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Editor : Qamar Mohd. Khan

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

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

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2. Editor : Qamar Mohd. Khan
 Tel: 040-40205831, 9849233624
 e-mail : qamar_asima@yahoo.com
3. Associate Editor : D. Nagabhushanam, I.F.S. (Retd.)
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EDITORIAL

World Environment Day: - World Environment Day is celebrated throughout the globe on 5th June every year. World Environment Day was established by the UN General Assembly in 1972 on the first day of Stockholm Conference and two years later, in 1974 the first World Environment Day was celebrated with the theme "Only One Earth". Though World Environment Day celebrations have been held annually since 1974, in 1987 the idea for rotating the center of these activities through selecting different host countries began, to bring awareness among people for preventing, marine pollution, human overpopulation, and global warming. On 19th February 2018 in a joint press conference Dr. Harsha Vardhan Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, and Erik Solheim, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Head of UN Environment, jointly announced that India will be hosting the global World Environment Day of 2018 year.

Each World Environment Day is organized around a theme that focuses attention on a particularly pressing environmental concern. The theme of this year's World Environment Day is "Beat Plastic Pollution". The theme for the year 2017 was 'Connecting People to Nature. This year's theme urges governments, industries, communities, and individuals to come together and explore alternatives and urgently reduce the production

and excessive use of single-use plastic polluting our oceans, damaging marine life and threatening human health. We are committed to making Planet Earth a cleaner and greener place". World Environment Day has grown to become a global platform with participation from over 143 countries. World Environment Day is celebrated in many ways and activities include street rallies as well as concerts, tree planting, and clean-up campaigns like Swach Bharat. The functions will be organized few days earlier of main function at different centers and include seminars for the school and college students, drawing and painting competitions. As the theme of this year's World Environment Day is "Beat Plastic Pollution" the following are some of the facts about plastic which are not known to many of us. During the past few years, plastic packaging has replaced containers like glass and tin cans. Plastics found a place in shipping, automobile industry, electrical equipments, kitchens, food packaging and many other industries because it is durable, lightweight, cheap and relatively easy to recycle. Every year the world uses 500 billion plastic bags, and at least 8 million tones of plastic end up in the oceans, the equivalent of a full garbage truck every minute. In the last decade, we produced more plastic than in the whole last century, 50 percent of the plastic we use is

single-use or disposable, we buy 1 million plastic bottles every minute, and Plastic makes up 10% of all the waste we generate. In India 15, 000 tones of plastic waste is generated every day, out of which 9, 000 tones is collected and processed, but 6, 000 tones of plastic waste is not being collected. Plastic water bottles are becoming a growing segment of the municipal solid waste throughout the world. Readers can understand the magnitude of plastic we are using annually in India and throughout the world. In fact plastic is ruling the world today. Plastic is used in all walks of life. You name it plastic is used in that. As mentioned above 50% of plastic used is of single use or disposable. In India we throw plastic bags wherever we want and this plastic will be blowing with the wind, giving a very dirty and polluted look. This is the plastic which will not be disintegrated for many years. This plastic is creating problem for all of us. This plastic is consumed by pet animals and finally the animal dies as neither consumed plastic can be digested nor thrown out. Same is the case with marine animals, which consume it and die. Government of India has made rules under clause (viii) of sub section (2) of section 3 read with section 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986) and under these rules, below 50 microns thick plastic bags should neither be produced nor used. The prescribed authority for enforcement of the provisions of

this Act and rules related to manufacture and recycling is the State Pollution Control Boards in respect of States and the Pollution Control Committees in respect of Union Territories. In developed countries recycling of plastic is taken on top priority basis and we do not see plastic thrown anywhere and blowing with the wind as we see this in our country. From the recycled plastic, pavers, plastic roof tiles, furniture, (chairs and tables) traffic cones, and tree guards or any other item can be made. Even timber is replaced with recycled plastic to some extent in developed countries. Plastic poles and planks are made with recycled plastic and used as fencing material for houses and agricultural fields. The plastic which is not suitable for recycling can be used for making black topped roads and this plastic is mixed with the Bitumen. The roads made from the plastic and Bitumen with other ingredients is much better, stronger and durable. Countries like Japan, Germany and the United States have already implemented the plastic to fuel conversion process with much success. Sri Satish Kumar of Hyderabad has been turning plastic into fuel since 2016 and has so far cleared 50 tones of plastic in his unit. He has produced synthetic fuels like diesel, aviation fuel, and petrol from the plastic that can't be recycled any more. Let us follow the same on large scale after research.

As we know forests and wildlife are very essential for existence of mankind and the depletion of the forests and extinction of wildlife is cause of concern. The Kashmir stag, three species of crocodiles, Asiatic lion, the Indian elephant, blackbuck, Great Indian bustard, and the snow leopards are protected under various schemes of Government of India and State Governments. Under wildlife protection Act 1972 in addition to animals, amphibians, reptiles, fishes, birds, several species of insects, butterflies, moths, beetles, and six species of plants are also protected. For maintaining a healthy ecological balance on this earth, animals plants, and marine species are as important as humans. The extinction of forests species and wildlife will certainly have a fatal impact on human race. Wildlife plays a significant role in growth of agricultural crops. Birds, bees and insects play an important role for the pollination to occur in agricultural crops. Many birds and animals are discharging their role as scavenging animals and keeping our planet clean, and free from many diseases. Survival of man is totally dependent on forests and wildlife. Hence we are committed

to protect Forests and wildlife for continuation of our life on this planet.

Human population is steadily and abnormally increasing and during 2000 the world population was only 614.5 Crores and India's population was 105.31 Crores but today the world population has increased to 763.2 Crores and India's population to 135.19 Crores. We always calculate the carrying capacity of our forest, sanctuaries and national parks but we never calculate the carrying capacity of the globe or country with reference to human population. Human population has to be reduced by following family planning so that we all live happily in this world.

Vana Premi wishes that world environment day 2018 which is being hosted by India this year should bring awareness in general public of our country to reduce the use of plastic, re use and recycling of plastic, protection of forests and wildlife and controlling human population of our country as we do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.

QMK.

***People who change after change will survive,
people who change with change will succeed,
and people who cause change will lead.***

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Sir,

Thanks for including my article. Cover photo is beautiful and appropriate to your editorial. It is a fine piece of writing.

The "tribute to Mr. Kamal Naidu" by Sri.B.C.Choudhry and obituary was a shocker in a sense that the news of Dr. Kamal Naidu's demise was sudden.

I have some memories of Dr. Kamal Naidu. We worked at Dehra Dun for some time. He was with IFC and I was with PISFR. Later on we used meet at MoEF and in seminars and conferences. But the most important event to remember was his ascending to the post of PCCF. Me and Sri C.S. Joshi, Then Director of Social Forestry, Maharashtra were attending a seminar at CDA.

Dr. C.N Rao P.CCF and Mr. Kamal Naidu attended. During tea break, both got some message and suddenly left. Later on Mr. Kamal Naidu came in the afternoon session as a new PCCF, A.P.

He was a prolific writer. Well read and hard working. He rose to the highest post in forest service in the state and worked on many committees of GOI.

He cheated death three times. Once from a bullet shot by extremists, then bitten by a cobra, and few years back from a severe heart attack. But now he surrendered. As a winner of *Shourya Chakra*, he will get State Funeral.

May God grant him eternal peace.

Regards,

Dr. Maslekar (09422329548).

Dear Sir,

Sorry to learn the demise of Sri M Kamal Naidu, IFS in April. 2018. It is very sad news. He was very popular among readers of Vana Vikas magazine of retired forest officers of Bengaluru. Many of his articles were published in it a decade back. I am a fan of him.

I had an opportunity to interact with him during his evaluation work of the Bannerghatta Zoo, Bengaluru in 2002 which I was heading.

I had exchange of emails with him. He wrote a very encouraging review after reading my article published in Indian Forester in Oct, 2015. I have added his letter in my next book on wildlife which is under printing. He had sent the PDF of his latest book on Tiger to me too.

I feel.... a loss of a gentle and learned forest fraternity.

May God grace all eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family to bear the loss

B. M. T. Rajeev

Sir,

This has reference to three observations published in Vanapremi (May 2018) in response to my article "Forest Rights Act – Who lost and who gained" in Vanapremi (April 2018). All the while I was under the impression that readership of Vanapremi is very poor as no comments / observations are made through letters to the editor. Whenever articles relating to forestry in general and the State of Telangana in particular appear readers should express their opinion (it need not be always praising) through letters to the editor.

Now coming to the observations made on my article I would like to give some clarification. Dr. A.R. Maslekar gave an excellent chronology of Indian forestry in independent India. I fully agree with his observation that "what did we learn in Forest colleges and Academy and the field realities in the actual service are different. Pressure for land is so much that in a democratic country politics have over taken the governance leading to enactment of F.R.A.

The editor Vanapremi in his note (observations) has narrated the benefits from forests and wild life. He stated that survival of humans is totally dependent on survival of Forests and wild life and if forests and wild life are destroyed or reduced in an area by Acts like F.R.A., it is likely that total population of the country may be wiped out. He explained the link between forest and agriculture. The general rule that 33% of the geographical area of the country should be under forests may be desirable but I think it do not stand for scientific scrutiny. Here I quote few examples.

i) In U.K. during first and Second world wars forests were cut in a big way reducing the forest cover from (about) 20% to 5% of geographical area. Nothing happened to the country. U.K. appointed a Forestry Commission to improve the forest cover. As per World Bank report U.K. has 13% forest cover in 2015. About 70% of forest area in U.K. is privately owned.

ii) **Egypt:** As per World Bank report (2015) Egypt has 0.073% of forest area. Egypt produces world's best long fiber cotton. There is no effect of lack of forest on agriculture.

iii) **China:** Large scale forest areas were lost in construction of mega dams and infrastructure development. According to World Bank report (2015) China has 22% of land area under forests.

iv) **Israel:** Forest cover in Israel is 8%. Israel exports lot of food products by employing latest technology.

v) **Australia:** Forest cover in Australia is 16%. Australia produces lot of food grains and exports wheat and other animal products.

(Source: Internet)

Global warming has many reasons and deforestation is one of them and not the only cause. While protecting the existing forests we should go for massive tree planting in non forest areas.

Now coming to observations made by Dr. Raghotham Rao Desai, it appears he has written a personal letter to editor giving his travel plan etc. which got published unedited. The way he scripted the letter speaks that he has not understood the contents of my article. I clearly mentioned that F.R.A. is not a forest land distribution scheme as some people believe, but an Act to facilitate the recognition of rights over the forest land which is already under occupation. The Act has many saving clauses like eligibility, extent, cutoff date, and the role of *Gram Sabha* etc., Dr. Desai further stated that I have not made any strong case – who I am to make any case. F.R.A. is enacted by Indian Parliament while the foresters oppose it (rightly so) people from civil societies welcome it. Since articles on F.R.A. published in Vanapremi carried the views from Foresters point of view, being a social activist, I tried to express views from civil society point of view. Dr. Desai appears to have carried away by series of articles published in Vanapremi on F.R.A. I request him to have magnanimity to appreciate the different views expressed by others also.

M. Padmanabha Reddy

NOTICE - I

The 88th GENERAL BODY MEETING of the Association of Retired Forest Officers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh will be held on 24-06-2018 (Sunday) at 11.00 a.m. in Aranya Bhavan, Hyderabad.

All the members of the Association are requested to make it convenient to attend the meeting with their spouses.

NOTICE - II

Members were requested to send their photo for Telephone Directory.

We have yet to receive the photos. Members are requested to bring photo when they come to attend G.B.M. on 24-06-2018 and handover to Mr. B.S.N. Prasad. The last date to receive photo is 30-06-2018 by mail.

HOW I CHOSE FOREST SERVICE AS MY CAREER

By
Paresh Kumar Sharma,

In my childhood I had never dreamt of Forest Service as career. I come from a small town **Shahpura** of Bhilwara District in Rajasthan. There were no good forests in the vicinity of my town, only scrub jungle with ***Prosopis spicigera*** (**Khejri**) trees as main crop. Of course scattered trees of **Neem, Peepal, Bargad, Jamun** and others were there in public places and sacred groves. In some places orchards of Mango, Guava and Pomegranate also existed. But these trees never gave the feeling of a Jungle or Forest, as I had read in the books, full of wild animals etc. Added to this there was no Forest Office in the town, hence I had no idea of the existence of the Forest Service. Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) used to be the highest ranking Revenue Officer and Deputy Superintendent of Police (Dy. S.P.) the senior most Police Officer in the town.

I and my friends never thought of career in our school days. Days were spent in playing and studying. It was not the era of IT, hence no TV, no cell phones nor computers. We had real friends and used to play, cycle and have lots of fun. I used to read lots of story books and magazines like Nandan, Chanda Mama, Bal Bharti, Champak, Parag and Comics. I had practically read all the books available in the School library meant for

children – ancient historical, spiritual, patriotic etc. by the time I came to Secondary Class level. By the time I came to sixth Standard, my father, who was working as an LDC in the Office of the Block Development Officer (BDO) had been transferred to a place **Banera** (another Princely State), 30 Km away from Shahpura. I stayed with my Great-grandparents, who were in their eighties and seventies respectively. My Great Grand Father had retired as Patwari in Shahpura Princely State. He was a good Astrologer and Pundit. I had learnt a little bit of astrology from him in early school days, but did not pursue it later on. I was good at drawing and painting as well. So was my close friend, Kshamasheel. We also learnt and started practicing Yoga *asanas* from a book borrowed from local Arya Samaj (it was established by Swami Dayanand Saraswati), by literally copying the entire book, word by word and sketch by sketch. We started practicing Yoga asanas from this book 1966 onwards. Besides I had keen interest in athletics, especially races and jumps. We also started playing Basketball. We both were highly influenced by the lives of Freedom fighters and martyrs. Our town is credited with the heroics of 3 Freedom fighters, **Kesari Singh Barhath,**

Jorawar Singh Barhath and **Pratap Singh Barhath**, belonging to Charan (Poet) family. They were associates of revolutionaries like Ras Bihari Bose and Amir Chand. **Pratap Singh** had hurled a bomb on the elephant carrying **Lord Harding, the then Viceroy of India** on 3rd December 1912, but the Viceroy escaped unhurt, however his **Mahout** was killed. Later on he was arrested by deceit and tried in Banaras Conspiracy case and awarded 5 years RI. He was confined in a 3'x6' cell in Bareilly Central Jail and subjected to brutal torture by Jailor Charles Cleveland. He tried to emotionally blackmail him by saying "Your mother cries, hearing about your ordeal". But the brave Pratap replied "***I cannot make crores of mother cry just to bring a smile on my mother's face***" and refused to divulge the names of his compatriots. He attained martyrdom in jail on 27th of May 1918 as an unsung Hero.

As kids my friend (Kshamasheel) and I used to discuss, had we been there in 1912, our planning would have been meticulous and would definitely have ended the life of Lord Harding and got freedom for the country much earlier than 1947. We were as it is were inspired by the heroics and patriotism of Maharana Pratap, Shivaji, Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi, Bhagat Singh and Chandra Shekhar Azad. That was the kind of patriotic fever we had since childhood. Shahpura is also famous for a special form of folk art painting called "**Phad Painting**", in which tales of folk Hero Pabuji are depicted on a long

canvass. This form is believed to be more than 200 years old and the tradition have been kept alive by one Joshi family. One of the members of this family, **Sri Durga Lal Joshi** was honored for this by the President of India in 1969. So at one time I was inclined to think of Phad Painting as my vocation.

I used to come across of harassment of common people by the low rank Police Officers, especially Constables, extorting money from the hawkers and gullible villagers. I hated this, hence I had ruled out Police service as my preferred vocation, when I grew up. I did not have much interaction with the Revenue Officials, except one of my GGP's nephew, who was a clerk in Tehsil Office. Those were the days of controlled sale of sugar and many other food items. He used to help the relatives and friends in getting the required quantities of sugar, over and above the "controlled" quantity for weddings, 12th day ceremonies etc. He did not impress me. I used to see many instances of cheating by local merchants by way of adulteration and short weighments etc. in day to day life and used to feel bad about it but did not know whom to complain or how to remedy it. Then one of my teachers narrated the story of one the Bhilwara Collectors who used to go to the market disguised as a commoner to detect mal-practices and book the offenders. I was impressed with his methods and tactics and thought of becoming like him when grew up.

That's how a seed of joining the Civil service was implanted in my brain at the young age, though I did not know the nitty gritty of joining this service. It was much later when I reached College that I came to know about it.

As a kid, I had committed a mistake of foolishly directly gazing into the Sun, at a very young age of about 7 years, while I was in a small place, **Kanechhan Kalan** (v), about 10 Km away from Shahpura, where my dad was a Village Level Worker (VLW). This had adversely affected my eye sight. I learnt about it only after 3 years accidentally, by that time I was 10. It so happened that in the summer vacation after 6th Standard, I had been to Bhilwara, the district HQ, where my Grand Father lived. My uncle noticed that I could not read small letters on a Shop's board. He took me to Hospital and got my eyes checked up. I was found to suffer from Myopia. Then I went to my Nanihal (Maternal Grandfather's place) in Ajmer, where bigger specialty JLN (earlier Victoria) Hospital was situated. I was taken to Dr. G.C. Chandak, the senior Ophthalmologist. On examination, he exclaimed, oh my God! He explained that retina of my right eye had been badly damaged. I told him about my gazing into the Sun at young age. He explained that it was one time damage and would not progress further. However it had impacted far sight. And hence after thorough check up, prescribed glasses. I was disappointed at the prospect of putting on the glasses all the

time, as none of my family members nor did friends have glasses. Young Boy or girl putting on glasses, were subjected to ridicule in those days, especially in villages and towns. Dr. G.C. Chandak also wore glasses. He understood my problem and encouraged me not to be afraid of glasses. He commented that I too could become a Doctor that too an Ophthalmologist, with glasses on hence need not bother about the same. He had also given practical tips, which he told, if followed strictly & sincerely will ensure that my eye sight would not deteriorate further. This removed, whatever little bit of hesitation I had, from my mind regarding putting on glasses. I had put on the glasses at very young age with full confidence. The words of Eye Specialist had sown the seed of becoming a Doctor in my brain. With this in view, I opted for Biology group in 9th standard along with my friend Kshamasheel and Shiv Ratan.

We were doing reasonably well at studies, along with co- and extra-curricular activities. I participated in **Boy Scout** movement. Enjoyed camping and learnt a lot of new things, outside the curricula and school, in the midst of nature. Went on to become the **President's Scout** along with two other friends of mine, **Lalit Sharma** and **Anil Vyas**, in 1971 I had imbibed lots of good traits during 3 years of Scouting; most importantly "always being prepared" for service to the nation and humanity. Credit for

grooming and bringing the best in me in this movement goes to my respected Scout Master and excellent human being, a true guide, **Late Shri Rajendra Prasad Singh Dangi**. Along with this I also bagged the Overall Championship of the School in 1972 by winning various games, sports as well as co- & extra-curricular activities. We were not burdened with long hours of coaching, at that level. There were no coaching Institutes in our town and probably anywhere else in the state for preparing the students for Pre-Medical or Engineering exams.

I entered Govt. College, Shahpura for the 1st year TDC (Three Year Degree Course) with Physics, Chemistry and Biology as Optional subjects. Up till this time, I had vaguely kept only 2 options in my mind for the career; become a Doctor or join the Civil Service. I studied 1st year of B.Sc. TDC accordingly and came out with reasonably good score. At the end of this, was the time for applying for the Pre-Medical Test (PMT) for admission to the Medical Colleges. I had to make a choice now. First option was to appear in the PMT, qualify for Medical College, complete MBBS and then appear for Civil Service Examination. Second option was to skip PMT/MBBS and complete the B.Sc. degree course, become eligible for and appears in the Civil Service examination. In the first option, one was to wait for 5-6 years for completing the MBBS, before becoming eligible to appear in the CSE. Whereas, in the second option one needed only 2 more years to

complete the Graduation and become eligible to appear for the CSE. In the first option the advantage was that if one does not get into Civil Service, at least he/she had already become a Doctor and livelihood was secure. In the second option, if one did not get into Civil, he/she would have been nowhere and would have to try for alternate vocations later on, hence an element of un-certainty.

My Teachers, Lecturers and friends advised me to go in for the first option. At this stage my father intervened and impressed upon me to opt for the second option, stating that I was sufficiently meritorious and hardworking and deserved to be among the civil servants. He encouraged and motivated me to take the calculated risk and settle for the Civil Service straight away, without wasting time by first pursuing medical profession. It was a tough choice. However, after considering the pros and cons of both the Options and my own strengths and weaknesses, I decided not to go for the Medical profession, and hence not to prepare for the PMT. Most of my Lecturers were not happy with my decision. They argued that where was the guarantee that I would make it to the Civil Service! They lamented, rued that I was making a wrong choice; I would at the best end into being a Lecturer; what a waste of talent! However, by now my resolve was firm and I decided to continue with TDC for B.Sc. course. My father was happy with my decision. I also joined NCC (Army Wing) in the college and

secured "C" Certificate. I also had continued with co- and extra-curricular activities. I imbibed the core values of Army with NCC training, i.e., **Unity & Discipline**. I completed the Bachelor's degree course in the year 1975.

By this time, age wise I was not eligible for writing Competitive Examination for All India Civil Services. Hence decided to pursue Post-graduation (M.Sc.) course in Botany from Govt. College, Ajmer, affiliated to University of Rajasthan. Joined the College in 1975 and passed out in 1977. Here we used to be taken for excursion tours locally for Botanization. Our Professor of Taxonomy, **Sri R.D. Shukla** was very good in the field Botany. We were introduced practically all the species of flora in the vicinity of Ajmer by him. The Ajmer region was on the borders of **Aravalli Hill Ranges**, it roughly diagonally bisects the State into eastern and western Rajasthan. As one moves away from Ajmer towards west, region becomes more arid till it reaches Thar Desert (Near Jaisalmer, Barmer etc. bordering Pakistan). In between scattered sand dunes / deposits of sand could be seen starting from the outskirts of Ajmer, especially towards **Pushkar**. Forests around were of dry deciduous type, largely open forests. In those days (1975-77) lots of news items used to appear in the daily papers about "**March of deserts**" and **desertification**; which used to be a matter of great concern.

With our batch of M.Sc. Semester system of

examinations was started. I had opted for "**Desert Ecology**" as my special paper in the 2nd year of M.Sc. Botany Association, a technical Forum of the students used to organize Guest Lectures and Seminars on various themes periodically. Two presentations / talks, one on the **Afforestation of deserts in China** and **Reclamation of land from sea by Israel** impressed me a lot. I saw a ray of hope in these experiments in mitigating the problem of desertification in Rajasthan. However, it was immediately not clear which agency was responsible for checking the march of deserts. Later on I learnt that Forest Department was the concerned department to tackle this problem. This probably brought me closer to Forests and forestry. This bond grew stronger day by day. I felt that this service was my cup of tea.

In the 2nd and final year of M. Sc, my friend **Dharmendra Shukla** and I used to discuss a lot about the career prospects. We both had decided not to appear for the State level examinations for any of the State Service, as we had heard a lot about corruption in the affairs of Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC). Corruption was also rampant among the State Service Officers and political leaders. It can be gauged from one slogan/clarion call given by one of the Chief Ministers of the State, **Sri Barkatullah** that he would banish the corruption from the State or get himself

banished (*Bhrashtachar mitaunga ya khud mit jaunga*), but alas that did not happen. And one of the poet came out with a satirical couplet – “*Ek neta ne kaha main bhrashtachar mitaunga ya khud mit jaunga, lekin dono abhi zinda hain aur ghoshanaon se bhare akhbar sharminda hain.*”

(One Leader proclaimed that he would banish corruption or get himself banished, But Alas, both is alive and News Papers replete with proclamations are ashamed!). Hence we decided that our target would only be to compete for one of the All India Services, for which examinations were conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). UPSC had very good reputation that it did not indulge in malpractices, corruption and favoritism. Next question was as to which Service to opt for- IAS, IPS or IFS? In those days there were no career counselors. We had to take decision based on our own knowledge.

We studied the pay scales of all the 3 AIS in the UPSC Notifications. A cursory look at the pay scales gave us the impression that all the three AISs were equal in so far as the pay structure was concerned. It's a different matter that subsequently it proved to be wrong, as IAS has an upper hand in all aspects. Having learnt this, we looked at the options from our own perspective; aptitudes and preferences, which have been set since childhood. After detailed deliberations, we ruled out IAS stating that the field service (up to Collector rank) may not be there for more than 4-6 years; and subsequently

whole of the life will have to be spent in the Secretariat. Life in the Secretariat was not our cup of tea. In Police service one has to deal with the criminals and Law & Order. Our temperament, we thought, was not meant for it, hence ruled out IPS. Our exposure to the forests, though limited, and the deep desire to check the march of desert and greening it, zeroed down our choice to the IFS. I conveyed my preference to my father with full reasoning. He also approved it.

We prepared hard for the same, and lo, **both of us made it to the IFS** based on the 1979 examination. Our target achieved. In addition, 2 more classmates from Govt. College, Ajmer, who had gone to University of Rajasthan, Jaipur in the 2nd year of M.Sc., had also made it to IFS. This was a record in itself, where four students from the same class of M.Sc. (Botany) of Govt. College, Ajmer (now a University) have had made it to Indian Forest Service. My friend Dharmendra Shukla was allotted to Madhya Pradesh, and I was allotted, to Andhra Pradesh. Though my dream of checking the march of desert in Rajasthan by entering into IFS could not be realized, I was very happy to be allotted to Andhra Pradesh, which already had about 23% of geographical area under forests. And this is how my journey of being in Forest service began.

The Author can be contacted at Cell No. +91 94408 10015 & his e-mail I.D. is pareshvyas22@gmail.com

Fiction:

TREACHERY

By
J. V. Sharma

Bechara arrived in Hyderabad unexpectedly. Readers may remember that he migrated to China nearly a couple of years ago, as a *Vaasthu* consultant on a fabulous contract with the Government of China. Ever since, there was no news of him and I concluded that he must have vanished into thin air like many dissenters who mysteriously disappear in China. Knowing Bechara and his nature of being fiercely independent on views, I thought it was only time we hear of his being on the other side of fence with inescapable repercussions.

It was a big surprise when he suddenly made his appearance at my residence the very next morning after he landed at Shamshabad airport at midnight, without caring the jet lag. I was pleased to see him in flesh and blood, made him seated and then asked about his surprise India visit.

"After all, this is the country where I was born and lived for major part of my life. Once in Hyderabad, you know you are the only person with whom I share my mind. I feel myself at peace that way, discussing matters frankly which I dare not mention even remotely elsewhere. I am here with you at my earliest convenience."

This made me suspicious; does he have any sensitive matter to share with me? With the recent Chinese belligerent posture at China-India-Bhutan tri-junction point on the border, I had to be suspicious of anything and everything that has links with China. I thought aloud; "Relations of this country with your adopted country are not warm, to put it mildly. I hope you are not trying to ride two horses at the same time. It is a dangerous game. Choose your preference and be stuck with it. That will at least please one country."

"Should that be the case, it is only appropriate that as a good and dutiful citizen, I am loyal to my adopted country. I am as good a citizen as you are." There is a glint of mockery in his eyes. I was in doubt whether this man was provoking me. But having known Bechara as a man of principles, it could even be what he said. I thought it is too sensitive to prolong the discussion and decided to terminate the conversation.

"When are you going back to your country?" I asked.

"I can go back only after completing my task." He replied.

His reply smacks of some special assignment. My suspicions could be correct. There is no point in discussing with him. Yet, I could not but tell him that he better desist from doing anything that

hurts his native country at least for the sake of good old days.

There is sudden change in Bechara's disposition. He taunted me saying "Sir, you are trying to be unusually cryptic and hesitant to talk to me. Nationalist sentiment is an ideal virtue for a citizen of any country. It is not the monopoly of Indians alone. These sentiments will be equally strong in other nations too. Therefore please take such matters easy. When the countrymen themselves work at cross purposes of a nation, it is no big sin for a foreigner that too an adversary for doing so." "With your new found love for adopted country, it is alright if you work against India. But don't say for heaven's sake that Indians are disloyal to their country." I said.

"It is not my saying, Sir. It is in the grain of Indians. It is an essential part of Indian culture and ethos. Stabbing in the back has been a consistent pastime in Indian history." Bechara countered.

I could not believe that Bachara could change so much in a matter of just two years. I have known him to argue aggressively in favour of India without caring for consequences. He now appeared to be equally vocal in favour of his new country. I could not take his comments lying down and said sharply: "Bechara, it is alright for you to be loyal to your masters but you are not expected to make sly comments on another nation, even if it was yours some time ago. Please, for heaven's sake, don't speak ill of my country and more so on debatable issues like culture. How on earth can you say sabotage is in India's culture? I am sorry; it is not my culture to be uncivil with guests who come to visit me. Let us stop discussing the matter."

Bechara is unfazed. I am not expressing any opinions myself. It is the history for everybody to know. I am only citing from history."

"Which history are you referring to?"

"Sir, please calm down. We may not be sure (of facts) of unrecorded history era. Alexander, invading India, got better of Porus because the other Princes of the native country did not make it a fight against invader. They gleefully watched the fall of valiant native king never minding an alien gaining foothold in mother land. This heralded ingress by invaders subsequently. This story repeated again and again ever since with difference only in details. Medieval history and later the modern history are replete with examples. But for Mir Jaffer's treachery, the British could not have defeated Siraj-ud-Dowla and annexed the whole of Bengal together with Bihar, Orissa and entire North-East. Historians say that the fall of Bengal opened doors for British Colonial rule to gain control over Burma, Malaya and dominate the Indian Ocean. Why tax our brains? Many Indians were with British dispensation and were even fiercely loyal to the Crown till the British left the Indian shores. Many Princes considered it a great privilege to receive titles of unwavering loyalty to the British Crown. So treachery is not new to Indians. If Gandhi was adored by millions, he also had detractors however

miniscule their number may be. He was finally killed by an Indian of his own religious faith. So, when I said 'history', I meant this history. Why blame me Sir, after all I am a foreigner. For that matter, even today there is unending debate about what is nationalism in your country. Your own Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen said that Indians are argumentative. For greater details, one can bank upon internet."

"Bechara, there is no point in discussing the issue when we have no meeting ground. Our perceptions are different. Let us not waste the short time we are together. We better talk on topics of mutual interest."

But Bechara is not prepared for any diversion. "Nationalism and patriotism are also the topics of mutual interest. I attach as much importance to it as you do. We can't skip discussion over it simply because our nationality is different. We fail to appreciate that the core issue of nationalism is equally sacred for both of us. But what I mean to convey is Chinese are not fussy about nationalism. For them, nation is one and the understanding of nationalism is the same for every citizen. For that matter, they are not prepared to countenance even other countries looking at Taiwan as a separate entity. Weeks ago they did not hesitate to tell the same bluntly to even President Trump."

"But that does not render Indians any less nationalist or patriotic."

"Sorry, Sir, I beg to disagree with you. Your print & electronic media and even social media discuss fiercely about nationalism. Modi's nationalism is not acceptable to Rahul Gandhi and *vice versa*. The word 'anti-national' is no longer despicable in India. Students in prestigious universities demand 'Aazadi' from everything, not excluding secession of States from the Union and freedom from Rule of Law. Responsible political leaders and persons holding constitutional positions express their support and solidarity with these elements, going all the way to the seats of learning."

"Bechara, you seem to forget that ours is the largest democracy on the globe. The diversity we have in our country is unparalleled. We have dozens of religions and sects, hundreds of languages and dialects and thousands of castes and sub-castes. Yet, we have a Constitution which guarantees fundamental rights to each citizen and all the citizens are equal before law. We have unlimited political freedom. We don't believe in stifling dissenters' voice."

Bechara is in his elements. He is unstoppable. He appears to have come prepared for a bitter argumentative session. I felt silent for a few minutes and recalled the line of his conversation. It suddenly became evident to me that he was itching for a show down. Having known him, I interjected; "That is OK. We can discuss it leisurely. When are you coming back to India finally?"

There is a sudden change in his face which was easily discernible. "Sir, This is what I was debating in myself ever since I landed in Beijing. First because I was going to a strange country leaving the

country of my birth very late in life forever to live in a country the environs of which I was unfamiliar. Besides the pain of leaving the native country, the element of uncertainty of strange place was also bothering me. Later, it was the personal experience at the new place where I cannot but compare the situations obtaining in the two countries. As I tried to argue today, Indians are certainly argumentative and do not hesitate to raise even sensitive issues. But that is how the nation runs and there is vibrancy in the environment. In China, I had no difficulty in leading material life. But I had to be myself all the time. It was difficult for me to integrate myself with the society to share the pains, pleasures and experiences. Look, today I came to you without notice and had even a heated debate. Yet, both of us are at ease. The eerie silence in the social environment of China bothered me. Despite China being the most populous nation in the world, it is not considered as the largest democracy. India, with lesser population, enjoys that privilege. It was an aberration I could not understand for all these decades. I could however understand the situation when I was personally present. No one stifled my voice nor had I seen any one prevented from airing views. Yet, that a kind of unseen blockade prevails. On the higher plane, I felt China is very keen to dominate the globe. Even they don't keep it secret. I am thoroughly convinced that China is a very strong nation in every sense the strength is understood. It has formidable army with matching weaponry. It is a nuclear power. It has a very well organized industrial base. It does not have to depend upon other countries for any of its requirements and on other hand it has successfully implemented a strategy according to which most of the countries look for Chinese goods. It has highly resilient economy. When developed nations like US, UK etc are prone to market risks, China has the capacity to absorb the ill effects. Going by the decisions at the recent Party Congress, they intend building invincible military strength. Preparedness for self defense is understandable but anything beyond that needs to be seen differently. Should this be the trend, India too needs to be cautious. Doklam, though did not go to boiling point, is an example how things may go awry. Warnings administered to India including to learn from history, meaning 1962, should be enough to foresee what would happen if such an unfortunate situation arises. Above all, China does not care for sentiments. When Communist regime took over the mainland China, India was the lone non-communist country to plead for China in every forum in the Universe. But China did not have the qualms to occupy vast stretches of land in Ladakh surreptitiously and inflicted a crushing defeat on India in 1962. To say in one word, they are not predictable. Should India ever figure in the crosswire of China, I did not want to malign my conscience. With all this in my mind, I did not have the heart to stay there. I wound up shop in China and returned to India for good."

GROUNDWATER RECHARGE: THE NEED OF THE HOUR!

By

Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai

Background/ Introduction: Land & Water are the two most vital natural resources of the world and these resources must be conserved & maintained carefully for environmental protection and ecological balance. Due to urbanization & industrialization, per capita availability of cultivated land in the country has decreased by 50% to what was a decade ago and the projected estimate indicates that it will further decline appreciably by the end of coming decade. Prime soil-resources of the are decidedly finite, yet very unfortunately they are prone to degradation through blatant misuse and utter mismanagement, classified as extremely degraded, strongly degraded, moderately degraded and about a third (of around 2000 M. ha of global degraded land) as lightly degraded. At about 1500 M. ha at present, arable land is considerably less than the land under degradation!

Coming to our own country which has around 325 M ha of geographical area, more than half of it is affected by various soil erosions and land degradations like critically degraded (about a third of it) and severely eroded (about two-thirds of it). Therefore the problem of land degradation due to soil erosion is quite serious & with increase of population-pressure the exploitation of natural resources gets

aggravated, and with faulty management practices of land & water, it gets further accentuated.

Water is another vital resource like soil which is declining day by day, the per capita availability being low in India compared to several countries of the world. Due to multiuse of water, coupled with population explosion, the situation is bound to deteriorate to alarming proportions in the years to come. It is high time to develop a comprehensive strategy to increase the potential of the existing natural resources and conserve them to be utilized judiciously & optimally.

Conservation in groundwater reservoir happens to be the best source since it does not require any vast areas for construction of surface reservoirs where the effective rainfall is to be stored. Conservation of in-situ rainfall, as well as surface runoff, is also cheap & eco-friendly method.

Groundwater recharge, or deep drainage or deep percolation, is a hydrologic process where water moves downward from surface, it being the enhancement of natural groundwater supplies, using man-made conveyances (such as infiltration basins, trenches, dams or injection wells). This process usually occurs in the vadose zone below plant-roots and is often expressed

as a flux to the water-table surface. Aquifer storage and recovery is a specific type of groundwater recharge, practiced with the purpose of both augmenting groundwater resources and recovering the water in future (for various uses). Recharge occurs both naturally (through the water-cycle) and through anthropogenic processes (i.e., artificial groundwater recharge) where rain water (and/or reclaimed water) is routed to the subsurface. Artificial groundwater recharge is becoming increasingly important in India where over-pumping of groundwater has led to depletion of underground resources, water stored in hard-rock aquifers getting over-exploited.

Methodology recommended: There are direct methods and indirect methods available for Artificial Recharge. Direct methods involve surface-spreading technique and subsurface technique, wherein maximum quantity of water is made to infiltrate, augmenting groundwater storage. Under surface-spreading techniques various available methods happen to be (a) flooding (b) ditch & furrows (c) surface irrigation (d) stream modifications and (e) run-off conservation structures. Under subsurface techniques, the methods available are (a) injection wells and (b) gravity head recharge wells.

Indirect methods happen to be to induce recharge by means of (a) pumping wells (b) collector wells & infiltration galleries (c) aquifer modifications and (d) groundwater conservation structures— requiring highly skilled manpower & other resources.

Watershed management, including soil & water conservation measures, plays such a crucial role in substantially increasing groundwater recharge and status, measures such as contour trenching, contour & graded bunding, graded loose boulder check-dams, Farm ponds & Nala-bunds and other water-harvesting structures, abounding in any scientifically managed watershed.

Conclusion: Groundwater recharge helps immensely in rising groundwater level and its potential. Watershed management is increasingly being recognized as the ideal approach for the integrated natural resources in rain fed areas which contribute about 60% to world's food basket from 80% agricultural lands. About half of India's geographical area having been categorized as degraded, most of it occurs in rain fed agro-eco systems. Degradation of agro-eco systems & declining sustainability are major concerns for development where rural livelihood depends directly on management of land and water resources. About 58% of the population depending on agriculture and two-thirds of the cropped area being dependent on rainfall without any protective irrigation, watershed development programme has, therefore, been considered as an effective tool for addressing many of such problems and is recognized as potential engine for all-round growth & development in fragile & marginal rain fed areas, which conserves rainwater, minimizes land degradation, improves groundwater recharge and increases in cropping intensity & productivity.

MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE

In a meeting of the Executive Committee held on Sunday 20.05.2018, it is resolved to collect Bio Data of the members which would be useful and pressed into service to help members or their families when they need such help or when they are in distress due to ill health or death so as to rescue them by the volunteers of the Association. A model Form of Bio Data is prepared and printed in this issue of Vana Premi. The data will be useful for claiming Life Time Arrear (L.T.A) of Pension, Family Pension and Death Relief (Funeral Expenses) in the event of death of the pensioners. The next General Body Meeting is proposed to be held on Sunday 24.07.2018, when blank forms will be supplied to the members.

The members are requested to bring their data so that the Bio Data Form is filled up and handed over to the Secretary of the Association. **K. B. R**

(i). PPO No.

(ii). Name of Bank & Branch from where the pension is drawn

(iii). Bank Account No.

(iv). Aadhar Card No.

(v). PAN

(vi). Residence

(vii) Telephone No.

BIO DATA

1. Name

2. Parents' Names

3. Date of birth

4. Place of birth.

5. Siblings and your S. No.

6. Education details

7. Qualifications earned

8. Date of appointment

9. Details of promotions

11. Places of work year wise

12. Post retirement assignments

13. Notable events and achievements during service

14. Date of marriage

15. Name of spouse

16. Number and names of children

17. Number of grandchildren

18. Any other information

Note: - The information will be kept as confidential and will be used only when needed

THE POWER OF BEING A TEACHER

INDIAN President Sri Shankar Dayal Sharma visited Muscat on an official trip - when Air India flight landed 3 rare incidents happened

1. Oman King never visits the airport to receive dignitaries of any country - never. But the Oman king came to the airport to receive the President
2. When the flight landed the Oman King climbed up the steps and received the President from his seat.

3. After getting down from the flight, there was a car with the Chauffeur standing. But the King signed the driver to move and he himself drove the car with the President to the suit.

Later when the reporters questioned the King why he broke so many protocols?

The King replied "I did not go to the airport to receive Mr. Sharma because he was India's President. I studied in India and learned so many things, when I was studying in PUNE, Mr. Sharma

was my Professor - that is why I did this"! That is the power of being a teacher.

Editor's Note: Quboos Bin Said King of Oman received his primary and secondary education at Salalah and Pune, India where he was the student of Shankar Dayal Sharma, the former President of India and was sent to a private educational establishment in England at age 16. At 20, he entered the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. After graduating from Sandhurst in September 1962, he joined the British Army and was posted to the 1st Battalion "The Cameronians" (Scottish Rifles), serving with them in Germany for one year. He also held a staff appointment with the British Army. He is the Sultan of Oman. He rose to power after overthrowing his father, Said bin Taimur, in a palace coup in 1970. He is the longest serving Arab leader, having held the office since 1970.

WHAT IS OLD AGE? BEST ANSWER:

When you start turning off lights for economic reasons rather than romantic reasons And when you start cursing the romantic restaurant lights, when you can't read the menu

AMIRACLE IN RAJASTHAN DESERT (NARRATED BY APJ ABDUL KALAM, FORMER PRESIDENT OF INDIA) COLLECTED AND SENT

By

M. Padmanabha Reddy

It is in May, 1998 after the explosion of 5 Nuclear Tests in Pokhran in Thar Dessert of Rajasthan, late APJ Abdul Kalam, the then Advisor to the Defense Minister was returning to Delhi with his team. On the way his colleague Dr. K.N. Raj told him that there is a hamlet by name Badariya which is worth seeing for the Ashram established there by Baba Sri Badariya Maharaj and the amazing services rendered by the BABA to the local tribal. Dr. Kalam agreed to visit the Ashram.

In the following paras the story is narrated by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam in his own words.

Story

Let us now move across the length of India to the west. It was 15 May 1998. India had just conducted its five successful nuclear tests, elevating its defense stature. The mood in the nation was that of jubilation. I and my team of scientists were returning from Pokhran, the site for the tests. Pokhran is a place deep in the western Indian deserts of Thar, and little life and civilian movement exists in these remote deserts. Those days of May were particularly hot with temperatures soaring above 50 C in the day as the sun was beating down and was being reflected in the golden sand. On our way back, meandering across the desert roads, we came across a small village, Bhadariya. Seeing the signboard my friend Dr K.N. Rai's eyes immediately lit up. He exclaimed that he knew the place and that he had heard about a certain

ashram. On his request, we decided to take small detour and visit the place, Bhadariya is a small hamlet and we could locate the ashram easily; but what was difficult was to believe what we saw there.

2. Bhadariya Village

It was a large place, filled with greenery in the middle of the desert. Upon seeing us, the head priest of the ashram, Baba Sri Bhadariya Maharai greeted us and took us to see the unique library he had created. He then took us down the staircase into an underground chamber which led to the library. We were pleasantly surprised to find the room remarkably cool and filled with more than 200,000 books—belonging to different subjects, different languages and different times in history. Some of them were even handwritten on parchment. Baba Sri Bhadariya Maharaj told us that due to the architectural design of the building, even when the outside temperature soars, the library remains naturally air-conditioned. He showed us books that were hundreds of years old and told us that the ashram had conserved traditional knowledge from earlier times.

3. Library - Repository of Cultural Wealth

While we were reading in the library, mesmerized by the cultural wealth, he brought us huge glasses of milk. I asked him, Baba, in the middle of this desert, where do you get such delicious fresh milk from?' He smiled and asked us to follow him; he took us behind the ashram

where we saw a huge cow shelter with about 1,000 cows. Baba then said, 'Kalam, these are all discarded cows. People drove them away from their homes when they stopped giving milk. For them these cows were useless.' He laughed and added, 'But you see, just like you I am also a technologist. I have a special method of treating the same stray cows and today they all are healthy and happy and produce large quantities of quality milk, which you have in your glass.'

I was amazed to hear about such a noble mission. I asked, 'But Baba, where do you find fodder for all these animals?' Baba Sri Bhadariya Maharaj then asked me to sit down on a small charpoy under the shade and started telling me the story of the transformation of Bhadariya. He told me, 'Kalam, years ago, the people of this place were very poor and were addicted to many types of toxicants, including liquor, tobacco and other forms of local weeds. This place was barren and devoid of trees. There was a plethora of problems of poverty, hunger, health care and malnutrition. Water was scarce and yet poorly managed. Look at what we then did, with cooperation and support from the villagers.

4. De-addiction campaign covering 70 villages We started with a de-addiction campaign right here in the ashram, which now spreads to over seventy villages around Bhadariya. We executed a mission of greening Bhadariya and the surrounding areas with local support and planted lakhs of trees here. We got tube wells dug up and initiated agriculture in this place—with special ways to conserve water.' Baba then passionately continued. This ashram is also providing knowledge on naturopathy and herbal medicines are made from locally available to the

rural community and on the treatment of cattle. The medicines are made from locally available herbs, using a technology that suits the conditions here. He finally told me, you know Kalam, the villagers were so happy about all this that they provide fodder for these cows. Of course, when the cows started giving milk I began to offer milk and butter free of cost to the needy and to the travelers passing through this place. Like yourself. Kalam! He laughed once again as he said that and offered me a refill of the glass, which I was happy to accept. One final question, Baba: Where does all this knowledge about local herbs, cow rehabilitation techniques and the other things you are doing come from? Baba Bhadariya's eyes shone in the light as he smilingly pointed to the underground library, 'From there!'

Conclusion:

(i) I believe real service to religion is to serve the villages on remote hills in distant deserts. True servants to religion will choose to move away from urban comforts and head to unknown places where people face unimaginable difficulties. That is how religious service can truly enrich the heart.

(ii) Bhadariya is a small place in the middle of the Thar Desert, but has that great lesson for the world. It is also an example of how the integrated development of communication, dissemination of knowledge, Medicare, cattle rearing, fodder management are all taking place together in a desert area, to transform land, resources and human life using local and traditional knowledge coupled with modern science and technology.

APJ Abdul Kalam

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			
1.	Masood Ali Khan	06-06-1941	17.	K.Suryanarayana 07-01-1958
2.	V.Janakiram Naidu	08-06-1936	20.	B.Venkateshwar Rao 08-06-1962
3.	M.A.Mabood Hazari	09-06-1955	21.	A.Chandrasekhar 10-06-1965
4.	V.Devachary	09-06-1946	22.	M.Srinivasa Rao 10-06-1964
5.	T.Hanmanth Reddy	10-06-1943	23.	G.Srinivasulu 10-06-1968
6.	Md.Rahamatullah	13-06-1946	24.	Smt. G.Mangamma 10-06-1983
7.	K.Rameshwar	14-06-1936	25.	N.Rajendra Kumar 12-06-1969
8.	M.V.S.Prakash Rao	15-06-1944	26.	V.Satish Kumar 13-06-1968
9.	Dr.N.R.K.Rao	15-06-1943	27.	G.P.Anand 13-06-1967
10.	Qudrath Mohiuddin Ahmed	15-06-1955	28.	S.Madhava Rao 16-06-1968
11.	P.Ashok Kumar	18-06-1953	29.	N.V.Sivaram Prasad 18-06-1966
12.	B.Malla Reddy	20-06-1937	30.	M.Janakiram 19-06-1964
13.	J.V.Sharma	20-06-1932	31.	M.Raja Ramana Reddy 19-06-1968
14.	S.Nauratan Singh	22-06-1942	32.	C.Venugopal Rao 20-06-1960
15.	D.Ramnarayan	25-06-1950	33.	M.V.Prasada Rao 20-06-1967
16.	N.Linganna	01-07-1941	34.	Smt.T.Nagamaneswari 22-06-1974
17.	M.Bullaiah	01-07-1952	35.	Joshi Gopal Rao 22-06-1963
18.	Sitaram Gupta	01-07-1952	36.	P.Jacob Benerjee 24-06-1958
19.	Badusha Saheb	01-07-1953	37.	J.Venkateswar Rao 24-06-1967
20.	Dr.E.Narasimhulu	01-07-1954	38.	Smt.B.Praveena 25-06-1980
21.	P. Eshwar Reddy	01-07-1955	39.	K.Mohan 26-06-1964
15.	P.V.Ramana Reddy	01-07-1957	40.	Smt.Ch.Balamani 26-06-1974
23.	M.S. Devikor	02-07-1953	41.	Smt.P.Srilakshimi 27-06-1981
S.No. Name of Serving Officers			42.	G.Laxman 28-06-1963
D.O.B.			43.	K.Somasekaram 01-07-1964
1.	Munindra	06-06-1960	44.	B.V.A.Krishna Murthy 01-07-1967
2.	N.Chandra Mohan Reddy	10-06-1961	45.	P.Sivashankar Reddy 01-07-1963
3.	Mohan Chandra Pargaian	12-06-1964	46.	S.Mustafa 01-07-1961
6.	P.V.Chalapathi Rao	19-06-1968	47.	T.Narasimhulu 01-07-1959
7.	Dr.C.Suvarna	24-06-1966	48.	A.Srinivasa Rao 01-07-1961
8.	S. Sarvanan	25-06-1973	49.	Y.Sanyasi Naidu 01-07-1962
9.	Dr.Mohd. Iliyas Rizvi	29-06-1961	50.	G.Dharma Raju 01-07-1963
10.	Y.Babu Rao	30-06-1958	51.	R.Srinivas 01-07-1986
13.	Ashok Kumar Sinha	01-07-1965	52.	K.Khader Basha 03-07-1960
16.	J.S.N.Murthy	07-01-1958	53.	R.Srinivasa Reddy 05-07-1971
			54.	P. Samuel 01-07-1964

Secretary

DIFFICULT DAYS AHEAD FOR FORESTS, FORESTERS AND FORESTRY

By
K.B.R. Reddy

The choice of a photo on the front cover page of May issue of Vana Premi depicting 'koel' drinking water is excellent.

The issue of May 2018 contains as usual, many articles that are authored by experienced writers. I wish to deal with a few of them: letter from Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai; Editor's comments on Padmanabha Reddy's concluding sentence, "one should not forget survival of humans – especially the neglected section of society - is more precious than the trees and wildlife; an article by Dr. A.R. Maslekar and J.V.Sharma's remarks over the Draft National Forest Policy 2018.

Dr. Raghotham has referred to the article by J.V. Sharma and has aptly said that the adverse effect of granting rights to the S.Ts. and other forest dwellers over the lands under their occupation would result in fragmentation of the forest land threatening the biodiversity leading to human-animal conflict. The editor has rightly commented that survival of humans is dependent on survival of forest and wildlife.

The article by Dr. Maslekar is thought provoking. I read it over and over again. His reminiscent and ruminative remarks on the forestry practice in the changing times are interesting. He asked a question: What forestry are we practicing today?

Making analysis of what was taught to us in the forestry schools, what we learned and what we are practicing, observed very truly that more and more forests were lost, forests were degenerated in quality. He said further that he would not be surprised if this inconvenient forest service and forest departments are altogether wound up. Forest Service faced this kind of threat in Madras province years ago. Premier Rajaji wanted to abolish forest department as foresters are oppressive. It was the European CCF Mr. Wilson who convinced Rajaji and explained the benefits that flow from forest service. The idea was then shelved.

Dr. Raghotham made reference to the sarcastic observation by J.V. Sharma in his article published in Vana Premi of March 2018, which is to the following effect:

- (i). Why should there be forests at all? Better divert all the lands for more visible and measurable purposes like farming, mining, industries etc. in a populous country like India, where average land holding is not even an acre.
- (ii). Why should be there tigers at all and sanctuaries for them? Of what material use are they?
- (iii). Are not the funds spent on forests and their

denizens a sheer waste?

Days may not be far that Sharma's sarcasm may be a reality. The young foresters who are in service and others who have retired recently will see the truth. They may wait for the "*Antim Aranya*" (last forest)

J.V. Sharma has taken sufficient pains to send his remarks/suggestions to the MoEF & CC on the Draft National Forest Policy. In an introduction to those remarks Sri Sharma recalled what he had written in 2017. He expressed apprehensions that the Government has an agenda to revise the Forest Policy to make matters easy for diversion of forest lands and that the revision could prove to be retrogression for forests of the country. It was also pleaded that the existing policy 1988 is neither bad nor deficient to invite changes. The Governments who always talked loud about poverty and employment could not deliver any of their promises in the seven decades after independence despite controlling 80 % of the prime land resource of the country. It is therefore a ridiculous proposition to look at the forests as panacea for livelihood concerns of the people. In the forwarding letter of his suggestions on the draft national forest policy 2018, Sri Sharma said: 1988 NFP is not that bad or outdated to need a revision, particularly so when some of the key items of the policy remain either unaddressed or grossly flouted. The NFP 1988 is not that deficient to need a full scale revision. Referring to the Supreme Court judgment in Lafarge

Mumium case, it is said, "National Forest Policy should be taken as a guide in letter as well as spirit in all matters concerning forests."

In the same spirit as that of Sharma, Ritwick Dutta, an environmentalist and a lawyer, in his article 'Anything but Green' (vide The Hindu dated May 17, 2018) summed up the situation as follows:

"The draft policy is nothing but an attempt to circumvent the Supreme Court's judgment in Lafarge. There are reasons to believe that the public at large demands that provisions with respect to forest diversion – as contained in the National Forest Policy 1988 – should be an integral part of the new Forest Policy, the Government would never come out with a new policy.

He further went on to say: "The main objective in plain and simple terms, is to facilitate speedy diversion of forest land for various non-forest purposes such as mining, laying roads, building dams without any detailed and scientific and legal scrutiny".

The views expressed by Sharma and Dutta are concurrent. Dr. Maslekar in his concluding remarks made a clarion call: "Beware, foresters, safeguard your survival if you think that you are still wanted around." Unmistakably, survival of the foresters and forest service is for survival of the forests. All the writers have done well in focusing on the need for forest conservation, wildlife protection and the need or otherwise of the draft National Forest Policy 2018.

IN PURSUIT OF HEALTH RELATED SOLUTIONS.....

By
V.V. Hariprasad

Mr. Nobody a septuagenarian who retired from Government service a decade back wanted to ensure that he should be physically fit enough to pursue a healthy life to the extent possible before he breathes his last. He knew that he was a novice in the context of diagnosis and medication for ill health what so ever which has not been his cup of tea and he had to depend upon an experienced and a qualified doctor for treatment if he were bedridden. But he is bent upon leading a healthy life by adhering to healthy practices in his daily routine that keep him physically and mentally fit. This prompted him to document his observations and experiences from time to time as different systems of treatment be it Allopathic or Homeopathic or Ayurveda which have different scientific perspectives prescribe different treatments for different diseases. In spite of being a person ignorant of the intricacies of medical science he documented the experiences he came across in pursuit of leading a healthy life, some of the diseases that normally aged people are inflicted with and treated for, their consequences and also the diagnostic procedures required and adhered to there for as follows.

Benefits of Walking

1. Walking helps to improve heart health. 2. Aids Weight Loss 3. Regulates Blood pressure, 4. Fights Cancer 5. Improves blood Circulation, 6. Reduces

Risk of Diabetes, 7. Strengthens Bones, 8. Strengthens muscles, 9. Improves digestion, 10. Boosts Immune Function, 11. Prevents Dementia, 12. Increases Lung Capacity 13. Delays Aging 14. Helps Produce Vitamin D 15. Reduces Stress 16. Uplifts Mood 17. Improves Memory, 18. Increases Productivity 19. Increases Your Creativity 20. Builds Social Support

Diabetes

Diabetes mellitus (DM), commonly referred to as diabetes, is a group of metabolic disorders in which there are high blood sugar levels over a prolonged period. Symptoms of high blood sugar include frequent urination, increased thirst, and increased hunger. If left untreated, diabetes can cause many complications. Acute complications can include diabetic ketoacidosis, hyperosmolar hyperglycemic state, or death. Serious long-term complications include cardiovascular disease, stroke, chronic kidney disease, foot ulcers, and damage to the eyes.

Diabetes is due to either the pancreas not producing enough insulin or the cells of the body not responding properly to the insulin produced.

Complications of diabetes mellitus

All forms of diabetes increase the risk of long-term complications. These typically develop

after many years (10–20) but may be the first symptom in those who have otherwise not received a diagnosis before that time.

The major long-term complications relate to damage to blood vessels. Diabetes doubles the risk of cardiovascular disease and about 75% of deaths in diabetics are due to coronary artery disease. Other “macro vascular” diseases are stroke, and peripheral artery disease.

The primary complications of diabetes due to damage in small blood vessels include damage to the eyes, kidneys, and nerves. There is a link between cognitive deficit and diabetes. Compared to those without diabetes, those with the disease have a 1.2 to 1.5-fold greater rate of decline in cognitive function. Being diabetic, especially when on insulin, increases the risk of falls in older people.

How the Ketogenic Diet Works for Type 2 Diabetes:

What is the keto diet?

Special diets for type 2 diabetes, often focus on weight loss, so it might seem crazy that a high-fat diet is an option. But the ketogenic (keto) diet, high in fat and low in carbohydrates, can potentially change the way your body stores and uses energy, easing diabetes symptoms.

With the keto diet, your body converts fat, instead of sugar, into energy. The diet was created in 1924 as a treatment for epilepsy, but the effects of this eating pattern are also being studied for type 2 diabetes. The ketogenic diet may improve blood glucose (sugar) levels while also reducing the need for insulin. However, the diet does come

with risks, so make sure to discuss it with your doctor before making drastic dietary changes. The ketogenic diet doesn't mean you should load up on saturated fats. Heart-healthy fats are the key to sustaining overall health. Some healthy foods that are commonly eaten in the ketogenic diet include: eggs, fish such as salmon, cottage cheese, avocado, olives and olive oil, nuts and nut butters, seeds.

One has to keep in mind that diabetes a metabolic disorder can be controlled with proper dietary habits, medication and proper physical exercise before one breathes his last.

Glaucoma: Glaucoma for which diabetic patients are highly susceptible is a group of eye diseases which result in damage to the optic nerve and vision loss. The most common type is open-angle glaucoma with less common types including closed-angle glaucoma and normal-tension glaucoma. Closed-angle glaucoma can present gradually or suddenly. The sudden presentation may involve severe eye pain, blurred vision, mid-dilated pupil, redness of the eye, and nausea. Vision loss from glaucoma, once it has occurred, is permanent. If treated early it is possible to slow or stop the progression of disease with medication, laser treatment, or surgery. The goal of these treatments is to decrease eye pressure. Glaucoma has been called the “silent thief of sight” because the loss of vision usually occurs slowly over a long period of time. Glaucoma can be prevented and cured with proper medication before one loses his eye sight. Diabetic patients have to get their eyes

checked periodically to diagnose Glaucoma.

Dementia: Dementia is a broad category of brain diseases that cause a long-term and often gradual decrease in the ability to think and remember that is great enough to affect a person's daily functioning. Other common symptoms include emotional problems, difficulties with language, and a decrease in motivation. A person's consciousness is usually not affected. A dementia diagnosis requires a change from a person's usual mental functioning and a greater decline than one would expect due to aging. These diseases also have a significant effect on a person's caregivers.

The most common type of dementia is Alzheimer's disease, which makes up 50% to 70% of cases. Other common types include vascular dementia (25%), Lewy body dementia (15%), and front temporal dementia. The mini mental state examination is one commonly used cognitive test. Efforts to prevent dementia include trying to decrease risk factors such as high blood pressure, smoking, diabetes, and obesity.

Prostate cancer and Prostate specific

Antigen test: Prostate-specific antigen or PSA which is essential to diagnose prostate cancer which is prevalent among men of advanced age is a protein produced by normal, as well as malignant, cells of the prostate gland. The PSA test measures the level of PSA in a man's blood. For this test, a blood sample is sent to a laboratory for analysis. The results are usually reported as nanograms of PSA per milliliter (ng/mL) of blood.

The blood level of PSA is often elevated in men with prostate cancer, and the PSA test was originally approved by the FDA in 1986 to monitor the progression of prostate cancer in men who had already been diagnosed with the disease. In 1994, the FDA approved the use of the PSA test in conjunction with a digital rectal exam (DRE) to test asymptomatic men for prostate cancer. Men who report prostate symptoms often undergo PSA testing (along with a DRE) to help doctors determine the nature of the problem.

Relevance of Homeopathy: It is quite unfortunate that even some of the educated people do not recognize the efficacy of homeopathy in treating number of diseases where as some opt for homeopathy only. It is a well known fact that homeopathy was recognized as one of the alternate medical systems and has been promoted by AYUSH department of Govt. of India.

Homeopathy is a system of alternative medicine developed in 1796 by Samuel Hahnemann, based on his doctrine of like cures like (*similia similibus curentur*), a claim that a substance that causes the symptoms of a disease in healthy people would cure similar symptoms in sick people.

Hahnemann believed that large doses of drugs that caused similar symptoms would only aggravate illness, he advocated extreme dilutions of the substances; he devised a technique for making dilutions that he believed would preserve a substance's therapeutic properties while removing its harmful effects.

Great Britain's Royal Family, Mahatma Gandhi, John D. Rockefeller, and Sr., Tina Turner, don't have much in common, except for the fact that they all have been strong supporters of homeopathic medicine. There is one simple reason that these and other respected individuals the world over have supported homeopathic medicine: it works.

Case study: The septuagenarian was suffering from trigger finger. Trigger finger is a common disorder characterized by catching, snapping or locking of the involved finger flexor tendon, associated with dysfunction and pain. He was operated upon by a neurosurgeon immediately below two of his fingers on the palm at different points of time which cost him around Rs.12000 for each finger and he was cured of it. When he faced with the same problem for the third finger of the same hand he desperately went to a qualified homeopathic doctor. At that point of time he spent an amount of Rs 900/- and he was completely cured of the disease within a period of three months. Homeopathy worked.

The relevance of Ayurveda: Ayurvedic medicine is the theory that health exists when there is a balance between three fundamental bodily humours or doshas called Vata, Pitta and Kapha. Vata is the air principle necessary to mobilize the function of the nervous system. Pitta is the fire principle which uses bile to direct digestion and hence metabolism into the venous system. Kapha is the water principle which relates to mucous, lubrication and the carrier of nutrients into the arterial system.

Case study: The septuagenarian patient was suffering from symptomatic reflux diagnosed as Gastroesophageal reflux because of hiatal hernia by the Gastroenterologist of a reputed hospital and was prescribed with medication. He suffered with the disease for more than nine months with intermittent relief. On the advice of some of his friends he met one of the highly qualified doctors of Ayurveda and was prescribed medicine such as *amlapitta harini* and was totally relieved of the symptoms of the disease and the comprehensive healing process is on. Here Ayurveda yielded the results.

Conclusion: Dr. Hiromi Shinya, a world renowned gastroenterologist from Japan credited with the invention of colonoscopy in his book "The rejuvenation Enzyme" wrote, "The human body is comprised of 40-60 trillion cells. Inside the cells are organs called mitochondria that create energy for all the activities. The nutrients from the food we eat and the oxygen we breathe are carried to these mitochondria where they are converted to energy. If cells are in good health, energy conversion goes well. If this condition is sustained, one can enjoy health and vitality, regardless of advancing age. If you wake up in the morning feeling sluggish you probably have garbage in your cells. Unless you eliminate this garbage your cells can not work efficiently and consequently you cannot generate energy." One has to understand that detoxification makes a person more energetic. Periodical detoxification is an imperative need for the aged persons.

TASMANIA, A STATE OF ISLANDS IN OZ

By
B. M. T. Rajeev

Introduction: Tasmania is a state of islands in Australia. It is located 240 km to the south of the Australian mainland, separated by Bass Strait. The state encompasses the main island of Tasmania, the 26th-largest island in the world and the surrounding 334 islands. It is situated at south longitude 42° and east latitude 147°; and it is to the north of Antarctica and to the west of New Zealand, surrounded by Indian Ocean.

Tasmania's Geographical area is 68,401 km², of which the main island covers over 64,519 km². Tasmania is promoted as a natural state; almost 45% of Tasmania lies in Reserves, National Parks, and World Heritage Sites; and the state was the founding place of the first environmental party in the world.

This island state was formed in 1803 where 75,000 convicts were sent here by British in 1853 to thwart the Napoleon's plans to occupy and it was a home of aboriginals who were decimated in war and infectious disease by 1831. It became a state through the process of the Federation of Australia in 1901. It has a population is 5.19 lakh(2016). It is connected by Air and water to main land. It has its own strict immigration law to save its flora and fauna. No short of fruits, seeds and plants or animals are allowed to enter the

land of Tasmania- a very rigid restrictions. The capital is Hobart.

Sojourn In Tasmania: We (my partner, son, Daughter-in-law & a kid), chose to travel by Sea in a ship '*Spirit of Tasmania*' with our car with a overnight journey from Melbourne to Devonport Harbor on 01.02.2017 . It was a new experience in a well equipped ship with cars in the base and 8 storey ships for cabins with 2 floors reserved for Dinner and entertainment and also top opening for observation. Cabins are luxurious with attached restroom/bath facilities. A good opportunity to watch the Sun set, stars and Sun rise.

Marakoopa Cave (02.02.2017): After reaching Devanport port by 6.00 Am, we drove to country side to visit Caves- about 150 Km and reached Marakoopa cave: The drive was an ecstatic early in the morning with a mesmerizing landscape in between the surrounding hill ranges clothed with beautiful virgin forests. We had breakfast to our taste in a Hotel at Mole creek, a small town close to Caves in the hill ranges of '*Greater Western Tier*'; The **Great Western Tiers (GWT)** are a collection of mountain bluffs that form the northern edge of the Central Highlands plateau in Tasmania,



Australia. The bluffs are contained within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Site.

Pic: Column of joined stalactite and stalagmite in the Marakoopa cave. The entry fee was AUD 20.

Marakoopa Cave is a wet cave located at Mayberry, a few kms west of Mole Creek,

enroute to Cradle Mountain. Marakoopa Cave is highly decorated, including natural water features, and is also home to the fascinating *Tasmanian Cave spider and glowworms*. It was first discovered in 1906 and opened to the public in 1912. a '*world heritage site*'. It has 120 steps and visitors have to walk in controlled light with the guide through steps built in stages. Sparkling crystals were very attractive to eyes with hanging **stalactites** (*hanging of rock formed by dripping calcium carbonate- limestone solution from the roof of the cave for many years*) and **stalagmites** (*Uprights of stones formed from the droppings of limestone solution from stalactites to the ground*)- in plenty.

After visit to cave, we started to next destination ie Lemon thyme- A resort in the midst of '**Great**

Western Tier-(GWT)'. On the way, we could see the grand sight of forests from foot hills to mountain top-different tier of forests' of GWT at vantage point marked for it. We reached Lemonthyme resort by 4 pm and took a walk in to the '*Giant tree trail*' which took us in to the virgin rain forests in the GWT with lots of ferns and varieties of trees mixed with Eucalypts. The giant tree is the '*Eucalyptus globulus*' tree which is said to be 50 m tall'- none to say about its girth and said to be about 500 years old as per a hand bill in the resort. Some huge trees were left to perish after felling due to un-favourable conditions for logging in the sub tropical rain forests.



Pic: We could see the feeding of Echidnas at dusk by the Resort to entertain visitors.

Dove Lake (03.02.2017): Next day morning we started for '**Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair NP** (CMNP), with drive in the midst of the high forests in meandering Ghats roads formed without air pin curves/ bends and reached the Reception Centre of CMNP, which was with full of vehicles and it was raining in summer.



Pic: Wallaby with joey in pouch

This NP is said to be established in 1922 over an area of 1,614.43 sqkm . It is situated in high mountains region. The habitat is unique and includes the Tasmanian deciduous beech (*Nothofagus gunnii*), tussock grasses, snow gums and pencil pines..*The animals found in it are Pademelons, Bennett's wallabies, quolls, wombats, Tasmanian devils (State Animal), platypus, echidnas and possums etc and varieties of reptiles, ravens, currawongs and other birds etc.* Entry fee was 180 AUD per head. Visitors are said to be more than 2.00 lakh per year. It is famous for walking trails in the midst of natural forests in Tasmania than sighting of animals as in India or Africa.



Pic: Tasmanian devil

After getting entry tickets, we proceeded in the well maintained asphalt road in the middle of the NP (unlike our mud roads in Indian NPs) and found a lot of trails all along the route on either sides with varieties of local names; the people were thronging to walk leisurely through them; and we choose to take a walk in 'Enchanting walking trail' of 1.00km- close to shopping centre in the NP; it was a beautiful experience to walk on wooden flanks laid for path with parapet toward the winding stream running from the mountain with wooden bridge to cross it at a point of scenic attraction. The forests are alpine forests with lots of the bushes and ground orchids in flowers. It was raining, but we accomplished the walk and it was worth to its name. While moving to Dove Lake we could see a big patch burnt in the past in the NP and dead tree were standing along the road and forest reequipped well.

The 'Dove Lake' and the 'Dove lake Trail' is the star of attraction of this NP. The Trail is said to be walk able in 2.30 to 3.00 hours time without giving the distance- to the tourists. We were there after lunch and it was in a valley surrounded by high rise mountains around the Dove lake except to the the stream's out let. The vegetation in the valley was stunted and dwarf trees of Alpine spp, bushes and course grasses; most of them were in blossoms.

When we reached, it was raining and very cold.

There were a lot of visitors; most of them were from China and Japan. All were guzzling with spirit of joy to walk around the famous 'Dove Lake'; we took the trail after getting ourselves ready and after reaching the shore of lake by walking for 2 km or so in slippery/ rugged terrain not developed like in other trails; we decided to windup our plan of going round the lake due to un-favourable weather conditions. We took break to rejoicing the beauty of the lake and it's surroundings. The water of lake was so crystal clear, pure and attractive; touching cold water was musing. We enjoyed the sight of the lake by taking photographs and returned to vehicle to find a *Wallaby* foraging near our car and had its photo and bid good bye to Dove Lake and the NP.



Pic: Dove lake

Journey to **Hobart**: We started for Hobart, a journey of 300 km; reaching the foot hills/ plain was tedious in the GWT region. I use to be exited with the '*sight of natural forests/ their beauty without any sign of exploitation or vandalism or*

encroachment or weeds or fire burn except a pines plantation in the foot hills burnt '... compare to our country's vista of vandalism in forests; and I use to catch the scenes in video, wherever I was attracted, which made me to suffer giddiness and vomiting. I was forced to close what's app and sit quite. I could not resist the instinct to observe the scenes of rural civilization till Sun set. We reached Hobart by 10 pm and retired to rest in a Sea shore side Hotel after supper.

Hobart (04.02.2017): Day's visit was to the hill station, Kunanyi or **Mount Wellington**. This beautiful Mount is close to the city of Hobart, the capital of Tasmania with a harbor. Mountain is 1270 m above MSL with marked change in its weather conditions compare to the city due to elevation. It houses an observatory and a visitors' cabin with all its details built in 1988. It has a two way road and trails for walking, bike and horse riding. Part of it forms the '*Wellington Park*'. The forests right from the foot hills- the very city (at sea level) to the summit are with full of *Eucalyptus* spp mixed with some local spp. It is a feast for the eyes of any '*Forester*' to have a glimpse of the changing vegetation as we move up. *The journey starts with the sight of well grown big sized and towering Eucalyptus trees, gradually falling in size and height to stunt and to bushy growth at the summit.* We could see the bushy *Eucalyptus* spp. It was summer, the alpine shrubs were all in bloom attracting swarms of bees.. ... a sight to wonder!!!. This forest was said to be suffered in the worst summer bush fire in February, 1967. The portion of the mountain towards Hobart and

part of city was said to be burnt with a lot of damage to the houses in the city and suburb and to the forests. Now, it has recovered and no traces of burn could be seen except in the summit, where the traces of past fires could be felt with close observation.

Hobart: A wonderful scenic city planked by ocean from two sides, mountain and forest to east and south, the advantage of this city-for its clean and pure weather- the inhabitants are proud of their city. Had a visit to Botanical garden, central city, State Assembly and market place and retired after dinner in an Indian hotel.

Mona Museum (05.02.2027): This day was reserved for the visit to famous '**Mona Museum**' in Hobart. *The Museum of Old and New Art (MONA)* is an art museum located within the Moorilla winery on the Berriedale peninsula in Hobart. It is the largest privately funded museum in Australia. The museum presents antiquities, modern and contemporary art from the David Walsh collections. Walsh has described the museum as a "*Subversive Adult Disneyland*."

MONA also hosts the annual MOFO and Dark Mofo festivals which showcase large-scale public art and live performances. (*Mofo*, or Mona Foma, is Mona's summer festival: an eclectic mix of music and art, plus food, booze and more at Mona and all over the place, curated by Brian).. (Foma means- harmless untruths)

Architecture of Mono:

The single-story MONA building appears at street level to be dominated by its surroundings, but its interior possesses a spiral staircase that leads down to three

larger levels of labyrinthine display spaces built into the side of the cliffs around Berriedale peninsula.

There are no windows and the atmosphere is intentionally ominous. On entering the museum, visitors descend a "*seemingly endless flight of stairs*", an experience one critic compared with "*going down into Petra*". To see the art, the visitor must work back upwards towards the surface, a trajectory that has been contrasted with the descending spiral that many visitors follow in New York's Guggenheim Museum.

Number of visitors is about 3.70 lakh (during 2016). The Oz has a plan to dove-tail Mona with 'Dove lake' of CMNP to attract about 5 lakh visitors annually from Japan and China with a mega tourism project.

One day is a minimum time required to see this museum with an entry fee of 30 AUD. But, we had half a day at our disposal. On entry, visitors will be given a video cassette with ear phones with demonstration- to return at the exit; as we move in to a gallery, the picture appears in the video; if we press on it, it will go on broadcasting all the details of the exhibits...but, where was the time for us? The bottom 3rd and 2nd floors are with full of scientific features on nature, evolution, flora and flowers; fauna- animals, birds, reptiles, insects, human races; human- anatomy, biology, sexology (*Some galleries can't be seen in the company of the family or friends/ children; it is possible only with likeminded friends of same sex or young couples or old couples- as rightly said by the designer as 'Tending to adult Disneyland'*)

and world history, art, painting, sculptures and Jewelry; Scientific- inventions, modern technological-inventions, photography and many more wonders, medical science..etc etc...cinematography, geographical explorations etc in the first floor...When we come out, we were in to a Disney land of leisurely time spending people-with eateries to the taste of varieties of tourists come from around world; and a stage for 'light n music' to watch and loitering with shopping of clothes, paintings with attractions for kids etc. We could have *Masala dosa* from a eatery of Chennai based cabin and left Mona at 3.00 pm to leave for Melbourne.

Left for Devonport by road; I had a chance to observe the rural life what I could not see after sunset in the same route while driving to Hobart from Dove Lake. All along the route, I could see cattle farms as explained earlier. Before reaching Devonport, we came across a small town- Campbell, where I could see plantations of Eucalyptus, Pines adjoining to forests and then farms of grapes/ pomegranates with intensive cultivation of vegetable and maize with lift irrigation facilities. After boarding the Ship at 7.00 pm, had dinner before retiring to get up early in the next morning at Melbourne to reach home by 8.00 am.

Observations: Forests in Tasmania are temperate **rain forests** of Eucalyptus, Corymbia and Angophora spp. (All the three spp. called as Eucalypts); dominated by *Eucalyptus globulus* (Blue gum) which is also a state tree of Tasmania with pines- commercial wood in housing. Plantations of the Eucalyptus and Pines are seen

commercially grown in vast areas. The **wild animals** in the forests are a few and not visible to attract visitors like our country or Africa. They are simple and very small in size and shy in nature; mostly *Marsupial mammals-which give birth to very tiny offspring that crawls to the pouch of the mother and lives in it with suckling till it develops to the stage of walking and feed on itself except Platypus-* a semi-aquatic mammal that lays eggs and echidnas (ant eater)- egg laying mammals. Other aquatic animals of Tasmania are Dolphins, little penguin and whales.

The landed properties are found to be fenced as estates with farm houses. Farms are mostly to rear cattle/ cows or sheep for meat. The farm ponds are seen in most of the farms. Cattle and sheep reared in open and harvested fodder stored in bales/ silos for use in winter. The animals are said to be kept in closed sheds with monitored temperature during winter- since Tasmania is a temperate region to the north of Antarctica.

With drive a for 4 days in the country side and hilly forest tracks never had a jump/rattle of car due to road hump or a pot hole is the standard of the road ways in this state of Tasmania in Oz- a developed country. It was summer with vast areas shining with dry grasses; but astonished to observe no fire burnt areas- what a restrain from incendiary fires by the people!!! A fruitful visit worthy to remember as a Forester/tourist interested to know about a new state of 200 years old.

Author: Deputy Conservator of Forests (Retd); Karnataka. Mob: 9632781811

GAUR OR INDIAN BISON

Source Internet

In zoology, gaur is the common name for a large, dark-coated, wild bovid, *Bos gaurus*, characterized by white or tan lower legs, large ears, strongly and regularly curved horns that curve inward and backward at the tip, and a deep hollow region on the forehead.

Overview and description:- The horns are found in both sexes, and grow from the sides of the head, curving upwards. They are regularly curved throughout their length, and are bent inward and slightly backward at their tips. The ears are very large and the tail only just reaches the hocks. There is a dewlap under the chin which extends between the front legs. There is a shoulder hump, especially pronounced in adult males. Females are substantially smaller, and their dorsal ridge and dewlaps are less developed.

Gaurs have a body length of about 2.5 to 3.6 meters (8.3-12 feet), a shoulder height of about 1.7 to 2.2 meters (5.6-7.2 feet), and a tail length of 0.7 to one meter (28-40 inches). On average, males stand about 1.8 meters to 1.9 meters at the shoulder, while females are about 20 centimeters less. Males often reach 1000 to 1500 kilograms (2200-3300 pounds) and females 700 to 1000 kilograms (1540-2200 pounds).

Behavior, diet, and reproduction: - In the wild, gaurs live in small mixed herds and graze on grasses, shoots, and fruits. A family group may consist of two to 40 individuals. Gaur herds are led by an old adult female (the matriarch). Adult males may be solitary. Males make a mating call of clear, resonant tones which may carry for more than 1.6 kilometers.

Where gaurs have not been disturbed, they are basically diurnal, being most active in the morning and late afternoon and resting during the hottest time of the day. But where populations have been disturbed by human

populations, gaurs have become largely nocturnal, rarely seen in the open by mid-morning.

Breeding takes place throughout the year, though there is a peak between December and June. The gestation period of gaurs is 275 days, with normally one (rarely two) young born. Weaning lasts for seven to 12 months, and sexual maturity is reached in the second or third year. The life span of the gaur is about 30 years.

Ecology: -Due to their formidable size and power, the gaur has few natural enemies. Crocodiles, leopards, and dhole packs occasionally attack unguarded calves or unhealthy animals, but only the tiger has been reported to kill a full-grown adult. One of the largest bull gaur seen by George Schaller during the year 1964 in Kanha national park was killed by a tiger (Schaller 1967). On the other hand, there are several cases of tigers being killed by gaur. When confronted by a tiger, the adult members of a gaur herd often form a circle surrounding the vulnerable young and calves, shielding them from the big cat.

In some regions in India where human disturbance is minor, the gaur is very timid and shy, and often shuns humans. When alarmed, gaurs crash into the jungle at a surprising speed. However, in South-east Asia and south India, where they are used to the presence of humans, gaurs are said by locals to be very bold and aggressive. They are frequently known to go down fields and graze alongside domestic cattle, sometimes killing them in fights. Gaur bulls may charge unprovoked, especially during summer time when the heat and parasitic insects make them more short-tempered than usual.

MY DADDY!

By
Swati Naidu

I know the entire department knows daddy as a man of integrity, a man committed to his duty and responsibility and a man who always gave himself for his service. So today I want to speak about Kamal Naidu, a father.

Daddy was a dad of his kind who I always will look up to in times when I need him most. There were times when I cried in front of my mother like a baby, forgetting I am 37! As to how I will cope without him. What will happen to me and will this life ever have the same meaning after him. All these thoughts sound like an immature person but this was the attachment I had for him. Daddy was my lifeline and continues to be. He is my heart and my soul, and I will tell you why:

When I was a baby I have some pictures, couldn't find them in rush he maintained a systematic diary for me to show my life as a baby. So, this day and age where we have electronic records to maintain a child's early years, I saw my early years through dad's diary about me. Even now when I read this it gives me the strength and determination I had as a baby and the fact that he would leave me with Sona, the tiger cub – thank you dad! Lesson one of life: When you are a baby you learn to explore the world around you through your curiosity don't worry if you are even faced with a tiger you are still strong from within.

When I got to the age of playing with Barbie dolls, all my friends had a collection but I had just one. The most cherished one of course! And what can anyone expect when you have Kamal Naidu as your father!! Well I tested the waters and still remember asking him for a Barbie doll house, that is like going beyond self-expectations I suppose but the courage he had instilled in me gave me the strength to ask him the question. Next thing he said to me was just because all my friends have a Barbie doll house does not mean I should have the same one. So, he sat with me one weekend and made a Barbie doll house with an old shoe rack and once it was finished with the help of mummy's interior designing skills, it was the world's best Barbie house. Lesson two of life: When you can't afford to get something re-create something better. Then came the age of adolescence, an age when every father fear about their daughter's safety, but daddy never ever felt the need to worry about me. He always said 'He follows she fleas and she follows he fleas'. Lesson three in life: Always put your self-respect and values before your adolescent instincts

Career was always turmoil for me, I join civil services, or do I just finish my graduation and get married. He never forced me, and he always

stood by me on every decision I made. Sometimes by words and sometimes through silence. When I got married and moved to UK, I struggled the initial years but he always said one thing 'You made the decision so you must learn to respect the struggles of new life in a new world'. Lesson four in life: Choices are made by us, how we choose to press forward with ups and down is what life is all about.

Today, when I turn back and look at these valuable lessons dad has given me, are only a few that I can accommodate in this page, but

daddy has shown me the side of life and walked with me holding my hand to face and challenge situations and overcome some with sheer determination and courage. His life alone has taught me so many things like respect for people and love for what we have that I can't but thank you daddy for staying in my life and you continue to do so with same impact spiritually. Had it not been for your daddy I would have been completely shattered and I thank you for being inside me to guide me through the rest of my life. Love you daddy!

Swati Naidu



“WEATHER AND DUST STORM FORMATION”

By
D. Raveendranathan

Weather patterns can be broadly categorized into two categories: large-scale — or synoptic — weather systems, and smaller patterns known as mesoscale systems.

Synoptic systems are frontal systems that cover great distances; they range anywhere from 620 to 1,500 miles (998 to 2,414 kilometers) across [source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration]. Dust storms are created when these fronts sweep onto hot, arid surfaces. When cold fronts undercut warm air, the pressure gradient increases, and winds shift and become quite gusty — as high as 50 to 100 miles per hour (80 to 160 kilometers per hour) [source: University Corporation and Atmospheric Administration].

Additionally, the shifting winds cause turbulence and the high surface temperature creates convective currents at the leading edge of the storm. These forces essentially act to lift particles higher and keep them aloft for longer. Synoptically induced storms can carry dust for very long distances. For instance, each year millions of tons of desert dust ride the trade winds from the North African coast to the Caribbean basin [source: U.S. Geological Survey]. The summer shamals in the Persian gulf and African sirocco winds are synoptic systems that

routinely kick up dust storms that can last as long as five days [source: University Corporation and Atmospheric Administration].

Mesoscale systems are smaller weather systems that range from 50 to 100 miles (80 to 160 kilometers) across [source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration]. Although smaller than synoptic systems, mesoscale systems don't always generate smaller storms. Wind currents generated on this scale fall into three groups: down-slope winds, gap winds and convection. **Down-slope winds** are very strong, gusty winds that blow down the slope of a mountain and reach their peak strength at the foot. **Gap winds** are low-level winds that pass through relatively small channels or gaps in mountain barriers — these are the type that blow across the Bodele Depression and end up crossing the Atlantic Ocean. **Convection** is the vertical movement of air. Although convective winds are generated at all cold fronts, convection is most commonly associated with thunderstorms — these systems produce haboobs.

Haboobs are what most people think of when they hear the words dust storm.

Solar Storm Warning

A solar storm is-the most intense one could

be seen a maximum in fifty years and Solar minimum has arrived in frequent intervals. Sunspots have all but vanished; Solar flares are nonexistent. The sun is utterly quiet.

Like the quiet before a storm.

Recently researchers announced that a storm is coming—the most intense solar maximum in fifty years. The prediction comes from a team led by Mausumi Dikpati of the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR). “The next sunspot cycle will be 30% to 50% stronger than the previous one,” she says. If correct, the years ahead could produce a burst of solar activity second only to the historic Solar Max of 1958.

That was a solar maximum. The Space Age was just beginning: Sputnik was launched in Oct. 1957 and Explorer 1 (the first US satellite) in Jan. 1958. In 1958 you couldn’t tell that a solar storm was underway by looking at the bars on your cell phone; cell phones didn’t exist. Even so, people knew something big was happening when Northern Lights were sighted three times in Mexico. A similar maximum now would be noticed by its effect on cell phones, GPS, weather satellites and many other modern technologies. Dikpati’s prediction is unprecedented. In nearly-two centuries since the 11-year sunspot cycle was discovered, scientists have struggled to predict the size of future maxima—and failed. Solar maxima can be intense, as in 1958, or barely detectable, as in 1805, obeying no obvious pattern.

The key to the mystery, Dikpati realized years

ago, is a conveyor belt on the sun.

We have something similar here on Earth—the Great Ocean Conveyor Belt, popularized in the sci-fi movie *The Day After Tomorrow*. It is a network of currents that carry water and heat from ocean to ocean—see the diagram below. In the movie, the Conveyor Belt stopped and threw the world’s weather into chaos.

Above: Earth’s Great Ocean Conveyor Belt. [\[More\]](#)

The sun’s conveyor belt is a current, not of water, but of electrically-conducting gas. It flows in a loop from the sun’s equator to the poles and back again. Just as the Great Ocean Conveyor Belt controls weather on Earth, this solar conveyor belt controls weather on the sun. Specifically, it controls the sunspot cycle.

Solar physicist David Hathaway of the National Space Science and Technology Center (NSSTC) explains: “First, remember what sunspots are—tangled knots of magnetism generated by the sun’s inner dynamo. A typical sunspot exists for just a few weeks. Then it decays, leaving behind a ‘corpse’ of weak magnetic fields.”

Enter the conveyor belt.

“The top of the conveyor belt skims the surface of the sun, sweeping up the magnetic fields of old, dead sunspots. The ‘corpses’ are dragged down at the poles to a depth of 200,000 km where the sun’s magnetic dynamo can amplify them. Once the corpses (magnetic knots) are reincarnated (amplified), they become buoyant and float back to the surface.” Presto—new

sunspots!

Right: The sun's great conveyor belt. [[Larger image](#)]

All this happens with massive slowness. "It takes about 40 years for the belt to complete one loop," says Hathaway. The speed varies "anywhere from a 50-year pace (slow) to a 30-year pace (fast)."

When the belt is turning "fast," it means that lots of magnetic fields are being swept up, and that a future sunspot cycle is going to be intense. This is a basis for forecasting: "The belt was turning fast in 1986-1996," says Hathaway. "Old magnetic fields swept up then should re-appear as big sunspots in 2010-2011."

Like most experts in the field, Hathaway has confidence in the conveyor belt model and agrees with Dikpati that the next solar maximum should be a doozy. But he disagrees with one point. Dikpati's forecast puts Solar Max at 2012. Hathaway believes it will arrive sooner, in 2010 or 2011.

"History shows that big sunspot cycles 'ramp up' faster than small ones," he says. "I expect to see the first sunspots of the next cycle appear in late 2006 or 2007—and Solar Max to be underway by 2010 or 2011."

Who's right? Time will tell. Either way, a storm is coming.

Super storms across India kill 127, shatter homes and lives

TNN | May 4, 2018, 01:06 IST

NEW DELHI: Severe thunderstorms lashed many

parts of the country on Wednesday night, killing at least 127 people in the last 24 hours and leaving a trail of destruction, with houses flattened, trees uprooted and electricity poles in disarray.

The maximum devastation occurred in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, where the storms claimed 112 lives. Uttar Pradesh reported 73 deaths, of which 46 were in Agra district alone. As many as 39 people died in Rajasthan, followed by seven in [Telangana](#), four in Uttarakhand and two each in Jharkhand and Punjab. The fury of unusually strong winds and heavy rains lasted for up to three hours in many places on Wednesday night, but the full extent of the damage was known only on Thursday.

"Concrete houses came down like pack of cards one after the other. Trees, streetlights and whatever stood taller than a few feet were flattened by the winds. We took out victims from debris of houses and ferried them to hospitals on motorcycles," Narendra Sharma, the SHO of Kheragarh police station in Agra district, told TOI after spending the night in rescue ops.

With 24 deaths, Kheragarh tehsil in Agra near UP Rajasthan border bore the maximum brunt of the storm in the district. Deaths were reported from other parts of the state too. These included three each in Bijnor and Kanpur Dehat, two each in Saharanpur, Hamirpur, Mirzapur and Kanpur city; and one each in Bareilly, Pilibhit, Chitrakoot, Rae Bareli, Unnao, Mathura, Amroha,

Banda, Sitapur, Sambhal, Etawah, Allahabad and Rampur. Nearly 90 people were injured in the state. The UP Government has announced a compensation of Rs 4 lakh each for the families of the deceased.

In Rajasthan, Home Minister Gulab Chand Kataria put the toll at 33 on Thursday, but unofficial sources said it had climbed to 39 by evening. Over 200 people have been injured in the storm which affected Bharatpur, Dholpur and Alwar districts. After a horrifying night, Thursday morning brought in a host of woes as people woke up to disruption in water and power supply. There was no warning from meteorological department?... Storm of such massive scale and no warning??... IMD did well in recent past when there were cyclonic storms in coastal AP. So what happened now? **Amit Satbhai**

As many as 12,700 electricity polls were uprooted and 1,523 transformers damaged in the three districts. More than 50,000 trees were destroyed. The Rajasthan government rushed Ministers to the three districts on Thursday while Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje is scheduled to visit the affected areas of Bharatpur on Friday. "Seventeen persons have died in Bharatpur, nine in Alwar and five in Dholpur district due to the dust storm," Kataria said. In Uttarakhand, casualties were reported from Almora, Udham Singh Nagar and Haridwar districts.

In Telangana, heavy rains triggered by a cyclonic circulation killed seven people across the state.

Strong winds plunged many areas in Hyderabad into darkness. Deaths were reported from Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Nalgonda and Warangal districts. In Punjab, two people were killed in Patiala city when the boundary wall of an under construction house collapsed on them. The victims died on the spot within minutes. In Jharkhand, two women were killed in Sahibganj district when they were struck by lightning. Six Dead and Rs 100 Cr Crop Loss Due to Heavy Rains in Telangana

THE NEWS MINUTE 4th May 2018

Six people died across Telangana on Thursday as heavy rains wreaked havoc in the state. The rains also resulted in a crop loss worth an estimated Rs 100 crore, and left Hyderabad city completely out of gear. Two kids – 11-year-old Lokesh from Ibrahimpatnam and 7-year-old Akhil from Karmanghat – died after they were struck by lightning bolts.

Although the unseasonal rains provided relief to people from the scorching heat, it did affect normal life and caused widespread damage to crops. Several trees and electrical poles were uprooted due to the thunderstorm.

Telangana Energy Minister Jagdish Reddy said they received reports of 1,250 electricity poles being damaged due to strong winds, leading to power disruptions in 200-300 localities.

e authorities have opened two control rooms in Hyderabad and Warangal and are making efforts to restore electricity supply in the

affected areas.

Telangana Excise Minister T Padma Rao, who visited some areas in Hyderabad, told reporters that the GHMC received reports of tree falling from 45 spots in the city. There were also complaints of major waterlogging at 25 spots. To clear the traffic, the city traffic police took to the task of clearing the trees and opening the sewers to drain the water on roads.

The heavy rains damaged mango, paddy, maize and other crops. Several cattle perished due to lightning. The unseasonal rains also disrupted electricity supply in towns and villages.

According to *Times of India*, 300 quintals of paddy was damaged in Jammikunta market in Karimnagar. Ten thousand bags of red chilli and turmeric were damaged at Enumamula agricultural market, after they were exposed to rain. A crop loss of Rs 100 crore was estimated. According to the Met office, the rains were triggered by cyclonic circulation over north Odisha and another cyclonic circulation over West Vidarbha. The highest maximum temperature in the state was recorded at Adilabad and Nizamabad at 43 degree Celsius. The department has issued a warning that thunderstorm accompanied with gusty winds are likely to occur at isolated places in all the districts of Telangana for the next two days.

In India, the Western Ghats, States namely Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have been saved from the ill effects

of Dust Storm to a distance 1600 KM stretching from Tapti river to Kanyakumari; as Western Ghats act as a barrier from dry belts.

Andy Weir's "The Martian" begins with a massive dust storm that strands fictional astronaut Mark Watney on Mars. In the scene, powerful wind rips an antenna out of a piece of equipment and destroys parts of the astronauts' camp.

Mars is infamous for intense dust storms, which sometimes kick up enough dust to be seen by telescopes on Earth. "Every year there are some moderately big dust storms that pop up on Mars and they cover continent-sized areas and last for weeks at a time," said Michael Smith, a planetary scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. Beyond Mars' large annual storms are massive storms that occur more rarely but are much larger and more intense.

An Australian town has been hit by a **dust storm** that covered the outback community in orange **dust**. The **storm** swept through Charleville in south-west Queensland on Tuesday, knocking down trees and causing minor damage. The scene prompted many residents to post photos and videos on social media.

Dust storm would be seen in the areas adjacent to desert and dry belts, and large scale tree planting could save the nation from the adverse effects of dust storm.

BOOK REVIEW

Name of the Book: Kabitake Bhalobeshe (Bengali); Poetry - My Love (English Translation).

Name of the Author: S.K. Das, IFS (Rtd.) Name of the Translator: Chandana Khan, IAS (Rtd.)

Publishers: Annyadin, 52B, Jainuddin Mistry Lane, Kolkata – 700 027

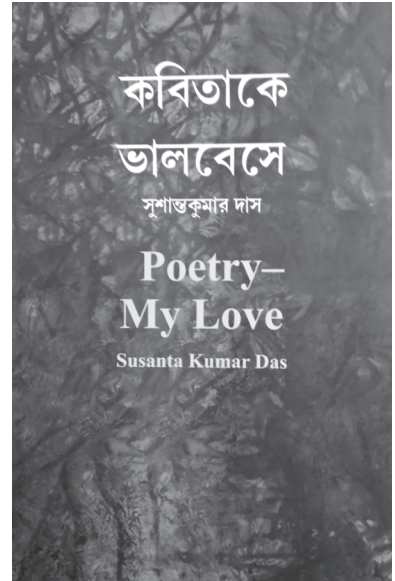
Price: Rs. 100.00

The book is a collection of 27 beautiful poems written by the author in Bengali. His friends requested him saying that if he ever published a book of poems, an authentic translation into English should be part of it so that, they can also read and enjoy the poems. In deference to the request of his friends. this book is published with the poems in Bengali along with English translation. The translator has done a masterly job in rendering the poems from Bengali into English.

Author Suanta Kumar Das, popular as S.K. Das, joined Indian Forest Service in 1972 and after successfully serving the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department in different capacities, rose to the highest position and retired in 2007 as the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force. People who worked with S.K. Das know him as an efficient forester and an able administrator, but very few know him as a poet, writing zealously in Bengali. His performance, talent and character earned him a place of high esteem.

I am presented a copy of the book so that I could write a review. At first I received the book but after going through some of the poems I developed cold feet and doubted my own competence to write a review; truly speaking I thought I am too unequal to the task. Yet, I felt I must do justice and feel it would be a source of pride and pleasure to write the review.

In the few poems, the author traversed many areas as a lover of nature, and a keen birdwatcher, a philosopher, a romantic viewer of life, an emotional patriot, an admirer of Tagore's music, a campaigner of untouchability and casteless society etc. etc. In a wave of nostalgia, he writes about his conversation with different people and drowning into the files during his service to deal with complicated matters.



Addressing the Lord in a poem: **The song of Infinity**, the poet in S.K Das says—

You are always there, in the air and the sky

On the land and in water, inside and outside me

I don't understand why my eyes refuse to see you?

In **The Legacy of My Love**, the author foresees the end of his journey of life and says:

One day I cease to exist in this world

I would leave behind

The surging humanity, trees and creepers

Animals and Birds

For a destination unknown

In the same poem, the poet recalls—

That winter afternoon

The kingfisher would have dived on the pond

With a masterly, feathery stroke

And hunt the fish with dexterity.

The author yearns to understand the stories of his fellow brothers and is anxious to know

"The tales of my immediate environment

Of trees and creepers, of birds and animals" before he sets to the inevitable journey. A Philosophic expression woven into rhythmic words of course!

Remembering Netaji, with a patriotic fervour, the poet paid homage to the great leader in the following words:

"You became a warrior, a crusader against the tyranny

Of the foreign power,

You staked everything to achieve the goal."

The author remembers with reverence Rabindranath and says: "I feel happy when I hear Tagore's song in a musical meet." He also recalls the performance of Shehnai maestro Bismilla Khan in Hyderabad.

The book is a short and sweet collection of poems and the poetry flows from the heart of the author. Truly, poetry is the Author's love. There are not many spelling mistakes. One shortcoming is that the pages are not numbered in Roman numerical. In the contents, the poems listed are not serially numbered. These simple omissions are insignificant when compared to the quality and content of the poems. It is a small and beautiful bound book and made available to the readers at a very, very reasonable price.

NEWS AND NOTES

These 14 Cities In India Rank Among World's

Polluted:- New Delhi, Gwalior, Varanasi and Kanpur were among the 14 Indian cities that figured in a list of 20 most polluted cities in the world, based on their toxic air quality, a data released by World Health Organization showed. On PM 2.5, most polluted city is Varanasi, Major sources of air pollution from particulate matter - pollutants like sulphate, nitrate and black carbon - include inefficient use of energy by households, industry, agriculture and transport sectors, and coal-fired power plants. The study found that "around seven million people die every year from exposure to fine particles in polluted air".

Other Indian cities that registered very high levels of PM2.5 - tiny particulate matter that reaches deep into the lungs - were Faridabad, Gaya, Agra, Patna, Muzaffarpur, Srinagar, Gurgaon, Jaipur, Patiala and Jodhpur. All top ten cities on PM 2.5 are in India.

Nine out of 10 people on the planet breathe polluted air, and it kills 7 million people each year, almost all of them in Asian countries and African countries, according to the WHO report. About a quarter of deaths from heart disease, stroke and lung cancer can be attributed to air pollution, it said.

About 1.1 million people a year die from the impacts of air pollution in India, reported Reuters, quoting a 2015 survey by the US-based Health

Effects Institute. That is about a quarter of the total number of air pollution deaths worldwide, it said.

The report provides air quality data from more than 4,300 cities and towns in 108 countries, constituting the world's biggest database of ambient, or outdoor, air pollution. The UN agency's assessment is based on satellite data and modelling overlaid on the database of cities, which is self-selecting because it is based on voluntary reporting, with numbers that have been hugely revised since the previous report.

Scientists look to songbirds to solve human

speech disorders:- The Rockefeller University scientists look at the brain circuits in songbirds which they say, show similarities to humans. The discovery may help individuals with speech disorders. Roselle Chen reports.

Lion mothers cubs after lioness dies:- There's nothing quite like mother's love. More so in the lion kingdom where child rearing is almost exclusively a mother's domain. Male lions often kill cubs sired by the previous leader when they take over a pride. Even when their own male cubs grow up, they get kicked out. In such a scenario, a lion from Bedhia village of Gir-Somnath district is rewriting parenting rules in the last abode of Asiatic lions in the world.

The lion, christened Bedhia Nar, has single-handedly raised three cubs. The cubs were

barely three months old when their mother got electrocuted while entering a farm. The pride did not have any other lioness, and Bedhia Nar took over the job. The three cubs are now aged two.

"We never expected the lion to be so responsible towards its cubs," says Jalpan Rupapara who, along with fellow naturalist Purvesh Kacha, has been documenting the lion's activities with 26 CCTV night vision cameras with permission from the Gir forest department. "Generally, lions do not actively participate in child rearing. In fact, a lioness generally keeps cubs away from the lion as they are known to attack their litter if they suspect the cubs' paternity," adds Rupapara, a radiologist by profession.

Papa lions are also known to be lazy, spending most of their day lying in the shade, waiting for one of their wives to bring home dinner.

However, Bedhia Nar not only hunted and fed the little ones, but also taught them to hunt and hid them when he was away. Kacha, an anesthetist, says the Bedhia lion even avoided mating for two years and never allowed another 'step-mother' to come near his cubs. (With thanks to Sunday Times)

Indore, Bhopal & Chandigarh cleanest cities in India: Survey: - Indore and Bhopal have retained their position as the top two cleanest cities for the second consecutive year and Chandigarh has been ranked as the third cleanest

city.

The results of sanitation survey announced by housing and urban affairs minister Hardeep Singh Purion Wednesday ranked New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) as the cleanest city among municipal bodies with less than three lakh population while Greater Mumbai was found to be the cleanest among all state capitals.

According to the survey report, Vijayawada is cleanest among big cities having more than one million populations while Mysuru has emerged as the cleanest among cities with population of three lakh to one million.

The government said during Swachh Survekshan, 37.66 lakh citizens gave their feedback, which covered 4,203 municipal areas across the country. In 2017, only 434 municipal areas having one lakh or more population were ranked on sanitation parameters.

"The on-field survey for Swachh Survekshan has been conducted by an independent agency and the data for ranking of the cities has been collected from three sources - service level progress; direct observation by random field visits, and the third was citizen feedback," said an official.

Higher weightage of 35 per cent was given to the citizen feedback.

Unlike in the past, the sanitation survey has ranked at national level and cities with

population of less than one lakh were ranked at zonal level – North, South, East, West and North East.

2 tiger poachers arrested; 20 kg of bones and tiger skin recovered: - Two tiger poachers were arrested with nearly 20 kilogram of bones and a skin of the wild cat in Uttar Pradesh's Bijnor, a wildlife body today said.

The arrests were made after a night-long joint operation conducted by Wildlife SOS and the Special Task Force (STF) of the UP Police, a statement by Wildlife SOS said.

"The wildlife conservation NGO in a joint operation with the Special Task Force and forest department intercepted two poachers in possession of wildlife contraband.

"The successful anti-poaching operation resulted in recovery of a tiger skin along with tiger bones from Nagina in Bijnor," the statement said.

The two tiger poachers have been booked under relevant sections of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

The tiger skin measures over 10 feet in length indicating it to be a large male tiger in its prime and weighs about eight kilogram and measures approximately six feet across.

The tiger bones weigh nearly 20 kilogram and the contraband is now evidence in this matter, it said.

"It is suspected that since the Nagina and Bijnor area form buffer zones to the Corbett Tiger

Reserve, the tiger has been poached in the bordering agricultural area.

"The Corbett Tiger Reserve is located about 50 kms. from Nagina. The photos have been sent to the Wildlife Institute of India to confirm the identity of the tiger from the national database," the wildlife body said.

This is the fourth seizure that the team has carried out in Bijnor this year. Corbett Tiger Reserve and its buffer areas are known to have a higher density of tigers and is therefore quite vulnerable to poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking, it said.

It is reassuring to have the accused under custody and we are thankful to Wildlife SOS for their efforts in making this seizure a success," the statement quoting Head of the UP Special Task Force (STF) Aravind Chaturvedi said.

Kartick Satyanarayan, co-founder and CEO Wildlife SOS, said the organisation invested several months to gather valuable intelligence that was shared with the police and the forest department.

"The objective of Wildlife SOS is to protect India's natural heritage by assisting with law enforcement. Poaching and possession of protected wildlife and illegal trade of body parts is a criminal offence which is non bailable.

"If convicted the accused could be jailed for up to seven years. It is essential to have offenders brought to justice to set an example for others to learn. The government of India invests a lot

to protect India's national animal and it's the duty of every citizen to protect our endangered wildlife," he said.

Nagarahole Forest Guard Scales Mount

Everest: - It is a proud moment for Nagarahole Division of the Karnataka Forest Department as one of the staff in the division has scaled the Mount Everest and has spread the message of conservation from the highest peak in the world. C. Vikram, serving as a Forest Guard at Veeranahosalli Range of Nagarahole Tiger Reserve has scaled the Mount Everest successfully. On reaching the summit, Vikram first hoisted the Karnataka flag and also unfurled a banner explaining tiger conservation activities in Nagarahole carried out by the Forest Department.

Twenty-five-year-old Vikram hails from Vijayapura in Davanagere district has completed his Master of Arts in Economics through Correspondence Course. Nurturing a wish to scale the Mount Everest, he resigned from Karnataka Road Development Corporation Ltd., (KRDCL) and joined the Forest Department for his daily dose of adventure.

A lover of nature since his younger days, Vikram has participated in many marathons conveying the message of environmental conservation.

Last year, he bagged the first place in the Malnad Marathon. He is an avid swimmer too and has bagged the first place in the freestyle category in the State-level competitions organized by the Forest Department. He also secured the top place in the 5,000 meters cross country race. According to Assistant Conservator of Forest, Prasanna Kumar and Range Forest Officer M.K. Madhu, the Forest Department has extended all possible help to Vikram so that he could complete the training and achieve the feat.

Apart from sanctioning leave, the Department mobilized finance through various NGOs and Vikram's colleagues also helped. "Everest expedition needed Rs. 14 lakhs and there was no provision in the Forest Department rules to sanction the fund. But we managed to mobilize funds through various sources," Prasanna Kumar said.

Vikram's colleagues said that he had been an adventure enthusiast and had nurtured the dream of climbing the tallest peak since his student days. He is the second official from the Forest Department to scale the Everest after Deputy Conservator of Forests S. Prabhakaran, who had successfully climbed the Everest in 2016. Vana Premi congratulates both the Officers of Forest Department and wishes them all the best for future.

A smile is like a Sim card & Life is like a cellphone. Whenever you insert the Sim card of a smile, a beautiful day is activated

LEGALNOTES

State of Maharashtra through' ACF (Protection) and Wildlife Warden, Nagpur Vs. Shri Suraj Pal

Suraj Pal of Delhi and others were arrested for several offences against the Wildlife Protection Act. The allegation against Suraj Pal was that he is a trader dealing with sale and purchase of endangered wild animals including critically endangered wild animals, like tiger and their parts and products; he provides finances and logistical support to poachers for killing and delivering skins and other parts of killed animals. He has also dealings with international wild animal dealers and traders. When arrested and produced before the magistrate, he applied for bail that was refused. Then he approached the District and Sessions court and obtained bail. It is against the bail granted by the Additional Sessions Judge, Nagpur which is challenged by the State and preferred an appeal in the High Court of Bombay (Nagpur Branch) under Section 439 (2) of Cr. P.C. seeking cancellation of the bail. The bail was granted by the Sessions Court in M.C.A No. 1332/2014 under Section 439 (1) Cr. P.C.

The appeal petition of the State in Crl. A. No. 99/2014 came up for consideration before the Bench of S.B. Shukre, J. It was argued by the Public Prosecutor that there is overwhelming evidence against the accused involving him in wildlife trading and he is said to be responsible for killing tiger in Melghat of Amaravati district. There is evidence to show that the accused had advanced Rs. 20 lakh to one accused Sarju through other co-accused Naresh. The latter are the agents who purchased tiger skins, nails and bones. These facts have come to light when Sarju and Naresh were arrested in Delhi on 07.09.2013. They were apprehended by police when they were travelling in a car. They stated before the Delhi

Police all that relating to the poaching activity, killing tiger etc. There were confessional statements of not only Naresh and Sarju but also of Suraj Pal. It was submitted that the confessions disclose that Suraj Pal has transnational ramifications. The crime committed by the accused is very serious and threatens the very survival of the society; because, without tigers the forests cannot survive and without forests, human society cannot sustain itself. Learned Sessions Judge vital aspects of the whole issue and they relate to possibility of the accused fleeing from justice. The court below ought to have considered the seriousness of the crime but unfortunately the learned Additional Sessions Judge ignored the vital aspects of the case and the possibility of the accused fleeing from justice and tampering the evidence thus interfering with the course of justice. It was urged that the bail be cancelled. The counsel for the respondent argued that the law requires the courts to balance considerations - seriousness of crime and necessity to keep the accused behind bars etc. against the personal liberty. Both sides cited case law extensively for cancellation of bail and confirmation of the bail granted by the Sessions Court.

The court had to consider whether or not the learned Additional Sessions Judge exercised his discretion in granting bail to the respondent following parameters applicable to exercise of discretion of granting bail.

It is on record that there are reasonable grounds and sufficient material for believing prima facie that the allegations made against the respondent are true, particularly in the light of

his own confession as well as the confession of the co-accused before the forest officers which are not hit by Section 25 of the Evidence Act as forest officers are not police officers.

The most important factor missed by the learned Additional Sessions Judge is of seriousness of the crime alleged against the respondent. Seriousness of a crime is not to be judged by the quantum of punishment alone. It must also be gauged by its enormity, its ramifications, its extent and reach, its repercussions and impact on the society or larger public interest. The crime alleged against the respondent viewed by all these parameters is of very serious nature. Prima facie the respondent has shown proclivity to deal in dead parts of tiger, the offence has international ramifications and above all irreversible adverse impact on the large public interest.

The Hon'ble High Court, taking into consideration the importance of nature conservation in general, and the need for conservation of wildlife in particular, felt that there is need to protect carnivores (including tiger) and herbivores (like deer) and held that tiger is a symbol of wilderness and for wellbeing of ecosystem tiger constitutes the top carnivore in the ecosystem Removal of the top carnivore from an ecosystem will lead to relative abundance of herbivores. Tiger is not just a carnivore, which feeds on small animals but a large predator and its presence in a forest ecosystem, keeps under check the population of bigger herbivores such as deer, blue bull etc. within limits.....

Bail to respondent is not only in ignorance of relevant material available on record, but also

recapturing carbon from atmosphere and converting it into solid form such as trees and vegetation, maintaining hydrological balance, protecting human society from natural disasters, soil erosion, maintaining medicinal and genetic diversity, playing a pivotal role in maintaining water cycles and acting as rich source of good water to mankind. A healthy forest ecosystem determines sustainability of life on earth and tigers are so important for a healthy forest ecosystem. Therefore extinction of tigers means depriving of future generations of *Homo sapiens*, the pleasure of seeking some change and reprieve in forests from the daily hum drum of life.

The respondent and the co-accused were lodged in prison in connection with some other wildlife cases also, when the respondent gave a threat to life of the other co-accused. Thus there is going to be hindrance to the course of justice. The discretion used by the learned Additional Sessions Judge is in ignorance of the relevant record. The High Court therefore decided to cancel bail granted to the respondent/accused in exercise of powers under Section 439 (2) of Cr. P.C. The appeal petition of the State is allowed on 12.12.2014 and the bail granted to the respondent/accused on 30.07.2014 by the Additional Sessions Judge, Nagpur is cancelled.

The counsel for the respondent requested the court to suspend the order for two months to enable his client seek relief by filing appeal in the Supreme Court. But the High Court granted time for 10 days till 22.12.2014.

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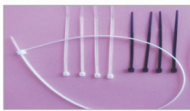
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