

VANA PREMI

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Life Time Subscription - Rs. 5000/-

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Single Copy Rs. 40/-

Vol .20

MAY -2019

No.05



Photo: Sri Narahari Kanike (with thanks).

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) with a fish for the break fast

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

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- The TSFDC has also taken up the challenging task of Eco-Tourism development in the State. Already open to public – Hyderabad Botanical Garden, Pala Pitta Cycling Park near Hi-Tech City, Madhapur, Mahavir Nischal Van Eco-Tourism Centre, Vanasthalipuram, JLTC Shamirpet Deer Park and Mrugavani National Park at Chilkur attracting increasing number of visitors.
- Two Eco-Tourism Projects in the back water of Nagarjunasagar and near Kawal Tiger Reserve are in the pipe line.
- TSFDC is also developing Urban Parks in Lalgadi Malakpet RF Block, Thumukunta & Shamirpet RF Cluster and Gowdelli RF, PC Kalan & PC Khurd Cluster

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VANA PREMI

Vol : 20

May - 2019

No.05

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Date of Publication: 26-04-2019

Total pages 52

EDITORIAL

International Day for Biological Diversity:

International Day for Biological Diversity is observed on 22 May every year throughout the globe to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. Every year a theme is selected and that theme is highlighted. The theme for 2019 is "Our Biodiversity, Our Food, and our Health. The theme aims to leverage knowledge and spread awareness of the dependency of our food systems, nutrition, and health on biodiversity and healthy ecosystems. This year's celebrations focus on biodiversity as the foundation for our food and health and a key catalyst to transforming food systems and improving human health. The theme also celebrates the diversity provided by our natural systems for human existence and well-being on Earth, while contributing to other Sustainable Development Goals, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, ecosystems restoration, cleaner water and zero hunger, among others. The theme for 2018 was Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity. While there is a growing recognition that biological diversity is a global asset of tremendous value to present and future generations, the number of species is being significantly reduced by certain human activities.

In the last 100 years, more than 90 percent of crop varieties have disappeared from farmers' fields for example few are *Sajjalu*, *Ragi*, *Bajra* (pearl millet), *Korralu*, *Samalu*, *Chittimuthyalu rice*

variety and to some extent *Jonnalu*. Half of the breeds of many domestic animals have been lost, and all of the world's 17 main fishing grounds are now being fished at or above their sustainable limits. Locally-varied food production systems are under threat, including related indigenous, traditional and local knowledge. With this decline, agro biodiversity is disappearing, and also essential knowledge of traditional medicine and local foods. The loss of diverse diets is directly linked to diseases or health risk factors, such as diabetes, obesity and malnutrition, and has a direct impact on the availability of traditional medicines. All the mentioned millets are very good for our health, millets contain three to four times of proteins when compared to rice or wheat, their Glycemic index is low when compared to rice and wheat and they are gluten free.

What is the meaning of Biological diversity? '*Biological diversity*' means the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes *diversity* within *species*, between *species* and of ecosystems. Biodiversity boosts ecosystem productivity where each species, no matter how small, all have an important role to play. For example, a larger number of plant species means a greater variety of crops. Greater species diversity ensures natural sustainability for all life forms. While there might be survival

of the fittest within a given species, each species depends on the services provided by other species to ensure survival. It is a type of cooperation based on mutual survival and is often what a balanced ecosystem refers to.

It is believed that more than 3 billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity, while over 1.6 billion people rely on forests and non-timber forest products for their livelihoods and three species disappear every hour in the world. It is also believed that the polar bear population in Canada has decreased by 22% in the last thirty years as a result of climate change. The melting of the poles causes a decrease in food for hunting and an increase of the distances sometimes impossible to swim. Their malnutrition prevents them from spending the winter with guarantees of survival. The flycatcher, a species of bird that lives in the Netherlands, has experienced a 90% population decrease in a few decades.

It is said that one third of our food, fruits, and vegetables would not exist without pollinators visiting flowers. But honey bees then primary species that fertilizes food producing plants have suffered dramatic declines in recent years,

mostly afflictions introduced by humans. A German bee expert says Bees are vital to biodiversity. He further says that there are 130000 plants which bees are essential to pollination like melons, pumpkins raspberries, and many kinds of fruit trees as well as animal fodder.

Humankind needs to act quickly to ensure that the ancient pact between flowers and pollinators stays intact, to safeguard our food supply and to protect our environment for generations to come. These efforts will ensure that bees continue to provide pollination and that our diets remain rich in the fruits and vegetables we now take for granted.

Despite knowing about biodiversity's importance for a long time, human activity has been causing massive extinctions. If the present trend of destruction of species continues no living organism can survive on this globe.

Vana Premi wishes that we human beings of this globe understand the importance of Biological diversity and try to save all the organisms of this globe for our own betterment. **QMK**

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty. (John F. Kennedy)

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Sir,

Using your good office I wish to highlight the sad story of Sukumaran, a Forest Ranger of Tamil Nadu, who got into trouble while apprehending the sandalwood smugglers on 05.06.1988. I implore the readers to go through the Legal Notes published elsewhere in this issue. It is only a synopsis of the 30 page judgment of the Supreme Court. Sukumaran had suffered the agony and turmoil for over thirty years until he is acquitted on 07.03.2019. The judgment is not only an order of acquittal but also a precedent to say that a forest officer on duty is entitled to use force in self defense. I request the readers of this journal to give us any details of the life and status of Ranger Sri Sukumaran.

Your editorial on the International Mother Earth Day is informative and instructive. It is well researched and exhaustive paper for which you deserve to be congratulated.

Sri P.S. Rao, as a member of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) of South Zone Bench at Chennai, has done well in dealing with the case of felling trees around KBR Park and passing an order appropriately; the order is very exhaustive. Other orders by the author are abridged as article for the magazine it would perhaps be more interesting to the readers.

Sri V.V. Hari Prasad, an alumnus of the SFRC of 1975-'77 batch, described very interestingly the reunion of the batch mates along with their spouses in Goa. He has described the reunion details as also the history of Goa and its liberation in his article, establishing relationships. He should keep contributing articles.

K.B.R. Reddy <keesarabuchiram@gmail.com>

“We have been conditioned to think that only politicians can solve our problems. But at some point, may be we will make up and recognize that it was the politicians who created our problems”.(Ben Carson)

AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE EXTREMISTS

By
A.V. Joseph.

After a stint of six years at Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, I was posted as Divisionsl forest officer, Nizamabad in the year 1991. My boss cautioned me to be careful by saying that I was going directly 'From the frying pan into the fire. Anyhow, I took the plunge and joined at Nizamabad in April 1991 when beedi leaf season was just commencing (Tendhupatta). This was my first exposure to beedi leaves collection activity and I was fully geared to do my best. Beedi leaves collection activity involves a lot of travelling and inspection of beedi leaf khallas (leaf collection point) located in villages frequented by the extremists. In our daily affairs forest officers confine their field inspections to within forest for which one need not have to go through the villages to enter the forests. The Joint Forest Management programme was yet to start in these areas and it was only during the beedi leaves collection season the forest officers have to interact with villagers and visit the khallas located near the villages.

I was cautioned by the forest staff that the extremists were miffed with one of the forest officer for exhorting the villagers to teach the extremists a lesson if they prevent beedi leaf collection during the season. The remuneration the villagers got as wages from collection of beedi leaves from forests during a short season of forty five days was quite substantial and for a

family of husband and wife team the additional money earned from beedi leaf collection will suffice and meet the three to four months domestic needs of the family. The extremists intervene in the beedi leaves collection season after its commencement and hold the govt. to ransom by inciting the villagers for wage revision and stop labour or indulge in arson of government property to instill fear in the minds of staff. Since the additional earnings from beedi leaves collections are quite substantial the villagers broker peace for a successful season.

I took adequate care and precaution in my daily activities involving visits to the forests and never took the same route for return. Where there were no road connectivity, inspections were done on foot and care was taken not to return by the same route. This arrangement worked out well for forestry works inspection but not for beedi leaf collection work. A different strategy had to be worked out for beedi leaf operations and it involved going unannounced to the village, holding impromptu discussions on beedi leaf collections with the villagers and avoid lingering for long in the village. The vehicle had to be left at the end of the tar road and the village has to be reached by foot. There was one village named Chintakunta located 30 kms from Nizamabad, district head quarters

approachable from Mosra village, up to which there is a tar road and from Mosra it is a dirt track. The village Chintakunta is nestled between two hill ranges and the entry and exit is by the same route. I took the risk went by foot to the village, faced the hostile villagers who were incited by the extremists and after convincing them to commence the beedi leaf collection returned back to head quarters. This tactic was repeated in other interior extremists infested villages of Manal, Bheemnagar etc and in the first year of my tenure the beedi leaf collections were completed without much adverse incidents.

While analysing the beedi leaf collection in the division, I noticed that there was one village named Konapur in Kammarpally range where no collections were done for the last three years. This village Konapur fell on the other side of the hill range of Bheemgal forests and its approach was from the adjacent division of West Karimnagar division. The forest beat was vacant and the neighboring beat forest guard held additional charge and his head quarters was situated 50 kms away from the beat. I was intrigued to know what happened to the beedi leaves from Konapur forests as the villagers will never forgo the material and will be definitely collecting it and delivering it in the adjacent Khalla that was located in Raikal range of Karimnagar West division. I expressed my desire to visit Konapur forest to the range officer Kammarpally and twice arrangements made were called off at the last minute due to the presence of extremists in the vicinity of Konapur village.

In Nizamabad district, adult education programme was being implemented by the state government under Akshara Kiranam programme and the divisional forest officer, Nizamabad was made the special officer to monitor its implementation in Kammarpally mandal. A government programme under Akshara Kiranam was fixed at Konapur village and accompanied with them and revenue officer and mandal development officer Kammarpally, proceeded to the spot in government jeep from Kammarpally and travelled through Metpalli, Koroutla, Bhushanroapet and finally the village Konapur. Along with me the sub divisional forest officer Kammarpally, Sri Nagabhushanam and forest range officer Kammarpally, Sri Prasad Rao travelled in the department jeep. The final stretch from Bhushanroapet to Konapur is a single mud track and the entry and exit to the village is the same route. The forest range officer, Kammarpally was ill at ease throughout the journey and cautioned us telling that the extremists are camping near the village and it is not wise to go there. By noticing the entry and exit to Konapur village is from a single point he became more agitated. I consoled him saying that the programme is fixed by the government and the villagers are organizing the entire day activity and since the cause is a noble one of educating the adults there is nothing to worry about it.

The day programme went through well and I had enough opportunity to do my exercise of finding out as to what happens to annual beedi

leaf collection in the village by discreetly enquiring with the villagers. By evening 4 pm, on completion of the programme the officials from forest and revenue dept boarded their respective vehicles to commence the return journey. I started my return journey along with Nagabhushanam and Prasad Rao in forest vehicle and the revenue officials seizing the opportunity provided for inspections stopped en route in the fields to verify the irrigation wells sanctioned under govt. schemes. The forest jeep was hardly a kilometre away from the village at a culvert, we encountered a un-tethered bullock cart placed as a road block perfectly blocking entry or exit. The forest range officer and driver Babu Mia sensed something was wrong and the driver tried to veer the vehicle off the road but there were deep ditch on either side of the road which prevented any such maneuvering. No sooner had the vehicle slowed down there was sound of firecracker like bursts and out came two youngsters from the culvert with one firing in the air with a tapancha and the other holding a hand grenade. The boys accosted us from the jeep and soon they were joined by a gun toting extremist, dalam member who enquired our identity. The forest range officer a very smart person pointed at Nagabhushanam and said that he is the forester and I am a trainee forester attached to the range. The extremists were very particular in enquiring about the whereabouts of the mandal development officer and assured that he was not among us, made us dismount from the jeep. He asked each of us to immediately take out our personnel belongings

from the jeep. The driver Babu Mia took out the log book and fuel coupon book from the vehicle. The dalam member made him place it in the vehicle and announced that they want to destroy government property and since log book is government property it will be burnt along with the vehicle. They broke open the fuel tank and sprayed the diesel on the jeep and set it on fire. Babu Mia, the driver was inconsolable at the loss of the jeep.

Hearing the firing sound and the smoke from the burning forest jeep, the revenue officials reversed their brand new Piaggio jeep and went to the safety of the village. The extremists were so methodical in their pursuit of destruction of government property while releasing us assured that the second jeep will also be similarly destroyed. They released us unharmed and told that they have nothing against us and apologetically asked us return back to the nearest road point by foot. The return journey to Koroutla via Bhushanroapet involved walking through the dirt track covering 17 kms. On our return journey we could see the smoke rising from the second jeep located in the village and very soon the mandal revenue officer joined us. He was separated from the mandal development officer and he assured us that he is safe and we should start our return journey immediately before the situation changes.

All five of us started the long return journey maintaining silence as the proceeds of the day had rattled us. We would have walked for a few kilometres and a good samaritan in a two

wheeler bike going in that direction offered a lift to us and suggested that two of us can opt to come with him. The mandal revenue officer, a pious and elderly man who was thoroughly shaken up opted first and I asked the forest range officer to go as the second passenger. He declined and suggested that if I should go next, I can get the sub-Dfo jeep stationed at the headquarters and pick them back. The good Samaritan who claimed that he was a road contractor dropped both of us at the Koroutla bus stop. One of my staff who happened to be at the bus stop identified me and dropped me at the range head quarters. I asked him not to breathe a word of the episode and not finding the sub divisional forest officer's jeep driver, took the wheel and picked up the sub divisional forest officer, forest range officer and the driver from the field and reached Kammarpally.

After reaching Kammarpally the usual formalities of reporting the matter to the principal chief conservator of forests, the district collector and superintendent of police were gone through. The superintendent of police was happy that we came out of the episode without a scratch. Meanwhile we got the information that the mandal development officer escaped from the village, reached Nizamabad head quarters and proceeded on leave. I feared that the principal chief conservator of forests will take me to task for the loss of the government vehicle but on the contrary he allotted a confiscated car for the division and it was sent post haste from Kadapa.

Somehow I felt that I should make a visit to Konapur to give the message to the staff that this unpleasant incident of burning of jeep should not deter the forest staff from visiting the forests and discharging their legitimate duties. I discussed the proposal with the sub divisional forest officer and forest range officer and both readily agreed. Exactly ten days after the incident all three of us reached Konaropet village by two wheeler and entered the Bheemgal forest and traveled by foot towards west and reached Konapur village. Enroute we came across excellent patches of Anduk (*Boswellia serrata*) forests and tall trees of Chigura (*Albizzia amara*). Even though teak has been selectively removed by smugglers, the rich miscellaneous forests and the tall *Albizzia amara* trees were a feast to the eye. The villagers of Konapur welcomed us with open arms and expressed their regret for the unsavory incident that took place in our previous visit. We assured them that we bore no ill will to them and sought their help and assistance in protecting the forests. By foot we reached Bhushanroapet and from there Kammarpally our headquarters.

The season for beedi leaf collection has just commenced. The field staff face many such unsavory incidents in the discharge of their duties and they take it in their stride. Hat's off to their tenacity and devotion to duties.

PROTECT OUR SPECIES

By
Konda Mohan

Man in the world is a social animal
Having a thinking power of higher level
With generosity, curiosity and creativity
Aesthetic beauty and sympathy for other fellows!!

Civilizations changed the human beings
Humanity gone to Dogs and Blogs
Selfishness adorned with higher education
Polluting even the prime family relations!!

Since ages, Solar system is Heliocentric
But human society has become EGO centeric
No character, no Thankfulness and no Respect
All brain filled with only materialistic thought!!

We destroyed bio diversity for future generations
We made many species endangered and extinct
Bees and sparrows living on wall papers in drawing rooms
Bio diversity banged and future mankind hanged!!

Let us OWE on this EARTH Day
"To protect our species", our kith and kin
To spare us their shoulders to weep and cry
If we do not awake to make the Globe Green!!

IS COAL A BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE?

P. S. Rao

1. Enactment of Biological Diversity Act (BDA), 2002 is the offshoot of International Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992 to which India is a signatory. The Act came into force in December, 1993. The CBD is one of the important outcomes of United Nation Conference on Environment & Development (Earth Summit) held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992 where nation states, concerned with rapidly declining biological resources which is also affecting the livelihood of communities across the globe for food and medicines, agreed on a common action to conserve biological diversity for the benefit of not only the present but future generations also. The Convention accordingly called upon the nation states, signatories to the Convention, to take legislative, legal and administrative steps for conservation of biological diversity, its sustainable use and equitable benefit sharing mechanism as well as for protection of the associated traditional knowledge.

2. An application was filed before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) Bhopal Bench by President of one of the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) in Madhya Pradesh to declare Coal as a biological resource and issue orders to the Western Coal Fields Ltd. and Coal India Ltd. to share the benefits accrued by mining coal in the jurisdiction of the BMC. After extensively

hearing the parties and after verifying the records placed before it, the Tribunal delivered the judgment on 6th Oct. 2015.

3. As per Section 2 (b) and (c) of the BDA 2002 the terms 'Biological Diversity' and 'Biological Resources' are defined as follows.

'Biological diversity' means the variability among living organisms from all sources and the ecological complexes of which they are part, and includes diversity within species or between species and of eco-systems;

'Biological resources' means plants, animals and micro-organisms or parts thereof, their genetic material and by-products (excluding value added products) with actual or potential use or value, but does not include human genetic material;

4. The term 'Biological Diversity' consists of two words, 'biological' and 'diversity'. The word 'biological' has its origin in the word 'bios' which as per Oxford Dictionary, relates to *life or living beings*. The word 'diversity' refers to the diversity that exists among living organisms within species, between species, and between eco-systems. In other words, biological diversity connotes variety of life forms and the ecological roles they perform and the genetic diversity they contain within themselves - a definition which has been universally accepted both by the CBD as well as the United Nations

Environmental Programme (UNEP). Coal is formed in a fossilized form as a result of geo-chemical processes over a period of millions of years when plants and micro- organisms got buried under earth's crust and were subjected to high temperature. The Applicant argued that coal is largely of plant origin, is rich in carbon and retains the characteristics of a plant and hence it is a biological resource. Counsel for the Govt. of India and National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) have argued that in spite of origin of coal is from the living organic matter of plants, as they were buried under layers of sediment under intense heat and pressure for millions of years both bio-chemical and geo-chemical processes have taken place and coal was formed without any trace of life. The Learned Counsel further advanced the argument that biological resources are renewable and exhibit characteristics of growth and reproduction. These are the primary attributes of life. Any material or resource which does not possess these attributes cannot be categorized as biological resource.

5. One of the key objectives of the BDA, 2002 is conservation of biological diversity. The definition of the word 'conservation' as defined in the 'World Conservation Strategy of the International Union of Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN – a UN body) in respect of living resources, is *the management for human use of the biosphere so that it may yield greatest sustainable benefit to the present*

generation while maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspiration of future generations. The conservation of living resources in other words is concerned with plants, animals and micro - organisms and with those non living elements of environment on which they depend. The living biological resources have two important properties, the combination of which distinguishes them from non living resources. They are renewable if conserved and destructible, if not. The biological resources have capacity to grow, reproduce and evolve. They are amenable to conservation – '*in-situ*' and '*ex-situ*' whereas coal has no capacity to grow, evolve and reproduce. It is not amenable to *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation. It is a fixed and finite resource, the extent of which is pre-determined in time and space.

Definition of certain terms used in CBD:

Biological resources

'Biological resources' includes genetic resources, organisms or parts thereof, populations or any other biotic component of eco- systems with actual or potential use or value for humanity.

Genetic Resource

'Genetic Resource' means genetic material of actual or potential value.

Genetic Material

'Genetic material' means any material of plant, animal, microbial or other origin containing functional units of heredity.

6. One of the important components of 'Biological Resource' is the 'genetic resource' which in turn means any genetic material which has actual or potential use and contains functional units of heredity. The DNA is the functional unit of heredity and therefore, any genetic material from plants, animals or microbes which have functional units of heredity, that is DNA, will qualify to be included within the ambit of 'Biological Resource'. Absence of the functional units of heredity will automatically disqualify the material to be classified as genetic resource and consequently as biological resource. Though BDA 2002 includes the term genetic material in the definition of biological resource, the term itself has not been defined in the Act. Its definition, however, can be drawn from the CBD text being the parent text on biological diversity. Conceptual core of the terms genetic resource and biological resource is therefore the same and, irrespective of the different words and style, both genetic resources and biological resources convey more or less same meaning. The interpretation of the definition of biological resource, as in the Article 2 of the CBD, and that given under the BDA 2002, although apparently look somewhat at variance with each other, particularly, in the way it has been described in Section 2 (c) of the BDA 2002, however, exploring it further, it is inescapable that both the definitions lead to the same conclusion. Any material which does not have the genetic make-up or in other words DNA, cannot qualify to be a

heritable genetic material and hence cannot be called a biological resource.

7. Coal is the complex material formed by mix of substances; plant remains and mineral matters and goes through various geo-chemical and bio-chemical processes which are not completely understood due to its burial under heat and pressure over a long time. Since it has taken millions of years to form coal from a mixture of plant remains and minerals, and no trace of plant DNA could be found in coal in any form, it will be improper to term coal as a genetic material. There are claims which have been made in the scientific world of DNA having been isolated from Dinosaur bones preserved over a period of 80 million years. However, the validity of this DNA has been questioned by large body of scientific communities. There are contrary scientific studies carried out which suggest that half life of DNA is about 521 years. This is based on experiments carried out in New Zealand on fossilized bones of certain extinct species of birds published by Royal Society of Biology (2012). The study further brings out that once a plant or animal cell, the basic unit of life dies enzymes start breaking the bonds between nucleotides that form the backbone of DNA and micro organisms speed the decay. The study examined 158 bone samples belonging to three different species of extinct giant bird called Moa and concluded that even if preserved effectively at ideal temperature of

(- 5° C) every bond between nucleotides will be destroyed in about 6.8 million years and DNA would cease to be readable.

8. Commercial utilization of biological resources and associated genetic material for crop and livestock improvement through genetic interventions have been the cause of bio-piracy and misappropriation of traditional knowledge and the associated intellectual property rights of the indigenous communities. Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 20 & 21 of the BDA 2002 seek to regulate the use of biological resources and the equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the commercial use of genetic resources. However, the use of biological resources is premised on the assumption that biological resources which primarily consist of the genetic material of plants, animals & micro-organisms are amenable to genetic interventions. Such genetic interventions are possible only if the integrity of genetic structure present in the genetic material is intact. There is no credible scientific evidence that coal is a genetic material which is amenable to scientific interventions for bringing about genetic improvements in plants and animals or can be subjected to genetic improvements through genetic interventions from other plants, animals or micro-organisms. The inability of coal to be used as a genetic material automatically makes it a material unsuitable to be categorized as biological resource.

9. From the above, it is amply clear that coal,

although indisputably of plant origin, does not in a fossilized form, after millions of years being buried under the earth, retain any genetic characteristics which can be linked to the plants, or to the vegetation from which the coal was originally formed. There is no scientific study to date which suggests that coal has a genetic structure and that it is similar to that of plants. It is a fossilized form though some of the chemicals like carbon are similar to those present in plants and that alone is not enough to suggest that coal by any stretch of imagination is biological in its character and configuration. That coal does not have any genetic structure and, therefore, is neither a genetic material nor a genetic resource and accordingly does not qualify to be called a biological resource.

10. The Tribunal also examined as to whether coal is a 'part' of plant or animal or a 'by-product' of plant, animal or micro-organism as contended by the Applicant quoting the definition of Biological resource under section 2 of the BDA 2002. The term 'by-product' as defined in the Oxford Dictionary refers to *an incidental or secondary product made in the manufacture or synthesis of something else*. Similarly, the term as defined in the Law Lexicon (3rd Edition, 2012) refers to *a secondary or additional product*. The word by-product is a common English word and is defined in Murray's English Dictionary *as a secondary product, a substance of more or less value*

obtained in the course of a specific process though not its primary object (*State of West Bengal vs Kunjilal*, AIR 1950, Cal 573). Thus by including by-product within the definition of biological resource the BDA 2002 only seeks to give protection to the by-products which plants, animals and micro-organisms produce and which are capable of being exploited in such a way as to threaten the conservation of the very plants, animals and micro-organisms from which such by-products have been obtained or may be obtained. By way of illustration gums, resins and honey are by-products of plants and animals. Since these by-products have a potential for exploitation of the plant or animal from which these by-products are obtained, the legislature in their wisdom have included by-products of plants and animals within the ambit of biological resource under section 2 of the BDA 2002 and thereby to secure protection to the concerned plants and animals whose by-products are in use or have potential uses in future. The Applicant has vaguely contended that coal is not only a by-product of the plants but also a part thereof. Considering that a by-product is something which is incidental to something else being produced, there is a contradiction in the averments made by the Applicant. While on the one hand Applicant contended that coal is itself a product of plant origin due to fossilization process, on the other it is contended that that it is a by-product. Notwithstanding the contradiction in the stand of the Applicant the

Tribunal found no merit in the vague assertion of the Applicant that coal is a by-product of plants. In the absence of any direct correspondence to any plant and the fact that coal is a mineralized form of plant as a result of the fossilization processes, the argument made by the Applicable is not sustainable.

11. The Tribunal also examined that in so far as the contention of the Applicant that coal is a part of the plant, the Oxford Dictionary defines 'part' as *amount or section which when combined with the others makes up whole of something, an element or constituent that is essential to the nature of something*. By this definition, only such parts which when joined together will form the 'whole' can be interpreted to be part of the 'whole'. In respect of the plants and animals only parts like leaves, fruits and bones etc which are part of the plant and animal, have genetic configuration same as that of the plant or animal of which they are part can be categorized as part of the plant or animal. Such linkage does not operate in vacuum. There has to be a linkage and a direct correspondence to a specific plant or animal of which it alleged to be a part of. The Tribunal observed that it is inescapable to conclude that coal cannot be treated either as a part of the plant or a by-product thereof.

12. The Respondent Govt. of India and NBA in their averments made in the affidavit, while disputing the claim of the Applicant to categorize coal as a biological resource, have

opined without admitting that coal at best could be treated as a 'value added product' of plant and animal. However in the very definition of biological resources under section 2 (c) of BDA 2002 value added products have been explicitly excluded from the definition of biological resources. Therefore the question whether coal is a value added product of plant, animal or micro organism does not arise.

13. In its order the Tribunal observed that whether coal is a biological resource or not, also needs to be examined in the context and purpose for which the BDA 2002 was enacted. The aims and objects of the BDA 2002 as stated above, bring out that Indian Parliament enacted the BDA 2002 in pursuance of the fact that India was a signatory to the international convention. The CBD was the result of the sustained international effort at recognizing the intrinsic value of biological diversity and of the ecology, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its component and the role that it plays in sustaining life in the biosphere and that there has been considerable negative impact on the biological diversity due to human activities. The international community under the aegis of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at Rio de Janeiro in 1992 finalized the text of CBD which was signed by 168 nation states and came into effect on 19th December, 1993. The convention while recognizing the sovereign

rights of the nation states on their biological resources, seeks their commitment on taking appropriate policy and legislative actions for conserving biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of biodiversity and the associated traditional knowledge. A common thread runs across all the 42 Articles of the Convention which suggests that the convention seeks to lay down a road map for conservation and sustainable use of biological resource and the biological diversity. It is difficult to escape the conclusion that the convention only deals with the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources and the living plant, animal and micro organism. Neither the Convention document nor the subsequent meetings of the Conference of Parties (COPs), of which nation states are members, give any indication or suggestion that the Convention would have been concerned with any other material or resources other than living organisms or their genetic material. Considering that coal as a mineral resource occurs in almost all the countries across the globe, if the intention of the international community was to include coal within the ambit of the CBD, the issues would have been brought up and discussed at some point of time during the past more than 2 decades after the Convention was first signed and ratified. This has been also confirmed by the CBD Secretariat in their communication to

the MoEF&CC/Respondent No. 3 in the Application indicating that the coal is not a biological resource as the CBD only deals with living organisms and genetic materials thereof. The CBD is often referred to as 'Convention on Life on Earth and is thus indicative of the scope and purpose of the term 'biological resource' as defined in the Article 2 of the CBD. Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have also opined that genetic material do have ability for replication and regeneration, a property of life, and calling coal a genetic material, which does not have this ability, is not scientifically justified.

14. The Applicant referred to notification dated October 26th, 2009 issued by MoEF &CC under Section 40 of the BDA 2002 exempting certain biological resources, particularly, species of medicinal plants, horticulture crops, vegetables, roots, tubers, flowers and plantations and aromatic crops from the provisions of the BDA 2002. The notification seeks to exclude certain crops and plants, which are categorized as Biological resource, from the purview of the BDA 2002 and consequently for the collection of the plants and crops listed in the notification no permission is required from the State Biodiversity Boards or the NBA or the BMCs. The applicant argued that since coal is excluded in the notification it amounts to interpret that coal is a biological resource and its exploitation and benefit sharing should be as per the provisions of BDA, 2002. NGT made it clear that to draw an

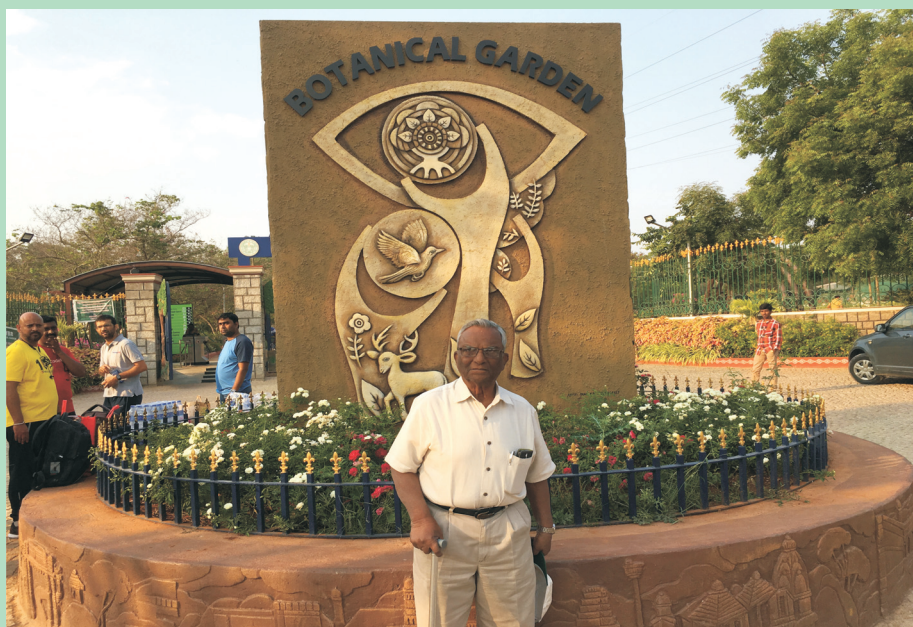
inference that since coal has not been included in the notification, the provisions of Section 41 (3) and Section 2 (c) will apply to coal and, therefore, the Mining Company is liable to pay the fee levied by BMCs for mining coal in their jurisdiction, is not sustainable under any stretch of imagination and it is a fallacious interpretation of the notification.

15. NGT also observed that one also needs to look at the intentions, aims and objectives behind an enactment and that the terminology used in the enactment must harmonize with the objective of the legislation. The preamble of the BDA 2002 as well as the definition of the terms only cover living organisms or their genetic material. Even the tone, tenor or content of the discussions held in Parliament does not remotely suggest that legislature favoured inclusion of coal or other fossil fuels within the ambit of BDA 200. Therefore, even on the principle of 'purposive construction' it is not justified to categorize coal as a biological resource.

16. In the result, the Tribunal was of the view that coal does not qualify to be a biological resource as the purpose and object of the BDA 2002 was to provide for conservation of plants, animals and other organisms and their genetic material and accordingly the Application was disposed.



Please see P.No.44 for details



Please see P.No.32 for details



949615/2017/IT SEC-RSS

ప్రజల్లో ముందు



రైతునే ప్రధానమే

రైతు సంక్షేమమే ఈ ప్రభుత్వ లక్ష్యం

- ◆ ఇప్పటి వరకు ఇచ్చిన ఋణ ఉపశమనం రూ. 14,710 కోట్లు (3వ విడతతో కలిపి).
- ◆ లబ్ధి పొందిన పంట ఋణము ఖాతాల సంఖ్య 57.57 లక్షలు.
- ◆ ఉద్యాన పంటల ఋణ ఉపశమనం రూ. 384.47 కోట్లు.
- ◆ రూ. 4495 కోట్లతో, రూ. 50 వేల లోపు ఋణాలు తీసుకున్న 23.45 లక్షల రైతు ఖాతాలకు ఒకేసారి ఋణ ఉపశమనం
- ◆ ఋణ ఉపశమనంలో కౌలు రైతులకు ప్రాధాన్యత ఇవ్వబడినది.
- ◆ మరణించిన రైతుల ఖాతాలకు కూడా రూ. 51.54 కోట్ల పూర్తి ఋణ ఉపశమనం కల్పించబడినది.
- ◆ ధ్రువీకరణ పత్రాలు ఇవ్వక అర్హత కోల్పోయిన రైతులకు అవకాశము కల్పించి ఇప్పటికీ కూడా పూర్తి పారదర్శకతతో ఋణ ఉపశమనంకు చేయూత.



రైతు సాధికార సంస్థ, ఆంధ్ర ప్రభుత్వం

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

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



BAMBOO AT CROSSROADS

(WORLD EARTH DAY IS OBSERVED ON 22ND OF APRIL EVERY YEAR)

By

Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai.

Introduction:

Let us take stock of the dominant characteristics of Bamboos in an unbiased manner, though taxonomically classified under **Gramineae**——to which family several grasses too belong——**to conclude whether there is full justification in calling it also as a grass and making it lose its legal status as 'tree', its felled-form losing the 'timber-hood' and consequently getting removed from Sec.2(4)(a) of the Indian Forest Act 1927 by losing definition as a 'forest produce' (whether found in, or brought from a forest or not).**

Bamboos happen to be **one of the gregarious associations which occur in the moist-deciduous and dry-deciduous forests, as well as in the wet-evergreen forests, forming as important members of Ecology. And ecology is described as "Scientific study of the distribution, on an abundance of life, and the interactions between organisms and other natural environment"**.

The broad family of **Gramineae** has herbs, shrubs or trees, the stems of which are jointed——internodes usually hollow, base sheathing (distinct from blade), sheath almost always split (in front to base). And in **Ochlandra**: paleas are absent, while in **Oxytenanthera**: staminal filaments united into tube. **Arundinaria** has

stamens and **Dendrocalamus** has spikelets in globose, congested, heads. If imperfect blades of culm-sheath are broadly triangular & erect, they belong to **Bambusa** and if imperfect blade is recurved & pericarp is crustaceous or fleshy, it is **Teinostachyum**.

Further, **Ochlandra** is an erect, reed-like shrubby, gregarious bamboo, the dark-green culms turning to pale-brown——though small & thin-walled, the thin culm-sheaths being persistent. And **Oxytenanthera** is erect or scandent, unarmed, often gregarious bamboo——the culm-sheaths usually being with narrow blades. Still further, **Arundinaria** is an erect, dense, gregarious shrub, the culms of which are slender. The next one, **Dendrocalamus**, is the hardest, densely tufted, gregarious bamboo, the culms of which being solid. Then comes **Bambusa** which is an arborescent or shrubby bamboo, rarely climbing and sometimes thorny, the culms of which being mostly large, and growth being in tufts, with broad culm-sheaths and narrow blades. Lastly, comes **Teinostachyum** which is a slender, semi-scandent bamboo.

After getting briefed with the morphological characters of six main species of Bamboo, let us now proceed to know the current crisis-situation and explore whether there is any

chance to bail out Bamboo.

Present-day position:

The ordinance does not mention any rationale behind the amendment and just states that **the amendment has been seen** as a long-pending positive step **to help improve the economy of bamboo-growers in private areas** (and also of bamboo artisans) by saving them from the hassle (of taking forest transit passes) under IFA.

Considering botanical definitions, **trees differ from plants mainly because of their trunk.**

Plants have moderately woody & tall trunk, whereas trees generally possess hard, woody, & tall trunk. Plants generally have shorter life when compared to trees. **All trees happen to be plants while not all plants can be called as trees.** Bamboo does have a stem (which is called culm) and a commoner will find it hard to consider and identify it as a grass—— but IFA now has a different perspective, however!

Further, **bamboo has been called ‘poor man’s timber’**, considering its multiple uses. The necessity of protecting (and conserving) it in all areas was objectified through its inclusion (in the definition of ‘tree’) in the IFA, wherein using an inclusive definition, it was placed under the definition of ‘tree’ (along with Palms, Canes, Brushwoods and Stumps) and consequently the ‘Felled Bamboo’ duly defined as ‘Timber’, getting positioned as ‘Forest Produce’. **There is full justification to include in, any term’s definition under ‘certain items’ that are normally not seen as belonging to that category —— the definition of ‘tree’ also**

being one such —— to suit the objectives of the IFA. In spite of all this, the present position after the said amendment is that any **person who causes any damage** (to the forest) **by negligence** in felling bamboo or cutting (or dragging felled bamboo) or girdles or strips off (the bark or leaves) or otherwise damages the same, **unless he is caught ‘removing’ it as opined** (by the foresters) as **‘forest produce’ with systematization (or control on the exercise of forest rights) absent, the differentiation between genuine and illegal removals becomes an impossibility.**

The Government Forests would thereby gradually get robbed, as the said amendment is implemented and the stolen produce would be safely ‘passed out’, there being no external (or immediately recognizable) indication that the Bamboos have come from one forest block or the other. Further, owners of Forest produce would easily get the bamboos stolen (and safely conveyed away) without getting detected, **as the amendment provides the freedom from the Act, not at all being applicable to bamboos anymore!**

Measures suggested (for a possible alleviation): The situation in case of application of IFA-Provisions (to the protection and conservation of Bamboos in protected Forests) in the new scenario needs to be considered in detail. Any forest land (or wasteland) which is not included in a RF (but which belongs to Government) can be notified as a PF, but the same are burdened

with rights. Bamboo as a species cannot be dealt with under Sec.30 (a), since it is no more a tree—all existing tree reservation notifications in regard to Bamboo becoming infructuous, needing(rather) to be withdrawn.

The Forest Rules (enacted by a State) also derive definitions (of various terms from the IFA) while they touch upon management aspects. These Rules are of no consequence now, in-so-far-as felling of bamboos (at any of such important areas) is concerned! Similar situation may be there in any State where tree is defined as in IFA in various enactments / policy documents!!

Guidelines by the Government of India for operationalization of such specific provisions for bamboo (grown outside forests) **could perhaps have been a better way of addressing the issue with lesser hazards, to which bamboos in particular** (and forests in general) **have got exposed today, due to removal of bamboo from the definition of 'tree'. Opening floodgates of relaxation** (in the name of 'easing of business') **in bamboo** (grown outside forests) **can neither promote bamboo-planting** (outside forest areas) **nor support its sustenance-based enterprises** in the long run, **unless the bamboo business is supported by a regulatory-mechanism** that effectively prevents the flow of illegally-obtained bamboos from forest-areas into the business-domain.

Summary :

Sudden and flashy amendments like this are a reflection of the turbulence which **forestry as a**

profession is unfortunately passing through today. Present as well as future generations need to survive the ill-effects of ever-increasing dreadful and alarming pace of natural resources' degradation, over-draftings on forest ecosystems (due to ever-increasing needs of growing populations),**forest depredation** (on account of the compulsive trap of so-called development), and to top all: **the acute environmental problems and impending dangers of Climate-change.**

The decision-makers should consciously decide whether rules in forestry-matters be 'relaxed' and weakened (in the name of democratization), or adopt stricter attitude for ensuring sustainability of forests & natural resources, since the established fact is that all living beings would survive only as long as the forests survive.

Through the above passage, my aim has been **to disseminate awareness regarding ill-effects of such legislations—which do more harm than good** — and numerous **ways of preserving interests of the species from getting wiped out, to achieve robust environment and thereby buttress the physical well-being of his poor man's timber as a prized asset, in buffering itself against baleful misuses and to facilitate discerning readers—fettered by a fusillade of inhibitions—to freely open up and quell the misunderstandings** of the lawmakers about the Bamboo.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND ROLL OF PLASTIC

By
Akshyaya Kumar Nayak

When I get up from the bed in the drowsy dawn, I behold from the solarium the surrounding emerald foliage, listen to the crooning songs of the tiny humming birds in the close thickets and cast a glance at the decorated earthen pots containing multicolored ornamental flowers that speak of the language of fragrance and beauty I happen to become lost in ecstasy. How beautiful the Lord of the Universe with his utmost skill and love has created the "Good Earth" ! He has provided everything for sustenance of life of all human beings and all living beings, as well. We are nurtured with adequate love and care in the lap of the "Mother Earth" which grants all elements of comfort required for a life span. But the peace, happiness and comfort of life, at present, happen to be in the way of diminishing continuity. This is due to various factors like over exploitation of natural resources and other environmental issues.

While considering the environmental issues, population plays an important role. Present population (2019) of China & India are 1420062022 & 1368737513 respectively. There is an annual growth or change of population of China is 0.35% as against 1.08% of India. Population density in China is reported at 147

persons per sq.km. and it is 406/sq.km in India. [It was, in India, 325 persons/sq.km. in 2001 which raised to 382 persons/sq.km. in 2011] Population density of the world is 14.97 persons / sq.km (16th October 2018). Monaco, in the world, is the most densely populated country with a population density of 26243/sq.km. (2019). As per an estimate released in 2015 it was projected that India's population will surpass that of China by 2022. Human population is steadily and abnormally increasing. In 2000 the world population was only 614.5 crores and that of India, 105.31 crores. But today the World's population has increased to 769.2 crores and that of India to 136.4 crores.

The major disadvantages of over population are : more people to feed, poverty, lower living-standard, inadequacy of land for living and agriculture, insufficient natural resources to supply adequate goods, services, problem of starvation, illiteracy and unemployment. On 11th July (the approximate date) when the world's population reached 5 billion, for the alarming outgrowth, the "World Population Day" was suggested by Dr.K.C.Zacharia the then Sr.Demographer of the World Bank and it being

established by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programmes in 1989 is celebrated by various countries on 11th July every year.

ENVIRONMENT

Earlier this term “Environment” was mostly known to the elite mass or educated people in the society. But now it has become very common and familiar after the “Swachha Bharat Mission” came into being by our Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi where-in the small school children to the elderly persons of the society are associated to keep the local environment clean.

The natural Environment encompasses all living and non-living beings occurring naturally. This term mostly relates to the Earth – its main constituents being **land, air and water**. Environment also aims at the circumstances, objects or conditions by which one is surrounded. Going little further – “the complex of physical, chemical and biotic factors (such as climate, soil and living things that act upon an organism or an ecological community and ultimately determine its form and survival.”

The original glamorous green planet, our **mother earth**, has undergone various disastrous changes for various factors like explosion of population, over exploitation of natural resources etc. Its environment gets polluted in a sustained manner as a result, Global Warming has stemmed from it.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Contamination of the physical and biological components of the Earth/Atmosphere system to such an extent that normal environmental processes are adversely affected.

TYPES OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Soil pollution, Air pollution, Water pollution, Thermal / Heat pollution, Radioactive pollution, Noise/Sound Pollution & Light pollution.

(a) SOIL POLLUTION

There are toxic chemicals and other pollutants that contaminate soil in high concentration risking the human health and the ecosystem. Industrial wastes like gases and chemicals, agricultural pesticides, mining, landfills and the most important being deforestation etc. are the main factors of deterioration of land surface.

(b) WATER POLLUTION

Water is the most important life sustaining gift of nature. Water pollution takes place when the water bodies like reservoirs, rivers, lakes, ocean etc. are contaminated as a result of human activities. Plastic items thrown to water bodies pollute water. As per a study of UNEP in 2009 almost 6,40,000 tonnes of all fishing gear (approximately 10% of the total usage) is lost or discarded in our oceans annually which kill marine wild life including vulnerable species damaging considerably the marine eco system. Industries produce huge quantity of waste containing toxic chemicals like lead, mercury, sulphur, asbestos, nitrates etc which are harmful

pollutants. Sewage and its water, garbages, household liquid waste contaminate water which is poisonous for the aquatic ecosystem. The ocean absorbs as much as a quarter of man made carbon emission.

(C) LIGHT POLLUTION

Excessive and inappropriate light or over-lighting causes **light pollution** which wastes money and energy. In US wasted light releases 1.7 billion dollars for night time sky via unshielded out-door light. Wasted lighting in US releases about 38 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) to the atmosphere.

(d) RADIOACTIVE POLLUTION

It is the physical pollution of living organism and their environment as a result of release of radioactive substances into the environment during nuclear explosion and testing of nuclear weapons and also while mining radioactive ores.

(e) AIR POLLUTION

This is the most important pollution among all the rest. This is the most vital one among all the other pollutions. Air pollution is a mix of particles and gases that can reach harmful concentration both outside and indoors. This can cause higher diseases to rise in temperature. Soot, smoke, mold, methane, carbon dioxides etc are the pollutants. When harmful or excessive quantities of substances like gases, particles and biological molecules are introduced into earth's

atmosphere will cause fatal diseases, allergies and even death. These worst toxic pollutants can harm to other living organisms, animals and food crops. As per 2014 WHO report air pollution caused death of about 7 million people. Carbon is the main actor (pollutant) for climate disruption making weather extreme worse which causes severe flood, wild fire, drought. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) contributes maximum to air pollution and causes **Green House Effect**. It traps radiation on earth's surface creating ground level ozone.

Since beginning of the industrial revolution (1750-taken as the year), burning of fossil fuels, depletion of forests etc. have contributed to a 40% increase of atmospheric CO₂ concentration from 280 ppm (parts per million) in 1750 to 392.6 PPM in 2012, 395.4 PPM in 2015 and now it has reached 406 PPM.

(f) POPULATION POLLUTION

Majority of people consider population growth as the single most serious global issue as the population size is closely linked with the environment and health condition of both human and wild life. Greater the size of population more will be the consumption of natural resources and energy and more will be the pollution – created by sending the waste to landfills. It is interesting and also concern to know that world's population has grown gradually. It took thousands of years for the global population to reach one billion people

(around 1800). Then, in a little more than a century, the population jumped to two billions (by 1960) and to three billions by 1980 and 2000 – the world's human population doubled from three billion to six billion people. Population growth causes environmental degradation and also **climate change**.

In demographic study China has highest population in the world with 1420062022 (at present) and India is 2nd with population of 1368737513, USA, Indonesia and Brazil occupy 3rd, 4th and 5th in rank of the population. Population density of world = $7,324,782,225 \text{ Sq.Km.} \div 510 \text{ million} = 14.97 \text{ per sq.km.}$ Population density of India is 325 per sq.km. Monaco is the most densely populated country with a population density of 25,105/- Sq.km.

Since population is growing out of control every year the world continues to get more and more crowded, housing, clothing, water, power, food, health care needs of the world continues to place greater strain on our ability to meet those. There is a huge challenge for development. World Population Day is celebrated all over the World every year to create awareness among people. It was observed on 11th July, 1987 by UNDP when the world population reached five billion.

GLOBAL WARMING

It is a long term rise in the average temperature of the earth's, climate system. It is the increase of Earth's average surface temperature due to the effect of Green House gases as CO₂ emission

from burning of fossil fuels and deforestation which trap heat in the troposphere. When there is increase of CO₂ concentration a thick layer of this gas prevents the solar's heat from being radiated back. It has a bearing on CLIMATE CHANGE – a change in global or regional climate patterns in particular, a change apparent from the need to the late 20th century onwards.

GREEN HOUSE EFFECT

It is the process by which radiation from the earth's atmosphere warms its surface to a temperature above what it would be without its atmosphere. If the earth's atmosphere contains radiatively active gases (i.e. Green House Gases) the atmosphere radiates energy in all directions.

DEFORESTATION AND ITS EXTREME EFFECTS ON GLOBAL WARMING

It has an important role for global climate change. It is estimated that more than 1.5 billion tons of CO₂ is released to the atmosphere due to cutting, burning and clearing the forest growth annually.

Forests cover is about 30% of the World's land area. It is estimated that 15% of all Green House Gases is due to deforestation. About half the world's tropical forests have been cleared. An area of the size of a football pitch is cleared from the Amazon Rain Forests every minute.

Earth loses 18.7 million acres of forests per year. In 2016 Global Tree cover loss reached a record of 73.4 million Acres (29.7 million ha).

Destruction of forest cover results in decline of biodiversity. Forests provide food, fiber, water, medicines and shelter for approximately 1.6 billion of World's poorest of the poor people who depend on forests for their livelihood. Considering these factors World Forest Day is celebrated in different countries to create public awareness among communities on 21st March every year. Theme for the year 2019 is "Forests and Education".

Every year the atmosphere is being loaded with the poisonous gas, CO₂. The following table shows the carbon emission by 4 leading countries of the World (in 2015) :-

Sl. No.	Country	Carbon emission in MMT	Share in percentage	Per capita CO ₂ emission in metric ton
1	China	9040.74	27.21	6.59
2	USA	4997.50	14.58	15.53
3	India	2066.01	6.82	1.58
4	Russia	1468.99	4.68	

USE OF PLASTIC

Plastic waste has become a global concern for contaminating the Environment. Plastic product has become an integral part in our day to day life. As such it is produced in adequate scale worldwide. It is estimated, on an average, plastic production globally exceeds 150 million tonnes per year. It has broad range of use in packaging, films, carry bags in shopping, wrapping materials, fluid containers, clothing toys,

household, building materials and industrial products. Approximately 9.4 million tonnes per annum plastic waste is generated in India. Out of this about 60% is recycled and balance 9400 tons left unattended in Environment causing land, air and water pollution. The recycling rate in India is higher than the global average. Approximately 70% of plastic packaging products are converted in plastic waste in very short span. **Per capita plastic consumption:** It is highest (109 kg) in US and lowest (11 kg) in India. In Europe, China and Brazil it is 65 kg, 38 kg and 32 kg. respectively.

PLASTIC WASTE – A HUGE THREAT TO MARINE ECOLOGY:

Effects of plastic on aquatic life are devastating. Planktons, the smallest creatures in oceans, are eating the micro plastics and absorbing their chemicals. These tiny, broken down pieces of plastic are displacing the algae needed to sustain larger sea life who feed on them. Plastics do not dissolve but they break down into micro particles that circulate in the environment. A water bottle can take 1000 years to break down. **83% of our drinking water contains plastic.** 600 marine's species are affected by plastic. Plastics travel in the current of ocean - an island of trash called the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" has been created. There are 8 million tonnes of plastic waste entering the ocean every year. Total

plastic in the ocean amounts to 150 million tonnes. In 2014 there was 1 kg of plastic in the ocean for every 5 kg of fish, by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish.

PLASTIC WASTE GENERATION IN INDIA

India generates approximately 9.4 million tonnes per year which amounts to 26,000 tonnes of waste per day. Around 60% of India's plastic waste is recycled [According to the report of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for the year 2017-18].

PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT

There are 7 types of plastic in vogue. Now a days, an alternate to petro based plastic carry-bags / films has been introduced i.e. compostable plastics (100% bio-based) carry-bags/films conforming ISO:17088. Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016 encourages the use of compostable carry-bags. Plastic bags are popular being light weight, strong, cheap and hygienic way to transport. After use they are thrown which are flown to road, park etc. and cause pollution problems. So it should undergo 4R-option "Reduce" (lowering the amount of waste produced), "Reuse" "Recycle" "Recovery" & finally "Landfill" (Safe disposal of waste to landfill). Various states like Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Maharastra have taken adequate steps to ban plastic use. Himachal Pradesh has prepared "Sustainable Plastic Waste Management plan. The plastic waste has been reused in road construction.

Various countries have also taken steps to ban plastic use. Goa has planned to setup a plant to process the plastic waste to produce crude oil. ACC Cement company is also taking steps to process the plastic waste in cement kiln to produce alternate fuel.

Cost Rica has become an environmental leader which has become successful in doubling its forest cover from 26% in 1984 to more than 52% in 2017 and plans to carbon neutral by 2021. It aims to become world's first country to ban all single-use plastics by 2021.

CONCLUSION

Time has come to think over by all State Govt. for introducing in the educational curriculum right from the primary education to the higher education the subject ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE which is an inter disciplinary academic field that integrates physical, biological and information sciences to the study of Environment and the solution of environmental problems.

All countries should take sincere, adequate and co-ordinated efforts to obtain a beautiful GREEN GLOBE with clean ENVIRONMENT though we cannot bring back the same (original) one that God had given us.

Retd. Forest Officer, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Ph.: 9437001212

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE AMENDMENTS TO INDIAN FOREST ACT 1927

By
Dr. Akula Kishan

The Government of India has circulated number of amendments to the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the draft amendments are in 124 pages. To understand the changes proposed to Indian Forest Act, 1927 the salient features are presented below for information.

1. The Preamble is modified to include international commitments and peoples participation apart from other issues

2. In the definitions the following words are included

- (a) Cattle
- (b) Claimant
- (c) Community
- (d) Village forest
- (e) Forest
- (f) Forest land
- (g) Reserved Forests
- (h) Protected Forests
- (i) Unclassed Forests
- (j) Production Forests
- (k) Forest Officer
- (l) Forest offence
- (m) Forest produce
- (n) Heavy machinery
- (o) Land
- (p) Licence
- (q) Licensee
- (r) Local body
- (s) Non Timber Forest Produce
- (t) Owner
- (u) Person
- (v) Plantation

- (w) Pollution
- (x) River
- (y) Sawing
- (z) Saw mill
- (aa) Saw pit
- (bb) Shifting Cultivation
- (cc) Timber
- (dd) Tree
- (ee) Bark
- (ff) Usufruct
- (gg) Vehicle
- (hh) Village Forest Management Committee Or Joint Forest management committee
- (ii) Working plan or Working scheme
- (jj) Fishing
- (kk) Waste material
- (ll) Wild animal
- (mm) Habitat
- (nn) Carbon sequestration
- (oo) Encroachment

3. In Chapter – II the procedure of Reservation of Forest Blocks is given. The Forest Settlement Officer can admit or reject claims as mentioned in the existing Act. Reference is made to RoFR Act and the DFO has to record the rights admitted under the RoFR Act. The penalties are not mentioned in the Chapter but are included in the separate Chapter called “Penalties”

4. Chapter – III deals with Village Forest excluding the areas where claims are settled under RoFR Act. The Village Forest have to be managed by the Joint Forest Management

Committees constituted in consultation with the Gram Sabha and Forest Department. The State Government make Rules for regulating the management of Village Forest.

5. Chapter – IV deals with Protected Forests and the existing provisions are mostly followed.

6. Chapter – IV A deals with Production Forests which are specifically to be notified for production of timber, pulp, pulp wood, fire wood, NTFP, medicinal plants etc....

7. Chapter – IV B deals with Regulation of shifting cultivation and forest land degradation. Central Government and State Government shall take all measures to prevent Forest land degradation and combat desertification by preparing specific working plans etc....

8. Chapter – V deals with Conservation of Forests and lands not being property of Government. The provisions of chapter enable application of Forest Act to Urban and Rural areas outside the Government Forests.

9. Chapter – VI deals with imposing of duty on timber and other forest produce. New provision is made to levy cess in respect of Forest produce disposed by State Government.

10. Chapter – VII deals with the control of trade, possession and transit of timber and other Forest Produce and it's processing. Central Government is enabled to make rules to regulate the movement of timber or other Forest Produce from one State to another.

11. Chapter – VIII deals with the collection of drift and stranded timber, the provisions are similar to the existing provisions.

12. Chapter – IX deals with procedures for dealing with forest offences. Procedures are given in dealing with offences relating to forest

land, confiscation on seizures etc.... The Forest Offences are classified as minor offences and major offences. The burden of proof shall lie on the accused. Power to compound offences is specified.

13. Chapter – X deals with Cattle Trespass, similar to the provisions in the existing Act.

14. Chapter – XI deals with powers of Forest Officers

15. Chapter – XII deals with the powers of Central Government and State Government.

16. Chapter – XII A contains the penalties to be imposed for violation of different sections of the Act.

17. Chapter – XIII deals with miscellaneous provisions. At the request of owner the State Government may notify private Forest primarily for conservation and preservation including protecting catchment areas. The provisions of the can be made also applicable to lands under control of different Government Departments.

18. Chapter – XIV deals with sustainable management of Forests through working plans. Provision is mad for creation of "National Forestry Board" under the chairmanship of Prime Minister of India and number of Central Ministers, all PCCFs etc.... Provision is also made for creation of "National Forest Fund"/ State Forest Fund.

Remarks: As the amendments proposed are elaborate and exhaustive it is desirable to draft a new bill to be called Indian Forest Bill, 2019. The linkages with other enactments may not be needed. However, detailed remarks on the contents are to be obtained from all stake holders before any further action can be taken.

A VISIT TO KOTLA VIJAYA BHASKAR REDDY BOTANICAL GARDEN AND PALA PITTA CYCLING PARK

By
K.B.R. Reddy

INTRODUCTION:

I had written an article: Botanical Garden in a Reserved Forest published in Vana Premi of September 2018. I was enthused to write the paper after helping forest officers in opposing writ petitions claiming greedily having no right of ownership over the prime property within the limits of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), close to High-Tech City. I made a search to trace the historical background of the Kothaguda Reserved Forest having an extent of 110 ha (Acs. 270) in Sy, No. 72 of Kothaguda village in Serilingampalli Mandal of Ranga Reddy district. This land was one of the 14 kanchas (grass lands) belonging to the Sarf-e-Khas (Special Expenses) - the personal property of HEH The Nizam. It was acquired by sale by the Forest Department of the State of Hyderabad in the year 1956 by making payment of a total sale amount of Rs. 4 lakh for 14 Kanchas. The land is presently under the management of the Telangana State Forest Development Corporation. Paradoxical it may seem that when the sale of the land of Sarf-e-Khas kancha of Kothaguda was concluded in 1956 in favour of the Forest Department of Hyderabad State on behalf of grandfather HEH The VII Nizam Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan Bahadur, ownership of the same land is being claimed in 2018 by a writ

petition on behalf of his grandson Shahamat Jah Bahadur. The matter however is sub-judice and is pending in the High Court.

It was my cherished desire to visit the area that is, 'a garden in the forest'. I made a request to Sri Nagabhuhsanam, a retired Conservator of Forest, who gained adequate experience of forming Urban Parks in the forests around Hyderabad and as OSD contributed a lot in landscaping the area. We fixed a mutually a convenient date on 27 March 2019. We set out early in the morning and reached the destination by about 08.00 hrs. The old Bombay Road, presently called the Botanical Garden Road, runs through the Block dividing it into two parts. The Northern part is developed into a Cycling Park named after "*Pala Pitta*", the Indian Roller/ Blue Joy-*Coracias bengalensis* so as to perpetuate the State Bird seen in the area.

PALA PITTA CYCLING PARK:

The area of the cycling park is about Acs. 46. 00. It was previously an uncared for wilderness full of waste material. Its planned development resulted in Treasure from Trash. There was an urge from the people to have a cycling facility. Therefore an earthen road of 15 ft. width was laid as cycling track along the periphery covering a distance of about 3.00 kms. The cyclists, young and old, enjoy the ride in sylvan



GreenAP

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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.
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- ◆ With this mobile app they will have access to the products like pot vendors, aquariums, landscape designers and many more.

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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".



THE SINGARENI COLLIERIES COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government Company)
Telangana State

surroundings. The occasional sighting of peacocks and chirpings of birds is an added attraction.

The cycling Park is being maintained by Telangana State Forest Development Corporation in collaboration with M/S Cykul, a private agency on income sharing basis. Expressive slogans are displayed along the track explaining the benefits of cycling. A few of the slogans are as follows:

Gain health by cycling, save resources by recycling.

An hour of cycling a day can reduce the risk of coronary heart disease.

Bicycle runs on fat and saves money; Car runs on money and makes you fat.

Live to ride a bike, ride a bike to live.

There is a shed for parking about 400 bicycles when not in use. Other basic amenities for drinking water, coffee/tea, snacks, toilets etc are provided. The Park is open for users on week days between 06.00 and 09.00 in the morning and between 04.00 and 06.00 in the evening. On week-ends, the park is open between 06.00 and 11.00 in the morning and between 03.00 and 06.00 in the evening. The users are charged Rs. 50 per hour for adults and Rs. 25 for children. For private owned cycles charges are Rs. 25 per hour.

BOTANICAL GARDEN:

This was named after the then Chief Minister Kotla Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy. The Cycling Park and the Botanical Garden are situated opposite to each other, on either side of the road. The botanical garden is spread over in an area of

about Acs. 228. The forest is a true representative of Deccan Plateau vegetation consisting of Southern Tropical Mixed Deciduous Forest. The main objectives of creating this garden are: to create facility for imparting conservation awareness among the people on naturally existing forests, to develop a facility thematically important items of nature and environment and to serve as a centre which combines aesthetic, education and recreational values at one place. The people living around visit the park for their morning/evening walks. I have seen a good number of vehicles belonging to the walkers parked outside. I am told that the number of walkers is huge on week ends. The garden gave me an impression that it is serving the population as an effective lung space. On an average 1500 persons visit the garden and walk on the existing walking trails. There is an electronic gate to maintain transparency on issue of entry passes. For single entry Rs. 25 for adults and Rs.10 for children is charged. Regular walkers pay a sum of Rs. 400 per month and get a monthly pass. The environmental Education Centre (EEC) not far away from the gate serves for debates on environmental and allied issues. The Fiber Mural Models of elephant, tiger, bear, giraffe, Indian bison, a family of cheetals, black buck are displayed in a very attractive manner.

An innovative idea of raising Nakshatra Vanam, Raasi Vanam, and Navagraha Vaanam to perpetuate the plants mentioned in the Indian

Mythology is praiseworthy. Besides the vanams, there is herbal garden of medicinal plants, cactus garden and butterfly garden. There are lawns all over for the visitors to relax. There is a single storied building being used as office for the staff. The unique feature of this building is that the entire construction material is bamboo – a beautiful structure, indeed. To get a feel those forests for nature lovers, a tree cottage, log hut and a tent cottage are constructed with eco-friendly materials. With a view to attract children, boating facility is planned; but it is presently not in use for want of water. To make the park more attractive to the children and adults, adventure games like zip lane cycling, commando tower, archery etc are introduced. Aesthetically designed four attractive Gazebos with seating facility are constructed at four different places. There is the facility for indoor and outdoor gym. Recently skating rink and mini golf area have been introduced. It will take some time to attract new customers for them. There is only one 6-seater battery operated vehicle. One or two more such vehicles may have to be added to cope with the demand. There is a Party Zone under the giant eucalyptus trees for hosting parties for about 150 persons. There is a Cafeteria-cum-Restaurant for supplying drinking water, coffee, tea, and other food items. In the conservation zone, 6500 saplings were planted during 2018-19. In an area of 1.7 ha within the conservation zone an arboretum with 250 varieties of indigenous species covering 60 families has been raised. These are the rare

species collected from several parts of the country.

In bringing the garden to the present status with untiring effort and zeal, the then Vice-Chairman & Mg. Dir. of the TS FDC Sri Chandan Mitra with the able assistance of OSD Sri D. Nagabhushanam are largely responsible. Water scarcity is a major problem for the proper upkeep of the Botanical Garden. A solution will have to found for it. The new incumbent VC & MD Sri P. Raghuveer has taken on the mantle for further improvements and maintenance. He believes that Parks have not only be kept green but also clean. With this objective in view he has organized a Clean-Up programme on 16.03.2019 with the participation of about 150 volunteers drawn from among walkers, cyclists, students from Forest College and Research Institute. The programme consisted of collecting and disposing of plastics, metal pieces, waste paper, glass pieces, etc. About 1500 kgs of garbage was collected. By this experiment, a message was conveyed to the users of the cycling park and the garden to help maintaining the precincts clean and green. It is proposed to repeat the exercise periodically. On this occasion another programme of vermin composting unit was also launched. The effort so far made is in conformity with the motto, forests are for the people. As for my visit to the garden is concerned, it is a dream come true; thanks to Sri Nagabhushanam. I express my deep debt of gratitude for helping me in writing this paper.

SMILEY SOAP NUT – SEEDLING

By
NAGABHUSHANAM DASARI

The pericarp of soap nut seed having ego temperament
Of removal of dirt from hair of heads of human beings
While bathing whoseever opens their eyes by mistake
The leathery foam will invade sensitive eyes
Will generate burning fumes

Poor fellow

The shiny black soap nut seed coat doesn't know that
It is encircled with inertia in its jacket sheath
Keeping the embryo inside in standstill stage
Without causing any momentum range

To get rid of inertia element from the seeds
They have to be soaked in bowl of boiled water
Or in concentrated sulphuric acid container
Or else one little beat with hammer on the nose
Which stimulates activeness from inertia phase

The seeds gain germination consciousness
Only by swallowing sufficient water from earth
To fight against inertia with boosted energy worth
To break open the strong seed coat sheath
And come up with newly smiling tiny leaves

*(Please use natural products for better health
and encourage growing of Soap nut Seedlings)*

DEMO(NO)CRACY?

By
V.V.HARIPRASAD

It is me "**democracy**,"

I am afraid, I am not.

"Bharat" adopted me not recently,

More than seven decades back,

I am in a vicious circle and

Want to introspect,

To call a spade a spade.

I wish !

Politics to be fair and genuine,

Not to be the last resort of a scoundrel,

Politicians not to indulge in gutter level politics,

To be honest and above board,

I am afraid, they are not.

They are after all career minded ,

Aiming at power and pelf at all costs,

Playing with the lives of the downtrodden,

Dishonesty and hypocrisy became their hall
marks,

Ruthless and mean most of them are,

promising to deliver moon to the gullible,

Though they do know that they can not,

Heavy dearth of statesmen among them,

But a mushroom growth of Pygmies,

Who buy the people, are off and far from the
people,

With preponderance of mediocrity.

I desire!

The bureaucrats to maintain integrity,

The rich to be benevolent to the poor,

The intellectuals to be courageous,

The fourth estate to be fair and frank,

I am afraid they are not.

Most of the bureaucrats are corrupt,

Sizable number of rich are avaricious ,

Biased fourth estate always has an axe to grind,

Intellectuals by and large are either timid,

Or are suffering afflicted with "right, left or
centre"

I urge!

The voters to exercise their franchise,

By being fearless and candid,

Not to be misled by pampering,

To strive hard to be self dependent,

To be wise enough not to be hoodwinked ,

I am afraid, they are not.

They do crave for freebies,

Alas, some do sell their votes,

Either for a few bucks or for alcohol

"we reap what we sow" they know not,

Easily do they become scapegoats,

By being caste biased, fanatic, and chauvinistic,

After all at the cost of their own welfare.

When I look back !

I realize that decades lapsed,

After the nation opted me called "Democracy";

Still I am at the cross roads while my destination,
looks hazy but is heading towards

"Demo no cracy",

And I am destined to wish" **Bharat**;

To save me lest I should be withering away,

Which I am afraid ,

Shall result **"Bharat"** ending up with penury
and despotism.

(The author a retired Dy.C.F is an advocate
and a legal Consultant with Govt.Of A.P and
IFB Govt of India)

BIO DATA – PRORMA

- (i). PPO No.
- (ii). Name of Bank & Branch from where the pension is drawn
- (iii). Bank Pass Book No.
- (iv). Aadhar Card No.
- (v). PAN Card No.
- (vi). Residence
- (vii). Telephone No.
- (viii). Email ID

BIO DATA

- 1. Name
- 2. Parents' Names
- 3. Date of birth
- 4. Place of birth
- 5. Siblings and your S.No.
- 6. Education details
- 7. Qualifications earned
- 8. Date of appointment
- 9. Details of promotions
- 10. Places of work year wise
- 11. Post retirement assignments
- 12. Notable events and achievements during service
- 13. Date of marriage
- 14. Name of spouse
- 15. Number and names of children
- 16. Number of grandchildren
- 17. Any other information.

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

***"Wars may be
fought with weap-
ons, but they are
won by men. It is the
spirit of men who
follow and of the
man who leads that
gains the victory."
(George S. Patton)***

BOOK REVIEW

Name of Book: Orugallu to Warangal: Journeys across Time

Authors: Sadhana Ramchander and Lakshmi Prabhala

Price: Rs. 1,200/-

Publishers: Blue PencilInfo design; www.bluepencil.in

The name, Warangal, otherwise historically known as Ekasilanagaramu, seems to have its origin in Tamil, known as "Oru Kallu", meaning one rock; and the name of the place transformed into Orugallu, Warangallu. And finally Warangal. While the Warangal town, barring the historical sights, is known as Mattewada, which is known for its commercial hub, Hanumakonda is (was) the political and administrative capital of the district. For what reasons I do not know, like Hanumakonda, there are many places in the district whose names end up with "Konda", like Madikonda, Meedikonda, Geesukonda, Penugonda etc.

As I started turning the pages of the beautiful book, Orugallu to Warangal, my memories went back to 1945, when I first visited Hanumakonda from a tiny village, for my school and college education and stayed in a house close to the Thousand Pillars Temple. As I started reading the text, I felt quite nostalgic for the place where I grew up. The pictures are sharp and the description is wonderful. After my Bachelors

degree in science, I joined forest service and the next thing that got my attention was: the narration by the authors about Pakhal, Lakhnnavaram, Eturunagarm, Kakatiya Zoological Park etc. As I went through the pages admiring the lovely pictures and enjoying the description, I got a feeling of revisiting the areas. The authors have travelled to all the spots, made a study in depth, over a long period and compiled the volume, printed on glossy paper on more than 30 topics covering nearly 170 pages. All the subjects dealt in the book are informative, educative and very valuable. The book is a treatise on the history, culture of the erstwhile Warangal district. It will be the most useful guide to the students, researchers, nature lovers, teachers and administrators.

The Foreword by Prof. Sri Krishna Deva Rao and the Summary by Smt. Jaya V. Harihar Rao have done well in introducing the authors to the readers and eulogizing the richness of the contents of the book. Yes, the book is a true reflection of Orugallu (of the past) and Warangal (of the present) and it is truly a journey across time. **K.B.R**

**COPY OF REPRESENTATION, DT. 31.03.2019 SUBMITTED TO THE
GOVERNMENT IN FINANCE DEPARTMENT AND THE CHIEF SECRETARY OF
TELANGANA AND ANDHRA PRADESH.**

Sub: - Payment of **Life Time Arrears / Death Relief** and release of family pension to Legal Heirs of deceased Government Employees– Further simplification of procedure – Request for – Regarding.

Ref: - Secretary to Govt. (FP), Finance (PSC) Dept, Circular Memo. No. 743/147/PSC/2009, dt. 29.05.2009

In the memo cited, in the reference cited above, the Government has simplified the procedure for sanction of family pension and death relief. According to the present practice a set of application forms are required to be submitted to the Assistant Pension Payment Officer.

These Forms are obtained from stationery shop. The details of the Forms are as follows:

1. Application for the payment of the Life Time Arrears / Death Relief / CVP / DCRG and conversion to family pension.
2. A*B*C*D* Form compassionate pension of Life Time Arrears of Family Pension FD. Circular No. 10, dt. 07.01.1953.
3. No Objection Certificate.
4. Annexure – II For of Application (The A.P Govt.) Family Pension Rules, 1964.
5. New APTC 12 Old Pension No. 25 art 8 (3) APTC Form (A) TR (40)
6. As per G.O. Ms. No. 11 dated. 30.03.1982 Annexure – II (B)-III Non Employment Certificate.
7. Appendix 38 declaration as per G.O. 47, dt. 12.02.1962.
8. Application & Declaration for drawal of pension through bank (As per para – 4, 1 of G.O. Ms. No. 213, Finance Department, dt. 19.12.1997. In the Circular Memo cited above (copy enclosed for ready reference) certain instructions are

issued to the Joint Director, Pension Payment Office, APPOs etc. which modify the present procedure to some extent.

LIFE TIME ARREARS:

The modification as instructed in the reference cited above is convenient and beneficial to the legal heir.

DEATH RELIEF:

The change ordered in the above reference is applicable to the State Government Employees only. So far as All India Service pensioners are concerned, the orders of the Government are issued in G.O.Ms.No. 566, General Administration (SC. X) Department, dt. 28.10.1993 (A copy of the G.O. is enclosed for ready reference). According to these orders of the Government, death relief has to be paid by the District Collector concerned to the nearest relative of the AIS pensioner or the person lawfully in possession of the body. This procedure, being different from what is being followed in respect of State Employees, is causing inconvenience to the legal heirs of the All India Services. The All India Services Pensioners Association, Andhra Pradesh represented to the Government requesting that the procedure adopted for payment of death relief to the State Government employees may be adopted for payment of such relief in the case of AIS Officers also (a copy of the representation, dt. 10.08.2013 is enclosed).

FAMILY PENSION:

It has been ordered in the Memo cited above, that the single application requesting for release of family pension with effect from the next day of the death of the service pensioners

is enough. It needs to be clarified whether this simple application is sufficient with the needed information or a Form has to be prescribed with the required information. However, a draft application prepared by this Association is enclosed for favor of consideration.

The present order to dispense with the ABCD Form is good and the procedure suggested is convenient to the family pensioners. It has been

ordered that instead of ABCD for a fresh Annual Verification Certificate attested by a Gazetted Officer will have to be filed. ABCD form will be required only when the document is mutilated. It is requested that the Government may be pleased to consider the above suggestions and issue orders accordingly streamlining the procedure so that, there is no ambiguity with regard to the procedure to be followed.

Yours faithfully

Sd/-(S.K. Das)

THE OSPREY (*PANDION HALIAETUS*)

Source: Internet

Osprey's live to an average of 30 years old in the wild. They are migratory birds that breed in the North, before flying South for the winter. Typically Osprey's lay three eggs per year, they hatch at a staggered pace, and are incubated by both of the parents, not just the mom. The eggs incubate for a period of 36-42 days before hatching. When the babies break through the shell, they are covered in down feathers and are born with their eyes open. After this, they typically have a 50-55 day nestling period. After about a month in the nest, baby Osprey's practice flapping their wings until they can rise slightly above the nest. Eventually, with some practice and convincing, they take their first flight. For the first couple weeks of the fledgling phase, they return to the nest to feed on fish raked in by their parents. Slowly but surely, they become more independent, still staying near the nest, they watch and learn how to catch fish and fend for themselves. In 1972, the U.S. banned the use of the pesticide DDT. Osprey's had become an endangered species, due to difficulty reproducing. DDT and other like chemicals was causing eggshell thinning, not allowing them to

incubate correctly, and be protected from predators. Since the ban Osprey's have come back full swing, overall they are now considered to be a species of the least concern, although in some inland habitats they are still scarce. Each year they make the trek from North to South in search of better weather and fresh fish, each migrating season, creating a new generation until old age.

Food: The Osprey is the only hawk on the continent that eats almost exclusively live fish. In North America, more than 80 species of live fresh- and saltwater fish account for 99 percent of the Osprey's diet. Captured fish usually measure about 6-13 inches in length and weigh one-third to two-thirds of a pound. The largest catch on record weighed about 2.5 pounds. On very rare occasions, Ospreys have been observed feeding on fish carcasses or on birds, snakes, voles, squirrels, muskrats, and salamanders. Ospreys probably get most of the water they need from the flesh of their prey although there are reports of adults drinking on hot days.

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		7.	Smt.S.J.Asha 07-05-1975
1.	G.Gurunathudu	10-05-1949	8.	M.Bhabji Rao 08-05-1968
2.	B.Soma Sekara Reddy	10-05-1954	9.	B.Saidulu 09-05-1974
3.	S.Kishan Das	10-05-1955	10.	N.Nageshwara Rao 10-05-1971
4.	Qamar Mohd Khan	11-05-1947	11.	G.Ravi 15-05-1962
5.	M.A. Waheed	12-05-1953	12.	Smt.G.B.Rekha Banu 15-05-1984
6.	M.Purushotham Reddy	14-05-1952	13.	Ch.Ganga Reddy 19-05-1966
7.	K.shakar Reddy	16-05-1956	14.	Y.Ramesh 20-05-1959
8.	K.C.Augustin	21-05-1930	15.	G.N.Pavan Kumar Rao 20-05-1967
9.	Shaik Noor Ahmed	22-05-1946	16.	D.Asha Kiran 20-05-1980
10.	S.Rama Rao	25-05-1950	17.	K.Mahaboob Basha 21-05-1986
11.	B.S.Yousuf Sharief	23-05-1953	18.	N.Jogender 24-05-1965
12.	K.Pradeep	28-05-1954	19.	P.Balaswamy 25-05-1960
13.	T.Samboji Rao	01-06-1948	20.	K.Ramkishan 01-06-1963
14.	Y.Ram Mohan Rao	02-06-1941	21.	D.Chandrasekhar Rao 01-06-1959
15.	M. Darshanam	04-06-1951	22.	Smt.N.Kshitija 01-06-1976
16.	Gunturu Satyanarayana	04-06-1954	23.	T.Chakrapani 01-06-1966
S.No.	Name of Serving Officers	D.O.B.		
1.	Smt. R. Yesoda Bai	14-05-1986	24.	D.Ravindranath Reddy 02-06-1982
2.	Dr. Sekher Babu Geddani	15-05-1986	25.	P.Ramakrishna 02-06-1972
3.	S.Ramesh	19-05-1974	26.	K.Srinivas 04-06-1977
4.	B. M. Diwan Mydeen	21-05-1978	27.	A.V.S.R.K.Appanna 04-06-1963
5.	C. Sarvanan	01-06-1978	28.	Shaik Salaam 04-06-1963
6.	S.S.Sreedhar	04-06-1966	29.	Y.V.Narsimha Rao 05-06-1980

Secretary

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FOREST OFFICERS OF TELANGANA AND ANDHRA PRADESH

PROCEEDINGS OF 91ST GENERAL BODY MEETING, AT ARANYABHAVAN, HYDERABAD ON 31.03.2019

1. Welcome by the Secretary:

The Secretary, Sri. A.V. Govindarajulu extended a hearty welcome to the members and their spouses to the 91st General Body Meeting (GBM) of the Association. The agenda for the meeting was placed before the President with a request to preside over the meeting and conduct the proceedings as per the agenda listed.

1. Shraddanjali:

Sri K. Buchi Rami Reddy proposed the General Body to pay respects to the CRPF Jawans who were martyred in terrorist attack at Phulwama in J&K. He also informed the members that, two serving officers i.e., Sri. J.V. Rao, ACF, Telangana and Sri. G. Nageswar Rao, Dy. CF, Andhra Pradesh died while in service since the last GBM. He requested the Members to observe two minutes silence as a mark of respect to the departed souls. The Secretary informed the Members that, Sri. T. Narayana Swamy, Vice-President of the Association is unwell and hence could not attend this meeting. He stated that, this is the first time that, Sri. T. Narayana Swami has not attended the GBM of the Association. All the members wished Sri. T. Narayana Swamy a speedy recovery.

The members discussed and agreed unanimously that, in the absence of both the President and Vice-President, the senior most

member attending the General Body will preside over the meeting.

1. Action Taken Report by the Secretary:

Action is taken as per resolutions, passed in 102nd Executive Committee Meeting held on 17.02.2019 at Aranya Bhavan as under:

i) Conducting GBM: As decided in the Executive Committee, the GBM is being held today i.e., 31.03.2019 at Aranya Bhavan, Hyderabad.

ii) Printing of new Directory: As decided in the GBM and Executive Committee meetings, the Association has taken up printing of a new Directory with color photographs, addresses and e-mail IDs of all the members. It was informed that, 400 copies of the new Directory has been got printed with an expenditure of Rs.30,000/-. The Telephone Directory of Association of Retired Forest Officers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh was released by Smt. Maitreyi Desai.

iii) The services of Sri. B.S.N. Prasad in collecting the photographs and other information in the last six months for bringing out a new Directory was much appreciated.

iv) Kerala Flood Relief: The Secretary informed that, a cheque for Rs.72,000/- drawn on the Association account at Vijaya Bank, Hyderabad

has been sent to Kerala Chief Ministers' Distress Relief Fund.

v) Audit of Association Accounts: Audit of the Association accounts for 5 years from 2013-14 to 2017-18 was conducted by Chartered Accountant and the audit report will be presented today.

vi) Membership Drive: The Secretary informed the members that, due to the efforts of the Committee headed by Sri. Shyam Prasad formed for enrolling members; four new members i.e., Sri. A.V. Joseph, Dr. K.P. Srivasuki, Dr. K. Tirupathaiah and Sri. P.J. Bannarjee have joined the Association. The GB welcomed the new members and appreciated the efforts of the committee in enrolling new members.

1. Felicitation of Veteran members:

Sri B. Chandramouli, a member of the Association was felicitated on attaining the age of 75 years with a shawl, Bouquet and a memento which was gracefully acknowledged by Sri. B. Chandramouli. The members wished him and his family a happy and healthy life ahead.

1. Presentation of Audit Report:

Sri Iqbal Singh, Internal Auditor and Sri M. Narasimha Reddy Treasurer presented the Audit report for the period from 2013-14 to 2017-18 for approval of the General Body. Dr. C.N. Rao and other members suggested that, in future the audit report of the association may be communicated to the members through e-mail, at least 15 days before the GBM to enable

the members to go through the audit report. The General Body approved the audit report for the period 2013-14 to 2017-18.

Collection of Bio-data from members:

Sri K. Buchi Ram Reddy informed the members that, it is good to have bio-data of the members which will be useful while applying for family pension and related matters as and when required. He informed that, the information may be provided voluntarily and it is not compulsory. The progress on this will be reviewed in future meetings.

1. Guest lecture:

Dr. S.K. Vashisht, a Homeopath was the Guest Speaker. He was invited by Sri K. Santokh Singh. Dr. Vashisht informed the members that, 200 years back only 8% the population were sick, but today 85% of the population is sick. This is basically due to unhealthy eating habits, lack of exercise, pollution, stress and irregular sleeping hours. He advised drinking water early in the morning before brushing, eating sumptuous breakfast, light lunch and very light dinner.

1. Vote of Thanks:

Sri A. Shankaran, Joint Secretary, thanked the members, specially the ladies who attended the General Body meeting. He conveyed a special thanks to Sri T. Shamboji Rao for hosting lunch for the members of General Body Meeting.

Secretary

NEWS AND NOTES

Hectares of forest single-handedly: - On the International Day of Forests, here's a love story between Jadav Payeng and the forest he single-handedly created on a barren land in Assam. "When I was a little boy, a man looked at my palm to read it," says Jadav Payeng. "He said that my life will take the course of Nature." There may or may not be truth in palm-reading, but the prophecy came true.

Jadav went on to plant saplings and seeds along a dry sandbar by the Brahmaputra in Assam, creating a forest that stands at 550 hectares today on the island of Majuli near Jorhat. He is known as the 'Forest Man of India', a moniker that was conferred on him in April 2012 by Jawaharlal Nehru University.

He tells us his story when we meet in Coimbatore earlier this year, where he was visiting to inaugurate an afforestation initiative. Jadav has been planting saplings since 1979.

Majuli, the world's largest river island, was flooded as usual by the Brahmaputra during the monsoon that year. Around July, the teenaged Jadav saw something that would change his life. "I saw hundreds of snakes that were washed up during the floods, lying dead on the sandbar in the heat once the water dried up."

He wondered what it would look like if the same thing happened to humans — the island was being eroded at an accelerated pace.

"I asked tribal people in a nearby village what I could do and they said that I should plant trees, bamboo in particular, since it could withstand harsh conditions," recalls the 60-year-old. "They gave me 25 saplings and some seeds too."

What Jadav did on that hot day, driven by something that tugged at his heart and scared him in equal measure, would win him global recognition a few years later.

Jorhat-based freelance journalist and wildlife photographer Jitu Kalita wrote about Jadav in Assamese newspaper The Dainik Janambhumi in 2010, leading to hundreds of stories in various publications in the years that followed, as well as numerous documentary

films on him. People travel from across the globe to see his forest that is visited by 120 species of birds, including migratory ones; and elephants, rhinos, and tigers that visit from Kaziranga National Park.

Jitu tells us that a herd of 50 to 150 elephants remains in the forest for nearly three months a year. Locals call it 'Mulai forest'; Mulai is Jadav's nickname.

"I stopped going to school," says Jadav, speaking of the 1970s. It was a practical decision. For he was getting obsessed with his vision and thought of nothing else. Marriage came late too. "I was 42 when I got married," he says. "I thought about settling down only late in life." He has two sons and a daughter, and makes a living from selling milk from his cows and buffaloes that graze within his forest.

In fact, Jadav has lost several of his cows to tigers so far, and is unaffected by it. He waves his hand, saying, "They see cattle as food." Jadav, who is from the Mishing tribal community, plans his tree plantings according to the arrival of the monsoons. "I plant in April, May, and June, so that they can benefit from the rains," he explains. "During the rest of the nine months, I collect seeds from within the forest."

Expanding his forest is not as difficult as it used to be now, since Nature does a bulk of the work. But there's one threat that Jadav deals with every day: man. He knows poachers have an eye on his forest and its inhabitants, which is why every time he has to travel somewhere, he requests the local Forest Department authorities to keep an eye out for him.

Jadav has a simple solution to the global problem of depleting forest cover: teach our children to love Nature. "The rest will happen on its own," he feels. Although he fears for his forest's safety, he knows it will survive. The trees he walks past every day talk to him. "They call out to me, saying 'Come, come, now; enough of walking in the sun. Sit under our shade and rest a bit,'" he says.

But he never listens.

India has lost over 1.6 million hectare of tree cover between 2001 and 2018 :

about four times the geographical area of Goa, according to a new study released by the World Resources Institute (WRI), a global research non-profit, on Thursday.

In India, five north-eastern states — Nagaland, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Manipur — were responsible for over 50% of all tree cover loss in the same period, data analysed by WRI's Global Forest Watch shows. The loss of tree cover contributed to 172 MT of carbon emissions in India during this period, according to the study. The analysis reveals the total tree cover which used to be 12% of the country's geographical area in 2000 reduced to 8.9% in 2010. The Global Forest Watch uses a dataset collated by the University of Maryland, Google, US Geological Survey, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), besides satellite images, to map tree cover (at 30 metre resolution) globally for the years 2000 and 2010. The dataset defines all vegetation taller than 5 metres in height to be tree cover.

"The data used by Global Forest Watch for this analysis is very coarse for India. The dataset also doesn't cover open forest and scrub forest which is a big composition of forests in India. The main reason for loss of tree cover in the north-eastern states is diversion of forest land; climate change is also impacting the quality of forests," said Ruchika Singh, director, sustainable landscapes and restoration at WRI India. The data analysis

shows that "forestry" or large-scale plantations, are paradoxically, the main drivers for tree cover loss in India.

But Global Forest Watch's findings are vastly different from that of the Forest Survey of India which has been recording a gradual increase in tree and forest cover during the same period. According to FSI's 2005 and 2017 "State of the Forest Reports", the tree cover increased to 93,815 sq km from 91,663 sq km in this 12-year period. "Global Forest Watch has a very coarse resolution. It was started for monitoring deforestation in Brazil. But there is a recent report by NASA which says China and India responsible for greening of the globe. It is far more scientific than the Global Forest Watch. Our data shows gradual rise in forest and tree cover and forest carbon storage," said Subhash Asutosh, director general, FSI.

Explaining the Indian method of collecting data, Saibal Dasgupta, a former director general of FSI, said, "In the last two years forest and tree cover has increased by 1% in India. We do wall-to-wall mapping. One reason why there could be a discrepancy with Global Forest Watch's findings is that we cover any tree with even 2 metres height in our tree and forest cover analysis. We cover pretty much all vegetation visible through satellite data." Professor NH Ravindranath, forestry expert at the Indian Institute of Science, also pointed out how Indian definition of tree cover is different from others.

Built 497 Toilets in Kerala's Tribal Colonies-let's appreciate her:

There is nothing in this world that can stop women from doing many many good things in life. They are bound to achieve at a very young age and also they are destined to get better and brighter when they become old. Would you possibly believe that a woman brought a drastic change to the state at the age of 50? She proved that age is just a number in today's world.

To achieve phenomenal things in life, a strong vision with intensity, tenacity and will power is just enough to drive one forward. P.G Sudha is not just a name but a countless of emotions that are pinned to it. That sums up the essential woman for you! The fact that P.G Sudha set herself as an epitome of sheer class is something that others are really proud of.

What makes her so special?

Hailing from Ernakulam district of Kerala, P.G Sudha is a potential beat forest officer by trait. She deserves a certificate of excellence for coming up with an initiative of building as many as 497 toilets in the tribal colonies of the Kuttampuzha forest in a bid to get rid of defecation. She chose this activity as her personal interest because she always wanted to make the environment neat and clean.

With grit and determination, the beat forest officer put in a hoard of efforts to bring a slight change. Much to her constant hard work, there came a fruitful news from Kerala Government as the state was declared open defecation free, making the third state to achieve this feat. The proud and belligerent woman won the Chief Minister's Open Defecation Free campaign award on November 1, 2016.

P.G Sudha has her say on the whole story:

"Life is tough in these tribal colonies, where facilities are minimal as compared to other parts of the area. One has to walk for three hours to reach the tribal settlements," she added.

"The reason that people here did not have toilets was that they were simply used to defecating in the open and even if someone did want a toilet, constructing one would have been too difficult. The area's terrain means that the transportation of construction materials is very difficult if not nearly impossible," the beat forest officer told.

"Though people here can afford a toilet, the colonies had none. That is because they are comfortable with open defecation. Secondly, construction of toilets is not an easy task, since bringing building materials from outside is a herculean task."

"The biggest challenge was not the construction but actually transporting the materials. This is why everyone was reluctant to take up the job. These tribal colonies are remote, there are no proper roads to get to them. In fact, to reach some of these settlements one has to walk for 15 to 20 kilometers because there aren't any other means," Ms Sudha tells NDTV.

"We had to be very careful. We had to avoid confrontation to ensure that the operation ran smoothly," she says.

"We would brainstorm and find different ways to transport the construction material to the site. We would be sometimes carting it for kilometers and at other times we would be using rafts to transport the material. Once, the load was so heavy that the raft capsized and the material swept away. But we did not give up,"

LEGAL NOTES

Sukumaran vs. State Rep. by the Inspector of Police

Sukumaran was the Forest Range Officer, Dharmapuri Range, in Tamil Nadu State. On information about smuggling of sandal wood, he set out in his jeep bearing No. TND 2296, along with the driver by name Chinnakulanthai, at about 06.00 p.m on 4.6.1988. Throughout the night, the Range Officer inspected Nazanoor area. After completing the inspection, at about 06.30 a.m on 5.6.1988, the Range Officer drove to Pennagaram main road from Kallampatti road. There, a lorry was found suspected to be smuggling sandal wood. The Range Officer and his driver chased the lorry. After going over some distance, four persons, including the driver, got down from the lorry and started running away while throwing stones and threatening to shoot. The Range Officer fired a gun shot, as a result the driver of the lorry dropped his gun and fell down. The Range Officer took into his custody two persons viz. John Basha and Ganeshan, while other person managed to run away. It was found that the lorry driver succumbed to the gun shot. Stating these facts, the Range Officer filed a First Information Report (FIR) before the Sub-Inspector of Police, Police Station, Pennagaram. The Range officer in his report to police took the plea of self-defence. But the police registered case against the Range Officer and his driver for the offence of murder, abetment and furnishing false information along with offence punishable

under the Tamil Nadu Forest Act and Arms Act. The Range Officer was prosecuted before the Additional Sessions Judge for the aforesaid offences in Sessions Case No. 342/2004.

The prosecution examined 16 witnesses, filed 23 documents and exhibited 13 M.Os. The accused FRO gave evidence as DW with the permission of the court. Prosecution tried to establish that the lorry was empty before shooting and after shooting, the jeep driver loaded 64 billets of sandal wood weighing about 276 kg. and kept a SBML gun in the lorry. The judgment was pronounced on 17.5.2006. The Range Officer was convicted and sentenced with life imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 2,000, in default to undergo further rigorous imprisonment for three months. The Range Officer was also convicted and sentenced for other offences and all the sentences to run concurrently. The jeep driver was acquitted of all the alleged offences.

Aggrieved by the judgment/order of the Additional Sessions Judge, Dharmapuri, Range Officer Sukumar filed Crl. A. No. 513 of 2006 in the High Court of Judicature at Madras. The Hon'ble High Court partly allowed the appeal on 12.06.2008 and set aside the conviction under Sec. 302 IPC. The conviction was altered to Sec. 304, IPC (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and the R.O was

sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for five years with fine of Rs. 2,000/-

Being again dissatisfied with the judgment/order of the High Court, Sukumar filed Crl. A. No. 5 of 2009 in the Supreme Court of India. The appeal came up for consideration before the Bench comprising The Hon'ble Justice Abhay Manohar Sapre and The Hon'ble Justice R. Subhash Reddy. The main question before the Hon'ble Court was whether the order of conviction by the High Court under Sec. 304 IPC was justified.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court recounted the story of the prosecution. The R.O. while moving in his jeep noticed that four persons namely Basha, the deceased, Chan Basha (PW-1), Ganesha (PW-2) and one cleaner were going in a lorry bearing Registration No. ADA 4869. On seeing the lorry, the R.O chased it up to some distance. The lorry then stopped. Basha got down from the lorry and started running along with his associates. The R.O fired a gun shot which hit Basha causing his death. After shooting, the R.O loaded 64 sandal wood billets into the lorry and also placed SBML gun in the lorry. After hearing the arguments and on perusal of the record, the court was inclined to allow the appeal.

On examination of the record, it was found that PWs. 1 & 2 and also other two witnesses PWs. 3 & 7 were declared hostile; there was no evidence to prove as to how the incident occurred. From a

perusal of other evidence, the court was of the view that the prosecution was not able to prove its case. It was therefore concluded that the accused/appellant was entitled to be acquitted. The court then examined the defence evidence in the light of the rulings of the Supreme Court in *Amjad Khan Vs Haji Mohammad Khan* (AIR 1952 SC165) and *Darshan Singh Vs. State of Punjab & anr* (2010) 2 SCC 333) and the principles laid down in the latter case. It was held that the appellant was justified in taking a plea of self defence and that he was able to prove his case with the aid of the evidence. The question before the court was whether the right of private defence was available to the appellant and if so, whether it is rightly exercised or exceeded. Having seen the incident in its perspective, the court held that the gun shot by the appellant towards the deceased cannot be said in any way unjustified. It was noted that the appellant being a Forest Ranger on duty was entitled to use his gun against the deceased party. In the result, the appellant is acquitted from all the charges. The impugned order of the High Court and the Additional Sessions Judge were set aside. The order was pronounced on 7.3.2019.

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Date of Publication: 26-04-2019 Total pages: 52 Date of Dispatch : 4th or 5th of every month