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VANA PREMI

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Panthera tigris.
The King of the Forest

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

Killing of Avni the man eater Tigress:

Tigress Avni officially known as T1 was killed on the night of 2-11-2018 in the Pandharkawada-Ralegaon forests of Yavatmal district in eastern Maharashtra. She was about six-year old. It is believed that this Tigress Avni had killed 13 people in the surrounding area and was labeled as a man-eater and had been the focus of a massive hunt for the past few months. According to information, the first human kill by this tigress was in June 2016. Avni was protecting her two 10 months old dependent cubs in the vicinity of the Tippeshwar Tiger Sanctuary, since the past several weeks till she was shot down. The forest department had deployed a team of over 100 people to make sure that the tigress and her cubs would not wander close to the nearby villages again and kill human beings. Also employed on the hunt for Avni were around a 100 camera traps, a pack of hunter dogs (Italian), drones and a motorized paraglide that was being used to survey the forest. Despite the all-out nature of the hunt that has been launched, tigress Avni remained untraceable for a long time. Urine of another tigress and American perfume (Calvin Klein's) was spread in some parts of the compartment, following which Avni came sniffing by it.

The forest department issued a shoot-to-kill order for her this year. The shoot-to-kill order was only to be used as a last resort. For more than three months, forest department officials were trying to catch her with the help of latest technology.

On 11 September, the Supreme Court heard the petitions that challenged the Forest

Department and Bombay High Court's decision and the Supreme Court had said Avni could be shot at sight, which prompted a flurry of online petitions seeking pardon for the tigress. The activists have begun petitioning officials as high as the President of India, requesting him to step in and get the shoot-to-kill order withdrawn. The forest officials initially tried to nab her alive. However, due to dense forest, they were unable to do so and finally a bullet was fired by a shooter from Hyderabad who was hired by Maharashtra Forest Dept., immediately a dart was fired at her by the same party, in their self defense, in which the tigress fell on the spot and died.

Protests by animal rights activists erupted across the country. While many mourn the loss of the animal, others question, why the animal was killed instead of being tranquilized. People became emotional, sentimental and temperamental. Rallies were taken out. Animal activists held protests against Government of Maharashtra and forest department over Avni killing. Animal lovers and animal rights activist held a candlelight march to protest against the killing of T-1 tigress Avni, in different parts of the country including Hyderabad. NGOs, citizens, activists and animal lovers are roaring on social media and on the streets across the country against killing of tigress. This is the first time in our country when for a wild animal such a large scale protests, demonstrations and publicity was given across the country by the public. All the leading news papers of different parts of the country, of various languages carried Avni's story for about a week days. On the other hand pictures of locals, residing near the

Pandharkawada forest celebrating Avni's death have gone viral on social media. Villagers where the tigress had roamed celebrated her death by setting off firecrackers. They have distributed sweets to all local people.

The killing of Avni tigress that had two cubs is very unfortunate and it has reduced one tigress from the total population of tigers of our Country. But if really we want to save our wildlife, especially tigers, we have to eliminate dangerous tigers which are creating serious problems continuously for the local people and killing human beings. In fact this tigress should have been killed in 2016 when she killed a man. If she is not killed the local people will turn hostile and cause serious damage to many other tigers and other wildlife. Let us think of the people who were killed, their relatives, their dependants and others who lost their beloveds. Let us put us in the position of those who are killed and then decide.

All the Rules Regulations and Acts of the Country are made for the betterment and welfare of human life. Definitely we need tiger's for our own survival and tigers are for man, certainly man is not for tigers. Human life is more important than any other life. In our country if any person kills the other person and if it is proved that the person has killed the other person, capital punishment is awarded by the Sessions Judge which has to be confirmed by the High Court. When the punishment is confirmed by the High Court the murderer is hanged till his death. We eliminate even our own species if it becomes dangerous for other co human beings. In Avni's case as seen from news papers it has killed 13 human beings. If Avni was not killed it would have continued to kill human beings as it had

become a man eater. No risk could be taken. There is a provision in the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 under section 11 which is as follows. 11. Hunting of Wild animals to be permitted in certain cases.–

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force and subject to the provisions of Chapter IV – (a) the Chief Wildlife Warden may, if he is satisfied that any wild animal specified in Sch. 1 has become dangerous to human life or is so disabled or diseased as to be beyond recovery, by order in writing and stating the reasons therefore, permit any person to hunt such animal or cause animal to be hunted;

The Chief Wildlife Warden of the State after thorough inquiry issued orders under section 11 to kill the Tigress. Experts were called to tranquilize the tigress and if it is not possible, kill it. High Court and Supreme Courts also upheld the orders of the CWLW to kill the tigress as a last resort to save human life.

In addition to this provision, every person is also empowered to wound or kill any wild animal in defense of oneself, under wildlife protection Act which is under section 11 (2) which read as follows.

(2) The killing or wounding in good faith of any wild animal in defense of oneself or of any other person shall not be an offence;

We have an Act which eliminates a person for murdering another person. In Avni's case it had killed 13 persons, so after this if the CWLW had to perform his duty or when people who were tranquilizing the tigress had to open fire in self defense the public should understand the compelling circumstances under which they had to resort to the extreme step. They also

need to understand the gravity of the situation as the tigress could have reacted in a fraction of a second and thereby injured or killed adversaries. It is a very difficult situation to handle to handle when at mid night, a fully grown man eater tigress is standing in front of the party, on which a dart was already fired and it is attacking the team. Any thing is possible in a fraction of second.

If the Tigress was not killed the other section of the society whose relatives are killed by this tigress would have very adversely criticized the Forest Department for not eliminating the tigress even after it had killed 13 people. Let us put ourselves in the position of those who are killed by the tigress and then decide. If this tigress was not killed it would have done much more damage to our wildlife and human population. The Forest Department and officers had taken action which was the best and within the limits of Acts and in the best interest of protection of human life and wildlife. Some people are claiming that it was not a man eater. Who are these people to decide whether it was a man eater or not? As per law it is to be decided by the Chief Wildlife Warden after thorough inquiry and issue orders as deemed fit, which was done in this particular case and apex court also upheld this.

I am having the experience of a tiger which severely injured a person and all villagers demanded to kill the tiger. I was gheraoed and not allowed to leave the village unless the tiger was tranquilized and sent to Hyderabad zoo. Permission of the CWLW was obtained, on phone to tranquilize the tiger and send it to Hyderabad zoo. It was found after tranquilizing

the tiger that a quill of porcupine penetrated into his front paw and it developed deep wound up to one foot in the paw with full of pus and maggots. The tiger was not able to run and hunt. This tiger was perhaps starving for more than 10 to 12 days. This was the reason for injuring of the person.

Now we have to think of the two cubs and the best way to save them is to follow nature's rule i.e. survival of the fittest. If these cubs are fit they will survive. Perhaps forest department officers and staff have to create a situation where these cubs survive, like supplying live weak pet animals for their food at least for next six to eight months. These pet animals which will be provided should not be tied but released in the close vicinity of the cubs. The cubs should not be tranquilized and kept in the zoo. If they are to be tranquilized, as last resort immediately they should be released in a very interior forest and far away from human habitation (only after all alternatives are tried and exhausted). Forest Department of Maharashtra has to keep a strict vigil and should not allow people to enter into the forest in which these two cubs are roaming. This is a very difficult task but it has to be done.

All said and done this is the best action taken by forest officials of Maharashtra to save human life and at the same time, wildlife (though late). Vana Premi congratulates the Forest Officers and Forest Department of Maharashtra for taking appropriate action and saving human life.

Vana Premi also requests the in service & retired officers with their rich experience and general public to initiate debate on the killing of Avni and action to be taken for protecting the cubs.

PANTHERA TIGIRS. THE KING OF THE FOREST

Tiger Facts

Kingdom	:	Animalia
Phylum	:	Chordata
Class	:	Mammalia
Order	:	Carnivora
Family	:	Felidae
Genus	:	Panthera
Scientific Name	:	<i>Panthera tigris</i>
Type	:	Mammal
Diet	:	Carnivore
Size	:	2.8-3.3m (9-11ft)
Weight	:	267-300kg (589-660lbs)
Top Speed	:	96km/h (60mph)
Lifespan	:	18-20 years
Lifestyle	:	Solitary
Conservation Status	:	Endangered
Colour	:	Orange, Black, White
Skin Type	:	Fur
Favourite Food	:	Deer
Habitat	:	Dense tropical forest
Average Litter Size	:	3
Main Prey	:	Deer, Cattle, Wild Boar
Predators	:	Human
Special Features	:	Striped fur and powerful body

The tiger is the largest feline in the world, with the tiger growing to around 2.5 meters in length. The tiger is the most powerful of all the big cats, and is native to east and southern Asia. The tiger is feared by most human beings who inhabit settlements within the tiger's territory. There are six different subspecies of tiger which

are the Bengal tiger, the Indochinese tiger, the Malayan tiger, the Sumatran tiger, the Siberian tiger and the South China Tiger. The white tiger is actually a Bengal tiger and is therefore not a subspecies itself.

The average tiger weighs around 300kg and a tiger can stretch its body (and tail) to roughly 4 meters. Tigers hunt snakes, boar, buffalo, crocodiles, deer, leopards and camels and are extremely effective at catching their prey due to their silent, stalking approach and their powerful bodies.

The tiger can reach speeds of up to 90km an hour, making the tiger extremely fast. Tigers have even been known to conflict with rhinos and elephants with the tiger generally winning. Tigers are generally orange with black stripes although it's common to get tigers with white and sandy coloured markings. The white tiger is a rare type of tiger, with bright white fur and black stripes, these tigers occur from a genetic mutation when in the mother tiger's womb. It is not certain that these white tigers will produce white offspring, many white tigers have been known to produce orange cubs.

Today the tiger is a near endangered species with only a handful still roaming the Asian jungles. The tiger is still a completely dominant predator in its environment particularly due to their extreme power, and ability to run, swim, jump and climb trees very effectively.

The tiger is a highly adaptable animal with the tiger's territory ranging from Siberia, to open

grasslands and tropical mangrove swamps in central and south-east Asia. The tiger is also an extremely territorial animal and the tiger is generally a solitary animal.

Due to the tiger's size and the tiger's want to be solitary, the tiger often requires large areas of habitat that can support the tiger's prey demands. Because of the tiger's need for a large territory mixed with the fact that the tiger is native to some of the more densely populated places on earth, has meant that there have been significant conflicts between tigers and humans. Tigers usually mate from November to April and

after a gestation period of just over 3 months the female tiger gives birth to 2 or 3 tiger cubs. When the tiger cubs are first born they are blind and extremely vulnerable. By the time the tiger cubs is around 18 months old, it is able to hunt for itself. Tiger cubs are known to grow rapidly and can put on 100 g of weight every day. The tiger cubs usually stay with their mother until they are between 2 and 3 years old and the tiger cubs are then big enough and strong enough to venture out into the jungle to live a life of solitude.

(Source Internet)

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Apropos to the news FAQ 'Protecting the tiger's habitat' by Jacob Koshy in The Hindu, Nov,15; the author has made a very good analysis of the episode- killing of a tigress-Avni, a proclaimed man-eater on Nov,2, in Pandharkwada, Maharashtra. This issue of man-tiger conflict was in news for more than a year with agitations to eliminate it by the affected people (who lost 13 kith & kin) and to.... not to kill it by conservationists. The issue was taken to the High Court and also to the Supreme Court and finally what was destined has happened as per law. But, the controversy generated with steam is detrimental to the wildlife management in future. The will of the wildlife Authorities and the confidence with authorities by the people co-inhabiting wildlife are being demoralized. With loss of one man-eater, there is no loss for tiger conservation but, with the loss of rural peoples' co-operation, there will be dangers to tigers not only in Maharashtra but, also in the entire country. In the interest of tigers, the controversy should be buried and measures taken to improve the carrying capacity of tiger habitats in terms of herbivores- the prey base of tigers on top priority, so that, all problems of man-animals conflicts will gradually see an end.

B. M. T. Rajeev

IMPROVISED WAYS OF OBEISANCE SANS TOUCHING ELDERS' FEET! IN GOOD HUMOR)

By

Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai

1. Preamble: 'A very Indian thing', soaked in culture & tradition and respect for elders / mentors / other sundry individuals is: touching feet on arrival / departure: it being a very moving gesture, while underscoring good breeding though not in practice in the Western way of life, nor among the followers of Islam!

2. Present trends: Like most things these days, however, this practice has undergone sharp changes in its execution and there are to be found hi-tech smart choices in the urban context! Few such trends we often come across happen to be:

(a) 'Dart and dash':- there is this quickie where you kind of 'fling an arm forward' without really touching anyone, in a bit of a 'downward salute' and pull back instantly so that it looks like '**you did it but you didn't**' young people in particular employing his technique with dexterity!

(b) Then, you have the 'knee jerk':- here you aim for the upper part of that joint and just kind of flick it or go for the thigh before straightening up, and because you did a sort of half-bend: it looks impressive & everyone happens to be pleased!

(c) Close to this option is the 'airy fairy':- wherein you hit yourself on your chest & head with your fist in a flurry of movement, and since there is no 'slow-motion-reply': it looks like you have fallen over yourself to seek blessings and benediction but the fact happens to be you never even went near the target! This is the best option when you are stuck with a 'whole group of oldies' and you can do them all in one stretch by going down the line touching your left side near the heart every couple of seconds!!

(d) 'Accordiancollapse':- Many folks go for this in which you fold up in the position you were where the odds will be that the recipient will be pulling you up & wishing you well, without your having to go any further this being the best variant for ladies in particular! If done enough times at weddings and major functions, it happens to be a sufficient exercise to work up an appetite for the buffet men being not so good at this while women can sink 'in situ' with a certain elan because their sarees cover their fall into grace, so to speak!!

(e) 'Verbal zinger':- This happens to be more popular version at largely attended events where you loudly say 'pawoonlaagu, chachaji?', 'saashtaanganamaskara' or some such thing, and 'do sweet all', but allow for a sort of half crouch making sure that such a dismal-effort is camouflaged by your 'enthusiastic audio'!

(f) Very common is the 'hit and miss' attempt which is very gallant and all that, but is predicated on hitting the ground between the feet & avoiding the target completely!

3. Conclusion:

As you might have seen after keenly observing all the forms, the only common factor in every effort to seek the blessings happens to be 'not' touching the feet' at all!

Further, as Upanishads extol & expound explicitly that mind is the controller of the 'chariot' that is the human-body and the vehicle moves on a right-path only as long as the 'charioteer' is in control, although it is constantly pulled apart & distracted by the sense-organs, whose very nature is to 'look forwards' to run towards myriad sense-attractions of this mundane-world!!

GOLDEN JUBILEE MEET-1968-70 BATCH SOUTHERN FOREST RANGERS COLLEGE, COIMBATORE

**BY
V.SANTHASEELA BABU**

I have undergone training in Rangers Course in Southern Forest Rangers College, Coimbatore during the years 1968-70. Our batch would be completing 50 years of our joining our '*Alma Mater*' by 1st November 2018. Somewhere during last year I thought of celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our joining the College on 1st November 2018 together with our batch mates. During our training there were trainees from Undivided Madhya Pradesh, & Andhra Pradesh, and Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Kerala States. I started contacting one or two of our batch mates from each state. By informing my intention to organize the Golden Jubilee Meet, I requested them to provide me the contact details of other batch mates of their respective states. We were totally 132 trainees from India and 6 from Foreign Countries like Ceylon and Sierra Leone (West Africa). Out of 132 Indian trainees 47 trainees have passed away and there are only 85 persons who are alive as on date. Out of 85 members I could gather the contact details such as Phone numbers and addresses of 75 people and the whereabouts of 10 persons were not known. A WhatsApp group was formed with all our batch mates who had smart phones and I started communicating with them about my intention to organize the Golden Jubilee Meet at

Coimbatore from 1st November to 3rd November 2018. Those who were not in the group were contacted by me over phones. Many of them were excited as our batch did not meet fully after we left our '*Alma Mater*'. There was a good response and about 50 to 60 members expressed their willingness to attend the Meet. Firstly I thought of proceeding to Coimbatore and make some preliminary arrangements for our programme. So I proceeded to Coimbatore with my family after touring Chennai, Kanyakumari, Rameshwaram, Trivandrum and Madurai during April 2018. I could meet some of my batch mates at Chennai, Trivandrum and Madurai during my visit. At Coimbatore Mr. T.M. Basavaraju who stays at Coimbatore has joined me. Both of us went to the college which is presently named as "Tamil Nadu Forest Academy" subsequent to its taking over by the Tamilnadu State Govt. We met Sri Yogesh Dwivedi, IFS, Additional Prl. CCF and Director of the Academy and explained our intention to conduct the Golden Jubilee Meet in the premises of the College Building for which he was kind enough to agree. Subsequently Mr. V.R. Periyaswamy from Namakkal and Mr. S. Palanichamy from Madurai who were all my batch mates also have joined

me. All of us together went round the various hotels in Coimbatore and started exploring the possibilities for arranging our Meet. After making efforts for two days the accommodation was fixed in Poppys Hotel, a Star Hotel, on concessional tariff as Mr. V.R. Periyaswamy used his good offices with the hotel management through his close circles.

Sri Chandrasekharan who is working as Course Director of the Institution has assured all possible help in conducting the Meet. I went in to the class room in which I attended my training during our stay in the college and sat in the same bench in which I used to regularly sit, along with my wife and felt proud to share my nostalgic moments of my college days.

After discussing about the arrangements to be made and estimating the probable expenditure for conducting the Meet with my friends, I returned to Visakhapatnam. I have informed all the batch mates about the efforts I have made so far and designed the Invitation and the Registration Form for participating in the Meet and dispatched to all the batch mates who expressed their willingness for participation with a request to send their contributions by fixing 31st July as the last date for receipt of filled up Registration Forms. Finally 28 people have sent their contributions out of which 16 were participating with families and 12 were attending singly. Altogether the strength along with spouses was 44 in number. This includes two of our Grand Seniors of 1966-68 batch who

completed 50 years of their passing out from the College by 1st November 2018. They are Sri S. V. Shrivastava from M.P. and Sri A. V. Govinda Rajulu from AP

In the meanwhile I have spoken with CCF & Field Director, Anamalai Tiger reserve, Pollachi, Tamilnadu and the CCF & Field Director, Parambikulam Tiger Resrve, Plakkad, Kerala and addressed letters to them for according permission for visiting the Tiger Reserves located around Top slip area and I received positive replies from them. I have also spoken with the DFO, Coimbatore for making arrangements for our visit to Sadivayal and Isha Foundation who had readily agreed for rendering necessary assistance.

I intended that we should have a group photograph of participants in our college dress i.e; White shirt tucked in white pant or grey pant with our college Tie. When I contacted the Tie designer at Coimbatore for this, he requested to send a sample of the Tie for designing and preparing the same. I tried to secure the college Tie from some of my colleagues and finally could succeed to get it from Sri. D. Nagabhushanam CF (Retd). I sent the same to Coimbatore through courier and within about a fortnight the Ties were got ready by the Firm whom I have sent the sample. I requested sri Chandrasekharan to collect the Ties and keep them in his custody till we reach Coimbatore for which he had obliged.

At the time of passing out from the college we

had a group photograph of our batch mates taken along with our Principal and Instructors. Many of us have misplaced it and it is not available with us. I tried to secure the same and contacted all my batch mates. Finally Sri N. Balakrishna Pillai from Trivandrum has sent me the same through courier. It was damaged here and there with white patches. I got it touched up and took copies of the Group Photograph to be supplied to all the participants in the Meet. I also got a Directory of our Batch Mates prepared with addresses, contact numbers duly getting the available photographs printed in it. ID Cards were also prepared for all the participants and their families.

Finally with all set for conducting the much awaited 'Golden Jubilee Meet' from 1st to 3rd November I proceeded to Coimbatore on 28th October with my wife. Sri V.R. Periyaswamy also had come and joined me at Coimbatore. We arranged 2 Mini Buses for our transport. We met the Director, TNFA and invited him to be the Chief Guest for our Inaugural Function on 1st November 2018. All arrangements were made for comfortable stay of the participants and for smooth conducting of the Meet for 3 days.

The following programme was fixed:

Date	Programme
01-11-2018	Assembling at the premises of Poppys Hotel. Registration of participants and have an introductory session and exchanging pleasantries Proceed to the Forest College after Lunch. Group Photograph of all the participants

with their spouses. Attend Inaugural function and return to the Hotel premises.

02-11-2018 Proceed to Topslip and Visit Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Kannimara Teak tree and have lunch at Parambikulam Tiger Reserve and visit Anamalai Tiger Reserve and back to Coimbatore.

03-11-2018 Proceed to Sadivayal and thence to Isha Foundation and after lunch at Isha Foundation, return to Coimbatore and attend Valedictory Function. Then disperse to their destinations on 3rd and 4th November.

The following were the day today events that took place during our Golden Jubilee Meet:

31-10-2018: Participants started arriving at Coimbatore and all were accommodated in Poppys Hotel.

01-11-2018: All the participants arrived by forenoon and all of us met in the meeting hall of the hotel. Distribution of ID Cards, Ties, Group Photographs, Directories and Mementoes was done after Registration of participants. An introductory session was held and all of us were very much excited to meet each other as this was the first meeting for many of us after the year 1970 when we left our '*Alma mater*'.

After finishing our lunch all of us left by buses to the Forest College. We went round the College Building and recollected our nostalgic memories. We had a group photograph along with our spouses and again with the batch mates in our College Dress.

The inaugural function was held with Sri Yogesh Dwivedi, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and the Director, Tamil Nadu Forest Academy as the Chief Guest. I welcomed the Chief Guest and the participants with their spouses. A Video with the song "Yeh Dosti Hum Nahee Thodenge" of famous film "Sholay" prepared by my wife Smt. V. Bhagya Lakshmi with the photographs of College building, our old group photograph and all the photographs of the participants was displayed on the screen. The Chief Guest and one senior member from each state i.e; Sri. V.V. Rajam from Telangana, Sri. M.M. Hussain from Karnataka, Sri. A.R. Thakre from Maharashtra, Sri. H.S. Malviya from Madhya Pradesh, Sri. V.R. Periyaswamy from Tamilnadu and Sri. N. Balakrishna Pillai from Kerala along with Sri. Qamar Mohammad Khan, the Editor, Vana Premi magazine were invited on to the Dias. The programme was started by Prayer and lighting up of the Lamp. Homage was paid to the 47 batch mates from various states who reached their Heavenly Abode by observing one minute silence in their memory. In my welcome address while welcoming the Chief Guest and all the participants with their spouses I have narrated the circumstances which lead to the holding of the Golden Jubilee Meet. A Cake was kept on the Dias and Cake Cutting was got done by the Chief Guest in commemoration of our Golden Jubilee Meet.

November issue of Vana Premi magazine was got released by the Editor Sri. Qamar Mohammad

Khan with the Chief guest Sri. Yogesh Dwivedi, IFS; and was distributed to the participants.

The following batch mates who have completed their 15 years of retired life were also felicitated by presenting them a Shawl with a Bouquet:

1. Sri V.V. Rajam, Telangana 2. Sri M.A. Ramappa, Karnataka 3. Sri G.S. Nusreth Sheriff, Karnataka 4. Sri M.M. Hussain, Karnataka 5. Sri M.B. Srinivas, Karnataka 6. Sri V.R. Periyaswamy, Tamilnadu 7. Sri S. Palanichamy, Tamilnadu 8. Sri S. Varadarajan, Tamilnadu 9. Sri T.M. Basavaraju, Tamilnadu 10. Sri A.R. Thakre, Maharashtra 11. Sri G.J. Kamble, Maharashtra 12. Sri S.V. Shrivastava, Madhya Pradesh 13. Sri A.V. Govinda Rajulu, Andhra Pradesh. The two Lady Doctors who helped us in Negotiating with the Poppys Hotel management in the reduction of room tariffs were also felicitated.

The Chief Guest Sri Yogesh Dwivedi, Addl. PCCF & Director, T.N.F.A. in his address has lauded this attempt of holding the Golden Jubilee Meet and congratulated all the participants and their spouses. He appreciated the participants who were above 70 years of age and said he did not find the age in them but he could see the spirit and enthusiasm in them even at this age. He appreciated the Video prepared by my wife and he commended that even at this age the ladies are showing interest in the information technology. He finally wished all the best to the participants and their families.

As the Chief Guest was to leave on other

preoccupation, he left the premises and I have expressed our thanks to him on behalf of the participants for having spared his valuable time for participating in our Golden Jubilee Meet.

The meeting was continued and Sri Qamar Mohammad Khan, Sri V.V. Rajam, Sri N. Balakrishna Pillai, Sri A.R. Thakre, Sri M.B. Srinivas, Sri P.C. Pachori, Sri H.S. Malaviya have spoken on the occasion recollecting the days that were spent by us in the Southern Forest Rangers College about 5 decades ago. Sri V.V. Rajam proposed Vote of Thanks on the occasion. By singing the National Anthem, the Inaugural Function came to a conclusion.

All of us returned to our place of stay the Poppys Hotel by buses and had our dinner. Sri V.V. Rajam has hosted the 'Happy Hours' for those who were interested to participate.

02-11-2018: Today all of us assembled, after breakfast, at the hotel premises by about 9.00 am and started our journey to Parambikulam Tiger Reserve in Kerala which is around 100 kms from Coimbatore. En route we passed through Top slip in Anamalai Tiger Reserve of Tamilnadu which we intended to visit after seeing Parambikulam Tiger Reserve. At Parambikulam Mr. Madhusudhan, IFS; Deputy Director made arrangements for our visit. His staff followed us guiding the way. We visited "Kannimara: a 465 years old Teak Tree. This is one of the world's largest living Teak Tree. According to the local tribal belief when this tree was tried to be cut down, blood was spurted out from the place of

the cut. Since then the tree is worshipped by the local tribals as "VIRGIN TREE". Thus the name 'Kannimara is given as 'KANNNI' means 'VIRGIN'. This tree has been awarded 'Mahavriksha Puraskar' by the Govt. of India during 1994-95. The height of the tree is 39.98 Mts. and the GBH is 7.15 Mtrs. as measured on 09-11-2017.

In fact we visited this tree during our camp here in our training period and it was thrilling for us to re-visit the tree along with our spouses after about 5 decades and taking photographs before the tree with our spouses. We went through the forest area which we visited during our training and all of us felt very happy recollecting those good olden days. We could see animals like Spotted Deer, Sambars and Bisons and elephants in their natural habitat during our Journey. Lunch was arranged at Anappady in Parambikulam Tiger Reserve. After having Lunch we presented a Memento to Sri. Madhusudhan, IFS in token of remembrance of our visit and returned to Top slip in Anamalai Tiger Reserve in Tamilnadu.

As soon as we reached Topslip in Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Sri Ganesan, IFS, CCF and Field Director, Anamalai Tiger Reserve came there and joined us. He introduced us about the Tiger Reserve and explained about the activities taken up there. He took us in to the surrounding forest area and to the Mount Stuart Bungalow where the grave of Hugo Wood a Forest officer who saved Western Ghats and worked here from 1915 to 1926 is located. This Bungalow is now

called 'Hugo Wood Memorial Interpretation Centre'. Mr. Wood had died in Coonoor on 12 December at the age of 63. However, a few months earlier, sensing his approaching death, he drew a will asking to be buried in Mount Stuart in the Western Ghats and also sent the money needed for the tomb to the Chief Conservator of Madras Presidency.

He now lies buried among the Teak trees and his legacy. The inscription on the tomb reads "*Si monumentum requiris circumspice*", in Latin meaning "If you are looking for my monuments, look around".

Before reaching the grave, two wild Elephants were on our way which obstructed our movement for about half an hour. This was a great exhilarating experience for all of us especially for our families. After visiting the surrounding Forest area, we returned to Top slip and had Tea and Snacks. We presented a Memento to Sri. Ganesan IFS Field Director as a token of remembrance of our visit to Top slip. We commenced our return journey and reached our place of stay the Poppys Hotel and retired after having our Dinner.

03-11-2018: Today in the morning around 9.00 am after our breakfast we started our onward journey to 'Sadivayal' where we camped for the first time after joining the Southern Forest Rangers College. We all came here on our Bicycles and stayed in Tents for about a week or so. Because of this only I planned our visit here to get back to all those nostalgic memories. Sri

Venkatesh, IFS; DFO, Coimbatore had made required arrangements for our visit to this place through the local staff. After reaching Sadivayal we spent some time with our families going round the Forest and remembering the old days. We had Tea and Snacks there and proceeded to Isha Foundation established by 'Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev' at the foot hills of Vellingiri Peak. This place is interesting to us as we were made to climb this peak during our training to study the 'Altitudinal Zonation of Vegetation'. The intention in making us to climb the peak was part of our endurance test. Here also the local staff has assisted in visiting the Isha Foundation.

Located at the foothills of the Velliangiri Mountains, Isha Yoga Center is set in one of the most scenic parts of south India. Pristine hills with thick virgin forest, sparkling rivulets and waterfalls and an abundant wildlife make for a stunning backdrop to this powerful site for inner transformation. Spread over 150 acres of lush land, the Centre with the Dhyanalunga Yogic Temple, Spanda Hall, Isha Rejuvenation Centre, Isha Home School and the residential areas, ideally facilitates the pursuit of one's inner journey in a highly supportive environment.

The important places in the Foundation for visiting are "LINGA BHAIRAVI" the Goddess Parvathi, and Dhyana Linga. Dhyanalunga is a powerful and unique energy form sitting under a pillar less 250,000-brick dome structure. An extraordinary meditative space, the

Dhyanalinga does not ascribe to any particular faith or belief-system, nor does it require any ritual, prayer, or worship. Each week, thousands converge at this unique meditation centre to seek out inner peace and silence. We have to maintain pin drop silence and spend about 15 minutes in meditation here. We feel so much of mental relief and peace after spending time here. Once we come out from here we can see the Adiyogi statue located in the sprawling campus of the Isha Yoga centre. The statue is 112 feet tall was open to the public about a year back on the day of Shivarathri by Sadguru and PM Narendra Modi. One cannot be taken up by awe at the very sight of such a large statue which is the largest bust of Shiva in the whole world. This is a Guinness world record. The statue is all in Grace especially during a full moon day. *Poojas* are performed for the Yogeshwara lingam at the base of the statue. After visiting the above places we had our Lunch at the Canteen in the Isha Foundation premises and returned to Coimbatore.

After reaching the hotel premises the Valedictory function was held. All of us exchanged our views and feelings about our Golden Jubilee Meet. Sri V.V.Rajam was felicitated for arranging the 'Happy Hours' on his own and Sri V.R. Periyaswamy for assisting me in making the arrangements for successful conduct of the Meet. They were felicitated by presenting Shawls and Bouquets. Sri V.V. Rajam personally presented me a

specially designed Memento in appreciation of my efforts in bringing together our Batch Mates after we left our '*Alma mater*' in the year 1970 and creating an extra ordinary moment in our lives. My wife Mrs. V. Bhagya Lakshmi was also felicitated for preparing the Video commemorating our Golden Jubilee Meet and assisting me in conducting the Meet comfortably. Sri P.C. Pachori announced to continue this practice of meeting by our batch mates every year and promised to hold the Meet in Madhya Pradesh next year.

Subsequently all of us bid goodbye to each other and some people left on the same day and some in the next day depending upon their return journey reservations.

Thus All of us who participated in the "Golden Jubilee Meet of 1968-70 Batch of Southern Forest Rangers College have enjoyed the Nostalgic moments of Good Olden days and rejuvenated ourselves for a still healthier life.

I thank Sri. Q.M.Khan and Sri V.V.Rajam my batch mates for their guidance rendered to me whenever I consulted them. My thanks are all due to all the Batch mates who cooperated with me when I first mooted this idea and those who all have helped me in conducting the event successfully. Finally I thank my wife Mrs. V. Bhagya Lakshmi for her continuous support and advices she has been giving me from time to time in conducting the Meet.



Delgates of 1966-68 & 1968-70 batches of S.F.R.C who attended the Golden Jubilee Celebrations From 1-11-2018 to 3-11-2018, at Coimbatore



Cake Designed by Sri. V.S.S. Babu on the occation of Golden Jubilee Celebrations of 1966-68 & 1968-70 Batches of S.F.R.C



Sri. Yogesh Dwivedi, IFS,, Director T.N.F.A Coimbatore releasing the November Issue of Vana Premi

949615/2017/IT SEC- RSS
ప్రజల ముందు

**రైతు సంక్షేమమే
ఈ ప్రభుత్వ లక్ష్యం**

- ◆ ఇప్పటి వరకు ఇచ్చిన ముగి ఉపశమనం రూ.14,710 కోట్లు (3వ విడతతో కలిపి).
- ◆ లబ్ధి పొందిన వంట ముగి ముఖ్యము ఖాతాల సంఖ్య 57.57 లక్షలు.
- ◆ ఉద్యాన వంటల ముగి ఉపశమనం రూ.384.47 కోట్లు.
- ◆ రూ.4495 కోట్లతో, రూ.50 వేల లోపు ముగి ముఖ్యము కీనుకున్న 23.45 లక్షల రైతు ఖాతాలకు ఒకేసారి ముగి ఉపశమనం
- ◆ ముగి ఉపశమనంలో కొలు రైతులకు ప్రాధాన్యత ఇవ్వబడినది.
- ◆ మరణించిన రైతుల ఖాతాలకు కూడా రూ.51.54 కోట్ల ముగి ఉపశమనం కల్పించబడినది.
- ◆ ప్రివీకరణ పత్రాలు ఇవ్వక అర్హత కోల్పోయిన రైతులకు అవకాశము కల్పించి ఇప్పటికీ కూడా పూర్తి సారధ్యకతతో ముగి ఉపశమనంకు చేయూత.

దేశ చరిత్రలోనే 24 వేల కోట్ల రూపాయల రైతు ముగి ఉపశమనం చేస్తున్న ఏకైక ప్రభుత్వం

ముగి ఉపశమన పథకము 3వ విడత రూ.3600 కోట్లు విడుదల, రెండు సంవత్సరాలకు వార్షిక 10% వడ్డీతో




రైతు సాధికార సంస్థ, ఆంధ్ర ప్రభుత్వం

INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF 6TH BATCH OF INDUCTION TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR FROs 22ND NOVEMBER 2018

By
Dr. K. Tirupathiah

The Sixth Batch of Induction Training Programme (ITP) for newly recruited Forest Range Officers was inaugurated at Telangana State Forest Academy, Dulapally on 22nd November 2018. The Director of Forest Education (DFE), Dehra Dun allocates seats to various forest training institutes in the country. Of all forest training institutes, the highest allocation of 98 seats was made to Dulapally Academy. This only goes to show the premier Academic status of the academy at National level.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Telangana State Forest Department, Sri. Prashant Kumar Jha, IFS was the Chief Guest at the Inaugural function. Sri P. Raghuvver, IFS PCCF (IT&P) Presided over. Smt R. Sobha, IFS APPCF (FCA), Sri K. Buchi Ram Reddy, IFS (R), Sri R .M. Pandey, DFO (R) from Uttarakhand and Dr. K. Tirupataiah IFS APPCF & Director of the Academy graced the function. Smt. N. R. Sangeetha, Deputy Director of the academy acted as the compeer. The function started with Lighting of ceremonial lamp and rendering of Saraswathi Vandan by Dy.RO Smt. Uma Rani.

Sri B. V. Rao, Deputy Director & Course Director gave details of the batch and about the training

programme. The sixth batch of FROs are 80 in number and represent Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra forest department & Forest Corporation, Odisha, Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir and Nagaland. It is expected that some more FRO trainees would join in a few days. Regarding educational qualifications of these trainees, 53 trainees have engineering background (50 BE, 3 M. Tech) with various branches like civil, electrical, electronics, Mechanical, Compt. Science, Telecommunications, Bio medical and IT. Nine (9) trainees are Post graduates in agriculture, Forestry, Zoology and Chemistry, 18 are graduates in Biology and Mathematics.

The age of the trainees ranges from 22 years to 47 years, 71 trainees are below 30 years age and 9 are above 30 years age. The Youngest trainee of the batch is Mr. Kartikey Shukla and the elders are Mr. Balwant Singh and Mr. Surinder Nath from J&K. These (2) J&K trainees started their career as Foresters, then got promoted as FROs and put up 19 years of service in the Department. They are due for ACF promotion. Once they complete their training, they are likely to get their promotion. Many of the trainees stated that they are good in sports,

cultural activities, poetry, Drama, Elocution, Karate, swimming and Singing.

The ITP is for 18 months and in 2 phases with a one month Term break in between. The course content is being followed as per the direction of "Director Forest Education" Dehradun. The course covers 19 subjects like: General Botany / Mathematics, Application of Modern tools and technology, Silviculture I, Silviculture II, Forest resource assessment, Forest Survey, Forest Engineering, Adverse influence on Forests, Forest Utilization I, Forest policy and Law, Ecology and environmental science, Forest Utilization II, Forest Resource Management, Natural resource management, Forest economics, Bio Diversity conservation and management, Joint forest management, Rural & Tribal development, Human resource development and management, and Forest accounts and office procedure.

Apart from the above 19 theory subjects there will be (5) study tours across the country spread over 145 days during their 18 months training period covering Telangana & South India, West & Central India, North India & East India. The Academy organizes an Introductory **Immersion Tour** to Amrabad/Kawal Tiger Reserve so as to enable the trainees to get familiar with the Forest Ecosystem. This tour entails them to stay in the middle of forests in tents and with solar lights for a week to enable them to understand "life" in

a forest. Field exercises like Nursery and plantations, Mensuration, Marking and logging, Road alignment, Engineering, Working plan & Ecological census techniques are also part of the ITP.

Apart from the above Curriculum, other aspects which shall be covered during training include: Physical training and yoga in the morning, Games in the evening, One week intensive weapon training at NISA, Hakeempet or TSPA, Jeep driving, Heritage walk, India Day Celebrations, Swatch Bharat, Plastic free campus, Quiz programmes, Tour symposium, Swimming, Cultural activities and Sports meet. One of the unique features introduced by the Academy is the concept of Term Break attachment after Phase (1), during which time the trainee gets to spend some quality time in their own state understanding how a Forest Guard, Forester, Range Officer and DFO actually function. Such an exposure gives them better insights into the forest management issues in their own state enabling them to make use of the 2nd phase inputs much better.

Dr. K. Tirupataiah in his welcome address informed that the ITP is made trainee-friendly and the more the trainees participate, the more they stand to learn. He also mentioned that in the meeting of the Directors of Forest training institutes it was decided to review the syllabus of the FRO ITP and it is likely that the present

batch FRO would get a chance to contribute in that exercise. He urged the FRO trainees to be role models for FBO, FSO trainees as well as students of Forest College & Research Institute (FCRI). Sri R.M. Pandey, DFO (R) from Uttarakhand who was on study tour with FRO trainees also attended the Inaugural function. He said that of all things, Discipline is the most important thing that FROs should learn and practice. All others could be learnt once one is disciplined. Smt. R. Sobha, IFS APCCF (FCA) in her address urged those from Life Sciences background to help those from Maths/Engineering background and vice versa. In this way, she said, everyone gains. Sri K. Buchi Ram Reddy, IFS (R) in his address mentioned that FROs must learn and practice H2O i.e. Honesty, Hard work and Obedience. He mentioned that FROs are the backbone of the Forest Department.

Sri P. Raghuveer, IFS PCCF (IT&P) who had a long association with the academy mentioned that the training at this academy is unique for its Seminar Project between the two phases of training. During this period, the FRO trainees can identify a forest related issue in their state and work on it. Their study is presented in a Seminar and more often, the FROs are posted in the field

of seminar work after completing their training. He also mentioned that running the trainees Mess would be a good experience in management.

Sri P.K.Jha, IFS PCCF (HoFF) in his address agreed with the statement that FROs are the backbone of Forest Department. He said that FROs have an onerous task of showing Leadership and Mentoring skills for their subordinates and at the same time, they need to be prompt in informing field issues to their superiors and give appropriate advice. He opined that probably FRO training is the only one at that level to be conducted with a National Perspective. Therefore, he felt that FROs would get a chance to rise above state level and gain a National Perspective. He added that in addition to Discipline, FROs must also practice Punctuality. He felt happy to see a balance between curricular and extra-curricular activities and urged the Trainees to take full advantage of it. The Director TSFA felicitated the Chief Guest and Special Guest of Honour with handloom made Pochampally stoles. The Inaugural Function ended with a vote of thanks by Smt. Nagamani FRO.

***One beautiful Heart is more important
than a milion beautiful faces***

RIVER MANAGEMENT IN INDIA- REVIEW OF EFFORTS

By
Dr. Akula Kishan

Introduction: Rivers in India are the cradles where civilization strived. The needs of people were fulfilled as the River was treated as Goddess and perennial flows were possible. With the passage of time, the Human needs increased and the greed overtook the need and the water source was badly handled. The Government is making few efforts to restore the water sources to their glory within the limited financial and logistical measures.

2.Rivers in India : The Rivers in India can be classified into four categories, namely the Himalayan Rivers, the Deccan Rivers, the coastal rivers and rivers of the inland drainage basin. The River Management differs for each category depending on the proximity to human habitation. The more near a habitation the more damage to the riverine system.

River management: River management involves management of watershed, river banks and the quality of water. The Water shed Management involves treating the entire area for soil and water conservation, so that rain water is harvested and run off is controlled. The River banks have to be protected with proper vegetative barriers or other structures so that the water flow is contained within the River banks and the floods along the water course can be avoided. The quality of water flowing would be better if the intermittent rivulets and drainages are properly taken care of. According Central Pollution Control Board, the water quality

is divided into five categories, and they are
Class A. Drinking Water source without conventional treatment but after disinfection
Class B. Outdoor bathing
Class C. Drinking Water source with conventional treatment followed by disfection
Class D. Propagation of Wildlife and Fisheries
Class E. Irrigation, Industrial Cooling and controlled waste disposal

Sources of Water Pollution: There are two general categories of water pollution, namely, direct and indirect pollutants. Direct sources include effluent discharged from factories, refineries, waste treatment plants etc.. that emit fluids of varying quality directly into water supplies.

Indirect sources include contaminants that enter the water supply from soils/groundwater systems and from the atmosphere via rain water. Soils and ground waters contain the residue of human agricultural practices (fertilizers, pesticides, etc..) and improperly disposed of industrial wastes.

Contaminants can be broadly classified into organic, inorganic, radioactive and acid/base.

Efforts taken up: The National River Conservation Directorate (NRCD) in the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems' (NPCA) for conservation

of rivers, lakes and wetlands in the country.

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is registered as a Society for taking up works under the Authority of National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA). The NGRBA was dissolved from 07.10.2016 on constitution of national Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga (referred to as National Ganga Council). The Council created functions under control of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India.

5.1. National River Conservation Plan (NRCP)

5.1.1. The pollution abatement works taken up under the NRCP include:

- ❖ Interception and diversion works/ laying of sewerage systems to capture raw sewage flowing into the rivers through open drains and diverting them for treatment;
- ❖ Setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) for treating the diverted sewage; Construction of Low Cost Sanitation Toilets to prevent open defecation on river banks;
- ❖ Construction of Electric Crematoria and Improved Wood Crematoria to conserve the use of wood;
- ❖ River Front Development works, such as improvement of bathing ghats;
- ❖ Public participation & awareness and capacity building, etc.

5.1.2. The work done in NRCP are

Towns covered	:	75
Rivers covered	:	31
States covered	:	14
Sanctioned cost of DPR	:	Rs. 4517.83 crore
		(Upto, September, 2017)
Funds released by GOI	:	Rs. 2180.97 crore
		(Upto, September, 2017)

Total Expenditure : Rs. 3045.53 crore
(Upto, June, 2017)

Schemes Sanctioned	:	352
Schemes Completed	:	268
Pollution load to be tackled	:	3154.90 MLD
Pollution load tackled	:	2455.43 MLD

5.2. National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Systems (NPCA)

For conservation of lakes and wetlands the Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing two separate centrally sponsored schemes, namely, National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP) and National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP)

5.2.2. Works Under NPCA

Lake:

Lakes	Covered	:	63
States	Covered	:	14
Approved	Cost	:	Rs. 1096.09 Crore
Funds released by GOI	:		Rs. 714.788 Crore
Lakes Projects Completed	:		36
Funding Pattern	:		60:40 Between GOI and State Govt., 90:10 for NE States and 100% for UTs

Wetlands :

Wetlands identified	:	115 (24 States and 2 UTs)
Wetlands funded	:	82 (21 States and 1 UT)
Funds released by GOI	:	162.49 Crore
Funding Pattern	:	60:40 between GOI and State Govt., 90:10 for NE States and 100% for UTs
Ramsar sites designated	:	26
Ramsar State Covered	:	15

6.0. The outcome of the efforts

(i) According to Central Pollution Control Board report of 2015 states that out of 61,948 million

liters of urban sewerage only 38% is treated and the remaining goes into major rivers, water bodies and even percolates into ground every day.

(ii) The sewage generation, installed treatment capacity and number of polluted stretches in India is as follows:

Sl.No.	State/UT	Sewage MLD	Treatment MLD	Polluted river stretches
1	Andhra Pradesh	2871	247.27	6
2	Assam	703	0.51	28
3	Bihar	1879	124.55	5
4	Chattisgarh	951	0	5
5	Daman Diu and Dadra Nagar Haveli	55	0	1
6	Delhi	4155	2693.7	1
7	Goa	145	74.56	8
8	Gujarat	4119	3062.92	20
9	Haryana	1413	852.7	2
10	Himachal Pradesh	110	114.72	8
11	Jammu & Kashmir	547	264.74	9
12	Jharkhand	1270	117.24	8
13	Karnataka	3777	1304.16	15
14	Kerala	2552	152.97	13
15	Madhya Pradesh	3214	482.23	21
16	Maharashtra	8143	5160.36	49
17	Manipur	132	0	12
18	Meghalaya	95	1	10
19	Nagaland	92	0	3
20	Orissa	1121	385.54	12
21	Punjab	1664	1245.45	2
22	Rajasthan	2736	865.92	8
23	Sikkim	24	31.88	5
24	Tamil Nadu	5599	1799.2	7
25	Telangana	1671	685.8	7
26	Tripura	154	0.05	2
27	Uttar Pradesh	7124	2646.84	13
28	Uttarakhand	495	152.9	5
29	West Bengal	4667	416.9	17

7.0 Conclusion

- (a) The Natural flow regimes of rivers in India are to be maintained by regulating the use for hydropower and other uses
- (b) The riverfront development should be re-considered as it is disturbing the ecology of the river, its floodplains and flow pattern.
- (c) The interlinking of Rivers may be considered to ensure greater equity in the distribution of water, enhancing the availability in drought prone areas and rain fed areas so that the water demands can be met.
- (d) The management of Rivers should start from

the watershed and follow the river course till it reaches the ocean, and regulate the intermittent tributaries or channels for better water quality.

(e) The River management should start as a Public initiative as the money spent on the rejuvenation of rivers would not be adequate and would not be on sustainable basis.

(f) PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE- hence all the efforts should be directed towards preventing the damages and pollution to Rivers than cleaning up the damages and pollution caused.

N O T I C E

The 90th GENERAL BODY MEETING of the Association of Retired Forest Officers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh will be held on 30-12-2018 (Sunday) at 11.00 a.m. in Aranya Bhavan, Hyderabad. Sri Sammi Reddy IFS Retd. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Commissioner R.T.I. will host the lunch. All the members of the Association are requested to make it convenient to attend the meeting with their spouses.

Secretary

FINAL NOTICE

Members were requested to send their photo for Telephone Directory. We have received only from 40% of members their photo. Members are once again requested to bring photo when they come to attend G.B.M. on 30-12-2018 and handover to Mr. B.S.N. Prasad. The last date to receive photo is 30-12-2018 either by mail or in person. Printing will start from 1-1-2019 and those members who do not give their photo only their names will be printed and space for photo will be kept vacant.

STRESS -THE MODERN DAY DEMON

By

V.V. Hariprasad

Stress is a term that we hear everywhere we turn today, in the media, at work, at home. It is a major topic of discussion as we speed through our hectic days. Stress is the physiological, psychological, emotional and behavioural response of a person seeking to adapt to pressures or demands. There may be different types of stress which may affect an individual to different intensities. **They maybe**

- . The mild brief type of stress like missing the bus, braking hard to prevent an accident.
- . The moderate type of stress like working late to meet a deadline, temporary absence of a partner
- . The severe, chronic, long term type of stress like death of a child or a spouse, a constant feeling of fear for the lives of loved ones etc.

According to the **American Psychological Association**, chronic stress is linked to the six leading causes of death: heart disease, cancer, lung ailments, accidents, cirrhosis of the liver and suicide. And more than 75 percent of all physician office visits are for stress-related ailments and complaints.

Chronic stress can affect your brain, suppress your thyroid, cause blood sugar imbalances, decrease bone density and muscle tissue, raise blood pressure, reduce your immunity and ability to heal, and increase fat deposits around your abdomen that are associated with heart

attacks, strokes and elevated "bad" cholesterol. India has one of the world's highest suicide rates for youth aged 15 to 29, according to a 2012 Lancet report, which illustrated the need for urgent interventions. Youngsters find it difficult to cope with failure in exams and careers and neither families nor other social institutions offer adequate support or solace. (Shutter stock) In 2015, Maharashtra reported most student suicides of any state: 1,230 of 8,934 (14%) nationwide, followed by Tamil Nadu (955) and Chhattisgarh (625). Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are among India's most advanced states, and their high rate of suicides could reflect the pressures of economic growth.

Sikkim, the state with India's highest suicide rate, offers future warning for India. Sikkim is India's third-richest state (after Delhi and Chandigarh), by per capita income, and its literacy rate is seventh highest. But it also records the second-highest unemployment rate. About 27% of the state's suicides were related to unemployment and found to be most common among those between 21 and 30 years of age. Conversations with counsellors revealed that young people find it difficult to cope with failure in examinations and careers and neither families nor other social institutions offer adequate support or solace. Professional help is difficult to find because India endures an 87% shortage

of mental-health professionals. The situation is exacerbated by low public spending on mental health — India spends less than Bangladesh on mental-health services. Family background, it would appear, has an important role in determining how young people cope with despair.

Students from “happy” families suffer from less depression, according to an October 2016 study conducted among Indian university students. Shaibya Saldanha, co-Founder of Enfold India, an NGO which works with children and adolescents, concurs with this reasoning.

“These deaths result from poor relationships with parents, excessive expectations, the feeling of being unwanted, poor understanding of their peer/romantic relationships. These result in an impulsive decision or a long thought-out deliberate suicide. The 2016 study further found that students who studied social science and humanities, performed poorly in academics, or came from disadvantaged families reported higher rates of depression.

Financial issues dominate the reasons for suicide: About 70% of suicide victims in 2015 had an income of less than Rs 1,00,000 per annum, the NCRB (National crime records Bureau) data revealed. Even though this figure isn’t disaggregated for students, it corroborated the study’s findings on the links between suicide and financial condition.

India does not spend enough on mental health. Currently, it spends 0.06% of its health budget on mental health, which is less than Bangladesh

(0.44%). Most developed nations spend above 4% of their budgets on mental-health research, infrastructure, frameworks and talent pool, according to a 2011 World Health Organisation (WHO) report.

Student suicides are now frequent enough to draw the attention of policymakers and celebrity campaigners. The remedy lies in raising awareness about mental health in schools and colleges, said experts. “Mental health and wellness should be added to school curriculum. Only when children know about these disorders in their formative years will they be able to seek help,” said Satyakant Trivedi, a psychiatrist, in an India Today article.

Enfold’s (Founded in 2001 by two associate professors in the department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology) Dr.Saldanha had similar solutions, although she emphasised the need for better parenting during emotional crises. “There should be sexuality and life skills education in schools and colleges,” she said. “Additionally, since parents play a major role, there should be parenting classes when people get their marriages registered.”

Universities in India still lack counselling centres, where trained counsellors and psychologists can assist students at the onset of emotional and mental problems so that they do not spiral into full-fledged clinical depression and lead to suicide. India, as we said, faces an 87% shortage of mental-health professionals. There are 3,800 psychiatrists, 898 clinical psychologists, 850 psychiatric social

workers and 1,500 psychiatric nurses nationwide, according to a reply by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the Lok Sabha in December 2015. This means there were three psychiatrists per million people, according to data from WHO, 95% fewer than the Commonwealth norm of 5.6 psychiatrists per 10,00,000 people. By this estimate, India is short of 66,200 psychiatrists

SUICIDES AMONG STUDENTS DUE TO STRESS AND DEPRESSION

According to statistics more than 26,000 students have committed suicide across in India during 2017-18. In Hyderabad more than 30 students committed suicide and 150 students committed suicide in A.P and Telangana during the same year. One student commits suicide every 55 minutes in India. A majority of student suicides are caused by underlying psychiatric factors such as stress, depression and anxiety. It could result from difficulty in coping with academics, unrealistic expectations, and pressure from parents and lack of support from peers. It is very important to identify the illness at an early stage and consult a mental health professional.

IMPACT OF STRESS ON AGED PEOPLE:

Researchers have found that people aged 65 or older were five times more likely to die within the six year follow-up period if they had high levels of stress hormones. They were more likely to die from cardiovascular disease, such as heart attacks, heart failure and strokes, but not more likely to die from other causes such as cancer, it

was found. Short-term stress is thought to be good for health but chronic long-term stress can lead to damage in the lining of the blood vessels. Stress can also raise blood pressure and cholesterol which are known to be harmful to the heart and stressed people tend to eat a poorer diet and may be more likely to smoke. Researchers at **VU University Medical Center in The Netherlands**, measured levels of the stress hormone, cortisol, in the urine of 861 people aged 65 or older. The measurement was taken once over a 24-hour period which were highly fluctuating depending on stress levels.

SHOCKING DEPRESSION STATISTICS IN INDIA

- . 5,66,75,969 People (about 5% of the population)suffer from depression India (Source: WHO) as of 2015
- . 42.5% of corporate employees suffer from depression in India (Source: Associate Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India)
- . The Govt. estimates that 1 in 5 people in India needs counselling either psychological or psychiatric
- . 3 of every 100 persons in Urban areas are estimated to suffer from depression.
- . The rate of anxiety and depression among corporate employees has increased by 45% to 50% between 2008 to 2015 (Source: ASSOCHAM)
- . 36% of Indians are likely to suffer from major depression in their lives.(Source: WHO)
- . Nearly 38.5% of corporate employees sleep less than 6 hours a day causing diseases like depression, hypertension, Sugar etc.(Source: ASSOCHAM)

. Nearly half of those with severe mental diseases are not treated.

. The total estimated persons living with depression in India increase by 18.4% between 2005 and 2015 in India (Source: WHO)

CASE STUDY:

Actress **Deepika Padukone** shared her struggle with depression in a powerful message on Instagram on Wednesday, on 10 th October 2018 in honour of World Mental Health Day. In a video posted to her account, Padukone discusses being diagnosed with clinical depression in 2014 and the need to de stigmatize mental illness. "In 2014, I was diagnosed with clinical depression," Padukone said. "But in India, 90 per cent of people who suffer from depression don't seek help. Depression is like any other illness that requires intervention." Padukone is now encouraging others to feel free to share their stories about mental illness without stigma, by using the hash tag, **# Not Ashamed**. Since her diagnosis, the actress has been involved in actively spreading awareness about mental illness, including founding the "Live Love Laugh Foundation" to promote mental health care.

PERSONALITY DISORDERS

In this connection it is highly relevant to discuss about personality disorders prevalent among most of us which have not been bothered about , out of either sheer ignorance or apathy.

A personality disorder is a type of mental disorder in which you have a rigid and unhealthy pattern of thinking, functioning and behaving. A person with a personality disorder has trouble

perceiving and relating to situations and people. This causes significant problems and limitations in relationships, social activities, work and school.

In some cases, you may not realize that you have a personality disorder because your way of thinking and behaving seems natural to you. And you may blame others for the challenges you face.

PERSONALITY DISORDERS usually begin in the teenage years or early adulthood. There are many types of personality disorders. Some types may become less obvious throughout middle age.

Symptoms

Types of personality disorders are grouped into three clusters, based on similar characteristics and symptoms. Many people with one personality disorder also have signs and symptoms of at least one additional personality disorder. It's not necessary to exhibit all the signs and symptoms listed for a disorder to be diagnosed. Some of the personality disorders are as follows.

Paranoid personality disorder

- . Pervasive distrust and suspicion of others and their motives
- . Unjustified belief that others are trying to harm or deceive you
- . Angry or hostile reaction to perceived slights or insults
- . Tendency to hold grudges
- . Unjustified, recurrent suspicion that spouse or sexual partner is unfaithful

Schizoid personality disorder

- .Lack of interest in social or personal relationships, preferring to be alone
- . Limited range of emotional expression
- . Inability to take pleasure in most activities

Avoidant personality disorder

- . Too sensitive to criticism or rejection
- . Feeling inadequate, inferior or unattractive
- . Socially inhibited, timid and isolated, avoiding new activities or meeting strangers
- . Extreme shyness in social situations and personal relationships

Causes

Personality is the combination of thoughts, emotions and behaviors that makes you unique. It's the way you view, understand and relate to the outside world, as well as how you see yourself. Personality forms during childhood, shaped through an interaction of:

- **Your genes.** Certain personality traits may be passed on to you by your parents through inherited genes. These traits are sometimes called your temperament.
- **Your environment.** This involves the surroundings you grew up in, events that occurred, and relationships with family members and others.

Personality disorders are thought to be caused by a combination of these genetic and environmental influences. Your genes may make you vulnerable to developing a personality disorder, and a life situation may trigger the actual development.

Risk factors

Although the precise cause of personality disorders is not known, certain factors seem to increase the risk of developing or triggering personality disorders, including:

- Family history of personality disorders or other mental illness
- Abusive, unstable or chaotic family life during childhood
- Being diagnosed with childhood conduct disorder
- Variations in brain chemistry and structure

When to see a doctor

If you have any signs or symptoms of a personality disorder, see your doctor or other primary care professional or a mental health professional. Untreated, personality disorders can cause significant problems in your life that may get worse without treatment.

CONCLUSION:

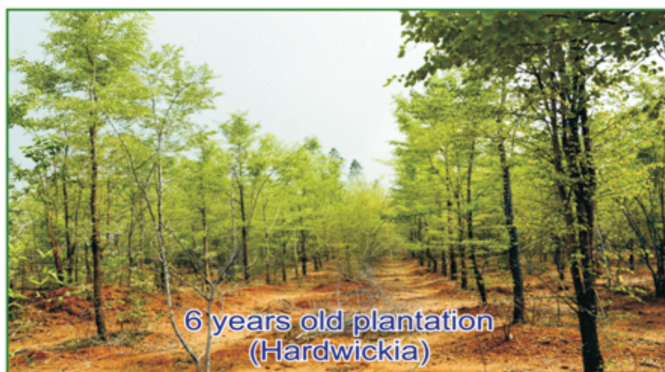
There are several ways of coping with stress. Coping can be adaptive or mal adaptive. Adaptive coping strategies generally involve confronting problems directly making reasonably realistic appraisals of problems, recognizing and changing unhealthy emotional reactions and trying to prevent adverse effect on the body. Mal adaptive coping includes using alcohol or drugs to escape problems.

There are many different coping strategies: some common ones include

- . Meditation and yoga
- . Relaxation
- . Humour
- . Releasing pent-up emotions by talking or



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



6 years old plantation
(Hardwickia)

- SCCL contributes 10% of country's total coal production. SCCL achieved the highest ever coal dispatches of 64.6 M.T. during 2017-18.
- SCCL planted 3.72 crores of saplings in 10,932 Hectars of land (up to July 2017)

Rehabilitation of RF land (Non mandated)

- SCCL honoured with "Indira Gandhi Vriksha Mitra Award - 2004", "Teri Corporate Environment Award - 2004", "Golden Peacock Environment Management Award-2005" and "Golden Peacock Innovative Product/ service award -2015" and many more for it's Eco & Environmental friendly mining.
- Sri N.Sridhar I.A.S., C&MD SCCL honoured with "Asia Pacific Enterprenuer Ship Award - 2018" and "Outstanding Leadership Award - 2018".



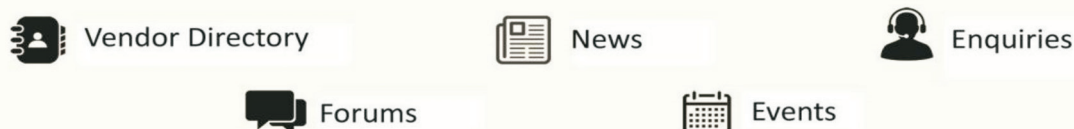
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- ◆ With a vision to increase green spaces and to improve the quality of life of the people, **Andhra Pradesh** Government has come up with a unique initiative with the support of APG&BC in launching **GreenAP** mobile application.
- ◆ This app helps 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.

• Salient Features •



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.



For more information, please contact our help line number: **+91 7997650835**

writing about them

- . Exercise
- . Getting social support
- . Reappraising an event or changing perspective on the problem
- . Spirituality and faith
- . Problem solving
- . Comparing oneself to others who are worse off
- . Altruism or helping others
- . Using defence mechanisms
- . Aggressive behaviour
- . Self-indulgent behaviour, such as overeating, smoking, and excessive use of alcohol or drugs

Some people cope more effectively than others. Some important factors that influence coping are social support, and optimism.

Social Support: Many studies show that having good social support correlates with better physical and mental health. In stressful situations a social network can provide a person with care and comfort access to helpful resources, and advice about how to evaluate and manage problems.

Optimism: A tendency to expect positive outcomes, optimism is associated with better physical health. Optimistic people are more likely to find social support, appraise events in less threatening ways, take good care of

themselves when sick, and use active coping strategies that focus on problem solving.

It is evident that an individual be a bureaucrat, a politician, a spouse, a student or a corporate employee who so ever he or she may be is likely to suffer due to stress and consequent depression at some point of time in his or her life. At times it may lead to developing suicidal tendencies and consequential un-natural death. Indian culture with a lot of traditional wisdom has been stressing upon Indians to lead a life associated with prayer, yoga, meditation and other relaxation techniques which have been emulated by those living in western countries in general and U.S.A in particular. Psychology and psychiatry are in the process of continuous evolution. The scientific attitude of Identifying psychological problems if any prevailing in those who are our near and dear, by de stigmatizing the mental illness has to be imbibed in the minds of one and all by bringing awareness among all of us which may avert the probable disasters.

(Source: Internet. The author a retired DCF and an advocate is a guest faculty in Central University of Hyderabad and a legal consultant In RYSS Govt. of A.P and IFD, (ICFRE) Hyderabad, Govt..Of India))

***When a man wants to murder a tiger he calls it sport;
when a tiger wants to murder him he calls it ferocity.***

COASTAL EROSION

By
Disha Shetty

Honnavar, Karnataka: First, in 2011, the sea took away some of their land. Three years later, the waves demolished a section of their home. That is when Budhwant Karvi, 40, knew it was time to move but his elderly parents refused. "They said we have lived here for generations and will continue to do so," said Karvi, a worker on a fishing trawler that sails the Arabian sea.

Budhwant Karvi, 40, visits the remains of his old home in Pavinarkurve village in Honnavar, Karnataka, on festivals and special occasions. To stop the erosion, the government constructed a stone wall, but it wasn't enough to hold back the waves. Image courtesy: Disha Shetty

Karvi's home is in Pavinakurve, a village along the scenic Honnavar coast with blue waters reflecting the sky in Western Karnataka. The view from the home was once a narrow strip of sandy beach and the vast Arabian sea. On the right is the island of Basavaraj Durga, a popular tourist destination.

Seven years ago, the waves began to crash against the walls of Karvi's home made of red, large bricks. "At times the waves would completely wash over our home and leave behind plastic bottles that were discarded in the sea by people," Karvi said, pointing to the waste bottles on the land. Soon the sandy strip of the beach went under water. Then one by one the

sea swallowed six guntas (1/7th of an acre) of the land the family owned, roughly six times the size of an average two-bedroom flat.

Millions living on India's coasts are threatened as India has lost 33% of its coastline to erosion in 26 years between 1990 and 2006, according to a report released in July 2018 by the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) in Chennai, which is mapping changes to India's shoreline, and is affiliated to the Ministry of Earth Sciences. This is the second story in our series on how climate change is disrupting people's lives (you can read the first part [here](#)). The series combines ground reporting from India's climate change hotspots with the latest scientific research.

India has a coastline of 7,500 km—nearly three-and-a-half times the distance between Ahmedabad and Kolkata €" divided almost equally on the east and the west of the country. Along it are nine states, two union territories (UT) and two island territories. Of the country's 1.28 billion people, 560 million, or 43 percent, live within these coastal territories.

Of the coastline that is eroding, 40 percent is in four states/UTs alone. West Bengal has lost 99 sq km of land in the past 26 years, making up 63 percent of the state's coastline and equivalent to the area occupied by 18,500 football fields.

Puducherry has lost 57 percent of its coastline, Kerala 45 percent, and Tamil Nadu 41 percent, to heavy erosion.

India's coasts are under attack both from man-made activities such as growing construction, damming of rivers, sand mining and destruction of mangroves as well as natural causes linked to climate change such as rising sea levels, according to the report.

Growing construction, rising temperature, threatens coastline

India has 5,264 large dams and another 437 dams are currently under construction, according to the Central Water Commission (CWC). Of these, the highest—2,354—are in Maharashtra, followed by Madhya Pradesh (906) and Gujarat (632). These dams starve the coasts of sediments that the rivers would otherwise carry, disturbing the natural equilibrium.

Then, there are 13 major ports, 46 fishing harbour and 187 minor ports on the coast for the building and maintenance of which sediments are regularly removed. This sediment is rarely ever returned to the coast.

All this has left India's coasts vulnerable to the full impact of climate change. "Climate change is making weather systems in the Bay of Bengal erratic," said M.V. Ramana Murthy, director of NCCR. "We have some evidence for sea level rise. The Lakshadweep lagoons, which are enclosed water bodies, are also getting eroded because of sea level rise."

Global warming will cause the sea levels to rise well beyond the year 2100. This rise could be as much as the height of a 500 ml bottle of coke to the height of four such bottles put together if global warming raises temperatures by 1.5 degree Celsius. If the Earth warms beyond this, the rise in sea level could be even more, according to the latest report by United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released in October this year.

Rising sea levels are predicted to disproportionately affect fishermen like Karvi and farmers owning fields along the coast.

In the past two years, Karvi's entire home was ravaged by the sea. Even as his parents refused to move, Karvi and his siblings moved away with their families in tow. They now live in rented homes.

With the little money they had, they constructed a two-room mud home with no windows and a roof so low that one has to bend to enter, where their parents lived till their death in 2017.

Soon after, the waves began to cross the stone wall built by the government and gnaw at the remains of their old home, now reduced to rubble. The Karvis return to the old house, now reduced to debris, on special occasions. There is a *tulsi* plant outside that Karvi returned to on the day of Dussehra to offer prayers. In Honnavar, the only asset those like Karvi have, are their homes and their land. With the sea swallowing

up both, Karvi and his siblings have nothing left. In Pavinakurve village, many high yielding paddy fields along the coast are no longer suitable for agriculture as crops don't grow in soil contaminated with the salty sea water.

The waves are only expected to rise higher as climate change causes changes in wind speeds. In the next three decades, coastal erosion will occur 1.5 times faster than the past three decades, according to a 2016 joint study by researchers of the Indian Institute of Technology in Mumbai and the National Centre for Earth Sciences Studies in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Walls to fight waves

Many countries, including India, have responded to this challenge by building hard engineering structures such as walls or bunds along the coastline. These are just a short-term solution, said Prasanna Patgar, regional director for environment for Karwar district, that also oversees Honnavar. They also might redirect the waves and cause another area along the coast to erode. Worse, as the sand below them shifts, the walls sink.

At the moment, state governments are spending hundreds of crores of taxpayers' money to construct walls which get eroded in a few years. But, why?

"People want immediate solution and building a wall is one," Patgar explained. As waves erode wealth accumulated over a lifetime, people panic and administrators are pressured to offer

a quick fix.

Other alternatives that work, such as mangroves, are either too expensive or time consuming.

Mangroves go a long way to reduce wind speeds and the swell of waves during storm surges. They bind the sand together and arrest erosion. "There is also the thermodynamic shelterbelt model in which four levels of vegetation are planted," Patgar explained. "Grass is planted closer towards the sea, followed by shrubs, herbs and finally the trees. But these plants take 5-10 years to establish and become effective."

Another option that has worked on a 40 km stretch off the Puducherry coast is a structure based on the erosion patterns and requirements of the particular stretch. "We brought back the sediment naturally by building a submerged structure that mimics how coral reefs protect an island," Murthy explained. Carrying out a scientific study for the 40 km stretch and coming up with the best design for the structure cost Rs 50 lakh.

To do that along India's 7,500 km coastline would be too expensive. Even if the money was found, there aren't as many experts as would be needed to study the entire coastline.

Coastal erosion hotspots are spread all along India's coastline. There are several hotspots along the Kerala coastline, recently left devastated by floods, according to a 2015 study.

Areas nearly 2 km inland were found to be eroded. The Tamil Nadu coast is also impacted by erosion, but the eastern coast, around the Bay of Bengal, is the worst affected.

Low and moderate erosion spots along India's coastline. Source: National Assessment of Shoreline Changes along Indian Coast; July 2018. Image courtesy: Indiaspend

Apart from increasing sea levels, climate change is also going to change weather patterns along the coast. "The intensity and the number of tropical storms, called cyclones, in India are likely to increase in coastal areas," said Gerd Masselink, professor of Coastal Geomorphology at the University of Plymouth, in the United Kingdom. "The effect will depend on where you are on the globe. Some areas might become less stormy and other areas might become more stormy."

"There can be changes in the wave direction as the climate changes. This might change the longshore sediment transport, which is movement of sand along the beach," Masselink added.

Some coastal areas are likely to flood more and global warming will cause the water temperatures to rise. All these changes will have a direct impact on the production of fish and consequently those, like Karvi, who depend on it for a living.

Standing at the edge of Karki village in Honnavar, TH Nayak, 74, points to the expanse of the

Arabian sea. "We had relatives living on the stretch of land there. Now it is all under water," said the former Karnataka bureaucrat. His home was nearly 5 km away from the sea. Between the sea and his home shielded by Pavinakurve was an estuary. "It was so shallow that we could walk across it," he said. In the last few decades, the entire topography of the area has changed. Karki village now overlooks the mouth of the Sharavathi River which merges into the Arabian sea. When Nayak was growing up, the mouth of the river was several kilometers away near the neighboring Kasarkod village.

"Coastal erosion is a natural process but the rate at which the erosion is happening here has accelerated over the past few decades," explained marine biologist Prakash Mesta, of the Centre for Ecological Sciences in Kumta, who is currently working on a project on coastal ecology and global warming.

While land from one side of the river mouth is going under water, new land is emerging on the other side. This process is called accretion.

Nearly 29% of India's overall coastline is accreting, according to the NCCR report. Odisha (51%) and Andhra Pradesh (42%) have seen a maximum increase in their coastline.

While Karvi and Nayak are losing their land due to erosion and not being compensated for it, the new land the sea throws up goes to the government.

"Climate change along the coast has affected

the livelihoods of the fishermen community. The new land can go to them to make up for the land they have lost," said Ramachandra Bhatta, former professor of Fisheries Economics at the College of Fisheries in Mangalore. "If the government does a risk assessment study and offers them an insurance cover, the fishermen will not need to go begging to the authorities after every disaster, the frequency of which will only increase going forward," said Bhatta, explaining that the government has yet to conduct such a risk assessment.

Human activities worsen natural erosion

For over two decades, Aurofilio Schiavina, co-founder of Pondicherry Citizen's Action Network (PondyCAN), has been watching the beaches of Pondicherry disappear due to erosion. While he agrees climate change is a factor, he highlights the need to check man-made structures like building coastal walls, dams, as well as illegal activities like sand mining.

At Honnavar, for instance, locals revealed a kilogram of sand sells for Rs 5 and the sand mafia routinely takes away truckloads of sand from the beach.

Schiavina also agreed with the decision recalling the proposal to build a wall from Chennai to Kanyakumari right after the tsunami struck in 2004. "The damage that would have done in ten years would be more than what climate change would have done in decades," Schiavina said. "We need policies rooted in science," he added.

New rules on coastal regulation unscientific

Avoiding construction close to the coast is one of the easiest steps to take, according to scientists. The technical knowledge to identify areas that are at risk of erosion is available.

"People think erosion is always bad thing, but erosion at one location causes sedimentation somewhere else," Masselink said. "A heavily managed coastline, for example a beach with a seawall, cannot adapt very well to climate change impacts and requires constant attention, whereas a natural coastline, or one that is managed using more sustainable methods on management such as nourishment, can naturally adapt to climate change impacts." Any sand taken away from the coast needs to be replaced, added Murthy. "We need at least 100 meters of space along the coast."

The government, though, has other plans. In April this year, a new coastal regulatory zone draft was released in which the No Development Zone (NDZ) around coastal areas was reduced from 100 mt to 50 mt allowing for more construction along the coast in rural areas—the opposite of what scientists advise. Coasts in urban areas don't have NDZ at all. The move is being hailed as one meant to benefit builders.

And what's our defense against climate change? "There is no way other than being vigilant," said Murthy.

NEWS AND NOTES

Slain tigress' cubs hunt first prey:-

Tidings from Maharashtra's Yavatmal district have confirmed that the two cubs of slain tigress T1 aka Tigress Avni have hunted down a bait on Sunday evening, the first time since their mother was shot dead on November 2.

They have reportedly killed a pony tied as bait, and consumed a major portion of the carcass, putting to rest speculation that they may starve following their mother's death.

The pony's carcass was found on Monday morning by forest guards in the compartment 655 of Anji beat, in Maregaon range of Pandharkwada division, Yavatmal district.

Officials from the division confirmed the news on the condition of anonymity, though the hunter from Hyderabad Shafat Ali Khan did so on record. Mr Khan's team, including his son Asghar Ali Khan, killed the tigress during an unsuccessful tranquilising operation.

'No other tiger roaming': "I have seen the pony's half-eaten carcass this morning. There was no other tiger roaming in the area, hence it is confirmed that the cubs hunted it down," he says.

The forest is home to only four tigers, of which T1 had been put down. Her mate, named T2, was caught on camera traps eight kilometres

from the spot the pony was killed, ruling out his involvement.

Mr. Khan, who has been closely following up the rescue of the cubs since the killing of tigress T1, says the latest hunt by the 11-month-old cubs gives hope that they might survive in the wild.

'Supervision needed' : "The cubs need to be under close watch by Maharashtra Forest department for six more months, as they might have imbibed their mother's human hunts and lost fear of human beings. Tranquilising is a stressful job, and once tranquilised, they will have to be moved to captivity. It is my personal opinion that they should be provided more live bait, till they start hunting on their own," he adds.

Eye on T2 : More worrisome, however, is the fact that the saliva of tiger T2 was found in two of the human kills that T1 had reportedly made, which also mandates close watch on the male, he says.

Thirteen human kills in Yavatmal district were being attributed to T1, or Avni. Her killing has led to unprecedented public outcry with wildlife activists and environmentalists, including Union Minister Maneka Gandhi, who termed it a murder by "trigger-happy" Khan, joining the protest chorus.

Air pollution cuts average Indian's life

expectancy by over 4 years: Study: - India is the world's second most polluted country, slightly trailing only Nepal, the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC) said on Monday.

Particulate pollution is so severe that it shortens the average Indian's life expectancy by more than four years relative to what it would be if World Health Organization (WHO) air quality guidelines were met.

This is up from about two years in the late 1990s due to a 69 per cent increase in particulate pollution, it said.

Concentrations in Indian states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, and the National Capital Territory of Delhi are substantially higher, and the impact on life expectancy exceeds six years.

Its new air pollution index, known as the Air Quality Life Index (AQLI), finds that air pollution reduces global life expectancy by nearly two years, making it the single greatest threat to human health.

The tool gives figures like — for an average resident of Delhi, gain in life expectancy if the WHO guidelines are met, could be up to 10.2 years.

Likewise, it gives numbers of years lost to pollution for every district of India for a span of 18 years between 1998 and 2016.

What makes AQLI unique is that it converts pollution into perhaps the most important metric that exists — life expectancy. It does so at a hyper-local level throughout the world.

Further, it illustrates how air pollution policies can increase life expectancy when they meet the World Health Organization's (WHO) guideline, existing national air quality standards, or user-defined air quality levels.

This information helps informing local communities and policymakers about the importance of air pollution policies in very concrete terms.

Loss of life expectancy is highest in Asia, exceeding six years in many parts of India and China; some residents of the US still lose up to a year of life from pollution.

Fossil fuel-driven particulate air pollution cuts global average life expectancy by 1.8 years per person, according to the pollution index and accompanying report produced by the EPIC.

"Around the world today, people are breathing air that represents a serious risk to their health. But the way this risk is communicated is very often opaque and confusing, translating air pollution concentrations into colors, like red, brown, orange, and green. What those colors mean for people's wellbeing has always been unclear," Michael Greenstone, the Milton Friedman Professor in Economics and Director

of the EPIC, said.

Greenstone also noted: "My colleagues and I developed the AQLI, where the 'L' stands for 'life' to address these shortcomings. It takes particulate air pollution concentrations and converts them into perhaps the most important metric that exists, life expectancy."

The AQLI is based on a pair of peer-reviewed studies co-authored by Greenstone that quantify the causal relationship between long-term human exposure to particulate pollution and life expectancy.

The results from these studies are then combined with hyper-localized, global particulate matter measurements, yielding unprecedented insight into the true cost of air pollution in communities around the world.

Seventy-five per cent of the global population, or 5.5 billion people, live in areas where particulate pollution exceeds the WHO guideline.

The AQLI reveals that India and China, which make up 36 per cent of the world's population, account for 73 per cent of all years of life lost due to particulate pollution.

On average, people in India would live 4.3 years longer if their country met the WHO guideline, expanding the average life expectancy at birth there from 69 to 73 years.

In the US, about a third of the population lives in

areas not in compliance with the WHO guideline.

Those living in the country's most polluted counties could expect to live up to one year longer if pollution met the WHO guideline.

Globally, the AQLI reveals that particulate pollution reduces average life expectancy by 1.8 years, making it the greatest global threat to human health.

By comparison, first-hand cigarette smoke leads to a reduction in global average life expectancy of about 1.6 years.

Other risks to human health have even smaller effects: alcohol and drugs reduce life expectancy by 11 months; unsafe water and sanitation take off seven months; and HIV/AIDS four months.

Conflict and terrorism take off 22 days. So, the impact of particulate pollution on life expectancy is comparable to that of smoking, twice that of alcohol and drug use, three times that of unsafe water, five times that of HIV/AIDS, and more than 25 times that of conflict and terrorism.

"While people can stop smoking and take steps to protect themselves from diseases, there is little they can individually do to protect themselves from the air they breathe," Greenstone said.

Project to conserve Gir lions launched: -

Alarmed over the Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) outbreak that claimed the lives of 23 Asiatic lions in their only abode Gir in Saurashtra, the Gujarat government on Tuesday launched a Rs 351-crore project for the conservation of the wild cat. The project includes an emergency ambulance van akin to the 108 emergency service.

The state government also put on hold approval to 10 mines in the Gir region in view of the environmental issues related to the eco-sensitive zones 10 km around Gir.

State Environment and Forest Minister Ganpat Singh Vasava said, "The government has allotted Rs 351 crore for Gir lion conservation, which includes a 'state-of-the-art' veterinary hospital to be built at Rs 50 crore in the Sasan Gir region." He said that besides using modern technology in lion conservation, a special veterinary cadre of 120 personnel will be created. He made the announcements after a meeting of the State Board for Wildlife chaired by Chief Minister Vijay Rupani. IANS

Human ancestor fossil discovered in Kutch:

Scientists have discovered a fossilized upper jaw of an eleven million-year-old human ancestor in Kutch, Gujarat.

The find significantly extends the southern range of ancient apes in the Indian Peninsula, according

to a study published in the journal PLOS ONE.

Apes, or hominoids, are a group of primates from Africa and Southeast Asia that includes the gibbons and the great apes: chimps, orangutans, gorillas, and humans.

Ancient ape remains from Miocene deposits in the Siwaliks of India and Pakistan have been key for understanding the evolution of great apes and humans.

Researchers from Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences in Lucknow, UP, examined an ape jaw fragment excavated from the Kutch basin, in the Gujarat state of western India, about 1,000 km south of the Siwaliks deposits.

X-ray computed-tomography revealed details of the preserved canine and cheek teeth, such as the tooth enamel and root structure.

The ape mandible belonged to an adult individual of the Sivapithecus genus, but the species could not be identified.

Researchers dated the specimen to the basal Late Miocene, around 11 to 10 million years ago based on previous mammalian fossil findings in the site.

The finding is the first Miocene ape fossil to be discovered so far south in the Indian peninsula, and extends the southern range of ancient apes in the subcontinent by about 1,000 km. PTI

***" Mirror is my best friend, because when
I cry it never laughs"***

Charlie Chaplin

Birthday Greetings

We wish the following born on the dates mentioned

"A very Happy Birth Day"

S.No.	Name of the member	D.O.B.		
	Sarva Sri		6.	G.Nageshwara Rao 10-12-1960
1.	Satish Chandra	06-12-1939	7.	V.Damoder 12-12-1960
2.	B.Bhooma Rajam	07-12-1926	8.	M.Nagabhushanam 14-12-1964
3.	K.Rama Krishna Reddy	08-12-1926	9.	A. Venkateshwarlu 15-12-1968
4.	Ch.lylaiah	08-12-1949	10.	Dr.B.Prabhakar 16-12-1966
5.	P.Satyanarayana	10-12-1953	11.	G.Ravinder 30-12-1958
6.	A.V.Govinda Rajulu	11-12-1945	12.	V.Venkateshwara Rao 01-01-1966
7.	S.D.Mukherji	14-12-1940	13.	K.Sudarshan Reddy 02-01-1962
8.	T.Shankaraiah	16-12-1931	14.	V.Tirumala Rao 04-01-1964
9.	S.K.Das	17-12-1947	15.	Mrs.V.V.L.Subhadra Devi 03-01-1982
10.	P.Ravinder Reddy	19-12-1946	16.	G.Ramalingam 05-01-1966
11.	V.Santhasheela Babu	21-12-1947		
12.	K.Prakash Rao	29-12-1943		
13.	G.Raman Goud	01-01-1949		
14.	B.Janardhan	02-01-1950		
15.	C.Sudhakar Rao	04-01-1947		
16.	Y.Nageshwar Rao	04-01-1946		
17.	T.Prabhakar Rao	05-01-1942		

Secretary

S.No.	Name of Serving Officers	D.O.B.
1.	Satish Kumar Kaushik	06-12-1958
2.	Sidhanand Kukreti	19-12-1961
3.	P.V.Raja Rao	20-12-1962
4.	Vipin Choudhary	01-01-1960
5.	Binod Kumar Singh	02-01-1964



LEGAL NOTES

Wildlife Warden Vs. Komarikkal Elias

Where a forest officer failed to solve, the court resolved. The allegation against the accused K. Elias was that he unauthorizedly collected and stored elephant tusks and an unlicensed gun and other accessories. A case was registered as O.R. No. 4/1998 with Sulthanbathery Range in Kerala State. The jeep belonging to the accused was seized by the Assistant Wildlife Warden, Sulthanbathery from a workshop where it was kept for repairs. A criminal proceeding was initiated under the Kerala Forest Act. But the accused was acquitted. The Assistant Wildlife Warden, Sulthanbathery directed for confiscation of the items seized and the jeep belonging to the accused. The order of confiscation was challenged before the District Judge, Wayanad, who came to hold that elephant tusk was not a forest produce, and accordingly remanded the matter to the Authorised Officer. The appellate authority while remanding the matter, opined that there was no clinching evidence to arrive at the finding that, it was a Government property and further the presumption under the KFA that the property belongs to Government could not be attracted. Aggrieved by the order of the District Judge, the accused filed a civil revision vide CRP No. 1435/2000 in the High Court. The learned Judge of the High Court held that the presumption was not attracted and further elephant tusk was not a

forest produce according to the definition of 'forest produce'. The definition includes all kinds produce except ivory. However under Section 52 (1) of the KFA it is provided that any forest produce and ivory which is the property of the Government is seized and produced before the Authorized Officer, he may order for confiscation of the property. Dissatisfied by the order of the High Court, the Wildlife Warden filed Civil Appeal No. 4952 /2008 in the Supreme Court and the Appeal was heard by Full Bench comprising the Chief Justice Sri Dipak Misra, Sri Justice A.M. Khanwilkar and Sri Justice Dr. D.Y Chandrachud.

Their Lordships referred to Section 39 (1) of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 as amended by Act 44 of 1991 whereby Clause (c) was inserted with effect from 2.10.1991. From a reading of the said clause it is clear that an ivory imported into India and an article made from such ivory in respect of which any offence against this Act or any rule or order made there under has been committed, shall be deemed to be the property of the State Government and where such animal is hunted in a Sanctuary or National Park declared by the Central Government, such animal or any animal article, trophy, uncured trophy or meat derived from such animal shall be the property of the Central Government.

In view of the provision, there cannot be an

iota of doubt that elephant tusk is a property of the Government and there is a declaration to that effect under Section 39 (1) of the W.L.P. Act. As such, the conclusion arrived by the High Court is incorrect, whether it is a forest produce or not is immaterial. The counsel for the respondent submitted that he has never claimed the elephant tusk to be his property. As for as the

jeep is concerned, that was seized, had been released in favor of the respondent. Their Lordships further found that as the offence was committed almost twenty years ago and it had not been stated that the jeep was used in the transportation of the elephant tusk, no action need be taken. The appeal is allowed. The order was pronounced on May 8, 2018. **KBR**



OBITUARY

C. Lakshma Reddy, 09.03.1934 – 25.10.2018



Sri C. Lakshma Reddy, Deputy Conservator of Forests (Rtd.), passed away at Hyderabad on 25 Oct 2018. He had been suffering from some age related health problems. He was 84.

Chinthapalli Lakshma

Reddy was born in an agricultural family to Sri Venkat Ram Reddy and Smt. Satyamma in Gaddamalaigudem village of former Ibrahimpatam taluk in Ranga Reddy district. He had his early education in his native place and then moved to Hyderabad city for higher studies. After passing Intermediate in City College, he joined for B.Sc. (Maths main and Chemistry & Physics subsidiaries) in the Osmania University College of Science. While doing his Bachelors degree, he was selected by the Government of Hyderabad for appointment as Forest Ranger after undergoing forestry training course at the Madras Forest College, Coimbatore. He secured Higher Standard Class in the training during 1953 – '55. He was first posted as Range Officer in Working Plan division at Mahbubnagar under the late Sri J.R. Reddy as Working Plan Officer. In the Reorganization of States in 1956, he was allotted to Andhra Pradesh. After completion of the Working Plan for the erstwhile Mahbubnagar division, he was transferred to hold territorial Range Charges of Acampet Range of Mahbubnagar district and Yellandu Range of Khammam district. Lakshma Reddy as Range

Officer devoted most of his time for protecting the forests and wildlife in his charge.

In recognition of his good work, he was promoted as Assistant Conservator of Forests and in the usual course got his second promotion as Deputy Conservator of Forests. After promotion to the State Forest Service, he worked for a short period as Sub-DFO at Bellampally. He was then posted as DFO, Flying Squad division at Hyderabad in which capacity he detected a few sensational cases. Afterwards, he worked as DFO, Mahbubnagar and Medak. He was then transferred and posted as DFO of Social Forestry division. While holding this post, he raised many nurseries and encouraged tree plantations by farmers. He supplied large number of seedlings to Defense organizations and guided them in raising successful plantations. While doing so, he became very popular in the Defense Organizations. He had a stint of service in APFDC, Hyderabad Metro Works and Telugu Ganga Project. Where-ever he worked he left a good name behind. He finally retired after a successful career on 31.03.1992.

Lakshma Reddy was married to Smt. Rama Devi. The couple is blessed with one son Vinayak; two daughters Uma and Latha, married and well settled. There are six grand children and two great grand children. Lakshma Reddy was amiable, affectionate and popular among colleagues and friends. A large number of relatives and friends mourn his loss. **MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE! KBR**



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