

VANA PREMI

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Life Time Subscription - Rs. 5000/-

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Vol .18

MARCH-2017

No.03

Vana Premi wishes very Happy, Prosperous and Healthy Holi and Ugadi



Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)

JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FOREST OFFICERS TELANGANA & ANDHRA PRADESH

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Date of Publication: 26-02-2017

Total pages 56

EDITORIAL

World Water Day: - All the wars in the past were fought to occupy the enemies territories and extend their own kingdom. But now it is said that in future if war begins between two countries it will be for water. It is also believed that world war III will be fought over water. (God forbid it) World Water Day is an annual event observed on March 22. The day focuses attention on the importance of fresh water and advocates for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. In 1993, the United Nations General Assembly officially designated March 22 as World Water Day. World Water day is about taking action to tackle the water crisis. Today, there are over 663 million people living without a safe water supply close to home, spending countless hours queuing or trekking to distant sources, and coping with the health impacts of using contaminated water. In rural areas it is the responsibility of women to fetch water for the use of the family sometimes during the summer from as far away as 8 to 10 KMs.

Water is a transparent and nearly colorless chemical substance that is the main constituent of Earth's streams, wells, tanks, lakes, and oceans. Its chemical formula is H_2O . It also occurs in nature as snow, glaciers, clouds, fog, dew, aquifers, and atmospheric humidity. Pure water is usually described as tasteless and odorless and pure water has a low electrical conductivity, which increases with addition of a small amount common salt. Earth surface waters are filled with life. The earliest life forms appeared in water; nearly all fish live exclusively in water, and there are many types of marine mammals, such as dolphins and whales. Some kinds of animals, such as amphibians, spend part of their lives in water

and part on land. Some species of plants such as kelp, plankton and algae grow in the water and are the basis for some underwater ecosystems.

Civilization has historically flourished around rivers and major waterways; Mesopotamia, the so-called cradle of civilization, was situated between the major rivers Tigris and Euphrates; the ancient society of the Egyptians depended entirely upon the Nile. Rome was also founded on the banks of the Italian river Tiber. Large metropolises like Rotterdam, London, Montreal, Paris, New York City, Buenos Aires, Shanghai, Tokyo, Chicago, and Hong Kong owe their success in part to their easy accessibility via water and the resultant expansion of trade. There are many cities and towns on the banks of river Ganges and Yamuna in our Country. Even Hyderabad city flourished on the banks of River Musi.

Water covers, 71% of the Earth's surface. It is vital for all known forms of life. On Earth, 96.5% of the planet's crust water is found in seas and oceans, 1.7% in groundwater, 1.7% in glaciers and the ice caps of Antarctica and Greenland, a small fraction in other large water bodies, and 0.001% in the air as vapor, clouds, and precipitation. Only 2.5% of this water is fresh water, and 98.8% of that water is in ice and groundwater. Less than 0.3% of all freshwater is in rivers, lakes, and the atmosphere.

Without water no living organism can survive including plants. Water plays an important role in the world economy. Approximately 70% of the freshwater used by humans goes to agriculture. Fishing in salt and fresh water bodies is a major source of food for many parts

of the world. Much of long-distance trade of commodities and manufactured products is transported by boats and ships through seas, rivers, lakes, and canals. Water is vital for agriculture, industry, transport and the production of energy and is an engine for economic growth. Water is a finite resource that is fundamental to human health and well-being. From food and energy security to human and environmental health, water is also an essential part of sustainable development. Nearly half of workers around the world i.e. 1.5 billion people have jobs in water-related industries. Many industries rely on water to perform jobs, such as fishing, agriculture, and food service. Water quality and sanitation remains essential in providing a decent livelihood. This is why safe drinking water and sanitation at the workplace must become priorities everywhere. Large quantities of water, ice, and steam are used for cooling and heating, in industry and homes. Water is a good solvent for a wide variety of chemical substances; as such it is widely used in industrial processes, and in cooking and washing. Water is also central to many sports and other forms of entertainment, such as swimming, pleasure boating, boat racing, surfing, sport fishing, and diving.

World water day is observed throughout the world to increase the awareness of people towards the importance of water in various field of life including the environment, health, agriculture and trade. It is observed by organizing variety of events and activities such as visual art, theatrical and musical celebrations of water, excursions to the local ponds, lakes, rivers and reservoirs, symposium at local, national and international level over water management and

safety, distributing messages through TV and radio channels, educational events based on the importance of clean water and conservative measures, competitions and so many other activities.

Every year a theme is selected and the theme for World Water Day 2016 was "Water and Jobs" and the theme for World Water Day celebration of the year 2017 is "Wastewater".

It is estimated that in highly developed countries, the average person uses between 100 to 250 liters of clean and safe water per day for things like drinking, cooking, flushing toilets, doing laundry, bathing, cleaning, watering the garden, and more. That's more than 10 times, as much water being used per day than in some underdeveloped countries. We are in water crises and we have to save water. The following are ways to save water, check all taps, pipes and toilets for leaks, install water saving showerheads and ultra-low-flush toilets, take shorter showers, Bathroom tubs should not be used as we cannot afford to waste such a large quantity of water, turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving, rinse vegetables in a full sink or pan of water, rinse dishes in a full sink or pan of water, wash full loads of clothes in washing machine, water your lawn or garden early in the morning or late in evening to reduce evaporation, place mulch around plants again to reduce evaporation and use a bucket instead of a hose to wash your car.

Vana Premi wishes that we all understand the importance of water without which no organism can survive on this planet, and save it for our future generations by using it very carefully.

QMK

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Read the 'Vana Premi' of February, 2017 issue, online. It has come up beautifully well. I appreciate and welcome the articles like 'Wildlife Conservation in Peril' by Dr. Akula Kishan. The wildlife management in India is in limelight because of the sympathy and the encouragement that the modern society gives for the conservation of wildlife with love; the money available for its management and the 'man-animal conflicts' that the rural society is facing because of the increasing population of wild animals in the ever decreasing habitats in terms of extant and potentials in their carrying capacities. Dr. has given the e.g. of decline/disappearance of vultures due to consumption of dead cattle infected by pesticides through fodder; but it was... due to 'Diclofenac' an anti-inflammatory drug used in animal husbandry clinical treatments- the root cause for the bane of intestine in vultures and their death. Now, the use of Diclofenac has been banned by the G. o. I; yet some people use it for arthritis in animal husbandry.

It is good to see that this issue of Vana Premi has adopted the thematic photographs in the articles.
B. M. T. Rajeev, camp: Melbourne.

STRANGE FEBRUAY TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

This February of 2017, has strangely four Sundays, four Mondays, four Tuesdays, four Wednesdays, four Thursdays, Four Fridays and four Saturdays. This happens only once in every 823 years. This phenomenon is called money bags.

Source: Chinese Feng Shui. Contributed by K.B.R. Reddy

NOTE ON FOREST RIGHTS ACT CASE IN SUPREME COURT

(Prepared to help Petitioners who challenged the FRA)

By

J. V. Sharma, IFS (Retired)

(Petitioner in Transferred Case (C) No. 41 of 2015)

Act challenged: *The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and the Rules made there-under.*

The importance of the forests to mankind in general needs no explanation and the fact is established beyond doubt and can be seen in various judicial pronouncements. Yet, they were submitted in the original petition and therefore are not dealt here to avoid repetition.

The Parliament of India enacted the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 (Act 2 Of 2007) and it has been published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 1, on 02.01.2007. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in the Government of India has also framed draft Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Rules 2007 for carrying out the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and published them in Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i) of the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, on 19.06.2007. Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Amendment Rules, 2012 were notified in The Gazette of India Part-II—Sec. 3 (1) dated 6th September 2012.

The competency and powers of Parliament in legislation making are unquestionable. It is the Supreme legislating organ created by the Constitution. But, the Parliament by itself is not sovereign and it draws its powers from the Constitution which is Sovereign. Contours are laid in Constitution in respect of the issue to be legislated upon and checks and balances are created that there is never a breach of the principles enshrined therein. Thus, a judicial review is always permissible, not against the powers to legislate but about what is legislated to ensure whether it is in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution and that it is rational without being arbitrary. So, legislation needs to derive its life from the Constitution; should be confined to the limits and cannot go beyond; and certainly not go against the provisions. Task before this Hon Court now is to take a close look at the legislation in the light of this constitutional requirement.

Opposition to this legislation does not mean to be against the tribal. It is a well-known fact that they are the most backward section of the society and they need all help to bring them on par with their brethren in civilized society. This is also not to mean questioning Special Provisions of the Constitution either. It is a mandated responsibility of a Citizen to help determining the rationale of the Act in the larger interests of the Nation and future generations.

To understand the Act in full and its implications, it is necessary to go into origins of the legislation. It was first conceived as 'The Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005 (Bill No. 158 of 2005) introduced in Parliament on 13. 12. 2005. After it went through the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) and considered by a Group of Ministers and the Cabinet, it came before the Parliament as 'The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2006'. The Bill was passed by voice vote in each House taking not more than a few hours to clear it.

The need, the utility and efficacy should be the guiding factors of any legislation. Statement of Objects and Reasons accompanying the Bill and the Preamble, spell out the need of the legislation in addition to actual provisions. Statements like "Forest dwelling tribal people and forests are inseparable. One cannot survive without the other"; "ignored bonafide interests of the tribal community"; "Insecurity of tenure and fear of eviction from these lands and thrived for generations", "historical injustice" etc. are subjective conclusions based on assumptions and premises. Laws should be made on the basis of incontrovertible facts and not on imagined facts. Should the occupation of the land be so old, there is no need to fix the cut-off date to as recent as 13.12.2005. The Bill of 2006 is vastly different from the 2005 Bill. It has undergone total morphosis at JPC level. The name is changed to include the Other Traditional Forest Dwellers. Bill meant to address the tribal' land problem embraced another section of the society not considered as tribal. The cut-off date has been shifted from 25.10.1980 to 13.12.2005 to include occupations of another quarter century. No rationale. No justification. Ceiling on the entitlement of occupied land has been increased from 2.5 hectares to 4 hectares. There is no scientific data to justify these changes. The original as well as the revised ceilings are wholly arbitrary.

The following points should be of substantive importance:

1. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, hereinafter called the Act, inter alia, provides, under Section 4 of the Act, for recognition, restoration and vesting of forest rights and related matters in the Scheduled Tribes and Other

Traditional Forest Dwellers without adequate care and precaution to safeguard the forest and environment. Recognition of the Right before it is established is wholly illegal. According to CPC, only the civil court is competent to determine the right and this legislation has breached procedure.

2. It is only proper and even essential that the Govt. should have clear view of the matter over which it intends to bring a law. Policy should precede the legislation. There is no Tribal Policy yet, except a draft policy. So, it is legislation without a direction.
3. Legislation is expected to be sound, purposeful, rational, strictly within the contours of Constitution and not beyond, based on incontrovertible facts and consistent with other laws in force. It should not be arbitrary and against public interest.
4. When vesting of forest rights is contemplated, it is essential that the objective is well supported by hard facts emerging out of standard survey/study to justify the purpose in respect of the target group and the scope & quantum of right to be vested. Legislation was made without any such basis solely on subjective considerations.
5. The land rights in particular relate mainly to encroachments and illegal occupations which are patently violations of prevailing law for which the offenders are punishable. Sub-Section (3) of Section 4 of the Act provides for indiscriminate alienation of forest land occupied before 13.12.2005. Acts prohibited in forests are detailed in Section 26 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 corresponding to Section 20 of the Andhra Pradesh Forest Act, 1967 and such acts, among others, include trespass, felling, burning, cutting trees and clearing, breaking up the soil and ploughing the land for cultivation. These prohibited acts when committed, constitute offences punishable with imprisonment and fine or both. All the occupations, prima facie, are offences punishable under the existing law and S-4 of the impugned Act seeks to legitimize the illegal acts and works at cross purposes with the prevalent law.
6. S- 4 (5) of the impugned Act places an embargo on eviction of encroachers till the recognition and verification of rights under this Act is complete. This provision not only gives protection to illegal occupants but would also encourage further encroachments. This is against the stated policy of the Government of India in its Guidelines No 13 - 1/90 – FP dated 18.09.1990 reading as “Encroachment of the forest land for cultivation and other purposes continues to be the most pernicious practice endangering the forest resources throughout the country. Statistical information compiled by then Ministry of Agriculture during the early 1980s

revealed that nearly 7 lakh hectares of forest land was under encroachment in the country about a decade back. This is despite the fact that prior to 1980, a number of States had regularized such encroachments periodically and approximately 43 lakh hectares of forest land was diverted for various purposes between 1950 and 1980, more than half of it for agriculture. The decisions of State Governments to regularize encroachments from time to time seemed to have acted as strong inducement for further encroachments in forest areas and problem remained as elusive as ever for want of effective and concerted drive against this evil practice (emphasis added)." The present legislation legitimizing the encroachments is a proof in itself that no lessons are learnt from past experience and as population increases, the demand for land becomes more and more acute with increased pressure on forest land leading to total elimination of forest area.

7. It is not out of place to submit that in the context of Andhra Pradesh, the Government in their G.O. Ms. No.2262 (Food and Agriculture (For.1) Department Dated 25.11.1968 (copy enclosed), while reaffirming that forest lands should be treated as un-assignable, noted that there has been an alarming inroad in forest areas by illicit encroachers who have resorted to reckless cutting and burning of trees in the forests in the name of cultivation and the indiscriminate denudation of forests is not only leading to loss of natural wealth but is fraught with serious consequences such as poor rainfall, soil erosion resulting in infertility and impoverishment of the soils. The Government ordered that all encroachments into forests under the control of the Forest Department which have come into existence from 1964 onwards should be summarily evicted and encroachments prior to 1964 also should be evicted where they are proving prejudicial to the security or conservation of the forests. It is humbly submitted that despite regularizing most of the pre-1964 encroachments, illegal occupation of forest lands continued unabated as observed by the Government of India in their guidelines dated 18.09.1990 mentioned in the above para and vast extents of forests have since come under encroachment. The Government and the Forest Department did not take any effective and concerted drive to prevent, control and evict the encroachers. It is these violations of law the present legislation seeks to protect and legalize
8. The ST and Other traditional Forest Dwellers Act, 2006 failed to distinguish a forest right from an illegal occupation. A right has to have convincing evidence to make it enforceable. That the impugned Act treats all occupations of forest land upto 13.12.2005 as a land right is irrational

and does not conform to basic principles of jurisprudence and the rule of law.

9. The issue of encroachment of forest lands has received the attention of the Honorable Supreme Court of India in T.N. Godavarman Thirumalpad vs. Union of India. The Central Empowered Committee in its report dated 04.08.02002 brought to the notice of the Court the seriousness of encroachment of forest lands and placed State wise estimates of forest land under encroachment at 7,25,861 hectares in respect of only 9 states and that the environmental value of one hectare of fully stocked forest of 1.0 density is Rs. 126.74 lakhs over a period of 50 years and the environmental loss due to encroachments on forest land is estimated at a mind boggling figure of Rs. 4, 59, 978 crores at 0.5 density to the extent of encroachments mentioned. In the State of Andhra Pradesh, an area of about 3.5 lakh hectares of forest land is said to be under encroachment.
10. The National Forest Policy, 1988 which is in vogue now, in Para 4.1 stipulates "The National goal should be to have a minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover. In the hills and mountainous regions, the aim should be to maintain two-thirds of the area under such cover in order to prevent erosion and land degradation and to ensure the stability of the fragile eco-system". Statistics generated by the National Remote Sensing Agency place the total Geographical Area (TGA) of the country at 328.72 Million Hectares and the area under forests at 65.71 Million Hectares working out to 19.99% of TGA which is more than 13% less than the minimum prescribed in National Forest Policy. The percentage of forest area in highly populous States, where it is much needed for healthy environment, is abnormally low. The State with largest population, Uttar Pradesh has a dismal 0.07% of land under forest cover while other big States like Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, Tamilnadu, Rajasthan and Gujarat have less than 10% of their geographical area under forests. From environmental point of view, about 40% of Indian population living in one-third land mass depend upon a mere 8% of country's forest area for lung space. It is totally inadequate by any known standards.
11. Statistics generated by National Remote Sensing Agency also indicate that nearly 5.5% of TGA is degraded forest or forest blanks bringing down the effective tree cover to barely 14.5% which is far lesser than the minimum stipulated.
12. In respect of Andhra Pradesh, the area under forests is 6.04 million Hectares forming 21.5% of State Geographic Area and only 13.5% of TGA.

13. With only 2% of world's geographical area under forests but 16% of human and 18% of cattle population of the world, forests in India are subject to heavy biotic pressure. While there is need to bring forests under sustainable management, the present legislation seeks reduce the extent of already inadequate resource base by land alienation.
14. S-4 (6) of the impugned Act provides for vesting land rights up to 4 hectares of forest land under the occupation of an individual / family / community on the date of commencement of the Act. This provision is highly injurious to the security and conservation of forests and environment, in as much as, it does not take into consideration of rational aspects like whether the occupant owns any other land at any other place and the occupation is viable and whether such pockets would not be prejudicial to wildlife and forests at large.
15. The ceiling of 4 hectares in S-4 (6) is ad hoc and without any basis. According to a Consultation Paper placed before the National Commission to review the Working of the Constitution, the average size of land holding held by STs is 2.07 hectares compared to 0.98 by SCs and 1.59 hectares by Others who include even the land owning class. Likewise, there are lesser number of marginal farmers among STs and the STs holding small, semi-medium and medium holdings together account for 54.5% of the community while the corresponding figures for SCs and Others are 27.2% and 39.2% respectively. There is no rationale behind the ceiling prescribed.
16. Rule 13 lists out 9 types of evidences to establish the right and empowers the processing mechanism to consider them any two of them to determine the right. India is a land of Rule of Law and there is a robust system of judiciary and time-tested system of jurisprudence. Indian Evidence Act, CPC are established procedures. Admissible evidence is one that is beyond doubt. By defining a different set of evidences, an element of subjectivity is injected.
17. Special attention needs to be paid to Rule 3 (3) "When a member of the Forest Rights Committee is also a claimant of individual forest right, he shall inform the Committee and shall not participate in the verification proceedings when his claim is considered." The entire process gets vitiated if it is an illegal settlement of encroachers as they are the accused, counsel, prosecutor and the judge all rolled in one.
18. Article 48-A of Directive Principles of State Policy under PART IV of the Constitution of India casts an obligation on the State to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country. Provisions of the Act, particularly Section 4 of the Act dealing with alienation of forest land in favor of the encroachers and occupants, contravene

the letter as well as spirit of the Constitution. Indiscriminate alienation of forest land under the occupation of encroachers as on 13.12.2005 without any consideration for safety and conservation of for forests will automatically result in reduction in forest area besides fragmenting the wooded areas, are bound to cause serious damage to ecology, environment, forests and wildlife.

19. Article 51-A (g) of Fundamental Duties under PART IV-A of the Constitution of India makes it a duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including the forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion and for living creatures. By direct implication, a citizen is barred to receive and enjoy any asset which causes disturbance to environment. Here is a clear prohibition to change the nature and utility of an environmental resource which includes forests.
20. Under Article 51 (c) the State is obliged to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations in the dealings with organized people with one another. India is actively involved with international fora, especially United Nations Organization, to strive for peace and welfare of mankind. India was a signatory to the Stockholm Conference of 1972 convened by United Nations Organization and its Declaration and Action Programme for the protection of Environment followed by a series of successive conferences on the protection of Human Environment. Biotic component consisting of flora and fauna including man is an essential and important part of Environment. Stockholm Conference called for, among other steps, for conservation of the Nature with special reference to species like whales, forests etc.
21. Stockholm Conference of 1972 was followed by several international conferences on Environment. The Nairobi Declaration said that prevention of damage to the environment is preferable to the burdensome and expensive repair of damage already done. Alienation of forest land envisaged in the impugned Act runs counter to the Declaration.
22. Earth Summit Plus 5 was a special Session of UN General Assembly held in 1997 in New York, observed that the oceans, forests and atmosphere of the earth are in trouble and adopted a programme of action for the protection of Environment. Statistics reported in the context of 2002 Earth Summit say that Carbon emissions are doubled in three decades making global warming a serious threat, 40% of the world population is facing chronic shortage of fresh water for daily needs, contaminated water is killing about 2.2 million people every year, 2.4% of world's forests of about 90,000 Sq. kms., area were destroyed since 1990, 2/3 of world's farm

lands suffer from soil degradation, about 800 species of wildlife became extinct and 1/5th. Of 10,000 water species have become extinct. Common thread connecting all these happenings is Environment and Environment is a Global phenomenon and hence the international effort to improve it. India cannot be oblivious to the degradation of environment in any corner of the globe, particularly so in its own backyard through this impugned legislation.

23. It is reliably learnt that necessary data in respect of tribal communities involved, intra-community problems, socio-economic equations within the community and similar exercise in respect of different STs and inter-tribal imbalances in the level of backwardness, if any, has not been collected. Similar information in respect of Other Traditional Forest Dwellers and dynamics of migration and its effects was not collected. Significantly, when a legislation with serious ramifications is to be brought, Studies of environmental impact become absolutely necessary to provide credence in the absence of which the rationale of prescriptions need to be put to strict proof.
24. Section 6 (1) of the impugned Act bestows on the Gram Sabha, the authority to initiate the process to determine the nature and extent of individual or community forest rights by receiving the claims, consolidating and verifying them and preparing the map and then to pass resolution on claims. The areas under discussion are interior backward areas where the possibility of Gram Sabha being equipped with necessary capacity. Powers supposed to be transferred to Gram Panchayats under 73rd. Amendment of the Constitution are not transferred yet on ground the Panchayats are not yet ready to shoulder the responsibility. Under these circumstances it should be next to impossible for Gram Sabha to play the assigned role. When capacity building could not be achieved in close to half century, it will not be correct to ensure it now in areas where the educational and social exposure level is at the lowest.
25. The Gram Sabha as defined in Section 2 (g) means a village Assembly which shall consist of all adult members of a village and in case of States having no Panchayats, Padas, Tolas and other traditional village institutions and elected village committees, with full and unrestricted participation of women. It means that in States where Panchayat raj is in vogue like Andhra Pradesh, the village assembly shall be of all adult members of the village only. When it came to framing the rules, the scope of the definition is extended in Rule 3 (2) to bring in ST & non-ST population factor and the factor of primitive tribal groups and pre-agricultural communities. In Explanation (a) under the said Rule, hamlet or a group of hamlets managing their affairs in

accordance with traditions and customs can constitute their own Gram Sabha rendering the institution of Village Panchayat redundant in so far as this Act is concerned. It is inconsistent with the original definition of the Act. Significant and visible effect of this departure is that the illegal settlements over forest land can constitute a Gram Sabha comprising of all encroachers and sit on judgment to right all their wrongs. Further such fragmented Gram Sabhas, being small and isolated, are highly vulnerable to dictates of extremist, un-social and unscrupulous political elements.

26. The legislation, in short, seeks to regularize all illegal occupations of forest land. S-13 makes it amply clear that provisions of this Act are in addition to and not in derogation to the provisions of any other law for the time being in force. The Forest Act, the Environment Protection Act and other environmental laws are very much on statute. Felling of trees, clearance of area and breaking up the soil constitute an offence under Forest Act and cause breach of good environment. The claimants of individual rights are offenders in the eye of law. Curiously, this legislation seeks to condone the offence and reward the offender by vesting rights. It is a travesty of justice and brazen violation of Doctrine of Rule of Law.
27. There is yet another set of landless STs and OTFDs who are law-abiding and did not commit the offence of encroachment. They continue to be landless. It effectively means that "Crime pays". Nowhere on the Globe can such a law be found.
28. According to S-4 (7) of the Act, the forest rights shall be conferred free of all encumbrances and procedural requirements including under Forest Conservation Act, requirement of paying the net present value and compensatory afforestation. These requirements are prescribed by the Supreme Court and the Executive is required to be seen respecting the Courts.
29. Supreme Court clarified that the natural resources including the forests are Public Trust and the Government is the Trustee. The trust needs to be managed on sustainable basis. Further, future generations are also stakeholders in the trust and the same cannot be lost / misused for ever. Public Trust Doctrine is applicable.
30. Recognition and vesting of rights over occupations as on 13.12.2005 is on "as is where is" basis. By this recognized lands lie scattered all over the forests honey combing the forests affecting their contiguity and security making them prone for extensions. This chokes the wildlife corridors and brings harm to wildlife.
31. The Act does not provide for rearranging the occupations nor does it address the management problems of the standing forests in between.
32. EIA Notification 2006 calls for Environment Impact Assessment under Environment (Protection) Act. This procedure has not been followed by the Govt. nor is there any provision

in the Act to dispense with. Title deeds have been issued for 55.29 lakh acres so far (up to 31.05.2014) without any Environment Impact Assessment. All these titles are liable for cancellation.

33. The Supreme Court in their Orders dated 6th July 2011 and 6th January 2014 in I.A. Nos. 1868 of 2007 etc. in WP (C) NO. 202 of 1995 said; "Time has come for this Court to declare and we hereby declare that the National Forest Policy, 1988 which lays down far-reaching principles under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as the same provides the roadmap to ecological protection and improvement under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The principles or guidelines mentioned in the National Forest Policy, 1988 should be read as part of the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 read together with the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. This direction is required to be given because there is no machinery even today established for implementation of the said National Forest Policy, 1988 read with the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 confers a power coupled with duty and thus, it is incumbent on the Central Government, as hereinafter indicated, to appoint an appropriate authority, preferably in the form of regulator, at State and at Central level for ensuring implementation of the National Forest Policy, 1988." It further clarified that "The basic objectives of the National Forest Policy, 1988 include positive and proactive steps to be taken. These include maintenance of environmental stability through preservation, restoration of ecological balance that has been adversely disturbed by serious depletion of forests"The declaration of the Supreme Court confirms that the National Forest Policy, 1988 is a Bible in forest matters which needs to be followed without questioning. In the instant case, the provisions of the Act have to be judged for their validity in relevant provisions of FCA and EPA in line with NFP.
34. The National Forest Policy, 1988 states; "4.8.1. Encroachment on forest lands has been on the increase. The trend has to be arrested and effective action taken to prevent its continuance. There should be no regularization of existing encroachments."The Act seeks to do exactly the opposite. The Govt. neither prevented the encroachments nor arrested the trend. They brought in this legislation to hide their incapacity to implement the law. It is governance deficit and populism.
35. Exemption in respect of rights recognized from the provisions of FCA Forest Conservation Act is irregular as it amounts to differentiating between various sections of the people. FCA is a regulatory legislation and not prohibitory in character. If diversion is justified in law, there could be no problem with following the already laid down procedures. Provision is discriminatory.

36. There is a revenue law in every State for the settlement of land. The procedure prescribed has not been detailed in the Act nor followed in respect of the rights vested under the Act.
37. Above all, the impugned legislation cannot stand to the test of basic rationale in as much as land is a fixed asset and it cannot grow with population and its requirements. Present legislation can at best be a temporary knee jerk reaction to present day challenges. This solution is not durable and the demand for land will again manifest with increased population in future. The undeniable fact is that the most valuable environmental resource will be frittered away and the damage is irreversible. Further, land is not the best option for economic development and social welfare, given the vagaries associated with farm sector.
38. According to law in force, Determination Right over any property can be done by a Civil Court or a Tribunal. Strangely, judiciary is totally kept out of the process under this law. A brazen violation of the spirit of transparency, fair play and accountability.
39. Duties like of protecting wildlife, forests, biodiversity are assigned in section 5. They are empowerment in nature and there is no accountability for non-compliance.
40. There is no penal provision for misuse of the provisions of the Act.
41. Beneficiary sections of the society i.e. STs and OTFDs are also part of the society. Claimants of individual rights, as said earlier, are offenders having illegally occupied the forest lands. Principles of equality of law and equanimity of law suffer when a law is made to condone the offence.
42. It is an accepted fact that forests are the major component of environmental assets. It is also an accepted fact that breach of environment leads to calamities and hardships to people. By reducing the forest area, the quantum of environment deteriorates and adverse effects manifest on the population. The population also includes the beneficiaries under this act. A legislation which is aimed to benefit a section of the society also hurts them on account of the benefits passed on, the law so made is a bad law.
43. It is very pertinent to note that National Forest Commission under the chairmanship of Justice B. N. Kirpal, former Chief Justice of Supreme Court of India, was at work when the Central Govt. unveiled its first edition of the Bill in 2005. It was only proper if the Govt. had consulted the Commission over the Bill. This did not happen and the Commission was wantonly sidelined and ignored. Yet, the Commission discussed the Bill and the Chairman himself wrote to Prime Minister of India that the Bill does not stand to judicial scrutiny. The Prime Minister did not pay heed to wise counsel.
44. Forests and tribal are inseparable held good in the distant past when STs were food gatherers and they totally depended upon the forests for their sustenance. With mounting pressure on

forest land, the situation is giving rise to a scenario of Forests Vs STs & OTFDs.

45. The hollowness of the legislation is amply evident in its applicability. Out of 34 States (28 States & 7 UTs-before AP is bifurcated), only 14 States have come forward to implement it actively and for their own reasons. While it is not applicable in J & K, it was not implemented in Tamilnadu due to restrictive order passed by this Hon Court. Up to end of May 2014, titles were distributed for 55.29 lakh acres in 14 States accounting for nearly 3% forest area of those States. Tribal majority States simply ignored it. The Govt. did not appear to have the correct idea of tribal needs and their land owning system in many States. The law is implementable even in States where the GOI did not notify any community as tribes. The whole exercise seemed ad hoc.
46. 'War is too serious business to be left to Generals' said a wise man in the past. Likewise entrusting distribution of land to Gram Sabhas and Committees formed for the purpose, is beset with risks of subjectivity creeping in. It is difficult to imagine a Gram Sabha which is considered competent to issue a ration card to a villager, can under this Act, recommend grant of land. It also needs to be kept in mind that several States did not comply with the Constitutional provision of transferring the 29 subjects of Eleventh Schedule to Panchayats under Art. 243-G.
47. With 7% of ST population, AP lost 14.56 lakh acres, the maximum in the country. The tiny State of Tripura lost as much as 26.78% of its forest land. Considering these lands to be originally illegal occupations, the figures reflect that there was serious governance deficit in allowing such large scale encroachments. A dutiful government would not have allowed such illegal occupations to manifest and in the event of encroachments taking place, would have promptly acted to evict the offenders. It means they had turned Nelson's eye to these nefarious activities and did not have the political will. It is not fair to make the Nation pay for the lapses of the governments. To stretch the logic, the governments failed to rule as per Constitutional provisions.
48. The Central Government seriously erred in concluding that the Left Wing Extremism prospered in tribal areas because of the land problems of the STs remained unsolved for generations. They felt that the forest dwelling Tribal & other populations can be weaned away from Naxals by providing them the land. It can be seen from the Status reports on implementation released by MoTA showing the LWE affected areas as a class. States of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand, MP and Maharashtra bent over backwards to please the tribal ceding forest land liberally. Forest land is lost but LWE continues to haunt. A rank miscalculation at the cost of forests and environment.

49. Glaring omission of this Act is its eligibility criteria. No scientific study has been done to identify the deserving. This Act does not discriminate between a big tribal landlord with large landholding who has encroached the forest land and a landless S.T. & OTFD encroacher.
50. Recognition and vesting of individual forest rights means parting with a part of existing forest area. Romanticizing on one side that forests and tribal are inseparable and one cannot live without the other, the Govt. seeks to reduce the tribal habitat causing irreversible loss of their habitat as well as sustenance base on the other.
51. Out of 28, 54,677 individual claims received in the 14 States, 16, 17,031 claims (52.97%) were rejected. These are confirmed illegal occupants exerting pressure for approval of their claims. The Govt. did not unveil their plan of evicting them yet, and like in the past they continue to enjoy the fruits of illegal possession. The Act does not have a provision for prompt eviction of illegal occupants.
52. Ministries of Tribal Affairs and Environment & Forests at Centre jointly constituted a Committee under Mr. N. C. Saxena to go into implementation part of the Forest Rights Act. He does not have kind words for the bureaucracy involved in the process and categorically said it was implemented in haste with ensuing general elections in view. It is enough to vitiate the entire process.
53. Poverty and backwardness are the curses most of the population in India is afflicted with. In a way it is a comparative and spread over mankind. The Act seeks romanticize the evil attributing it to particular sections of the society. Equally hard cases of poverty are common even in civilized society. It is a great perception deficit cascading into this legislation.
54. Vesting of individual forest rights proved to be an incentive for fresh encroachments with the hope that a Govt. in future might regularize these illegal occupations too in future. They argue that a cut-off date which could be extended from 1980 to 2005 can as well be extended to any further date.
55. According to area statistics computed by National Remote Sensing Agency in mid-nineties, barely about 20% of the area is under forest in the country. As per forest cover survey conducted recently, only about 12% of the forests have green cover exceeding 70% crown density. Thus the forests face twin disadvantage of depletion in quality and of extent. The National Forest Policy calls for one-third of the land to be under tree cover. This Act is therefore regressive in nature and against the NFP besides being highly injurious to public welfare.
56. A law that does not meet the defined objectives is a bad law. The Act is not sustainable on any conceivable ground of public interest.

PETS EXUDE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

By

Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai

Pets are our seatbelts on the emotional roller-coaster of life — they can be trusted, they keep us safe, and they sure do smooth out the ride. Their untainted souls knowingly or unknowingly make us wish that we were as innocent as they, and make us ache for a place where innocence is universal and where meanness, the betrayals, and the cruelties of this world are unknown.

Try to find your small utopia (which will keep growing), an escape from the realities, disappointments and constant demands of life, by rearing a pet. You will realize that no matter how close you are to another person, few human relationships are as free from conflict, expectations and disillusionments as the relationships you have with your pets. They are extremely playful and provide constant entertainment. They are soft and cuddly and when they nestle, it could be strangely comforting. Few of us can give ourselves to another as a pet gives of itself.

Having a pet can help people their long-term mental health conditions by providing them an immediate source of calm and therapeutic benefit. Pets play a range of positive roles such as helping them to manage stigma associated with their mental health by providing acceptance without judgment.

They are very lovable creatures, especially when they are hungry or sleepy, as if they would like to assert that they are not suffering from anorexia: they rub themselves against our legs and ankles and lick our toes — we need not unduly get

flattered, however, by such display of affection, as that is how they mark their property! Isn't it high time they learnt our language as they are exposed since their births? But they speak their own which has such a limited vocabulary — it consists of just a word for each pet: different tones and inflections (or modulations of intonations or pitches) change the meanings: a pleading one means they are hungry; an interrogative means where we were all this while when they are hungry; a demanding means feed them as if we their serfs, and we ought to have known that they are hungry!

Children get along with their pets better than their siblings, according to a Cambridge University study. Household pets appear to have major influences on child-development and positive impacts on children's social skills and emotional well-being. They turn to them for companionship and disclosure just like relationship between people. The fact that pets may not fully understand or respond verbally back, the level of disclosure to pets is no less than siblings, which may even be a benefit as it means they are completely non-judgmental. Pets can also be considered particularly useful during times of crisis: In this way providing a unique form of validation through unconditional support, which humans often not receive from other family members or social relationships. Pets surely help distracting them from symptoms and upsetting-experiences such as suicidal-thoughts or hearing-voices.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN PERIL II

By
Dr. Akula Kishan

	No.	Total Area (km ²)	Coverage % of Country
National Parks (NPs)	103	40500.13	1.23
Wildlife Sanctuaries (WLSs)	537	118005.30	3.59
Conservation Reserves (CRs)	67	2349.38	0.07
Community Reserves	26	46.93	0.001
Protected Areas (PAs)	733	160901.74	4.89

Geographical Area of India (<http://knowindia.gov.in/>) = 32,87,263 km²

Forest cover of India (FSI, 2015) = 7,01,673 km²

Percentage Area under Forest cover = 21.34 % of Geographical Area of India

(Source: Envis)

Organizations working on Wildlife

Conservation: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India is the Principal Organization in Government sector India supported by the State Government Departments. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is broadly divided into Environment wing; Forest and Wildlife Wing. It is further supported by various Regional Offices, Subordinate Offices, Autonomous Organizations, Authorities, Boards and Public Sector Organizations.

Wildlife Institute of India is one such organization

which imparts specialized training in Wildlife, the aims and objectives of the Institute are:

(i) Build up scientific knowledge on wildlife resources.

(ii) Train personnel at various levels for conservation and management of wildlife.

(iii) Carry out research relevant to management including the development of techniques appropriate to Indian conditions.

(iv) Provide information and advice on specific wildlife management problems.

(v) Collaborate with international organizations on wildlife research, management and training.

(vi) Develop as a regional center of international importance on wildlife and natural resource conservation.

The Institute has following departments in it:

1. Animal Ecology and Conservation Biology
2. Eco development Planning & Participatory Management
3. Endangered Species Management
4. Habitat Ecology
5. Landscape Level Planning & Management
6. PA Network, Wildlife Management and Conservation Education
7. Population Management, Capture & Rehabilitation
8. Wildlife Health Managements.

There is no separate Institute to take care of the issues arising in Forest Administration and implementation of various Forest and Environment Laws

Other organizations or Projects for Conservation of Wildlife in India

Wildlife Conservation Organizations supplement the activities of Government organizations. Besides, these organizations by the virtue of regional anchorage leave an extant impact on the strife to conserve wildlife.

Some of the organizations in India are

- i. Siberian Tiger Conservation Association
- ii. Bandhavgarh Tiger Trust
- iii. The Corbett Foundation
- iv. Project Tiger
- v. Project Elephant
- vi. Project Hangul

- vii. Project Lion
- viii. Project Cheetah
- ix. Project Snow Leopard
- x. Rhino Conservation Project
- xi. Brow antlered Deer Project
- xii. Musk Deer Project
- xiii. Indian Crocodile Conservation Project
- xiv. Sea Turtle Project
- xv. Ranthambhore Foundation
- xvi. The Tiger Foundation
- xvii. Nature Conservation Foundation
- xviii. TRAFFIC India
- xix. The Wildlife Conservation Society
- xx. Wildlife Protection Society of India
- xxi. WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature

There might be many more organizations which are working for improvement of wildlife habitat and conservation of wildlife. These organizations might work in certain areas and the continuity of working or contiguous working may not be feasible in all locations.

ANALYSIS

1. As can be seen from the above the existing scenario is not tuned to the protection and conservation of wildlife, as the wildlife cannot survive without their natural habitat and habitat is shrinking day by day.
2. The implementation of Forest Rights Act has taken away 102 lakh acres of Forest area so far. In some of the States the available arable land in forest as well as Protected Areas is encroached, and due to local situations Forest Officials are mute spectators while the land is usurped. Though the Forest Right Act is not

giving full title and full freedom to convert the land use, once the land is given to control of individuals, control of land use is practically impossible.

3. The Forest Rights Act, 2006 is promulgated by Tribal Affairs Department, Government of India but the implementation is to be done in Forest Areas under the control of Forest Ministry. Therefore, the priorities differ as Tribal affairs department is concerned with settled land practices to be adopted and the Forest department may not approve, in the normal course, of such practice.

4. The lands' being entrusted to tribal and other forest dwellers are not in continuous area or block but is located in different patches in a forest block. Such a situation makes the entire forest block unavailable for wildlife as human – animal conflict will be very high and the movement of wild animals is thus almost impossible.

5. The Indian Forest Act, 1927 is outdated and has no deterrent provisions to control the encroachments. The Forest Department is branded as anti-development department as it is implementing the Act. The preliminary forest notifications on reservation of Forest Blocks are pending for decades as the boundary described in the notifications has no correlation to ground situation existing. The confusion is being exploited by some agencies to obtain title to the land.

6. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has legalized the diversion of forest land for public

purposes in most of the cases. According to the reply given in Rajya Sabha in August 2015, "During last five years and current year, the Central government has accorded approvals to over 184393 hectare of forest land in 7716 cases for various developmental activities including urban areas."

7. The Forest Ministry claims that the Forest (Conservation) Act has succeeded in controlling the indiscriminate release of forest land for non- forestry purposes. Prior to 1980, the rate of diversion of forest lands for non-forestry purposes was about 1.43 lakh ha. per annum. But, with the advent of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the rate of diversion of forest lands has come down to around 15000 ha. per annum and mostly diversion of forest land is allowed to meet the developmental needs for Drinking water projects, Irrigation projects, Transmission lines, Railway lines, Roads, Power projects, Defense related projects, Mining etc. For such diversions of forest lands for non-forestry purposes, compensatory afforestation is stipulated and catchment area treatment plan, wildlife habitat improvement plan, rehabilitation plan etc. are being implemented, to mitigate the ill effects of diversion of such vast area of green forests. To monitor the effective implementation of the compensatory afforestation in the country, an authority named as "Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)" is being constituted at the national level. A monitoring cell is also being

set up in the Ministry of Environment & Forests to monitor the movement of proposals at various stages and the compliance of the conditions stipulated in the forestry clearances by the user agencies.

8. The fact remains that the forest land diverted has taken away a certain habitat of wild animals, as though clearance under wildlife provisions, Forest Clearance, Environment clearance etc are given the studies conducted on impact on wildlife may not be designed taking macro and micro eco-systems and their effect on local flora and fauna.

9. The Environment, Air, Water laws are mostly concerned with urban situations and in some cases it is being studied through Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and remedial measures suggested.

10. The Biodiversity Act is yet to be fully implemented by forming the required local committees to fully implement the provisions of the Act

11. The Wildlife (Protection) Act is having stringent provisions and are implemented effectively in protected areas, but its application in areas outside protected areas is minimal as the mechanism at ground level is not tuned to implement the provisions.

12. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and Tiger Conservation Authority are concerned with Wildlife only but they should also take care of the Forest Protection and Protection of Wildlife outside Protected Areas. These two Institutions should be more visible in their actions.

13. The Wildlife Institute of India is concerned with Wildlife related subjects and it should also have a separate department for implementation of Wildlife laws as well as Forest laws. In the absence of any special Institute for Forest Law and related activities, the Wildlife Institute may take up the same under habitat management.

14. As can be seen from the Forest map and the Protected Area map the Protected Areas are scattered and there is no corridors connecting the Protected Areas. IN the absence of such corridors the wild animals are vulnerable to poaching.

15. In the Protected Areas such as National Parks the translocation of habitations inside the Core areas are not fully implemented or in cases where they are implemented the local human and cattle ingress is not totally curtailed. The contact with local cattle makes the wild animals exposed to various diseases.

16. The compensation in wildlife damage cases is hardly commensurate with the losses and whenever it is granted there is considerable time gap between the date of damage done and disbursement. Such situations make the concerned to devise methods to eliminate the menace by erecting electric fencing, poisoning or hunting.

17. In summer season the plight of wild animals is beyond imagination and the existing water sources would be near habitations or areas frequented by human beings, thus making the wild animals an easy target for

snaring, hunting etc. The alternate water sources are not available. In the olden days, deep inside forest areas, water tanks were dug up to store run off rain water and make it available for exclusively for wildlife. But now in many places the water tanks were damaged or lost and no new perennial water sources exclusively for wild animals are created.

18. The conservation measures for wildlife require dedicated staff who are to be stationed for long tenures at a particular location. But the existing service rules do not permit such deployment thereby the services of specialists for wildlife conservation is lost.

19. The field staff is ill equipped to face the emergency situations in wildlife conservation. The method of controlling the wild animals which enter habitations need to be improved.

20. The existing media should be used to provide proper information on availability and movement of wildlife in a particular area, and the do's and don'ts in dealing with such wildlife. It should be impressed that all the wild animals are docile in nature and they generally do not attack and kill human beings unless their life is threatened. It must be impressed that killing of wild animal is not need but it should be allowed to escape and go away into wilderness.

CONCLUSION: Wildlife in India has been diminishing at an alarming rate during recent years. To quote a few examples, the Cheetah and the Pink headed duck is extinct; the Asiatic Lion and the Great Indian Rhinoceros are represented but by a very small number each; The Indian Wild

Buffalo, the Kashmir Stag, the swamp deer, the brow-antlered deer, the musk deer and the Great Indian Bustard are requiring special protection.

There are many enactments and organizations for protection of flora and fauna, but their functioning should be integrated to effectively protect wildlife and its habitat, namely, the forest areas. The inter linkages of forest and wildlife is to be studied for better conservation of wildlife. 'Single species management' pertaining to wildlife is important which will assure the survival of many important species but these managements are inadequate in certain countries as the pressure on land resource is immense. It will be ideal to create large reserves so that many valuable plants and animals can be protected. Or where such large reserves are not feasible it would be better to have small contiguous protected areas preferably connected with corridors. The Wildlife management should be viewed along with protection of forests rather than in isolation. The awareness on conservation of wildlife along with forests should be propagated and the lower field functionaries should also be trained in wildlife conservation measures. The land available for secure protection and conservation is only 4% of geographical area of India, and in such small extent and scattered locations efforts should be made to integrate forest and wildlife protection and conservation measures.

IS CLIMATE CHANGE ANTHROPOGENIC? - A PERSPECTIVE

By
V. V. Hariprasad

Probably it was in the month of September 2016 that a meeting was conducted at *Aranyabhavan* Hyderabad in connection with the projects submitted by various departments in the process of mitigating the adverse effect of climate change in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Representatives of Government of India, along with other officials of different departments of Andhra Pradesh were present. It so happened that I took part in the meeting as a representative of A. P. State Biodiversity board which submitted a project in this regard.

In the meeting presentations were made, exchange of views took place, deliberations were conducted and one of the officers raised a pertinent question whether climate change has been anthropogenic or a natural phenomenon. The global warming controversy concerns the public debate over whether global warming is occurring, how much has occurred in modern times, what has caused it, what its effects will be; whether any action should be taken to curb it and if so what that action should be. In the scientific literature there is a strong consensus that global surface temperatures have increased in recent decades and the trend is caused by human induced emissions of greenhouse gases. Disputes over the key scientific facts of global warming are more prevalent in the media than in the scientific literature where such issues are

treated as resolved.

Global warming remains an issue of wide spread political debate often split along party political lines especially in the United States. Many of the issues that are settled within the scientific community such as human responsibility for global warming remains subject of politically or economically motivated attempts to downplay them an ideological phenomenon categorized by academics and scientists as **climate change denial**. The fossil fuels lobby has been identified as overtly or covertly supporting efforts to undermine or discredit the scientific consensus on global warming.

In Europe the notion of human influence on climate gained wide acceptance more rapidly than in the United States and other countries. A 2009 survey found that Europeans rated climate change as the second most serious problem facing the world between "poverty, the lack of food and drinking water" and a major global economic down turn. 87% of Europeans considered climate change to be a very serious or serious problem while ten percent did not consider it a serious problem.

In 2007, a report on public perceptions in the United Kingdom by **Ipsos MORI (A social research institute)** reported that

There is widespread recognition that

the climate, irrespective of the cause, is changing—88% believe this to be true.

- However, the public is out of step with the scientific community, with 41% believing that climate change is being caused by both human activity and natural processes. 46% believe human activity is the main cause.

- Only a small minority reject anthropogenic climate change, while almost half (44%) are very concerned. However, there remains a large proportion who are not fully persuaded and hold doubts about the extent of the threat.

- There is still a strong appetite among the public for more information, and 63% say they need this to come to a firm view on the issue and what it means for them.

The public continue to externalize climate change to other people, places and times. It is increasingly perceived as a major global issue with far-reaching consequences for future generations—45% say it is the most serious threat facing the World today and 53% believe it will impact significantly on future generations. However, the issue features less prominently nationally and locally, indeed only 9% believe climate change will have a significant impact upon them personally.

A 15-nation poll conducted in 2006, by **Pew Global** found “there is a substantial gap in concern over global warming—roughly two-thirds of Japanese (66%) and Indians (65%) say they personally worry a great deal about global warming. Roughly half of the populations of Spain (51%) and France (46%) also express great

concern over global warming, based on those who have heard about the issue. But there is no evidence of alarm over global warming, in either the United States or China—the two largest producers of greenhouse gases. Just 19% of Americans and 20% of the Chinese who have heard of the issue say they worry a lot about global warming—the lowest percentages in the 15 countries surveyed. Moreover, nearly half of Americans (47%) and somewhat fewer Chinese (37%) express little or no concern about the problem.”

A 47-nation poll by **Pew Global Attitudes** conducted in 2007, found, “Substantial majorities 25 of 37 countries say global warming is a ‘very serious’ problem.”

There are differences between the opinion of scientists and that of the general public. A 2009 poll, in the US by **Pew Research Center** found “while 84% of scientists say the earth is getting warmer because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels, just 49% of the public agrees.” A 2010 poll in the UK for the BBC showed “Climate skepticism on the rise”. **Robert Watson** found this “very disappointing” and said “We need the public to understand that climate change is serious so they will change their habits and help us move towards a low carbon economy .Among the opponents of the mainstream scientific assessment, some say that while there is agreement that humans do have an effect on climate, there is no universal agreement about the quantitative magnitude of anthropogenic global warming (AGW). Other opponents assert that some kind of ill-defined

“consensus argument” is being used, and then dismiss this by arguing that science is based on facts rather than consensus. Some highlight the dangers of focusing on only one viewpoint in the context of what they say is unsettled science, or point out that science is based on facts and not on opinion polls or consensus

A 2013 study, published in the peer-reviewed journal ***Environmental Research Letters*** analyzed 11,944 abstracts from papers published in the peer-reviewed scientific literature between 1991 and 2011, identified by searching the ISI Web of Science citation index engine for the text strings “global climate change” or “global warming”. The authors found that 3974 of the abstracts expressed a position on anthropogenic global warming, and that 97.1% of those endorsed the consensus that humans are causing global warming. The authors found that of the 11,944 abstracts, 3896 endorsed that consensus, 7930 took no position on it, 78 rejected the consensus, and 40 expressed uncertainty about it

Greenhouse gases

Attribution of recent climate change discusses the evidence for recent global warming. Correlation of CO₂ and temperature is not part of this evidence. Nonetheless, one argument against global warming says that rising levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases (GHGs) do not correlate with global warming.

Studies of the **Vostok ice core** show “At the beginning of the deglaciations, the CO₂ increase either was in phase or lagged by less than 1000

years with respect to the Antarctic temperature, whereas it clearly lagged behind the temperature at the onset of the glaciations”. Recent warming is followed by carbon dioxide levels with only a 5 months delay. The time lag has been used to argue that the current rise in CO₂ is a *result* of warming and not a cause. While it is generally agreed that variations before the industrial age are mostly timed by astronomical forcing, a main part of current warming is found to be timed by anthropogenic releases of CO₂, having a much closer time relation not observed in the past thus returning the argument to the importance of human CO₂ emissions. Analysis of carbon isotopes in atmospheric CO₂ shows that the recent observed CO₂ increase cannot have come from the oceans, volcanoes, or the biosphere, and thus is not a response to rising temperatures as would be required if the same processes creating past lags were active now.

Carbon dioxide accounts for about 390 parts per million by volume (ppm) of the Earth’s atmosphere, increasing from 284 ppm in the 1830s to 387 ppm in 2009. Carbon dioxide contributes between 9 and 26% of the natural greenhouse effect.

In the **Ordovician period** of the Paleozoic era (about 450 million years ago), the Earth had an atmospheric CO₂ concentration estimated at 4400ppm (or 0.44% of the atmosphere), while also having evidence of some glaciation. Modeling work has shown that it is possible for local areas at elevations greater than 300–500 meters to contain year-round snow cover even

with high atmospheric CO₂ concentrations. A 2006 study suggests that the elevated CO₂ levels and the glaciation are not synchronous.

As noted above, climate models are only able to simulate the temperature record of the past century when GHG forcing is included, being consistent with the findings of the IPCC (Inter governmental panel on climate change) which has stated, "Greenhouse gas forcing, largely the result of human activities, has very likely caused most of the observed global warming over the last 50 years."

Devastating effects Of Climate Change

1. Climate change will cost hundreds of billions of dollars a year in the context of assets' destruction, forced relocation, droughts etc.
2. Hundreds of millions of people will be displaced by 2050.
3. Dangerous infectious diseases could spread in the U.S. through vector borne diseases etc.
4. Western wildfires could burn up to eight times as much land by 2100 as fire season could become several months longer.
5. Water scarcity will hit hundreds of millions of additional people by 2100.
6. Hurricanes could become even scarier
7. Four times as many New Yorkers could live in areas that flood by 2050
8. Millions of people and trillions in assets are at risk in coastal cities.
9. 136 of the world's most historic places could be lost due to sea level rise.
10. Small island nations could be destroyed.
11. There could be no more reefs after 2050.
12. The marine food chain could fall apart

13. Increasing droughts will make the driest regions even drier.

14. Some reptile species could turn mostly female, potentially leading to their extinction.

15. Equatorial regions and parts of the Antarctic will see up to a 50% decrease in their fisheries.

16. Thousands of plants and animal species will lose their habitats.

17. 20 million more children will go hungry by 2050.

18. Many countries are losing essential water sources.

DONALD TRUMP'S VICTORY

How were climate scientists, policymakers and diplomats planning to deal with a **Donald Trump presidency**? The truth is, they weren't. People who have dedicated their lives to working to save the planet always preferred to focus optimistically on how they could push a President Hillary Clinton further to the left on climate policy. But Trump's move to the White House almost certainly brought an end to an era of promising action to address climate change in the U.S. and could unravel ambitious international efforts to do the same. Environmentalists who just days ago hoped to build on the climate successes of President Barack Obama are forced to fight tooth and nail to protect existing checks on greenhouse emissions.

"We start by acknowledging reality. When he assumes office, Trump will be the only head of state to deny that climate change is real," says Michael Brune, executive director of the Sierra Club. "We're going to need to do everything we

can to play defense against the worst impulses of Trump's administration." He added.

Trump never rooted his campaign in detailed policy agenda, but his speeches did indicate that several energy and environmental policies could receive his immediate attention. The president promised that he would "scrap" much existing environmental regulation and bring back the ailing coal industry.

Withdrawing from the Paris Agreement—the most significant international agreement on climate change—seems to rank at the top of Trump's environmental agenda. As a candidate, he repeatedly promised to "cancel" or renegotiate the agreement, saying that it put the U.S. at a competitive disadvantage economically, especially to large developing nations like China that were less constrained on carbon emissions. Formally withdrawing from the deal requires a lengthy process that would take at least three years because the agreement has already gone into formal effect. And renegotiating the agreement would be almost impossible, given that the accord is the product of decades of international work.

Why Trump's Promise to save the Coal Industry does more damage than Good?

But Trump still could render the accord meaningless by simply declining to participate. The U.S. has committed through the Paris Agreement to working to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 26% to 28% below 2005 levels

by 2025, but the targets are non-binding and the country would face no penalties for non-compliance. There's precedent to such a strategy—Canada signed and ratified the Kyoto Protocol under a Liberal government, but when Conservatives took power they largely stopped trying to reduce carbon emissions, before withdrawing from the agreement in 2011. As the world's second-biggest carbon emitter after China, U.S. inaction will cause major damage to global efforts to reduce carbon emissions and keep warming beneath 2° C (3.6 F). But it would also send a dismaying signal to other countries, which will feel less pressure to follow through on their own pledges in the absence of U.S. participation.

Authorities around —including in China and Brazil, two major developing world carbon emitters—expressed concern at the possibility of a Trump presidency for climate action in advance of the election. U.S. officials have insisted that they expected the country to remain in the agreement despite Trump's promises. The politics of dropping the agreement would agitate the rest of the world and diminish the country's standing.

International community which believes that climate change is anthropogenic is really concerned with the whimsical actions of Donald Trump in connection with his attitude towards reducing carbon emissions by U.S.A

(SOURCE INTERNET)

BRIJ NARAYAN CHAKBAST

Brij Narayan Chakbast was an Urdu poet, born in in Faizabad (near Lucknow) in January 1882, in a Kashmiri Pandit family. His father Pandit Udit Narayan Chakbast was also a poet. Chakbast was educated in Lucknow, and settled down as a practicing lawyer at Lucknow. He began his poetic career with a *Nazm* in 1894 and wrote *Nazms*, *Mathnavi*, a play and about 50 *ghazals* in a short lifespan. He was primarily a poet but his prose is also considered at par with his poetry. In February 1926, he collapsed at the railway station in Rae Bareli and died at the age of 44. Chakbast's premature death was a great loss for Urdu but whatever he left is exemplary and is considered among the gems of Urdu literature. He was strongly influenced by Ghalib, Mir Anis and Aatish.

Hi description of life and death in the couplet below, is considered unrivalled.

**Zindagi kya hai anasir mein zahur - e tarteeb,
Maut kya hai inhi ajza ka pareshan hona**

**What is life, but a manifestation of orderliness and method in elements
What is death, but chaos within these same elements**

**Zahoor- revelation, manifestation; Tarteeb – orderliness, arrangement; Anasir –
elements; ajza – parts**

On Kashmir, Chakbast wrote:

**Zarra Zarra hai mere Kashmir ka mehmaan nawaaz,
raah mein pathar ke tukdoon ne diya peene ko pani mujhe**

In every little piece of my Kashmir, there is hospitality towards guests and visitors
When travelling (through Kashmir), even pieces of stone lying on the road gave me water to quench
my thirst (Collected and contributed by Sri Surendra Pandey)

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		12.	M.Guru Prabhakar 28-03-1965
1.	C.Laxma Reddy	09-03-1934	13.	Gadamsetty Rama Moahan Rao 29-03-1957
2.	S.Ashiah	15-03-1949	11.	G.Satish 29-03-1984
3.	D.V.Jayaram Prasad	15-03-1942	12.	B.Venkataramana 31-03-1960
4.	S.M.Rasheedullah	15-03-1939	13.	Y.Ramaiah 01-04-1962
5.	M.Sitarama Rao	19-03-1933	14.	V.Srinivasa Rao 01-04-1965
6.	I.Janardhan	23-03-1954	15.	Ch.Prakasa Rao 02-04-1963
7.	K.Muralidhar Rao	01-04-1946	16.	Y.Srinivasa Reddy 03-04-1971
8.	B.Rangiah	05-04-1946	17.	Chalumari Santhi Swaroop 05-04-1968

S.No.	Name of Serving Officers	D.O.B.
1.	B.Shafiullah	13-03-1976
2.	Smt.Shivani Dogra	17-03-1980
3.	Vinay Kumar	26-03-1968
4.	Ravi Sankara Madgula	07-03-1967
5.	P.Srinivasa Rao	10-03-1966
6.	B.Chandrasekhar	13-03-1962
7.	B.Dhanunjaya Rao	15-03-1960
8.	Ch.Nagabushanam	15-03-1967
9.	R. Ravinder	24-03-1962
10.	K.Ravinder	27-03-1961
11.	D.Phani Kumar Naidu	27-03-1988

Secretary



TIME IS RIPE TO REVIEW THE WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT IN PROTECTED AREAS IN CLIMAX

By
B.M.T. Rajeev

Introduction: *Ecological succession of vegetation in climax is the culmination stage in plant succession for a given environment. The climax stage of any deciduous vegetation is a stage of gray with no ability to regenerate / develop; it has to naturally perish/ removed to give way for the new vegetation. The ecological succession at 'climatic climax' in any 'Tropical Deciduous Forests' is a threat for the carrying capacity of the wildlife habitats; and the wildlife management has to review the habitat management strategies practiced since from the inception of the 'Project Tiger, 1973' and work out all possible remedial measures to rejuvenate the grey habitats with scientific plans. Time is ripe for review of 'habitat management' in the 'Protected Areas' facing ecological succession in climax in deciduous forest regions in the best interest of the wildlife, since the habitats in different stages of succession only can meet the diverse requirements of diverse wild animals.*

The vegetation in part of Bandipur Tiger Reserve (TR) in Karnataka has attained the ecological succession stage of Climatic Climax- a rare case for analysis in the interest of maintaining sustainable carrying capacity of the Protected Areas (PAs) in India.

Bandipur is a famous name in the field of wildlife conservation in India and a pride of Karnataka as it has place in the wildlife tourism map of the world. It is one of the 9 TRs initially established in India with the launch of 'Project Tiger, 1973' for the conservation of our 'National Animal-Tiger', the representative of all living organisms of our country's ecosystems as it occupies the crown of the biological pyramid. Bandipur TR is a National Park by status, spreading over 880 sq.km with additional 120 sq.km of buffer zone (added in 2010) and it is contiguous to PAs like Mudumalai NP (Tamil Nadu) to South, Wynad WLS (Kerala) to SW and Nagarahole TR (Karnataka) to West. It lies midway (80 km) between the famous tourist destinations- Mysore and Ooty (A hill station in Tamil Nadu).

Bandipur TR has a long history of wildlife conservation, as it was started as a 'game sanctuary' in 1931 over 90 sq. km by the then Maharaja of erstwhile Mysore State exclusively for his hunting hobby. It was extended over 800 sq.km in 1941 and named as 'Venugopala swamy Wildlife Park' with a 'sanctum sanctorum' over 60 sq. km, in which, all the forestry operations were prohibited and left to nature,

to provide undisturbed habitat to wild animals. This sanctum sanctorum of the erstwhile park was continued as 'tourism zone' with the establishment of TR in 1973. Thus, the present tourism zone of Bandipur TR has a long history of wildlife conservation for more than 8 decades, since 1931 and it was left to nature without any forestry operations ie; left undisturbed for more than 7 decades, since 1941. This is an area fit for analysis on *ecological succession of vegetation*.

Analysis of Vegetation in the tourism zone:

It is in the foot hills of Niligiris, with tropical climate, where the average annual rainfall is about 625 mm from both the monsoons (NE & SW monsoons) and the mean annual temperature ranges from 22 - 27 degree Celsius. The vegetation in the tourist zone which is limited to Bandipur RF was said to be - open forests of dwarf trees with meadows and swamps with plenty of fodder resources, as one of the most suitable habitats for herbivores like elephant, bison, sambar, chital, four horned antelope and barking deer and wild boar that supported predators like tiger, leopard, small cats, wild dog and hyenas and a host of other animals like sloth bear, reptiles, amphibians, fishes and birds as per the status report on the Bandipur sanctuary by the then Head of the Forest Department, YML Sharma in 1970s. The gregarious flowering of bamboo was said to be happened in 1960 and the dead bamboo was harvested by Mysore Paper Mills, Bhadravati. Natural regeneration of bamboo was good in the tourism zone and the author himself has

witnessed it since 1978 and again it has flowered in 2010s.

The vegetation in the tourism zone improved with the passage of time. This Dry Deciduous Forests had abundant fodder wealth for the herbivores (*Ref: First Management Plan of Bandipur TR, 1973 by S G Neginhal*). The herds of herbivores could be seen for nearly a km from the forest roads by the tourists till 1980s in this tourism zone. The visibility of animals was good for tourists with ample opportunity for photography because of the openness and the Sun light. The only obstruction was elephant grass and nothing else.

By 1980s, the vegetation was showing all-round improvement in growth, regeneration with sufficient fodder grasses. *Lantana camara* was found occupying fringe forests, banks of streams/ water holes and plantations of teak/ Eucalyptus. *Eupatorium odorata* and *Partheniumhysterophorus* were showing their heads here and there and were negligible. The TR management did not initiate any action to check these exotic & invasive weeds. The species *Lantana* was considered to be beneficial to animals as its fruits were liked by birds, deer and bear and also considered as a good cover for small wild animals/ predators, as the fodder wealth was abundant. The exotic weeds were treated as part of succession along with indigenous weed species like *Desmodiums*, *Indigoferas*, *Lea chinensis*, *Termeric*, *Sidaspp* etc.

By 1990s, the ecological succession of vegetation further improved exhibiting different storeys of vegetation most liked by diverse animals in the entire TR. The regeneration of tree species, with lot of *Kydiacalycina* was most liked by elephants; bamboo and varieties of grasses were in plenty and very conducive to rate the Bandipur TR as one of the best habitats for wildlife. The improvement in the water regimes of the TR was remarkable. The local indigenous weeds started looking dangerous and the *Lantana* was found picking up fast.... and the *Eupatorium* started establishing in patches with *Parthenium*. Even then, no plan was initiated to check the exotic/ local weeds. The *teak plantations* rose before launching Project Tiger (PT) started crowding without thinning operations and made the soil below them nude without grass allowing *Lantana* to invade fast. (Ref: The 20 years Review Report of Bandipur TR, 1993 by the Author & Sri BS Ramaiah)

By Y2K; The dawn of 21st century, the succession of vegetation started showing the sign of its 'vegetative climax'- the stage of aged trees with lack of regeneration of tree species, absence of tree spp. in the under storey became conspicuous. The exotic weeds (*Lantana*, *Eupatorium* & *Parthenium*) became rampant and started occupying the forest floor giving no scope for the grasses- the light demanders- to flourish; threatening the fodder base of the herbivores affecting the *carrying capacity* of the habitats of the TR. The situation looked worst in tourism zone

and bad in the interior core areas of the TR. The dead fuel wood load started accumulating in the interior regions of Berambadi RF, AM Gudi RF & Begur RF which were brimming with improved population of wild animals. This fuel wood load was also causing obstruction for the movement of big herbivorous animals in herds and an invitation to wild fires.

The wild animals' population especially elephant, bison, sambar, chital, wild boar, leopard and tiger increased in numbers with demand for better resources for food, water, shelter and space for movement/spreading gene. Wild animals started going out of TR more frequently in search of food/water during pinch periods and in winter with concentration in the outer fringe habitats creating more '*human-animals' conflicts*'. The success rate of animals' sighting increased for the visitors-tourists along with the succession in vegetation and increase in the population of wild animals. Tiger, the star animal of this TR did not fall behind in population due to better anti-poaching and protection measures.

By 2010s the vegetation in the tourism zone attained '*ecological succession to the stage of climax*' some call it as *ecological degradation-culmination* stage of succession or end of further improvement or a stage of gray- absence of different stages of vegetation, absence of regeneration, more fuel wood load inviting fire with more number of dead trees as it is a deciduous forests; and the presence of flowered

and dead bamboo and thick mat of *Lantana*, *Eupatorium* and *Parthenium* under growth also found not allowing the grasses to survive below them; a non-conducive or dangerous condition for the survival of herbivorous animals. The local weeds disappeared from the competition. The grasses degenerated and could be seen only in some opens and in some patches and the elephant grass-*Imperataarundinacea*, which was most common in this habitat...found degenerated due to closure of the canopy of the vegetation/exotic weeds except in the hill top-Himavad Gopalswamy hill ranges- where elephant/ bison herds are seen congregating. But, the rate of success of tiger sighting improved in the tourism zone- since the tiger population considerably went up and tigers started moving in the safari roads and in the view lines as they could not move freely in the forests infested with thick mat of weeds.

Tigers cannot dream of crossing the present vegetation where even the elephant paths have been covered by prickly *Lantana* and other weeds. It is the case with other animals also, since the mat of exotic weeds are so crowded and allows no animals to cross or allow no vegetation to come up below them. Only wild boar is happy to hide and move below these exotic weeds. With this condition the prey animals- herbivores are forced to forage in view lines/ road sides or meadows and predators find it easy to predate on prey animals in their roaming tracks... and are lucky to have high

success rate of predation with in their home range. Hence, there is more sighting of tigers in Bandipur tourism zone/ in TR compared to previous years. *Even the perambulation/ patrolling/wild animas' census by staff is limited to the game roads n view lines since the elephant paths are closed for cross walking in the habitats like in the past.*

Tigers sighting: The sighting of tigers is most spectacular for the tourists, profitable for the tour operators and a boost to the wildlife tourism. The tourists think that the forests in Bandipur TR are dense, green, animals are in plenty and wildlife management is good; since they are unaware of the science behind the present thick vegetation and the animals' visibility. In reality, this stage of *climax of vegetation* is with full of fuel wood load prone for fire hazards; and it is most disliked by the wild animals as it does not meet the diverse food requirements of diverse animals.

The Management Practices: The Bandipur TR remained and continued to remain with the projection that the TR management is committed for the policy of '*non-interference with the vegetation*' and to provide total protection against disturbances to vegetation and animals and fire. But, no research data is available to substantiate this stand that '*the wildlife habitats have to be left to nature without interference or manipulations forever*'. Let us see the principles of Project Tiger.

· Elimination of all forms of human

exploitation and biotic disturbance from the core area and rationalization of activities in the buffer zone

- Restricting the habitat management only to repair the damages done to the ecosystem by human and other interferences so as to facilitate recovery of the ecosystem to its natural state

- Monitoring the faunal and floral changes over time and carrying out research about wildlife

The principle no. one is followed in toto but the rationalization of activities in the buffer zone was completely neglected without taking corrective measures either to assist the habitat to rejuvenate or manipulate if found to be not conducive to the animals' diverse requirements. The principle no. two was completely forgotten and never bothered to assess the ecosystems whether they have reached the stage what they were before the interference of human/ what were the stages in different ecosystems like hills, deciduous forests, scrub jungles, grass lands and water bodies etc... in the Bandipur TR. Hence, the present stages of vegetation in climax with grey trees, weeds and no regeneration of tree spp / fodder grasses is the order.

The principle no. three is limited to census of wild animals and periodical floral assessment was neglected and left to nature in this TR.

However, there are proved theories to show- *Principles of wildlife management/ Conservation-* that the habitats should possess different storeys

of vegetation or different stages of succession to meet the diverse food and diverse cover requirements of diverse animals to consider them as ideal habitats of wildlife; which is possible only with scientific manipulation. Now, the vegetation in Bandipur tourism zone is in *climax*- the stage of gray, not fit to sustain diverse animals' diverse requirements.

Prevailing conditions:

1. There is no hope of natural regeneration in this condition of vegetation to start its new succession as there is no potential tree species for seeding and no open forest floor to induce the germination of seeds of trees or grasses for natural regeneration.

2. The habitat will continue to deteriorate in terms of '*carrying capacity*'- the ability to sustain animals with the passage of time and will force the diverse animals to migrate to viable areas or to perish.

3. The condition is a *volcano* (Fuel wood load of dead bamboo clumps & dead trees with Lantana & other weeds) waiting for ignition in summers to burn into ashes in addition to causing damage to the existing live vegetation, animals and pollution by emitting enormous CO₂ to atmosphere- a cause for aggravation of global warming. The fire fighting in the areas of this condition is tough/ fatal in summers in PAs. e.g. *Recently i.e. on 18 the Feb, 2017, a young Forest Guard by name Murugyappa was trapped inside the Lantana bushes by the wild fire with whirlwind during night and took a toll of him*

while fighting the fire with others; three more staff were also sustained severe burn injuries in Kalkere Range of Bandipur TR. When the fate of a modern man caught in wild fire is so in TR!- then the fate of the diverse animals with inability to fly or run away may be visualized in such fires- will not be a holocaust?

4. Fire is the only solution to clear gray or dead stock of vegetation for further succession; since, the tropical deciduous vegetation contains hard wood trees and takes decades for weathering to allow space for natural succession- and fire has to allow it to perish.

5. Even after fire, natural regeneration of trees will be a dream in the midst of weeds. The exotic weed, *Parthenium* will be first to occupy the forest floor immediately after the fire, followed by *Eupatorium* since they are *Asteraceae* family species with air borne seed-dispersal mechanism and high germination potentials. *Lantana* will not be an immediate threat as it takes time to invade, which is steady in its invasion armed with dispersal of seed by birds and capacity to colonize in any condition. Some grasses may come in between weeds to perish later. No tree spp regeneration can be expected without artificial introduction into the burnt area or cleared area since broad casting of seeds is bound to fail as experienced in the bamboo flowered and burnt area of 2012 big fire in Nagarhole TR'

6. This condition is a cause for dearth in

fodder resources to the herbivores; the increased population of herbivores moves to the open fringes in winter and concentrate on crop raiding during nights/ human injury/ damage to properties eg. Elephants/ wild boars. The big cats also follow the herbivores in to fringe open forests and indulge in cattle lifting, human injury/ human attack/ man eating in addition to raid in to the cattle sheds during nights e.g. Tiger & leopards. These incidences have become more common in autumn/ winter causing more 'Human-animals conflicts'- and head ache to the authorities in Bandipur TR.

Possible Solutions: The remedies for the areas under vegetative climax are a challenge to the wildlife management. It can be resolved only through silvicultural practices and not by allowing it to 'nature' as there is no hope for natural succession in this era of exotic & local weeds/ global warming / droughts in tropical deciduous forests' regions of India.

1. The burnt areas should be guarded against exotic weeds and taken up for rejuvenation in blocks with miscellaneous species that are not browsed by animals and bear fruits liked by animals; eg. *Terminalia bellerica*, *Eugenia jambulana*, *Simarubaglaucum*, *Anonasquamosa*, *Anacardiumoccidentale*, *Bauhinias spp*, *Emblicaoofficianalis*, and with special protection, spp like *Meleadubia*, *Ficuses*, *Kydiacalycina* in addition to sowing of seeds of

grasses like-Bamboos, *Cymbopogon martini*, *Cymbopogonflexosus*, *Digitaria* spp, *Heteropogon contortus*, *Imperata arundinacea*, *Themeda* spp. etc with protection/ nursing for 5 years by removing weeds physically as done in plantations.

2. The worst grey areas need to be taken up for regeneration by salvaging the fuel wood load of dead trees with sowing of grasses, planting of trees/ bamboo with solar fencing without waiting for it to be burnt in near future for initiation of any action.

3. If the fuel wood load of dead trees salvaged areas shows sufficient root stock for natural regeneration; such area be tended for natural regeneration by controlling weeds with coppice system.

4. The action needs to be initiated to introduce biological controlling measures against *Eupatorium* and *Parthenium* in addition to physical removal of *Lantana* to keep them under check (Tamil Nadu has already initiated a scheme under hill development Authority-funds to uproot *Lantana* and encourage grasses in Mudumali WLS. Kerala allows people to harvest *Sida* spp a ground weed as medicinal plant from Wynad WLS free of cost)

Vision: We have analyzed the conditions of succession climax of the vegetation in the tourism zone- 60 sq. km in Bandipur TR -which was left untouched for 7 decades. Rest of the area in Bandipur TR especially core zone is in succession which was left to nature for the past

4 decades. It is also showing the succession signs of *pre-climatic climax* and may reach climax, being aggravated by the presence of exotic weeds and declining rainfall due to global warming within 2 or 3 decades. Then, the depleting carrying capacity of the Bandipur TR will definitely collapse as it happened in the tourism zone and the situation may force the animals to flee from the area or perish. Then what will be the remedy to rejuvenate the habitats? This may also happen in the adjoining PAs like Mudumalai, Wynaad, Nagarhole TR and BR Temple TR. Then, where else the diverse animals migrate to meet their bonafide requirements- food, shelter and space?

The wildlife management in Bandipur TR, as well as in other PAs in India need to take note of the vegetative succession at '*climax*' and invasion of exotic weeds in the '*Tropical Deciduous Forests*' as could be seen in tourism zone of Bandipur TR, which is managed undisturbed for more than 7 decades and in other parts of this TR and work out all possible remedial measures to rejuvenate the grey habitats by drawing a scientific plan. As such, it is necessary to review the wildlife habitat management in Bandipur TR and also in other PAs in India that are in vegetative succession '*climax*' or *pre-climax* in the best interest of the wildlife.

Editor's Note: This was first published in Indian Forester

WRESTLING WITH CLIMATE CHALLENGE

Here is how these four cities are gearing up to reduce carbon footprint, prevent coastal erosion and tap renewable energy

Fighting climate change means different things in different cities, as this article illustrates:

Vancouver, Canada

Environmentalism and tourism are intertwined in Vancouver, a city of 6,00,000 nestling between beautiful mountain peaks and the Pacific Ocean. Since 2007, a swathe of green measures has cut CO2 emissions from buildings by 20 percent, landfill by 23 percent and road trips by 27 percent. The city has a vastly-expanded network of bike paths and two new rail transit lines.

In 2015, Vancouver set a target of 100 percent renewable energy by 2050. The province's electricity supply is already 93 percent renewable, mostly hydro.

Like other port cities around the world, Vancouver is faced with rising seas and more destructive storms as a result of climate change, for which it intends to revamp storm-water systems and management.

Chongqing, China: A mega polis of 18 million people, Chongqing is a manufacturing hub for cars, motorcycles, steel, aluminum and many other heavy-industry goods.

Its citizens have gagged for decades on some of

the foulest air in the world, made worse by a landscape of hill-lined basins that trap pollution.

The giant municipality — whose administrative area covers 30 million people — has an ambitious programme to encourage lower-carbon practices.

A buy-back programme launched in 2013 has taken tens of thousands of high-polluting vehicles off the road. High-Sulphur coal and diesel are banned within city limits.

Chongqing wants non-fossil fuels to be 15 percent of its energy mix by 2020.

Beijing has promised China's world-leading carbon emissions will peak by "around 2030."

Los Angeles, California: Despite improvements, sprawling Los Angeles still has some of the most polluted air in the United States.

But that status may change as California ramps up to enact among the most ambitious environmental policies in the world.

Last September, legislation was approved requiring the state to cut greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030.

The state also aims to generate 50 percent of its electricity from renewable resources —

notably wind and solar energy — by 2030. Buildings are to become twice as energy efficient by the same date.

Three-quarters of all waste must be recycled by 2020.

As for Los Angeles, stricter fuel emissions standards for vehicles are bound to help.

Lagos, Nigeria: Battered trucks and cars on the highways of Nigeria’s main commercial city spew black clouds of exhaust, while chronic electricity outages mean that most businesses and homes rely on gas-guzzling generators for power.

The air often tastes of petrol.

Despite its exploding population of 20 million in a low-lying coastal area, Lagos has done little to adapt to future climate change.

With limited green energy options, people are forced to rely on fossil fuels.

With government corruption endemic, the private sector may be better placed to adapt to climate change.

A privately managed city for half a million people, for example, is under development on 10 square kilometers of reclaimed jutting out into the Atlantic.

Dubbed the “Dubai of Africa”, Eko Atlantic boasts an eight-kilometer (five-mile) -long wall designed to prevent the ocean from eating away the Lagos coastline, and thousands of homes with it.

But the project has been tarred as a “climate apartheid”.

INVITATION

The Association of Retired Forest Officers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad Congratulates the following Forest Officers who retired / retiring from service on attaining the age of superannuation on the dates mentioned against their names. The Association cordially invites them to join the Association of Retired Forest Officers to keep in touch with their old colleagues and to keep themselves occupied.

1. R.G. Kalaghatgi - 31-01-2017
2. M. Sudhakar - 31-01-2017
3. K. Shailendra Moses - 31-01-2017
4. Gadamsetty Rama Mohan Rao - 31-03-2017

A Personal request to all the Retired Forest Officers who have not joined the Association to kindly join the Association. Please contact the following for further details Sri. B.M. Swami Das Secretary Mobile No 9000817781

Sri. A.V. Govindarajulu, Joint Secretary cum Treasurer Mobile No. 9440764611

Secretary

HOW AN ENGINEER TRANSFORMED A TRIBAL HAMLET IN ODISHA INTO A UNIQUE ECO-TOURISM DESTINATION

In Odisha's scenic Koraput Valley, a quiet transformation is underway. Yugabrata Kar and his community-centric ecotourism initiative, Desia, are bringing the benefits of sustainable livelihoods to the local tribes living in the valley. An avid traveler, Kar grew up in the holy city of Puri, which attracts a large number of tourists from across the globe. After completing his graduation in mechanical engineering, he chose to study tourism and hospitality management to pursue his interest. However, his first job was as tour operator followed by the post of a sales engineer for a reputed company that required him to travel to sleepy hamlets to sell agricultural pumps.

It was during his visits to these remote villages that Kar noticed two things — one, that the unique tribal culture of the region was getting eroded due to technology explosion, and second, the locals who followed traditional sources of livelihood rarely emerged from abject poverty. Lack of alternative modes of livelihood has also led to large-scale migration of youth to other states as laborers in brick kilns and construction sights. Deciding to do something to help them, Kar drew upon his training in rural tourism and experience as a tour operator to set up an ecotourism facility at Lamtaput in Koraput Valley. He chose the concept of ecotourism because its principles entailed the conservation of environment as well as the preservation of local cultures and traditions, while providing education and economic benefits to locals.

Kar financed the project, which he named Desia, with his accumulated savings, supplemented with a loan from Bank of Baroda. Other than

arranging funds for the project, he also had to tackle several other hurdles during the initial days. Other than ensuring connectivity to the remote location, the biggest challenge he faced was winning the trust of the tribal. Knowing that the involvement of the local communities was crucial if the venture was to succeed Kar began engaging with them extensively through participatory camps. Ten local *Paraja* tribe youth were trained in hospitality and tourism nuances to run daily operations. Pre-schools were established to give children a strong foundation and get more families involved. Kar also roped in experts to train the local women in making handicrafts and traditional jewelry, which could then be sold to tourists.

Slowly but steadily, Kar ensured that the venture was almost entirely managed by locals. From construction to daily operations, he also shared a substantial percentage of profits with them, other than using the money to sponsor skill development scholarships for the local youth. Today, Kar has the full cooperation and trust of the local communities who have seen their lives improve due to his efforts. Spread over four acres of the Koraput valley, Desia provides a quintessential Odisha experience backed by the warm hospitality of the local community, an age-old tribal culture and the pristine landscape. The ecotourism facility is equipped with modern amenities and spacious rooms decorated with local handicrafts and traditional tribal motifs. Local artists, with help and guidance from artists from Shantiniketan, have designed the entire set-up. (Please see last cover page for photos)

PICKING ON FOOD ATOP THE PALA RAPU CLIFF

By
N Shiva Kumar

At the bend of the Peddavagu River, a rocky cliff majestically rises 100 ft into the azure sky but stands lonely with a jagged rock face. Known as the Pala Rapu cliff, this remote spot within the Bejjur reserve forest in Kumram Bheem Asifabad district of Telangana is drawing global attention in recent times.

A unique open-air restaurant at this isolated location prepares specialized cuisine devoid of the dangerous Diclofenac drug.

"Spread over two acres, the exclusive patch atop the Pala Rapu cliff is being developed as a vulture restaurant, where the near-extinct long-billed vultures can feast on unadulterated flesh," says Subba Rao, a resident of nearby Nandigaon village, who turned bird tracker and was promptly deployed by the forest department to crusade for the vultures.

These big birds with an average wing span of over 5 ft once ruled the skies in thousands, gliding on the thermals effortlessly. Vultures are natural scavengers as they feed on dead and sick animals; this, in turn, prevents the spread of diseases. However, their numbers have been dwindling since the early '90s — they were almost wiped out by the veterinary drug Diclofenac used to treat cattle.

"When vultures feed on carcasses injected with Diclofenac drugs, they experience kidney failure

and die within days," explains DrSudhir Reddy, a veterinarian who runs the Reddy BioScience Solutions in Mattawan, Michigan, USA. He was recently in India to catch a glimpse of the rare flock of vultures at Pala Rapu cliff.

"Diclofenac was banned in India in 2006 yet used by villagers for their cattle, particularly cows. If an endangered species is experiencing catastrophic population declines, as high as 90 per cent, even a little news is good news. Pala Rapu cliff has a tiny breeding colony with a viable population of 20 vultures," says Ravikanth Manchiryala, a biologist stationed as a field researcher in this region for two years now, after the discovery of the vultures. He works together with five tribal youngsters from nearby hamlets who serve as bird trackers.

The team keeps a continuous watch on the precious flock roosting and resting on the cliff. They ensure the vultures are not disturbed and their feed provided at regular intervals, and maintain a log as the birds go about breeding, brooding and feeding.

"Presently 10 pairs of vultures are busy building nests; each lays a single egg and raises the chick to adulthood in a span of about 70 days. These activities keep the rustic group of bird trackers in an enthusiastic mood.

They are each paid 10,000 every month, under

the CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) scheme, and provided binoculars, shoes and jungle garments. This sum is generous, according to rural standards, and so is their devotion to their daily duties," says Bejjur Forest Range Officer M Ram Mohan, who prepared an extensive conservation plan for the vultures after their hideout was first discovered three years ago by nomadic villagers.

Ram Mohan explains how the loss of vultures had a cascading effect on the hinterland. Without these scavengers to feed on diseased cows and dead wildlife, the number of ferocious feral dogs increased, as did the incidence of human disease and dog bites. Now the vultures are reclaiming their ancient territory, slowly but steadily. He also explains how cattle is bought from the villagers, quarantined for a few days, and medically tested to ensure they are free of Diclofenac before being served fresh at the vulture restaurant.

Among the reasons for the revival of the vultures seems to be the shutting down of the 80-year-old Sirpur-Kaghaznagar paper plant, located 50 km from Bejjur, in 2014. The manufacturer was polluting land, water and air by spewing poisonous liquids into the Peddavagu River, which meanders at the base of the vulture cliff. Today, the river has rejuvenated naturally and much cleaner waters flow, bringing relief to both vultures and the people in seven surrounding villages.

Other reasons are the availability of organic food devoid of drugs, fresh drinking water and cosy nesting ledges of the Pala Rapu cliff in the alluring remoteness of Bejjur. With a favourable ecology, the forest department is trying to declare a 140 sqkm swathe of land in Bejjur as a Vulture Sanctuary benefiting both vultures and villagers.

The writer is a photographer and wildlife enthusiast based in Noida

NOTICE

The 83rd GENERAL BODY MEETING of the Association of Retired Forest Officers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh will be held on 19-03-2017 (Sunday) at 11.00 a.m. in Aranya Bhavan, Hyderabad. Dr. Ajith Kumar Huilgol, M.B.B.S, MS. Kidney Surgeon, Bangaluru is the chief guest and will talk on "Antarctica - The Last Frontier" All the members of the Association are requested to make it convenient to attend the meeting with their spouses. Lunch is hosted by Sri T. Hanumantha Reddy, DFO Retd. and Sri. K. Muralikrishna Rao, DFO Retd. who are the members of the association.

B.M.Swami Dass, SECRETARY



Drawn by Sri NagabhushanDasari with title "JAYAHO BHARATH" in view of successful launching of 104 Satellites by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) on 15th Feb 2017

NEWS AND NOTES

How healthy are the country's children?

UNICEF has joined hands with the Indian Government to conduct a survey on nutrition levels. UNICEF has teamed up with the Indian government to conduct a national survey to measure nutrition levels of children in the country.

As per the survey, data is being collected to quantify worm infestation among children as well as deficiencies of micronutrients, vitamins and minerals.

According to UNICEF, the findings of the exercise will start trickling in early next year.

A total of 1, 20,000 children in the age group of 0-19 years are being surveyed across the country through systematic random sampling. The survey has been completed in seven states and will be concluded in another five states by the end of this year, it said.

All states are expected to be covered by the end of 2017.

UNICEF's Nutrition Specialist Jee Hyun Rah explained how lack of data leads to gaps in Government policies which can be addressed through this comprehensive 'National Nutrition Survey'. UNICEF said indicators for over-nutrition (which causes obesity and diabetes) are also being calculated.

Importantly, association between lack of nourishment and its impact on school readiness, cognitive development and educational outcomes will also be determined.

A cycle that connects rural women to the world:

- The "Internet Saathi" initiative aims to teach women to use the internet and break the gender disparity. Sheetal Bootoli's husband refused to let her touch the mobile phone. "What will you do with it? You'll spoil it," he said. It's an attitude very familiar to women in rural India.

Yet now, four months later, Sheetal, 32, is teaching other rural women in and around Bootoli village, near Alwar, Rajasthan, to use the internet. Every day, she gets on her special "internet cycle cart" containing two web-enabled smartphones and two tablets. She cycles through cotton and onion fields to give local women instruction on going online.

The Bootoli women's experience of the world has previously been limited to a trip to Alwar, 28km away, to see a doctor. Now, they are getting their first taste of the vastness of the internet.

"My husband has just got a smartphone and now I'm the one who teaches him about email and downloading WhatsApp," says Sheetal, smiling. Sheetal is part of the "Internet Saathi" (or partner) initiative, a campaign launched by Google India and Tata Trusts in May to address what is perhaps the biggest gender disparity in India: the fact that only two per cent of internet users in rural India are women.

Internet use in India is growing fast. Last year, the country overtook the U.S. to become the second largest online user base, after China,

with 342 million internet users as of March 2016. Future growth will be largely in rural areas. A Boston Consulting Group study predicts that rural consumers will increase from 120 million in 2015 to almost 315 million in 2020.

The Google campaign, Helping Women Get Online, aims to impart basic internet skills to rural women in half the country's villages — about 300,000 — in the next few years. "Since May, over 1.2 million women have benefited from the programme, spread across 40,000 villages," said Sapna Chadha, head of marketing at Google India.

How does it change their lives?

Through an army of trainers like Sheetal, rural women will learn to use the internet to improve their lives. Eventually, some may even come to earn a living online. Google provides the gadgets and training, while Tata Trusts uses its links with local NGOs to identify the online saathis and monitor progress. The internet carts are available in villages for a minimum of two days every week for four to six months.

The women of Bootoli don't have televisions. "I saw the prime minister for the first time on the tablet. I saw Mecca — my dream — for the first time," says Naseera Khan, 40, before asking Sheetal to show her pictures of the Taj Mahal.

Khan's husband and son won't let her touch their phones. Denying women access to mobile phones is rooted in a conservative culture.

Initially, the men in the village were reluctant to let their wives attend the training sessions but relented after realizing that it seemed harmless.

Finding crop prices and sample question papers

Sheetal helps them access the internet by using their local language and, if they are illiterate, through voice searches on Google or through videos.

"We're harvesting onions at the moment and we won't sell to the middleman until we've checked online the price being offered at the wholesale market," says village resident Rehana Bano. Another woman said she downloads sample exam papers for her children.

In another village...

In the neighboring village of Ghatgaon, where women are better educated and men feel less threatened by the training, internet saathi Mamta Jatav, 28, has a slightly easier time. Some families have smartphones.

The women have learned to search online for information about government benefits, crop prices, health tips, recipes, agricultural techniques, cattle deworming and how to keep animals healthy.

"My husband and I were about to buy a foreign breed of cow because everyone said it would give more milk than an Indian one. I did a search and found that feeding the foreign breed will be far too expensive.

"I'm glad we didn't waste our money," says Laxmi Sharma. She has ordered a smartphone online that will be delivered to a relative in Alwar, who will bring it on his next visit.

An older woman called Garibi says she learned of government subsidized food schemes that

will be useful to her family. Another woman, a widow, says she realized she was entitled to a pension.

“Once they understand the power and value of the internet, they start saying they can’t do without it. Our hope is to see material change, including a change in men’s attitudes, when they see that families benefit when women learn internet skills,” says Chadha.

My husband has just got a smartphone and now I’m the one who teaches him about email and downloading WhatsApp.

Sheetal is teaching other rural women in and around Bootoli village, near Alwar, Rajasthan, to use the internet. Every day, she gets on her special “internet cycle cart” containing two web-enabled smartphones and two tablets. She cycles through cotton and onion fields to give local women instruction on going online.

India ranked 79th in the Corruption

Perception Index 2016: - The organization has used the World Bank data, the world economic forum and other institutions to rank countries by perceived levels of corruption in public sector. The score runs from zero to 100, from highly corrupt to 100. Belarus, Brazil, & China shared the same ranks as India.

India has been ranked 79th among 176 countries in the Corruption Perception Index 2016 released by the Transparency International organization. Its score marginally improved from 38 in 2015 to 40 in 2016. India had a score of 36 in 2012.

The organization has used the World Bank data,

the world economic forum and other institutions to rank countries by perceived levels of corruption in public sector. The score runs from zero to 100, from highly corrupt to 100. Belarus, Brazil, & China shared the same ranks as India.

The list was topped by New Zealand and Denmark with a score of 90 each. Higher-ranked countries tend to have higher degrees of press freedom, access to information about public expenditure, stronger standards of integrity for public officials, and independent judicial systems.

Somalia was ranked the most corrupt country with a score of 10. Other countries with lower rankings were South Sudan, North Korea, Syria, and Yemen. The lower-ranked countries in the index were plagued by untrustworthy and badly functioning public institutions like the police and judiciary.

Apparently We’ve Been Cooking Rice Wrong This Whole Time and It Could Be Bad for Our

Health: -According to scientists, the way the majority of us cook rice could actually be a risk to our health.

The ‘normal way’ to good the good stuff is usually by simply boiling in a pan until the water has steamed out. But according to the people that *know*, it is thought that traces of the poison arsenic – a chemical that contaminates rice as a result of industrial toxins and pesticides used in the growing process – can be found in the rice even after cooking.

Chronic exposure to arsenic has recognized

links to a range of health problems including heart disease, diabetes and cancer. According to research from Channel 4's *Dispatches* and the Institute for Global Food Security, around 58% of rice-based products in the UK contain high levels of arsenic.

Thankfully, there's no reason to panic just yet, as a series of experiments showed that it is possible to reduce our levels of exposure to arsenic by simply changing the way we cook rice.

Andy Meharg, professor of biological sciences at Queens University Belfast, tested three ways of cooking rice for the BBC programme '*Trust Me, I'm a Doctor*', to see whether it altered the levels of arsenic.

In the first method, he used a ratio of two parts water to one part rice, allowing the water to 'steam out', as identified above. In the second, he used five parts water to one part rice, washing off excessive water before serving. This saw the levels of arsenic almost halved.

Finally, the rice was soaked in water overnight before being cooked the next day, resulting in an **80% reduction of the toxin**. For the safest results, the overnight rice should be rinsed until the water is clear, before being drained and boiled in a saucepan using a ratio of five parts water to one part rice.

This is the simple way to stop worrying, according to science: - All of us worry from time to time, but if your anxious thoughts keep troubling you, a new coping tactic may well be worth trying...

A new study into the main causes of worry has

revealed that there are ways we can stop those troubling feelings in their tracks, *Stylist* reports. Research from the University of Sussex, published in the journal *Biological Psychology*, has shown that your first step should be to work out what kind of worrier you are.

Apparently, there is a big difference between what the team call 'normal' worriers and 'pathological' worriers. Those of us in the former camp will usually see our anxious thoughts disappear on their own, normally when the particular worry has served its purpose.

In case you thought worrying was a total waste of time, the team is keen to highlight that some worries can be beneficial, helping to "solve perceived problems of daily living", acting as an "attempt to repair negative mood" or working as a means to try and "ensure that 'bad' things do not happen or to avoid future catastrophes".

However, the pathological type of worrying isn't so clear cut. This, the scientists say, is characterized by a "perfectionist approach" that can lead sufferers to obsessively analyze.

Once you've identified which type of worrier you are, the team believe one simple thing will help: you have to force yourself to get over those negative thoughts, ideally by writing it all down. "Thinking about the idea of stopping worrying when you've had enough of it, rather than when the worrying is somehow 'finished' or 'complete', could be beneficial," says study author Christian Jarrett.

So, the next time things start to feel a little

overwhelming, perhaps pick up your journal and start scribbling.

10 Reasons Why You Need to Swap White Rice

With Brown Rice! Brown rice the name itself is self-explanatory. Let us understand one thing clearly, our very own white rice once upon a time looked like brown rice and the sole reason behind it is the presence of husk and bran. Unlike brown bread brown rice is not coated with dye and hence it is healthy.

The white rice we eat is sans the husk and bran which means it has been processed and polished. Brown rice on the other hand has an array of nutrients namely protein, calcium, thiamine, magnesium, potassium, fiber and selenium unlike white rice.

So here are some simple reasons why you need to make friends with Mr. Brown :)

Below are 10 benefits of brown rice in a nutshell-

1. Looking to lose weight? Then you need to try brown rice for sure because it can aid in weight loss and shall maintain the weight to optimum.
2. It contains a storehouse of Fiber which can aid in keeping you full for longer duration and keep the sugar cravings at bay. Fiber helps in good bowel movement and studies have shown that it can lower the blood sugar and cholesterol levels drastically.
3. Just like fruits and vegetables it has been endowed with antioxidants which can fight free radicals formed in the body due to various physical and environmental reasons.
4. It is a source of slow releasing sugar

which is why it is apt for diabetics. Hence it can basically stabilize blood sugar levels and prevent instant insulin spikes which can be easily caused by the consumption of white rice.

5. It is a great source of selenium which can keep you away from heart diseases and various cancers.

6. Feeling stressed, then do consume a bowl of brown rice. Reason? Brown rice is a great source of manganese which is also known to be a stress reliever.

7. It has been blessed with natural oils which can help in reducing the levels of cholesterol and hence prevent its buildup in the bloodstream.

8. Due to the presence of calcium it is great for bone health. So if you are looking to strengthen your bones then stock on some brown rice in the kitchen and reap its numerous benefits.

9. Brown rice is low in calories and prevents weight gain.

10. Brown rice cannot only boost your metabolism but it can also help in strengthening the immune system.

So, brown rice can be a perfect addition to your daily diet.

World's heaviest woman arrives in Mumbai for surgery: - Mumbai [India], Feb.11, (ANI):

Eman Ahmad, 36, the world's heaviest woman and a resident of Egypt has arrived in at Mumbai for treatment at the Saifee Hospital. Eman is 500-kg -plus woman and this is her first trip out of her home in last 25 years.

She reached Mumbai at 4a.m. on Saturday for her weight reduction-bariatric surgery.

With the help of local Egyptian artisans, Egyptian Air arranged a special bed for her so that she is comfortable while travelling.

All equipment's required for any kind of emergency were also available in the flight.

Shaimaa Ahmad, Eman's sister is also accompanying her along with two doctors Dr. Aparna Govil Bhaskar and Dr. Kamlesh Bohra.

Bariatric surgeon Dr. Mufazzal Lakdawala will handle her case once she stabilizes.

After reaching Mumbai, Emaan was taken to the hospital in a fully equipped truck followed by an ambulance and police van. A special room has been set up for her at the hospital.

She is currently suffering from lymphedema, water retention, two diabetes, hypertension, and hypothyroidism, and highly obstructive and restrictive lung disease, gout and is at a very high risk of pulmonary embolism. She has suffered a stroke which resulted in paralysis of her right arm and leg. (ANI)

Bad news: Eastern gorillas on the brink of extinction: - The world's largest gorillas have been pushed to the brink of extinction by a surge of illegal hunting in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and are now critically endangered, officials said Sunday.

With just 5,000 Eastern gorillas (*Gorilla beringei*) left on Earth, the majestic species now faces the risk of disappearing completely, officials said at IUCN conference in Honolulu.

Four out of six of the Earth's great apes are now

critically endangered, "only one step away from going extinct," including the Eastern Gorilla, Western Gorilla, Bornean Orangutan and Sumatran Orangutan, said the IUCN in an update to its Red List, the world's most comprehensive inventory of plant and animal species. Chimpanzees and bonobos are listed as endangered. "Today is a sad day because the IUCN Red List shows we are wiping out some of our closest relatives," Inger Andersen, IUCN director general, told reporters.

War, hunting and loss of land to refugees in the past 20 years have led to a "devastating population decline of more than 70 percent," for the Eastern gorilla, said the IUCN's update.

The second subspecies of Eastern gorilla, the Mountain gorilla has seen a small rebound in its numbers, and totals around 880 individuals.

Good news: Giant pandas no longer 'endangered': Decades of conservation work in China have paid off for the giant panda, whose status was upgraded Sunday from "endangered" to "vulnerable" due to a population rebound, officials said.

The improvement for the giant panda was announced as part of an update to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

The latest estimates show a population of 1,864 adult giant pandas. Although exact numbers are not available, adding cubs to the projection would mean about 2,060 pandas exist today, said the IUCN.

Through its "rent-a-panda" captive breeding

programme, China has also loaned some bears to zoos abroad in exchange for cash, and reinvested that money in conservation efforts. Simon Stuart, chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, said, the improvement was came from the hard work of controlling poaching and replanting bamboo forests.

This Is Not A Drill: The World Is Running out Of Coffee: - Struggle to even open your eyes without a coffee hit? Yeah, you might want to listen to this because a new report suggests that the world's coffee is running out. The Climate Institute predicts that if global warming continues at its current rate, the amount of useable coffee farmland will have halved by 2050. Throw in fungi and pests like the Coffee Berry Borer (whose numbers are expected to 'explode') and coffee could actually be extinct by 2080.

That means you can kiss goodbye to your morning macchiato and your 4 O Clock frop Frappuccino, and your lunchtime latte? Forget about it.

But don't be feeling too smug coffee-phobes because the extinction of the coffee plant won't just affect coffee lovers, but impact on the lives of approximately 120 million people who rely on the coffee industry for work.

January 2017 third warmest on record: -Last month was the third warmest January in 137 years of modern record-keeping, according to a monthly analysis of global temperatures by NASA scientists.

Last month's temperature was 0.20 degrees Celsius cooler than the warmest January in 2016. However, it was 0.92 degrees Celsius warmer than the mean January temperature

from 1951-1980. Two of the three top January temperature anomalies have been during the past two years. 2016 was the hottest on record, at 1.12 degrees Celsius warmer than the January mean temperature, followed by 2007 at 0.96 degrees Celsius warmer.

January 2017 is placed third. Scientists at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies created a map of the January 2017 land-ocean temperature index (LOTI) anomaly.

It shows that most of North America and Siberia were much warmer than the 1951-1980 base period. Much of the rest of Asia was also relatively warm.

Global warming to hit Indian dairy sector hard, warn experts: - India's milk production could go down by three million tons over the next three years

Global warming portends ill for India's dairy sector which stands to lose a whopping three million tons of milk in the next three years as average temperatures increase, industry experts warned here on Friday.

Addressing the three-day 45th Dairy Industry Conference, themed 'Climate Change and Dairying', several industry leaders and experts discussed how the gradually warming climate is adversely hitting the country's dairy industry which employs over 16 million farmers.

President of Indian Dairy Association Arun D. Narke said India is self-sufficient in milk and is ranked the world's largest producer with an annual production of 156 million tons (2015-2016).

Citing the Ministry of Agriculture figures, he said Indian farmers are adding around 10 million tons of milk annually with a compounded

annual growth of around 6.5 per cent in this sector, largely from farmers owning an average of one or two milch cows, to make the 'White Revolution' a success. However, this milk production could go down by three million tons over the next three years as average temperatures rise, creating problems of water, and availability of green and dry fodder for the cattle, he said.

India get her future scientist : 14 year old Tejaswani from Odisha invents a cycle which can run upto 60 km without any fuel. The cycle doesn't even need paddling because Tejaswani invented this cycle in such a way that it only runs on air pressure. Her invention has captured eyes of the scientists who are looking for a solution to fight air pollution in the world (Please see last cover page for photos)

Migratory birds head back home with rise

in temperature: -With sudden rise in the day temperature, the visiting migratory birds to famous Chilika lake in Odisha have begun the long journey back home earlier than usual.

Fifty per cent of the migratory birds, who made the lake their home, have already left Chilika Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Chilika wildlife division, BikashRanjan Dash said.

Avian species, mostly from beyond the Himalayas, visit the lake every winter and return before the onset of the Indian summer, usually starting in the last week of February or the first week of March. "This year, their journey began early, about a week before their usual time of departure," a wildlife official said.

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE

I am leaving for Sydney (Australia) on 3-3-2017 along with my wife to spend some time with my son, daughter in law and grandchildren. I will be back on 2-6-2017. During my absence the editorial work will be looked after by Mr. K. Buchi Ram Reddy IFS (Retd.). His e-mail I.D. is buchiramkeesara@yahoo.co.in and Telephone number is 09666097788. All are requested to send articles to Mr. K. Buchi Ram Reddy on the above e-mail I.D, for publishing in our Vana Premi from April 2017 issue. I profusely thank all the writers, subscribers, contributors, readers, all the office bearers of Association, Mr. V.V. Hari Prasad Associate Editor, Venugraphics (printer) and his staff, Mr. Satish D.T.P operator, Mr. B.S.N. Prasad and Mr. Anwar (Both are helping me in VP office) for fully cooperating with me and rendering all the possible help to me. I welcome Mr. K. Buchi Ram Reddy IFS (retd), the incoming editor and wish him all the best.

-Qamar Mohammad Khan.

LEGAL NOTES

State of Madhya Pradesh vs. Harsh Gupta

Harsh Gupta was accused of committing forest offences under different sections of Forest Act. He was prosecuted by the D.F.O. Morena before a Magistrate. Upon filing of the complaint by the Forest Department, the Magistrate summoned the accused to stand trial. The accused instead of appearing before the Magistrate's Court, approached the High Court and filed a petition before the High Court under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Sec. 482 gives inherent powers to High Court which enable the High Court to pass orders to prevent abuse of process of any court or to secure ends of justice. The prayer of the accused in this case was to quash the proceedings of the Magistrate in issuing the summons to appear before the court to answer the charges and face trial. The petition was allowed by the High Court. Aggrieved by the order of the High Court, a Special Leave Petition (S.L.P) and an Appeal was filed at the instance of the State before the Supreme Court.

Special Leave was granted and the appeal was heard by a Bench comprising Justice M. Mukharji and Justice K. Thomas. Their Lordships felt that the Single Judge of the High Court committed

an error in making detailed discussion of defense; and after hearing the arguments of the appellant and the respondent it was held as follows:

"The action of the High Court is not valid as at the stage when the only question to be considered was whether the complainant and the accompaniments disclosed any of the offences alleged against the respondent. The High Court cannot go into the details of the respondent's defense and record a conclusive finding that he is not guilty of the offence alleged. Section 69 (of the Indian Forest Act) raises a statutory presumption against a person arraigned that the forest produce recovered from him is the property of the Government until the contrary is proved; needless to say, the question of proof of the contrary can be answered after evidence is led."

In the result, the appeal of the State is allowed on 12 December 1997 and the impugned judgment is set aside with direction to the Magistrate to proceed with the case in accordance with law.

1999 Cri. L. J. 5011 / (1998) 8 SCC 630 – **KBR**



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Date of Publication: 26-02-2017 Total pages 56 Date of Dispatch : 4th or 5th of every month