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The Indian River Tern
(*Sterna aurantia*)

Photo: T.S. Prasanna Kumar

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- ✓ TSFDC has introduced new commercial species with in the RRR region viz., Seethaphal, Sandal wood, Red sandal, Rose wood, Teak, Panasa, Bambusatulda, etc.,
- ✓ TSFDC has also taken up consultancy works for NTPC & RFCL and successfully raised multiple row avenue plantation along with Rajiv Rahadari Highway in Peddapalli District.

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Editorial:**Hog-tying Biological Diversity Act, 2002**

The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 was promulgated to affect the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992, which aims for sustainable, fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge. Now, after nearly two decades, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has proposed comprehensive amendments to the BDA, 2002, by introducing the Biological Diversity Act Amendment Bill 2021 (Bill no. 158/2021). The Bill has been referred to a Joint Parliament Committee for review. The ministry says that the amendment came as a result of concerns from stakeholders, including from the Indian system of medicine, seed, industry and research sectors “urging to simplify, streamline and reduce the compliance burden to encourage a conducive environment for collaborative research and investments and simplify the patent process.”

It is shocking to note that none with civil society groups were consulted while formulating the amendments, none with the conservers and protectors of biodiversity. The consultation was done purely with the AYUSH industry, research institutions, seed manufacturers and CII. As a result, the rights of different tribes, villagers, farmers, vaidyas, and other natural resource-dependent peoples whose lives, livelihoods and socio-economic wellbeing are intricately linked to nature are now in jeopardy.

The amendment came as a shock because there has been felt a need for changes in the Biodiversity Act of 2002 to make it more in line with the Nagoya Protocol (an international agreement on sharing of benefits from access to biological resources, of which India is a signatory) and ensuring that there would be better equity at the local level in terms of sharing of

benefits. But what came was just the opposite of it – that sought to make the 2002 Act even less equitable and reduced the power of bio-diversity committees.

The BDA, 2002, though came into effect in 2003, no amendment was ever thought of, till 2016, because like many other laws, the BDA too was not working. ABS guidelines as an outcome of the Nagoya protocol of 2014 are finalized by different committees set up. And then comes a case where the Uttarakhand biodiversity board had imposed fees on Divya Pharmacy under the fair and equitable sharing of benefits. Divya Pharmacy challenged the entire thing by stating that it is an Indian entity and hence need not share and give benefits to the local community. The landmark judgment of the Uttarakhand High Court by Hon'ble justice Sudhanshu Dhulia in Writ Petition (M/S) No. 3437 of 2016 (called Divya Pharmacy vs Union of India) held that all Indian companies which are extracting biological resources are liable to seek prior approval as well as share part of their revenue with indigenous and local communities having traditional knowledge. This landmark judgment has not been overruled by either the division bench or the supreme court but will now be redundant because of this amendment. The fundamental aim of this amendment is to undermine the decision of the Uttarakhand high court, which has helped that the NBA and the Gol did the right thing by putting it fair and equitable sharing of benefits envisaged in the Act and also Nagoya Protocol.

From 2016 onwards, as of this day, nearly 2,75,000 BMC's have been formed across the country and PBRs are prepared. Though the process and quality of these formations and documentation are questionable, the orders of the NGT have been implemented. Now the AYUSH industry, seed

production units and many research firms, which take away the unchecked resources, are worried about sharing the benefits with the community.

Replacing the term “by-products” (general meaning - something that is produced as a result of making something else) with a much broader term “Derivatives” (meaning is very ambiguous- naturally occurring biochemical compound or metabolism of biological resources even if it does not contain functional units of heredity) makes things complicated. Another is “Bio-utilization,” which has much broader significance than what meets the eye.

It is known that all pharmaceutical companies and ayurvedic companies collect the bulk of their raw material from the market, primarily sourced from the wild and very limited from cultivated sources. When the AYUSH manufacturing companies claim that their raw materials are cultivated, neither NBB nor SBB has the mechanism to determine whether the source is from the wild or agricultural land. This makes legal action and imposing penalties much more complicated. As per the existing law, it is a criminal offence to destroy biodiversity, which is punishable with imprisonment for a term extending to five years or a fine of up to ten lakhs and depending on the gravity and damage caused - with both. The new bill does away with the word “imprisonment” - it's no longer made a criminal offence. The intention is clear- so long as you are willing to pay the penalty, you can violate the law.

Another astonishing amendment proposed is the replacement of judicial authority by executive authority. A joint secretary in Gol or the secretary to the state government will decide the penalty, but not a judicial magistrate (55a) and an appeal may lie before the NGT. The offences which are cognizable and non-available under the existing Act are no longer so. Section 58 of the principal Act is omitted altogether. The message is unmistakable- the law in

the new form is meant only for the benefit of the few -AYUSH, seed, industry, and research sectors.

On its face, one could see that it facilitates the commercialization of India's biological resources instead of focusing on their conservation. The amendment seeks to dilute the organized structure put in place by the original Act and help commercial entities in the country to plunder bioresources legitimately. The changes are brazen and open.

The 2021 amendment further seeks to substitute the term “Biological Diversity”, a complex web of natural ecosystems, with “Biological Resources”, which connotes a reductionist, linear understanding of biodiversity, that is meant for exploitation and profiteering. Added to this, the word “Codified Traditional Knowledge” will open a pandora's box of interpretations when challenged by law enforcement agencies' issues in a court of law while the new provisions are implemented.

Any company incorporated or registered in India is not required to take the approval of the National Biodiversity Authority to collect the resources. Foreign companies through alliances with Indian partners, now foreign organisations can get access to the resources,” said Pathak Broome. “These provisions are likely to create greater possibilities for biopiracy. These were already weak (and have) been weakened even further.” Prior approval of the NBA is not required for Indian companies with foreign stakeholders. So, in the case of biopiracy, it becomes a post facto struggle to establish that biopiracy occurred and if piracy issues crop up.”

The scope of the Biodiversity Act is much more comprehensive than many similar conservation acts and is applicable for every inch of our geographical area, forests included and took care of the protection of medicinal herbs, seeds, crops, varieties of cultivars etc. The Act's implementation is negligible or, at the barest minimum. Most of the time, the NBA

and SBBs in the country are not even issuing notices to the users of biological

Further, there is no clear definition of Codified Traditional Knowledge. The intellectual property organizations say it is as present in one of the books of Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and so on. Again, it is a matter of discussion on the applicability of the definition on the BDRs prepared by the BMCs. Suppose an Indian entity uses the codified traditional knowledge. In that case, it is not to be approached by a benefit claimer - in other words; it will not come under the provisions of section 7 and different relevant sections where restrictions are envisaged. The amendment says any Indian entity has the right to do whatever it wants without paying a penny. Only if a foreign entity (if not registered in the country) uses that codified traditional knowledge they may come under the provisions of this law.

The Nagoya Protocol envisages ABS in a very systematic manner. The existing Act is clear on sharing the amount due to the BMC, conserving, and protecting the resource. What is needed from the government now is necessary guidelines and directions on the ABS to the NBA, SBBs and the BMCs. Instead of looking at it from the community angle (the protectors and the conservators) in the wake of the Nagoya Protocol (there is a mention of a biodiversity impact assessment under section 36 of the biological diversity Act), the entire law is proposed to be amended only from the point of view of the AYUSH industry.

Coming to the enforcement of the Act's provisions, forest officials SBBs are authorized to file complaints under the provisions of the biological diversity Act. A benefit claimer can also file a complaint under the law. A landmark case under BMC was concerning the state of West Bengal- where a Czech scientist from the Czech Republic was booked for collecting butterflies. These butterflies were not listed in

the wildlife protection Act- but were listed in the biodiversity Act. Added to this, the Act prohibits using biological resources (irrespective of the species) by a foreign entity. So there, the complaint was filed by the forest department, and the people were sentenced to five years imprisonment.

All these proposed changes to the Act constitute a well-calibrated and apparent attempt to progressively undermine and destroy the sovereign rights and control that India's different sections of people have over their biodiversity, bioresources, and associated traditional knowledge.

Coming to the existing pattern of the NBB and SBBs, these are not really what has been envisaged in the Act itself. These institutions are underfunded and understaffed. They are headed by officers on deputation for a minimal time only as these are seen as punishment postings for the serving AIS officers. This needs to be addressed immediately for effective functioning. Even on this day, very few know the purpose and functioning of the SBBs, and few know where the SBB is even located. Many SBBs have not done a great job collecting and transferring the money from ABS to the BMC's working. A lot needs to be done by the SSBs in every sphere for the effective implementation of the Act.

Thus, the amendment bill seeks to comprehensively dilute institutional structures -BMCs, NBA, and SBBs. The benefit of this dilution will accrue to private corporations. The amendment Bill seems less about the conservation of biodiversity and more about making biological resources more accessible, particularly for commercial purposes. Everyone sees the proposed amendment as a law where the government's intention is absolutely crystal clear that it has been only tailor-made to meet the requirement of an industry which believes in exploitation and not really contributing to the sustenance of the resource on which the profit depends.

The amendment, the way it is drafted, will not stand judicial scrutiny once challenged in a court of law. It violates not only CBD but also violates Nagoya protocol. It violates articles 14 and 21 because it's an arbitrary action aimed very deliberately, only to benefit a sector that only exploits and plunder the resources saved, protected, and conserved for

generations together. Let's all hope the JPC will recognize this and doesn't allow this law to be passed at all. There is an urgent need for everyone and all the BMCs across the country to put pressure on the JPC to undo the damage the government intends to do through this present legislation.

- Mohd. Thayyab.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1. 'A Heart touching incident' (VanaPremi, Feb'22)

Sir,

I happened to go through an article 'A Heart touching incident' by Sri K. Pradeep in Feb'22 issue of Vanapremi. It's a good article. In case the executive officers in service realize that the Forest Act is meant for protection of trees etc., in forest but not outside, there won't be any problem. The act itself showed remedy for this by providing the clause of technical offence. Treating a person who cuts tree(s) on his own land on par with a professional smuggler is highly deplorable.

- SVGMS Rama Rao ACF (Retd.,)

2. Book Review "Blood Sanders" (VanaPremi, Feb'22) By - K. Buchi Ram Reddy

Sir,

"An exhaustive and well worded Review painstakingly completed after a thorough study of the voluminous book on Raktha Chandanam. A job well done. My hearty congratulations on the accomplishment of such a difficult task".

Dr B. Raghotham Rao Desai, IFS (Rtd), Bengaluru.

Sir,

"An excellent review. It encourages nature lovers including foresters to read this book. Hope such valuable book written by the author will go for a second edition soon."

M. Padmanabha Reddy, IFS (Rtd), Hyderabad.

Sir,

"The review of the book is a scientific analysis, and it must be said respectfully that it is, "research in research". It covers all the topics which is worthy of appreciation. The review covering all the chapters are interesting. There have been valuable suggestions to improve protection and conservation of Red Sanders Forest as well as the eco-system of Seshachalam. It is a precious book with well-deserved review."

- *M.R. Ramana Reddy, DFO (Vig.) Telangana*
Gen. Secy. Telangana State Forest Service Association.



ISFR 2021 - Forest and Tree Cover Change in Southern Peninsular India

Dipak Sarmah, IFS (R)

The India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021 was recently published by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehra Dun. As per the latest assessment, the overall forest cover of the country is 713,789 km² comprising 99,779 km² of very dense forest (VDF), 3,06,890 km² of moderately dense forest (MDF), and 3,07,120 km² of open forest (OF). The scrub forest in the country is 46,539 km². The remaining area of the country, designated as non-forest (NF), is 25,27,141 km². The total area of the country is 32,87,469 km².

Comparison of the above figures with the corresponding figures published in the ISFR 2019 would reveal that there has been an overall increase in the forest cover of the country by 1,540 km² [VDF has increased by 501 km², MDF has decreased by 1,582 km², and OF has increased by 2,621 km²]. The scrub forest has increased by (46,539-46,297) or 242 km². The non-forest (NF) land has decreased by (25,28,923-25,27,141) or 1,782 km².

While there has been overall increase in the forest cover in the country, increase in the extent of scrub forest and decrease in the extent of non-forest (NF) land are significant: while increase in the extent of scrub forest generally implies degradation of existing natural forest, decrease in non-forest land implies promotion of non-forest land to tree-clad land that contributes to forest cover. Apparently, tree plantations raised outside the recorded forests have contributed significantly to the increase in the country's forest cover. These plantations may include considerable extents of horticultural, agroforestry and farm forestry plantations, in addition to social forestry plantations.

The ISFR 2021 has also given the break-up of the forest cover corresponding to inside and outside the recorded forest area (RFA) in respect of the states and union territories which have furnished the digital boundaries of the recorded forests. In respect of the states and union territories that have not furnished the digital boundaries of the recorded forests, the break-up of forest cover corresponding to inside and outside the green wash (GW) area has been given. As per the ISFR 2021, out of the overall increase of 1,540 km² in the country's forest cover, increase in forest cover inside RFA/GW is only 31 km² and the remaining 1,509 km² of increase has taken place outside RFA/GW. Although the green wash area may occasionally include some natural forest outside the purview of the Forest departments, the above break-up of the increase in the country's forest cover broadly indicates that the lion's share of the increase has taken place in areas that are outside the traditional forests managed by the Forest departments. Although the increase in the country's forest cover inside RFA is very marginal, given the relentless biotic pressures that these forests have been subjected to, even such a miniscule increase must be taken as an achievement. As a matter of fact, in a hugely populated country where the shrinking government forests continue to be regarded as the 'sacrificial lamb' for all public or development purposes, keeping the forest cover intact is in itself a gigantic task.

The Tree Cover of the country as per the ISFR 2021 is 95,748 km², which represents an increase of 721 km² over the Tree Cover recorded in the ISFR 2019. Thus during the intervening period between

ISFR 2019 and ISFR 2021 while the country's forest cover inside the RFA/GW increased by only 31 km², the 'Trees Outside Forest' or TOF of the country increased by (1,509+721) or 2,230 km².

From the above, a general impression emerges that while the forest cover inside the recorded forests has remained more or less stationary, the overall increase in the country's forest cover has been achieved primarily due to plantations raised outside RFA. In the backdrop of such a scenario of a near-stagnant forest cover inside the RFA, the forest cover scenario of the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, which constitute the southern part of Peninsular India, provides a glimmer of hope. On the basis of information culled out from the ISFR 2021, a pen picture of the forest cover of

these states is depicted in the following table [the figures within brackets are the changes (+ or -) in the extents of various categories of land as compared with the corresponding figures given in ISFR 2019]:

Perusal of Col. (2) of the above table (Table-I) reveals that there is overall increase in the forest cover of all the five states, the increase in respect of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana being particularly impressive; the increase in respect of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu is fairly good. It may be noted from Col. (3) that the forest cover inside RFA has also increased in all the five states. This is an encouraging trend given the biotic pressures to which most of the public forests are subjected to. In this regard, the performances of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are commendable. That the forest cover inside RFA

Table – I

Forest Cover Scenario in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana as per ISFR 2021 as Compared with ISFR 2019

(Area in km²)

State	Forest Cover	Forest Cover inside RFA	Forest Cover outside RFA	Scrub forest	Non-forest	Tree Cover	Trees Outside Forest (TOF)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8) = (4)+(7)
Andhra Pradesh	29,784 (+647)	24,239 (+120)	5,545 (+527)	8,276 (+21)	124,908 (-668)	4,679 (+765)	10,224 (+1,292)
Karnataka	38,730 (+155)	22,548 (+77)	16,182 (+78)	4,611 (+127)	148,450 (-282)	7,494 (+1,237)	23,676 (+1,315)
Kerala	21,253 (+109)	9,679 (+46)	11,574 (+63)	30 (+17)	17,569 (-126)	2,820 (-116)	14,394 (-53)
Tamil Nadu	26,419 (+55)	17,531 (+23)	8,888 (+32)	758 (+43)	102,883 (-98)	4,424 (-406)	13,312 (-374)
Telangana	21,214 (+632)	18,696 (+364)	2,518 (+268)	2,911 (-704)	87,952 (+72)	2,848 (+334)	5,366 (+602)

[Note: The forest cover inside RFA for each of the five states has been computed from the digitized boundaries of the recorded forests and not from green wash area; thus the forest cover is fairly realistic representing the recorded forests. As the states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana have updated the forest boundaries after the publication of ISFR 2019, the RFAs have accordingly changed and are different from the figures reported in ISFR 2019. The change in areas indicated within brackets at Col. Nos. (3) & (4) in respect of these three states are based on the revised RFA figures.]

is fast increasing in Telangana is also corroborated by the drastic reduction in the state's scrub forest by 704 km² [Col. (5)]. As already mentioned, increase in scrub forest is generally indicative of forest degradation. Conversely, decrease in scrub forest indicates forest improvement as a result of afforestation or protection measures.

As seen from Col. (4), the forest cover outside RFA has also increased in all the five states; while the increase in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana is commendable, the increase in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu is moderate. The phenomenal increase registered in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana appears to be due to agroforestry, horticultural (mango and other fruit crops) and social forestry plantations. Here, it may be mentioned that substantial portions of the forest cover outside RFA in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu comprise plantation crops of coffee, tea, rubber, coconut, areca nut, etc. grown primarily in the Western Ghats region. This figure is particularly high in Karnataka as there are extensive coconut plantations in the south interior Karnataka region too, in addition to sizeable extents of revenue forest (privilege-linked lands) in the Western Ghats region.

The Tree Cover scenario in the region as depicted in Col. (7) is mixed. While impressive gains have been registered in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, there was considerable loss of tree cover in Tamil Nadu (-406 km²) and Kerala (-116 km²).

Consequently, the 'Trees Outside Forest' or TOT [which combines 'forest cover outside RFA' with 'tree cover', i.e., Col. (4) + Col. (7)] is also mixed in the region. As seen from Col. (8), Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have registered impressive gains in TOT, while Tamil Nadu and Kerala have lagged behind primarily owing to loss of tree cover mentioned above [Col. (7)].

As regards the fairly impressive gain of TOT in Karnataka, it will be of some interest to find how the forest cover scenario of Karnataka has evolved during the last six-seven years. Compiling information from ISFRs 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2021, the forest cover within RFA, forest cover outside RFA, Tree Cover, and 'Trees Outside Forest' (TOF) of Karnataka are tabulated as follows:

The above figures broadly indicate that in the recent years Karnataka's forest cover inside RFA [Column (3)] has remained more or less stationary whereas the 'Trees Outside Forest (TOF)' i.e., forest and tree cover outside RFA [Column (6)] has increased at a fairly fast pace [at about 750 km² or 75,000 ha per year]. As per ISFR 2021, TOF of Karnataka (23,676 km²) has, for the first time, surpassed the Forest cover inside RFA (22,548 km²). This trend is indicative of the positive impacts of agroforestry, farm forestry, horticultural and social forestry plantations on the forest and tree cover of the state.

Table – II:
Forest Cover Scenario Of Karnataka As Per ISFR 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2021
(Area in km²)

Year of ISFR	Forest Cover	Forest Cover inside RFA	Forest Cover outside RFA	Tree Cover	Trees Outside Forest (TOF)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6) = (4)+(5)
ISFR 2015	36,421	22,854	13,567	5,552	19,119
ISFR 2017	37,550	22,384	15,166	5,713	20,879
ISFR 2019	38,575	22,471	16,104	6,257	22,361
ISFR 2021	38,730	22,548	16,182	7,494	23,676

The recent trends in the change in forest cover at the national, regional and state levels clearly point out that the forest cover outside RFA is increasing at a much faster rate than the forest cover inside RFA. As regards change in forest cover inside RFA, while Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have shown impressive gains and a few other states have registered moderate gains, a large number of states have either gained marginally or lost some forest cover. The overall impact of these gains and losses has been, as we have seen, a net increase in the country's forest cover by only 31 km². On the other hand, the increase in the forest cover outside RFA has shown positive improvement in a good number of states thereby contributing to a net increase in the country's forest cover by 1,509 km². We have also seen that the country's tree cover (tree growth outside RFA and comprising land parcels each of less than one hectare in extent) has also shown an impressive gain of 721 km² during the period between ISFR 2019 and ISFR 2021.

While all the states and union territories must gear up their efforts at improving the forest cover inside RFA following the footsteps of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, it needs to be emphasized that any attempt at improving forest cover inside RFA must be complemented by vigorous attempts at tree planting outside RFA. Faster increase of forest and tree cover outside RFA augurs well for the future of the forest cover inside RFA. The more forest and tree cover we have outside RFA, the lesser is the pressure on our natural forests and brighter is their future.

Immediately after the publication of the ISFR 2021, a number of articles have appeared in the media expressing divergent opinions. Some of the articles are critical that the report does not reveal much about the status of natural forests and dwells more on trees growing outside the traditional forest areas. In this context, it may be recalled that the National Forest

Policy of 1988 has set a national goal of having a minimum of one-third (33.33%) land area of the country under 'forest or tree cover'. Considering the relentless biotic pressures on the very limited natural forests that occupy merely 22-23 per cent of the country's geographical area, the policy makers had realized that the only way to protect these shrinking forests and to increase 'forest or tree cover' to a minimum of 33.33 per cent is to undertake massive tree planting outside the traditional forest areas. The Forest Survey of India, being the central/nodal agency for monitoring the change in forest and tree cover in the country, has been providing on a two-year cycle state-wise data regarding change in forest cover both inside and outside the recorded forest area (RFA) and also the change in tree cover.

Although the Forest Survey of India (FSI) has been providing through the ISFRs a wealth of information, which at times is too detailed or too technical to a casual or uninitiated reader, closer analysis of the data is necessary for an understanding of the dynamic changes that have been taking place in the forest and tree cover scenario at the national, regional and state levels. However, the premier national organization would do well to provide certain information in a more transparent manner: for example, the status of the natural forests, which primarily occur within the RFA, has not been clearly brought out in the ISFRs. It is necessary for the FSI to spell out clearly as to how much of the change in the forest cover inside RFA pertains to natural forest and how much pertains to plantations. As agroforestry, farm forestry, horticultural and social forestry plantations contribute significantly to the increase in the forest cover outside RFA, details regarding their types and extents will be immensely helpful to various land-based departments such as Agriculture, Horticulture, Forest, Watershed Development, etc. in formulating appropriate land-use plans. It also needs to be appreciated that any increase in forest cover

outside RFA, irrespective of whether such increase is due to horticultural, agroforestry, farm forestry or social forestry plantations, is immensely beneficial to the forests inside the RFA, as these plantations raised outside RFA help in reducing biotic pressure on the natural forests enabling their rejuvenation and restoration. In fact, every tree outside RFA provides new lease of life to a tree inside RFA.

The very clear signal from the ISFR 2021 regarding the substantial increase in the forest and tree cover outside the traditional forests is a matter of celebration rather than that of criticism. While the integrity of the natural forests must be maintained at any cost and no stone should be left unturned in developing and conserving these pristine assets, it is also necessary to encourage tree planting anywhere and everywhere. Every piece of land not required for any other purpose must be brought under tree cover. Tree planting outside the RFA is necessary not only to ensure conservation of the natural forests within the RFA, but also to protect and improve the soil profile of the surrounding terrain. Various benefits that accrue from tree planting include soil and moisture conservation, increase in soil organic matter, improvement of

soil fertility, etc. As agricultural lands in the country are more widely distributed than the limited and scattered patches of forest land, trees planted under horticulture, agroforestry and farm forestry can bring about a sea change by improving the soil health in farmlands. Such benefits are all the more necessary in the parched, rain-fed agricultural lands which constitute the largest segment of agricultural land-use in a large number of states, including Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, and where the ominous signs of desertification are already discernible in some pockets. Increasing the proportion of trees in farmlands through horticulture, agroforestry and farm forestry is the only practical way of raising the level of organic carbon content in the soil. By directly sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and by indirectly enabling agricultural lands sequester more soil organic carbon, trees help farmlands to more effectively confront the challenges posed by climate change. Trees everywhere, including in and around farmlands, are the best bet for ensuring a cooler earth. Therefore, the tempo of tree planting outside the traditional forest areas, as reflected in the ISFR 2021, needs to be given further wholehearted fillip.

(Shri Dipak Sarmah, is former PCCF (HOFF), Karnataka and served in the Government of India as a Deputy Adviser, Planning Commission, and as Deputy Inspector General of Forests, Forest Policy, MoEF (1991-1995). Post retirement, Shri Sarmah has devoted himself to writing- authored number of books on forestry, wildlife and agroforestry. In 2011, Shri Dipak Sarmah was nominated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to the Monitoring Committee to supervise mining operations and sale of iron ore in Karnataka. He continues to serve as the Chairman of the Committee to date.)

*"If you would not be forgotten, as soon as you are dead or rotten,
either write things worth reading,
or do something worth writing"*

-Benjamin Franklin

Woodcraft in Telugu states

Need for sustainable resource management and steady wood supply system

P. Mallikharjuna Rao, IFS (Retd.)



As retired foresters, when we look back, we find certain experiences of dissatisfaction that were caused due to rigid and status quo oriented organisation culture of the Forest Department which otherwise has several merits and strengths. One example I would like to quote here is regarding our failure to address the problems pertaining to raw material supplies to the forest dependent artisans. About 80 thousand traditional artisans (estimated in 2000s) utilize bamboo or wood as raw material to eke out a living in Telugu states. These crafts were in operation for several hundreds of years from now and specifically much before the Forest Department came into existence. Supply of wood to the artisans is not a taboo according to the existing statutes and policies. National Forest Policy, 1988 mentions about the supply of small timber to local communities as one of the basic objectives. However, we have not taken any concrete steps to conserve and manage sustainably the forest resources needed by artisans and arrange their supplies uninterruptedly. This fact is revealed here with no aim at blaming any individual but with an intent to highlight the issue for serious consideration and appropriate action of the current generation of foresters at the helm. Though the bamboo based crafts and livelihood activities constitute the major share, the present discussion is limited only to the traditional wood crafts.

Traditional wood crafts in Telugu states:

Wooden toys of Kondapally, Nirmal, Etikoppaka, Settigunta and Gummadidala are the most popular traditional crafts both in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Other important wood crafts are Udayagiri cutlery, Lakshmigaripalle dolls and Bobbili veenalu.

The wood used in these crafts are specific to each one. The major wood used in these crafts are: *Givotia rottleriformis* (Kondapally), *Gyrocarpus jacquini* (Nirmal), *Wrightia tinctoria* (Etikoppaka and Gummadidala), *Canthium dicoccum* (Settigunta), *Gardenia gummifera* (Udayagiri), *Randia candollena* (Lakshmigaripalle) and *Artocarpus heterophylla* (Bobbili). Each of these crafts are distinct with their unique designs, usage of ancient tools and classical processes of manufacturing besides having specified places of origin. These crafts therefore have potential to secure Geographical Indication (GI) registration under relevant patent laws. The wood crafts of Nirmal, Kondapally, Etikoppaka and Bobbili have been bestowed with such tag already.

Issues and concerns:

These wood crafts, once the source of self-esteem and reliable incomes for the artisans are losing their charm now in the wake of stiff competition from the machine made toys mostly of synthetic materials both from imports and domestic production. The artisans are diversifying products, adopting contemporary designs and applying natural dyes while keeping the original features of the craft intact so as to sustain a position in the market. Thanks to a few heritage loving individuals, some non-governmental agencies and the state owned handicrafts corporations for supporting and facilitating such initiatives and saving these crafts. Unlike other handicrafts, the wood crafts have a specific problem pertaining to raw materials due to increasing wood scarcity on one hand and absence of legitimate wood supply arrangements on the other. This problem is further compounded with specific wood usage for each of

these crafts. These artisans are dependent on the illicit supplies of wood brought by some middle men. It is informed that the required wood resources for Kondapally and Nirmal crafts in surrounding forests have depleted drastically and became scarce. The middle men are arranging the wood from far off places which is resulting into uncertain supplies besides periodical hikes in the prices. Other wood crafts are also facing similar problems. Due to this, many have abandoned this craft and the number of active artisans pursuing this craft presently is limited to about three thousand in Telugu states. Artisans feel that the required wood may disappear in future if the present system continues.

Sustainable Resource Management:

Forest Department took some initiatives to support these crafts by way of forming Vana Samrakshan Samithis (VSS) with artisans as members, undertaking some research on propagation of these tree species and taking up limited planting work in the past. These piecemeal efforts did not help to tackle the problem in full. Some people suggest to liberalise the acts and rules pertaining to cutting, storage and transportation of Bamboos and wood used by the artisans. Such kind of moves will lead to fast depletion of the resource benefiting neither artisans nor the forest in long run. Hence the suggestion would be to continue regulations and scientific forest management to meet the needs of the artisans. Forest Department should assess the annual requirement of the wood for each of the crafts. Sufficient extent of the surrounding forest blocks after estimating growing stock should be apportioned for sustainable harvesting annually in perpetuity. The extent of forest here will depend upon the factors of tree population, growing stock, age of maturity and regeneration potential. Sri JSN Murty, IFS the then CCF, Rajahmundry and his team in 2018 conducted a study on Kondapally wood craft and found that it is feasible to harvest the annual requirement of 36 cum wood

from 800 ha area (estimated growing stock is 9440 Cum) by cutting of selected mature trees every year on sustainable way. As the poliki trees (both Givotia and Gyrocrpus) are good coppicers, after cutting this year, the coppice shoots will grow into mature trees fully by 20 years when they get next turn of harvest after 20 years. This way, the harvesting will continue year after year. Immediately after harvesting the selected trees, the appropriate cultural and tending operations should follow to ensure successful regeneration from coppice shoots. The measures of restoration, rejuvenation and enrichment planting will help to augment the resource in the forest. Additionally extensive planting in community and farm lands should be undertaken. Research efforts are also to be continued to identify alternative woods so as to reduce pressure on a few species currently used.

Wood supply arrangement - Wood Banks:

The harvested wood can be stored, treated and processed at community managed 'wood banks' where from the artisans can secure the wood as and when required. During my tenure of working as head of WLM, Tirupati circle my colleague, Mr Srinivas Reddy, the then DFO, Rajampeta and his team established a community based wood bank and run at Settigunta from 2008 to 2010. After assessing the annual wood requirement of the artisans of Settigunta and Lakshmigari palle, the required wood was collected from different sources such as farm lands and improvement fellings and brought to wood bank. At wood bank the logs were cut into blocks of different sizes required for making handicrafts. Artisans could save their time in collection and processing of the wood. The artisans, who were running away while seeing the foresters in the past could come close and associate with the forest department and work with ease. Such wood banks can be established for each of these crafts to arrange supplies of wood to the artisans at concessional rates. By seeing good results of the experiment at Settigunta, Sri Sai Prat-

ap, the then Honourable Union Minister from Kaddapa district facilitated to sanction a Common Facility Centre from Handicrafts Department of the Central Government. Today the facility is available without any utility as artisans are not able to get wood to pursue their craft. It is informed that such kind of facilities were established at Etikoppaka and some other places. Forest Department can utilise these facilities to arrange wood supplies to the artisans.

Thrust to make our county a Hub for toys – Socio-economic approach needed:

The Hon'ble Prime Minister in August, 2020 during 'Mann Ki Baat' programme gave a call to make our country a manufacturing hub for toys. It is encouraging to note that, the PM interacted with a few artisans and craftsmen in the country including CV Raju of Etikoppaka to find out the issues and suggestions to improve the activity. After that, the toy manufacturing entrepreneurs in the country have started teaming up to improve their existing capacities and to launch

new facilities for increasing the production and to compete in the world market which is a welcome move for non-wood based toys. As far as wooden toys is concerned, it is rational to encourage the traditional artisans rather than promoting commercial enterprises. It is proved in various parts within and outside the country that utilisation of forest resources for socioeconomic benefits is more viable, equitable and sustainable as opposed to the commercial usage by private enterprises/industries which facilitate over exploitation of forests. It is a great opportunity for the Forest Service to act promptly and promote the traditional wood crafts through sustainable forest management, resource augmentation and placement of hassle free wood supply arrangement so as to contribute to the welfare and economic prosperity of the wood craftsmen while ensuring good protection and conservation to the forest. By doing this, the Forest Service of Telugu states can show a new path of Socially Responsible Forest Management to the country.

(The author is former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) Andhra Pradesh and can be reached over mobile: +919989171958 and by email: pmkrao72@gmail.com)

"THE LITTLE BOY AND THE OLD MAN"

Said the little boy, "Sometimes I drop my spoon."

Said the old man, "I do that too."

The little boy whispered, "I wet my pants."

"I do that too," laughed the little old man.

Said the little boy, "I often cry."

The old man nodded, "So do I."

"But worst of all," said the boy, "it seems

Grown-ups don't pay attention to me."

And he felt the warmth of a wrinkled old hand.

"I know what you mean," said the little old man."

- Shel Silverstein



Climate Change-Loss of Livelihood Opportunities and Migration

B.K. Singh, IFS (Retd.)

With frequent and destructive climatic catastrophes like sea surges, floods, droughts, wild fires, soil desertification etc people leave their homes for shelter and livelihood opportunities. World Economic Forum has reported that extreme weather events have forced 20 million people each year between 2008 and 2016 to become climate refugees. World Bank has estimated that by 2050, we will see 1.2 billion people as environmental refugees. Of this number, 143 million are projected to be leaving homes in Sub Saharan Africa, Latin America and South Asia. More than 40 millions are to be displaced in South Asia; even India is said to be quite vulnerable where environmental disasters in 2018 have resulted in displacement of 2.7 million people.

People most impacted by forced migration are from low economic strata working in agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries and forestry sectors. Migration that took place during the first wave of Corona virus pandemic in April, May 2020 was once in a century, when people lost their jobs in big cities and towns and moved to their native places along with women and small children - hundreds of km away on foot. It had impacted the economic growth of the country and GDP had plunged by 24.4%. Climate migrations are projected to be on continuous basis and if the scale and speed increases it will continue to impact the growth severely.

Migrations forced by climatic disasters have not been properly studied, but it is known for

certain that people left Himalayan region for better stability of lives and livelihoods. Their properties have been washed away by flash floods and glacier bursts, agriculture lands are lost in landslides and they are forced to live in rescue centers along with thousands of people run by the states. The schooling of the children has suffered. Tired of the frequent disruptions, many families migrated to lower hills and plains for better opportunities.

Climate change has also impacted life of apple growers and support workers in Himalayan region. Warming has caused loss of apple yield. As a result, most apple farms are shifted on higher altitudes for proper climate. It has affected the livelihood of concerned.

Warming has also caused loss of coffee yield, resulting in migration of labourers for their livelihood. The institute of Dry Land Agriculture, Hyderabad has observed reduction in paddy yields due to rise in temperature and has projected drastic reduction if the increase in average temperature is more than 1.5^o Celsius.

Communities in coastal areas are more vulnerable for climate change. Recent IPCC report has suggested that a number of Indian coastal cities like Mumbai, Cochin, Vishakhapatnam, and Chennai etc. are likely to go in water if the global rise in temperature approaches 2 degree Celsius. The relocation of the affected families would require unprecedented exercises, never ever undertaken in our living memory.

However even at 1.1^o Celsius increase in temperature, the cyclones and sea surges have been flooding the coastal areas and causing damages to lives, properties and farm lands. The prolonged salinity in farm lands brings down the crop yields considerably and the families are forced to migrate. The repeated cyclones in Bay of Bengal have been causing submergence of Sundarbans islands, affecting the life and livelihood of families residing there and forcing them to relocate elsewhere. The fourth cyclone in two years in Bay of Bengal; Fani in May 2019, Bulbul in November 2019, Amphan in May 2020 and Yaas in May 2021 has accelerated migration from Sundarbans islands. An eight sq km Ghoramara island has been reduced to less than half. Farm lands are repeatedly submersed in saline water, losing the productivity completely.

Many Pacific island nations are on course to partly go under water, although these countries have lowest Carbon footprint on earth. The life and livelihood of Rohingias settled on Bangladesh's islands are also threatened by severe flooding.

Almost all 54 African nations are bearing the brunt of climate change. Desertification is a big challenge in these countries, which is wrecking the ecosystems leading to conflicts over water and arable lands, which is often the reason for social tensions and people's inability to coexist. Parts of Mozambique, Angola, Ethiopia, Chad, Kenya and Tanzania are dependent on water from Lake Chad for their drinking and agriculture. As the lake shrinks, the living in all the countries is unsustainable.

Besides India, countries like Philippines, Bangladesh, China and United States are also ranked quite high where people face displacement. Generally speaking the

ramification relating to ecological, economic and migration is faced by nations which contributed least in global warming. In other words the rich countries are responsible for the sorry state of affair and poor and developing countries are vulnerable. Rich countries must fund vulnerable countries to support migration and alternative livelihood options. There are several horrifying stories of African migrants crossing Mediterranean in insecure vessels. They leave their homelands in search of livelihood and often they are lodged up jails and face deportation and inhuman treatment.

The increase in global temperature is on account of CO₂ accumulated in the atmosphere, for which Europe and North America are squarely responsible. CO₂ is a non reactive compound and can remain in the atmosphere for hundreds of years. 1.1^o Celsius rise over pre industrial temperature so far, is responsible for extreme events and migration of affected human population. In recent years fossil fuel based industrial growth in China and India is attributed for large emissions, but climatic disasters are on account of accumulated CO₂ emitted by USA and Europe, the developed economies. These nations are more capable of assisting refugees and they must take charge of resolving the crisis.

In Indian scenario local climate resilience and providing enough jobs to migrants seeking livelihood snatched away by global warming would be necessary to focus. MGNREGA program would be needed to be stepped up. Water harvesting structures, soil and water conservation measures, and adoption of suitable cropping patterns on farm lands and planting of trees may be helpful in checking the desertification. Farm lands in coastal areas will have to be protected from flooding during

cyclones. Already there are bunds in many areas protecting the land from inflow of saline water, but are breached at the time of severe cyclone and are required to be strengthened. Vulnerable families on higher reaches of Himalayas may have to be relocated to safer places with proper livelihood options.

Long term solution is to stop accumulating CO₂ in the atmosphere. Countries are pledging to

bring down GHG emissions and become carbon neutral by 2040, 2050 and 2060. We have increased 1.1^o C temperature and if countries emit 400 Giga tons of CO₂ equivalent we increase global temperature by 1.5^o C. We are experiencing so much of disruptions in our lives; imagine what happens when further warming takes place. Fossil fuel-based economies must go for transition to renewable energy to slash the emissions.

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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 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)

Green Quiz- March 2022

Quiz Master: Dr K. Tirupataiah, IFS (Retd.)



(Quiz Master is the Defending Champion of the QUIZ competition held as part of All India Forest Sports Meet at Raipur, Chattisgarh, January 2019)

1. Which State showed maximum increase in forest cover in the last two years as per the latest India State of Forest Report?
2. Which State showed the maximum loss of forest cover in the last two years as per the latest India State of Forest Cover?
3. The highest glacier in the world is thinning @ 80 times faster than it took to form. Name the glacier
4. Indonesia's capital Jakarta is sinking due to overexploitation of ground water and rising Java Sea. Where is the new capital proposed to be constructed?
5. In 2020, WWF discovered only one new Mammal, characterised by white circles around its eyes near an extinct volcano in Myanmar. Name the Mammal.
6. An extremely rare animal, also called the Asian unicorn or Spindle corn is called?
7. Which island nation was recently hit by volcano-induced ocean waves?
8. To be able to escape rise in Sea temperature and consequent bleaching, at what depth should the coral reefs be located?
9. The Ken-Betwa River interlinking is expected to submerge the Core of which Tiger Reserve?
10. An Australian fish believed to be the link between the Fish and the Amphibians became the oldest aquarium fish @90 years. Name the fish species.
11. Name the noted environmentalist who played a significant role in protecting the Evergreen tropical rain forests in Kerala, who passed away recently.
12. With which institute did the FSI collaborate to Map climate change hot spots in forests in India?
13. What name is given to the Green Fund set up by Government of Telangana?
14. In which Telugu film did Lata Mangeshkar sang her first Telugu song?
15. Which category of Philosophy did Ramanuja preach and practice?

(Answers on Page No:27)

Note: contributions are invited from members/readers. Select questions (with answers) would be published in the next quiz along with those from Quiz Master. Questions with answers may be mailed to kota_86@rediffmail.com.



Hail The Wildlife (Protection) Act, Amendment 2021

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

The amendment to Indian wildlife (Protection) Act, 2021 was introduced and passed in the Lok Sabha & has been referred to Parliament Committee and it is in public domain for comments. A lot of comments with suggestions are being aired in to public domain through press by the NGOs, wildlifers, wildlife enthusiasts, wildlife conservationists and interest public are being sent to the Parliament Committee.

I being a Wildlifer (retired) and an Author of 3 books on wildlife and their conservation and management did not fall behind in sending my comments to the said committee and also airing my views in press as above.

This amendment starts with the preamble with the aim for "Conservation, Protection and Management of wildlife" by amending the present aim as 'Protection of wild animals, birds & plants'. This amendment in aim itself gives a lot of push for the betterment of wildlife in India.

Section 2- 16A-definines exotic and invasive species of animals and plants, whose induction or spread may adversely affect the animals, plants and their habitats with provision in Sec-62A to control, check, regulate and also to destroy such alien species. It is very innovative to check & control the invasive exotic weeds Lantana, Eupatorium and Parthenium in Protected Areas affecting the carrying capacity of the habitats in terms of fodder, space, regeneration of trees and cause of fires. But, there are indigenous weeds too which are choking the wildlife habitats; such weeds need to be named for control in the protected areas. Eg: Desmodium spp-3 nos in Western Ghats etc.

Section 6A, an addition- has given powers to the State Board of wildlife to constitute "Standing committees" for the purpose of exercising powers and performing of Boards' duties as may be delegated to it by the Board with sub-Committees like in the National Board of Wildlife whose Standing Committees' powers too have been enhanced.It appears to be to speed up the clearance of projects under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for the development of projects/mines/ high ways/ railways etc in the wildlife habitats. This is a negative step against consolidation of wildlife habitats fragmented very badly due to release of forests under Forest Rights Act-2006, for various projects and other causes against the demand of the increasing population of wild animals.

Section-28 (b)- amended to grant permission for film-making without causing any adverse impact to the habitat /wildlife. The film shooting was banned in 1978 to avoid accidents & tragedies. This is not a welcome move since PAs are already overcrowded with tourists; the film shooting will commercialize the PAs and will cause disturbance to the denizens.

Section -33 amended to vest power with the Chief Wildlife Warden to manage sanctuaries in accordance with the management plans approved by him as per the guidelines of Central Government and with consultation of Grama Sabhas wherever such sanctuaries fall under the " Recognition of Forest Rights Act, 2006". Similarly the building construction activities including the government lodges are restricted- a positive step for the better management and conservation of the wildlife.

Other amendments-Gun license-restrictions around PAs have been extended up to 10 km radius against present 5km. The live wild animals involved in crimes have been guided to be nursed in Zoo or Rescue centers till released into their habitats. The certified owner of a live elephants can transport them without permits as per the procedures to be prescribed by the Center.... are positive steps.

The Chapter-VB, Regulation of International Trade in Endangered species of wild Fauna and Flora as per -CITES vide Sections-49D to 49R to deal with the breeding, conservation, trade-in import, export, re-export etc of schedule fauna & flora has been added as a new Chapter with power to the central government to appoint "Management Authority" with paraphernalia... A new department to deal with CITES- hither handled by the Customs Dept is a very good step to check and control the trade of scheduled species of wildlife listed in India and in the member countries of the CITES. It will stop the trade in live animals of India/other countries in the inland and in the export/import. It is a new establishment under the GOI.

Penalties in Section -51, the term of Imprisonments remain same but the fines have been risen from Rs 10,000 to Rs 25,000, From Rs 25,000 to one lakh. Compounding power under Sec-54 has been risen from Rs 25,000 to Rs 5 lakh.

The schedules of animals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes and invertebrates; vermin and plants in Schedules-I, and II in part I & II have been reduced to Schedule- I. The Sch III & IV in to Sch II. Schedule-V-vermin has been dropped to declare whenever found necessary. The Sch VI of plants in to Sch-III. The Schedule- IV is description of spp of animals pertaining to CITES with Appendices I, II, III for details of fauna, flora & their origins to guide prosecution under Section 51 (I) proviso (ii); accordingly changes have been made in the

corresponding Sections of the Act. The Schedules have been made very simple lists of species of fauna and flora with Local & Scientific names.

Under Schedule-I &II, Totally Mammals-(172), Birds-(976), Reptiles-(65), Amphibiens-(6), Fishes-(26), Insects-(121), Crabs-(3),Corals-(388), Mollusk-(24), Holothurians-(32), and Sponges- (10) numbers of species have been listed. Sch-III-Plants-(18) nos, Sch-IV with Appendices-I-(368), II-(497), III-(217) species have been listed. This amendment has also given importance to address the anomalies found in the Schedules of animals listed in the present Act like some with local names, some with scientific names, some with both, and some with Family names etc.... Which are most confusing and sometimes used to lead nowhere for the field officers to take cognizance of the offences noticed to book and take to courts. I could notice these lacunae while identifying animals of Indian with Schedule number for each-to show its status of protection assured in my book-"Hand Book of Indian Wild Animals." And it perturbed me a lot with confusions in 2015. I could make a list of such lacunae and submit two memorandums in 2016 to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to set right the anomalies in the Schedules of the wildlife Act, 1972 and got replies/appreciation letter from the Ministry of MoEFCC for my work.

Now, I am happy that most of my suggestions are accepted and the schedules of animals are updated. E.g. 1) Alpine musk deer- State animal of Uttar Khand was missing- it has been included in Sch-I. (2) Whales and Dolphin-only a few were named in the present Schedules with family..... in the amendment -17 whales and 11 dolphins found in Indian waters have been listed in Sch-I. (3) Birds like- House sparrow, Eagles/Kites, Lapwings, Ibis, Terns, Frogmouths and Wagtails; some reptiles, fishes, frogs etc those were pointed as missing in Schedules are now listed in Schedules. Still some

are left over but there might be with reasons e.g. Hoopoe (bird), Namdaph flying squirrel.

In a nutshell, this amendment is more technical and a need of the hour to plug loopholes in the field of wildlife protection, conservation and management. It opens an era of protection for the aquatic/marine mammals, reptiles, fishes and other invertebrates since the wildlife wing has to take action to monitor

and reign over coastal belts of India to safeguard marine fauna- hitherto neglected. The trade in animals and their parts will be put under strict vigilance in the inland with invoke of the CITES-Management Authority under this Act to strengthen the protection measures to wildlife.

This amendment deserves to be hailed in the interest of wildlife.

The Author belongs to Karnataka cadre and freelance writer on Wildlife, Forestry & Environment. He can be contacted over mobile: +919632781811 and email: bmt.rajeev.ifs@gmail.com)

EVER WONDER ...

Why the sun lightens ..Our hair, but darkens our skin?

Why don't you ever see the headline 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?

Why is 'abbreviated' such a long word?

Why is it that Doctors call what they do 'practice'?

Why is ..lemon juice made artificial flavor,

and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?

Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?

You know that Indestructible black box that is used on airplanes?

Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?!

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

If con is the opposite of pro, is congress the opposite of progress?

If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?

Now that you've smiled at least once, it's your turn to spread the stupidity and send this to someone you want to bring a smile to (maybe even a chuckle)

...in other words, send it to everyone.

We all need to smile every once in a while.

Analysis of wild tree diversity in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

Dr. N. Chandra Mohan Reddy, I.F.S. (Retd.)

(Continued from the previous issue)

OIL YIELDING TREES

Oils derived from plants, namely vegetable oils, can be fatty oils or essential oils. Occurrence of fatty oils in plants is limited to the fruit and seeds whereas essential oils are produced in various parts of a plant such as in the flowers, seeds, bark, root, leaves, resin, or wood. Although most vegetable oils are used in foods, large quantities are used by industry for the manufacture of non-edible products especially in pharmaceutical, soap, biofuel, paints, varnishes and other chemical industries.

1. *Atalantia monophylla*
2. *Azadirachta indica*
3. *Bombax ceiba*
4. *Calophyllum inophyllum*
5. *Celtis timorensis*
6. *Diospyros malabarica*
7. *Givotia moluccana*
8. *Holoptelea integrifolia*
9. *Litsea glutinosa*
10. *Madhuca longifolia*
11. *Madhuca longifolia* var. *latifolia*
12. *Magnolia champaca*
13. *Mallotus philippensis*
14. *Mangifera indica*
15. *Melia dubia*
16. *Mesua ferrea*
17. *Mimusops elengi*
18. *Murraya koenigii*
19. *Pamburus missionis*
20. *Pandanus odorifer*

21. *Pongamia pinnata*
22. *Santalum album*
23. *Sapindus emarginatus*
24. *Schleichera oleosa*
25. *Semecarpus anacardium*
26. *Shorea robusta*
27. *Shorea roxburghii*
28. *Tamarindus indica*
29. *Terminalia bellirica*
30. *Terminalia chebula*
31. *Toona ciliata*
32. *Trema orientalis*
33. *Ximenia americana*
34. *Zanthoxylum rhetsa*

GUM / RESIN YIELDING TREES

Gums and resins are metabolic by-products of plant tissues either in normal course or often as a result of disease or injury to the bark or wood of certain plants. They are accumulated in the inner regions of the tree trunk and are often exuded out as a result of injury to the tree. Different types of tree species produce various gums or resins. These can be utilized for the production of useful products like pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and other industrial items.

1. *Aegle marmelos*
2. *Albizia lebbbeck*
3. *Albizia odoratissima*
4. *Anogeissus latifolia*
5. *Azadirachta indica*
6. *Bauhinia semla*
7. *Bombax ceiba*

8. *Boswellia ovalifoliolata*
9. *Boswellia serrata*
10. *Butea monosperma*
11. *Carallia brachiata*
12. *Careya arborea*
13. *Cochlospermum religiosum*
14. *Commiphora caudata*
15. *Garcinia xanthochymus*
16. *Gardenia gummifera*
17. *Gardenia resinifera*
18. *Garuga pinnata*
19. *Lannea coromandelica*
20. *Limonia acidissima*
21. *Macaranga peltata*
22. *Moringa concanensis*
23. *Prosopis cineraria*
24. *Pterocarpus marsupium*
25. *Senegalia chundra*
26. *Shorea robusta*
27. *Shorea roxburghii*
28. *Shorea tumbuggaia*
29. *Spondias pinnata*
30. *Sterculia urens*
31. *Sterculia villosa*
32. *Toona ciliata*
33. *Vachellia leucophloea*
34. *Vachellia nilotica*

ORNAMENTAL TREES SUITED FOR GARDENS, URBAN OPEN SPACES AND ROAD AVENUE PLANTING

Ornamental trees have significant role in decorating our surroundings and represent an important economic grouping within the ornamental landscape industry. Texture, form, size and colour of flowers, foliage, fruits, bark are the physical characteristics of plants that provide interest, variety, and aesthetic

appeal to a landscape. These ornamental plants exercise a strong, positive influence on human behaviour.

1. *Aphanamixis polystachya*
2. *Artocarpus heterophyllus*
3. *Atalantia monophylla*
4. *Azadirachta indica*
5. *Bambusa bambos*
6. *Bambusa tulda*
7. *Barringtonia acutangula*
8. *Bauhinia purpurea*
9. *Bauhinia semla*
10. *Bauhinia variegata*
11. *Bombax ceiba*
12. *Butea monosperma*
13. *Callicarpa tomentosa*
14. *Calophyllum inophyllum*
15. *Carallia brachiata*
16. *Caryota urens*
17. *Cassia fistula*
18. *Cassine glauca*
19. *Cerbera odollam*
20. *Cochlospermum religiosum*
21. *Commiphora caudata*
22. *Crateva religiosa*
23. *Cycas seshachalamensis*
24. *Cycas sphaerica*
25. *Dillenia indica*
26. *Diospyros malabarica*
27. *Elaeocarpus tectorius*
28. *Ensete glaucum*
29. *Erythrina suberosa*
30. *Ficus amplissima*
31. *Ficus auriculata*
32. *Ficus benghalensis*
33. *Ficus benjamina*

34. *Ficus concinna*
35. *Ficus microcarpa*
36. *Ficus religiosa*
37. *Ficus rumphii*
38. *Ficus virens*
39. *Firmiana colorata*
40. *Garcinia xanthochymus*
41. *Hardwickia binata*
42. *Hibiscus tiliaceus*
43. *Holoptelea integrifolia*
44. *Ixora pavetta*
45. *Leea indica*
46. *Magnolia champaca*
47. *Mallotus philippensis*
48. *Memecylon edule*
49. *Mesua ferrea*
50. *Mimusops elengi*
51. *Mitragyna parvifolia*
52. *Murraya paniculata*
53. *Musa ornata*
54. *Neolamarckia cadamba*
55. *Nyctanthes arbor-tristis*
56. *Ochna obtusata*
57. *Pandanus odorifer*
58. *Phoenix sylvestris*
59. *Pongamia pinnata*
60. *Psydrax dicoccos*
61. *Pterospermum xylocarpum*
62. *Putranjiva roxburghii*
63. *Salix tetrasperma*
64. *Santalum album*
65. *Sapindus emarginatus*
66. *Saraca asoca*
67. *Schleichera oleosa*
68. *Shorea roxburghii*

69. *Spondias pinnata*
70. *Sterculia urens*
71. *Tamarindus indica*
72. *Terminalia arjuna*
73. *Thespesia populnea*
74. *Walsura trifoliolata*

SACRED AND REVERED TREES

Since the inception of the human race, there is strong association between man and other life forms, which is strengthened with the evolution of culture. As the dependence on plants increased over ages, people started revering the plants. With the advent of literature and culture, the plants and their services have become part of various literary forms and many plants and their parts have become ingredients of different cultural and religious rituals. The divine trees of the region mentioned in the holy books and the trees which are considered associated with nakshatras, navagrahas, rasis, vratas etc. are presented here.

1. *Aegle marmelos*
2. *Alstonia scholaris*
3. *Artocarpus heterophyllus*
4. *Azadirachta indica*
5. *Bambusa bambos*
6. *Barringtonia acutangula*
7. *Bauhinia purpurea*
8. *Bauhinia purpurea*
9. *Borassus flabellifer*
10. *Butea monosperma*
11. *Calophyllum inophyllum*
12. *Cassia fistula*
13. *Cordia dichotoma*
14. *Dalbergia latifolia*
15. *Erythroxylum monogynum*
16. *Ficus benghalensis*
17. *Ficus racemosa*

18. *Ficus religiosa* Lalithamba and N. V. Sivaram Prasad.
19. *Ficus virens*
20. *Flacourtia indica*
21. *Gmelina arborea*
22. *Limonia acidissima*
23. *Madhuca longifolia* var. *latifolia*
24. *Mangifera indica*
25. *Mesua ferrea*
26. *Mimusops elengi*
27. *Naringi crenulata*
28. *Neolamarckia cadamba*
29. *Nyctanthes arbor-tristis*
30. *Pandanus odorifer*
31. *Phoenix sylvestris*
32. *Phyllanthus emblica*
33. *Prosopis cineraria*
34. *Santalum album*
35. *Saraca asoca*
36. *Senegalia chundra*
37. *Spondias pinnata*
38. *Stereospermum chelonoides*
39. *Strychnos nux-vomica*
40. *Symplocos cochinchinensis*
41. *Syzygium cumini*
42. *Terminalia arjuna*
43. *Vitex negundo*
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My Dialogue with Nature

Nagabhushanam Dasari, IFS (Retd.)



Why to pluck peaceful flower from the mind
 For the sake of unmatched spiny views
 Why don't swallow the pills of silence
 To do penance in the serene forest surroundings
 Why to dwell between the walls of fort for unworthy dialogue
 Where no blossomed assurance of protection
 Why don't enjoy yourself in supreme stage
 Under green shade & healthy breeze of an immovable tree crown

Even if the man disappears and body turns into dust
 The tiny seed sown in the soil germinate
 And turns into gigantic tree
 It fills up the deficit of your absence
 The shade provided shows your presence
 Also, like shelter to the bird swarms
 And vital oxygen to the living organisms

Soil, mountain, and tree have taken birth
 Before the origin of human body
 The greedy, envy and conspiracy
 Together swallowed the forest wealth
 Who has to stop this honey taste?
 Butchery trend tagged with development?
 The scholars, scientists, and people together
 Have to stop this menace before it's disappearance

(The writer is a former CF, Telangana, and the Associate Editor of VanaPremi. He is a versatile artist and poet with many art works and books to his credit. He can be contacted over mobile +918096511200 and email: dasari.nagabhushanam@gmail.com)

ANSWERS:

1. AP; 2. Arunachal Pradesh; 3. South Col (7900 M); 4. Nusantara near Balikpapan sea port in Borneo;
5. Ghostly Langur/Popa Langur; 6. Saola; 7. Togo island, Pacific Ocean; 8. Twilight zone or 30 M and more;
9. Panna Tiger Reserve; 10. Australian long fish/Methuselah; 11. M.K.Prasad; 12. BITS; 13. Haritha Nidhi;
14. Samsaram, 1955; 15. Vishishtadvaitam

For Your Inquisitive Tiny Tots

1. Polar bears have black skin. And actually, their fur isn't white—it's see-through, so it appears white as it reflects light. But the Tigers' skin is actually striped, just like their fur.
2. The word "strengths" is the longest word in the English language with only one vowel
3. Freelancers originally referred to self-employed, sword-wielding mercenaries: literally "free lancers."
4. The platypus doesn't have a stomach at all: Their esophagus goes straight to their intestines.
5. This is one animal myth that's true: Eating parts of a pufferfish can kill you because, in a defense mechanism to ward off predators, it contains a deadly chemical called tetrodotoxin. There's enough in one pufferfish to kill 30 people—and there's no antidote. Still, pufferfish, called fugu, is a highly prized delicacy in Japan, but can only be prepared by well-trained chefs.
6. There are no muscles in your fingers: Their function is controlled by muscles in your palms and arms.
7. All of an adult human's blood vessels, if laid out end to end, would be about 100,000 miles, so they could encircle the earth four times.
8. What's inside a Kit Kat? Broken Kit Kats that are damaged during production—they get ground up and go between the wafers inside, along with cocoa and sugar. That's a way to not let anything go to waste!
9. The difference between jam and jelly is that jam is made with mashed up fruit while jelly is made with fruit juice
10. Contrary to popular belief, it's really, really hard to see the Great Wall of China from space, particularly with the naked eye
11. The first footprints on the moon will remain there for a million years. But humans could never "land" on Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus or Neptune because they are made of gas and have no solid surface. But you could ice-skate on one of Jupiter's moons, Europa, which is covered in ice. Ganymede, one of Jupiter's moon, is the largest moon in the solar system.



Platypus

(Images courtesy: : jollycontrarian.com and Wikipedia)



Pufferfish

12. Coming tourism, more people visit France than any other country (Spain is second; the US third).
13. The coldest temperature ever recorded occurred in Antarctica, -144 Fahrenheit, as reported by researchers in a scientific journal in 2018. The hottest temperature ever recorded occurred in Furnace Creek, Death Valley, California, at 134 degrees Fahrenheit on July 1913 ,10.
14. At over 29,000 feet tall, Mt. Everest is the highest point on Earth (but it doesn't compare to the deepest point on Earth, the Mariana Trench, which is over 36,000 feet deep—nearly seven miles—in the Pacific Ocean). And there are over 200 dead bodies of climbers on Mt. Everest because it's so difficult to bring them down.
15. Glaciers and ice sheets hold about 69 percent of the world's freshwater. Just over 96% of the total amount of the world's water is held in its oceans, that's primarily saltwater. (To find the bulk of the world's freshwater you need to trek to the poles, as 68.7% of it is encased in ice caps, permanent snow, and glaciers).
16. The best place in the world to see rainbows is in Hawaii. (If you're an avid rainbow gazer and want to get your fill of the beautiful phenomenon, look no further than the state of Hawaii. A study published by the American Meteorological Society in 2021 noted that the areas «mountains produce sharp gradients in clouds and rainfall, which are key to abundant rainbow sightings.» Air pollution, pollen, and a large amount of cresting waves also help to put Hawaii at the top of the list when it comes to rainbow quantity and quality).
17. Svalbard Global Seed Vault (Dooms Day Vault) is a secret vault that holds nearly every type of crop seed, located in one of the coldest corners of the world, an island on the Svalbard archipelago, between Norway and the North Pole. This remote location allows the natural permafrost cooling necessary for proper storage of the world's largest collection of crop diversity. If the zombie apocalypse were to become a reality, or just if farmers' fields start to dry out, this seed vault would come to the rescue.
18. Porcupine quills were once used as toothpicks.
19. Despite its name, about 80% of the Greenland is covered with ice.
20. Do you know the differences between a Frog and a Toad? –
 - i) Frogs have bulging eyes whereas toad eyes do not pop out as much.
 - ii) Frogs spend most of the time near water whereas the toads can be found away from water, in yards and gardens.
 - iii) Frogs have smooth, moist skin and toads' skin is dry.
 - iv) Frogs lay eggs in clusters whereas toads lay eggs in long chains.

“Everyone is a little crazy. The only difference between us and them is that they hide it better.”

- Michelle Hodkin



A Sun Sets in The Family

Paresh Kumar Sharma, IFS (Retd.)

I had been transferred from Karim Nagar East Forest Division under trying circumstances. Despite counsel from friends and well-wishers I had decided to join at the new place of posting, Kothagudem Division, having the ill-reputation of being the most notorious Divisions in the State. I wished that I was transferred to a Division outside Telangana region; either in Coastal Andhra or Rayalseema region of the A.P. I believed that every IFS Officer should work in a region each during the service average tenure of 10 years as DFO. And out of these 3 tenures, at least one should be in a specialized field, e.g., Wildlife, Research, Social Forestry, Working Plan or Head Office; so that he/she is exposed to the working of all the 3 regions of the State and at least one specialized wing. I had requested the PCCF & CCF (General) during their visits to the KE Division. PCCF had agreed in principle, but it did not happen in my case. Hence my 2nd posting also happened in Telangana region.

I handed over the charge of the KE Division to my batchmate Smt. C.S. Ramalakshmi, IFS (who had been transferred from Guntur Division) on 14th of May 1986. With the blessings and support of Sri R.D. Reddy, IFS, CF Warangal & I/c CF Khammam, proceeded to Kothagudem along with my expectant wife in the car, slowly and making brief halts at Warangal, Narsampet, Mahboobabad and Yellandu. We reached Yellandu by evening, where Sri A.K. Jain, IFS, Sub-DFO Yellandu was eagerly waiting for us. He appraised me of the overall condition of the Division, specially in the aftermath of the Teak Timber smuggling case and the BL season. He informed me that he had been to 2 Khallas (Beedi Leaf Collection

centres), viz., Shatpalli and Shammuniguda that very day and noticed huge quantity of illegal Beedi Leaf collection at both the places and wanted me to place the concerned FG and Forester under suspension for not checking nor reporting about the illegal collection. He promised to send the report immediately. I had informed that I was not in a hurry to assume the charge of the Office; as I needed time to settle down. I informed him that I would be availing the joining time of a week and then only take over the charge of the Division. In the meantime, I would settle down in the house as well as Hospital & Doctor wise.

And then I reached Kothagudem. There was a small but composite Forest Complex some 50 M away from the roadside beside RDO/SDM's Residence & Office; consisting of DFO's Office, DFO's Residence, DFO's Chamber, a Rest House, Kitchen, Store Room, Servant Quarter etc. and some open space. The DFO's Residence was in fact a Forester's Quarter. It was converted into the DFO's Residence at the time of the reorganization of the Department in mid-sixties. The timber Auction Hall had been converted into the DFO's Office and a small Quarter in front of Forester's Quarter (FG Qtr) was utilized as DFO's Chamber – some 10 M away from the "DFO's Office". There was no protection to the complex. Barbed wire fence on Railway Colony side was in shambles. Complex was open to all types of people. Gentlemen and women used to come for defecation in front of the complex as well as inside the complex. The DFO's Residence was also in a very bad shape. It was only a make shift arrangement. As usual, in the Subordinate staff's Quarters there

was no attached toilet; it was located in the farthest corner. Kitchen was also added subsequently, hence there could not have been any sense of aesthetics. Similar was the state of affairs wherever new Forest Divisions had come up; no new buildings for Offices or residences nor additional staff; only by way of utilization of the existing infrastructure & manpower new establishments were created. Apparently, such an exercise was neither function nor need driven, but on other considerations.

Hence, it was not possible for me to occupy the "DFO's Residence". The FRH building was slightly better maintained. Hence, I decided to occupy one of the suites of the FRH; keeping the 2nd one for the visiting Officers. I had dumped all the household articles into the Store Rooms by the side of Kitchen behind the FRH.

Next day, the in-charge DFO Kothagudem and the regular DFO Paloncha Sri M. Narayan Rao came to Kothagudem and met and enquired about my programme. I appraised him of my predicament and informed about my plan of availing the Joining period to settle down family wise. I met the referred Doctor of the SCC Hospital and the Chairman & MD of SCCL Sri G.P. Rao, IAS. He assured me of all the help. I met the local Officers as well and almost got settled within 4-5 days.

In the meantime, in Rajasthan certain quick and unexpected development took place. I had returned from Rajasthan after shifting my father to Ajmer in the 3rd week of April 86. My younger brother A.K. Sharma had come to Ajmer in the last week to look after my father in my absence. One of our close acquaintances had come up with the proposal of his younger sister's marriage with my younger brother. Though I had not revealed the nature of illness to him or any of the family members; my father probably had this premonition that he was not going to survive for long. Looking at the prospect of marrying his son

before he departed from this world, he had agreed to the proposal and also for a quick and simple wedding. My father was against dowry; hence it was a matter of great relief & joy for the bride's side. It happened in such a lightning speed and short span that I could not even get the intimation in time to rush and attend the marriage ceremony of my younger brother. Had I been a resident of AP, this would not have happened. Many inside/native Officers and people in general, cannot not understand the agony undergone by the Outside Officers who come to serve the nation to a faraway place, specially, if the 2 places/States are not well connected, under such circumstances. Immediately after this marriage my father wanted to shift to native place and accordingly taken to Shahpura.

My father had good time with his friends and family members, sharing jokes, singing favorite songs and discussing current political events and future scenario etc. Though he was not well physically, he was very well alert mentally as he was taken good care of by family & friends. One of my cousins (maternal uncle's daughter) was to get married on 19th of May 86 in Ajmer. He almost forced my younger brother and sister, who were with him at Shahpura, to go over to Ajmer on 18th May to attend the marriage. He jocularly told his friends on 19th morning that while wedding procession (barat) would be going in Ajmer, he also would be led in a procession here. He probably had the premonition that his last moment was about to arrive. Despite this he did not want anybody to get panicked nor wished my brother & sister to be called back. And he breathed his last in the evening of 19th May 1986. My brother, sister and other relations came to know about it and returned to my native place in the early morning the following day.

I had earlier informed my parents about my imminent transfer. However, the intimation about my shifting to Kothagudem could not reach them because of

their shifting to Shahpura. So they were under the impression that I was still at Karim Nagar. Therefore, my relations tried to contact me at Karim Nagar on Trunk Call. It did not materialize for few hours, at last by late evening of 20th May someone in the office of DFO KE could be contacted for breaking the news of demise of my father. In turn they tried to contact DFO's office Kothagudem immediately afterwards, but did not succeed. Only on 21st May morning the staff of KE Division could contact Kothagudem Division Office to convey the above message. The news was shared with me by the Head Clerk of the Office. I knew this could happen anytime, but not expected it to happen so soon as my father was otherwise doing well. I could not contain myself, shut myself in the 2nd room of the FRH and cried profusely. I found myself to be in a state of utter helplessness. I could not be with my father in his last moments nor could perform his last rites despite being the eldest son!

On learning about the demise of my father Sri M. Narayan Rao, DFO Paloncha came running to Kothagudem and consoled me. He advised me to take over the charge of the Division immediately

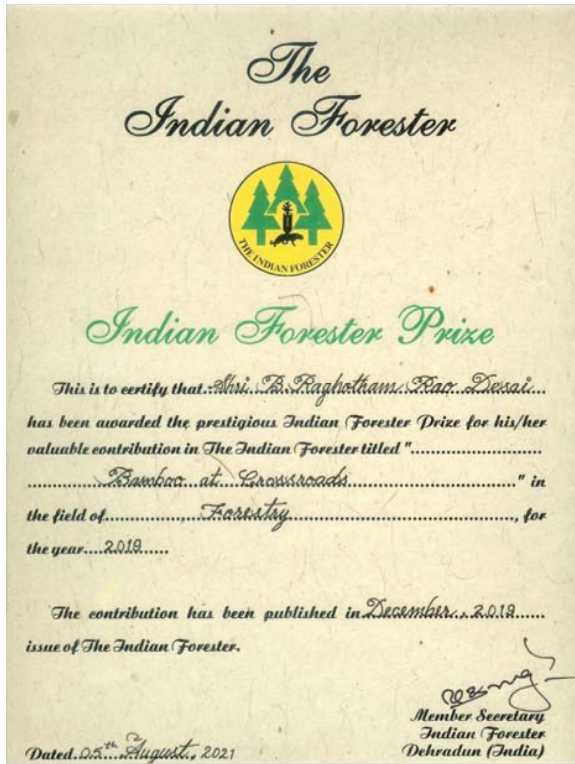
and then only proceed to my native place. He had also offered to give monetary help, which I had declined politely. Hence, I took over the charge of the Division on 21st May 1986. And, as promised to the Sub-DFO Yellandu, I signed the first file of placing the Forester and FG of Shammuniguda & Shatpalli under suspension to ensure that the right message went to the field Officers and staff.

Same night I proceeded to my native place, leaving my wife in the hands of FRH Watcher and Office Staff, on an arduous journey via Khammam boarding GT Express. I could reach Shahpura only on 23rd of May 86; the fifth day from the day of departure of my beloved father for heavenly abode. A void had been created with the loss of leading light, motivator, friend, philosopher and guide of the family. Fulfilling his dreams and following his guidelines is the only way to pay homage to the departed soul. Truly, the Sun had set for the family! I had wished then that no AIS Officer should meet this kind of fate. Of course, this kind of situation will not arise for most of the Officers now, in the age of faster means of communication, connectivity, affordable air travel and reasonably good pay structure.

The author is former PCCF & HoFF, Telangana and can be reached on mobile +91 6300030519 and e-mail at pareshvyas22@gmail.com

“Sometimes, just saying that you hate something, and having someone agree with you, can make you feel better about a terrible situation.”

- Lemony Snicket



Indian Forester Prize, 2019. Article - Page(37)



Participants in Bird Walk -Kawal T.R.

1st Bird Walk event at Kawal Tiger Reserve (Article on page:46)



Smt R. Shobha, IFS, PCCF & HoFF, Telangana addressing the participants

Officers present: (L to R) Vikas Meena IFS, DFO Nirmal, P.Rajashekhar IFS, DFO Adilabad, Shantaram IFS, DFO Asifabad, B.Nikitha IFS, DFO Kamareddy, CP Vinod Kumar IFS, CCF & FDPT, Smt R. Sobha IFS, PCCF&HoFF, G.Ramalingam IFS, CCF Adilabad, Shivani Dogra IFS, DFO Mancheril. S. Madhava Rao SFS, FDO JANNARAM.

We produce black - But our views are Green



Cultivation near Reclaimed Dump



Settling pond / Summer storage tank

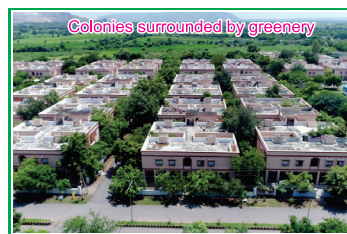


Eco-Friendly Park



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)

Bird-Walk in Asifabad Division, Telangana

2nd Annual Bird Walk Festival-2022 was conducted on the 8th and 9th January 2022 (1st Annual bird walk festival was held in December 2019). The inherent purpose of hosting this bird walk festival was to showcase the rich potential areas of this region to the wildlife admirers- especially the bird watchers. This will help in boosting of tourism in the form of creating circuits for wildlife through bird trails, tribal culture, and home stays etc. This area has a huge potential to generate employment to the local tribal population too. These events connect people with nature and convey the idea of living in harmony with nature and thus pave a way as one of the solutions for human tribe to thrive.

- Venugopal Satla, FRO, Penchikalpet, KB Asifabad Dt.



Participants in Bird walk



Nature lovers active in photography



Little ringed plover (*Charadrius dubius*)



Eurasian spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)



A Forester's Prayer

Mohammad Ahsan, IFS (Retd.)

*May God give us the strength and courage
to protect all our forest lands-
the wooded and fallow
the ravines and shallow
the big and small
one and all -
from the mafias and dons
crime's kings and pawns*

*May God give us the wisdom
to put the right plant in the right soil
and return the prayers
of our sweat and toil*

*May God give us the insight
to raise the seeds
that would revolutionize the tree crops
and fulfill our needs*

*May God give us the skill
to develop such clones
as to transform the landscape
of scorched earths and hungry souls*

*May God give us the sense to appreciate
that all wastelands are not waste,
many of them
are the repository of countless lives,
notwithstanding our training and taste*

*May God give us the right method
to maintain our high forests
and also, the low forests
our dense forests
as well the open forests. -
also, the right technique to
conserve our water sources
and train our water courses*

*God! give vigor to our seedlings
and strength to our saplings*

*May god free our forests from grazing,
and bind our soil to ground,
there are no forest fires,
the denizens are happy and sound*

*God! let's plant trees
in our cities
in such a way
that attract whole lot of
birds and bees*

*God! let us have the right verdicts
so as we resolve
the grave situations
of man-animal conflicts*

*May God give us, the foresters,
a rightful status
and a place of honor
amidst the scheme of things
in our social order*

(The writer is former PCCF & HOFF, UP: Editor, Reminiscences-2021 of SORFO & author. He can be contacted over phone: +91 9415409325 and Email: ahsaanluck@gmail.com)



Bamboo at Crossroads

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

"Indian Forester Prize"
winning
article for
2019

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

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

PRESENT-DAY POSITION

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

Considering botanical definitions, trees differ from plants mainly because of their trunk. Plants have moderately woody and tall trunk, whereas trees generally possess hard woody and tall trunk. Plants generally have shorter life when compared to trees. All trees happen to be plants while not all plants can

be called as trees. Bamboo does have a stem (which is called culm) and a commoner will find it hard to consider and identify it as a grass, but IFA has a different perspective, however!

Further, bamboo has been called 'poor man's timber considering its multiple uses. The necessity of protecting (and conserving) it in all areas was objectified through its inclusion (in the definition of 'tree') in the IFA, wherein using an inclusive definition, it was placed under the definition of 'tree' (along with Palms, Canes, Brushwood and Stumps) and consequently the 'Felled Bamboo' duly defined as 'Timber', getting positioned as 'Forest Produce'. There is full justification to include in any term's definition under 'certain items' that are normally not seen as belonging to that category the definition of 'tree' also being one such to suit the objectives of the IFA. In spite of all this the present position after the said amendment is that any person who causes any damage (to the forest) by negligence in felling bamboo or cutting (dragging felled bamboo) or girdles or strips off (the bark or leaves) or otherwise damages the same, unless he is caught 'removing' it as opined (by the foresters) as 'forest produce' with systematization (or control on the exercise of forest rights) absent, the differentiation between genuine and illegal removals becomes an impossibility.

The Government forests would thereby gradually get robbed, as the said amendment is implemented and the stolen produce would be safely 'passed out', there being no external (or immediately recognizable) indication that the bamboos have come from one forest block or the other. Further owners of forest produce would easily get the bamboos stolen (and safely conveyed away) without getting detected, as

the amendment provides the freedom from the Act, not at all being applicable to bamboos anymore!

MEASURES SUGGESTED (for a possible alleviation)

The situation in case of application of IFA-provisions (to the protection and conservation of Bamboos in Protected Forests) in the new scenario needs to be considered in detail. Any forest land (or wasteland) which is not included in a Reserved Forest (but which belongs to Government) can be notified as a Protected Forest, but the same are burdened with rights. Bamboo as a species cannot be dealt with under Sec. 30 (a) since it is no more a tree--all existing tree reservation notifications regarding Bamboo becoming infructuous needing (rather) to be withdrawn.

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

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

unless the bamboo business is supported by a regulatory mechanism effectively prevents the flow of illegally-obtained bamboos from forest areas into the business-domain.

Sudden and flashy amendments like this are a reflection of the turbulence which forestry as a profession is unfortunately passing through today. Present as well as future generations need to survive ill-effects of ever-increasing dreadful and alarming pace of natural resources degradation, over-drafting of forest ecosystems (due to ever-increasing needs of growing populations), forest depredation (on account of the compulsive trap of so-called development), and to top all: the acute environmental problems and impending dangers of climate-change.

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

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

(The author belongs to Karnataka Cadre, who happens to be the Chief Editor of 'Vana Vikas', a Quarterly) NOTE: This article was previously published in The Indian Forester of December 2019. The author is awarded the prestigious Indian Forester Prize. He was felicitated with a certificate of merit. The article is being republished with the permission of the author. - K.B.R

Evolution of Forestry Education in India

Dr. Akula Kishan, IFS (Retd.)



The scientific forestry in India is considered to have commenced in the year 1861, and during 1961, souvenir in two volumes was brought out by Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun under the title “100 years of Indian Forestry”. Among many topics covered in the souvenir, it was interesting to note the development of Forest Education in India. Extracts from the souvenir are presented below which would be informative.

Introduction

In his memorandum dated 03.08.1855, regarded as Charter of forests in India, Lord Dalhousie stressed the need for setting up a forest organisation to ensure scientific management of forests to meet the ever increasing demands of timber. An Act of forest legislation was passed and Conservators of Forests were appointed in Madras, Oudh, Kumaon and Burma. In the beginning the forests were manned by men drawn from Civil Services and the Army. Brandis, the first Inspector General of Forests recognised the need for fully qualified and scientifically trained officers to help him in the administration and conservation of forests of the Country.

The Government of India approved of Brandis's suggestion and authorised him to select two trained forest officers from Germany or France. Two German forest officers, W. Schlich and B. Ribbentrop were selected and appointed as “Special Assistant Conservators” in 1867, the former was posted to Burma and the later to Punjab.

The instructions issued by Dr Brandis for selection of probationers in 1866 were: ‘Forest Officers in India

frequently live isolated, far from immediate control of their superior officers; they require tact, consideration and sound judgment in their constant, and often difficult dealings with the local population. Moreover, the fatigue and exposure, which the work necessarily entails, are great and the malaria in most of the forests is undeniable fact. We require, therefore, pre-eminently picked men of a high moral character, a good constitution even temper and superior abilities, and it may be found, as a rule, advantageous to give preference to young men of good family connections.’

In 1867, five candidates were selected, including an Indian, to undergo training in France. Two more candidates were sent to Hanover, Germany. The training was for period of two –and-a- half years. In all, 95 officers were recruited between 1867 and 1886 and trained in the Continent of Europe.

Training in U.K. at Cooper's Hill (1885-1905)

The first batch joined Cooper's Hill College in 1885 and Dr Schlich was appointed as Professor of Forestry. Twenty months were spent in college and four months were spent in British and German forests. The Forest College at Cooper's Hill ran for about 20 years (1885-1905) and turned out 173 probationers.

Training at British Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh (1905-1927)

After closure of Cooper's Hill college, the training of probationers was conducted in Universities of Edinburgh, Oxford and Cambridge. In 1911, a post of Director of Indian Forest Studies was created to maintain general supervision over the studies of

probationers in the three Universities and to conduct tours in the Continent. With the outbreak of War in 1914 the recruitment ceased. After the war, between 1919 and 1923, 152 probationers were trained.

The Governor General in Council decided to training of Indian Forest Service Officers at Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun from 01.11.1926. (12) students attended the first course held during 1926-28.

The Forest Research Institute and Colleges have been recognised by the Food & Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations as an International Centre for the study of Forestry in the South- East Asia and Pacific Region.

Training for the Subordinate Executive Service

In 1877, Dr Brandis suggested having a cadre of executive officers above the grade of the subordinate of the protection establishment and below the officers of the inspecting and controlling branches of the service. This gave rise to the formation of the cadre of Forest Rangers.

The first forest school called 'Central Forest School' was started in Dehra Dun. The forests of Doon Valley and Chakrata were set aside as 'School Training Forests' under the control of the head of the School. In 1884 the School was renamed 'Imperial Forest School'.

In 1912, the Government of Madras started a Forest College at Coimbatore to train Rangers. The Government of India took over the college and on 01.04.1955 it was re-named as Southern Forest Rangers College. Subsequently the Indian Forest Rangers College, Dehra Dun was re-named as Northern Forest Rangers College.

Present status

The post of Director Forest Education was created in the year 1953 to assist the President, Forest Research Institute and college with it rested the responsibility

for professional and technical training / education in the country. Subsequent to reorganization of Forest Research Institute and Colleges and creation of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) as an autonomous organization, under the Ministry of Environment and Forests in the year 1991, the Directorate of Forest Education was delinked from the Forest Research Institute and Colleges. Since then it is functioning directly under the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

In order to meet the increasing demand of the State Forest Departments and Central forestry organization for trained Officers, three State Forest Service Colleges were established by the Central Government at Burnihat (Assam) in 1976, Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) in 1980 and Dehradun (Uttarakhand) in 1981 for imparting training to the State Forest Service Officers of two years duration.

- Central Academy for State Forest Service, Dehradun (Uttarakhand)
- Central Academy for State Forest Service, Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)
- Central Academy for State Forest Service, Burnihat (Assam)
- Central Academy of Forest Education, Kurseong (West Bengal)

The Forest Rangers Training in India is over 100 years old. It was imparted up to 1978 centrally through the following Rangers Colleges:

- Forest Training Institute and Rangers College, Sunder Nagar (Himachal Pradesh)
- Gujarat Forest Rangers College, Rajpipla (Gujarat)
- Karnataka State Forest Academy, Dharwad (Karnataka)
- Kundal Academy of Development Administration

and Management, Kundal (Maharashtra)

- Odisha Forest Rangers College, Angul (Odisha)
- Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)
- Telangana State Forest Academy, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)
- Uttarakhand Forestry Training Academy, Haldwani (Uttarakhand)

These Colleges were being managed by the Government of India and had a training programme

of two years. Need for more trained manpower was felt in order to meet the increased demand for training Range Forest Officers, the training of Forest Rangers was de-centralized and six more Rangers Colleges were opened by some State Government. In the year 1987, the Government of India decided that responsibility of imparting Rangers Training be given up and the State Government Should make their own arrangement for such Training. As a consequence, Rangers Colleges run by the Government of India closed in a phased manner.

(The author is Retired Conservator of Forests, Telangana State, authored many books on Forest and allied Acts, Forest Code and drafted various amendments. Currently he is working as Legal consultant to the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department and a practicing Advocate in the AP High Court.)

“Marry, and you will regret it; don’t marry, you will also regret it; marry or don’t marry, you will regret it either way. Laugh at the world’s foolishness, you will regret it; weep over it, you will regret that too; laugh at the world’s foolishness or weep over it, you will regret both. Believe a woman, you will regret it; believe her not, you will also regret it... Hang yourself, you will regret it; do not hang yourself, and you will regret that too; hang yourself or don’t hang yourself, you’ll regret it either way; whether you hang yourself or do not hang yourself, you will regret both. This, gentlemen, is the essence of all philosophy.”

- Søren Kierkegaard



Best Experience:

Valuation of Adverse Impact on Environment to Initiate Ecofriendly Measures in Medaram Tribal Fair

P. Raghuveer, IFS (Retd.)

Medaram is an interior village located in Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary of Warangal district of Andhra Pradesh. A massive Tribal Fair is celebrated at this village every two years, which attracts over 4 million visitors in a short span of 3 days. The State Government makes elaborate arrangements to ensure that no inconvenience is caused to the visitors coming for the “*Medaram Jathara*” (Tribal Fair). This involves widening of roads, strengthening of the road berms, provision of electricity, drinking water and engaging sanitary workers to clear the human night soil on a regular basis from the agricultural fields. Around 2500 stalls are erected for displaying and selling various goods and services (hotels, material needed to worship the goddess, household articles, medicinal plants, traditional medicines, jaggery, etc) For the construction of these stalls, pole crop from the wildlife sanctuary area is utilized, thus depleting the plant species in the pole stage. For widening of roads, strengthening of road berms, drawing the power lines, water supply lines and arranging for the bus depot and vehicle parking areas, many trees are mercilessly chopped off and soil from the sanctuary removed.

There is a river (*Jampanna Vaagu*) which is used for mass bathing by the pilgrims leading to extensive water pollution. The water turns brownish within no time. With over 4 million people descending on this small village in a short span of 3 days, all the surrounding agricultural fields are taken over for open defecation leading to nose-wrenching stink all

around and for nearly 5 to 6 months after the tribal fair the local villagers cannot return to their homes to live because of this and other environmental problems in the area as a result of the tribal fair.

Polythene bags are extensively used and discarded all over the sanctuary and many domestic cattle as well as wild animals perished after consuming these polythene bags, which they cannot digest at all. With thousands of vehicles – buses, jeeps, cars, carts – and pedestrians coming to this small village, there is a thick cloud of red dust engulfing the entire area for days together. There is an increase in Upper Respiratory Tract infections in the people staying in the surrounding areas as well as those visiting the tribal fair. Added to this are the health problems due to contaminated drinking water.

The *Medaram Jathara* has been celebrated for over 400 years now. However, there is no advanced planning for taking up the requisite works in a systematic manner. Due to last minute rush of works, environmental concerns are ignored in the name of meeting the deadlines and make arrangements for the pilgrims. During February 2000, when I, while working in the region as a Conservator of Forests seized a backhoe (poclain) which was digging the soil in the wildlife sanctuary to strengthen the road berms, there was a huge uproar in the district and all the contractors who were executing various works for the tribal fair went on a strike stopping all works. Since the fair was due to be launched in another

week or so, the district administration was keen that the problem is solved by forest department (as it has created it in the first place). Many VVIPs including the Chief Minister of the State were expected to visit Medaram. The district police was holding the forest department responsible for any consequent law and order problems as a result of booking of this case and non-completion of road and other works. A question to be asked here is whether the protection of a wildlife sanctuary is the responsibility of **only** forest department, while other wings of the Government and Civil society violate all **laws of the land** and take actions that are detrimental to the environment.

Options Explored

As the tribal fair is going on for 400 years, the easiest option would have been to allow things to continue in the same manner, ignoring the violation of Acts and Rules. This would have meant withdrawing the case against the Roads and Building Contractor. This is a temporary quick fix solution in which everyone would be happy, except the environmentalists and the voiceless wildlife. The second option would be to make a report to the Head of the Department about the situation seeking further instructions and requesting the HoD to bring the issue to the notice of the Government. However, while this would have protected our forest department staff from possible implications of allowing violation of Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and Forest Conservation Act 1980, it would not have resulted in any concrete remedial measures for avoiding recurrence of such incidents.

Since in 21st Century people understand the language of money better than the normal sermons on the need to conserve our resources for future generations, I have thought of putting a value on the various losses to environment including its human capital due to the biennial tribal fair. I have approached Prof Jayakumar of REC (Regional Engineering College and now called NIT – National

Institute of Technology), Warangal and he has readily agreed to design a model for assessing the economic loss to the environment. I have roped in the Health Department officials, some NGOs and Forest Department staff as well to join in this exercise.

Action Taken and Results Achieved

Our team has done a pre and post Jathara situation assessment. The parameters considered were the destruction of the forests in the Wildlife Sanctuary, the water, soil and air pollution, Health impacts, etc. The loss caused due to removal of pole crop for the 2500+ stalls, temporary shelters, loss of natural regeneration, destruction of forests for firewood and timber, incidence of forest fire, migration of wild animals from sanctuary area and consequent dangers they faced in non-sanctuary areas, quantum of soil removed from sanctuary – consequent loss of natural regeneration and destruction of forests, etc. were assessed and a monetary value placed on each one of them. The pre-jathara scenario was got video graphed duly highlighting the anti-environmental practices in vogue and the resultant impacts.

The data so collected was analysed and quantum of environmental losses estimated in monetary terms. The total loss to the environment due to the biennial

BOX 1 - ADVERSE IMPACTS ON ENVIRONMENT

- Tree felling for
 - transmission lines
 - road widening
 - Erection of stalls (2000+)
 - Fire wood
 - Smuggling on way back - timber
- Natural regeneration adversely affected
- Forest Fires
- Migration of wild animals - poaching
- Pollution
 - Air (dust)
 - Water (Jampanna Vagu)
 - Noise
- Respiratory Tract Infections - increased
- Night soil - a night mare for locals
- Cattle die - polythene bag consumption
- Ag. Lands - loss of productivity

Medaram Jathara was estimated at Rs.153 Crores. When the impact assessment report along with data was circulated to all stakeholders, there was all round disbelief as no one thought there is so much loss to the environment due to the Jathara. Some of the stakeholders (surprisingly senior officials from forest department) who questioned the estimate were given the details of assessment models and asked to arrive at the figure themselves. Ultimately everyone concurred with the figure of Rs.153 crores. Media gave extensive publicity to the study and that has set everyone thinking. Initially I was branded as anti-tribal and was perceived as a person who was trying to question a 400-year-old tribal tradition and showing it in poor light. However, subsequently when I had extensive consultative meetings with the key stakeholders including tribal associations and local groups of Medaram, they realized that my effort is directed at improving the situation in such a manner it is a win-win situation for everyone.

A sensitization workshop on the impact assessment report was organized on 31st March 2000 inviting all the stakeholders (Government Departments – Revenue, Police, Tribal Welfare, Endowments, Health, Forest; NGOs, Tribal associations, Local women groups of Medaram, Media, environmentalists, politicians, academicians, students, etc). The crude video film that we could screen had the desired visual impact. The study report was presented, and all the environmental concerns flagged for discussion. Obviously the Jathara has to continue even if there is some adverse impact on the environment. Finally, everyone concurred that we need to do something to ensure the environmental losses are minimized. People who initially questioned the huge monetary loss arrived at concurred with the estimate after the data was given to them and they were asked to make an assessment themselves.

BOX 2 - OUTCOME OF THE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

- 2002 Jathara declared as ECO-FRIENDLY
- Focus on alternatives
 - Stalls - pre erected with bamboo
 - LPG in place of firewood
 - Paper bags in place of polythene
 - Sulabh complex for cleaner environment
 - Women Groups to make cloth masks
 - Addl. Income through paper bags
- Lead by Tribal leaders themselves
- Activities started well in advance
- Better co-ordination mechanism
- Timely Planning
- District Collector could get additional funds from Govt based On the impact assessment report
- Involvement of all stakeholders in decision making
- Builds up sense of ownership over implementation of plans

Once the environmental loss was publicized in money terms, everyone understood it better and many felt as if it was being lost from their own pockets! Hence a strong consensus emerged amongst all stakeholders to take up appropriate mitigatory measures. The District Collector, Warangal set up a task force with all stakeholders to plan for the 2002 Jathara. Six months of extensive consultations culminated in a comprehensive action plan by October 2000 itself. Medaram Jathara 2002 was declared as an **Ecofriendly Jathara** – which happened for the first time in the 400-year history of the Jathara. All concerned departments were instructed to take up advance action for Jathara works to avoid last minute rush, which was the main reason for violating the law of the land. Plans for various developmental works at Medaram which were pending for years at Government level could be got sanctioned by the District Collector based on our environmental impact assessment study report. The argument was if we have to reduce the environmental loss of Rs.153 crores, then we should invest at least Rs.5 crores in making the arrangements in a planned and ecofriendly manner.

Several ecofriendly measures were taken like banning of firewood consumption (especially by hotels and big groups) and replacing it with LPG;

banning polythene and replacing it with paper bags, erection of stalls with bamboo in an organized manner well in advance and allocating them to various agencies based on the usage (hotels in one row, jiggery sales in one row, items for worship in one row, etc. This ensured systematic handling of the solid waste thus generated apart from preventing the haphazard cutting of thousands of pole crop trees in the Sanctuary area. Sulabh International was roped in for providing sanitary latrines to tide over the night soil problem arising due to open defecation. Local women groups were associated in making paper bags and cloth masks (to protect against air pollution), which generated additional incomes to them. All the contractors of Roads and Building Works were mandated to identify approved quarries outside the reserve forest and take the soil, stone, etc. from there.

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Key experiential lessons

The argument of environment vs development can be won convincingly in favor of environment if we put a monetary value on the environmental losses. Just because something has not been questioned or challenged or done in the past, should not prevent you from exploring the possibilities of doing things differently. It is essential to associate all the key stakeholders in problem analysis and evolving solutions through consensus. Giving ownership to the stakeholders to implement the plan of action will ensure greater success. If you are convinced about a cause, go all out to fight for it against all odds and ultimately you will bring everyone else to understand the point you are trying to make.

“What to do if you find yourself stuck in a crack in the ground underneath a giant boulder you can’t move, with no hope of rescue. Consider how lucky you are that life has been good to you so far. Alternatively, if life hasn’t been good to you so far, which given your current circumstances seems more likely, consider how lucky you are that it won’t be troubling you much longer.”

- Douglas Adams



1st Bird Walk Event In Kawal Tiger Reserve (12th - 13th February 2022)

S. Madhava Rao, SFS, FDO, Jannaram

As per the instructions of the Prl.Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) & Chief Wildlife Warden, TS Hyderabad 1st Bird Walk Event was organized in Kawal Tiger Reserve in Jannaram Division from 12th to 13th February 2022.

12.02.2022:

A total of 61 participants had registered for the Bird walk from various places like Hyderabad, Hanmakonda, Jagitial, Karimnagar, Kamareddy, CCC Mancherial, Secunderabad, Ballarsha, Delhi, Rajahmundry, Nirmal and Warangal. All the participants reached Forest Guest House, Jannaram, at 11.00 am. After the registration process, the FDO Jannaram explained the Tiger Reserve and its management and gave instructions on the DO's & Don'ts to the participants during the bird walk. Then the participants were divided into two groups. The first group with 30 members was allotted Ghanishettikunta of Indanpalli Range, and the second group with 31 participants was allocated the Gondguda base camp of Jannaram Range. After lunch, a visit to forest areas was organized on Safari vehicles. The first group was taken to the Jannaram range till Mallial watchtower, Percolation Tank, Malyal base camp and Kadam canal and reached the campsite at Gondguda. The second group was taken to Indanpally Range, Maisammakunta, Ghanishettikunta, Kalpakunta, I LOVE KAWAL LOGO point in Udampur Range of Kanapur Division and returned to allotted camp, i.e., Ghanishettikunta. A significant number of print & Electronic media personnel too had participated in the event. A few machans were created for the event, and some tents were kept ready to accommodate the participants

at the camps. In the evening, campfires at both campsites were organized, and the participants enthusiastically shared their field trip experiences.

13.02.2022:

Day 2 started at 5.00 am, and all the senior officers of the Department had joined the groups in the bird walk fest, including Smt.R.Shoba, I.F.S., PCCF (HoFF) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Telangana; Field Director, Project Tiger, Kawal; CCF, Adilabad; DFOs KB Asifabad, Nirmal, Adilabad, Mancherial, Nizamabad; FDOs of Adilabad & Kawal TR Circles.

All the participants, officers and media reached Bisonkunta by 6.30 am, sighted, recorded, and photographed more than 100 bird species, which include Grey-Headed Fish Eagle, Crested Serpent Eagle, Wooley Necked Stork, Egrets, Cormorants, Darters, Gadwall Ducks, Northern Pintails, Spot-Billed Ducks, Kingfishers, Bee Eaters, White Breasted Water Hen, Bronze Winged Jacana, Munias, Red Collared Doves, Black Drangos etc. After completing the bird walk, a feedback session was conducted, and all the participants shared their bird walk experience and expressed their views about nature and its conservation. Their suggestions in the form of feedback were taken for future events.

Smt R.Sobha IFS, PCCF (HoFF) & CWW had addressed the gathering and explained in detail the steps taken to conserve Tiger Reserve and the importance of the birds and animals in maintaining the ecological balance. In the end, Participation certificates were issued to the participants by the PCCF (HoFF) & CWW. The event was declared closed by the vote of thanks by the FDO Jannaram.

Watchers, The Faceless Workers

M. Ram Mohan



The lowest rung field workers, known as 'Watchers' in the Forest Department, work mostly for the sake of protection of forests, plantations and raising of nurseries, attend on animals and plants in zoo parks. Apart from watchers temporarily engaged by the Department, there were watchers who used to work traditionally for the forests assisting the local foresters who engage them personally. Very few of them are remained at present.

Watchers, usually belong to the local forest villages and to mostly the downtrodden sections of the society are well experienced and hardworking persons and possess good knowledge over the forests and the adjacent villages. Their forest knowledge is the result of their field experience that they got owing to their extensive traversing of forest area and the knowledge sharing by their predecessors acquired over a period of time. Their vast knowledge has broad spectrum from protection and conservation of forests to minute details, finer niceties of an incident/happening.

Most of them, barring a few, possess the knowledge of plants, right from the grasses and herbs to the trees present in the forests and their utilization values; presence of the vegetation type, the dominant species in a particular area; flowering, fruiting seasons of various plant species including plus trees, high yielding trees; also have the knowledge over the terrain, soils and the wildlife present and their behaviour, habitat, salt lick areas, animal trails, water holes, vulnerable areas of poaching; timber bearing areas and vulnerable points, cart tracks, etc., and the information regarding habitual and probable smugglers, poachers.

Watchers usually speak local language and have the inherent ability of explaining or describing the things in a nutshell. It surprises one hearing usage of forestry/wildlife terminology by some of the watchers. Watchers working in Vulture conservation commonly use the terms, ledge, nest, chick, juvenile, etc., and trail, pug mark, hoof mark, cub, sub-adult, pellets, faecal matter, fodder plot, scrape marks etc., words are used by the watchers involved in Tiger/ wildlife monitoring. Some of them are also good at identification of Birds, knowing their common names and habitats.

Watchers engaged for protection of forests are stationed in Base Camps in vulnerable areas for preventing smuggling of timber, poaching of wild animals, illicit transportation of any other forest produce. They assist the local forester in the routine duty of perambulation of forests and also in preventing and detecting the forest offences which is a challenging and life-threatening task sometimes especially in Teak or Red Sanders and other timber bearing forests. Equally challenging is working in the areas of wildlife especially Tiger bearing areas, involving in Tiger monitoring, removal of snares, traps and illegal power line laid on the ground, etc. They stay in deep inside the forests with minimum facilities. Most of them stay physically fit and keep healthy perhaps owing to foot patrolling and spending most of the time in the lap of nature.

Watchers possess the knowledge of foot paths, tracks that meander the forests knowing the points of initiation and culmination of paths and their state in different seasons. An able watcher who has

knowledge over the terrain, pathways and tracks that serpentine the forest, can steer through the forest, irrespective of the density, entering and leaving the forest area at desired places perambulating miles of distances at any time. While on foot patrol, many a people tend to get confused regarding direction of their heading and lose the way forward or backward amidst the forests. But it is for sure that if accompanied by a local watcher, they reach the destination in the shortest or chosen way without losing track.

They also provide detailed account of forests having different hues in different seasons. Of course, one can notice that there are differences in degree in possession of knowledge in certain fields from individual to individual depending upon his personal interest and exposure. Some have extensive knowledge over medicinal usages of the plants, apart from other knowledge and some on wildlife or on a particular animal and some over raising of plants in nurseries, etc.

As the watchers belong to the local areas and have clout in forest villages, the information of complicity of the persons, vehicles involved in forest offences reaches them soon due to their personal relations with the villagers. This may eventually help establishing their involvement, nab the culprits and their trying in the court of law. They can also act as informers with regard to forest, wildlife protection and helpful to keep an eye on the happenings inside or outside the forests and to know the facts that are not disclosed to higher officials sometimes.

Interacting with the watchers in the field by perambulating the forests along with them would help one enrich his/her knowledge and command over forests and acquire good field experience especially the practical knowledge on afore mentioned subjects. Moreover, the watchers are the 'bridge' between the past and the present. They can give an account of status of forests and working conditions, persons

worked, problems, etc., that were prevailing in the past which would help one to contrast, compare and comprehend the things regarding his/her forest area and move forward. It would be a good opportunity and immensely helpful to a novice forester who often interacts and foot patrol the forests along with the watchers shedding his/her inhibitions and egos. Frequent interactions will reduce the gap between the watchers and the officer which would auger well for the forests, if the relationship is nurtured in a positive way. Misusing their knowledge over the forests and their perceived proximity to the officers, some people try to do mischief and harm to the forests which can be noticed and dealt with. But, losing a knowledgeable member of forestry shall be the last priority.

The watchers who support the foresters working in raising of plants in nurseries do possess good knowledge of plants, right from seed collection, seed treatment, raising of plants in primary and secondary beds, application of fertilizers and pesticides for tackling various pests, etc. to lifting of plants from nursery. They know the different growth patterns of the various species individually and the timely operations required for better growth. There are a few women watchers work in nurseries who keep the nursery spic and span maintaining the nursery with healthy stock. There is an adage saying that if the nursery is having an able watcher, it surely results in raising of successful plantation.

There is no second opinion that the watchers play an indispensable role in assisting the field officers of the forest department in protection of forests, plantations and monitoring wildlife and also help in execution of works of forest development. Watchers who offer vital services to the forest department and to the forests need to get recognition that they deserve. In one instance, when a watcher who was instrumental

Contd.. on page No.50

Real Life Experiences-3**Me and My Driving Escapades****Dr K.Tirupataiah, IFS (Retd.)**

My first experience of driving was in early 80s on Yezdi motor cycle while at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Delhi. That first experience was strictly under the guidance of the owner-friend who was a Bank Manager. At Forest Academy, Dehra Dun we had Shooting, Horse riding and swimming classes followed by tests in the Indian Military Academy (IMA). But somehow, we missed driving classes. My driving escapades started during my range training.

Vertical driving

A very competent Forester in Atmakur forest division, Kurnool Circle had a Kinetic Honda motor cycle. I was only a few days old in the division as I/C FRO. I somehow influenced him to let me drive it. He showed me briefly how to change gears and manage the clutch and accelerator. I thought I got it. I asked him to sit behind me and started driving. Somehow I managed to bring the bike out of the division office. Once we were on the street and with other vehicles and people going around, I really panicked. I don't exactly know what I did but within no time the front wheel of the bike was in the air. The forester fell down. I left the handles of the bike and fell down too. It was a metal road and we both had bruises. Luckily the bike didn't go too far in the aerial route and it too fell, skidded and came to a grinding halt. Passersby came and helped us to get back. Though I insisted that I will drive, the Forester stood firm and took over signaling me to sit behind.

Why is electric pole coming in the way?

After a few weeks of Range attachment, the Range was provided with a jeep for some time in a month.

The driver was very benevolent and allowed me to sit in the driver's seat often. As in earlier case, the driver explained me about the clutch, gears, accelerator and steering. Again I thought I got it. Once we were travelling from Atmakur to Velgodu and on the way, the urge to drive got better of me. When I requested, the driver was quick to accept. Recollecting whatever little tutoring I got, I started driving. Those days, the road was a single-carriage wide and if a vehicle came from the opposite direction, one had to get down from the carriage way at least half of the width of the vehicle. No sooner did I try to get the left side of the vehicle down, I lost control and the jeep went head on towards an electric pole on the roadside. I thought it was the end of the road for me, literally. But the driver, who was wisely sitting beside me, took over the steering, shouted at me to take my foot off the accelerator and turned the jeep away from the electric pole. Once again my driving escapade came to an end as the driver ordered me to stop, took over the driver's seat and signaled me to quietly sit beside him.

Reverse Dash

After a few days, on a Sunday morning I thought I should master the jeep driving. The jeep was in the Range premises and the driver was relaxing nearby. Quietly I went to the jeep, started it and put it, in what I thought, in first gear. I was horrified to see the jeep go backwards instead of going forward. I did not know what to do. Before the driver could realize what happened and came running, the jeep went in reverse gear and hit the compound of the Range office with a thud and came to a halt. Luckily, no one was passing between the jeep and the compound

wall. Otherwise----- . Thus, my third attempt at driving too failed.

Where is 4 wheel ?

One of those days while I was Range i/c, one of the CCFs, who later became a PCCF, came to visit Historic Teak plantations in the Range. It was just after the rainy season and the forest roads were quite wet with deep pot holes and mud traps. The CCF and other seniors sat in one jeep and went away. I had only support staff and no driver on that day. With all the great experience I had described above, I took the jeep and tried to follow the jeep in front. As can be expected, I soon lost sight of the front jeep and to make the matters worse, I landed the jeep in a mud trap. The wheels are just spinning but the vehicle would not move. One of the staff suggested that I apply the 4 wheel. I never did that before. I tried and tried but did not succeed. By the time we figured it out, the vehicle carrying the CCF was returning

back after inspecting the plantations. This time I not only failed in driving, a grand fourth time, but also felt ashamed. The generous senior officers just laughed it off and left it at that.

One thing at a time

During my division days, the CF was allotted a car with floor gears- new those days. While returning from Guntakal, I asked the CF to allow me to drive and he agreed. Again the road was of single width. A heavy vehicle came from the opposite direction and I pressed the clutch and break together without putting the gear in neutral. The car jumped forward initially and stopped right in front of the opposite vehicle. Luckily the driver in the heavy vehicle stopped preventing any damage. The CF said, "Do one thing at a time. Press clutch, release gear and then put foot on break, in that order". That remains a great lesson for me till today.

(The writer is retired PCCF, Telangana, currently working as a Consultant for Telangana State Forest Academy Dulapally, Hyderabad-500100. Feedback-Mobile:8885532021 Email: kota_86@rediffmail.com)

"...inside every old person is a young person wondering what happened."

- Terry Pratchett

Continuation from page No. 48

in raising and protecting a Barren Hill Afforestation plantation was recommended and bestowed an appreciation certificate at Dist. Level by the Dist. Collector, the joy of the watcher and others found no bounds. It is to be ensured that the services of the

watchers would also get due recognition like other staff and their payments and working conditions, though bettered to some extent of late, are improved befittingly.

(The author is Forest Range Officer, Telangana and currently working as Asst. Director with Telangana State Forest Academy, Dulapally, Hyderabad and can be contacted over mobile: +919849333055)

Voice of The Millennium

Konda Mohan, SFS



*She is the Mother India's great Legend
Born for changing the World into Music Land
Gharanas, Gazals, Bhajanas and Patriotic songs
Lata Mangeshkar is the "Torch Bearer of Music"!!*

*Pioneer in Indian Culture and Traditions
Renowned singer and Composer of Music
Served Maa Saraswathi for Several decades
Alas! "Voice of the Millennium" became Voiceless!!*

*Her Records and Rewards are unbeatable
Vocalized half a lakh songs in tens of languages
Leaving us in darkness, left to stars skies & clouds
Lata the Angel of the World and "Nightingale of India"!!*

*She beautified the honor of Bharat Ratna
Fragranced the Parliament with her sweet memories
She sacrificed her life for family and the Nation
'Patience gives Success' is the message of our "Melody Queen"!!*

*She has left for Interplanetary "Swar Saptah"
For singing the Indian Soldiers pride on the Top
Let us not forget and proudly remember her
By giving her name to any one of our family members!!*

*(The writer is DyCF, Telangana State and presently working on deputation with HMWSSB Hyderabad.
Feedback: Mobile: 7989748529 and Email: dcfhwmwssb@gmail.com)*



Bird Walk In Asifabad Forest (Appraisal and Appreciation of A Participant)

Bharani Chitralekha

(The DFO of Kumaram Bheem Asifabad district with the assistance of his field staff organized a programme on January 8 & 9, 2022 and named it "Bird Walk in Asifabad Forest". Ms Bharani Chitralekha, a participant admirably recorded her appreciation of the programme and described devotion to duty of the frontline staff of the Forest Department. The following text is the translation of the Author's impressions in Telugu- K.B.R. Reddy).

What did we gain with the emergence of the state of Telangana? This is a question often asked by a common man. I offer my appreciation of the Telangana State Forest Department with the garland of Thangedu flowers. All these days, the desire for visiting forest and watching birds has been haunting me. Of course, it is not a big deal.

We are presently enjoying holidays. No school work. I took out therefore the book "Konda Polam", a telugu novel. While happily going through the book with not a bat of eyelids, I got a flash-back of memories of stirring a bee hive, of a journey a week ago.

I am always engrossed in Maths, Physics, Chemistry – school, songs and home – except these, no travels, no visiting new places, no opportunity to explore, never in my routine. I had visited recently Gandikota Fort, Ramappa temple and Laknavaram lake. That's all! If I had gone out any time before, it was purely a duty on behalf of the school.

A few days ago, I had seen a paper clip details on face book screen of Sudheer Thandra, about "Bird Walk in Asifabad forests." Ordinarily, I would have ignored this clip after reading, just like other news items, I kept quiet as I had no company to travel.

The reason why I got attracted to the news was that, the organizers would take care of food, lodge, and travel expenses merely on payment of Rs. 2,000/- That's all. I am sure it would be a thrill, hopefully to see the forest and watch the birds as well. It was an urge in me to watch birds, running water and water in lakes. The thought of visiting a forest spurred in me to plan a visit.

Ignorant of where to begin, I enquired with Sudheer. He told me that the visit would be an unforgettable experience. He encouraged me with the idea. Our folks there will take care of you, he said. But he warned me of severe cold there and advised me to carry warm clothing. I am supplied with some names of friends. One person whom I was advised to contact was Santharam.(I came to know subsequently that he is a senior officer of the Indian Forest Service). I troubled him calling as many as 16 times and the gist of the reply, without losing his cool as I received, was an assurance that I would be able to avail of the opportunity even when I am a lone person.

On the day when I had to start the journey, I rushed to the Railway Station just before the departure of Bhagyanagar Express at 3.30 p.m. and boarded the train; looked up for my berth and settled down. The train arrived at Kaghaznagar at 10.30 p.m. Tension was building in me on the thought of reaching Penchkalpet, the starting point of the excursion. Most comforting part of the journey was that of the companionship of Photographer friends Shyam Sunder and S.S.B Gera at Kaghaznagar. These two gentlemen, like my family members, took the trouble from the time of booking ticket till my registration. That apart, they kept enquiring about

my welfare during that night until we reached our destination.

Keeping aside the matter of the trip, forest officials took my phone number and kept constantly enquiring about the progress of my journey; they asked me to call as soon as I alight from the train. They further gave me the assurance that they are obligated to do well the job of hospitality. After sending away all others to their respective places at 10.30 p.m., I felt it was biting cold; yet my joy knew no bounds when I saw some staff volunteers standing with placards showing "Welcome to Bird Walk Lovers".. They gave me food and led me to a place where I was supposed to rest.

Next day, as I got up, I found the staff ready with five jeeps. We were offered tea. We were then briefed about that day's programme as we stood by the fire-place.

The most surprising part to be noted here was that, apart from treating us as fellow citizens, nature lovers-cum-photographers, we were treated as post-matrimonial guests representing the groom's family after wedding of one's daughter; we were looked after so well, not leaving us uncared for a minute. Dividing us into small groups, we were then taken into the forest after breakfast. Even there, one or two kinds of snacks, fruits, tea, water-bottles, Etc. without the dearth of anything, were supplied.

My fellow travelers would have seen forest here in India and abroad; but I had seen forest in my childhood only at Eturi Nagaram and this is the occasion I am seeing the forest again. Having seen the greenery, the serenity, chirping of birds, I felt I am in a different world. About five forest officers accompanied us. We were shown pug-marks of a tiger when I started to shudder in fear and started sweating. We saw different kinds of trees and we were told about their uses. I think the forester knew everything in detail about the trees.

I am not surprised with the knowledge, the foresters acquired and possessed; what is great in them is that they take care of the trees and the animals as their kids. Forests are their abode and we have to protect them against any evil, they say. The foresters are expected to be watchful and vigilant. Whenever there is a chirping or twittering of birds, the birds were located and photographers clicked their cameras.

I am reminded of the character of Gurrappa Pullaiah in the book, "Konda Polam". The Government officials and my batch-mates gave the details. All this was a pleasant surprise for me. In today's gossip – what one should do if one is confronted with a tiger? The reply was that one should stand erect and motionless. One who makes movement and bends will be in danger. The tiger will not harm a person who stands erect. Then we reached the Base Camp after trekking for about two hours. We ate lunch and relaxed under the shade of the trees.

At this point, senior officers landed there. We all together walked for sightseeing of vultures near Pedda Vagu. After seeing them I felt: are they really officers, no less in rank than officers of Indian Administrative Service? We are told that under the Haritha Haaram Scheme, all denuded blanks due to 'Podu' cultivation, are reclaimed and are being re-clothed. We were explained the importance of forests in maintaining ecological equilibrium. We were told about that the minimum forest land required for maintaining natural balance. In India the minimum area required under the forest cover should be 33 1/3 percent of the geographical area. We were explained the need for forest conservation and the aim and objective of organizing the programme of "Bird Walk" started in 2017-18. The trekking thereafter took about two hours.

The senior officers walked along with us to a place near Pedda Vagu where it may be possible to watch Vultures.

In Pedda Vagu, there was knee deep water flowing. We ignored the fear of getting cold, sinus and we played in the waters of Pedda Vagu, while the photographers went in search of vultures. We Salute to the photographers, as they had walked over long distance just to shoot a bird with their heavy cameras. Photography is a test of their patience and perseverance. I have noticed the strenuous difficulty behind photographer's shooting, which is saved in my face-book screen. This is the place where stones of megalithic and Neolithic periods were seen by Shyanmsunder. Other surprising thing we saw was the remains of dinosaurs and prehistoric animals which perhaps lived in the area millions of years ago. It is incredible!

That night I had the effect of fatigue. Govardhan Reddy, new nature lover friend, said in a light vein that if I roam about the forest for four more days everything will set itself. It is my good fortune that the family of Suresh and Shyam were with me.

On the next morning we were shown rare species of birds around three tanks and the photographers were successful to capture them. Forest Officer Venugopal, meticulously planned and coordinated the entire programme with precision and we lack words to express our gratitude to him. He expressed his concern when someone among us was ill at ease. Venugopal is really great. Hats - off to him. The send-off with love and affection of a single woman, being the daughter of a family, carrying required amount of money and with her belongings, innocently destined to reach her place, is comparable with the warmth and affection and sense of feeling of our safety displayed by the hosts (the foresters).

We should commend the zeal and interest shown

by every member of the forest officers group. Before we started packing up, we were generously given gifts of Nirmal wood toys, T-shirts and certificates of participation.

Let us compare the service providers who are a lazy lot and compare them with the disciplined staff of Forest Department of Adilabad. They asked us to give feedback; for that we in one voice said, "it is excellent".

These days it is hard to find honest service providers. We must remember the duty-bound foresters and compare them with others in indifferent attitude to do their job. We are asked to give feed-back about how best the quality of such programmes can be improved.

On the final day, the senior most officer of the Circle with 12 District Officers working under him, came to meet us and he said the gospel truth: we can have no existence without the forest. Trees can survive without man, but man cannot survive without trees. Protection of forests is not the job of Government or the Forest Department only; every citizen must endeavour to protect the forests and wildlife. Let us remember that this is our sacred duty. This is already reflected in their performance as we perceived. How great is to think of the revelation as perceived!

According to the statistics the forest cover was 6.49 per cent in 2014. Now it has risen to 24.99 per cent. In Adilabad we have lost 155 Sq. Km. We have raised verdant heritage to 63,000 ha. Now, after Mizoram the state of Telangana stands second. This is the achievement Telangana made.

This is what we gained after formation of Telangana. For the return journey, I am grateful to Sri Shyam, Sri Suresh and family for giving me ride in their car.

(The author is born and brought up in Warangal and did M. Sc. (Physics) from Kakatiya University and is presently working as a teacher residing in Hyderabad. Email - rashmivijay79@gmail.com Phone – 9908196269)

Trip To Bandipur Wildlife Safari

Dr. Raju. V, MBBS, DCH, PGDHHM



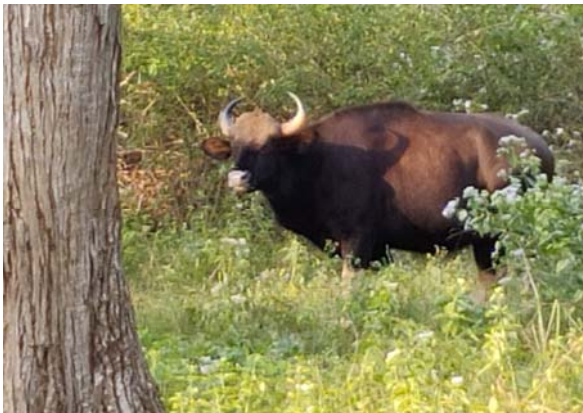
Covid 19 Pandemic forced us to restrain our movements for the past one year and ten months. Being active all these years as a paediatrician, even after my retirement, it was challenging for me to confine myself within four walls. My hobby is to have vocational outings to nature- wildlife Safaris/forests once in three months to relax. I developed this hobby as I am fortunate to be associated with my cousin, a forest officer who headed Bandipur TR in the 1990s. I never missed a chance to accompany him whenever I had free time despite my busy schedule as a children specialist. (paediatrician) as I stayed in Mysore city and had seen most of the interiors of Bandipur TR and had glimpses of all the animals in herds -elephants, bison, sambar, chital, wild boar etc. except tigers.

To overcome my present boredom thought of visiting nature and decided to visit Bandipur Safari.

On 16th December 2021, I and two of my friends, retired Joint Secretary KPSC and a retired Deputy Director Ayush, checked in to Bandipur Forest

Guesthouse. After lunch and rest, we went on an evening Safari ride. After roaming almost an hour, we could sight only one elephant, hares, peahens, peacocks and the usual chitals, sambar and wild boar. We were very disappointed not seeing any Tigers and returned, hoping that we might be lucky on our next trip.

The next day we took an evening Safari ride with the hope of sighting a tiger. After covering almost 5 to 6 km in the game area, there was a message to the Driver about the spotting of a tiger by another team at a known spot. So our vehicle rushed to the said spot where two safari vehicles were already waiting. We joined them and confidently started to watch silently to glimpse the most sought by tourists-Tiger. By then, there were almost eight Safari Jeeps assembled and put up a show of cultures to capture the sight of the tiger with small and big cameras, binoculars, mobiles like mine. People who had binoculars were whispering in confidence...' yes tiger is visible., it is hiding., by seeing the rush of vehicles towards it., it is waiting to come out but said to be



sneaked inside the dense forest'. But we could not get a glimpse of its tail or stripes. The tiger was so smart it did not come out by sensing some danger. Even after waiting for 30 minutes, we lost hope and decided to leave as it was getting dark.

Suddenly our Driver heard the alarm call of a Sambar from a spot exactly opposite to that spot where we were and rushed there... we were fortunate to spot a leopard relaxing on the road in the dusk. Seeing the Jeep, it started moving and entered the bush. I could not get its picture on the mobile. With the satisfaction of sighting the Leopard, we started returning. On the way, we could sight herds of Bison's well fed and very majestic and healthy and muscular bulls heading the pack. Further after a kilometre, we could spot lonely bull Bison happily grazing on the other side of the pond, looking very healthy and muscular.

I was fortunate to capture his picture in my "ONE PLUS MOBILE", which came out well.

I felt that I should have carried a good Camera for this luck.

TO CONCLUDE: We enjoyed nature with lush green forest probably because of continuous rains this year even in December and the season with Sun break as it is Autumn. All the wild animals we sighted, including deer/sambar, were well fed, well-nourished and had their freedom. Game roads were repaired by filling the potholes after rains, and all water holes were full with late rains. The food and accommodation were excellent. Staffs were very courteous, very well behaved and we spent memorable two days amid the undisturbed abode of nature..the famed Bandipur.

(The author is a Physician (Paediatrician); former Project Director RCH, Department of Health, Government Of Karnataka and currently working as State Technical Advisor for UNIDO Project for Karnataka. He can be contacted over mobile:+91 9845583547 and email:rajuv1952@gmail.com)

"For some stories, it's easy. The moral of 'The Three Bears,' for instance, is "Never break into someone else's house.' The moral of 'Snow White' is 'Never eat apples.' The moral of World War I is 'Never assassinate Archduke Ferdinand."

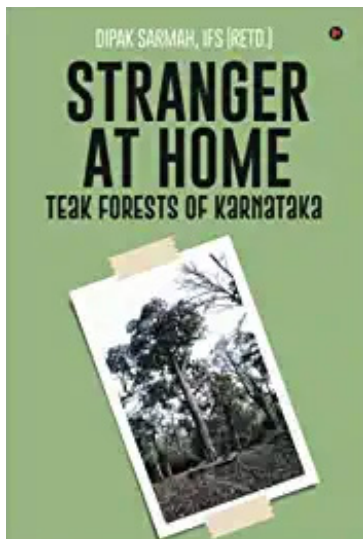
- Lemony Snicket

"When your boss asks, "Do you want a piece of advice?" it's a mere formality. It doesn't matter if you answer yes or no. You're going to get it anyway."

- Erma Bombeck

Book Reviews

1. Title: Stranger at Home – Teak Forests of Karnataka



Year Of Publication: 2021

Publisher: Notion Press, Vanagaram,
Chennai, TN – 600005

Author: Dipak Sarmah, IFS (R)

Language: English

Pages: 201+8+32= 241

Price: Rs. 275/-.

Review by Dr. B Raghotham Rao Desai, IFS (R):

I would like to state avuncularly (i.e., in a kind and friendly way towards younger colleagues, friends and readers) that one must have passion, and Dipak Sarmah has the passion in plenty - a similar passion being the need of the hour in these changing times. It is an inescapable fact that SOME BOOKS DRAW YOU INTO THE STORY GENTLY, WHILE OTHERS TAKE HOLD OF YOU AND PLUNGE YOU INTO ITS PAGES IN DEEP DUOK (I.E., DIP). Make no doubt about it - our author definitely wants to make the crossing, and moreover: is quietly determined to do so. Is the book under review a eulogy for loss of all these schemes once we had? Take it from me:

it is deftly crafted with gentle wit! It somewhat rings true when he writes. Today, quite a few who are convinced of old school of thought - after visiting the areas (and perusing the plantation journals) - want the old line of treatment to bounce back and enhance the value of the forests wherever there is potential. That said, the author's narrative on the craft of raising Teak plantations stands out with fine clarity. BOOKS DO INCREASE OUR RANGE OF VISION AS THEY ACQUAINT US WITH DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES AND SILVICULTURAL PRACTICES ADOPTED AND TRADITIONS FOLLOWED. But in the present scenario, books are being elbowed-out by alternative forms that have captured the fancy of the younger generation, due to the eclipse brought by the internet and new technologies. A good part still being that hard-copy of a book can be read 'on the move' or 'at leisure' - emotions after all, being universal: engaging everyone while being much more, LEAVING US RICHER AND WEALTHIER - DRIVING AWAY FEELINGS OF LONELINESS, though it may seem to be a shelf of papers! And in the current turbulent times, it arguably becomes our bosom friend, while laying a firm foundation for greater things. It being the case, CAN ANY ONE REFUTE THE BENEFITS OF READING? CERTAINLY IT AIDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF FLUENCY OF THOUGHTS, WHILE OUR VOCABULARY AND EXPRESSION ACQUIRES A NEW DIMENSION and additionally: one's speaking, reading and listening skills get refined.

How many tree groves have their skylines represented in a beautiful crown-design of rich inflorescence (i.e., the complete flower-head of a plant, including its stems, stalks, bracts and flowers)? Teak forests having invariably presented a sort of challenge to the foresters from the British era, the issue has been well-researched & sensitively written through

the pages of “Stranger at Home----Teak Forests of Karnataka” and the book does a good job of meeting it.

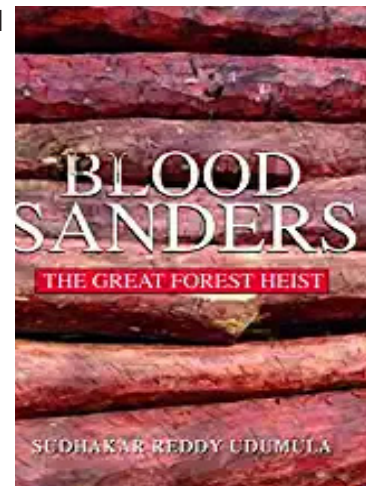
The deft use of language and striking imagery are the hallmark of Dipak Sarmah’s writings----the narration in this book exhibits these unique characteristics of his work once again in abundance. The gen (or information) of the book is eminently readable but demands a high level of engagement from the reader, thus becoming a kind of work readers would want to recommend to their colleagues----this passionate and visionary narrative is bound to remain popular with readers, the accomplished author taking us on a journey “in time” - by gifting the treatise to his readers, he has indeed turned forestry’s redemption as ‘so captivating’!

Sarmah, now very much an established and seasoned writer, is sharp and candid while keeping sensationalism at bay, as he attempts an honest study on Teak Forests (of Karnataka). One of the book’s real merits is how it avoids an “information overhead” while combining progress made in the techniques of raising Teak plantations over a period of time (by ‘trial and error’ methods).

Chapter 5 (“Management of Teak Plantations”), Chapter 7 (“Teak in Farmlands”) and an earlier Chapter 4 (“History of Teak Plantations”) are the chapters for the buyers’ money - this being clearly a “passionate project”, requiring to be lauded as such! The words “Stranger at Home” in the title seem to have broad connotations endorsing his treatise with qualities that lead to a multi-layered interpretation - there, indeed, lies his originality. This book, like any of Dipak Sarmah’s earlier ones, is enduring and haunting - a book needing a very active memory to hold it together, having set during LOCKDOWN PERIOD and being a very much quiet one, WHERE VERY LITTLE HAPPENS, BUT THE WORLD CHANGES! This last book of an apparent

trilogy on “A journey of 150 years” and “A panoramic view”, brilliantly tracing our collective heritage, a tale of passion and experimentation in improving quality and value of growing stock, to the area’s potential. Focusing on a century of plantation-techniques the species had undergone, this book draws readers into the fascinating story of how the standard-sets-of-practices could be achieved. It is a good encyclopedia, to have on one’s shelf. Deservingly, the author made a good gesture and found it prudent to dedicate the book to the brilliant nonagenarian forester Sri A. Krishnaswamy, IFS (Retd. Head of the Dept, who is poised to celebrate his 100th birthday during coming January and hence reverentially referred as “Bhishma-Pitamaha” of Karnataka Forest Fraternity), still commanding respect, and a source of inspiration to the younger generations of foresters who still seek his guidance. When one reads about professional craving and struggling for standard treatises, one can’t help but feel grateful for the arrival of such books - a well-researched and prepared one with minute observations how introduction of teak had transformed the un-tackled “wildly growing forests”, possessing such a potential. The writing style, despite weighed down by facts and details, is breezy. A must-read for all technical buffs, and a must-buy for all forest libraries.

2. Title: Blood Sanders – The Great Forest Heist



Name of the Author:

Udumula Sudhakar Reddy

Number of pages: 7+189+11

Price: Rs. 399**Publishers:**

Millennium Publications & Printers, Hyderabad.

For copies: sudhakarjournalisthyd@gmailcom

Review by C. Ramakrishna Reddy, DFO (Retd.), Piler

Red Sanders is a unique wood as well as a unique tree occurring gregariously, abundantly, and naturally in the Reserved Forests of Rayalaseema Districts; Kadapa, Chittoor, Nellore, Kurnool and part of Prakasam districts. Seshachalam reserve is a unique RF where Red Sanders grows luxuriantly and in abundance. It is an endemic species in these districts.

I worked in various capacities in these areas and have got a great idea on this unique wood. I consider Kadapa, Rajampet and Proddatur Divisions (Kadapa District) with 80% to 100% Red Sanders trees, is a homeland of Red Sanders. In Chittoor District, Tirumala Hill Range, Talakona Hill Range, Mamandur Hill range and Chamala Valley in Bakarapet Range hold 80% of Red Sanders. Other Ranges in Chittoor Forest Division: Sri Kalahasthi, Puttur and Sathyavedu holds 30-35%. In Nellore District Rapur Range and Venkatagiri Ranges hold Red Sanders in Abundance. Udayagiri Range holds 30-35%. Rudravaram Range (Kurnool Dist.) and Giddalur Range (Prakasam Dist.) hold good percentage of Red Sanders trees.

In Rayalaseema, Red Sanders was used for generations as Pestles (Rokallu), Rafters for houses, Cots logs 75% posts 80%. The people were ignorant of its other characters. As FRO I wrote an article (vetted by Sri C.V. Konda Reddy, the then C.C.F.) in 'Indian Forester.'

Since even chips and powder are in great value, I strongly believe that the wood is used in nuclear fields (BARC de-bunked this), which the Chinese and Japanese are keeping it as a closely guarded secret. I am yet to know why only wavy grain Red Sanders are in need by Japanese merchants. I strongly feel that musical instruments are only a guise to cover up its secret usage. Anyhow this needs deep intelligence probe as well as keen research on this wood. The officers who were deputed to China and Japan for finding out its real use could not unravel the mystery.

The views expressed by the author on its economic benefits, thus are very valid when he writes "It continues to remain an enigma even as thousands of trees are felled every year. Some say Red Sanders is used in nuclear plants in China while others find an aphrodisiac in it. Still, some believe it has unique medical properties and some argue Red Sanders is the best wood for musical instruments. The wood cutters and smugglers may cite scores of reasons for felling this rare plant species, but none is sure of its actual use after it is smuggled out of the country".

As per the working plan prescriptions of each division, the forest department supplies fuel to local people around by forming coupes and sold to contractors annually. While I was working as forest range officer Porumamilla range I could see even Red Sanders felled in coupes for local supply. Some contractors used to segregate the Red Sanders logs of good quality from the coupes and arrange them as separate lots for which they were paid more amount. But the middle men at Chennai purchase this wood cheaply without giving secret to local contractor and send this procured Red Sanders logs of good quality and arrange international export I fully endorse the opinion of the author Sudhakar Reddy.

"Red Sanders is distributed at an altitude of 200 metres to 900 metres. The total area covered by Red

Sanders trees is estimated to be 5,30,097 ha in eight forest divisions in A.P. Chittoor East, Tirupati, Kadapa, Rajampet, Proddhatur, Giddalur, Nandyal and Atmakur Divisions. Out of this, in A.P about 1.68 lakh hectares of Red Sanders Forest area is in protected areas, including wildlife sanctuaries and national parks. Red Sanders is spread out in the hill ranges of Seshachalam, Veligonda, Lankamala and Palakonda covering Kadapa, Chittoor, Nellore, Prakasam and Kurnool districts”.

The author has Lucidly explained Veerappan brigand activities well. He is the root cause for wiping out Sandal wood trees in Tamilnadu and Karnataka the most evil minded monster in killing elephants for ivory as well as many persons whoever came in his way.

The author has taken painstaking efforts in gathering exhaustive in formation of all kingpins of Red Sanders smuggling activities. He deserves praise for this account. Everyone should come to know of these nefarious activities which will ultimately make everyone to take steps educate people around and put a stop for the plundering of Red Sanders species. Author Sudhakar Reddy has clearly described the stages of smuggling at all levels exhaustively in pages from 32 to 100 which is worth reading to know the exact modus operandi.

As D.F.O, Rajampet, with the help of ACF Sri V.P. Adinarayana and Range Officer Sri Prabhakar Reddy we effectively adopted identifying Red Sanders “A” quality trees and supplied 200 Tonnes to one Nakaneesh Japanese buyer during 1977 and 78. For this, we engaged local laborer who indulge in removing bark 2” X 2”, and sap wood up to heart wood and after ascertaining weather the tree is having wavy grains, the trees are extracted.

CHITTOOR ENCOUNTER: The task force while effectively and diligently performing a herculean task

of curbing smuggling of Red Sanders out of barest necessity in self defence opened fire on Red Sanders smugglers when they were attacked. Human right activists have hotly contested in favour of smugglers being the lowest rung of the racket the wood cutters. It is an irony that huge national wealth is being looted by hundreds of Tamilnadu gangsters and no one bothers about the loss of wealth and causing damage to eco system. Many police and forest personal were killed by smugglers, and no one bothers about these killings and no human right activities raise a concern on the killings of staff members. This is rather sorry situation prevailing in the country.

The author has made detailed study (pages 137-157) on the funding elections and political nexus in A.P., Tamilnadu and Karnataka elections. The elite smugglers have connections with all political parties by paying ransom amount for funding elections. This poses a challenge for police to effectively punish the smugglers in courts. The author’s observation “However, it has been an unmistakable observation that whichever political party is in power, the local leaders and followers of that party get a free hand to smuggle the prized wood” is correct.

In April 2015, Baba RamDev’s Patanjali Yogpeeth acquired a total of 706 tonnes of Red Sanders for Rs.207 crores in the auction. Baba Ramdev is perhaps the only domestic buyer in a market dominated by the Chines who use Red Sanders as a herbal products among the purposes” (Page 139).

THE CHINESE CONNECTION: The author has pains takingly gathered huge information as how the Chinese and Japanese value this wavy grain “A” quality Red Sanders and how they use it in their country. It is really baffling to note excellent portrayal of Red Sanders utility by high and low in China and Japan. It is an eye opener for a lay man in India or elsewhere in the world to know the lucid expression made by the author. The furniture made from Red

Sanders costs exorbitantly as depicted by the author on page 160 of the book. Single Chair made of prized wood fetches Rs. Ten Lakhs. 3000 Tonnes annual demand for the wood is encouraging the never-ending smuggling of Red Sanders shows that the demand is higher for wood is encouraging the never-ending smuggling of Red Sanders shows that the demand is higher for wood that comes from trees growing natural in Seshachalam Reserve Forests of Andhra Pradesh. Further, the claim of radio activity in the wood is debunked by BARC. The author Sudhakar Reddy deserved kudos for effectively depicting the usage of Red Sanders in China.

THE CONSERVATION CALL: I fully endorse its contents whole heartedly, If implemented by Government of Andhra Pradesh as well as government of India this will go a long way in

protecting Red Sanders species and endemic of Seshachalam R.P as well as other RFS bearing these trees. I feel there is imperative need to take up thinning of coppice shoots leading to elite shoots at stump.

Sri Udumula Sudhakar Reddy has contributed yeomen service to the cause of Red Sanders. His deep in sight of Red Sanders trees deserve Kudos and heartfelt congratulations for this epic effort. He is truly a legend of Red Sanders. He is fit to be taken into intelligence wing for diving into matter keenly and unearth secrets in an exhaustive manner. This beautiful book Blood Sanders deserve to be supplied to all libraries, to every task force personnel and must buy for those who want to know more about Red Sanders.

"Because children have abounding vitality, because they are in spirit fierce and free, therefore they want things repeated and unchanged. They always say, "Do it again"; and the grown-up person does it again until he is nearly dead. For grown-up people are not strong enough to exult in monotony. But perhaps God is strong enough to exult in monotony. It is possible that God says every morning, "Do it again" to the sun; and every evening, "Do it again" to the moon. It may not be automatic necessity that makes all daisies alike; it may be that God makes every daisy separately, but has never got tired of making them. It may be that He has the eternal appetite of infancy; for we have sinned and grown old, and our Father is younger than we."

- G. K. Chesterton



LEGAL NOTES

Balkrishna Bateshwat Kharade

Vs.

Tahsiladar, Mohol, Solapur district and Ors

This is a case which reflects how the government officials are negligent of their duties and a public spirited person had to highlight their failures. The facts giving rise to the PIL No. 86 of 2014 filed in the High Court of Bombay, which was heard by the Bench consisting of The Hon'ble Chief Justice Sri Pradeep Nandrajog and The Hon'ble Justice Smt. Bharati Dangre and disposed the case on 05.09.2019.

A Wildlife Sanctuary was declared by the Government of Maharashtra with an area of 7,818 Sq.Km. in Nagar and Solapur districts. The area of the sanctuary was extended by adding to it 677. 97 Sq.Km. in 1985. An expert committee constituted under the orders of the Supreme Court in W.P. No. 202 of 1995 to rationalize the land of the sanctuary, suggested to the State Government that an area of 1,222.61 of different classifications be rationalized. The Government accepted the suggestion. The W.P was disposed of in 2011.

The National Highway Authority of India undertook the work of expansion of NH-9. Its concessionaire applied to the Tahsildar, Mohol for granting licence to excavate 'Muram'

(Minor Mineral) and paid royalty. The grievance of the petitioner relates to excavation from land which is part of Sanctuary. He requested the court to prohibit the exaction and further, the respondents be fined for their illegal activity.

The allegations were denied and the court ordered the Chief Conservator of Forests to depute a senior officer to inspect the area and submit report. The report disclosed that the area where the murum was excavated lies in Gut Nos. and also in the area notified as the sanctuary. The report highlights that part of the road passes through the sanctuary. The court directed that the authorities under the Wildlife Protection Act should look into the issue and initiate action. There has been violation of the Forest Conservation Act and the Indian Forest Act. The report would require appropriate action under the Wildlife Protection Act, Environmental Protection Act read with Forest Act and Maharashtra Land Revenue Cade to take cognizance of the report ad take action as per law.

As there were no interim orders, the activities have continued and the work of expansion of N.H- 9 has been completed. The court thought it fit to direct the authorities under the Wildlife Protection Act, Environmental Protection Act, and Forest Conservation Act read with the Forest Act to take cognizance of the report and proceed ahead by issuing show cause notice to the project proponent keeping in view the respective four legislations and after hearing the project proponent, pass necessary orders. The PIL is disposed of accordingly. By going through the judgment it looks that no orders can be passed any authority under the appropriate law without hearing the parties concerned. For the same reason the court ordered issue of show cause notice. This is the principle enunciated in the phrase, audi alteram Partem (Listen to the other side).

- K.B.R

Rheumatoid Arthritis (R. A.) - IV

Dr. N.V. Jayanth Babu



(Continued from the previous issue):

SUCCESSFUL AND PROVEN IN 'ETHNO BOTANICAL MEDICINAL PRACTICES' IN VOGUE FOR CURING RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (R.A.) - TO BE ADMINISTERED INTERNALLY / ORALLY

-STEP – IV

(Any one of the below indicated formulae can be chosen as per convenience (-Contd.)

8. *Strychnos nux- vomica* (Loganiaceae)
Musti: Seed is very hard and contains strychnine. If consumed orally in excess quantity without proper procedure and treatment it causes harm to the body. Whereas, it is very much effective to cure R. A. 5 to 6 Seeds are soaked in 100 ml. of cow urine for 8 to 9 days. Every day cow urine is to be changed and gently heated for 5 minutes. After 9 days, Seed becomes soft enough, so that it can be punctured with a bell pin/ needle easily. Seed coat is removed and rejected. cotyledons are separated. Embryo, Radicle, plumule are to be removed from seed and to be discarded. The cotyledons are only to be taken and crushed into to paste or powder. Cotyledons powder can also be obtained by filing them with a sharp steel file. 10 mg of cotyledons powder is mixed with 500 mg of Triphala powder, 500 mg of Alpine galanga rhizome (Dumparastram) paste made into a pill by wetting adequately with cow urine. At the rate of 1 pill per day, to be used for 15 days. This is an excellent formula and proven treatment for RA even in its acute stages also.

9. *Solanum nigrum* (Solanaceae) Kamanchi: 10 ml leaf juice is given orally by diluting with 30 ml of water per day for 15 days.
10. *Semicarpus anacardium* (Anacardaceae) Marking nut: Decoction is prepared by mixing 2 gms bark powder along with garlic, pepper, turmeric powder in 60 ml of water and administered orally for 15 days.
11. *Azadarachta indica* (Meliaceae) Vepa: Decoction is prepared 5gms bark powder by mixing in 60 ml of water and given orally for 40 days for curing R.A in the initial stages.
12. *Leonitis neptifolia* (Lamiaceae) Yerra tummi: 10 grams of whole plant powder is mixed in 100 ml. of water boiled and cooled to get decoction. Given orally in 2 split doses per day for 15 days.
13. *Atylosia scrabaeoides* (Fabaceae) Adavi vulava: 5 gms Leaf powder is mixed in 60 ml of boiled cow's milk and given every day orally in the morning for 40 days.
14. *Dichrostachys cinerea* (Mimosaceae) Veluthuruchettu: Stem bark powder over 1 gm
15. *Capparis sepiaria* (capparaceae) Nallavuppi: Stem powder 1 gm
16. *Boswellia serrata* (Burseraceae) Anduga: Stem powder 1 gm
17. *Borhaevia diffusa* (Nyctaginaceae) punarnava/Tella galijeru: whole plant powder 1 gm
18. *Holoptelea integrifolia* (Ulmaceae) Nemalinaara: Stem bark powder 1 gm.
19. *Echinops echinatus* (Asteraceae) Brahma dandi: Root powder 0.5 gm

20. *Dolichondron crista* (Bignoniaceae)
Neeruddi: Stem bark powder 1 gm
21. *Azima tetracantha* (Salvadoraceae)
Tellavuppi: Root powder 1 gm
22. *Commiphora mukul* (Burseraceae)
Guggulu: Gum resin 1 gm
23. *Prosopis cineraria* (Mimosaceae)
Jammichettu: 1 gm stem bark powder
24. *Steriospermum suaveolens* (Bignoniaceae)
Kaligottu/ Paadiri: 3 gms root bark powder
25. *Limonia acidissima* (Rutaceae) Velaga: 2 gms stem bark powder
26. *Solanum surettense* (Solanaceae)
Nelavakudu: 2 gms root powder

This is an excellent formula and proven treatment for RA even in its acute stages i.e., in stage iv also

- I. Powders of the species mentioned herein against sl. nos. 14 to 18 are to be boiled in 100 ml of water by adding a pinch of turmeric Powder, 3 peppers powder, paste of 1 garlic cleft to get 60 ml of decoction and given to R A patients every day in the morning and in the evening in two split doses for 10 days for excellent results even in the acute stages.
- II. Powders of the species mentioned herein against Sl. nos. 19 to 23 are boiled in 100 ml of water by adding a pinch of turmeric powder, 3 peppers nos. powder, paste of 1 garlic cleft, to get 60 ml of decoction and given to R A patients every day in the morning and in the evening in two split doses for 10 days.
- III. Powders of the species mentioned herein against Sl. nos. 24 to 26 are to be boiled

in 100 ml of water by adding a pinch of turmeric powder, 3 peppers powder, paste of 1 garlic cleft, to get 60 ml of decoction and given to R A patients every day in the morning and in the evening in two split doses for 15 days.

27. *Madhuca longifolia* (Sapotaceae) Ippa: 2 gms stem bark powder
28. *Ailanthus excelsa* (Simaroubaceae)
Peddamaanu: 2 gms stem bark
29. *Barlaria prionitis* (Acanthaceae)
Mullugorinta: 2 gms root powder

Powders of the species mentioned herein against Sl. nos. 27 to 29 are to be mixed in 100 ml. of water and boiled by adding a pinch of turmeric powder+ 3 peppers powder + paste of 1 garlic cleft to get 60 ml of decoction and given to R A patients every day in the morning and in the evening in two split doses for 15 days.

30. *Alangium salvifolium* (Alangiaceae): 2 gms stem bark powder
31. *Gmelina arboria* (Verbinaceae)
Gummaditeku: 3 gms root bark powder
32. *Solanum erianthum* (Solanaceae) Kodi tuppa: 2 gms root powder

Powders of the species mentioned herein against sl. nos. 30 to 32 are mixed in 100 ml. of water and boiled by adding a pinch of turmeric powder, 3 peppers powder, paste of 1 garlic cleft, to get 60 ml of decoction and given to R A patients every day in two split doses for 15 days

33. *Premna serratifolia* (Verbinaceae) Gabbu nelli: 2 gms leaf powder
34. *Aristolochia bracteolata* (Aristolochaceae)
Gaadida gadapa: Root powder 2 gms

(Contd.. Next Issue)

(The writer is Retd. Divisional Forest Officer and can be contacted over +91 94402 66618 and email: nagireddy.jayanthbabu@gmail.com)



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 the Serving Officers	D.O.B.
Sarva Sri		6. P. Srinivasa Rao	10-03-1966
1. D. Satyanarayana	11-03-1949	7. K. Sreenivasulu	10-03-1963
2. A. Ashish	15-03-1949	8. B. Chandrasekhar	13-03-1962
3. D.V. Jayam Prasad	15-03-1949	9. B. Dhanunjaya Rao	15-03-1960
4. S.M. Rasheedullah	19-03-1939	10. Ch. Nagabushanam	15-03-1967
5. I. Janardhan	23-03-1954	11. Tirumala Ravi Kiran	25-03-1985
6. K. Muralidhar Rao	01-04-1946	12. D. Phani Kumar Naidu	27-03-1988
7. B. Rangaiah	05-04-1946	13. M. Guru Prabhakar	28-03-1965
S.No. Name of the Serving Officers D.O.B.		14. M. Bhavani Shankar	28-03-1981
Sarva Sri		15. G. Satish	29-03-1984
1. B. Shafiullah	13-03-1976	16. B. Venkataramana	31-03-1960
2. Smt. Shivani Dogra	17-03-1980	17. V. Srinivasa Rao	01-04-1965
3. Vinay Kumar	26-03-1968	18. Ch. Prakasa Rao	01-04-1963
4. Ravi Sankara Sarma Madugula	07-03-1967	19. Y. Srinivasa Reddy	03-04-1971
5. Kampa Srinivas	10-03-1966	20. Chalumari Santhi Swaroop	05-04-1968
		Secretary	

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EDITOR

OBITUARY**B. Pratap Reddy****(18.07.1928 – 12.02.2022)**

We received the sad news from USA about the death of our colleague Sri B. Pratap Reddy. He was ailing since a few days due to old age problems. Even when the best medical treatment was provided, he could not survive. All his three daughters were his bedside when he breathed his last on February 12, 2022. He was 83.

Sri Pratap Reddy hails from an elite family in Ranga Reddy district. After completing M.Sc. from Osmania University, he was selected by the Government of Hyderabad for training in forestry and was deputed to Madras Forest College at Coimbatore to undergo the training course during 1952-'54. After successfully completing the training, he was posted to Mulug Range in Warangal district. Afterwards he worked as Forest Range Officer in Working Plan division at Warangal. Then held territorial Range charge at Kothagudem, Mahadevpur, and afterwards he worked as Flying Squad Range Officer under the Conservator of Forests, Warangal. He was promoted to State Forest Service in 1971.

Sri Pratap Reddy worked as DFO Jannaram, Warangal North, Bellampally and also as Flying Squad DFO at Adilabad. Married to Smt Suguna, the couple had three daughters. His wife predeceased him. The three daughters are well settled in USA at Austin in Texas State. As the age advanced and due to failing health, he also migrated to USA.

Pratap Reddy was very popular and had good public relations with people around him. His good character of amiability won him many friends. His pleasing manners were worthy of emulation.

May God bless his noble soul to rest in peace!

- K.B.R**OBITUARY****Badavath Mothilal****(07.09.1954 - 13.02.2022)**

Sri Badavath Mothilal, Divisional Manager of TSFDC Ltd passed away due to sepsis shock while undergoing pneumonia treatment in Omega hospital at Warangal on 13th Feb 2022 in evening hours. He was 67. Sri B. Mothilal was born on September 7th, 1954, in Babunaik Thanda of Mahabubabad taluk of erstwhile Warangal district to Sri Badavath Jaggya and Smt. Chawla. He had his early education at Mahabubabad, completed B.Sc from OU Hyderabad. He has joined in TSFDC Ltd on 1.10.1981 as Plantation Manager and completed training in

SFRC, Coimbatore during 1981-'82. Earlier he worked in Board of Intermediate at Hyderabad. After completion of training, he worked as Plantation Manager in Warangal, Manugur divisions. He promoted as Divisional Manager on 19.09.1994 and worked in Kagaznagar, Paloncha, Warangal, R.V.Nagar Divisions including DM (Waste lands) and Head Office. He retired on 30.09.1981.

He was hard working and instrumental in raising of good Eucalyptus clonal plantations and Greenery in NTPC Ramagundam during his tenure. His death is a great loss to his friends, colleagues, and relatives. We express our sense of sorrow and deep sympathy to the bereaved family. He is mourned by his wife Ganga, two sons Arun Kumar, Kiran Kumar, and daughter Smt. Kavitha and three grandsons.

May his Soul Rest in Peace.

- D.N.B



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- The Corporation has bagged "**CAPEXIL Excellence in Export Awards (Top)**" for export of Red Sanders wood during the years 2015-16 and 2016-17 and by earning a total foreign exchange of Rs.388.00 crore during 2015-16 & 2016-17.
- Diversifying its activities through promotion of Eco-Tourism.

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Photo: Rajesh Kanny

Bar-headed goose (*Anser indicus*)

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