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VANA PREMI



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Yearly Subscription - Rs. 400/-

Single Copy Rs. 40/-

Vol. 22

JANUARY - 2021

No. 1



Photo by Ashok Chaudhry

Great Indian Bustard, (*Ardeotis nigriceps*, Family Otididae)

JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FOREST OFFICERS, TELANGANA & ANDHRA PRADESH
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- Large grower of about 26,809.00 Ha. of Eucalyptus clonal / seed origin plantations. Bamboo also grown as an important crop over 6,405.00 Ha.
- The TSFDC has also taken up the challenging task of Eco-Tourism development in the State. Already made open to public – Hyderabad Botanical Garden, Pala Pitta Cycling Park near Hi-Tech City, Madhapur, which has received the ISO 9001:2015 certification on 16-10-2019. Effective SMC measures for recharging pond water and improving surface water taken up in association with Smaran NGO. Mahavir Nischal Van Eco-Tourism Centre, Vanasthalipuram, and Mrugavani National Park at Chilkur are attracting increasing number of visitors.
- TSFDC is also developing Urban Parks in Lagadi Malakpet RF Cluster, Thumukunta RF & Gowdelli PC Kalan & PC Khurd Cluster. Sankalp Taru NGO is collaborating with TSFDC in improving greenery at Gowdelli Park.
- TSFDC has also taken up consultancy work for NTPC and RFCL and successfully raised multiple Row avenue plantation along Rajiv Rahadari highway in peddapally Dist.
- Dhanvanthari herbal garden is revived with support from Deloitte and Technical support of environment forest solutions.

Vice Chairman & Managing Director

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

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)

President : Sri. S.K. Das, I.F.S.
Cell : 9550681964, 23115085

Vice President :

Secretary : Sri. A.V. Govindarajulu,
Cell : 9440764611

Jt. Secretary : Sri. A. Shankaran, 9494019595

Treasurer : Sri. Sardar Iqbal Singh,
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1. President : Ex-Officio President of Assn.,
2. Editor : Qamar Mohd.Khan
Tel: 040-40205831, 9849233624
e-mail:qamar_asima@yahoo.com
3. Associate Editor : D. Nagabhushanam, I.F.S. (Retd.)

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Contents

1. Editorial -QMK4
2. Letters to the Editor 6
3. Great Indian Bustard..... 7
Source: INTERNET
4. COVID-19 has Hit Indians Very Hard
Uma Shanker Singh D.SC.9
5. Prevention of The Loot of Exchequer:
A Case of R.F. Block Ram Nuthla of
Mahboob Nagar Division
P.K. Sharma 12
6. CA|TS Experience In Securing Tiger Landscape
B.K. Singh 15
8. Green Quiz Championship - January 2021
Dr. K. Tirupataiah 18
9. A Language is Far Removed from Ethnic
Ramifications
Dr.B. Raghotham Rao Desai..... 19
10. Tale of a Challenge to Stop-Elephants
Poaching in Bandipur TR in 1978
B.M.T. Rajeev..... 21
11. Anamalai Tiger Reserve
V. Santhaseela Babu 31
12. Effect of Man-Made Pollution on Environment
Manohar A. Saindane 36
13. Unique Method Employed for Detecting
Wildlife Offence in Nizamabad District
M. Raja Ramana Reddy 38
14. Arthritis in General
Dr. N.V. Jayanth Babu 39
15. News and Notes 44
16. Legal Notes-I
Santosh Lal Chaudhary and State of
Uttarakhand & Another
G. Ravinder..... 48
17. Legal Notes-II
State of Maharashtra Vs Suja Karan Rabbani
K.B.R 52

Date of Publication: 26-12-2020

/Total Pages 56

Editorial

Vana Premi: The Association of Retired Forest Officers of Andhra Pradesh was formed on 29th May 1989 with 18 members. The sole aim was to meet all the members as frequently as possible to avoid isolation after retirement. Today after the bifurcation of the State in 2014, there are around two hundred members and every quarter a General Body Meeting is conducted and members along with their spouses attend this meeting.

In the year 1994 it was suggested by a few members to start a Newsletter of the Association. So the Association decided to start a quarterly News Letter in which information about the members' welfare used to be published. The founder Editor of this News Letter was Mr Bhoom Rajam and shortly afterwards Mr K. Buchiram Reddy took over. It was he, who nurtured it to a big and strong Tree and with his efforts; this quarterly Newsletter was made a monthly Journal about 21 years ago. After my retirement from service in the year 2005 I became the Associate editor of this monthly magazine. In the year 2009 when Mr K. Buchiram Reddy resigned and relinquished office I took over from him as Editor and I am continuing till today. In this way I am associated with Vana Premi since my retirement in the year 2005 and have completed more than 15 years.

A Chinese proverb which says, "A journey of a 1000 miles begins with a single step" so aptly describes the origin and journey of Vana Premi. The 26 years journey of Vana Premi which started as a Newsletter, is rather short and (I wish Vana Premi a very long, long journey). During this span it has seen many ups and very few downs. Vana Premi which was started as a Newsletter with few black and white pages slowly increased to about forty pages and during the year 2009 its cover pages were printed in colour with

another four colour pages inside. During April 2014 Vana Premi was made available on the internet. This enabled the subscribers to read Vana Premi from anywhere in the world whenever they visited their children or went on foreign trips.

Mr Buchiram Reddy tried to make the finances stable by increasing the subscribers and today its finances are in a better position. To increase the number of subscribers Vana Premi was distributed in every Southern Forest Rangers College Alumnus Meet and annual subscriptions were collected from the retired officers who attended the Alumni Meet.

Retired and in-service officers of different states were contacted on phone and through e-mails and requested to send articles to improve the standard of the magazine. This is continued even today. I sent soft copies and hard copies to all the Principal Chief Conservators of Forests (HoFF) and Chief Wildlife Wardens of all the states twice and requested them to subscribe to the magazine. It will not be out of place to mention here that Mr Forrest D. Fleischman Assistant Professor Department of Ecosystem Science & Management; Texas AgriLife Research, Texas A&M University was conducting research for his Doctorate, on the subject "Role of government officials in forest governance in India". He visited Hyderabad, contacted many retired and in-service forest officers including me and had lengthy discussions on the subject. He also collected few issues of Vana Premi and shared information of Vana Premi in his thesis. He was awarded Ph.D., in the year 2015. The only time when Vana Premi could not be published was in April and May 2020 owing to the Covid-19 pandemic during which period there was complete lockdown.

Readers may know that I am also working full day in a Trust which is responsible for the education of girls from the underprivileged community in Hyderabad. I attend office from 10 AM to 4 PM. I am managing both the jobs, working full time for the Trust and carrying out Editorship of Vana Premi. I attend the Trust office during the day and do the Vana Premi work at night. Readers also know that Vana Premi is a time bound work and from every 15th to 26th of the month, I have to work strenuously and complete all the work of Vana Premi so that it is printed before the 1st of the succeeding month, to make it possible to post it on the 4th or 5th of that month which is allotted by the postal department. If Vana Premi is not posted on these two allotted dates it cannot be posted at the concessional rates of postage, and Rs 8/- postal stamp has to be affixed instead of postal stamps of Rs 0.50.

I am now in an advanced stage of life. I have entered into 73rd year and now I am not able to cope with these two assignments simultaneously. Working late nights is reflecting on my health. For the last two years I have been requesting the office bearers of our Association to relinquish me from the post of Editor Vana Premi, which is getting postponed. Mr Narayan Swamy Vice President of the Association requested me nine months ago to continue as Editor up to December 2020 as the tenure of all the office bearers will be ending in December and a new body is to be elected, during which the Editor would also be elected. I waited till November and in the last week of November I, with a heavy heart tendered my resignation from the post of Editor Vana Premi. The President of the Association requested me to continue till a general body meeting is conducted and a new Editor is elected, to which I agreed. I hope that soon the general body meeting will be conducted after the Government permits physical meetings and a new Editor is elected or chosen.

I extend my best wishes to the incoming Editor, and a very happy time during his tenure as Editor Vana Premi. I also thank all the office bearers and members of the Association who reposed confidence in me and provided all the help during my tenure as Editor. I also thank all the in-service officers who rendered help to me in the discharge of my duties as Editor. I also thank all the subscribers who reposed confidence in me and who became either life time subscribers or annual subscribers and gave strength and encouragement through their letters to the Editor. I thank all the staff members of the postal department who gave their full cooperation in the posting of Vana Premi. I thank all the writers who responded to my request and sent me quality articles which were liked by our readers. I thank the Printer M/s Venugraphics, (Mr Venugopal Reddy), and DTPC operators (Mr. Satish, Mr. Sadanand, Mr. Seenu and Mr. Haneef). I thank Mr. BSN Prasad and Mr Anwar who assisted me in the office and outdoor work. I thank everybody who helped me in the discharge of my duties as Editor.

On the whole I enjoyed my tenure as Editor of Vana Premi and I learnt many things by reading various newspapers, online articles for writing Editorials, which I was unaware of before I became Editor.

To convey my good wishes to Vana Premi I would like to quote lines from Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem "The Brook" in which the poet writes "men may come and men may go but I go on forever."

For Vana Premi I wish "*Din Duni Aur Ratt Chougni Tarraqqi Karay*". (Urdu and Hindi idiom which means, "to make a lot of progress in a very short time"). I may be attending to editorial work till a new incumbent is chosen. Till such time all the best and Goodbye. **QMK**

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

The Editorial "Forest Fires rise of temperature and climate change" of Vana Premi December, 2020 issue is mind-blowing with data of forest fires and their ill effects during 2019 n 2020's in Brazil, Australia, US, elsewhere & even in India.

The forest fires escalate the global warming, climate change & destroy the biodiversity of the world affecting the future generation of the human race. Each 2.20 tonne of hard wood burnt said to produce 3.66 tonne of CO₂ to atmosphere & ash to pollute surface water.

The Foresters have a big role all over the world to ensure forests are free from fires by reducing the dry fuel wood loads in the forests and Protected Areas to save the biodiversity & the human race from the disasters of Global Warming.

A very good editorial, I congratulate the editor for this eye-opening editorial.

The articles in this issue, Kanha NP by Sri V Santhaseela Babu takes the readers to explore the Vista of the beautiful Kanha with tiger show & it's neighbourhood PAs. The capture of an escaped tiger in a Zoo by Dr KT Rao is more practical by staking his own safety. Why Indian forests are low productive? by Dr U S Singh is a real question for the Indian foresters to take it seriously in the interest of resolving real problem of timber famine in India. S. Ramanujam by Mr AK Nayak is worthy to reread to be proud of the Indian Wizard of Mathematics.

A beautiful □ monthly in all respect to read & add for the collections with a colourful cover page.

BMT Rajeev, Bengaluru

We believe in peace and peaceful development, not only for ourselves but for people all over the world.

- Lal Bahadur Shastri

The Sanskrit name for India is – Bharat.

India is derived from River Indus (Sindhu) where Aryans Settled.

Great Indian Bustard

SOURCE: INTERNET

Great Indian bustard, (*Ardeotis nigriceps*), large bird of the bustard family (Otididae), one of the heaviest flying birds in the world. The great Indian bustard inhabits dry grasslands and scrublands on the Indian subcontinent; its largest populations are found in the Indian state of Rajasthan.

Physical Features: Great Indian bustards are tall birds with long legs and a long neck; the tallest individuals may stand up to 1.2 metres (4 feet) high. The sexes are roughly the same size, with the largest individuals weighing 15 kg (33 pounds). Males and females are distinguished by the colour of their feathers. Feathers on the top of the head are black in males, who also possess a whitish neck, breast, and underparts, along with brown wings highlighted by black and grey markings. Males also have a small, narrow band of black feathers across the breast. In contrast, females possess a smaller black crown on the top of the head, and the black breast band is either discontinuous or absent.

Predators and Prey: Great Indian bustards are omnivores that feed opportunistically (that is, they feed on any palatable food in their immediate surroundings). They prey on various arthropods, worms, small mammals, and small reptiles. Insects such as locusts, crickets, and beetles make up the bulk of their diet during the summer monsoon, when rainfall peaks in India and the bird's breeding season largely takes place. Seeds (including wheat [*Triticum vulgare*] and peanuts [groundnuts; *Arachis hypogaea*]), in contrast, make up the largest portions of the diet during the coldest and driest months of the year.

Adult great Indian bustards have few natural enemies, but they display considerable agitation around certain predatory birds, such as eagles and

Egyptian vultures (*Neophron percnopterus*). The only animals that have been observed to attack them are grey wolves (*Canis lupus*). On the other hand, chicks may be preyed upon by felines, jackals, and feral dogs. Eggs are sometimes stolen from nests by foxes, mongooses, monitor lizards, and Egyptian vultures and other birds. The greatest threat to the eggs, however, comes from grazing cows that often trample them.

Reproduction: Although some of the reproductive behaviours of great Indian bustards are known, the finer details of nesting and mating, as well as migratory activities related to nesting and mating, are thought to vary greatly among populations and individuals. For example, they are capable of year-round breeding, but for most populations the breeding season lasts from March through September, which largely encapsulates the summer monsoon season. Likewise, while they do not return to the same nests year after year, and typically create new ones instead, they sometimes use nests made in previous years by other great Indian bustards. The nests themselves are simple and often are located in depressions made in the soil in low croplands and grasslands or are situated on open, rocky ground.

Whether or not the species uses a specific mating strategy is unknown, but elements of both promiscuous (where members of both sexes mate with multiple partners) and polygynous (where males mate with multiple females) mating have been observed. It does not appear that the species forms pair bonds. Lekking, where males assemble at communal display sites to perform for and court females, occurs in some populations. However, in other instances, solitary males may attract females to their locations with loud calls that can be heard

at least 0.5 km (0.3 mile) distant. The male's visual display involves standing on open ground with the head and tail raised, its white feathers fluffed, and its gular sac (neck pouch) filled with air.

After breeding takes place, the male leaves, and the female becomes the exclusive caregiver for her young. Most females lay a single egg, but clutches of two eggs are not unknown. She incubates the egg for approximately one month before it hatches. Hatchlings are capable of feeding on their own after one week, and they become fully fledged when they are 30–35 days old. Most hatchlings fully emancipate themselves from their mothers at the beginning of the next breeding season. Females may breed as early as age two or three years, while males become sexually mature at age five or six.

Few discernible patterns of migration have been observed among great Indian bustards outside of the breeding season. Some may make short local migrations within a region, whereas others fly longer distances across the subcontinent.

Conservation Status: In 1994 great Indian bustards were listed as an endangered species on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. By 2011, however, the population decline was so severe that the IUCN reclassified the species as critically endangered. An estimated 50 to 250 mature birds

remain. The largest concentration of great Indian bustards, perhaps 175 birds, occurs in the state of Rajasthan.

Habitat loss and degradation appear to be the primary causes of decline. Ecologists have estimated that approximately 90 percent of the species' natural geographic range, which once spanned the majority of north western and west-central India, has been lost, fragmented by road-building and mining activities and transformed by irrigation and mechanized farming. Many croplands that once produced sorghum and millet seeds, on which the great Indian bustard thrived, have become fields of sugarcane and cotton or grape orchards. Hunting and poaching have also contributed to the decrease in population. These activities, combined with the species' low fecundity and the pressure of natural predators, have left the great Indian bustard in a precarious position.

In 2012 the Indian government launched Project Bustard, a national conservation program to protect the great Indian bustard, along with the Bengal florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*), the lesser florican (*Sypheotides indicus*), and their habitats from further declines. The program was modelled after Project Tiger, a massive national effort initiated in the early 1970s to protect the tigers of India and their habitat.

Our National Flag
Saffron – Strength and Courage.
The white middle band for Peace and Truth.
The Green – for Fertility, Growth and Auspiciousness.
My India, My Pride

COVID-19 HAS HIT INDIANS VERY HARD

By

UMA SHANKER SINGH D.Sc.

There are many ways to measure recovery. We can look at summary measures of national economic performance, such as government revenues, industrial production, and GDP. Both tax and non-tax government revenues have grown year-on-year. Industrial output has also been steadily rising, though this slowed down for a few core sectors in October. Indeed, this is also reflected in the strong GDP numbers from Q2, which were fuelled by the growth in both private consumption and investment demand, though they are still lower than their corresponding levels from a year ago. Another way to monitor recovery is to start from the bottom up. Household surveys allow researchers to study the economy at the level of individual households. The Consumer Pyramids Household Survey (CPHS) conducted by CMIE measures the well-being of over 174,000 households across a range of indicators at relatively high frequency. One measure of household economic well-being from CPHS is unemployment, which showed a remarkable recovery and this led me to think whether other indicators of economic well-being confirmed this. Therefore, this is important to consider an alternative measure of labour market health, the employment-to-population ratio, as well as other measures of household economic health such as per-capita income and expenditure. Along these dimensions, there is evidence of a recovery, but it is less strong. This has also been found that the recovery is not evenly distributed across Indian states.

UNEMPLOYMENT: Unemployment shot up in the immediate aftermath of the Covid-19 induced lockdown. But the latest CMIE data suggest that the unemployment rate is back to pre-Covid-19 levels. Is the stress of creating new jobs over? The

answer is in negative. The unemployment rate is just one measure of labour market stress. A high unemployment rate suggests that there are many people who want jobs, but are not able to get jobs. Indeed, after a sharp spike, the unemployment rate dropped to pre-pandemic levels. This could be because everyone who reported as unemployed and looking for work during the pandemic was able to find a job quickly. Another possibility is that workers who lost jobs during the pandemic were discouraged from even looking for jobs, and left the labour force entirely. If workers left the labour force entirely, we should see a drop in the employment-to-population ratio, or 'EPOP'. This is also called the employment rate or the Worker Population Ratio (WPR). It is the number of people employed as a fraction of the total working age population. A reduction in this measure implies an overall reduction in employment. When the WPR is seen this has been found out that while the unemployment rate bounced back, India's EPOP has not fully recovered. We are about 2 percentage points below pre-Covid-19 levels. This suggests that India has 20 million fewer employed people than it did before Covid-19. When a slightly more conservative measure of WPR was constructed then it suggests that there might be 40 million fewer employed people now than before the pandemic. Such a large reduction can have severe long-term consequences. Even if those people are not looking for jobs today, they might start looking for jobs as the country reopens. This could cause a surge in the unemployment rate in the months to come.

PER-CAPITA INCOME WAS HIT MOST: This has been seen that household incomes remain depressed in June and July, by which time the economy had begun to "unlock". Household per-

capita incomes reached their nadir in April, when they were 44% lower than a year previously. They rose to be 25% lower year-on-year in June but the pace of the recovery reduced dramatically in July, when they were still 22.5% lower compared to July 2019. This is troubling. This loss in income seems to be due to the fact that the majority of occupations were less remunerative during the lockdown than before. This continued to be the case even in July. So even if a worker managed to hold on to a job through the lockdown, he or she earned less compared to her previous wage. These losses were concentrated among subsistence farmers, smaller businessmen (such as shopkeepers or DHABA owners), agricultural labourers, and industrial and machine workers. A survey was carried out in case of operability of restaurants in India and this has been found out that 40% of them are closed for ever. Across income groups, we find that middle-income groups suffered the worst relative to their pre-pandemic levels. The lowest 20% of the income distribution bounced back the fastest, whereas the highest 10% of income earners in India have taken the lowest to recover. This has also been found that profit of 600 top business house in the country has gone up by 25% but labour participation rate has come down therefore this also means that profit earned is not re-invested in the market in order to generate employment.

DID DIRECT BENEFIT TRANSFERS HELP? Direct benefit transfers did indeed pick up, but continued to constitute a very small portion of total household income. In the aggregate, they played little role in stabilising falling incomes. The central government did not take the demand side very seriously so that economy stabilises and that's the reason we see suppressed spending on cereals and pulses, which might be on account of this. The government intervention in the form of expanded PDS and free food did not play a vital role in the lower and middle strata of the society. The effect of PM's

grateful words was however overshadowed by data from the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution a few days later revealing that a lot of the free ration had failed to be distributed to beneficiaries, even in key agricultural states such as Telangana and Odisha where the majority of farmers are situated. Of the 36 states and Union Territories (UTs) in India, two distributed zero grains (Goa, Telangana), 11 distributed less than 1% of allocated grains (Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Ladakh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, and Tripura) across April and May 2020, whereas in June 2020 six more (Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, and Ladakh) also distributed zero grains. Disturbingly, most of these states and UTs were shown to have already received their full quota of grains for distribution but failed to give these out such as, Bihar which received 86,450 MTs but distributed just 1.84 MTs in May and zero in June - raising questions as to where these rations have gone to. Even the Ministry has acknowledged that there is an obvious problem that has occurred here after grain has been released to the states.

ALTERED HOUSEHOLD SPENDING: The story on incomes is mirrored in household spending. After a partial recovery, things have stalled in July. Pre-pandemic, monthly per-capita non-food household expenditure was Rs. 2,000 while food expenditure was Rs. 1,500. This trend reversed itself at the height of the lockdown. Both food and non-food expenditure fell sharply; with non-food expenditure falling even lower than food expenditure. Moving forward from April, non-food expenditure has struggled to recover and remained 35% below its pre-pandemic levels even in July. Food expenditure broadly picked up but was about 12% lower in July than in July 2019. Per-capita food expenditure was remarkably constant prior to the pandemic. Worryingly, expenditure on protein-rich foods remained 10% lower in July than its pre-Covid-19 level. Government intervention through the provision of free food is usually through

cereals and pulses. A sustained reduction in food expenditure might have consequences on health and nutrition, especially in households with children.

HUNGER CONTINUED EVEN AFTER LOCKDOWN: A survey called “Hunger Watch” was carried out and its findings were published in the month of December 2020 and this says those six to seven months after the lockdown, people continued to go to bed hungry, skip meals frequently, and are unable to afford nutritious diets because of loss of income. The survey recorded responses from marginalised and excluded communities, such as from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minority religious communities including Muslims, 80% of whom earned less than ₹7,000 a month before the lockdown in March.

DRASTIC DECREASE: Over half of the people surveyed said their consumption of rice and wheat had decreased and 25% said this had “decreased a lot.” Similarly, 64% reported decrease in consumption of pulses, while nearly 30% said this had “decreased a lot”. On consumption of vegetables, 73% reported a drop in consumption of vegetables, while nearly 40% said there was a drastic decrease in their use. About 71% of those who were non-vegetarians could not afford eggs or meat. When quizzed about their perception of drop in quantity of food as compared to pre-COVID 19, nearly 66% or 2/3rd of people said they were having less than the quantity they used to eat. There was also discrimination on the lines of caste and religion while accessing food during the lockdown. One in four Dalits and one in four Muslims reported they faced discrimination and about 12%

of Scheduled Tribes felt discriminated against. Similarly, sex workers, domestic workers, as well as single women faced additional difficulties as many of them have no PDS or any documents without which they were dependent entirely on charity from civil society organisations for their food requirements. Nearly 56% of those surveyed never skipped meals before the lockdown, but in September and October nearly one in seven of them had to so “often” or “sometimes”. Nearly one in three respondents had to “sometimes” go to bed on an empty stomach, while one in 20 households did so “often.” This drastic food insecurity is a direct result of economic precarity, 43% of those surveyed had no income immediately after the lockdown in April and May, and of these, only 3% have returned to the same income levels as pre-lockdown. This has also been found that as many as 56% of those without any income in the beginning of the lockdown still had no source of income. Experts at the launch of the report also linked food insecurity with on-going farmers’ agitation. Farmers must get remunerative prices but the new laws don’t guarantee minimum support prices and, therefore, there is insecurity among farmers. The Food Corporation of India and PDS will be deeply affected and will affect food security levels in the country. The Right to Food Campaign also demanded a universal public distribution system that provides every individual with 10 kg grain, 1.5 kg pulses and 800 gm. cooking oil for at least the next six months up to June 2021, and guarantee of 200 days of employment per household under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) under the statutory minimum wages.

On this special day, (26 January) let's promise our motherland that we will do everything to enrich and preserve our heritage our ethos and our treasure. Happy Republic Day.

PREVENTION OF THE LOOT OF EXCHEQUER: A CASE OF R. F. BLOCK RAM NUTHLA OF MAHBOOB NAGAR DIVISION

By
P.K. Sharma

"This case shows that if proper care is taken by the Officers concerned, Govt. interest could be saved and precious public exchequer could be prevented from being looted!"

Brief facts of the case are that a Forest Block by name Ramnuthla in Mahboob Nagar District of Hyderabad State (later Andhra Pradesh and now Telangana) was notified under Sec 7 of **Hyderabad Forest Act of 1329 Fasli** (*N.B.: Fasli year means period of 12 months from July to June. Adding 590 to Fasli year comes to Gregorian calendar. Accordingly corresponding Gregorian year for Fasli Year 1329 was July 1919 to June 1920*) vide **G.O.Ms. No.16 dated, 3rd Farwardi 1349 Fasli (or 1939 AD)**. There was a provision in the Forest Act to include private *patta* lands also in the proposed forest blocks if these contained forest growth and were not cultivated and were contiguous to the Government lands proposed to be declared as Reserved Forest Block. However, in such cases the land holders were to be duly compensated as per law.

Accordingly, while notifying the block a *patta* land to the extent of 942.06 acres belonging to one **Late Mir Mohiuddin**, in S.No.46 of (V) Edvally of Tq. Kalwakurthy was also included in the proposed RF.

Forest Settlement Officer (F.S.O.), an Officer of the rank of Revenue Divisional Officer, after causing due enquiries, ordered for settlement of the Claimant's claim for **land-to-land compensation** and directed to give cultivable lands admeasuring **293.05 acres** from S.No.17 & 52 of Karkalpahad Village. The award was passed in the year 1356 F (or 1946 AD)

& re-affirmed in the year 1362 F (i.e., 1952 AD). But at the time of **Jamabandi** it was found that the above said lands were under the enjoyment of local people. As such the above lands were not available & could not be handed over to the *Pattadar*. Pending implementation of the FSO's award the notification of Block could not be finalized. In the meantime, the *Pattadar* had expired in the year 1956 AD.

There was no progress or developments in the case till the year 1988, when a grandson of the *Pattadar* and legal heir, raked up the issue again after more than 3 decades of the demise of his grandfather. He demanded for handing over of the lands as awarded by the FSO or else pay cash in lieu of 293.05 acres of cultivable lands in compensation, if lands were not available.

Collector Mahboob Nagar in 1992 had informed the legal heir that at that point of time, cultivable land was not available anywhere in the District for implementing the award passed by the FSO in 1946/1952 in lieu of the lands included in the R.F. There upon, the L.H. of *Pattadar* approached the High court for cash compensation in lieu of the lands included in the Reserve Forest; vide **W.P. No. 12547/92**. The AP High Court decided the case vide its Judgment dated 23.04.93 and ordered for cash compensation in lieu of 293.05 acres of land & directed the FSO, Mahboob Nagar to take up the matter as per Sec 10 of the AP Forest Act 1967 and pass award for cash compensation & also pay the cash compensation, within a period of six months.

The Petitioner (Legal Heir) filed his papers in the Court of FSO & demanded cash compensation at the present market rate or to take the market rate of land at the time of inclusion of the land in the RF & they claimed it to be 1323 F. For deciding the case FSO also demanded the information from DFO on two points-

- i. The date of inclusion of the lands in question in the R.F. &
- ii. The market value of the lands at that time.

In the meantime, FSO also conducted enquiry on his own & directed the DFO that the Department shall first deposit an amount of approx. **Rs. 3.50 lakh** to enable him to pass the award for cash compensation. Later on, the FSO revised it to **Rs.20.00 lakh**, taking into account the **Addl. Market Value** to be paid @12% and **solatium** to be paid @ 30% per annum on the market value and **interest @ 9% p.a.** for 1st year & 15% p.a. subsequently, as per **L.R. Act 1984 A.D.** The petitioner requested the F.S.O. to calculate the value of the cash compensation to be paid @ Rs. 700/800 per acre & claim other allowances w.e.f 1323 F.

By this time, I had taken over as DFO Mahboob Nagar and I contended before the FSO that date of taking over possession of the land for inclusion in the RF should be taken as the date of notification of the Gazette, for the purpose as no documents relating to the handing over/taking over were available. Regarding the 2nd query I found it very difficult to find out the market value of the lands as on 1349 *Fasli*.

I directed the FRO Amangal to ascertain it from the office of the **Sub-Registrar, Kalwakurthy**. When the FRO approached the Sub-Registrar, Kalwakurthy he flatly refused to give the information stating that no such data was available in his Office. The FRO reported back to me and narrated what was the reply of the Sub-Registrar. He also informed that the Sub-Registrar was not only non-courteous but

also rude and arrogant. There upon I personally approached his office and introduced myself to him stating that I was a District Level Officer and an All-India Service Officer belonging to IFS. He re-iterated that no such information was available with him. I was dismayed at the audacity of the Sub-Registrar. He kept on telling, that his Office did not have land records pertaining to that period, i.e., 1349 *Fasli*. I had almost lost my cool. I had to tell him in stern voice with the threat of complaining against him to his superiors of non-cooperation with a Govt. Department and a responsible senior Officer and in all probability colluding with the private party in denying the information needed to be furnished to the FSO, a quasi-judicial authority in compliance to the orders of the AP High Court. This worked and made him realize that he could no more, hide the required information.

Reluctantly he searched and brought out the required records. Those were all written in Urdu. As per the Act if no transactions in lands take place in the village in question, then the value of lands in the adjoining village could be taken for the purpose. In the year 1349 F there were no transactions in village Ramnuthla, hence data of the adjacent villages was looked for and found.

I requested the Sub-Registrar to provide certified copies of the relevant Registers. There upon he expressed his inability to do so stating that his office did not have copying machine of adequate size to make copies of bigger size pages of the Register. Then I requested him to provide the Register under proper acknowledgement for taking it to Mahboob Nagar for making copies of the relevant pages. Again, he declined for this. This time I had to warn him coolly stating that he will have to explain his conduct before the Commissioner and if necessary, the High Court and face the consequences. Then only he understood the gravity & importance of the issue and agreed to hand over the Registers. I took

over the Registers under proper acknowledgement with promise to return the same as early as possible.

As the records were in Urdu, I could get the same read by my Office Superintendent, who was an Urdu knowing gentleman. He was well acquainted with Urdu but he could not make out the values/figures which were recorded in Arabic/Persian script. For this purpose, I took the help of an Urdu & Arabic/Persian teacher-cum-authorized translator, who was locally available & got the relevant information copied and translated and took the copies with Registers back to the Sub-Registrar for authentication. But he refused to certify it. So, I had to bring the matter to the notice of the District Collector and the Distt. Registrar. They then telephonically instructed the Sub-Registrar to authenticate the required papers. Then the Sub-Registrar authenticated the hand written as well as Xerox copies of the required documents; i.e., abstracts of the registered sale deeds pertaining to that period in the Taluka (Revenue Division).

The value of the land as per these recorded transactions varied from **Rs. 9.23 per acre for dry lands to Rs. 27.93 per acre for irrigated lands in 1946 AD**. These rates were far lower than the rate claimed by the petitioners. I as the DFO Mahboob Nagar filed the affidavit in the court of the FSO along with the certified copies of the records obtained from the office of the Sub-Registrar with a prayer to arrive at the value of the cash compensation, based upon the above records.

Accordingly, after inspecting the lands indicated

in the affidavit of the DFO Mahboob Nagar, and examining the records submitted; the FSO Mahboob Nagar arrived at the value of the compensation to be paid to the claimant / Legal Heir **Rs. 51,967.00 @ Rs. 25.00 per acre plus Solatium and interest etc.** and passed the award, vide FSO Mahboob Nagar's **Judgment No. A/20/93, dated 20-10-93.**

I wrote to the PCCF through CF Hyderabad for allotment of the above amount. PCCF allotted the funds needed early and, I arranged to pay the award amount to the Claimant / Legal heir of the *Pattadar* promptly. This way a long pending settlement case came to finality with great relief to the Forest Department.

By taking proper care by the DFO Mahboob Nagar at the crucial stage of the case, in helping the FSO to arrive at the correct land value, the Govt. saved Lakhs of rupees from public exchequer towards compensation.

P.S.: There were lots of complaints against the FSO in question of collusion with the Claimants in many other cases. He had inflated the rates of the lands and managed to pass awards for much higher rates of lands per unit, causing losses to the Govt. Enquiry was instituted against him and the allegations were found to be correct. This gentleman was dismissed from service later on. (The author is a retired PCCF & HoFF, Telangana, Hyderabad. He has retired in June 2016. He resides in Hyderabad. He can be contacted at +91 63000 30519 and pareshvyas22@gmail.com.

India is a country of diversity bonded by love and affection.

On the auspicious occasion of Republic Day,

let us come together to celebrate this day

with respect and love for each other.

CA|TS EXPERIENCE IN SECURING TIGER LANDSCAPE

By
B.K. Singh

There are 50 tiger reserves in India and core and buffer of these reserves constitute 2.6% of total geographical area of the country. When tigers went missing in Sariska, reforms were undertaken and National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was constituted. Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 was amended to introduce a special chapter on NTCA in 2006. Guidelines for managing tiger areas were evolved over a period of time with series of interactions with stakeholders, staffs, study of transforming landscapes, tiger agenda, and multiple land use agenda etc. Legal and administrative reforms were undertaken and enabling provisions were added in the chapter. Wildlife Institute of India was also involved in finalizing the guidelines & regulations and also monitoring tiger management in the country.

Tiger dynamics should essentially be known to bureaucrats and politicians to enable them to take informed decisions for management. For long term survival of tigers in any landscape we need 800 to 1200 sq. km inviolate forested habitat with adequate prey population. Tigers travel long distances and the carrying capacity of the landscape would be 70 to 75 with male to female ratio as 1:2.

Lot of changes in land use pattern has taken place and forests have been severely impacted due to resource dependency of communities, and degraded with passage of time. Human induced changes have altered the dynamics of the landscape. Tiger occupancy was reported from 92,000 sq. km area in the first cycle of All India tiger estimation in 2006, and has been reduced to 88,000 sq. km in the fourth cycle in 2018. Despite all stringent measures we have lost tiger occupied areas. Western Ghats

landscape itself has lost 527 sq. km tiger occupancy in four years between 2014 and 2018. North eastern part of the country has lost more than 6000 sq. km in this period.

Heads of states of 13 Tiger Range Countries (TRCs) met in St Petersburg, Russia in 2010 and expressed concern over dwindling tiger numbers in wild. They declared to double the number by 2022. Hunting of wild ungulates, degradation of habitats and corridors and poaching of tigers for skin and body parts are the main reasons identified for dwindling the numbers.

A process named Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) is in place to identify critical sites for securing tigers and their habitats. It is collective representation of Governments of TRCs, inter-Governmental agencies, Institutions, NGOs and site managers. The governance structure of this collective partnership includes CA|TS council, Executive committee and National committee for each TRC. Member Secretary National Tiger Conservation Authority (MS NTCA) is the Chairman of National Committee in India. Although CA|TS is not a funding agency, but accreditation provides a linkage of the action plans to investors.

I am one of the reviewers for the sites registered for CA|TS accreditation in India. An international orientation program for all concerned was held at Bogor, Indonesia between 13th and 16th October 2017, which was attended by delegates from India, Nepal, Russia, China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. As independent reviewer I was part of Indian delegation. Delegates across the TRCs committed to take all measures to march towards achieving St Petersburg declaration.

The CA|TS program comprises of seven pillars, seventeen elements and 163 criteria. Any site where there is viable tiger population can be registered as CA|TS site. An independent reviewer examines the validity of the site with reference to set of pillars, elements and criteria.

The seven pillars on the basis of which the site is examined are; Importance and status of site, management issues, role of communities, tourism, protection, habitat management and tiger population. The number of elements to be examined against each pillar ranges from 2 to 12 while each element is examined under many criteria and their number ranges from 2 to 6.

Some states in India wanted CA|TS accreditation for sites located in buffers and corridors connecting tiger reserves. Tiger centric approach for management of some territorial divisions was forced to be adopted. Sites came up for CA|TS assessment and NTCA, Global Tiger Forum (GTF) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) pooled their recourses and reviewers were entrusted to prepare the dossiers in the prescribed format.

In addition to the registration of 44 sites covering some Protected Areas and territorial forest divisions across the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Uttarakhand, NTCA has also taken the decision to register all 50 Tiger Reserves as CA|TS sites. Three territorial divisions (Ramnagar and Lands down in the State of Uttarakhand and South 24 Pargana in the State of West Bengal) from this list are already CA|TS approved.

Lands down and Ramnagar divisions are extensions of World-famous Corbett Tiger Reserve (TR). Corbett management is inculcated in management of both the divisions. The gaps like the shortage of trained staff, fragmentation of habitats, frequent straying of tigers in human areas, the dependency

of communities on forests for their livelihood etc were observed by me in the review. Human elephant conflicts are quite prevalent, a reason for a section of the communities to be at loggerhead with the management. Quarrying in the river beds for building materials was a constant threat faced. A number of resorts and tourist infrastructures especially on the eastern fringes of Corbett TR and inside Ramnagar division posed disturbance for tigers, co predators and prey animals. The state had not taken up recruitment of Range Forest Officers, Foresters and Forest Guards for a long time. Daily wages staffs were recruited for protection work, but they were untrained. State showed action in overcoming some of the bottlenecks, recruiting and training the staffs, strengthening protection infrastructures and managing invasive species & implementing habitat improvement works.

South 24 Pargana is another approved site, which borders Sundarbans, a famous TR of West Bengal. Despite a large section of communities dependent on forests for collection of firewood, honey, crab, and fishes etc, the site has received CA|TS approval. It is also a part of Sundarbans biosphere reserve and is a pride for West Bengal. The territorial division includes some sanctuaries as well. In patches, it is better managed site as compared to Sundarbans TR.

I had enriching experience in reviewing two sites, Brahmpuri Forest Division in north and Central Chanda Forest Division in south of Tadoba. Here management experiences frequent human tiger conflicts. Tigers often stray in human areas and feed on cattle. The density of ungulates especially in Brahmpuri division is quite poor. Given the fragmentation of the habitats, the management of conflicts is quite good. Despite both the sites have some vacancies of frontline staff, the protection strategy is innovative. Brahmpuri division has a system of tracking each tiger and Central Chanda

division has excellent electronic surveillance system in place. Forest Corporation of Maharashtra is engaged in commercial exploitation of timber and manages their Compartments with clear felling and coppice regeneration, thus replacing biodiversity by monoculture of teak.

I have reviewed two registered sites in Madhya Pradesh namely South Panna and South Sehdol Forest Divisions. The first site is critical for movement of tigers between Panna Tiger Reserve and Bandhavgarh tiger Reserve and also between Panna Tiger Reserve and Sanjay Dhubri Tiger Reserve and is part of these corridors. Further the corridor between Panna Tiger Reserve and Nauradehi WLS through this site is also important and is part of larger corridor connecting Vindhya hill ranges and Satpura hill ranges, through Nauradehi WLS. After the tiger population is revived in Panna Tiger Reserve the tigers have to be secured in buffer areas and corridors as well. The second site provides corridor connectivity between Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve and Sanjay Dhubri Tiger Reserve. Both sites are subjected to heavy anthropogenic pressure. Illicit cutting of trees, hunting of wild animals, encroachments, fire etc are major threats. Grazers, NTFP collectors, especially mahua collectors put fire in the forests which leads to degradation of habitats. Both places are also burdened with the vesting of rights to scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers under Forest Rights Act, 2006. There are proposals for diversion of forest lands for development projects in both the cases. These gaps are pointed out in the review and managements can take necessary steps favouring conservation.

In the 2nd meeting of Reviewers organized by WWF in Bangkok, Thailand on 8th and 9th May 2019 participants came from Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Russia and Thailand for stock taking. It was found that due to anthropogenic pressure, a viable population of tigers is lost in Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia. Further the population in Malaysia is also in crisis due to poaching and land use changes. Although India is performing better than other TRCs, more habitats are required to be made secure by stepping up protection, connecting with communities and making changes in management strategies. In the meantime, 2018 estimation in India has revealed that tiger numbers are already doubled four years ahead of the scheduled target. I compliment NTCA, WII and managements of 20 tiger States of the Country, who have worked tirelessly to achieve the unique success.

Sue Stolton and Khalid Pasha CA|TS Manager have developed a system where guidance from good practices from across the tiger ranges can help different sites for effective management. They have also developed "integrated software for site-based tiger conservation; CA|TS Log". This software will help in capturing the needs, guiding the actions where needed most and tracking the progress of sites. It will be a right tool to build the confidence of investor and provide evidence for conservation assured tracking and capturing the impact.

(B K Singh the author is a Retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) Karnataka & Reviewer CA|TS)

Our ancestors gave us a glorious past. We need to create the future. This Republic Day ... Lead the change and become a real INDIAN... JAI HIND.

Green Quiz Championship- January 2021

Quiz Master: Dr K. Tirupataiah

1. January takes its name to indicate Beginnings and transitions and draws from the name of a European God. Name the God? _____	2. Who coined the word Rainbow Nation to describe South Africa after the nation came out of Apartheid and embraced multiculturalism? _____
3. The Bananas have a curved shape. This is due to which phenomenon? _____	4. Which Country has the longest coastline among all countries of the World? _____
5. Which geometrical figure has been intaglioed in the Rs.500/- note to enable visually impaired persons to identify the denomination? _____ & _____	6. The Geography Cone is most deadly of its species. Its toxic venom is strong enough to paralyze instantly. What is the Geography Cone? _____
7. Which popular brand sends the toys it creates for testing, to School kids for approval before mass producing them? _____	8) Frogmen are part of the Spetsnaz unit in Russia. What is the United States' equivalent called? _____
9. Participant from the Armed Forces are allowed to wear their uniform in which Olympic event? _____	10. This breed of Australian Dog was named after migrants from Asia to indicate hard work. Name the Breed? _____
11. Which popular Ayurvedic Formulation is named after the son of the great Rishi Bhrigu? _____	12. Which Wildlife Sanctuary that started as a Protected Area in 1910 literally means Ten villages? _____
13. Keoladeo Ghana NP is the official name of what is popularly known as Bharatpur Sanctuary? What do the words Keoladeo and Ghana mean? _____	14. MP has the maximum area under Forest cover with 77,414 sq.Kms. Which state has the highest percentage of forest cover among states? _____
15. Which city in Tamil Nadu is known as Yellow city as it is one of the World's largest producers of Turmeric in Asia? _____	

Note: Quiz Master is the Defending Champion of the QUIZ competition held as part of All India Forest Sports Meet at Raipur, Chhattisgarh, January 2019

Please see page number 43 for Answers.

A LANGUAGE IS FAR REMOVED FROM ETHNIC RAMIFICATIONS

By

Dr B. Raghotham Rao Desai

Introduction: What is a 'language' and what is meant by 'ethnic ramification'? Let us first delve into them what they really mean. A 'language' is the method of human communication, either spoken or written, consisting of the use of words in a structured and conventional way that being the phraseology and vocabulary of a particular group. It can be any method of expression or communication; the system of communication used by a particular community or country, being a manner or style of a piece of writing or speaking. Similarly, the word 'ethnic' relates to a group of people having a common national or cultural or social tradition, denoting origin by birth or descent rather than by present nationality. By 'ramification', we understand it as a complex consequence of an action or event, a sub-division of the complex structure or process, the action or state of branching out or causing to branch out.

Now, we come to the term 'script', which means handwritten matter as distinct from printed matter; it also means written characters by use of particular alphabets. The script is exclusive to a tongue providing a linguistic rampart and defensive scientific wall-like protection to the language to enable it to be studied and structured. If a language loses its script, it cannot retain its identity.

Fact file: A language, being much greater than any religion, is far removed from ethnic ramifications; hence dove-tailing it with a community, cultural group or ethnicity is an erroneous belief.

French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte was born in August 1769 in Corsica, in a modest Italian

family of Mediterranean island, when it had not yet been captured to become a French territory. Thus, he was actually an Italian by birth and spoke Italian better than French throughout his life; but was wholeheartedly accepted by the French people.

Can we stop liking Pt. Jagannath 'Azad', Pt. Brijnarayan 'Chakbast', Anand Narayan Mullah (J.), Naubatrai 'Nazar', Dayashankar 'Naseem', Ramprasad 'Bismil', Raghupatisahay 'Firaq Gorakhpuri', Dhanpat Rai Munshi 'Premchand', Ram Lal Bhatia 'Fikr Taunsi', or can we hate the great critic Dr Gopichand 'Narang' and Sampooran Singh Kalra 'Gulzar', Kishan Pershad 'Shaad', Raghavender Rao 'Jazb Alampuri', Rajbahadur 'Goud', Anand 'Bakshi', Prem Dhawan, Prasoon Joshi, Shailendra, Lalji Pandey 'Anjaan', because they all wrote in Urdu, though their mother-tongues were different? Isn't Urdu the second official language in the Indian States of Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, U.P, Bihar, Telangana? It is, after all a member of Indo-Aryan group (within the Indo-European family) of languages developing since 12th century.

There's no gainsaying the fact that a proliferation of Urdu words in our everyday lingo is hardly frowned upon. Words like *Aaraam, Baadshaah, Badan, Deemak, Dehaat, Dil, Dhoka, Dastakhat, Ehsaan, Faisla, Ghulaam, Gunaah, Hakeem, Hukm, Haalat, Ilaaj, Inaam, Izzat, Ilaaqa, Jaldi, Jannat, Jawaab, Jimmedaar, Jism, Jhoot, Kitaab, Koshish, Karz, Kamaan, Khoobsoorat, Majboor, Manzoori, Mulk, Mubaarak, Nazar, Naazuk, Qaabil, Qubool, Qatl, Qismat, Raah, Shaheed, Shak, Saal, Sukoon, Sawaal, Sharm, Shukriya, Taareekh, Tehseel, Takleef, Tasweer, Taaleem, Tarkeeb, Tafseel, Theer,*

Umr, waqt, Zaroor, Zaroorat, Zanjeer, Zarda, Zinda, Zindagi, Zabardasti, Zabaan, Zulum, Zakhm, Zikr, Zimmedaari, Zameen, Zamaanat, Zor, Zukaam etc., are all Persio-Arabic words.

Urdu is an amalgam of Persian-Arabic, Turkish, Khari-boli, Hindi, Purbi and Braj. For that, all Indian languages have words and roots among other languages and from Persian and Arabic. Take Marathi for example: it has close-to-forty-thousand words that are of Persian origin! Even all four southern languages, Viz., Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam, have words from Persian and Arabic roots. Philologist (the person who studies the structure, historical development and relationships of languages) A K Ramanujan, literary giant U R Ananthamurthy and Kannada polymath (the person of wide-ranging knowledge and learning) KU-VEM-PU accepted the fact that Persio-Arabic linguistic influences on sub-continental tongues can never be denied or diminished.

Conclusion: To express concisely and succinctly, Urdu's ethos (i.e., the characteristic spirit as manifested in its attitudes and aspirations) is sub-continental, if not universal, it being such a beautiful tongue, closely related to and mutually intelligible with Hindi and its appeal being indeed universal. We continue to like *ghazals* and *Qawalis*, which are laden with Urdu words and continue to appreciate and never are myopic as to not allow the beautiful tongue to survive and thrive in its native land, if not to make steady progress and develop further.

Further, millions of words are coined, conceptualized and formed to develop into a language, not just

words for their own sake; but the words are what shape ideas and reflect thoughts; and the more words a language has, the more precisely and effectively one can express thoughts and ideas in any particular language by acquiring command over its vast vocabulary. In my own case, I may be seen to be conversant with about five languages, compelled since situations and circumstances demanded, but I do not claim to be either a trained linguist or a philologist, that is litterateur or a scholar of classics. I do not have any pretensions of being a qualified English writer. Only I chanced upon to go through the works of some who loved words and I loved them too to read all my life during childhood and cherished memories revolving around word-games with obsession. When such an issue gets discussed I would like to share a fact that I get amused when some colleagues and a few friends keep telling me about wielding difficult words in my writings, especially since most of the time I was not doing so deliberately or for a special effect. I happen to know the words in question and think they are the most appropriate for the thought I am seeking to convey. I try to make each word interesting in its own right!

Cambridge University names Chemistry Department after Indian Scientist Yusuf.

The University of Cambridge has decided to name its Chemistry Department after Indian Scientist and the Chairman of Cipla Yusuf Hamied. The Department will be called Yusuf Hamied Department of Chemistry till 2050. A former alumnus, Hamied was honored in recognition of his generous benefaction which will establish the Yusuf Hamied fund and the Hamied Scholars Programme in the department

Freedom in mind, Faith in our heart, Memories in our souls. Let's salute the Nation on Republic Day

TALE OF A CHALLENGE TO STOP ELEPHANTS POACHING IN BANDIPUR TR IN 1978

(A Firing that Stopped Poaching, Earned Rewards & a National Medal)

**By
B M T Rajeev**

I was 5 months in Bandipur Tiger Reserve (BTR) after joining it in Jan, 1978 with the Hqrs. at Gundulpet in the 9th year of Forest Service. Two Rajdoot motorcycles (MC) came to BTR and one was allotted to me and it was a miss-fit for me as I was used to bullet MC. By neighbour Senior Range Forest Officer (RFO)-KM Muthappa was promoted as Asst. Conservator of Forests (ACF) and his charge was given to me (Jurisdiction-equal to present 4 Ranges by 1996 and about 50 % of BTR then). One day the ACF & Research Officer-S. Shivalingaiah and I went in the new Rajdoot MC to Bandipur to see the arrival of elephants on receipt of monsoon rains to the Bandipur tourism zone. It was a nice trip-and we could able to see a lot of elephants & other animals, while returning, a rash driving Mechanic cross hit our MC and injured both of us in the Gundulpet town. The ACF who was raiding the MC got his leg fractured and pillion raider-my upper lip was broken open. ACF was hospitalized for 3 months. A team of three was reduced to one in June, 1978.-a season of elephants poaching by the miscreants from Kerala for ivory trade. I was left alone but with the ACF's jeep driven by a good driver-Gurushanthappa.

Bandipur TR- was a Game Sanctuary (WLS) started in 1931 Over 90 sq.km as a hunting ground and extended over 800 sq.km as a Wildlife sanctuary in 1941 and declared as Tiger Reserve in 1973 over 659 sq.km. (Further it was extended to 880 sq.km in 1984 and to 1,000 sq.km in 2010) It is a habitat of Moist & Dry Deciduous Forests with open forests that hosted rich wealth of flora and fauna. It is a home of elephant, Indian gaur, sambar, chital, barking deer, langur with predators- like tiger, leopard, wild dog,

sloth bear, hyena, varieties of reptiles- like python, cobras, vipers, lizards; avifauna-like pea-fowl, wood peckers and water birds- in all up to 300 species; amphibians and invertebrates etc. It had a good population of elephants in the 1970s too.

Elephants are mammoth animals with lifespan up to average 60 years but live up to 80 years in captivity. Asian elephants-male have ivory-tusks-armoury as a mark of majesty and defence against enemies of the same species. All males have tusks except Makhanas which have only rudimentary tusks like female elephants unlike the African elephants- in which male and female both possess ivory/tusks. Tusks are the second molar teeth of upper jaws which continue to grow throughout the life of elephants. The tusks are half solid from the tip and the rest half possess marrow inside the tusk-elephant use it without injury till it is hurt with contact to the marrow. Non marrow portions can be severed too.

The elephants are social animals which live in herds headed by the matriarchal mummy being protected by a bull-mating tusker and the other adult males are driven out of the herd by the bull to keep the herd free for his mating rights.

The dominant master bull and other adult tuskers are the targets for the poachers to hunt and harvest the tusks for lucrative trade in national/international markets. Due to prevalence of poaching most of the elephant herds use to be found with sub adult tuskers; and the dominate bulls were a rare scene in the elephant herds then/now too.

The elephants poaching used to be controlled with

the available staff without special paraphernalia like anti-poaching camps with vehicles and good roads in Protected Areas/TRs as we have since (1990s). The BTR was and is a sufferer of elephant poaching activities due to lucrative international trade in ivory through the Cochin- air/sea routes link. Most poachers were said to be from Kerala-Malabar-Sultans Battery/Calicut adjoining to the BTR and some local poachers were also lured by the traders based in Cochin/Ernakulum for the trade.

Modus of Elephants Poaching: The Bandipur TR's habitats-the deciduous forests use to close with foliage of dense trees, bamboo, climbers, shrubs and grasses with the onset of South West monsoon by June/July, and the visibility was and is a problem in the BTR habitats during rainy seasons - an ideal situation for the poachers to enter the BTR and camp in gang inside the TR, track the elephants herds, mark the tuskers, plan and hunt the male elephants and escape with the tusks to Malabar through the forests route. Poaching incidences used to surface after 3-4 days when the carcass of the hunted elephants starts perishing with swelling by attracting hosts of flies, scavengers for feeding on the carcass. The crows call- rounding of the vultures in the sky above the carcass and their roosting on trees use to be the right signal for the staff to suspect an elephant poaching to take note and search for the dead elephant's body and report to the RFO for further action about the poaching. The RFO's visits the spot, lodge police complaints and take the Vet-Doctor for post mortem report and Police to the spot for spot inspections...then coordinate with police in the investigation and try to prevent further poaching/ catch poachers were the norm.

The wild lifers have to be very careful on duty in the elephant country either on walk or in the vehicle. The rules to follow are- To wear Khaki or dull colour dress-perfumes /smoking are a taboo; for patrolling/ inspection- team to be led by a leader/staff who is

well-versed with the locality and behaviours of wild animals and he will carry a bill hook and a club; behind him a staff with loaded & locked gun behind him-an officer/head of the team as centre.... to be followed by watchers/staff. all should silently walk without talk and simply follow the file by following the hand signals of the leader to avoid the danger of elephants-which remain silent after hearing the sound of man or taking the smell of man and wait.... if one/team carelessly approach the elephant/s, the elephant/head of the heard will ambush on and cause injury or death by kicking and trampling.... So, any one/men have to be very carefully walk with silence is the code of elephant country.

Occurrence of 2+2+1 elephant tuskers' poaching: The monsoon arrived in June, 1978 and the staff started expressing fear over the poaching problems with the above said descriptions. In July, the Forester-C. Chickkaranagaiah, an experienced guy came with agitation/fear and gave a report stating...Sir, two elephants have been poached near the Marigudi in Berambadi RF in his section. The spot had no road approach and we had to walk for 7-8 km cart track after leaving the jeep near Hongalli-staff Hqrs. The Forester briefed me about the route and rules to be followed in elephant country on walk in the course of our trekking to the spot of poaching. The team-I with the Forester and his staff came across a herd of elephants in the middle of the forests close to the Marigudi and maneuvered it by following the Forester's hand signals to stop and move on with silence. The spot was on the way to Yekkonabetta. By closing the nose with hand key, I approached the spot from where a rotten smell was emitting.....

A huge swollen elephant carcass with severed face, two tusks removed and trunk thrown at 2 m away with clots of blood flowed on the ground- attacked by swarm of flies emitting rotten swell that could not be borne by human...was the scene of crime of elephant poaching. I was new to this scene for having hailed

from plains and felt mild omitting sense but could not show it to staff as I had to discharge my official duty without showing any sense of fear/perturb.... I collected all information of inquest needed for the report to be made and started for return. Then the Forester guided for another spot of poaching. It was on the Yekkonabetta hillock. After verification of the spot, I got a sense of the D. line. I questioned about it and the staff said ... there is a D. line between BTR and the Naganapura RF- Saragur Range then, but it is still down side. I asked the staff to go round and search for it... and my doubt was proved right that the D. line was not cut and maintained. On further verification the elephant carcass was found lying in the jurisdiction of the Saragur Range. I decided to send a report to the concerned RFO and deal with our problem and moved on as so by lodging a Police complaint of elephant poaching and theft of ivory with the police Gundlupet for further investigation. Then attended for all formalities with the police and the Vet.

In August, 1978, another two elephants poached in the Beerambadi RF close to Beladakuppe in the BTR and one more in Saragur Range causing concern for the BTR, KFD and to the Police authorities. The news appeared in all the newspapers with alarm to stop the crimes against elephants.

The new- just joined Field Director, Project Tiger -DK Deshmukh-a known upright officer of high esteem and very strict demeanour visited the spot and reviewed the problem of elephants poaching and took stock of the ground situations and expressed his anguish over sending a series of reports/compliance to the govt about elephants poaching... and asked me to take some concrete measures to end the catastrophe... with assurance that he will give all supports and sanctions required. Instantly, I pleaded for sanction of two-watchers per Section of a Forester so that the team of staff those are afraid of moving in a group of 2-3 staff on perambulation and patrolling against

the armed gang of poachers will move in a team of 4-5 and can try to detect/trace the poachers moving/ camping inside TR and stop the poaching. He gave the sanction for engaging watchers for anti-poaching patrolling not only for me but also for the whole the TR-(The base for the employing the watchers for anti-poaching measures, now Anti-Poaching Camps in all the TRs and in WLSs not only in KN but also all over India-most of the watchers employed then have become permanent employees of the KFD).

The visit of the FD- gave me the strength to chalk out my plans -a challenge to stop elephants poaching.

The BTR is the southern state border with Kerala & Tamil Nadu and the Hqrs. of my Staff were at-Chammanahalla, Moolehole, Rampura, Kalkere, - all in the interior forest areas along the interstate border. And at-Maddur, Hongalli, Chickkabargi, Hediya and Moleyur- in the village limits along the northern border of the BTR abutting human habitations concerned to the two Ranges held by me. In reality-the interior Hqrs. of the staff were all uninhabitable where the families of the staff cannot stay in view of the education of their children-a humane problem; so, all Foresters/staffs used to stay in nearby towns and hoodwink the authorities except Maddur, Bargi, Chickabargi and Moleyur. I visualized the non-staying of the staff in the Hqrs as the root cause for the spurt in poaching of elephants and determined to tackle this lacuna with the hope of seeing light at the end of the tunnel; and issued memos to all the Foresters/Forest Guards to stay in the designated Hqrs, employ additional two watchers on daily wages per Section as supporting men and arrange for day and night perambulation and patrolling to check/stop elephants poaching surfacing frequently in the BTR.

In 4th week of August, 1978 I went to Rampur on night patrolling and found the Forester/ FGs were absent in the H qrs. We (I and the driver) slept in Rampur that night to have solid proof against the absence

of the staff; and issued notice to all the concerned staff and stopped their salary for the month including me too... stating for having failed to stay in H qrs. & to control elephants poaching. The stoppage of the salary in the month of Dasara churned the duty conscious of the staff to come around and promise to stay in the H. qrs. with respect to the duty to get their salary. Then a wireless set was installed at Rampur to strengthen the staff to stay in the H. qrs. This action created a wave of fear in staff to stay in H. qrs. and take on the problem of poaching seriously to stop and reign over it. I was so involved in the problem of poaching... that I used to be on move to check the poaching. (I was in Kalkere on 10.9.1978 after a camp in Bandipur on 9.9.1978 with the DD, PT, New Delhi-KN Baidya when my 2nd daughter (Dr) Roopa was born in the govt. Hospital, Gundlupet and returned to Hqrs on receipt of the message at 7.00 PM to see the baby).

In 3rd week Sept, I had been to Chickabargi for spot inspection of a tiger-kill-a cow to pay compensation with a sensitive Forester-Anantharamu and after reviewing the anti- poaching patrol with a plan to camp in the FRH at Chickabargi. By 7.30 pm received a wireless message calling me to visit Kalkere FRH immediately without giving a clue for calling me there.

Successful Detection & Open of Fire on Poachers: Kalkere is an interior area close to Kerala border in the AM Gudi RF-a dense Moist Deciduous forest area. The, Forester-HS Srinivasmurthy, son of Horeyala Subba Rao- an expert elephant tracker for the Maharaja's of Mysore for hunting was a talented in organizing anti-poaching measures. I rushed there with the driver and found the staff waiting for me with dismay. They informed me about the elephant poaching that took place in AM Gudi RF and showed me the blood smeared two tusks, guns and the implements/ration bags seized and revealed the incidence-a terrible scene of firing.... Gave me

food and left for the qtrs./hadis by leaving the tusks in the FRH. I felt sick with the visualization...if the poachers who have left the property & escaped, follow the staff and attack me in the night and rob the tusks as they are familiar with the track-close to Kerala border? Frightened me to call the staff and ordered to cardoon the FRH and sleep and then I slept as I was tired.

The incidence revealed to me was... The staff of the Kalkere headed by the FG-Kulla, Mada and 4 other watchers all were tribal resident of the Kalkere haadi-(Mada & Kulla FGs recruited in the PT without basic education but basing on their knowledge on forests & wild animals of the area) were on perambulation and patrolling in Bhoodanabetta-a hillock Sheard two gunshots at about 4 pm from the eastern side- adjoining yeranakadavu valley-in AM Gudi RF close to the Nugu River they immediately followed the direction of the sound like-Shabd vedis- and ran for 3-4 kms and found a party of 3 poachers-Chatamars (Converted Christians of Malabar)-one was busy in removing the tusk from the hunted elephant, other was dressing the removed tusk and another was loading a gun...the staff silently divided themselves in two parties and took positions in the opposite directions from the spot of hunt behind trees and simultaneously shot in DBBL guns with 0.44 cartridges on the persona of poachers-(if they were to be bullets from rifles-there would have been casualties). The poachers took aback/shocked and started running with injuries towards the nearby border by leaving everything- tusks, guns and all their belongings and escaped into the forests towards the border. The staff chased them for some distance... then gave up...collected the tusks, gun and belongings and rushed to Kalkere FRH through the forest as it was nearing dusk and had given a message to me.

Early in the morning, I went for inspection of the spot-Yeranakadu and inquest via Waranchi-Soolekatte

road and found the report of the staff was true and made a complaint to the Saragur Police station of HD Kote taluk with the value of the tusks weighed 11.00 kgs. Next day it was a breaking news- of shootout in the BTR at AM Gudi RF and three poachers have escaped after receiving injuries.

NB: (The spot Yeranakadu-is close to the spot where the film star Akshay Kumar and Man Vs Wild fame-Grylls Bear cross the River and takes tea of elephant dung in the episode "Man Vs Wild with Akshay Kumar". The river they cross is the River Nugu and where they climb bridge/to vehicle is the Rampur-Section Hqrs-shot in the Bandipur TR and shown in "Discovery-Channel" in 2020.

Information on Treatment of Injured Poachers & their Arrest: This news appeared in the Malabar-Kerala and caught the attention of the Circle Police Inspector-Sulthan's battery of Calicut and in conjunction to it, he received information from a Dr friend that three people suspected to be injured by arms-gun have got treatment in Sultans' Battery and he collected the details of them-and passed on the information to the RFO, Gundlupet Territorial Range-C. Chickabasavaiah. In turn, he passed on the information to me; Next day we both went to S.Battery and met the CPI-Sathis-an officer who faced Emergency excess enquiries because of his strict demeanour. He confirmed the information and asked us to come back early with the police as he cannot hand over the accused to the Forest Officers in the interstate crime being investigated by the Police.

I called on the FD with the information and requested him to talk to the SP and arrange for the Police's visit as they are not ready to go out due to Mysore Dasara Bandhobusth. I was asked to meet the Mysore SP-Revanna Siddaiah and explain the case; who agreed to send a PSI-and sent immediately with whom we went to S. Battery and secured the three injured

poachers with help of the CPI-S. Battery. They were brought to Karnataka and on the information given by them about the receiver of the poached elephant tusks in Ernakulam- Police decided to procure the property. I was asked by the FD to go with Police-but, the Dy. S P, Hunsur -avoided me by saying that he cannot issue interstate transit passport and cannot take me with them... this act of the Dy. S.P spoiled the weightage of the case in seizing the property of the other five elephants poached in the border of Mysore dist. adjoin to Kerala.

Recovery of Stolen Ivory from Ernakulum & Rewards

The Police went with the accused to Calicut and to Ernakulum and seized 55 kgs of tusks-5 pairs said to be purchased by a dealer in Ernakulum who threw open his go down to seize the stolen property. The Police took the decision with the calculation that the seized tusks of an elephant weighed 11.00 kgs and for 5 poached elephants- $11 \times 5 = 55$ kgs. They seized 55.00 kgs and happily returned and briefed the press that they unearthed and blasted the interstate elephants poaching gang and recovered all the stolen ivory of 5 elephants weighing 55.00 kgs and got rewards to all i.e., Dy. S.P, CPIs, SIs and constables concerned with promotions for some. There was no mention of forest officers' contribution for the successful investigation of the case. (NB-If I were to go there- the seizure would have been 200-250 kgs of ivory based on the age of the elephants poached).

The FD, PT got wild and issued a statement that the KFD has suitably rewarded the forest officers for their contribution in successfully detecting the elephant poaching cases. FD sent a recommendation to grant reward for all the concerned staff who detected the A M Gudi RF-shoot out elephant poaching case to the CCF (GI) who calculated 5% value of the 11.00 kg ivory seized and granted Rs 75/- to the RFO and

Rs 50/- to the Foresters and FGs after one year... This type of lack-luster policy of the KFD makes the Forest Force to lose interest in taking challenges for achievements whereas Police make merry of the rewards for their work.

National Award: The above incidence of elephant poaching and red hand detection by opening fire on culprits'-case own the "National Silver Medal for the FG-Kulla(A Tribal) in the 20 years Project Tiger Celebrations held at Delhi in 1993".

(NB: There should be a policy in wildlife wing to grant rewards for red hand arrest of poachers with property concerned to poaching of elephant/tiger/ leopard/gaur/bear to the tune of Rs10,000 or more

and distributed to all the concerned and if conviction achieved to tune of Rs 10,000/-or more to the I.O.and his staff for the same cases. Then Rs 5000/- and Rs 2500/-for other similar cases concerned to other scheduled animals respectively to induce spirit in wildlife force to achieve success in protection of the wildlife. It will induce the wildlife force to work and there is revenue too to the govt through heavy fines being imposed by the courts for convicted in addition to the imprisonments).

Author is a Former Deputy Wildlife Warden/DCF, BandipurTR/ Banneghatta NP and a Writer & Columnist. Camp:Bengaluru. Email: bmt.rajeev.ifs@gmail.com

Promotions to Dy. Conservator of Forest of Telangana State

Vana Premi Congratulates the following Officers who got promotions to the post of Conservator of Forests and wish them all the best for the future in their new assignments.

- (1) Dr G. Ramalingam, IFS (2003) is posted as District Forest Officer, Warangal (Urban & Jangaon) duly upgrading the post as equivalent to the rank of Conservator of Forests.
- (2) Dr S.J. Asha, IFS (2003) is posted as District Forest Officer, Rajanna Siricilla & Karimnagar duly upgrading the post as equivalent to the rank of Conservator of Forests.
- (3) Sri S. Ramesh, IFS (2004) is posted as Addl. Director, O/o. Director, TSFA, Dulapally in the rank of Conservator of Forests.
- (4) Dr B. Prabhakar, IFS (2004), DFO, Adilabad is transferred and his services are placed at the disposal of Municipal Administration & Urban Development Department for appointment

as Director (Urban Forestry), Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority, Hyderabad in the rank of Conservator of Forests. His deputation shall be governed by standard terms and conditions issued by Government from time to time.

- (5) Sri D. Bheema, IFS (2004) is posted as District Forest Officer, Ranga Reddy duly upgrading the post as equivalent to the rank of Conservator of Forests.
- (6) Smt. N. Kshitija, IFS (2005) is posted as Curator, Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad duly upgrading the post as equivalent to the rank of Conservator of Forests.
- (7) Sri B. Saidulu, IFS (2005) is posted as Special Commissioner, O/o. Commissioner, Rural Development Department, Hyderabad in the rank of Conservator of Forests. ●

We produce black - But our views are Green



Cultivation near Reclaimed Dump



Settling pond / Summer storage tank



Eco-Friendly Park



Award in recognition of eco-friendly measures

- Pollution control and Soil Conservation Measures.
- About 5.50 crore saplings were planted in Singareni spread over area.
- Artificial forest covers to OC Dumps.
- Avenue plantation in colonies and roads.
- Eco-friendly parks developed in colonies.
- Sand manufactured from OB.
- STP/ ETP at all Colonies / Establishments.
- Efforts of Singareni were rewarded by State and National level awards.



Colonies surrounded by greenery

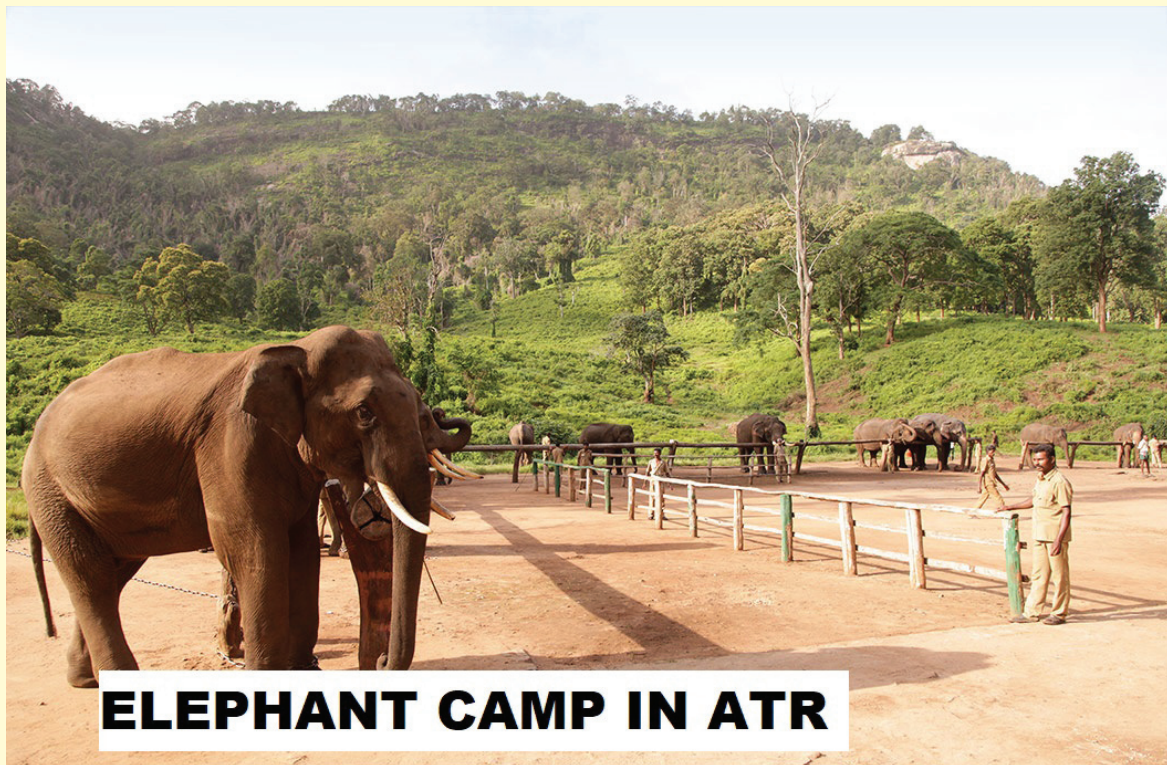


Reclaimed OB Dump



THE SINGARENI COLLIERIES COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government Company)



ELEPHANT CAMP IN ATR



Author

Ganesan

QM Khan

1968-70 Batch members at Mr. Hugo Wood's Tomb on 2-11-2018 . with Feild Director Mr. Ganesan, IFS





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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 Vendor Directory

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ANAMALAI TIGER RESERVE**BY****V. SANTHASEELA BABU**

Anamalai Tiger Reserve, earlier known as **Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park** (IGWLS&NP) and previously as Aanamalai Wildlife Sanctuary, is a protected area located in the Aanamalai Hills of Pollachi and Valparai Taluks of Coimbatore District and Udumalaipettai Taluk in Tiruppur District, Tamil Nadu, India. The Tamil Nadu Environment and Forests Department during 2008, declared an extent of 958.59 sq.km that encompassed the erstwhile IGWLS&NP or Aanamalai Wildlife Sanctuary as Anamalai Tiger Reserve under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. The Reserve presently includes a core area of 958.59 Sq.km and buffer/peripheral area of 521.28 Sq.km forming a total area of 1479.87 sq.km.

The Park is named after former Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi who visited the Park on 7 October 1961. The main tourist facilities are located in the northeast corner of the Park at "Topslip". The name "Topslip" was so named because of the local 19th century practice of sliding timber logs down the hills from here. Anamalai Tiger Reserve is a pristine 958.59 sq.km reserve of tropical jungle, Shola forest and Grassland rising to 2400m and spilling over the Western Ghats into Kerala between Kodaikanal and Coimbatore. This Tiger reserve is home to all kinds of endemic wildlife, much of it rare and endangered – including Leopards and around 30 elusive Tigers, though we are much more likely to see Lion-tailed Macaques, Peacocks, Langurs, Spotted Deer and Elephants, and Crocodiles.

The Anamalai Tiger Reserve has a long management history since 1848. It is the erstwhile Coimbatore South Forest division, which was a model forest division for the Madras State. Till 1879 Anamalai was one range under the charge of Sub-Assistant

Conservator. Anamalai Tiger Reserve is carved out of the Tamil Nadu portion of the Anamalai. The Tamil Nadu part of the reserve is called as Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR). It lies South of the Palakkad gap in the Southern Western Ghats. The Anamalai Tiger Reserve falls within the Western Ghats mountain chain of South West India, a region designated as one of the 25 Global Biodiversity Hotspots. The Biogeographical classification of the country includes Western Ghats which are considered as one of eight "hottest hot spots". The Tiger Reserve falls in four revenue Taluks namely; Pollachi, and Valparai of Coimbatore District and Udumalpet of Tiruppur District and Kodaikanal Taluk in Dindigul district in the State of Tamilnadu. The official headquarters of Anamalai Tiger Reserve is at Pollachi. Administratively, it falls under the Tamilnadu Forest Department.

By the mid-1800s, large tracts of Valparai plateau in the Anamalai were under intense Tea or Coffee plantations after deforestation of the natural forests. By 1866 two-thirds of the plantations were owned by Europeans and the remaining by Indians from coastal towns. Since most native inhabitants either refused to work or were inefficient workers, labor for plantations was brought from the plains of Tamil Nadu to clear forests and grow Coffee. Some parts of the forest, however, were reserved for timber including large areas around Top Slip. This part of the Western Ghats, under the Bombay Presidency were exploited extensively for Teak which was supplied to the Bombay Dockyard for ship building and later for Railroad ties. In 1855, this area came under sustainable Forest Management for Teak plantations by the pioneering efforts of Mr. Douglas Hamilton and Dr. H. F. Cleghorn of the new Tamil Nadu Forest Department. In the early 1900s, protection of the Karian Sholas was also ensured. The area was

notified as Anaimalai Wildlife Sanctuary in 1974 of its unique habitats at 3 places – Karian Shola, Grass hills, Manjampatti Valley and were notified as a National Park in 1989. The 108 sq.km. National Park is the core area of the 958 sq.km. Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary was declared a Tiger Reserve in 2008 under Project Tiger.

Altitude: The altitude of the area ranges between 1,120 ft to 8,245 ft above MSL.

Rainfall: Mean annual rainfall is between 500 mm.in the south western fringes and 4,500 mm. on the north east. This Sanctuary is an important watershed for the agricultural economy and power supply in other parts of Tamil Nadu. Major reservoirs like Parambikulam Reservoir, Aliyar Reservoir, Thirumurthi Reservoir, Upper Aliyar Reservoir, Kadambarai, Sholayar Dam and Amaravathi Dam are fed by the perennial rivers which originate from the Sanctuary.

Tribal Communities: The IGWS has significant anthropological diversity with more than 4600 Adivasi people from six tribes of indigenous people living in 34 settlements. The tribes are the Kaders, Malasars, Malaimalasars, Pulaiyars, Muduvars and the Eravallan (Eravalar).

Fauna: Threatened species of mammals in the sanctuary include the endangered Bengal Tiger, Indian Elephant, Indian Leopard, Dhole, Nilgiri Tahr, Lion-tailed Macaque and the vulnerable Brown Mongoose, Gaur, Malabar Spiny Dormouse, Nilgiri Langur, Rusty-spotted Cat, Sambar Deer, Sloth Bear and Smooth-coated Otter, and the near threatened Indian Giant Squirrel, and Indian Pangolin. Animals of least concern here include Golden Jackal, Leopard Cat, Jungle Cat, Spotted Deer, Barking Deer, Mouse Deer, Wild Boar, Common Langur, Bonnet Macaque, Asian Palm Civet, Small Indian Civet, Indian Gray Mongoose, Striped-necked Mongoose, Ruddy Mongoose, Grey Slender Loris, Indian Crested Porcupine, Indian Porcupine and Three-striped Palm Squirrel.

Over 250 species of birds have been identified in the Park. Some of the most important groups are Cormorants, Ducks, Teal, Darter, Partridge, Quail, Jungle fowl, Spurfowl, Indian Peafowl, Parakeets, Hornbills, Barbets, Drongos, Orioles, Shrikes, Warblers, Old World Flycatchers, Woodpeckers, Leafbird, Trogons, Kingfishers, Storks, Egrets, Lesser fish Eagles, Hawk Eagles, Harriers, Falcons, Kites, Owls and Nightjars. It is also a home to the near-threatened Great Indian Hornbill. It is home to 15 of 16 species of Birds endemic to the Western Ghats.

Amphibians and Reptiles include many rare and endemic forms. Some endemic amphibians are the ancient and elusive Purple Frog, (There was a question in Kaun Banega Crorepati T.V. Programme in the month of December on this frog) Toad skinned Frog, Thin-legged leaping Frog and Forest torrent Frog, Gadgil's torrent Frogs, Anamalai flying Frog, Bush Frogs and Caecilians such as the Uraeotyphlus. Reptiles include the endangered Indian rock Python, King Cobras, Indian monitor Lizards, Malabar pit Vipers, Large-scaled green pit Vipers, Nilgiri Keelbacks, some 20 species of curious little shield tail Snakes, Large-scaled forest Lizards, Nilgiri forest Lizard, Flying Lizards, Ristella Skinks, Forest cane Turtles, and Travancore Tortoises.

315 species of Butterflies belonging to five families have been identified in the Anamalai Hills out of which 44 are endemic to the Western Ghats.

This Tiger Reserve, together with the several other contiguous Protected Forest and Grassland habitats, is the core of the Parambikulam-Indira Gandhi Tiger habitat landscape complex, with Tiger occupancy area of about 3,253 sq.km and an estimated metapopulation of 34 (32 to 36) Tigers.

Flora: The Park is home to a wide variety of Flora and Fauna typical of the South Western Ghats. There are over 2000 species of plants out of which about 400 species are of prime medicinal value. The diverse

topography and rainfall gradient allow a wide variety of vegetation comprising a mix of natural and man-made habitats. The former includes Wet Evergreen Forest and Semi-Evergreen Forest, Montane Shola-grassland, Moist Deciduous, Dry Deciduous, Thorn Forests and Marshes. Tropical Wet Evergreen Forest is found at an altitude of 600m to 1,600m.

Tropical montane forests occur at higher elevations and are interspersed with Montane Grasslands, forming the Shola-Grassland Complex. Much of the original Evergreen forest now contains introduced Teak plantations. Bamboo stands and Reeds occur in the natural forests.

Tree cover is provided by *Hopea parviflora*, *Mesua ferrea*, *Calophyllum tomentosum*, *Vateria indica*, *Cullenia excelsa*, *Mangifera indica*, *Machilus macrantha*, *Alstonia scholaris*, *Evodia meliaefolia*, *Ailanthus excelsa*, *Bombax malabaricum* and *Eucalyptus grandis*. The area is home to *Podocarpus wallichianus*, a rare South Indian species of conifer.

Anamalai Tiger Reserve Foundation: The Anamalai Tiger Conservation foundation has been established as per section 38-X of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 with the following objectives:

- To facilitate ecological, economic, social and cultural development in the Anamalai Tiger Reserve.
- To promote eco-tourism with the involvement of local stake holders communities and provide support to safeguard the natural environment in the Anamalai Tiger Reserve.
- To facilitate the creation of and or maintenance of, such assets as may be necessary for fulfilling the above said objectives.
- To solicit technical, financial, social and other support received for the activities of the foundation for achieving the above said objectives from different sources permitted by law,
- To support research, environmental education and training in the above related fields.
- To augment and mobilize financial resources

including recycling of entry and such other fees, received in the Tiger reserve to foster stakeholder.

Values: Various values of the Tiger Reserve are identified, categorized and presented as follows:

1. **Biological Values:**

- West coast Tropical Evergreen Forests.
- Significant population of Tigers, Elephants, Lion Tailed Macaques and Nilgiri Tahr.
- First time discovery of distinct plant species *Musa acuminata* (2 varieties), *Garcinia cowa*, six different fish species new from the area, unique Amphibians *Racophorus pseudomalabaricus*, *Nasikabatrachus sahayadrensis*, Shrews, New Bats recorded.
- Core of the Anamalai Ecological continuum.

2. **Conceptual:**

- Floral diversity – more than 1200 flowering plants, more than 120 species of Orchids, 30 species of Balsams, Wild Genetic Resources of several crops of Agricultural, Horticultural and Medicinal importance.
- Faunal diversity – Vertebrates and Invertebrates etc.,
- Endemic/Endangered Plant / Animal species.
- Occurrence of rare and threatened wild animal species like Tigers, Nilgiri Tahr, Lion Tailed Macaques, Hornbills, Cochin Forest Cane Turtle, King Cobra etc.,

3. **Ecological Process & functions:**

- Catchment for various rivers, sustains PAP and other projects crucial for agricultural prosperity of the plains in Coimbatore, Erode districts. (Water sanctuary).
- Carbon sink values and other ecological services of the Anamalai forests is very high that requires quantification.

4. **Scientific:**

- There are unexplored Wet Evergreen Forests (Rain Forests) rich in floral and faunal diversity,

offer excellent scope for scientific research. Also, the rich anthropological diversity provides scope for research on Tribal on social, economic and human genetics angles.

5. **Educational:**

- Rich variety of flora, fauna, tribal, offer scope for nature interpretation, conservation education and environment awareness.

6. **Recreational:**

- Offers best opportunities for wildlife viewing, trekking, due to the rich biological diversity and scenic beauty. Every year 1 lakh people visit the Tiger Reserve. Ideal health resort in South India, very refreshing fit to be termed, Oxygen sanctuary.

7. **Economic:**

- Timber and Non-timber produce value of the Tiger Reserve is immense. Teak plantation 3,175 ha. value Rs.400 crores. Supports directly the dependent Tribal population of 5400 over 35 settlements distributed throughout the sanctuary – Direct life support system.

8. **Historic:**

- Megalithic sites – 2500-3000 years old Panduvarkuzhi (Mandavarkuzhi) in Easalthittu, Kodanthur, Herostones, rampart ruins and broken statues are found in Thalinji. 15th century (Vijayanagar dynasty).

9. **Religious & Cultural:**

- There are about 15 old temples of great cultural significance, in and around the Tiger Reserve.
- The spiritual literatures associated with Anamalai forest are of global importance worth exploration.

The visitors of the Anamalai Tiger Reserve can enjoy the following facilities:

• **Trekking:**

- Get to know the nature, one step at a time. Take out your trekking shoes and go on a field trip you won't forget easily.

• **Elephant ride:**

- Ride the jungle, on top of a friendly tusker.

ATR offers elephant rides twice a day for entire families to enjoy a pleasant jungle ride.

• **Photography:**

- Be it on a DSLR or a mobile phone, photography enthusiasts get enough scope to capture the wild in all its glory.

• **Forest ride:**

- Take a drive deep in to the jungle. Park's helpful driver cum guide will explain to you, the magic the forest has to offer.

• **Elephant camp visit:**

- Get to see the daily life of over 20 elephants. Watch them get showered and fed, up close and personal.

• **Bird watching:**

- Take out your binoculars and watch out for the bird and butterflies. Explore the winged creatures in all its majesty.

• **Eco shop:**

- At Topslip, buy souvenirs like T-shirts, Caps, Eucalyptus oil, Lemongrass oil etc. at the eco-shop run by EDC.

• **Video Presentation:**

- Get to know enthralling details of the wild through our engaging video presentation at Topslip.

During the year 2018, by November 1st we, those who underwent training in the Southern Forest Rangers College, Coimbatore during 1968-70, batch, were completing 50 years of our joining our *alma mater*. So, I organized a 'Golden Jubilee Meet' of our Batch mates by contacting all those who were distributed over 8 states. We all met at Coimbatore from 1st November to 3rd November along with our spouses. During our training we camped at 'Topslip' and visited all the places around. So, I was very particular to take all my batch mates along with our spouses to Topslip and enjoy our nostalgic moments. Accordingly, we proceeded to Topslip on 2nd November and visited Anamalai Tiger Reserve in Tamilnadu and Parambikulam Tiger Reserve in Kerala. Like this we

had an excellent opportunity of seeing the lush green vegetation of Western Ghats once again. We visited the Tomb of Mr. Hugo Wood. But for Mr. Hugo Francis Andrew Wood, the lush green Western Ghats today, especially the Anamalai range (Anai means Elephant and Malai means Mountain) that runs through Tamil Nadu and Kerala would have become like the dry Eastern Ghats, doomed by British exploitation. It is quite appropriate here to remember and to know about Mr. Wood, an unsung hero who dedicated his life for the glory of the Western Ghats and who is responsible for the present luxury of Western Ghat vegetation. On 12 June 1870, Wood was born to Elizabeth Maria Louisa and Thomas William Wood at Byculia in Bombay Presidency. He studied at the Royal Indian Engineering College, Cooper's Hill, in 1890-93. He passed the Indian Public Service Tests and chose Forestry.

He returned to India in 1893. He worked on regenerating the Ajmer forests of Rajasthan. His ability in this regard was noticed by the British Government and he was later sent to Godavari and Kurnool in Madras Presidency, where he served in various capacities as Assistant Conservator of Forests and Deputy Conservator of Forests. Woods Teak Plantations from 1906 onwards exist in Bairlutry Range of Atmakur Division of Kurnool District. Later Mr. Wood was asked to replicate his Ajmer work in the Anamalai range in 1915. The next year, he was posted to the South Coimbatore Division (a region that included parts of present-day Tamil Nadu and Kerala) by the time the Anamalai range was left with almost no trees.

Wood never married. He dedicated his entire life to conservation and did not care about race, religion, ethnicity, language or nationality. He was finally promoted as Conservator of Forests in 1918, a post he held till 1926, when he retired to Coonoor after suffering from Tuberculosis. On 13th December 1933, the first motor vehicle that drove up Anamalai's

mountainous road to Topslip was a small lorry carrying the body of Mr. Hugo Wood. It was followed by 11 cars with British officials. Wood had died in Coonoor on 12th December at the age of 63. However, a few months earlier, sensing his approaching death, he drew a will asking to be buried in Mount Stuart in the Western Ghats and also sent the money needed for the tomb to the Chief Conservator of Madras Presidency.

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

Mr. Ganesan, Chief Conservator of Forests/Field Director of Anamalai Tiger Reserve came all the way to Topslip during our visit and guided us in the Tour. While we were passing through the Forests, near the Tomb of Mr. Hugo Wood, 2 wild Elephants blocked our way for about half an hour and we were so much excited to see them in their natural habitat.

The following are the Contact Details for Anamalai Tiger Reserve:

Reception: Office of the Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director, Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Pollachi Division.

POLLACHI: 04259-238360. e-mail: atrpollachi@gmail.com, Website: www.atrpollachi.com

Topslip at Anamalai Tiger Reserve offers a host of cozy and clean room options to choose from. The visitors can book the rooms securely online. Variety of accommodations are available at Valapara Range, Ulandy Range, Udumalpet Range, Pollachi Range, Manambolli Range and Amaravathy Range.

(The Author is a Retired Dy.C.F. in Andhra Pradesh and can be reached on Mobile: 8019722292 and e-mail ID: vssbabu@gmail.com.) **Source: Internet and Tiger Reserve Website.**

(for photos please see page no. 28 & 29)

EFFECT OF MAN-MADE POLLUTION ON ENVIRONMENT

By
Manohar A. Saindane

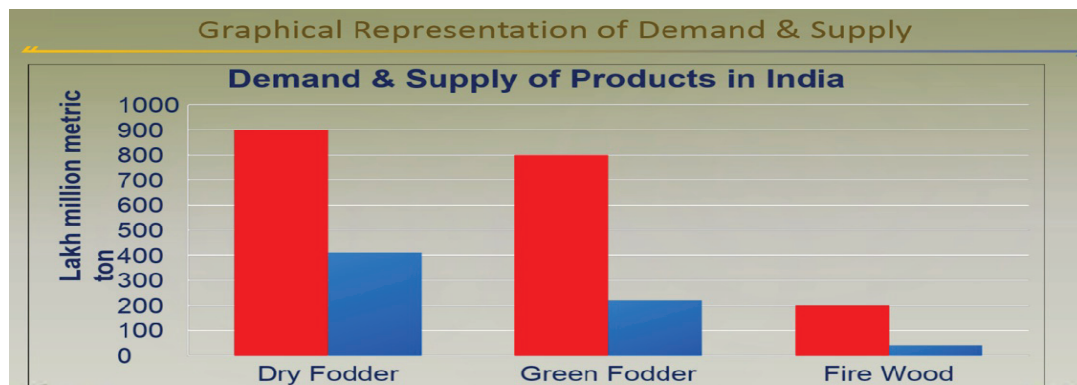
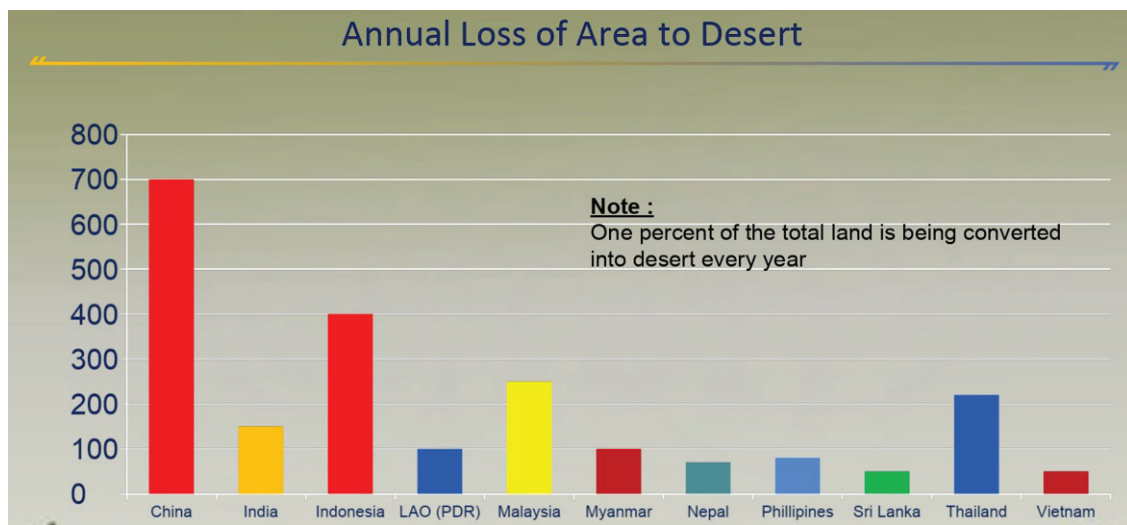
The population growth plays an important role in shaping socio-economic condition on environment. It effects shadow on environment. Recent census of population in India is 1.324 billion & forest cover is 79.42 million hectors. The forest area has been decreased tremendously. Annual loss of forest area is shown below.

The points given below are enlightens the subject.

1. **Waste material:** - Dumped waste is not decomposed 100% at the earliest. It creates

serious health problems. It provides shelter for mosquitoes, rat, rodents etc. Serious diseases like malaria, Plague, etc are spread. Some waste materials dumped from ash of power stations and factories in huge quantities.

2. **Threat to Biodiversity:** - There is huge industrialization in mining, hunting of Wild animals, illegal cutting of forests, Housing on forest land, national highways, Hydropower projects. The encroachments on government



and increasing demand of population of dry fodder, green fodder, firewood etc. are main reasons to threat Biodiversity.

3. **Urbanization:** - Natural resources are depleted. Population does not have adequate sanitation facilities and pure drinking water. Industrials growth and profuse emission, wastage is not properly treated. Industries like fertilizers, Iron & steel. Refineries are more harmful which causes Environmental degradation. Due to lack proper Management a bad incidence happened in Bhopal in the year 1984, where Methyl iso cyanide gas was leaked and lot of lives are killed by this accident. Air pollution causes cancer and damage to foetus.
4. **Land degradation:** - Due to excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides, land is loosing it's fertility. Land is getting degradation day by day, resulting into salinity.
5. **Transportation development:** - Heavy use of automobiles releases CO,NO₂ and Hydrocarbons. Due to leakage of oil from ship affecting fisheries coral reefs. Due to these gases the natural wild flora and fauna is affected badly in forest.
6. **Climatic Change:** - Destruction of ozone layer is being observed. Toxic pollutants is affecting urban people. Temperature is increasing tremendously day by day which will affect by melting polar ice caps of the earth. Scientist has given alarm that if increasing of temperature will go on the water level will increase and sea level will increase and that will sink land.

EFFECTS ON PRODUCTIVITY

- Due to degradation of environment, the economy will reduce.
- Water pollution results in decline of fisheries and aquatic flora and fauna in river, ponds in rural/urban area.

- Marine food chain will damage to the coastal infrastructure.
- Water shortage reduces economic activity in urban/ rural areas.
- Hazard waste pollutes ground water which will hamper Agriculture production.

TO CHECK ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT

- Waste material should not be dumped in river or in water body, it may be given for recycle.
- Electric power must be used in conservative manner.
- Vehicles may be used which are producing minimum Green House effect Gases. Electric based vehicle may be used. Water transport may be promoted. Diesel vehicle may be banned. If importance will be given to this point then most polluted cities like Delhi and Calcutta can be saved from heavy air pollution.
- The articles prepared from part of wild life and wood may be banned. LPG Gas and use of solar energy and solar equipment may be promoted.
- Wing like Social forestry may be established with help of NGOs and massive plantation drive can be initiated with help of local people.
- Water should be used in recycled system. Rain harvesting may be done compulsorily in school colleges, education institutes, factories, offices of govt. or private offices, Hotels etc.
- National park/sanctuaries and other forest area can be given more protection in encroachment, illegal grazing, illegal cutting etc.

These are main points need to be given importance to save the environment to save the mother earth in time. The Government is giving maximum attention to the subject. But when every citizen will give emphasis to the problem then definitely it will be minimized. ●

UNIQUE METHOD EMPLOYED FOR DETECTING WILDLIFE OFFENCE IN NIZAMABAD DISTRICT

BY

M. RAJA RAMANA REDDY

On 19.12.2020, the Department received credible and secret information about a case of wildlife offence in Nizamabad District. The information was given in public confidence and it was passed on to me for immediate necessary action. The information is about a group of notorious poachers who indulge in poaching around Jakora village of Varni Mandal in Nizamabad District. They have been carrying on the nefarious acts of poaching and they have earned the epithet of successful poachers. It was a task assigned to me to tackle the situation.

I organized a team consisting of Anti-Poaching Squad, Hyderabad and Flying Squad Party, Hyderabad with my own staff with a total number of (16) personnel and set out from Hyderabad on the evening of Saturday (19.12.2020) at 6:00 PM and reached Nizamabad town at 11:00 PM. We took the assistance of Police and started to look out for the poachers.

The information is that, one Luqman Affendi aged about 47 years, owner of Rice Mill at Jakora village and other places, residing at Hyderabad, is a habitual poacher. He has sophisticated weapons and moves about in influential circle. He not only engages himself in poaching but also invites friends to join him.

On Saturday (19.12.2020) at 11:30 PM, Luqman Affendi along with his associates went round the areas, on fringes of the Forest on a vehicle and they

used search light throughout the night. The poaching party returned to Affendi Binny Rice Mill at Jakora village at 4:30 AM. We surprised them, by making a sudden raid and found that they did not kill any animal except a "black naped hare" which was skinned before returning to the Rice mill. The black napped hare is an animal included in Schedule-IV of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. We seized the carcass of the hare, weapons and the vehicle-Tata Safari-bearing no. AP29AN 0001 used in commission of the offence. All the (5) members consisting of the poaching party are arrested. The arrested persons together with property seized is handed over to the FRO., Varni in the presence of DFO., Nizamabad for further necessary action according to law.

I made a request to the DFO., Hyderabad to search the residence of Luqman Affendi in Gudimalkapur area; the search party found meat of an animal packed in a plastic bag in the Refrigerator. After taking possession of the meat, it is sent to CCMB for analysis.

It is not a big case of killing a big animal, but it gains significant importance for nabbing habitual offenders by using successfully under-cover technique, which is rare in the history of the Telangana Forest Department. "It is needless to say that it was a daunting task."

Note: The author is the District Forest Officer, Vigilance-II, O/o the Prl. CCF (HoFF), TS., Hyderabad.

ARTHRITIS IN GENERAL

By

Dr. N.V. Jayanth Babu

[Continued from last month]

ABOUT BONES: Bone health is very much important for the complete and overall health in humans. Bones are more than scaffoldings that holds the body together. They support the body structurally protect our vital organs. Bones are mostly made of the protein collagen fibers. The major minerals of bone are calcium and phosphorous. Human bone is a modified form of Hydroxyapatite (HA). The chemical formula of bone is $\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{PO}_4)_6(\text{OH})_2$. The Calcium: Phosphorous ratio in general is 5:3 and also contains additional ions like silicon, carbonate and zinc.

The hollow cavities of bones are filled with a spongy viscous tissue called bone marrow. Bone marrow is of two types. 1. Red bone marrow and 2. Yellow bone marrow. Red bone marrow contains *Hematopoietic stem cells*, the blood forming stem cell, which are responsible for production of R.B.C., W.B.C., Platelets, lymphocytes, Monocytes, Neutrophils, Eosinophils, Basophiles etc., Mesenchymal stem cells are found in the bone marrow cavity, for the purpose of performing various functions, differentiate themselves are converted into - chondrocytes (responsible for cartilage generation), Osteoblasts (for bone formation), Osteoclasts (for bone resorption), Adipocytes (for formation of adipose tissue), Myocytes (for formation of muscles), Fibroblasts (Formation of extra cellular matrix, collagen, connective tissues and wound healing), Endothelial cells (Fluids filtration in kidneys, linings of inner surface in all blood vessels and circulatory system), Macrophages (Forms an integral part of our immune system and for removal of dying or dead cells and cellular debris in the body). Yellow bone marrow produces cartilage, store fats, and provides sustenance and maintenance of the correct

environment for bone functioning. As the body grows older i.e., beyond the age of 7 years, Red bone is marrow slowly converted into yellow bone marrow. In adults, red bone marrow is present in skull, spine, pectoral & pelvic girdle, Femur and Ilium bones. Yellow bone marrow is present in long bones of body i.e., hands and legs. An adult possesses, on an average of about 2.6 Kgs. of bone marrow.

Bones are modelled and remodeled by the concerted activities of 3 types of cells within the bone tissue. 1. Osteoblasts: are the cells responsible for formation of new bone found on the top of or next layer to existing bone and produce extra cellular matrix, and its mineralization for making the existing bone stronger. The main function of osteoblasts being the endocrine activity through secretion of Osteocalcin, which regulates fat and energy metabolism in the body. 2. Osteoclasts are the multi nucleated bone cells, responsible for renewal, re-modelling, repair and replacement of the bones already formed. 3. Osteocyte cells are found in the fully formed bones that are responsible for maintaining the bone matrix and the density in bones. Bone loss in osteoporosis is due to the death of osteocyte.

The researches conducted at Montreal University and also the latest researches revealed that, a non-collagenous protein produced from osteoblasts of bone and dentin, called osteocalcin released in blood stream, is responsible for bone metabolism, increasing bone density, controlling the production of insulin and several metabolic functions.

OSTEOCALCIN that contains 49 amino acids, is called a versatile bone derived hormone, also known as bone gamma carboxyglutamic acid plays multiple physiological processes in the human body as detailed below.

Osteocalcin play a key role in the brain development and its cognitive function to increase neurotransmitter production in the testes to stimulate testosterone production in men. Osteocalcin solely regulates male fertility, impairment of sperm mobility & viability, Low testosterone levels, reduced libido, erectile dysfunction, under development of testes and stimulate testosterone production in men. Osteocalcin regulates Glucose metabolism, the major source of energy generation, by stimulating insulin secretion in pancreas islets cells in type II diabetes patients. Osteocalcin also decreases visceral fat in both the genders stabilizes endocrinal glands functioning as well cancer prevention.

After load-bearing exercises, such as walking, running, or weight training, formation of a greater number of osteoblast cells takes place and bones become thicker and stronger. At the same time testosterone hormone secretion levels also increases, resulting the stronger muscles in men. Alternatively, due to inactivity caused from paralysis, sickness, laziness, the formation of osteoblasts decreases there by bones and become less dense and weaker as well the muscles.

Active Osteocalcin cell signaling indicates Bones strength, and overall health in human body which play a greater role for the health of bones and joints. That is why Bones demand significant amounts of energy to fulfil their functioning.

DESCRIPTION OF DIFFERANT TYPES OF ARTHRITIS IN BRIEF

1. RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: IS A CHRONIC, SYSTEMIC, AUTO IMMUNE DISORDER.

A person's immune system gives strength to resist diseases. It creates antibodies to fight against foreign bodies that enter into our system. Rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic systemic, auto immune disorder, wherein a person's immune system attacks his / her own body tissues. As a result, body becomes

susceptible for the invasion of pathogenic organisms like bacteria and viruses. The tissues like cartilage, ligaments, and synovial glands of all joints are affected initially. If neglected, it will also affect lungs, eyes, mouth, heart, kidneys and other vital organs in the body.

2. OSTEO ARTHRITIS: IS AN EXCESSIVE WEAR AND TEAR OF JOINTS.

Osteoarthritis is a degenerative Joint Disease (D.J.D.), which results due to degeneration / wear and tear of cartilage at one or more joints. It generally develops at the age of 45 years. More than 15 million of people are being affected every year by this disease. Cartilage acts as a cushion in between bone joints. If it is lost, the joint becomes "Bone-on-Bone" and painful for the patient. If still neglected, in the absence of cartilage, bones in the joints start eroding, resulting inflammation and infection in the joints

3. OSTEO POROSIS: is resulted due to the IMBALANCE IN SECRETION OF HARMONES.

Osteoporosis is a disorder in which the bones and joints become degenerated, less dense, brittle, porous, weak and could be easily damaged/ broken. Osteoporosis occurs when there is an imbalance between new bone formation and old bone resorption. The body may fail to form enough new bone or too much old bone may be reabsorbed by the body or both

4. PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: is a psycho somatic disorder and Psoriatic Arthritis is a chronic long term inflammatory arthritis that occurs, in people affected by the auto immune disorder psoriasis.

A person's body immune system turns on itself. Persons with psoriasis suffer from overactive immune system, wherein, the majority of 'T' cells cause skin inflammation and trigger rapid cell growth of the skin, resulting itching, and exfoliation of the skin in its outer layers. In healthy people, normally,

skin cuticle is formed once in 28 days and the dead skin is exfoliated. Whereas, in psoriasis patients, the outer layer of the skin is formed rapidly i.e., once in 3 days. Hence the exfoliation of dead skin is in the form of scales. Further it leads to, inflammation and stiffness of Joints. This can also be described as a musculo connectivity disorder. The small joints in the fingers and toes are often affected and may develop, dactylitis, when fingers and toes swell up. Many people also have pain in the lower back and the foot, such as back of the heel. Chronic fatigue and emission of unpleasant body odour are also experienced. Feeling difficulty in moving, due to pain in the sole of the foot. Fingers and toes are swollen and looks like sausages. In severe cases, bone Joints are affected by Psoriatic Arthritis, may become visibly deformed and progress further.

5. GOUTY ARTHRITIS: IS A METABOLIC DISORDER CAUSING HYPER URICEMIA.

Gout can be considered as a disorder metabolism results in over production of Uric Acid or Needles of Hyper Monosodium Urate Crystals to accumulate in blood, tissues, particularly in bone Joints. Uric acid is a by-product of Purine Nucleotide Catabolism. The root cause of Gout is Hyper uricemia and is characterized by recurrent attacks of acute inflammatory arthritis. Hyper uricemia is normally defined as serum uric acid (S U A) levels are greater than 7.0 mg/dl as against the average range of 3.5 to 7.0 mg/dl. In contrast to most of other Mammals, Humans lack uricase enzyme, which metabolizes Uric acid into Allantoin, a more water-soluble compound that can be easily excreted by kidneys. As a result, high S U V levels can exceed the solubility threshold and precipitate in the form of needles of Monosodium Urate Crystals, which are deposited in the bone joints resulting ultimately erosion of cartilage that cause damage to synovial glands affecting synovial fluid in the bone Joints. Hence more friction results, which accelerates erosion of cartilage.

6. FLUOROSIS ARTHRITIS IS CONFINED AND SPECIFIC TO THE AREAS CONTAINING FLUORIDE WATER BEARING AREAS.

Skeletal fluorosis is a bone disease caused by excessive accumulation of fluorides in the bones. In advanced cases, skeletal fluorosis causes painful damage to bones and joints. Bones and joints become weak and moving them is difficult. The vertebrae of spine fuse together and the patient is left crippled, which is the final stage. Crippling skeletal fluorosis might occur in people who have ingested 10 to 20 mg of fluoride per day for over a period of 10 years. Whereas, in the initial stage, the symptoms, sufferings of arthritis can be experienced with them

Relevant Physiotherapy exercises, osteopathy, Chiropractic & Acupressure treatments, Body massage, Ice / Hot water treatments, Rest - are very much helpful for managing Arthritis to a greater extent and for a longer period.

REMEDIAL MEASURES AND TREATMENT PRACTICES BEING ADOPTED IN GENERAL FOR CURING ARTHRITIS

In Allopathy, at present, there is no cure for arthritis. Treatments are given for management of pain. Advanced genetically engineered biological drugs often slow/ halt progression of joint damage in 2 out of 3 people, which are expensive costs around 1000 to 3000 dollars per month. Anti-inflammatory treatment by using NSAIDS may be cost effective but, having several side effects. Stem cells collected from bone marrow and transplantation of the same into bone joints for rejuvenation of eroded and damaged cartilage and surgeries conducted for Knee replacement are being practiced in Allopathy.

HEALTHY DIET FOR ARTHRITIS: Foods containing gamma-linolenic acid, and Glucosamine sulphate, Chondroitin sulphate and Glycol reduce inflammation in joints and are useful for the health of cartilage and bones. Omega-3 fatty acids (available in fish like

salmon, cod, Fish oils, canola oil, Flax seed, dry fruits or food supplements) and all the vitamins & minerals in required quantities, have anti-inflammatory effect and improve mobility of joints.

Intake of CALCIUM, PHOSPHOROUS, MAGNESIUM, ZINC AND VITAMIN D together arrests bone loss, makes C.R.P. (i.e., Chronic Inflammatory Reactive protein and I.L.-6, i.e., Inter Leukin-6) which reduces chronic inflammation in joints. For performing all the metabolic functions of the body normally, our daily requirement of Calcium is to be 800 -1200 mg, Phosphorous 700 to 1250 mg., Vitamin D 600 to 800 IU., Zinc 11 mg to max 50 mg. and Magnesium 400 to 500 mg.

ZINC is an important nutrient for up keeping the Good health of individuals. It plays a major role for increasing the strength and density of bones and strong teeth. It synthesizes Proteins and D.N.A. Activates functioning of about 300 enzymes in the body which results strengthening of immune system in the body. Promotes cell growth, regulate blood sugar levels and aids in warding off chronic ailments like Diabetes and Heart problems. Zinc absorbs copper and improves Hemoglobin. It prevents the risk of respiratory infections. Body cannot store zinc and its requirement is to be met every day. Availability of foods rich in zinc are, Pumpkin seeds-2.2 mg of zinc in 28 gms of clean seed; Cashew seed - 1.6 mg of zinc in 28 grams; Mushrooms – 1.2 mg in 210 gms; Dark chocolates - 3.3 mg in 100 gms , Whole grains like kidney beans and lentils - 5.1 mg in 180 gms; Mutton – 4.8 mgs in 100 gms ; Chicken - 2.4 mgs in 85 gm ; Oysters - 8.5 mgs in 50 gms.

MAGNESIUM plays a key role in converting vitamin D into its active form. Magnesium helps to absorb calcium, phosphorous, potassium and Vitamin D. Magnesium regulates Zinc levels, while Zinc enables it to absorb Magnesium. Magnesium deficiency has been interlinked to chronic inflammation in

Bone Joints. Magnesium, Zinc and Calcium are the 3 minerals that are vital to several processes in the body, especially for enhancing Bone density, arresting bone loss, elevation of mood, enhancing immunity power, controlling blood sugar levels and improving quality of sleep. It also provides relief from Asthma attacks. Provides good sleep. Best ratio of Calcium: Magnesium is 2:1 i.e., 1000 mg: 500 mg. Foods rich in Magnesium are, Almonds, Cashews – 82 mg of magnesium in 28 grams; Legumes – 70 mg in 100 grams ; Pumpkin clean seed, Flax seed, Chia seed – 150 mg in 28 grams; Whole grains – 65 mg in 28 grams ; FISH :: Salmon , Mac real, Fatty fish have 29 mg of magnesium in 100 g.; Bananas – 37 mg. in one big fruit.

PHOSPHOROUS - is an essential mineral for building healthy bones and also regulates the activity of enzymes. Phosphorous is an integral component of DNA that store genetic information. Phosphorous aids in storage and of energy by the cells. Excess of phosphorous decreases the calcium levels in the body resulting weak bones. Phosphorous helps to maintain the balance between Acids and Bases. Rich foods of phosphorous are, Chicken – 113 mg in 100 gms. Sea foods; Salmon fish - 190 mg in 75 gms. Sardines fish- 368 mg in 75 gms, Eggs - 133 mg in 100 gms. Dairy Milk - 217 mg in 250 ml ; Yogurt – 229 mg in 175 gms. Dark chocolate – 308 mg in 100 gms. Pea nuts - 124 mg in 140 gms. Sun flower clean seed – 375 mg in 60 ml /10.5 g.; Pumpkin clean seed – 476 mg in 60 ml /10.5 g ; Oat meal – 142 mg in 100 gms. Bread 38 mg in one slice.

CALCIUM -The role of calcium in the human body is to form bones and teeth. In addition, Calcium is essentially required and responsible for contractions and dilations of blood vessels, functioning of all muscles, transmission of nerve signals, proper functioning of all cells, inter cellular signaling, regularization of secretion of hormones and enzymes, stabilization of blood pressure, blood clotting,

maintenance of normal heart rhythm, maintenance of normal serum glucose range in non-diabetics and to decrease the risk of obesity. Foods rich in Calcium are Sesame seed or Nuvvulu - 975 mg of calcium in 100 gms. Milk - 125 mg of calcium in 100 ml; Cheese - 184 mg in 100 gms, Yogurt - 199 mg in 100 gms, Almonds - 264 mg in 100 gms. Chia seed - 631 mg in 100 gms. Chick peas - 150 mg in 100 gms. Dark green leafy vegetables - 140 mg in 100 gms. Mint leaves - 243 mg in 100 grams Sardine fish - 382 mg in 100 gms.

Murraya/ karivepaku, Amaranthus leaves (thota kura), Alternanthera sessilis (ponnaganti kura), Drum stick leaves, Sesbania leaves etc., are also the rich source of Calcium. Prolonged intake of calcium in excess quantities results in formation of calcareous stones in kidneys and if still excess it may lead to cardiac arrest.

VITAMIN-D: The major function of Vitamin D is to maintain normal blood levels of calcium and phosphorous which are essentially required for the formation of bones and teeth. Helps in absorption of calcium by the body through intestine. A very good Immune Booster. Improves resistance to fight against diseases. Reduces depression. Helpful for

weight loss in obese people. Vitamin -D deficiency symptoms are severe pains in bones, joints and muscles, stress fractures in legs, hip, pelvis. Experiencing weakness in the body and tiredness. Difficulty to get up from a chair of low height, also difficulty in climbing stairs. The best source of Vitamin D is Sun light. Foods rich in vit D are, Mushrooms - 130 to 450 i.u in 100 gms. Butter - 40 to 60 IU in 100 gms. Fish, Salmon 526 IU in 100 gr. Wild salmon - 988 IU in 100 gms Sardines - 216 IU in 100 gms, Macerals and fatty fish - 384 IU in 100 gr. Cod liver oil - 448 IU in 5 ml.; Dairy milk - 54 IU in 100 ml, Curds - 43 to 60 IU. in 100 ml.

Pain is the indication of Suffering of the body. We should be sensitive enough to receive such impulses and to act suitably to address it suitably in the early stages itself. Generally, we neglect to attend it for various reasons. We try to get rid of the pain by applying some balm externally or swallow a pain killer. Arthritis is an outcome of such prolonged sufferings of joints in the body resulted over a period of years. The information provided herein under HEALTHY DIET FOR ARTHRITIS creates an avenue to probe the matter further in depth, to plan the actual requirement of healthy diet needed for an individual, for preventing or overcoming ARTHRITIS.

*Democracy means nothing if people are not able to work
the democracy for the common good.*

- Chandra Bhushan

Answers of January Quiz.

1. Roman God Janus	2. Desmond Tutu	3. Negative Geotropism	
4. Canada	5. Circle	6. Snail	7. Kinder Joy Chocolate
8. Navy Seals	9. Equestrian	10. Koolie	11. Chyawan prash
12. Dachigam	13. Shiva, Dense	14. Mizoram	15. Erode

News and Notes

Despite COVID-19 lockdowns, greenhouse gases continue to rise around the world: - Greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the main driver of climate change, hit record highs last year and have continued climbing in 2020 despite measures to halt the Covid-19 pandemic, the UN said Monday.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO) chief Petteri Taalas meanwhile welcomed several countries' vows to focus on climate-friendly technologies as they seek to revive their economies after the coronavirus crisis.

Speaking to journalists, he also voiced optimism at US president-elect Joe Biden's pledge to return his country to the Paris climate accord, saying he hoped it "might have the domino effect (and) motivate also some other countries."

But the United Nations agency dashed notions that the lockdowns and other measures to rein in the pandemic could by themselves repair some of the damage of ever-growing greenhouse gas emissions in recent decades.

While emissions have shrunk this year, the WMO warned this had not curbed record concentrations of the greenhouse gases that are trapping heat in the atmosphere, raising temperatures, causing sea levels to rise and driving more extreme weather.

"The lockdown-related fall in emissions is just a tiny blip on the long-term graph," Taalas said.

"We need a sustained flattening of the curve."

The WMO's main annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletin said preliminary estimates pointed to daily carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions falling by as much as 17 percent globally during the most intense period of the shutdowns.

The annual impact was expected to be a drop of between 4.2 and 7.5 percent, it said.

But this will not cause concentrations of CO₂ in the atmosphere to go down, it said, warning the impact on concentrations was "no bigger than the normal year to year fluctuations."

Still rising: CO₂ concentrations will continue to rise, albeit at a slightly reduced pace, the WMO said, adding that the pace would be no more than 0.23 parts per million (ppm) per year slower than the previous trajectory -- well within the 1.0 ppm natural inter-annual variability.

Emissions are the main factor that determine the amount of greenhouse gas levels but concentration rates are a measure of what remains after a series of complex interactions between atmosphere, biosphere, lithosphere, cryosphere and the oceans.

CO₂ is by far the most important long-lived greenhouse gas in the atmosphere related to human activities, and is responsible for roughly two-thirds of the Earth's warming.

The WMO's Bulletin listed the atmospheric concentration of CO₂ in 2019 at 410 ppm, up from 407.8 ppm in 2018, and said the rise had continued this year.

Taalas pointed out that the world breached the global threshold of 400 ppm in 2015, voicing alarm that "just four years later, we crossed 410 ppm."

"Such a rate of increase has never been seen in the history of our records."

The UN agency said that since 1990, there had been a 45-percent increase in so-called radiative forcing, which is the warming effect on the climate by greenhouse gases.

Five million years ago; “Carbon dioxide remains in the atmosphere for centuries and in the ocean for even longer,” Taalas said.

“The last time the Earth experienced a comparable concentration of CO₂ was three to five million years ago,” he said.

The second most prevalent greenhouse gas in the atmosphere is methane -- emitted in part from cattle and fermentation from rice paddies -- which is responsible for around 16 percent of warming.

In 2019, methane levels were at 260 percent of pre-industrial levels, at 1,877 parts per billion (ppb).

The rise from 2018’s measurement was slightly lower than the previous annual increase, but still higher than the 10-year average, WMO said.

Concentrations of nitrous oxide, the third major greenhouse gas which is caused largely by agricultural fertilisers, meanwhile stood at 332 ppb last year, or 123 percent above pre-industrial levels.

Its rise from 2018 to 2019 was also lower than that observed from 2017 to 2018, but on a par with the average annual growth rate over the past decade.

Climate Change Could Increase Disease Risk in Animals with Possibility of Spread to Humans, Warn Researchers:- Changes in climate can increase infectious disease risk in animals, with the possibility that these diseases could spread to humans, warn researchers.

The study, published in the journal Science, supports a phenomenon known as “thermal mismatch hypothesis,” which is the idea that the greatest risk for infectious disease in cold climate-adapted animals -- such as polar bears -- occurs as temperatures rise.

The hypothesis proposes that smaller organisms like pathogens function across a wider range of temperatures than larger organisms, such as hosts or animals.

“Understanding how the spread, severity and distribution of animal infectious diseases could change in the future has reached a new level of importance as a result of the global pandemic caused by SARS-CoV-2, a pathogen which appears to have originated from wildlife,” said study co-author Jason Rohr from the University of Notre Dame in the US.

“Given that the majority of emerging infectious disease events have a wildlife origin, this is yet another reason to implement mitigation strategies to reduce climate change,” Rohr added.

The research team collected data from more than 7,000 surveys of different animal host-parasite systems across all seven continents to provide a diverse representation of animals and their pathogens in both aquatic and terrestrial environments.

The study showed that pathogens found at warm locations outperform their animal hosts during cool weather as warm-adapted animals perform poorly.

Similarly, pathogens found at cool locations thrive at warm temperatures, while cold-adapted animals are less tolerant of the heat.

Researchers also collected historical temperature and precipitation records at the time and location of each survey, and long-term climate data for each location to understand how temperature affected animal disease risk in different climates, and how these patterns varied depending on traits of animals and pathogens.

The study also revealed that cold-blooded animals tended to offer stronger support for the thermal

mismatch hypothesis than warm-blooded animals.

Next, they coupled their models to global climate change projections to predict where the risk of animal infectious diseases might change the most.

The analysis suggests that global warming will likely shift infectious disease away from the equator, with decreases of animal infectious diseases in the lowland tropics and increases in the highland tropics, temperate and cooler regions of the planet.

Wildfire smoke may spread infectious disease:

Smoke from wildfires could be a surprising new route for the spread of infections, according to research. Scientist say that microbes and fungi can survive in large numbers in smoky plumes. The authors believe it's likely that organisms from the soil, known to cause infection, could be transferred in this way. They argue that greater monitoring of wildfire smoke by health authorities is urgently needed. For decades, it has been widely assumed that nothing much lives in a plume of wildfire smoke. It has also been assumed that if smoke poses a threat to human health, it's because it is full of particulate matter.

These microscopic particles of soot are known to be a severe irritant, causing respiratory and cardiovascular issues.

However, there has been growing concern that wildfire smoke could also carry infectious microbes or fungi. The US Centres for Disease Control (CDC) says that firefighters are at risk of coccidioidomycosis, a common infection caused by a fungus that becomes airborne when soils are disturbed. Scientists are now beginning to uncover the scale of the potential infectious threat posed by smoke from wildfires.

Using new techniques to capture microbes in smoke, researchers say that they found over 900

different types of bacteria and around 100 unique fungi.

"The diversity of microbes we have found so far in the very few studies that have been done is impressive," said Dr Leda Kobziar, from the University of Idaho, in Moscow, US, who led the review.

"These taxa (groups of living organisms) were not found in non-smoky air in the same locations prior to the fire, proving that combustion and its associated winds aerosolise microbes into smoke columns."

The researchers believe that the microbes hitchhike on particulate matter in the smoke.

Even in high-intensity fires, the scientists found bacteria in abundance 300 metres above a fire. Over 60% of these were viable.

They suspect that the particulate matter on which they are travelling protects the microbes from ultraviolet radiation, which might kill them off.

While the scientists have shown that there are large numbers of bacteria in smoke and that they can survive in the plume, the key question is how much of a threat to health do they pose?

"We have found a number of microbes that are commonly known to cause respiratory ailments - things that can trigger asthma, for example," Dr Kobziar said, via email.

"The likelihood of soil and plant-borne organisms known to cause infection is high, but has yet to be experimentally tested."

Previous studies with hurricanes and storms have shown that these infectious agents can travel extremely long distances, although no one has yet shown a similar journey for bacteria in a smoke plume.

But the ability of smoke to travel around the world suggests that it could be a “missing link” in explaining some patterns of infection.

“When infections are detected in patients, the potential causal agents that are screened are based on what is known to be endemic in a given region,” said Dr Kobziar.

“However, smoke blurs the lines between regions. It may be that many cases of infection with undetermined causal agents have occurred due to smoke transport of microbes outside of their areas where it is endemic.

“It may be that smoke is the missing link to explain some of these patterns of infection across space and time.”

She added: “This could also have ecological ramifications.”

Delhi's air quality dips to 'very poor' category;

- New Delhi [India], December 20 (ANI): As fog continues to engulf the national capital, the city's air quality index (AQI) has dipped into the 'very poor' category, according to System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), on Sunday.

People were seen sitting near the fire to protect themselves from the cold in the Anand Vihar area.

Suresh, a local who was selling tea in the morning, says, “I work as a security guard, so I have to stay up all night. It's very cold and foggy here, we somehow manage to keep ourselves warm.”

The overall AQI reported in Delhi today is 309. Areas like Lodhi Road, IIT Delhi, Noida, Pusa Road, Mathura Road reported very poor air quality.

The report published by SAFAR stated, “The overall air quality is at the lower end of the very poor category. Surface-level winds are moderate and Westerly. The cold day conditions are forecasted to intensify in the Delhi region and moderate surface winds are forecasted only till tomorrow and likely to slow down after that.”

“So the current better dispersion conditions are likely to continue only for the next 24 hours and then the ventilation coefficient will decrease to deteriorate AQI. Hence, AQI is forecasted to stay in the 'Poor to Very Poor category' on December 20, deteriorate in the lower end of Very Poor on December 21 and further deteriorate to the middle-end of Very Poor by December 22”, the report added.

An AQI between 0-50 is marked good, 51-100 is satisfactory, 101- 200 is moderate, 201- 300 is poor, 301-400 is very poor and 401-500 is considered severe.

India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great grandmother of tradition. Our most valuable and most astrictive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only! Mark Twain

Legal Notes I

SANTOSH LAL CHAUDHARY and STATE OF UTTARAKHAND & another

1. Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 – Section 51 – Conviction and sentence thereunder – Legality – Recovery of skin of leopard by police – Matter handed over to Forest who is competent to file complaint – Recovery of leopard skin from revisionist – Proved – Thus, no illegality in order convicting and sentencing revisionist – Revision dismissed.
2. Facts necessary for disposal of the instant revision, briefly stated, are as hereunder;

On 28.1.2003, P.W. 3 Jagdish Pathak, the then Station House Officer, Police Station – Ranikhet along with other Police personnel was on patrolling duty. He received an information and based on it, when intercepted, skin of leopard was recovered from the revisionist. According to the case, recovery was made from the co accused Kundan Singh also. A recovery memo was prepared. The revisionist was arrested. The Police party reached at Police Station at 03:05 a.m. On 29.1.2003 and the case under sections 50/51/53/57 of the Act was registered against the revisionist. In the General Dairy (“GD”), Police recorded that there were directions that in such offences, the matter should be handed over to Forest Department, but the Forest Officer having contacted did not give satisfactory reply. Therefore, in the GD entry, No. 3 of 3:05 a.m. dated 29.1.2003, it is recorded that revisionist will be produced for remand. The revisionist was produced for remand. Thereafter, the record reveals that the Court asked the Investigating Officer to hand over the matter to Forest Department. On 30.1.2003, Police Officer informed the Forest Department. Meanwhile, again on 31.1.2003, revisionist was remanded to judicial custody. On 3.2.2003, complaint was filed. Cognizance was taken and bail application was also filed by the revisionist, which was also allowed on the same day. Evidence under section 244 of the Code of Criminal procedure, 1973 (“the Code”) was recorded and revisionist was charged under sections 51 and 52 of the Act, to which, he denied and claimed trial.
3. In all four witnesses were examined by the prosecution, namely, P.W. 1 Jagdish Chandra Kandpal, the complainant P.W. 2 Paan Singh Adhikari, the person who lodged forest offence, P.W. 3 Jagdish Pathak, the man who recovered the skin from the revisionist. He has stated about it. P.W. 4 Mohan Chandra Joshi, is the Police Officer who was accompanying the Police Officers.
4. Revisionist was examined under section 313 of the Code. According to him, he has been falsely implicated. After hearing the parties, the revisionist and co-accused has been convicted, as aforesaid by the judgment and order dated 30.10.2006, which was challenged in the appeal. But the appeal was dismissed. Aggrieved by it, the instant revision.
5. Heard learned Counsel for the parties through Video Conferencing and perused the record.
6. Learned Counsel for the revisionist would raise the following points in his arguments:
 - (i) It is the Police who lodged the FIR and effected arrest, which is illegal.
 - (ii) According to section 50 of the Act, after seizure, when Police produces the accused under the Act before a Magistrate, it would be done under the information to Chief Wildlife Warden or another officer. After seizure, Police did not immediately inform the Forest Authorities, as required under

section 50 (4) of the Act and it was done after a long delay when remand was not initially granted to the Police.

- (iii) If Police lodged FIR, what happened ultimately in it? When did Police submit its report, after investigation? It is not clear.
 - (iv) Complainant was not authorized to file a complaint under section 55 of the Act.
 - (v) Even if, it is assumed that under section 55 (c) of the Act, complainant is authorized to file complaint, he should have given a notice of not less than 60 days of his intention to make a complaint, which is not done in the instant case.
 - (vi) There cannot be two FIRs in the case. In the case, fir FIR was lodged by the Police and second by the Forest Department. It is an illegality.
7. On the other hand, learned State Counsel would submit that complainant is competent to file the complaint. There is no illegality and the revision has no merit.
 8. This is revision against conviction of the revisionist. The scope of revision is quite limited to the extent of examining legality, propriety and correctness of the judgment.
 9. The complainant is not the person, who effected the recovery. It is P.W. 3 Jagdish Pathak, who made the recovery. He has stated about it extensively. He also stated that during remand, it was revealed that complaint is to be filed by the Forest Officials, therefore, on 30.1.2003, he gave a report along with skin of the leopard to the Forest Officer with a request to take further steps. P.W. 1 Jagdish Chandra Kandpal is the complainant. He also confirms that on 30.1.2003, he receives recovery memo along with reports, therefore, he asked the Forest Department to lodge the case. He also speaks of the examination of the recovered skins by Wildlife Institute of India.
 10. In paragraph 18 of the complaint, it is stated that by virtue of notification dated 30.4.1976, even Police Officers above the rank of Sub-Inspector are competent to file a complaint under section 55 of the Act and P.W. 3 Jagdish Pathak, the Station House Officer, Police Station – Ranikhet was competent to file the complaint in the case, but, on 30.1.2003, he reported the matter to Forest Department for taking further steps.
 11. The immediate action of Jagdish Pathak cannot be termed as illegal. Section 50 of the Act, authorizes any Police Officer not below the rank of Sub-Inspector to conduct search arrest etc. Now, if after recovery, an FIR is lodged, it does not vitiate the entire proceedings. Sub-section 4 of section 50 is as hereunder:

“(4) Any person detained, or things seized under the foregoing power, shall forthwith be taken before a Magistrate to be dealt with according to law under intimation of the Chief Wild Life Warden or the officer authorized by him in this regard.”
 12. The above sub-section categorically reveals that once recovery is made, the person detained, or things seized shall be taken before the Magistrate under the intimation to Chief Warden or Officer authorized by him. This is what has been done in the instant case. On 30.1.2003 itself, the Forest Department was informed to take further action. FIR was recorded and case lodged in the GD of the Police Station. The Police Officer, records in GD, (report No. 320305, Police Station – Ranikhet dated 29.1.2003)→

that in view of the monitoring cell meeting, the matter has to be handed over to Forest Department. But the Forest Officers, on being contacted, expressed their ignorance. Therefore, the action of P.W. 3 Jagdish Pathak cannot be termed as illegal. He was aware that the matter has to be handed over to Forest Department. Although, according to the Forest Department, by virtue of notification dated 30.4.1976, Police authorities were also competent to file a complaint. In view of it, it cannot be said that lodging of FIR and arrest of the revisionist in any manner, vitiated the trial.

13. Insofar as, information to Forest Department is concerned, it has been proved that on 30.1.2003 itself, information was given to the Forest Department. It is also not any violation of section 50 (4) of the Act. The GD entry of the Police Station, as referred to hereinabove, which is proved by the prosecution, makes mention that soon after the arrest, the Forest Department was contacted, but they expressed their ignorance. In view of it, it cannot be said that there has been any violation of section 50 (4) of the Act.

14. Insofar as competence of the complainant to file a complaint is concerned, it is not in dispute that complainant is a Range Officer. In Criminal Revision No. 264 of 2013, *Bahadur Ram and another v. State of Uttarakhand and another*, same question was raised before this Court. This Court held that, in fact, Range Officers are also authorized to file a complaint under the Act. The Court observed as hereunder:

“12. According to learned Counsel for the revisionists, in view of Notification No. 2387/XIV-3-7-90, dated 23rd Nov. 1990, published in U.P. Gazette (Extra), Part 4, section (kha), dated 29th Nov., 1990, only Assistant Conservators of Forest are authorized to file a complaint under the Act. This notification is as hereunder:

“(x) Notification. No. 2387/XIV-3-7-90, dated 23rd Nov., 1990, published in U.P. Gazette (Extra), Part 4, section (kha), dated 29th Nov., 1990.

In exercise of the powers under section 55 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (Act No. 53 of 1972), the Governor is pleased to direct that all Assistant Conservators of Forest in Uttar Pradesh shall be the authorized officers on the complaint of whom the Court shall take cognizance of offences under the said Act within their respective jurisdiction.”

13. On the other hand, on behalf of the State, it is argued that the Assistant Conservators of Forest can file a complaint, but by virtue of earlier notification of the year 1976, even Range Officers are also competent to file the complaint under the Act. Reference has been made to Notification No. 4003/14-3-67/1974, Government of UP Forest Department (3), Lucknow dated 30.4.1976. In fact, this question has been raised in the appeal also.
14. The notification dated 30.4.1976 has been placed before the Court along with counter-affidavit by the State. According to it, Range Officers are also competent to file complaint under the Act. It is also true that by the subsequent notification of the year 1990, Assistant Conservators of Forest have been authorized to file complaint under the Act. But it is to be noted that in the subsequent notifications dated 3.3.1990 earlier notification has not been superseded. Therefore, subsequent notification shall be considered in addition to the earlier notification, on the subject. Therefore, Range Officer, who are authorized to file complaint, under the Act, by virtue of notification dated 30.4.1976 shall continue to be competent to file a complaint under the Act.”

15. This Court has no reason to take any other view at this stage. Complainant, the Range Officer is a person authorized to act under section 55 of the Act, to file a complaint and he has filed it. There is no illegality in it.
16. It has also been argued that there cannot be two FIRs and police has not shown as to what happened finally to the FIR lodged by them. This argument has no force in the eye of Law. P.W. 3 Jagdish Pathak did not proceed with the investigation thereafter. If the Forest Officers lodged a Forest Case with the matter and filed the complaint. It is the logical end of the proceedings post recovery of skin from the revisionist. There is no illegality in it.
17. A question has further been raised that even if complainant is authorized to file a complaint under section 55 of the Act, he should have given a 60 days' notice as required under section 55 (C) of the Act. This argument is not tenable for the simple reason that this clause refers to any person who is not notified to file the complaint. Any person from public may give a notice of his intention to make a complaint and only thereafter he may file the complaint under section 55 (C) of the Act. It is not applicable to those persons who are authorized under section 55 of the Act by the Appropriate Government to file complaint. In the instant case, it is the Range Officer, who is authorized to file a complaint under section 55 of the Act by the Appropriate Government and he did so. There is no illegality.
18. Having considered the arguments, under the facts and circumstances of the case, this Court is of the view that the learned Courts below did not commit any error in convicting and sentencing the revisionist. Accordingly, the instant revision is devoid of merit and it deserves to be dismissed.
19. The instant revision is dismissed.

- G. Ravinder

(The author is a retired D.F.O. He can be contacted on Mobile No. Mobile No.9866411645)

*I pray for India's advancement from strength to strength,
rising and powerful nation, leading the world in the
years to come, to a higher level of civilisation. Indeed,
this has been the dream, the vision, of the great stalwarts
in our struggle for freedom. In India's emancipation they
saw a new hope for humanity.*

- Shankar Dayal Sharma

LEGAL NOTES II

State of Maharashtra Vs Suja Karan Rabbani

This is a unique case of the State of Maharashtra in which 105 sheep and 11 goats were involved in damaging forest. They were seized and the authorized officer confiscated them. The order of confiscation is confirmed by the Bombay High Court.

In the case, the State filed two criminal writ petitions and the facts being identical and questions of law also being the same, a common judgment was passed by the High Court Bench comprising the Hon'ble Justices J. Patel and S. Gundewar.

On 16-11-1996, forest officers on their usual rounds of patrolling the forest, found 105 sheep and 11 goats grazing in the protected forest. The animals were seized. The damage to the forest by way of eating grass and plants of certain species of trees was estimated at Rs. 77,700 /-

On 17-11-1996 the respondent/accused approached the Range Forest Officer, Chinchgadh and admitted that the animals belong to him and that one Karan Deba Rabbani was grazing them in the forest.

The Range Forest Officer registered forest offence case number 115/2869 against the respondent on 16-11-1996 and sent a report of seizure to the Judicial First-class Magistrate, Sakoli and simultaneously a report was submitted to the Authorized Officer.

After completion of the investigation, the Range Forest Officer submitted report to the court which was registered as criminal case number 3625/1996. While the matter stood thus, the owner of animals filed an application before the court under Section 457 Cr. P.C on 19-11-1996 with a request to release the animals under Supradnama. The application was opposed by the State. After hearing both the parties, the application was allowed on 22-11-1996 and an order was passed to release the animals under Supradnama. Against the order of the Magistrate directing release of the animals, CrI. R.A. No. 94/1996 was filed in the Sessions Court. The criminal revision application was dismissed by the Sessions Judge holding that that the revision was not tenable as the revision application is filed against interlocutory order.

The Authorized Officer passed order on 13-1-1997 and confiscated the animals to the State Government. The respondent questioned validity of the confiscation order in CrI. A. No. 4/1997. The learned Additional Sessions Judge, Bhandara after hearing both sides allowed the appeal on 29-06-1997 and set aside the order of the Authorized Officer.

Aggrieved by the order of learned Additional Sessions Judge, the State approached the Hon'ble High Court and filed CrI. W.P No. 239/1997. It was argued on behalf of the State that the learned Magistrate had no jurisdiction to pass an order releasing the animals and learned Sessions Judge ought to have set aside the order of learned Magistrate by allowing the CrI. R A No 94/1996. It was submitted that the Authorized Officer passed order of confiscation after following the prescribed procedure. Therefore, the learned Additional Sessions Judge Bhandara should not have allowed Cr. A. NO. 4/1997. The learned Additional Sessions Judge has not considered the provisions of Sections 61-G of the Forest Act. In support of the argument the Counsel for the State cited the judgment in *Kama Laxman Gawali V. State of Maharashtra* (1989 Mh. L. J 780), wherein the Division Bench held that the cattle unauthorizedly trespassed and pastured in the RF damaging forest produce

are liable to confiscation. S.L.P number 882/1989 was admitted but the Criminal Miscellaneous Petition No. 1786/1989 was dismissed by the Apex court.

The counsel for the respondent on the other hand submitted quoting a Section of the Forest Act that where a report is made to the Magistrate, then the Magistrate gets the jurisdiction to release the case property on Supardnama. He cited the judgment in *Kamlesh Jaduram Yadav Vs State of Maharashtra* (1997-1-Mh.L.J.198) wherein it was held that provisions of 61-A to 61-G of the Act are not applicable if the forest produce is not notified.

The court considered the definition of forest produce in Section 2 (4) of the Act and held that according to the definition grass and other young plants are the forest produce. The court also considered the provisions of Section 61-G and the *non-obstante* clause within the section, which bars jurisdiction of any other court when a certain matter is under consideration of the authorized officer.

The Hon'ble High Court found that in view of Section 61-G, the order of learned Magistrate and the learned Additional Sessions Judge as well as the learned Sessions Judge are erroneous.

The High Court examined legality of the order of confiscation and an appeal against the order - CrI. A. No. 4/1997. The appellate court made wrong application of law and passed an order on 20-06-1997 giving direction to release the animals. The order it was held not only erroneous but misconceived. It seems that the learned Additional Sessions Judge lost sight of the true aspect of the matter and passed the order in Cr. A. No. 4/1997 on 20-06-1997, which is liable to be set aside.

In the result, CrI. W. P. Nos. 7/1997 and 23/1997 are allowed. The impugned order passed by the learned Magistrate of First class, Sakholi on 22-11-1996 in Summ. Cr. C. No. 367/1996 and by the learned Sessions Judge, Bhandara in Cr. R. A. No. 94/1996 dated 04-12-1996 as well as the order dated 20-06-1997 by the learned Additional Sessions Judge Bhandara in Cr. A. No. 4/1997 are set aside and writ petitions are allowed. The judgment was pronounced on 14th September 1999.

Source: 2000 Cri. L.J. 664

K.B.R

Note: - It is clarified for the information of the readers that in this case the new Forum Authorised Officer has proceeded according to the new law, while existing Forum Criminal Court has mistakenly passed wrong orders. Court's orders releasing seized animals is challenged by filing Revision Petition in Sessions Court which is dismissed by Sessions Judge.

Appeal against confiscation is dismissed by Additional Sessions Judge.

Both the orders of Sessions Judge and Additional Sessions Judge (in revision and appeal respectively) are held as erroneous and misconceived.

*Ask Not what the Country can do for you.
But what you can do for the Country.....*



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3. K, Mohan Reddy 16-01-1934	3. Sachin Gupta 22-01-1988
4. P. Bhaskar Reddy 21-01-1953	4. Dr. P. Subbaraghavaiah 25-01-1961
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7. H.K. Desai 23-01-1936	7. C. Vajra Reddy 10-01-1967
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10. P. Gracious 24-01-1949	10. Ms. D. Samhita 21-01-1988
11. Dr. C.N. Rao 26-01-1938	11. M. Nagarjuna Reddy 30-01-1968
12. P. Upender Reddy 05-02-1942	12. B.Venkateswara Rao 31-01-1968
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Postal Regn. No.HD/1154/2020-2023**

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**If Undelivered, Please return to : Editor : VANA PREMI, Office of the Principal Chief
Conservator of Forests, Aranya Bhavan, 5th Floor, Room No. 514, Saifabad, Hyd - 500 004, T.S.**

Date of Publication: 26-12-2020 Total Pages: 56 Date of Despatch: 4th or 5th of Every Month.

Printed & Published by **Qamar Mohd. Khan** on behalf of **Association of Retired Forest Officers**,
Printed at **Venu Graphics**, D.No.2-1-392/1/6, Fever Hospital Signal, Nallakunta, Hyderabad-500044 and
Published from Room No. 514, 5th Floor, Aranya Bhavan, Hyderabad-500004. Editor: **Qamar Mohd. Khan**.
RNI Regd. No. Teleng/2000/2185. | Email ID: qamar_asima@yahoo.com. | Phone No. 9849233624

Venu Graphics, Hyderabad, 9246332717