

Vana Premi wishes very Happy, Prosperous and Healthy New Year & Sankranthini

VANA PREMI

Nau Say Navvay Sall Tak Ke Bachon Ka Sathi

Life Time Subscription - Rs. 5000/-

Yearly Subscription - Rs. 300/-

Single Copy Rs. 30/-

Vol .19

JANUARY -2018

No.01



No it is not a Christmas tree. Turn it to 90 degrees and you will find what it is.

JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FOREST OFFICERS TELANGANA & ANDHRA PRADESH

Website : www.vanapremi.com



TELANGANA STATE FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.

- A fully owned, financially well managed State Government Company. Raising massive plantations to cater to the needs of the wood based industries.
- Watershed approach adopted for raising plantations, to make them ecologically sustainable, socially acceptable and commercially viable, with the long term goal to improve the site quality of plantation areas.
- Large grower of about 20,100 Ha of Eucalyptus clonal plantations. Bamboo also grown as an important crop over 8100 Ha.



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

Vice Chairman & Managing Director,

T.S. Forest Development Corporation Ltd.,

3rd Floor, UNI Building, A.C. Guards, Hyderabad - 500004.

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

Email: vcmd.tsfdcl@gmail.com

VANA PREMI

Vol : 19

January - 2018

No.01

Editor : Qamar Mohd. Khan

Associate Editor : D. Nagabhushanam, I.F.S. (Retd.)

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

(Regd. No. 557/1990)

President : Sri.S.K.Das, I.F.S.
Cell : 9550681964, 23115085

Vice President : Sri. T. Narayana Swamy, I.F.S.
Cell : 9701336446

Secretary : Sri.A.V. Govindarajulu,
Cell. 9440764611

Jt. Secretary : Sri. A.Shankaran, 9494019595

Treasurer : Sri. M.Narsimha Reddy,
9966341500

Executive Committee Members

- 1) Sri. C. Muralidhar Rao, 9848390004
- 2) Sri. N. Syam Prasad, 9441766836
- 3) Sri. K. Santhok Singh, 9848808101
- 4) Sri. P. Upender Reddy, 9848754778
- 5) Sri. V.V. Rajam, 9348322236
- 6) Sri. G. Raman Goud, 9391499119
- 7) Sri. A. Kishan, 9963321321

Permanent Invitees

1. Sri. T. Narayan Swamy, 9701336446
2. Sri. K. Buchi Ram Reddy, 9666097788
3. Sri. J.V. Sharma, 9441319151

Editorial Board

1. **President** : Ex-Officio President of Assn.
2. **Editor** : Qamar Mohd. Khan
Tel: 040-40205831, 9849233624
e-mail : qamar_asima@yahoo.com
3. **Associate Editor** : D. Nagabhushanam, I.F.S. (Retd.)
8096511200

Members

4. Sri. V.V. Hari Prasad, 7693673769
 5. Sri. K. Pradeep, 9848178693
 6. Sri. Thirupelu Reddy, 9949900250
- Convenor** : Ex-officio Secy. of Assn
- Auditor** : Sardar Iqbal Singh, 9520163411

TARIFF RATES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

Back side of front and last cover page
(Colour) for one year Rs. 20,000/-
Outer Cover half (Colour) for one year Rs. 15,000/-
Inner Center Spread (Colour) for one year Rs. 20,000/-
Inner full page (B&W) for one year Rs. 15,000/-
Inner half page (B&W) for one year Rs. 10,000/-
Inner full page One Time (B&W) Rs. 2000/-
Inner half page One Time (B&W) Rs. 1500/-

1. Editorial Q.M.K 4
2. Letters to Editor 6
3. Need for DGPS Survey and
Demarcation to Consolidate
Forest Lands.
..... P.K. Sharma 7
4. An Open Letter to Forest
Fraternity in India J.V. Sharma 13
5. Bamboo, An Enigmatic Species
..... K.B.R. Reddy 20
6. Watershed Development Approach &
The Farmers' Attitude
..... Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai 21
7. Relevance of Silvicultural Systems
In Forest Management
..... Dr. A. Kishan 25
8. Birthday Greetings..... Secretary 33
9. Butterfly Conservation at Niagara
Falls..... P.Sowbhagya Lakshmi 34
10. Elephant Translocation
..... Dr. Naveen Kumar 35
11. A Rare Conversation Between
Ramakrishna Paramahansa &
Swami Vivekananda .. 38
12. Minutes of the 86th General Body
Meeting 39
13. Wildlife Poaching..... M. Ram Mohan 42
14. News and Notes 45
15. Legal Notes K.B.R Reddy 49

Date of Publication: 26-12-2017

Total pages 52

EDITORIAL

New Year: Officially we in India are following Gregorian and Saka calendars. A calendar is a system of organizing days for social, religious, commercial or administrative purposes. This is done by giving names to periods of time, typically days, weeks, months and years. Government of India, all State Governments, private factories, companies and all other private organizations are following the Gregorian calendar in our country. The Gregorian calendar is internationally the most widely used calendar. The main reason for introducing the Gregorian calendar was the Easter celebration. It is named after Pope Gregory XIII, who introduced it in October 1582. It was a refinement to the Julian calendar. In 1582, when Pope Gregory XIII introduced his Gregorian calendar, Europe adhered to the Julian calendar, first implemented by Julius Caesar in 46 B.C. Since the Roman emperor's system miscalculated the length of the solar year by 11 minutes, the calendar had since fallen out of synchronization with the seasons. These 11 minutes made the Julian calendar longer than the Gregorian calendar. This concerned Gregory because it meant that Easter, traditionally observed on March 21, fell further away from the spring equinox with each passing year. It is a solar calendar based on a 365-day common year divided into 12 months of irregular

lengths. 11 of the months have either 30 or 31 days, while the second month, February, has only 28 days during the common year, and every four years is a leap year, when one extra day, is added on 29 February, making the leap year in the Gregorian calendar 366 days long. The Gregorian calendar's predecessor, the Julian calendar, was replaced because it was too inaccurate. It did not properly reflect the actual time it takes the Earth to orbit once around the Sun, known as a tropical year. The Julian calendar assumes a full year is 365.25 days whereas it is actually 11 minutes less. So, the Julian calendar many countries felt wasn't a true year so they made the change. The Gregorian calendar was first adopted in Italy, Poland, Portugal, and Spain in 1582. The more advanced leap year formula makes the Gregorian calendar far more accurate than the Julian. However, it is not perfect either. Compared to the tropical year, it is off by one day every 3236 years.

Although the Gregorian calendar is named after Pope Gregory XIII, it is an adaptation of a calendar designed by Luigi Lilio also known as Aloysius Lilius, who was an Italian doctor, astronomer, and philosopher. He was born around 1510 and died in 1576, six years before his calendar was officially introduced.

Even today several countries have their own calendars. There are 6 other types of calendars namely: the Chinese calendar, the Hebrew Calendar, Balinese Pawukon calendar, the Islamic Calendar the Persian Calendar and Coptic calendar. Chinese calendar is a lunisolar calendar. The moon takes about 29.5 days to cycle around the Earth, which is one month according to the Chinese. Therefore, each month starts on the day of the new moon. It is not surprising that a few similarities exist between the Chinese and the Hebrew calendar: An ordinary year has 12 months; a leap year has 13 months. An ordinary year has 353, 354, or 355 days, a leap year has 383, 384, or 385 days. Jews follow Hebrew calendar. They're based on lunar cycles, not exact dates. Each month begins when the moon is just a thin crescent. The full moon occurs in the middle of the Jewish month, and the new moon, called Rosh Chodesh, occurs near the end of the month. When the moon reappears as a crescent again, a new month begins. The Balinese pawukon calendar is a numeric calendar of 210 days per year. This calendar has its origins in Bali, Indonesia. The Islamic calendar or Hijri calendar is a lunar calendar and contains 12 months that base on the motion of the Moon. The calendar started in AD 622 during the emigration of Muhammad from Mecca to Medina. It is a lunar calendar with 12 months in a year of 354 days or 355 days. The Persian Calendar (Solar Hijri

Calendar) Officially used in Iran and Afghanistan, the Solar Hijri calendar is one of the world's most accurate calendar systems. It is also known as Persian Calendar, Iranian Calendar, and SH Calendar. It is quite an unknown that the whole world, except Ethiopia, has adopted the Gregorian calendar, a calendar constituting 365 days in a year and 366 days in a leap year. On the other hand, Ethiopia has accepted the Coptic Calendar, which is also called as Alexandrian calendar, which is quite different from the Gregorian calendar. The Coptic Calendar has 13 months of which 12 months comprise of 30 days each, and a 13th month at the end of the year called the intercalary month usually has 5 days and 6 days in a leap year.

Even in India we follow different calendars in different states. The Indian national calendar called Saka calendar is the official civil calendar in use in India. We follow Telugu calendar, Malayali calendar, Bengali calendar, Tamil calendar, in different states of our country and Sikhs in Punjab and across the world now have their own universal calendar. The name of this new calendar is: *Nanakshahi Calendar* (also known as *Nanakshahi Jantri*) and it takes its name from Guru Nanak, founder of Sikhism.

Vana Premi wishes a very happy, prosperous and healthy new year 2018 and the years to come to all.

QMK

LETTERS TO EDITOR

To
The Editor
Vanapremi, Hyderabad
Sir,

I have the opportunity of reading the article titled-Disparities in reserved categories :Is there any remedial mechanism?-by Dr J. V . Sharma,published in your December2017 issue of Vanapremi. I appreciate the author for his scholarly analysis of the current problem of Adivasi-Lambada conflict.I agree with his views-it is a complex problem,it requires immediate solving of violation of law in the affected area, political honesty and to find the required constitutional remedy ultimately.

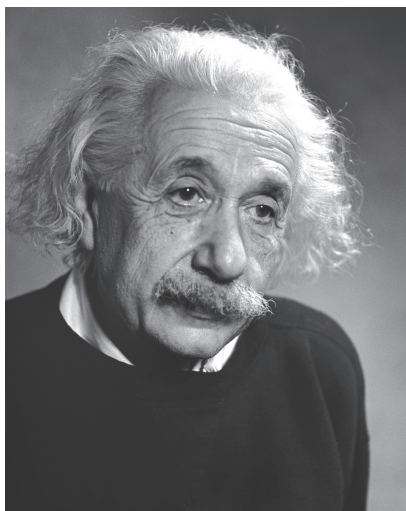
A few snippets which enlightened me are:

- 1."The backwardness of SCs is imposed by society,while backwardness of STs is self chosen and historical "
- 2."Can a community not backward enough to be included in the reserved category in 1950 be considered for reservation after 25 years,50 years,75 years?"

Yours faithfully

B Rajubabu

Regional Director (Retd),National Savings Institute,Govt of India,Min of Finance.
Bangalore.



***" Two things are
infinite. The universe and
human stupidity.
... and I'm not sure
about the universe."
- Albert Einstein***

NEED FOR DGPS SURVEY AND DEMARCATION TO CONSOLIDATE FOREST LANDS

By
Shri P.K. Sharma

BACKGROUND:

- ♦ To provide the legal status to the forests lands, certain areas were declared as Reserved Forests (RFs), Protected Forests (PFs), Reserved Lands (RLs) etc. under the Indian Forest Act of 1927 or the concerned State/Provincial Forest Acts following the prescribed procedures and published in the State & District Gazettes through Notifications in English and /or Vernacular languages. Basically the description of the boundary of the Forest Blocks in the Notification was made by two methods, viz.,
- ♦ 1) **Purely Descriptive** with reference to village Survey Numbers, village bi-/tri junctions and natural or artificial geographical features like ridges, streams or river courses, cart tracks, roads etc. (Mostly in cases of FBs notified prior to Independence) and
- ♦ 2) **Chain and Compass** –Metes & Bounds System; giving distances between 2 points and the direction (BB & FB) with the help of Compass. (Mostly in cases of FBs notified after Independence)

Shortfalls of the previous methods of notifications:

a. Descriptive method:

- ♦ The descriptions like footpaths, cart tracks, streams/ river courses, roads etc have been obliterated with efflux of time.
- ♦ Changes in the Revenue Dept. / Village Survey Numbers not communicated to the Forest Dept.
- ♦ There are few controls like village bi-junctions/ tri-junctions etc.

b. Chain & Compass method:

- ♦ Due to change of magnetic axis of earth, the Bearings change with efflux of time.
- ♦ The distances supposed to be level distance is very approximate like angle.
- ♦ There are few controls like village bi-junctions/ tri-junctions etc.
- ♦ Errors accumulate in traditional chain and compass survey.

NEED FOR CONSOLIDATION:

- ♦ Forest Departments are the only Government Departments having large areas of lands in their control for protection as well as management.
- ♦ The pressure on forest lands as well as resources is increasing day by day with the increase in human and cattle-heads population. This leads to encroachments on the forest lands.

Present condition of Forest Block boundaries:

- ◆ **Disappearance of the boundary pillars/cairns** for some Forest Blocks-ranging from few - many and almost all in certain cases.
- ◆ **Displacement of boundary pillars / cairns** for some Forest Blocks.
- ◆ **Non-availability of forest blocks records** for some of the Forest Blocks-missing vital reference.

Revenue v/s Forest land Records:

- ◆ **Non-entry of the details of lands included in forest blocks** (S. No., Classification, extent) in the basic Village and Revenue records like **Khasra/ Pahanis /Tippans /Adangals** and **Prohibitory Order Books(POB)** in **Taluqs, Tehsils** or **Mandals**. (Could be deliberate). Taking advantage of this, Revenue Officers “assign lands” / issue **Pattas** in the Forest lands to private persons or organizations. It leads to litigations & Court cases.
- ◆ Due to above there are instances where Revenue Officials do not co-operate with forest Officials in identifying the boundary of the Forest Blocks during joint surveys.

Block notifications v/s SOI(Survey Of India) Topo Maps:

- ◆ Even in number of cases the Forest Block boundaries depicted on Survey of India Topographical maps are approximations only; can be used for management purposes but not for legal purposes; as Topomaps are prepared on 1:50,000 Scale and the mapping accuracy is 15 M.
- ◆ In some cases shapes of Block maps do not tally and some of the Blocks (mostly recently notified) are not depicted on the Topo maps.
- ◆ Survey numbers of Forest Block boundaries are not shown on Topomaps.

Recommendation of National Forest Commission:

- ◆ **Recommendation No. 297-** The State Government must complete demarcation of Forest Boundaries and mutation in revenue records.
- ◆ The process requires financial and technical capacity building of Forest settlement officers. A trained team of surveyors equipped with **Global Positioning System (GPS)** and other technical tools to carry out the process of demarcation.
- ◆ Forest maps should be updated after demarcation and be incorporated in the Working Plans.

Orders of the Honorable Supreme Court of India:

(In IA No. 1868 of 2007 in WP Civil No 202 of 1995, Dated 06.07.2011, filed by **M/s Lafarge Uranium Mining Pvt. Ltd.** communicated in GOI, MoEF, New Delhi DO No.7-31/2007-FC, Dt. 05.09.2011)

Creation and regular updating of a “GIS based Decision Support Database,” containing inter-alia the District wise details of the location and boundary of:-

1. Each plot of land that may be defined as Forest for the purpose of the Forest (Conservation)

Act, 1980,

2. Core, buffer and Eco-sensitive Zone of the Protected Areas constituted as per the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972,
3. Important migratory corridor(s) for Wildlife; and
4. The forest land diverted for non-forest purpose so far, in the country.

Forest Survey of India Dehradun has been directed to prepare a detailed plan for creation of database. Major role in collection, geo-referencing, digitization and validation of the information to be included in the database will however be of concerned State/UT Governments. An officer, preferably in the rank of an Addl. PCCF may be designated as a Nodal Officer, to liaise with a the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun and help them in preparation and execution of a plan for collection, geo-referencing, digitization and validation of the information pertaining to the State.

Compatibility with *Bhu-Bharati* of Survey & Settlement Department:

Survey & Settlement Departments have launched project for digitization of Land Records; hence it has become necessary to digitize the Forest Land records.

◆ Once it is done, integration with "*Bhu-Bharti*" maps becomes easy as both are in soft copy format; launched on a pilot basis in many States (Nizamabad District in A.P.).

Forest encroachments have increased after implementation of the RoFR Act, 2006 since 2008, it has become necessary to map the individual claims recognized under Act so that any further attempt on expansion of encroachment could be easily identified and necessary steps could be taken to prevent this.

Solution to overcome the limitations of the old methods in consolidation and maintaining Forest Block boundaries:

Under these circumstances, it is recommended to go in for Electronic Total Station (ETS) & Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) / Global Navigational Satellite System (GNSS), because of the **following advantages** over Metes & Bounds System:

- ◆ Lat-Longs are relatively accurate and won't change in short span of time; unlike magnetic bearings taken with Compass.
- ◆ Errors, if any, are not accumulated & carried forward.
- ◆ Clearance of forest growth is not required for horizontal sighting.
- ◆ Extremely easy to reach an intermediate Survey station without beginning from Starting Point or a well-defined middle point.
- ◆ No closing error.
- ◆ No restriction of surveying from whole to part.

- ◆ DGPS Survey possible 24X7 days.
- ◆ Data is stored in soft copy format.
- ◆ Mutation with revenue department is easy.
- ◆ No manipulation possible.
- ◆ Cartographic representation is computer based and much better.

Pre-requisites for DGPS/ETS/GNSS Survey:

a. Ensure availability of the following data/records-

- ◆ Gazette notification
- ◆ Forest Block map
- ◆ Area Statement of the Forest Block, giving details of the lands included in the FB, village & S. No. wise.
- ◆ Topo Sheet
- ◆ Cadastral maps of concerned revenue villages
- ◆ Copy of *Pahani* and *Sethwar/Adangal*

b. Conversion of paper maps (Forest Block Map, Village Map) into digital maps

Methodology:

A. Ideal situation:

1. **Conversion of existing Maps into Digital Maps:** Collect all the village cadastral maps pertaining to the Forest Block. Scan the maps and join them in the software by matching the edges, if more than one village is included. Draw the boundary of the forest block with the help of the area statement on the outer boundary of survey numbers for each village which are included in the forest block. If scanning is not done initially draw forest boundary for each village encompassing all the Survey numbers included in the Forest Block for each village and then stitch them manually and Scan.

2. **Geo-referencing of the Digital Maps and fixing of BPs:** Geo-reference this Forest Block boundary either using DGPS or Google Earth images. Generate the Latitude/Longitude, navigate to field and fix the Block boundary in the field with the help of ancillary information, Revenue and/or S&S dept. officials and local people having knowledge.

However, if the Forest Block includes lands belonging to several villages, say more than 6, mosaicking of all cadastral maps becomes cumbersome, hence the village maps shall be geo-referenced individually and then mosaicked and the remaining procedure must be followed as described above.

B. If original Field Book of Chain & Compass survey, Map and Gazette notification are available and some of the boundary pillars exist on the ground well distributed along the

boundary:

If 10% of the Boundary Pillars (at least 10) of a Forest Block are available and could be identified, well distributed, then it is possible to generate the Lat / Longs of the other missing BPs, between the identified BPs. **Plot** the distance and bearings of the Block on the Computer and **Geo-reference** it using DGPS/GNSS or Google maps by identifying the corner points / **bi- or tri-** junction points. Now using ArcGIS or AutoCAD or CogoCAD OR any other GIS software, **generate the Lat/Long of the missing BPs**, in the corresponding segments, with reference to the Lat/Long of existing boundary pillars or any other reference point mentioned above. This will minimize the errors, if any, in the Distance & Bearings. The **missing BPs shall be identified** by navigation in the field by using the real time DGPS in consultation with the local persons of village.

If real time DGPS is not available, the process becomes iterative. At the navigated points the DGPS readings must be taken and post-processed. These readings will be overlaid on the field book lat/long readings. If any deviations are noticed in the navigated readings will be adjusted and fixed in the field.

Validation: The Map of the FB so generated shall be overlaid on corresponding villages revenue maps.

C. If original Field Book of Chain & Compass survey, Map and Gazette notification are available but none of the boundary pillars exist on the ground:

Collect all the measurements for survey numbers included in the notification from the village revenue maps, plot them and overlay on Google maps by comparing the shape and size of the Forest Block. Identify the prominent reference points; generate the missing BPs using distances and bearings from the field book, keeping Google Maps as background, by dividing into various segments. Once the Lat-Longs of the missing BPs are generated, same can be navigated using the GPS. If any minor adjustments are required at the time of fixing of the BPs using GPS; should be carried out.

In the end, it is mentioned that for consolidation of the Forest Blocks and fixing of the Boundary Pillars shall be done using all sources of data and all possible methods in order to arrive at the accurate location of the missing BPs.

Further, the maps of Forest Blocks generated from different methods of survey (e.g. traverse method, chain & compass, DGPS etc.) **are bound to vary** and in such situations in Compass & Chain Survey should be resolved based on reliability in descending order, mentioned below:

1. Reference to natural monuments/ features (rivers, ridges, etc.)
2. Reference to man-made monuments (roads, bridges, canal, etc.)
3. Reference to adjacent tracts or boundaries (adjoining village / forest boundary)

4. Courses or direction (angle bearing, northwardly, to east, to south-west, etc.)
5. Distances (chainage / approximate distance)
6. Area or Quantity (notified/ previously ascertained area)

It means the area of the forest land, when measured in different systems (e.g. traverse method, chain & compass, DGPS etc.) is likely to vary the maximum compared to the other parameters and therefore the **marking of the position of the boundary pillar is very important and not the actual area estimated in different methods.**

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

(1) Amendment in Forest Act and Rules:-

As stated above there is bound to be difference in the shape and/or area of the Forest Blocks arrived at because of differences in the levels of accuracies of measurement in new and old equipments. But as of now there is no provision for incorporating such changes / corrections in the Forest- and Revenue records. **Therefore, there is need for amending the Forest Act & Rules for incorporating such changes in the description of the already notified forest block boundaries, by way of addenda or errata.**

(2) Integration of Forest records with the *Bhu-Bharti* project Records:

All the Forest Land Records should be integrated with the "Land Parcel Maps" (LPM) created by the *Bhu-Bharti* Project.

(3) Upkeep of the Forest Land Records:

All the Forest Land Records should be maintained in the Archives of the **Assistant Director of Survey and Land Records** in each of the District in addition to keeping a copy of the same in the Collectorate, Tehsils (Mandals) and Forest Division. Further, once in a year the DFO shall verify the safety of the Records and ensure up date of the "**Prohibitory Order Books**" (POB) by the concerned Tehsildars in coordination with the concerned Collectors.

Strategies for consolidation of Forest Boundaries:

- ◆ Construction of all the missing **boundary pillars** along the boundary of the Forest Blocks.
- ◆ Construction of **Protection wall** in case of urban Forest Blocks.
- ◆ Fixing of **Forest Block Boards (Signage)** at all the vantage points.
- ◆ Formation of separate **Forest Land records Wing** headed by an APCCF/CCF in the PCCF's Office for dealing with survey and re-fixing of boundaries with technical support for solving the boundary dispute and also in dealing with the Court cases pertaining to Forest Lands.

(The author is a Retired PCCF and HFF and his email ID is pareshvyas22@gmail.com)

AN OPEN LETTER TO FOREST FRATERNITY IN INDIA

By

J. V. Sharma

Dear Brother/Sister Foresters,

When our esteemed Editor, *Vana Vikas*, asked me to send an article for the ensuing issue of the journal, I thought of choosing a forest related topic. As I opened my Notepad, I felt the going tough and the usual flow and fluency was missing. Then I remembered I had crossed 81. Though I am not sick in the strictest meaning of the word, my body has not been able, for some time past, to keep pace with my demands. I thought it is time to write about myself.

I am conscious that there is nothing so worthy the forest fraternity should know about me. There are several venerable foresters older than me in Karnataka who left footprints for the younger generation to emulate. I do not hold the right credentials to be their alongside. But, all the same, I thought I have that one identity which permits me to address the forest fraternity of all ages, serving and retired and that is I am a *Forester*.

Until I was selected as a Range Officer way back in 1955, I was like any youngster of contemporary period not knowing anything about forests. By the time I passed out from SFRC in 1957 and returned to the native State, I was a man transformed as a forester. In the evening of 30th June 1990, the day of my superannuation, I thought I am a free man and enjoyed the luxury of a sound sleep in the night. But the relief was short-lived. Whenever I went out thereafter, particularly in the peripheral areas of the Twin Cities, I could not restrain myself intently looking for the avenue planting and block plantations raised by Hyderabad Urban Development Authority (HUDA). It used to prick me and pain me wherever the road side trees were removed to provide access to the adjoining newly developing colonies. I must tell you that I retired as Director, Urban Forestry in HUDA and shared a sense of participation with Green Hyderabad programme. Forests were never the preferred topic for the media to articulate. An occasional criticism that Forest Conservation Act was coming in the way of development or similar sly comments from political class used to pain me a lot. I used to write rejoinders but the newspapers never took my opinion seriously. It was clear that my retirement from service did not leave me a free man and the forester in me refused to retire and had in fact got better of 'Me' ever since. It is that forester who wants to interact with you now.

It is 58 years since I have been associated with forests. The forests have changed a lot since then and so the foresters too. I shared my thoughts on the state of forests in my article published in June 2013 issue of *Vana Vikas*. I had listed three most dangerous assaults of the Government on the forests of the country. The first is the Forest Rights Act which had already taken a heavy toll of forests

depriving it 43.51 lakh acres and the land distribution *Mela* is still open. The second is the Govt.'s encouragement of the policy of Public-Private Partnership and its zealous application in environmental sector. The CAG had come out with a story of a scam running into thousands of crores on misuse of the FCA (The Hindu dated 07.09.2013). The third, which is in the pipeline, is the identification of 12.06% of inviolate forests of crown density of 70% and more so that the remaining 87.94% of forests can be diverted to non-forest purposes like mining, industries, PPP ventures etc. Intentions of the Government are clear. Once the expendable commodity is determined on the analogy of 'goods for sale', the prospective consumer will have it easy in selection of area and designing his commercial projects. Forest Department will be effectively sidelined in obtaining clearances thereafter.

I tried in my own humble way to resist or blunt the first two attacks, by challenging the FRA in the High Court through a PIL in the first case; and by approaching the PM and the Vice Chairman of Planning Commission in the second case to reconsider the policy and to take away 'Environment & Forests' from the ambit of PPP, but with no success. As for the third, the details are yet to be known to initiate any meaningful preventive action. It is not for nothing Dr. Ramachandra Guha said that of all Prime Ministers, the past and present, Dr. Manmohan Singh has been most actively hostile to forests.

It may not be out of place to mention that a few weeks ago the Indian Rupee hit its lowest value of Rs. 68.82 against an American Dollar. Indian economy has reversed its growth path and the GDP growth which was steady at 8% a few years ago, had decelerated to 4.4% in the first quarter of 2013-14 financial year, the lowest in four years. The gap between the imports and exports is perilously widening. Foreign investors are turning away. Trade deficit is abnormally huge. Balance of payments position is precarious. External Debt servicing is sure to become critical in near future. Should this slide in economy continue for some more time, the Nation may witness the repeat of 1991. I am not an economist but no crystal gazing is needed to feel the heat of a furnace. The people are losing count of scams coming to light. While the economy is on down slide, the Government has the audacity to make Food Security Act, which may bring votes but cannot feed the hungry. I mention these facts here to highlight the recklessness in governance and to say that it is foolish to expect a better deal for forests and environment.

It is only fair that we talk about ourselves, the fraternity. I joined the Forest Department in erstwhile Hyderabad State. I was keen to know about the foresters and forests of the past and heard stories about them. It was a princely State in which the higher stratum comprised of many persons with forest education acquired abroad. The frontline staffs were not much educated. The only thing they knew well is to protect the forests. I was told about an officer called Mr. Mir Nawazish Ali. He studied

forestry in England but did not have the right opportunities to test his skills in the State. He was known for his unimpeachable integrity. He never used government stationery to write a private letter. In the aftermath of Police Action liberating Hyderabad from princely rule, the Communists, instead of joining the political stream like other parties, waged an armed struggle to establish their rule. The Central Govt. deputed a Special Officer (SO) with unlimited powers to bring the situation under control. When the armed outfits of the Communists were sniping at security forces travelling on roads passing through forests, the SO ordered for clearance of all forest growth up to two furlongs on either side of such roads. Mr. Nawazish Ali (Conservator of Forests) did not agree to the proposal. He argued that it is not correct to go on clearing the forests to provide security to forces and it is a case of insurgency and it should be tackled as such. The SO was not used to dissent. Efforts to clear forests were thwarted by Forest Department which angered him further. He decided to get the clearance done in his presence and set out to the spot informing the CF that he could stop clearance only at the cost of his life. When the SO reached the spot, he was shocked to find Mr. Ali with a gun in hand. After some heated arguments, the SO threatened to shoot him down. The SO had a battery of security forces with superior weapons while the CF had only a Double Barrel 12-Bore gun. Finally the CF is said to have conveyed:

"Please listen. I am the Conservator here standing on the territory I am required to conserve and protect. It is my duty. I will not allow anyone to harm the forests while I am alive. I have just two cartridges in my gun. I will not fire the first shot. But I will certainly do what all I can to prevent felling. If you choose to gun me down, warn your men not to miss the target. As for me, I will not hesitate to exhaust the two cartridges if necessity arises."

It was an unforeseen situation for the SO. He could not kill an officer in the open broad day light. It was a setback he could not take lightly. A complaint was made against the Conservator and a high level enquiry followed. The Forest Department, though fully behind its officer, could not protect him. Many sympathized with him but none could support him in those uncertain days. The Government did not oblige the SO by dismissing Mr. Ali from service but reverted him as DFO. Heartbroken, he resigned from service and died soon after unable to bear the trauma. Mr. Nawazish Ali is a classic example of honesty, commitment and bravery.

I admit this is the ultimate example of heroism and steely character of a forester which cannot be emulated and much less replicated, by all. Nor is it my intension to recommend. Days have changed and conditions have changed. It is not at all advisable for a present day forester to run with a gun in hand at the drop of a leaf in the forests. But what he can do easily is to have some love for the forest and commitment to preserve and protect it. We have some very unfortunate examples of highly qualified and elite Service officers signing the Title Deeds under FRA on the dotted line as casually

as an illiterate villager affixed his thumb impression five decades ago. I heard of an incident –I am not sure whether it is Karnataka or Maharashtra, where a Range Officer refused to recommend a claim under FRA even against the threat of transfer and dared the Minister to transfer him. I salute the Range Officer. In these days when officers in high places are queuing up before the residences of political leaders for transfers, postings and other favors, the Range Officer is surely an exception and deserves accolades.

A few years ago, when I requested a highly placed officer to proactively ensure rejection of bogus claims, he pleaded that he had to follow the Act & Rules and could not go against the govt. orders. He was not to be convinced even when I tried to explain that my request is not to defy the Govt. orders but to ensure strict implementation of the same orders by not entertaining bogus claims. The poor man is not able to differentiate between servility and duty. Complying with Government orders does not mean crawling before the stiff necked bureaucrats and political masters. Andhra Pradesh lost 14.2 lakh acres of forest area, the highest figure in the country, under FRA and such officers are no less responsible.

Examples of foresters, past and present, are given to drive home the point that vast changes have come about not only in the quality, extent and content of the forests, but unbelievably great changes have also come about in the mindset, conduct, approach and commitment of foresters. No purposeful debate appears to take place among the fraternity or in public domain, to identify, understand, analyze, reconcile and devise pragmatic solutions to the challenges faced by environment and forest administration.

One of the three approaches for implementation of National Forest Policy, 1988 was to involve people actively in programmes of protection, conservation and management of forests. The Government was of the opinion that forest conservation programme cannot succeed without the willing support and cooperation of the people. This policy decision led to commencement of Joint Forest Management programmes in 1990. By 2006, JFM Committees were formed in more than one lakh villages in the country covering 22 Million hectares of forest land. It is 23 years since the programme is under implementation. But the final word has not been said about the success or otherwise of the programme. Barring the orchestrated appraisals which paint the picture rosy to say that the programme generated a positive outcome of improved forest protection and benefits to local population adding to their incomes, no reliable technical & professional assessment with matching financial audit seem to have been done. What is certain, however, is a massive external debt burden.

Forest Rights Act provides for grant of Community Forest Rights. In the first phase of implementation up to the end of 2011-12, the STs & Other Traditional Forest Dwellers have shown interest in claiming

Individual Forest Rights over forest lands purported to be under their occupation. Of the 31,75,145 total claims received, the claims for Community Rights were 58,753. More than 86% of all the claims received were disposed of ceding 43.51 lakh acres. But the claims admitted for Community Rights were 8,099. In all probability, the emphasis is going to be on granting of Community Rights in the second phase of implementation. Should this happen –I am sure it will certainly happen, given the mood of populism in governance, vast extents of forest lands – JFM areas together with CFR areas, are going to be out of the management of the Forest Department. A Committee, jointly formed by the Ministries of Tribal Affairs and Environment & Forests, under the Chairmanship of N C Saxena highlighted this aspect and pointed out that there is bound to be confusion in the management of these areas in that while the JFM is not backed by law, the CFR is the child of FRA. The Saxena Committee recommended the management of these forest areas be entrusted to *Gram Sabha*(GS) to be carried through Community Forest Rights Management Committee with areas clearly demarcated. All aspects of management will be overseen by the GS but the Forest Department should render all support services needed. The GS will look after sustainable use, conservation and protection of forests with powers to make rules regarding use, harvesting, protection, regeneration and generate revenue and to receive and spend grants for forest related activities. Necessary functional liberty to GS is also recommended by making a law. The import of this recommendation does not appear to have caught the imagination of the forest fraternity who in all probability will be confined to extension work.

There should not be any problem with any of these developments so long as the interests of forests are protected. It is immaterial whether it is the forester or the Gram Sabha who runs the show so long as it is a good show. There are murmurs even in the forest fraternity including those who were vocal in JFM support that all is not well in the arrangement. They admit that due care and caution was not exercised while forming the *Vana Samrakshana Samithis* (VSS) and allotment of areas. The story is going to repeat in vesting Community Rights too. Yet, if the people are going to manage well, it should be welcome.

But I am constrained to see at the problem from a different angle. Having seen the loss of substantial extents of forests in my life time, I am only trying to be cautious –a once bitten story. Going into the history of devolution of powers to village level in forest sector, it was in Madras Presidency under the much hated British Rule the forests were first entrusted to Panchayats. The consequences were disastrous. The move was withdrawn. The 73rd Amendment to Constitution endowed upon the Panchayats with powers and authority to enable them to function as institutions of self-government with provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities and in the process empowered them to implement schemes in 29 matters (subjects) listed in Eleventh Schedule. This had come

into force on 20th April 1993 but the mandated powers have not been transferred to the Panchayats till now on the plea that Panchayats are not equipped with the capacity to shoulder the responsibility. Ironically, the Panchayat is not empowered to issue a ration card but has all the powers to grant forest lands. Now, should Saxena Committee recommendations materialize, Panchayats will be managing the forests in technical, professional and scientific arenas. It may make a very good case for dispensing with forest education and close down even the Forest Academy! To look at the problem closely, some wise guys at the top thought that protection of forests is not possible without the people's participation. The word 'people' is too abstract to convey a specific meaning. Those who talk of people and debate their issues sitting in air conditioned conference halls & Committee rooms, have no feel of rural life. Even when they make field visits, they are conducted tours for few hours. What they see and learn is practically nil but they write excellent reports couched in modern day management language and unfortunately decisions are taken on the basis of these baseless reports. A Forest Guard or a similarly placed employee of grass roots would have given a more pragmatic account of the dynamics of rural life and who the real people are. It is therefore a case of ignorance on the part of policy makers. I wonder if any of the issues raised above and their nuances can be understood by any Gram Sabha Head. So, in the ultimate analysis, there are going to be backstage actors and they are going to exercise the real power. What will be the fate of forests in the event of such situation prevailing?

While all these developments are taking shape, the forester maintains a sphinx like silence. No internal debate takes place or an academic discussion. Many of our officers are brilliant and highly educated. Being a part of the forest administration, they owe a responsibility to the basic values of the profession chosen. As I said earlier, we expect them to follow the professional code and do not ask them to defy govt. orders. As for the retired officers, they are free to air their views and it is good if it is done. Unfortunately, forests are losing battle after battle more by default. There is no credible effort to plead in defense of forests and the present level of public awareness is inadequate to bail out the forests. The apathy and ineptitude among the forest fraternity is self-destructive in the long run. What is more important is that this inaction in word and deed is likely harm the forests in particular and environment in general. If only the forest fraternity debate, discuss and decide on vital issues and find their bearings and reacts to the situations in a professional manner, I hope they can prevent future losses if not regain the lost ground.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

J. V. Sharma

Email address: <jvsharma32@gmail.com>

BAMBOO, AN ENIGMATIC SPECIES

By
K.B.R.Reddy

The status of Bamboo (*Dendrocalamus strictus*), according to the definition of forest produce given in Sec. 2 (g) of the Forest Act 1967 is that, it is a forest produce. For clear understanding of the definition of 'forest produce', Sub-Clause (1) of Clause (g) of Sec 2 of the Act is reproduced below:

"(g) 'Forest produce' includes—

(1) The following whether found in, or brought from a forest or not, that is to say timber, bamboos, charcoal, rubber, cacutchour, wood-oil, resin, natural varnish, bark, lac, mahua flowers, mahua seeds, myrobalams, tumki leaves, rousa grass, *Rauwolfia serpentina*, adda leaves;"

The definition does not say 'forest produce' means; but it says 'forest produce includes'. This kind of description in legal parlance is called an 'inclusive definition'.

For the purpose of our discussion, bamboo is undoubtedly a forest produce in the State of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. According to the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the species is described in a different way. Bamboo is treated as a tree and a tree includes among others 'bamboos'. Trees and leaves, flowers and fruits, and all other parts or produce not herein before mentioned, of trees, are forest produce - only when found in, or brought from a forest. The Government Of

India considered bamboo as a grass (not being a tree) and by an Ordinance amended the Indian Forest Act deleting 'bamboos' from the definition of "tree".

In the state of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, there is a special and local law, that is the State Forest Act. In both the Acts, the Legislature has given power to the Government to make rules to regulate the transit of forest produce. The Legislature has also given powers to the Government to make rules to carry out all or any of the purposes of the Act; Vide Sec. 29 and Sec. 68 of State Forest Act. In exercise of the powers conferred, the Government framed The Forest Produce Transit Rules in 1970. The rules require that forest produce during transit must be covered by a permit in the prescribed form. In case of timber in transit, it must also bear a 'transit mark'. In the Transit Rules, it is provided that the Government may by notification direct exemption to certain forest produce or to certain area from the operation of any rule.

The Government of Telangana recently directed exemption of certain species among others Bamboo (*Dendrocalamus strictus*) from the operation of the Transit Rules, Vide

G.O. Ms. No. 31 EF & ST (For I) Department dated 06.09.2017. Therefore Bamboo etc., though a

forest produce, can be transported by a grower from his lands; and the transport of such bamboo need not be accompanied by a permit. Now, the question is whether bamboo etc., when cut and extracted from government forest by an authorized person requires permit for transport; that is the enigma.

Apprehending red handed a forest offender is not easy and therefore the Transit Rules serve as second line of defense while Saw Mill Regulation Rules and Forest Produce Storage and Depot Rules are the third line of defense. In East Godavari district, when Ficus species was exempted from the operation of the Transit Rules, all the Ficus trees in the Government forests disappeared. This has happened either because of the negligence or connivance of the staff concerned. There was no control for the protection of the Ficus species.

It is said: one must not only know the law, but also the reason for the law. The purpose of enacting the special Act and local law is to ensure 'protection and management' of the forests, Vide the preamble of the Forest Act. A forest officer is ordained to give effect to this message which is sacro-sanct. If the protective staff neglects their duty or connives with the smugglers, the bamboo is threatened with the danger of disappearance from the forests of Telangana. Therefore the need of the hour is to make the Transit Rules and the exemptions fool-proof

and complementary to each other.

The purpose of Government's direction is to exempt certain crops including a few items of forest produce from the operation of the Transit Rules so as to facilitate farmers in growing and enjoying their crops without hassel. Transit Rules are held as constitutionally valid as they impose only reasonable restrictions. In fact, they are only regulatory without any unreasonable restrictions.

In the present context, species like bamboo, eucalyptus, subabul, gummadi teak etc. which are found in the forest and taken out of the forest, their transit needs to be regulated by laying down a rule that their transport shall be accompanied by a permit. The following provision may be added to the schedule containing the list of exempted species in Schedule II, which has no reference to the authority under which it is issued.

"Explanation: The rule of exempting species like bamboo, eucalyptus, subabul, gummadi teak, from permit shall be applicable only to the said species from private lands subject to proof: and for transport of such species which are found in or brought from a forest there shall be a permit in Form-I. prescribed in the Forest Produce Transit Rules".

Note:-The views expressed in this paper are personal based on record and they are open to correction / discussion.

WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT APPROACH & THE FARMERS' ATTITUDE

By

Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai

1. Introduction:

1.1 With the ever-increasing global population, water for food-production is becoming a scare source. About 60 % of total arable land in India is still cultivated under rain-fed conditions, characterised by low productivity, low income, less employment and higher poverty. **Rain-fed areas are the hot spots of myriad problems** such as **poverty, malnutrition, food insecurity, land degradation, water scarcity** and **poor social & institutional infrastructure**, in addition to several others as offshoots of the above.

1.2 Yet, **rain-fed agriculture plays a vital role in contributing to world food security**. In India, about 85 million ha area is under rain-fed agriculture which represents about 60% of net cultivated area as cited above and supports 40% population of the country. **Apart from climatic constraints of erratic and uncertain rainfall, the soils happen to be highly degraded physically, chemically and even biologically**. The intensive tillage practices, employing inversion implements like mould-boards and chisel-ploughs would result in loss of Soil Organic Carbon from Soil Aggregates. Moreover, **'continuous imbalanced**

fertilization' and **'no recycling of crop residues'** leads to deterioration of soil quality, which results in **'low crop productivity'** in the rain-fed regions. After harvest, farmers remove crop residue from soil surface for feeding livestock and also using it as fuel for domestic cooking, whereas **residue reiteration happens to be substantial for erosion-control, water-conservation, soil-fertility-enhancement and carbon-sequestration from nature**. Further, due to moisture-scarcity, there is little scope to grow green-manure and biomass-generating field-crops without incurring loss on account of losing the crop-season. Consequently, except the inadvertent retention of root-biomass below ground, low amount of residue is recycled back to the field.

1.3 **Rainfall pattern governs the overall tree-growth-pattern as also cropping-pattern**, productivity and sustainability of agriculture enterprise. The standards of living and well-being of humans largely depends on rainfall intensity and frequency. Knowledge about its probability enables us to deal with the adverse conditions during the season. Although the subject area of climate change is vast, the changing pattern of

rainfall is a topic within this field that deserves urgent & systematic attention, since it affects both the availability of fresh water & food production. **Indian agriculture continues to be a gamble of the vagaries of monsoon,** rainfall being most critical because nearly 60% of net sown area is still rain-dependent. According to the Intergovernmental panel on climate change, future climate change is likely to affect agriculture, tree-growth in the woodlots and shelterbelts, forest ecology, terrestrial and marine life, by increasing the risks of hunger & water-scarcity, and leading to more rapid melting of glaciers.

1.4 The rainfall distribution is, in addition, extremely uneven and irregular. In general, the frequency of more intense rainfall events has increased while the number of rainy days and total annual amount of precipitation has decreased. **Study of precipitation-trends is critically important for a country like India where rainfall behaviour shows variations in their anomaly and whose food scarcity & economy are dependent on the felicitous availability of water.** There is an urgent need to go for *in-situ* moisture conservation to fulfil needs of growing stock and groundwater recharge, as the **groundwater happens to be one of the most significant natural resources of the country — its unconstrained explorations and non-judicious uses are causing a 'fall down' in water-tables in**

different areas of the country, the situation being more severe in arid areas. In order to replenish depleting resources, there is the need for site-explicit artificial groundwater-recharge by isolating suitable sites in different regions. **The increasing population has exaggerated the situation due to changes in land use from forest to agriculture or settlements.** The over-exploitation of groundwater for irrigation, industrial & domestic needs due to unavailability of surface water—the decrease in spatial extent because of illegal encroachments in the surface-water-bodies—has aggravated the situation alarmingly, causing so much of an imbalance.

2. Fact file:

2.1 **Watershed management is an effective tool for uplifting the socio-economic status of rural community** in rain-fed areas of the country. Empirical evidences have been supporting that the attitudes of respondents are very important factors for the success of Watershed Development Programmes (WDPs) in Indian conditions, to be measured at planning, implementation and maintenance stages. Generally, it is found from personal experiences in the capacity of Project Director of WDP, some three decades ago, that **about 80% of the respondents had favourable attitude at planning stage, whereas at the**

implementation stage and maintenance stage it was two thirds and half of what they exhibited earlier, respectively. On the face of it, it may appear to be the order of things that **good deeds are often accompanied by unsavoury responses**, reminding us of popular ballad *Every rose has its thorn*. **How divine it would be if we could savour the bliss of rosy glow, ignoring the thorny hassles that go with it!** The independent variables like land-holding, material-possession and scientific-orientation of respondents were having significant contributions in shaping the favourable attitudes of farmers towards WDP. Effective implementation can tackle several of the problems such as malnutrition, land degradation, water scarcity and poor institutional infrastructure, etc., and thus could be potential tools for growths and developments in rain-fed conditions.

2.2 **Watershed management is a holistic approach, aiming at optimizing the use of land, water and vegetation in an area, to alleviate drought, moderate floods, prevent soil erosion, improve water availability and increase fuel, fodder & agricultural production on sustained basis. It is aimed at conservation of natural resources and maintaining the ecology of the area by using the simple soil & water conservation techniques. In other words, watershed management is overall**

development of a particular region including water conservation, maintaining soil fertility, pasture land, agriculture, horticulture, forestry and allied aspects.

2.3 For a successful implementation of any watershed programme, it is very necessary to understand people's attitude towards it—**proper understanding of the attitude of the intended beneficiaries towards a particular technology, the practices, the schemes or the organisation helps a lot in effective implementation of the programme. 'Attitude' can be defined as 'the degree of positive or negative effect associated with some psychological object'. Attitude is enduring since it is acquired as a result of socialisation and hence not subject to easy change**—it is a good predictor of human behaviour. Therefore it becomes essential to study people's attitude towards WDP as it involves both the belief & emotional-component of human personality.

2.4 Further, educational status, sources of irrigation, landholdings, annual incomes, risk orientations, economic motivations and scientific orientations are positively & significantly associated with the attitudes of farmers towards WDP— social participation having no significant association with attitude. We find significant positive correlation towards improved technology and their educational status, family size, size of land holding & annual income.

3. Conclusion:

3.1 Land and water being the basic natural resources, they support life in all forms. However, **ever-burgeoning human population, modernization of technologies and changing life-patterns have invited numerous problems with respect to these resources: Soil erosion and water scarcity being very important among them and becoming a serious cause for human society to worry.** As the days pass, water is becoming scarce even in the areas where it was plenty; and fertile land is gradually diminishing. **In hilly and undulating areas, soil erosion is a significant issue due to both its on-site and off-site effects.** A loss of productivity and shortfall in both food- & cash-crops are the immediate impacts of soil & water erosion. Water pollution, silting and decrease in storage-capacity (of reservoirs) due to displaced soil are some of the off-site effects of soil erosion and it has both socio-economic and environmental consequences. **Unfortunately, erosion is often**

more severe in developing countries than in developed countries due to lack of financial, technical and institutional capacity. In a developing country like India, soil erosion due to water causes damage to 83 M ha (Million ha) of land, which is nearly 68% of the degraded lands of the country & threatening productivity and fertility of the soil. **An effective intervention happens to be planting trees among croplands and improved management of livestock.** It is also urged that **wetlands be conserved and halt draining of peat-lands which are disappearing fast and which hold about one quarter of the carbon stored by the world's soils.**

3.2 It may be concluded therefore, that majority of the respondents have favourable attitude towards WDP. Several independent variables viz., education, land holding, family size, annual income, risk orientation, economic motivation, scientific orientation, etc., have positive and significant associations with the attitudes of the farmers.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Mr. M. Narayan Rao Retired Dy. Conservator of Forest, had a fall in the apartment on 13th November and was admitted in the hospital on 15th November. Since then he is in coma. Doctors informed that his condition is critical and health is deteriorating by each day. Presently he is at below address along with his son who has come from Australia to look after him. His address is: Flat No. 505, Kosala Apartments, Saket Phase 1, Saket Township, Kapra, Sec-bad. His son's mobile number is: 950 218 3300

RELEVANCE OF SILVICULTURAL SYSTEMS IN FOREST MANAGEMENT

By
Dr.Akula Kishan

1.0. Introduction

1.1. Silviculture is the art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, and quality of forest vegetation for the full range of forest resource objectives. Successful silviculture depends on clearly defined management objectives. However, silviculture is often confused with managing stands and forests purely for timber. Silviculture is also used to manage forests for wildlife, water, recreation, aesthetics, or any combination of these or other forest uses.

1.2.A Silvicultural system is defined as the process by which the crops constituting a forest are tended, removed, and replaced by new crops,resulting in the production of woods of a distinctive form (Troupe,1928). A silvicultural system is a planned program of treatments during the whole life of a forest stand designed to achieve specific stand structural objectives. This program of treatments integrates specific harvesting, regeneration, and forest stand tending methods to achieve a predictable yield of benefits from the forest stand over time.

1.3.The general aim of silviculture is to ensure that most available growing space in the forest is filled with useful plants for as much of the

stand's life as is practical. "Useful plants" often include timber species, they may also include fuel,fodder and minor forest produce yielding species. At present the ecological considerations and resource objectives have been included

2.0. Classification

2.1.The Silvicultural systems are classified into two main categories.

- (a) High Forest Systems
- (b) Coppice Systems

2.2. High Forest Systems are from seedling origin and they are further classified as follows:

- (A) Systems of Concentrated Regeneration
- (B) Systems of Diffused Regeneration
- (C) Accessory Systems

2.3. Systems of Concentrated regeneration are further classified as

- (a) Clear felling Systems
- (b) Shelterwood systems

The following are the Clear felling systems

- (i) The Clear Felling System
- (ii) The Clear Strip system
- (iii) The Alternate Strip System

The following are the Shelterwood Systems

- (i) The Uniform System
- (ii) The Group System

- (iii) The Shelterwood Strip System
- (iv) Wagner's *Blender saumschlag*
- (v) Eberhard's Wedge System
- (vi) The Strip and group System
- (vii) The Irregular Shelterwood System
- (viii) The Indian Irregular Shelterwood system

2.4. The following are the Systems of diffused regeneration

- (a) The Selection System
- (b) The Group Selection System

2.5. The following are the Accessory systems

- (a) Two Storeyed High Forest System
- (b) High Forest with Reserves System
- (c) Improvement Felling's

2.6. Coppice Systems: On the basis of pattern of felling the following silvicultural systems are differentiated;

- (a) The simple coppice system
- (b) The coppice of the two rotation system
- (c) The Shelterwood coppice system
- (d) The coppice- with- standards system
- (e) The coppice –with- reserves system
- (f) The coppice selection system
- (g) The pollard system

2.7. Conversion of Coppice systems to High Forest Systems

- (a) Conversion by Natural Regeneration
- (b) Conversion by Artificial Regeneration

3.0. Prescription of the systems

Though there are number of Silvicultural systems as mentioned above, only few systems

are prescribed in Forest Management Plans in India. Prominent among there are

- (1) Clear felling system
- (2) The Selection system
- (3) The coppice-with-standards system
- (4) The coppice-with-reserves system
- (5) The coppice selection system
- (6) Improvement Fellings

The brief description of above systems is as follows:

- (1) Clear felling System – in this system the natural regeneration sometimes possible from seed already on the ground or from coppice origin. The nature of crop may change by planting a different species. The resulting stand will be very even aged.
- (2) The Selection System – The regeneration is mostly from natural sources and the trees are removed from the forest stand in selection fellings based on maturity of trees. The resulting crop is uneven aged with all age classes mixed.
- (3) The Coppice-with-standards system- Part of the original crop is retained and the regeneration is mainly through coppicing. The under storey will be even aged, and the top storey will be uneven aged.
- (4) The Coppice-with- reserves system- The felling are done differently such as clear felling in certain locations and no felling in certain areas. The immature trees are

reserved together with trees of economic importance. The regeneration is mostly by coppicing. The crop consists of irregular groups of even aged coppice growth with uneven aged reserved trees.

(5) The Coppice Selection System. The fellings are done as in Selection system, and adopted for short rotation crops. The regeneration is mainly from coppicing. The resulting stand is uneven aged.

(6) The Improvement fellings - The improvement fellings are not a silvicultural system. The accessory system is adopted to prepare the crop for eventual management under more intensive system, and used in the degraded forests. The method involves removal of dead, dying and diseased trees, thinning of congested groups, climber cutting etc.

4.0. Advantages and disadvantages of application of silvicultural systems

4.1. Clear felling Systems

4.1.1. Advantages

- ♦ Allow for establishment of a more uniform crop (includes the benefits of uniformity and even-aged management).
- ♦ Allow for easier and efficient operations, because it is the simplest method to use.
- ♦ May have lower costs for forestry activities including: planning, layout, supervision, harvesting, site preparation, and

intermediate treatments. Harvesting may be less expensive due to the higher volume/hectare removal.

- ♦ May more easily accommodate highly specialized equipment designed for harvesting and site preparation.
- ♦ Avoid damage to regeneration since felling and extraction are done before regeneration establishment.
- ♦ May allow for easier control of insect and disease problems:

4.1.2. Disadvantages

- ♦ May expose the site to erosion, particularly if soils are compacted and moisture inputs are high on steep slopes with significant amounts of exposed fine-textured soils.
- ♦ May exacerbate adverse environmental conditions for regeneration such as microclimate (frost, drying winds, extreme temperatures), soil moisture and perhaps nutrients, competing vegetation, predators (insects/animals). This adverse situation is only created on extreme sites where trees are very difficult to re-establish.
- ♦ Not well suited to shade-tolerant species that grow slowly in the initial stages.

4.2. The Selection system

4.2.1. Advantages

- ♦ Well suited to uneven-aged stands that cannot easily be converted to even-aged without wasting considerable growing stock.

- ♦ Fulfills management objectives that require maintenance of some large trees on-site for aesthetic and/or wildlife habitat reasons.
- ♦ Desirable on sites where climatic conditions are seldom conducive to regeneration and growth is too slow to justify cost of planting. Because trees on-site produce seed whenever circumstances allow
- ♦ Can make the best possible use of the site since the system is both flexible and intensive.

4.2.2. Disadvantages

- ♦ Considerable silvicultural skill is required in planning and executing of selection systems.
- ♦ Felling and extraction must be done with extreme skill and care.
- ♦ Costs are often increased in planning and execution.
- ♦ May be difficult to handle insect and disease problems.

4.3. The Coppice systems

4.3.1. Advantages:

- ♦ Simple, dependable regeneration
- ♦ Efficiency of harvesting operations
- ♦ No site preparation is needed

- No delay in regeneration

- ♦ Growing space continuously occupied

4.3.2. Disadvantages

- ♦ Spacing of coppice shoots may not be uniform in the area
- ♦ depends on the coppice vigor of the species, and
- ♦ the natural regeneration is subject to seed viability

5.0. Conclusion

The application of silvicultural systems is done based on the locality factors. The system gives the desired results when all other parameters are neutral. If there is increased biotic pressure or changes in land use patterns, the benefits of applying the silvicultural system is lost. In the recent working plans prepared the silvicultural systems are prescribed as if the ideal field conditions are existing, but in practice the system cannot be applied due to various reasons. In such situations it is desirable that the area is protected from biotic interference and Mother Nature may be allowed to adopt its own method of regeneration.

Authors e mail ID is akulakishan@gmail.com

If 5 seconds of smile can make a photograph more beautiful than just imagine, if you keep always smiling, how beautiful your life will be. So keep smiling!!!!

IS CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY A CONCEPTUAL MYTH?

By
V.V.Hari Prasad

It is a well-known fact that species diversity influences the ecosystem in our environment. It is established that areas with higher species richness contribute to a more stable ecosystem compared to the ones where less number of species dwell. This can be attributed to the fact that more species help generation. When we talk about a stable ecosystem we basically mean an ecosystem which shows less variation. The exact reason behind the species diversity is not known but it has been observed with enough evidence. In the past few years a great loss in the species diversity in terms of extinction has been observed. This is mainly due to drastically changing environment that we live in. The environment now is changing faster than the organism's ability to adapt as a result of which entire species are getting wiped out of the planet. We have still not identified all the species on the earth but from the species already identified a large number are extinct or are on the verge of extinction (endangered). Surprisingly the extinctions have not been random. Some organisms are more vulnerable to extinction compared to others. Thus the area occupied by such species, are facing greater loss than the rest. All these species lost directly affect

the stability of the environment.

There has been mass extinction on the planet before human beings came into existence. But the matter of concern is the rate at which we are losing species right now. The rate of extinction now is 100 to 1000 times faster than the previous mass extinction phases.

It is scientifically established that the direct impact of biodiversity loss is bound to lead to

- ♦ More environmental disturbances like floods and drought
- ♦ Decrease in production by plants
- ♦ Instability in the ecosystems

Scientists' ecology warning:

More than 120 Indians are among the 15,364 scientists from 184 countries to endorse the warning of the world's scientists issued to humanity, "Not mending un-sustained ways of living could augur wide spread misery and catastrophic biodiversity loss"

Indian scientists from institutes including the Delhi University, wild life institute of India, Salim Ali centre for ornithology and Nature research, IIT, IISER are among the signatories to the paper.

Biodiversity decline:

Their findings published in "Bio science" show decline in fresh water availability and global

marine fisheries catch. Biodiversity is disappearing at an alarming pace. Between 1970 and 2012 the world's vertebrates have declined by 58% and forest loss has been tabled at 129 million hectares between 1990 and 2015.

The political expediency in integrated Andhra Pradesh in the implementation of ROFR Act with avoidable haste resulted in forest loss to a considerable extent in both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states.

Indian scenario in brief:

The National Board for wild life in 2012 identified more than 15 species including the magnificent Hangul of Kashmir and the Barasinga of Madhya Pradesh as critically endangered under IUCN classification.

The hog deer which are prolific breeders were the principal food of the tiger in the grasslands of Corbett national park in the sixties. There was an abundance of them and it was a major species of the park vital for the survival of the tiger. Now there may be just 20 of them in Corbett.

One of the rarest species and undoubtedly one of the most endangered is Great Indian bustard which is the state bird of Rajasthan. Endemic to Jaisalmar and Pokhran, its habitat was severely damaged by the nuclear tests in 1974 & 1998. Their number may be down to 60 in the home turf as per the census conducted.

The Pangolin which can be found all over India seems doomed because its scales which are said

to have medicinal value and are more expensive than gold are sheared ruthlessly. Its meat too is in demand in china.

With so many small animals on the verge of extinction, it is time we gave priority to animals on the basis of the threat perception to them. Though we have expertise to save them do we have political will to save them? Let us have a glance at it.

The Biological Diversity Act 2002:

The Biological Diversity Act 2002 received the assent of the president on 5th of February 2003. The act provides for conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of the biological resources and knowledge.

Under section 22 of the Act number of State Biodiversity Boards came into existence. Under section 63 of the Act the respective State Govt. have powers to make rules. A.P Biological diversity rules were notified in the year 2009 and Govt. of Telangana notified its rules after the bifurcation of united Andhra Pradesh.

The data furnished below in case of different State Biodiversity Boards of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala and Telangana from where the information was obtained through Right to Information Act speaks volumes of the relatively less priority the respective Govt. have been giving to conservation of Biodiversity and

related matters, when compared with the populist measures that they take up at the cost of ignoring the long term goals to be kept in mind for the sake of human beings in general and the down trodden the faceless multitude in particular.

Biodiversity Board	Number of Biodiversity management committees constituted upto 31 st October 2017	Biodiversity heritage sites		Funds received from the state govt. upto 31 st Oct(17-18)	Funds released by NBA (2017-18) (in lakhs)	Flora and fauna (threatened) under section 38 of the Act		Payments pending to the field staff (in lakhs)
		Identified	Notified by the state govt			Identified and proposed for notification	Notified by the central govt.	
Andhra Pradesh	4068	2	NIL	150.00	5.00	Flora 22, Fauna 43	NIL	4.35
Gujarat	7596	4	NIL	251-07	57.60	Flora 16, Fauna 8	NIL	NIL
Karnataka	4973	4	FOUR	205-00	NIL	Flora16 Fauna 16	Flora 16 Fauna 16	NIL
Kerala	1028	14	NIL	100-00	9.48	Flora 26 Fauna 13	Flora 26 Fauna 13	11.24
Telangana	2812	1	ONE	30-00	188.57	Flora 25 Fauna 72	NIL	NIL

Analysis:

- ❖ To some of the State Biodiversity boards the respective Govt. has released very meagre amounts indicating that this is not one of their priority areas. The short sightedness is apparently evident there.
- ❖ Under section 38 of the act the central govt. is vested with the power to notify the threatened species. This took place only in case of Kerala and Karnataka.
- ❖ Under section 37 of the act the state govt. in consultation with the local bodies may notify in the official gazette areas of biodiversity importance as biodiversity heritage sites. This was carried out only in Telangana and Karnataka states.
- ❖ Some of the states have to pay dues to the tune of lakhs of rupees to their respective field staff.

♦ The constitution of BMCs is still not completed in most of the states though the act was passed in the year 2002.

Implementation of Biological diversity act in both letter and spirit leads to conservation of Biological diversity which is indispensable in view of the fast depletion of biological diversity, instability in the ecosystem and the consequent impact on the economy and lives of the people in the long run. The data furnished above in case of some state biodiversity boards of our country

and pace at which it is being implemented make us to put a question to ourselves "Is Conservation of biodiversity a conceptual myth?" All those at the helm of the affairs have to have introspection in this regard and give a candid reply to themselves so that due importance can be given to the conservation of the biodiversity which is imminent for the sake of the human beings in the world in general and for those in developing countries in particular.

New seatbelt design: 45% less car accidents!!



Birthday 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. A.K.Jain	05-02-1959
			9. I.Prakash	09-01-1977
1.	D.V.Rao	09-01-1931	10. P.Ashok Rao	10-01-1961
2.	R.D.Reddy	14-01-1938	11. V.Vajra Reddy	10-01-2017
3.	K.Mohan Reddy	16-01-1934	12. V.Srihari Gopal	14-01-1966
4.	P.Bhaskar Reddy	21-01-1953	13. R.Kondal Rao	15-01-1970
5.	R.G.Kalaghatgi	20-01-1957	14. Ms.D.Samhita	21-01-1988
6.	H.K.Desai	23-01-1936	15. M.Nagarjuna Reddy	30-01-1965
7.	V.P.Adinarayana	23-01-1940	16. B.Venkateswara Rao	31-01-1968
8.	P.Gracious	24-01-1949	17. Y. Narasimha Rao	03-02-1962
9.	Dr.C.N.Rao	26-01-1938	18. K.Mohan Rao	04-02-1963
10.	T.Narayana Swamy	30-01-1933	19. S.Narender Reddy	05-02-1960
11.	P.Upender Reddy	05-02-1942		

Secretary

S.No.	Name of Serving Officers	D.O.B.
1.	M.Prutviraj	1-9-1960
2.	B.Sunder	20-1-1970
3.	S. Shantharam	20-01-1980
4.	Dr.Manorajan Bhanja	22-01-1958
5.	Dr.K.Tirupathaiah	23-01-1959
6.	Dr.P.Subbaragavaiah	25-01-1961
7.	Rameshkumar Suman	03-02-1966



BUTTERFLY CONSERVATORY AT NIAGARA FALLS

By

Smt. P. Sowbhagya Lakshmi

Namaste!

I am Smt. P. Sowbhagya Lakshmi; wife of Late Sri P.V.Krishna Murthy retired D.F. O.

I am a regular reader of Vana Premi. For the last few months, I have been reading Vana Premi online since I am currently staying in Toronto, Canada with my daughter's family. Thank you for the online portal.

In September I had an opportunity to visit the Butterfly Conservatory which is close to Niagara Falls. It was opened in December 1996 under

the ownership of Niagara Parks Commission Ontario starting with 60 species of butterflies from around the world. Although, it is not related to

forestry, I thought it would be of interest to your readers since it is related to environment and nature.

I was astonished to see thousands of butterflies both big and small and in many different colors from around the world under one roof. The butterfly conservatory features over 2000 of these colorful tropical creatures floating freely among the lush green vegetation. I recollected back to my school days when we used to keep

caterpillars in a match box with leaves to watch them grow. I remembered opening the boxes to see the beautiful butterflies start to fly and it was a great pleasure to watch.

When I entered the conservatory, there was a short documentary about the life stages of butterfly. First comes the cocoon station where the butterflies are protected. On the top of the ceiling there are holes and once the cocoons become butterflies they come out and fly in to the green-house.



It is a world of butterflies and a pleasure to the eyes to see them flying. For visitors there are warning signs not to step on them while walking

and to not disturb them while they are feeding. For readers, you might be familiar with the Monarch Butterfly. The Monarch Butterfly travels from Canada to Mexico in winter to hatch eggs. They will not survive here in Canada because of the cool temperatures.

If you happen to visit Niagara Falls from Canadian side, I recommend you visit the conservatory and enjoy the beautiful butterflies.

ELEPHANT TRANSLOCATION

By
Dr. Naveen Kumar

In accordance with the orders of Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi, Govt. of India, the translocation of two Elephants from Aurangabad to Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh were undertaken by the Curator, Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam, A.P. and Director, Aurangabad Zoological Garden, Maharashtra.

The translocation was taken up on 09.12.2017 at 10:00AM but all efforts to load the elephant Lakshmi into the truck failed. The Elephant Lakshmi, which is born to Saraswathi and aged 24 years, had no prior experience or training to board or to be transported by vehicle. The Elephant Saraswathi, which is 54 years old was crated easily by the Elephant Keepers and posed no problems in loading on to the truck. The operation had to be postponed to the next day as Lakshmi could not be coaxed to board the truck.

The next day loading operations commenced after securing a crane and after making sufficient alterations in the truck body by fixing wooden crossbars in the truck to corral securely the elephants in the middle of the truck for undertaking the 1200 km. journey from Aurangabad, Maharashtra to Visakhapatnam, A.P. The journey had to be performed by the

elephants in a standing posture.

The travel route for the journey was finalized from Aurangabad, via Beed, Sholapur, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Rajahmundry and the final destination i.e. IGZP, Visakhapatnam.

The Elephant Lakshmi which is aggressive was initially given a mild sedation and was easily loaded into the truck with the help of crane and secured within the cross wooden bars. Necessary feed and water was carried along. The other Elephant Saraswathi was easily loaded into the truck with simple commands. The journey started at 03:00PM on 10.12.2017. After travelling and on crossing the Sholapur Highway the cross bars of the truck in which Lakshmi was kept, developed snags and hence the wooden cross bars were secured properly after sedating the animal as it was aggressive and not allowing the keepers to handle it. The journey started again and we drove the entire day and reached Sangareddy at 05:00 PM. While passing Sangareddy town there was a minor accident due to which sudden brakes had to be applied by the driver of the vehicle and again the wooden cross bars broke and the animal Lakshmi had to be sedated before fixing new wooden cross bars. The journey recommenced

the next day i.e. 11.12.2017 and we reached Vijayawada and halted. We faced no untoward incident and the journey was safe. The next day we started in the morning at 10:30AM towards Visakhapatnam but Elephant Lakshmi got agitated near Rajahmundry and broke the entire cross bars. Hence the animal was sedated and the cross bars were secured and the journey restarted and finally we reached safely Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh at 10:30PM on 12.12.2017.

The animals were unloaded at Visakhapatnam Zoo and the animals safely enclosed in the Elephant enclosure by 03:00AM on 13.12.2017. Both the Elephants Saraswathi and Lakshmi were transported with a team of two Helpers working with the Elephants in Aurangabad but without any trained *Mahavat*. The team from A.P. consisted of one keeper, one Beat Officer, one Jr. Veterinary Officer and one Driver from IGZP,

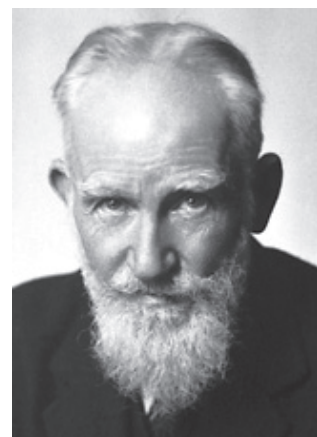
Visakhapatnam all under the leadership of Retired Dy. Director, Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad.

Conclusion: Translocation of Elephants especially semi-wild and without proper transport vehicle is fraught with risk and problems. The services of a trained Wildlife Veterinarian, and trained *Mahavatis* very essential. However, the translocation was successful and a very good experience for the staff.

Acknowledgement: Thanks are to Sri Rahul Pandey, Chief Conservator of Forests and Sri Vijaya Kumar, Curator, IGZP, Visakhapatnam, A.P., for entrusting me with the Elephant translocation operation.

My thanks to the Director of Aurangabad Zoological Park, Maharashtra, Zoo Doctor and his staff for co-operating in this translocation of Elephants.

**Now that we have learned to fly in
the Air Like Birds and Dive in the
Sea Like Fish. Only one thing
remains - To Learn to Live on
Earth Like Humans
- George Bernard Shaw**



LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Father used to walk 20 minutes to save Rs.20.

Son spends Rs.20 to save 20 minutes.

(Surprisingly both rare correct!)

If electricity goes in America they call the power house.

In Japan, they test the fuse,

But In India, they check neighbor's house, "power gone there too, than ok!"

A man goes to library and asks for a book on Suicide. Librarian looks at him & says: "hello who will return the book?"

Grandfather to Grandson:

Go and hide! Your teacher is coming as u bunked school today!

Grandson: You go, and hide I told her you passed away!

Sister to brother: What r u going to gift grandma on her birthday?

Brother: A football

Sister: But grandma does not play!

Brother: On my Birthday she gave me *BhagavatGita*.

Sign on a railway station at Patna:

(Aana free, jaana free, pakdegaye to khaana free).

Sign on a famous beauty parlor in Mumbai:

(Don't whistle at the girl going out from here.

She may be your grandmother)

Sign on a bulletin board:

(Success is relative, More the success, More the relatives).

Sign at a barber's saloon in Juhu, Mumbai:

(We need your heads to run our business).

A traffic slogan:

(Don't let your kids drive if they are not old enough or else they will never be old).

*A smile gives red color to your cheeks, White color to teeth, Pink color to your lips, Silver color to your eyes,
So keep smiling & enjoy the colors of life*

A RARE CONVERSATION BETWEEN RAMKRISHNA PARAMAHANSA & SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

Swami Vivekanand: I can't find free time. Life has become hectic.

RamkrishnaParamahansa: Activity gets you busy. But productivity gets you free.

Swami Vivekanand: Why has life become complicated now?

RamkrishnaParamahansa: Stop analyzing life... It makes it complicated. Just live it.

Swami Vivekanand: Why are we then constantly unhappy?

RamkrishnaParamahansa: Worrying has become your habit. That's why you are not happy.

Swami Vivekanand: Why do good people always suffer?

RamkrishnaParamahansa: Diamond cannot be polished without friction. Gold cannot be purified without fire. Good people go through trials, but don't suffer.

With that experience their life becomes better, not bitter.

Swami Vivekanand: You mean to say such experience is useful?

RamkrishnaParamahansa: Yes. In every term, Experience is a hard teacher. She gives the test first and the lessons later.

Swami Vivekanand: Because of so many problems, we don't know where we are heading...

RamkrishnaParamahansa: If you look outside you will not know where you are heading. Look

inside. Eyes provide sight. Heart provides the way.

Swami Vivekanand: Does failure hurt more than moving in the right direction?

RamkrishnaParamahansa: Success is a measure as decided by others. Satisfaction is a measure as decided by you.

Swami Vivekanand: In tough times, how do you stay motivated?

RamkrishnaParamahansa: Always look at how far you have come rather than how far you have to go. Always count your blessing, not what you are missing.

Swami Vivekanand: What surprises you about people?

RamkrishnaParamahansa: When they suffer they ask, "why me?" When they prosper, they never ask "Why me?"

Swami Vivekanand: How can I get the best out of life?

RamkrishnaParamahansa: Face your past without regret. Handle your present with confidence. Prepare for the future without fear.

Swami Vivekanand: One last question. Sometimes I feel my prayers are not answered.

RamkrishnaParamahansa: There are no unanswered prayers. Keep the faith and drop the fear. Life is a mystery to solve, not a problem to resolve. Trust me. Life is wonderful if you know how to live.

MINUTES OF THE 86TH GENERAL BODY MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FOREST OFFICERS TELANGANA AND ANDHRA PRADESH HELD ON 17-12-2017 IN ARANYA BHAVAN, HYDERABAD.

Sri B.M. Swami Dass Secretary of the association welcomed ladies and members to the 86th General Body meeting of the association. Sri S.K. Das President, Sri. T. Narayan Swamy Vice President, Sri. A.V. Govindarajulu Joint Secretary cum Treasurer, and Sri Qamar Mohd Khan Editor Vana Premi were requested to occupy their seats. Sri S.K. Das President was requested to preside over the meeting. The agenda was placed before the president with a request to conduct the proceedings.

Shradhanjali: Sri. K. Buchi Ram Reddy Senior member spoke about

1) Sri. Sagubadi Adi Narayana Reddy who's Date of Birth is 11-02-1923 expired on 18-09-2017. He Joined the Department as Forest Range Officer after training at Forest Rangers College Dehradun. He retired as Divisional Forest Officer.

2) Sri. Sanjeev Kumar Gupta Chief Conservator of Forests in-charge of Adilabad Circle Adilabad. He was born on 26-11-1970. This young officer died due to cardiac arrest on 07-11-2017. His untimely death is a great loss to the Telangana Forest Department in general and to the family members in particular.

The Association of Retired Forest Officers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh conveyed their condolences to the bereaved families

All the Members, Ladies and Guests present in the General Body Meeting paid homage to the

departed souls.

Action Taken Report of the Secretary:

The action taken report of the secretary was presented on the decisions taken by the Executive Committee meeting on 12-11-2017 and General Body Meeting held on 17-12-2017. The Attendance of members in General Body Meetings is increasing when compared to the previous meetings. The Quarterly General Body Meetings are being regularly conducted in the premises of Aranya Bhavan, Hyderabad. All the members of the association have expressed their appreciations to the persons who are hosting the lunch during the General Body Meetings.

Amendments to rules and regulations of the Association of Retired Forest Officers Telangana and Andhra Pradesh were placed before the last General Body Meeting and the same were approved. The same will be placed before this General Body for confirmation.

The resolution taken in the last Executive Committee Meeting will be placed before the General Body for Amendment to extend the term of office bearers of the association from two years to three years.

The felicitations to the senior members who attained the age of 75, 80, 85, and 90 is welcomed by all the members.

Amendments to Rules and Regulations:-

The President of the Association introduced the proposal of amendment to rule 7 to extend the term of office bearers of the association from two years to three years for approval in the General Body Meeting. The General Body Members present had unanimously approved the amendment "the term of office bearers of the association from two years to three years".

The President of the Association placed the following amendments approved in the last General Body Meeting for confirmation before the General Body.

"The following senior dedicated members to be the permanent invitees of Executive Committee Members of the Association".

1. Sri. T. Narayan Swamy
2. Sri. K. Buchi Ram Reddy
3. Sri. J.V. Sharma

"The Post of the Joint Secretary cum Treasurer bifurcated in to two posts. One Post is as Joint Secretary and another post is as Treasurer".

"The Present Executive Committee Members are five members are enhanced to seven members".

"The number of members in the Vana Premi Editorial Board enhanced from one member to three members to look into the works of Vana Premi Journal".

The General Body Unanimously passed and confirmed the above amendments to the rules and regulations of the Association of Retired Forest Officers Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Talk by Sri T. Narayan Swamy Vice President on

Pensioners Issues

Sri T. Narayan Swamy Vice President spoke about the pensioner pertaining to VII C.P.C. He also spoke about CGHS.

Felicitations to the members

The members who attained the age 90, 85, 80, and 75, years of age were felicitated with a Shawl and Flower Bouquet in the General Body by the President Sri. S.K. Das and Vice President Sri T. Narayan Swamy of the association

Felicitations to the members who attained 90 years

Sri T. Krishna Murthy D.O.B. 07-10-1927

Sri P. Ranga Rao D.O.B. 05-10-1927

Felicitations to the members who attained 85 years

Sri P.S. Reddy D.O.B. 30-09-1932

Sri M. Narayan Rao D.O.B. 10-10-1932

Felicitations to the members who attained 80 years

Sri A. Rasheed Khan D.O.B. 06-10-1937

Felicitations to the members who attained 75 years

Sri K. Madan Mohan D.O.B. 10-07-1942

The above senior members, who were felicitated, responded and shared their life time experiences in the department with members present in the meeting. They thanked the association for the felicitations. Sri P. Ranga Rao D.O.B. 05-10-1927, Sri. P.S. Reddy D.O.B. 30-09-1932, Sri. Sri M. Narayan Rao D.O.B. 10-10-1932 has not attended the felicitations due to their personal problems.

Presidential Address:-

Sri S.K. Das President of the association said in his remarks that the members of the association to think and come forward with suggestions and contributions for betterment of our Forests and development of tribals. He also requested the members to contribute articles to Vana Premi Journal.

Elections of the Association:-

Sri T. Krishna Murthy Senior Most Member in the Meeting was requested to be the election officer to conduct the election of the Association. Sri T. Krishna Murthy accepted to be the election officer and conducted the elections of the Association. Sri Lohith Reddy Senior Member proposed that the same body of office bearers to be continued for another term. Sri K. Buchiram Reddy seconded the proposal. The General Body Unanimously accepted to continue the same body of office bearers for another term with following modifications and additions as per amended rules and regulations of the association.

The election officer has declared the following office bearers as elected unanimously in the General Body Meeting held on 17-12-2017 in Aranya Bhavan Hyderabad.

- President - Sri. S.K. Das
- Vice President - Sri. T. Narayan Swamy
- Secretary - Sri. A.V. Govinda Rajulu
- Joint Secretary - Sri. A. Shankaran
- Treasurer - Sri. M. Narsimha Reddy

Executive Committee Members:

- 1) Sri. C. Muralidhar Rao
- 2) Sri. N. Shyam Prasad
- 3) Sri. K. Santhok Singh
- 4) Sri. P. Upender Reddy
- 5) Sri. V.V. Rajam
- 6) Sri. G. Raman Goud
- 7) Sri. Adumulla. Kishan

Vana Premi Editorial Board:

Editor: Sri. Qamar Mohd. Khan

Associate Editor: Sri. D. Naga Bhushanam

Members:

1. Sri. V.V. Hari Prasad
2. Sri. K. Pradeep
3. Sri. Thirupelu Reddy

Newly elected office members were called on to the dais Sri. S.K. Das President thanked Sri. B.M. Swami Dass outgoing secretary for rendering best services to the association. He also thanked newly elected members for accepting the posts.

Vote of Thanks:-

Sri A.V. Govindarajulu, Secretary proposed vote of thanks to ladies and members who attended the meeting. Special Thanks were extended to Sri M. Narsimha Reddy, Sri N. Venkataram Narsaiah and Sri P. Eshwar Reddy, for hosting the lunch He also thanked all the persons who assisted in successful conduction of the meeting.

The next General Body meeting will be held in March - 2018.

Secretary

WILDLIFE POACHING

By
M. Ram Mohan,

Forests are the only habitat for the wild animals to live in their natural world. The survival of wildlife depends upon the very existence of the forests and its health. Biotic interference of man is the main cause of concern for depletion of wildlife affecting their populations and even the very existence of certain species. Habitat loss in the form of forest land encroachment, cutting trees for domestic use or smuggling and poaching are leading to affect the life of the wild animals.

Wildlife poaching has been a common practice since time immemorial and drastically reduced after enactment of Forest and Wildlife Acts. But, still some poaching activities continue, some are brought to light and some are not and some are unnoticed due to reasons, such as, lack of control of forest staff over forest areas, villages, aversion among the staff in registering Wildlife cases and presenting the accused before the Courts, want of informant system, dearth of staff, political patronage of the accused, attitude of the people and above all, lack of love and affection towards wildlife amongst common people and even in most of the forest fraternity.

The methods employed for poaching, often, by the villagers now-a-days, are, electrocution, snaring, trapping, usage of crude bombs, etc., and direct methods of poaching include killing

animals using spears during day time with the help of domestic dogs. Using head lamp/light with a sound making equipment during night hours and shooting by using, mostly, country-made guns are also in vogue.

Snaring of wild animals is done by using worn clutch wires of two wheelers or GI wire. They are tied around in the areas where the wildlife is frequented, such as, water holes, salt lick areas and especially around the crop area, which is usually encroached forest land, that has interface with the forested area. Poachers identify the animal paths by the presence of foot prints and snares are tied across such paths and twigs are spread closing all the adjacent gaps, if any, in order to drive the animal towards the snare. The thin wire, which is camouflaged, can not be noticed by the animals as most of the animals become active at dawn/dusk time or during night when there is less or no light and get snared themselves. The other end of wire is usually tied to nearby tree or log securely which makes it impossible for the animal to get rid of the snare. The unbreakable wire entangles the animal mostly at neck portion, sometimes legs, abdomen, etc. As the animal tries to escape, the wire gets tightened leading to its death or resulting in severe injuries. If at all the animal survived despite being in snare,

it will be killed later by the persons who put the snares.

Illegal tapping of electricity from the power lines that pass through forests for electrocution of animals has become a common, easiest and also the most dangerous practice employed by the poachers. This practice takes place in non-monsoon days in order to avoid short circuit which would be fatal to the people themselves who employ such method. A thin GI wire is spread for a few hundreds of meters and sometimes one to two kilometres even, using wooden pegs/twigs of about one foot, above the ground, after clearing the bush growth/regeneration in the desired way which is often across the animal paths that lead to water holes, salt lick areas, etc. Dried pegs and dry stumps are used in order to avoid short circuit. The animal cannot avoid but succumb to electrocution due to lengthy, unnoticeable and inescapable wire. No animal that passes across the wire survives. When the animal comes into contact with live wire, it gets electrocuted and killed instantly and the line is snapped. More than one animal are also killed in case of the animals that live in groups, particularly the wild pigs. Not only wild animals, cattle, even humans – most often poachers themselves -become victims as well.

Another method employed to kill the animals, mostly wild pigs, is by using crude bombs. The country-made bombs are wrapped in perished meat and put on the ground often in fields where

standing crops are present. The animal is attracted by the smell of the meat and when it tries to consume, the bomb explodes blowing the head of the animal into pieces killing the animal brutally.

Trapping is done using traps- used mostly in case of carnivores- also around the water holes and trails. Usually country-made gun- tapancha - is used for poaching after identification of animal movement at certain areas. Sometimes, animals are shot from make-shift machans. As snaring with clutch wire and electrocution have become the easiest ways, the usage of guns and traps is decreased.

Direct killing of animals is usually carried out during no moon light nights/time by a team of people, using spears, head lamp powered by a battery and a sound making instrument which sounds like cricket- an insect- that suppresses the sound of movement of the people and tend the animal to believe that as if it is natural sound in the forest. The light is used to spot the animal and make it confused when suddenly focussed on in pitch of darkness and eventually the animal fall prey after a small chase. During rainy season the animals become easy prey as the movement of the animals is hampered as the forest floor becomes wet, slippery and muddy.

Poaching also takes place during day time by people wielding spears accompanied by domestic dogs. Monitor Lizards, Ant-Eaters and herbivores, like Chousinga, Cheetal, Hare, etc.,

are usually poached by employing this method. During early monsoon period, after first showers, Monitor Lizards are killed as they tend to come on to the ground. If the Lizard is seen going inside the termite mound, it is smoked out and killed and if it mounts up a tree-how gigantic the tree may be-the lives of tree and the poor creature are exterminated-the tree is felled for giving shelter! The animals easily notice the presence of the people during day time, they tend to move away quickly which makes it difficult, often impossible, for the people to chase and kill the animal. Here comes the role of their dogs. The dogs, coursed by their masters, hound the animal till it is exhausted and is downed, then the people kill the already shattered animal.

Poaching is carried out usually for self consumption and sometimes for commercial purpose in the forest villages. People must be educated by taking up publicity and extension activities regarding the right to live of their fellow jungle co-habitants on this very earth and significance of each and every species and its role in the ecosystem and the way its absence affects the very existence of the human race in the long run as every species is linked to another in food chain/web. Youngsters be taught at school/college level and be exposed to forest areas by conducting field trips which make them appreciate the role of plants and animals in the ecosystem. Strict implementation of forest and wildlife laws is need of hour. The forest fraternity be sensitised towards wildlife by conducting

regular in-service orientation training classes and field trips to wildlife areas especially the well managed protected areas. As the wildlife monitoring needs special expertise, dedicated teams be formed to monitor closely the movement of wildlife and to put surveillance on wildlife crime. Wildlife areas be identified and be sanitized of poaching material on regular basis. The areas frequented by wildlife, viz., water holes especially in summer season, salt lick areas and the areas around cropped lands, etc., be thoroughly checked for poaching material. Informer system be strengthened so as to prevent or to know the wildlife crime.

The power lines be thoroughly checked for illegal tapping on regular basis especially during dawn and dusk times when the poachers lay/remove the wire. But, the sanitization is imminently dangerous to the handlers, the forest staff, since the live wire is camouflaged to the environment. And it is pertinent to note that it may not be possible to sanitise the lengthy power lines all the time. The best option would be to insulate the wire which passes through the forest areas with cable as is done in some habitations to prevent power pilferage. Saving life – be it of human or animal – would be sensible act than attending damage controlling exercises. Prevention is always better than cure. (The author is a Forest Range Officer at Bijjur of Kaghaznagar Division and his email ID is rammohan.16@gmail.com)

NEWS AND NOTES

AN INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP WITH RETIRED FOREST OFFICERS PARTICIPATION:

The Prl. CCF Telangana (Head of Forest Force) organized a Workshop on Dec. 13, 2017 in the Aranya Bhavan and invited retired forest officers to participate. There was good response and many former PCCFs and seniors attended the workshop.

At the outset, Sri P.K. Jha, PCCF, invited the participants and highlighted the several initiatives that are being taken up by the Telangana Forest Department for effective forest management such as Telangana-ku-HarithaHaaram, Fire Protection, Eco Tourism etc. Another important activity of the Department is to lend a helping hand to the Government in all the development programmes as a result there has been good publicity in the press.

The consensus at the workshop was to maintain greenery while zealously implementing the regeneration works. This work is particularly essential in the compensatory afforestation programme for the lands lost. Fire protection, if implemented with full vigor and cooperation of the villagers, will go a long way to improve the status of the forest lands. Wildlife protection can be ensured only when the natural forest is well preserved. Eco tourism programmes and urban parks are becoming popular with the people's participation.

The government has taken up an ambitious programme of purification of village records. The opportunity should be taken up for updating the forest records. This is necessary in the context of implementing Forest Rights Act. The precincts of the forests must be well protected from

encroachments by digging trenches followed by sowing seed / planting seedlings on the mounds which may eventually serve as live hedge; construction of masonry walls on the RF boundary, wherever it is needed and wherever it is possible, will be undoubtedly the most effective way of safeguarding the forests.

The suggestions made by retired officers are well taken. The PCCF and Addl. PCCFs made their presentations to project various activities for the benefit of the participants. The workshop was attended by serving forest officers and also retired officers Viz. Sarvasri SD Mukherjee, SK Das, BSS Reddy, PK Sharma, Sammi Reddy, HC Misra, SV Kumar, Ramesh Kalaghatgi, JV Sharma, K. Jaganmohan Rao. Padmanabha Reddy and K. Buchi Ram Reddy.

Assam: Pregnant elephant killed as train rams into herd:

- Express train rammed the herd as they crossed the track. Five elephants were killed instantly. In a tragic incident, five wild elephants were killed in the early hours of Sunday after a train hit their herd at a tea garden in Sonitpur district. One of them was a pregnant female, whose dead calf was extracted later.

The incident took place at Bamgaon Tea Estate in the Chariduar police station area near Balipara at 1.30am, forest officials said. The herd was trying to cross railway tracks when the Guwahati-Naharlagun Intercity Express hit them, chief conservator of forest (northern range) P Shiv Kumar said.

Four female elephants, including a pregnant one, and a male jumbo were killed on the spot, he said. The premature unborn calf came out

from its mother's belly due to the massive impact, Kumar said. He said the forest officials were trying to locate two other elephants, which were part of the herd, adding that the dead elephants were cremated after post-mortem examination.

Wild elephants often come out of the nearby Nameri National Park in search of food, he said. In the last couple of days, a herd of around 70 elephants strayed into the area, near the accident site, informed a forest official.

The Assam Environmental NGOs Forum expressed profound grief and categorically condemned the incident. It lamented the lack of foresightedness while planning development activities. Dr Bibhab Talukdar of NGO Aaranyak called it a shame "for a state like Assam where 40 elephants have died unnaturally in the last 100 days."

Another wildlife activist, Pranoy Bordoloi, said that the construction of railway tracks across known animal corridors has resulted in the death of at least 225 elephants by trains hits since 2006. Former honorary wildlife warden of Kaziranga National Park, Jayanta Kumar Das, said that handing over forest lands for development of a private park nearby was a recipe for disaster and led to such tragic incidents.

He demanded immediate intervention of the Assam government as such incidents create a bad name for the State. Rituraj Phukan of Green Guard Nature Organization requested the Assam Forest Department and the North Frontier Railways to light up the tracks like highways and install warning systems and enforce speed limits immediately.

The rising cases of human-animal conflict in

Assam have been a cause of concern for conservation and wildlife bodies. Due to large scale deforestation for the construction of villages, elephants have lost their natural habitats that had remained untouched till recently.

The elephant is a Schedule I species, accorded the highest protection by India's Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972. The 'Asian elephants of Assam' have been declared 'endangered' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). According to the elephant census, there were 5,620 in India in 2011.

100 new species found in Mekong region: - BANGKOK Vietnamese 'crocodile lizard' and a Thai turtle found on sale in a local market are among more than 100 new species discovered in the ecologically diverse but threatened Mekong region last year, researchers said Tuesday.

The Southeast Asian countries flanking the Mekong River, which snakes down from the Tibetan plateau to the South China Sea, are among the most biodiverse in the world.

Each year scientists announce scores of new species discovered in the region, which includes Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

But there are fears that many more species could die out before they are found in the region whose jungle and river ecosystems are increasingly threatened by roads, dams and a thriving illegal wildlife trade.

In total, scientists confirmed 115 new species in 2016 after a lengthy vetting process, according to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

They include 11 amphibians, two fish, 11

reptiles, 88 plants and three mammals.

"While the global trends are worrisome, and the threats against species and their habitats here in the Greater Mekong are massive, these new species discoveries give us enormous hope," said WWF's Lee Poston.

"But we have to do more to protect their habitat and prevent them from entering the illegal wildlife trade," he added.

The new finds include a bat with a horseshoe-shaped face and a snail-eating turtle discovered by a scientists in a local market in northeastern Thailand.

The Crocodile Lizard, a scaly reptile that hails from northern Vietnam's evergreen forests, was also among the new species announced on Tuesday.

Although the reptile was first discovered in 2003, it has taken years to confirm its status as a separate subspecies.

Coal mining and pet trade poachers have gravely endangered the lizard, whose numbers are estimated to be fewer than 200, scientists said. Two new mole species were also found in Vietnam, with researchers noting that their underground dwellings have helped protect them.

Over the past 20 years more than 2,500 new species — amounting to around two per week — have been discovered in the Greater Mekong, WWF said. AFP

Melting ice sheet, rising sea level: - The East Antarctic ice sheet, with 12,000 feet thick ice in many places, was thought to be among the most stable, not gaining or losing mass, even as ice sheets in West Antarctica and Greenland are shrinking.

The East Antarctic ice sheet – one of the two large ice sheets in Antarctica and the largest on the entire planet – may contribute substantially to global sea level rise finds a study.

The East Antarctic ice sheet, with more than 12,000 feet thick ice in many places, was thought to be among the most stable, not gaining or losing mass even as ice sheets in West Antarctica and Greenland are shrinking.

However, the findings showed that the ice sheet has a long history of expanding and shrinking. The study, based on the first-ever oceanographic survey of East Antarctica's Sabrina Coast – revealed that the glaciers in this region may be particularly susceptible to climate change.

This is because they flow from the Aurora Basin which has been stable only for the past few million years, and if the ice sheet in the Basin melted, global sea levels would rise more than 3-5 meters (10-15 feet).

"It turns out that for much of the East Antarctic Ice Sheet's history, it was not the commonly perceived large stable ice sheet with only minor changes in size over millions of years," said Sean Gulick, Professor at the University of Texas - Austin.

"Rather, we have evidence for a very dynamic ice sheet that grew and shrank significantly between glacial and interglacial periods. There were also often long intervals of open water along the Sabrina Coast, with limited glacial influence," Gulick added.

For the study, published in the journal Nature, the team deployed marine seismic technology from the back of an ice breaker near Antarctica's Sabrina Coast.

The equipment captured images of the seafloor, including geological formations created by the ice sheet, allowing scientists to reconstruct how glaciers in the area have advanced and retreated over the past 50 million years.

According to data, ice advanced from the Aurora Basin and retreated back again at least 11 times during the first 20 million years of the ice sheet's history.

Paris to ban wild animals in circuses: - The city of Paris on Wednesday pledged to ban the use of wild animals in circuses, in a move welcomed as a "small step forward" by animal welfare experts. Criticism has grown in France of the inclusion of exotic animals in some circus shows, and 65 municipalities have already banned them. City lawmakers voted Wednesday to support a motion proposed by Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo saying they were "unanimously committed to a city without wild animals in circuses." But they didn't set a deadline and left the final decision on any ban to the government. The French state has yet to proscribe wild animals in circuses, a practice that is already outlawed in 19 other European countries.

The welfare debate resurfaced last November when a tiger that escaped from a Paris circus was shot and killed by its owner.

"Wild animals in circuses are not well treated. They are exploited for fun and this is hitting home to more and more Parisians," said ecologist Jacques Boutault.

He said that Wednesday's decision was "a small step forward even if it does not go far enough" as national lawmakers must vote through any eventual ban.

Is it true that you shouldn't look at the sun even during a TOTAL solar eclipse:

- Looking at the sun even on a non-eclipse day can cause discomfort in the eyes. People have a natural tendency to avert their eyes from the sun after a brief stare at it. It can cause temporary vision distortion.

On a solar eclipse day, it is even more dangerous to look at the sun. During an eclipse, the sun is partially blocked by the moon. The darkness that accompanies an eclipse may tempt us to catch a glimpse of the sun without even squinting. This increases the chances of damage to the eye with the amount of ultraviolet radiation hitting the retina directly. When the light-sensing cells in the retina are over-stimulated by sunlight, they release a flood of communication chemicals that can damage the eye.

During a TOTAL solar eclipse, the moon fully blocks the light from the sun. The bright photosphere is completely covered and only the faint light from the corona is visible, and this radiation is too weak to have a harmful effect on the eye.

"During the short time when the moon completely obscures the sun – known as the period of totality – it is safe to look directly at the star," according to the NASA. So, it is not right to say that you should not look at the sun even during a total solar eclipse.

But totality is brief and it's crucial that you know when to put your glasses back on.

LEGAL NOTES

DattuKishanJadhavvs Range Forest Officer, Mobile Squad, Bhusawal and Anr

This case is a good example of how unscrupulous and greedy forest officers get into trouble for their over-zealous, illegal and unauthorized acts. The Range Forest Officer involved in this case has placed his selfish motive over the rule of law. Was he ignorant, too clever or over confident is the question that remains to be answered. The facts of are as follows; please read on.

On January 1, 2008, Gram Panchayat of Village Nanded, Tq. Dharangaon, District Jalgaon published a notice in newspaper "Punyanagari" calling for tenders for cutting and removing of thorny bushes and shrubs on the land belonging to the village panchayat. The tender-cum auction was fixed on January 7, 2008. About 6 persons participated in the auction. Sri DattuKishanJadhav, being the highest bidder, his bid for Rs. 3,21,000/- was accepted and he deposited a sum of Rs. 1,72,000/- Soon after, the work of jungle clearance was commenced.

The Range Forest Officer Sri EjazShafiPeerzada, on his own, filed a complaint before the Judicial Magistrate of First Class, Amalner against Sri DattuKishanJadhav and 100 others. The complaint was taken on file and numbered as CC No. 60 of 2008. It was alleged that the accused D.K. Jadhav committed grave crime in violation of the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. The complaint was filed without

consulting or without obtaining permission of the Dy. Conservator of Forests, Jalgaon. It was alleged by the RFO in the complaint to the court that illicit felling of trees standing on the *gairan*lands resulted in damage to the ecology and all the area has undergone irreparable loss. The wildlife habitat and natural surroundings have suffered greatly. The accused Jadhav, it was alleged, has also violated the provisions of Sections 41, 35 of the Indian Forest Act 1927, the provisions of the Rules 66, 88 (1) and 78 of the Bombay Forest Rules 1942, the provisions of the Wildlife Protection as amended in 2002. The learned Magistrate issued process by order dated 01.04.2008 against the accused for offences punishable under Sections 379, 395, & 120-B of the IPC; Sections 3, 14, 51, 52 of Wildlife Protection Act and Rules 41, 35, 66, 88 (1) and 78 of Bombay Forest Rules. As some of the alleged offences are triable by Sessions Court, the case was committed to Sessions Court at Jalgaon bearing Sessions Court No. 12 of 2008. Aggrieved by the action of the Range Forest Officer, DattuKishanJadhav filed Writ Petition No. 58 of 2008 in the High Court of Maharashtra Bench Aurangabad. The W.P. came up for consideration of the Hon'ble Justice V.K. Jadhav. The facts are that the Chief Executive Officer, ZillaParishad, Jalgaon had granted permission by Letter dated 12.12.2008 to the Gram Panchayat, Nanded regarding felling of 3200 thorny trees standing on the *gairan* land. On

14.03.2008, the R.F.O. visited the Gram Panchayat office and enquired about the work of cutting trees and bushes and he had illegally demanded Rs. 50,000/- from the Sarpanch and threatened that he would register a case against him if his demand is not fulfilled.

There was a news item in the local press about the clearance of bushes and therefore, under the instructions of his superiors, the Asst. Conservator of Forests, Jalgaon conducted an enquiry on 17.03.2008. During enquiry, it was revealed that the R.F.O. filed false complaint, only for the reason that the *Sarpanch* has not fulfilled his demand for payment of bribe.

Since the RFO was likely to be suspended for his misconduct, he hurriedly filed private complaint in CC No. 60 /2008 in the court of JMFC. In the writ petition, the State of Maharashtra represented by the Forest Secretary was made the Second Respondent. The ACF Sri Praveen ShivilalPatil filed affidavit on behalf of the second respondent. He confirmed the fact that the RFO without obtaining prior permission of the

superiors filed the complaint in the court and his action is not valid.

It was argued on behalf of the petitioner/accused that the RFO filed the complaint without obtaining the prior permission of the higher authorities. The RFO filed a petition in the Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal Branch Aurangabad against the order of his suspension but the O.P was dismissed.

A letter dated 10.04.2008 from the Dy.C.F. was marked as an exhibit. It was stated therein that there was permission of the Chief Executive Officer for felling 3200 trees to the Gram Panchayat, Nanded. The RFO filed the complaint on his own. The RFO is subjected to departmental enquiry on account of his misconduct.

For all the reasons state above the writ petition was allowed on 16.11.2016 and it was held that the complaint filed by the RFO was an abuse of the process of law.

Source:
K.B.R.

Internet

Smile is a language of love, smile is a source to win heart, smile is a name of lovely mood, smile create greatness in personality so keep smiling



ANDHRA PRADESH FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.



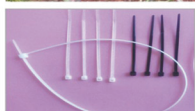
- A fully owned, financially well managed State Government Company. Raising massive plantations to cater to the needs of the wood based industries.
- Watershed approach adopted for raising plantations, to make them ecologically sustainable, socially acceptable and commercially viable, with the long-term goal to improve the site quality of plantation areas.
- Largest grower of about 31,963 Ha of Eucalyptus Clonal plantations in the country and is harvesting about 2.50 Lakh MTs of Pulpwood every year. Besides this, it has Bamboo, Coffee and Teak Plantations over 12,000 Ha.
- The corporation has bagged awards “ **Flavour of India - Fine Cup Awards** ” for producing quality coffee during the years 2003, 2005, 2007 to 2016.
- Diversifying its activities through promotion of Eco-Tourism, Translocation of Trees, Tree Ambulance, Development of Seed Centres and Support to Traditional Forest Based Crafts (Toys) and Consultancy Services.

Plant A Sapling And Protect The Environment

Vice Chairman & Managing Director,
A.P. Forest Development Corporation Ltd.,
Plot Nos. 80 A/81 A, Sri Venkateswara Arcade
The Annapurnanagar Public Servants Co – Operative House Building Society
Gorantla, GUNTUR – 522 034
Ph: 0863 - 2223800, 2230600 Fax: 0863 - 2230800
Website: <http://apfdcl.com> Email: vcmd_apfdc@yahoo.co.in

INDONET PLASTIC TREE GUARD

(Do it yourself)



Cable Tie



Name plate

INDONET Tree Guard is manufactured using high quality material.

These quality ranges of Tree Guard are designed in a way so that it can be prepared easily by Do It Yourself & also it can be installed without any kind of support / Self Standing Tree Guard.

This plastic Tree Guard is widely used for protection of small / young tree plants from animals & other unwanted harms.

Advantages

- It's doesn't require any type of support like metal fabrication or bamboos
- Very reasonable in price compare to other type of Tree Guard
- Attractive look & Reusable
- Low maintenance
- U.V Stabilized & Long Lasting

Clientele

Recently we have supplied this type of Tree Guards to:

- Telangana • Andhara Pradesh • Maharastra • Odisha
- Gujarat State in various Municipalities • Collector Offices
- Forest Department.

NGOs & Amp: Companies for their CSR activity Like:

- Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. • Andhara Mineral Development Corporation • Aurobindo Pharma • Mylan Laboratories • ACME Cleantech Solutions (P)Ltd
- Dilip Buildcon Ltd • Welspun India Ltd etc.

Available Sizes:

Specifications				Accessories
Diameter	Height	Cut sheet Size	Colour	Cable Tie
375 mm	6 feet	4 feet x 6 feet	Green	18 Nos.
375 mm	5 feet	4 feet x 5 feet	Green	16 Nos.
475 mm	6 feet	5 feet x 6 feet	Green	18 Nos.
475 mm	5 feet	5 feet x 6 feet	Green	16 Nos.

INDONET
PLASTIC NETTING

Manufactured by
Indonet Plastic Industries
(ISO 9001 :2008 Certified)

Manufacturing Units

Unit-1: Shed No. C1B-223 | **Unit-2:** Shed No. 243/3&4
GIDC Industrial Estate, Waghodia - 391 760,
Vadodara, Gujarat, India

Contact No.: +91 99744 08727 | 98250 82727
Email: sales@indonet.in, indonet2007@yahoo.in
Web: www.indonet.in, www.tree-guard.in

BOOK POST

Registered with RNI R.No. Apeng/2000/2185
Postal Regn. No.HD/1154/2018-20

To _____

If Undelivered, Please return to : Editor : VANA PREMI, Office of the Principal Chief
Conservator of Forests, Aranya Bhavan, 5th Floor, Room No. 514, Saifabad, Hyd - 500 004, T.S.

Date of Publication: 26-12-2017 Total pages 52 Date of Dispatch : 4th or 5th of every month