

Vana Premi wishes very happy 72nd independence day

VANA PREMI

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No.08



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adorned with domes and minarets at Lal-qila (Red Fort) old Delhi*



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EDITORIAL

World Mosquito Day: World Mosquito Day is observed annually on 20 August, throughout the globe to commemorate British doctor Sir Ronald Ross's and Dr. Ratnam Pillai's discovery in 1897 at Secunderabad that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans. Dr Ross was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine for his discovery on malaria in 1902 but unfortunately Dr. Ratnam Pillai's contribution was not acknowledged. London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine have been conducting World Mosquito Day every year on 20 August where Dr. Ross worked as Professor. They host parties and exhibitions in memory of Sir Ronald Ross.

Mosquitoes transmit various diseases like Zika fever, Malaria, West Nile fever, Dengue fever, Yellow fever, Chikungunya and also Filariasis which is a parasitic disease caused by an infection with roundworms of the Filarioidea type. These are spread by blood-feeding black flies and mosquitoes. These are some of the most prevalent diseases spread around the world by mosquito bites: Malaria was one of the most dangerous disease and cause of the death around the world.

Sir Ronald Ross was a British medical doctor and was born in Almora, on 13 May 1857, the eldest of ten children of Sir Campbell Claye Grant Ross, General in the British Indian Army, and Matilda Charlotte Elderton. At fourteen years of age he won a prize for mathematics. In 1873, at sixteen, he secured first position in the Oxford and Cambridge local examination in drawing. From his early childhood he developed passion for

poetry, music, literature and mathematics. Although he wanted to become a writer, his father arranged enrollment at St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College in London, in 1874. He received the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1902 for his work on the transmission of malaria, becoming the first British Nobel laureate, and the first born outside Europe. His discovery of the malaria parasite in the gastrointestinal tract of a mosquito in 1897 proved that malaria was transmitted by mosquitoes, and laid the foundation for the method of combating the disease. He worked in the Indian Medical Service for 25 years. It was during his service that he made the groundbreaking medical discovery. After resigning from his service in India, he joined the faculty of Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, and continued as Professor and Chairman of Tropical Medicine of the institute for 10 years. In 1926 he became Director-in-Chief of the Ross Institute and Hospital for Tropical Diseases, which was established in honor of his works. He remained there until his death on 16 September 1932.

Sir Ronald Ross worked on his research from a laboratory in the old Begumpet military hospital building built in 1895. This building was surrounded by marshes which proved rather helpful for his research experiments. Sir Ronald Ross made his first major breakthrough in the study of malaria while working in Secunderabad. After two years of research, in July 1897, he managed to culture 20 adult "brown" mosquitoes from collected larvae. He

successfully infected the mosquitoes from a patient named Husain Khan for a price of 8 *annas* (one *anna* per blood-fed mosquito!). After blood-feeding, he dissected the mosquito and found an "almost perfectly circular" cell from the gut, which was certainly not part of the mosquito. On 4 July he discovered that the salivary gland was the storage sites of malarial parasites in the mosquito. By 8 July he was convinced that the parasites are released from the salivary gland during biting. On 20 August he confirmed the presence of the malaria parasite inside the gut of mosquito, which he originally identified as "dappled-wings" (which turned out to be species of the genus *Anopheles*). The next day, on 21 August, he confirmed the growth of the parasite in the mosquito. To commemorate his breakthrough, a memorial was installed at the SSKM hospital Kolkata, unveiled by Ross himself in 1927.

Nobel laureate Sir Ronald Ross discovered the presence of malaria parasite in the intestines of female anopheles mosquito at the fag end of his stint as medical officer on these premises between 1895 and 1897, when it was a hospital for the British regimental troops.

The whole world remembers the contribution of Sir Ronald Ross, the doctor who linked mosquito bite to malaria on August 20, 1897 and won a Nobel Prize for the discovery. A very few, however, know that there was a Hyderabad-based doctor, Ratnam Pillai, (originally from Madras state) who was a medical assistant to Dr. Ross at the military hospital for Indian soldiers in Begumpet during the epochal discovery. "He

did his medicine from Royapuram Medical School in Madras and joined Indian Medical Service as hospital assistant at Military Hospital, Bolaram and later at Begumpet hospital with Dr. Ross. "The hospital was meant for Indian soldiers, who had malaria and the research was done on them. In fact, Dr. Ratnam Pillai had played a vital role in malaria research, but his contribution was not acknowledged,"

Malaria is a potentially life threatening disease caused by the bite of infected *Anopheles* mosquitoes was discovered about 120 years ago. Though the incident of malaria is decreasing, it is estimated that 216 million cases were reported and 445000 deaths were caused due to malaria worldwide in one year which is very high number. As per the latest report, of WHO-UNICEF India is third among 15 countries having the highest incident of malaria cases and deaths due to the disease. We in India have utterly failed to control the population of mosquitoes and malaria. We cannot afford to lose Mosquitoes also. Mosquito larvae are very important in aquatic ecology. Many other insects and small fish feed on them and the loss of that food source would cause their numbers to decline as well. Anything that feeds on them, such as game fish, raptorial birds, etc. would in turn suffer too. Hence we have to keep a balance and develop method which prevents mosquitoes' bites and saves us from malaria.

Vana Premi wishes that research is done in our country to prevent the mosquito bites which will save human and animal life from the malaria disease. **QMK**

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Dear Editor,

You have dealt so well the topical issue of population's unprecedented growth and the need to curb it, through your Editorial in the July issue of 'VP'. In addition to it, other contents too make such a good reading. Congratulations! Of special interest was the article by K B R Reddy who has helped the families of his departed colleagues in getting their family-pensions. May his tribe increase! He has also reminded the living pensioners of their obligations towards their spouses, to enable them to expeditiously get the family-pensions.

The Quarterly Journal 'Vana Vikas' being brought out by KRFOA as its mouthpiece appears to have caught of late special attention of the State Forest Department — which was already subscribing for 500 copies for departmental distribution (up to DCF – level) since last one year — in as much as the HoFF is contemplating to subscribe for another 500 copies (to cover even all Ranges), because of the quality articles by Syts J V Sharma, Dr. S N Rai, B K Singh, A K Varma, B M T Rajeev et al, and Legal Notes by K Buchiram Reddy. So might be the case with even 'Vana Premi'!

With best wishes,

Dr. Raghotham Rao Desai

The Editor,

I convey my congratulations to you for some of the excellent articles published your journal in June, 2018. Some of these articles are important as well as interesting. In this context I refer to the 'Legal Notes' published on page-53 and 54 of June issue.

2. I am a senior Lawyer and Former Member of Parliament, so I read with keen interest these legal notes on the High Court case under Wildlife Protection Act decided by the Nagpur Bench of the Maharashtra High Court recently. It is very educative and enlightening on the provisions of Wildlife Act and the need for curbing, poaching and killing wildlife.

3. In this context you may furnish information or clarification on the following points:

(i) Whether this case has gone to the Supreme Court, if so, what is the present status of the case?

(ii) Whether the accused received any conviction in this case after the appeal was allowed by the High Court. In other words what is the present status of this case.

(iii) To which countries the export of tiger skins nails and bones etc. are made and how many cases of this kind were booked in the last 3 years.

(iv) This article is worth circulation to the District Bar Associations and District Libraries in the state. You may send 2 copies of this article by email.

Thanks and regards,

(M. Narayan Reddy, Ex-M.P.,) Nizamabad

INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

India's Independence Day is a day of great significance for the people of India. This year in 2018, India is celebrating its 72nd Independence Day. Independence Day is a day when people in India pay homage to their leaders and those who fought for India's freedom in the past. The period leading up to Independence Day is a time when major government buildings are illuminated with strings of lights and the tricolor flutters from homes and other buildings. Broadcast, print and online media may have special contests, programs, and articles to promote the day. Movies about India's freedom fighters are also shown on television.

The president delivers the "Address to the Nation" on the eve of Independence Day. India's prime minister unfurls India's flag and holds a speech at the Red Fort in Old Delhi. Flag hoisting ceremonies and cultural programs are held in the state capitals and involve many schools and organizations. Many people attend flag hoisting and spend the day with family members or close friends.

Independence coincided with the partition of India, in which the British India was divided into the Dominions of India and Pakistan;

Public Life

Independence Day is a gazetted holiday in India on August 15 each year. National, state and local

government offices, post offices and banks are closed on this day. Stores and other businesses and organizations may be closed or have reduced opening hours.

Public transport is usually unaffected as many locals travel for celebrations but there may be heavy traffic and increased security in areas where there are celebrations. Independence Day flag raising ceremonies may cause some disruption to traffic, particularly in Delhi and capital cities in India's states.

Background

European traders had established outposts in the Indian subcontinent by the 17th century. Through overwhelming military strength, the British East India company subdued local kingdoms and established themselves as the dominant force by the 18th century. The struggle for India's Independence began in 1857 with the Sepoy Mutiny in Meerut. Later, in the 20th century, the Indian National Congress and other political organizations, under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, launched a countrywide independence movement. Colonial powers were transferred to India on August 15, 1947.

The Constituent Assembly, to whom power was to be transferred, met to celebrate India's independence at 11pm on August 14, 1947. India gained its liberty and became a free

country at midnight between August 14 and August 15, 1947. It was then that the free India's first prime minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru gave his famous "Tryst with Destiny" speech. People across India are reminded of the meaning of this event - that it marked the start of a new era of deliverance from the British colonialism that took place in India for more than 200 years.

Symbols

The sport of kite flying symbolizes Independence Day. The skies are dotted with countless kites flown from rooftops and fields to symbolize India's free spirit of India. Kites of various styles, sizes and shades, including the tricolor are available in the marketplaces. The Red Fort in Delhi is also an important Independence Day symbol in India as it is where Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru unveiled India's flag on August 15, 1947.

India's national flag is a horizontal tricolor of deep saffron (*kesaria*) at the top, white in the middle

and dark green at the bottom in equal proportion. Saffron in the tricolor stands for courage and sacrifice. The white stands for peace, truth and purity, while the green symbolizes faith, fertility and chivalry. The Ashok Chakra a navy-blue wheel in the center of the white band with its 24 spokes, stands for righteousness. The ratio of the flag's width to its length is two to three. Its design is that of the wheel which appears on the abacus of the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka. Its diameter approximates to the white band's width and it has 24 spokes.

When the country became independent in 1947, there was no national anthem. The Bengali invocation of Jana Gana Mana was written in 1911 and was first sung on December 27, 1911 at the Calcutta Session of the Indian National Congress. It became our anthem in 1950. Originally composed by Rabindranath Tagore, it was adopted by the Constituent Assembly as the National Anthem of India on January 24, 1950.

No one in this world is rich enough to buy his own childhood and youth back. Only friends help to recreate those movements from time to time at no cost.

Never believe what the lines of your hand predict about your future, because people who don't have hands also have a future.

MALABAR TROGON (*HARPACTES FASCIATUS*)

The **Malabar trogon** (*Harpactes fasciatus*) is a species of bird in the trogon family. It is found in the forests of Sri Lanka and peninsular India. In India it is mainly found in the Western Ghats, hill forests of central India and in parts of the Eastern Ghats. They are insectivorous and although not migratory, may move seasonally in response to rain in hill forest regions. Like in other trogons, males and females vary in plumage. The birds utter low guttural calls that can be heard only at close quarters and the birds perch still on a branch under the forest canopy, often facing away from the viewer making them easy to miss despite their colorful plumage.

Like most other trogons, these birds are brightly colored and sexually dimorphic. The male has a slaty black head and breast with a white border to the black bib separating it from the crimson on the underside. The back is olive-brown to chestnut. The wing coverts are black with fine white vermiculations. They have 12 tail feathers that are graduated. The central tail-feathers are chestnut with a black tip, with the second and third pairs from the middle having more black than chestnut. The outer three pairs have long white tips. The female lacks the contrasting black and crimson and has only a slightly darker head and breast that shades into the olive brown on

the back while the crimson of the underside of the male is replaced by ochre. In both sexes, the beak is bluish as is the skin around the eye. The iris is dark brown and the feet are pale bluish. The nostrils are covered by tufts of filoplumes.

Several populations have been named. The central Indian subspecies *legerli*, named by Walter Norman Koelz on the basis of a single specimen obtained from the foot of Mahendra Giri in Orissa is not always recognized,¹ but said to be slightly larger, longer winged and brighter than *malabaricus* of the Western Ghats. The nominate race found in the central wet zone of Sri Lanka is smaller and the upperparts are brighter.

Behaviour and Ecology: These birds usually perch still, especially when alarmed and will sometimes clinging laterally to branches. When calling they sometimes raise and lower their tail. The call is a series of guttural or purring notes. The song of the male is a series of percussive *kyau* calls. The breeding season in India is mainly February to May (before the Monsoons) while it is March to June in Sri Lanka. When they sit still, they appear hunched. The Hindi name used by hunters is *kafni churi* and refers to the hunched neckless appearance as

if dressed in a *fakir's kafni* (robe). The Marathi name is *karna* while it is called *kakarne hakki* in Kannada. In Kerala it is known as *theekakka* (literally "fire-crow"). In Sri Lanka, it is known as *loha wannichcha*.

Malabar trogons feed exclusively on insects and fruits have not been noted in their diet unlike in the New World trogons. Seeds have however been reported in the diet of Sri Lankan specimens.^[11] In the forests of Sri Lanka, they are often found in mixed-species foraging flocks^[12] where they may sometimes be subject to kleptoparasitism by drongos.^[13] A study in Kerala found that they foraged mainly at 5 to 10 m with females tending to forage lower within the canopy. When foraging on bark, they propped themselves using their tail like woodpeckers, especially on decaying tree stumps. They sometimes descend to the ground and search for insects under leaf litter. They will sometimes fly and try to flush prey and then hover to pick up prey. They may also hang upside down to reach prey on vertical tree surfaces. Prey are often mashed or struck on a branch between the mandibles before feeding on them or prior to feeding young. The contact call is a series of about five low intensity *quew* while these were of higher intensity in territorial fights. The alarm call is a *churrrr* and a similar call is also delivered prior to roosting.^[10] Although their flight is fast,

they are reluctant to fly. In the Nilgiri hills they are altitudinal migrants and are found in the higher reaches only during summer.

The nest is made in rotting trees or stumps that are easy to carve and pulverize using their bills.

The male and female take turns to excavate the nest using their bills. It may take about a month to excavate the nest. The floor is made out of the wood powder and no extra lining is added.

Two eggs were seen to be the normal clutch in a study in Kerala although older works suggest that the typical clutch is of three eggs. The eggs are laid with a gap of two days and incubated by both males and females with the females usually incubating at night. The incubation period is about 19 days. The hatchlings are fed mainly caterpillars for the initial period and later provided bugs, flies and orthopterans (any insect.) The parents do not remove the excreta of the nestlings from the nest. The adults continue to feed the fledged juveniles for nearly 5 to 6 months. They are socially monogamous with pair bonds lasting more than a season.

The species is becoming rarer in many parts of India and it is thought to be sensitive to forest fragmentation. Salim Ali noted it as being common in some areas of the Surat Dangs where it is now rare. One of his records is from Ajwa in Vadodara district which is believed to be a typographical error for Ahwa further south.



Malabar trogon (Male) *Harpactes fasciatus*



Sri N.Sridhar, I.A.S., C&MD, SCCL inaugurating Telanganaku Harithaharam in Singareni



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- Sri N.Sridhar I.A.S., C&MD SCCL honoured with "Asia Pacific Enterprenuer Ship Award - 2018" and "Outstanding Leadership Award -2018".



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BIRDS OF UPPALAPADU

By
A.V. Joseph

Uppalapadu is a coastal village with a human population of 6000 nos. and 1500 nos. houses. It is located 10 kms. from Guntur district headquarters and is well connected to the main road. There is a village tank of 10 acres area supporting a good population of water birds viz. spot billed pelican, painted storks, white ibis, open billed stork and herons. It is a mixed colony of breeding birds and the villagers have been protecting them for ages. The land belongs to the village *panchayat* under revenue department control. I happen to visit the place sometime in the year 1995 and at that time the foreshore area of the tank was being converted into a *Zilla Parishad* high school with land filling, road laying and construction works all going at a frenetic pace.

Sometime in 2005, Sri Nalini Mohan the then conservator of forests, Guntur confided that the Uppalapadu tank with its reduced area is overcrowded with birds and there are insufficient nesting trees for the birds to nest and breed. The forest department had undertaken habitat improvement works at Uppalapadu like deepening and de silting of the tank, strengthening of the crumbling bunds and islands, planting of tall seedlings like Babul, Barringtonia, Jamun, Terminalia etc. These activities had definitely improved the condition of the habitat but the vegetation could not establish. Whatever seedlings planted on the

island and bund were damaged by the birds by perching, defecating and utilized as nesting material by the birds. The predominant vegetation in the island within the tank were *Prosopis juliflora* along with medium sized Babul trees but the continuous roosting and nesting of the birds coupled with their acidic droppings has led to negative incremental growth of the existing trees. The spot billed pelicans weigh between 4 to 6 kgs. and the best nesting trees are Tamarind, Barringtonia and Babul etc. which have resilient branches and can bear the weight of the birds and will not break easily. *Prosopis juliflora* is unsuitable for pelicans to nest on them. With the huge number of 7500 pelicans, painted storks, open billed storks and ibises making Uppalapadu its home the trees existing were severely put to test.

The problem posed by the conservator of forests was taken up by the wildlife wing of the department and it was suggested to try installing artificial steel fabricated tree platform (design supplied by the zoo park, Hyderabad) within the tank so that the existing vegetative growth will be spared from over usage and it can recoup itself. To begin with two tall galvanized steel pipes of 25 feet length with a circular platform of 6 to 7 feet diameter were installed in the bed of the tank for the birds to roost and to nest. The birds were very cautious and initially did not venture anywhere near the

artificial structures. The CF was very disappointed but from zoo management experiences the CF was reassured that it is only a matter of time before the birds try to use the structure. A few months later the CF was overjoyed to see the pelicans and painted storks using the artificial nesting platform for roosting. It was suggested to the CF to provide cut nesting material in the form of thin twigs and branches of babul, lantana and tamarind tree on the island and on the bund of the tank. Within a short period, the pelicans and the painted storks began to nest and the experiment was successful. The conservator of forests, a very intrepid personality along with Sri Gopinath DFO, Guntur further perfected the design by observing the field requirement of the birds and now a thriving colony of pelicans, painted storks and ibises use the artificial platforms erected within the tank for roosting and breeding purposes.

Uppalapadu tank is a community tank and for ages the local people were managing it and taking care of the structure. The minute the forest department entered the scene the villagers absolved their responsibility and began to raise a plethora of issues concerning the birds and the tank. The village had protected drinking water supply but the water in the Uppalapadu tank was used for general purposes of washing their cattle etc by the villagers. The villagers protested that the tank water is severely contaminated by the bird droppings and is not fit for general use. Their demands were taken to the district

authorities who promised to lay a separate pipeline from Telugu Ganga Canal to their village to meet their general requirements. Since Uppalapadu tank is a community resource attempt was made through the villagers to get it notified under wildlife act as a community reserve and the efforts are still on. In the year 2006, 'Operation Kolleru' was undertaken and the illegal fish tanks in Kolleru wildlife sanctuary were dismantled and illegal occupation removed. With the removal of all illegal structures in Kolleru Lake the spot billed pelican reappeared and made Kolleru Lake its abode. Spot billed pelicans used to nest on palmyra trees, in hundreds in Kolleru and in 1960. Kolleru Lake were made a Bird Reserve under the Wild birds and Animal Protection Act, 1912 for the protection of pelicans. With the advent of fish culture in Kolleru Lake the Palmyra trees were cut and land converted to fish tanks. So, when the pelicans reappeared there were no trees for the birds to nest. Mr. Gracious the retired forest officer replicated the artificial nesting platform in Kolleru lake and at present there are 110 such structures providing nesting place to roughly 1500 nos. of pelicans. The success in Uppalapadu tank was replicated in Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary. However, the artificial nesting platforms are only a temporary measure to meet the immediate breeding needs of the birds and in the long run only natural trees can meet all the requirements of the birds.

ON THE JOB PRACTICAL TRAINING IN ADILABAD CIRCLE

By
P. K. Sharma

From 14th of July 1982, my formal "On the Job Practical Training" commenced in Adilabad, in the absence of the Conservator of Forests as well as Divisional Forest Officer. Ours was the first batch of IFS where in the pattern of training was changed. Till 1979 batch, "On the Job Practical Training" consisted of 6 months of Range training, besides others; whereas from our batch the Range training was reduced to 4 months and attachment to District Collector, Superintendent of Police, Superintending Engineer (Irrigation), Project Director DRDA (15 days each) was added, besides 15 days with the Conservator of Forests Adilabad and Chief-Conservator of Forests Hyderabad (later on designated as Prl. CCF &HoFF).

The Conservator of Forests Adilabad had chalked out detailed programme for my training, which was available in the office of the CF and DFO Adilabad. In fact, the Conservator of Forests Adilabad was in the additional charge of the post of Divisional Forest Officer. Hence my training programme was initiated by the Head Clerk, Sri Mohd Azeemuddin in the right earnest as per the instructions of the CF Adilabad. Training programme started with the O/o the DFO. I was attached with the various Section in-charges (Senior & Junior Assistants, Draughtsman and Accountant etc.) and started learning the functioning of the various sections of the Division office. This was the first time when I came across the working of a Govt. Office. Later on I was told that the reputation of all the Offices in Telangana region of AP was not good in comparisons to those of Andhra Region. Subsequently I had chance to see the offices in Andhra and Rayalseema regions and found that the offices in Telangana region were no less in any respect; in fact better in many ways. Adilabad district was considered to be one of the most backward districts in the State, but the Circle and Division Office was not!

Sri M. Sita Rama Rao, IFS, Conservator of Forests, Adilabad returned to Adilabad from his long tour on 16th of July. Met and paid respects to him in the evening. He was an elderly and very affectionate person. I recounted my experience of travelling to Adilabad from Purna Jn. on 13th of July. He had hearty laugh. He then took appointment from the Collector Adilabad drove me to his residence for meeting. **Sri Ashok Kumar Goel, IAS**, an RR of 1974 batch, a lovely and affable person hailing from

UP, was the Collector. CF introduced me to the Collector. He extended a very warm welcome to me assured of all the help during my stay in Adilabad. His words were highly re-assuring.

Shri Rajesh Mittal, IFS (RR 1979), my immediate senior, and the DFO Adilabad, returned to Adilabad on 18th of July on expiry of leave with his newlywed wife, Smt. Mamta Mittal. Met the DFO and *Bhabhi ji* and greeted them. On learning about my plight of surviving only on bananas for last 6 days, DFO and *Bhabhi ji*, both almost ordered me to have meals with them. It was quite embarrassing for me as *Bhabhi* had just arrived from her native place and she was not even a day old in Adilabad but gave this "command". But at the same time it was highly tempting offer which I could not have resisted. I had accepted this very affectionate order. I very fondly cherish the sweet memories of the delicious food prepared and served by *Bhabhi ji* till date and the affection showered by Sri Rajesh Mittal Saheb till date. I had chance to dine with Shri A.K. Goel Saheb and Smt. Sushma *Bhabhi ji* in their residence in Collector's Bungalow many a times.

There was no official FD accommodation available for me. In fact the residential quarter of the Conservator of Forests was earlier the residence of the DFO. And the DFO's quarter was a Beedi Leaf Godown. It had therefore no semblance of the residential quarter of the DFO. As narrated earlier, the condition of the Forest Complex was not good. Chamber of the DFO had been painted in dark blue color, which was looking awe fully bad. Chamber of the CF was slightly in a better shape, but not very good. I had thought if I was given funds, first of all I would give a facelift to the entire campus and in particular the FRH and chambers of the DFO & CF. The other thing which got registered in my mind was to stop the smuggling of the forest produce through train, which I had witnessed during my travel from Purna Jn. to Adilabad. At that moment these were matters of conjecture, as I did not know if I would be allotted to Adilabad Range for my Range training.

As luck would have it, I was allotted to Adilabad Range for my Range training. I took over charge from **Sri A. Ram Kumar Naik** on 13th of August 1982. I unfurled the National Flag, for the first time as head of the office, in the Forest Range Office, Adilabad on the Independence Day. I approached the Collector for allotment of Residential Quarter, which he readily agreed to and allotted me a 2 bed room quarter (apartment) in the "White Quarters", on the first floor. My next door neighbor was Sri D. Keshava Murthy, Principal of the Polytechnic College, and his family. He was a thorough gentleman and affectionate person. He had 3 lovely kids. My wife joined me at the end of the month. We enjoyed their company all through our stay in Adilabad.

There was no vehicle for the I/c FRO Adilabad. Though the regular FRO had an official Bullet Motor

Cycle, he preferred to retain it with him. Later on, with the intervention of the DFO it was handed over to me. I had no previous experience of riding a motorbike, but I learnt it very soon. Subsequently the CF allotted me an old Villys Jeep, which could not match the speed of timber smuggler's vehicles. The moment speed exceeded 40 Km/hr, it used to start wobbling. However, I along with the Range staff organized a number of raids on the Purna-Adilabad passenger train and recovered large quantity of timber and firewood. We used to transport the timber and poles to Forest Complex and auction firewood on the Railway Station itself. Regular raids resulted in almost stopping of smuggling by train. I also used to go on night patrolling almost every day, on different routes, with Range staff, covering vulnerable Forests and smuggling routes. There used to be an infamous locality, **Khanapur**, on the outskirts of Adilabad town inhabiting Teak smugglers. There was an Aerodrome (Landing ground) in the town, behind Collector's bungalow. Most of the smuggling routes converged here. We could spot few smugglers near Aerodrome, in the beginning; but they used to run away throwing away the Timber and poles. We had also carried out surprise inspections of the Saw Mills. Our frequent patrolling in that area discouraged the smugglers and as a result smuggling declined. The second task which I undertook as i/c FRO Adilabad, was to take up repairs and maintenance of the Forest Complex and specially the buildings situated in it, more particularly the FRH and the offices of the DFO and CF. After the work was over, the Complex wore a new look, which gave me full satisfaction. In fact the proposed works could be completed in less than the estimated amount. We utilized this amount in taking up additional works, which had not been included in the earlier proposals. On return when I took the Conservator of Forests to his new look Chambers; he remarked as to why did I spend money on this work? However he was nonetheless happy with the work. During Range training and attachments to the Forest Guard and Section Officer, I was familiarized with the procedure of Beat Inspection, booking of Offence cases, night patrolling on the vulnerable routes. This was the only method of Forest Protection, taught to me. I noticed that large tracts of Forests were under illicit occupation for cultivation as well as housing, during my first visit along with the DFO to a village by name **Pipaldhari** in connection with enquiry into a Complaint Petition. When I tried to talk to the villagers involved in the encroachment, I got a rude retort "Has your father grown these forests? Why are you bothered?" They further declared that they were landless poor people and hence had felled the trees and brought the land under cultivation. They also told me that they were doing it for their liveli hoods and that they were not afraid of the Law. I was shocked to hear this. Forest Department appeared to be helpless. The Forest Act was teeth less;

none of these offences were cognizable and hence Offenders used to get bail immediately; Courts usually took very lenient view of these offences and the offenders used to be acquitted and even if prosecution was successful, punishment was nominal. Hence it had no deterring effect. These facts kept troubling me.

There were not many works in Adilabad Range, Only one Teak Plantation of 10 Ha extent at **Malkapur** and a Teak Nursery at **Dampur**. I had accompanied the Conservator of Forests in his inspection to the above sites. I learned the basics of raising and maintenance of Teak Plantations and nurseries. More than the practical field knowledge of the Conservator of Forests **Sri M. Sita Rama Rao**, I was astonished and impressed by his ability to write with both the hands comfortably. He was not only a senior Officer but also a good teacher. He could teach the field Officers in a humorous manner. During my Range training I inspected all the 11 Beats of Adilabad Range. Names of 3 Beats appeared funny / amusing to me as they bore different meanings in Hindi. Those were Dauna, Masala and Bhadi. When I started for my first Beat Inspection, the Section Officer (Forester) offered to get the petrol tank filled up, as the Budget normally was not allotted or used to be allotted with delays or not provided at all. I politely declined the offer as I was sure funds will be provided by the DFO. Forest Guards used to maintain a Beat Felling Register in which record of illicit felling of trees used to be maintained. I was surprised to note that the protective staff was concerned only about felling of Teak trees. They were not at all bothered about felling of the trees of other species. When I started recording felling of non-Teak (**Gairi**) trees, they were not happy. I then had to explain to them about the importance of Bio-diversity and implications due to loss of the same. Teak was abundantly available in Adilabad district, hence I saw villagers using Teak timber and poles in Huts, fencing as well as fuel wood. *Gairi* was used as cutting of the same was not considered an offence. Grazing was almost free, except for Goats. A nominal penalty used to be collected for browsing by Goats, which had no deterrent effect.

I wanted to know about the forest wealth of the district in terms of number of stems and growing stock. Division Office staff curtly told me that no such assessment had been made for the District. However the Draftsman handed over the Working Plan of the Division for reference, which provided some information, but not the complete information.

Probation period was also the period to prepare for and qualify the **Languages and Departmental examinations** being conducted by the AP Public Service Commission. I started preparing for **Telugu Language** examination seriously. One **Sri Sanga Raghunandan**, a Stenographer in the

Agriculture Department volunteered to coach me by giving house tuition free of cost. He was not only a good teacher but also a good cook. He taught my wife how to prepare *Upama, Dosa, Coconut Chutney* and *Sambhar* as well. He deployed various techniques of teaching Telugu to me, which included poems, Sanskrit Shlokas, Riddles and last but not the least – watching Telugu movies. I saw movies like ***Sudi Gundalu, Veer Pandya Katta Brahmanna***, Sri krishnarjuneeyam, Mayuri etc. in not so good theatres of Adilabad. His hand writing was not only good but artistic too. We developed a good bon-homier within a short period, that continues till date. Because of his training, I could clear Telugu Examination in first go itself.

During my Range training, I got an opportunity to attend the **Budget meeting** (RE/BE) convened by the Conservator of Forests at **Kadam** and a chance to meet all the Divisional Forest Officers and Sub-Divisional Officers of the Circle. After a day's long and serious deliberations, time was for relaxation. I and my DFO Sri Mittal were accompanied by our spouses. One thing which I admired about Sri Sita Rama Rao sahib was sense of time discipline.

In my attachment to the CF, I came to know about the Circle administration, office as well as field work. CF sahib handed over me a file of his Field Inspection Notes written in his own hand writing. His hand writing was not easy to understand. Looking at my discomfort, CF *saheb* gave me the typed copies of FINs. These notes gave me fairly good idea of the state of affairs in the field. Most of the FINs pertained to working of Clear felling Coupes and raising & maintenance of plantations. These notes gave the impression that the Field Officers were not strictly adhering to the directions of the CF and that there was scope for improvement in all the aspects of implementation. I got the similar impression in the field of Office Management when CF took final Office Inspection of the office of DFO Jannaram. I had chance to witness sale of Beedi Leaf Units in the office of the CCF (now PCCF) at Hyderabad during CF attachment. I also got an opportunity to be a part of the Committee for the recruitment of Forest Guards and Foresters in Adilabad Division. I was also a member of search party to find out if the Teak timber found in the premises of one **Sri G.V. Sudhakar Rao** by way of tallying of the measurements of the logs with the stumps in the forest of Jannaram Division. We did not succeed in this effort.

On the whole, the first part of "On the job practical training" in the Adilabad Circle was a rich and rewarding experience. It gave me the confidence of dealing with all types of situations and laid strong foundation of my career in Andhra Pradesh Forest Department. **(To be continued)**

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FOREST ENCROACHMENTS: NEED FOR NEW THINKING

By
J.V. Sharma

The Hindu dated 9th July 2018 in its Hyderabad Edition carried a story by Swathi Vadlamudi, titled "Forest land encroachment gets an election boost". The story in brief highlights the fact that the Forest Department in Telangana have been taking over the agricultural lands of tribal since last four years to re-clothe them with tree species under *Haritha Haram* Programme and with the *Panchayat* polls round the corner and Assembly and *Lok sabha* elections not far behind, the forest officials are finding it hard to go ahead with the programme on account of pressure from the political circles. Citing a quote of a highly placed official "Fearing public wrath in election year, leaders right from *Sarpanch* to MLA levels are exerting pressure on us to condone encroachments". The forest officials are asked to spare the land that had already been under cultivation. It is apparent that the land in contention is the forest land and not the agricultural land benignly projected by the scribe who also stated that the Department is 'confiscating' the said lands.

It is heartening to learn that the Forest Department has been trying to plant up the encroached forest lands since last four years. Notwithstanding the absence of political will for decades, the claim now made could be true though the quantum of success needs to be put to strict proof. Hon Chief Minister, Mr. KCR has been very vocal in the cause of forests and he had even grounded a big initiative in the form of highly ambitious programme of *Telangana ku Haritha Haram*. Salvage of encroached forest patches could perhaps be possible because of CM's commitment to forests. He made it clear on many an occasion that it is his dream to bring one-third of the land area of the State under tree cover.

But priorities may change to suit political exigencies. Priorities on principles are a distant cry in the political realm. When it comes to the evaluation of political dividends, the choice always invariably pitches on the strategy which gives them the maximum political mileage. It is no surprise that functionaries from *Sarpanch* to MLA tend to be on the side which fetches them the votes. Encroachers who are essentially law breakers have the votes and the political class cannot afford to be oblivious to this fact. It now needs to be seen whether it can dent the resolve of the Chief Minister. If the Hon CM stands by his declared policy, the forests can breathe easily. Otherwise, they

are doomed.

I have been with the Forest Department since 1955, the days of former Hyderabad State. I have been a witness to a number of changes that had taken place ever since. Suffice it to say that the changes have been too many and too drastic. The departmental machinery could exercise its professional freedom in discharge of duty till 60s. Now the situation is vastly different. The incident cited by the scribe in her story gives us an idea of the malady the forests are afflicted with. I consider it necessary to quote it in her own words. ".... Cultivators of Kankur village in Jaipur Mandal of Mancherial District reportedly contested the claim of the Telangana State Forest Development Corporation (TSFDC) over 120 acres of land. The land parcel is part of 907 acres attested as forest land in the joint survey conducted by Revenue and Forest Departments. The land was reportedly handed over to the Corporation in 1987 for social forestry initiative. After three cycles of Eucalyptus harvest this year, officials planned to undertake Haritha Haram plantation on 412 acres." When the "TSFDC Officials began work with police protection, a group of villagers came and objected saying that the government gave pattas to them 20 years ago. An altercation ensued and six villagers allegedly climbed up a water tank and threatened to commit suicide (*a la Dharmendra in Hindi Movie Sholey*) which had the officials on the back foot. The Collector and Police asked the TSFDC officials to stop the work to prevent a law and order problem. The villagers later filed a writ petition in the Court claiming ownership of all the 412 acres."

"A similar case was also reported from Paloncha where people staked claim over 100 acres of land and the case is in the Court. In both the cases, the foresters say that the villagers have been instigated by local leaders with the lure of getting the land regularised eventually. In some cases, Revenue officials' connivance is suspected in issuing *pattas* for forest land. Confrontations with villagers were also reported from Tekulapally and Ramavaram of Kothagudem District. At Tekulapally a group of women staged a sit-in refusing to allow tractors for Haritha Haram work. The Government have received such reports from Adilabad, Khanapur, Kagaznagar, Bellampalli, Khammam, Kothagudem, Yellandu, Sattupalli, Paloncha, Bhupalpalli, Eturnagaram, Mahbubabad and Jagtial." The newspaper story is not new to forest fraternity. It is a standard plot and strategy to usurp the forest lands for diversion to agriculture purpose. Recent strategies of suicide threats from a water tank or Dharnas can only add up to details. Encroachments have taken very heavy toll of forests in Telangana. Huge extents of forest lands were diverted for agriculture in the past. Substantial area was ceded by regularising all pre-1964 encroachments. With less than 20% of land under forests,

the Telangana State had to alienate more than 14% of its forest area under Forest Rights Act. Forest lands to an extent of 47.54 lakh acres were given away under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (Forest Rights Act). Despite the fact that all the so called pre-December 2005 encroachments were regularised, fresh encroachments galore with added confidence of eventual regularisation. It is obvious that regularisation of earlier encroachments proved to be a strong incentive for fresh bout of occupations.

The present problem is of these latest encroachments. Major issue is the continued threat perception the forests are exposed to. The above report makes it clear that forest lands all over the State are under severe stress and the ensuing election season is bound to worsen the situation. When a politician is confronted to choose between governance and political dividends, he will opt for the latter. One has only to wait and watch whether the CM will make the difference. Lesser mortals outside the Forest Department are inconsequential as far as any effective action to stem the rot is concerned.

Another story captioned "Hawk's eye on forest encroachments" by the same scribe was published earlier in *The Hindu* of Hyderabad Edition dated 22nd June 2018. According to it, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Forest Department of Telangana State and National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) on 20th June 2018 which provides for NRSC sharing "monthly satellite data about encroachments captured through its advanced geographic information system with the Forest Department. Automatic computer alerts will be delivered to the mobile phones of the respective officials along the hierarchy so that encroachments may be combated early on. After few months of data collection, frequency of alerts will be increased to once in five days". Head of Forest Force informed that earlier, the encroachments were detected once a year. He said that the conflict situation between the encroachers and forest officials can be averted by credible proof of encroachments on hand and the alerts will help the forest officials in earliest detection of illegal clearance of forests to facilitate meaningful action.

The Telangana Forest Department had undertaken a massive reorganization of departmental structure in the recent past. There has been a persistent complaint from the frontline protective staff that their jurisdiction was too unwieldy to ensure effective control and protection. This problem has been addressed to a great extent now. The average area of smallest unit of protective charge, the Beat, which was 19 sq. km of forests earlier has now come down to 9 sq. km. Similar drastic

reduction in average area of other levels also came into force with the Section Officer having 37 sq.km. in place of 57 sq. km and the Range Officer having 145 sq. km. in place of 254 sq. km. Consequently, the staff requirement had also gone up, the strength of Forest Beat Officers going up to 3132 in place of 1428, that of Section Officers rising to 831 as against earlier 469 and that of Range Officers increasing to 185 in place of 106. The Beat Officer of lowest charge has now only 9 sq. km to patrol and he can as well seek support from his immediate superior Section Officer who has 37 sq. km of forest to cover, at the time of need. An area of 3 km. X 3 km cannot be considered too large to cover in a day and consequently the Beat Officer is in a better position to take stock of his protective charge with more ease now. Any attempt of encroachment can promptly be detected by the Beat Officer mostly on the same day or the next day at least. As against this, the proposed NRSC alert will be available once in five days which is longer than what the man on the spot can now manage. The Department is in possession of advanced survey equipment and it can be effectively used to determine the extent of encroachment which can be crosschecked with NRSC inputs. While evidentiary value of the alert cannot be discounted, the challenge of combating the encroachments, as such, remains a knotty problem.

It has been observed since long that the individual departments in government sector consider themselves as separate entities and their work culture does not display that all of them are working for the same government and that it is their duty to protect the government interests. It is depressing to read that in the case cited in the newspaper report, the District Collector and the Police asked the forest officials to stop their work in the area to prevent law and order problem. They are obliged to ensure the rule of law and are duty bound to see it is not breached. Violation of forest law is no less breach of law of the land. Moot question is whether the administration can abdicate its official obligations in the face of threats and coercive tactics of lawbreakers. Doesn't it amount to encouraging lawlessness? God forbid, if tomorrow, a group of shelter less people descend upon the Collectorate premises or police grounds and start erecting huts, will the concerned authorities prefer to remain mute spectators for fear of law and order problem? The incident makes two things clear; One, failure of governance and two, it is forest department's problem and does not merit immediate remedial solution. There is no room for misplaced sentiments in administration. If a citizen is hungry, he is entitled to be fed in a welfare State. But condoning vandalism by a group of hooligans in the name of law and order problem is unjustifiable.

We had seen a strange spectacle in Maharashtra recently. The leftists and some self-styled civil

society outfits organised a rally of about 20,000 people from various parts of the State to congregate in Mumbai to pressurise the State Government to issue title deeds to all those claimants whose claims under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA) were rejected after due process of law. They threatened to paralyse the normal life of Mumbai City. Very curiously, the State Government panicked and rushed its Ministers for parleys with agitators and agreed to review the rejected claims positively. The protest was called off and things must be moving to alienate further forest land in cases where it is not mandated. It is pertinent to mention that of 3.64 lakh claims made under FRA in Maharashtra State, 1.12 lakh claims (forming 31%) were admitted and title deeds were issued ceding 50.12 lakh acres of forest land. It is also significant to note that Maharashtra has only 17% of its land area under forest cover as against one-third tree cover stipulated in National forest Policy. It is saddening to see that 40% of the already deficient forest cover has been lost under FRA and the likely loss of forest land, if the rejected claims are reviewed favourably, is bound to colossal. It must be said that the Government has been very insensitive to environmental needs of population and the welfare of future generations.

It is not difficult to see a pattern in forest encroachments. In the distant past when the forest regulatory mechanism could function with professional freedom, the Departments could tackle the problem at their level. Then came the era when the local political leaders covertly encouraged the forest encroachments and bureaucracy and political class in power turned their heads away and discouraged the departments not evict the encroachers treating it as human problem. Now, a stage had come when the encroachers are in a position to hold the forester, the administration and the polity to ransom. Pressure exerted on forest officials not to plant up the encroached forest patches highlighted in the news report is the symptom of the trend.

The forest fraternity is no less guilty. They have slowly surrendered their freedom of action step by step and consistently to a stage where they are more concerned about how the political leadership would react to their actions rather than doing their duty. The executive power has slowly passed on to others outside the departmental contours. The higher officialdom who were originally to only advise the Government, had started seeking orders in their functional domain. Forest Act and Rules have receded to background and a work culture of receiving executive orders and oral instructions had set in. Evidently, no independent meaningful action against encroachments is possible for a professional forester. Indifference shown by the foresters had allowed the situation to worsen.

It is time the problem is taken more seriously and discussed in detail within the Forest Department and outside to arrive at possible solutions before it is too late in the day. Conventional methods may not yield the desired results. An out of box thinking may be necessary.

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		11. A.Narsimha Reddy	08-08-1983
			12. T.Venu Babu	09-08-1969
1.	P.Rajendranath	10-08-1953	13. k.Mahender Raju	10-08-1959
2.	M.Mohan Rao	12-08-1952	14. A.Rama Murthy	10-08-1969
3.	L.R.Sekhar	13-08-1953	15. S.Venkatesh	15-08-1977
4.	M.Pradyumna Reddy	23-08-1955	16. Smt.P.Sunitha	15-08-1980
5.	N.V. Jayanti Babu	23-08-1953	17. M.Venu Madhav Rao	16-08-1967
6.	A.Sudhakar	24-08-1948	18. M. Yogaiah	16-08-1956
7.	P.Vishweshwaraiah	27-08-1951	19. Ch.Sivaiah	20-08-1967
8.	C.Muralidhar Rao	28-08-1941	20. S.Rajasekhar	20-08-1970
9.	P.Ranga Raju	30-08-1952	21. I. Kasi Viswanadha Raju	20-08-1967
10.	T.V.Ranga Rajan	31-08-1935	22. S.M.Hussainy	20-08-1961
11.	M.Narasimha Reddy	03-09-1954	23. P.N. Adilakshmi	23-08-1970
S.No.	Name of Serving Officers	D.O.B.		
			24. Ms.E.Harika	24-08-1984
1.	Ananth Shankar	07-08-1988	25. P.Anil Kumar	30-08-1965
2.	Smt.M.Revathi	09-08-1970	26. K.Ashok Kumar	31-08-1976
3.	P.S.Srinivasa Sastry	14-08-1962	27. M.Ravi Prasad	04-09-1966
4.	A.Bharath Kumar	15-08-1959		
5.	Sunil Kumar Gupta	19-08-1958		
6.	Dr.V.Bhaskara Ramana Murthy	24-08-1961		
7.	Smt.Sunita J.Mahesh Bhagwat	26-08-1970		
8.	S. Srikanthanatha Reddy	25-08-1974		
9.	B.Srinivas	02-09-1962		
10.	V.Ram Mohan	06-08-1967		

Secretary



MUSINGS ON “INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS”

By

Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai

1. Introduction:

“World Forestry Day” is being observed every year on 21st of March (the Vernal Equinox – the harbinger of a new season of sunshine and warmth), i.e., a day ahead of “World Water Day”. **The United Nations (UN) had linked this recognition to the 2030-Agenda for Sustainable Development, whereas the same World Body officially designated the theme as ‘Forest and Ecology on Forestry Day this year.** It had also given the call way back in 1993 to observe “World Water Day” on 2nd of March. The emphasis is to develop wood as a major source of renewable energy to mitigate climate change and fostering sustainable development. From planting trees in urban areas (to reduce global warming) to creating carbon-stocks (by increasing plantations), all activities are driven by this approach. **Forests are also being promoted as ‘being important for renewable energy’,** given the dependence of rural areas on wood as cooking fuel or for heating. By developing community woodlots and delivering ‘clean and energy-efficient wood stoves’, millions of people in developing economies will have access to cheap and reliable supply of renewable energy.

However, these ideas come directly in conflict with the policy-approach to forests conservations in two ways. First, large tracts of forests are being diverted for dams, coal or nuclear power stations to feed the rising energy demand of industrial and urban infrastructure. Second, the creation of carbon stocks remains

an offset mechanism, increasingly criticized for the limited conservation gains and larger livelihood impacts, at a global scale.

2. Background:

The key role forests play in supporting water systems was recognised in 2016 by the UN, calling the **investment in forests an insurance policy for the planet.** Forests influence rainfall and hydrological cycle through multiple mechanisms. And word from forests forms 40% of the global renewable energy supply with a 2½ billion people still dependent on fuel wood for cooking nutritious meal — in India itself, 67% of the rural households depend on firewood for cooking.

The living tree and diversity-of plants that inhibit forests provide energy for not only the human population, but are also the driving force that resonates the hydrological cycle of earth’s forces and create conditions for living energy from water-flows. **The potent-energy of trees and green-spaces can lower the temperatures substantially.** Such green-spaces not only soothe the eye, but also help connect with Mother Nature. **Trees and forests emit positive energy that has the power to heal the distressed mind!**

Large-scale full-canopy-forests release enormous quantities of moisture through evapo transpiration and create a low-pressure-column over forest areas (due to rising and condensing moisture) leading to suction of moisture-laden-winds from oceans. As a result, additional quantity of rainfall (or atmospheric

moisture) is appropriated from seas in favour of land. Further, **forests emit volatile organic compounds, and also discharge pollens, which serve as cloud-seeds.** Still further, **during the monsoon-receding-phase,** forests contribute critical moisture to the atmosphere that results in the extraction of **additional rain from a sub-critical moist atmosphere.** Thus, **forests enhance continental rainfall, by intensifying the hydrological cycle.**

3. Fact and Figures| ground realities:

Let us now discuss certain other aspects. One happens to be the creation of plantations which takes form in two ways. First is the **age-old practice to plant fast growing tree species to feed the requirement of timber for different sectors.** The second has been the **process of diversion of forests for non-forest use:** the process is comprised of using existing forests for activities such as mining, industry, transmission line, railways, ports, etc. **The first practice was designed to generate revenue,** for which there are dedicated divisions of forestry which specialize in this task. **As for the Second process, it is more controversial than the first for which, however, though, there are compensatory Afforestation and other ameliorative-measures in law.** Every hectare of forest diverted requires the user-agencies to ensure an equal amount of forest-land or double-the-amount of degraded-forest-land to be planted-over. In addition, there are other financial-measures like the payment of "Net Present Value". Having said this all, it has to be added at this juncture: **if only money could buy you a forest! It is a fallacy of recreating a lost-patch of forests, and all that which lives with**

it!!

After 2006, the forest-story saw another cankerous twist, by far arguably the most controversial and damaging. On the one hand it is viewed as the **politicisation of forest governance** with tribal and forest dwelling communities establishing their claim by seeking recognition of existing rights. On the other, **it is a bureaucratic exercise of settling the stake, so that further acquisition can be streamlined. The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act 2006, has seen its high and struggled with a low, in all of 10 years of its existence.** It has given the forest-dweller a voice and, at the same time, complicated the contest between the traditional right holder, the revenue arm and forestry arm of government (not always in coherence) and user-agencies awaiting approvals for diversions. This would mean that community forest rights once granted are cancelled, enabling the above law the process of recognizing rights, not giving government the power to take them away. However, it is challenged and is before the Apex Court for adjudication as at present. It isn't going a long way if governments don't reprioritize and citizens don't elect governments that are likely to do so.

4. Conclusion:

Deferment to the policy to zealously conserve whatever is remaining would certainly reduce the manageability and render the cost to recreate unthinkable prohibitive. Better India realizes the volatile situation late than never.

SHIFTING SANDS

By
M. Padmanabha Reddy

Sand is a naturally occurring granular material composed of finely divided rock and mineral particles. It is defined by size, being finer than gravel and coarser than silt. The most common constituent of sand is silica (Silicon dioxide or SiO_2) usually in the form of quartz which because of its chemical inertness and considerable hardness is the most common mineral resistant to weathering.

Sand is used mostly for making concrete. Sand rich in Silica is the principal component in manufacture of common glasses, sand is mixed with paints to produce textured finish. Not all kinds of sands are suitable for construction. In desert where wind has a free play, sand grains are too rounding to stick together. Sea sand is better, but its salt content does not work well with steel in reinforced concrete. To avoid metal corrosion it must be cleaned of salt adding cost to the sand. This makes the river sand a prized as well as endangered mineral. The Burj khalifa in Dubai despite being surrounded by sea sand, it was constructed with concrete incorporating right kind of sand from Australia.

Sand is the new oil and the world is witnessing a mad scramble for it. Sand along with gravel are the most extracted minerals – accounting for about 70% of the minerals mined every year, says the U.N. Environment Programme. International trade of sand witnessed a six fold increase in the past two decades. The over bearing demand for sand has triggered an ecological crisis says U.N.E.P. report (2014). The

over exploitation of sand is having a major impact on rivers, deltas and coastal and marine ecosystems, results in loss of land through river and coastal erosion, lowering of water table and decrease in sediment supply.

After Independence India witnessed a massive construction activity including infrastructure development and constitution of multipurpose dams leading to consumption of large quantity of river sand. To regulate extractions of river sand, Acts were promulgated. Sometimes courts have to intervene and stop sand extraction from rivers. As the demand out stepped the supply prices have soared up leading to corruption and creation of sand Mafias with the blessings of official machinery. Like land Mafia and Liquor Mafia, Sand Mafia has taken birth with the blessings of elected representatives. Politicians in every state are having a grip over the golden granules. Many officials and social activists lost their life in preventing and reporting the activities of sand Mafia.

Telangana and A.P. have come out with sand mining policy to control spiraling prices of sand and to ensure availability of sand for many government projects like housing, irrigation projects, roads etc. Sand is available in these states from three sources. 1. Rivers and streams 2. De-silting of reservoirs 3. De casting of private patta lands. The sand available from rivers and streams is categorized into I to V order

depending on size and capacity of the river. In I & II order streams the source is small village stream or Vagu, while V –order would be large river like Krishna and the Godavari. Sand in I and II order streams will be left to local body and villagers for domestic needs subject to payment of seigniorage fee. Sand in III, IV and V order streams will be allowed for exploitation by auction. But here also the politicians control and call the shots. The revenue from sand auctions was around Rs.80 crores in Telangana in 2014 and is now Rs.1200 crores speaks volumes about the roaring sand prices.

In 2017-18, the ministry of Mines conducted survey of major sand producing states. Its estimates show that the demand for sand far outstrips supply in all the states. Short supply of sand necessitated imports.

October 14, 2017 was a symbolic day for the country. That day Anna Dorothea (ship) arrived at Tuticorin port and brought the country's first consignment of imported river sand. It was loaded with more than 55,000 tones (or 1850 truck loads) of sand from Malaysia's Sungai Pahang river bed. "We were flooded with orders within hours of unloading the shipment says jubilant sand importer. All the orders were from construction companies where business had taken a hit due to shortage of the seemingly abundant natural resource. In November, 2017 Kerala imported 45,000 tons of sand from Malaysia, and 80,000 tons from Cambodia. In December, 2017 Karnataka imported 5,400 tons and many other states are planning to import sand. Maharashtra and A.P. are planning to import

sand from Philippines. They are analyzing the quality as Pilipino sand is dark in colour due to the presence of volcanic ash in it. The price of imported sand being Rs.3,500/ton where as local sand is anything from Rs.4,000 to Rs.6,000/ton. There is a wide variation in prices from state to state.

Singapore a major importer of sand has used the mineral to increase its land area by over 20 percent since 1965. This Island country has over the years imported more than 72 million tons of sand from Cambodia and Indonesia, this prompted them to ban on sand exports. Going by the current trend most countries will impose ban on sand export in near future. This is the reason India should develop better regulations and find alternatives to sand. The alternatives for river sand are manufactured sand (M-sand). It is produced by crushing rocks and quarry stones to a required size. The other alternative is recycled construction and demolition waste. The government is also exploring the idea of extracting sand from the overburden of coal mines.

India is importing river sand to satiate the growing demand for its construction industry and to keep soaring sand prices in check. But imports alone will not suffice without effective implementation of regulations and promotion of alternative construction materials.

- References :**
1. Down to Earth 16-30 June, 2018 (extensively barrowed)
 2. Internet
 3. Mining policy of T.S. and A.P.

JACK TREE (*ARTOCARPUS HETEROPHYLLUS*)

(Source Internet)

Description/Taste: Jackfruit is both the name of the fruit and of the tree it grows on. Jackfruits grow on both the branches and trunks of trees that can reach up to 20 meters tall. Jackfruits begin as small, flowering pods on the end of straight green stalks. As they mature and enlarge, the flowers fall away revealing hundreds of small, hard, cone-shaped protrusions. At full maturity, Jackfruit can measure up to 80 centimeters long and 50 centimeters wide, and can weigh anywhere from 10 to 50 pounds. The rind of a Jackfruit will change color from bright green to a dull yellow as it ripens and it may develop dark patches. Fully ripe Jackfruit will fall from the tree, so it is often harvested early to avoid having the large fruits fall on top of anyone. Inside of the fruit, just beneath the rind are the bright yellow 'bulbs' which make up the edible portion of the Jackfruit. A pithy core runs down the length of the fruit and connects the bulbs to the rind. The fleshy bulbs are 5 to 7 centimeters long and triangular. Young Jackfruit has a crisp, crunchy texture whereas more mature fruit may be firm or much softer and almost custard-like, depending on the variety. Anywhere from 100 to 500 edible, brown seeds are housed within the fruit. The one-inch seeds are covered by a thin white membrane, which can be removed if

preparing the seeds for roasting. The aroma of a mature Jackfruit has been described as off-putting, similar to overripe fruit. Younger fruit has a sweeter aroma. Jackfruit has a sweet taste and a flavor that is likened to bananas, pineapple and even bubblegum. As the fruit matures, the bulbs become a darker orange-yellow and the taste gets sweeter.

Seasons/Availability: Jackfruits are available in the summer and fall months.

Current Facts: Jackfruit is a tropical fruit, botanically known as *Artocarpus heterophyllus*. Jackfruit is a member of the mulberry family, and is the largest tree fruit in the world. Jackfruit is known for its dinosaur-egg look and its slightly odd smell when fully ripe. The common name, Jackfruit, is likely a variation of 'jaca', the Portuguese term for the giant fruit. This was a derivation of 'chakka pazham', the name used in southwest India where Portuguese travelers first encountered Jackfruit. The spiky, tropical fruit is considered a powerhouse of nutrition and is loaded with lots of healthy antioxidants. Jackfruit has even been touted as a potential replacement staple crop for wheat and corn in areas threatened by climate change and increasing populations.

Nutritional Value: Jackfruit is very nutrient-dense. It is a great source of fiber, protein and vitamin B. It also contains potassium, iron and calcium. The deep yellow-orange color of the Jackfruit bulbs is the result of phyto nutrients like beta-carotene, giving the fruit powerful antioxidant properties.

Applications: Jackfruits are cut in half lengthwise, exposing the soft pulp surrounding the seeds. Using coconut oil on the knife and hands can prevent them from being coated in the latex present in the rind and pith. Using a long knife, cut from the stem lengthwise, horizontally, much like a watermelon. Once the Jackfruit has been halved, the bulbs can be removed and deseed. The Jackfruit bulbs can be eaten fresh, frozen, cooked or pureed. Younger Jackfruit is added to curries and can be roasted or baked and eaten as a vegetable. It is often shredded and used as a meat substitute. Riper Jackfruit bulbs are added to salads. Make jam or ice cream from pureed bulbs. Boiling Jackfruit bulbs in milk and then straining off the liquid will result in a custard-like consistency once it has cooled. Jackfruit can be dried and then fried in oil, salted and eaten like potato chips. Jackfruit seeds can be roasted and eaten like chestnuts or dried and ground into flour. Jackfruit does not keep well once it is ripe. Unused portions of prepared fruit can be refrigerated for a few days or frozen for a few weeks.

Ethnic/Cultural Info: Despite being native to India, the Jackfruit is not as popular, nor is it as widely consumed as it is in other areas of Indonesia and southwest Asia. Jackfruit is considered a “poor man’s fruit” in India. In 2014, an international Jackfruit conference was held at the University of Agricultural Sciences in Bangalore, India. There, scientists discussed ways to market the fruit in order to expand the industry in the country.

Geography/History: Jackfruit is believed to be native to an area of southern India and the small island of Sri Lanka located just to the south. More specifically, Jackfruit may have originated in a mountainous region in the southwest known as the Western Ghats, which was identified as a World Heritage site. The rainforest-like environment is considered by the United Nations as a “hotspot” of biological diversity. Jackfruit thrives in hot, humid environments and cannot tolerate a drought or freeze. The tropical fruit was introduced to Brazil and Suriname in the mid-1800s and has been grown in Hawaii since before the late-1800s. It is widely cultivated in the tropical regions of Southeast Asia, South America, Africa, Australia, and the Caribbean. Sri Lanka and Vietnam have the most well-established Jackfruit industries. Fresh Jackfruit can be found throughout the regions where it is cultivated and in Asian markets in Europe and the United States.

PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE

By

V.SANTHASEELA BABU

I underwent Rangers training in the Southern Forest Rangers College, Coimbatore during the years 1968-70. During the year 1970 I wrote an article “పన్యజంతువులు : వాటి సంరక్షణ” in Telugu language and sent it to the then famous Telugu Weekly magazine “ANDHRA PRABHA” as the year 1969-70 was being celebrated as the Birth Centenary year of Mahatma Gandhiji. The same was published along with the photographs sent by me in the “UGADI” (Telugu New Year) Special issue dated ‘15-04-

1970’. Recently I have traced out the printed copy of that article and when I wanted to share the article with the readers of ‘VANA PREMI’ as it is and discussed with the Editor, I was informed by him that ‘Vana Premi’

magazine does not have permission to publish the articles in any language other than English.

So, In order to share the matter which I wrote as a Trainee Range Officer, without entering the Department, I chose to translate the contents of my article published in Telugu in Andhra Prabha weekly Ugadi Special Issue on 15-04-1970 around 48 years ago. Incidentally I did not receive any remuneration from Andhra Prabha

authorities for publishing this article. The readers may bear in mind that this article was written during the year 1970 and that too by a budding Forest Officer who was undergoing training.

The article goes as follows:

This is the birth Centenary year of Mahatma Gandhiji. “AHIMSA DHARMA” is the first and foremost thing that Gandhiji advocated to us. He was born on 2nd October. Keeping this aspect

in view our Government is organizing “Vanya Prani Sapthaha” during the first week of October since the year 1956.

What is a Wild Animal? Precisely speaking all animals that live in the forests are wild

animals. Any animal that is not domesticated joins this list. These animals also become a part and parcel of the Nature.

The Goddess of Nature has endowed our country with a variety of Wildlife. It is estimated that altogether in our country there are 500 mammals and 3000 other animals like birds and reptiles etc. 10% of the different category of birds available in the entire world is available in our country. We have In the west Lions in the



Gir Forests and in the east Rhinoceros. Animals like Tigers, Panthers, Elephants, Bison, Deer, Porcupines, Wild Boars, Rabbits, Squirrels etc; are spread all over the country.

Once we turn the pages of history of our country, we can find how the wildlife was being respected and taken care of by the humans in the olden days and how gradually it has declined subsequently. In Vedic era human beings were considering the protection of wildlife as their sacred responsibility. " AHIMSA PARAMO DHARMAHA" was the guiding principle for them. In Ramayana the animals were given the importance as equal to as human beings. Animals were the closest friends for the Rishis who were doing penance in the forests. They used to roam about freely without any fear in the Ashramas of those Rishis which can be seen in the Mahabharatha when king Dushyantha visited the Ashram of Kanva Maha Muni. Once we go through the Artha Sastra written by Koutilya we can understand that the kings in those days itself have recognized the necessity of protection of wildlife. Even we can find that the sanctuaries established by our Governments in the present also existed in those days. Hunting and killing of Elephants, Deer, Horses, Swans etc; was prohibited and severe punishments were prescribed.

As the time passed, the love and affection towards the wild animals started dwindling. During the era of king Ashoka, it necessitated the enacting of laws for their protection. It is seen that during the period of Jainism and Buddhism there existed interest in protection of wildlife. During the Moghul rule, though the kings were

experts in hunting, because of the measures taken by them for protecting the wildlife, their number was satisfactory till the advent of British rule.

Soon after the arrival of British and with the replacement of Bows and arrows with Guns and Rifles, the deadly days started for the wildlife. It has still worsened with the arrival of motor vehicles especially the Jeeps. The depletion of wildlife was on a fast track from the middle of 19th century. If we come to know the following statistics we can understand the way how the depletion of wildlife took place in our country. The main responsibility in this lies with the British Army officers, Govt. Servants and the Tea Estate owners.

One British Army Officer killed 80 Lions in Kathiyawar forests. In Gir forests 14 Lions were killed in a span of 10 days. In Madhya Pradesh till the year 1930, one British Sportsman has killed 147 Tigers during his period. It is mentioned in Oriental Shooting Magazine of 1876 that one Tea Estate owner has shot 100 rounds of bullets on Rhinos killing 5 of them and injuring about 25 of them. The Author of "Sports in Eastern Bengal" Mr. F.B. Simson, is said to have killed about 500 to 600 Tigers during his stay of 21 years in India.

Of course the contribution of Maharajas of our princely states in India was also no less in this destruction of wildlife. The king of Kooch Bihar Mr. Nripendra Narayan has killed 370 Tigers, 208 Rhinos, 430 Bisons, 324 Deer and other animals during his regime between 1871 and 1907. The late Maharaja of Rewa has hunted and killed 616 Tigers in his life time. The Maharaja of Surguja

has a credit and record of killing 1116 Tigers. While things stood like this the fate of smaller game was still pitiable. One sportsman in Kashmir has shot dead 58,613 Jungle Fowls between 1907 and 1919. During 1938, Ducks numbering to 4,273 were shot and killed for the then Viceroy Lord Linlithgo and out of which the Viceroy himself had fired 1900 rounds.

If we go on searching the history of this genocide of wildlife, we can get umpteen number of incidents. On hearing these statistics any humanitarian heart will definitely shake and melt. This massacre was carried not for any benefits but only to satisfy the ego and passion and voracity of these so called great hunters.

After we got independence it was a problem for providing food grains for the increasing population and for the extension of agricultural lands we started destroying the forests. Destroying the forests means dismantling the natural habitats of the wildlife. In addition, we started killing these animals with a pretext that these animals are destroying the agricultural crops. For example in 1948 in Canara District the owners of guns were given crop protection licenses.

In India during 1887 legislation was brought in to force protecting the wild animals and birds. Again during 1912 also similar legislation was made. But there was no substantial result due to these legislations. In 1935 due to the efforts made by "The Society for the Preservation of Wildlife", The Government organized an exclusive seminar on this subject. As a result the "Haily National Park" (Present Corbett National Park) was established for protecting the endangered Bengal Tiger. But this momentum slowly died

down. But the "Bombay Natural History Society" and the "Darjeeling Natural History Society" have done excellent services for the cause of protection of wildlife. After Independence the efforts of protection of wildlife were continued by Lieutenant Colonel R.W. Burton and the "Bombay Natural History Society". In 1951 a committee was formed by the Govt. of India for examining the wildlife protection issues. This resulted in the inauguration of "Indian Board for Wildlife" during December 1952 in Lalith Mahal Palace, Mysore. All the plans that are formulated by this Board will be aiming towards the preservation of wildlife in India. The Board will be meeting once in two years. But the Executive Committee meets often and renders advices and reports pertaining to wildlife to the Government. To assist these committees the State Level Committees are also formed.

In our Andhra Pradesh the State Level Committee was formed during May 1959. Tiger, Leopard, Bison and Tiger Cubs are fully protected in our state. Sanctuaries were established in different places of our state. It is totally prohibited to hunt, trap or torture any animal in a Sanctuary area.

Some people may question as to how these wild animals are valuable, and important for us? What are the benefits that accrue if we protect these animals?

First of all let us examine this aspect on the basis of religion. All religions in our country have provided great importance to these wild animals. For example if we examine the "Puranas" and "Dasavatharas" it is mentioned that Lord Vishnu has taken the "Koorma, Mathsya, Varaha and Nrusimhavatharas" to kill the evil people. Can we imagine Ramavana

without *Hanuman*, *Vali*, *Sugriva*, *Jambavantha*, *Jatayu* and other animal characters? Lord *Vishnu* relaxes on *Adishesha* and travels on *Garuda*, Goddess *Shakti* on Lion, Goddess *Durga* on Tiger, Lord *Shiva* on Bull, Lord *Karthikeya* on Peacock and Lord *Vinayaka* on the Rat. We worship the Gods along with their *Vahanas* also. The Lord *Vinayaka*'s head is of elephant only. Buddha, *Vardhamana* and of late Mahatma Gandhi have preached us "*Ahimsa*'.

If we consider the cultural aspects, the wild animals were the main subjects for the various Literary works and epics of our ancient poets. Kalidasa's *Abhignana Shakunthalam*, Nala Damayanthi Swayamvaram, *Panchathanthra* are the best examples for this. The idols in the temples and other places go to show how these wild animals have been effective in the creative capacity of the artists. Where shall we get the happiness that is equal to seeing the birds and wildlife in their natural surroundings?

Every animal will contribute to the happiness of human beings. One will feel that the forest without Lions, Tigers and Deer and other animals is like having no forest at all.

In our country people will go on tourism and pilgrimages to see the historically important places and temples and likewise in foreign countries people resort to tourism only to see the wild animals in their natural surroundings. They spend lot of money to see the animals in their natural surroundings. But the status of wildlife in India is not able to reach that stage. But even then within the available resources, the Government is establishing Sanctuaries and National Parks and trying to encourage this activity. Watching a drama, picture, sculpture or

reading poetry will not be as exciting as sighting of a wild animal in its natural habitat. Because of this excitement the number of people visiting the Zoos are increasing day by day.

If we consider scientific aspect of animals, we can see that the medicines that are invented to cure human diseases are first tested on the animals. Mostly the examinations were carried out on Rats and monkeys. The first astronaut is not a Human but it is an Animal. The animals are the sources for developing the scientific knowledge of the Humans.

Financial aspect, though secondary, is also one of the important things in the human life. The animals which are now a days serving the man like Bull, Cow, Buffalo, Dog, Horse etc; were all once wild animals which are now domesticated. Even now we are domesticating the Elephants and getting so many services from them. Small animals, Birds, Fish etc, are catering to the food needs of human beings to some extent. Donating either living or dead animals to the Zoos and Museums will fetch good money. One Rhinoceros costs Rs. 20,000/-. The export of these animals fetches a foreign exchange to a tune of Rs. 63,00,000/- to our country annually. There need not be a special mention of the value of the Ivory that is obtained from the Elephants. Protection of wildlife leads to the development of tourism and increase of revenue to the country. The skins, horns, nails, feathers are at a great demand in our country as well as in other countries.

There are both herbivore and carnivore animals that are living in the forests. If we go on killing the herbivore animals either for our food

requirements or happiness, the result will be dangerous. The carnivore animals survive by eating the herbivore animals. Due to depletion of herbivore population the carnivore animals will feel shortage of food and they may either die or invade the forest fringe villages and kill the cattle and human beings to satisfy their hunger. If we go on killing the carnivore animals, the number of herbivore animals will multiply and once their number increases there will be dearth of food for them in the forests. Then they would resort to invading the agricultural crops nearby. As long as there is no human interference the nature has designed principles of maintenance of ratios and balance among them. Our contribution for protection of wildlife should be such that we should not resort to killing of wild animals for the sake of our pleasure. The Governments should establish Sanctuaries and National Parks in large numbers. We should extend our whole hearted support and help in protecting them. The present forests should be preserved without any destruction. Before all these things nothing is possible without the support of people. So the awareness about the wild animals and their protection must be taken deep in to the public and make people to realize the value of wildlife. For this purpose News Reels have to be filmed and special programmes to be organized in All India Radio. The News Papers also should give more preference to wildlife and publish articles on wildlife and their photographs. Wide publicity has to be given for the "Vanya Prani Sapthaha" that is being conducted every year by the Government. Today's children are tomorrow's

citizens. So this instinct of protecting the wildlife must be inculcated among them. There should be lessons and photographs of wildlife in the text books of students in an attractive manner. The School children must be taken to Sanctuaries and Zoos now and then so as to make them to appreciate the value of wildlife. Then only this Great Ritual (*Yagnam*) would be successful.

The main principle in protection of wildlife is that "The Wild Animal should not become extinct or dwindle to the level of extinction and at the same time protection should be there from any loss or damage to the cattle and crops of farmer".

At least now if the people and public realize the value and importance of wildlife, it will be a great thing. These dumb denizens are the fixed assets of our country. As any man killing another man is not permitted, like wise we also do not have the right to kill the wild animals which are created by God along with us. We should realize that we do not have any right to kill the wild animals living freely in the forests for the sake of our fun and food requirements. Then only we can implement the "AHIMSA DHARMA" advocated by our Bapuji.

Editor's Note : The article in telugu was written by V.S.S. Babu and published in telugu weekly magazine "Andhra Prabha" dated 15-04-1970. Mr. V.S.S. Babu was awarded prizes for Essay Writing Competition conducted by Nilagiri Wild Life Association consecutively for the years 1969 and 1970.

BIRDS IN THE BACK YARD

By

A. Narasimha Reddy

In October 2017, I was transferred and posted as Forest Divisional Officer (FDO) at Kaghaznagar. During the last five years of my service, it is for the first time, I had the privilege of staying in an official residential quarters. There were no quarters available at places where I worked before. I was lucky to occupy and enjoy a spacious and comfortable residence. There is a more-than-one-acre of vacant space around the FDO's residence. The quarters are located right in the middle of this small town with a noisy spectacle of any similar township. The open space around the residence has good greenery with huge trees.

The best thing I liked there was, its bird diversity, right in the heart of the noisy town. We wake up every morning to the sweet songs of the birds perched on trees adjacent to our bedroom. The sweet songs of the birds are the nature's arrangement to give us a wakeup call during those lazy mornings. My wife and I sit in the verandah with a cup of coffee listening to the birds singing and chirping great morning music as if they are competing with each other to entertain us while we are sipping coffee. While we enjoy our coffee, the sun-birds suck sweet nectar from the flowers in the lawn. Different birds keep fighting for their foot hold on their

favorite tree branches. The 'Kotwal' (Drongo/ *Dicrurus macrocercus*) tries to police the morning traffic on these trees and aggressively drives away other birds to occupy their favorite branch. The Drongo is an expert mimic and makes a variety of alarm calls to which other birds often respond. On the other side, the 'Seven Sisters' (Jungle Babblers) are busy with their group foraging on the ground.

After I have my breakfast and when I leave for office, I find a couple of Prinias patrolling the green hedges hopping from one part of the hedge to another, in search of insects, which is their staple breakfast. In the afternoon, when I come back home for lunch, I find every day the Green Bee-Eater (*Merops orientalis*) religiously sitting on the power lines in hot son, in search of its lunch, with a sharp eye on the insects in the lawn. It always reminds me of my lunch with its sweet calls (tree-tree-tree-tree) as my wife would be waiting for me to join her for the lunch. In the evening when I return from work, once again I find the Prinias doing their evening patrol before going to rest. They are least bothered about my presence while I return home, as if they know me for years, probably they have their nests in the green hedge. After dinner and at night, we go out for walk within

our campus and hear the calls of spotted owl, a nocturnal bird, sitting on the tree and warning us – the night has set in.....it is better you go to bedit is time now to retire.

We also had a special guest in the form of a coppersmith barber which had kept its chicks in a tree-hole of a mango tree within the campus. It keeps doing continuous sorties throughout the day, carrying insects to feed its hungry chicks. Watching the mother bird feeding its young ones is a feast to the eye.

Every day, when I am busy with my work in the office or inspections in the field, these small creatures are my wife's companions until I return home. After I go to work in my office, my wife finishes quickly her kitchen work and sits in the verandah with her binocular and camera, watching the birds around. This is a good pastime for her and it keeps her busy until I return. She is a keen bird watcher and had recorded more than 35 bird species within the one acre forest estate during my stay at Kaghaznagar over a period of five months. The bird list includes Parakeets (3 species), Prinias, bee eaters, kingfishers, wagtails,

warblers, babblers, sun birds, hornbills, paradise flycatchers, bulbuls, drongos, robins, mynas and many more. After completing the birds' checklist, now she has graduated to the level of observing behavioral aspects of different birds and noting down observations. She has also arranged some bird feeders and some clay pots with water for the birds to quench their thirst during the recent summer.

With all the beautiful creatures around, this small campus is more than a 'Walden' for me. Before entering into the estate, I was of the myth that to pursue bird watching, we need to go for a special excursion into the forest. But it proved wrong. There is so much avifaunal diversity around us; we just needed to notice them. We could do bird watching by sitting in the verandah or even from the balcony of our apartment. Bird watching is a great stress buster in this age of busy life and work stress. It is a beautiful world. Hope the readers would start bird watching as a hobby, and of course, **starting from your Home**

The greatest gift you can give someone is your time, because when you give your time you are giving a portion of your life that you will never get back.

BOOK REVIEW

Name of the Book: Birds of Kaghaznagar division.

Published by: Forest Divisional Officer,
Kaghaznagar-5004 4296

Email ID: fdokagaznagar@gmail.com

A small booklet of 50 pages – A pictorial presentation of birds of Kaghaznagar division – interestingly compiled by the forest officers: Mr. A. Narasimha Reddy, Mrs. Damodara Samhita, Mr. M. Ram Mohan, Mr. S. Venugopal, Mr. L. Ravi Kumar; Wildlife Biologist M. Ravikanth, Wildlife Education Officer K. Swami, Wildlife Biologist B. Laxminarayana and many other zealous birdwatchers who are keenly interested in wildlife photography. They are responsible in bringing out this volume. Every one of them contributed his mite and kudos to all of them. The birds are classified into Water Birds, Terrestrial Birds, Arboreal Birds, Aerial Birds and lastly Raptors. It is no easy task to bring out such a beautiful book printed on glossy paper with 248 color pictures. The name of each bird is given below the picture – the common name,

scientific name and the name in local (Telugu) language. A list of all the 248 birds with scientific name is furnished in the beginning and an Index again with scientific name etc at end. This facilitates any student to refer to any of the listed birds. The Chief Author Mr. A. Narasimha Reddy in the preface has described the terrain and its importance as tiger land and a natural habitat of vultures. He has also explained the role of birds in our ecosystem.

The Principal CCF & HoFF of Telangana State has deservedly complimented Mr. Narasimha Reddy and expressed his pleasure for the hard work done in bringing out this publication. It is hoped that this book will serve the purpose of bringing awareness among the people and will serve as a field guide.

Suffice it to say that the book is a product of hard work, sincere attempt and hopefully useful to many who wish to become bird watchers.

K.B.R

The things you do for your self are gone when you are gone, but the things you do for others remains as your legacy.

The happiest people don't have the best of everything. They make the best of everything.

AGGRESSION, ANGER AND ARROGANCE DRIVE AWAY LOVE

The Boss was retiring. Everyone had tears in their eyes on the day of his farewell. One of the employees said, "Sir, there is one thing we want to learn from you. You worked here for so many years. Leave aside about scolding your subordinates, we have never seen you even shouting at them. We have scolded our subordinates on pressure of work or for other reasons. We want to know about the seed of your patience."

The Boss said. "This all comes from the incident of my childhood. My father was working as a lower level employee in an office. He was a very nice person. He was respected very much in our family. It happened one day I was studying in the 4th standard. I had gone to the office of my father for some reason. I saw that my father was not on his seat. I waited outside. After some time, the door of the Boss opened my father came out of the door. I saw the fair face of my father had turned red. He went straight to a corner and stood there looking outside through a window. He had not seen me. I went to him and called him slowly. He was taken by surprise and turned back to look at me. I saw stream of tears flowing down his eyes. He was slightly disturbed seeing me. He did not find time to wipe out his tears. Can my father cry anytime? He was the strongest man in the world for me. It was out of my wildest imagination that someone could hurt him. I ran straight to the room of the Boss. Father was calling me from behind. But, listening to nothing, I went inside and asked the Boss, "Why did you make my father cry?" The Boss was also surprised.

Thereafter, my father tried to make me understand. But, that day I had decided to take revenge on the Boss. From that day I decided that I will study well and become a Boss one day, but I will not make my subordinates cry anytime. Because, they are not only the employees of my office, they are also respected and dear father or brother or somebody of their families and belong to someone important. People say it is not possible to control others without scolding them. I say, what is love then for?" People who come to work are the ones who devote their best and quality time of the day to work, leaving not much time for their families. They do deserve a better treatment from their surroundings. Ships don't sink because of the water around them; ships sink because of the water that gets in them. Don't let what's happening around you and your circumstances get inside you in your mind and weigh you down. Make your life such where peace becomes your priority and no negativity can exist in your life. Just because you're angry that doesn't give you any right to be cruel. Anger on the other hand doesn't solve anything, it builds nothing, but it can destroy everything. Neurologists claim that every time you resist acting on your anger, you're actually rewiring your brain to be calmer and more loving. The less you respond to rude, critical, argumentative people... the more peaceful your life becomes. Explain your anger instead of expressing it, and you will find solutions instead of arguments....



**Jack tree (*Artocarpus Heterophyllus*) 100 yrs. old, near
P.M. Kota, Maredumilli area of Andhra Pradesh
Photo sent By Sri. Chitrapu Ramchandra Rao.**



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NEWS AND NOTES

Promotions: - The Government of India (Min. of EF & CC) Vide Notification dated 6th July 2018, appointed the following 10 officers of the State Forest Service to the Indian Forest Service with immediate effect:

1. Sri G. Ramalingam, 2. Sri N. Nageshwara Rao, 3. Smt. S.J. Asha, 4. Dr. B. Prabhakar, 5. Sri D. Bheema, 6. Y. Srinivasa Reddy, 7. G. Nageshwar Rao, 8. Smt. T. Joshi, 9. P. Ramakrishna, 10. Smt. N. Kshitija.

Vana Premi conveys, hearty congratulations, wish them all the best and bright future in their career.

Editor

Maharashtra softens plastic ban after

industry lobbying: - Maharashtra has eased a ban against single-use plastic, just over a week after it was imposed; following what sources said was intense lobbying by multinational companies and plastic industry bodies for softer rules and extensions.

Maharashtra, home to India's financial capital of Mumbai, has allowed e-commerce companies to use plastic packaging for three more months, according to a government order dated June 30, which was published on Tuesday.

During these three months, e-commerce firms will have to come up with a buyback plan to collect used plastic packaging material, ensure its recycling and disposal as well as source alternative packaging material.

The ban, which came into effect on June 23, had threatened a sharp rise in costs for retailers, beverage makers and sellers of bottled water, among other companies that rely on plastic for packaging.

Representatives of companies including Amazon, H&M, Pepsi and Coca-Cola, as well as

plastic lobby groups, met Maharashtra government officials days before the ban, urging them to implement the rule in phases and relax some norms, Reuters quoted four sources as saying on Friday.

A senior government official, who was involved in the talks and did not wish to be identified due to government rules, said changes to the ban had been made after considering the industry demands.

Maharashtra's top environment official Anil Diggikar did not answer calls or texts seeking comment.

In its latest order, the government banned the sale of plastic bottles containing drinking water less than 200 milliliters. It also did not specify a buyback price for empty bottles used for selling beverages other than water, a move that could potentially help soft drink makers.

Amazon, Pepsi and Coca-Cola declined to comment on the modifications to the ban. H&M did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The latest rules also exempt the use of plastic packaging of medical equipment and drugs.

Plastic could be used for wrapping products by manufacturers, if the material used was thicker than 50 microns, comprised at least 20 percent recyclable material and had the manufacturer's details and buyback price printed on it, the order said.

Maharashtra's move to ban plastic, the first such broad action against the material by an Indian state, comes as Prime Minister Narendra Modi pushes a plan to completely end the use of single-use plastic in India by 2022.

Plastic packaging accounts for nearly half of all plastic waste globally, and much of it is thrown away within just a few minutes of its first use, according to the United Nations.

Fish lose sense of smell and ability to find food as climate change turns oceans to acid:

- Fish are losing their sense of smell as rising carbon emissions turn the water they live in to acid. A new study has revealed that as levels of carbonic acid in seawater rise, sea bass lose up to half their smelling capacity.

Surges in atmospheric carbon dioxide increase ocean acidity as the gas dissolves in water – a phenomenon already known to dissolve the hard outer coatings of shellfish.

The findings are significant as these fish rely on smell to do everything from finding food and potential mates to detecting predators in their vicinity.

"Our study is the first to examine the impact of rising carbon dioxide in the ocean on the olfactory [smell] system of fish," said University of Exeter researcher Dr. Cosima Porteus, who led the research.

The scientists compared the behavior of young sea bass at current carbon dioxide levels to the levels expected at the end of the century, when oceans are predicted to contain up to two and a half times the levels of the gas seen today.

They noticed big changes in the behavior of the fish inhabiting the most acidic water. Not only did the bass swim less, they appeared not to notice the presence of predators.

These findings, published in the journal *Nature Climate Change*, add to a growing body of evidence about the dangers ocean acidification poses to marine life.

Previous research has indicated that besides directly affecting fish noses, carbon dioxide harms fish nervous systems and disrupts the processing of information in their brains.

"It is not yet known how rapidly fish will be able to overcome these problems as carbon dioxide rises in the future," said Professor Rod Wilson from the University of Exeter, who was involved in the study.

"However, having to cope with two different problems caused by carbon dioxide, rather than just one, may reduce their ability to adapt or how long this will take."

Other studies have suggested that as seawater becomes more acidic, it will erode the hearing ability of fish including the clownfish and make them unable to hear approaching predators.

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them unable to hear approaching predators

Extreme heat wave grips Japan: - At least 44 people have died across Japan as extreme heat waves continue to grip the east-Asia nation. According to CNN, out of the 44 that have died since July 9, as many as 11 lives were claimed on Saturday alone, with the mercury remaining around the 38 degree Celsius mark in central Tokyo.

Meanwhile, the temperature soared past 41 degrees Celsius in Kumagaya, the highest ever recorded temperature in Japan. According to the Japan Meteorological Agency, the temperatures recorded have been around 12 degrees higher than the average temperatures.

The agency has also alerted people to take appropriate measures to counter the scorching heat. Keeping oneself hydrated, staying away from direct sunlight, and the use of air conditioners is encouraged, with the agency warning that the "potential for heat illness is higher than usual."

With the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics due to start in two years' time, authorities have predicted high temperatures for Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu islands, where the mercury is likely to rise up or even cross the 35 degree Celsius mark, with the Hokkaido island likely to be spared from the sweltering heat.

Genetically Modified Houseplants Could Save Us All from Smart Home Hell: -

Houseplants are on the rise, especially among millennial, and scientists are starting to look at how they could do more than just look nice. One idea from the University of Tennessee: houseplants as sensors detecting environmental problems inside the house.

Genetically engineering houseplants would allow them to react to problems like "mold, radon gas or high concentrations of volatile organic compounds," says Neal Stewart, the lead author of a paper exploring the concept, in a press statement.

Stewart was inspired by his wife, he tells *Popular Mechanics*. "She decided to go back to school after a few years. She wanted to go into interior design. From her, I learned about built environments and the new areas of research that cross biology and built environment. I've been building these plants to detect things for a long time and thought that would be a nice application." Susan Stewart is listed as a co-author on the paper.

The idea is built on the fact that you're never truly alone in your home. Instead, you're surrounded by what Stewart calls an "evolving microbiome incubator" in the paper, published in *Science*. Similar to the gut microbiome, the home's microbiome is reliant on the home's surroundings. Stewarts sees plants not only as something that can improve that microbiome, but could detect future problems.

The trick would be to "make a plant that has a gene switch, an off to on switch, when a particular stimulus is present," Stewart says in a brief interview with *Science Update*. Stewart has been involved in making plants react to certain conditions for years, like too much or not enough nitrogen in the atmosphere. When seen through certain filters, these plants appear to glow.

There would be a number of possible uses for such a houseplant. Stewart's first thought, he tells *Popular Mechanics*, would be citizen-

science projects across the country, raising and nurturing houseplants to show the invisible world surrounding plant owners. But he's also open to the idea that these plants could act in some ways like a homegrown Internet of Things device, detecting particulates in the air and offering feedback. And unlike Alexa, plants are not connected to the cloud and definitely can't hear what you're saying.

The military has also considered plant detection. Last year, the Department of Defense's experimental wing, DARPA, announced a program looking to take advantage of "nature's silent sentinels." But that program appears to be more focused on outdoor plants.

Stewart says the biggest surprise in researching houseplant genetic modification is "how little biotechnology has been done with indoor plants. It's almost nothing. The first challenge for me is to start working with these indoor plants. Being able to mine the DNA, building out the toolbox on these interior plants could be really easy, could be really hard. But we're not married to help any single species."

With a variety of plants to choose from, like *Chlorophytum comosum* (spider plants) to *Aspidistra elatior* (cast-iron plants), there's no telling where exactly Stewart's research will lead. But he's eager to find out. Over the next couple years, he plans to investigate houseplants and produce a plant that can do more for a millennial than make a good

Humans have used a year's worth of Earth's resources in just seven months: -Humans are using up the planet's resources so quickly

that people have used a year's worth in just seven months, experts are warning. And the rate at which we are consuming the Earth's natural resources is still speeding up.

This year the annual date when people have caused a year's worth of ecological damage – Earth Overshoot Day – comes two days earlier than last year.

It falls on August 1 as calculated by Global Footprint Network, an international research organization that observes humanity's use of materials such as food, timber and fibers, as well as carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels and the environmental damage caused by building infrastructure.

The experts say it means humanity is currently using nature 1.7 times faster than our planet's ecosystems can regenerate.

The costs of the "ecological overspend" include biodiversity loss, deforestation, soil erosion, collapsing fisheries, fresh water scarcity and the buildup of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, leading to a vicious circle of climate change and more severe droughts, wildfires and hurricanes. Such effects are starting to force people to migrate to cities or countries, Global Footprint Network warns.

Mathis Wackernagel, head of the organization, said: "Fires are raging in the western United States; on the other side of the world, residents in Cape Town have had to slash water consumption in half since 2015. These are consequences of busting the ecological budget of our one and only planet.

"Our economies are running a Ponzi scheme with our planet. We are using the Earth's future resources to operate in the present and digging

ourselves deeper into ecological debt.

"It's time to end this ecological Ponzi scheme and leverage our creativity and ingenuity to create a prosperous future free of fossil fuels and planetary destruction."

The group's solutions to address the crises include:

- Cutting driving by half worldwide – replacing a third of car miles with public transportation and the rest by walking and biking.
- Halving food waste.
- Reducing meat consumption. The network says it takes 14 times as much land to produce a ton of beef as to produce a ton of grain. Pork takes 1.9 times as much. And global livestock is responsible for at least 9 per cent of all man-made carbon emissions.

• If every other family in the world had one child less, Overshoot Day would move back 30 days by 2050.

Scientific studies over the past year have revealed a third of land is now acutely degraded, while increasingly erratic weather and habitat loss are accelerating the decline of wildlife.

Network activists are inviting people to calculate their own personal Overshoot Day and ecological footprint at www.footprintcalculator.org.

They say one cause for hope is that the ecological footprint of China, the country with the largest total impact on the planet, fell by 0.3 per cent from 2013 to 2014 after a steady climb since 2000.

The country's ecological footprint per person also decreased – by 0.8 per cent from 2013 to 2014.

California Is Preparing for Extreme Weather.

It's Time to Plant Some Trees: - The state expects drier dry years and wetter wet ones in the decades ahead. That means projects to restore river habitats now serve another purpose: battling the coming floods.

For years, there has been a movement in California to restore floodplains, by moving levees back from rivers and planting trees, shrubs and grasses in the low-lying land between. The goal has been to go back in time, to bring back some of the habitat for birds, animals and fish that existed before the state was developed.

But in addition to recreating the past, floodplain restoration is increasingly seen as a way of coping with the future — one of human-induced climate change. The reclaimed lands will flood more readily, and that will help protect cities and towns from the more frequent and larger inundations that scientists say are likely as California continues to warm.

"We thought we were just going to plant some trees out here and get some birds to move in," said Julie Rentner, executive vice president of River Partners, a conservation group that is restoring hundreds of acres of farmland on the outskirts of Modesto in the Central Valley, where agriculture has overwhelmed the natural environment. "Now we've got this whole much larger public benefit thing going on."

Researchers say it is unclear whether climate change will make California drier or wetter on average. What is more certain is that the state will increasingly whipsaw between extremes, with drier dry years, wetter wet ones and a rising frequency of intense periods of precipitation.

Here's an Inspiring Story Of A Cleaner Who

Made Her Sons Top Officers:- Sumitra Devi cleaned the streets of CCL township of Rajrappa, Jharkhand, for 30 years and none living in the colony could have ever thought that her retirement would be so special that people would bow before her in respect on the last day of her service.

On her retirement, her colleagues and neighbors made some arrangements to bid her adieu. There was nothing special and it was quite like another fourth grade employee retiring, until the arrival of three cars that change the scene altogether.

The first car with blue beacon caught everybody's attention, it was the District Collector of Siwan, Bihar touched his mother Sumitra Devi feet.

Soon, the gentlemen who got down from other two cars followed the DC. Sumitra's elder son Virendra Kumar is a railway engineer, her second son Dhirendra Kumar is a doctor and her third son Mahendra Kumar is now the district collector of Siwan district in Bihar.

When all the three sons touched her feet, Sumitra started crying. The tears of happiness were enough to tell that she was quite happy while her superiors who had gathered there to felicitate her on her last day felt amazed.

"Sahab, for 30 years, I cleaned the streets of this colony, but my children are Sahabs like you," said the emotional Sumitra, while introducing her children to her superiors in a story published in India Samvad.

While Sumitra's colleagues felt proud of her and their association for such a strong woman working with them, her three sons also shared some secrets and how her mother made them successful in life.

"Our mother has sacrificed a lot for us. She never let us down and always encouraged us to study and study harder, so that one day we can be officers in any of the offices like this one. I am proud that she's my mother," Siwan's Collector, Mahender Kumar was quoted in IndiaSamwad. Sumitra's sons also shared the secrets of their success and how their mother worked hard to give them a good education. They said that all three of them decided to something good in their lives after seeing the mother's struggle.

Continuous work, despite sons' position

Despite Sumitra Devi's son becoming big officers in their respective fields, she didn't stop cleaning the streets of colony and left her job. Instead, she kept doing her work with utmost dedication and hard work.

"I didn't leave this job despite my sons being successful because it was this job which helped to educate my children. How I could leave something which turned my dreams into reality," said Sumitra.

'Hard work pays'

Mahendra Kumar, DC of Siwan got very emotional while seeing her mother saying goodbye to her job which made him and his brother officers. While many people there was unaware of this fact and we feeling proud that her fourth grade colleague has achieved so much in life with this small job. The DC gave an emotional message that was appreciated by all the people present there.

"No job is difficult in life. Everything becomes possible with honest hard work. My mother and us have seen tough times in our lives, yet she never let us feel broken or disheartened. I am proud that we all lived upto her hardwork and expectations," said the DC.

LEGAL NOTES

Mohd. Mudassar Hussain vs. State of Maharashtra

The applicant is an accused before the Judicial Magistrate of First Class at Chalisgaon in Maharashtra. He is a native of Balaipul in Kannauj district, U.P. The respondent is the State through Police, Chalisgaon P.S. of Jalgaon district. This accused was facing criminal trial in criminal case No. 86/2003 before the Magistrate at Chalisgaon for various offences under the Forest Act. He filed Crl. A. No. 1044/2004 in the High Court of Bombay at Aurangabad Branch requesting to quash the criminal proceedings before the J.F.C.M, Chalisgaon. The matter was heard by The Hon'ble Justice T.V. Nalawade.

The Hon'ble Justice Nalaware, after perusal of record, found that there was a racket of persons committing theft of sandalwood and the sandalwood was being sold by those persons to another person who was dealing in sandalwood through middlemen. Allegations were made against the applicant who was acting as a middleman between the persons who were committing theft and the person who was dealing in sandalwood.

The applicant is made accused on the basis of statements of persons who were committing theft and the statements revealed that the present applicant was acting as a middleman when those persons who were committing theft were selling sandalwood to persons like Vimal Sarju Gupta. Huge quantity was recovered and so charge sheet was filed against the person committing theft, the persons working as

middleman and also the person who was dealing in sandalwood.

It is the case of the applicant that there is no other material except the statements of the accused persons recorded by Forest Officer and so the present applicant is entitled to quashment of the case filed against him. The Additional Public Prosecutor who appeared and argued on behalf of the respondent placed reliance on the following reported cases:

- 1). Dr. Emerico D'Souza vs. State through Deputy Conservator of Forests – 1995 910 Bom C. r. 266
- 2). State of Maharashtra Vs. Surajpal Jagmohan - 2015 (1) Bom C.R. (Cri) 576

In the above two cases, it was held that Range Forest Officers are not Police Officers and so, the statement recorded by them are not hit by the provisions of Sec. 25 of the Evidence Act and the statements recorded of accused by such Range Forest Officer if relevant can be used against Co-accused. On the other hand the learned counsel for the applicant placed reliance on some observations made by the Apex Court in the case reported as, Toofan Singh Vs. State of Tamil Nadu – (2013) 16 SCC 31

It appears that the Bench of the two Hon'ble Judges of the Apex Court differed from the ratio of the case:

Kanhaiyalal vs. Union of India – (2008) 4 SCC 668;

And has referred the matter to a larger Bench. In any case at the present Kanhaiyalal's case holds the field.

In view of the circumstances of the case, the court held that the observations made for referring the matter to a larger Bench by the Apex Court in the aforesaid case cannot help the present applicant.

In view of the aforesaid circumstances, it was held that the trial proceedings cannot be quashed. In

the result, the application was dismissed on 11.01.2017.

The court observed that the matter is very old. The Learned Magistrate is expected to judiciously dispose of the matter and in any case within six months from the date of receipt of the order and, if necessary, the case of the applicant can be separated if other accused are absconding.

Source: Internet

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