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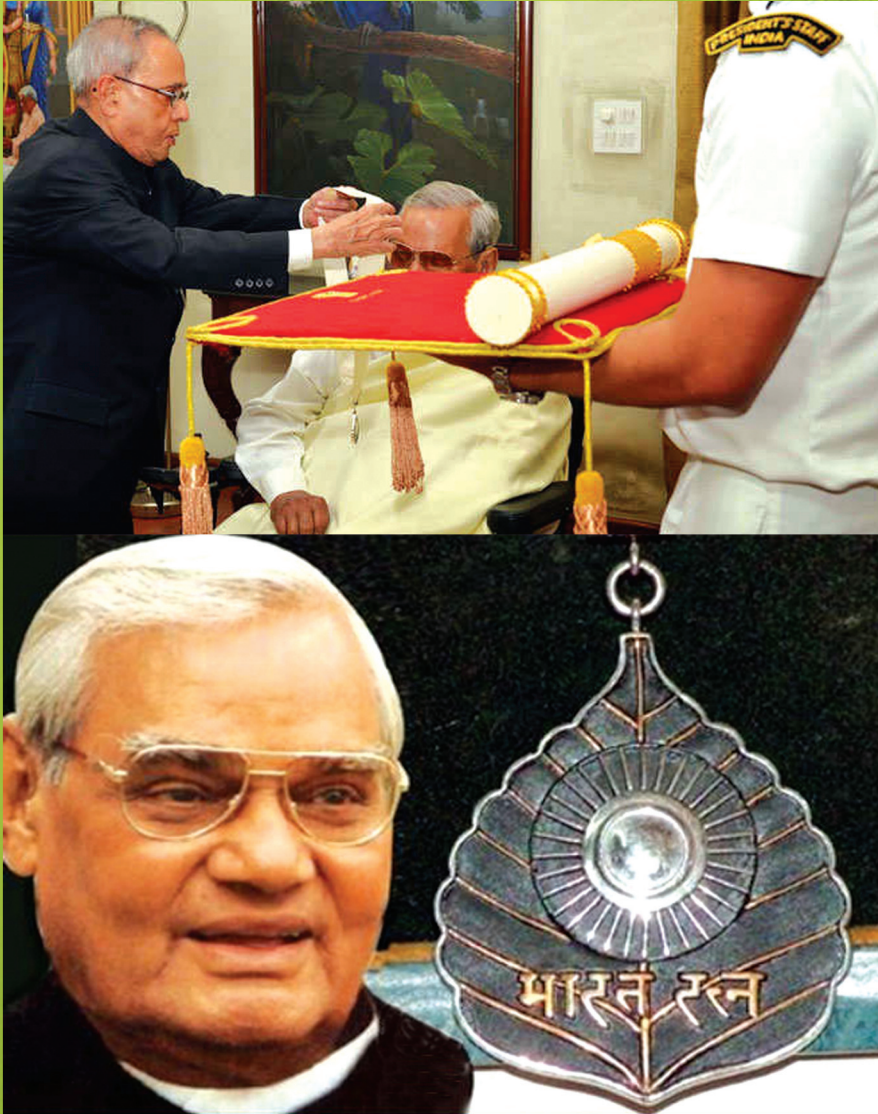
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No.09



Former president Pranab Mukherjee conferring Atal Bihari Vajpayee with the Bharat Ratna in 2015 at his residence. (Below) Sri Atal Bihari Vajpayee with Bharat Ratna medallion

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

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Tribute To
Sri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji
Three-time Prime Minister of India
Consummate Poet
Orator Par excellence
Amiable Statesman
Astute Politician
Foreign Affairs Expert
Vana Premi Pays Rich
Homage & Salutes You Sir

EDITORIAL

International Day of Peace: International Day of Peace is celebrated on September 21 each year throughout the globe. It is celebrated to recognize the efforts of those who have worked hard to end conflict and promote peace. International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by a UN resolution. It was established to coincide with the opening of the UN General Assembly. The first Peace Day was celebrated in 1982 and was held on the third Tuesday of September each year until 2002, when September 21 became the permanent date for the International Day of Peace. The assembly decided in 2001 that the International Day of Peace should be annually observed on September 21 starting from 2002. By setting a fixed date for the International Day of Peace, the assembly declared that the day should be observed as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence. Peace Day provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a culture of Peace. A peaceful society is one where there is justice and equality for everyone. Peace will enable a sustainable environment to take shape and a sustainable environment will help promote peace. The only way we can achieve peace worldwide is when we can accelerate the progress of our evolution. Peace is an occurrence of harmony characterized by the absence of violence, conflict behaviors and the freedom from fear of violence. The

opposite or antonym of peace is war, violence, disagreement, hate, agitation and fighting. The following are some of the causes for lack of peace, i.e. economic gain, territorial gain, religion, superiority complex, ego, revenge, civil war and defensive war. Every year a theme is selected for observing the International Peace Day. The theme for the International Day of Peace 2018 is "The Right to Peace - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70". The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly resolution, at its 3rd session in Paris on 10 December 1948 and it has completed 70 years after its adoption. This year's theme celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The universal declaration of human rights was drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights has set a new world record of being the most translated paper. The UN Human Rights office has received a certificate from the Guinness Book of Records stating that the Declaration has been translated into 370 languages and dialects. This document is as relevant today as it was on the day that it was adopted. The theme for International Day of Peace 2017 was "Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for all". If we remember leaders of the world who contributed for the peace in the world the first

name comes to us is of Mahatma Gandhi, followed by, Nelson Mandela, U Thant, and Martin Luther King. There are many more world leaders who contributed for peace in the world. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi is known as Mahatma meaning 'Great Soul'. He was an astute political campaigner who fought for Indian independence from British rule, and for the rights of the Indian poor which he achieved. His example of non-violent or *ahinsa* protest is still revered throughout the world even today.

Mahatma Gandhi believed in the unity of all mankind under one God. He approached life with making small steps towards his goals, which he pursued relentlessly. By the time he died, India had become an independent country, free of British rule and actually India became the largest democracy in the world. Today, Gandhi is remembered not only as a political leader in India, but also as a moralist with *ahinsa*, who appealed to the universal conscience of mankind throughout the world.

The main reason for wars, conflicts, disagreement and hate is world's ever increasing population. As the world population is increasing, the global demand of resources including land for production of food for hungry mouths is also increasing which compels nations to spend more money and resources. Due to

heavy demand for land forests are being cut throughout the globe. The amount of resources especially water and land is not going to escalate unless we find a renewable resource which is impossible. The only thing that's going to escalate is conflict global Warming and irreducible pollution which is going to worsen the situation. To have peace in this world we have to reduce our population especially in continent like Asia which is thickly overpopulated.

The International Day of Peace is also known as Peace Day. People around the world participate in various activities and organize events featured for peace to motivate others and tell the importance of peace in this busy world. Events may vary from private gathering to public, various concerts and forums for huge audiences. Activities like, peace walks, picnics for peace, peace prayers, tree planting for peace and art exhibitions for promoting peace etc are undertaken. Other activities include lighting candles, peace prayers, art exhibitions promoting peace etc.

Vana Premi wishes that peace prevails in India in particular and throughout the globe in general and mankind lives happily and fearlessly in this planet. **QMK**

***“It isn’t enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it.
And it isn’t enough to believe in it. One must work at it”
(Eleanor Roosevelt)***

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am a regular reader of "Vana Premi" I have gone through the issue of August-2018 from the front cover to the last page where the cartoon has a place, is worth reading and preserving. The tree plantation photograph on page no.41 is nice; clear the inducing to undertake such programs everywhere.

I liked very much the article written by Sri V. Santasheela Babu. He has covered all aspects of 'Wild life -Protection'. Forest without wild life is no forest. Allotting the forest land to land-hungry Adivasis for cultivation and development of agriculture means destruction of natural habitat of wildlife. He has observed the present trend of increasing visitors to established zoos. He is sorry for the illicit and increased poaching of animal parts. Mr. Babu has a hope in tomorrow's citizens. He strongly promotes visits to National Parks by children and has listed 7-8 ways how we can protect our rich wildlife even today.

The important article written by Mr. J.V. Sharma on "Forest Encroachments" is attracting our attention to increasing political pressures to condone new encroachments. The encroachers are adopting new tactics to get Government Forest Department land at any cost because if one gets a "patta" from Forest Department it is free of cost. Hence they are even threatening to commit suicide if their demand is not considered by forest offices. In all states of India such cornering strategies are adopted. Unless Government of India changes its policy to stop granting forest land to landless encroachers, forests are not going to protect us and wildlife.

We have seen the devastation of forest land in recent floods caused by heavy down pour of rain water in Kodagu district of Karnataka and 13 district of Kerala. The total loss is yet to be assessed. Keeping tree cover on forest land is worth than allotting pattas to landless people from forest and face multifarious problems for years to come. Now the Government will realize the importance of forest.

The article of 'Shifting Sands' written by Sri M. Padmanabha Reddy is informative adding to the knowledge of forester. He has shown the mammoth requirement of sand for construction industry in India & he has suggested better regulations & finding alternative material for sand.

With best wishes,

Suresh Deshpande, Nashik. 21 August-2018

Even with all our technology and the inventions that make modern life so much easier than it once was, it takes just one big natural disaster to wipe all away and remind us that, here on earth, we are still at the mercy of nature. (Neil de Grasse Tyson)

ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE

Source Internet and News paper

Atal Bihari Vajpayee is an iconic political leader, known for his cultural moderation, liberalism and political reasonableness. He became the Prime Minister of India thrice. It was during his tenure that India successfully conducted nuclear tests at Pokhran and renewed hopes for peace between India and Pakistan emerged with the start of the New Delhi-Lahore bus service. His government has been till date the only non-Congress government to stay in power for five years. Besides being a seasoned politician and outstanding parliamentarian, Atal Bihari Vajpayee is also a renowned poet and a highly popular personality across the political spectrum.

The Narendra Modi Government has announced the conferment of Bharat Ratna on former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. His birthday on 25 December has been declared as 'Good Governance Day'. Famous for his oratorical skills, Vajpayee lead a retired and reclusive life due to ill-health till his death on 16th August 2018.

Early life: Atal Bihari Vajpayee was born in a middle-class family to Krishna Devi and Krishna Bihari Vajpayee on 25 December, 1924 in Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh). His father was a poet and a school teacher. Vajpayee did his schooling from the *Saraswati Shishu Mandir*, Gwalior. Later, he studied at Victoria College, Gwalior – now Laxmi Bai College, for his graduation. It was at Dayanand Anglo-Vedic College, Kanpur that

Vajpayee completed his post-graduation in Political Science.

Joining as the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) worker in 1939, Vajpayee became a pracharak (full-time worker) in 1947. He also worked for *Rashtradharma* Hindi monthly, *Panchjanya* Hindi weekly and the dailies *Swadesh* and *Veer Arjun*. Vajpayee chose to stay bachelor for whole life.

Political Career: Atal Bihari Vajpayee began his career in politics as a freedom fighter. Later he joined the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS), under the leadership of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee. He became national secretary of BJS in charge of the Northern region.

As the new leader of BJS, Vajpayee was elected to the Lok Sabha for the first time in 1957 from Balrampur. He rose to become the national president of the Jana Sangh in 1968. Supported by his colleagues Nanaji Deshmukh, Balraj Madhok and L K Advani, Vajpayee took the Jana Sangh to greater glory.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee participated in the Total Revolution movement launched by Jayaprakash Narayan (JP) against the Internal Emergency imposed by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi in 1975. In 1977, Jana Sangh became a part of the Janata Party, the grand-alliance against the Indira Gandhi government.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee became a Union Minister in 1977 when Morarji Desai-led Janata Party coalition came to power for the first time. He became the Minister of External Affairs. As foreign minister, Vajpayee became the first person to deliver a speech at the United Nations General Assembly in Hindi. His career as a minister was short-lived as the resignation of Morarji Desai in 1979. But by then, Vajpayee had established himself as a political leader.

Vajpayee along with Lal Krishna Advani, Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and others from the BJS and Rashtriya Swyamsevak Sangh (RSS) formed the Bharatiya Janata Party in 1980. He became a strong critic of the Congress (I) government that followed the fall of Janata Party government.

Vajpayee did not support Operation Blue Star and raised his voice against the anti-Sikh violence after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984 by two of her Sikh bodyguards.

The BJP won two parliamentary seats in the 1984 elections. Vajpayee functioned as BJP President and Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament. Known for his liberal views, Vajpayee bemoaned the demolition of the Babri Mosque on 6 December, 1992 and declared it as the BJP's "worst miscalculation".

As Prime Minister of India: 1984 elections, the BJP had established itself as an important political party in Indian politics. Vajpayee was sworn in as the 10th Prime Minister of India following the 1996 General Elections, where the

BJP emerged as the single largest party in the Lok Sabha. However, the government collapsed after only 13 days after his government could not gather support from other parties to obtain a majority. He thus became the shortest serving Prime Minister in India.

The BJP-led coalition government came back to power as the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in 1998. Vajpayee was again sworn in as the Prime Minister. Vajpayee's second term as PM is known for nuclear tests conducted at Pokhran desert in Rajasthan, in May 1998 under the leadership of the scientific adviser to the Defense Minister Dr. Avula Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam who was the chief of the DRDO. Vajpayee also pushed for peace process with Pakistan. He inaugurated the historic Delhi-Lahore bus service in February 1999. He also pitched for resolving the Kashmir dispute and other conflicts with Pakistan.

However, Vajpayee's government lasted 13 months when the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) withdrew its support to the government in mid-1999.

In the following election, however, the NDA came back with full majority and Vajpayee was able to complete five years (1999-2004) in office as a non-Congress PM for the first time. Atal Bihari Vajpayee took oath as Prime Minister of India for the third time on 13 October 1999. However, his third term also saw India yielding to terrorists when in December 1999 Indian Airlines flight IC 814 from Kathmandu to New

Delhi was hijacked and taken to Kandahar, Afghanistan. The government had to release dreaded terrorists including Maulana Masood Azhar from prison to secure the freedom of passengers. On the brighter side, the Vajpayee government introduced many economic and infrastructural reforms, including encouraging the private sector and foreign investments. It also undertook National Highway Development Projects and *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*. Vajpayee adopted pro-business, free-market reforms approach to boost India's economic development.

In March 2000, Vajpayee signed the Historic Vision Document during the visit of the then US President Bill Clinton. The Declaration incorporated several strategic issues, apart from pitching for expansion in trade and economic ties between the two countries.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee again tried for peace with Pakistan during the Agra summit with the then Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, but the talks failed to achieve any breakthrough as Musharraf declined to leave aside the Kashmir issue.

Retirement: The 2004 General Election brought about the downfall of the NDA, which lost almost half of its seats and the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) assumed the reins of power. Vajpayee refused to take up the position of the Leader of the Opposition paving the way for Lal Krishna Advani's leadership of BJP.

When the then President Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi went to his

spacious bungalow in Krishna Menon Marg in Lutyens' Delhi in 2015 to award Vajpayee the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honor, the occasion was deliberately kept low-profile and away from media glare. No journalist was allowed inside and the only ones present during the felicitation ceremony were ministers, political leaders and Vajpayee's family members.

Later on, the Rashtrapati Bhavan released a photograph in which Vajpayee's face was strategically hidden behind a tray. (please see front page for photo) The veteran BJP leader is seen sitting in an armchair as Pranab Mukherjee felicitates him.

He was admitted in AIIMS on June 11 with kidney tract infection, chest congestion and his urine output being on the lower side. Sri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was under treatment for about 9 weeks in AIIMS but died on 16th August 2018 at the age of 93 years. Government of India declared 7 days mourning and half a day holiday and State Governments declared holiday on 17th August as a mark of respect to the departed leader.

Awards: He was awarded the following awards.

Padma Vibhushan in 1992

D. Lit. from Kanpur University in 1993

Lokmanya Tilak Award in 1994

Best Parliamentarian Award in 1994

Bharat Ratna in 2015

Liberation War award (Bangladesh Muktijuddho Sanmanona) in 2015



The then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh greeting former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee at his residence on his 85th birthday in 2009.



Atal Bihari Vajpayee along with A.P.J. Abdul Kalam at the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range in May 1998.



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



- SCCL contributes 10% of country's total coal production. SCCL achieved the highest ever coal dispatches of 64.6 M.T. during 2017-18.
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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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ON THE JOB PRACTICAL TRAINING IN ADILABAD CIRCLE (PART II)

By
Paresh Kumar Sharma

The second part of my practical training started outside the Forest Department. This module of training was started with our Batch only. We were to be trained with the Collector, Superintendent of Police, Superintending Engineer (Irrigation) and Project Director, District Rural Development Agency; for duration of 15 days each.

So it started with attachment to the Collector Adilabad. Initially for a week I was attached to the Joint Collector Adilabad Sri J. Sarma Rao, IAS. I was made to study files relating to grant of tree felling permissions on Patta lands, reservation of Forest Blocks, recovery of revenue and in general the functioning of the Collectorate, District Revenue Officer, Joint-Collector and other developmental Agencies like DRDA, ITDA etc. This was the time for the conduct of elections to the State Assembly. District Administration was fully engaged in the preparation for the same. I was exposed to the various aspects of conduct of the election, like counting of votes, distribution of polling material to the Polling Parties, preparation of the Polling Booths, dispatch of Polling Parties to various booths etc. I had toured with Joint-Collector **Sri J. Sarma Rao, IAS** in the eastern part of the district covering Utnoor, Luxettipet, Mancheriyal, Asifabad etc. In the R&B Guest House

Mancheriyal, we found somebody's brief case in one corner of the Suite reserved for the J.C. This made the JC very angry and he started shouting at the GH staff. E.E. came running after hearing the commotion and picked up his Brief case seeking apologies for having kept it in one corner of the suite. This however did not quieted the anger of the JC, rather it was fuelled up. The poor chap was humiliated in choicest of the words, telling how he dare have stepped into the Room kept for the JC. Arrogance or British legacy perhaps! I was astonished at this outburst, but could not say a word being a Probationer. But this incident did not go well in my mind.

In contrast, the experience with the Collector **Shri A.K. Goel saheb** was thoroughly pleasant and memorable. He had very good knowledge, in general as well as that of the district, commanding voice, clarity of thought, gift of gab and a clear vision for the development of the district and its people. He had great love for the forests and wildlife. On the Ghat Road of Nirmal on NH 7, he explained to me the topography of Adilabad district on SOI Topo-map, spreading it on the bonnet of the car. He explained that the forests in the district are by and large confined to a roughly rectangular land parcel defined by

4 land marks, viz., **Nirmal, Luxettipet, Asifabad and Gudi Hathnoor**. He explained that if powers were vested with him, he would like to shift all the villages from this "rectangle" to outside and re-settle them in the adjoining towns. This would ensure protection of forests and wildlife and at the same time save money of the Govt. in developing the interior villages by way of laying roads, electricity lines, drinking water pipelines, building Schools and Hospitals etc. for small-small pockets of population. On this type of re-settlement, the development of the people would also be faster. What a wonderful vision! Had it happened the face of Adilabad would not have changed so much, for bad, in terms of loss of forest cover and Biodiversity. Alas! This did or could not happen. Probably the Collectors were not vested with such powers.

During attachment to the Collector, I toured with the Collector and was fully involved in the polling process, observed polling in about 15 polling stations on 5th of January 1982. On 6th of January proceeded to Govt. College, Adilabad along with Collector and supervised the counting of Votes of all the LA Constituencies of Adilabad District throughout the day. Prior to the elections, I noticed that election fever had gripped the people. They were highly enthralled by the call of "**Telugu Atma Gauravam**" (Telugu Pride/ Esteem) given by **Late Sri N.T. Rama Rao**, leader of the newly floated **Telugu Desam Party (TDP)**. He had to come to Nirmal for a public rally and address. I was told that he used to organize

screening of his starrer movie "**Bobbili Puli**" (The Tiger of Bobbili) in the town, where he was scheduled to address a meeting, prior to his arrival. I found lot of enthusiasm in public for NTR and his new Party, but skepticism among Officials. Most of them believed in the charisma and crowd pulling capabilities of NTR, but doubted if the crowd would be converted into votes. Results were also declared in the night. Later on the skeptics were proven wrong and NTR stormed the Assembly with two thirds majority, ending the rule of grand old Congress Party in Andhra Pradesh.

This was a unique experience for me to be associated with the entire election process from preparatory works to the declaration of results. The entire process was conducted in most peaceful manner; there were no untoward incidents anywhere in the district. At the end of it Collector thanked all the members of the district officials for the successful conduct of elections and suitably rewarded the various polling Team Leaders.

During this period, along with the Collector, I got an opportunity to interact with the Engineers of AP State Irrigation Development Corporation Ltd. at Nirmal on Major and Minor Irrigation Projects, visited Sri Ram Sagar, Saraswati Canal and other places. We also went to Basar and had "*darshan*" of Goddess of Learning, Saraswati, on the bank of River Godavari. I came to know that this was the only place in India to have a temple dedicated to

Goddess Saraswati. I had interacted with the Executive Officer of the Temple and came to know about the nitty gritty of the temple administration. Subsequently, I proceeded to Utnoor with the Collector, Adilabad where he laid foundation stone for the proposed "Horticulture Farm & Training School" in the presence of Sri H.S. Brahma, IAS, Director Tribal Development and Sri MVPC Sastry, IAS, Project Officer ITDA.

After this I was attached to the Superintendent of Police. **Sri G.A. Raheem, IPS** was the SP. I was exposed to the functioning of Police at District and State level, historical perspective of the need for policing in the society, delegation of powers to various Police Officers and creation of the Para-military forces like BSF & CRPF. I was attached to Addl.SP,DSP, and a Police Station also. I did attend District Crime meeting. I was associated with SDPO and Inspector of Police for investigation into a murder case, where in an old woman had been killed for gain, in village Tandra. During next week, a gruesome crime took place in Adilabad. A College girl student, **Miss Varalakshmi**, a member of the All India Student's Federation (AISF), had gone to attend a student's conference at Tirupati. After the conference was over, she had come back to Adilabad. But, before she could reach home, was waylaid near the Circuit House early in the morning and raped and brutally murdered. Entire town was shocked with this news. I learnt the procedure of post-mortem and inquest with this un-fortunate

incident.

I was attached to the **Superintending Engineer (Major & Medium Projects-Irrigation), Nirmal**, a town about 70 Km from Adilabad on NH 7 (south wards). Besides learning about the working of the Dept., we visited **Kaddam** and **Sri Ram Sagar Projects**, and **Saraswati Canal works** including construction of an Aqua-duct over River Swarna. During this one week of attachment we stayed in FRH Nirmal and enjoyed the hospitality of DFO Nirmal **Sri T. Narayan Swamy**. He made our stay highly comfortable. He gave us free hand to purchase new bed sheets for the FRH suite where we were lodged. He organized a party on the eve of our first wedding anniversary. We shall never forget the affection showered upon us by Sri Swami and all the other Officers at Nirmal. Screening of the acclaimed movie "*Bobbili Puli*" was going on in Nirmal Town, so me and my wife watched this movie.

Second part of my attachment to the Executive Engineer (Irrigation - Survey & Investigation Div.) was slated in Kareem Nagar district. We travelled to Kareem Nagar by APSRTC Bus and got accommodated in the FRH in the Forest Complex. We were given warm welcome by **Sri L. Lohit Reddy**, DFO (East) and **Sri G. Shankar Rao**, DFO (West).

Executive Engineer (S&I Div.) organized the training programme and explained in detail the basics of Survey and Investigation process for

Irrigation projects. I was taken to **Lower Manair Dam**, an Over-bridge over Kakatiya main canal, a Syphon near Kotthapalli, Sluice gate on main canal, distributaries and an Aqua-duct near Mothevagu for field experience. I had a visit to a Minor Irrigation Project near (v) Bonal, a Lift Irrigation canal and a Drop in the Kakatiya canal. Sri & Smt. Lohit Reddy hosted dinner for us one of these days. They took both of us to their personal Puja Room in the residence. We both prayed to the deities. Sri Reddy informed us that he had prayed to God for my posting to Kareem Nagar (East) Division as DFO on completion of Probation period. His words proved to be prophetic. Later on I was posted as DFO, Kareem Nagar (East). ,

Last of my attachment for a fortnight, to the sister Departments was with the **Project Director, District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Sri Mahboob Ali** who was a thorough gentleman. I was exposed to the various Rural Development activities. I toured extensively in the district along with PD and learnt about the evaluation of IRDP schemes (Kamalapur village), witnessed opening of a village level Bank - "**Saraswati Grameena Bank**" at Dabba. Accompanied the PD, DRDA to interior villages like Bijjur & Penchkalpet and inspected Cashew Plantations raised by the beneficiaries at **Nazrul Nagar** (a settlement of refugees from East Pakistan/Bangla Desh, story about it later on) and Nagampet. Attended the Block Level Consultative Committee meeting at **Chinnur**. I

had also inspected Mango Orchards near Uttoor. This one fortnight's attachment made me thorough with the various procedures and programmes for uplifting the rural people. All the Officers were doing their best to this end. It was a thoroughly satisfying part of the training. After these attachments, it was our turn for attachment to the CCF's office. We both (me & my wife) proceeded to Hyderabad by bus. In those days neither the condition of the road to Hyderabad (in fact all the roads in Telangana region) nor the APSRTC buses plying in Telangana, was good. We reached Hyderabad and got accommodated in one of the 2 suites of the FRH in the premises of the CCF's office. Here my other 4 batch mates, who had been allotted to AP Cadre and had undergone "On the job practical trainings" in different parts of the State, reached Hyderabad one by one with a gap of 1-2 days. **Smt. CS Rama Lakshmi** arrived from Vishakhapatnam, **Sri RV Rao** from Rajahmundry, **Sri KDR Jay Kumar** from Khammam and **Sri SBL Misra** from Warangal. As I was the first to reach Hyderabad, had an extra day and utilized it for calling on the CCF **Sri A.K. Mathur**, IFS at his residence by taking an appointment through his assistant **Sri K. Ramakrishna** (popularly known as Killy Ramakrishna). CCF enquired about the training programme and also if I was prepared to handle a Division immediately after the training programme. I replied in the affirmative.

Next day onward our attachments to various

Officers in the CCF's Office commenced. We batch mates had met after a gap of 8 months. We narrated and shared our experiences. We were accorded warm welcome in the CCF's office. We as a batch received special attention and treatment, because of the presence of Smt. CS Rama Lakshmi, the first Woman IFS Officer of the State (and one of the three of India). **Sri M. Kamal Naidu**, IFS and the CF (Research) hosted a dinner for us at his residence. So also **Sri C. Subba Rao**, IFS, ACCF (E) which was attended by **Sri T. Ram Krishna**, IFS, Curator of the NZP. He emphasized on the need to converse in Telugu.

In those days CCF used to be the HOD, who used to be assisted by 4 Addl. CCFs and few CFs and DCFs/ACFs. Nomenclature and numbers have gone up later on. We were attached to the 4 Addl. CCFs, viz., **Sri B. Ram Bhadriah**, IFS, ACCF (Admin & Tech), **Sri AL Rao**, IFS, ACCF (SF), **Sri T. Krishna Murthi**, IFS, ACCF (WL & Accounts) and **Sri KVS Babu**, IFS, ACCF (DE); on day to day basis. We were explained about the organization of the Department and hierarchy etc. by the Asst. CCF (Dev. & Estt.) **Sri C. Subba Rao**, IFS in the beginning and learnt about roles and responsibilities of various wings of the Deptt in attachments to the 4 Addl. CCFs and their Officers. We were taken to field also to see the Research Works at Gungal, Social Forestry nurseries and plantations, Mahavir Harina Vanasthali and Hyderabad Plywood- and Novopan Industries. We also met the Secretary Forests & Rural Development **Sri K.**

Subrahmanyam, IAS, in the AP Secretariat. He encouraged and motivated us by saying that with more number of youngsters coming to the State things were looking up.

The most memorable part of my/our attachment to the O/o the CCF was interaction with **Sri T. Krishna Murthi**, IFS, Addl. CCF (WL & Accts.) who gave practical tips on ensuring the quality and quantity of Beedi Leaf during ensuing BL Season. He had also enlisted all types of frauds/mal-practices the BL Purchasers or their representatives could play, based on his experiences and gave tips/clues to prevent those. I also vividly recall the statement of **Sri C. Sarvottam Rao**, CF (SF) about the Working Plans, "Working Plans are very good technical documents but to be adorned in the shelves of libraries as funds were never provided to implement the prescriptions of the Working Plans".

With this the "On the job practical training" came to the end, WE prepared our reports and finally called upon the CCF **Sri A.K. Mathur** on 15th of Mar 1983. In this meeting the CCF informed us about our proposed places of postings as Divisional Forest Officers. He told us that proposals were being sent to the Govt. and we were directed to join as soon as the orders were received. He also informed that it could take some time hence we were needed to wait for the same in Hyderabad or at the respective Circle HQ.

I happily returned to Adilabad and waited for

the GO. In the meantime, it was time to appear in the Language Tests to be conducted by the APPSC. I appeared in the Telugu (Lower Std.) and Hindi (Higher Std.) examinations on 22nd & 23rd of Mar 83 at Hyderabad. My preparation for Telugu Language with the help of my Tutor **Sri S. Raghunandan**, helped me clear it in the first go itself. I know many of the IAS, IFS and IPS Officers took 2 to 4 and some even more attempts in clearing the Telugu Exams. As this was linked to the sanction of Senior Time scale, I felt very happy on this achievement and profusely thanked my Guru ji!

The wait for posting orders was over on 6th of April 1983. I finally received the posting orders. I had been posted as DFO Kareem Nagar (East) in place of Sri L. Lohit Reddy. Sri Reddy's prayer had been heard, which was made in his house Temple in Feb 83. I was very happy with this posting. I packed my luggage and prepared to leave for Kareem Nagar. The Bus for Kareem Nagar was to leave early in the morning at 5 am, but finding a transport at that hour in Kareem Nagar was a difficult proposition. Things became difficult as both the Conservator of Forests and Divisional Forest Officer were on camps, and there were no Departmental vehicles. Hence I contacted one **Sri Dinesh Dokwal**, owner of a Ginning Mill, hailing from Rajasthan, with whom I had developed acquaintance during my stay in Adilabad, in this regard. He informed that he too did not have a suitable vehicle for transport of luggage from my Quarter to the Bus Stand.

However, he told that he had Bullock Carts and could send the same for the purpose. As the Bus was to leave early in the morning, he sent a pair of bullock carts with cart drivers and sufficient grass in the evening itself.

Thus having made this arrangement, I and my wife went to finally call upon the Collectors at their bungalow. We met Smt. and Sri A.K. Goel and informed about my posting. He enquired about our departure plan. I informed him about the "meticulous plan" I had finalized. He burst into laughter and enquired about the DFO. I told him that he was on camp; he immediately got into action, called someone on phone. After the conversation he informed us that we need not travel to Kareem Nagar by Bus as the Jeep of PD, DRDA was going to Karim Nagar for service and that we could travel in the same. He also informed that a trailer was also available and he had requested the PD to provide the same to us so that luggage could be transported comfortably. This was almost a dictum from the Collector. We thanked the Collector profusely, We returned to the Quarter, sent back the Bullock Carts, took leave of the neighbors and left for Kareem Nagar in the morning of 11th April 1983 by the Jeep for writing the next chapter of my career. (The author is former Prl. Chief-Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Telangana, Hyderabad. At present he is working as Chief-Consultant (FC) at MCRHRDIT, Hyderabad. Contact him at +91 63000 30519 and pareshvyas22@gmail.com.)

OF SOCIETIES, CIVIL AND OTHERWISE

By
Surya B. Singh *

Of late we have been reading in dailies, periodicals and also hearing through so called informed discussions about a society which calls itself civil and propagates the idea of development with destruction of forest and wildlife. The proponents of such bizarre ideas feel that the survival of humans is more precious than of trees and wildlife and therefore the latter could be sacrificed for the survival of former if need be, which is apparently quite reasonable and therefore prima-facie convincing. The votaries of such line of thoughts also assert that there are countries and civilizations that are flourishing with a little forest cover and cite **selected statistics** of Israel, Egypt (success of this civilization is measured by length of fiber of cotton it grows in a treeless environment!), Australia, China and UK to buttress their claims. These self proclaimed civilized people also support the rationale behind 'The Scheduled Tribes And Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition Of Forest Rights) Act' – or FRA in short because they feel that historical injustice allegedly done to the scheduled tribes and the traditional forest dwellers due to constitution of Reserved Forests (R.F.) needed to be corrected and in their view the best possible way of doing so was allotment of 4 hectares of R.F. land and that too **in situ** to these apparently deprived and neglected people of our society provided such

people were staying within confines of one of the Reserved Forests but the sense of equity and philanthropy of these civilized people remains confined to the protected areas only and could not transcend the apparently insurmountable boundaries of the R.F. and reach out to similarly deprived and many times more numerous tribal population if they happened to be residing elsewhere. These concerned people also do not provide even an alibi for what could be the rationale behind apparent exclusion/non implementation of the FRA in certain predominantly tribal States/Union Territories (As Many as 9 as per the GOI's latest report) from the operation of the Act specially when the Bill was piloted by the then Tribal Affairs Minister Shri Rippl Kyndiah who was himself a tribal and hailed from such a tribal State of Meghalaya. The self appointed spokespersons of the civil society further allege that the settlement proceedings undertaken as per provisions of Forest Acts to determine existence of rights if any over the lands proposed to be declared as a protected areas were generally sham ones because in their view the Forest Settlement Officers appointed to inquire into the existence of such rights over the areas proposed to be declared a Reserved Forest/Sanctuary/National Park generally did not carry out their work sincerely

and hence the proceedings were bogus exercises and the final notifications issued seldom made any change in the boundary description from the preliminary ones. Then we are told elsewhere that the States where FRA has been implemented successfully, the economic condition of the people has gone up and as a consequence whereof they are very well off which as per them is the ultimate certificate of the success of the FRA. There is yet another school of thoughts which though not denying existential permit to forest ecosystem, feels that forests are impediments in the path of our faster development and that first we should develop and when we have become sufficiently developed and rich and caught up with the developed world, we can then restore the past glory of the forests and wild life presumably premising that all processes are reversible. Some of these ideas advocating for destruction of forest ecosystems of the country have not only appeared in a few dailies for general readership but of late have been seen to be enjoying hospitality of columns of even forestry journals and that too of older generation of foresters like Vana Premi as well. Therefore we cannot ignore such nebulous and bizarre ideas of a tree-less development and should examine critically each of these issues and the arguments advanced by the so called civil society in support of their claims. Since the issues raised are quite serious ones questioning the *raison d'être* of forests and therefore of forestry services, and there has been very feeble and muted reaction

thus far, we are called upon to examine the issues clinically and dispassionately to arrive at correct conclusion.

The first issue is about essentiality or otherwise of trees, forest and wildlife i.e. the forest ecosystem for survival of human race. The issue seems to be preposterous for Indian culture especially for adherents of *Dharmic* as also of broader Indic traditions where all creations of nature -animate and even inanimate- are believed to be enveloped by divinity and therefore mankind is enjoined to enjoy the fruits of nature with a sense of detachment (Ishopanishad, 1). In fact here trees have been accorded the status of divinity where man has not been accorded any superior status. We pray for peace of all even for vegetation (Vanaspatyoh shantih). These traditions evolved and have come down to us from deep contemplations of Rishis over the question of the creation, its different constituents and their inter relationship which could stand the intense questioning and scrutiny on these issues over several millennia. The antiquity of these thoughts still remains indeterminate and what are bandied down to us might be mostly conjectures. These thoughts are of course contrary to *Abrahamic* faiths-based beliefs wherein man has been accorded a superior apex position and ordained to enjoy other creations of nature. In *Dharmic* traditions on the other hand there are people who will never cut a tree like *Ficus religiosa* (Ashwath, Peepal) howsoever undesirable in certain situations its

location might be and requisition the services of members of our dominant minority community for the job (one more reason for *Vikash* of our composite culture!). Forget cutting a tree, there are vast regions in our country where even plucking of a leaf/flower from a tree after sun-set is taboo. Then there are areas in NE India where the communities maintain and protect forests called *LAW LYNGDOH* etc i.e. Sacred Groves dedicated to deities and ancestors wherefrom even a twig, a dead leaf or flower or a pebble may not be removed and people are forbidden from dirtying the forest and entering these areas in unclean state. This tradition still prevails even after wholesale conversion of the people concerned to Christianity. Therefore in our milieu questioning and even proposing destruction of trees and wildlife is totally outlandish and appears to be product of a mindset as was supposed to have been ordained for Indians by Lord Macaulay. But at the same time defending existence of forest and wildlife based only on their cultural values or religious beliefs may be a feeble protestation which can be easily brushed aside by the denizens of the Civil Society because a hungry man's first priority would naturally be how to satisfy his hunger and his own preservation rather than that of forests and wildlife which would be the last consideration on his mind (Vubhukshitah kim na karoti papam; kshino naro nishkaruna bhawanti i.e. what sin is not committed by a hungry man? an impoverished man becomes heartless!). This brings us back to question what if at all there

is any utility of trees and wildlife for human beings? This question has been answered and explained umpteenth times that trees, forest and wildlife are essential for survival of human beings. In the present context also the Editor Vana Premi, besides other learned foresters have, succinctly explained the importance, of forest and wildlife in May 2018 and other issue of the journal. But all these explanations may fall in the category of general platitudes unless the benefits bestowed upon mankind by the forest ecosystem in general and by trees in particular are quantified. This is because all free gifts, howsoever valuable, are seldom accorded any importance it is due to them unless their worth becomes known to us in monetary terms. The indirect benefits being continuously bestowed by trees on mankind fall in the category of such free gifts. It is a known fact that the green matter of trees/vegetation absorbs Carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and takes water through their roots during sun shine to give out life-sustaining gas – Oxygen. During this all important and almost **magical** process of photosynthesis, **inorganic** substances (water and carbon dioxide) and a part of the solar radiation falling on the green living matter (i.e. the chlorophyll) are absorbed to give out not only life sustaining oxygen gas but also synthesize **organic** glucose which is the food for the plant and thence for living organism including human beings. It is also known that the oxygen thus released by the trees is always quantitatively much more than

the quantity assimilated by them during their process of respiration and thus they are net producers of oxygen and may be called oxygen producing factories with one spectacular difference that one of the raw material taken in by them is gaseous trash/garbage (CO_2) produced by man. After absorbing the trash, they give out nectar/elixir for sustaining life. Thus in case of these nature made factories, it is a case of Garbage In Nectar out (GINO) unlike man made technologies in which case it is either a case of Garbage in Garbage out (GIGO) at the best or and usually it is Nectar In Garbage Out (NIGO). Barring the technologies developed by man for conversion of wind and solar energy into electrical one, all **other** machines and technologies developed by man and even Nature to a great extent fall in the category of NIGO. In this respect there is none to compete with the benefits bestowed by trees/green matter to mankind not even by other creations of nature. In fact no life form on our planet Earth is conceivable without prior existence of trees/green matter. In this respect the Role of trees is comparable or is even better than of mythological Lord Shiva who, finding no takers, had volunteered to and drank GARAL (Poison that could have destroyed the entire creation!) to save others. No wonder the ancients worshipped trees and had ordained us to follow them in this respect! But it is tragic indeed that while we are still debating efficacy or otherwise of forest ecosystem, the world being totally convinced about the utility of trees is establishing co-

relationship between NVDI (Normalized Vegetation Difference Index - which gives quantitative as well as qualitative idea of forest cover) and GDP (Gross Domestic Product which gives an idea of prosperity or otherwise) of a country. Then elsewhere people are estimating the number of trees required to meet the oxygen requirement of a family and thence of a given population! The role of forests in soil and water conservation as also in mitigating flood havoc being caused every monsoon season though immensely valuable also falls in the same category of free gift of forests which are difficult to quantify and hence seldom get acknowledged. Therefore studies to quantify the benefits specially the indirect ones thus bestowed by green vegetation in general and trees of every species for its age class/dbh class needs to be initiated which may amount to developing a sort of Volume Tables where volume would not be volume of timber but the volume of Oxygen released and volume of GHG absorbed. Given a species, its dbh, and the locality i.e. the coordinates of its location, it should be possible to find out its total leaf area/stomatal area and thence to state the net quantity of oxygen being produced by it daily in a particular season and thus to estimate its daily/annual monetary contribution to the humankind. It is only then that people may understand the true value of a tree. However at this stage, not much is known about most of these parameters of various species of flora and fauna and especially about their inputs and

outputs in quantitative terms. What has been studied so far is a little about a few mega species of flora and even fewer of fauna. Precious little is known in quantitative terms, say about the absorption of GHG or the output of *the vital* gas from the floral species which is the USP of the forests. In this connection readers may refer to my article “ Musings On Indian Forestry “ which appeared in December 2015 and January 2016 issues of the Vana Premi.

Another aspect of forest ecosystem which these civilians and their fellow travelers seldom ponder over is our very meager knowledge of forest ecosystem, its composition, and the inter relationship of its various constituents. We have not been able to identify and describe all the species of flora and fauna on Earth. There is still no definite idea of total number of species on earth. An informed guess puts the total number of species on Earth that still survive at around 11 million and only a fraction of these has so far been identified and described. While almost all coniferous plants, mammals and birds have been identified and described, we still do not have information of that category about other plants say about all the broad leaved species of tropical wet evergreen forests. It would be a catastrophe indeed if we destroy our forest ecosystem even before fully understanding it. An example of destruction/damaging of our environment without understanding the role of its various constituents and then later repenting for it is the case of a lowly creature of earth worm which we, till fifties and sixties of the last century, thought

was useful only as a bait in angling! With arrival of modern agricultural practices it started disappearing. It was only then we realized its role in maintaining the porosity of soil. With use of tractors and other heavy equipments in agriculture the soil became compact and only then we realized its importance and so came the idea of vermiculture to bring back the earth worm.

Now let us examine the veracity of the statistics of the forest cover of the countries cited by the protagonist of forest-destruction to buttress their claim for having treeless growth. They have quoted the forest cover of Israel, Egypt, China, Australia and the United Kingdom. The figures cited are perhaps the best example of the adage ‘Lies, damn lies, and Statistics’. Firstly why these five countries have been selected and why not Japan which had population density of more or less comparable to ours during 2011 (its population remains more or less static since then, and in our case that is the year when the last census was carried out) and not only keeps as much as 68% of its area under forest cover but is also striving to expand it. A very remarkable feature of these forests of Japan is that around 40% of them are plantations. Germany has over 31% of its area under forest cover. The comparable figure for USA and Canada is at 26% and that for Latin America including Caribbean’s it is as high as 45%. And for the world as a whole the figure is at over 26%. Perhaps these are better examples for comparison of our status in this regard rather

than the five countries quoted by the proponents of treeless growth. Even in their case, fuller and correct picture would have revealed a different story if they had given the comparable data for earlier periods. But even so let us examine the case of Israel which has 7% of its area under forest cover now. The country was born almost at the same time we became Independent. Then it was almost barren country with little forest cover. What it has now is the result of massive plantation programme undertaken during last 60-70 years. Apparently it does not subscribe to the policy of treeless growth. Similarly in UK where the forest cover had gone down during the World Wars it has now increased it substantially. In case of China, the forest cover had gone down to as low as 8.6% of its geographical area during 1949 but due to its concerted efforts, the forests now occupy as much as 22% of its geographical area. What is remarkable in case of China is that it aims at increasing it to 26% by 2050. It is indeed laudable effort especially because vast areas in its north west are cold deserts unfit to sustain any tree growth. Similarly over 17% of land area of Australia is under desert of various types which are not capable of holding tree cover. If the area under desert were to be excluded for calculating forest cover percentage, the resulting figure of forest cover would be quite respectable at around 31%. We should also understand that the forest ecosystem including green plankton which is the major contributor of oxygen to the Earth's atmosphere do not recognize national

boundaries while bestowing their bounties upon human race. Even otherwise when the whole world is concerned about the destruction of forests and different world bodies are pleading and mounting pressure for preventing further damage and designing different vehicles like carbon trading etc to make tree cultivation a viable economic activity, sounding a different jarring note may not be at all desirable.

The next point for consideration is the observations of protagonists of FRA where it is pointed out that gross injustice was done to the tribal and other forest dwellers during constitution of the Reserved Forests etc. Though there are provisions under the laws for issuing notices inviting objections before constitution of any RF etc. and even for translation of such notices in local dialects/languages and their wide circulation amongst the people concerned, yet there always remains chances of certain number people being left unaware of such development and as a result being deprived of their legitimate rights over land. To cope up with such eventualities, the law further gives power to the, FSO to suo moto inquire into such cases. In fact no time limit is prescribed for taking up such cases which provision is often misused by the FSO in quite a few cases for considerations other than equity. Still some genuine cases might have been left out. This did happen, rarely though. Whenever an informal system like that of a tribal society of later 19th or early 20th century when most of

our RF were constituted, comes in contact with totally formal system like the colonial Government of that period, such situations did take place. But the number of such instances are very few and are negligible compared to the havoc caused/being caused on the tribal society by different so called developmental schemes and mining etc which made tribal destitute in their own habitat. Most of other forest dwellers that have been given the bonanza by the Act are pure encroachers and were the prime movers for the legislation. A break up of the beneficiaries of FRA between Tribal and Non tribal would indeed be revealing. As for improvement of the living standard of the concerned population after implementation of the FRA, this was bound to happen once you squander away natural resources but that may last but for a very limited period. With expected growth of population even 4 hectares of land doled out to them would prove to be totally inadequate.

In this context it is worth mentioning that initially all tribal were forest dwellers and not only the very small population still dwelling in RF_s. During the British period all the majority tribal areas were given the protective cover in the form of The Scheduled Districts Act, Excluded and Partially Excluded Areas Act etc where the general laws of the country were not applicable. In some of these areas people from the rest of the country were not allowed even to enter. These measures were adopted to protect the simple folks of these areas from the exploitation

and onslaught of their more advanced brothers from the plains. While for the tribal areas of NE the protection was retained in the form of Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, no such protection was accorded to the tribal population in the rest of the country. Therefore after the Constitution became operative, the tribal population of these hitherto Scheduled Districts etc. were subjected to exploitation by more advanced and unscrupulous people from adjoining plains areas. The result was that the land of the simple folks of these tribal areas was usurped and these people became destitute in their own homeland and as a result now we are facing the problem of unrest which has given birth to the Maoist insurgency. Compared to the population of thus exploited and deprived ones of this genre, the tribal population residing in RF_s was/is very small. I feel if provisions of Sixth Schedule were made applicable to the predominantly tribal districts of erstwhile Bihar, Odisha, M.P., Madras, Bombay and Hyderabad, provinces perhaps the problem of insurgency would not have arisen and there would not have been any necessity of FRA as none is required in tribal areas of NE India. (*The writer has served for over 27 years in different tribal areas of the country and retired from the post of Chief Wildlife Warden Meghalaya and may be reached through email I.D. sbsingh39@yahoo.co.in)

LIFE AND TIMES DURING THE NIZAMS' RULE

By

Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai

"It is as much an error to view the past through the prism of the present as it is to allow nostalgia to colour our assessment of the past"

1. The Founding of the State: The State of Hyderabad was built on the ruins of the Qutb Shahi kingdom of Golconda, one of the five sultanates into which the Bahmani kingdom (which ruled from 1347 to 1526) split—the other four being the Imad Shahi dynasty (of Berar), the Nizam Shahi (of Ahmednagar), the Adil Shahi (of Bijapur) and the Barid Shahi (of Bidar). Sultan Qutb Shah founded the kingdom of Golconda in 1518. Mohd. Quli Qutb Sha, the fourth Qutb Shahi king, founded Hyderabad as a planned city in 1591——a builder of vision he built the Charminar at the centre of the city and as a symbol of the State. The peaceful coexistence of religions under Muslim rule in the Deccan had, however, a tradition dating back to the regime of Bahmanis.

Aurangzeb conquered the kingdom of Golconda in 1687 and annexed it to the Mughal Empire. He sent as its Governor Mir Qamar-ud-Din Fateh Jung Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf jah——he having commanded the imperial army, and the title Nizam-ul-Mulk signifying his status as "*Subedar*" or Governor. In the declining years of the Empire, the Governor acted fairly independently but without formally declaring his independence——Aurangabad becoming the capital, eclipsing Hyderabad in importance. **Aurangzeb died in 1707** and was buried in Aurangabad, His

grandson Farrukh Siyar appointed **Asaf-Jah as Viceroy of the Deccan** (with HQRS at Aurangabad) and by the time he died in 1748, the newly founded Asaf-Jahi Dynasty was well-established.

The death of Asaf-Jah I in 1748 triggered an Anglo-French contest over Hyderabad, each espousing a rival's claim to rule under its own patronage. **The British won the fight and the British influence prevailed**, making it to slid almost imperceptibly into a regime of treaties, each more constrictive than its predecessor, from 1759 to 1853.

2. Fact file: Without giving an impression that we may be launching into a panegyric, let us narrate a few bare facts. **There was nothing small about the State of Hyderabad:** it was the largest of the States ruled by princes in India who were autonomous under the British crown, distinct from the territory under direct British rule, known as British India. Hyderabad was as large as Turkey, Italy or Great Britain and almost equal in dimensions to Kashmir, Gwalior and Indore combined.

Collapse of Mughal rule in Delhi by 1858 left Hyderabad as the **last haven of indigenous learning and the arts**. There appears to be no literary man of **merit**——be it a scholar, poet, or an artist——between nineteenth & the first half of twentieth century who did not benefit from the patronage of Hyderabad coffers. **Hyderabad's abolition of capital punishment in 1911 and its separation, in**

1921, **of the executive and judicial spheres put it ahead of British India.**

The arts and architecture were not neglected. Osmania, the first University to impart higher education through Urdu medium, an experiment in a vernacular, was the crowning achievement of the Nizam who also initiated a fine Department of Archaeology, among numerous other endeavors. It is doubtful if any other Princely State or, for that matter, any province of British India, could boast of such a succession of great servants of the State, men of drive and enlightenment, who made **Hyderabad cause of envy for the rest of the country.** There were, to begin with, great servants of the State: the legendary "Salar Jung" Mir Turab Ali Khan (*Dewan*, 1853-83); Maharaja Kishen Pershad (*Dewan*, 1901-12 and 1925-36) who chose "*Shaad*" (happy) as his *takhallus* (*nom de plume*), being a poet of great eminence. Administrators built the State while poets, artists, intellectuals molded its society, all representing a wide spectrum, cutting across ideological & other divides, being men of such refinement and taste.

Sir Akbar Hydari (from Bombay) served the State from 1905 to 1941, winning distinction first as Finance Member of the Executive Council and next as its President (1937-42), even leading Hyderabad's delegation to the Round Table Conference at London in 1930. He and "Imad-ul-Mulk" S. H. Bilgrami (from Lucknow) were sagacious advisers and educationists, to whom education and learning remained close to heart, despite pressing State-matters—— Osmania University having come into being due to their

efforts. They found the right patronage for implementing many educational schemes, such as industrial schools in the City and the districts: importantly, schools for boys as well as for girls; **a high school for boys in the City later progressing to become Nizam College,** with Dr. Aghornath Chattopadhyaya (father of Sarojini Naidu) as its Principal——the said Alma Mater grooming generations of Hyderabadis, many of whom making the City proud.

The Nizam's state had its own currency known as the Hyderabad "hali" rupee, until 1951. The Nizam also established Hyderabad State Bank. The Nizam's Guaranteed State Railway was also established during Mir Osman Ali Khan's reign to connect Hyderabad State to the rest of British India. It was headquartered at Secunderabad Railway Station. The Begumpet Airport was established in 1930's with formation of Hyderabad Aero Club. The Nizam's government had set a rare record not only in printing its own currency and minting coins, but also managing its own post offices. It was the only princely state in the British Empire to print its own postage. Mir Osman Ali Khan wanted to keep the integrity of the state which had unique culture for which it made name universally and he had genuine feeling that the state should remain intact with all the three linguistic regions of Telangana, Marathwada and Karnataka, and his fight was for it to remain till posterity. **Thus the Nizam was fighting for the continuance of History. His forbears politely rejected the public demand to remain independent from the earlier Moghal suzerainty and preferred to call themselves as Nawabs.** The

founder of the Asaf-Jahi dynasty (that bore his name Asaf-Jah I) was a Nizam, an administrator of the Mughal emperor in Delhi/Aurangabad who spurned as demeaning any suggestions that he revolt and proclaim himself an independent ruler.

Conclusion: In contrast to the rest of India, Hyderabad's Hindus and Muslims by and large could not be differentiated on the basis of their dress and sometimes not even by their names. They ate the same food and participated in each others' festivals. **The nobility's patronage to these festivals transcended the distinctions of community and religion.** In this, Hyderabad's culture is not different from the *Ganga-Jamuni tehzib* (culture) of Lucknow. **Hyderabad happened to be a culturally syncretic State, a tolerant society and a rich composite culture.** It may perhaps be relevant to quote here an **extract from a note** dated 11-12-1938 on '**Communal Relations in Hyderabad**' prepared by Ms. Padmaja Naidu, a devout Hyderabadadi & secular in her outlook just like her parents (Smt. Sarojini & M. Govindarajulu Naidu), which runs like this:

"...Twenty years ago it used to be the fashion to say that there was no 'communal problem' in Hyderabad: the people used to glory in boasting that no matter how feudal and backward it might be in other matters, the State was in advance of the rest of India as far as the harmony of communal relations was concerned.

It was a just claim, for there existed a tradition of harmonious relationship between the different communities and an intermingling of all cultures and creeds that it had always been the special care of the Nizam of Hyderabad to foster and

preserve. So long as the system of 'personal rule' continued, no discrimination was made between the different communities and they all lived together in contentment unaware of and untouched by the problems and dissensions that were arising even in the neighboring territories of British India.

But after the beginning of the 20th century under the influence of the political movements in British India, there was a gradual awakening and growth of political consciousness in Hyderabad. This growing political consciousness brought into existence many problems that had never existed before and questions of political, social and economic rights began to assume importance. Gradually there developed a sense of conflict over political rights between the majority and minority communities, for economic rights between a peasantry preponderantly Hindu and a Jagirdar-class dominated by Muslims, and for social and religious rights between the much oppressed Harijans and the caste Hindus of Hyderabad...."

However, it is to the credit of all that, despite social and economic problems, a vibrant democratic order still functions with assertive minorities, religious as well as linguistic. In spite of the fact that a vibrant, educated middle class has come to the fore, **the distinct "Deccani culture of Hyderabad", with all its graces and refinements, exists even to date. And a culture, with composite and syncretistic traditions, is what matters, when much else has been destroyed.** Beneath the outmoded political setup in the region lies a vibrant, promising culture that continues to enrich India.

A BOTANICAL GARDEN IN A RESERVED FOREST

BY

K.B.R. Reddy

INTRODUCTION: I had an occasion to help the Forest Divisional Officer, Shamshabad, in a court case during July 2018. The matter related to Writ Petition No. 21332 of 2018 filed by GPA Faziluddin in which the FDO was one of the respondents. The task before us was to prepare a counter affidavit against the petitioner's assertion that he has ownership over an extent of 61 Acres in Survey.No.72 of Kothaguda village, under Serilingampally Mandal and Ranga Reddy district. When I perused the record, I found it was a claim over the land in Kothaguda reserved forest. I drafted the counter affidavit rebutting the claim. I also discussed with the Government Pleader about the dubious nature of the claim and obtained approval of the draft counter. The rest of the job was entrusted to the FDO. During the discussions with the Government Pleader, I am given to understand that in another writ petition (W.P.No.11801 of 2018) filed by Shahmat Ali Khan, in which a claim was made on similar grounds but for the whole area of Survey No. 72, of Kothaguda village. In this writ petition, Forest Range Officer, Shamshabad is a respondent and he filed counter affidavit denying all the allegations.

I got interested in the case because Kothaguda Forest Block, with an area of Acs. 274-11 gts., was declared as Reserved Forest in 1969. It is now a prime property on Gachibowli – Miyapur road, within the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, surrounded by huge buildings, in close proximity to what is known as High Tech City of Hyderabad, likened to any urban land. It

was originally proposed to raise a garden in the area. After making some improvements to give a greener look to the area, it was christened after a former Chief Minister of the state as "Kotla Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy Botanical Garden" (KVBR Botanical Garden by its short name).

PAST HISTORY: This land has a long and chequered history. According to the *Sethwar* of the village Kothaguda, Survey No. 72 was classified as *Poramboke Kancha* and in the *Khatedar's* column it was recorded as "*poramboke Kancha Sarf-e-Khas Mubarak*".

Sarf-e-Khas is a compound word of Arabic origin: (*Sarf* = Expenditure; *Khas* = Personal or Special). In usage, *Sarf-e-Khas* became to mean crown lands across the princely state of H.E.H The Nizam's Dominion or otherwise known as the State of Hyderabad. *Kanchas* (Grass lands) around the city of Hyderabad earlier known as *Atraf Balda* (Around the city) district were part of *Sarf-e-Khas* and the income earned there from was exclusively used for the maintenance of the royal families.

After the accession of the Hyderabad state with the Indian Union in 1948, Maj. Gen. J.N. Chaudhari, the Military Governor and the VII Nizam of Hyderabad Sir Mir Osman Ali Khan as well as other officers held mutual consultations. The *Sarf-e-khas* lands were taken over under The *Sarf-e-Khas* Merger Regulation, 1358 *Fasli* and the Nizam was duly compensated, which fact is confirmed in the reported case: *Sir Mir Osman Ali Khan vs. Commissioner of Wealth*

Taxes as extracted below:

"The VII Nizam was a paramount ruler owning certain private properties called *Sarf-e-Khas*. He surrendered his paramountcy and acceded to the Union of India. His private properties were taken over by the Government and it was agreed by the Government that in lieu of income from the said properties he would be paid Rs. 25 lakh per year in OS currency." (7 rupees of Osmania currency = 6 rupees of Indian currency).

Although the *Sarf-e-Khas* lands were brought under the *Diwani* administration and they became the property of the Government by virtue of The *Sarf-e-Khas* Merger Regulation of 1358 *Fasli*, 14 *kanchas* remained as the Nizam's personal property and Sy No. 72 of Kothaguda village classified as *Poramboke Kancha* is one of them. The Forest Department wanted to purchase the lands and land acquisition proceedings were set in motion. A notification dated 28.02.1956 was issued by the Collector Land Acquisition, Hyderabad district. This was followed by an Award. The Forest Department negotiated with the VII Nizam for purchase of 14 *kanchas* and a deal was struck between the General Power of Attorney of the Nizam and the Chief Conservator of Forests by an agreement dated 29.10.1956 for a sum of Rs. 4 lakh. An award for payment of the said sum was passed by the Collector Land Acquisition, Hyderabad.

FOREST NOTIFICATIONS: The Government, proposing to constitute this land as a reserved forest, issued a notification under Section 4 of the Forest Act in 1965 and appointed the Forest Settlement Officer to enquire and determine the existence of any rights in the area included in the proposed reserved forest. The Forest Settlement Officer issued a declaration under

Section 6 of the Forest Act in 1968 inviting objections if any against the proposal and to file rights and claims with proof within the stipulated time. There were no claims and it was declared in 1969 by a notification of the Government as reserved forest.

ANDHRA PRADESH FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:

The Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation (APFDC) came into existence in 1975, established under the Companies Act with an objective to develop and improve the productivity of denuded forests and meet raw material requirement to wood based industries. Kothaguda forest was given over to the APFDC for its further development.

The APFDC came under the influence of some commercial organizations motivated by real estate value and acted as their nodal agency under public private partnership for establishment of: a). Botanical Garden; b). Night Safari; and c). Bird Park under a scheme called Ecotourism Project. The business organizations were: Delara Tourism Corporation; Track India Pvt. Ltd.; and Hyderabad Bird Park and Gardens. The Government of India in the Min. of Environment & Forest (MoE&P) accorded permission in 2006 for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose stipulating certain conditions. A sum of Rs.1075 lakh was paid by the APFDC towards Net Present Value (NPV) and Compensatory Afforestation (CA). But what had happened was a blatant misuse and abuse of forest land planned for constructing tall buildings, hotels with 400 rooms, convention centre, malls, beauty parlor, multiplex theatres etc. It looked more a Commercial Project rather than an Ecotourism Project. When the work was

commenced, it became a nuisance and a health hazard to the people living around. The worst affected was Lumbini SLN Springs Colony.

AGITATION BY LOCAL RESIDENTS: This drew a wave of rage by the local residents consisting of activists, nature lovers, morning walkers, bird watchers, techies etc. Representations were made to the Government of India in the Min. of Environ. & Forests requesting to withdraw the approval granted for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose and issue orders to suspend the work with immediate effect. Notwithstanding the agitative mood of the people, Public Interest Litigations (PILs) were filed seeking the intervention of the High Court. The People's cause was also taken up by some Legislators and they appealed to the Chief Minister of Telangana state to withdraw the permission for diversion of the forest land for non-forest purpose.

On complaint made by the residents, the matter was enquired into by the Director General, Vigilance & Enforcement. While recommending in his report dated 28.10.2013, for immediate closure of the scheme in view of several irregularities in executing the project, it was suggested to take action against the officers concerned. It was also recommended to take criminal action against the so called developers.

GOVERNMENT ORDER: The Government under the leadership of Sri K. Chadrashankar Rao issued order on 09.10.2015 cancelling the permission granted for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose. It was the most joyous day for Lumbini SLN Springs Welfare Association and the Walkers Association when they achieved their objective. It was their indomitable spirit that brought them

the joy of fulfillment of their objective. A great sigh of relief, of course! They received unstinted cooperation, blessings, encouragement and inspiration from a person, who is a well-known crusader in matters of this kind. He could be no other than the intrepid J.V. Sharma. It was a challenging task accomplished skillfully and with dedication.

HIGH COURT DECISION: The Hyderabad High Court took on record the stand taken by the Telangana Government in the PIL by Lumbini SLN Welfare Association that it would not favor the de-reservation of Kothaguda RF in the name of Ecotourism and closed the case. The petitioner had contended that in the name of ecotourism, huge buildings for commercial activity were being planned.

TASK BEFORE THE TSFDC: It was a herculean task for the Telangana State Forest Development Corporation (TSFDC) to bring back the garden to its past glory. The development is confined to an extent of Acs 12 to a visitor's zone. The improvements are carried out at a cost of Rs. 5 crore. The area is designed for growing different variety of plants in *Nakshatra Vanam*, *Rasi Vanam*, *Navagraha vanam* etc. besides raising plantations of timber trees, ornamental plants, and medicinal plants of about 60 species. The park is well designed by a retired Conservator of Forests Sri Nagabhushanam, who had perfected the art of landscaping with a blend of Horti-Silviculture. The KVBR Botanical Garden has carved a niche on the map of High Tech City. All the works are being carried out under the able guidance of the Mg. Dir. of TSFDC Sri Chandan Mitra. This is the 'garden in the forest' one must see to believe it.

A CASE OF COUNTERFEIT HAMMER

By
S.B. Deshpande

This is an offence case detected and investigated by me in 1975, as Range Forest Officer, Mobile Squad, Dahanu Division, in Thane District of Maharashtra State. Dahanu Forest Division boundary extends up to Gujarat state in the North and is situated along Arabian Sea in the West. In March 1975, there was an anonymous call to division office, Dahanu and it gave some secret information in public confidence about illicit cutting of teak trees along Gujarat state border near Umbargaon railway gate. I was asked to proceed immediately and investigate the matter. I went to the spot on 3rd March 1975 and reached the place by about 5 P.M.

Govt. Jeep allotted to me was in the garage for repairs. Therefore I had to go by State Transport Bus to Bordi and there I met Mr. S.D. Lele, Forest Range Officer, Bordi. Bordi Range had rich teak forest; there were gangs who indulged in theft of teak wood, on either side of the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat. Each gang was in a hurry to make fast buck by illicit cutting of teak trees belonging to Government at night in the road side forest along Umbargaon-Talasari road which is isolated along the road on Gujarat border.

I met Mr. Lele and told him that I was there on a mission. We went on his motor cycle to village Gargaon on that road. We had crossed

Umbargaon railway gate by 6PM en route to Gargaon. While seated as a pinion rider, I noticed some cut timber, off the railway gate, which was concealed under broad teak leaves. We halted there and saw about 15 freshly cut teak logs of 10-12 feet length covered under teak leaves. It took us no time to conclude that somebody had cut those logs with saw and kept hidden to transport to Gujarat. We kept ourselves in wait for considerable time, but no one showed up and there was no movement of any truck.

Since no truck appeared on the scene for nearly 24 hours, we were eager to know as to what might have happened to those hidden teak logs. Hence we went on the motor bike again to the spot where those logs were kept concealed. When we reached the spot, we saw fresh truck tyre marks on the ground and the logs were missing. I was very sorry as the case has gone from our hands. What to do now was the question before us. The thief has vanished with illicit cut teak logs during the last 5-6 hours.

Then we went towards Umbargaon railway gate and asked the gateman if he had noticed any transport of timber. He told that at about 11.30 PM a truck carried the logs and drove towards Umbargaon in Gujarat state. If that truck has

gone to any sawmill of Umbargaon, we thought it is possible to nab the culprits. But if it has gone beyond to a far off place, then we thought it is impossible to find it. We prayed to Lord Ganesh to help us to locate the truck.

At Umbargaon, there were 3 sawmills within the town, and one was towards the seashore, away from habitation. We decided to make a search in that coastal sawmill first. We kept motor cycle at a place away from that sawmill and went on foot at about 1.30 AM to the main gate of sawmill New India Shipping Yard Saw Mill.

We pushed the gate and entered the premises of sawmill. There was pin drop silence in the sawmill premises. We saw a truck bearing No. GMS-4923 parked near the office of sawmill. We saw a few Teak logs in the truck and a few more were on the ground near the truck, and some logs were sawn. We found one log was on sawmill cutting table. In it was a saw blade which had cut it into half. We noticed moisture from that freshly cut log. Dripping moisture has soaked the saw dust underneath the cutting table.

I was sure that the teak logs, which were hidden under teak leaves near the road, are the same which were stolen from Umbargaon - Talasari road area. Two cutters of sawmill were sleeping on wooden bench near the office shed. It looked that they had worked overtime and therefore they were fast asleep. Nobody noticed our entry and movement in the sawmill area for half an

hour. I saw 'passing hammer mark' on the cut ends of all the logs which were lying in and outside the truck. It was fresh impression as if new passing hammer was used. I could read it clearly – "DH-T8". That original passing hammer was given to RFO, Jawhar for use and that had become blunt. The impressions of hammer on logs were clear and deep. Mr. S.D. Lele was RFO, Jawhar before he took over at Bordi. I told him my observation about the hammer mark on those illicitly cut wood. I suspected that somebody must have used a 'counterfeit hammer' on those logs. He agreed with my view.

I woke up the 2 sleeping cutters. They got up and I took them to task. They were shocked to see 2 Forest Rangers in uniform at that odd hour in sawmill. One, Mr. Baban N. Karachiwala aged 22 years and another Mr. Rasiklal Prabhudas Solankey aged 32 years were the cutters. We enquired from them many things and they disclosed to us all details and told us as to who brought the teak logs. Mr. Chabilbai Kalasiya, aged 32, was sleeping in the office of sawmill. We woke him up too. The sawmill owner was shocked and could not speak a word. He realized that he was caught red-handed while cutting illegal teak logs in his mill. It was 2.30 AM when I asked him about freshly cut teak wood, he told he had purchased them for Rs.1,200/- on the previous evening from a gang of smugglers.

Then I showed him sharp hammer mark impressions on those logs and demanded from him the hammer. He opened his cupboard and handed over to me that "counterfeit hammer" without grumbling much!!!

It was a new hammer made of steel. I seized it and kept it in my possession. Then he narrated entire story of events that took place. I asked him to write his own statement. I recorded both cutters statements. By the time we completed the formalities, it was day-break. I recorded the measurements of round timber and the sawn sizes, rafters etc. and drew up a *panchnama* with 2 *panch* witnesses.

That entire illegal timber purchased by Mr. Chabilbhai (owner of sawmill) measured 1.250 Cu.mtrs. I was requested by one of the *panch* witness Mr. Pratapbhai to over look the action taken by us and accept Rs.25,000/- each as the amount of gratification and return to our respective places as nobody would know about the raid made by me and Mr. Lele. But, we ignored the gestures and sealed sawmill under a *panchnama* and transported the entire seized timber including damp sawdust by a truck to Forest Quarters at Bordi. I submitted a comprehensive report along with connected

papers to the Divisional Forest Officer, Dahanu and marked a copy of the report to the Divisional Forest Officer, Valsad (Gujarat) for information.

A case was filed in the Court of Judicial Magistrate of First Class at Dahanu against all the accused under section IPC 379, 465, 471, 472 and No.42, 43 (Rule 66 & 129 under IFA (1927) case No. 709/73. I was then transferred to FGTS Shahapur (Thane District). Mr. M.M. Kumthakar, ACF Dahanu who investigated the case further, arrested the blacksmith who minted that hammer. He told the truth. I was called by court on 11th August 1981 to give my evidence. There were 8 accused in that case. 2 died during trial and 6 were convicted on 29-07-1990 i.e. 13 years 8 months after I detected the case and booked the offenders.

It was a landmark forest offence case jointly booked by me and Mr. S.D. Lele. We were not given even a certificate of good service by our Forest Department. We remained unsung heroes. Our motto "*Karmanyevadhi karasthe ma phaleshu kadachana....*"

The author belongs to 1959-61 batch of SFRC and retired as ACF in Maharashtra State, presently settled in Nasik.

Erratum

In August issue of Vana Premi an advertisement was printed on page number 12. Though all the care was taken yet in advertently an old advertisement was printed. The inconvenience caused is regretted. Editor

VANA PANCHAYAT – AN INSTITUTIONAL FRAME WORK FOR SUCCESS OF HARITAHARAM

By
M. Padmanabha Reddy

Government has taken up a massive Tree planting programme (*Haritha haaram*) in the state of Telangana. The programme envisages planting about 240 crore seedlings in five years. So far (in last four years) about 85 crore seedlings have been planted. Though the planting fell short of the target, nevertheless it has created a movement where in entire government machinery, public representatives, schools, corporate sector etc. are participating whole heartedly, unlike the earlier "*Vana mahotsava*" where it was the business of forest department which symbolically organizes the programme by planting few saplings in first week of July. In contrast now the sincerity of purpose is clearly visible. In the month of July and August everybody in the state is talking only the language of *Haritha haram*. Chief Secretary is regularly conducting video conference with district officials, discussing minute details such as nurseries, species to be raised is a reflection of the seriousness of the government towards *Haritha haram*. The Chief Secretary has made the officials of various departments at village level responsible for survival of seedlings

planted by them, he has also instructed to establish a nursery in every village. A target of 100 crore seedlings is fixed for planting in 2019 rains.

In a given village, there will be different locations where saplings are to be planted, they include Road sides (R&B department) Tank bunds (Irrigation department), Revenue lands (Revenue department), Forest lands (Forest department), and Village lands (*Gram Panchayats*), like this multiple departments will be working in a limited space leading to confusion. To overcome this, there should be a system in place to oversee all the operations related to *Haritha haram* in rural areas. In this context an institution of VANAPANCHAYAT (V.P.) in every village to co-ordinate the efforts is required.

Constitution of *Vana Panchayat*:

- i) Legal status: It can be constituted with a G.O. and later on can be accorded legal status depending upon the need, subject to matters listed in eleventh schedule of the Constitution of India.
- ii) Jurisdiction : Co-terminus with *Gram*

Panchayat

iii) Aims and Objectives: To conduct demand survey of seedlings, raising Nursery, Planting and protection of planted seedlings. Involvement of people in tree planting programme and to create awareness towards environment and Forests.

iv) Institutional frame work :

a) All the voters in the village to be members of *Vana Panchayat*

b) A person elected by *Garam Sabha* by voice vote will be the president of V.P. alternatively, the president of G.P. can also be considered.

c) Executive Committee: Consist of one representative from each of the self help groups, *Nehru Yuva Kendra*, Youth club, local N.G.O. etc. One member nominated by *Panchayat* will be member, in case President of G.P. is not heading V.P. In all, there will be 12 to 16 members in E.C. who elect Secretary from E.C. and he is responsible for maintenance of records including accounts. All grass-roots level village functionaries of various departments will be ex-officio members without voting rights.

Decentralized peoples Nurseries: *Vana Panchayat* will select about 10 active members from *Mahila Mandali* or any self help group for raising nursery they will be given training by Forest Department. Every selected woman will be given a target of raising 2,000 seedlings in

their back yards. The work commences from October and ends by June (about 9 months work). Two thousand seedlings in polythene bags require about 50 liters (5 bucket) of water daily. Except for initial soil preparation and filling the bags with soil, the work is hardly for one hour daily to water the bag plants and keeping them free of weeds, for this, one need not loose wages, old people in the house also can attend to it. With 10 women raising two thousand seedlings each in all about 20,000 seedlings will be available in the village. The present thinking of government to raise nursery in every village by acquiring land, providing water facility is time consuming and difficult to maintain and lacks peoples involvement.

As per schedule of rates, to raise a seedling it costs anything from Rs.5 to 6 (depending upon the size of the bag). If a women raises two thousand seedlings she will get anything from 10 to 12 thousand rupees. Leaving some expenditure for transport of soil etc the beneficiary will get Rs. one thousand per month for nine months. The money can be released (deposited in her account) on quarterly basis depending upon the progress of work. The beneficiary should be made responsible to see that two thousand seedlings raised by her are distributed and planted in the village or handed over to *Vana Panchayat* for planting in vacant and other government lands.

As per Sec. 32 (1) of G.P. Act 2018, *Sarpanch* is responsible to take up plantation and maintain green cover in the village. Again Sec. 32 (2) of the said Act says "Failure of *Sarpanch* in performing the duty shall result in removal of *Sarpanch*. *Vana Panchayat* will institutionalize the programme to motivate the villagers for planting of saplings to make *Haritha haram* a success.

V.P. will take up planting of seedlings at identified places in the village and also distribute the seedlings to people for planting in their lands and houses and takes care of the protection of planted seedlings. V.P. will meet regularly and review the situation. V.P. can operate independently or a branch of G.P. It will have separate bank account to be operated jointly by President and Secretary

The existing *Vana Samrakshana Samithies* should be merged into *Vana Panchayats* within the frame work of Forest Act. For the first 5 years the scheme runs on government support. After 5 years the yield received from Bamboo plantations, Royalty from date palm trees Revenue from V.S.S. areas etc. will make the V.P. a self sustaining institution.

Advantages of VP

a) People's involvement in raising nurseries, planting the seedlings and protecting them.

b) An institutional frame work responsible for the success of the programme unlike present multiple government agencies working in different directions in the same village.

c) At present too much stress is given on number of seedlings planted. At many places wide crown trees like *Neem*, *Gulmohar* *Peltophorum* etc. are planted at a distance of 2m.x 2m. Eagar to plant more number of trees disregarding technical aspects may not give the desired results. *Vana Panachayat* will provide technical guidance in such situation.

d) Teak is raised in drought prove areas like Mahaboobnagar, Nalgonda and (parts of) R.R. District, location specific trees give better results, people need awareness on the subject *Vana panchayat* scheme was implemented in parts of Maharashtra and M.P. in 50s and 60s. Due to lack of funds the scheme fizzled out. Government of Telangana should think of a system like *Vana Panchayat* to make *Haritha haaram* a success.

***"When the power of love overcomes the love of power
the world will know peace"- (Jimi Hendrix)***

HAVE INDIANS BEEN DOGMATIC? A PERSPECTIVE

By
V.V.HARIPRASAD

The impression that science started only in Europe was deeply embedded in the minds of educated people all over the world. The alchemists of Arab countries were occasionally mentioned, but there was very little reference to India and China. Thanks to the work of the Indian National Science Academy and other learned bodies, the development of sciences in India during the ancient period has drawn the attentions of scholars in 20th century. It has become clearer from these studies that India has consistently been a scientific country, right from Vedic to modern times with the usual fluctuations that can be expected of any country. In fact, we do not find an example of a civilization, except perhaps that of ancient Greece, which accorded the same exalted place to knowledge and science as did that of India

"We owe a lot to the ancient Indians, teaching us how to count. Without which most modern scientific discoveries would have been impossible." – said **Albert Einstein**.

Now let us ponder over the development of science and technology over a period of time in ancient India.

16 Significant Science and Tech Discoveries that Ancient India Gave the World

One of the oldest civilizations in the world, the Indian civilization has a strong tradition of science and technology. Ancient India was a land of sages and seers as well as a land of scholars and scientists. Research has shown that from

making the best steel in the world to teaching the world to count, India was actively contributing to the field of science and technology centuries long before modern laboratories were set up. Many theories and techniques discovered by the ancient Indians have created and strengthened the fundamentals of modern science and technology. While some of these groundbreaking contributions have been acknowledged, some are still unknown to most. Here is a list of 16 contributions, made by ancient Indians to the world of science and technology that will make you feel proud to be an Indian.

1. The Idea of Zero: Little needs to be written about the mathematical digit 'zero', one of the most important inventions of all time. Mathematician Aryabhata was the first person to create a symbol for zero and it was through his efforts that mathematical operations like addition and subtraction started using the digit, zero. The concept of zero and its integration into the place-value system also enabled one to write numbers, no matter how large, by using only ten symbols.

2. The Decimal System: India gave the ingenious method of expressing all numbers by means of ten symbols – the decimal system. In this system, each symbol received a value of position as well as an absolute value. Due to the simplicity of the decimal notation, which

facilitated calculation, this system made the use of arithmetic in practical inventions much faster and easier?

3. Numeral Notations: Indians, as early as 500 BC had devised a system of different symbols for every number from one to nine. This notation system was adopted by the Arabs who called it the hind numerals. Centuries later, this notation system was adopted by the western world who called them the Arabic numerals as it reached them through the Arab traders.

4. Fibonacci Numbers: The Fibonacci numbers and their sequence first appeared in Indian mathematics as *mâtrâmeru*, mentioned by Pingala in connection with the Sanskrit tradition of prosody. Later on, the methods for the formation of these numbers were given by mathematicians Virahanka, Gopala and Hemacandra, much before the Italian mathematician Fibonacci introduced the fascinating sequence to Western European mathematics.

5. Binary Numbers: Binary numbers is the basic language in which computer programs are written. Binary basically refers to a set of two numbers, 1 and 0, the combinations of which are called bits and bytes. The binary number system was first described by the Vedic scholar Pingala, in his book *Chandahûâstra*, which is the earliest known Sanskrit treatise on prosody (the study of poetic meters and verse).

6. Chakravala method of Algorithms: The chakravala method is a cyclic algorithm to solve indeterminate quadratic equations, including the Pell's equation. This method for obtaining integer solutions was developed by Brahmagupta, one of the well known mathematicians of the 7th century CE. Another

mathematician, Jayadeva later generalized this method for a wider range of equations, which was further refined by Bhâskara II in his *Bijaganita* treatise.

7. Ruler Measurements: Excavations at Harappans sites have yielded rulers or linear measures made from ivory and shell. Marked out in minute subdivisions with amazing accuracy, the calibrations correspond closely with the hasta increments of $1 \frac{3}{8}$ inches, traditionally used in the ancient architecture of South India. Ancient bricks found at the excavation sites have dimensions that correspond to the units on these rulers.

8. A Theory of Atom: One of the notable scientists of the ancient India was Kanad who is said to have devised the atomic theory centuries before John Dalton was born. He speculated the existence of anu or small indestructible particles, much like an atom. He also stated that anu can have two states — absolute rest and a state of motion. He further held that atoms of same substance combined with each other in a specific and synchronized manner to produce *dvyanuka* (diatomic molecules) and *tryanuka* (triatomic molecules).

9. The Heliocentric Theory: Mathematicians of ancient India often applied their mathematical knowledge to make accurate astronomical predictions. The most significant among them was Aryabhatta whose book, *Aryabhatiya*, represented the pinnacle of astronomical knowledge at the time. He correctly propounded that the Earth is round, rotates on its own axis and revolves around the Sun i.e the heliocentric theory. He also made predictions about the solar and lunar eclipses, duration of the day as well as the distance between the Earth and the Moon.

10. Wootz Steel: A pioneering steel alloy matrix developed in India, Wootz steel is a crucible steel characterized by a pattern of bands that was known in the ancient world by many different names such as Ukku, Hindwani and Seric Iron. This steel was used to make the famed Damascus swords of yore that could cleave a free-falling silk scarf or a block of wood with the same ease. Produced by the Tamils of the Chera Dynasty, the finest steel of the ancient world was made by heating black magnetite ore in the presence of carbon in a sealed clay crucible kept inside a charcoal furnace.

11. Smelting of Zinc: India was the first to smelt zinc by the distillation process, an advanced technique derived from a long experience of ancient alchemy. The ancient Persians had also attempted to reduce zinc oxide in an open furnace but had failed. Zawar in the Tiri valley of Rajasthan is the world's first known ancient zinc smelting site. The distillation technique of zinc production goes back to the 12th Century AD and is an important contribution of India to the world of science.

12. Seamless Metal Globe: Considered one of the most remarkable feats in metallurgy, the first seamless celestial globe was made in Kashmir by Ali Kashmiri ibn Luqman in the reign of the Emperor Akbar. In a major feat in metallurgy, Mughal metallurgists pioneered the method of lost-wax casting to make twenty other globe masterpieces in the reign of the Mughal Empire. Before these globes were rediscovered in the 1980s, modern metallurgists believed that it was technically impossible to produce metal globes without any seams, even with modern technology.

13. Plastic Surgery: Written by Sushruta in 6th

Century BC, Sushruta Samhita is considered to be one of the most comprehensive textbooks on ancient surgery. The text mentions various illnesses, plants, preparations and cures along with complex techniques of plastic surgery. The Sushruta *Samhita*'s most well-known contribution to plastic surgery is the reconstruction of the nose, known also as rhinoplasty.

14. Cataract Surgery: The first cataract surgery is said to have been performed by the ancient Indian physician Sushruta, way back in 6th century BCE. To remove the cataract from the eyes, he used a curved needle, Jabamukhi Salaka, to loosen the lens and push the cataract out of the field of vision. The eye would then be bandaged for a few days till it healed completely. Sushruta's surgical works were later translated to Arabic language and through the Arabs, his works were introduced to the West.

15. Ayurveda: Long before the birth of Hippocrates, Charaka authored a foundational text, Charakasamhita, on the ancient science of Ayurveda. Referred to as the Father of Indian Medicine, Charaka was the first physician to present the concept of digestion, metabolism and immunity in his book. Charaka's ancient manual on preventive medicine remained a standard work on the subject for two millennia and was translated into many foreign languages, including Arabic and Latin. Ayurveda, the traditional system of Indian medicine, is a special branch of knowledge on life dealing with both body and mind. This is implicit in the two components of the term ayurveda: dyus and veda. The former means life, the latter, knowledge, or more precisely, science'. According to the Charaka-samhita,

dyus comprises sukha (happiness), dukkha (sorrow), hita (good), and ahita (bad). Sukhamayuh or a life of happiness is free from physical and mental disease; endowed with vigour, strength, energy, and vitality; and full of all sorts of enjoyment and success. Asukhamayuh or a life of dukkha is just the opposite. Ayurveda deals with these four conditions of life. It is also concerned with the prolongation of life

16. Iron-Cased Rockets: The first iron-cased rockets were developed in the 1780s by Tipu Sultan of Mysore who successfully used these rockets against the larger forces of the British East India Company during the Anglo-Mysore Wars. He crafted long iron tubes, filled them with gunpowder and fastened them to bamboo poles to create the predecessor of the modern rocket. With a range of about 2 km, these rockets were the best in the world at that time and caused as much fear and confusion as damage. Due to them, the British suffered one of their worst ever defeats in India at the hands of Tipu.

Engineering and Architecture in Ancient India: The achievements of Indian people in the field of engineering began in the proto-historic times, from the third millennium B.C. or even earlier. The ancient Indian civilization like those of Iran, Iraq, Mesopotamia, and Egypt showed skill in the construction of buildings and granaries, in town-planning, and in the provision of civic amenities like community baths and other sanitary conveniences

Architecture during Harappan Period:

Remains of the Indus valley civilization (fourth-third millennium B.C.) unearthed at Mohenjodaro and Harappa now in Pakistan, Lothal in Gujarat, and Kalibangan in Rajasthan amply testify to the well-developed technical

skill of ancient Indians. Mohenjo-daro in Sind and Harappa in the Punjab are deemed to have been the capital cities of the Indus valley. Each of the towns was approximately three miles in circuit. The dwellers of Mohenjo-daro were among the world's pioneers in city construction. The largest buildings unearthed in Mohenjo-daro measure more than 73 m X 34 m. Road alignments were from East to west and from north to south, each crossing the other almost at right angles in a chessboard pattern. The width of the roads varied from approx. 10 m. to 5.48 m., depending on the requirements of traffic. There is evidence of attempts to pave the roads at some places

Development of science and technology:

Muslim rule started in India with the Onset of 13th century A.D. and lasted for around five hundred years and concluded with the death of Emperor Aurangzeb in 1707. During this period considerable work was done in various spheres of science and technology. Sciences such as mathematics, medicine, astrology, astronomy flourished. It is also true that in Medieval India, science was not patronized as a state policy by Kings or the Raja's. Though science and technology was not pursued rigorously as it was being developed in Europe huge monuments were constructed, observatories were built, texts were translated but the volume was too low in comparison to the west. In spite of all these hurdles, sciences flourished in a scanty manner.

Astronomy: Astronomy was another field that flourished during the medieval period. In astronomy, a number of commentaries dealing with the already established astronomical notions appeared. Mehendra Suri, a court

astronomer of Emperor Firoz Shah, developed an astronomical instrument 'Yantraja'. Paramesvara and Mahabhaskariya, both in Kerala, were famous families of astronomers and almanac-makers. Nilakantha Somasutvan produced commentary of Aryabhatiyaa. Kamalakar studied the Islamic astronomical ideas. He was an authority on Islamic knowledge. Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh-II of Jaipur was a patron of Astronomy. He set up the five astronomical observatories in Delhi, Ujjain, Varansasi, Mathura and Jaipur.

Conclusion: In this connection the following address made by Lord Macaulay in the British parliament on 2nd February 1835 is worth recollecting

"I have travelled across length and breadth of India and I have not seen one person who is a beggar, who is a thief. Such wealth I have seen in this country, such high moral values, people of such caliber that I do not think we would ever conquer this country, unless we break the very backbone of this nation which is her spiritual and cultural heritage and therefore I propose that we replace her old and ancient education system and her culture, for if the Indians think that all that is foreign and English is good and greater than their own, they will lose their self-esteem, their native culture and they will become what we want them, a truly dominated nation."

In the present milieu of modern Indian society we do find those country men in general and educated youth in particular who prefer to ape western culture and shun Indian culture and Indian values having been apprehensive that they would be branded as unscientific and dogmatic individuals. The impact of Macaulay's

education system on such persons is quite apparent. Indians are far ahead of Chinese in numbers with regard to their Knowledge in English and their access to western developed sciences. It is an established fact that Chinese did excel Indians in number of scientific achievements be it hardware or defense preparedness. Chinese do love their country and their culture. More often than not they are averse in aping other cultures. While admitting the fact that in the context of scientific achievements western countries are emulative, Indians should be proud of the contributions that ancient India made to the world and also of Indian values which the erudite western adults respect while keeping their self esteem as Indians intact. It is an undisputed fact that Indians of ancient times had scientific temper which they passed on to their posterity. In spite of the fact that in the history of India we did find certain aberrations and social maladies in the Indian society in connection with the beliefs and attitudes of the people which we could find in number of countries all over the world during certain period of their respective historical periods the scientific achievements made and cultural values imbibed over centuries did prove that basically Indians have not been dogmatic and scientific temper has been sustained among Indians right from the period of ancient times even in the context of leading their day to day life. While getting along with the process of globalization adhering to the concept of "VAUDHAIIKA KUTUMBAKAM" we should be proud to be Indians lest we should be losing the identity as a nation.

(SOURCE: Internet)

KVS BABU MEMORIAL GOLD MEDAL AWARD FOR 2018 AT FOREST ACADEMY: DULAPALLY

By

K.B.R. Reddy

Noble Lady Smt. Phani Prasunamba, with good intention, instituted "KVS BABU MEMORIAL FUND" in memory of her late husband Sri KVS Babu, Rtd. Prl.CCF and Ex-officio Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh, amounting to Rs. 10.00 lakh, dividing the sum into two parts of Rs. 5.00 lakh each; the interest accrued on these amounts is being used for the benefit of the best forester up to the rank of FRO for meritorious performance in the forestry sector, and the best worker in the zoo management, within the State. This year's gold medal award went to Sri M. Munia Naik, FBO of Chittoor East WL division, in Chittoor district; and Sri M. Ram Mohan, former FRO Bejjur of Kaghaznagar division in Kumram Bheem Asifabad district, presently FRO Mulugu Range of Mulugu division in Jaishankar Bhupalpaay district. The gold medal award presentation was organized in the picturesque and verdant surroundings of the T.S. Forest Academy at Dulapally on August 15, 2018 at 11:45 a.m. in the Executive Hostel.

A photo exhibition is organized before the commencement of the proceedings. It is a beautiful display of the pictures of the late KVS Babu along with his contemporaries – an opportunity to recollect memories by those who were intimately associated with him. In the meeting hall, it was an assembly of FBO trainees, students of the Forest College and Research Institute (FCRI) and a good number of retired forest officers headed by Sri S.K. Das, Retired PCCF and President of the Retired Forest Officers Association. DFO Guntur Sri Srinivas Reddy, specially deputed by the PCCF AP to participate

in the celebration, was also present. Of course, the recipients of the gold medal with their family members have graced the occasion.

The ceremony commenced with a prayer by Dy.R.O. Ms. Uma Rani followed by reading the life history of the late KVS Babu by Dy.Dir. Sri V. Anjaneyulu. Dr. Tirupataiah, Secretary, CEFNARM, welcomed the guests.

Sri P. Raghuv eer, PCCF (IT & P) made a power point presentation of an interesting subject : Economic Valuation of Eco-System Services. A summary of which is as follows -

The National Forest Policy recognized forests as a national asset. Therefore the forests need to be protected for the well being of the people. Indian forests are undervalued. The background of determining NPV when forest lands are diverted for non-forest purpose is explained. This value in fact does not reflect true contribution of forests. The FAO highlighted how it is possible to increase agricultural productivity and food security while halting deforestation. In a debate: **Development vs. Conservation**, conservationists are sure to win by converting the value of ecosystem in monetary terms.

The contribution of NTFP is not properly estimated. Studies in the past in a few villages revealed that in AP, NTFP worth Rs. 144 crore is being removed from the forests. This is 6 times the revenue realized from other traditional sources.

Fencing around farm lands is a major source of destruction of forests. We need to promote live hedges with suitable species.

The community of herbal healers facing shortage of the material they require. They are looking up to the Forest Department for raising plant material which they need.

Sri K. Buchi Ram Reddy and Sri Narayan Swamy spoke about their association with Sri KVS Babu. Sri Narayan Swamy's advice to the FBO trainees, out of his own experience, never-say-no, to superiors is well received.

The good work done by the medal winners is read out in a citation by the Dy. Dir. Sri V. Anjaneyulu. Briefly stated, it is as follows:

I. Sri Munia Naik, FBO of Musilipedu beat of Tirupathi Range, during his 22 years of service, has done excellent job in protecting red sanders areas of Chittoor district. He seized 114 vehicles while engaged in smuggling red sanders wood of about 57 tons valued Rs. 3.16 crore. He arrested, risking his life, 174 persons. He detected and reported 16 offences involving about 6.5 tones of red sanders wood valued Rs. 36.00 lakh. His hard work rendered with dedication to duty is deservingly recognized and he won a gold medal and cash reward of Rs. 15,000.00

II. Sri Ram Mohan FRO has 8 years of service to his credit; out of which he served for 5 years in Bejjur Range of Kaghaznagar division. Bejjur Range is in the most interior area and comprises of unhealthy and inhospitable locations on the state border. Ram Mohan, in his youth, did not lose his heart and worked hard with zeal and enthusiasm. He strived hard to protect forest and wildlife. He discovered with the help of his staff a breeding site of 'Long Billed Vulture' in Murliguda beat forest. He is instrumental in devising Vulture Conservation Plan which is being implemented since then; he published a few papers on the subject of vultures as well as range administration. He was successful in

detecting a case of illegal possession of tiger skin. He arrested the culprit and in his investigation it was disclosed that the trophy is the result of killing a tiger in Maharashtra forest. He established rapport with his colleagues in Maharashtra state and established liaison with Wildlife Crime Control Bureau at Chennai. Ram Mohan has done pioneering work in tiger tracking using camera traps. He saved a hyena from a mob of 300 people. He was very prompt in arranging payment of compensation for cattle killed by tiger or panther. When there was a human death by wild boars, the R.O arranged for sanction of Rs. 5.00 lakh to the survivors. He established Bio-Acoustic-Machine to keep off the wild animals from the farm lands. He was prompt in reporting encroachment cases. He documented 150 birds and discovered 3 insectivorous plants in Bejjur Range. He zealously helped in fighting a case of fraudulent claim of 38 Acs. of beautiful teak forest in Gudem Block worth a few crores of rupees. With the honest and sincere work, Sri Ram Mohan qualified himself for the gold medal and a cash award of Rs. 15,000.00

Sri S.K. Das eloquently delivered an inspiring and illuminating speech reminiscent of his association with Mr. and Mrs. KVS Babu. After the demise of Sri KVS Babu, on request made by Smt. Babu about her intention for instituting a Memorial Fund in memory of her late husband, Sri S.K Das welcomed the idea and rendered his support.

Sri B.V. Rao compered the proceedings. At the end of the happy occasion, Sri S. Madhava Rao, Dy. Dir. proposed vote of thanks.

NOTE: The author K.B.R. Reddy acknowledges inputs from ACF Sri S. Madhava Rao and PrI CCF Sri P. Raghuveer.

Winners of KVS Babu Memorial Gold Medal for the year 2018



FRO Sri. M. Ram Mohan receiving the award from Sri S.K. Das, IFS Retd.



FBO Sri. M. Muniya Naik receiving the award from Sri S.K. Das, IFS Retd.

GreenAP

Mobile App



- ◆ With a vision to increase green spaces and to improve the quality of life of the people, **Andhra Pradesh** Government has come up with a unique initiative with the support of APG&BC in launching **GreenAP** mobile application.
- ◆ This app helps in bridging the gap between consumers and the vast vendor eco-system across the country who are dealing with green products and services.
- ◆ Consumers will now have access to vendors to procure plants of various kinds including indoor, exotic, lawns, roof top gardens, vertical gardens, etc.
- ◆ With this mobile app they will have access to the products like pot vendors, aquariums, landscape designers and many more.

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Consumers can select vendors who are closer to their city or town for any purchase by browsing through the hundreds of profiles available in the **GreenAP** mobile app. Consumers can access vendors via WhatsApp, SMS or Phone.



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WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS & FACILITIES EXTENDED TO BHARAT RATNA AWARDEES?

Source Internet

Bharat Ratna is India's Highest Civilian Honor. But what do the awardees receive from the Government? What is the worth of the medallion presented to them? Are they given any monetary award? What other facilities are extended to them? Bharat Ratna is India's highest Civilian honor. It was instituted in the year 1954 and only 45 individuals have received the award till date. The first recipient was Sri Rajagopalachari. It is awarded in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavor.

The Process: The recommendations for Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister himself to the President. No formal recommendations for this are necessary though a lot of citizens do recommend various individuals for the award. The number of annual awards is restricted to a maximum of three in a particular year.

What do the Awardees receive? The Bharat Ratna awardees receive Certificate signed by the President of India and a medallion. The medallion is in the form of a *Peepal* leaf (*Ficus religiosa*), about 5.8 cm long, 4.7 cm wide and 3.1 mm thick. It is made of toned bronze. On its obverse is embossed a replica of the sun, 1.6 cm in diameter, below which the words Bharat Ratna are embossed in Devanagari script. On the reverse are State emblem and the motto, also in Devanagari. The emblem,

the sun and the rim are of platinum. The inscriptions are in burnished bronze.

This medallion is made by the India Government Mint in Kolkata. As of 2014, the total cost of one Bharat Ratna medal & miniature along with its box costs Rs 2, 57,732.

What about Monetary award?

Unlike other awards and contrary to popular perception, the Bharat Ratna Award does not carry any monetary grant. And the award cannot be used as a prefix or suffix to the recipient's name. But an award winner may use the following expressions in their bio data/letterhead/visiting card etc. to indicate that he/she is a recipient of the award. The only expressions allowed are 'Awarded Bharat Ratna by the President' or 'Recipient of Bharat Ratna Award'

What about other Benefits/Facilities? While they are not extended any monetary grant, the Bharat Ratna awardees are extended a host of benefits & facilities. They are extended four different benefits/facilities as noted below.

1. Declaration as a State Guest while travelling within India
 2. Indian Missions abroad will provide proper facilitation on their visits abroad & the awardees are entitled for diplomatic passport
 3. Lifetime free executive class travel on Air India
 4. They are placed at 7A in the Table of Precedence
- The Table of Precedence is published by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the order in this table is meant for State and Ceremonial occasions and has no application in the day-to-day business of Government. In these functions, the Bharat Ratna Awardees are at 7A above Chief Ministers & Governors of states, outside their state. This order is used for ceremonial protocol in official state functions.



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.	S.No.	Name of Serving Officers	D.O.B.
	Sarva Sri		1.	Smt.M.Revathi	09-08-1970
1.	A.H.Qureshi	7-09-01941	2.	Smt.Priyanka Varghese	08-09-1978
2.	A.Raja Reddy	13-09-1926	3.	Chandan Mitra	27-09-1958
3.	J.V.Subba Rao	13-09-1934	4.	Laxman Ranjeet Nayak	25-09-1990
4.	Narpat Singh	15-09-1952	5.	Dr.Rajendra Prasad Khajuria	05-10-1968
5.	V.Kishan Reddy	20-09-1941	6.	A.Sreenivasulu	11-09-1967
6.	G.Sagar	23-09-1952	7.	M.Samuel	12-09-1978
7.	V.V.Hari Prasad	25-09-1953	8.	N.Rama Chandra Rao	18-09-1984
8.	K.S.Rao	26-09-1948	9.	S.Venkateshwarlu	22-09-1961
9.	D.S.Gangakhedkar	29-09-1934	10.	B.Jayachandra Reddy	01-10-1958
10.	P.S.Reddy	30-09-1932	11.	S.Satyanarayana	04-10-1967
11.	P.Ranga Rao	05-10-1927	12.	K.Purushotham	05-10-1962
12.	P.Subramanyam	05-10-1946	13.	M.Keshavaram	05-10-1960

Secretary

N O T I C E

The 89th GENERAL BODY MEETING of the Association of Retired Forest Officers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh will be held on 23-09-2018 (Sunday) at 11.00 a.m. in Aranya Bhavan, Hyderabad. Sri C. Achalender Reddy I. F. S., P.C.C.F. and Director "Centre for innovations in Public systems" Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad will be the Chief Guest. All the members of the Association are requested to make it convenient to attend the meeting with their spouses.

Jt. Secretary

NEWS AND NOTES

Do trees talk to each other? Yes they do, all the time, to help a neighbor or to save their community from an infestation. Explore their secret network in this week's Eco-logical.

Animal communication is an often-discussed topic. We get the idea of communication taking place from observing their body language and their responses to calls typical to each animal and bird. But can immobile and silent plants communicate with each other? Yes they can and they do, in the language of the forest.

A tree may appear like a loner, a solitary being. But it is interacting with fellow trees all the time, say experts who have studied the concept. It has now been widely accepted that forest trees are communal, living in a co-operative and inter-dependent relationships, maintained by communication. Read on to know more about this secret social network of the flora.

How do trees talk? Above ground, plants and trees engage in airborne communication. Plants / trees pass on their messages through sound and smell. Underground, they do so using a special fungal network nicknamed by scientists — the Wood Wide Web.

Airborne communication: Trees not only exchange information among themselves but also with other organisms such as insects.

Smell a problem: Think of the scent of a tree that is cut. Chemicals emitted by this tree, that contribute to the smell, signal to other plants to prepare for an attack. These warning signals are of great help when there is an infestation risk.

The tree under attack by insects releases a range of volatile molecules into the air alerting the trees around. After exposure to these chemicals, other trees produce toxins or substances that make themselves harder to digest for insects.

Through sound; It was discovered in 2013 that plants and trees communicate with each other and with insects through sound. Monica Galliano from the University of Western Australia discovered that the roots of plants make a clicking sound as they grow, which can be detected using highly sensitive laser microphones. Through a series of experiments, Galliano and her team found that the roots of young corn plants made regular clicking noises. They also found that the roots, when suspended in water, 'leaned' towards the source of any sound with frequency of 220Hz that was emitted in the region. This frequency falls within the range that the roots themselves emit. She hypothesized that plants may use sound waves to detect water at a distance.

Plant-insect communication: When bees buzz, they are not just flying, they are communicating to the flower to release the pollen. The sound of buzz (at a particular frequency) makes tomato flowers to release their pollens, studies have found. Similarly, bark beetles may pick up the air bubble pops inside a plant, which is a hint that trees are experiencing drought stress. Bark beetles often attack trees that are already weakened by drought.

The Wood Wide Web: Not all transfer of information happen above the ground. A majority of the networking happens underground.

The vast majority of land plants live in symbiotic relationships with soil fungi. The fungi cannot photosynthesis, as they have no access to light and have no chlorophyll, whereas the trees photosynthesis. Trees use the sun's energy to refashion carbon dioxide and water into sugar. Fungi get sugar and carbon from trees, and in return release nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen, as well as water (collected from their environment) to the trees.

The vegetative part of the soil fungi is called mycelium. Mycelium is made up of long white fibers called hyphae. The roots of trees and mycelium join together to form the mycorrhizal networks. It is through the mycelium that fungi absorb nutrients from their environment.

Fungi also colonise several hosts at once, creating a large fungal network that ferries nutrients and signalling chemicals (communication) between trees. They even connect trees that are miles away.

How does the communication happen? The tree-to-tree communication happens for various purposes and in many forms. It may not be a typical 'Hello'. But it is definitely a network of sharing and caring and that ensures the survival of the community.

Warning signals: Trees send distress chemical signals about drought and disease or an insect attack. Other trees pick up these signals and

increase their own resistance to the threat.

This communication is comparable to the airborne communication. But such warnings are more precise in terms of source and recipient when sent by means of the mycorrhizal networks, say experts.

Love thy neighbor: A dying tree might divest itself of its resources to the benefit of the community through this network. A 'parent' tree uses the fungal network to feed the seedlings that have sprouted under its shade. Researchers have found how old trees were able to survive with resources from younger ones.

Population of endangered blackbuck rises:

- The blackbucks of Balipadara-Bhetanai area in the district have been protected religiously by the local people for several generations.

Population of the endangered blackbuck in Odisha's Ganjam district has increased by 276 in the last three years, a Forest department official said today.

The population of the rare species, locally called Krushnasara murga or bali harina, is 4,082 as against 3,806 in 2015. In 2011 the number of blackbucks in the district was 2,194, the official said.

Ghumusur South forest division was found to have the highest blackbucks at 2,809 followed by Berhampur (1,049) and Ghumusur North (224), he said.

Blackbucks, which were sighted in Balukhand-Konark wildlife sanctuary in Puri district till 2012-13, have vanished from that area. This time, not a single blackbuck was sighted there

during the census, the official said. The census was conducted on February 28, 2018, with participation of forest staff, wildlife activists and experts from different organizations through direct sight method. The result of the census was officially made available recently. "As the population of the blackbucks in Ganjam increased during the period, the majestic animals migrated to some new places like Digapahandi and Berhampur under our division," said Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Berhampur, Ashish Kumar Behera.

Improvement of habitats and protection given by local people and forest staff are the reasons for the increase in population, he said.

The population of blackbuck in the area was 523 in 1973. Their number increased to 551 in 1998, 786 in 2004 and 1,101 in 2006, officials said.

The blackbucks of Balipadara-Bhetanai area in the district have been protected religiously by the local people for several generations.

The people of the area believe that the sighting of the blackbucks in paddy fields is the harbinger of bumper harvest, said president of Blackbuck Protection Committee (Ganjam), Amulya Upadhyaya.

The villagers do not kill the animals even if they stray into fields and eat their crops, he said. In 2017-18, a high number of 25 animals had died due to various reasons. As many as 18 and 21 blackbucks had died in 2016-17 and 2015-16 respectively, the official added.

'Drunk bullies' force Srisailam forest officer

to kneel down: - Six 'drunken' men from Hyderabad forced a forest officer to kneel down after 'abusing and assaulting' him for objecting to boozing in the reserve forest area of Srisailam in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.

The bizarre incident, which began on Tuesday night in the dense forest of Srisailam, ended on Wednesday morning with the police picking up five of them. The sixth person escaped. One of the alleged attackers, Magam Abhinay Reddy, is son of a Hyderabad-based ex-MLC's sibling Hanumanth Reddy, Kurnool SP told.

A video clip recorded by one of the accused, apparently to boast of their 'high-handed' behavior before others, got leaked and went viral on social media. The accused were seen in the video thrashing the officer and forcing him to kneel down.

Forest Section Officer of Sunnipenta Shanti Swaroop was returning to office after attending to some work at Srisailam dam when he saw the six men consuming liquor openly in the dense forest around 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday. Their SUV was parked on the roadside. "This is reserve forest area and consuming liquor is banned here," Mr. Swaroop was quoted as saying by the SP.

The accused ridiculed him saying that he was not in his uniform and dared him to act against them. The officer went back to his office, wore uniform and started for the spot when he received information that the gang had checked into a lodge at Sunnipenta by that time.

Mr. Swaroop went there to convince them that he was a bona-fide officer. The six men ridiculed him, questioning about his credentials and sought his identity card.

One of them, later identified as Dayanand (SUV driver), showered blows on the officer accusing him of holding his shirt collar earlier. They dragged him to their vehicle saying that they want to take him to the local police.

He was let off only after apologizing to the driver by touching his feet. The hotel manager collected the video clip from the accused and forwarded it to his friends which went viral.

"We received complaint around 9 a.m. We rushed to the lodge, woke up the five accused who were fast asleep and grilled them," the SP said. A case under sections 323 (assault), 353 (using criminal force against a public servant), 452 (wrongful restraint) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of Indian Penal Code was booked against them. They would be produced before Atmakur court.

FRO beaten up by villagers in Mahabubabad: - The Forest Department officials appear to continue to face challenges for taking up *Haritha Haram* programme in forest areas that have been, occupied illegally for 'podu' or shifting agriculture.

In the latest such incident in the past few months, the department officials said one of their range officers, Chalapathi Rao, was beaten up with sticks by a group of villagers in Kothaguda reserve forest of Gangaram mandal

in Mahabubabad district.

In a press release, the department expressed a concern over what it called the increasing attacks on its staff by people who have occupied forest land. The incident in Kothaguda occurred on Friday evening when Chalapati Rao, along with his staff, went to an area where people were preparing to plant crops in reserve forest land. Our officers tried to reason with the villagers that they cannot cultivate in the forest area but a group of women among the villagers armed with sticks attacked our staff. In the process, Chalapati Rao was injured. "Today, we have filed a complaint with the police and hope action will be taken against the offenders," a senior department official said.

Meanwhile, senior department officials on Saturday (18-8-2018) took the attack on the range officer to the notice of Director General of Police. Following this, the DGP spoke to the Superintendent of Police who informed that action would be taken against the culprits and that a complaint was received on the issue from the local forest official.

It may be recalled that in the past few months, the forest officials have faced attacks by villagers as well as threats from elected public representatives not to stop people from occupying forest land. "We are attempting to plant trees as part of *Haritha Haram* in degraded forest land but are not being allowed to do so," another department official said.

LEGAL NOTES

K.S. Ramachandr Kurup, IAS (Rtd) Vs. State of Kerala & ors

In this case, two important questions have been adjudicated, viz.

1. Can an officer of IAS cadre who had retired, write after his name IAS or IAS (rtd)? If so, what would it amount to?
2. If an officer who deliberately or inadvertently writes after his name IAS or IAS (Rtd.), does it constitute a penal offence under S.170 IPC?

K.S. Ramachandran was an IAS officer. After retirement, he was appointed on 16.06.2011 as Director of Cooperative Academic Professional Education (CAPE) by Government of Kerala in Co-operation Dept. During the course of his functioning, there was a conflict of opinion between him and the Minister concerned. The relations between him and the Minister C.N. Balakrishnan became bitter. His services were terminated by an order of the Government dated 02.06.2012. The officer also submitted his resignation on 02.06.2012. It is alleged that Sri Kurup has used with his name IAS in the letter-head and the Diary, which constituted an offence under S. 170 of the Indian Penal Code. On a complaint to the police, an FIR was issued and a crime was registered against Sri Kurup. He challenged the decision of the Government to prosecute him and filed Writ Petition No. 25072 of 2012. The W.P. was heard by Justice S.S. Satheesachandran.

Sec. 170 of IPC reads as follows:

"S.170 IPC Personating a public servant – Whoever pretends to hold any particular office as public servant knowing that he does not hold such office or falsely personates any other person holding such office, and in such assumed character does or attempts to do any act under color of such office, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or fine, or with both."

On a careful scrutiny of the case, the court found that, to constitute such an offence a person must either pretend to hold a particular office as public

servant knowing that he does not hold such office or falsely personates any other person holding such office. Over and above that, that person in such assumed character must do or attempt to do an act under the color of such office. Essential ingredients for the offence are totally absent in the case. The imputation is that after retirement from Indian Administrative Service, he has used – IAS with his name in his letter-head and made some correspondence. True, IAS being a service under the Central Government so long as a member thereof in service then alone he can use his name as a member of that service. To use with the name IAS or IAS (Rtd.) after leaving the service, no doubt, is not proper. But registration of FIR against the petitioner under Sec 170 IPC is tainted and not at all done in good faith.

As discussed above, to proceed against a person under S. 170 IPC who was a member of the service and has used IAS in his letter-head when he continued as Director of CAPE is no ground to impute that he committed an offence under S.170 IPC. In the G.O. removing the petitioner from the post of Director of CAPE it is stated that, "the services of Sri K.S. Ramachandra Kurup, IAS (Rtd.) as Director of CAPE replaced with immediate effect." That would show that the G.O itself recognized and used IAS (Rtd.) with the name of the petitioner. The use of naming such service with or without suffix 'retired' by a former officer is an impropriety, but certainly not an offence, nonetheless an offence under S. 170 IPC. The FIR and all further proceedings against the petitioner were quashed and the W.P. was allowed on 02.06.2012.

Dissatisfied by the judgment of the single judge, the Government filed Writ Appeal No. 87 of 2013 and the appeal was heard by the Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Mrs. Manjula Chellur and Justice K. Vinod Chandran. Adverting to the writ Appeal, the Division Bench noted that the

allegation was that the Respondent, holding the office of Director CAPE, after retirement from Indian Administrative Service, representing himself as 'K.S. Premchandra Kurup, IAS' though he was no longer a member of the Administrative Service and thus committed an offence under S. 170 IPC.

A member of the Indian Administrative Service, if on leave, continues to be a member of the service, but does not hold any office. Retirement definitely stands on different footing and on superannuation, ceases to be one thereafter. The respondent after retirement was employed as Director of CAFÉ. There is no dispute that he held such office under proper authority of the Government. The respondent had added IAS after his name in the letter-head and the diary. That had been noticed in the letter dated 05.10.2012, which is highly irregular as far as the

Rtd. IAS officer is concerned. The decision of the Government to prosecute the officer is unbecoming inasmuch as the allegation does not constitute an offence under S. 170 IPC.

The Division Bench finally held: "We are afraid that none of the ingredients of S.170 IPC is available in the case. Irregularity or impropriety assumed or real, cannot lead to a penal prosecution. Looking at the totality of the facts and circumstances, we cannot, but say that if bickering in administration lead to initiation of criminal prosecution, it is very unfortunate. We leave it at that. We do not think that the judgment of the learned single judge is liable to be interfered with." The writ Appeal was dismissed on 05.02.2013.

Source: Internet

K.B.R

OBITUARY

Gujjarlapudi Devasahayam 1947-18.08.2018



We record with deep sense of sorrow the sad demise of Mr. G. Devasahayam, ACF Retd. on the night of 18.8.2018 due to Cardiac arrest. He was born in the year 1946 in a village by name Attaluru of Guntur District in Andhra Pradesh. He studied up to High School in the same village. He did his B.Sc. from Andhra Christian College, Guntur. He completed B. Ed from the same College. After completion of B. Ed he worked as a School Teacher for a short duration. During the year 1974 he was selected for the post of Forest Range Officer by the public service Commission of Andhra Pradesh and deputed to undergo training at Southern Forest Ranger College Coimbatore in 1974 - 76 batch. After successful completion of Training he was allotted to Khammam circle where he worked as

Range Officer in different ranges. He was promoted to the cadre of Assistant Conservator of Forest by transfer during the year 1996. He worked as Assistant Conservator of Forest in Khammam circle for the maximum period. He retired on superannuation during the year 2004 and settled down with his family at Khammam.

Mr. G Devasahayam was amiable, versatile and a gentleman. He was friendly with everyone. He will be fondly remembered by his family members, relatives and a large number of friends. May almighty give strength to his family members, relatives, and a host of friends to bear this great loss and his noble soul rest in peace.



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