

VANA PREMI



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EDITORIAL:**THE BATON FROM QMK – A PUSH PASS PICKUP**

Sri Qamar Mohd. Khan has been doing yeomen service as the Editor of Vanapremi magazine for nearly a decade and a half after his retirement in 2005. With his dedicated and sincere efforts, the magazine, which started as a newsletter, evolved into present shape with an increasing subscriber base month after month. Though Sri Qamar Mohd. Khan tendered his resignation in November last year, his request could not be considered, and he was requested to continue till alternate arrangements were made. As Sri Qamar Mohd. Khan wanted to devote full time to a reputed philanthropic trust work; I am entrusted with the editorial work. I am honoured and excited to succeed great officers who worked as editors of Vanapremi; Sri Bhoom Rajam, Sri Buchiram Reddy and Sri Qamar Mohd. Khan.

An editor does the job of a counsellor rather than a collaborating taskmaster. The tendency of the writer-editor to collaborate is natural, but the editor should strive as to how he could help the writer to say it better in his style rather than trying to show the writer how he would write it in his (editor's) style. One must never forget that writing and editing are entirely different arts or crafts. It is proven that good editing has saved bad writing more often than lousy editing has harmed good writing.

As E.B. White puts it – “An editor is a person who knows more about writing than writers do but who has escaped the terrible desire to write”.

Coming to Vana Premi, getting the desired articles is a significant problem. We all know that there are immensely knowledgeable, resourceful officers among the retired and working, who can regularly contribute excellent, readable material for the magazine. Lack of time or interest/preoccupation is preventing them from sharing the knowledge. Some officers confided in their laziness too. Hence from day one as editor, the pressure is palpable. Added to it, sticking to deadlines is a no-nonsense business. I would set two-three deadlines depending upon the writer and the difficulty of the article. Asking for a rough draft, mark my suggestions/corrections, ask for explanations, etc., and then prepare a final draft as per the textbook SOP. If the final draft received was also not up to the mark, I can't afford to let the writer know of my dissatisfaction, show him where he went wrong and ask for a polished article within the limited time. Instead, I took pains to make it publishable and presentable format.

As writing is intuitive, most officers don't show improvement in their papers which need a lot of commitment and positive energy. Subject wise, most of the officers are experts and confident in their field. Some encouragement from family members/ friends and their enthusiasm goes a long way and would make them plunge into producing excellent articles and becoming renowned authors. I request all our officers to share their experiences in Vana Premi, so that the present generation will benefit immensely.

WHOM DOES THE ‘FCA’ BELL TOLLS?

It's a known fact that a Forester, irrespective of the designation, is always at the receiving end and often looked at as one who opposes the development of an area on one pretext or other. Officers face embarrassing situations in the meetings just because of doing their duties sincerely as per the provisions of Special Acts and Rules made thereunder. Though

Environmentalists and Foresters applaud the FC Act, the “Users (including Government) Agencies’ simply blame the FD for their failure to comply with the SOPs laid down. The delay in fulfilling the conditions is conveniently thrown on the hapless Forest Officials, despite their protests. Though certain sections of the public hate some Government wings

(that generate revenue for the exchequer), opposing opinion is unanimously palpable when dealing with forestry matters – against the officials.

With the landmark judgement of the Apex Court (in T.N. Godavarman Thirumulkpad v. Union Of India - Forest Case 202/1995', dated December 12, 1996), the restrictions in the FCA were made applicable to both de jure, and de facto forests provided it is recorded as forest in government records, regardless of ownership. It's a fact that a lot of resentment and resistance, particularly from private individuals and organizations, is felt across the country. When any private area is recorded as forest in any records, the right of an individual to use their own land for any non-forestry activity is restricted. The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has proposed certain amendments to the FC Act in its consultation paper, which may enable infrastructure projects to come up in the forest areas more easily with exemptions to railways, roads, tree plantations, oil exploration, wildlife tourism and 'strategic' projects in forests. These amendments encourage plantation and forest growth on private land, which helps meet the National Forest Policy target of bringing 33 per cent of the country's area under forests and tree cover. Currently, 24.56 per cent of geographical areas are under forests. There is a practical limitation to increasing forest cover. More and more non-forest lands, including land under private ownership, must be brought under the tree cover for ecological, economic, and environmental benefits.

These proposals, if get through, would result in significant changes to forest governance in India, including facilitating private plantations for harvesting and exploration or extraction of oil and natural gas deep beneath forest land by drilling holes from outside the forest areas.

It is felt that these changes will address the problems of a private owner providing an equivalent

area of non-forest land and other compensatory levies to use his land for his non-forestry purpose. Even when diversion of such areas is allowed (to use his land for intended non-forestry purposes), the cumbersome process led to the tendency to keep most of the private lands devoid of vegetation even if there's scope for planting activities. Given this, it is felt indispensable to define the scope of application of the Act objectively.

Another important aspect is it will address the country's achievement of the climate target of creating additional 3 billion tons of carbon sink by 2030, as per the Paris Agreement under nationally determined contributions (NDC). It is estimated that the country's expanding timber market will further boost indigenous produce, thus saving the country's foreign exchange for importing wood and wood derivatives to a tune of ₹45 thousand crores.

It is also proposed to keep intact certain pristine forests "showcasing rich ecological values" for a specific period. Extended Reach Drilling (ERD) of oil is also proposed to be kept outside the purview of the FC Act as it is found not to impact the soil or aquifer that supports the forest. The ministry has proposed allowing the private forest owners to construct structures for bonafide purposes, including forest protection measures and residential units up to an area of 250 sq mtr, as a one-time relaxation.

With these proposed amendments, the environment ministry wants to unlock land for infrastructure development and plantations, both high on economic priorities. With a view to conserve plantations and important forest areas, the Apex Court, in 1996, had banned the use of domestic timber for wood-based industries, sawmills etc., resulting in increased raw material imports. Similarly, once released from the requirement of prior forest clearances, the private land will incentivize plantation-based carbon sinks. On the infrastructure side, the

environment ministry has prioritized the needs of government agencies like NHAI and railways, assuming that land once acquired by these agencies should be allowed for unencumbered use.

It is felt that the paper offers complete relaxation to businesses like safaris, zoos, linear projects, mining and other non-forest use on forest land. At the same time, it restricts and tightens the scope for community access and centuries-old traditional ownership by local communities. The Act provides for at least a year's imprisonment for forest offences, but the new document shortens it to only 15 days. It is strange to see this leniency towards offences in a document that is specifically aimed at conservation.

The criticism that "It treats an industrialist and a local tribal equally and if a village wants to develop some infrastructure on its forest land and an industrialist wants to establish an industrial plant or mine the land, both have to seek approval for non-forest use of forest land and follow the same procedure" has to be addressed.

The MoEFCC has to effectively address the concerns over community-owned forest resources,

leading to conflict and making forest dwellers' lives difficult. It has stalled many pro-people development initiatives and deprived people of basic civil amenities in lakhs of villages situated inside or around the forests. It is felt that the proposed amendments completely ignore the existence of the Forest Rights Act, 2006. The rights of forest dwellers should be taken care of by incorporating the provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 1980 into the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

Let us hope that the amendments, when approved, address the issues of confrontations between local communities, user agencies and forest departments. The burden on the Forest Official will increase immensely, and he will always be at the receiving end. The need of the hour is to educate the user agencies, including Government departments, public representatives, local leaders, on the procedures laid down in dealing with the coming FC Act incorporating final amendments. Otherwise, the environmentalists and the forester fraternity will be looked at with skepticism and continue to remain at the receiving end.

- MOHD. THAYYAB

Letters to the Editor

Sir,

Just now, I could get a chance to read the article "Periyar National Park / Tiger Reserve - Thekkady" by Shri. Santhaseela Babu in your October 2021 issue of 'VANAPREMI'. I feel it is a full-fledged narration of our prestigious Thekkady Wildlife Sanctuary containing a lot of information. It is enlightening all walks of life viz., Wild lifers, Foresters, Tourists, Explorers, Travelers and others. The contents of the article contain rights from historical facts to current Eco-tourism management. It is noteworthy here that the Periyar Eco-tourism model has earned many laurels from Govt. of India and other NGOs in the recent past.

The narration is tempting for an imminent visit to Thekkady. Kudos to the knowledgeable writer especially being an 'Outside State Forester' in gathering such facts and real-time information of our Sanctuary and presenting in a professional traveler language and style.

Sincerely,

N. Balakrishna Pillai, IFS (Rtd.),
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Experiment of Raising Teak Nursery With New Technique

Paresh Kumar Sharma



In the late seventies and early eighties Karim Nagar East Division was known for raising of large-scale Teak Plantations in the Telangana Region of Andhra Pradesh. For raising successful plantations, availability of quality planting stock was a pre-requisite. For this purpose, a large number of Teak Nursery beds used to be raised in KE Division; 1000 beds at Vallamkunta Nursery of Bhopalpalli Range on the border of KE & KW Divisions and 1000 beds at Azam Nagar of Azam Nagar Range; and later on 500 beds were raised at Kudurpalli of Mahadevpur Range. A few more beds were raised intermittently at other places.

The technique of raising Teak Nurseries had almost been standardized. It involved an elaborate procedure of preparing the raised Teak beds manually. Local labour needed to be engaged for digging the earth up to a depth of 30 cm for a bed of 10 M x 1 M size in a particular alignment depending upon the shape and size of the nursery. The dug-out beds used to be cleared of the weeds; dried leaf litter etc. used to be burnt for sanitization and exposed to the sun for few days. This used to kill the seeds of the weeds and this would have ensured lower quantum of weeds in the Teak beds. Then 9 inches raised beds (with kerbing) with the mix of earth, sand and organic fertilizer in due proportion, used to be prepared in the months of April. The soil mixture also used to be enriched with DAP & Urea.

The most critical part of raising nursery used to be availability of quality Teak Seeds.

Forest Geneticist, an Officer of the rank of DCF stationed at Warangal, used to be the agency for this purpose for the entire state. There used to be dearth of quality seeds as good number of Teak Seed Stands were not available. Due to illicit felling the number of trees in the Teak Seed Stands, Germ plasm Banks & Plus Trees was on the decline. As a result, the local Forest Officers used to collect seeds even from young Teak Plantations, affecting the quality of the planting material adversely. Whosoever could get the graded high quality viable seeds, the nurseries used to be excellent in terms of quality.

KE Division being in the proximity of Forest Geneticist, used to get quality seeds in time. As the seeds had very hard rind, these required a special treatment before these could be sown. It consisted of alternate soaking and drying for at least a month. The treated seeds were then sown in the Teak beds in lines 10 cm apart touching each other. The seeds used to germinate within a week to 10 days with proper watering. The beds used to be tended with watering, weeding and application of Cow dung slurry or fertilizers for almost 9-10 months. In between the rainy season, specially the month of August used to be very critical because of Grub attack. These were to be removed physically. If not removed, all the young Teak saplings used to die. This was a high labour-intensive operation.

The seedlings used to attain thumb thickness by second half of May or first half of

June. Monsoon used to reach Telangana region of AP by 1st week of June; and if planting could commence with the onset of monsoon, the rate of success of the plantation used to be high. These nurseries used to give approximately 700-800 **Teak stumps** per bed; 500-600 in the first pick and 200-250 in the second pick. Preparation of Stumps was also a skilled operation. Teak seedlings of proper size needed to be uprooted carefully. Care was required not to damage the roots and the collar region. Each stump consisted of 8" long Root portion & 1" long shoot portion. Then 100 stumps were tied in a bundle and bundles packed in gunny bags. Thus transport of naked stumps was easier and economical. These Teak stumps were planted in the crowbar holes at the planting sites at a spacing of 2M x 2M (2500 stumps per Ha). I ensured that planting stock was prepared and sent to the planting sites in time and planted in crow-bar holes in time.

The problem with the above traditional nursery technique was that it used to take pretty long time. From the stage of preparing the nursery beds to production of Teak stumps, anywhere between 14 to 16 months were required. Not only this, there used to be infestation of Grubs in the rainy season. Eradication of Grubs was very tedious procedure. Labour had to pick up Grubs individually and kill them.

At this juncture I came across an article in Indian Forester written by **Dr. R.N. Mehrotra** of the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun on use of Phyto-Hormone **Gibberellic Acid** and **Micro-nutrients** in boosting the growth of Teak seedlings in the nurseries thereby reducing the time required for production of Teak Stumps to 5-6 months. I was impressed as it would have obviated the problem of Grub attack, saved

lots of time as well as economized the whole operation. I therefore discussed the issue with my CF **Shri R.P. Bahadur, IFS**. He was convinced, however to be on the safer side, gave permission for this experiment to begin with in only 50 beds. I was happy though. I deliberated on the topic with my FRO and Dy.RO. and explained the nitty gritty of the "new Teak Nursery technique". They were excited with the prospects. We started the preparations.

GAA & micro-nutrients were procured from Hyderabad. Time schedule was re-aligned with the time of arrival of NE monsoon in Andhra Pradesh. Though the article in Indian Forester prescribed starting of nursery ops from the month of March where NE monsoon hits in the first week of July; I scheduled the nursery ops from Feb. Seeds were pre-treated with GAA and once the nursery beds stabilized, foliar spray of micro-nutrients was carried out as per prescription. Results were excellent! This nursery produced equally good quality Teak stumps within a period of four plus months. These were planted in all the four Ranges of Karim Nagar Division as experimental plots of 1 ha each in the current year plantations. These stumps performed equally well. Growth of these seedlings was no less than those seedlings planted with the traditional Teak Stumps.

Conservator of forests was very happy with the results. He encouraged and permitted me to go in for 1000 beds Teak nursery with new method the next year. This nursery was raised in Azam Nagar successfully with same rate of success. These stumps fared equally successfully. I reported the matter to the PCCF; who in turn communicated to all the field officers for replication. That's how with the

Contd.. on page No.14

Sustainable Management of Monkey Population

R.S. Bhadauria



I had witnessed and actively participated in various phases of post-independence wildlife management since the beginning of the sixties when it was practiced by regulating hunting, defining shooting season and closed periods. Whole state forests (except Kumaun and Tehri circles) were divided into Shooting blocks. During the shooting season, (Oct. to June), shooting block-wise, fortnightly shooting permits for the second fortnight of each month were issued to applicant *shikaris*, by a draw with prescribed numbers of animals and birds, allowed to be shot (called bag limit) and without a permit, shooting was prohibited. The first fortnight of each month of shooting season was open for shooting by Gazetted Forest officers, having jurisdiction in the forest area without any bag limit. He could invite up to 4 guests for shooting with him. But this system covered only Reserved Forests (RFs) as areas outside RFs were beyond the control of the Forest dept. and there was no law to protect wildlife.

With the promulgation of the Central Act, known as the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 (WLPA), the whole country and its territorial waters came into its ambit. Its implementation started after the state legislatures adopted it and rules were framed. Thus, full-scale implementation could be enforced till about 1980, by which time all exploitable methods of wildlife, like shooting for game or trophy or pot (meat), trapping and snaring for pet & trade, medical research and

study, were stopped. Subsequently, catching from the wild, even for zoos, was banned. Since the said Act is applicable to the entire territory of the country (forest and outside forest areas), the wildlife recovered its lost ground quickly, and by about the year 1990, even the most endangered spp. fared well.

During the eighties, besides enforcing a total ban on all kinds of exploitation, there was a spate of declaring Protected Areas (National Parks, Sanctuaries & Biospheres reserves), creating safe havens for wildlife which further hastened the recovery process of wildlife. Widespread awareness programmes also added to the success of the conservation movement. All these efforts were necessary to turn the tide of decimation, which started with the advent of trigger happy British, the invention of high caliber rifles, and the introduction of ubiquitous jeeps.

By the turn of the century, complete protection from exploitation, on the one hand, proved beneficial to all the spp. in general. Still, on the other, the population of some quick-response species increased, and it started posing management problems of Man & Animal conflict. Needless to say, that ideal conservation strategy is **Sustainable Management by taking care of Man & Animal conflict also**. To achieve this strategy, wildlife management will have to be divided into two categories, (1) for Forest areas and (2) for areas outside forests- human habitation & agricultural

areas. This is necessary because the Man is the ultimate controller & master of all earthly resources (Plant and Animal life both). Therefore, both of these resources are safe as long as humans realize their importance and are sympathetic toward them. **Thus, it is a plain truth that Wildlife (Plants & Animals) cannot be protected without the cooperation of humans.**

While considering the present scenario of wildlife outside forest areas, the status of Blue bull, Wild boar, and Monkeys in their home ranges has gone up alarmingly high, causing serious Man and Animal conflict. Of these, **Blue bull and Wild boars** are crop raiders, destroying field crops, and GOI took the right decision to control their population by declaring them vermins, outside forest areas, for a limited period on the recommendation of the Chief Wildlife Warden of the state concerned.

Monkeys (Rhesus macaque) have become a big nuisance in cities/ towns, around temples & pilgrimage places, and fruit orchards in rural areas in northern states (home range). In cities, they roam about on rooftops picking & tearing laundry, destroying TV antennae & pot plants, stealing/snatching food items and biting people who dare to chase them. Some human fatalities are reported now and then. They lurk around temples and snatch from devotees' hands the offerings for worship (*prasad as sweets*) and snatch even spectacles and headgear, which they return only in exchange for some food items offered to them. In this process, some people get injured also, and they have to take anti-rabies injections later on. In orchard areas, they feed on fruits destroying fruit crops, much to the chagrin of orchard owners.

The high light of the monkey menace had been the visit of Hon'ble President of India to Mathura- Vrindavan temples in early 1915, which was somehow managed by local Police by hiring and deploying Langurs to scare the monkeys from the neighbourhood of temples. Unauthorized catching and owning langurs and their hiring to scare Monkeys was itself an illegal triple activity as per Wildlife Protection Act 1972. but such illegality had to be resorted to protecting the VVIP pilgrim. Similar illegality was committed during 2013-14 when Langurs were reported (through media) to have been hired and deployed on monthly wages to scare monkeys and guard residences of Prime Minister, Chief Justice of India, some other VVIPs and some schools in Delhi. I wrote about these illegalities to VVIPs concerned, requesting their good offices to help solve this problem legally, being faced by the commoner, but to no avail.

Because of these conflicts, the public has been crying hoarse for some time, bearing losses to human life and property and urging the state and central Govts. to mitigate this problem. To find a lasting solution to the monkey menace in human habitation areas, the genesis of the problem needs to be explored.

Monkeys have never been the shooter's choice because of mythical religious sentiments attached to them and not palatable. Also, their preferred habitat is human habitations, where there is no natural predator to control their population. Therefore, monkeys in India never faced any threat to their existence and were in relatively large numbers even before the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 came into effect. Their population remained controlled because their trapping was allowed through annual

auctions by the Forest dept in forest areas as Minor Forest Produce and auctioned by revenue authorities in areas outside forests. Trapped monkeys were exported worldwide in medical research and as exhibits in zoos and used in India for the same purposes.

In the year 1980, the Govt. banned their exports, and monkey trapping came to a complete halt. Because of this development, the monkey population started rising rapidly. By the year 2000, the conflict between Man and Monkeys started raising its ugly head. After that year after year, monkeys became an ever-rising threat to humans in various ways because they thrive primarily in and around human habitations. **Thus, the need for controlling their population became an issue to be resolved.**

Himachal Pradesh is a forested and orchard bearing state, felt the heat of monkey menace earlier than other states, and the H.P. Forest Dept. resorted to birth-control by sterilizing males and females since the year 2007 to combat the menace. Though this method may sound proper in principle, it has not given quick results, and this work is continuing, having spent so far, the massive amount in crores and will probably continue endlessly. Since sterilized monkeys are released back, therefore their nuisance assumes greater vengeance until their natural death. Consequently, even after 10 yrs of sterilization programme, public pressure mounted so much to get their areas rid of monkeys that GOI in 2016, on the advice of H.P. Forest dept., had to declare monkeys as Vermin. in areas outside forests. The irony is that it is hard to find shooters due to ingrained religious myths/sentiments attached to monkeys.

As regards the sterilization method to control the population of monkeys, the technique suffers from the following drawbacks:

- 1--Monkeys are intelligent animals. are difficult to trap, and they usually abandon the place temporarily for some time where trapping operation is commenced. Thus, the sterilization process gets hampered, slows down and takes a long time to show results.
- 2-- Monkeys live in troupes and a trapped monkey after getting traumatized during the sterilization process. Released back, alerts others in its company and then it becomes more difficult to trap others. Due to stress in the process, Sterilized and released monkeys often become vicious, vengeance, and more dangerous to humans.
- 3-- In Some monkeys, sterilization fails while others suffer from subsequent infection in the sterilized part and die after a lot of suffering.
- 4-- Since the agency doing this work gets paid for the number of monkeys sterilized, they often inflate figures of treated monkeys, which remain unverifiable, resulting in corrupt practice on the one hand and on the other, adversely affecting the outcome of the exercise.
- 5--This is prolonged duration exercise, yielding slow results, exhausting public patience for relief and entailing considerable annual expenditure year after year.

In this context, the experience gained in a similar exercise conducted in Agra city during 2016, by an NGO, named SOS, spent crores of rupees and claimed to sterilize unreliable no. of monkeys and stopped the exercise. Thus, the whole exercise flopped as it did not even touch

the fringe of the iceberg after spending a considerable amount on sterilization and the figure claimed is unverified too. The nuisance of monkeys in Agra city remained unchanged.

Suggested Solution

Monkeys were becoming a nuisance notwithstanding; people generally do not like their shooting for various reasons. In such situations, alternatively, **why not revert to the earlier method of managing the monkey population, which remained in vogue for decades in the country until 1980, when monkey trapping and sale was banned.** In earlier systems, monkeys used to be auctioned by defining areas for trapping operation and only sub-adult monkeys were allowed to be trapped. This system ensured harvesting, part of annual growth, leaving the breeders to grow and be taken care of by natural death and predation by leopards and other carnivores. Thus monkey population remained controlled for decades at a **sustainable level** and did not attain a **menacing level inviting public wrath and outcry.**

The gravity of the problem being faced now fully justifies the resumption of the old method to control the menacing monkey population. This method is a better alternative than allowing the shooting of monkeys, as vermins, and disposing of them by burial as nobody eats it. By doing so, the monkey menace across the country will end, and medical science and research will benefit and Forest depts. will be relieved of public pressure/criticism and earn some revenue instead of incurring unnecessary recurring expenditure on capture and sterilization and, even then, un-resolving the problem.

For reverting to the old system, GOI will be required to permit the export of this spp. as before. After opening an export channel, GOI

should issue advisory to state Govts. to seek permission for trapping & sale, wherever required. This is time tested method and has never been opposed by any section of the public. By auctioning trapping right for sale and export, all affected cities/towns and particularly pilgrimage towns should be cleared of monkey population by allowing wholesale trapping and inside forest areas trapping of only sub-adult monkeys, be allowed as before to ensure perpetual survival of the sustainable population of the spp. **Endeavour should maintain viable populations inside forests, but habitation areas should be cleared of monkeys altogether.**

Since monkeys have a traditional market in and outside the country for research and zoo exhibitory, why not harvest this natural resource on a sustainable basis, instead of killing or plugging its growth by sterilization and even then, failing to eradicate the menace, **turning public hostile to the overall philosophy of Wildlife Conservation, affecting conservation of other species too.**

Awareness Campaign

Regarding the myth about monkeys representing Hanuman Ji, there is no ground to hold this belief for the following reasons. But such mistaken belief still existed when the Forest dept auctioned monkeys. and nobody ever objected to their trapping and instead welcomed trapping to get rid of menacing monkeys. However, this belief also can be dispelled from the public mind by sustained awareness programmes educating the public with the following reasoning-

- 1-- As depicted in paintings, Hanuman Ji has a long, tufted tail, whereas Rhesus macaque has a small smooth tail. Hence, by resemblance, Langur (not Rhesus macaque) has a better claim to represent Hanuman Ji.

2--In Wildlife literature (The Book of Indian Animals—SH Prate) also Langur is referred to as Hanuman Monkey, while this nomenclature has not been given to Rhesus macaque.

3--Langur, unlike Rhesus, lives a dignified life in the forests and does not like habitation areas, avoiding any conflict with humans. Therefore, it commands respect and reverence from humans. On the other hand, monkeys prefer to live near or inside habitations, resorting to all kinds of mischief, becoming a nuisance and harmful for humans and, therefore, earning their ire instead of respect. Thus, equating monkey with highly revered Hanuman Ji amounts to disrespecting the deity- Hanuman Ji

4-- Monkeys by behaviour are mischievous, cunning, frighten and attack people unprovoked, steal and snatch food from human hands and therefore can never qualify to be equated with revered Hanuman Ji. At the same time, Langurs never indulge in such nefarious activities and lead a dignified life.

5--Monkeys are omnivorous in dietary habits and eat insects and small mammals and therefore cannot represent Hanuman Ji. In contrast, Langurs are purely herbivorous and can qualify to represent Hanuman Ji.

6-- Monkeys are scared of Langurs as the later is more powerful and more prominent in size & stature. This comparative analysis of body features, physical prowess, behaviour, food habits and interface with humans, actually judging in the context of Rev, epic Ramayan, leads to the logical conclusion that Langurs may represent Hanuman Ji, while Monkeys can not. On the contrary,

monkeys can be equated with *Asuras* (clan of Rawana), who Hanuman Ji defeated, and this is why monkeys have an ingrained fear of Langurs even now. Thus, worshipping monkeys would amount to worshipping *Asuras* and not Hanuman Ji.

This kind of sustained publicity and awareness amongst the general public should go a long way in dispelling the myth about monkeys equating with Hanuman Ji. Thus, the people would shun revering them and stop feeding them as an act of divine offering and cooperate with the Forest dept's efforts to control their population.

The famed naturalist and wild lifer Dr Salim Ali often used to say, "Wildlife should not be managed on sentimental grounds; instead, its management should be based on ground realities". I fully agree that to ensure perpetual conservation of any spp., the abundance in the population should be harvested scientifically for the benefit of society, rather than allowing or ignoring Man & Animal conflict, which is bound to generate antipathy for conservation philosophy, harming the overall conservation success achieved so far.

Until such time, the formalities to allow export is completed by GOI, menacing monkeys from problem areas should be permitted by Chief Wildlife Wardens to be trapped u/s 11 of the Act and translocated to remote forest areas, particularly in particular Leopard infested areas, to provide relief to affected areas.

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encouragement of the CF Warangal and committed & sincere work of the Azam Nagar Range staff the New Teak Nursery technique was successfully implemented.

However, as normally happens, the new Teak Nursery technique was abandoned in the KE Division also after the transfer of the then DFO. Later on, I found to my amazement in the State of Telangana that Teak seeds were being

sown in the polypots, with no added advantage. On the other hand, it has led to the increase in the cost of production, transport as well as planting as it needed to be done in 30/60 cm cube pits. I still feel that the old method still holds good!

Author is former PCCF & HoFF, Telangana, Hyderabad and can be reached at pareshvyas22@gmail.com and mobile number 63000 30519.

Vana Premi Welcomes The Writer In You

Do you know - There are a lot of excellent, published authors in the world that did not start writing until they retired. But regardless of your age, you may have a great narrative in you. Some people write for the sheer joy of writing, and most just post the work online for the world to enjoy. You may be one among them; please check.

You may be a professional with vast experience in a particular field but have a good flair in an unconnected area- you are welcome to share your knowledge with the retired, working and the general public as well.

If you are not happy with the articles (content-wise or standard wise) being published in Vana Premi month after month, you are the one we need. Just scribble your heart content to a good article and mail it to me preferably by the 10th of every month, but no later than the 15th -please note. You can add good photographs, drawings wherever you feel necessary.

Though all matters related to Forestry and wildlife are generally preferred: Seasonal articles, travel and vacation articles: health-related articles, personal grooming and professional articles dealing with senior citizens, home and family themes, puzzles, cartoons, trivia, jokes, quotes related to Forestry and services are not taboo and will be considered basing on the available space.

EDITOR, Vana Premi
(Email: thayyab@gmail.com)

The Simple 5-Step Early Morning Routine That Can Change Your Life

Dr Ershad Mohd. Sohail



I have always loved the early morning hours. As the old cliché saying goes, “Early to bed early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise, waking up during the early hours before sunrise can benefit you immensely.

I start each day between 5 and 6 AM. I have found that the choices I make within the first few hours of each morning are critical. When I start my day with this simple 5-step routine, I feel genuinely energized and happy. If it’s possible for me, it’s possible for you too!

If you are looking for some healthy habits to add to your life for increased productivity, efficiency, energy, and happiness, these might be just what you need. These habits are fuel for your mind, body, and soul.

1. Prayer



Waking up each morning is a blessing from the creator. It’s a chance to live one more day of our lives. Do you know that more than 45 million people die each year? That calculates roughly to more than 1.20

lakh per day! They don’t get to see the beautiful sunrise of the next day. How appalling is this reality! Prayer is the best way to connect to The Supreme Intelligent Being as a token of our appreciation. It keeps you humble and peaceful. A few people I know wake up as early as 3 AM! These people are known as Super Early Risers. This time is known as the Hour of God, also termed Brahma Muhurtham or Tahajjud. It takes quite a discipline to wake up that early! You don’t have to do that regularly. You can try at least once a week to access this powerful time. However, waking up between 5 and 6 AM is terrific too. You will get to know how much work we can do to improve ourselves each day. All said and done, make sure you get adequate sleep too. Never compromise on your sleep. There is no hard and fast rule as to how many hours of sleep you should get. 8 hrs of sleep is a myth now. If you feel refreshed after waking up, you slept well. It’s as simple as that!

2. Meditation

Our minds are filled with garbage every day. With the advent of social media, there has been an exponential increase in the trash. There is a lot of negativity all around us. We might have to deal with challenging situations and people frequently, if not daily.



Meditation is a powerful tool to get rid of all the nonsense that's accumulated in our minds. There are various ways to meditate. Each of us is unique. You must find out for yourself which type of meditation works for you. We may need guidance initially, but as time goes by, we can master the art of meditation. Deep meditation for even 5 minutes in the morning can be immensely beneficial. However, 20 minutes of daily meditation without breaks has a brilliant positive outcome. Please don't break the routine, or you will have to begin from square one.

While the above two steps are for a powerful mind and soul, this third step is for a robust and healthy body. Remember, a solid and sound mind can uplift a weak body but not vice versa. So, the above two steps are vital before you go for the third one.

The beauty of meditation is that it has nothing to do with gender, religion, caste, creed, or ethnicity. People from different walks of life can meditate. There are no limits and boundaries. You have to be a human being to meditate. Simple, isn't it?

3. Exercise

You don't have to do fancy exercises, hit the gym, lift weights, or pump iron to get strong. A simple exercise like a brisk walk daily for at least 30 minutes can get your spirits high. If you can develop one single game or sport, it would be awesome as it's both fun and exercise. There are many proven studies linking exercise to endorphin release in our bodies. Endorphins are hormones that act to increase feelings of pleasure and well-being. They are also proven to reduce pain and discomfort. That's the reason why exercise is best when done in the mornings. You feel elated and get ready to face the challenges of the day ahead.



Yoga is another simple yet powerful form of exercise that has immense health benefits. There are various forms of Yoga. Find out which works for you! You need a certified teacher to begin with, because correct posture is vital to get the maximum

benefit. Doing Yoga unsupervised, especially for beginners, can have disastrous results, and you may end up with serious injuries.

4. Breakfast

A healthy diet supports a healthy body and mind. After you have done these fantastic steps above, if you eat junk food, you have defeated the purpose of staying healthy in the first place. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Many people skip breakfast thinking that it helps in weight loss, but it's disastrous. You gain weight because the body tries to conserve body fat as it feels you have gone into starvation mode.

A well-balanced breakfast with adequate proteins, fats, and carbohydrates helps you fuel the body and keeps you active to work efficiently. These are called macronutrients – the three essential components of every diet. The acceptable macronutrient distribution ranges (AMDR) are 45–65% of your daily calories from carbs, 20–35% from fats and 10–35% from protein.

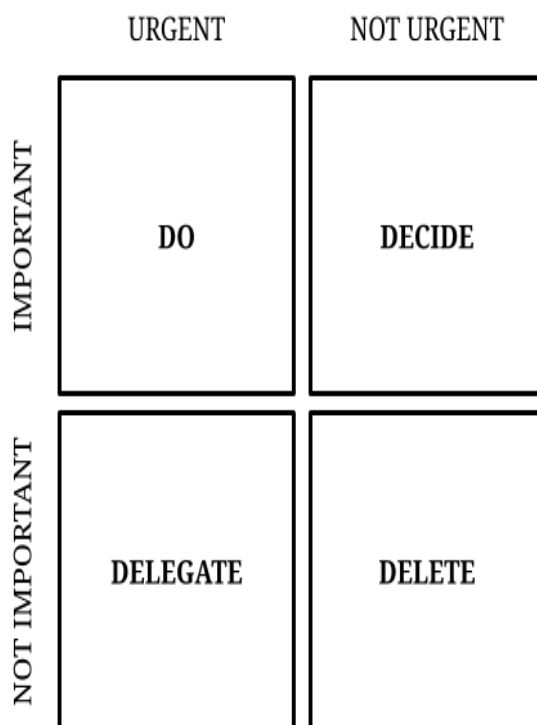
Never skip breakfast.

5. Plan the Day Ahead

It's essential to write down the schedule for the day on a piece of paper or in your diary to get the details right. Keeping the information in your brain tends to make you disorganized and may lead to confusion later. Hence, it's essential to jot down everything on paper. This system is called "The Second Brain." You declutter your

brain by doing this step. You need just 15 minutes to get the job done. Prioritize your tasks. Eisenhower Matrix will help you to prioritize.

Below is the representation of the Eisenhower matrix, which is a tool to set the day's priorities. You can save time by categorizing tasks according to their urgency and importance. You can draw this simple system on a sheet of paper and arrange your work accordingly. This system draws your thoughts out of your mind and makes them visible, so there is no confusion on which tasks to concentrate first and which ones to discard.



Final Thoughts

If you think that a few simple habits won't change your life, I urge you to

reconsider. These habits have a compounding effect. You may not see the results immediately, but you will start seeing the excellent benefits these habits

provide over time.

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AMUSE YOUR TINY-TOTS

1. **There were ten cats in a boat, and one jumped out. How many were left?**
None, because they were copycats!
2. **How does a lion greet the other animals in the field?**
"Pleased to eat you."
3. **How do spiders communicate?**
Through the World Wide Web.
4. **Where do you find a dog with no legs?**
Where you left it.
5. **What do you get from a pampered cow?**
Spoiled milk.
6. **Who makes dinosaur clothes?**
A dino-sewer.
7. **Why don't bears wear shoes?**
What's the use? They'd still have bear feet!
8. **What do fish take to stay healthy?**
Vitamin sea.
9. **What is as big as an elephant but weighs nothing?**
Its shadow.
10. **What do you call a thieving alligator?**
A crocodile.
11. **What do you call a cow who plays an instrument?**
Moosician.
12. **What do you call farm animals that have a sense of humour?**
Laughing stock.
13. **What did one fish say to the other?**
Keep your mouth shut, and you'll never get caught.
14. **Two silk worms got in a fight.**
It ended in a tie.
15. **Which kinds of snakes are found on cars?**
Windshield vipers.

Hydrological Modelling and Efficacy of Water-Harvesting Structures

Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai, IFS (Retd.)



Preamble:

Water resources present on Earth are classified into green water and blue water resources ---- the former is the large fraction of precipitation held in the soil and available for plant consumption & returns to the atmosphere through evapotranspiration. In contrast, the latter is the portion of precipitation that enters into streams and lakes & also recharges groundwater. The water consumed directly by human beings (for domestic, industrial and food production purposes) and the entire animal kingdom (wild animals, avifauna and domesticated animals) is called blue water.

We also know that water is a renewable resource. Still, of late, the withdrawal of water is twice more than the recharge of groundwater, forgetting conveniently that we have a limited amount of blue water resources and a vast population to feed. Keeping this fact in mind, there is an urgent need for planning efficient utilization of water since it is the basic necessity for the survival of all living beings and is the most precious natural resource that supports the existence of life on Earth. Improper usage of water resources leads to water stress conditions, particularly in sub-humid areas. For sustainable development, a coordinated and planned utilization of

available water resources in these areas are to be executed on the micro-watershed level ---- substantial impact of human activities altering the quality while declining the availability of freshwater resources throughout the world.

Further, most anthropogenic activities generate vast quantities of waste, which significantly affects both the quality and quantity of water resources while also influencing the functioning of diverse biological systems to an alarming extent. As if to add an insult to injury, variabilities in distributions of freshwater resources lead to uneven access to water ---- with scarcities in some areas and excesses in others! Therefore, if applied on a regional basis, the water resource action plan would help maintain the natural resources by developing green foliage, which helps to contribute to the increase of the flora & fauna in that region. It is a sustainable method to create the balance between the components of an ecosystem and human activities, necessitating the preparation of the required thematic maps such as slopedrainage, methodology for the development of groundwater potential zones, etc., which help to propose different soil & water conservation structures like nala bunds, percolation tanks, check dams, water harvesting designs etc., for erosion control as also

to replenish and restore surface as well as groundwater resources.

Fact File:

Hydrological modelling has a vital role in designing, planning, and managing any water resource developmental project. Though it is more relevant to model the river basin as discharge measurement at various locations, a developing country like India may be a prohibitively costly affair. Once a hydrological model is calibrated for a basin, it may produce the discharge time series at any location of interest.

Numerous hydrologic models ranging from empirical to physically-based distributed parameters have been developed to estimate runoff & sediment yield during the three decades gone by. The developments in computing technology, coupled with recent advances in the availability of digital datasets (and the use of Geographic Information Systems – GIS) for water resource management, have revolutionized the study of the hydrologic system.

The US-developed Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) is one such model that integrates the spatial analysis capabilities of GIS with the temporal analysis simulation abilities by dividing a basin into sub-basins (based on unique combinations of topography, soil type and land use), which helps in preserving the spatially distributed parameters (of the entire watershed) and the homogenous characteristics of the basin.

As for the efficacy of water-harvest-

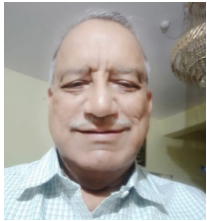
ing structures (WHS), it may be stated that their interventions have invariably resulted in marked extensions of backwaters behind them, directly proportionate to the quantum of surface area and the treatment of drainage line to capture the influence of surface water body at the specified location. However, highly fertile soils will be found in the forest regions, while the regions of higher altitudes will have less fertile soils. Significant improvement in infiltration and uniform sedimentation & the position of sediment & soil takes place. Water quality parameters can be expected within the permissible limits, and the crops coming up in such situations get sufficient moisture available in soil pore spaces. It can thus be seen that WHS can be highly effective.

Conclusion:

The Soil & Water Assessment Tool (SWAT), if successfully calibrated and validated for any watershed with close accuracy, there should be no hesitation in utilizing it to analyze the effects of various management practices on runoffs and sediment-yields from the sub-watersheds, enabling that to categorize under high-priority for the adoption of conservation measures to reduce soil loss & runoff. And suppose old river-bed-lands are required to be rehabilitated (for fodder and woody biomass production) by a silvi-pastoral system. In that case, it will lead to significant improvement that might assist in the initiation/facilitation of secondary succession with native forest species and their gradual establishment on such a land.

Farewell to Mr. QMK -The Outgoing Editor, Vana Premi

V. SANTHASEELA BABU



QAMAR MOHD KHAN

The present 'VANA PREMI' Magazine took birth as a quarterly News-letter during the year 1994 with its Founder Editor as Mr Bhooma Rajam, IFS (Retd). Subsequently, Mr K. Buchiram Reddy IFS, (Retd) (KBR) succeeded him as Editor under whose relentless efforts it took the shape of a monthly Magazine in the year 1999. Since then, Sri. KBR put all his energies and transformed the Magazine into a highly informative and most popular one among the serving and retired Forest Officers. Sri. Qamar Mohammed Khan joined the Editorial Board of Vana Premi Magazine as an Associate Editor after his retirement in 2005.

When Mr KBR opted to resign as Editor in 2009, the imminent question was, "Who after Mr KBR?" It was because of the standards that Mr KBR set as a result of his hard work. Then came the answer in Mr Qamar Mohammed Khan, who was acquainted with Vana Premi as its Associate Editor. Mr QMK has dedicated himself to Vana Premi Magazine and explored new ways and means to enhance the Magazine's quality and the number of readers. Whenever SFRC Alumni Meets were organized, he saw to it that the concerned month issue was ready by that time, and he

used to carry a few copies personally along with him to the venue of the meet. He was getting them distributed to the participants after the Magazine's release by the Chief guest of the Meeting. Likewise, he tried to popularize the Magazine among the Forest Officers of other states also. He used to get the new subscriptions for the Magazine from some of the participants at the meeting venue itself.

He was persuading the writers by regularly addressing them through e-mails twice a month and requesting them for sending their articles for publishing in the Magazine. Sometimes he used to contact certain writers over the phone also and asking them to send their papers. (I have received such phone calls from him many a time). It may not be out of place to mention that he is working in a Trust as a full-time Administrative Officer entrusted with substantial responsibilities from 10 AM to 4 PM. Despite such a burden on him, he has been concentrating on expertly shaping the Vana Premi Magazine.

The following aspects are involved in getting the Magazine published:

1. First and foremost is obtaining a sufficient number of articles for the month to bring it into a complete book form.

2. The next is reading the articles and assessing their fitness for publishing in the Magazine.
3. Once it is decided to publish the article, again going through the same and correcting the sentence formations, spelling mistakes, distribution of paragraphs and sequencing the items of importance, if any.
4. Copying the articles in a single place and arranging the articles serially.
5. Sending the composed articles to the DTP Operator for bringing into a book form systematically without any gaps in between.
6. After receiving the proof from the DTP Operator, again going through the entire articles and checking for any possible errors, and after making the required corrections, resending it to the DTP operator for rectifications. Preparation of Index for the Articles.
7. After receiving it from the DTP Operator, further checking and satisfying that it can go for printing, sending the same to the Printing Press for printing.
8. Once the copies of the Magazine are received from the Printing Press, getting them counted and seeing that the address tags and postal stamps are pasted on them for dispatch.
9. After getting the address tags pasted, getting the magazine copies bundled district wise and segregating them.
10. Sending the Magazine copies to the dispatching Post Office on 4th of every month. If the 4th happens to be a holiday on the next working day, they would be dispatched.

The above process involves a systematic and timebound schedule as the 4th of every month is the cut off date for dispatch of the Magazine to the Post Office.

The first and foremost responsibility of an Editor of any Paper or a Magazine is writing an Editorial. Mr QMK has been writing beautiful Editorials by selecting the topics and events that were currently important. He used to put relevant information about the topics chosen by him for the Editorial. This process involves a more significant effort in going through the subject and presenting it to the readers in an exciting manner.

As we see from the above schedule of work involved in getting out the Magazine for putting it in our hands, it is pretty straightforward how much involvement and responsibility one has to exercise as an Editor of the Magazine. Despite working on an assignment as a full-time member of an Institution, Mr QMK has struggled elaborately in shaping Vana Premi at its Best for the last 11 years. During his period as an Editor, a website was created for Vana Premi (www.vanapremi.com). The Magazine was made available online for those away in foreign countries with their children and other readers with online facilities.

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Reminiscence of Controlling Sandalwood Smuggling in Sagar Division

B.M.T. Rajeev, IFS(Retd).



I reported for duty as ACF in Sagar Division very close to the famous Jog falls-Karnataka on transfer on 27.05.1987- a division known for notorious smuggling and encroachments. To have a brief on protection measures, I called the FMS, RFO-S. Manjappa, a Forester under me earlier in Sorab, asked him to brief me about the protection network in Sagar Division as it was a time when the system of sub-divns was not there in Karnataka. He revealed the problem of uncontrolled sandalwood (SW) smuggling prevailing in Shikaripur taluk and showed me the seized lorries parked in the Sagar DCF office compound as a garage.

The next day, I went with RFO, FMS, who took me to the Chandrakala RF (*which I had seen in 1983-with the CF, Sandal Research of Gol, Bangalore-HP Krishnappa, IFS who took me there during his inspect of 3 mother SW trees selected-marked for seed collection. The Chandrakala RF had lots of good-well grown SW trees and was rich in floral composition then*). I wondered how to find-Chandrakala RF in disgraceful conditions with several SW trees felled, dressed and heartwood taken away by leaving the lops and tops strewn around the stumps. The scene of SW trees butchered and destroyed looked like a war field of defeated territory with lying dead

bodies.... for me to pity the state of affairs and ponder it.

We claimed a hillock in the middle of the RF and found several villagers busy cutting and dressing the SW trees into billets... a scene of no asker and no teller for the state wood-SW trees. I questioned the Section Forester-Saloman in charge of the RF who was present with us; who revealed that SW smuggling has become common there being organized by the SW smugglers stationed at Chickkajembur village of the Sunnadakoppa hobli in Shikaripur taluk very close to Chandrakala RF; the villagers who are seen in the field-carry the SW billets by head loads to the SW collecting agents stationed in Chickajembur and sell it-as if it is firewood. The agents who purchase SW billets in turn dispatch in Lorries to Bombay. He-Forester has caught many lorries and booked cases but could not stop it as it is out of his reach. While climbing down the hillock, we tried to intercept and catch a group of head loaders of SW billets, but they threw the head loads on staff and ran away in the open forests in broad daylight, and our staff could not catch any.

On return to the Hqrs, *met the DCF – Shivanna IFS and reported to the effect that we have to do some operation and take the situation-SW smuggling in Chandrakala RF*

under control. He agreed and permitted me to take the appropriate measure to control the situation, and his support is there for it. The Forester of the RF was called in and more details collected on the Chickkajembur- a village in the middle of the rain-fed paddy fields with connecting road inhabited by more of Muslims population- who were said to be very united and attack the Foresters, whoever checks and questions their activities of SW smuggling. A raid was planned with a report to the CF, Shimoga -AC Lakshmana, IFS to give additional force with two lorries from the neighbouring Divisions and to the Superintendent of Police-to provide police protection for the raid.

On a fixed date for Raid in June 1987, we assembled in Chickkajembur with the force of Sagar division in two lorries and two jeeps and one lorry from Bhadravathy and One from Shimoga Divns came with force but the Police- only one constable was reported. Two youths said to be graduates with village headmen approached us and asked for the reasons for the Forest Force (FF) assembling in the middle of the village of Chickkajembur. When we spelt out the plan to search the houses about the suspected smuggled SW storage in the houses... They denied the suspicion as false and pleaded that it is –Ramadan fasting season—the whole Muslim community is fasting, and women observe strict Burkha—hence, the FF cannot conduct house searches. They will not be allowed to enter any house in the village. We had no lady staff or lady police too-a a prerequisite to

enter the house of a Burqa laden lady or a house with ladies-if they object for search. We were insisting on a raid, and they were projecting resistance with dire consequences. It looked like a hard nut to crack.

Finally, the youths came down from their stand and agreed to convince the houses that had stored SW to throw such stock out of the houses. The FF can collect, and no cases should be booked against anybody, and they promise that they will force the villagers to leave the business of collecting SW from farmers selling it. It was getting late... we agreed on the face-saving deal ... a stock of about 7000 kgs dressed SW billets were thrown out of the houses, some of our staff were able to take out SW from some houses too in the milieu. The dressed SW billets so collected were loaded into the lorries as and when collected and dispatched to Shiralkoppa Range office for safe custody.

We were about to quit the spot... a fellow arrived in a bus from Hirekerur Tq hqrs-he had a small bag in his hand, one of our forest force caught him and announced that he has a bomb.... the said fellow escaped & started running wild in the paddy fields with a handbag and our staff were chasing him behind... a scene of worry.... An aged man of the village took an argument with the Forest Force against the raid; an RFO-Rajagopal Shetty from Bhadravati dvn sitting in a lorry-got wild and hit the fellow with lathi on the head causing injury and bleeding. The injured fellow, with blood running on his face &

white clothes, started pleading/ enraging the assembly of his villagers to attack the FF for having assaulted him, for which- the said RFO opened fire in the air. The situation turned into complication and went out of control to make the DCF worry- for which I shouted at the said RFO in berserk and brought him to his wisdom to behave as an officer on duty.

The mediating youths, too, feared the situation going out of control and pleaded with us..... that the fellow running with a bag was not carrying any bomb but money. He is a paddy merchant. If it is a bomb, we will hand him over to you; if it is money, you have to leave him, Sirs. We will control the injured fellow, and you need not worry.....with folded hands. *The youth under chase was caught and brought into the milieu...The youth caught had money in his bag and not a bomb... Money was handed over to the mediators, and the erupted situation came down to cool. We decided to wind up the operation and return safely before the Sunset from the dangerous situation in a more complicated village to Shiralkoppa and left the spot.*

The gravity of the smuggling of the SW was reported to the CF, and the copies were submitted to the CCF (GI), Forest Secretary, and the Home Secretary since the Superintendent of Police, Shimoga, did not cooperate with our requests. This resulted in the Home Secretary, GoK, directing the Forest Cell (CID)-DIGP-Dinakar, IPS to camp in Shikaripur and see that the SW smuggling is controlled.

We reshuffled the staff of Chandrakala RF- Forester, and the FG was replaced. *FG-H Basavanni, who did an exemplary job raising plantations under me during 1981-84 in Sorab Range, was posted to Chandrakala RF on my suggestion.*

Deployment of a Striking Force: After the raid at Chickajembur- a Special FMS was created as a Striking Force with the Spl. Duty RFO-Syed Buddan available in the Dvn with a Forester, 2 FGs and 4 Watchers and a lorry was also placed under it. He did an excellent job coordinating with the Shikaripura RFO- Fyaz Ahmad in addition charge....both the RFOs were able to round up all smuggling activities by lifting even bullock carts for trial under 71A- of KFA.

The Forest Cell-CID troop came in... *DIGP called the DCF & the ACF- to Shikaripur and asked us to give him two elephants for perambulation inside the forests and show him the SW trees to make him believe that the SW trees are there and the smuggling is going on.....* We got two elephants from Sakrebylu-Shimoga elephant camp for him. Took the DIGP to Chandrakala RF and Sunnadakoppa RF, where SW trees were massacred and smuggled.....he was not convinced about his camp situation. Then we took him to Anjanapura RF where there were good SW trees like in gardens-then. He was convinced about the presence of SW trees in Shikaripur tq and relieved the DCF and me, and said that he would see that all the SW smugglers are rounded/ booked/ finished in the Shikaripur taluk.

The acts of the Forest Cell-CID and the Spl-FMS ultimately brought the

situation of SW and timber smuggling under control in Shikaripur taluk for the appreciation of the public- who loved the forests. By August 1987, a new Sub Dvn was created by dividing Dvn into two Sub-Dvns, and I remained with the Sagar Sub-Dvn.

The Forest Cell-CID went on raiding the timber hoarders and recovered a lot of teak/rosewood smuggled from forests for two months, and the SW smugglers disappeared from the scene...But, the CID-Forest Cell- platoon was checkmated in the Easur village. *Easur is a village of two martyrs who challenged/killed a Tahsildar during British Rule for which they were hanged/martyred; the village is a inspired one-by the memorials of those two martyrs and a place of nut to crack for the KFD force.* The Forest Cell-CID raided the village and recovered two loads of rose and teak wood logs, loaded the timber into the KFD lorries and were about to leave the spot by 4 PM. The villagers gathered and protested against them and squatted in front of the lorries with ladies lying down, demanding to leave the material and go.... And they will not budge for any force. There was a DySP with the force of one platoon; they sent wireless messages to the DIGP with all info...about the village and their inability to open lathi or fire. They got a message to return by unloading the timber. Then they wound up the camp with a report to the govt ... *We have brought the SW smuggling under control, and the KFD is well equipped to handle the situation further..* (Earlier in 1982, DCF, Sagar-CS Vedant, IFS raided the

Easur and Gama villages for which I also attended from Sorab and had recovered the stolen property of teak and rosewood logs – about five lorry loads as we did in Chickajembur but could not able to book anyone as a compromise to leave the village safe amid the milieu of villagers protest.)

Snatching Revolver of a Police Officer: *After three months, a young DySP-Kattaokar came to Sagar from Mysore city on transfer. With some brief on SW smuggling in Shikaripur and Chickajembur- he came to our DCF office and collected the information of our raid, and said that he would tackle Chickajembur as a challenge as he has experience in such cases in Mysore city. One night, he had gone on rounds single-handed to the said village and found a lorry loading SW- he got down and ordered the loaders of SW to surrender by aiming his revolver. The smugglers surrounded him and escaped by relieving him of his revolver into darkness. The driver somehow managed to get the revolver and bring the DySP back safely by contacting his known village leaders. The next day the DySP came to our Dvn office- revealed the story, and sought the help of the local RFO-to get the case solved with the demand for a lorry, SW billets and a minimum of two smugglers to proceed with the case... The next day village headmen came with RFO Shikaripur to the Dvsn office and agreed to resolve the row with the DySP, which proves the notoriousness of the village-Chickajembur.*

Contd.. on page No.30

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)

Ceropegia elegans, Syn: ***Ceropegia mysorensis*** (Apocynaceae) is a twining shrub said to be endemic to South India (Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu) and Sri Lanka, occurring in evergreen and shola forests at higher altitudes. Destruction of habitat and unsustainable removal is leading to a progressive decline of the species in the wild.

Sighting: Mullaiyanagiri, Chikmagalur, Karnataka, 1700 MSL; Date:24-6-2015.



Photo: T.S. PRASANNA KUMAR, Dy. CF (Retd.) Karnataka.

'Open Billed Stork'
(The Asian Openbill or
Asian Openbill Stork,
Anastomus oscitans)
throng every tree during
this season in Telukunchi
village of Srikakulam
District, A.P.



107th Executive
Committee Meeting of
the Association of
Retired Forest
Officers of Telangana
and Andhra Pradesh,
Presided by
Sri S.K. Das, IFS
(Retd), President,
is held on 24.10.2021
at Aranya Bhavan,
Hyderabad.



High Level Official Team on three days tour in Telangana Districts to study the problems in Forest Management (seen Right to Left Sri M.C. Pargaien, IFS; Smt Priyanka verghese, IFS; Smt Christina Chongtu, IAS; Smt R. Sobha, IFS, HOFF; Smt Santikumari, IAS, SPL. CS and Pilot).



"DAWN OF CHIPKO"
Drawn in oil colours inspired by Chipko moment.
By D. Nagabhushanam, IFS (Retd.)



After Eco-restoration this - Kolleru Bird Sanctuary (covering 673 square kilometres) attracts thousands of visitors in the season.



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

Salient Features



Vendor Directory



News



Enquiries



Forums



Events

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



Download **GreenAP** app today!



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

Continuation from page No. 26

Martyrdom of FG-H Basavanni did an exemplary job in protection against SW smuggling. Still, unfortunately, this Braveheart was hit & severely injured by a lorry loaded with SW coming from the Chickjembur towards Hirekerur near Sunnadakoppa when he with staff intercepted it during the night in the mid monsoon of 1988. He died despite taking him to hospital-Shimoga & then on the way to Bangalore for NIMHANS. His heroism was reported to KFD, and the KFD got him the Posthumus-Kirthi Chakra award of Republic Day from the President of India- his son is in a ministerial job in KFD. (I wrote about this Braveheart in an article and published in Vana Pemi-AP and Van Vikas KN magazine with his photo on the cover page. His name can be seen in the martyr's memorial in front of the Aranya Bhavan, Bengaluru.)

Later, I visited Chandrakala RF in Y2K to inspect a KFDC plantation as Divisional Manager-KFDC and found that the whole Chandrakala RF was devastated and encroached upon, leaving only a hillock portion with some stunted growth. The KFDC plantation in it too was encroached, and crops grew- This visit to Shimoga dist as DM of Shimoga Dvn for a month as A/C... gave me a very negative impression of the safety of the forests in the dist subjected for severe encroachments at every nook and corner of the district without an iota of care for the KFA, 1963 and its rule 1969. I wrote an article about dwindling forests due to encroachments and smuggling in Shimoga dist. It was published in Kannada Prabha

newspaper with a heading-Ruin of Forests in Sahyadri-Field Day for Forest Looters.

NB: Shivamogga District is in Malanadu- Western Ghats- middle of the Sahyadri ranges. It is the home of the Chirrapunji of south India-Agumbe with the highest average annual rainfall, 7620 mm and deepest waterfall along with the river course-Sharavati at-Jog Falls-930 feet deepest in India with rich soil, good climatic conditions. It hosts rich wet evergreen forests to dry deciduous forests with Kaans (small patches of semi-evergreen forests attached to villages in the taluks of Sagar & Sorab). It is the district where the scientific forestry started in the 1880s (A teak plantation raised at Siddihalli RF was extracted in 1982 and again replanted with teak raised in 1983 in Sorab Tq). It was the home of sandalwood with a very big SW depot/ Sir M.Vishweshwaraiah Iron & Steel factory/ Mysore Paper Mills-all defunct now. It has Tunga and Bhadra Irrigation dams, Linganamukhi, Chakra and Varahi Hydroelectric Reservoirs, for which it lost vast evergreen forests for submersion and other activities. It is a catalyst dist in the Socialist movement and has hosted 4 CMs so far. The forests in Shimoga Dist are very severely affected by smuggling and encroachments. Still, it is an affluent district in terms of natural and potential forests, wildlife and biodiversity that fulfil the needs of the people of the nation for O2, water, medicines, and forest produce.

The Author is a Retired DyCF, Karnataka, A writer & freelance Columnist on Forests/wildlife Mob: 9632781811 Email:bmt.rajeev.ifs@gamil.com

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It is not out of place to mention that he was tested positive for COVID-19 and fortunately recovered under 'Home Quarantine' and returned to normalcy during the Pandemic.

Though he is at the age of about 74 years, Mr QMK has struggled a lot and did a dedicated service in shaping Vana Premi Magazine to the readers' appreciation. Mr Qamar Mohammed Khan, the outgoing Editor of Vana Premi Magazine, deserves the highest form of gratitude for his services for the successful journey of Vana Premi Magazine during the past 11 to 12 years. Moreover, the Editor's job does not bear any remuneration, and he has done all the work voluntarily.

I congratulate and thank Mr Qamar Mohammed Khan for his yeomen services rendered in the publishing of Vana Premi Magazine for more than a decade successfully despite his other preoccupations.

I also welcome the incoming Editor Mr Mohd. Thayyab a well-known and famous for his sincerity and discipline in the Department. After KBR, the responsibility of publishing Vana Premi was taken over by a fitting successor Mr QMK. Now I feel that the responsibility has come to Mr Mohd. Thayyab. He is the right person and will prove that he is an apt successor to Mr QMK for carrying out the legacy, and I wish him all the best and a successful tenure in this new assignment.

"I love the outdoors and looking at snakes, squirrels, bugs – just going through the woods and being part of it. You can smell the different trees. And I listen. There's so much you can learn by listening, by sitting and watching things happen."

– Boo Weekley

* * *

*"Each species is a masterpiece,
a creation assembled with extreme care and genius"*

- E.O. Wilson

THE SWORD OF DAMOCLES HANGING...

V.V. HARIPRASAD



The Information Technology Act 2000 is masterpiece legislation and a historic technical one that India has witnessed. It is like the feeling of love, which is a great motivation to lead a successful and emotional life. Coincidentally “I LOVE YOU” virus was also a motivating factor in enacting IT Act 2000. But sadly, it took the infamous Bombay blast incident, which shook the parliament for amending the said Act by bringing “The IT (Amendment) Act, 2008”.

Till September 2011, Delhi’s economic offences wing had received 151 complaints regarding misuse of social networking sites, fake profiles and cyberstalking – a jump of 100 per cent over the 75 complaints they have got over the entire 2010.

More than 29.9 million people in India are estimated to have fallen victims to cybercrime in 2010, resulting in direct financial losses to the tune of USD 4 billion and an additional USD 3.6 billion was spent in resolving the crime. However, globally the cash cost of cybercrime was estimated at USD 114 billion. This was revealed in the annual Symantec – Norton Cybercrime report for 2011 about a decade back.

What is section 66A of the IT ACT?

Section 66A of the IT act reads: “Any person who sends by any means of a

computer resource any information that is grossly offensive or has a menacing character; or any information which he knows to be false, but for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience, danger, obstruction, insult shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and with fine.”

How this section was made applicable

- In September 2012, a freelance cartoonist Aseem Trivedi was arrested under the Section 66A of the IT Act, Section 2 of Prevention of Insults to National Honor Act, 1971 and for sedition under the Section 124 of the Indian Penal Code. His cartoons depicting widespread corruption in India were considered offensive.
- On 12th April 2012, a Chemistry professor from Jadavpur University, Ambikesh Mahapatra, was arrested for sharing a cartoon of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and then Railway Minister Mukul Roy. The email was sent from the email address of a housing society. Subrata Sengupta, the secretary of the housing society, was also arrested. They were charged under Section 66 A and B of the IT Act for defamation, under Sections 500 for obscene gestures to a woman, under

Section 509, and abetting a crime under Section 114 of the Indian Penal Code.

- On 30th October 2012, a Puducherry businessman Ravi Srinivasan was arrested under Section 66A. He had sent a tweet accusing Karti Chidambaram, son of the then Finance Minister, Chidambaram, of Corruption. Karti Chidambaram had complained to the police.

Petitions challenging constitutionality

In November 2012, IPS officer Amitabh Thakur and his wife, social activist Nutan Thakur filed a petition in the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court claiming that the Section 66A of IT Act violated the freedom of speech guaranteed in Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution of India. They said that the section was vague and frequently misused.

In August 2014, the Supreme Court asked the central government to respond to petitions filed by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) which claimed that the IT Act gave the government power to remove user-generated content arbitrarily.

Posts in the past

The first PIL on the issue was filed in 2012 by law student Shreya Singhal, who sought amendment in section 66A of the Act. This had happened after two girls -- Shaheen Dhada and Rinu Shrinivasan -- were arrested in Palghar in Thane district after one of them posted a comment against the shutdown in Mumbai following

Shiv Sena leader Bal Thackeray's death and the other 'liked' it. She argued that Section 66A was vaguely phrased; as a result, it violated Article 14, 19 (1)(a) and Article 21 of the Constitution. The PIL was accepted on 29th November 2012.

In the wake of numerous complaints of harassment and arrests, the apex court had on 16th May 2013 issued an advisory that a person accused of posting objectionable comments on social networking sites cannot be arrested without the police getting permission from senior officers like IG or DCP.

Another controversial case hogged the limelight for alleged misuse of section 66A. A boy was arrested on 18th March for allegedly posting on Facebook objectionable comments against senior Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan.

A petition was filed before the SC in this regard alleging that its advisory was violated, after which the apex court asked UP police to explain the circumstances leading to the arrest of the boy.

Revocation by the Supreme Court

On 24th March 2015, the Supreme Court of India gave the verdict that Section 66A is unconstitutional in its entirety. The Court said that Section 66A of IT Act 2000 is "arbitrarily, excessively and disproportionately invades the right of free speech" provided under Article 19(1) of the Constitution of India. But the Court turned down a plea to strike down sections 69A and 79 of the Act. Section 69A provides power to issue directions to block public

access of any information through any computer resource, and 79 provides for exemption from liability of intermediary in certain cases

The apex court has struck down the provision in the cyber law, which provides police power to arrest a person for posting “offensive” content online and provides for a three-year jail term. It pronounced its verdict on a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of certain sections of the cyber law.

Here are five points observed by the SC in its verdict:

1. Describing liberty of thought and expression as “cardinal”, a bench of justice J Chelameswar and Justice RF Nariman said, “The public’s right to know is directly affected by section 66A of the Information Technology Act.”

Nariman, who pronounced the verdict in a packed courtroom, said that the provision “clearly affects” the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression enshrined in the Constitution.

2. Elaborating the grounds for holding the provision “unconstitutional”, the Court said terms like “annoying”, “inconvenient”, and “grossly offensive” used are vague as it is difficult for the law enforcement agency and the offender to know the ingredients of the offence.

The bench also referred to two judgments of UK courts that reached

different conclusions on whether the material in question was offensive or grossly offensive.

3. “When judicially trained minds can reach on different conclusions” while going through the same content, then how is it possible for law enforcement agencies and others to decide as to what is offensive and what is grossly offensive, the bench said, adding, “What may be offensive to a person may not be offensive to the other.”

The bench rejected the assurance given by the NDA government during the hearing that specific procedures may be laid down to ensure that the law in question was not abused. The government had also said that it would not misuse the provision.

4. “Governments come and go, but section 66A will remain forever,” the bench said, adding the present government cannot give an undertaking about its successor that they will not abuse the same.

Subsequent changes

On 2nd April 2015, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis, revealed to the state assembly that a new law was being framed to replace the repealed Section 66A. Fadnavis was replying to a query by Shiv Sena leader Neelam Gorhe. Gorhe had said that repealing the law would encourage online miscreants and asked whether the state government would frame a law. Fadnavis said that the previous law had resulted in

no convictions, so the law would be framed such that it would be strong and result in convictions.

Social media

Social media are interactive technologies that allow the creation or sharing/exchange of information, ideas, interests, and other forms of expression via virtual communities and networks.

Misuse of Social media

Some misuses that are associated with social media are:

Defamation: The most affected people through social media are politicians and celebrities

False and unreliable information:

Apart from defamation, there is increasing misuse of social networking sites for providing false and unreliable information.

Sexual hunters:

The biggest issue with social media networking sites is sexual predation associated with loss of privacy. Many students upload outrageous pictures as profiles, and they do not think before posting. Youngsters also enter personal information that may have a phone number or can be obtained by chatting.

Sexual predators make use of this information for many reasons. It is essential to understand that social networking is anonymous, and anybody can develop a fake profile. Many surveys conclude that about 25% agreed that they have fake profiles. With such fake profiles, sexual

predators can get related or convince youngsters.

Cyberbullying:

By using the internet or some other technology when individuals abuse others, it is termed cyberbullying. The base platform is social media networking for such issues. The main reason to blame social media is that it's simple and fast to initiate a nasty rumour, comment, upload embarrassing photos, or send an intimate message.

A recent survey about British teenagers has mentioned that about 37% of youngsters have a profile just to prank peers. They can hack others personal life and also send abusive messages too.

Section 66 A of the Information technology Act was a **sword of Damocles hanging over the heads** of those who were misusing social media. As the Apex court revoked the section, the following change was contemplated by the Government of India.

Contemplated Change by Government of India

On 13th April 2015, it was announced that the Ministry of Home Affairs would form a committee of officials from the Intelligence Bureau, Central Bureau of Investigation, National Investigation Agency, Delhi Police and the ministry itself to produce a new legal framework. This step was reportedly taken after complaints from intelligence agencies that they could

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My tryst with the Queen... *Ceropegia elegans*

T.S. PRASANNA KUMAR

The genus *Ceropegia* has always been an enigma. The different floral shapes and colours have fascinated me. I read that about 43 of the 53 species known to occur in India are threatened and have become rare and genetically depleted. I constantly searched for them when on field duty, with no success whatsoever. They remained as elusive as quicksilver.

24-06-2014 was another day that I could not keep indoors. It was mid-monsoon. The call of the Giris, my favourite "beckoning hills," was irresistible. The imposing cliffs, winding roads, mesmerizing mist, blinding rains and its orchid perfume always beckoned me. Unmindful of my nemesis, those cold, slithery, and bloodthirsty leeches, I set out with my team, hoping to find some orchids. The day was fruitful as we could see quite a few orchids, terrestrial and epiphytic ones.

The climb was arduous, and my nemesis, the leech, had its fair share of my blood. The sun was already behind the western hills, and the light was falling rapidly. We hastened our descent, hoping to get into the safety of my Bolero before it got too dark. Before getting into the vehicle,

I stopped for a while to fill my lungs and to examine my shoes and socks, Bent a little, kick-dropped a couple of leeches and looked over my shoulders...! I thought that a pair of small, greenish, serpent-like eyes were watching me from among the thickets a few feet away. I stared for a while, eye-to-eye, and blinked first. Spellbound for a few seconds, I went closer. My heart missed a few beats as I realized it was not a serpent but an alien-looking flower....! Yes. She was a *Ceropegia*....my Queen...! I had inadvertently stumbled upon the 'Queen of *Ceropegias*' that was later identified as *Ceropegia elegans* by that master explorer of *Ceropegias*, Mr Sushant More.

She has been a lucky mascot for me because later on, I could meet her mates during the year. *Ceropegia juncea*, *Ceropegia biflora*, *Ceropegia candelabrum*, *Ceropegia spiralis* and the King himself, *Ceropegia gardneri*...!

I have been recapitulating 24-06-2014 now and then ever since. The images I took that day, in the falling light, are my treasure and occupy a prime place in my heart and archives as well.

The writer is Dy CF (Retd.) Karnataka. Feedback: tspkumar57@gmail.com

*"A forest is a living thing like a human body...
each part dependent on all the other parts."*

— Louis L'Amour

Continuation from page No.36

no longer counter online posts that involved national security matters or incite people to commit an offence, such as online recruitment for ISIS. Former Minister of State with the Ministry of Information Technology, Milind Deora, has supported a new “unambiguous section to replace section 66A. of IT Act.

Conclusion:

There is an imperative need for the Central govt. to take the necessary steps to replace section 66 A of the IT Act with an unambiguous section at the earliest so that those who misuse social media cannot get off scot-free.

The writer of the article, a retired Dy. C.F is presently an Advocate who teaches Cyber laws and IPR in the Central University, Hyderabad, as a guest faculty.

POINTS TO PONDER

- The Sunderban Delta has been derived from the Sundari trees (the mangrove species *Heritiera fomes*) found in Sundarbans in large numbers.
- One of the reasons your lungs feel refreshed when walking through a pine forest is because of an anti-inflammatory compound called α -Pinene, found in conifers. It is used as a bronchodilator in the treatment of asthma and is abundantly present in marijuana.
- China has planted the most extensive artificial forest to stop the spread of the Gobi Desert and plans to expand it to 2,800 miles by 2074.
- Forest growth in the US has exceeded harvest since the 1940s, and the USA has more trees now than at any time in the past 100 years.
- An average tree comprises 99% dead cells; only around 1% of it is alive at any time, consisting of the leaves, root tips, and phloem (a thin layer of under bark that acts as a food delivery system).
- Columbia University has developed an artificial tree that passively soaks up carbon dioxide from the air using “leaves” that are 1,000 times more efficient than true leaves that use photosynthesis.

CONSERVATION IS LIFE

“Right or Wrong Don’t know

But those things don’t give me Money, But gives Satisfaction

It consumes my time, But gives me happiness

Those things can’t give me Future, But I can’t live without them

These things Can’t give me fame, But adds value to my life

So Conservation is life”

- Kedardhepe

A Memorable Visit of The First President of India to Nallamalai Forest in 1955

It was a Red-Letter Day in the annals of the History of the Nallamalai forests of the Andhra State, when our revered President Sri Dr. Rajendra Prasad, visited the Nallamalais. On the 18th of August 1955, the special train in which the President and his staff were travelling from Kurnool to Guntur stopped at a specially prepared train halt in the Central Nallamalais. The President and Sri C. M. Trivedi, our Governor, were received on alighting from the train by Sri N. D. Sahni, Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra State. The President was accompanied by the elite of the State, and other services. The President, Governor, and party then proceeded by car to a gaily decorated dais erected by the Forest Department, and from here the President was with great interest the dense Central Nallamalai Forests which lay unrolled before him to the distant horizon.

The President was greatly interested in the vastness and value of this great block of forests (perhaps the greatest single block of Reserved Forests in India); and asked several questions about the forest wealth of this region.

From this dais he saw also the Doriswamy Bhavi Railway viaduct,

spanning both a gorge and a road. Originally this viaduct was built to carry only the lighter train loads and engines of those days. With the advent of heavier engines, and greater train loads, the bridge had to be strengthened; and it is an engineering feat that what looks like a reversed bowstring girder was designed and constructed in situ without stoppage of rail traffic. The design and construction are unique.

Present on the dais with the President were Sri C. M. Trivedi, our Governor, Mrs. Trivedi, two ladies of the Presidents family, Sri N. D. Sahni, our Chief Conservator, and the leaders of the state and services. The President partook of some coconut water that was offered to him; and was pleased to receive from the Chief Conservator, a Red Sanders image of Sri Rama, and an ebony walking stick, our humble tribute to him, and mementos of this memorable visit. The President then motored back to the train halt, whence he entrained.

The entire staff of the forest department feels happy, elated, and proud, at this memorable visit.

(By Sri M.S. Raghavan, The then State Silviculturist, Andhra State in a souvenir of Forest Department of Andhra State).

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Press clipping



President seen with
HH Sri Trivedi, Governor



The arrival of the Hon'ble President of India



Sri Sahni, CCF presenting a walking stick

"And we will meet in the woods far far away from this hustle and bustle... and share love and sunshine."

— Avijeet Das

Monitoring The Tigers in India - Road Ahead

A. Shankaran



Every year in the first week of October, we celebrate Vanya Prani Saptah in India with a lot of fanfare, enthusiasm and optimism. We do this with the conviction that we, as Forest Officers, can reach out to the people, particularly the students and youth, during the week-long celebrations. With the involvement of public representatives, NGOs, Wildlife Activists and Nature Lovers, the Forest Department conducts various events, including drawing, painting, Essay writing, quiz for students. Prizes are given during the wildlife week, and there is a festive atmosphere in Zoo Parks, Deer Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks during the entire week. This year has been no exception, and various events were conducted. But it is now time to evaluate what we have achieved in terms of conserving our wildlife.

One of the prime indicators of the success of conservation measures is an increase in wildlife densities/population. For this, prior to 2006, each State Forest Department conducted Tiger census following the collection of pug marks around water holes during May, which is the driest season of the year. This process involved identifying the pug marks of carnivores like Tiger, Leopard etc., tracing the pug marks and making a POP cast of the pug marks. The pug marks were then

compared at Range and Division level involving the Forest Beat Officers and Section Officers. Based on the comparison, the population of the Big Cats was arrived at the Division level. The figures were then compiled at Circle and State level, and results were communicated to Govt. of India.

However, this method was unscientific and prone to manipulations at various levels resulting in either overestimation or underestimation of the wild animal populations. One glaring example is Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan, where around 25 Tigers were reported every year by the Forest Department. Some NGOs and Wildlife activists contested this, leading to Govt. of India deputing a team from the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehra Dun, to Sariska Tiger Reserve to assist the Tiger population. To everyone's surprise, the team found that there were no Tigers in Sariska. It was then that the Government of India introduced All India Tiger Estimation (AITE) in 2006 to be conducted on scientific lines by all State Forest Departments, once in four years. This process is called "Monitoring of Tiger, Co-Predators, Prey and Habitat". It is a comprehensive exercise designed to bring out all the aspects of wildlife conservation. The result will indicate the direction in which wildlife management is progressing in the country.

The AITE involves sampling every Forest Beat in the country, both inside and outside the Protected Areas, by laying carnivore trail lines and herbivore transect lines. In each Beat, three trails, existing roads, paths, and streams within forest areas of 5km length, are identified and shown on the beat map with Geo-coordinates of start and endpoints. During the one-week field exercise conducted in the winter season, the Forest Beat Officer undertakes a trail walk for three days, covering one trail of 5km each day. During the trail walk, a search of indirect evidence of the presence of carnivores like pugmarks, scats, scrapes, rake marks, kills, vocalization etc., are collected and recorded with Geo-coordinates in a prescribed datasheet - I.

This is followed by a transect walk conducted in each Beat over a length of 2km on three consecutive days. Here only one transect line of 2km is cleared and marked on the Beat map with geo-coordinates. The Beat Officer takes up transect walk every day for three days and records direct sighting of herbivores in prescribed data sheet - II. Only direct sightings and not indirect evidence are recorded. This is also called a direct encounter with herbivores during transect walks.

In addition to information on carnivores and herbivores, data is collected in a 15-meter radius circle along the transect line in each Beat on the vegetation of the area, species wise dominance of trees, canopy density, shrub density, weed density. In a one-meter radius circle, ground

cover information data on ground cover like percentage of grass, herbs, leaf litter etc., are collected and recorded in data sheet – III. This information is collected at five locations along the 2km transect line at 400 meters interval.

The AITE also mandates data collection on human disturbance and biotic pressures along the transect line at five locations. The data collected includes illicit felling of trees, lopping off branches, cattle grazing, NTFP collection, encroachments etc. The information so collected is recorded in data sheet – IV.

The above data collected on the field for one week is digitized at Division level for each Beat and directly transmitted to Wildlife Institute of India Dehra Dun and NTCA, New Delhi for further process of analysis and arriving at densities of Tigers, Panthers, Herbivores, the status of wildlife habitat, levels of biotic pressures etc. The entire exercise is conducted on scientific lines minimizing human errors in the collection and interpretation of data.

The first AITE conducted in 2006 showed the presence of 1411 Tigers in India, the AITE 2010 revealed a Tiger population of 1722, the AITE 2014 indicated 2220 Tigers and the fourth cycle of AITE – 2018 brought out a figure of 2970 Tigers in India which is double of the population in 2006 when the first exercise was conducted. However, during the above period, the Tiger occupancy area has come down from 92000 sq.km to 88,000 sq. km in India, which is a matter of concern. Along with the increase in Tiger numbers, there should

be a proportionate increase in Tiger occupancy area.

India, with 2970 Tigers, is home to 70% of the world's Tiger population, which is estimated to be 3900. The entire world looks up to India for the survival and propagation of the Tigers in the wild. This puts an enormous responsibility on the State Forest Departments to fulfil the expectations of the entire world. This can be achieved through dedicated service, adoption of new technology and developing compassion towards nature and all the plant and animal species sharing space with humans on this planet.



Figure 3. Sampling for ungulate encounter rates

చిత్తు 3. తాపాచార వస్త్ర అంచనాపై గణించుట



Figure 1. Sampling for tiger sign

చిత్తు 1. పులి సున్నం సమీక్ష



Figure 5. Estimating the canopy cover overhead

చిత్తు-5 పైకి నుండి పరిశీలించి కనీసం అంచనా వేయుట

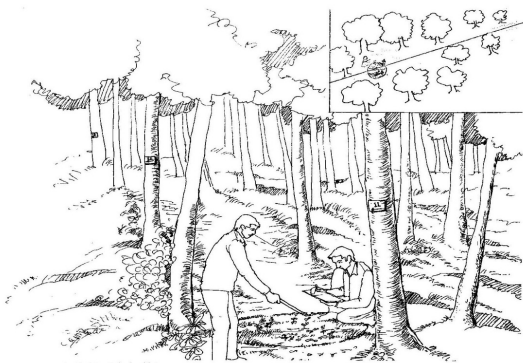


Figure 6. Estimating ground cover in a 1m radius circular plot

చిత్తు-6 ఒక మీటరు వ్యాసం గల వేలపు వర్గములో భూమి పరిశీలించి అంచనా వేయుట



Figure 7. Quantifying ungulate faecal pellets

చిత్తు-7 తాపాచార వస్త్ర అంచనాపై అంచనా వేయుట

The writer is DyCF (Retd) and presently working as OSD in the office of the PCCF, Telangana. Feedback: wildlifetg@gmail.com

THE FIVE REGRETS OF THE DYING

Bronnie Ware is an Australian author, songwriter and motivational speaker best known for her writings about the top deathbed regrets she heard during her time as a palliative career described in her book *The Top Five Regrets of the Dying*.

1. *I wish I'd dared to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me.*

"This was the most common regret of all. When people realise that their life is almost over and look back clearly, it is easy to see how many dreams have gone unfulfilled. Most people had not honoured even half of their dreams and had to die knowing that it was due to choices they had made or not made. Health brings a freedom very few realise until they no longer have it."

2. *I wish I hadn't worked so hard.*

"This came from every male patient that I nursed. They missed their children's youth and their partner's companionship. Women also spoke of this regret, but as most were from an older generation, many female patients had not been breadwinners. All of the men I nursed deeply regretted spending so much of their lives on the treadmill of a work existence."

3. *I wish I'd dared to express my feelings.*

"Many people suppressed their feelings to keep peace with others. As a result, they settled for a mediocre existence and never became who they were truly capable of becoming. Many developed illnesses relating to the bitterness and resentment they carried as a result."

4. *I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.*

"Often, they would not truly realise the full benefits of old friends until their dying weeks, and it was not always possible to track them down. Many had become so caught up in their own lives that they had let golden friendships slip by over the years. There were many deep regrets about not giving friendships the time and effort that they deserved. Everyone misses their friends when they are dying."

5. *I wish that I had let myself be happier.*

"This is a surprisingly common one. Many did not realise until the end that happiness is a choice. They had stayed stuck in old patterns and habits. The so-called 'comfort' of familiarity overflowed into their emotions, as well as their physical lives. Fear of change had them pretending to others, and their selves, that they were content when deep within, they longed to laugh properly and have silliness in their life again."

A 2018 study reached similar conclusions, finding that people were more likely to express "ideal-related regrets", such as failing to follow their dreams and live up to their full potential.

Arthritis-Osteoarthritis (D.J.D.)

For Treating Frozen Shoulders, Elbow Joints Pain-By Strengthening Hands, Forearm Muscles & Shoulder Muscles:

Dr N.V. Jayanth Babu



About ten muscles and their tendons support each shoulder joint, i.e., ball and socket joint. Exercises with light weights are preferred in addition to dips. Bench press, back press with a barbell can be done for pectorals & trapezius muscles. The shoulder press can be done for deltoids, triceps, and curls; the dumbbells for biceps and extensions for triceps.

About 24 muscles support each elbow hinge joint. For strengthening the forearms and elbow joints, forearm curls are to be done by using dumbbells. The above exercises for both hands are to be done regularly to overcome frozen shoulder problems, strengthen shoulder joints, and relieve elbow joint pain.

FOR PAIN IN NECK:

Angular movements - flexion movements, extensions of neck, rotation of head & neck help overcome neck pain by strengthening 13 pairs of neck muscles.

i) In sitting posture, droop/ bend the neck downwards to touch your chin to the chest, then move or swing your head toward left to touch left shoulder and right to touch right shoulder like a pendulum in a semi-circular manner. A swinging movement starting from left to right and back to the left make one repetition. You may do 25 repetitions x 3 sets. ii) In the same sit-

ting posture, lift your head/chin up to look at the sky and lower your head to touch your chin to your chest. Like that, you may do it 25 times x 3 sets. iii) For strengthening / toning trapezius muscles that support the neck – pull-ups with a barbell, shoulder press with dumbbells, and back press with a barbell with fewer weights are to be done.

EXERCISES RECOMMENDED FOR STRENGTHENING THE SPINAL CORD

The spinal cord is supported by 140 muscles. Due to weakening of the muscles and wearing out or shrinkage or compression of cartilage discs or bulging of discs / prolapsed discs, unbearable back pain, numbness or weakness in an arm or leg result. To overcome this problem, generally, surgical corrections are being advised by the doctors. Before resorting to surgery, slipped discs or discs, if any, are to be adjusted and realigned mechanically with the support of a technical expert. It should be followed by the application and gentle massage, using medicated herbal oils as indicated in this paper. Adequate bed rest for a period of at least 2 to 3 months is to be given along with Ice treatment every day. Afterwards, strengthening muscles around the spine is to be done by practising the following exercises regularly daily under the guidance

of an expert/physiotherapist. Chiropractic exercises are very much helpful in addressing this problem. Experts, with the help of special exercises could realign or push back the prolapsed/herniated disc. With the use of special exercises, some Known people can realign or push back the herniated discs.

Walking, if possible, swimming, 'Suryanamaskara', push-ups (swinging type), Abdomen exercises (without bending the spine completely), 'Salabha (Locust) Asana', 'Sethubandhanaasana' (Bridge), 'Sasanka asana' and relevant asanas could be performed daily regularly. Another exercise – Lay down on a mat - lift the leg upwards (tied with 1 kg weight) perpendicular to the body, without bending the knee joint and slowly lower the leg to rest it on mat/bed. Like that, to be done 10 to 25 times x 3 sets x for two legs followed by abduction and adduction exercises as referred to in this paper. In a gymnasium, the exercises recommended for strengthening spinal cord muscles are back press with light weights using a barbell, shoulder press with dumbbells, leg press, Deadlift with very light and bearable weights, covering more repetitions.

B) INTAKE OF FOODS FOR PROMOTING SECRETION OF SYNOVIAL FLUID IN ALL THE JOINTS FOR LUBRICATION.

For overcoming pain, cracking sounds, and for smooth functioning of all joints, the DIET PLAN recommended by the author may be followed daily regularly.

To soak in water in the evening, white Gingelly seed (white Nuvvulu) 15 to 20 grams + Clean pumpkin seed 5 grams + Clean sunflower seed 5 grams + Almonds 5 to 7 nos, Walnuts 2 to 4 nos, Pistachio (Pista) 10 to 15 nos + Cashew nuts wholes 2 to 4 nos. The next day, in the morning, remove seed coats of almonds, Pistachio and walnuts, clean all the soaked seed in water, and be grounded in to paste by adding adequate water using a mixer. Add to this paste, Flax seed powder 5 grams, the paste of dates – 2 to 4 nos, and ginger 5 grams or one teaspoon. Soaked Gingelly seed and flax seed powder are the main ingredients responsible for the secretion of synovial fluid in the joints. Ginger acts as a catalyst and carrier for transporting all the ingredients to the required body parts in the body and alleviating inflammation in the painful joints. The other components provide the required nutrients, vitamins and minerals for boosting the health of the joints and for cartilage development.

This paste thus obtained may be mixed in "Raagi java" preferably or malt of any millets and to be consumed orally after the strenuous exercises. This would become a good substitute for breakfast. This health drink is suggested to promote the secretion of synovial fluid in the joints, ensure lubrication, and quick pain relief in the suffering joints.

Flaxseed is hygroscopic (hence not to be soaked in water in advance) and the required quantity of Flaxseed, say - 100 grams, is to be fried adequately and evenly

in a "Kadai" without oil and to be powdered using a mixer. To be transferred into a container and should be utilised within ten days. In addition to several good health benefits, Flaxseed contains traces of cyanogenic glycoside, an enzyme emulsion and, in contact with saliva, becomes prussic acid (H.C.N.), a poison like in Almonds. Hence to nullify its negative aspect, Flaxseed should be fried adequately. Its daily intake should not be more than 5 grams to 7 grams).

For the health of bones, strained Joints and the development or rejuvenation of the cartilage, you may have to follow a different diet plan as specified in this paper.

The Exercises recommended together with the intake of the indicated diet are beneficial for stage 1 to 3 osteoarthritis people for achieving the best results. The same is also helpful for stage 4 osteoarthritis people, which help them to alleviate pain and cracking sounds in the suffering joints.

Lifestyle changes are to be adopted and followed regularly to reduce pressure on the joints. Analgesics that impair the process of synthesis of cartilage in joints – are to be avoided.

INTAKE OF FOODS AVAILABLE NATURALLY FOR REBUILDING CARTILAGE & FOR SUPPORTING THE HEALTH OF JOINTS

Oils containing omega-three fatty acids like Olive oil, Soya bean oil, Flaxseed oil, Canola oil, Fresh green vegetables and all fresh green leafy vegetables which have rich sources of magnesium, Vitamin - C, K,

E (Broccoli - vit. K & C), have an anti-inflammatory effect, may improve mobility of joints, prevent or arrest further loss of cartilage and are helpful for the development of cartilage in the early stages of O.A.

Spinacia oleracea (Palak), Basella alba (Bachhali), Tomatoes, Strawberries, Sweet potato, Moringa leaves, sesbania leaves (Avisa) are very much useful for rebuilding cartilage. In the latest research, it is proven that Basella alba (Bachhali) can rebuild the cartilage.

WHY ARE PHYSICAL EXERCISES TO BE DONE REGULARLY?

1) For Reversal Of Deteriorated Skeletal Muscles

In most senior citizens aged above 60 years, SACROPENIA is experienced, which is characterised by the progressive age-related decline of skeletal muscle mass, its dysfunction and deterioration. Sarcopenia impacts millions of older adults causes changes in hormonal homeostasis that may develop into sarcopenic obesity, neuromuscular problems, which are highly correlated with frailty and risk of falls in elders. It also represents a significant risk factor for disability, morbidity and mortality. This Sarcopenia *can also be reversed* with regular strenuous exercises, brisk walking, and daily intake of sufficient proteins. The most adaptable muscles in the human body are skeletal muscles, which are remarkably remodelled after performing continuous strength gaining resistance exercises and the required diet.

Intake of Withania somnifera (Aswagandha) + Asperagus racemosus regula has proven helpful in building or toning up muscles. Intake of the decoction of the root or stem bark or leaves or fruits or seed of Soyimida febrifuga tree for 40 days can successfully address muscular atrophy, cachexia, and Sarcopenia and helps in toning up or building the skeletal muscle mass.

2) Other Important Benefits

After performing load-bearing exercises like brisk walking, running and weight training, OSTEOLAST cells are produced in more numbers in the body. One of the main functions of Osteoblasts being the Endocrinal activity that ensures the secretion and release of OSTEOCALCIN in the bloodstream. Osteocalcin is a versatile bone-derived hormone, also known as carboxy glutamic acid, containing 49 Amino acids. This hormone plays multiple physiological processes in the human body viz.,

- 1) Regulation of Glucose metabolism by stimulating insulin secretion from islet cells of the Pancreas gland in type -2 diabetes patients.
- 2) Regulation of fat energy metabolism and decreases visceral fat in both the Genders.
- 3) Responsible for thicker and more robust bones
- 4) Plays a more significant role for the health of bones and joints
- 5) Regulation of male fertility, impairment of sperm mobility & viability

- 6) prevents erectile dysfunction
- 7) Regulates underdevelopment of testes and reduces libido
- 8) Stimulation of testosterone hormone in men by increasing neuron transmitter production in testes.
- 9) Increases secretion of more quantity of Testosterone hormone in the body that RESULTS IN FORMATION STRONGER MUSCLES IN MEN.

Alternatively, due to lack of physical activity resulted from Paralysis or Sickness or Laziness, the formation of Osteoblasts decreases drastically; thereby, bone and muscles become less dense and weaker. Hence physical activity is a must. *Walking for at least 15 minutes after breakfast, walking again after lunch, again after dinner, burns glucose molecules in the blood considerably and keeps us away from diabetes.*

3) Activation Of Lymphatic System:

It is estimated that we are being exposed to 7 lakhs to 2 million different toxic chemicals every day, from our food to our personal care products. The lymphatic system struggles a lot to cleanse and eliminate unwanted harmful toxins, chemicals, pollutants, germs, and bacteria viruses that enter our body. Activating lymphatic fluid circulation, lymph nodes, and spleen boosts our body's immunity levels to fight against infectious diseases. In our body, lymph nodes are located all over in the body but are available in more number in clusters at the neck, armpits,

chest, abdomen and groins. An active lymphatic circulation performs the functions like detoxification and cleansing and boosts the body's immunity by liberating Lymphocytes. It is also responsible for the proper functioning of the Thymus gland and the Parasympathetic nervous system. Lymphatic fluid is circulated through lymphatic vessels due to contraction and expansion of muscles while performing resistances exercises, breathing exercises, i.e., physical exercises only, since the Lymphatic system do not possess a pumping mechanism like the Heart to pump blood. In the absence of required physical activity, lymph fluid circulation becomes sluggish and stagnated. Immune cells, thus produced by the spleen, cannot be transported to the areas of the body wherever they are needed. As a result, toxins are accumulated in the body, causing several ailments. Hence, to overcome all these problems, physical exercises are to be done invariably and regularly to maintain our body's overall health.

4) Assured Results:

Exercises indicated herein for strengthening the muscles around the painful joints promotes secretion of synovial fluid in all the joints for lubrication to overcome pain and cracking sounds in the joints. *If the muscles are strong enough, they part with bearing the load transferred from the body to the joints.* The diet recommended could be taken regularly, which helps in the secretion of synovial fluid, rejuvenation of synovial glands.

People suffering from the early stages of osteoarthritis, i.e., from stages 0 to 3, would certainly get relief from pain and cracking sounds in the joints within 10 to 15 days. *In contrast, it may take much more time to rejuvenate the cartilage, which was already lost.* Till such time, all these exercises and intake of specified diet are to be continued for postponing the Total Knee Replacement (TKR) surgery or related surgeries till the appropriate and effective research outcomes are finalised and made available to us for undergoing safe treatment.

(CONCLUDED)

CORRIGENDUM

Please refer to the article "Role of Wildlifers" by BMT Rajeev published on pages 45 to 50 & 57 of this magazine of October 2021. The word wildlifers has been wrongly printed as wildlife's in the text; the same may please be read as Wildlifers.

The mistake is regretted.

- EDITOR



Birthday Greetings

We wish the following born on the dates mentioned
"A Very Happy Birth Day"



S.No. Name of the Member D.O.B.	S.No. Name of Serving Officers D.O.B.
Sarva Sri	Sarva Sri
1. T.P. Thimma Reddy 06-11-1956	1. Alan Chong Teron 08-11-1976
2. P.S. Sankar Reddy 09-11-1936	2. Elusing Meru 11-11-1965
3. C. Sivasankara Reddy 10-11-1951	3. P. Ram Mohan Rao 15-11-1962
4. G. K. Reddy 12-11-1931	4. Anand Kumar Jha 25-11-1969
5. C. Madukar Raj 19-11-1951	5. Sanjeev Kumar Gupta 26-11-1970
6. D.Nagagopala Rao 23-11-1942	6. D. Bheema 15-11-1967
7. K. Venkat Ramudu 23-11-1948	7. D.V. Reddy 15-11-1964
8. K. Tirupataiah 23-11-1959	8. G. Mukund Reddy 16-11-1978
8. K. Murali Krishna Rao 29-11-1940	9. V. Prabhakar Rao 26-11-1964
9. Solleti Chandra Mouli 30-11-1954	10. K. Damodar Reddy 28-11-1967
10. P.K. Sharma 01-12-1956	11. Anoop Singh 01-12-1965

DO YOU HAVE AN ANECDOTE - SHARE !!

Despite a hectic lifestyle or a tiring career, we always enjoy the fun-filled moments, inadvertent practical jokes that creep. Though you are not a regular writer, we are sure you wish to share these joyous incidents with your close associates. We are here to enjoy it. Natural-born writers cannot help themselves to pen it immediately; if they are not writing, they are thinking about writing. Please share these minor incidents with Vana Premi readers.

EDITOR, Vana Premi.
 (Email: thayyab@gmail.com)

LEGAL NOTES**M.G. Singaravelu
Vs.****State rep. by Dy.S.P. Forest Cell, Vellore and Forest Range Officer, Alangayam**

The petitioner was an accused in a forest offence case registered by F.R.O., Alangayam in State of Tamil Nadu vide OR. No. 37/92-93 and prosecuted before the Court of Special Judicial Magistrate at Tirupattur in CC. No. 1613 of 1992. The alleged offence was that he was found in possession of 46 sandalwood items without authority. The Sandalwood was seized and produced before the court. The Sandalwood was entrusted to the FRO for safe custody. After the full trial of the accused, he was acquitted on 28.09.2001; but the Sandalwood was confiscated.

The petitioner filed Crl.A. No. 114 of 2001 before the Court of Principal Sessions Judge at Vellore against the order of confiscation of Sandalwood. The appeal was allowed on 24.04.2002, and it was ordered to release the Sandalwood. The respondents have not filed any revision petition against the order of the Appellate court. Therefore the said order had become final.

The petitioner filed Crl. MP. No. 1987 of 2003 under S. 452 Cr.P.C. before the lower court, it was prayed that the case property (Sandalwood) be released. The second respondent F.R.O. filed a reply stating that the Sandalwood got destroyed in an accidental fire. The court closed the case on 18.06.2003. Aggrieved by the order closing the case, the petitioner filed Criminal Original Petition No. 28474 of 2003 with the following grounds:

- (i). The court below should have directed the respondent to pay compensation;
- (ii). The second respondent should not have stored the case property in sandalwood godown; and
- (iii). The trial court should have noted that the petitioner is a licensee and, therefore, he is entitled to return the Sandalwood or receive compensation.

The second respondent filed a counter. It was submitted that the case property was kept in the Sandalwood Depot at Tirupattur. But unfortunately, a fire accident took place on 16.03.1997, and the entire stock of Sandalwood was destroyed. The District Forest Officer reported the matter to the police at Tirupattur. Thereupon Cr. No. 185 of 1997 was registered under S.435 IPC r/w S 120 B IPC and S.3 of the Tamil Nadu Public Properties (Damage & Loss) Act. Simultaneously, the Government of Tamil Nadu appointed a Commission of Enquiry under the Chairmanship of a retired High Court Judge. The Commission recommended that the investigation of the case be entrusted to the CB CID. The police submitted a Final Report. The respondent submitted that the Sandalwood was confiscated under the orders of the Judicial First Class Magistrate, and therefore it became

government property. The Government Pleader submitted that Sandalwood worth 100 crores got burnt. For the loss of such colossal property, it was suspected that some forest officers, with the connivance of some persons and a few political elements, were behind the arson. The Magistrate passed a crisp order on 18.06.2003, closing the case in Crl. M. P. No. 1987 of 2003.

Since the petitioner did not get the relief he wanted, he approached the High Court of Madras and filed Crl. Original Petition No. 28474 of 2003 and Crl. MP. No. 7883 of 2003 under s. 482 of the Cr.P.C. The Hon'ble Justice V. Kanagaraj heard the matter.

The High Court observed that the petitioner had not placed full details of the matter except the order of the Prl. Sessions Judge in Crl. A. No. 114 of 2001 1987 and order passed by the Judicial Magistrate in Crl. MP. No. 1987 of 2003. The court believed that the petitioner would be entitled to return of Sandalwood only when he proves his ownership. When the acquittal order was passed, the petitioner was still not entitled to the property unless he proved that the property lawfully belonged to him. It was concluded that the petitioner, therefore, was not entitled to return of the property.

The court clarified the position that If the petitioner wanted to claim the Sandalwood, he had to initiate proceedings under S. 452 Cr.P.C. The High Court was critical about the attitude of the respondents and therefore observed that the first respondent was guilty of deliberate negligence. The court took strong exception to the willful negligence of the first respondent. It was construed that the first respondent's negligence is intentional in abhorrence of his duties and responsibilities, thus helping the petitioner to obtain wrongful gains at the cost of the exchequer for which he has to proceed with the disciplinary proceedings in the interest of justice and fair play and accordance with the procedure established by law.

The High Court felt that the Court of Sessions Judge should have clarified the position of law and rejected the appeal. He should have conclusively arrived at the confiscation of the property.

The respondents have failed to prefer a regular appeal against the acquittal and neglected to file appropriate revision against the order of the Sessions Judge. The court suspected that there had been a common understanding among all the three or nexus among the three, that is, the petitioner, first respondent and the Sessions Judge concerned without which such a severe case wherein properties worth crores of rupees are involved, no such slipshod or irresponsible order could be passed nor such negligence entertained by these guardians of the law.

It is held that an inquiry and order are necessary for initiating proceedings under S. 452 Cr. PC. Therefore entertaining the Crl. A. No. 114 of 2001 and ordering return of property are vitiated. Since the property sandalwood got destroyed, the petitioner could only claim compensation by filing a suit for damages. The petitioner could not make a

prayer to the High Court to invoke its inherent power to pass some untenable, evasive or colourable orders, which only mean misuse of lawful powers conferred on the High Court.

The court expressed its displeasure and anguish by saying-----

“Many irregularities, improprieties and most irresponsible behaviour have been exhibited in dealing with such vital subject in a very casual manner forgetting the fact that because of such careless dealings of the guardians of law, valuable Sandalwood worth more than Rs. 100 crore to the estimated value decades back had been lost under suspicious circumstances, the causes of which are yet to be unearthed and established, in spite of many make-believe exercises undertaken on the part of those who are in power and in such circumstances, besides the said colossal loss to the public property, how the petitioner herein has come forward to inflict some more loss to a scrap of paper for his ownership of the said contraband seized, purely encashing the unfaithful and careless attitude adopted on the part of both the respondents herein, the Public Prosecutor of the Court of Prl. Sessions Judge in Cr. A. No. 114 of 2001 by the said court in the most irresponsible manner as afore-discussed and decided thus giving way only for manipulators and anti-social elements to take advantage of and claim valuable public money and property under the cover of judicial orders and therefore it is incumbent on the part of this court to issue directions to the authorities concerned to initiate such disciplinary proceedings against all those who have acted wrongly or in a willful and negligent manner so as to create a right in favour of the petitioner circumventing the law and procedure concerned with the subject absolutely bereft of merit or jurisdiction and becomes liable to be dismissed with exemplary costs and hence in the following order:

- (i). the above criminal original petition is without merit, and the same is dismissed with a cost of Rs. 10,000, which the petitioner will pay to the credit of Madras High Court Chief Justice’s Relief Fund within 15 days from the date on which this order is made ready.
- (ii). The judgment dated 24.04.2003 rendered in Crl.A. No. 114 of 2001 by the Court of Prl. Sessions Judge, Vellore for reasons in the foregoing paragraphs, gets vitiated in law and is set aside.
- (iii). The Government of Tamil Nadu shall initiate disciplinary proceedings against both the respondents and the Public Prosecutor of the Court of Prl. Sessions Judge, Vellore who appeared in Crl. Appeal No. 114 of 2001 before the said court for having thrown the case of the prosecution at the feet of the petitioner, without properly projecting the same on merits and in accordance with law for their dereliction of duty.”

“Consequently Crl. MP No, 7883 of 2003 is also dismissed.” The order was pronounced on 25.11.2003.

Source: Internet

(FROM KBR)

OBITUARY



Late B. Ramana Babu, a Gentle Giant

With a heavy heart and deep regrets, it is to inform that, B. Ramana Babu, Dy. Conservator of Forests (Retd.) and Member of our Association passed away on 03.10.2021 at Hyderabad. His untimely passing away has shocked his friends and well-wishers and brought out waves of condolence messages, a sign of his popularity as an Officer and a gentleman.

Late B. Ramana Babu belongs to the 1974-76 batch of Forest Range Officers trained at SFRC, Coimbatore. He was born on 14.09.1952 in Eluru. He had his entire education at Eluru right from schooling to college before joining the Forest service in 1974. When he joined the training at SFRC, he was 6 feet 2 inches in height and weighed 110kgs and was aptly named Gentle Giant by his batchmates because of his gentle nature and ever-smiling face.

A few interesting incidents during the training brought out the soft nature of the man, and at the same time, his steely resolve was confronted with a challenging situation. A few days after joining SFRC, his seniors from 1973-75 batches ragged him at the hostel, as was the common practice in those days. Due to his hefty body, Ramana Babu was ragged more than the others with taunts that he was not physically fit to undergo and complete the strenuous two-year training. Because of the ragging, Ramana Babu was distraught and in tears. He immediately returned to his room, packed his baggage and left for Coimbatore railway station to return home. On learning about this, some of his seniors from AP State rushed to the railway station. They managed to speak with him and convince him to return. At the same time, the training brought out Ramana Babu as a tough character, ready for any type of physical work. With his strong willpower, he completed successfully the trek to Kunjaramalai, Pandaravarai mountains in the Western Ghats known to test the physical endurance of any trainee. He was second to none in sports, games and marathons, coming out in flying colours.

After completing his training and practical training, he started his service in 1977 as FRO Extension Division, Srikakulam. He had a highly successful and satisfying career as a Range Officer and District Forest Officer in the department. Beginning with his first posting as FRO in extension division Srikakulam, he worked as FRO in Addatheegala, Kakinada, SF Eluru, DET Jangareddygudem and District Forest Officer in SF Eluru, Ongole, Nellore, territorial Vijayanagaram, Medak and Palvancha from where he retired in 2012. He was a very hardworking Officer who often worked well past midnight whenever the situation called for. He was promoted as ACF in the year 1991 and as Dy. Conservator of Forests in 2010. As an Officer, he worked in the best of postings, both as Forest Range Officer and Divisional Officer and was a much sought after officer by his superiors.

Ramana Babu was loved and respected by one and all because of his good and helping nature. It is strongly believed that no person in the department will think or speak ill of him. He was a very generous person by nature and helped his friends and relatives financially when in need. For this reason, it was a shock to everybody when he passed away. He has left behind his wife and two sons. The entire family is God-fearing and deeply religious.

Let us together pray that his soul rests in peace and give his family the strength to bear this terrible and untimely loss. Om Shanti.

- A. Shankaran



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