

VANA PREMI



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No.09

Special Issue on Tri Decennial Celebrations of Our Association



Photo by
Indaram Nageshwar Rao

Ploceus philippinus, 'Baya' or 'weaver bird'



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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.
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- TSFDC is also developing Urban Parks in Lalgadi Malakpet RF Block, Thumukunta & Shamirpet RF Cluster and Gowdelli RF, PC Kalan & PC Khurd Cluster

Vice Chairman & Managing Director

T.S. Forest Development Corporation Ltd.,
3rd Floor, UNI Building, A.C. Guards, Hyderabad - 500004.
Telephone Nos. 040-23395750/23392652 Fax: 040-23326420
Email: vcmd.tsfdcl@gmail.com, www.tsfdc.telangana.gov.in

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Editor : Qamar Mohd. Khan**Associate Editor : D. Nagabhushanam, I.F.S. (Retd.)****The Association of Retired Forest Officers, Telangana & Andhra Pradesh**

(Regd. No. 557/1990)

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2. **Editor** : Qamar Mohd. Khan
Tel: 040-40205831, 9849233624
e-mail : qamar_asima@yahoo.com
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8096511200

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EDITORIAL

World Ozone Day: World Ozone Day is observed throughout the globe on 16th September every year to spread awareness and bring attention to the depletion of the ozone layer. This day is celebrated by organizing seminars, speeches, and national as well as international exhibitions worldwide. In schools, the annual science day is also organized and a lot of awareness is created by the means of media as well. World Ozone Day has been celebrated since 1994 and was established by the United Nations General Assembly. The ozone layer, a fragile shield of gas, protects the Earth from the harmful portion of the rays of the sun, thus helping preserve life on the planet. The chief aim to observe this day as an international occasion is to generate a sense of awareness about the ozone layer, how it is formed and what are the methods to stop its depletion. The day is mainly intended to spread awareness of the depletion of the Ozone Layer and search for solutions to preserve it. Every year a theme is selected and world ozone day is observed. The theme for 2018 was "Keep Cool and Carry on" and the theme for 2019 is "32 years and healing"

Observations of international days throughout the globe are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity. Scientists agree that without the ozone layer, life on Earth will cease to exist. Water and land life would suffer as without the

protection from the ozone layer people, plant life and animals will be destroyed. Even the underwater life will be destroyed with the ozone depletion. The depletion disturbs the equilibrium, there are more summers than winters, the winters also arrive irregularly, and the icebergs start melting. Moreover, the depletion of this layer is a health and nature hazard.

To understand ozone layer, it would be helpful to know the different layers of the atmosphere. The earth's atmosphere is composed of many layers, each playing a significant role. The first layer stretching approximately 10 kilometers upwards from the earth's surface is known as the troposphere. A lot of human activities such as gas balloons, mountain climbing, and small aircraft flights take place within this region. The stratosphere is the next layer above the troposphere stretching approximately 15 to 60 kilometers. The ozone layer sits in the lower region of the stratosphere from about 20-30 kilometers above the surface of the earth. The thickness of the ozone layer is about 3 to 5 mm, but it pretty much fluctuates depending on the season and geography.

Ozone layer is a deep layer in earth's atmosphere that contains ozone which is a naturally occurring molecule containing three oxygen atoms. These ozone molecules form a gaseous layer in the Earth's upper atmosphere called stratosphere. This lower region of stratosphere containing relatively higher

concentration of ozone is called Ozonosphere. The Ozonosphere is found 15-35 km above the surface of the earth. The thickness of the ozone layer differs as per season and geography. The highest concentrations of ozone occur at altitudes from 26 to 28 km in the tropics and from 12 to 20 km towards the poles.

The ozone layer forms a thick layer in stratosphere, encircling the earth that has large amount of ozone in it. The ozone layer protects life on earth from strong ultraviolet radiation that comes from the sun. Ultraviolet rays are harmful rays that can drive up the risk of deadly disorders like skin cancer, cataracts and damage the immune system. Ultraviolet rays are also capable of destroying single cell organism, terrestrial plant life, and aquatic ecosystems.

The ozone layer was discovered in 1913 by the French physicists Charles Fabry and Henri Buisson. The ozone layer has the capability to absorb almost 97-99% of the harmful ultraviolet radiations that sun emit and which can produce long term devastating effects on human beings as well as plants and animals.

Ozone layer gets depleted due to natural causes such as Sun-spots and stratospheric winds but it is negligible. **Man-made and main causes of depletion of ozone layer** are manufactured chemicals, especially manufactured halocarbon refrigerants, solvents, propellants and foam-blowing agents (chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), HCFCs, halons), and referred to as ozone-depleting substances (ODS). Ozone depletion is a major environmental problem because it increases the amount of ultraviolet radiation

that reaches Earth's surface, which increases the rate of skin cancer, eye cataracts, and genetic and immune system damage. Serious effects of ozone depletion are damage to human health, devastation to environment, threat to marine life, effect on animals, impacts certain materials like plastics, wood, fabrics, rubber are massively degraded by too much ultraviolet radiation. Scientists have discovered recently, that the ozone hole has also been affecting climate in the Southern Hemisphere.

The latest scientific assessment of ozone depletion completed in 2018, shows that, as a result of our efforts, parts of the ozone layer have recovered at a rate of 1-3% per decade since 2000. The responsibility to protect the ozone layer and the climate doesn't lie with governments alone. Individuals can do their part by choosing and using their refrigerators, air conditioners and other equipment responsibly. By properly using, servicing and disposing of these appliances, we can minimize energy use, emissions, and save money.

Some methods to save the ozone layer are to desist from using pesticides, discourage using of private, vehicles only for a single person which emit poisonous gasses, utilize environmentally friendly cleaning products and prohibit the use of harmful nitrous oxide.

Vana Premi wishes that we human beings of the entire globe understand the importance of Ozone layer and protect it for the survival of human beings, animals and plants. **QMK**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

Greetings, and best wishes on the occasion of 73rd Independence Day, 15th Aug 2019.

Two news items have made a sad reading as a forester. One is the proposed changes in the Indian Forest Act 1927. Second is the bungling in FERA claims.

Changes in I F Act make penalties enhanced and main stress is on going for Production of Timber for industries. The so called experts and NGOs call these changes retrograde and going back to British Times. Having played to the whims and wishes of rulers and their friends the profession of forestry and its objectives were thrown to the dustbin. Every 5 year plan saw different objectives and targets, and now the cocks have come back to roost. Forest Department and Foresters are blamed. FC Act provisions are relaxed and clearances are made easier at the cost of forest lands .CRZ provisions are "simplified".

In case of FERA there was hue and cry to begin with. Then FD agreed to regularize encroachments. Modern technique, such as of GIS GPS were used to accurately locate extent and place of encroached lands. Committees were formed at district level, under the Chairmanship of Collector. Tribal and other departments' concerned were made members. The Committee considered the claims and accepted or rejected them. The Supreme Court ordered eviction of rejected encroachments.

But after a complaint-PIL- the Court ordered stay and asked the states to file their say. 16 states filed their say. 6 of them said that they had no such claims. 9 states said that they had rejected the claims "illegally". Court has now asked all states to comply with their orders.

FD gets the blame for all this. Committees are not blamed. One feels sad reading this. Credibility of Foresters is gone to dogs. Thanks for your time.

Regards

Dr A. R. Maslekar (9422320548)

Dear Editor,

I just learnt from Sri Suresh Deshpande that you are bringing out September issue of Vana Premi as special Silver Jubilee issue. My heartiest congratulations, to you your entire team and especially Sri Buchiram Reddi, founder of Vana Premi for this illustrious achievement. I sincerely wish that Vana Premi continues to take forward this task and reaches Golden Jubilee year too. Bravo!

V. S. Joshi

AIR POLLUTION BY VIZAG PORT

By
P. S. Rao

1. Chaitanya Sravanthi, a registered non political and nongovernmental organization, filed an application in National Green Tribunal (NGT) with a prayer to grant injunction against Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT) from handling coal cargo whether by way of import or export and also for a direction against the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB/Board) to take action against the Port Trust for carrying illegal operations causing severe air pollution.

2. According to the applicant, Visakhapatnam is the only place in the country where natural harbour is located and it is one of the 100 fastest growing cities in the world. The activities of the Port are leading to high levels of air pollution causing serious health hazards to the residents. The VPT, which was established in the year 1933, is handling bulk cargo including iron ore, coal, urea, sulphur, petroleum products and other raw materials. By virtue of this, people living in the city particularly in Kota Veedhi, Vada Veedhi and Soldierpet areas of the old city are getting exposed to health hazards for several decades. There is a huge concentration of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) and Total Suspended Particulate Matter (TSPM) in the air, causing respiratory problems. Presently the Port consist 23 berths and notified stockyards for storage and handling of about 68 Million Tons of cargo per annum against the consented capacity of 46 Million Tons. Out of 9,65,256 Sq.

Mt of stockyard, only 3,03,818 Sq. Mt is covered under the Mechanical Dust Suppression System (MDSS). The applicant has also raised various legal grounds stating that due to the conduct of the Port Trust people's *right to life* under Article 21 of the Constitution is affected and the Port Trust is not complying with the conditions prescribed in the 'Consent to Establish' granted by the Board and pollution control and effluent treatment systems have not been installed.

3. In its reply, Port Trust stated that it continues to take necessary steps to ensure that handling of coal does not adversely affect the environment. Visakhapatnam Port is one of the 12 major ports in the country handling huge volumes of cargo. The location of the port is ideal because it affords protection from cyclones which regularly strike the East Coast. The port, which was initially having 3 berths, is now having a total of 24 berths and its annual handling of cargo is about 58 Million Tonnes including coal for thermal power plants and raw materials for State owned steel plants such as SAIL and RNIL apart from handling petroleum products and LPG for public sector undertakings. The Port is adopting Quality Management System, Environment Management System and Occupational Health and Safety System besides having a dedicated Environmental Cell.

4. The Port Trust further replied that ambient air quality (AAQ) is being measured at six locations by the APPCB and Andhra University Development Centre (AUDC). The Port has engaged Andhra University to carry out monitoring of AAQ twice a week at three locations. In addition, the Port Trust has also developed green belt by planting 4.3 lakh plants in about 650 acres of land adjacent to Port. The Port Trust further stated that it has proposed to extend dust barrier of 7.50 Meter height with 1.70 KM length from the Sea Horse Junction to Convent Junction.

5. The Port Trust admitted that development cannot be at the cost of environment. Therefore it has taken several measures to ensure that the coal handling does not adversely affect the environment and by virtue of mechanization of coal handling, pollution is considerably reduced. Modernization process was initiated at a cost of Rs. 2,569 crores to control air pollution and APPCB is continuously monitoring the activities and issuing appropriate directions from time to time. Finally, the Port Trust prayed that since it is complying with various conditions and prepared to comply more conditions if any, and pollution levels are coming down, the averments made by the applicant do not deserve any consideration and the application may be dismissed.

6. The 1st respondent – APPCB in its reply, has submitted that the AAQ and RSPM values are exceeding the prescribed standards due to the dust pollution prevailing in Visakhapatnam city because of the rapid urbanization, industrial

growth, activities of the Port apart from increase in vehicular traffic and the Board is regularly reviewing the status of the air pollution. The Board has taken various initiatives like establishment of AAQ Monitoring Stations at various locations in the city and time to time issuing directions to the Port Trust on handling of cargo in an environment friendly manner

7. The APPCB further replied that in 2009 Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has evolved a Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) for 88 highly polluted clusters in the country and Visakhapatnam was identified as one of the Critically Polluted Areas (CPA) with a score of 70.82. Hence a moratorium was imposed in 2010 on establishment and expansion of industries. The Port Trust has worked out a comprehensive plan for taking remedial measures by appointing a Local Committee with Experts and stakeholders for monitoring the implementation of Action Plan under CEPI programme. Frequent visits were made by the committee for monitoring the situation apart from regularly conducting review meetings. Due to stringent measures taken to arrest the pollution, CEPI score has come down from 70.82 to 52.3.

8. Though the main prayer of the applicant is for issuing an order of injunction restraining the 3rd respondent Port Trust from operating coal cargo whether by way of import or export, out of its Port area, the NGT was not inclined to grant such relief considering the fact that the Port is already implementing various pollution control measures and its activities are regularly

monitored by the Board and also keeping in view the concept of 'Sustainable Development' as coal is the major source of fuel, particularly for the thermal power plants and outright ban will severely affect the power generation. However, the NGT directed the Port Trust to scrupulously implement the Environment Management Plan (EMP) with short, medium and long term measures.

9. NGT further observed that as Environmental Clearances (EC) were granted by the MoEF&CC for various activities of the Port Trust and as the APPCB has given 'consent' as well as 'authorization' both under Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and under Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling & Trans boundary Movement) Rules, 2008 and in the absence of any challenge made against any of the ECs or consent, there cannot be any permanent injunction against the Port Trust from its functioning and the Applicant's prayer to direct the Port Trust to stop handling the coal cargo is to be dismissed. However, based on various reports and replies and taking note of the compliance made by the Port Trust, the NGT was of the view that further directions need to be issued to implement various pollution control measures in minimizing the pollution to the extent permissible as stipulated by APPCB.

10. Controlling fugitive emission and making it as cleanly as possible, while handling coal cargo at sea ports, has become increasingly important and it is a challenging task for the port

authorities considering that there is manifold increase in import of coal since there is a huge demand for coal to feed various coal based industries, particularly the thermal power plants. At the same time, the population of Port cities across the country including Visakhapatnam is increasing by leaps and bounds and urbanization is going on at break neck speed. Added to that, the increase in air pollution due to various other anthropogenic activities such as vehicular emissions, rapid industrialization, construction activities etc. is aggravating the situation leading to increased environmental concerns, safety risks, and maintenance costs. Suppressing and controlling the amount of dust in the air is important in many ways particularly to prevent airborne pollution and reducing respiratory health hazards to the people.

11. Coal is generally transported in loose lumps of varying sizes. Sometimes, the coal is pre-screened to a certain size and it also includes dust. Total volume of coal permitted to handle by the Port Trust is almost 30 million tons per annum which is quite high and thus offloading the coal from the cargo ships may go up to thousands of tons per hour. Then when the coal is offloaded and stockpiled it gets dropped from a height and therefore the dust particles easily get separated and quickly spread by crosswinds. Every time a transfer occurs, lumps of coal break into smaller sizes and thus more dust will be produced at this point also. Even once the coal is stock piled, it can still be a problem. Though water is sprinkled to keep it wet, movement of

wind across the stockpile can evaporate the moisture and dust will be lifted and dispersed in the air. Vehicles driving over crushed coal will also raise dust. All of these sources of dust require special consideration in the design of the coal handling system and have different solutions as even minute percentages of dust at these levels become a problem. NGT observed that even though there is declining trend in respect of the values and the parameters, still the parameters are above the permissible limit and therefore further action is needed for the purpose of improving the standard.

12. Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad has prepared an Action Plan for achieving Continuous Environmental Improvement and has taken note of one of the key environmental aspects viz., management of fugitive emissions due to handling of dusty cargo such as coal, iron ore etc. To address the issue of dust emission due to multiple handling of cargo the Port Trust has taken up mechanization of cargo handling wherein the cargo, instead of unloading on the berth, will be unloaded from the ship into a hopper and transported to the stockyard through conveyor belt system. To minimize the dust emission at the transfer point and at stockyards, effective water sprinkling system by providing fog system/sprinklers is provided. Mechanization of coal handling facilities at general cargo berth in outer harbor, development of EQ1 berth for handling steam coal with fully mechanized means in the inner harbor, development of WQ – 6 berth in inner harbor for handling dry bulk cargo, were

commissioned.

13. Based on raw data on the concentration of air pollutants measured in One Town area of Visakhapatnam, a study was made by Dr. S. Balaprasad, Professor, A.U. College of Engineering. It is noted in the study that *"it is interesting to note that the study area is not in proximity to any major industry that handles the material causing the past and present pollution in the area. Hence it may be inferred that the Visakhapatnam Port Trust is the major source of pollution in this area as the VPT is handling bulk cargo such as coal, iron ore and manganese ore etc. The storage, handling (loading, unloading and transporting) of these materials may be responsible for the pollution in the area. Even the major portion of the particulate matter consists of coal, iron and manganese fines. The detailed health history of area along with the disease inventory for the 15 years is essential for proper correlation between the health impacts and pollution levels of the region."* Based on this study certain short term and long term measures were recommended to arrest pollution and prevent damage to health of the people living in the area.

14. NGT observed that clearly there is no single point answer to solve all these problems. NGT noted that though various anthropogenic pressures are responsible for increase in air pollution, the respondent Port, being the main point source of dust emission while handling the coal cargo, shall bear major responsibility and shall continue to strive to give top most priority and utmost attention to this aspect in

the interest of environment, particularly in the interest of health of the people residing in the area. Presently the measures taken by the Port to mitigate dust pollution include:

- a) Monitoring of AAQ at six locations in and around the Port area by Port Trust, Andhra University Development Centre and APPCB.
- b) Continuous development and maintenance of thick Green Belt in and around Port area.
- c) Modernization and mechanization of Cargo Handling Operations in phases.
- d) Reorganizing stack yards
- e) Insulating coal stack yards by providing high rise walls along with dust suppression system

15. The NGT directed the Port Trust to strictly continue the following conditions given by the Board to minimize dust pollution.

- a) The Coal stack yards abutting convent junction are provided with MDSS round the clock covering an area of 4,75,000 m².
- b) Wetting of cargo stacks by sprinkling water with water tankers where Mechanized Water Sprinkling System is not installed.
- c) Wetting of roads through water tankers continuously round the clock to prevent emission of dust during movement of vehicles and in stacking areas through MDSS.
- d) Covering trucks with tarpaulins and manual sweeping of the roads.
- e) The stack heights are limited to 6 mt. as per the directions of the Board.
- f) Plantation programme is being pursued on a continuous basis for the last 2 decades for improvement and addition of Green Belt in and around Port area. So far an area of 630 Acres is

covered at different locations including Port operational areas, residential and other areas in the city.

16. In addition to the above, the following remedial measures are ordered to be taken to contain dust pollution:

- a. Mechanization of iron ore handling facilities in the Inner Harbor and up gradation of iron ore handling facilities at Ore Handling Complex (OHC)
- b. Construction of high-rise wall to contain dust:-
- c. Re-organization of Stack Yards:
- d. Limiting the AAQ standards of PM₁₀ less than 10 µg/m³; NO_x ≤ 80 µg/m³ and NH₃ ≤ 400 µg/m³ outside the factory premises at the periphery.
- e. Construction of Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) to prevent groundwater pollution.
- f. No coal cargo movement right from Berth to the stockpile up to final dispatch by trucks/dumper
- g. Obtaining amendment to EC from MoEF with regard to provision of enclosures around coal stack yards.
- h. Submission of compliance report every month to the APPCB about the progress on installation of Continuous AAQ Monitoring Stations.
- i. The cargo stacking height shall not be more than 10 m from the ground level.
- j. The facility shall handle the coal in the allotted stock yard i.e., East yard only and it shall maintain MDSS/fog canons for entire stock yard.

17. NGT ordered that the following measures for controlling fugitive emissions shall be

carried out continuously:

- a) Fully mechanized handling equipment for loading & unloading operations
- b) Closed conveyor belt with water sprinkling arrangement for suppression of dust while conveying cargo.
- c) Vehicle movement shall be eliminated by implementing mechanical operation.
- d) Automated mechanical water sprinkling shall be provided on roads and at dusty cargo storage areas, for suppression of dust.
- e) Greenbelt of adequate density and width shall be maintained along the boundary of the industry in an area of 4.6 Acres as committed. Green belt shall be established within 3 months.
- f) The facility shall maintain MDSS to control fugitive emissions at all potential sources in entire activity.
- g) Dry fogging/ water sprinkling shall be maintained effectively at all transfer points, cargo handling area and stacking areas.
- h) The facility shall ensure that there shall not be any change in the process technology and scope of working without prior approval from the Board.
- i) Onsite & offsite Disaster Management plan shall be submitted to Board on meeting any eventuality in case of any accident. Mock drills shall be conducted at least twice a year and modifications required if any, shall be incorporated in Disaster Management Plan.

18. The following measures are ordered to be taken in the cargo handling and stacking area:

- a. The ship un-loader for unloading and transfer of material shall be provided with *in situ* water

sprinkling system to avoid dust nuisance.

- b. Mechanical stackers cum re-claimers for staking transfer and conveyors for transfer of materials to stop manual handling and no involvement of mobile machines.
- c. Installation of Wagon loading silo for discharge of coal cargo directly on wagon through automatic mechanized system.
- d. Plain water dust suppression system shall be installed at Mobile Hoppers on the berth. Nozzles with auto sensor shall be provided on the hopper side walls and every receipt and discharge point.
- e. Shall install swiveling sprinklers along the lengths of stockpiles on main water supply pipelines at coal stock yard.
- f. Dry fogging system at transfer points.
- g. Automatic water sprinkling at stock yard.

19. The NGT directed the State Pollution Control Board to submit the quarterly AAQ monitoring reports along with inspection reports by filing in the Registry. NGT made it clear that if it finds any slackness in implementing the plan and neglecting the pollution control measures and if there is no perceptible reduction of dust emission and improvement of the air quality, it will be constrained to invoke "Polluter Pays" principle and even restraining the respondent Port Trust from handling coal cargo. NGT also directed the Port Trust to submit quarterly progress reports by filing in the Registry with a copy to the applicant.

20. With the above directions, the application was disposed by the NGT.

ABUSE OF WATERBODIES IN TELANGANA

By
J. V. Sharma

Hyderabad was once acclaimed as City of Lakes. According to an old estimate nearly 600 lakes existed within the HUDA area as it was then described. Uncontrolled urbanization necessitated formation of Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Area (HMDA) adding vast chunks from adjoining districts to HUDA. Though many water bodies faced extinction on account of development, vestiges of many can yet be seen even today. Water bodies like Masab Tank and Nallakunta are now only in name without even a trace of physical existence. While the lakes within the present Hyderabad District Area suffered the worst, those in the peripheral areas are in no better position and are fast disappearing. Obliteration of lake features; heavy pollution, encroachment and large-scale construction activity are taking huge toll of lakes leading to their disappearance. No day passes without a story of lake abuse in the media. If it is Hussainsagar today, it may be Mir Alam tomorrow and a lake after lake thereafter. It has become so regular that the common man is slowly attuned to take it as routine.

About twenty years ago, I had an opportunity to be involved in a project related to lakes in HUDA limits. About 160 lakes were identified and I was asked to visit 80 lakes and report their present condition to provide necessary material for preparation of an externally aided project for

development of lakes. Hussain Sagar was not a part of the list as it was being dealt separately with a high-sounding name. I visited each of these 80 water bodies, big and small, in the city and its immediate surroundings. It is long time since and the ground situation may have altered a great deal. Many water bodies may have vanished and even the remaining must have been subjected to encroachments and pollution, given the growth of the city and the pressure on the land. Many of the encroachments can be seen even with a naked eye without needing a survey.

Though we happened to study as early as in V & VI classes in Urdu medium during the Nizam era that agricultural practice in Telangana was mostly rain-fed farming and depended on lakes, village tanks, kuntas and irrigation wells, we did not then know the inter connectivity between them. The system comprised of all the water bodies in a chain connected one to the other over the entire river basins in Telangana area. Excess water flowed by gravitation from one water body to the other. The outlet channel became the inlet channel of the lower water body. The system at that time was not only significant to maintain groundwater levels but also vital to rural economy. I could understand the efficacy and importance of the system when I visited the water bodies and saw it for myself. I went round each water body and recorded my

instant observations broadly on following aspects:

- a) The bund, its condition, special features and repairs, improvements etc required, if any.
- b) Spillway (*Mathadi*) /Weir and its condition.
- c) Sluices and their condition.
- d) General storage condition of water and whether de-silting is needed.
- e) Greenery in and around the water body.
- f) Condition of inlet and outlet channels.
- g) Visiting birds.
- h) Whether full tank level (FTL) is marked.
- i) Visible encroachments, if noticeable.
- j) Rough idea of pollution.
- k) Special features and information that was readily available.

Though I was not asked to furnish specific recommendations, I ventured to suggest the following measures in respect of each lake on the basis of my observations and ocular estimation of ground situation:

1. Area of the water body should be surveyed and demarcated on the ground with prominent boundary stones.
2. Full Tank Level (FTL) should be demarcated on the ground.
3. Location of the bund, weir, sluices and inlet & outlet channels should be clearly shown on the map.
4. Strengthening and repairs to various components of the lake.
5. Removal of encroachments over lake area.
6. Plugging of sewage water coming into the lake.
7. Construction of sewerage drain all along the

outermost periphery of the lake to carry the incoming sewage for treatment. Erection of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) of appropriate size and to let the treated water into lake.

8. Inlet and Outlet channels are choked virtually killing the lake at many places by illegal occupations. These are the life lines sustaining the very system of lake connectivity. Any obstruction in the life line is bound to affect the very health of the whole system. All incoming and outgoing channels should be cleared and restored to their original shape, size and status.

9. Some of the lakes contain special features and are of historical value. Special care should be taken to preserve and maintain them.

I lost track of the events thereafter and I am given to understand that some development works had indeed were carried out to some of the lakes. It is pertinent to mention that the waterbodies of HUDA area also are a part of larger irrigation system and these waterbodies supported the farming activity until the 'development' invaded the area. Observations recorded by me and the suggestions made by me hold good for the entire chain system of lakes in Telangana. It is spread over two catchment areas of Godavari and Krishna rivers and the dividing line passes through HMDA area.

The Hon Chief Minister of the State was quick to appreciate the merits of the old system in the light of general depletion of water sources. Irrigation wells which were the mainstay for micro irrigation farming went dry. Village draw

wells on which the rural population depends for drinking water and domestic needs were also going dry. Village tanks, which besides providing water for farming, were also catering drinking water to cattle and serving to charge the wells in the village, which were in bad condition. He did not lose much of time and grounded "Mission Kakatiya" as Flagship programme of his government in the very first year of his tenure. The objective of the programme was to restore the old water bodies to their original glory and to improve the water availability.

It was a pleasant surprise when I read the catalogue of works envisaged under the project. Main items were almost the same which I thought were necessary and suggested more than a decade and half ago. It has however to be said that Mission Kakatiya was a great initiative to recharge the old time-tested water management system which was consigned to disuse due to neglect and lack of proper appreciation. Situation on the ground changed vastly during the past 3-4 decades in respect of land use and a relook was necessary before grounding the project. Entire Telangana was of rural in complexion and even the capital city Hyderabad had the rustic flavour. Even cities like Warangal were glorified villages at best but for the government establishments and their buildings. Paradigm changes took place since then and close to 40% of countryside had since turned urban. Needless to say that there is phenomenal increase in population and consequential impact on every conceivable resource.

A need has also arisen to view these changes from environmental point of view. Unfortunately this aspect was ignored or neglected in every aspect of developmental activity, notwithstanding the verbal support extended by the State. It is an accepted fact that water is going to be the most critical commodity in future and we can neglect water and environment only at our peril. Looking in retrospect, there is reason to feel that the Government, in its haste to go ahead with Mission Kakatiya, did not have a serious look at the challenges and their details to find solutions.

General feeling among the observers is that the programme was implemented more as a ritual with emphasis on targets rather than the purpose and proper supervision & control. It is treated as de-silting work where the quantum of earth work counts to determine the costs. Huge amounts spent can be considered purposeful only when the objective of the programme is fulfilled. It is widely reported in the media that neither the village wells are charged nor the groundwater levels improved even after three rainy seasons. Instead, it is reported that the groundwater levels have further gone down by another 20 metres. This situation raises serious doubts about the programme and its implementation.

There are therefore aspects which need immediate attention for atleast the limited purpose of restoring the water bodies. It may not be easy to reclaim the lost ground fully.

People who tampered with the system will not allow restoration. Though there is enough provision in revenue laws to identify violations and take action, the aspect was ignored till now. It may therefore be necessary to make a new law to facilitate the restoration work, which may be called "Telangana State Small and Medium Irrigation & Drinking Water Sources (Consolidation, Protection, Improvement and Management) Act" to override all existing laws. Salient features can be:

1. All water bodies are of public interest and this fact will prevail over all other interests, rights, privileges, and easements of individuals or group of persons or institutions.
2. For their identification, the oldest revenue maps (*Sar naksha*) and records should be the basis and their extent determined accordingly.
3. The water bodies, their inlets and outlets together with structures made for them are to be declared sacrosanct. No individual claim can prevail over them.
4. Full tank levels and buffers should be determined scientifically by engineers on the basis of oldest record and so also for the inlets and outlets to an extent of at least 15 feet on

either side. All these are to be declared as part of water body and declared unalienable State property.

5. These prohibited areas, even if under occupation, shall be deemed *ipso facto* illegal and are subject to summary eviction.
6. No court can take cognizance of any act by authorities done in pursuance of the act. Barring Court to entertain suits.
7. Fast track Tribunals to go into disputes.
8. Voluntary surrender of encroachments to be permitted stipulating the time.
9. Any violation detected will attract severe action considering it as offence against the society. Stringent penal provision of compulsory jail term can deter future encroachments.
10. Other contingent issues.

Political will of the government so translated into a workable instrument of legislation, is necessary to safeguard public interest. This is an initiative which stabilizes and strengthens village economy. Foreshores of reclaimed submergence areas and buffers can be planted with suitable timber species which will give small wood and fuel to the poor.

***“MAY THE JOY THAT YOU HAVE
SPREAD IN THE PAST COME BACK
TO YOU ON THIS DAY. WISHING
YOU A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY!”***

WHAT WE NEVER BOTHERED ABOUT!

By

Raghotham Rao Desai

There are a few instances of diseases that have laid waste huge tracts of forests throughout the world: caused mainly by pathogens and pests, these diseases being deadly and capable of wiping out entire forests and plantations, causing immense economic as well as ecological loss.

Meanwhile, forest pathologists and entomologists are grappling with new maladies that are surfacing almost every year. But with meager resources and just a few experts working on the issue, things are heading virtually towards a cul-de-sac—a street that is closed at one end.

Moreover, no assessment has been made so far to quantify the devastation: while large chunks of forest fall prey to maladies, it is also an opportunity for some politicians and timber merchants to cash in on it. The forestry sector today is ailing due to its misplaced priorities, resource crunch and mismanagement, lacking scientific approach. The scientific community involved with forest diseases is today a dispirited lot. With only a few stalwarts left in the field, forest disease is a neglected area of search. Moreover, bureaucracy is increasingly taking over the scientific institutions and scientists and most of these institutes are marginalized groups. To top it all, there are no institutions dedicated to forest diseases, although the Ministry of Environment and Forests is the facilitator for such a research, it has lackadaisical approach. A glaring example about it was Sal-borer-

epidemic in Madhya Pradesh some 20 years ago when, while forest bureaucracy slept, the beetles merrily continued to wipe-out entire tracts of precious Sal-forests. Eventually, with no solution in sight, thousands of valuable trees were hacked. There were also allegations that the Sal-tragedy was a chance for the timber mafia in the State to cash-in-on timber, through the legal loopholes, also perhaps with the nexus of politicians.

Today, things haven't changed even one bit: The Forest Departments and Research Institutes have yet to formulate Contingency Plans to face any assault of similar dimensions. **Forest diseases**, one must remember, **are elusive**, and though experts claim that they know quite a lot about them, they still continue to be the aspects of maladies that are not completely understood. The experts may know about all the important pests and insects — their life-cycles and their developments, etc., — but there are quite a few diseases which remain like an enigma. Due to microclimatic changes, new aspects of the same disease too are coming across every year — diseases too having in fact increased many-folds. Also, **there is no study to estimate the economic and ecological damage caused by these pests and pathogens** — the things that cause diseases.

Varying with different geographical regions and climatic conditions, **pathogens and pests are essentially responsible for the tree-**

maladies and their mortality. When the pristine, natural and mixed forests existed, forest diseases acted as a natural control-measure to check the proliferation of a particular species that could threaten the balance on the ecosystem — perhaps that was why forest diseases paled into insignificance in the past. But today, with shrinking forests and increasing monoculture plantations, any outbreak of disease takes on a virulent form.

To top this, it is observed that **changed climate and forest patterns & environmental pollution had given rise to newer forms of forest diseases.** While trees are forced to take an additional load to human-induced environmental changes, the introduction of monoculture appears to have substantially increased the problems. Whatever little we know about forest diseases today, comes

primarily through mycology: the study of forest pathogens. Mycology explains that **the prime pathological regions for forest diseases are fungi, bacteria and viruses** — among which fungi play a major role, while the other two happen to be relatively insignificant.

Most of these pathogens stay close to a tree, waiting for a chance to infiltrate: their entry-points being small openings or wounds in the tree. However, invasion is not always easy, since **like human beings, trees also have antibodies that fight anything alien.** In case of invasion through the trunk of a tree, the sapwood acts as a shield and secretes enzymes to fight pathogens. But when attacked and conquered, there are tell-tale signs in the form of knotty-growths that are extensions of fungi in the tree.

NOTICE

The 93rd General Body Meeting and Tri-decennial Celebrations of the Association of Retired Forest Officers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh will be held on 29th September, 2019 at Botanical Garden, Kondapur, Hyderabad from 11:00 AM onwards. All the Members are requested to attend the meeting along with their Spouses. Lunch follows after the meeting.

Hosts for the Lunch:

1. Dr. Thirupathiah I. F.S (Retd), 2. Sri S. M. Selvaraj, I. F. S(Retd) and 3. Dr. M. Bullaiah, I. F. S. (Retd.)

Transport will be arranged from Aranya Bhavan to Botanical Gardens and back by Bus on 29.9.2019 at 9.30 AM.

Sri A. V. Govindarajulu donated Rs.10,000/- for meeting the expenditure for arrangements of 30th Year Celebration of the Association at Botanical Gardens, Kondapur, Hyderabad.

SECRETARY

ADMINISTRATION OF FORESTS IN HYDERABAD STATE

By

K.B.R. Reddy

INTRODUCTION: Before dwelling upon the subject, it would be interesting to know the historical background of the state. Mir Qumruddin Khan of the *Asafjahi* dynasty is the founder of Hyderabad state. From Viceroy of Mughal Empire of the south zone, he became the King of the South Zone. He assumed the title of Nizam-ul-Mulk (Order of the Realm) and became the first ruler of the State of Hyderabad Deccan, declaring himself as the *Nizam-ul-Mulk Asafjah Awwal* or the first Nizam in 1724. The *Asafjahi* dynasty ruled the state of Hyderabad in succession by seven Kings for about 224 years from 1724 to 1948 and the Seventh Nizam was Sir Mir Osman Ali Khan. The state of Hyderabad was known as Mumalikath-e-Asafia or HEH the Nizam's Dominion till 1948. Sir Mir Osman Ali Khan was made *Raj Pramukh* of Hyderabad state and he held the office between 1950 and 1956. The State comprises of three linguistic zones, namely Karnataka, Marathwada and Telangana. In Karnataka there were three districts viz. Bidar, Raichur and Gulbarga; In Marathwada, the districts were Aurangabad, Bhir, Nanded and Osmanabad; Telangana had nine districts viz. Atraf Balda (which later became Ranga Reddy), Warangal, Medak, Nalgonda, Khammam, Adilabad, Nizamabad, Mahbubnagar and Karimnagar. Each district was under the control of *Awwal Talukdar* (District Collector). The district administration was under the supervision of four *Subedars* (Commissioners) at Warangal, Gulshanabad (Medak), Aurangabad and

Gulbarga. The *Suba* system was abolished and *Majlis Maalguzari* (Board of Revenue) came into existence. The Board of Revenue was the Chief Advisor to the Government.

FORESTS: The forests of the state are said to be remains of Dandakaranya. They were unequally distributed, mostly confined to Godavari Valley and Krishna Basin in Telangana Region while forests were sparse and scattered in Marathwada and Karnatak region. The area covered by the forest was 12, 200 Sq. Miles constituting about 15 % of the geographical area of the state. Mixed teak type of forests are seen in the Godavari Valley with teak as dominant species along with its associates. In the forests of Krishna Basin, species like *Hardwickia binata* (Eppa), *Anogeisus latifolia* (Tirman) etc. are seen. In the western side of the state, mostly in Aurangabad and Gulbarga and other areas, hardy species like *Santalum album* (Sandal), *Tirman*, *Neem* etc. are found.

ORGANIZATION AND METHODS: Forest Department was not independent; it was a part of the Revenue department. Forest Administration was run through Circular Orders issued by the Revenue department called *Gasthyath Maalguzari* (Circulars of Revenue Department) which were invariably published in the *Jarida Elamia* (Official Gazette). The Official Language of the state during the early days of Nizam was Persian which had given way to Urdu and Urdu remained as the Official language of Nizam's Government since 1887 all through

and continued for a few years even after the state's merger with the Union of India.

Thanks to the administrative reforms introduced by Sir Salar Jung I and Sir Salar Jung II, the then Prime Ministers of Nizam's Government, New Forest Department emerged under the stewardship or a Head, called "Superintendent of Forests". Even after bifurcation of the department, the forests were under dual control of Revenue and Forest Departments.

During the dual control of the Forest department, *Irsali choubina* (Timber of reserved species) was managed by the Forest Department while Ghairi timber (Timber of miscellaneous species) was controlled by the Revenue department. 'Choubina Irsali' is defined as timber derived from such trees which are, or which will be protected by Government. *Sagwan* (Teak), *Bijasal*, *Sandal*, *Satin*, *Shisham* (Rosewood) are in Class I *Irsali* trees, while *Nallamaddi*, *Tirman*, *Eppa*, *Sundra*, *Abnus* (Tuniki), *Bandaru*, *Chennangi*, *Kodisha*, Bamboo were included in Class II of *Irsali* trees.

The Forest Department was headed by the following and they were designated as the Inspector General of Forests:

1. Byramji Maneckji, 2. Burjori Maneckji, 3. Palmer, 4. R.S. Dobbs, 5. Capt. Catenia, 6. J. Ballantine, 7. W. F. Bisco, 8. Sohrabji Byramji Jamshedji, 9. E.A. Patridge, 10. F. A. Lodge, (who was also Principal of SFRC), 11. Nawb Hamid Yar Jung, 12. Mirza Mohammad Ali Baig, 13. S.A.Vahid, 14. Dr. Ghulam Mohiuddin

(The designation was then changed to Director, Forest Department). After the assumption of office by Sri Rai Daulat Rai, the designation was

called the Chief Conservator of Forests. Whatever be the designation, the Head of the Department in common parlance was known as *Nazim Janglath* and his office as *Nizamath*.

FOREST ACTS: In place of *Gashtiyath Malguzari*, it was considered necessary to have an independent law under the title, the Forest Act, for the protection and management of forests.

1. The first attempt towards this end was made in 1309 Fasli (1899). *Qanoon Sehara-e- Mumalik Mahrusa Sarkar-e- Aali* 1309 F. (No 11 Of 1309 Fasli) was enacted and it was amended on the suggestion of *Nazim Janglath* Mr. Sohrabji.

2. The second Act is more exhaustive with its short title: *Qanoon Sahara-e-Mumalik Mahrusa Sarkar-e-Aali*, 1326 (No. 1 of 1326 F.) and it was amended by Act No 1 of 1345 F. (1935) This Act came into effect on 1st *Ardibeheshth* 1326 F. (6.10.1916). Translation of this Act in English is available.

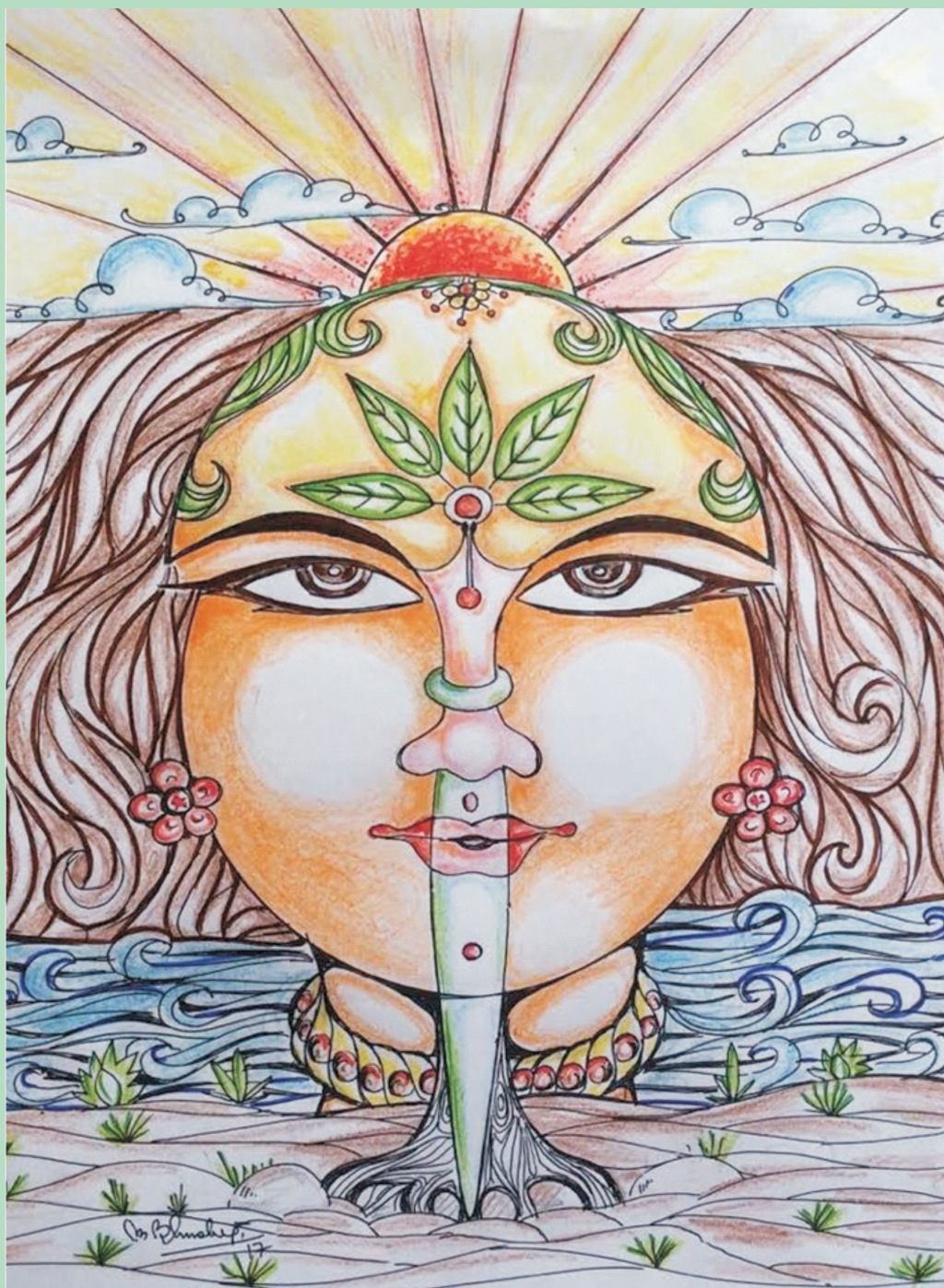
3. The last and the latest Act has the short title: *Qanoon Sehara* 1355 F. (Act No.2 of 1355F). It was published in *Jarida Elamia* No. 77 dated 28 *Bahman* 1355 F.

(30.12.1945) The Act was amended in 1356 F. English Translation of the Act is available.

4. The Hyderabad *Abnus* Leaves Act, 1956

SUBSIDIARY (STATUTORY) RULES: The Acts enabled the Government to make Rules. In exercise of the powers, the Government made the following Rules under Act 1326 F. which are saved the by the repealing Act of 1355 F.

1. *Qawaid Daraamad Baraamad Paideawar Sahara* 1333 F. (Forest Produce Transit Rules, 1333 F.)



Drawing by Sri Nagabhushanam Dasari, IFS (Retd)



Please see Page No : 27



2. *Qawaid Bandobasth Sahara*, 1347 F. (Forest Settlement Rules, 1347 F)

3. *Qawaid Inam* 1347 F. (Reward Rules 1347 F.)

4. *Qawaid Atish Zadgi* (Fire Rules)

The following Rules are made under the Forest Act, 1355 F.

1. *Qawaid Tahud Sahara* (Forest Contract Rules)

2. Hyderabad Enlistment of Forest Contractors Rules, 1954 (Published in the Hyderabad Government Gazette dated 1.9.1955)

3. *Qawaid Tahkhikhat Jaraem Sahara* (Rules relating to investigation into forest Offences.)

4. The Hyderabad Grazing Rules 1956 (Vide Govt. R.R. Notification No. 148 dated 24.9.1956)

Besides the above rules made under the Forest Act, *Qawaid Shikar* of 1354 F. (Game Regulations of 1354 F.) were promulgated by a *Firman* (Sovereign Will) of *Aala Hazrath Bandgan Aali* (His Exalted Highness, the King) (published in the Government Gazette dated 28 *Mehr* 1354 F. (3.9.1945). The Regulations provided for Special Preserves which mean areas in which only Royal Families are exclusively entitled to shoot. They are called *Shikargah* areas. Shooting Blocks are created every year and permits are granted to shoot game. Dignitaries like Secretaries to Government, High Court Judges, *Subedars*, First *Taluqdars* etc during their tours are permitted to shoot one tiger. There is a provision to declare certain areas as sanctuaries. But there appears to be no sanctuary created under the Rule. The Regulations have been drastically changed subsequently. But, so long they were in force, "*Shikar* was considered a great sport. There was a short *shikar* season in December for duck shooting and long one between April and May.

Shikar license was issued and the bag limit was fixed."

WORKING OF FORESTS: Prior to 1938, all exploitation of forests was carried out under working schemes prepared for individual blocks. For the first time Working Plan was prepared for the composite Nirmal division in 1938. Thereafter regular Working Plans were prepared for each division. The period of Working Plan was 10 years and thereafter the Plan was revised. Preparing Working Plan was entrusted to a senior and experienced officer and he is called Working Plan Officer who works under the guidance of a Conservator of Forests. The forests were worked under the following Silvicultural Systems:

- (I). Clear Felling;
- (II). Simple Coppice;
- (III). Coppice with Reserves; and
- (IV). Selection cum Improvement.

During World War II most of the forests under systematic working had to be overworked in order to cope with the War Supplies.

HIERARCHY: The head of the Forest department was the *Nazim Janglath* (Chief Conservator of Forests) assisted by three *Naib-Nazims* (Conservators of Forests) in charge of two territorial circles, East and West; and one Conservator exclusively in charge of Working Plans Circle. An officer in charge of a division was called *Madadgar Naib Nazim* or simply *Madadgar*. A division is divided into a few ranges and each range was held by an *Amin Janglath* or Forest Range Officer. (*Ameen* means a custodian or Trustee). Among the Range Assistants, there were Deputy Range

Officer (*Naib Ameen*) and *Sehradard* (Forester) placed in charge of a *Halqa* (Section). Each Section is comprised of a few *Chowkees* (Beats). A forest Beat-in-charge was called a *Chowkidar* (Forest Guard).

FOREST SERVICE RULES: There were separate rules made in 1348 F. for recruitment of officers to gazetted service *Naib Madadgar* (Asst. Conservator). These rules are published in the *Jarida* dated 15 Bahan 1348 F. Selection of candidates is by a Board keeping the Rules of Recruitment in view. Minimum qualification was a degree in science or a degree in agriculture. Selected candidates were required to undergo a two year course in forestry at the Indian Forest College, Dehra Dun.

FOREST EDUCATION FOR SUBORDINATE SERVICES AND INSTITUTIONS OF TRAINING:

Rules relating to recruitment of candidates for admission to Forest School were made on 7 Thir 1344 F (13.5.1935). For imparting training in forestry to the Dy. R. Os, Foresters and Forest Guards, a Forest School was established at Mahbubabad. Basic qualification of *Aala Sanvi* (Matriculation) was prescribed for Dy. R.O. and Forester. For Forest Guard it was considered adequate if he could write and read Urdu and should be able to follow the training course. Facility was extended to employees of *Jagir*. These rules were published in the *Jarida* dated 28 Thir 1344 F. (3.6.1935)

Forest School was shifted to Yellandu under a notification of the Government dated 16 Azur 1355 F. (3.6.1935). Under the rules on the subject, for the Forest School at Yellandu, there was a Board of Control under the chairmanship of

Nazim or his nominee and the Superintendent of the school, *madadgars* of Khammam and Warangal etc. as members. The rules prescribed the syllabus on protection and management of natural resource, forest protection, forest law, forest utilization survey, mensuration etc for the forester's course. Duration of training was one year for forester's course. Similar provisions are made for the forest Guards course.

DEPARTMENTAL EXAMS. There were Rules dated 8 Azur 1340 F.(13.10.1930) requiring officers of the rank of Asst. Conservators, Range Officers and Dy. Range Officers to pass the departmental exams. If the officers fail to get through the exams, they were liable to lose their annual increments in their pay. Exemptions were granted to those whose age was more than 40 years. The syllabus was tough and it was five day exam. covering subjects on forestry, circular orders of government, criminal law, law of evidence, proficiency in Urdu, translation from Urdu to Telugu, Marathi or Kannada and Horse riding on the last day.

UNIFORM RULES: The rules under the name '*Qawaid Uniform*' were issued by order dated 27 Bahman 1355 F. (30.12.1945) published in the *Jarida* dated 12 *Isfandar* 1355 F. (14.1.1946). The executive and protective staff including *Ameen* (Range Officer), *Naib Ameen* (Dy. Range Officer), *Seharedar* (Forester) and *Chowkidar* (Forest Guard) were required to wear the prescribed uniform while they were on duty. Nepali Knife (*Khukri*) was part of the uniform for Range Officer and Dy. Range Officer. Similar weapon is prescribed for Forester. In the case

of forest Guard, the prescribed weapon was a light weight axe or a Nepali knife. There was departmental supply of uniforms including weapon to the Foresters and Forest Guards, while Range Officers were required to equip themselves at their own cost. It was the duty of the DFO to ensure proper upkeep of the prescribed uniform and proper turn out.

CONCLUSION: With the Police Action (Operation Polo) in 1948 against the princely state of Nizam, the paramountcy of the Asafjahi dynasty came to an end. Gen. J.N. Choudhary took over the reins of administration of Hyderabad state as Military Governor and ran the administration until Dec. 1949. During the military regime, an important reformative law was enacted on Abolition of *Jagirs*. Under the law viz The Hyderabad Abolition of *Jagirs* Regulation 1358 F. (1949), all the *Jagirs* (including *Samasthans*, *Paigahs*, *Agraharams*, etc) were abolished. *Jagir* is a crown grant and the *Jagirdar* administered all the villages under the *Jagir* including its forests. In addition to *Jagirs*, there were villages under *Sarf-e-khas* (specially meant for Nizam's private expenses). These villages were merged in the *Diwani* (Government) under the *Sarf-e-Khas* (Merger) Regulation 1358 Fasli (Vide Hyd. Govt. Gaz. No 38 dated 20.06.1949). With the abolition of *jagirs* and merger of *Sarf-e-Khas* lands, the state administration in general and forest administration in particular came under the control of the State Government.

The huge task assigned to the State Forest Department was to take over and manage the *ex-jagir* forests as well as *Sarf-e-Khas* lands. All the *ex-jagir* and *Sarf-e-Khas* forests were

surveyed and as a first step were declared as Protected Forests. Eventually these forests were notified as reserved forests. This was a herculean task accomplished by the Hyderabad Forest Department. An area of 2,272 Sq. Miles was added to the state forests. Another task was the absorption of forest employees of *Jagir* into the state Forest Department. This was also skillfully completed. While *Jagir* and *Sarf-e-Khas* forests increased the extent of area to the state forests, the department lost some land when the government ordered for deforestation of land to a width of 2 furlongs all along the roads, as a measure of reducing the area of hide-outs for the outlawed rebels of the Telangana Armed Struggle (Telangana *Sayudha Poratam*) sponsored by the Communist Party of India. This order came to be issued by the Government on the recommendation of Capt. Nanjappa, Special Commissioner for Telangana at Warangal.

After the end of the Military regime, M.K. Vellodi, a senior civil servant, was appointed as the Chief Minister on 26.01.1950 by the Government of India. He carried out the government business from In 1952, general elections were held and Burgula Ramakrishna Rao became the Chief Minister, while Konda Venkata Ranga Reddy was the Forest Minister. The Forest Minister was an Urdu person and he passed orders in Urdu only; but the language was decisive and strong. (The author is also an Urdu person)

After separation of the forest department from the revenue department, the relations between the two departments were cordial.

There were independent heads of the forest department, only some of them were professionally qualified. Mr. F.A. Lodge assessed the situation and status of the forests as existed then in the state of Hyderabad and recorded his observation and advisory on the need for a separate forest organization in the following words: :

"Where a state, which has for many reasons encouraged the destruction of forests in order to open out the country and has allowed the inhabitants to help themselves freely to forest

produce from the remaining forests, realizes that the time has come when it must conserve its forests for the good of the country it becomes necessary to establish an agency to look after them, to prevent further destruction, to regulate fellings and removals and to maintain and improve their productiveness. This agency is called the Forest Department."

That was the story of the past; but the situation at present is worse. Some miracle only should save the forests. (keesarabuchiram@gmail.com)

AGENDA FOR 93RD GENERAL BODY MEETING AND TRI-DECENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

29th September 2019.

Botanical Gardens, Kondapur, Hyderabad.

1. Welcome Address By Secretary.
2. *Shraddanjali* by Senior Member Sri K.B.R. Reddy.
3. Action taken report by Secretary.
4. Felicitations to:
 - a. Chief Guest and Other Guests.
 - b. Veterans
 - c. Hosts and Donors of Tri-decennial celebrations.
5. Brief Talk by members on Tri-decennial celebrations.
6. Address by Guests.
7. Address by Chief - Guest.
8. Any other item with the permission of the Chair.
9. Address by President of the Association of Forest officers.
10. Vote of Thanks by Jt. Secretary.
11. Disburse for Lunch

Secretary

Note: The above Agenda is tentative.

K.V.S. BABU MEMORIAL GOLD MEDAL AWARDS TO FOREST OFFICERS AT TELANGANA STATE FOREST ACADEMY FOR THE YEAR 2019 HELD ON 15TH AUGUST, 2019

By

A. V. Govindarajulu

Smt. Phani Prasunamba had instituted a fund for awarding Gold Medal and Cash in memory of her late husband K.V.S. Babu, IFS, (Rtd) formerly Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests of Andhra Pradesh and ex-officio Secretary to Government. The awards are meant to the best workers in the cause of forestry. The function was organized by Sri Munindra, IFS, PCCF (WL) and Dr. Tirupathaiah, IFS, (Rtd), formerly Director of the Academy. The Chief Guest was Sri P.K. Jha, IFS, formerly Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests of Telangana and Smt. R. Sobha, IFS, Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF of Telangana presided. Other guest of honor were Smt. Phani Prasunambha, S.K. Das, IFS, (Rtd), & Smt S.K. Das, Sri Mallikarjuna Rao, IFS, (Rtd), Sri P. Raghuv eer, IFS, Sri Prudhvi Raju, IFS., Sri Lokesh Jayaswal, IFS, Sri Swargam Srinivas, IFS.,

The awards presentation was held on 15th August in the Auditorium of the Telangana State Forest Academy at Dulapally. Smt. Ch. Anita, FRO of Kaghaznagar, Telangana and I. Suresh Kumar, DRO of Nellore, Andhra Pradesh was the winners of Gold Medal. This year, 15th August 2019 is not only the 73rd Independence Day of India. It also coincided with the Rakshabandhan day and 88th Birth Anniversary of the late K.V.S. Babu. The audience comprised of 81 Ranger trainees from Maharastra, Madhya Pradesh, Kashmir, Nagaland, etc: 38 Forest Beat Officer trainees and 40 students from Forest College and Research Institute, besides relatives of the awardees.

The memorial Lecture on **Forest Protection in Present Scenario** was delivered by Sri P.K. Jha. He traced the history of interaction of forest and people dwelling in forest areas vis-à-vis policies

of Governments related to forest lands. He made a point that, the source of problems to forests is lying outside forests and solutions also have to be found outside the forest areas. Forest Department and Forest staff are not against the development, but they are only bound by duty to protect forests. Emphasis was laid on the need to bring awareness among various sections of people.

Smt. R. Sobha called upon all forest ranger and beat officer trainees to take a cue and strive to get one day such recognition and appropriate award. Sri P. Raghuv eer, Sri Prudhvi Raju, Sri S.K. Das, Sri Buchiram Reddy, Sri Mallikarjuna Rao shared their association with the late Sri K.V.S. Babu with other guests in the audience were Smt. P. Srilakshmi, DCF, Sri A.V. Govindarajulu, DCF(Rtd), Sri B.S.N. Prasad, Retired Superintendent, etc.

Smt. Phani Prasunamba presented the gold medal to awardees Smt. Ch. Anita, FRO & Sri I. Suresh Kumar, DRO. Sri Srinivas Reddy represented A.P. Forest Department. Sri Munindra thanked Smt. Phani Prasunambha for entrusting the responsibility of coordinating the ceremony to TSFA/CEFNARM.

At the commencement of the proceedings, the photograph of the late K.V.S. Babu was garlanded and the lamp was lit in commemoration of the occasion. Sri Munindra welcomed the guests while Sri Anjaneyulu, Deputy Director read out the life history and achievements of the late K.V.S. Babu. Sri B.V. Rao Compeered the proceedings

PLEASE SEE PAGE NO : 22 FOR PHOTOS

BLOWING THE TRUMPET OF S.F.R.C.

By

V.V. Hari prasad

Afforestation refers to the process of converting a non-forest land into a forest. Afforestation is highly important to maintain the biodiversity. A recent study In "**Nature**" By **Simon Lewis** who was listed as one of the world's most highly cited scientists in 2014 in the Environment/Ecology field and colleagues provides insights into what works well with regard to green cover. Locking up the carbon from the atmosphere in trees, ground vegetation and soils is one of the safest ways of removing carbon. The green cover increase provides many other benefits, such as improving water quality, storing water in wet lands, preventing soil erosion, protecting biodiversity and potentially providing new jobs. ***It was estimated that allowing the land to be converted into forests naturally will sequester 42 times the carbon compared to land converted to plantation or six times converted to Agro forestry.*** Such being the scenario the role to be played by a "forester" right from the cadre of a Forest beat officer to that of Head of forest department is very vital in the context of climate change in India.

It is well known that keeping this in view **Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA)** was constituted for training senior forest officers who constitute the back bone of forestry sector in India. Coming to the aspect of training to Forest range officers or Forest apprentices Madras Forest College was established way back in the year 1911 which was later converted to **Southern Forest Rangers College** in the year

1955 in the month of July

Those who were trained as "**Indian Forest service**" officers have been playing an important role in shaping the forestry sector in India and also in imparting training to the trainees of SFRC Coimbatore and other forest colleges and many of those who were trained in SFRC and other colleges contributed their share of great service in the context of protection of environment and bio diversity and also exhibited their expertise in other fields too for the last about more than 5 decades which deserves to be focused upon.

This article focuses by and large on those who initially underwent training in SFRC Coimbatore, those who contributed a lot along with their fraternity in enhancing the prestige of forest department by virtue of their commitment, perseverance, and knowledge, who left a mark in the department by their contribution not only in connection with the forests, wild life and environment but also in other fields and also some of whom who are still going strong in that direction in spite of their advanced age in the evenings of their respective lives.

This makes me to recollect the day when I have attended the farewell party of one of the **former Heads of forest department of integrated A.P** which was arranged by his batch mates of SFRC Coimbatore where the retired HOFF was all praise for the initial training that he was imparted with as a forest

apprentice at SFRC by asserting that his training was quite useful to him in molding him to be competent enough even to teach some of his batch mates certain topics relating to forestry at **Indian Forest Academy**, Dehradun.

SFRC Coimbatore imparted initial training in shaping the careers of two Heads of the forest department of Integrated Andhra Pradesh who subsequently were selected as IFS officers after initially receiving the training as forest apprentices at SFRC Coimbatore and who most probably having been inspired by the IFS officers who taught them at SFRC Coimbatore could succeed in emulating them and also in scaling even better heights later.

SFRC Coimbatore imparted training to number of trainees comprising of individuals most of whom proved to be worth the mettle and whose knowledge, erudition and contribution par excellence to the society have been recognized by different governments at the centre and state level all over the country.

This being the scenario to begin with I would be narrating about the accomplishments of the octogenarians who retired from the forest department, the only constraint for covering all of them being the collection of relevant data base because of which some names would have been left by me for want of information though I left no stone unturned in collecting the maximum possible relevant information.

At the very outset it is quite interesting to know about **Dr. Raghottam Rao Desai IFS**, Retd.(54-56 batch of SFRC) who is proficient in Urdu, English, Kannada and Telugu languages, who basically hailed from former **"State of**

Hyderabad" and who was recently given **State literary award by Karnataka Urdu academy** for a book written by him in Urdu by name **"Asateeri adab mein science-ke muzmiraat"**(Concealed scientific thoughts in mythological literature).He has two post graduate degrees in Urdu and commerce and Ph. D In Urdu. He served as a member of Karnataka Urdu academy. He compiled a voluminous trilingual dictionary (Urdu-English-Kannada) and the magnum opus was published in 2014 by the National council of promotion of Urdu language under the Ministry of HRD Govt. of India.

He was entrusted with the responsibility of translation of Persian/Urdu manuscript **"Tareeq-e-pharista"**by **Qasim Farishta the Adil-Shahi historian** (Bijapur) into Kannada which was published with state finances in the year 2014. He has received a recognition in 2009 from **International Biographical Centre, Cambridge (U.K)** as one of the leading scientists of the world. He had also visited United Kingdom synchronizing the 400 death anniversary of William Shakespeare and later a few European countries at the behest of Govt. of India as part of cultural exchange. He has been the Chief Editor of **VANAVIKAS** a Quarterly magazine of Retired Forest Officers' Association of Karnataka and he contributes articles regularly to the forest magazines **"VANA PREMI"** and **"MY FOREST"**

Sri K. Buchiramareddy, IFS (Retd.) is also from **SFRC batch of 1954-56** and was the founder editor of **Vana Premi**. He has been one of the popular contributors on legal issues relating

to forest offences and relevant criminal matters. He has fought tooth and nail number of battles in connection with forest encroachments and prevented forest lands worth of crores of rupees falling into the hands of private individuals. He was deputed by the dept to ACB where he worked for a long period and kept up the prestige of Forest department and left a mark there. Even at this advanced age he contributes articles under the caption "Legal notes" to Vana Premi. His batch mate **Sri. Narayana swamy** an artist by nature who prepared the logo for SFRC as a student has been an active office bearer of Retired Forest officers association for the last number of decades and furnishes lot of data in every retired forest officers meet on service matters of the Central govt. employees.

Coming to another octogenarian **Sri J.V. Sarma IFS, Retd.(55-57 batch of SFRC)** is perhaps the most popular name among foresters across various states particularly **the western and peninsular India**. He was the first to take Forest Rights Act to judicial scrutiny and motivated likeminded foresters of other states too to join the fight against the legislation. He is adept in articulating issues of public importance and writes regularly in journals Vana Premi and Vana Vikas .He is the recipient of **"Life time award for his contribution in the cause of forests and Environment "** awarded by FRC alumni meet at Nagpur in January 2018. He has the distinction of delivering key note address at the **National workshop of IFS officers on Forest Rights Act on two occasions**. He played a very crucial role in the agitation for securing invaluable forest land in Hyderabad

metropolitan area back as environmental asset after it was given away for an eco-tourism project envisaging huge constructions of commercial use and entertainment hub.

Sri V. Subbaraghavayya IFS (Retd) (60-62 of SFRC) passed out in Honors from SFRC Coimbatore. He was awarded gold medal and stood first in Engineering, Silviculture and Accounts and Office Procedure in SFRC. He was considered as an expert in management of red sander forest areas, coffee and Teak plantations. After his retirement he was actively involved in consultancy assignments of plantation raising and rural development in about 50 wasteland and drought prone area development project evaluations for a very long period.

Coming to the **Septuagenarians Sri M. Padmanabha Reddy IFS, Retd. (64-66 of SFRC)** received the national award **Vriksha mitra** from Govt. of India for the contribution made by him for ex situ conservation of forestry by motivating and involving people in the process on a big scale. At this advanced age he has been actively involved as the secretary of **Centre for Good governance**, Hyderabad a watch dog on the governance of the governments of the state and centre which does not hesitate to call a spade a spade and mince no words in exposing their misdeeds if any in the interest of the common man even at the cost of incurring the wrath of the respective Govts.

Sri Qamar mohammed Khan (68-70 of SFRC) a retired Divisional Forest officer and an expert in Wild life , has functioned as an associate editor of **Vana Premi** for four years and has been functioning as editor of the same from 2009

onwards till date. He proved himself as a highly successful officer in ex situ conservation of forests and conservation of wild life. His editorials in **Vana Premi** on forest related and other current issues generate lot of interest among the readers of the magazine. Sri Qamar Mohammad Khan is a resource person and delivered guest lectures in Forest academy, judicial academy, Central Excise Customs and Narcotics academy, Engineers Staff College of India, Institute of MCRD, State Police Academy and National Police Academy, on forest and wildlife subjects. His batch mate **Sri V. Santaseela babu** was awarded the first and highly Valued Gold Medal “**Andhra Pradesh Mukhya Mantri Vana Shourya Pathakam**” which he received from the then Chief Minister in the Parade Grounds Secunderabad on the occasion of Golden Jubilee Celebrations of our Independence Day on 15-08-1997. The bravery and duty bound nature exhibited by him in discharging his duty for which he received the award is highly inspiring.

Coming to **sexagenarians**, Sri **B. J. Pathak IFS, (Retd.) (75-77 of SFRC)** who was selected for **Indian Forest service in 1984** retired as Additional principal Chief conservator of forests and was considered as an authority on wild life in Gujarat and after attaining the age of superannuation he has been Member, **Central Zoo Authority, Gol, Member, Gujarat Biodiversity Board, Govt. of Gujarat, Honorary State Academic Coordinator for National Children Science Congress, Gujarat** and Honorary / voluntary resource person for training courses related to Ecology and

Sustainable Development

Sri K. Bhoopalreddy IFS (Retd) (75-77 of SFRC) was selected to AIFC later, secured Honors there and retired as Additional principal Chief Conservator of forests in integrated A.P. He is one of the officers who did pioneering work in Telugu Ganga project under the able guidance of Sri. A.V.R.G Krishnamurthy IFS the retired PCCF and as such received accolades from the senior officers. He has carried out unprecedented work as Managing Director Agros in integrated state of A.P. He is still going strong after attaining the age of superannuation while working as **special secretary with the Govt. of Telangana under the able guidance of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.**

Sri K. Chandrasekhar pillai (74-76 of SFRC) a retired Divisional Forest officer and a wild life expert wrote 17 articles on animal behavior in captivity which were printed in “**Zoo Outreach organization**” Coimbatore. After retirement he has been rendering discourses at “Satsang and Hermitage” at Tirupati on different subjects such as Dharma, Modern science and Ancient Hindu knowledge. He has been associating himself with Philanthropic activities by involving himself with an association called “**Abhaya kshetram**” in Renigunta near Tirupati.

Sri Gurdeep Dhan Golani (75-77 of SFRC) worked for only for two years in Goa, switched over to a Chinese owned paper **company in Indonesia called SINARMAS as CEO for five years** with its head quarters in Jakarta. He recently led a team of officials from his company in apprising the team of forest

scientists from Camcore, NC state USA and Brazil researchers with regard to *Pinus cari* Vs Cari trials, Eucalyptus clonal trials in **Kalimantan Indonesia** as part of scientific trials taken up by the company. He worked for Birlas for 17 years as General Manager and as Senior President for 3 yrs.

Sri Ajay Nioding of the same batch (75-77 of SFRC) rose to the level of Vice President at Birla Lao Pulp and Plantation Co. Ltd., Laos (**Aditya Birla Group**), **General manager (FRD) Bilt and also to that of Chief operating officer Bilt Tree tek**. He retired as Vice president **Orient paper industries Ltd.** He authored the project titled "Joint Sector Captive Plantation". The project studied the viability of industrial and government sector a joint venture in carrying out captive plantations in the state of Orissa. **He is a Co author on a research paper on project for use of Industrial Fly Ash in forestry plantations along with scientists from Thapar Research Institute, Patiala which was presented at International Science congress, USA**

Sri K. Dileep Kumar (75-77 of SFRC) served as private secretary/OSD to Home minister and other cabinet ministers of integrated state of Andhra Pradesh. **He also worked as private secretary to Union minister Govt of India Sri K. Chandra sekhar Rao for a long period.** He was a member of peace delegation **deputed from India to Libya in 2009 and also to Sudan in the year 2011.** He resigned as Asst. conservator of forests opted for joining the politics by choice and by sheer dint of his political spirit unusual to a forest officer and

became a politician having been inspired by Telangana movement. **He was elected as MLC consecutively for two terms (2007 to 2015) from Warangal graduates constituency.** He conducted "**job melas**" for unemployed educated youth and was instrumental in facilitating them to have placements in different corporate bodies. He toured twenty countries all over the world and studied environmental skill and employment related issues as a people's representative. He, a well known face on TV shows appeared number of times in the debates conducted by the TV managements on a cross section of political and apolitical issues. After his second stint as MLC he continued to be a politician and is still rendering service while carrying out social work related activities.

Dr. K. Tulsirao, Dy. C.F Retd. (75-77 SFRC) has the Degree of Doctor of philosophy (Ph. D) in Environmental Science from Kakatiya University. He is probably one of the **eminent wild life experts** that integrated Andhra Pradesh has ever produced.

The following are the Awards and citations received by him.

A) Green Leader Award from Council for Green Revolution and Green Alliance for Conservation of Eastern Ghats – 2013 **B)** Earth Hero Award from India Foundation and Ranathambore Foundation – 2012, **C)** Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Conservation Award -2003 for outstanding scientific work/field work for preservation and conservation of wildlife, especially the endangered species, Wildlife Planning and Management etc.. **D)** Dr. Salim Ali National

Wildlife Fellowship Award -1999-2001 **E)** Fellowship from Govt. of India for Research on Management perspectives on Conserving Great Indian Bustard, Rollapadu, A.P., India. **F)** World Wide Fund (WWF) Tiger Conservation Award - 1999 For Notable work in involvement of people in Tiger Conservation and

G) Young Scientist Award Conferred by National Environmental Science Academy, New Delhi at 8th Annual Conference of the Academy in 1991. and **H) Bharatiya Vikas Ratan Award** .

He also worked for a long period for UNDP in India which is associated with United Nations. **He discovered four new faunal species a great contribution made to the biological diversity of integrated Andhra Pradesh and to Indian fauna as well.** He is presently working as Director Research and extension for the last one year In A.P state Biodiversity Board.

Sri B. Lakshmikantam (SFRC of 75-77) a retired Divisional Forest officer has taken up the **Four water Concept**, a new technology for effective conservation and management of Rain water, Ground water, surface water, and Soil moisture propounded by Sri T. Hanumanta Rao a retired Chief engineer which was implemented by him in Anantapur district through different agencies and he translated the book into Telugu on “ **Four Waters Concept**’ along with **Sri. M. Ravi Chandra, I.A.S.** He carried out Greening of Hillocks under MGNREGS for a period of 5 years in Anantapur district and was instrumental in formulating guidelines for holistic treatment and the guidelines were approved by Ministry of Rural Development and they were communicated by **Mrs. Aparajitha**

Sarangi, I.A.S, Jt. Secretary (MoRD) to all States in the Country so as to adopt them as standard guidelines. He standardized the technical guidelines for High Density plantations which were communicated by MoRD to all States. **He developed e-modules for Greening of Hillocks and Techniques of Raising Tall seedlings and has been working as Forestry Consultant to GIZ**

Sri P. Udayasankar. Dy. C.F Retd (SFRC 75-77) Joined in GIS wing of AP Forest Department as ACF and developed **State of the art Geomatics technology centre** in Hyderabad, delivered lectures in Geomatics as guest faculty in J.N.T.U, Hyderabad, N.I.R.D, Hyderabad and I.I.F.M., Bhopal for the students/trainees during 2000-2003. He supervised more than 100 in terns from B. tech, M. tech, and M.C.A in carrying out their projects in Geomatics. He underwent training in **Forest Inventory in Finnish Forest Research Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland**. He also conducted comprehensive continuous forest inventory for the combined state of Andhra Pradesh with 8000 and odd sample plots in the year 2005. He also developed Software to check the accuracy of location of inventory with GPS by involving the field team and consequent analysis of data. The GIS team led by **Sri Anoop Singh IFS** was able to create accurate maps of resource assessment details collected in inventory. This work was appreciated by FSI and World Bank as no other Indian State has done it till then. He along with his team won National e-Governance awards for consecutive years 2005 and 2006 in succession. He developed

methodology for using mobile phone and Google earth for survey and making maps of forest or any other areas as accurate as those of hand held GPS

Sri **V. V. Hariprasad Dy. C.F Retd.** of the same batch (**SFRC 75-77**) was awarded **VANAMITRA** in individual capacity a state award in the year 2000 along with citation , a gold medal and Rs 50,000 cash presented by the former Chief minister of Andhra Pradesh on 15-8-2000 for the exemplary services rendered by him in implementing watershed development activities in Nellore district. He has also received in 2004 **Indira Gandhi paryavan puraskar award** on behalf of TTD at Vijyan Bhavan New Delhi from the Hon'ble minister of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India for the contribution made by TTD in developing greenery . After retirement he was appointed as consultant to Forest wing of TTD in 2015 for 6 months for the preparation of plan of action to be adopted for 5 years to the tune of about 15 crores by forest wing of TTD. He was one of the delegates who represented India in South Korea in **COP 12 the international convention on Biological diversity** as one of the officers of AP state Biodiversity Board. He was selected for civil services personality test (**interview by UPSC**) in 1982 for **IAS and allied services** in the very first attempt itself in Delhi and had a slip between the cup and the lip.

He was a resource person and used to deliver guest lectures on Biological diversity Act/ ethno botany in **NIRD, Institute of MCHRD, A.P Forest academy, APSBD Board, TSBD Board, A.P Medicinal plants board, University of**

Agriculture and Judicial Academy Hyd. After retirement being an advocate he worked as a legal consultant with **RYSS, Govt. of A.P** for more than two years. Having pursued his **masters in seven disciplines** namely sciences in computers and management , Laws, Cyber laws and intellectual property rights, criminal justice and Forensic Science , political science and environmental management etc. He has been a guest faculty in cyber laws and intellectual property rights **in the Central university of Hyderabad and teaches cyber laws to advocates, software engineers and police officials** .He has been working as consultant in **IFB Hyderabad Govt. of India** and has been a budding advocate by virtue of the profession opted by him after retirement in the **High court of Telangana** for the last more than 6 years.

Sri S.Kishandas DY.C.F Retd.(75-77 SFRC batch) : It may not be out of place to state the fact in connection with the occurrence of a "slip between the cup and lip" where in Sri. S. Kishandas was recommended **to be conferred upon with IAS** duly recommended by the former commissioner of Rural development and Principal Secretary I&CAD **Sri S. P. Tucker IAS** and former Principal secretary Govt.of AP **K. Raju, IAS in the year 2007 as he could provide leadership to the team of facilitators including NGOs in effective implementation of watershed development programmes and rural livelihood programmes while working** as Project Director DRDA Nalgonda and joint commissioner (RD) Govt. of A.P The proposals

were not approved by GAD as the officer recommended to be Conferred upon with IAS belonged to forest department in which there was a separate channel to be conferred upon with separate All India service i.e. I.F.S. Presently after retirement he is working as General manager **SHILPARAMAM** of Govt. of Telangana.

Sri A. Janaki Rami Reddy, Ph.D (76-78 SFRC) was later on selected to AIFC , secured Honors in SFS college, went abroad pursued his studies acquired Doctorate and became an eminent academician that A.P Forest department and India should be proud of . Presently he has been working as **Dean, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama of USA.** As a Jefferson Science Fellow, he also served as a **Senior Advisor for International Energy Affairs in the U.S. Department of State, Washington DC.** He also rendered services, as a Senior Fellow of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas at the U.S. Department of the State, and he helped Belize, Guyana, and Brazil with issues relating to sustainable forestry and natural resources management.

Sri T. O. Suraj, IAS, Retd. (80-81 of SFRC) was selected as Deputy collector in 1989 in the state of Kerala conferred upon **with IAS (1998 batch)** worked in different districts as District Collector namely Kozhikode and Trissur and retired finally as Youth and Sports Secretary after holding the posts in the cadre of secretary in different departments and retired in the month of May 2018.

Sri C. Bhadrasamy (80-81 of SFRC) was trained by Mr. Chidambaram Forest Range officer in

Tamilnadu who was shot dead by notorious sandal wood smuggler Veerappan at point blank range .Later in his service he was the only officer to join Special party comprising only 6 members both from Tamilnadu and Karnataka to nab the ferocious smuggler Veerappan .In the process he purchased a semi automatic rifle on his own to counter the onslaught of the automatic rifles of the sandal wood smuggler .When Veerappan was killed in the year 2004 along with others he received a police medal and Rs.1.00 lakh as cash award.

Coming to **quin-qua genarians** who are still in service **Sri M. J. Akbar IFS (86 of SFRC)** who secured Hons. received one gold medal and four silver medals In SFRC Coimbatore as forest apprentice. **He was promoted to AIFC later** and was conferred upon with IFS in the year 1999.He put in unprecedented efforts during the years 2005 to 2009 while working as Divisional Forest officer Hyderabad and Rangareddy districts in preventing the Valuable forest lands from going into the hands of avaricious forest land encroachers and was awarded **“MUKHYA MANTRI SOURYA PATHAKAM** and gold medal on 1-11-2009 by the former Chief minister of Integrated Andhra Pradesh. He is presently working as Chief conservator of Forests Warangal and has been bent upon making Warangal district much more rich with flora and fauna by conserving nature and its biodiversity.

Sri N. Chandra Mohan Reddy I.F.S. (1986 batch of SFRC) who secured Honors. in SFRC Coimbatore, **later appointed to SFS,** was chosen by the former Govt. of integrated

Andhra Pradesh, for conceptualizing, designing and developing **YSR Smrithi Vanam** near Nallakalva village, Kurnool district in an extent of 1412.14 Ha of RF and 22.20 acres of private land with an amount of Rs.14.60 crores, which was taken up on war footing basis and was completed well in time. **YSR Smrithi Vanam** with its scenic beauty, comprising of different gardens, water effects and biodiversity park is considered as a haven to the botanists and plant lovers as well. In the official capacity he visited various countries around the world. He has got number of publications and newspaper articles to his credit on plants, biodiversity and gardening. He attended COP12 to Convention on Biological Diversity at South Korea as one of the delegates during his tenure as Member secretary, A.P. State Biodiversity Board. He developed many number of landscape gardens in Hyderabad and other cities and towns of Andhra Pradesh. At present he is working as the Chief Conservator of Forests and M.D., Andhra Pradesh Greening and Beautification Corporation.

Dr. Sivaramaprasad N.V. (NEFRC, Guwahati 93-95) who is presently working as Zonal manager A.P. greening and Beautification Corporation did his Ph. D in environmental science from Andhra University in "**Studies on Ecology and sustainable development of Pulicat Lake –A brackish water lagoon in Andhra Pradesh India**". He established 100 Ac of sandalwood plantation as DFO TTD Tirupati in 2015. To his credit 20 research publications (**New records and new discoveries**) of him were

published in different reputed journals which include the publication of "**First record of *Chrysopelea taprobanica* (Srilankan flying snake) from India**" in Check list .The journal of biodiversity data and the book authored by him along with Sri. Bubesh gupta by name "**Fauna of Seshachalam biosphere reserve**" was published in LAMBERT Academic publishing (Germany)

Conclusion: In the forest department throughout the country there are number of unsung heroes among "Foresters" right from the cadre of ABO to HOFF who were instrumental in discharging their duties in an exemplary manner in the context in situ and ex situ conservation of forests, conservation of wild life as well as conceptualizing formulating and implementation of Govt. policies in this regard, befitting their cadre by virtue of their knowledge, experience, integrity and perseverance. Kudos to all of them .A humble attempt is made to have a glimpse of the achievements of some of the forest officers who were trained as forest apprentices. This article is dedicated to **Late Dr. John Joseph IFS former PCCF of Tamilandu, our lecturer at SFRC who was a personification of discipline, Knowledge par excellence, erudition, integrity and above all an attitude of Low profile with whom I had the privilege of having great rapport as a tennis player playing tennis along with him regularly on the tennis courts at SFRC and who used to advocate humane approach believing that "Power and Pelf are short lived" in the world.**

REMEMBRANCE AND HOMAGE TO DEPARTED SOULS

(Smruti Vatika)

Sl. No	Name	Date of Birth	Date of Death	Reference to Obituary in Vana Premi
1	G. Sudhakar Reddy	26-06-1926	05-10-1994	June-1998
2	C. Damodar Reddy	10-07-1930	18-03-1998	June-1998
3	K. Ganapathi Rao	12-08-1934	09-07-1998	Dec-1998
4	P.B.Venkata Reddy	26-10-1996	23-07-1998	Dec-1998
5	K.J.C.Bose	17-06-1931	25-07-1998	Dec-1998
6	K. Ram Mohan	28-11-1998	23-08-1998	Dec-1998
7	A.Upendar Rao	29-05-1935	09-10-1998	June-1999
8	Md. Rafiuddin	20-01-1916	17-10-1998	June-1999
9	Ch. Lakshmipathi	08-01-1928	27-12-1998	June-1999
10	P.S.Rao	19-07-1922	24-08-1999	Jan 2000
11	K. Pratap Bahadur	09-06-1935	27-08-1999	Jan 2000
12	Mazharuddin Ahmad	28-07-1915	08-10-1999	Jan-2000
13	P.V. Rangaiah	03-04-1911	05-08-2000	June-2000
14	S. Panduranga Reddy	08-12-1922	07-09-2000	Nov-2000
15	Syed Shan Noor Ali	13-06-1926	10-11-2000	Nov-2000
16	T.A. Deva Das	22-07-1927	13-11-2000	Nov-2000
17	E. Chinna Swamy	15-08-1911	15-12-2000	June-2001
18	L.N. Goud	17-08-1992	09-08-2001	June-2001
19	K.P. Muniswamy	01-07-1935	11-09-2001	Oct-2001
20	B. Venkateswar Rao	15-09-1941	31-10-2001	Dec-2001
21	K.V.S. Babu	15-08-1931	13-04-2002	May-2002
22	J. Chandrapal	21-04-1921	02-11-2002	Dec-2002
23	Hari Singh	-	18-03-2003	July-2003
24	N.K.Subramaniam	10-02-1934	02-08-2003	Sept-2003
25	B. Venkat Reddy	06-06-1936	23-08-2003	Sept-2003
26	K. Venkaiah	07-07-1959	08-02-2004	Mar-2004
27	Anwar Hussain	05-04-1926	13-02-2004	Mar-2004
28	Maharaj Prasad Mathur	02-02-1923	18-10-2004	Nov-2004
29	S. Bala Krishna	31-10-1951	26-10-2004	Nov-2004
30	A.P.Awasthi	01-02-1941	03-12-2004	Jan-2005
31	S. Raghavan	10-01-1925	13-03-2005	April-2005
32	B.S. Ghouse Mohiuddin	15-07-1942	22-07-2005	Aug-2005
33	Pushpkumar	11-07-1932	03-12-2005	Jan-2006
34	B. Ram Babu	10-07-1937	11-01-2006	Feb-2006
35	N. Jayaram	02-10-1932	22-02-2006	April-2006
36	T. Raja Rao	22-12-1934	30-04-2006	June-2006
37	U. Venugopal	01-04-1930	29-06-2006	Aug-2006
38	K. Subba Rao	01-07-1942	13-01-2007	Feb-2007

39	Padmashri Madhav Kashinath Dalvi	-	22-02-2007	April-2007
40	P. Narasaiah	12-06-1918	30-05-2007	July-2007
41	K. Lakshman Singh	01-07-1919	17-10-2007	Dec-2007
42	C. Dayanand	25-01-1952	27-11-2008	Jan-2008
43	Dr. Chandrasekharan	-	11-09-2007	Mar-2008
44	N. Suryanaranayana	28-09-1923	09-03-2008	April-2009
45	B. Venkat Narayana	14-10-1926	31-03-2008	May-2008
46	K.J.C. Westey	20-10-1942	22-04-2008	May-2008
47	T. Gnanavelu (T.N)	02-09-1931	27-04-2008	June-2008
48	J.C. Patil	1937	2008	July-2008
49	P.V. Narsing Rao	19-12-1931	28-09-2008	Nov-2008
50	P. Hemanga Rao	15-06-1934	29-08-2009	Oct-2009
51	D. Ravindar Reddy	05-10-1943	15-03-2009	Nov-2009
52	R.V. Kaurwar (Mah)	-	01-11-2009	Dec-2009
53	B.P. Das (Ori)	-	03-11-2003	Dec-2009
54	K.M. Rawat (Guj)	-	05-11-2009	Dec-2009
55	B. Vara Prasad	23-05-1951	12-11-2009	Dec-2009
56	N. Hari Putra Sarma(Ker)	-	04-03-2008	Jan-2010
57	G.S. Dalvi (Mah)	-	16-11-2009	Jan-2010
58	D.N. Gondhalekar (Mah)	-	-	Jan-2010
59	V.B. Mankame (Mah)	-	08-04-2009	Jan-2010
60	P.V. Outkar (Mah)	-	13-12-2007	Jan-2010
61	Biman Kumar Basu (A&N)	-	01-02-2010	April-2010
62	Dr. P. Ganapathi (Kar)	-	19-03-2010	April-2010
63	H. Jimbal (Lion Safari Park Borvilli)	-	21-03-2010	June 2010
64	K.L.N. Reddy	12-10-1928	19-11-2010	Jan-2011
65	P. Kishta Reddy	25-01-1930	27-01-2011	Mar-2011
66	Mohd. Hussain Khan	19-08-1927	25-02-2011	April-2011
67	T. Rama Krishna	17-02-1944	11-04-2011	May-2011
68	G. Shankar Rao	14-07-1927	25-05-2011	July-2011
69	A.L. Rao	15-09-1926	03-08-2011	Sept-2011
70	K. Sudhakar Reddy	17-09-1950	22-08-2011	Oct-2011
71	V.S. Sastry	11-09-1927	09-02-2012	April-2012
72	D.V. Ramabhadraiah	01-01-1927	29-06-2012	Aug-2012
73	K. Papa Rao (Guj)	28-08-1941	05-12-2012	Jan-2013
74	C. Prathap Reddy	17-10-1934	12-01-2013	Feb-2013
75	M.M.A. Mashade	15-10-1947	19-01-2013	Mar-2013
76	M. Ramachandra Reddy	09-07-1925	26-02-2013	April-2013
77	K.A. Madhvaraja	10-01-1927	31-03-2013	May-2013
78	J. Venkataiah	01-07-1932	14-05-2013	June-2013
79	Y.M. Ranga Rao	20-10-1927	26-06-2013	Aug-2013
80	K. Eswar Chand	30-06-1948	23-07-2013	Sept-2013
81	R. Gangaiah	26-07-1969	14-09-2013	Oct-2013



GreenAP Mobile App

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

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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

82	M.R. Sridhar	18-02-1963	15-12-2013	Jan-2014
83	N. David Kumar	22-04-1966	15-12-2013	Jan-2014
84	K.K. Nair (Ker)	14-07-1922	12-01-2014	Feb-2014
85	D.K. Deshmukh (kar)	07-02-1926	12-03-2014	April-2014
86	S.Kondas (T.N)	26-06-1930	30-04-2014	Jun-2014
87	K. Balachandran Thampi (Ker)	-	23-05-2014	July-2014
88	C. Sarvotham Rao	15-11-1927	01-07-2014	Aug-2014
89	E.K. Kurien (Ker)	01-05-1925	01-09-2014	Oct-2014
90	B.Pimple (Mah)	-	12-03-2014	Dec-2014
91	Munawar Hussain	09-04-1924	14-12-2014	Jan-2015
92	C. Jagannadh Reddy	03-02-1930	07-02-2015	Mar-2015
93	Dr. S. Chinnamani (Gol)	03-04-1934	23-02-2015	April-2015
94	Joseph K. Kurien (Ker)	24-01-1925	12-06-2015	Aug-2015
95	R. Rajamani	17-08-1936	25-06-2015	Aug-2015
96	K. Kesava Reddy	01-08-1937	04-10-2015	Nov-2015
97	K. Ramakrishna Reddy	08-12-1926	24-10-2015	Dec-2015
98	K. Rama Krishna	28-10-1930	01-05-2016	Jun-2016
99	K. Koteswara Rao	15-07-1933	04-08-2016	Sept-2016
100	P. Lakshma Reddy	13-05-1929	13-05-2016	Sept-2016
101	P. Gaddaiah	20-08-1927	20-08-2016	Dec-2016
102	Dr. Gohar Ali Khan	15-02-1928	14-11-2016	Jan-2017
103	A.Rama Krishna	10-04-1923	30-12-2016	Feb-2017
104	P.V. Padmanabham	02-04-1952	29-04-2017	Jun-2017
105	P.V. Krishna Murthy	03-10-1933	18-05-2017	Jun-2017
106	Anil Madhav Dave (Central Forests Minister)	06-07-1956	18-05-2017	Jun-2017
107	Rajagopal Shetty	15-01-1929	22-05-2017	July-2017
108	M.G. Purshotham Naidu	10-02-1933	24-08-2017	Oct-2017
109	S.A. Reddy	11-02-1923	18-09-2017	Dec-2017
110	Sanjeev Kumar Gupta	26-11-1970	07-11-2017	Dec-2017
111	S. Rama Rao	01-08-1936	10-01-2018	Feb-2018
112	M.N. Rao	10-10-1932	19-01-2018	Feb-2018
113	N. Manohar Rao	01-05-1942	22-02-2018	Mar-2018
114	A.Rama Rao	14-02-1955	29-01-2018	Mar-2018
115	M.Sitarama Rao	19-03-1933	03-03-2018	April-2018
116	S. Manikandan (Kar)	15-07-1972	03-03-2019	April-2018
117	Kamal Naidu	21-08-1939	18-04-2018	May-2018
118	Deva Sahayam	1947	18-08-2018	Sep-2018
119	K. Vidya Sagar (Uttaranchal)	10-06-1967	08-09-2018	Oct-2018
120	K. Rajasekhar	01-07-1935	21-10-2018	Nov-2018
121	C. Lakshma Reddy	09-03-1934	25-10-2018	Dec-2018
122	A.H. Moosvi	05.12.1936	04.05.2019	June- 2019
123	K. Prakash Rao	19.12.1943	19.05.2019	July- 2019
124	Vishwanath Singh Chohan	18.04.1944	19.05.2019	July- 2019

THE FOREST LEAFY VEGETABLES AND THEIR CONSEQUENCE IN MODERN FOOD SECURITY SYSTEMS

By

Dr. P. Shivakumar Singh

ABSTRACT: The present report is concentrated on the documentation and conservation of traditional forest food plants used by rural, folkloric people of south districts of Telangana State, India. A total of 61 species were recorded as forest leafy vegetable plants. Of those species, 11 species belongs to the Amaramthaceae, 12 species representing each of 04 from three families, followed by 03 species of single family Verbenaceae, 16 species representing each of 02 from 08 families and 19 families representing single species from each of them. The maximum, herbs were in the information are considered. In the present results the importance's of the forest leafy vegetables plants wisdom have been observed. Except efforts are ended to educate the further generations about their importance, it may be vanished in future. This kind of reports could donate extensively in Government policies to progress food security in rural, folkloric areas, and in the improvement of forest vegetable importance in food security system.

INTRODUCTION: The worth of forest edible vegetables in food sanctuary has not been specified sufficient consideration in India. Therefore, there are no formal interventions that seek to encourage people to use traditional vegetables as sources of essential nutrients. For many years the importance of forest plants in subsistence agriculture in the developing world as a food supplement and as a means of survival during drought and famine has been overlooked.

Nevertheless, whereas the rich indi-genous knowledge on the medicinal use of forest plants has been relatively well documented, research, parti-cularly concerning the socio-economic, cultural, traditional, and nutritional aspects of forest food plants still lacks adequate attention. There are at least 3000 edible plant species known to man, with merely 30 crops contributing to more than 90% of the world's calorie intake, and only 120 crops are economically important on a national scale.

There are in 1532 edible forest food species in India, mostly from Western Ghats and Himalayan regions. Likewise, in Eastern Ghats region also, several tribal's are using forest plants as food. Tribal people of Andhra Pradesh are endowed with a deep knowledge concerning the use of forest plants as food purposes. Tribals constitute an important part of the population of India, representing about 8% of the total population; it is about 6% of the total population of Andhra Pradesh.

METHODOLOGY: A number of field trips were undertaken in south districts of study area (Fig. 1). At each one time of trip, diverse folkloric and forest or rural people's information was collected in different seasons. The information was accrued after discussions with several users like village head, elder women and other local informants. Repeated interviews through questionnaires were made in different villages to authenticate the information. Plant specimens were collected and identified with

regional floras.

In Telangana state there is about more than 20 tribes were recorded. Commonly they are located hilly and interior forest areas. The present report, focussing on a number of the important forest food plants, which need to be documented for food security in future.

RESULTS: A total of 61 species were recorded as forest leafy vegetable plants from Telangana state (Table: 1). Of those species, 11 species belongs to the Amaranthaceae, 12 species representing each of 04 from three families, followed by 03 species of single family Verbenaceae, 16 species representing each of

Table 1: Forest leafy vegetables.

Botanical name	Family	Local name
<i>Hygrophila auriculata</i> (Schum.) Heine	Acanthaceae	Neeru gobbi
<i>Trianthema decandra</i> L.	Aizoaceae	Tella galijeru
<i>Trianthema portulacastrum</i> L.	Aizoaceae	Galijeru
<i>Aeschynomene aspera</i> L.	Alangiaceae	Neerjilugu
<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Uttreni
<i>Aerva lanata</i> (L.) Juss. Amaranthaceae	Konda pindi	
<i>Allmania nodiflora</i> (L.) Wt.	Amaranthaceae	Nagali kura
<i>Alternanthera paronychioides</i> St. Hil.	Amaranthaceae	Ponnaganti
<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i> (L.) DC.	Amaranthaceae	Ponnaganti kura
<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Doggali
<i>Amaranthus tricolor</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Totakura
<i>Amaranthus viridis</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Chirryaku
<i>Celosia argentea</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Gunugu
<i>Digera muricata</i> (L.) Mart.	Amaranthaceae	Chenchulaaku
<i>Nothosaerva brachiata</i> (L.) Wt. & Arn.	Amaranthaceae	Akkura
<i>Centella asiatica</i> (L.) Urban	Apiaceae	Saraswathi aku
<i>Colocasia esculenta</i> (L.) Schott. & Endl.	Araceae	Chama
<i>Lasia spinosa</i> (L.) Thw.	Araceae	Neerugaddalu
<i>Amorphophalus paenofolius</i> (Dennst.) Nicolson	Arecaceae	Adavi kanda
<i>Caralluma adscendens</i> R.Br.	Asclepiadaceae	Kundaetikommulu
<i>Caralluma attenuata</i> Wt.	Asclepiadaceae	Moulya
<i>Gnaphalium polycaulon</i> Pers.	Asteraceae	Gorlalummu
<i>Barringtonia acutangula</i> (L.) Gaertn.	Barringtoniaceae	Barrenka
<i>Bambusa arundinacea</i> (Retz.) Roxb.	Bombacaceae	Veduru
<i>Bombax ceiba</i> L. Bombaceae	Buruga	
<i>Cassia italica</i> (Mill.) Andr.	Caesalpiniaceae	Nela tangedu

02 from 08 families and 19 families representing single species from each of them. The maximum, herbs were in the information are considered. In the present results the importances of the forest leafy vegetables plants wisdom have been observed. Except efforts are ended to educate the further generations about their importance, it may be vanished in future. This kind of reports could donate extensively in Government policies to progress food security in rural, folkloric areas, and in the improvement of forest vegetable importance in food security system.

<i>Cleome gynandra</i> L. Cleomaceae <i>Ipomoea aquatica</i> Forssk. <i>Rivea ornata</i> Choisy Convolvulaceae <i>Erythroxylum monogynum</i> Roxb. <i>Antidesma acidum</i> Retz. <i>Breynia vitis-idaea</i> (Burm.f.) C. Fischer <i>Euphorbia heterophylla</i> L. <i>Euphorbia hirta</i> L. Euphorbiaceae <i>Hydrolea zeylanica</i> (L.) Vahl <i>Anisochilus carnosus</i> (L.f.) Benth. <i>Leucas aspera</i> (Willd.) Link <i>Malvastrum coromandelianum</i> (L.) Garcke <i>Melastoma malabatricum</i> L. <i>Cocculus hirsutus</i> (L.) Diels <i>Tinospora cordifolia</i> (Willd.) Hook.f. & Thoms. <i>Neptunia oleracea</i> Lour. <i>Ardisia solanacea</i> Roxb. <i>Boerhavia diffusa</i> L. <i>Oxalis corniculata</i> L. <i>Abrus precatorius</i> L. <i>Atylosia scarabaeoides</i> (L.) Benth. <i>Erythrina variegata</i> L. Papilionaceae <i>Pueraria tuberosa</i> DC. <i>Dendrocalamus strictus</i> (Roxb.) Nees <i>Portulaca oleracea</i> L. Portulacaceae <i>Portulaca quadrifida</i> L. <i>Benkera malabarica</i> (Lam.) Tirveng. <i>Paederia foetida</i> L. Rubiaceae <i>Murraya koenigii</i> (L.) Spreng. <i>Toddalia asiatica</i> (L.) Lam. <i>Azima tetraacantha</i> Lam. <i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i> L. <i>Clerodendrum serratum</i> (L.) Moon. <i>Premna latifolia</i> Roxb. <i>Premna tomentosa</i> Willd. <i>Cayratia trifolia</i> (L.) Domin.	<i>Vaminta</i> Convolvulaceae <i>Boddi kura</i> Erythroxylaceae Euphorbiaceae Euphorbiaceae Euphorbiaceae <i>Reddivaari nanabaalu</i> Hydrophyllaceae Lamiaceae Lamiaceae Malvaceae Melastomataceae Menispermaceae Menispermaceae Mimosaceae Myrsinaceae Nyctaginaceae Oxalidaceae Papilionaceae Papilionaceae Baadisha Papilionaceae Poaceae <i>Paayili kura</i> Portulacaceae Rubiaceae <i>Gabbutiga</i> Rutaceae Rutaceae Salvadoraceae Sapindaceae Verbenaceae Verbenaceae Verbenaceae Vitaceae	Tuuti kaada <i>Dedadaaru</i> <i>Pulleru</i> <i>Pisangi</i> <i>Saarni koora</i> <i>Alumu</i> <i>Kodipunju chettu</i> <i>Tummi kura</i> <i>Chirubenda</i> <i>Dayyamchettu</i> <i>Dusseru</i> <i>Bael tige</i> <i>Attipatti</i> <i>Chavvalakura</i> <i>Atuka mamidi</i> <i>Pulichinta</i> <i>Yerra guriya</i> <i>Konda kandi</i> <i>Naelagummadi</i> <i>Veduru</i> <i>Sannapaayili</i> <i>Tella mullu chettu</i> <i>Karivepa</i> <i>Mrapagandra</i> <i>Telluppi</i> <i>Buddalalumu</i> <i>Bommalamarri</i> <i>Nelli</i> <i>Nelli</i> <i>Pulla mada</i>
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CONCLUSION: Now a day the population is increasing abundantly, at the same time people are going to forget their culture and traditional knowledge. This will be effects on shortage of qualitative food. Therefore, steps are needed to undertake extensive education about their importance as a nutritionally balanced food and as a direct and indirect source of income predominantly for the resource poor families. Numerous of the forest foods may not be freely accessible in future due to over-exploitation, home annihilation, habitual forest fires and incursion of strange exotic species. So, efforts must be engaged to safeguard forest vegetable plants and also the rural wisdom for a sustainable management of bio-diversity.

(The author is from Department of Botany, Palamuru University, Mahabubnagr-509001, Telangana State, India. Email: shivakumarsinghp@gmail.com Contact: 09989063063.)

Birthday Greetings
We wish the following born on the dates mentioned
" A very Happy Birth Day "

S.No.	Name of the member	D.O.B.	S.No.	Name of Serving Officers	D.O.B.
	Sarva Sri		1.	Smt.M.Revathi	09-08-1970
1.	A.H.Qureshi	7-09-01941	2.	Smt.Priyanka Varghese	08-09-1978
2.	A.Raja Reddy	13-09-1926	3.	B.Srinivas	20-09-1962
3.	J.V.Subba Rao	13-09-1934	4.	Laxman Ranjeet Nayak	25-09-1990
4.	Narpat Singh	15-09-1952	5.	Dr.Rajendra Prasad Khajuria	05-10-1968
5.	V.Kishan Reddy	20-09-1941	6.	A.Sreenivasulu	11-09-1967
6.	G.Sagar	23-09-1952	7.	M.Samuel	12-09-1978
7.	V.V.Hari Prasad	25-09-1953	8.	N.Rama Chandra Rao	18-09-1984
8.	K.Someswara Rao	26-09-1948	9.	S.Venkateshwarlu	22-09-1961
9.	P.Srinivasa Rao	28-09-1955	10.	S.Satyanarayana	04-10-1967
10.	D.S.Gangakhedkar	29-09-1934	11.	K.Purushotham	05-10-1962
11.	A.A.Rama Rao Choudary	03-10-1952			
12.	P.Ranga Rao	05-10-1927			

Secretary

***"SENDING YOU SMILES FOR EVERY
MOMENT OF YOUR SPECIAL
DAY...HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME
AND A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY!"***

IMPRESSIONS OF THE ELITE ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION, TEN YEARS AGO

I congratulate all the retired forest officers, who have been members of the Association right from its inception, who have brought the Association to such level of recognition, not only in Andhra Pradesh but also in the entire country.

Though the Association is named as Retired Forest Officers Association, I always strongly felt that a forester, who has spent his entire life in the development and conservation of forests and wildlife, continues to do the same even after he lays down the office, even with more vigour. The publication of **Vana Premi** is a true example of this, which with its valuable articles on forestry and related matters is continuing to guide the practicing foresters.

C.Madhukar Raj, IFS,
V.C. & Mg. Dir. APFDC

I congratulate the Retired Forest Officers of Andhra Pradesh on completing very eventful 20 years. The Association is bringing out a beautiful Souvenir to commemorate this occasion. I have been ceaselessly linked with the Retired Forest Officers Association at personal level as well as through its beautiful, informative and thought provoking journal **Vana Premi**.

Hitesh Malhotra, IFS
PrI.CCF (WL) & CWLW.

I always have this admiration for the sheer grit, determination and tenacity with which the retired forest officers are running this Association so successfully on a very strong foundation called personification of professionalism. After starting unique and valuable second innings in life, they are acting as torch bearers to all the serving forest officers showing example how to live a meaningful life. I find their interest in the forestry sustainable and enthusiasm infectious.

Their knowledge and strength are clearly visible in the state-of-the-art articles published in the monthly magazine "**Vana Premi**" run by the Association.

C. Siva Sankara Reddy, IFS
PrI.CCF, Andhra Pradesh

I am very happy to know that the Association of Retired Forest Officers of Andhra Pradesh will be completing 20 years of Yeoman Service to the cause of Forestry. I am a subscriber of "**Vana Premi**" for the past over 10 years and I appreciate its popularity.

K.K. Nair, IFS
Retd. PrI.CCF (Kerala)

I am glad that your Association is active and doing useful work. I wish grand success to the decennial celebration of your Association.

K.A. Bhoja Shetty, IFS
Rtd. PrI. CCF, Tamil Nadu

Glad to know that you are celebrating the Bi-Decennial year of your Association and therefore we send hereby our warm wishes and congrats. Yours must be the **oldest Association** in the country and you have done yeoman service to the society in forestry.

K.A. Kushalappa, IFS

Rtd. CCF, Karnataka

By far the most visible activity of the Association, perhaps, is its journal **Vana Premi**. Intended, originally, to be a News Letter, it made its maiden appearance in a modest book form in June 1997 with Mr. B. Bhoomarajam as Editor and Mr. K. Buchi Ram Reddy as Associate Editor. On the resignation of the former, Mr. K. Buchi Ram Reddy took over as Editor from the next issue onwards and continued to steer the journal barring brief spells when he went abroad. After the tenures of Mr. J.V. Sharma and Mr. M. Padmanabha Reddy as Associate Editors in that order, now the younger person Mr. Qamar Mohd. Khan holds the fort.

J.V. Sharma, IFS

Rtd. Dy. C.F., A.P.

I am privileged to lead the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of our throbbing and dynamic Association of the Retired Forest Officers of A.P. As the saying goes —

“10% of the organization upholders are the reason for 90% of its success, and 90% of the backup force for the balance 10% success.”

This Association is getting strong and widely recognized by the tireless efforts, and a few others constituting the 10%, who have been shouldering the Association activity with a spirited rarely exhibited anywhere. The two pillars are: Mr. Narayan Swamy and Mr. Buchiram Reddy who are beginning to feel the fatigue, it is obvious. The growth process operates in all living creatures from birth to extinction.

M. Kamal Naidu, IFS

Rtd. Prl.CCF AP, Rtd Chairman Godavari Valley Dev. Authority,
& Member Supreme Court Commission, and President ARFOs, A.P.

All pure green issues have been listed in the manifestoes. But when it comes to implementation, populism and vote bank politics prevail over the long term interests. The attitudes of political parties in implementation of Tribal Act, Forest Conservation Act, Rehabilitation of the Displaced, Compensatory Afforestation need a lot to be desired. Politicians as a community are illiterate and insensitive to the green issues, and there is a need to educate them in this field.

M. Padmanabha Reddy, IFS

Rtd. Dy.C.F., Andhra Pradesh

Source: Souvenir 2009 Culled by K. B. R. Reddy, (keesarabuchiram@gmail.com)

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION & LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT BY ECOTOURISM

Ecotourism was coined in 1983 by "Hector Ceballos-Lascurian" a Mexican environmentalist and was initially used to describe nature-based travel to relatively undisturbed areas with an emphasis on education. The concept has, however, developed into a scientific approach for planning, management and development of sustainable tourism products and activities.

Ecotourism is defined as "Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the wellbeing of local people" (TIES, 1990). Economic benefits must accrue to local communities through participation and management for ecotourism to result in conservation. Ecotourism has evolved to combat the negative impact and effects of tourism and protect the remaining pristine and natural areas from its ill effects by providing the long awaited solution to integrate conservation of natural environment and providing opportunities to improve livelihood of local dependent communities.

Ecotourism is increasingly gaining acceptance all over the world today with the emergence of the highly motivated, introspective, value conscious traveler in quest of educative value packed, adventure filled holidays. Ecotourism is all about integrating conservation, communities and sustainable travel. This means that those who implement and participate in ecotourism activities should follow the following ecotourism principles

- Ø Minimize impact on natural environment
- Ø Build respect for environment, local and

culture

- Ø Provide positive experiences and education for both visitors and hosts
- Ø Provide direct financial benefits for conservation. Provide financial benefits and empowerment for local people
- Ø Raise sensitivity to host countries' political, environmental, and social climate

Responsible ecotourism programmes must encompass programmes that minimize the negative impacts of conventional tourism on the environment and ameliorate the cultural and financial condition of local communities. Therefore, in addition to mitigating the undue stress on environment, ecosystems and culture, an integral part of eco tourism is the promotion of recycling, energy efficiency, water conservation and creation of economic opportunities for local communities.

Mainstream tourism is geared towards tourist satisfaction whereas eco tourism focuses on the conservation (Nature and culture) and livelihoods (Economic and educational benefits) as essential constituents. While it is obvious that tourism should at least be harmless to nature and society, eco tourism needs to be pro-active towards

- Ø **Nature Based Activities:** Nature based activities such as nature camps, home stays, trekking, river cruise, nature walks and adventure camps enlighten tourists on the essentialities of responsible travel and contribute to the economic growth of the local community.

Ø **Eco-Culture Sustainability:** Although it is best to keep mass tourism away from local communities to retain their cultural uniqueness, a balance could be struck between tourists inflow and retaining local culture. This can be achieved by careful planning and implementation. Strategies should be developed such that there is no foreign influence on the native culture.

Ø **Conservation Education:** As a major component, it is essential to educate tourists and tour operators on their role in conservation of the environment and the consequences of their actions. Various communication strategies should be adopted to communicate the same. Conservation education must promote a sense of responsibility among all stakeholders in the ecotourism venture.

Ø **Significant involvement of local communities and benefits to local people:**

Local Community plays a vital role in organizing eco tourism activities and conservation of environment. They serve as tour guides, local staff, security personnel, entrepreneurs of handicrafts, culinary traditions, agricultural produce and as hosts. This in turn will help them socially and economically. The purpose of eco tourism would be defeated if the local community is not involved and benefited from its activities.

Ecotourism can be considered as a management tool for the following reasons

Ø Regular tourism exerts stress on the biodiversity. Ecotourism is one of the strategies for reversing the threats that exist to the ecosystem by increasing staff, putting in place monitoring systems, and introducing and enhancing environmental education to

minimise visitor impact on natural environment.

Ø Ecotourism as a strategy can improve the relationship between forest department & local communities which were always under strain and it will involve developing trust between different stakeholders with different perspectives and orientations.

Ø Local communities are potential candidates for tourism jobs as they know the local environment well, the treasure of biodiversity that the area harbours, its history and how it has evolved over the years. Local communities are source of first hand information of the area, natural environment and how it has evolved over the years.

Conclusion: Sustainable tourism has proven to be one of the most effective ways of providing economic and employment opportunities, while at the same time protecting and conserving natural resources. Conservation can be achieved when both the forest department and the local communities work in tandem. Ecotourism development aims to ensure that local economic benefits in a much bigger way accrue to the local communities, which will lead to economic development of the local community by and large coupled with conservation of fragile ecosystem leading to balanced overall development of the area.

(The authors are from Department of Silviculture and Natural Resource Management, Forest College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Mettupalayam – 641 301, Tamil Nadu, India

E-mail: prasathforestry@gmail.com)

GUIDE TO APPLICANTS OF FAMILY PENSION

By
K.B.R. Reddy

INTRODUCTION: On the death of a Government Employee, or a Retiree in receipt of service pension, the widow of such person is eligible to draw 'Death Relief' equal to last drawn pension, 'Life Time Arrears' (LTA) due, to her late husband and 'Family Pension'. These benefits are claimed from the Assistant Pension Payment Officer, M.J. Road, Hyderabad by those who are living in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. For others living in the districts, claim of the said amounts has to be made from the Treasury Officers of the District concerned. For claiming the benefits following the death of a Government Employee or a Service Pensioner, the procedure hitherto was elaborate and required to file an application with several enclosures, certificates etc. That procedure has been, simplified under the orders of the then Government of Andhra Pradesh. The revised procedure is described below.

REVISED PROCEDURE: Thanks to the All India Service Pensioners Association, the Association submitted a representation dated 29.05.2009 to the Government of AP to dispense with certain documents and to simplify the procedure for claiming the benefits as are eligible to the Survivors of the deceased pensioners. Accordingly, the Government issued orders Vide Circular Memo No. 743/147/PSC/2009 dated 29.05.2009 changing the procedure and dispensing with production of certain documents. The changes made by the said Circular Memo are:

1. Legal Heir Certificate and No objection Certificate for payment of LTA amount to the Family Pensioner's Nominee, which had already been authorized by the AG / Dir. State Audit, need not be filed before the Pension Officer.
2. Family Pensioner's Nominee should be paid Death Relief like LTA.
3. A simple and single application should be enough to release family pension from the next day of the death of the service pensioner.
4. A fresh ABCD Form is not necessary. Annual Verification Certificate attested by a gazetted officer is enough.
5. Thumb impression declaration attested by gazetted officer is not required.

NEW FORM OF APPLICATION: The Director of Treasuries and Accounts, Telangana State vide DTA, TS, Hyd. Circular Memo No. H4/227/2019 dated 19.01.2019 has prescribed a New Application Form for the Payment of LTA, Death Relief and Family Pension, which is annexed hereto. Similar Form has yet to be prescribed by the Dir. Treasuries & Accounts of A. P.

DEATH RELIEF TO AIS PENSIONERS: Thanks again to the AIS Pensioners Association, at whose instance the benefit of Death Relief is extended, to the AIS pensioners Vide G.O. Ms. No. 566 G.A (SC.X) Dept. dated 28.10.1993 but the amount is to be sanctioned by the District Collector concerned where the AIS pensioner settled down. Our Association as well as the AIS pensioners Association have requested the Government of Telangana and the Government of AP to issue orders integrating the procedure sanctioning Death Relief on par with State Government employees. The orders of Govt. of Telangana and Govt. of A.P are awaited.

Note: - Also, please see my article, 'Duty of Living Pensioner ...' published at P. 27 in Vana Premi of July 2018.

(Revised on 29.01.2019)

APPLICATION FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE LIFE TIME ARREARS/DEATH RELIEF/CVP/DCRG AND CONVERSION TO FAMILY PENSION

(Govt. Cir. Memo No. 743/147/PSC/2009, Dt: 29.05-2009)

(Issued vide DTA, TS, HYD. Circular Memo.No.H4/227/2019, dt: 19.01.2019)

w.e.f. 01.02.2019

To

The Asst Pension Payment Officer/

Treasury Officer

1. Name of the applicant :
2. Name of the Deceased Pensioner :
3. Nature of the Pension : Service Pension / Family Pension
4. P.P.O. No. / P.P.O. ID :
5. Amount of pension per month :
6. Name of the Bank and Branch from :
Which the pension is being drawn
7. Date of Death :
8. Relationship with the Pensioner :
9. Aadhaar Card Number of Applicant :
10. Bank Name and Account Number of the applicant :
11. PAN Number (Optional) of Applicant :
12. Address of the Applicant :
13. REQUESTS :-

PLEASE PAY THE FOLLOWING

- (1) Death Relief.
- (2) L.T.A. of my _____ :
- (3) Convert Service pension to Family Pension: to _____
(NAME)

(4) Death Cum retirement Gratuity

(5) Commuted value of Pension

SIGNATURE /THUMB IMPRESSION

& PHONE No: OF THE APPLICANT

The following documents to be enclosed with applicant self attestation:

1. Death Certificate in Original
2. Copy of Legal Heirs Certificate/Family members Certificate in the absence of Spouse name in the PPO
3. No objection from other legal Heirs in the absence of Spouse name in the PPO
4. Copy of Aadhaar Card of applicant.

5. Copy of Applicant Bank passbook (page) consisting the Account Number & IFSC Codes details
 6. Copy of PAN Card (Optional)

APPLICABLE ONLY FOR CONVERSION TO FAMILY PENSION

(A) Certified that the affixed Photograph is that of

Sri/Smt.....

S/o.D/o.W/o.....

Late Pensioner.....

P.P.O.No.....

Retired from the office of the

(B) 1. Specimen Signatures of Family pensioner

1. 2. 3.

(C) Left hand thumb & finger impressions

Thumb

Point finger

Middle finger

Ring finger

Little Finger

The Impressions have to be affixed before the Pension Officer

D) Signature of Pensioner:

To be signed before Pension Officer

DECLARATION BY THE APPLICANT

A) I hereby declare that I am in receipt of pension Rs..... and D.A.Rs..... and I am drawing the pension through P.P.O.No..... date.....from the (Name of the Treasury)

B) I hereby declare that I am already not in receipt of any other pension/ remuneration or D.A. etc. from any Govt. Treasury.

C) I hereby declare that I am not married or not Re-married :

/ I hereby declare that I am married to On.....

D) I hereby declare that I am employed as on

E) 1) I declare that to refund the amount of Pension subsequently found paid in Excess to which I was entitled for under the prescribed Rules.

2) I solemnly affirm the particulars given above are correct and true to the best of my knowledge. If found false in future, I shall be liable for any action that may be taken by the Government.

Signature of the applicant

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FOREST OFFICERS OF TELANGANA AND ANDHRA PRADESH PROCEEDINGS OF 92ND GENERAL BODY MEETING, AT ARANYA BHAVAN, HYDERABAD ON 30.06.2019

1. Welcome Address by Secretary:

The Secretary, Sri. A.V. Govindarajulu extended a hearty welcome to the members and their spouses to the 92nd General Body Meeting (GBM) of the Association. The agenda for the meeting was placed before the President with request to preside over the meeting and conduct the proceedings as per the agenda listed.

Sri. T. Narayan Swamy Vice President was requested to preside over the meeting, as the President Sri. S.K. Das is abroad.

2. Shraddajali:

It is informed that late A.H. Moosvi IFS (R) passed away on 4th May, 2019. Sri. K. Buchi Ram Reddy Senior Member recalled the services of late A.H. Moosvi to the Forest Department as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force of erstwhile undivided Andhra Pradesh and his friendly and helping nature to the needy in the Department.

It is also informed that late K. Prakasa Rao and late Viswanath Singh Retired DFOs also passed away on 19th and 20th May 2019 respectively. Sri. K. Buchi Ram Reddy recalled their services in the Forest Department.

The Member paid their respects to the departed souls by standing in silence for two minutes.

3. Action Taken Report:

The Secretary read out Action Taken Report and resolutions passed in 103rd Executive Committee held on 26.05.2019 which are as under:

- i. Conducting GBM meeting: As decided in the Executive Committee the GBM is being held today i.e., 31.03.2019 at Aranya Bhavan, Hyderabad.
- ii. Resignation of Sri. M. Narasimha Reddy as Treasurer of Association is put up for approval of GBM.
- iii. Felicitations to the following as proposed in Executive Committee meeting are arranged.

a. Smt. R. Sobha, IFS on elevations as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.

b. Dr. Ragotam Rao Desai on conferring literary award by Karnataka Government.

c. Sri. K. Mohan Reddy on attaining age of 85 years.

d. Sri. C. Subba Rao on attaining age of 75 years.

e. Sri. M.V.S Prakasa Rao on attaining age of 75 years.

iv. Presentation of the Audited Annual accounts for approval and communication of the audited accounts to members by Sr. M. Narasimha Reddy Treasurer.

v. The tri-decennial Celebration proposals in Sept. 2019 are put up for approval by General Body.

vi. Dispatched the Directory of the Association to A.P Members through Sri. Varaprasad Member of the Association.

4. Felicitations:

a) Smt. R. Sobha, IFS is felicitated on her elevation as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Telangana State, Smt. Sobha recalled her Association with Senior officers who are retired now and thanked the members. Smt. Sobha attended the felicitation along with her husband Sri. Sundervadan who is also Senior officer in IFS cadre and retired now.

5. Sri. M.V.S Prakasa Rao, IFS (Retd) was felicitated on attaining 75 years of age. He was felicitated with Shawl and Bouquet. Sri. M.V.S Prakasa Rao thanked the members of GBM for the felicitation extended to him.

6. Sri. M. Narasimha Reddy Treasurer presented Annual Account after the Internal Audit and informed the General body that he will communicate the Annual Accounts 2018-19 with balance sheet after the statutory audit.

7. Distribution of Directory, 2019 of Association: The Secretary informed General Body that the Directory is distributed to

members who attended the GBM on 31.03.2019 and to-day i.e., 30.06.2019. The Directories were sent to AP members through Sri. Varaprasad member of this association and the same is delivered.

8. Advance communication of agenda to Members:

Dr. C.N. Rao requested to communicate the agenda of General Body Meeting in advance to the members. As decided it would be communicated, on line through E-mail of members.

9. Tri-decennial celebrations of the association in September 2018:

The proposal of Tri-decennial celebrations of the association in September 2019 is approved tentatively. The details are to be worked out in the coming Executive Committee Meeting, to be held in August, 2019. It is decided that the current office bearers are to be felicitated in the tri-decennial celebrations. Special Issue of Vanapremi will be issued for tri-decennial celebrations. Sri. J.V. Sharma will be convener for the special issue and he will be taking action in obtaining articles for the special issue.

10. Resignation of Sri. M. Narasimha Reddy as Treasurer:

The resignation of Sri. M. Narasimha Reddy as Treasurer of the Association is accepted by General Body. Sri. Tirupelu Reddy offered his services as Treasurer in Executive Committee Meeting held on 20.05.2019 but later on withdrew his offer. Sri. Iqbal Singh agreed to offer his services as Treasurer of the Association. The General Body approved the proposal and Sri. Iqbal Singh will be Treasurer of this Association for the remaining term till Election to the New office bearers in December 2020.

11. Membership enrolment:

Sri. Shyam Prasad Team leader was requested to continue contacting the Retiring Officers for Joining the Association.

12. Bio-data collection:

Sri. K.B.R. Reddy explained again about the need of Bio-data of the members and a few members came forward to give the same.

13. Sri. K.B.R. Reddy informed the General

Body about literary award given to Dr. Raghotham Rao Desai by Karnataka Govt. (a member of the Association) on the Book titled as "Asateri Adab mein Science ke Muzamirati" (i.e., concealed scientific thoughts in mythological literature). Sri. K.B.R. Reddy read the citation on the achievements of Dr. Raghotham Rao during career and also on his retirement. Dr. Raghotham Rao Desai graduated from Osmania University in the erstwhile Hyderabad state and after training at SFRC Coimbatore during 1954-56, he was first posted in Hyderabad State. He was allotted later to Karnataka state in the states reorganization. He had glorious record of his services. He retired after elevation to the IFS cadre. He earned the Master Degree and Phd after the retirement. Dr. Raghotham Rao was felicitated with Memento for his achievements and literary award. Dr. Raghotham Rao recounted his achievements during his service and in retirement. Explained about Book "Asateri Adab mein Science Ke Muzamirat" and its contents. He thanked the members for the patient hearing on the Book written by him and felicitating him.

14. Address by President:

The President Sri. T. Narayana Swamy recalled the deliberations that took place in General Body meeting and thanked the members.

15. Vote of Thanks:

Sri. Shankaran delivered Vote of Thanks highlighting the deliberations that took place.

16. Lunch:

Members disbursed for the lunch hosted by Sri. M.A. Waheed and Sri. Asaiah.

Date:

(A.V. Govindarajulu)

Secretary

LEGAL NOTES

M. Janakarajan vs. District Forest Officer, Trichy

The petitioner M. Janakarajan was appointed as a Forest Guard in March 1992 and was promoted as Forester in April 1998. While so, he demanded and accepted bribe for some official favour. A criminal case was registered under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. Similarly the department has initiated disciplinary proceedings under the Government Servants (Discipline and Appeal) Rules. A charge Memo dated 16.12.2008 with the charges and the statement of imputations in support of the charges was served on him. He was also supplied with the list of documents and a list witnesses to prove the charges.

Challenging the Charge Memo, Forester Janakarajan filed Writ Petition No. 1 of 2009 before the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court with a prayer to quash the DFO's proceedings in Letter No. 6232/2008-U2 dated 16.12.1998. The case was heard by The Hon'ble Justice S.M. Subramaniam.

The Court was of the Opinion that, "the Disciplinary Proceedings and the criminal proceedings are entirely different and both are independent. Absolutely there is no bar in proceeding with the Disciplinary Departmental Proceedings during the pendency of the criminal case. For convicting a person under criminal law, a strict proof is required and the charges framed in the criminal case must be proved beyond

reasonable doubt. However no such strict proof is required for the purpose of departmental disciplinary. Even preponderance of probabilities is sufficient to punish a government employee under the Departmental Discipline and Appeal Rules. Thus mere pendency of criminal case is not sufficient for the purpose of keeping in abeyance the departmental disciplinary proceedings. Once the disciplinary proceedings are initiated against government employee, the same must be allowed to be completed in all respects and it should reach its logical conclusion. Intermittent interventions in departmental disciplinary proceedings are not preferable and the same can be done only in exceptional circumstances. Thus the pendency of criminal case cannot be of any avail for the writ petitioner to stall the departmental disciplinary proceedings".

Whether simultaneous proceedings in a departmental enquiry under the Discipline and Appeal Rules can be held during a criminal trial, the Supreme Court laid down the principles that simultaneous proceedings is not a bar during the proceedings of a criminal case. Disciplinary authorities are free to exercise such powers as are conferred on them by the departmental rules and regulations.

It was observed that Government servants play

a significant role in running the administration of the country. They are important constituents of the administration set up. They are pillars of the Government departments on whose shoulders the responsibility of implementing the Government policies lies. It is the need of the hour to analyse whether conducting departmental proceedings and criminal proceedings would amount to double jeopardy. In formulating the aforesaid opinion, His Lordship followed several rulings of High Courts and Supreme Court. Two of the important rulings of the Supreme Court cited in the present judgment are mentioned below.

In *Ajith Kumar Nag Vs. General Manager, Indian Oil Company* (2005-7-SCC-764), the Supreme Court held that acquittal by a criminal court would not debar an employer exercising power in accordance with Rules and Regulations in force. Two proceedings, criminal and departmental, are entirely different. They operate in different fields and have different objectives. The object of criminal trial is to inflict appropriate punishment on offender; the

purpose of enquiry proceedings is to deal with the delinquent departmentally and to impose penalty in accordance with Service Rules. In criminal law burden of proof is on prosecution and unless prosecution is able to prove the guilt of the accused 'beyond reasonable doubt' he cannot be convicted by court. In departmental enquiry, on the other hand, penalty can be imposed on the delinquent officer on a finding recorded on the basis of 'preponderance of probability'.

In *S.A. Venkatraman Vs. Union of India* (AIR 1954 SC 375), the accused was an ICS officer charged for corruption. He questioned the principle of simultaneous proceedings ending up in double jeopardy. The Apex Court held, taking to recourse to both does not amount to double jeopardy. In view of the discussions made, the court was of the opinion that there is no impediment for the Respondent to proceed with the departmental enquiry. In the result, the writ petition was dismissed on 02.01.2018.

Source: Internet **K.B.R**

(keesrabuchiram@gmail.com)

***“COUNT NOT THE CANDLES...SEE
THE LIGHTS THEY GIVE. COUNT NOT
THE YEARS, BUT THE LIFE YOU LIVE.
WISHING YOU A WONDERFUL TIME
AHEAD. HAPPY BIRTHDAY.”***

NEWS AND NOTES

India ranks 177 out of 180 in Environmental Performance Index

India is among the bottom five countries on the Environmental Performance Index 2018, plummeting 36 points from 141 in 2016, according to a biennial report by Yale and Columbia Universities along with the World Economic Forum.

While India is at the bottom of the list in the environmental health category, it ranks 178 out of 180 as far as air quality is concerned.

Its overall low ranking — 177 among 180 countries — was linked to poor performance in the environment health policy and deaths due to **air pollution** categories.

ADVERTISING

The report was released on the sidelines of the ongoing World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

It said deaths attributed to ultra-fine PM2.5 pollutants have risen over the past decade and are estimated at 1,640,113 annually in India.

Switzerland leads the world in sustainability, followed by France, Denmark, Malta and Sweden in the EPI, which found that air quality is the leading environmental threat to public health. Overall, India (at 177) and Bangladesh (179) come in near the bottom of the rankings, with Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nepal rounding out the bottom five.

"India's low scores are influenced by poor performance in the Environmental Health policy objective. Deaths attributed to PM2.5 have risen over the past decade and are estimated at 1,640,113, annually [Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, 2017].

"Despite government action, **pollution** from solid fuels, coal and crop residue burning, and emissions from motor vehicles continue to severely degrade the air quality for millions of Indians," the report said.

There was no immediate reaction available from India's Environment Ministry.

The 10th EPI report ranks 180 countries on 24 performance indicators across 10 categories covering environmental health and ecosystem vitality.

"Of the emerging economies, China and India rank 120 and 177 respectively, reflecting the strain population pressures and rapid economic growth impose on the environment," the researchers noted.

The EPI said air quality remains the leading environmental threat to public health.

In 2016, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation estimated that diseases related to airborne pollutants contributed to two-thirds of all life-years lost to environmentally related deaths and disabilities.

"Pollution is particularly severe in places such as India and China, where greater levels of economic development contribute to higher pollution levels [World Bank and Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, 2016].

"As countries develop, increased population growth in large cities, as well as increased industrial production and automotive transportation, continue to expose people to high levels of air pollution," it said.

OBITUARY

Sri Thummaluru Somasekhara Reddy

14.09.1953-18.08.2019



We record with profound grief the sudden demise of our colleague Sri. Thummaluru Somasekhar Reddy, Retired Divisional Forest Officer. He had a peaceful death on 18-8-2019 in his home in Srichakra Enclave, Sainikpuri, Hyderabad.

He was born on 15-1-1954 in a middle class agricultural family in Ummareddypalli village, Muddanur Mandal, Kadapa district to Thummaluru Nagi Reddy and Thummaluru Munemma.

He did his schooling in Gov't High School, Muddanur, BSc in Gov't Arts College, Kadapa and MSc in Karnatak University, Dharwad.

He Joined the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department as Forest Range Officer on 1-11-1979. After his professional training in Southern Forest Rangers College, Coimbatore for two years he was posted as Assistant Range Officer under practical training in Kuppam Range, Chittoor West Division. During this period he was awarded a red entry in his Service Record for his outstanding contribution in controlling sandal wood smuggling. He had meritorious service in various postings as Asst. Project Officer Nandyal, Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation, Forest Range Officer Logging Nandyal, Forest Range Officer Balapalli, Rajampet Division, Forest Range Officer Social Forestry, Penukonda, Ananthapur SF Division, Forest Range Officer Kalyandurg, Ananthapur Division, Forest Range Officer Bukkapatnam, Ananthpur Division.

While working as Forest Range Officer Bukkapatnam, he was promoted as Asst. Conservator of Forests. In the rank of Asst. Conservator of Forests, he worked in DRDA Bhuvanagiri Nalgonda district, Metro Water Works Hyderabad, Hyderabad Urban Development Authority. He retired from service as Divisional Forest Officer Vigilance O/o Prl Chief Conservator of Forests, Hyderabad on 31-1-2012.

He was a hardworking officer known for his candid, straight forward approach. He was much endeared by his staff and superiors. He was an avid gardener, an ardent lover of vegetation and greenery. He maintained himself, the GHMC garden next to house, spick and span till the last. He was a spiritual person familiar with Vedic practices in life. He maintained Whatsapp group "Svadyayam" for exchanging spiritual information and "Health Tips" for exchanging information on health tips.

He is survived by his wife Smt. Siva Nandamma, son Sri. Amarnath Reddy, daughter in law Smt. Anusha, daughters Smt. Rama Devi and Smt. Bhargavi and sons in law Sri. Gurivi Reddy and Sri Madhusudan Reddy. Son and daughters are happily settled in life.

He is the brother-in-law of Sri C. Siva Sankara Reddy IFS (Retd) Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests. His elder brother Sri TJ Reddy is a retired Wing Commander in Indian Air Force.

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE



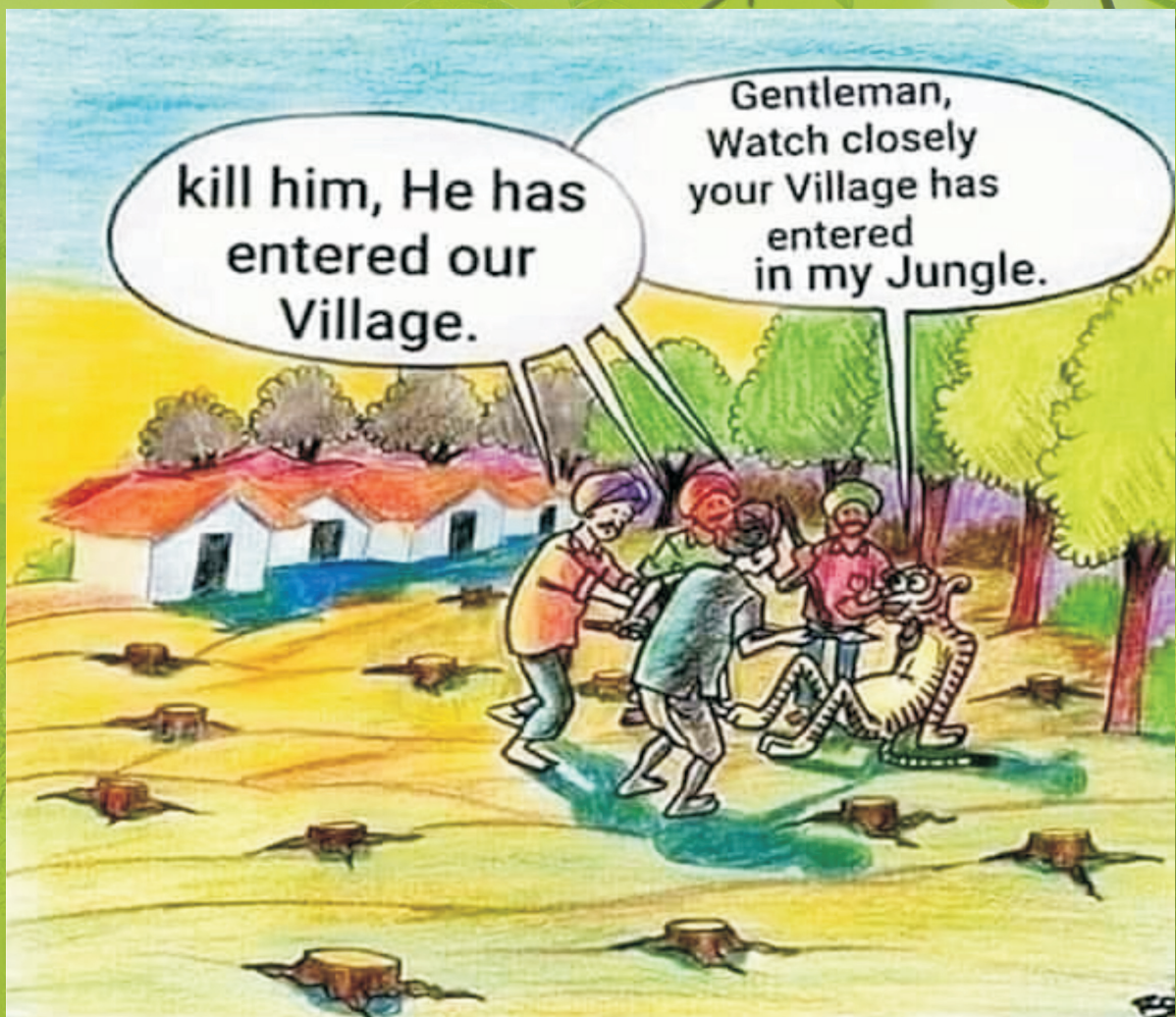
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Plant A Sapling And Protect The Environment

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