecology: we often react violently when we feel threatened or besieged. This is particularly true of paranoid cultures like the United States, especially today (Trump's popularity being a symptom), when guns have been allowed to proliferate in the name of security, profit, and, truth be told, power. There are well over 300 million guns in the U.S., more than one gun for every person alive. With this many guns freely roaming around (even with students in universities in places like Texas) it is actually a surprise that more murder and killing does not happen. Animals are, of course, helpless victims.

This is the background to the murder of Harambe, the silverback gorilla in the Cincinnati zoo who was shot dead by authorities last week apparently in order to save the life of a four-year-old child who had somehow fallen into water which was gorilla territory in the zoo. A paranoid culture is unable to take pause to reflect. American gun culture, justified by the need for self-defense since the days of Jefferson, permits its members to take aim and shoot a living being dead before thinking. A little pause for thought, and perhaps more maturity in the culture about the use of weapons, might have indicated that the animal be tranquillized,

instead of killed, to defuse the situation. However, the seduction of guns at the ready is too much to resist when so much of society endorses their use.

A close look at a video of the incident shows that it is more than likely that the animal was being carefully protective towards the child who had fallen into the water. Certainly, this possibility cannot be ruled out, as media footage shows. Few have asked how the four-year-old boy fell into the water to begin with. Surely, the authorities who shot Harambe must be held responsible for this lapse too?

Furthermore, even fewer have asked if Harambe had been consulted before his zoological incarceration, how zoos themselves originated in the first place! Did they not emerge in the late 18th, early 19th century Europe, much like Royal menageries, as emblems of colonial superiority and prestige? The Jardin des Plantes in Paris dates from 1793, from just after the famed revolution. The London zoo is from 1828. The one in Berlin is from 1844. Did these zoos not signify the historical moment of a virtual extinction of wild animals from European jungles, and an approaching extinction from the forests of colonial lands? Why would you need to create zoos if the jungles which have served as the home of so many animals for millennia are not threatened with extinction?

The story is not too dissimilar to the creation of museums, which typically emerge when living human cultures, breathing under the open sky,

are destroyed or threatened with destruction. In each case, colonialism with its predatory addictions has much to answer for. Nor should one falsely imagine that such colonialism is somehow, fortunately, over. It has merely taken on more insidious and hideous forms in this beleaguered 21st century. No small part of the deeper and wider consequences of ongoing colonialism and conquest is the planetary ecological crisis, climate change being only the most devastating threat among hundreds of others.

Kinship with animals: In *The Savage Mind*, anthropologist Claude Levi-Strauss drew attention to a belief of a tribe native to Hawaii which could as easily be shared by many Adivasis in India: "We know what animals do and what beaver and bears and salmon and other creatures need, because our men were married to them and they acquired this knowledge from their animal wives." As a matter of fact, I was told a few years back by a village elder from a Raj Gond village in the Adilabad district of Telangana: "*BhedDhangarka Mama lagtahai* (The sheep is the tribe Dhangar's uncle)".

Kinship with the animals is as old as humanity. Like us, animals are born, they suffer, they die. We share our sentience with them. Being biologically and psychologically nearest to humanity, animals have been so much a part of human affairs historically that it is impossible to write a decent history of human society from its earliest days without taking the enormous

contribution of animals into account. Even for more recent times, it is impossible, for instance, to imagine aero planes without birds, ships and submarines without fish, cars without victorias, themselves modelled on quadrupeds. Such illustrations can be multiplied, but the ones given are sufficient to establish the enormity of our debt to the animal kingdom.

The hubristic industrial age — especially the era of fossil fuels, which has falsely given educated humanity the extended illusion that we are somehow, magically, exempt from the laws of the natural world, that the techno sphere is about to take the place of the biosphere — has driven a sharp wedge not merely between humanity and nature (animals being a specific case in point). It has drawn an equally sharp wedge between human cultures, with the triumphant

market's marked indifference to human communities. For this profound socio-ecological alienation, not only is the entire gamut of non-human species paying a heavy price today, the laws of ecology quietly whisper that our own species already is, and ultimately will be, the just bearer of the weight of such sins. **It is time that technologically desensitized "civilization" woke up from its ecological idiocy before its follies wipe us all out.**

In the Cincinnati zoo, an innocent gorilla was murdered from primordial dread. It is not clear which of us is a dumb primate. It is chilling that the four-year-old Isaiah, whose mishap last week became world news, carries the name of a Hebrew prophet.

Aseem Shrivastava is a Delhi-based writer and ecological economist.

SRI L. LOHIT REDDY BEREAVED

Smt. L. Suguna Devi wife of Sri L. Lohit Reddy, Retired Dy. Conservator of Forests and Senior Member of the Association, passed away suddenly at their residence in Srinagar Colony, Hyderabad on 21st September 2016. She was 79. The couple has five sons Dr. Raj Kumar, Madhu Kumar Reddy, Chandan Kumar Reddy, Ranjit Kumar Reddy, Ravi Kumar Reddy and a daughter Suman. All of them are well educated and settled in life. She is survived by her husband, children & their spouses and seven grandsons & four granddaughters besides three great grand-children. She was a tower of strength to not only her immediate family but went to the help of any person in distress and in need. Her demise is mourned by family, relatives and a host of friends and others. MAY HER SOUL REST IN PEACE! **J.V.Sharma**

I AM IN VEGETATIVE CLIMAX; DO YOU SUPPORT MY PRESENT SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT? BANDIPUR;

By
B.M.T.Rajeev

Introduction: *Bandipur is a famous name in the field of wildlife conservation/management in India and a pride of Karnataka in wildlife tourism map of the world. It is one of the 9 Tiger Reserves (TRs) initially established in India with the launch of 'Project Tiger, in 1973' for the conservation of our 'National Animal-Tiger', the representative of all living organisms of our country's ecosystems. Bandipur TR is a National Park by status spread over 880 sq.km and now extended over 1000 sq.km and it is contiguous to PAs like Mudumalai NP (Tamil Nadu) to South, Wynad WLS (Kerala) to SW and Nagarahole TR (Karnataka) to West. It lies mid-way (80 km) between the famous tourist destinations- Mysore and Ooty. This is a soliloquy limited to the tourism zone of Bandipur TR.*

I am **Bandipur**, have a long history of wildlife conservation, as I was started as a 'game sanctuary' in 1931 over 90 sq. km, by the then Maharaja of erstwhile Mysore State (present Karnataka) exclusively for his hunting. I was extended over 800 sq.km in 1941 and named as 'Venugopala Wildlife Park' with a 'sanctum sanctorum' over 60 sq. km, in which, all the forestry operations were prohibited and left to nature, to provide undisturbed habitat to wild animals. This sanctum sanctorum of the erstwhile park was continued as 'tourism zone' with the

establishment of TR in me in 1973. Thus, the present tourism zone of the TR named after me has a long history of wildlife conservation for more than 8.5 decades, since 1931 and it was left to nature without any forestry operations for more than 7 decades, since 1941.

I am at the foot hills of Niligiris with tropical climate, the average annual rainfall is about 625 mm from both the monsoons-SW & NE; and the mean annual temperature ranges from 22 - 27 degree Celsius but max goes up to 35 degree C in summer. The vegetation in me (tourist zone-limited to Bandipur RF) was an open forests of dwarf trees with meadows and swamps with plenty of fodder resources, as one of the most suitable habitats for herbivores like elephant, bison, sambar, chital, four horned antelope, barking deer and wild boars; those supported predators like tiger, leopard, wild dog and hyenas with a host of other animals like sloth bear, reptiles, amphibians, fishes and about 250 spp. of birds as enumerated in 1960s. The bison population was flourishing but suffered due to Rinderpest, broke in 1969. The gregarious flowering of bamboo happened in 1960s and the dead bamboo was harvested and natural regeneration of bamboo was good in the tourism zone and again flowered in 2010s.

The vegetation in me (tourism zone) improved with the passage of time. This Dry Deciduous Forests (DDF) had abundant fodder wealth for the herbivores (Ref: *First Management Plan of Bandipur TR, 1973 by S G Neginhal*). The herds of herbivores could be seen for nearly a km from the roads by the tourists till 1980s in me. The visibility of animals was so good for tourists with ample opportunity for photography because of the openness and the Sun light; it was called as a paradise of lens men. The only obstruction was elephant grass and nothing else.

By 1980s, the vegetation started showing all-round improvement with sufficient fodder grasses. *Lantana camara* started occupying fringe forests, banks of rivers, streams, water holes and plantations of teak/ Eucalyptus. *Eupatorium odorata* and *Parthenium hysterophorus* were showing their heads here and there. The TR management did not bother & initiated any action to check these exotic & invasive weeds. The species *Lantana* was considered as beneficial to animals as its fruits were liked by birds, deer, sambar and bear and also considered as a good cover for small animals/ predators, as the fodder wealth was abundant. The exotic weeds were left to nature & *Lantana* was treated as part of succession along with *in-situ* weed species like 3 spp. of *Desmodium*, 2 spp. of *Indigoferas*, *Lea chinensis*, wild Termeric, etc.

By 1990s, the vegetative succession further improved, exhibiting different storeys of

vegetation most liked by diverse animals in the area. The regeneration of tree species, with lot of *Kydiacalycina* was liked by elephants; bamboo and grass growths were very conducive to rate Bandipur TR and me as one of the best habitats for wildlife. The improvement in the water regimes of the area was remarkable. But, the local weeds were looking dangerous and the *Lantana* was picking up fast.... and the *Eupatorium* started establishing in patches with *Parthenium*. Even then, no plan was initiated to check the exotic weeds. (Ref: *20 years Review Report of Bandipur TR 1993 by the Author, & Sri BS Ramaiah*)

By Y2K; The dawn of 21st century, the succession of vegetation started showing all the sign of 'climax'- the stage of aged trees, lack of regeneration of tree species; absence of tree spp. in the under storey became conspicuous. The exotic weeds (*Lantana*, *Eupatorium* & *Parthenium*) became rampant and started occupying the forest floor giving no scope for the grasses- the light demanders- to survive. The climax in vegetation & its ill effects were visible all over the TRstill no efforts were made to tackle the issue of reduction in 'carrying capacity' of TR in terms of herbivores.

The wild animals' population especially bison, sambar, chital, wild boar, elephant, leopard and tiger etc increased in numbers with demand for better resources for food, water, shelter and space for spreading their genes. They started going out of me (Tourism zone) & TR

more frequently in search of food/water during pinch periods, creating more 'man-animals conflicts'. The success rate of animals' sighting increased for the visitors along with the succession of vegetation and increase in the population of wild animals.

By 2010s the vegetation in me (tourism zone) attained '*ecological succession to the stage of climatic climax (some experts call it secondary succession)*'-culmination stage of succession or end of further improvement or a stage of gray ie... absence of different stages of vegetation, absence of regeneration, more fuel wood load inviting fire with more number of dead trees as it is a deciduous forest; and the presence of flowered and dead bamboo and thick mat of *Lantana*, *Eupatorium* and *Parthenium* under growths.... the vegetation attained such a worst condition; it was not allowing any grasses to come up underneath it... a non-conducive or dangerous conditions for the survival of herbivorous animals. The local weeds disappeared from the competition. The grasses degenerated and could be seen only in some opens and in some patches. The elephant grass-*Imperataarundinacea* that was most common in me degenerated due to closure of the canopy of the vegetation and exotic weeds. But, the rate of success of tiger sighting improved in the tourism zone- since the tiger population considerably went up and tigers started moving in the safari roads and in view lines as they could found it difficult to move in the forests infested with thick



Pic: Tiger moving on the road in spite of the visitors following it in vehicles for nearly 2 km in tourism zone, because it could not sneak in to the thick mat of Lantana growth on either side of the road.(July, 2014).

mat of weeds.

Tigers cannot dream of crossing the present vegetation where even the elephant paths have been covered by prickly Lantana and other weeds. It is the case with other animals also, since the mat of exotic weeds are so crowded and allows no animals to cross or allows no vegetation below them. Only wild boars are happy to hide and move below these weeds. With this condition the prey animals-herbivores forced to forage in view lines or meadows or in some opens patches.... and predators find it easy to find prey animals in their roaming tracks and are lucky to have high success rate of predation with in their home range. Hence, there is more sighting of tigers in me along forest/ tourism roads and view lines compared to previous years.

This sighting of tigers is most spectacular for the tourists, profitable for the tour operators and a boost to the tourism. The tourists think that the forests in me (&in Bandipur TR) are dense, green; animals are in plenty and wildlife

management is good..... In reality, this stage of *climatic climax or secondary climax of vegetation* is with full of fuel wood load prone for fire hazards; and it is most disliked by the wild animals as it is unable to meet the diverse food requirements of diverse animals - a clear sign of degradation of 'carrying capacity' of the habitat in terms of herbivores.

The Management Practices: The Bandipur TR authorities remained silent against climax in vegetative succession with the projection that the TR management is committed to total protection against all disturbances, fire & poaching with the objective- non-interference with the vegetation. But, some experts argue that there are theories to show that the habitats should possess different story's of vegetation/ different stages of succession in vegetation to meet the diverse food and cover requirements of diverse animals to consider them as ideal habitats; and it should be made to poses different stages of vegetation with scientific interference/ manipulation to the meet the diverse requirements of diverse animals and it is followed in developed countries.

Now, the habitat in me is in *climax* and in the stage of gray – condition that is unable to sustain diverse animals' requirements. This situation is home for the following conditions.

◆ There is no hope of natural regeneration in this condition of vegetation to start its new succession as there is no potential tree species and open forest floor to induce the germination

of seeds of trees or grasses for regeneration.

◆ The habitat will continue to deteriorate in terms of 'carrying capacity'- the ability to sustain animals with the passage of time and will force the diverse animals to migrate to viable areas or to....

◆ It will be a *volcano* (with dead bamboo clumps & dead trees) waiting for ignition in summers to burn into ashes in addition to causing damage to the existing live vegetation, animals and pollution by emitting enormous CO₂ to atmosphere- a cause for global warming.

◆ Fire is the only solution to clear gray stage or dead stock of vegetation for further succession, since the vegetation is of hard woods and takes decades for weathering to allow space for natural succession.

◆ Even after fire, natural regeneration of trees will be a dream in the midst of weeds. The exotic weed, *Parthenium* will occupy the forest floor immediately after the fire, followed by *Eupatorium* since they are *Asteraceae* family species with air borne seed-dispersal mechanism and high germination potentials and *Lantana* will follow slowly.... some grasses may come in between weeds. No tree regeneration can be expected without artificial introduction into the burnt area or cleared area.

These are the prevailing conditions in me....Do you agree with the present system of management in me..... or what is your expert vision to improve my or any PAs carrying capacity in terms of herbivores? (Note : The author is Retd. Dy.CF of Karnataka State)

CASE STUDY OF BIRTHS IN ASIATIC LIONS AT NEHRU ZOOLOGICAL PARK

By
Dr. Naveen Kumar

One of the lioness named Rita, Zoo born on 07/07/1999 and was matured and delivered its first litter of one cub only on 12/10/02, which had died as born weakling. Again it gave birth to two cubs on 16/07/03, sired by Atul incidentally its own brother. These cubs did not survive as they were killed by Rita.

Subsequently it again gave birth on 24/02/06 to four cubs and one more cub on 24th late night or early hours of 25th morning but this cub was still born.

As per the Breeding behavior the second litter, earlier given, was killed by the mother. The management was in a fix whether to wean the new born or continue to keep them with the mother. The lioness which was in advanced pregnancy was shifted to the Delivery room ten days in advance and after the birth the monitoring of the delivery and care of the new born could not be done as the delivery room was isolated from the rest of the cages and at the same time the interior was in darkness. The tendency of the lioness was to grab the cub whenever it was disturbed, hence this time it was totally left alone by which the new born

could not be monitored whether the mother is feeding all the cubs.

On 26th morning, two cubs were reported dead. Postmortem conducted on these two dead cubs it was found that these dead cubs were not fed and also there was internal hemorrhage with large abnormal kidney size. Maybe due to congenital defects attributed to inbreeding.

The Veterinarians decided to force feed the two left-over healthy cubs which were there with the mother. In the morning at 10.00 am, the first force feeding was done while one of the cubs passed feces guessing us the mother might have fed the cubs. However, the feeding was done with 10 ml each. Feeding was done using canine feed formula (1st Age Milk by Royal Canine) consisting of the following composition:

SL. No.	COMPOSITION	PERCENTAGE
01	PROTEIN	33
02	FAT	39
03	ASH	06
04	FIBRE	00
05	MOISTURE	03
06	CALCIUM	01.1

07	PHOSPHORUS	0.8	PRESERVATIVES: Potassium Sorbate, anti-			
08	SODIUM	0.3	oxidants (BHA, PropylGallate)			
09	MAGNESIUM	0.06	Date	9.00 am	12.00pm	3 . 0 0
10	VITAMIN A	25000IU/Kg	pm	6.00 pm	9.00 pm	
11	VITAMIN D3	1500IU/Kg	Remarks			
12	VITAMIN E	600 mg/Kg	26/02/06	25 ml	40ml	55ml
13	VITAMIN C	300mg/ Kg	— —	Evening mother could not be separated		
14	VITAMIN B1	20mg/Kg	from the cubs			
15	VIT. TAURINE	2.5g/Kg	27/02/06	50 ml	40ml	50ml
16	COPPER	15mg/Kg	15 ml	Presumed nursed by mother		
17	FER(IRON)	100mg/Kg	28/02/06	80ml	100ml	
18	ZINC	230mg/Kg	Artificially induced defecation helped			
19	MANGANESE	80mg/Kg	in consuming more milk. The cubs survived and			
INGREDIENTS: Milk Proteins, Oils and Fat, Whey			Royal Canine feed formula is best suited for all			
Protein, Minerals, L-Arginine, Lecithin, Fructose-			wild cats. (Note :The author is a Retd.Dy.Director			
Oligo-Saccharides, Trace Elements, DL-			of Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad)			
Methionine, Taurine, Vitamins, Flavor.						

INVITATION

The Association of Retired Forest Officers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad Congratulates Shri. Azaz Ahmed who is retiring from service on attaining the age of superannuation on the date 30-10-2016. The Association cordially invites him to 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

IN UTTARAKHAND, TACKLING THE TUSSELE WITH TUSKER

By
N. SHIVA KUMAR

Measures to reduce elephant-human conflicts are being tested in the State

Elephas maximus indicus, the Indian elephant, is not a happy animal in the wilderness today. One of its crucial woes is the conflict with human habitation.

In particular, in Uttarakhand, the situation in the jungles abutting the villages of LalpaniGrastanganj, Kumbhichaur, Rampur, Nathupur and Saneh in the Kotdwar tehsil of the Pauri-Garhwal district is distressing the mighty animals.

Acknowledged as an intelligent creature with an excellent memory, these pachyderms regularly meander between two surviving jungle labyrinths — a 500 sq. km section of the Corbett National Park and 800 sq km of the Rajaji National Park. The natural corridors between the two lush jungles have been encroached by humans over the years, thereby perforating the age-old elephant highways.

The gentle giants with normally placid temperament have started to retaliate in recent years. As habitations in villages and towns increased, obviously the human-elephant conflict has also amplified, says the scientist Santosh Kumar Sahoo, Chairperson of Conservation Himalayas.

Instead of using the traditional methods of drum beating and fireworks to chase away the mighty

elephants, ingenious techniques that safeguard both animals and humans are now preferred.

The COSEFS (community-owned solar electric fencing system) around agricultural land is one such option. Sahoo, however, points to the need for proper coordination with the forest department, local panchayats, voluntary groups and zoologists to ensure the schemes are beneficial to stakeholders. It is even more important to involve local community in the habitat protection activities.

Sahoo explains that elephants can travel up to 50 km during a single nocturnal search for food and water. Unfortunately, they are caught in sticky situations brought about by the fragmentation of forests. Houses, walls, fences and trenches jeopardize the elephant's access to its habitat. Like human beings they relish a variety of vegetation, including bamboo, standing crops of rice or wheat and sugarcane among others. Elephants also seek out high-energy foods such as jaggery, rice, potatoes, and sweet vegetables stored by villagers.

The unplanned barriers in and around Lalpani and Kotdwar, on the fringes of the north-western part of Corbett National Park, do not take elephant activities into account. Neither is the judicious use of the forest and rural landscape taken into consideration during "developmental" works such as the building of

roadways, railroads and water canals. Denying elephant's access to a critical water source or foraging area can be disadvantageous to their survival and may even aggravate conflict.

Disgruntled farmers may support poachers in killing leopards, tigers, elephants and other wildlife, explains Sahoo. It's akin to the monkey menace in the cities where the situation turns into a vicious circle because the people who are averse to monkey tricks are the people who feed them.

To educate the villagers and opinion leaders on ways to mitigate and avoid confrontation, particularly with elephants and leopards, Sahoo and field programme officer Aruna Negi started, together with a team of dedicated villagers, a Community Livelihood Improvement (CLI) training model at Lalpani two years ago. The specific goals are to reduce deforestation and human-elephant conflicts, and foster sustainable behavior change.

Under the entity Conservation Himalayas, the duo launched the CLI pilot project with the enrolment of 200 women and girls from Lalpani. Many of them are school dropouts who usually venture into the forests to collect firewood for cooking and fodder for their cattle. Helping them form self-help groups, training them in livelihood schemes and providing community benefit schemes such as LPG subsidy and new LPG connections, the attempt is to reduce their need to venture into the jungles. Some of the women have started earning well to support their homes using their stitching and tailoring skills.

SaritaKumari, who recently passed Class 10, says, "Over two years I have managed to earn 6,000 by stitching ladies dresses and blouses and this is much better than fetching firewood and selling it in the market." CLI trainee Viswambari Devi nods in agreement and says she now uses LPG to cook.

With over 20 years of experience in wildlife conservation, Sahoo and Negi have realized that wildlife research does not save endangered species. Innovative lab-to-land solutions have to be implemented. "Freedom from wildlife encounters and judicious use of produce from the verdant jungles, where wild creatures live in harmony, can only be achieved by peaceful co-existence," says ArunaSahoo explains that in India only about 20 per cent of elephant habitat is in protected areas, while the rest is witnessing increasing human density. "We are planning more training centers for a peaceful co-existence between animals and people. We also continuously educate villagers about the virtues of elephants and other herbivores, as they play a vital role in revitalizing the jungles by effective dispersal of seeds and enriching the soil through the large volume of dung deposits."

"If man is the wiser entity, he should back off and follow the dictum of live and let live," says Sharad Khanna of Delhi's Indian Wildlife Adventures, effectively summing up the issue. *The writer is a photographer and wildlife enthusiast based in Noida* (This article was published on September 9, 2016 in the Hindu-Business Line)

NEWS AND NOTES

A Home by the Sea, How About An \$11M One on It...:

- In Dubai, it seems, anything is possible when it comes to architecture. From the towering Burj Khalifa to the intricate man-made archipelago of the Palm Jumeirah, architects have been pushing the envelope of design.

Now a Dutch company has set its sights on the water to bring a new style of living to the wealthy inhabitants of the most populous city in the Emirates. New Living on Water is to unveil its latest futuristic design at a forthcoming trade show.

It is working with shipbuilder CIG on the project to build the "deluxe, organic-shaped" circular homes that look something like the floating homes featured in the children's classic cartoon series, *The Jetsons*. The home featured at the Cityscape exhibition in September has 16,000 sq. feet of internal space and 520 sq. ft. of space outside and will set buyers back about \$11 million.

New Living on Water says it is looking to have sales approaching \$50m after the homes launch next year.

"A lot of people nowadays live in very densely populated areas, and for most of them this is no problem in everyday life," New Living on Water managing director and co-owner Menno de Roos tells *The National*.

"But the need for some privacy and the inner need of being connected to nature have always been with us, and that's what we're offering."

A typical floating residence will have floors

linked by lifts and stairs, above water. These include a main ground floor with four end-suite bedrooms, plus a dining room, kitchen, and living room.

There will also be spaces for a home theatre, entertainment den, fitness room, and storage area.

There is also outdoor space with a pool as well as a roof light garden. A car-jetty will link the dwelling to land, and the owner can park six vehicles in the basement-cum-garage.

Bad news: Eastern gorillas on the brink of

extinction: - The world's largest gorillas have been pushed to the brink of extinction by a surge of illegal hunting in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and are now critically endangered, officials said Sunday.

With just 5,000 Eastern gorillas (*Gorilla beringei*) left on Earth, the majestic species now faces the risk of disappearing completely, officials said at IUCN conference in Honolulu.

Four out of six of the Earth's great apes are now critically endangered, "only one step away from going extinct," including the Eastern Gorilla, Western Gorilla, Bornean Orangutan and Sumatran Orangutan, said the IUCN in an update to its Red List, the world's most comprehensive inventory of plant and animal species. Chimpanzees and bonobos are listed as endangered. "Today is a sad day because the IUCN Red List shows we are wiping out some of our closest relatives," Inger Andersen, IUCN director general, told reporters.

War, hunting and loss of land to refugees in the past 20 years have led to a “devastating population decline of more than 70 percent,” for the Eastern gorilla, said the IUCN’s update.

The second subspecies of Eastern gorilla, the Mountain gorilla has seen a small rebound in its numbers, and totals around 880 individuals.AFP

Good news: Giant pandas no longer ‘endangered’: Decades of conservation work in China have paid off for the giant panda, whose status was upgraded Sunday from “endangered” to “vulnerable” due to a population rebound, officials said.

The improvement for the giant panda was announced as part of an update to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

The latest estimates show a population of 1,864 adult giant pandas. Although exact numbers are not available, adding cubs to the projection would mean about 2,060 pandas exist today,said the IUCN.

Through its “rent-a-panda” captive breeding programme, China has also loaned some bears to zoos abroad in exchange for cash, and reinvested that money in conservation efforts. Simon Stuart, chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, said, the improvement was came from the hard work of controlling poaching and replanting bamboo forests.

New species known as ‘Ghost snake’ discovered:- A new species of snake, called “ghost snake,” has been discovered by researchers in the rocky Madagascar plateau. These snakes are pale gray in color and are

covered with a pattern of black and white spots and hence get the name “ghost snake.”

Its scientific name is *Madagascaphislo*, which too means “ghost” in Malagasy.

“None of the other snakes in Madagascaphis are as pale and none of them have this distinct pattern,” explained Sara Ruane, post-doctoral researcher at the LSU Museum of Natural Science and lead author of this research. The study was published in Copeia journal on Sept.15, 2016.

The first ghost snake was found by researchers in February 2014 at the Ankarana reserve in northern Madagascar among limestone rocks. It was 20-inches long and its DNA verification led to the confirmation that it is a new species. These snakes belong to a species called “cat-eyed snakes” as they possess vertical pupils like felines.Their vertical pupils reveal that they are usually active post sunset and during night time. Other details like the total population of the newly discovered species are still unknown. It is believed that these snakes are not extinct or endangered as the first serpent found in Madagascar was in a safeguarded national park. These snakes most likely choose degraded forests or developed areas as their habitat.

Telangana jails turning into education hubs for inmates:-Hyderabad; In India, jails are normally used to punish criminals for the crimes that they have committed, but in Telangana, prisoners are being provided with an opportunity to reform themselves through various schemes, one of which is the “VidyadanamScheme,” that aims to make them

literate.

Started by the state government's Director General (Prisons) V.K. Singh, the "*Vidyadanam* Scheme" involves literate prisoners educating their fellow illiterate inmates.

Divulging details of the scheme, Singh told ANI, "Generally, the prisoners in Indian jails are illiterate. Almost 35 to 40 percent of the prisoners are illiterate. They don't know how to sign also. When I joined, I thought it would be a great social contribution if we are able to make all these illiterate prisoners literate. So, I started a programme named "*Vidyadanam* Scheme" under which we started segregating the illiterate prisoners and educated prisoners."

"Educated prisoners are used as teachers who have taken up the task of training all illiterate prisoners. We also have the system of taking monthly examinations. We have a three-month semester system, and so, if a person has been in jail for a year, the first three months would mean that he is spending time in standard first, and so on," he added.

Singh further asserted that they have been able to provide literacy to around 29,000 prisoners in 2015 and 17,000 prisoners so far in 2016.

Jet fuel from trees: - Australia's iconic gum trees may be used to produce enough low-carbon renewable jet fuel to power five per cent of the world's aviation industry, a new study has claimed.

Renewable fuels that could power commercial aero planes are limited and expensive, but a solution could be growing all around us, according to lead researcher Carsten Kulheim

from The Australian National University (ANU). "If we could plant 20 million hectares of eucalyptus species worldwide, which is currently the same amount that is planted for pulp and paper, we would be able to produce enough jet fuel for five per cent of the aviation industry," he said.

The aviation sector globally produces about two per cent of all human-caused carbon dioxide emissions.

Eucalyptus-based fuel would initially be more expensive than fossil fuels to make on a mass scale, but would produce significantly less net carbon emissions, researchers said.

Kulheim said powering a modern jet aircraft with anything other than fossil fuels was difficult, due to the high energy required.

"Renewable ethanol and biodiesel might be okay for the family SUV, but they just don't have a high enough energy density to be used in the aviation industry," he said.

"Eucalyptus oil contains compounds called monoterpenes that can be converted into a very high energy fuel, and this high energy fuel can actually fly jets and even tactical missiles," Kulheim said.

100-Year-Old Freedom Fighter And His Octogenarian Wife Till Their Own Land in

Idukki: - A 100-year-old former freedom fighter now spends his days working on his farmland in the high ranges of Idukki district in Kerala, along with his octogenarian wife. Way back when he was a young man in his 20s, Kalappurackal Pappachan (also known as Antony Devassya officially), joined the freedom

movement spearheaded by Pottakkulam Mathayichan in 1944. In fact, he was even thrown into jail for 10 days in Mundakkyam, an experience that made a fighter out of him.

Pappachan and Thressyamma Later, Pappachan dropped out of school after his mother passed away. He moved out from his native place Pala and came to Idukki in 1952. Here, he leased some land in Kattappana and started farming. At this point, he was all alone in his efforts, with no support from his family. But he stuck to his passion, despite famine threatening to ruin his crops. Once his work began to yield good results, Pappachan's four younger siblings also decided to buy some land near him. They bought 20 acres at Valiyathovala and started farming all essential crops, including paddy in 1955. In 1956, Pappachan married Thressyamma, who became his biggest and strongest support in life. Today, Pappachan cannot imagine missing even a single day tilling his farmland along with Thressyamma, his partner of 60 years. Both husband and wife are in good health, thanks to the simple but tough life that they lead. "It's my farming that helped me live through thick and thin. So I cannot imagine a day without working on the land," Pappachan said

(Please see last cover page for photo)

Photographer trampled to death by the elephant he was trying to take picture of: -

An Italian tourist has died after he was trampled by an elephant in a national park in Kenya. The 66-year-old man, identified as Fernando Mocclola, was reportedly trying to take a picture of the elephant when it attacked him, according

to a police statement.

"He was attacked not far from his tent while photographing it," a police officer who spoke on conditions of anonymity told news agency AFP. He added the victim "sustained serious injuries and died before he could be taken to hospital". The accident occurred at Swara camp in the Tsavo National Park, near the Kenyan coast of Malindi. The death has been confirmed by Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Italian embassy in Nairobi has contacted the victim's family, according to La Repubblica newspaper. Malindi Police chief Muchangi Mutava said the elephant must have charged at Mocclola, a wildlife photographer, when he provoked it by moving closer.

"He excused himself while taking breakfast with his wife and proceeded to the water point and started taking pictures, provoking the elephant that charged towards him and attacked him seriously wounding him".

Extinct! - These 10 Rare Animals Might Not Last the Next 10 Years: -

Over the past few centuries, mankind has witnessed the extinction of many species of flora and fauna. While we had the good luck to see a variety of real-life animals growing up, but our children might miss out on seeing these animals in the flesh.

1. The Sumatran Rhino: The Sumatran Rhino is arguably the oldest rhinoceros species living on earth for millions of years. Sadly fewer than 100 remain now and only 9 in captivity. This animal like many others has fallen victim of human greed

2. Yangtze Giant Softshell Turtle: What is amazing and scary about Yangtze Giant Softshell Turtle is that as of today probably not one animal exist in the world. The last sighting of this amphibian was in 1998. Considered to be the largest fresh water Turtle in the world, only 3 animals (in captivity) seem to be left on the planet.

3. Vaquita: The Vaquita is a species of intelligent porpoise inhabiting the Gulf of California. Thanks to toxicity, habitat changes and years of commercial fishing only 60 animals remain as of today.

4. Northern Bald Ibis: The Northern Bald Ibis is a migratory bird which was once found all over the Middle East and Europe. Today it is limited to one natural breeding population in Morocco.

5. Pygmy Three Toed Sloths: Pygmy Three Toed Sloths inhabit a small island in Panama and are considered critically endangered with only 79 according to the recent censuses.

6. Northern Hairy Nosed Wombat: The Northern Hairy Nosed Wombat is a native of Queensland and in the 1970s faced near extinction with a frightening population of 30. However, serious conservation efforts have increased the number to 200 today.

7. Mega Mouth Shark: The mere name can strike

fear in to our hearts-Mega Mouth Shark. This 18 feet long Shark was discovered only in 1976, and so far, only 61 specimens found. We are not sure if this is because of critically decreased population or the intensely private nature of animal.

8. Florida Panther: The Florida Panther might evoke images of a certain US national hockey team, but it is a real animal species whose numbers are critically dwindling. Due to hunting and habitat loss, only 20 mature ones remained in 1970. Cross breeding with another cougar species helped a bit and today there are 180 of these animals in the wild.

9. Hainan Black Crested Gibbon: The Hainan Black Crested Gibbon lives in Hainan Island, China and is considered the world's rarest primate. While in the 1950s, about 2000 Gibbons were found to exist, fewer than 30 remain now. Deforestation can be seen as the main culprit for this tragedy.

10. Giant Squids: For those of us who grew up on 20000 Leagues under the sea, Giant Squids were the stuff of fantasy. This incredibly rare squid was first classified in 1857. A live one was photographed in 2004 and then the first and the only video of the animal was taken in 2012. We have no idea how many of these are there on Earth, or if we'll ever see another again.

Non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man.

- Mahatma Gandhi

LEGAL NOTES

N.R. Narayana Murthy vs Kannada Rakshana Vakeelara

This is a leading case on National Anthem, how and when it should be sung by mouth or its musical version can be played with legal implication on private complaints in courts.

Sri Narayana Murthy, Chairman and Founder President of Infosys, invited President of India Sri Abdul Kalam on 6.04.2007, to visit the world's largest and sophisticated Corporate Education Facility at Mysore and deliver talk to youngsters at his amphitheater on 08.04.2007 during his tour to Mysore. On the occasion Narayana Murthy arranged a five member team to sing the National Anthem. Later on, he changed his mind and played musical version of the National Anthem on 08.04.2007 at 3.30 p.m. in the Infosys campus at Mysore. He explained to the Press that the reason for changing from singing by mouth to playing musical version because of the presence of the foreigners who may feel uncomfortable. This statement to the press is alleged to be disrespect to the National Anthem and therefore it is assumed to constitute an offence under Sec. 3 of the Prevention of Insult to National Honor Act, 1971. A Forum called Karnataka Rakshana VakeelaraVedika filed a private complaint on 03.05.2007 under Sec. 200 Cr. P.C. against Narayana Murthy before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate at Bangalore in C.C.No. 12359 of 2007.

Narayana Murthy, accused of offence, approached Karnataka High Court with a petition

under Sec. 482 of Cr.P.C. and prayed the court to quash the proceedings before the criminal court initiated by the Forum. The quash petition was heard by the Hon'ble Justice K. Bhakthavatsala. The argument supported by case law, on behalf of the petitioner Narayana Murthy, is summarized below.

1. The Magistrate at Bangalore has no jurisdiction to take cognizance of the alleged offence that is said to have been committed at Mysore.
2. Sec. 2 of the National Honor Act, 1971 does not deal with insult to National Anthem and therefore according to Sec. 3 of the said Act addressing insult to National Anthem is not correct.
3. The petitioner has not prevented anyone from singing the National Anthem.
4. There is no provision of law which obliges to sing the National Anthem.
5. Inherent powers under Sec. 482 of Cr.P.C. could be exercised either to prevent the abuse of the process of any court or otherwise to secure the ends of justice.
6. The allegations in the complaint, even if they are taken at their face value and accepted in their entirety, do not constitute the offence alleged.
7. Criminal complaint must disclose the facts which constitute the offence alleged.
8. Document of sterling and unimpeachable character can be relied upon by the High Court while exercising its inherent powers under Sec.

482 Cr. P.C. and under Article 226 of the Constitution.

9. The petitioner's apology stating that "if the media statement has hurt anybody's sentiments, I deeply apologize" cannot be taken that the petitioner was guilty for the offence under Sec. 3 of the National Honor Act.

The summary of the arguments advanced on behalf of the Respondent (Complainant) is as follows:

1. Under Sec. 202 Cr.P.C. if a complaint is presented to a Magistrate and if he had no jurisdiction to entertain the petition, he may send it to the competent court.
2. As per the direction of the Deputy Commissioner, Mysore district communicated to the petitioner, National Anthem was to be sung loudly in the beginning and at the end of the function.
3. Press statement of the petitioner, that to avoid delicacy or uncomfortableness to the Foreign dignitaries who were present on the dais, he did not allow the persons nominated to sing and instead he played the instrumental version of National Anthem, tantamount to disrespect to the National Anthem.
4. According to the established practice, whenever the President of India participates in any function, at the beginning and at the end of the function Indian National Anthem will be sung.
5. It is the duty of the petitioner under Article 51 A of the Constitution of India to abide by the Constitution and respect the National Anthem.
6. Since the press report which constitutes an

offence under Sec. 3 of the National Honour Act was published in the newspapers at Bangalore, the Magistrate at Bangalore is competent to take cognizance of the offence.

The point for determination by the court was —

Whether playing musical version of the National Anthem instead of singing National Anthem by mouth or the press statement is an offence under Sec. 3 of the Prevention of Insult to National Honor Act, 1971?

His Lordship dealt with the relevant provisions of the Constitution and other relevant laws before coming to conclusion of the matter as stated below.

The Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976 incorporated Art. 51 A and Art. 51 A (a) says that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideal and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem. **National Flag, National Anthem and the Constitution of India are the symbols of sovereignty and the integrity of the Nation. Public acts of insult to these symbols must be prevented.** Sec. 2 of the National Honor Act deals with insult to Indian National Flag and Constitution of India. Sec. 3 of the National Honor Act says that whoever intentionally prevents the singing of the National Anthem or causes disturbance to any assembly engaged in such singing shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or fine, or with both. Sec. 3A of the Act provides double the punishment for aggravated offence.

National Honor Act does not define National Anthem, when and how it should be sung. Therefore, the orders relating to National Anthem have been made which are as follows:

Order I: describes what is National Anthem and full version playing approximately for 52 seconds and short version for 20 seconds.

Order II: Gives a list of occasions National Anthem shall be played.

Order III: Deals regarding mass singing of the Anthem on the occasions as mentioned.

Order III (i) & (ii): On the arrival of the President at any government or public function (but excluding formal State function and mass functions) and also immediately before his departure from such functions, the full version of the Anthem shall be played accompanied by mass singing.

Order IV: says when Foreign Anthem should be played.

Order V; says whenever the Anthem is sung or played, the audience shall stand to attention. However, when in the course of newsreel or documentary the Anthem is played as part of the film, it is not expected of the audience as standing is bound to interrupt the exhibition of the film and it would create disorder and confusion rather than add to the dignity of the Anthem.

On the conjoint reading of the National Honor Act and the Orders relating to the Indian National Anthem and particularly the words viz., "sung or played" used in Order V makes it clear that

playing recorded version of the National Anthem is not prohibited. Further, it was held that the contention of the Respondent that the petitioner's press statement amounts to insult to the National Anthem is without any basis and the same is rejected summarily.

On the personal status of the petitioner, His Lordship held that he is a law abiding citizen and recipient of numerous awards and honors. Playing musical version of the National Anthem is held to be neither prohibited nor constitutes an offence.

According to Sec. 177 Cr.P.C., the II Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bangalore has no territorial jurisdiction to try the case. The Magistrate should have returned the complaint for presentation to the proper court, if he has no jurisdiction to take cognizance. The Magistrate in the instant case had not applied his mind to decide whether or not he has jurisdiction. On this ground alone the criminal case could be quashed. It was held that by playing musical version of the National Anthem, the petitioner has not committed any offence under Sec. 3 of the National Honor Act. In the circumstances the petition was allowed, the proceeding before the II Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate at Bangalore is quashed. The judgment and order to this effect was passed on 14. 08.2007.

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K.B.R

The good man is the friend of all living things.
Mahatma Gandhi



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