

VANA PREMI

Nau Say Navvay Sall Tak Ke Bachon Ka Sathi

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EDITORIAL

World disabled day: -World disabled day is observed internationally on 3rd of December every year. World disabled day is also known as International day of disabled persons. The main categories of disability are physical, sensory, psychiatric, neurological, cognitive and intellectual. Many people with disability have multiple disabilities. Since 1992, it has been celebrated continuously every year with a lot of success all over the world. Disabled persons will have poor health, lower educational achievements, less economically active, experience higher rates of poverty, cannot always live independently or participate fully in community activities. Almost everyone will be temporarily or permanently impaired at some point in life, and those who survive to old age will experience increasing difficulties in functioning. Most extended families have a disabled member, and many non-disabled people take responsibility for supporting and caring for their relatives and friends with disabilities.

As mentioned above this is observed every year, in order to promote the awareness about the people with disabilities as well as to encourage them by implementing a lot of assistance in their real life to enhance their way of life and remove the social stigma towards them. The vital purpose of this day celebration is also to improve the understandings of the people worldwide towards the people with disability issues as well as get together to support them to improve their self-esteem, well-being and rights in the society. Every year celebration of the international day

of disabled persons focuses on the different issues of the disabled persons all across the world.

Disability is defined as a physical or mental condition that limits a person's movements, senses, or activities or as a disadvantage or handicap, especially one imposed or recognized by the law, or disability is any continuing condition that restricts everyday activities. This can also be defined as a condition which may restrict a person's mental, sensory, or mobility functions to undertake or perform a task in the same way as a person who does not have a disability. The only thing that separates a person with a disability is that, for one reason or another, they are unable to do certain things in the same way as the mainstream of society. They may require some form of adaptation or alteration to assist them to overcome the effect of their disability.

The years from 1983 to 1992 was declared as the "United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons" by the United Nations General Assembly in order to offer the time frame to the Governments and other organizations so that they could properly implement all the recommended activities. It is essential to inculcate confidence in disabled persons in their own abilities to lead self-dependent lives. Social justice demands identical fundamental human rights to all the persons. More than one billion people in the world live with some form of disability, of who nearly 200 million experience considerable difficulties in functioning. According to 2011 census in India

there are 14986202 males (2.41 % of population) and 11824355 females (2.01 % of population) are disabled persons and the total of males and females is 26810557 which is 2.21 % of the total population of the country. The highest numbers of disabled persons live in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Orissa, Maharashtra and Jammu & Kashmir. The least number of disabled persons are in the States of Tamilnadu, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur. The highest disability in India is in movement and their total number is 5436604 which are 20.3% of total disabled persons. The minimum number is of mental disability whose number is 722826 and comes to 2.70 percent of total disabled persons. Again if we see disability age group-wise it is in the age group of 80-90 years and highest, their percentage is 8.41 of total disabled person. The minimum is in the age group of 0-4 years which is 1.14 percent. Across the world, people with disabilities have poorer health outcomes, lower education achievements, less economic participation and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities. This is partly because people with disabilities experience barriers in accessing services that many of us have long taken for granted, including health, education, employment, and transport as well as information. These difficulties are exacerbated in less advantaged communities. World Health Organization and the World Bank have jointly produced 'World Report on Disability' to provide the evidence for innovative policies and programmes that can improve the lives of people with disabilities, and facilitate implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Several activities are conducted on World Disabled Day. Campaigns by Governments, human rights agencies and voluntary organizations are organized to raise awareness on the theme of right to act. Rallies are conducted to demand the right to select helps on their own free will for the disabled persons. The day seeks measures to assist physically handicapped persons in their own decision making. Several plans were launched with a mission of providing similar opportunities, rehabilitation and prevention of disabilities. These campaigns were launched at regional, national, and international level.

In developed countries the disabled persons are protected by law and many amenities and financial concessions are provided to them by the Governments and general public. Though in India also disabled persons are protected by law, like 'the persons with Disabilities Act 1995', the 'Mental health Act 1987', the 'National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation Act', and 'Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999' yet they are not properly implemented in practice and no concessions or amenities and care are provided to them either by Government or by the general public. In our country Governments should develop, implement, and monitor policies, regulatory mechanisms, and standards for rehabilitation services, as well as promoting equal access to those services.

Vana Premi wishes that the disabled persons should be given equal and special opportunities for education and employment and to rehabilitate them to bring them to main stream and reduce their sufferings. **QMK**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SIR,

You have succinctly traced in your editorial, the history of SFRC (that was MFC) in the special issue of Vana Premi of Nov. 2016. We are proud to be the alumni of that great institution founded by Mr. Cowley Brown. It is unfortunate that such an institution has been closed by a stroke of pen in 1988. Efforts for its revival did not bear fruit. The TN government has done well by taking back the reins of the college premises and renamed it as the Tamil Nadu Forest Academy.

Sri J.V. Sharma in his article respectfully reminisced his participation along with other friends in the *shathabhishekam* of the former teacher at the SFRC and IFC, Sri K.K. Nair at Calicut and offered his obeisance to the revered Guru. He also paid respects to the past principals of the Forest College at Coimbatore since 1912 starting with Mr. Cowley Brown.

Sri V.Santhasila Babu, in his reflections of the Forest College memories, depicted beautifully, in an autobiographical and tell-tale style. Details of his interview before the members of the Selection Board of APPSC are well narrated. The best part of the essay is reproduction of the well preserved question papers of qualifying examination, preserved for over a period of 48 years. The narration of events is incredible.

Sri V.V. Hari Prasad reminisced his experience and association with fellow trainees in the SFRC. He feels that the Forest College molded the students of forestry and imparted knowledge for protection and management of forests of the country. He has high respect for his instructor the late John Joseph and admirably praised his enforcement of military discipline. He remembers vividly the Principal's admonishing eloquence. Sri Hari Prasad has high opinion about the achievements of his batch mates Sri Bhoopal Reddy and Sri Tulasi Rao and they deserve the encomiums.

It is hoped that the above said good words of the authors of articles published in the Vana Premi (No. 11 - Vol. 17) will foster friendship among the alumni of our alma mater, the SFRC.

K.B.R. Reddy

Dear Sir,

I'm responding to your requirement to email an article for the ensuing issue of VP by enclosing one on a current burning topic, with the hope that it may be accepted for inclusion.

We were all so happy to have received the November-issue of VP on dot, when the proceedings commenced for XVII alumni gathering (of S. F. R. Cians at Hyderabad) on 24th of October 2016.

Amazing features of it were the very beautiful cover-photo of the College (having a unique full view) and the list of all the Principals (from 1912 to 1988, the year in which the college was handed over back to the parent-state, (appearing on P.17), supplemented by your well-researched and informative Editorial. Any amount of praise is not much for the pains you have singularly taken, to gather all the relevant information regarding the ancient and historic Institution, for which you must've surely approached the archives and the records. Crowning glory was the verse in Latin which opens, having the line "*Mens sana in corpore sano*": the College Logo, along with its faithful rendition in English, on P.24. Our heartfelt congratulations for the spectacular success achieved in the matter. It is obvious that you had also succeeded, as ever, in getting articles 'worthy of the said special issue' from the contributors you were capable to approach, for which as well the compliments are due. Wishing you every success in your endeavors

Dr. Raghotham Desai

Sir,

I am reading your Vana Premi issues with great interest. Since I am from Coimbatore I read with great interest your November 2016 issue. In the Editorial you have mentioned the name of one of the instructor as Sri K.R.Venkataramana Ayyar. He is my paternal grandfather. He had served as Dy. Conservator or Conservator of Forests in Kurnool District somewhere in 1928. He had served in Rayalaseema districts in 1920s.

I may remind you that he had published an article on Sandal wood in the year 1919. Even now it is worth publishing. You can get it from Dehradun library of Forest College.

Thank you once again

K.R.Venkataramanan.

Health is the greatest gift, contentment the greatest wealth, faithfulness the best relationship. Buddha

ASIAN LION

Panthera leo persica



Nearly all wild lions live in sub-Saharan Africa, but one small population of Asian lions exists in India's Gir Forest. Asian lions and African lions are subspecies of the same species. "Asian lions once prowled from the Middle East to India. Now, only 200 to 260 of these magnificent animals survive in the wild. The Gir Forest's dry teak woods were once a royal hunting ground. Today they are a reserve where the endangered Asian lions are heavily protected. An additional 200 Asian lions live in zoos." Lions are the only cats that live in groups, called prides. Prides are family units that may include up to three males, a dozen or so females, and their young. All of a pride's lionesses are related and female cubs typically stay with the group as they age. Young

males eventually leave and may establish their own prides by taking over a group headed by another male. "Only male lions boast manes, the impressive fringe of long hair that encircles their heads. Males defend the pride's territory. They mark the area with urine, roar menacingly to warn intruders, and chase off animals that encroach on their turf." Female lions are the pride's primary hunters. They often work together to prey upon large mammals. "After the hunt, the group effort often degenerates to squabbling over the sharing of the kill, with cubs at the bottom of the pecking order. Young lions do not help the pride hunt until they are about a year old. Lions will hunt alone if the opportunity presents itself, and they also steal kills from hyenas or wild dogs (Source Internet)

CONVENOR'S ENTREATY AT TECHNICAL SESSION OF XVII SFRC ALUMNI MEET AT HYDERABAD

By
J. V. Sharma

Note: XVII SFRC Alumni Meet – 2016 hosted by Telangana Chapter of the Alumni was held at Telangana State Forest Academy, Hyderabad from 24th to 27th October 2016. Convener's speech at the Technical Session of the Meet on 24th October '16 is reproduced below for its relevance to the cause of forests. –Editor.

Respected Chair and Dear Friends,

SFRC Alumni has been meeting once in every year for the last 16 years and this Meet is its 17th version. Started as a sort of informal get together of a few batch/batches, it graduated into a full scale annual feature of entire SFRC alumni in its third Meet at Hyderabad. Ever since, we have been meeting regularly in various States without defaulting even once and it is a tribute to the sense of fraternal bond and professional identity acquired during our training at SFRC, Coimbatore.

Annual Meets have become so popular that many amongst us eagerly look forward for the occasion. Hitherto, the opportunities are being availed mostly for renewing old contacts & establish new ones, socializing and sightseeing. We could not focus on forests and related matters for one reason or the other, barring a few discussions by some participants on the sidelines. This time, I have been successful to get a one-hour slot for technical session. I have been privileged to be its Convener in which capacity I now stand before you. Mr. B. S. S. Reddy who presides over this session had been the Head of Forest Force of Composite State of Andhra Pradesh. He had his moorings from SFRC and went on to higher seats of learning in forestry in India. He did his *alma mater proud*. He is eminently qualified to preside over the first technical session of the Alumni Meets.

I fervently commend to organizers of the future Meets to make it a regular feature to spare a minimum of three hours to discuss forest problems. There are whispers that members are not keen to deliberate on forest matters. It is partially true. It is not that they are not interested in forest matters per se. The very fact that they are so religiously attached to SFRC and its legacy to make it to Alumni Meets, year after year, is proof enough that their heart is at the right place with strong fraternal bondage. Their expectations of such discussions may vary but forests and their welfare are never out of their minds.

With this, I come to the agenda of today's session. As the time at our disposal is very short, I try to be very brief on the few issues I propose to raise today, to start with, for consideration of members: **Society of Foresters India (SOFI)**; While acting as a stop gap Editor of Vana Premi (March 2016), I mooted formation of an All India Body of Foresters like the professionals like lawyers, doctors, chartered accountants, architects, geographers, historians etc. to provide larger visibility as well as responsibility in management of forests and allied activities. Some friends promptly responded favorably to the proposal while many are lukewarm. I understand that some members think that it is another outfit like the SFRC Alumni or the service associations that already exist. In fact I may recall that when the scope of Alumni Association was sought to be widened at Aurangabad Meet some years ago, my own friend from AP Mr. Padmanabha Reddy took strong objection for creation of another body with no tangible agenda and recognition. He was perhaps right in the context given. I wish to clarify that the body I suggest now will be a recognized structure with power coupled with responsibility. It will be a body of all qualified foresters in the country, serving or retired, with a definite say in forestry matters, not to mention a designated role in regulatory mechanism. I strongly feel that a forester is a professional for sure and he should live and act like one. Thus come to fore the professional ethics and the responsibility to uphold and protect the sanctity of the profession. There are two direct benefits that accrue with this arrangement; one, it prevails upon the forester to regulate himself in the best interests of forests & help evolving a healthy tradition and two, it makes him that much fearless to call the spade a spade and emboldens him not to look behind shoulders as to what others say or do. It helps eliminate arbitrariness, maneuvering, pressures, threats etc. It helps the forester to differentiate between service and servitude.

This is all loud thinking. We are not yet clear about the scope and content. A lot of ground work needs to be done. It should find takers in all sections of forest fraternity which I am aware, is easier said than done. Once the concept is acceptable, the rest can follow including statutory support. The name can be any of: Indian Society of Foresters (ISOF), Society of Indian Foresters (SIF), Society of Foresters, India (SOFI), Foresters Council of India (FCI), Indian Foresters Association (IFA), Association of Foresters of India (AOFI), Foresters Guild, India (FGI) or any other.

I earnestly request all the members to take this message to every member of the fraternity whoever they come across, particularly in their respective states. Should this initiative succeed, it will be a yeomen gift to forests of the country from the SFRC family.

Challenges of forest protection: Forest protection had been the top-most priority of the forester ever since the departments were created. But the challenge was manageable within the frame work of the law and the manual given to the forester. Forests had been in relative comfort till recent past. Smuggling and pilferage was confined mostly to forest produce though encroachments were not uncommon. Days have changed a great deal. Vast chunks of forests are being regularly lost at great speed on one pretext or the other. Reasons are too many. Worse is the forester is being increasingly rendered helpless in tackling the problem. Whenever the matter comes up for discussion at various forums, the forester comes up with a wish list of stringent law, mobile courts, fire arms to face violent smugglers, establishment of forest stations, fast moving vehicles etc. Without underscoring the importance of these requirements, Moot question is whether the forester will be able to protect the forests even if these facilities are provided. I am strongly of the opinion that there are two maladies which subvert the governing and administrative mechanism; One, lack of political will and the Second, political interference. Our experience as well as observation forces us to believe that Governments have not permitted the freedom to forester to strictly implement the rule book. Political classes have hijacked the administrative space rendering the forester less effective. Unfortunately, it pains us to say, that many from the forest fraternity had become willing tools leading to functional paralysis of the Departments. The inability of the forester to meet the challenges is not so much due to lack of powers or facilities but on account of immobilization forced upon him by the government. It is a serious problem not easy to surmount. I urge upon the Alumni to deliberate upon it with all the seriousness and commitment it deserves. This malady, in my opinion, can be, to some extent, got over if there is a Body like the one suggested above, which not only allows professional freedom but also makes the forester responsible and accountable.

Future of Forests and their Management: The core structure of Forest Departments devised by the British continues to be in place, may be with very minor changes even if there are any. Of late, too many voices are being heard for re-orienting and restructuring the Departments. Very strangely, the departments or the personnel have not reacted to these voices. Many appear to be oblivious to these machinations. While the National Forest Commission in the first decade of 21st Century, had gone into the matter and recommended the existing structure with some suggestions to make it more efficient and effective, there is sustained lobbying in certain quarters for weakening the department's domain by providing space to various other agencies in forest management.

Ground situation is changing fast in that vast chunks of forests are diverted for non-forest purposes be it under Forest Rights Act or mining or other purposes. Contiguity is lost irreversibly and wildlife corridors are choked. Large extents of forests are given away as Community Rights. In not so distant future Forest Departments will be left with isolated patches of forests making their management that much more difficult. FRA, PESA, Panchayathi Raj institutions are going to stake claims for management rights. It is not my case to cry for dilution or loss of FD's importance. My genuine worry is the loss of forests and the professional management deficit they are likely to face. The Central Government is contemplating identification of NO-GO areas of forests with 70% density. Latest forest survey reports indicate that such areas are hardly 11%. It implies that the balance 89% forest areas are open for diversion without consulting the FD. It is an alarming situation where the stakes of future generations are being seriously compromised. Exercises, by various Committees like Saxena Committee, Subramanian Committee etc. have left enough indications of such sweeping changes. I wish the SFRC Alumni debates in detail and undertake a serious and sustained campaign to thwart these dangerous initiatives.

National Forest Policy-Are changes imminent? I happened to attend a Workshop on Review and Revision of National Forest Policy 1988 on 3rd September 2015 conducted by Indian Institute of Forest Management at Forest Academy, Dulapally, Hyderabad. A few days after the event, I had sent my views on the issue to the Director, IIFM, ventilating however my apprehension about the very idea of the initiative, contending that the existing NFP is not that bad or outdated to need a revision, particularly so when some of the key items of the policy remain either unaddressed or grossly flouted. With the recent experience of Review of Forest & Environmental Laws by a High Level Committee under TSR Subramanian, it is difficult to digest the present Forest Policy revision on its face value. I had also detailed why I entertained those fears citing specific examples. The Director promptly acknowledged my letter and assured that there is no design behind the move nor was it at Government behest. He said it is an exercise undertaken by the IIFM on its own.

A few months ago, a news item appeared in the media that the Government unveiled a draft Revised National Forest Policy and placed it on MoEF&CC website and those interested could file their comments, suggestions and objections within a fortnight. Even as I was getting ready to prepare my response, the Government, within a couple of days, retracted its notification and disassociated itself.

It is apparent that the Government has an agenda and I have reason to fear that the objective is to revise the National Forest Policy to dilute it removing provisions uncomfortable to it. I wish that grave issues of this nature are debated extensively by the fraternity in the larger interest of forests and environment.

Safeguarding Public Interest: Some time back there arose a need for the grey haired gentry to evince interest in a case of false claim over a forest land and to help serving officers. After playing my own modest role, I thought that the matter needed constant expert handling and requested my good old friend Mr. Buchiram Reddy to take care of it. He declined instantaneously citing personal constraints and being his friend I was appreciative of his problems. I just told him that public interest is a noble cause and it is worthwhile straining the extra nerve, the personal constraints notwithstanding. After a couple of days, he rang up and told me that he saw ample truth in what I said. He is now taking parental care of not only the case I referred to him but also other similar cases. What is more significant is that he confided in me that the service in public interest is giving him immense satisfaction and a sense of contentment. I appeal to all fellow S.F.R. Cians to turn their attention to issues of public interest and try do something to safeguard it.

FRA Case: Members are aware that the FRA has finally landed in Supreme Court. A special Bench of three judges headed by Justice Chalameshwar is seized of the matter. It is gathered that the Hon Court will first go into Constitutional validity of the Forest Rights Act and the other issues relating to FRA will be heard if the validity is upheld. Senior Counsel of Wildlife First, the petitioners in the case filed directly in SC, is saying his arguments. General impression is that he is doing a wonderful job. I happened to visit Delhi on 16th October 2016 at the behest of Mr. S. S. Joshy of Karnataka to brief his advocate. He took good care of me and the trip was encouraging. I made similar trips to Chennai and Delhi during the last one year at the bidding of Mr. Sambasivam of Tamilnadu. I am hopeful about the case.

These are only few issues which I consider should be mentioned in the Session as a modest beginning. I appeal to all fellow S.F.R. Cians and the entire forest fraternity to deliberate over these and other forest related issues hereafter. THANK YOU, -J. V. Sharma

(The author is a Retired DCF of Telangana State and his e-mail ID is jvsharma32@gmail.com)

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. John F. Kennedy

SHRUBS INVADE, AS TREES ALL AROUND ARE BEING CUT DOWN

By

Dr. B Raghotham Rao Desai

1. The Hyderabad-Karnataka region (comprised of five districts of Bidar, Gulbarga, Yadgir, Raichur and Koppal — Bellary excluded since it was never a part of Hyderabad State, but at present included as backward since it was later made part of Gulbarga-Revenue-Division, during 1956) had always been known as a backward dry region. Having got used to periodic droughts, it has become even drier from the past four decades. The spiny forests in the region have been blanketed with low-lying vegetation, though dotted with a few large trees. Further, people had gravitated towards towns and cities making the population to rise by 50% in the past 2-3 decades, leading to a greater demand of forest products in a self-reinforcing movement, at the metropolis. As if an insult is added to the injury, poor harvests of agricultural crops had pushed more and more people into smuggling of forest products (NTFPs in particular).

2. Trees are found disappearing in 'widening arcs' from the towns & cities, resulting in invasion of shrubs and thickets. Smuggling activities have shifted consequently to hundreds of kilometers farther, accessible only by newly formed mud-roads. Climate change had aggravated the weather phenomenon further, as can be seen from shrinking rainy season from year to year,

resulting in further urbanization. Villagers find it difficult to collect dry firewood from the forest floors, still a largely sustainable source of energy for cooking & other purposes.

3. Chincholi, Yadgir, Chitapur, Gurmitkal, Surpur (Shorapur), Raichur, Deodurg, Lingsugur, Kushtagi and Gangawati taluks were having extensive woodlots once, with rich biodiversity: ecologically rich and fragile areas with plants and animals to be found nowhere else in the surrounds. They are now found deforested, exacerbating the effects of climate change and disrupting farming-activities, resulting in large-scale migration of live population. The effect of climate change on water becomes increasingly evident, and future aspects of climate change are likely to have major effect on forest hydrology. **Indirect effect of climate change, including influence of hydrological responses due to change in forests and forest management can easily be predicted.**

It need not be emphasized that hydrological investigations on the effect of different tree species and forest types on interception, soil-moisture, water-yield, soil-loss and groundwater are the needs of the hour. Unemployed Rural population was left with the only choice of thriving by smuggling the forest

produce. As of now, we find most of the trees had been cut down and it seems, within next decade or so, all the remaining will also be gone. The smuggling-business, coupled with an expanding use of land for farming purposes is bound to increase deforestation many folds, worsening the deteriorating effects in a region so poorly equipped to adapt to it. They are all interconnected and hence will contribute immensely to the climate change in the next thirty or forty years. A lot of landscapes are likely to be decimated if this trend continues.

4. Role of the forest (or tree-cover) over precipitation (rainfall) and water-yield (runoff) generating potential, in conjunction with other parameters — viz., soil, topography, vegetation-management and land-management practices — is well-known, for which we may perhaps coin a phrase like **“Forest hydrology”**. It can surely be manipulated by modifying the parameters influencing it. **It is undeniable that vegetation and land-use-practices do exert clear influences on total water-yield and timing** (peak flows and dry-season flows). It is also an established fact that **forests are essential to both development and preservation of global environment**, in addition to tending to decrease the surface-runoff and peak discharge. Soil-loss will be less from dense and well-managed forests in comparison to ill-managed (denuded) forests. Interestingly, **soil-loss is observed even lesser on well-managed**

grasslands than the ground covered with forests!

5. Scientists, psychologists, sociologists, philosophers, environmentalists and others quote the ‘Established order’, to highlight the **innate equilibrium in nature**. Any action that upsets this balance leads to a state of disturbance, where things go awry with deleterious effects of various types. Humanity’s existing condition reflects this state of disturbance and also the mankind’s predicament, where almost all human activities at present contribute to a disruption of the established order! Finally as a result how unforgivable their actions become whether they had done the same deliberately or even out of ignorance.

6. Yet, in the face of such adversities the present generation is advised to **relentlessly adopt a “never say die” attitude to surge forward to succeed against odds**, taking the cue from the heartening-fact that **a number of successful stalwarts are known to have gone through such bad patches**, sometime or the other in their lives, **but had not lost hope or heart**. Heterogeneous soil conservation measures — based on hydrological investigations on topographic, physiographic, climatic and edaphic conditions — are found effective in reducing the runoffs and soil-losses. (The author is a retired DCF of Karnataka State and his e-mail ID is raghothamrao@rediffmail.com)

FOREST LAW

EDUCATION AND EXPERTISE

By
K.B.R. Reddy

Law is a code of conduct for every citizen to respect and follow; and that is the Rule of Law. During the training at the Forest College, we were taught many subjects and one of them was Forest Law.

In the distant past, lessons in Forest Law were given in the forestry schools based on Notes on Forest Law of 1926. It was in the year 1948, at the instance of the then President, Forest Research Institute and Colleges, Jagadamba Prasad, B.Sc., LL.B. and a member of the then Provincial Forest Service, wrote in 1948, a book titled, Manual of Law for Forest Officers, first published in 1950. This was the text book on 'Forest Law' that was followed in the Indian Forest College and Rangers Colleges at Dehra Dun and Coimbatore. Many years after that, Sri B. Jagannath Shetty, B.A.,LL.B. and an officer of the Indian Forest Service, wrote a revised edition of the Manual and that was first published in 1972 and with a view to keep pace with the 'March of Law', further revised editions were also published. I reliably understand that the Manual of Forest Law for Forest Officers by B.J. Shetty is followed in the present Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy at Dehra Dun. A Text Book on Wildlife Laws by Surender Mehra, IFS (published in 1910 by Natraj Publishers, Dehra Dun) is very exhaustive and

useful book. There are many books on local forest laws. Forest laws in Andhra Pradesh by Dr. A.Kishan, IFS (published by Asia Law House, Hyderabad) is very informative and is in wide circulation.

This is all about the sources of legal education we are taught in Forest Law. In some states, there is a service condition of passing departmental examinations and one of the subjects is Forest Law. The departmental examinations are conducted by the State Public Service Commission. There is also a punitive provision of stoppage of increments for a period until one passes the departmental examinations.

What I stated so far is only a theoretical knowledge in Forest Law. The real test is to gain expertise in Forest Law. This is possible only if one puts his heart and soul into the subject. One need not be a legal pundit. Forest officers should face the situation as a challenge to take appropriate action, when the occasion demands. Gaining expertise in law is possible only by experience.

When we get the assistance of pleaders doing work for the Government, we should be able to give proper instructions and instructions should be free from any ambiguity.

The foremost duty of field officers is to prosecute forest offenders. While doing the job, besides a thorough knowledge of provisions of the Forest Act/Wildlife Protection Act, the complainant forest officer must also have basic knowledge of the provisions of criminal law and law of evidence.

While investigating into forest offences, the investigating forest officer may have to exercise the powers of arrest without warrant, search of premises where any forest contraband is stored, recording statements of witnesses etc. which are ordinarily the functions of a police officer. Courts as well as advocates defending the accused persons tend to brand forest officers as police officers. It is a well-established law that forest officers are not police officers.

Confiscation of property like, vehicles, tools etc. used in committing forest offences is a new provision. The enquiry into such cases has to be held strictly following a procedure/ proceeding in what is known as quasi-judicial proceeding. It is not uncommon, when foresters discharging their legitimate duties become victims of prosecution, either by police or by direct criminal complaints to the courts by individuals other than the police. Forest Officers must know the protective provisions of the Penal Code available to public servants.

We are aware of the Vachathi case of Tamil Nadu, where 215 government officials including 115 forest employees were convicted and

sentenced to different periods of imprisonment. The list of convicts includes 1 PCCF, 1 CF, 2 ACFs, 7 Rangers and several other subordinates. The persons at the back-ground of the case are sandalwood smuggles trained by forest brigand Veerappan. If we do our duty honestly and zealously, we are in trouble; and if we don't do, we are accused of dereliction. The order of conviction and sentence was passed by a District and Sessions Judge. There was a tremendous pressure on the judiciary by a political organization. The investigation was conducted by a D.S.P of the CBI. The appeals filed against the judgment are pending before the Madras High Court. Our friend Sri V. Sambasivam is well aware of the facts and the circumstances of the case.

A similar situation is being experienced by the Forest Department of Andhra Pradesh in dealing with cases red sanders wood smuggling from Seshachalam area of Chittoor district.

Forest Law has been my first love. It is not by choice but by chance. In a Range where I was Range Officer, smuggling was rampant and there was always a threat of criminal assault against the staff including the Range Officer. I have prosecuted every important case that was detected and reported to me. The result we achieved in the prosecution of offenders boosted up the morale of the staff. In a period of about 2 years I was able to control the situation and the pace of smuggling was considerably reduced.

In a case of shooting down a tiger and killing a peacock reported by our friend Sri Santokh Singh, I guided him in the prosecution. It took almost three years to culminate the prosecution proceedings and eventually the accused were convicted. It goes to the credit of Santokh Singh for his determination for pursuing the case with zeal and vigor. The accused persons involved in the case belonged to elite families of Hyderabad and were highly influential.

After promotion as ACF, during my tenure in the office of CCF, at Hyderabad, I had to deal with numerous cases of attempt to grab vast extents of forest lands by preferring dubious claims. I had to put up a stiff fight by contesting their claims in the High Court and saved thousands acres of forest lands from falling in the hands of private ownership. These cases are off-shoots of Jagir Abolition, Ijara Abolition, Estate Abolition etc.

Attempts of grabbing forest lands around Hyderabad are still made under one pretext or the other because of rise of the land value due to urbanization. I set apart some time to advise the officers concerned to contest the cases and I also do the liaison work with the Government Pleaders and the Advocate General.

Day-in and day-out, in running the administration, the officers may have to take disciplinary action under the Classification, Control and Appeal Rules and punish erring subordinates in deserving cases. Officers may have to escape the punishments when their cases are not

actionable. A strong defence would be needed if they have to save themselves. The procedure involved in either case is elaborate. A careful reading and understanding of the rules is essential.

The Forest Rights Act has become a menace to the forest protection. The lead taken by our learned friend J.V. Sharma in Hyderabad, followed by Thiru V. Sambasivam in Chennai, Sri S.S. Joshi in Bengaluru etc. is a historic battle – nay a *Dharma Yuddham* of Kuru Kshetra being fought in Hasthinapuram that is New Delhi. The wisdom of its validity is questioned and is being argued in the Supreme Court. Let us hope that the fight ends up successfully. *Yatho dharmasthathojaya.*

As I submitted before, Forest Law is my first love. After starting the Vana Premi from Hyderabad, I am contributing regularly a column under the caption, Legal Notes. I have compiled a ten year Legal Notes in a single volume and dedicated it to my Guru Sri K.K. Nair. He complimented me by saying that it is my MAGNUM OPUS.

This is what I was, and what I am today. There may be like-minded friends amongst us. I sincerely urge them to help officers in service in fighting and prosecuting cases successfully. Note: This article is a paper presented at the XVII SFRC Alumni Meet at Hyderabad. The author is a retired Dy.C.F. and his email ID is: buchiramkeesara@yahoo.co.in

BVR

CONVOCATION OF IV BATCH OF THE RANGERS COURSE OF TELANGANA STATE FOREST ACADEMY

**By
B.V. Rao**

The convocation was preceded by an impressive Parade when the Chief Guest Sri N. Krishna Kumar, PCCF, Tamil Nadu took the salute and inspected the Guard of honor presented by all the trainees of the Academy.

The other guests present, for the convocation were Sri P. Arul Reddy, Addl. PCCF, Karnataka; Dr. V. Ramakantha, Rtd. PCCF, Manipur, Sri BSS Reddy, Rtd. PCCF, AP Sri P; Madhusudan Rao, PCCF & D.G., CEFNARM, Telangana; and Sri Munindra, Addl. PCCF Telangana.

Director of the Academy Sri P. Raghuveer welcomed the guests and the IV Batch of Ranger Trainees who are passing out today. He said awards and medals won by the trainees do not matter. The real Guru Dakshana from the students who are passing out to their Guru is their good work and good service in the departments of their respective states.

Sri B.V. Rao, Course Director, gave details of the training imparted to 36 students from Tamil Nadu, 26 from Karnataka and 6 from Kerala; that includes 13 girls and 55 boys. The 18-month course commenced, on 22.04.2015. Besides class room lectures in several subjects of forestry, they were given weapon training at the Telangana State Police Academy at Hyderabad. Students were also given field knowledge by arranging tours in the forests of South India, West and

Central India, AP & Telangana, North India and East India. At the end of every tour, a symposium was held in which the students participated zealously. Five students got Honors while the rest secured pass marks; results of 3 candidates are withheld for fulfillment of the requirements of the course.

Two students viz. Naveen and Vidya Bharathi shared their experiences in the Academy. They said they not only gained knowledge in forestry but also improved their physical fitness. Abdul Hameed from Tamil Nadu is the topper.

Sri Anur Reddy in his message to the outgoing students said that the cadre of Ranger is the cutting edge of the Forest Department. He exhorted that all the out-going students after their successful training will have to improve their communication skills. He stressed the importance of good forest and said good forest means enough water. There are no short-cuts to success. Encroachments are a menacing problem faced by the forest department. Sri P. M. Rao traced the history of the present day's forest to Vedic times of Valmiki, Veda Vyasa, and Yogi Vemana. He drew closeness between human beings to human era of people's participation in forestry. He explained the importance of Accountability, Transparency and Responsibility. Sri B.S.S. Reddy, recollecting his

past days of training in 1976-'78 of SFRC said that Rangers should not feel shy of wearing uniform, because uniform adds to the dignity of a person on duty. Dr. Ramakantha, with his back-ground of a good teacher in forestry highlighted the importance of developing public relations and suggested many practical tips in the areas of science and administration. The Chief Guest Sri Krishna Kumar gave valuable advice to the

outgoing Forest Range Officer trainees on the present day requirement of changing role of a forester. Sri D.V Reddy Deputy Director compered the proceedings. The convocation came to a close with the vote of thanks by the Assistant Director Sri Syed Maqsood Mohiuddin. (The author is a Dy. Director of Telangana State Forest Academy)

START JOURNEY AGAIN WITH REJUVENATION

**By
Nagabhushanam Dasari**

Efforts of seniors resulted to have SFRC Alumni meet at Bhagyanagar
Spending in the soothing lap of TSFA mother forestry together
Opportunity to memories sweet golden days of training again here
Leaving green impressions in the journey of long service years
Keeping aside all botheration's, burdens, nasty enmities & egos
With only motto of meet each other to share, celebrate & refresh
Gathering of different batches under the crown of brotherly hood
To enjoy every moment with families with different age groups
Break the language barriers with emotional expressions
Burry all sorrows & tears under the shade of golden memories
Formulate legacy beyond relationships with affection and fraternity
Duly paying tributes to beloved departed batch mates & faculty
Let everybody restart journey again with rejuvenated joy & energy

(This poem was written keeping in view the XVII SFRC Alumni meet - 2016 which was held at Hyderabad from 24th to 27th October, 2016)

(The author is a Retired Conservator of Forest of Telangana State and his e-mail ID is dasari.nagabhushanam@gmail.com)

FORESTRY AND FOREIGN AID

By
M. Padmanabha Reddy

Many government departments of Government of India and state governments were after foreign assistance for technical help and aid in foreign exchange. The trend was more visible from 1960 onwards. There is some justification if we take foreign assistance in shape of transferring latest technology and financial assistance to implement the project. Most of the time small projects were proposed to donor countries for technical help and financial assistance mostly in US Dollars which the country was badly in need during that time. Interestingly there is an inbuilt provision in the project for visit of experts from donor country to impart training and evaluate the programme and at the same time few officials of implementing department from India to visit donor country or any appropriate University in Europe for training. Most of the time bureaucracy was interested in visits to abroad leaving the core object of the project.

Let us examine the foreign assistance programmes which were taken up in Forestry (M.O.E.F., Government of India) and the result of such foreign assistance projects in improving the forests in India. The examples quoted are suggestive and not exhaustive.

In late sixties M.O.E.F. has sent proposals to government of Sweden for training to Indian

foresters in advanced logging techniques, which included visit of forest officers of India to Sweden to undergo logging training and after return establish logging training centers in India to train field level officials in advanced logging methodology. Accordingly about 15 officers from various states visited Sweden and undergone training. Government of India, as per the agreement established few logging training centers at places like Coimbatore, Chandrapur, Dehradun, Burnihat etc. and started imparting training.

In the year 1969, while I was working as R.O Uttoor (Adilabad division) I received orders from Chief Conservator of Forests to undergo training in advance logging techniques at Chandrapur. There were about 16 R.O.s from 4 states. I promptly joined the course at Chandrapur; the duration of the training was 6 weeks. For a week we were explained the advantages of Swedish Axe and Saw over native Axe and Saw, another week about power chain, Saw, for a couple of days we were taken to field to use the Swedish axe and Saw to fell and log few trees. At the end of the training the trainees were given certificates. After 5 years the assistance stopped and the advanced logging training centers were closed.

Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) entered into an agreement with M.O.E.F. to train Forest officers on seed collection and tree improvement. A center under F.R.I. was established at Hyderabad for seed collection, selection of seed production areas, plus tree etc. In the year 1977 while I was working as Sub-DFO Karimnagar, was posted as A.C.F. in seed collection unit at Hyderabad. As per agreement two experts (young under graduate from Copenhagen University) visited the seed collection center, we took them to Teak forests of Warangal and Karimnagar. Most probably these youngsters might have seen Teak tree for the first time in their life time. In two weeks-time they prepared notes on seed collection, selection of plus trees and seed production areas of teak and we were asked to follow the notes prepared by these so called experts. After working for a year, we were taken to Thailand and shown how the seed production areas of Teak forests are maintained. We have also visited Yerrawaddi Valley containing good Burma Teak. After 5 years the project closed.

In early 80's Forest departments all over the country were after social forestry programme. Government of A.P. entered into an agreement with Canadian International Development Agency (C.I.D.A.) for taking up social forestry programme in the state. In the year 1985 I was posted as D.F.O. Social forestry Mahbubnagar.

Now and then experts from C.I.D.A. used to visit us, explain regarding implementation of the C.I.D.A. programme. There is an inbuilt component in the project for training about 30 officers in various Universities in U.K. In the year 1988 I was sent to University of East Anglia (U.K) for training, duration of which was about 10 weeks. Initially when the proposals were mooted some ministerial staff of M.O.E.F. was also included. Mr.Seshan at that time was Secretary M.O.E.F (G.O.I.) he objected to the proposals, subsequently after deleting the ministerial staff; names 4 offices from A.P. were cleared. During the training we were shown how bullocks plough the land in India and some parts of Africa. We were taken to Cambridge University to attend few lectures on Monitoring and evaluation of projects. The training was of little relevance for social forestry. Back home as a social forestry D.F.O., I could not make use of the training for the improvement of social forestry in Mahbubnagar district. The scheme closed after 7 years.

Government of A.P. has taken up Joint Forest Management programme to protect and improve the forests through people's participation. As a part of J.F.M., Vana Samrakshana Samithies (V.S.S.) was formed. Initially it worked well and people especially the forest dependent communities showed interest in protection of forests. After few years

the nomenclature of J.F.M. was changed to Community Forest Manage (C.F.M.) while all other things being same. For this project World Bank agreed to finance (loan). Prl. Secretary, Prl. CCF, and C.F. went to New York to finalize and ink the agreement conditions. Experts from World Bank visited the state and said to have assisted the local forest officers as to how to protect our forests through community participation. The Joint Forest Management which was started a decade back and C.F.M. which was a continuation with World Bank assistance fell short of the fixed goals and today the Vana Samrakshna Samithies (V.S. S) formed under J.F.M. and C.F.M. are nonfunctional. Lack of interest of staff at grass root level is one of the reasons.

At the end of the day few questions remain unanswered. 1)do we need a Swedish worker to tell us how to fell a tree with his Axe / Saw? Interestingly the Swedish Axe and Saw were designed for Swedish soft wood trees and could not work effectively for hard wood forests of India. 2)do we need an under graduate of

Denmark University to teach us how to collect seed, select seed production areas and plus trees. 3)do we need a Canadian to tell us how to motivate the Indian rural masses to take up tree planting? Finally do we need a World Bank expert (consultant) to teach us how to involve the local community to protect the forests? The answer to me is a big No. The Indian forester is quite capable of protecting and improving the forests, the problems are population pressure on forests and neglect of forest sector by political system in the country. Now it is time that Foresters of the country should think afresh leaving behind the worn out slogan of people's participation which is hard to come. Politicians see every project through the prism of votes. Forests with long gestation period and non-visible benefits will evoke little interest to politician and people. The general trend and mood of the people is immediate personal benefits and not participation. (The author is a Retired DCF of Telangana State and his e-mail ID is ffggapindia@gmail.com)

A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.

-Joseph Campbell

“It is not necessary to do extraordinary things to get extraordinary results.”

WHALE SHARK, THE GENTLE GIANT - LET US SAVE THE GENTLE GIANT

By

Koka Mrutyumjaya Rao

The whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) the gentle giant lives in sprawling sea waters attained uniqueness among the marine fishes. This is the largest fish in the world. As this is a large size and resembles the whale this is called as whale shark. The well grown whale shark measures upto 12.65 meters (41.5 feet) and weighs 21.5 metric tons. The unconfirmed reports said this even grows up to 14 meters (46 feet) and weighs 30 metric tons. The head is flattened and the wide mouth is stretches almost as wide as the body. The body is of dark grayish-blue color on the back and sides with pale yellow blotches. The underside is pale. The tail is half-moon shape. Stout ridges travel the length of the body. This has got five massive gills within these there is a sieve like structure of cartilage. It possesses about 300 tiny teeth in its mouth although their function is not known to us. The thickness of the skin on dorsal surface is the thickest skinned among all living animals with 12 to 15 cm thickness.

The whale shark sexual maturity is estimated at around 30 years of age and produces more young once than any other shark species, around 300 living young. The life span is estimated to 100 years.

This species prefers warm water. The distribution is tropical and temperate seas usually between 30° North latitude and 35° South latitude. It was

recorded around the world from more than 100 countries including Indian coast. Large number of whale sharks more than 500 were living in Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Ningaloo reef Western Australia, Yucatan Peninsula Mexican Gulf, Galapagos, Mozambique, Philippines, South China, and in Taiwan. Large numbers were also living along Gujarat Coast. During recent time the number is increasing in our East coast while the number is reducing throughout the world. It is observed from the year 2007 the number is increasing along the A.P coast. According to the EGREE (East Godavari River Estuarine Eco system) 85 dead whale sharks were observed between 2013 to till now along the coast of A.P in between the Godavari river mouth and Visakhapatnam. They are found along the coast and in fish landing centers. This is highly migratory. Satellite tracking in US waters and South China revealed that they travel great distances even up to 13000 km.

The whale shark feeds on small fishes, zoo plankton like copepods and crustaceans etc. These are filter feeders. Actively sucking their food through their wide mouth later passing the feed over the specially arranged gills filtering the water and swallows the feed.

Very little is known about the reproduction, migration, breeding grounds, life and habits of

this shark. Scientists are still researching on them. These sharks are generally solitary movers, moves slowly and gently, 3 to 5 km per hour in singles or in groups of 3 to 4 numbers generally travels up to depth of 600 meters from the surface. Tracking studies indicate that whale shark can travel even up to 1500 meters deep from the surface. They congregate more than 100 numbers in groups at their feeding areas. Scientists identified more than dozen feeding areas in the world. One of them is a hot spot Gulf of Mexico the Yucatan Peninsula. Large congregations of more than 400 numbers were sighted in the waters of Yucatan Peninsula. Scientists were observed plenty of feed is available in Mexican gulf and Caribbean Sea to whale sharks. Every year from May to September more than 800 whale sharks will migrate for feeding. The migration, path, were observed by scientists by tagging them. During the study from the feeding area the whale sharks spread out various parts of the region—throughout the Gulf of Mexico, down into the Caribbean Sea, through the Straits of Florida up into the open Atlantic Ocean. They found animals coming back every year to feed on the rich food.

A pregnant female was tagged and then tracked along an odyssey of some 7,800 kilometers her tag came off after five months of observation. The scientists said she made her journey between Brazil and Africa until she passed the Equator where her tag came off. The females have to be somewhere, and they hypothesize that mature, pregnant females undergo long migrations to the middle of the ocean, near

seamounts or remote islands and that's where they give birth. In 1995, one pregnant female was captured who contained nearly 300 fetuses. The young hatch from eggs retained within the mother so that she can give birth to live young once of the size of 38cm to 55 cm.

Whale sharks have been fished throughout their range, and their flesh and fins are highly valued on international markets. The increase in the demand for shark-fin soup threatens this species severely. The only known predator of the whale shark is humans. In addition to exploitation, incidental catches due to lack of awareness among fishermen also became threat to Whale Sharks. Apart from fishing it also suffers from various off shore activities such as oil exploration, boat and marine traffic, marine pollution, tourism etc. As these are docile and gentle creatures doing no harm to humans this character became one of the threats to their life. Some of the feeding grounds where number of whale sharks congregates become an important tourist attraction. In some tourist places the tourists without observing the rules going very close to them touching their bodies, riding along with them and also catch a ride with their trunk and over them. This disturbs them severely. There is habit of feeding whale sharks by feeders. During this process they keep their feet across the mouth of the whale shark and boat to avoid the shark to bump on the boat. The feeders occasionally stroke the sharks and push them away to discourage the shark from feeding because they want to conserve the food for the next group.

The whale shark is classified as Vulnerable (VU) on the IUCN Red List. Listed on Appendix II of CITES and listed on Appendix II of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS or Bonn Convention). These sharks are included in Schedule I of Wild life Protection Act 1972.

Whale sharks are now protected in Australia, Honduras, India, the Maldives, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand, Taiwan Philippines, Seychelles, United Arab Emirates and USA. It has been listed on International conventions and agreements to afford the species for global protection.

The following are relevant International agreements to conserve the Whale Shark.

- ◆ Convention on Migratory species (CMS) Memorandum of understanding on the conservation of migratory Sharks. Appendix II
 - ◆ Listed as Vulnerable species under the IUCN Red list (International Union for conservation of Nature and natural resources)
 - ◆ The CITES ((Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) listed the whale Shark under Appendix II
 - ◆ UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the law of the Sea)
 - ◆ UNESCO convention concerning the protection of the world Cultural and Natural heritage.
 - ◆ In India the Whale shark was protected and kept Under Schedule I of wild Life protection Act.
 - ◆ Gujarat Government is paying a reward of Rs 25000/- to fisherman towards the compensation of damaged fishing nets while incidental catch of whale shark and encourage conservation of the Giant Whale shark. The Andhra Pradesh Forest department also created a mobile app to fishermen towards the conservation of the whale shark and paying a reward of Rs. 18000/ to the fisherman from recent International whale Shark day 30-08- 2016.
- Along with the Government, the people should also strictly follow these points to conserve the Whale shark.
- ◆ Not to catch or disturb the whale shark if it comes across the fishing zone.
 - ◆ Fishermen, Coast guard and other concerned official can help the Forest department and EGREE foundation to inform about the whale shark movements along the coast and in fishing zones.
 - ◆ Avoid the trade of whale Shark products.
 - ◆ Production sectors and industries along the coast should help the Forest department and EGREE foundation towards the conservation of whale Shark through CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility)
- Andhra Pradesh Forest department and EGREE foundation Kakinada are taking several steps to conserve the Whale Shark. (Please see for last page for photograph)
- (The author is a retired officer of postal department of India and a wildlife enthusiast. His e-mail I.D. is mrutyumjaya@hotmail.com)

HOW TRIBAL WOMEN FROM ODISHA HAVE BEEN USING LEAVES TO MAKE A LIVING FOR CENTURIES

(Source Internet)

Sampati Kahanra, a Kandha tribal woman, has a deep connect with the forest. From ever since she can remember she has been walking the dense greens to pick food, firewood and leaves – earlier with her mother and now to run her own home. Up at dawn, the 48-year-old mother of three quickly finishes her chores and then, along with a few others, heads to the jungles at the periphery of her Madikhola village in Odisha's Kandhamal district. Together, the women forage for Bhalia seeds, tamarind, mahua flowers and, most importantly, Siali leaves. Back by noon with her collection, she sits down to stitch plates, locally known as 'khali panna'. It's time-consuming and Sampati does get tired sitting for long hours on the floor of her thatch-roof hut carefully binding the leaves together but she knows that this will enable her to bring in much-needed money for the family. Whereas till last year she used to make a pittance – Rs. 200-Rs. 300 per month from the sale of plates to the local traders – today, thanks to an Indo-German venture, which is exporting the biodegradable leaf plates internationally, Sampati's monthly income has increased to Rs. 3,000.

In fact, three Self Help Group (SHG) federations in Kandhamal, Sambalpur and Deogarh districts are benefiting from this project that has given a whole new meaning to this otherwise labor-intensive, home-based work done by impoverished tribal women.

"There was a time when we used to get Rs. 10 or Rs. 12 for one '*chekki*', a bundle of 80 plates. The money was not commensurate with the effort involved. But ever since I joined the Maa Dadiamba Laghu Banajata Sangraha-kari Mahila Gosthi SHG I have been able to secure a better price from the traders in the large market at Dadaki panchayat, which is around five kilometers from here," shares Sampati.

Her neighbour and fellow SHG member Ashumati Kahanra, 46, agrees, "Fact is that before we formed the SHG we had no bargaining powers. Most of us were forced to accept the poor rates that the traders would offer us. Those days are well behind us.

What changed the rules of engagement with the traders is an intervention initiated by Vasundhara, a non-profit research and policy advocacy group based in Bhubaneswar, which works on issues of environmental conservation

and livelihood creation for the rural poor in the state. "We have been working to create awareness around the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006, among communities that depend on the forest for their sustenance. The FRA enables them to set up and run enterprises using minor forest produce. Tribal women like Sampati, Ashumati and many others, have benefited immensely from the creation of SHGs. Being part of a group has not only improved their income but has enabled them to collect forest produce responsibly. They understand that if the forests survive then so do they," elaborates Manmohan Barik, Programme Officer, Vasundhara in Kandhamal.

This has opened up possibilities for the tribals to directly reach out to buyers through their SHGs. Consequently, with the assistance of Vasundhara, in 2015, 33 women from eight villages joined hands to set up the Maa Dadiamba Laghu Banajata Sangraha Mahila Gosthi. "The forest is ours and our livelihood is directly linked to the resources we can gather from it. Siali is a creeper that grows in abundance in the Sal forest. Its lush leaves are large and durable and for generations we have used them to make plates and bowls for household use as well as to sell. Earlier, we used go individually to the large market to sell our wares but nowadays the traders have started coming to us. Through our association with Vasundhara we have learnt

a better technique of stitching the leaf plates. With a superior quality product we are able to demand a good price," says Rashmita Bindhani, 22, Secretary of Mahila Gosthi. Rashmita is one of the few tribal women in the area who is educated and so she handles the group's accounts and also negotiates with the traders.

Of course, the partnership with the German company, Leaf Republic, which retails biodegradable tableware across the world, has been the big game changer. Chittaranjan Pani, Forest Researcher and Programme Coordinator, Vasundhara, reveals, "Leaf Republic's India division, Biotech Plant Materials Pvt. Ltd., was scouting for leaf-based biodegradable products when they got in touch with us. After several rounds of discussions an agreement was signed last September between the women SHG federations in Kandhamal, Sambalpur and Deogarh districts and the German principles. Thereafter, we organized training programmes to teach them an improved technique of stitching the plates so that they could deliver a quality product. So far, collectively the women have supplied nearly one lakh Siali leaf plates." As such the procedure for collecting and processing the leaves remains the same. After they gather the leaves, they are left to dry in the sun for around three days. Subsequently, the women sit down to make the plates. The one significant difference is that the stitch they use is somewhat different.

"The training has definitely helped us. We collect the better quality leaves and then make sturdier stitches so that the end product is up to standards," says Sampati, whose children are going to school, although her daughter will drop out after Class Ten "as I can't afford to send her to study after that". Kunti Kanhara, another SHG member, adds, "We used to stitch them roughly and quickly beforehand but we are conscious about quality these days. It's still hard work but at least our earnings are much more."

For these industrious tribal women, however, their relationship with the forest is certainly not one-sided. They don't believe in just taking, but also giving back. Putting things in perspective, Rambhabati Kanhara talks about the challenges they are up against. "Bad weather conditions are playing havoc with our forest. A few months ago, during the summer season, a fire broke out in the Sal forests nearby and we all suffered huge losses. The erratic rains, too, bring their own set of problems. For instance, the humidity is perfect for caterpillars and other insects to thrive. They spoil the leaves. If we have to continue to derive our livelihood from the trees then we have to

find a way to protect them," she says astutely. To save their forest the women's group at Kandhamal has decided to take a few necessary steps. "We are going to start planting more saplings in the forest and also keep an eye on who all are accessing the forest produce so that there is no indiscriminate exploitation," informs Rashmita. Apart from this, the group plans to set up a warehouse where the women can come and make the products and store them safely. She says, "In this way, we will ensure that there is minimal wastage, which will positively impact the forest in so much as we will not unnecessarily keep going back for more leaves."

As their experience clearly demonstrates, a mutually beneficial relationship between the forest and its inhabitants is workable. "As eco-friendly products gain ground nationally and internationally, it creates a win-win situation for all. That's because while this gives forest dwellers a fighting chance at building a better life for themselves, instinctively these communities are bound to defend their habitat,"

"Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."

SAVE THE TIGER



With fewer than 4,000 left in the wild, tigers are on a precipice — yet more than 100 of the big cats are still killed and illegally trafficked each year, according to fresh analysis published Wednesday.(16-11-2016)

The latest estimate comes as experts and dignitaries, including Britain's Prince William, gather in Vietnam's capital for an international wildlife conference which kicks off on Thursday.(17-11-2016)

The two-day meet joins governments, NGOs and activists to combat illegal wildlife trade and is being hosted in a country that has become a nexus for smuggling and consumption.

Traffic, which campaigns to protect endangered animals and help governments catch those who trade in their parts, published a new analysis looking at 16 years of tiger seizure data from across the globe. They estimate that an average of 110 tigers became victims of the trade each year since 2000.

The study also illustrates the growing role breeding centers play in fueling the trade, especially in Southeast Asia. Researchers singled out Thailand, Laos and Vietnam as among the world's top countries for tiger farms.

"These countries have clearly made little meaningful progress in controlling this source of supply," Kanitha Krishnasamy, a co-author of Traffic's report said in a statement.

"Any further stimulation of demand could have a more disastrous impact on wild tigers."

Around 30 per cent of tiger parts seized between 2012 and 2015 come from captive tigers compared to just two per cent between 2000 and 2003.

Animal rights groups argue that by keeping demand for tiger parts going, farms simultaneously perpetuate the destruction of tigers in the wild.

They hope the Hanoi conference will pile pressure on governments to redouble efforts to stem the trade and close down farms.

VULTURES- THE NATURAL SCAVENGERS

By
M. Ram Mohan

One of the most misconstrued bird species is vulture species. Often notorious, vicious people are compared with this noble species referring to as, *rabandu la peekku thinnaru...* in Telugu. In contrast, the vultures play an indispensable role in the ecosystem by consuming decaying meat of the dead animals. Otherwise, the decomposed meat harbor a variety of pathogens which cause dreadful diseases such as anthrax, cholera, etc. in other life forms including humans and thus these birds are doing yeoman service to mankind and other animals by preventing spread of diseases by doing natural scavenging very efficiently, and are described as 'god's own disposal squad', 'natural incinerators'.

Once, millions in number in the sub-continent, the population of the vulture species declined drastically thanks to indiscriminate use of *diclofenac*, a drug administered to the ailing cattle. The presence of the drug in even miniscule quantity in the carcass of the cattle is fatal to this bird which affects the renal system and cause death in a few days.

Vulture conservation and breeding centers have been started by the Govt. of India across the country to save the birds which are on the verge

of extinction. Gol also banned the use of veterinary variant of *diclofenac* drug and *meloxicam*, a safer drug, has been recommended instead. But, the human variant of Diclofenac is administered to the ailing cattle since the price of the *diclofenac* is considered to be cheaper compared with *meloxicam*. To arrest this malpractice, the Gol has also banned the human variant *diclofenac* multi-dose vials, which are source for misuse.

In southern part of the country, the presence of this bird species is reported in 2 or 3 places only in recent times. In undivided Andhra Pradesh, the vultures were declared extinct by the AP Biodiversity Board in 2012. In 2013, a habitat of Long Billed Vultures was identified in Bejjur forests at PalarapuGutta in Morliguda Beat in Bejjur Range of Kaghaznagar Division. A conservation plan has been put in place by the Telangana Forest Department to save the birds which are placed under Critically Endangered Category by the IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

The conservation plan at *Palarapugutta* includes, monitoring the movement of the birds and documentation, opening of vulture

feeding center and offering feed to the birds, creation of awareness among the villagers, students, medical shoppers, etc. regarding vulture species and its significant role, by conducting meetings, *kalajatha*, distribution of brochures, etc., and conduct of survey in the villages falling in the vulture range to know the usage of *diclofenac* to the cattle.

For the purpose of Observation and Monitoring of the birds at the habitat, a Field Researcher and Bird Trackers have been appointed. They record the observations, such as, the number of Birds present, their nesting/roosting spots, building of nests, egg laying, hatching, parental care, mortality in eggs/chicks, number of chicks attaining fledgling stage, etc. throughout the year especially during the breeding time September/October to May.

At the time of discovery of the habitat, about (10) birds were observed. During 2014-15, the number of birds increased to (26), as some birds are migrated from Maharashtra side where meta-populations are thriving and addition of (7) chicks, out of (8) nests, at the habitat. In the year 2015-16, ten nests were built, out of which (6) chicks grown into fledglings taking the population to (30). During the current year, till now, 20 birds, (8) nests are observed. Every year migration of birds to or from other habitats present across Pranahita River in Maharashtra is observed.

A feeding facility is set up in order to feed the birds. An area of one hectare duly fenced, is earmarked for the purpose. Cattle are bought and quarantined for about (2) week time, in order to get flushed out the *diclofenac*, if any, present in the animal and then the carcass is placed in the feeding center or sometimes at other places where the birds can sight the carcass, like the spots where the birds usually take water from stream, etc.

The number of birds may further increase given the habitat's uniqueness, such as, its suitability for these huge birds to take flight with ease, presence of about (40) ledges which can harbor an equal number of pairs, presence of meta-populations on the other side of Pranahitha, vegetation having high trees for perching, presence of water in adjacent perennial stream, PeddaVagu and Pranahitha river and the supply of feed, etc.

Implementation and continuation of Vulture Conservation Plan result in recovery and thriving of bird species and gives scope for obtaining more information to understand its biology, population dynamics, etc. in the long run, saving the vultures which have a vital role of efficient natural scavenging in the ecosystem.

(The author is Forest Range Officer, Bijjur of Adilabad district in TS. His e-mail ID is rammohanm.16@gmail.com)

THE END OF NATURE: WHY INDIA IS BECOMING A DRIER, HOTTER AND ANGRIER COUNTRY

Every day, as I left home and walked along the footpath near my house, battling cars that try to occupy it, I glanced irritated at the little mess of leftover rice-and-god-knows-what that I shuddered at and jumped over. I was delighted when the WhatsApp group of the local residents' associations posted photos of the dirty patch I encountered and others like it. The unanimous decision: We will ask residents to stop creating this mess that attracts dogs and crows. Why, I mused, must people make this mess on our already crumbling footpaths?

I got my answer the next week, and it made me feel guilty, ashamed and ignorant. You see, the reason people from my neighborhood's last surviving little houses put the rice out was because they were acting on fading impulses and memories from a gentler and greener time – when nature was a part of daily life and Bengaluru was a city of trees and gardens big and small. "Bengaluru residents have not just been aware of the biodiversity of their gardens, but have made active efforts to support this biodiversity," writes Harini Nagendra, a professor at Azim Premji University, in *Nature in the City*, her evocative exploration of the city's natural history. "More than half of the residents engaged in practices such as placing a plate of warm rice

(often with ghee [clarified butter] added outside the kitchen to feed crows, while they left water baths for birds in the summer, and sugar and milk for ants and reptiles."

No smart cities without nature: Having experienced Bengaluru's lush past since my family first came here 47 years ago and having lived through innumerable gardens that my father tended, I was aware of the broad brush strokes of the city's changing history. But Nagendra's book merges disparate brush strokes to paint a big picture of the ancient relationship between nature and a city of nine million that is now, simultaneously, the epitome of Indian metropolitan prosperity and chaos. Nagendra's book made me realize how far nature has receded from our lives. Butterflies, birds, reptiles and mammals are on their last legs in all of India's cities. As they and the greenery that sustains them fades, it is important to realize that the smart-city era can never be realized without a sustaining natural environment. Indeed, the absence of nature is making our lives more unbearable. We may ignore the correlations and causations – or simply be ignorant, as many policy makers are – but scientists are clear about the devastating effects that the end of nature is having on India, within cities and without.

Nature's diminishing effect is most obvious in physical terms:

As trees, lakes and open spaces disappear and are replaced by closely spaced multistoried buildings – increasingly violating zoning and setback laws – Indian cities are turning into “heat islands”, environment researcher Max Martin wrote in *IndiaSpend* in July 2016, after a review of scientific studies in five cities.

“Trees, shrubs, grass and soil absorb heat and cool the land, but since these are increasingly absent in Indian urban design, and what existed is being cleared, what's left is concrete and asphalt, which soak in and intensify the day's heat, staying hot for many hours at night,” wrote Martin. The result: warmer nights and hotter days in Delhi, Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram, Guwahati and Kochi, according to a number of independent studies that Martin reviewed. It goes without saying that roads and cities bereft of trees are hotter, more starved of water and even more difficult to endure. And that, as science keeps reminding us, makes us stressed, angry and depressed.

India joins the sixth extinction: Outside the cities, India's assault on nature has been more widely documented and reported: the loss of forests and wildlife and the effect this is having on a variety of things: monsoons, livelihoods and traditions. To be sure, the end of nature is not specific to India.

The world is facing the most widespread extinction since the dinosaurs vanished 65 million years, warns the *Living Planet Report*,

2016, released last month by the World Wide Fund for Nature and the Zoological Society of London. “The evidence has never been stronger, and our understanding never been clearer,” wrote WWF director general Marco Lambertini. A variety of living creatures – mammals, reptiles, fish, and amphibians – are disappearing at a rate 100 times faster than is normal. The number of vertebrate species fell 58% in just 42 years, and it is estimated that 66% of animals will be gone over the next four years. Worst hit are the world's freshwater systems, which have lost 81% of their animals, which are indicators of the health of these systems. As these animals disappear, so does the freshwater, and that is why growing stresses and conflicts over such water supplies are skyrocketing.

There is no better place to realize the extent of those stresses than in Karnataka, where reservoirs in the lush southern territories – ironically called the Malnad (from male nadu or land of rain) – are almost empty. At a time when dams should have had plentiful water for farmers and electricity generation – thermal power plants should be powering down for maintenance – the unseasonal dryness has currently left the state with a dilemma: How will it implement Supreme Court orders to share water with its neighbors from its principal river, the Cauvery, and avoid widespread brownouts in the months to come?

The Western Ghats' blank spaces: Whether tensions with Tamil Nadu over the Cauvery or with Goa and Maharashtra over the Mahadayi (or Mandovi) in Karnataka's north, the conflicts over the freshwater these rivers supply have the same point of origin: The Western Ghats, a 1,40,000 sq. km swathe of damp forests and hills larger than Chhattisgarh, running from Gujarat to Kerala. It is one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, a cradle of forests, animals and water, interlinked in a vast, intricate web of life. That web is being torn apart with unprecedented speed.

Over 90 years, the Western Ghats lost a third of its forests, according to this paper released in 2016 by scientists of the Indian Space Research Organization. The forest area lost is equivalent to nine times the size of Goa. Innumerable species have been lost, many before they were discovered. The Indian Space Research Organization scientists recorded forest loss until 2013. Since then, more tracts of forest have been removed, particularly in the Cauvery basin. There are no official records of recent devastation, only the occasional newspaper report, such as the clearing of forests in the coffee-district of Kodagu for a power line in 2014, when estimates of trees felled ranged from 2,247 (the Power Grid Corporation) to 21,000 (the forest department) to 50,000 (trekkers, locals and activists).

As the forests of the Western Ghats are brought down, India loses its biotic capital, which is a

national strategic reserve, as much as food stocks, gold and foreign-exchange holdings and the nuclear arsenal. The Ghats are – still – stuffed with undiscovered animals and plants, many hidden in the rain forests in the heart of the Ghats.

In his 1992 book, *The Diversity of Life*, the great US biologist Edward Wilson wrote of the unsolved mysteries of the rain forests:

“They are like unnamed islands hidden in the blank spaces of old maps; like dark shapes glimpsed descending the far wall of a reef into the abyss. They draw us forward... The unknown and prodigious are drugs to the scientific imagination, stirring insatiable hunger with a single taste. In our hearts we hope we will never discover everything.”

In our hearts, we know we never will discover everything in the Ghats – a place so rich that discoveries, sometimes, come at a rate of many species a night – not because of some romantic urge but because they are being slowly, quietly decimated. These forests are home to 1,500 species of flowering plants, 500 animals and an unknown number of fungi and insects found nowhere else on earth, but the interest generated by this biotic capital goes beyond beauty and wonder. The Western Ghats are a giant sponge, absorbing water as it falls, giving life not just to forests but sustaining peninsular India's major rivers, the waters of which drain a fourth of India and give life to 245 million

people across five states. That is more people than live in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

The most dire warning about the declining health of the Western Ghats came more than four years ago, when the Indian government banned the release of a report of a 325-page scientific study, Report of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel, and forbade its 14 authors, which included some of India's best biologists and four government officers, from discussing it.

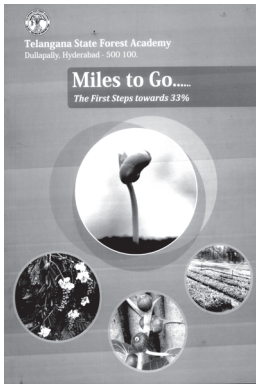
"Our nation is evidently at a crossroads today, with grave misgivings on continuing with business as usual," said the report, which I quoted from when I wrote about it in 2012. Unlike many government-appointed committees, the authors – headed by the learned and eminent biologist Madhav Gadgil – took their job seriously, questioning the unscientific basis and practice of India's environmental forest policies, introduced by the British 150 years ago, I wrote. The report offered two examples of how this system is manipulated: One, a fake claim in the 1970s made by India's forestry establishment that 23% of the country was forest. A satellite scan ordered by the then secretary of the Space Department, Satish Dhawan, revealed India's forests to be 14% of its area; the final figure was settled at 19%. Two, the paper tigers of Rajasthan's Sariska Reserve, where officials fudged figures to show there were 17 tigers in 2004. There were none.

Since data are routinely falsified and short-term gains for governments and industries are now India's chief environmental priority, it is no surprise that the remedial measures suggested for the Western Ghats will never be implemented.

The battle to join broken bonds: While many argue that the assault on nature is, well, natural given the living room that a country of 1.3 billion requires, this justification does not consider the long-term harm we cause to ourselves. "Faced with unprecedented growth, socio-cultural heterogeneity and inequity, we do not know what the future holds for nature in the new urban Indian," writes Nagendra. "While the focus of the country appears to be on 'smart cities' as viewed through a technological lens, we need to understand that nature provides the most intelligent routes to a smart city."

Back in Bengaluru, she sees hope in the "intense affinity" for nature that has survived the destruction, an affinity demonstrated in areas as diverse as slums, middle-class homes and wealthy apartment complexes. That affinity leads citizens of the city to come together and wage intense battles to save what is left and attempt to regenerate what has been lost. Now, more than ever, we need to recall our broken bonds with the natural world. Our future depends on it.

BOOK REVIEW



Miles To Go..... Authored by Dr. K. Jayachandran, Mr. R. Raghuvaran, Ms. T.P. Niveditha and Mr. S. Sathish. Pages 93. Price not quoted

The authors belong to the IV Batch of Rangers Course at the Telangana State Forest Academy. They

passed out on Oct. 21, 2016 after successfully completing their training. The budding foresters have taken upon themselves the onerous and ambitious task of compiling this tiny, informative and beautiful volume. It is no "small initiative". The authors had the benefit of the expert advice and guidance from Mr. P. Raghuveer, Director, Mr. B. Venkateswar Rao, Deputy Director and Mr. Syed Maqsood, Assistant Director, of the Academy.

The book is useful to all ranks of forestry professionals and also persons interested in tree farming. The objectives of the book according to the authors are:

- (1). To identify the important tree species of South India for planting programme;
- (2). To standardize suitable propagation techniques of selected species; And
- (3). To standardize the optimum techniques for germination/sprouting of the selected species.

Seventy species are selected for compilation of the data and the authors have done a highly commendable job. Each of the species, with its botanical name and common name as also the local names in Malayalam, Tamil, Kannada, Telugu and Hindi, is arranged in alphabetical order. Every species is described by its habit, uses and other important information needed for propagation and management of the selected species.

At the end of the book, the authors have done well in adding bibliography which facilitates the reader to refer to that authoritative literature for further study in depth. The book is brought out very attractively with beautiful pictures and is printed on glossy paper. It is perhaps desirable if a translation of the book is published in Telugu for the benefit of the local people.

In short, the authors have done well and the book hopefully serves the objectives with which they have endeavoured to put their effort in bringing out the volume. A few mis-spelt words, like benghalensis (P.44), Billlutu (P.33), Teaku-Sagun (P.73), Narlingi (P.16), Kadambu (P. 21), Andaga (P.27), were though insignificant, were avoidable. The Telangana State Forest Academy, Dulapally, Hyderabad – 500 100 has done well in publishing the book. **K.B.R.**

Birth Day Greetings

We wish the following born on the dates mentioned
“ A very Happy Birth Day ”

| S.No. | Name of the member | D.O.B. | | | |
|-------|----------------------|------------|-----|-----------------------|------------|
| | Sarva Sri | | 8. | V.Damoder | 12-12-1960 |
| 1. | Satish Chandra | 06-12-1939 | 9. | M.Nagabhushanam | 14-12-1964 |
| 2. | B.Bhooma Rajam | 07-12-1926 | 10. | A. Venkateshwarlu | 15-12-1968 |
| 3. | K.Rama Krishna Reddy | 08-12-1926 | 11. | Dr.B.Prabhakar | 16-12-1966 |
| 4. | Ch.lylaiah | 08-12-1949 | 12. | M.B.S.S. Murthy Raju | 18-12-1957 |
| 5. | P.Satyanarayana | 10-12-1953 | 13. | G.Ravinder | 30-12-1958 |
| 6. | A.V.Govinda Rajulu | 11-12-1945 | 14. | K.Venkata Swamy | 01-01-1958 |
| 7. | S.D.Mukherji | 14-12-1940 | 15. | V.Venkateshwara Rao | 01-01-1966 |
| 8. | T.Shankaraiah | 16-12-1931 | 16. | A.Ravisimha Murthy | 02-01-1957 |
| 9. | S.K.Das | 17-12-1947 | 17. | K.Sailendra Moses | 02-01-1959 |
| 10. | P.Ravinder Reddy | 19-12-1946 | 18. | K.Sudarshan Reddy | 02-01-1962 |
| 11. | V.Santhasheela Babu | 21-12-1947 | 19. | V.Tirumala Rao | 04-01-1964 |
| 12. | K.Prakash Rao | 29-12-1943 | 20. | A. Chandra Sekher | 01-01-1965 |
| 13. | G.Raman Goud | 01-01-1949 | 21. | Mrs.V.L.Subhadra Devi | 03-01-1982 |
| 14. | B.Janardhan | 02-01-1950 | 23. | G.Ramalingam | 05-01-1966 |
| 15. | C.Sudhakar Rao | 04-01-1947 | | | |
| 16. | Y.Nageshwar Rao | 04-01-1946 | | | |
| 17. | T.Prabhakar Rao | 05-01-1942 | | | |

Secretary

| S.No. | Name of Serving Officers | D.O.B. |
|-------|--------------------------|------------|
| | Sarva Sri | |
| 1. | Satish Kumar Kaushik | 06-12-1958 |
| 2. | Sidhanand Kukreti | 19-12-1961 |
| 3. | P.V.Raja Rao | 20-12-1962 |
| 4. | Soumykanta Chottray | 24-12-1957 |
| 5. | Vipin Choudhary | 01-01-1960 |
| 6. | Binod Kumar Singh | 02-01-1964 |
| 7. | G.Nageshwara Rao | 10-12-1960 |



NEWS AND NOTES

Tiger skin seized, 2 arrested : - Two persons were arrested in Bejjur of Komaram Bheem, Asifabad district, while they were attempting to transport a tiger skin.

The seizure of the skin, believed to have been taken from a sub-adult male tiger about two years old, sent officials of the state wildlife department scrambling to check if it belonged to any of the big cats that moved into Telangana from Maharashtra's tiger reserves in the past couple of years. "We cross-checked the pattern of stripes on the skin with our database of images of tigers in Kawal Tiger Reserve and in Kagaznagar forest area. This animal was killed somewhere else, possibly in the neighbouring Maharashtra," a senior wildlife department official here said. "For a while, we were worried tiger poaching had returned to Adilabad along with tiger themselves," the official added. The two men arrested were identified as Sudhakar, husband of sarpanch of Kethini village, and Santosh, formerly working for NREGS programme but now suspended. The reasons for his suspension were not available immediately. "The two men were riding a motorcycle when we intercepted them near Etiguda village," Bejjur forest range officer M Ram Mo han said. When caught, the duo were on their way to Kagaznagar from Gudem village oblivious of the presence of forest officials who had a tip-off that the two men were travelling with a tiger skin. "They told us that they

got the skin from a person who came from Allapalli in Maharashtra. This is something we are trying to confirm," he said. The young tiger was possibly killed six months ago if not more. "The skin did not have any damage and is well cured and dry. There is no foul smell or residue or any other sign of damage," Ram Mohan said. "The tiger was skinned by someone very skilled in the job," he added. It was only about two years ago that tigers returned to the erstwhile Adilabad district after they were poached out of existence in that district over a decade ago. For many years, the Kawal Tiger Reserve did not have a single tiger, until three tigers in search of new territories made their way down from the well-protected tiger reserves in Maharashtra where the animal's numbers have been growing over the years.

Currently, in addition to the three tigers in the reserve, the Kagaznagar forest area, that serves as a forest corridor for animals moving towards Kawal, is home to a tigress with four cubs, with reports of three more adult tigers roaming in the area. (Source Deccan Chronicle with thanks) *(Please see last cover page for photo)*

Two-Headed Snake Found In Croatia:- A two-headed snake was saved from certain death after being found by a kind hearted animal lover. The unique looking snake was found by retiree Josip Vranic in his garden in Kravarsko, Croatia, a small town just outside Zagreb.

(Please see last cover page for photo)

Elephant plunges into a river to rescue

human: -This is the heartwarming moment a young elephant plunges into a fast-flowing river to RESCUE her “drowning” human best friend. Darrick Thomson, 42, jumped into the swollen 50ft wide river while five-year-old Asian elephant Kham Lha walked on the bank in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The pair had formed an “inseparable bond” after Kham Lha was rescued from an abusive owner last year and Darrick nursed her back to health. So when the young cow saw her “best friend” apparently in trouble shouting for help, she raced through the water to save him.

World’s oldest Panda in captivity dies in

Hong Kong: -The oldest giant panda living in captivity, 38-year-old JiaJia, was euthanized in Hong Kong after rapidly deteriorating health over the past two weeks, her owners Ocean Park said on Sunday.

JiaJia, whose name means “good,” had been gifted to Hong Kong in 1999 along with another panda, to mark the second anniversary of the city’s handover from former colonial ruler Britain.

In recent weeks JiaJia’s food consumption had sharply declined from over 10kg (22 pounds) to less than three kg (six pounds) per day and her average weight dropped from 71kg (156 pounds) to around 67kg (147 pounds).

“Over the past few days, she has been spending less time awake and showing no interest in food or fluids. Her condition became worse this

morning. JiaJia was not able to walk about without difficulties and spent the day lying down,” Ocean Park said in a statement posted on its website.

“Her state became so debilitated that based on ethical reasons and in order to prevent suffering, veterinarians agreed to a humane euthanasia for JiaJia.”

Pandas are endangered because most of their natural habitat has been destroyed for timber, farming and construction, according to the World Wildlife Fund.

A Chinese government survey in 2014 estimated 1,864 pandas live in the wild, up 17 percent from 2003. They also have an exceptionally short breeding season, with females fertile for just 24 to 36 hours a year, says a nonprofit body, Pandas International.

Mother elephant protects body of baby

elephant: - Mayurbhanj (Odisha) [India], Oct. 17 (ANI): A bond between a mother and her child is the most precious relation of all. The love a mother has for her child is unconditional and it’s the same for both human beings and animals.

A similar incident was witnessed in Sunsal village of Odisha where a mother elephant was seen protecting the body of her dead son.

A herd of elephant from Similipal Tiger Reserve also came and gathered around the dead body of the jumbo elephant lying in Sunsal village under dukura range.

After seeing this unusual scenario, the villagers were surprised and called the rescue team of forest department.

But the parade of elephant didn't let them come near the lying body.

All elephants left the place after staying there for a night, but the mother was still there with her son.

Doctors have collected the blood samples of the jumbo elephant to probe the reason behind the death of the baby elephant was about 4 to 5 years old. (ANI)

September 2016 was the hottest on record:

Nasa: - The month of September this year was the hottest September on record, according to data provided by the Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS), under the United States' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa).

This means 11 of the last 12 months on record have been the hottest in recorded history, presenting a frightening picture of global warming and climate change, a topic on which Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump — the two candidates who are in the race to be what has been called the "leader of the free world" — **have spent less than two minutes in a presidential debate.**

According to an official statement from GISS, released just hours ago: "September 2016 was the warmest September in 136 years of modern record-keeping, according to a monthly analysis of global temperatures by scientists at Nasa's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) in New

York." The collection of this kind of data started in 1880.

However, it was almost as warm as two previous Septembers, but came out on top by a really slim margin. According to the statement: "September 2016's temperature was a razor-thin 0.004 degrees Celsius warmer than the previous warmest September in 2014. The margin is so narrow those two months are in a statistical tie. Last month was 0.91 degrees Celsius warmer than the mean September temperature from 1951-1980."

Which month bucked the trend? So, if 11 of the 12 months — from October 2015 to September 2016 — were the hottest in history, which month bucked the trend? According to GISS, it was June this year, and even that would not have been the case had there not been gaps in compiling data.

The GISS statement said: "Updates to the input data have meant that June 2016, previously reported to have been the warmest June on record, is, in GISS's updated analysis, the third warmest June behind 2015 and 1998 after receiving additional temperature readings from Antarctica. The late reports lowered the June 2016 anomaly by 0.05 degrees Celsius to 0.75."

How did that happen? According to GISS Director Gavin Schmidt: "Monthly rankings, are sensitive to updates in the record, and our latest update to mid-winter readings from the South Pole has changed the ranking for June. We continue to stress that while monthly rankings

are newsworthy, they are not nearly as important as long-term trends.”

How was the data compiled? The GISS statement says: “The monthly analysis by the GISS team is assembled from publicly available data acquired by about 6,300 meteorological stations around the world, ship- and buoy-based instruments measuring sea surface temperature, and Antarctic research stations.”

Blackbuck Poaching Case: Rajasthan Govt. To

Appeal Against Salman Khan’s Acquittal: -

Bollywood actor Salman Khan’s blackbuck poaching case has taken another shocking turn. The Rajasthan government has now moved to Supreme Court to appeal against the decision given by the court. It was a sigh of relief for the actor after being acquitted in 1998 blackbuck and chinkara poaching case on July 25 but now, the case has taken a drastic turn.

“The government is studying the merits and demerits of the case and has decided to appeal against the decision of the Supreme Court,” the state’s Law Minister, RajendraRathore, told reporters.

Salman Khan was accused of hunting and killing the endangered deer while shooting his film Hum SaathSaath Hain in Rajasthan in 1998. His co-stars, Saif Ali Khan, Tabu, SonaliBendre and Neelam, were also charged with inciting the actor to hunt.

Well, Salman Khan and his court visits have always been in the headlines. Last year, the actor was much in the limelight for the hit and run case

and this year, he is entangled in the blackbuck poaching case.

6 Easy and Simple Remedies to Get Rid of

Weakness: - It is very common to feel weak, tired and drowsy. Eyes become so heavy that you are not able to do a simple set of work. What if this condition keeps on disturbing you daily? Your productivity reduces and badly affects your performance. Although it may indicate some underlying disease but in many patients there is nothing in the blood report and the doctor has nothing but to say

Should I depend on glucose or energy pills or energy drinks..?? I believe there are many other options to get rid of this weakness. How to gain energy and how to keep yourself going on is not that difficult. Trust me glucose is not always the best solution to keep going.

Six easy ways to fight weakness

1. Watch what you eat; Think twice if you order pizza or burger more than once a week. Rather two chapattis made with love by your lovely mom, some vegetables and salad may give you better energy than cheese burst pizza or burger. Always eat healthy and always stay fit.

2. Move your body; Indulge in any kind of physical activity. Gymnasium is not the only place you need to go to stay fit. There are many other options be it Swimming, Badminton, Dancing, Aerobics, Yoga, Boxing and so on. Make your own choice. Jogging for about 30 minutes a day, along with some stretching works is good for me.

3. Relax your brain; If you are medically fit, then trust me; the weakness is in your mind only. Your mind or brain needs relaxation not your body. Try to complete your work before deadlines, play games with your friends, stay friendly with your colleagues, spend time with your family and always keep a smile on your face. These small things keep your mind fresh and your mental equilibrium is maintained. Follow these things and believe me your mind will start telling your body that Get up, you are absolutely fine.

4. Make a hobby; Start doing something you really like. It may be playing guitar, piano, reading books, painting, listening music etc. You will start feeling energetic when you start doing what you really love. I personally love to write things. So whenever I feel tired I start writing whatever comes in my mind.

5. Avoid pills, choose fruits; There are many energy pills or drinks available in market claiming to give you enough energy for whole day. Most of these drinks contains a lot of sugar and is not good for health. Regular intake of supplement pills put unnecessary pressure on our kidney and liver. So its better to go for fruits and other natural food products. Take a lot of fibre, water, green leafy vegetables and salads.

6. Make use of your mobile and TV; One of the strangest ways to help yourself to get up from bed when you are feeling drowsy is to start watching your favorite TV show. Alternatively you can use your mobile phone. Yes, mobile phones are not only time wasters; you may take benefit

from it too. You can watch any comedy video clip or listen your favorite music. Giving 4-5 minutes to your mobile or to your TV may help to open your eyes and gives enough energy to start doing your work. You know better which one works for you better. It may be the action scenes from racing clips of fast and furious, Horror sequence of The Conjuring or wrestling of Sultan or the motivational song from Chak de. For me the lovely fight scene from Mr and Mrs Smith always work. You may try it too.

In short, plenty of healthy food, appropriate meal timings and loving your job is all you need to keep going at all times. Next time, if you feel weakness don't ask your doctor to prescribe you a Tonic, instead tell your body that Don't make me fool, get up and keep going. And still if nothing works, a mug of chilled water from your parents, spouse or friends always work.

Wildlife poacher arrested by police, dried tiger meat seized: -Police arrested a wildlife poacher from Surat Nagar in Gurgaon on Wednesday and seized 58 gram dried tiger meat and fats from his possession. Police arrested the wildlife poacher identified as Bheema following a tip-off.

“Bheema was active in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and other parts of Haryana's forest areas. While his accomplice, Hajari who is absconding now used to help him in poaching wildlife animals,” said Mahendra Verma, PRO, Gurgaon Police. Bheema has been booked under relevant sections of wild life protection

act in Rajendra Park Police Station.

“We raided Bheemas resident following tip-off about his suspicious activity. The raiding party has recovered tiger meat and fats and sent it to lab in Madhuban lab for test,” Verma said.

Lioness Grishma dies at Etawah Safari: -In a setback to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav’s dream project, a lioness that was ill on Tuesday died at the Lion Safari in Etawah, which has seen eight other big cats perish since 2014. “Lioness Grishma was brought to the Lion Safari on September 14, 2014 from Gujarat. She was ill since July 3 and died today,” Director, Lion Safari, Sanjay Srivastava said.

The Lion Safari has seen three adult lionesses, Grishma, Lakshmi and Tapasya, and a lion, along with five tiger cubs perish since 2014.

The safari now has three lions and three lionesses. Taking serious note of Tapasya’s death in January this year, Akhilesh had removed Chief Forest Conservator S K Upadhyaya.

The ‘Pangolin Men’ Saving The World’s Most Trafficked Mammal: -Incredible portraits of a group of men who dedicate their lives to the most trafficked mammal in the world - the pangolin – have been released today as part of a campaign to raise awareness and funds for the protection of the species. Committed minders from the TheTikkiHywood Trust in Zimbabwe work hard to protect the species with a one-on-one care programme. The charity workers are assigned with one pangolin each, where they spend 24 hours a day rehabilitating and walking

the majestic mammals so that they can forage naturally. Videographer / director: Adrian Stein
Producer: Crystal Chung, Nick Johnson Editor: Joshua Douglas

Will there be a massive drop in wildlife by

2020?As much as two-thirds of the global wildlife populations may be wiped out by the year 2020 due to human activities, according to a new study published Thursday which shows that, for the first time in Earth’s history, people are overpowering the planet.

According to the World Wildlife Fund’s (WWF) Living Planet Report 2016, global populations of mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles have already declined by 58 per cent between 1970 and 2012, the most recent year with available data. At this trajectory, the decline could reach 67 per cent by 2020, according to the report produced in collaboration with the Zoological Society of London.

The Earth is being pushed into uncharted territory, with humanity now violating planetary boundaries that act as safe thresholds for nine critical system processes that maintain life on Earth.

Those already pushed past safe limits include climate, biosphere integrity, biogeochemical flows (nitrogen and phosphorous) and land-system change (such as conversion of forests to agricultural land). Some assessments suggest freshwater use has also passed a safe threshold. Wildlife are disappearing at an unprecedented rate, with a 38 per cent decline in land-based populations, 36 per cent decline in ocean-

based populations and an 81 per cent decline in freshwater populations.

According to the report, pollution, climate change and loss and degradation of habitat through agriculture, logging, and man-made changes to freshwater systems are among biggest threats to species.

“Take away species, and these ecosystems will collapse along with the clean air, water, food and climate services that they provide us,” said Marco Lambertini, director general of WWF International.

“We have the tools to fix this problem and we need to start using them now if we are serious about preserving a living planet for our own survival and prosperity,” said Lambertini.PTI

GOVERNMENT GIVES NOD FOR ROPEWAY IN

GOREWADA ZOO: -Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis gave his in-principle approval for building a ropeway in Gorewada Zoo and Rescue Centre at Nagpur to add value to tourism. He also asked officials to prepare a detailed project report in this regard. Fadnavis gave the directions while chairing a meeting to review progress of the Zoo and Rescue Centre, an official from CMO's said Thursday. He also approved up gradation of roads for Jungle Safari in Gorewada.PTI

Why an IIT Graduate Left His Cushy Job Abroad to Set Up Digital Classrooms in Rural Bihar: -

When Pramod Kumar, who belongs to a small village in Bihar, decided to prepare for

engineering exams, he was struck by the lack of educational resources like textbooks in regional languages. Pramod's parents belonged to a remote area in Bihar — his father passed away when Pramod was very young, and his mother could attend school only up to fifth standard because the nearest one was 10 kilo meters away from her village. Pramod finished his schooling at a government school. He says, “I studied in Hindi till 12th standard, and I always thought that communicating fluently in English was my weak point. I used to feel insecure about my accent and people even bullied me about it.” Pramod went on to graduate from IIT Varanasi and later completed a degree in management from IIM Kozhikode. But, he knew that he was one of the fortunate ones, that many other students like him were unable to achieve their potential because of the dismal state of the education system in Bihar.

He left his cushy job in Tanzania, so he could make children in Bihar more confident about their potential when they leave their homes to pursue a career or higher education.

He founded an institution called Prakash Academy in March last year, which runs after-school programmes in rural Bihar to make sure that children from the villages can access the same resources as their urban counterparts. Pramod recalls how he convinced parents in the village to get their children enrolled in Prakash Academy's after-school programme by going door-to-door. While speaking to them,

Pramod and his team carried laptops with them to show parents the different teaching modules. "The parents were very enthused by how we facilitated our lectures with interactive videos," he says, "they were happy that we were familiar with technology, which is a very useful tool for education."

As a part of the Digital India initiative, regular classrooms all across India are being converted to 'smart classrooms', which use technologies like internet enabled-TVs to impart lessons to the students. These classes are immensely useful because they make it easier for children to visualize what they are taught in their lectures. "The only problem is that a lot of schools in Bihar don't have this facility," Pramod says. "Exposing children to technology will help them get normalized with what they're going to experience in cities, and it won't be such a culture shock for them." But when he started out, setting up smart classrooms was not the only goal Pramod had in mind. A report from 2016 found that only 46.6 % of students in Bihar pass the 10th standard exam conducted by the Bihar School Examination Board. Pramod says, "The present condition of government schools in Bihar is deplorable. There aren't enough teachers in most schools, and even if there are, they tend to be involved in administrative chores like ensuring that every child is fed during the mid-day meal. Pramod also found the lack of practical elements in the curriculum, like experiments and workshops, troubling. "All of these problems

contribute to the fact that they don't get employed at a reputed organization, and can't earn a steady income. What's disheartening is that a lot of them just drop out because they have no faith in the education system."

Pramod intends to make the children excited about learning through interactive digital classrooms. In the past year, the Academy has managed to enroll 170 new students. Prakash Academy runs two centers — one in Bhore and the other in Husseypur.

Initially, Pramod was running the operation single-handedly and using his own savings to run the Academy, but then he realized that he couldn't sustain the venture without help. He hired a teacher and other support staff by requesting parents to pay Rs. 100 per month for the after-school course. He adds, "If the parents are in a tight financial situation, then we fund the child's education. This might seem steep to some, but it is difficult to run a school if the teachers aren't compensated well."

At Prakash Academy, the medium of instruction is Hindi. But the children are taught relevant terms and definitions related to math and science in English so that they get acquainted with such terms before appearing for an exam. The schools are around five kilometers away from the villages so that distance is not a deterrent from attending classes. The lectures are accompanied by practical elements such as videos about historical events or hands-on experiments to learn about chemical reactions.

Pramod says, "The children are thrilled to attend classes now." If you want help Pramod build more such after-school classrooms across Bihar, and positively affect the learning outcome of underprivileged children.

Scientists develop rewritable material to help reduce paper waste: -

Scientists have developed a low-cost, environmentally friendly way to create printed materials with rewritable paper that can considerably reduce paper wastage. Researchers Ting Wang, Dairong Chen and colleagues from Shandong University in China made the new material out of tungsten oxide and a common polymer used in medicines and food. Even in the present digital age, the world still relies on paper and ink. The researchers created a film by mixing low-toxicity tungsten oxide with polyvinyl pyrrolidone.

To "print" on it, they exposed the material to ultraviolet light for 30 seconds or more, and it changed from white to a deep blue.

To make pictures or words, a stencil can be used so that only the exposed parts turn blue. To erase them, the material can simply sit in ambient conditions for a day or two.

To speed up the erasing, the researchers added heat to make the color disappear in 30 minutes. Alternatively, adding a small amount of polyacrylonitrile to the material can make designs last for up to 10 days. Testing showed the material could be printed on and erased 40

times before the quality started to decline. The world has been working to reduce paper waste by increasing recycling efforts for years.

More paper is now recovered for recycling than almost all other materials combined, researchers said.

This saves energy, water, and landfill space and greenhouse gas emissions. But even more waste could be avoided if consumers could reuse paper many times before recycling or trashing it, they said. PTI

Why do we need to save the jumbos? : -The study underscores the importance of stringent protective measures for the pachyderms, whose habitats have shrunk by 95 per cent and population declined by at least 90 per cent over the last century.

Declining numbers of endangered Asian elephants, which play a key role in seed dispersal and maintain the diversity of forest ecosystems, may have negative, long-term consequences for sustenance of certain tree species, researchers warn.

These mega-gardeners eat the plant's fruit and defecate the seeds, often far away from the parent plant, and contribute to forest biodiversity.

Some trees in Africa seem to exclusively rely on elephants for the dispersal of their seeds. But much less is known about the role of Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) for seed dispersal of trees in Asia, a team of international researchers has pointed out.

So, the researchers studied the capabilities of Asian elephants to boost dispersal and seed germination for an evergreen tree species, known as elephant apple (*Dilleniaindica*), which is commonly found throughout South and Southeast Asia.

“While we still know relatively little about elephant seed dispersal in Asia it is clear that elephants hold key functions in forest ecosystems. They can help maintain plant diversity and a further decline or local loss of elephants and other large herbivores would likely lead to simpler plant communities and could further trigger negative cascading effects for overall system functioning,” Franziska K. Harich, of the Department of Agroecology in the Tropics and Subtropics, University of Hohenheim, Germany, told IANS in an email interaction. In addition to University of Hohenheim, the study involved researchers from International College for Sustainability Studies, Srinakharinwirot University, Thailand, and Conservation Ecology Program, King Mongkut’s University of Technology, Thailand.

They examined whether planting seeds with elephant dung makes a difference to their germination and also mapped the link between the duration the seed stays inside the pachyderm’s digestive tract and the seed growth rate and time when planted. Both African and Asian elephants could potentially disperse seeds over distances as large as 54 to 57 km. The study underscores the importance of stringent

protective measures for the pachyderms, whose habitats have shrunk by 95 percent and population declined by at least 90 per cent over the last century.

Less than 50,000 Asian elephants, according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, roam the forests of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka in South Asia and Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam in Southeast Asia.

These animals may go extinct by 2020: -

Nearly 60% of all animals with a backbone - fish, birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals - have been wiped out since 1970 by human excesses, according to a study released by The Living Planet.

The WWF and the Zoological Society of London have warned in their joint biennial Living Planet Index that two-thirds of all animals can go extinct by 2020.

Destruction of wild habitats, increasing pollution, rampant poaching and exploitation for food are the dominant reasons behind such terrible collapse of wildlife. From killer whales and dolphins in European seas to elephants, gorillas, vultures and salamanders – all are being seriously harmed by long-lived industrial pollutants.

Here’s look at the animals those will go extinct and remain only in pictures by 2020.

Iberian lynx: It is world’s most endangered feline species and mostly found in the Iberian

Peninsula, southwestern Europe. After a careful conservation effort taken to prevent its extinction, now the population is 400.

Bornean Orangutan: Its populations have declined by more than 50% over the past 60 years, and the species' habitat has been reduced by at least 55% over the past 20 years.

Wild Bactrian camel: They are the two-humped, domesticated camels who can adapt to all kinds of harsh environments. This is also assessed as critically endangered species and only about 1,000 Bactrian Camels remain in the wild.

Seychelles sheath-tailed bat seychellensis: It is also considered to be the critically endangered species and already extinct on several islands in the Seychelles.

Alligator: It's a crocodilian in the genus Alligatoridae family. In 1967, the alligator was listed as an endangered species, since it is still believed to be in danger of extinction because of intensively farmed for meat and leather.

Javan rhinos: They are the most threatened of the five rhino species, with 60 individuals surviving in Ujung Kulon National Park in Java, Indonesia.

The pied tamarin: It is an endangered species found in the Brazilian Amazon Rainforest. There are several breeding program have been conducted to conserve these creatures to ensure its survival.

Tigers: All tiger subspecies put together currently amount to fewer than 3,000 endangered tigers remaining in the wild. They are endangered because of climate change, loss of habitat and poaching or illegal hunting.

Gorilla: Like tigers, the mountain gorilla has become the most endangered species now due to poaching, habitat destruction.

Polar bear: These are the first species that is affected because of global warming, which negatively affects their natural habitat and now are in serious danger of going extinct

Pangolins: These are primarily nocturnal animals easily recognized by their full armor of scales. One of its species called Chinese pangolin is found to be critically endangered majorly due to illegal poaching, trading and habitat loss.

Wild dolphins are considered endangered due to many natural dangers within the deep expanse of the ocean. There are currently around 40 known species of dolphin in existence today. Also the increased popularity of swimming with dolphins have brought

Killer whales: These are also in the list of endangered species and are vulnerable to a number of threats of natural within the deep expanse of the ocean, oil spills, noise pollution, collisions with ships, entanglement in fishing gear, shootings by fishermen, and habitat disturbance.

BAD BREATH: MYTHS, REASONS & SOLUTION!

By
Dr. Jitendra Khanna

The medical term for Bad Breath is "HALITOSIS. **Halitosis** is a social stigma. If someone has it people start avoiding that person, sometimes the intimacy between the spouses also gets hampered, so it's not a small issue. Moreover it lands you up in an embarrassing situation many times. Through this article I would like to clear few doubts regarding bad breath and solution for curing it.

Everybody has got nasty breath at some point, like when you get up in the morning, it's known as "**Physiologic Breath.**" It happens because of stasis of saliva overnight. It can be easily tackled off by rinsing your mouth with either a mouthwash or brushing your teeth and then do eat something.

Now one very important thing with halitosis is people will not approach directly to tell you that you have bad breath, so how can one know by himself that he/she is suffering from it?

I will tell you a method which may sound gross but it is an effective way of knowing whether one has bad breath or not.

- Take floss and floss your teeth.
- Once you're done, if your floss smells or it has blood on to it, then there are foul odors in

your mouth.

Now one of the biggest myth is that if one has bad breath then his/her children will also have it. **NO, this is not true.**

However, there is a clear connection between the frequency of brushing and bad breath as volatile odor producing sulfur compounds are washed off after brushing or rinsing off with a mouthwash.

But here is an exception to it- **GARLIC.** It can make your breath smell bad even after you have brushed or rinsed with mouthwash because after it's digested, a smelly substance from garlic is being absorbed in your bloodstream and then transferred to your lungs, where it is expelled as a gas making your breath smell.

Interestingly drinking Green Tea which has other health benefits can also freshen up your breath. **Polyphones** present in the green tea may protect against bad breath and caries.

Regular daily FLOSSING can prevent bad breath.

However, there is a thumb rule in using floss- One can only do effective flossing if the length of floss taken is between 12-18 inches as directed by NHS.

Even if one flosses and brushes every day, they

can still suffer from bad breath because bad breath can be a symptom of an underlying/ ongoing disease or medical condition like respiratory infection, diabetes or liver and kidney diseases, etc.

Amount of saliva your mouth makes can affect your oral health and breathe, as saliva washes the particles of food out of your mouth. People with Dry Mouth may have bad breath because they still have food particles stuck in their mouths.

Certain medications like Nitrates, some chemotherapy drugs and some tranquilizers often produce Dry Mouth which in turn lowers the salivary flow leading to bad breath.

Your TONSILS can be a reason for your bad breath, as debris caught in your tonsils can be a factor in bad breath.

Patients with dentures can also have bad breath as unclean or improperly cleaned dentures

harbor a lot of bacteria and food remnants which produce foul smell.

Keeping a log of what you eat helps your DENTIST in eliminating your bad breath problems.

A recent study has suggested that SCRAPPING OFF your tongue can reduce the bad breath.

Maintaining good oral health is essential in reducing bad breath, so be sure you schedule regular dental visits for dental cleanings and checkups. Brush twice a day with fluoride toothpaste to remove food debris and plaque, and brush your tongue, too. Once a day use FLOSS or an INTERDENTAL BRUSH to clean between teeth. Talk to your dentist if you are concerned about bad breath. He / She can help identify the cause and, if it is due to an oral condition, develop a treatment plan to help eliminate it.

NOTICE

The 82nd General Body Meeting of the Association of Retired Forest Officers of Telangana & Andhra Pradesh will be held on 18-12-2016 (Sunday) 11 A.M. at Aranya Bhavan, Hyderabad. All the members are requested to make it convenient to attend the meeting with their spouses. Sri S.V. Kumar and Sri Narpat Singh members of the Association offered to host the lunch.

-Secretary

LEGAL NOTES

Forest Range Officer vs. Deepu and another

On 13.09.2002, four persons were found transporting illicitly collected cinnamon bark from Wildlife Sanctuary Thekkadu in an autorickshaw bearing No. KL-7-AF-3681. One person, by name Deepu only could be apprehended as the other three persons took to heels. The autorickshaw was seized and an offence was registered under the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act and Kerala Forest Act. The accused person filed a petition in C.M.P. No. 1497/2002 before the Magistrate's Court under Sec. 457 Cr.P.C, seeking interim custody of the vehicle. The petition was allowed and the Forest Range Officer was directed to release the vehicle. The order of the Magistrate was challenged in the Kerala High Court by the Forest Range Officer by filing CrI.M.C. No. 8817/2002. The petition of the F.R.O. came up for consideration before th Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Hema. It was argued by the Public Prosecutor that the impugned order is illegal as it is passed without taking into consideration the principles in releasing the vehicle involved in an offence under the Wildlife Protection Act and Kerala Forest Act. It is submitted that under Sec. 39 of the Wildlife Protection Act any property used in commission of a wildlife offence, if seized under

the provisions of the Act, becomes government property. It is strongly contended that the Legislature intended that under no circumstances, a vehicle involved in a wildlife offence shall be released to the offender or a person who owns the vehicle. It is further argued by the Public Prosecutor that the vehicle involved in an offence under the Act cannot be dealt with on equal terms as vehicle involved in other cases. It is only in cases where a person seeking release of vehicle can satisfy that the vehicle is not used in commission of offence under the Act; he can get the vehicle released to him.

The counsel for the financier who is the second respondent argued that the Magistrate is empowered under Sec. 50 (4) of the Wildlife Protection Act to deal with the vehicle seized under the provisions of the Act in accordance with law.

It was submitted by the Public Prosecutor that the Wildlife Protection Act was amended by Act No. 44 of 1991 which shows the intention of the Legislature by introducing Sec. 39 (1) (c) & (d). The amendment has come into force with effect from 02.10.1991. Any vehicle used in committing a wildlife offence and is seized shall

become the property of the government. The Magistrate while dealing with such a case should have taken care to see that the vehicle is retained with the government. But if the person who seeks release of the vehicle can satisfy the court that the vehicle has not been used for commission of offence under the Act and seized under the provisions of the Act, the Magistrate certainly can look into the fact and consider whether or not such vehicle becomes the property of the government by virtue of Sec. 39 of the Act.

The Public Prosecutor, in support of his argument, cited the ruling of the Supreme Court in *the State of Karnataka Vs. K. Krishnan* (AIR 200 SC 2720) and submitted that the principles laid down in the said case-law had to be kept in view before the vehicle is released. The Public Prosecutor argued that the Magistrate had dealt with the whole issue in a light hearted manner and the only fact that persuaded the Magistrate to release the vehicle is, "no purpose will be served in keeping the vehicle idle at the office of Vallakadavu Forest Range."

The Hon'ble Justice felt that though the decision is rendered under the Karnataka Forest Act, it was held: "I am satisfied that the principles laid down in the said decision, those can be applied in a case fully under the (Ker) Act." There can be no doubt that the facts which are to be looked into

before releasing the vehicle will not include any such futility on keeping the vehicle idle etc. The court has to necessarily consider whether prima facie, it is established that the vehicle is used for the commission of the offence or not. As for the contention of the second respondent is concerned, it is held that the court has not looked into whether the first respondent is in any way entitled to be in possession of the vehicle as an owner or otherwise.

In the facts and circumstances of the case the High Court held that the impugned order is passed without looking into any of the relevant aspects of the case and therefore requires reconsideration and for that purpose the court felt that it is a fit case for remand.

In the result, the impugned order is set aside and the matter is remanded for fresh consideration and disposal after giving notice to both sides. If the case is finally disposed of and final order is passed regarding custody of the vehicle as pointed out by the second respondent's counsel, it is made clear that the matter regarding custody need not be considered again.

The petition is accordingly disposed on 13.09.2007.

Source: Internet

K.B.R

OBITUARY

Sri P. Gaddaiah 20-08-1927 - 02-11-2016



Sri. P. Gaddaiah, Retired DFO, passed away at Visakhapatnam on 02-11-2016 after suffering a massive Heart Attack. He was 89 years old. Sri. P. Gaddaiah was born on 20-08-1927 in an

agriculturist family at Mummidivaram of East Godavari District. His parents were Smt. Gangamma and SriRavulu. He did his school education at Mummidivaram and Amalapuram of E.G. Dist. He did his Intermediate in PR College, Kakinada. He was married to Smt. Achyuthamma on 28-05-1948. They are blessed with 5 daughters. Mrs. Achyuthamma predeceased him in the year 2006. He was selected for Rangers training in the year 1949 and underwent training as Forest Range Officer in the then Madras Forest College. Coimbatore

In the beginning of his service he worked as Forest Range Officer, Anchetty Range of Salem North Division and Namakkal Range in Salem South Division in composite Madras state. Consequent on the formation of Andhra State he was allotted to Andhra Forest Department and he worked as Forest Range Officer in Punganur Range in Chittoor District, Dhone Range in Kurnool District, Balapalli Range in Cuddapah District Charla Range in Khammam District, Special Duty Range in Soil Conservation Division, Paderu and other places. Mr. Gaddaiah is having the privilege of working in three States. 1. Composite Madras State 2. Andhra State and 3.

Andhra Pradesh On his promotion as Asst. Conservator of Forests, he worked as DFO Koyyalagudem, Paderu, Kothagudem, Adilabad, Flying Squad Division, and Guntur division. Finally retired in the year 1985 as DFO, SF Division, Eluru. After retirement he was appointed consultant by Visakhapatnam Steel Plant for some time and contributed for the development of greenery in the Steel Plant area. His eldest daughter Smt. Shoba Devi expired in the year 2013 and was married to Sri. Siva Kanta Hara, IRS, who retired as D.C.M.E in Railways. His second daughter Mrs. Girija is married to Sri. Vasantha Kumar who retired as DGM in IOC. His third daughter Dr. Vijayakumari did her Ph. D and worked as Professor in Library Information Sciences and married to Sri. JSR Prasad, who retired as D.C.T.O. His fourth daughter is Dr. Saroj Professor of Anesthesiology, King George Hospital, Visakhapatnam and his fifth daughter is Dr. P. Sujatha Professor, Pharmacology, Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam. He is blessed with 7 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. After his retirement Sri. Gaddaiah has been living with his 4th and 5th daughters at Visakhapatnam. He was a well-disciplined officer and was very much liked by his superiors and subordinates alike. He was responsible for raising many successful plantations where ever he worked. His death is mourned by not only his family but also many friends and relatives. **MAY HIS NOBLE SOUL REST IN PEACE.V. SANTHASEELA BABU**



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