

VANA PREMI

Nau Say Navay Sall Tak Ke Bachon Ka Sathi

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Vol .18

JUNE -2017

No.06

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Date of Publication: 26-05-2017

Total pages 48

EDITORIAL

'VANA PREMI' IN LOVE WITH 'VANA PREMI'

WE have chosen a noble profession in forestry. By virtue of being professionals, we have not only become 'forest managers' but also 'forest lovers'. To perpetuate our love for forests, The Association of Retired Forest Officers has embarked on an ambitious and noble programme of running a monthly magazine under the bewitching name, VANA PREMI. This was started in June 1997 under the guidance of Sri M. Sitarama Rao, when he was the president of the Association. He nominated me as the Editor of the magazine. Of course, Sri B. Bhoomarajam was the Editor for a short while. Sarva Sri J.V. Sharma, M.Padmanabha Reddy and Qamar Mohd. Khan were the Assistant Editors in succession. They performed well.

Starting of the magazine was against all odds. Experienced foresters like Sri K.K. Nair, Sri P.S Rao, Sri Kushalappa etc. cautioned me and said that it is no easy task to keep the magazine going, that too a monthly. They however encouraged me and gave me their blessings. I realized soon that it was a challenging task. Friends like Lohit Reddy, Narayan Swamy, J.V. Sharma etc. stood by my side and extended unstinting support. They threw their weight behind me; besides giving me moral support, they also provided financial assistance.

In the beginning, I had to approach forest officers, in service and retired, with request to become subscribers to the magazine. They

readily obliged. Subscription amount was not sufficient to meet the cost of stationery, expenditure on printing and postage. Seeing my plight and predicament, sympathizers and well wishers offered donations and gave advertisements.

Dispatch of magazine by Book-Post was costing heavy. To reduce the cost on postage, it was suggested to me to have the magazine registered with the Registrar of Newspapers of India (R.N.I.) in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting at Delhi. A pre-condition to this was to get clearance from the Deputy Commissioner of Police in the city of Hyderabad. All this process took about three years. In the meantime, I had to carry the bundles of the magazine to Post Offices, changing the post office each time for mailing to different destinations. When the registration from the R.N.I. was received, further registration with the Postal Department through the Superintendent of Post Offices became necessary.

With all the tedious exercise, there was considerable saving in the postage expense. This is not the end of the story. There are many more problems. Suffice it to stay that the system has become stable with no financial liability; for, the Forest Department has kindly agreed to pay subscriptions for all officers up to the level of Range Officer. The Department has also graciously allotted a room for the office of the Vana Premi. In gratitude and with a view

to educate the forest officers in service, I have started a regular column, LEGAL NOTES. Some friends have appreciated it and I am yet to get feed back We made it compulsory for the members to subscribe to the magazine.

My accounts were not audited for a long time, although cash-book and vouchers were carefully preserved. The Executive Committee decided to have an internal audit of my accounts by Sri Mohan Reddy. He started auditing the accounts as a professional auditor, strictly following the norms. To facilitate the audit, Mohan Reddy wanted my presence with him. Audit of accounts for about ten years is no easy job. There were no omissions except an amount of Rs.1,500/- received was not brought to account. This was of course unintentional. I paid the money at once. Hats off! to Mohan for carrying out his job sincerely and meticulously.

Off and on, my wife and I were visiting our children in USA; my wife's health was deteriorating due to Parkinsonism requiring my attention to her. So, I requested the President Sri Kamal Naidu to relieve me of the editorial responsibilities. In my absence, while I was abroad, Qamar Mohd. Khan ably managed all the functions and responsibilities of the editor. He was then asked to assume the editorial functions. He was magnanimous in accepting the editorship. He has been effectively and efficiently discharging the functions of editor since about ten years. Vana Premi received accolades and encomiums during his editorship. As the quantum of work increased, B.S.N. Prasad was appointed as an office assistant and Anwar as an attender.

Family obligations demanded Qamar to visit his son in Australia and, during his absence, the Executive Committee of the Association entrusted the work of looking after the affairs of Vana Premi to me. I have endeavoured to do justice and live up to the expectations of all members and other readers of the journal during the past three months.

The President of the Association Sri S.K. Das has been making appeals during every meeting; and the editor in these columns has been making request for contributing articles to Vana Premi. But the response is not as it should be.

Before I lay down my assignment, I consider it as my duty to appeal to all readers and members of the Association to contribute articles. The articles may be on any aspect of forestry including wildlife, environment, anecdotes, memoirs, nostalgia etc. They will be very useful to the present generation and to the posterity as well.

The Association needs to be strengthened by increasing the number of its members. Many officers are retiring but they are not seeking membership of the Association. We should make a collective effort by persuading the retirees to join the Association. One gratifying activity of the Association is to meet regularly every quarter with families, which is unique for this Association only, thanks to the untiring efforts of office bearers.

I wish good luck to all and bid goodbye to every one.

K.B.R

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I wish to thank you and Sri A.V. Ramakrishna Rao garu for the obituary of my late father Sri S. Appa Rao, IFS (Rtd) published in the May 2017 issue of Vana Premi.

If I could be of any service to you over this end, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Thanking you,

Regards,

Anil Kumar Sayam

aksayam@hotmail.com

New Delhi

10 May 2017

Sir,

This is with reference to your editorial in the May 2017 issue of Vana Premi.

You have done well in drawing the attention of readers to a forgotten subject of SACRED GROVES.

In Kodagu district of Karnataka, a sacred grove is called DEVARA KADU and in other areas of Mysore they are called PAVITRA VANAM.

There are vast areas of sacred groves in Karnataka. It is the responsibility of the Forest Department to protect and manage the sacred groves.

Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai

raghothamrao@rediffmail.com

Bengaluru

12 May 2017

APPEAL

Vana Mahotsava was started in our country in 1950 and 67 years have passed. It is proposed to bring out July issue of Vana Premi as a special issue on Vana Mahotsava. Members of Retired Forest Officers Association Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, in service officers, retired Forest officers of other states, readers and writers are requested to send articles on Vana Mahotsava by 18th of June 2017 to be published in July issue of Vana Premi through e mail ID: qamar_asima@yahoo.com.

Editor : Qamar

LEST WE MAY IGNORE

A Few elementary issues about the forests and forestry

By

S.K. Das & C. Muralidhar Rao

An attempt has been made in this article to dispel some doubts about the status of the forests in order to evolve the best possible management practices with the goal to invigorate declining forest hygiene and achieve progressively higher yield from the forest for the benefit of the people, particularly for the those who live inside and in the vicinity of the forests.

1. Are the forests state Govt./Central Govt. property or Common Pool Natural Resource (CPR)?

It is a fact that as per Section 20 of the A.P. Forest Act, 1967, there are such elaborate restrictions about the Reserved Forests that induce us to think as if the Reserved Forests are the absolute properties of the State Govt. Subsequently the Government of India enacted the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 by which an element of ownership/authority was acquired by the Central Government. so as to restrict/regulate indiscriminate diversion of forest lands for non forestry purposes after the necessary amendment to the constitution of India.

So we see that as on paper (de jure) the Reserved Forests are the properties of the State/Central

Govt. however, the ground reality (de facto) is entirely different as described below:

The Government of AP. Vide their GO Ms No.387 Food and Agriculture (Forest III) Dept. Dt. 14/03/1968 have permitted free cattle grazing in the forests in view of prevailing drought situation while ignoring the carrying capacity of our forests irreparable and everlasting damage that might be caused to the future forest well being.

No restrictions or control mechanism exist for prohibiting the cattle from other states which deprives the local cattle of their fodder. The results can be seen by all of us. This has resulted in inescapable desperation among the foresters due to short sightedness of policy makers whose objectives appear to achieve short term populist goals while being oblivious of future impact of forests and needs of the local people. This has undoubtedly resulted in proliferation of unpalatable grasses and invasion of obnoxious weeds in the forest lands and availability of locally available nutritious grasses have dwindled enormously. Owing to

heavy trampling by cattle not only the seedlings are destroyed but also the forest seeds get buried in to deeper soil layers highly dwindling the chances of germination.

There is another source of heavy biotic pressure on the forests in the form of headloaders, who go to the forests apparently to collect the dry firewood. Actually after almost exhausting collection of naturally dried wood, the head loaders adopt a pernicious practice of heavily girdling of healthy saplings / poles which form the future tree crop for collection of these saplings / poles as dry fire wood in near future. This problem is discussed in a little detail in the subsequent paragraphs.

These two factors combined with frequently recurring forest fires in the summer and other biotic pressures exerted on forests owing to genuine needs and unsatiated greeds of everincreasing human population, **the forests in our country have been virtually converted into a Common Pool Natural Resources (CPR) beyond any reasonable doubt except the areas under the national parks / sanctuaries which are sembalances of "oasis in forest desert"** Hence an appropriate management model has to be evolved for the forest in our national interest.

Readers are aware of the fact that efforts have been made by management experts and social scientists on the appropriate management approach to CPR from the latter half of the 20th Century. In this regard it is to be mentioned first as to what Mr. Garret Harding (1968) has mentioned about such CPR where in sufficient interventions / inputs are not available in the form of technological, financial, managerial and social are destined to be in ruins. This has been described as the **"Tragedy of the Commons" (Garret Harding - 1968)**

It is because of this that the good forests are becoming degraded, and degraded forests more degraded. The forest officers cannot therefore be made wholly responsible for this tragedy / degradation of the forests as the fact is that sufficient manpower, financial inputs and appropriate management models have not been made available to the foresters to manage such CPR. Management of CPR is quite a vast subject. However, for this article it will suffice to mention that action system should consist of the four elements viz. "The Manager, The Obejectives, The Condition / Environemnt - Physical, Technological, Economic, Social and Political, and the Instruments" **(Manageing Common Poor Resources - Kartar Singh).**

"For effective implementation of the various instruments strong political will, good leadership at all levels, appropriate organizational structures, dynamic and well informed bureaucrats, committed to the cause of CPR Management professional CPR Managers above all well informed CPR users and other citizens are all essential" (Kartar Singh - P95).

It may be mentioned here that some time back GOI driven initiative to involve the local community in the management of forests (JFM/FDA) was a welcome step in this direction. It may not be appropriate here to dwell upon the end result of the experiment which is there for all of us to see.

In a country like ours where the population is very high and the people especially those who inhabit in and around forest areas have been dependent on the forests for many of their day to day needs since the ages. It is only by involving the local communities we may be able to change unrestricted open entry into the forest to restricted open entry and take up the steps (instruments) so that the degradation is halted and process of restoration gains momentum and may accelerate with the passage of time. This perception and practice however largely

depend on the homogeneity of goals and committed approach to the problem by the policy makers and those who are placed with the responsibility to implement such projects.

2. Forest Fires :

Not much importance has been given to the damage caused by forest fires. A study of several working plans of the past reveal that the damage has been described as insignificant - "forest fires in India are surface in nature and the damage is insignificant".

Nothing can be farther from the truth. It causes enormous damage to the regeneration, fertility and moisture retentivity of the soil, enhances erosion etc. It brings a lot of miseries to the local community in the long run due to the depletion of the eco-system (CPR) on which many of them are dependant for more than one need.

A recent visit to Forest Research Institute, Dehradun (2016) has revealed that the damage has been nicely picturised. However, **what is very urgently needed is a quantification of the damage done by forest fires ecologically, edaphically as well as in financial terms per unit area of the forests.**

Only then a proper intervention can be planned if there is an adequate political and

administrative will backed by adequate financial inputs.

When we think of redeeming the forests from the brink of unfathomable precipice we have to think of certain factors which had been largely underplayed.

"Forest fires" is one of the main cause for destruction of forest. Least importance is given to the destructive potential of forests fire. Only meagre, budgetary allocation is made for fire protection. Working plans need to give elaborate plan and prescriptions for mitigating the evil effects like fire grids, watch towers, firefighting equipment, deployment of persons trained in forest fire fighting exclusively.

It is hard to believe that even after decades of purported scientific Forest Management, the role of forest fires which lead to disastrous effects are neither estimated nor quantified. The destruction of microflora and microfauna (eg. Rhizobium bacteria) which help in regeneration and healthy growth of seedlings have proved to suffer heavily from fire. Fire tender species are virtually eliminated and unpalatable grasses become gregarious.

The fires either accidental or incendiary will have the same effect. Unfortunately the nefarious activities of cattle graziers hoping to get a new

flush of grass after setting forest floor afire as well as beedi-leaf contractors setting their eye on harvesting higher quantities of leaves are unabated. There is no deterrent action that could be taken under the provision of the law as it is not easy to gather irrefutable proof to establish the culpability of the offenders. This should not deter us to evolve a strategy to face this problem if we want to give a chance to our forests for their revival and regain the past glory.

3. The Myth about the headloaders

It is given to understand that the headloaders go to the forests to collect dry firewood and on that plea only many of us take the side of the "poor headloaders" for continuation of their activities and any approach to penalize them is strongly discouraged by the society. Besides meeting their genuine domestic needs, they carry headloads to the nearest town/ markets and sell them at lucrative prices. Thus the concessions given to them are misused and the forest growth is sacrificed not only at the altar of their need but also to meet their greed.

In fact the headloaders adopt the most pernicious practices which come in the way of conservation/protection of the forests. After they enter into the forests they choose a particular locality for heavily girdling the

sapling / poles for the first one hour; then only they go to the area where they have done the girdling of sapling / pole almost a month or more before. This way they cover the entire forest area within their reach. A few headloaders may be an exception to this. Where the forest consists of coppice growth of the height 6'-15', they cut the coppices. They leave their home early in the morning and come back home after selling the load to the tea stall/hotels before 9 am. These professionals are very dangerous to the forests. In this issue involvement of the lower staff of the forest department in a few cases cannot be totally ruled out. And when efforts are made to book the culprits, hostilities are confronted from politicians as well as local public who sympathise with the headloaders saying that while the poor who indulge in such activities for earning their bread is being harassed / penalized by the forest department but the big escape from the clutches of law by hook or crook.

As discussed in details in the foregoing paragraphs, the forests in this county are common Pool Resources (CPR) except the areas

under national parks and sanctuaries and therefore proper **management approach has to be evolved in consultation with different stake holders including necessarily the local community particularly when the forests are located near a village / habitation. Similarly the forests far away from the village / locality have to be dealt with separate management approach. In either case the financial requirement for putting such projects in place will be quite high in addition to other inputs.**

Like rivers cleaned, forests revived is also an important indicator of a developed country in addition to the other indicators and it is an essential indicator. It is hoped naturally that the Nation will put all efforts / inputs very soon to revive the forests for the sake of not only the present generation but also for all the generations to come

Sri S.K. Das is the former Head of the Forest Department Sri. C. Muralidhar is the former Chief Conservator of Forests.

Don't read success stories, you will get only message... Read failure stories, you will get some ideas to get success!!

AS A CHRISTIAN, SUDDENLY I AM A STRANGER IN MY OWN COUNTRY

By
Julio Ribeiro

There was a time, not very long ago — one year short of 30, to be precise — when only a Christian was chosen to go to Punjab to fight what then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi termed “the nation’s battle” against separatists. I had accepted a “demotion” from secretary in the Union home ministry to DGP of the state of Punjab at the personal request of the prime minister.

Then home secretary, Ram Pradhan, and my dear friend, B.G. Deshmukh, then chief secretary to the government of Maharashtra, were flabbergasted. “Why did you accept this assignment?” they asked. The same question was put to me over the phone by then President Zail Singh. But Arjun Singh, the cabinet minister who personally escorted me by special aircraft from Delhi to Chandigarh, remarked that when my appointment was announced the next morning, the Hindus of Punjab would breathe more freely and rejoice. I presume Hindus would include RSS cadres who had been pinned into a corner by the separatists.

When 25 RSS men on parade were shot dead in cold blood one morning, then Punjab Governor S.S. Ray and I rushed to the spot to console the stricken families. The governor visited 12 homes, I visited the rest. The governor’s experience was different from mine. He was heckled and abused. I was welcomed.

Today, in my 86th year, I feel threatened, not wanted, reduced to a stranger in my own country.

The same category of citizens who had put their trust in me to rescue them from a force they could not comprehend have now come out of the woodwork to condemn me for practising a religion that is different from theirs. I am not an Indian anymore, at least in the eyes of the proponents of the Hindu Rashtra.

Is it coincidence or a well-thought-out plan that the systematic targeting of a small and peaceful community should begin only after the BJP government of Narendra Modi came to power last May? “Ghar wapsi”, the declaration of Christmas as “Good Governance Day”, the attack on Christian churches and schools in Delhi, all added to a sense of siege that now afflicts these peaceful people.

Christians have consistently punched above their weight — not as much as the tiny Parsi community, but just as noticeably. Education, in particular, has been their forte. Many schools, colleges, related establishments that teach skills for jobs have been set up and run by Christians. They are much in demand. Even diehard Hindus have sought admission in such centres of learning and benefited from the commitment and sincerity of Christian teachers. Incidentally, no one seems to have been converted to Christianity, though many, many have imbibed Christian values and turned “pseudo-secularist”.

Hospitals, nursing homes, hospices for dying cancer patients needing palliative care —

many of these are run by Christian religious orders or Christian laymen devoted to the service of humanity. Should they desist from doing such humanitarian work for fear of being so admired and loved that a stray beneficiary converts of his or her own accord? Should only Hindus be permitted to do work that could sway the sentiments of stricken people in need of human love and care?

The Indian army was headed by a Christian general, the navy more than once, and same with the air force. The country's defence forces have countless men and women in uniform who are Christians. How can they be declared non-Indians by Parivar hotheads out to create a pure Hindu Rashtra?

It is tragic that these extremists have been emboldened beyond permissible limits by an atmosphere of hate and distrust. The Christian population, a mere 2 per cent of the total populace, has been subjected to a series of well-directed body blows. If these extremists later turn their attention to Muslims, which seems to be their goal, they will invite consequences that this writer dreads to imagine.

I was somewhat relieved when our prime minister finally spoke up at a Christian function in Delhi a few days ago. But the outburst of Mohan Bhagwat against Mother Teresa, an acknowledged saint — acknowledged by all communities and peoples — has put me back on the hit list. Even more so because BJP leaders, like Meenakshi Lekhi, chose to justify their chief's remarks.

What should I do? What can I do to restore my confidence? I was born in this country. So were my ancestors, some 5,000 or more years ago. If

my DNA is tested, it will not differ markedly from Bhagwat's. It will certainly be the same as the country's defence minister's as our ancestors arrived in Goa with the sage Parshuram at the same time. Perhaps we share a common ancestor somewhere down the line. It is an accident of history that my forefathers converted and his did not. I do not and never shall know the circumstances that made it so. What does reassure me in these twilight years, though, is that there are those of the predominant Hindu faith who still remember my small contribution to the welfare of the country of our birth. During a recent trip to Rajgurunagar in the Khed taluka of Pune district to visit schools that my NGO, The Bombay Mothers and Children Welfare Society, had adopted, I stopped at Lonavla for idli and tea. A group of middle-aged Maharashtrians sitting on the next table recognised me and stopped to greet and talk. A Brahmin couple returning from Kuwait (as I later learnt) also came up to inquire if I was who I was and then took a photograph with me.

It warmed the cockles of my heart that ordinary Hindus, not known to me, still thought well of me and would like to be friends 25 years after my retirement, when I could not directly serve them. It makes me hope that ordinary Hindu men and women will not be swayed by an ideology that seeks to spread distrust and hate with consequences that must be avoided at all cost.

The writer, a retired IPS officer, was Mumbai police commissioner, DGP Gujarat and DGP Punjab, and is a former Indian ambassador to Romania

INTO THE JAWS OF DEATH AND BACK

By
Dasu Kesava Rao

Curiosity, they say, killed the cat. The same fate would have befallen D. Nagabhushana Rao, a public health functionary of Mahabubnagar district, but for a stroke of luck. Curiosity to see big cat in its natural habitat brought him within a few yards of death. However, the man lived to tell the tale. How? Read on.....

This happened 35 years ago in Mannanur forest division. For Nagabhushana Rao and friend Durrani shared an unfulfilled desire to see tiger in the wild. They asked Mr. B.S. Gangakhedkar, head of the wildlife division at Mannanur, if he could show them one. On a fine February morning, they were sipping tea at a roadside stall when a group of people rushed there to report that a tiger had killed their buffalo. "Follow me", the DFO said, leading his friends to the spot where he took pug marks of the tiger and some cubs.

As they trekked further into the dense forest, curiosity gave place to anxiety. They had never ventured into forest. They sensed eerie tension in the air. Agitated peacocks and other fowl made

the vicinity. The two were stricken by panic and begged the DFO to turn back, but the officer moved on. Mr. Gangakhedkar stopped dead in his tracks and signalled his friends not to move or make noise because a wild animal seemed to be around. Sure enough, they spotted tiger cubs, two on each side. The cubs disappeared as the party continued the trek.

The party halted at a flowing hill stream. The officer tried to engage his guests with tales of the wild, but the audience, dying to return to the safety of home, was obviously in no mood for entertainment. By way of harmless show of his talents, he let out a loud call, explaining 'this is how a tiger calls its young'.

Within minutes, the forest shook to a spine-chilling roar. As if answering Gangakhedkar's call, a female tiger, eyes red with anger, charged at them from behind. Shaking like a leaf, the two men instinctively jumped into the stream with the growling beast in hot pursuit. The experienced officer quickly recovered his wits and shouted at the top of his voice, as if his lungs

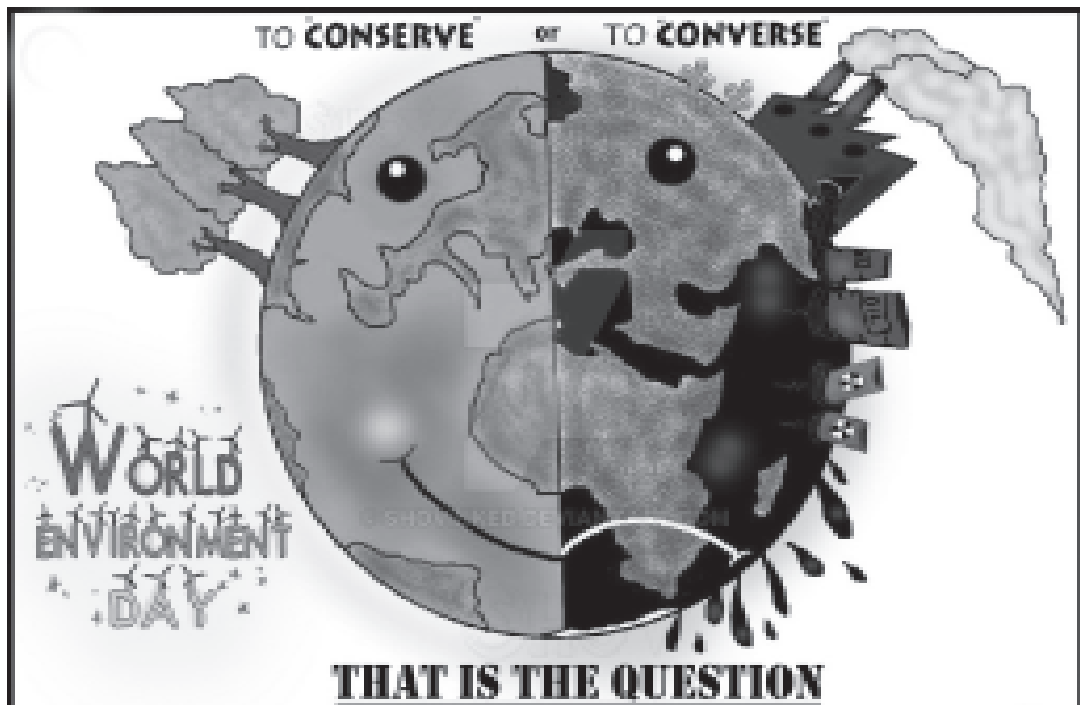
would snap. He advised the terrified friends to do the same. While Durrani was struck dumb with fear, Nagabhushana Rao managed to shout loudest. The gamble paid off. The tigress stopped abruptly after spotting her cubs appear on the scene. The little ones too had obviously responded to the DFO's authentic call. Relieved to see them safe, the tigress allowed the victims to retreat inch by inch to safety.

Nagabhushanam returned home and collapsed with high fever, obviously the off-shoot of the harrowing experience. A few days later, he walked into my office and said 'Sir, I have come

from Mannanur to tell my story of escape from the jaws of a tiger.' He said he owed his survival to Mr. Gangakhedkar sir. 'If I had not followed sir's advice to scream loudest and non-stop, I would have been dead and gone.' He repeatedly broke down as he recalled the frightful experience.

Mr. Gangakhedkar's innocuous exhibition of mimicry talents resulted in the unexpected arrival of the tiger, but it was again his extraordinary presence of mind that saved all the lives. For him, it was probably another day at work.

The author is a journalist.



HIGH TIME THAT YOU HAD AN 'AFFAIR' WITH BAMBOO!

By

Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai

1. Preamble:

Our relationship with bamboo can be seen to have spanned over several centuries, and even - several cultures as well. Although the reach of bamboo is in every facet of our life, the way we approach and use it has been evolved only in recent years. **Bamboo is highly versatile and has a higher compressive strength than wood, brick or even concrete, and a tensile strength that rivals steel appreciably.** It produces more oxygen and absorbs more carbon dioxide than any tree.

All the continents except Europe are natives to bamboos which belong to the family '*Gramineae*' (same as corn, wheat, oats, barley and other grasses belong to) but *Bambuseae* happen to be woody perennials, occurring principally in the tropics and in milder climates. The genus *Bambusa* has the largest number of species, most of which are natives to Africa, China, Indian-subcontinent, Japan and all the Eastern parts of Asia. Bamboos are important components of wet-evergreen, moist-deciduous and dry-deciduous forests in the tropical parts of SE Asia. It is interesting to note that pure bamboo forests are commonly found on slopes where shifting-cultivations had been carried out in the past.

Cultivation of bamboo also means, introduction of a number of exotic species as well. In

numerous countries, most of the bamboos can be found in sandy-loam to loamy-clay soils, derived from river-alluvium or from the underlying rocks, frequently encountered by yellow/ ochre-yellow/ cadmium-yellow colours, but humus of which, however, will be found to be of bluish-colour. Though bamboos prefer well-drained soils, they could also be come-across in swampy areas, or wet stream-beds. No Bamboos, however, are reported to be coming-up on saline- soils.

Individual species have well-defined habitats, and for this reason: the particular species of the bamboo may be taken as 'indicators' of different forest types. Under Indian conditions *Dendrocalamus strictus* does so well in open mixed-deciduous forests or in open areas on stony-hill-sides and is found to be extending into areas with drier-climates, than any other species of bamboos, whereas *Bambusa arundinacea* can be found to occur on rich moist-soils, such as alluvial-stretches, along streams.

2 Distribution:

It has been seen further that **bamboos occur widely throughout the tropical world**, more commonly as an under-storey in tropical forests(ranging from wet to dry), reaching to their best development in moist-deciduous-

forests of Asia, **found growing under very diversified physical environment, for which reason: a simple summation of site-requirement is not feasible. Silvicultural characteristics are, on the contrary, relatively simple while being broadly similar for all regions of the world.** In composition, most of the bamboo forests consist of single-species, though there exist some 60 genera (comprising between 600 & 700 sp., as estimated), being woody perennials mostly, and varying in heights from 15 cm to over 30 M at maturity.

Bamboos are found to be readily colonizing and when not wanted, becoming quite difficult to eradicate! *Dendrocalamus strictus* reportedly invades open-soil areas in most parts of India, while *Oxytenanthera* sp., *Ochlandra* sp., and *Mellocalamus compactiflora* are found to persist in the wet evergreen forests, even developing to the climax-stages under existing climatic conditions. And when some sorts of interferences or disturbances follow in the areas covered by bamboos, such as extensive clearings of the forest-floors or burning of the forest produce due to fire occurrences, bamboos regenerate readily by producing new culms from the perennial subsurface-rhizomes. When flowering starts, bamboos flower gregariously, while sporadic flowering is also common in patches. **To have an ability to predict probable year in which flowering will be taking place would be very useful for the management. In India a generally reliable sign of prospective flowering can be predicted as**

the year subsequent to the bamboos suddenly ceasing to produce new culms: but this cannot be stated as a universally true hypothesis.

As already stated, they are ready-colonisers, but we often find them as an under-storey sp., in mixed deciduous forests, as also in 'climax-forests'. Though flowering may occur annually, it is sometimes only at long periods of interval, any season up-to 60 years. Hence **regeneration is usually found to be vegetative in nature**, through the culms produced by perennial subsurface rhizomes. However, it is observed that **regeneration is chiefly from the seeds produced after the gregarious flowering, following the rains**, by which time the culms of most species would have either withered or died. Bamboo being hardy, it rapidly develops once established.

3 Silvicultural Aspects /Practices:

The silvicultural practices are adapted according to the simple generic features described in the foregoing lines. Mature culms are cut usually at two-to-five years' cutting-cycles, obtaining regeneration from the shoots shot up annually from new or established culms. **The vigorous growth of most bamboos in a gregarious manner requires that they be considered as an important element in the silvicultural practices of the wet-evergreen, moist-deciduous and dry deciduous forests.** Where the dominant and main species of such forests are more important for commercial or management purposes, measures may be necessary to control

bamboos from dominating, to be developed and applied. But **where the requirements of rapidly-grown uniform raw-materials are paramount then the management of natural bamboo areas stand-out.** Even propagation and establishment of bamboo plantations deserves serious considerations. In both the cases **there is the need for concentrated research in the fields, of many phases of bamboo silviculture and management, which is especially important in view of rapidly increasing demand of bamboo for numerous uses** of housing construction, and for paper pulp in particular, in addition to using them for utility-items and in silk-industry to rear the silk-worms. **To consider only the silvicultural treatment of bamboo as an under-storey would hardly do justice to a family which is so widespread through the tropical and sub-tropical parts of the world, and which has such tremendous importance in the everyday-life of millions of people.**

4 Conclusion:

Bamboo is considered next to rice as the mainstay of life, in many parts of the tropics, particularly in Asian Continent. To list its almost infinite uses would be to give a catalogue of practically every human need, even as food (in the form of fresh or preserved young shoots). It is extensively used in the constructions of houses, bridges, scaffolding and centering-material, spinescent small branches for fencing, seeds of certain bamboos (such as *Dendrocalamus strictus*, *Bambusa tulda*, *Eleusine*

coracana) sought for food in times of scarcity, flouring-substance from the joints (*Tabasher*) in medicine, furniture, fishing poles, water pipes, weapons, bags & baskets, reinforcement of concrete, paper manufacture and even as cloth, to mention only a few. **One pleasing aspect of bamboos is that a majority of them thrive at temperatures as low as 9°C and as high as 36° Celsius, while a few of them (such as *Arundinaria*) even grow at higher altitudes** (upto 3050 M in India) **where frosts and snow happen to be common.** However, **rainfall is an important factor, required minimum annual precipitation being 1020 mm,** the upper limit being not known——certain types of bamboos, though, found in zones with over 6350 mm rainfall. **This longest grass in the world, being a versatile plant,** varies in length from 30 cm, to a giant dimension of 40 M, **combining such a beauty with a tensile strength,** and giving 25 times more yield than the hard woods. Some of the species belonging to this family are found to grow @ 1.5 meters per day under ideal conditions——even visible to an observant naked eye. It can grow even in nutrient-depleted-soils, while being sustainable & renewable, as it can be regenerated on harvesting. Since the elegance of bamboo can complement traditional interiors, it can be grown as an indoor plant or even for floorings or blinds or rugs over tables, etc., So, **how about having a date with it, such being the case of this wonderful nonpareil gift of Nature!**

Dr. Desai is a Retd. Dy. C.F.of Karnataka.

BAUXITE VERSUS HOMELANDS

By
Prafulla Das

Odisha's Dongria Kondhs are in a pitched battle to save the forests they call home. In 2003, mining conglomerate Vedanta signed a memorandum of understanding with the Odisha government to set up a million tonne per annum alumina refinery in Niyamgiri's foothills at Lanjigarh.

The same year, the Dongria Kondh tribals, who live in 112 hamlets in the Niyamgiri Hills, formed the Niyamgiri Suraksha Samiti (NSS) to protest the mining project. By now, Vedanta had laid the foundation stone for its refinery and started felling trees to lay a road going to the hilltop.

Social activists such as Prafulla Samantara and Lingaraj Azad filed petitions challenging the legality of the mining project that threatened 1,660 acres of forest land.

The company then announced plans for a phase-wise expansion of the refinery. The agitation continued, with the tribals staging protests and forming human chains to save their ancestral land and source of livelihood.

Several committees set up by the Environment Ministry and the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) appointed by the Supreme Court found blatant violations of environmental laws.

But in 2008, the Supreme Court gave the mining company a green signal. In 2010, the Stage-II environment clearance given to Vedanta was rejected by the Environment Ministry. The rejection order was challenged.

In 2013, the Supreme Court passed an order directing the Odisha government to convene Gram Sabhas to ascertain if mining would indeed affect the religious and cultural rights of the tribal community.

This was, in part, due to Samantara's crucial intervention: he had reminded the court about the provisions of the Forest Rights Act that demands the consent of Gram Sabhas if a project threatens the religious and cultural rights of tribals.

In the country's first-ever environmental referendum, all 12 Gram Sabhas asserted their community rights over Niyamgiri. Men and women stood up and spoke of their love for their hills, their worship of Niyam Raja, and their attachment to the forests they consider home. They asserted their legal rights over the Niyamgiri hills. The referendum forced Vedanta to suspend operations. But the Odisha Mining Corporation again filed a petition challenging the 2013 resolution of the gram sabhas. Last year, the Supreme Court scrapped this petition too.

The Dongrias, however, feel their struggle is not over yet, as the company is still running its refinery at Lanjigarh using bauxite ore brought from elsewhere.

They stood up and spoke of their love for the hills and the forests that they consider home

Source: The Hindu (magazine) dated 30.04.2017

BLACKBUCK MUNNA BECOMES A SHEPHERD'S SON

Bu

K. Umashanker

The gratitude of Munna defies imagination, says forest official A number of enthusiastic youth try their best to attract the one year-old blackbuck and catch it, calling by its name Munna, from its habitat Nallagonda reserve forest abutting Dussanapalle hamlet of Mulakalacheruvu mandal of the Madanapalle division, but the young animal would just appear at the shoulder of a nearby hill or behind a bush at a distance as the the caller is not her life saviour Kasim.

In May last year, a just-born blackbuck was separated from its mother with the arrival of a pack of stray dogs close to the forest fringe village. At the dusky hour, the youngling was trying to cross the Kadiri road, with the menacing canines after it. Kasim (45) was negotiating a bend rearing his herd of sheep back to the village, when he saw a moving gold-coloured object on the road. In no time, he darted to the scene and took the newborn into his arms.

For about a week, carrying it on his shoulder, Kasim made a frantic search to locate its mother. Calling the animal "my son", the shepherd christened it as "Munna". Forest Beat Officer (Vepurikota beat) Basheer Ahmed informed the matter to the higher authorities and considering the hot climate and its untraced mother, Kasim was allowed to groom Munna for the next two months.

The kid was served with green shoots, milk of sheep and pieces of vegetables. It joined the herd of sheep and started sprinting energetically. But its happiness did not last long. The forest personnel took back Munna and released it into the deep forests.

Though the separation was painful, Kasim forgot the happy moments after a couple of months.

One fine morning in September it was drizzling and Kasim was relaxing under a huge rock tending his sheep. Suddenly a bunch of blackbuck crossed his view and the youngest among them caught his attention. Kasim wanted to check the authenticity of his wild imagination. He just cried: "Munna... Munna". In a few seconds, the young kid ran towards him and kept gently patting him with its forelegs, circling around him. Kasim kissed it, carried it on his shoulder and danced on the rocks. But respect for the laws governing wildlife came in between the "father and son", and the latter without any fuss disappeared into the grass and joined its herd.

From that day till now, Kasim has the rare privilege of meeting Munna at the forest fringes. In case the blackbuck is not seen for many days, he would criss-cross the jungle paths, shouting at the top of his voice... Munna. It would bring the kid to his feet and Kasim would feed it with vegetables. Munna also keeps licking some of the goats which had milk-fed him. But he follows the jungle law in true spirit: After sundown, it would voluntarily merge with the golden grass.

If anyone is accompanying Kasim, the blackbuck will never attempt to be in his vicinity. To some extent, FBO Basheer Ahmed is lucky. The animal will exchange looks with him but will not allow him to touch it. "This phenomenon is a miracle. The gratitude of Munna defies human imagination. It is pride of our forests," Mr. Basheer Ahmed said.

Note: the article was first published in Yhe Hindu dated 14.05.2017

MOTHER EARTH IS BURNING!

By

KONDA MOHAN

(FOR THE WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY ON 5th JUNE)

Hey Man! Open Your Eyes!
Look at the burning Earth and Universe!!
God created it for your residence
But you polluted it without any common sense
Hey Man! Open your Eyes!
Stop the destruction on Mother Earth!!
Development of Science is not for 'Deforestation'
Urbanization doesn't mean perennial river 'Pollution'
Irrigation doesn't mean puncturing of 'Green Lungs'
Civilization is not the destruction of Mother Nature
Hey Man! Open Your Eyes!
Stop the destruction of Mother Nature and Mother Earth!!
Unscientific approach, imbalanced Eco-System
Urbanized CFC s created Global Warming
Mother Earth has become no one's property
Over Exploitation of resources is 'Civilized' property
Rainy seasons shortened, temperatures threatened
Pure Oxygen not found, water went Underground
Trees on the Earth cut down, Biodiversity burnt down
Nature law stumbled on, Mother Earth is burning down!
Hey Man! It's not too late
Stop burning of Mother Earth and Universe
Arise! Awake!! and Act Immediate!!!
Protect Nature with scientific thought
Protect Mother Earth planting a lot!
Plant every inch and make globe Green
Stop pollution to make rivers pure and serene
Conserve natural resources and make Earth clean!
Hey Man!! Run by need but not by Greed!!!
Mother Earth will be happiest home to you
With clean water and green forests
Plant! Plant!! To increase Green Cover
Save each drop of water to decrease temperature
To make happy Mother Earth suitable as our Shelter
To gift Happy Mother Earth to the generations of future
Hey Man! Open Your Eyes!
Save our Mother Earth!!

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN INDIA

By
V.V. Hari Prasad

The history of corporate social responsibility in India has its four phases which run parallel to India's historical development and has resulted in different approaches towards corporate social responsibility.

Initially Charity and Philanthropy were the main drivers of CSR. Culture, religion, family values and tradition and industrialization had an influential effect on CSR. In the pre-industrialization period which lasted till 1850 wealthy merchants shared a part of their wealth with the wide society by way of setting temples for a religious cause. More over these merchants helped the society in getting over phases of famine and epidemics by providing food from their go downs and money and thus securing an integral position in the society with the arrival of colonial rule in India. From 1850s onwards, the approach towards CSR changed. The industrial families of 19th century such as TATA, Godrej, Bajaj, Birla were strongly inclined towards economic as well as social considerations. However, it has been observed that their efforts towards social as well as industrial development were not only driven by self-less and religious motives but also

influenced by caste groups and practical objectives.

During the independence movement there was increased stress on industrialists to demonstrate their dedication towards the progress of the society. This was when Mahatma Gandhi introduced the notion of "trusteeship" according to which the industry leaders had to manage their wealth so as to benefit the commonman. Gandhi's influence put pressure on various industrialists to act towards building the nation and its socio- economic development. According to Gandhi Indian companies were supposed to be the "temples of modern India". Under his influence business community established trusts for schools and colleges and also helped in setting up training and scientific institutions.

The third phase of CSR (1960-80) had its relation to the element of mixed economy, emergence of public sector under takings (PSVs) and laws relating to labour and environmental standards. During this period the private sector was forced to take a back seat. The public sector was seen

as a prime mover of development.

Because of stringent legal rules and regulations surrounding the activities of the private sector the period was described as an era of “command and control”. The policy of industrial licensing, high taxes and restrictions on the private sector led to corporate malpractices. This led to enactment of legislation regarding corporate governance, labour and environmental issues. PSUs were setup by the state to ensure suitable distribution of resources (wealth, food etc.) to the needy. However the public sector was effective only to a certain limited extent. This led to shift of expectation from the public to the private sector and their active involvement in the socio economic development of the country became absolutely necessary.

In the fourth phase (1980 – 2013) Indian companies started abandoning their traditional engagement with CSR and integrated it in to a sustainable business strategy. In 1990s the first initiation towards globalization and economic liberalization were under taken. Increased growth momentum of the economy helped Indian companies grow rapidly and this made them more willing and able to contribute towards social cause.

COMPANIES'ACT 2013

Under the companies act 2013 any company

having a net worth of Rs.500 crore or the turnover of Rs.1000 crore or more or a net profit of Rs.5 crore or more has to spend at least 2 % of last 3 years average net profit on CSR activities as specified in schedule VII of the companies act 2013 and as amended from time to time. The rules came in to effect from 1st April 2014.

SEBI(Securities and Exchange Board of India) in its notification on 13th August 2012 has mentioned that enterprises are accountable to the larger society and “adoption of responsible business practices in the interest of social set up and the environment are as vital as their financial and operational performance”

The following are some of the big ideas for contributing to CSR for sustainable development.

- ❖ Sustainable use of natural resources.
- ❖ Rejuvenating degraded landscapes.
- ❖ Waste management – Recycling and reuse.
- ❖ Partner for rural village growth.
- ❖ Building a business for youth in agriculture.
- ❖ Building healthier communities through sustainable solutions in agriculture.
- ❖ Digital agriculture revolution.

- ❖ Farm mechanization for enhancing farm efficiency and profitability.
- ❖ Discovery conservation and use of crop genetic diversity.

CSR activities in Andhra Pradesh in a nut shell.

a) Singapore based world toilet organization is partnering with Andhra Pradesh to embark on a SGD 1.8 billion project first of its kind in India to build toilets for six million homes in the state by 2018.

b) Ratan Tata the chairman of Tata trust adopts 264 villages in A.P.

c) **Akshayapatra** serves the mid-day meal in Andhra Pradesh through its centralized kitchen in Visakhapatnam.

The government of Telangana have constituted a joint working group for corporate social responsibility comprising Government officials and members of industry associations. It reviews of existing CSR activities of various companies and presents important Government priorities before the industry to enable alignment of CSR activities.

The industrial sector in Telangana state has taken up number of activities under corporate social responsibility which include development of greenery and afforestation.

CSR in developed countries :The promotion of CSR in the developed countries of Europe is

characterised by regional and national initiatives. The regional regulations and supports are a distinctive character of the growth of CSR as business phenomenon in the developed economics of Europe which is absent in the rest of the world. The most remarkable features of the national attempts in Europe are the promotion of public private partnership and adoption of CSR regulation.

The concept of trusteeship enunciated by Mahatma Gandhi was the beginning of corporate social responsibility in India. The vision of Jawaharlal Nehru the then Prime Minister of India who visualized a socialistic pattern of society for India, subsequent economic liberalization and consequent legislative measures taken up by Government of India paved the way for the activities to be taken up on a big scale under corporate social responsibility in India. Corporate social responsibility is definitely going to play a vital role with regard to environmental issues, afforestation, soil and moisture conservation operations and above all social uplift of the down trodden in India in the days to come. It has become mandatory on the part of the corporate sector to invest a little portion of its profits for a social cause in view of the enactment made by Indian parliament.

(source:Internet)

LET US MARCH FOR SCIENCE IN INDIA

By

D. Balasubramanian

The marches need to be completely non-partisan and non-political

On April 22, 2017, "Earth Day," almost a million people across 600 cities in the US, UK, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and even the Antarctic, marched for science. It was a non-partisan celebration of science that called for the use of evidence-based policies by the governments and in the public's best interest. Scientists and "commoners" asked for increased governmental belief in, and funding for, science, and for transparency in action.

When American scientists first held a "Rally to Stand up for Science" in February, it was criticising the Trump government's denial of climate change and policies that go straight against scientific evidence. But it soon took on a non-partisan, beyond-the-US rally that highlighted our belief in science and the value of science in human development. When it was announced that this March for Science will be held on Earth Day, our colleague Subbaiah Arunachalam asked several of us in the Indian science academies whether we too would March for Science. I believe we should.

Friends with science

We in independent India have used science and technology for our national development. Former Prime Minister Nehru gave the clarion call: "let us make friends with science." And we did so in several forms, in the form of technology

and the application of science for human development. A country devastated by the wounds of partition, poverty and pestilence, rallied together through the application of science and technology. We rid ourselves of smallpox and polio, jumped our food grain output from 50 million tons to 270 million in a matter of 60 years. Today, India contributes almost a third of the world's supply of childhood vaccines. We supply affordable drugs to the rest of the world. We provide midday meals to schoolchildren. We undertake to launch satellites for several "developed" nations. We have gone beyond aiming for the Moon and Mars.

The Aadhar card movement for personal identification and supply of benefits is one of a kind in the world. Recall that soon after the WWII, over 80 countries became free of colonial bondage and began to rule themselves. Among these, India alone declared that it will make friends with science and built "modern temples" for human development, and this policy has borne fruits. It has been policy and not prayers. Prayers are for personal fulfilment, policies are for the population.

And yet, over the years we have fallen below what we could achieve. Cholera is not gone. Malaria, which we fought 60 years ago, has come back with vengeance and we need new and

more science to fight it. Swachh Bharat, a noble initiative, is not getting anywhere because the people do not abide by its suggestions. Open defecation leads not just to illness, but stunted development of children, our future generations. Ethiopia, one of the poorest countries in the world, has shown how to solve the problem, and we need to learn from them (*Down to Earth*, April 1-15, 2017, pp 18-19). Our school and college systems of education are a scandal. We know that the best way to control population is through education and awareness, yet are not correcting the errors. And here we need to learn from Finland, which has the best schooling system in the world.

Stop being passive

We are right now witnessing the effect of the global warming across the country this summer. We in India do not deny climate change, yet we do not adopt methods that help reverse it. Four thousand trees are planned to be cut in West Bengal to make room for a highway, and 180 trees are to be cut in the KBR Park in Hyderabad, again for an express highway. Logic tells us that newly planted trees takes decades, even centuries, to grow to their full size, yet we do this. We know that coal-based power houses contribute to global warming, yet permit more coal mining. These cannot be! Our March for Science will thus be a march for rational thinking and action, by the people and the politicians. Science is common sense.

The litany can go on. But we can attempt to find solutions in a rational, evidence-based way. It is

here that a March for Science in India would be of value. But it cannot be a one day affair. We have our annual Indian Science Congresses, India Science Day (February 28), Technology Day (May 11), Education Day (Nov 11), Children's Day (Nov 14) and several more. Let us March for Science on each of these days, year after year, suggest and demand that appropriate policies are put in place through the use of science and technology for the common good. These marches cannot just be tokenisms with people wearing T-Shirts and golf caps. They need to be completely non-partisan, non-political, and led by scientists, engineers, doctors, teachers and common citizens. Let these demand far higher budgets for science, health, education, and conservation. Let us request funding from private, non government sources (companies, individuals, foundations; see how they do so in the US); the government cannot do everything. Such marches should show examples of success obtained through proper planning (such as the success of IITs, IISERs, IIMs, vaccines, ISRO, Amul, Delhi Metro...), point out pitfalls and ways to correct them, persuade the public, politicians and policy makers. They have to be non-partisan and rational to the core, not confrontational but persuasive. It cannot be a one-shot affair. We need to do this over and over again. It will be a long march, let us tie up our shoelaces.

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Source: The Hindu dated 30,04.2017, Sunday

THAT ILLUSION OF RETIREMENT

By
Dietmar Hanzen

Why the very idea of superannuation is not only outdated but also dangerous

Have you ever seen what happens to your elbow after it has been in a plaster cast for a while? The muscle becomes so weak it atrophies after not being in use for two weeks.

It's the same with your brain. If you don't use it, it will deteriorate quickly. Any many of those who retire at 60 or 65 are in the comfortable position that they don't face a real challenge in life anymore like struggling how to earn a living or having to prove themselves in the workplace. But this comfort comes with a side effect, because research clearly shows that those who stop working at 65 and fully retire in the sense of not extensively engaging in alternative activities report a sharp decline in cognitive skills over the next years, whereas those in the same age group who continue to work or pursue other challenging tasks do not show these symptoms. And this affects a large part of life because nowadays we are not talking about a few years between retirement and passing away, but rather about decades. The question is how to use your full potential during the last quarter or even third of your life.

The mirage

The whole idea of retirement is not only outdated but it is wrong in the first place. Many

in their 40s and 50s are working towards retiring with good savings. If you are so focussed on retirement for such a long time it indicates you are not really enjoying what you are doing now. Not every day at the workplace can be full of bliss, but if you learn to endure an unwanted situation for so long you will no longer know what your real needs are and how to realise them. If you educate your brain over many years not to pay attention to your current needs, how would you all of a sudden be able to do so after retirement? If you spend years building a ship and fantasising about the great freedom out at sea you may find that you eventually lost the courage to set sail once the ship is ready, not to mention your sailing skills.

So retirement is often an illusion: it does not materialise in the freedom and happiness one imagined, and it is dangerous because if you avoid any real challenge it will lead to a rapid decline in your mental ability for the rest of your life.

How old you are

However, there is an alternative to an early decline of brainpower. There are people who are very active even in their 80s and 90s and whose brain functions match those of people less than half their age. Scientists call them

Superagers, and they recommend that you continue “to work hard at something” if you want to age well. It doesn’t matter if you work as freelancer in your previous profession after official retirement or start something completely new like your own business or engage in volunteer work, as long as you really challenge yourself with it and leave your comfort zone. The concerned brain region associated with cognitive abilities responds to both physical and mental challenges. Ambitious physical exercise will result in the same positive results for your brain, whereas keeping yourself busy with Sudoku and crossword doesn’t have an anti-ageing effect on the brain. Jogging helps – brain jogging doesn’t. The most important aspect is your attitude. One has to cultivate a

beginner’s mind and accept failure as a part of the game.

Whoever wants to become a Superager has to embrace the qualities of inquisitiveness, openness and determination. You must be ready to leave your comfort zone and willing to encounter unknown and possibly unpleasant situations. The actual activity depends entirely on your personality. Think about the 105-year-old cyclist, the 89-year-old job-seeker or the scientist in his 90s. If you prefer to live in your fully comprehensive cover world and strive to avoid everything unpleasant and challenging in life, you are contributing to your own decline. The choice is yours.

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ALMONDS-PROVEN HEALTH BENEFITS

1. Help Prevent Heart Disease and Heart Attacks
2. Support Healthy Brain Function
3. Maintain Skin Health
4. Help Control Blood Sugar Levels and Prevent Diabetes
5. Help with Weight Loss and Prevent Overeating
6. Increase Nutrient Absorption
7. Increase Digestive Health
8. Can Help Fight Cancer and Inflammation
9. Help Maintain Dental and Bone Health
1. Almonds Deliver a Massive Amount of Nutrient
2. Almonds Are Loaded With Antioxidants
3. Almonds Are High in Vitamin E, Which Protects Your Cell Membranes From Damage
4. Almonds Can Assist With Blood Sugar Control
5. Magnesium Also Has Benefits For Blood Pressure

- Levels 6. Almonds Can Lower Cholesterol Levels
7. Almonds Prevent Harmful Oxidation of LDL Cholesterol
8. Eating Almonds Reduces Hunger, Lowering Your Overall Calorie Intake
9. Almonds Are Incredibly Effective For Weight Loss

Why soaked almonds are better - Firstly, the brown peel of almonds contains tannin which inhibits nutrient absorption. Once you soak almonds the peel comes off easily and allows the nut to release all nutrients easily.

Dosage 30 grams per day with breakfast

Source: internet

Collected and contributed by Sri.P.V. Krishna Murthy

THE THIRSTY RIVER

By
Pankaj Sekhsaria

Because the Narmada has been blocked by so many dams and its waters no longer reach the sea, the sea has started a march inwards

A more recent appraisal of the water resources of the country... gives the total annual flow as equivalent to 1356 million acre-feet for the Indian Union. Of this only 76 million acre-feet or 5.6 per cent are at present being used for purposes of irrigation; the rest flow waste to the sea.

— *India's First Five Year Plan*

One of the key arguments in support of damming rivers across geographies has been the idea that useful water will otherwise 'go waste into the sea'.

Dam, dam, dam has been policy in India for the last many decades and coupled with changing land use, increased industrialisation, and pollution, dams have changed the riverscape of the country in ways that cannot be imagined.

Landscapes and riverscapes have been altered so dramatically that today's India might be a different country from the one we inherited in 1947. Virtually no river today flows freely to the sea.

The sea is reaching out, even rushing in, as if to reaffirm that the bond of sweet and salt water can never be broken, that the river and the sea are linked in an eternal cycle that has a dynamic,

complex reality we have no understanding of. 'I am not waste', the sea seems to be screaming, and this is not merely a metaphor—it's happening right now, in the Gulf of Khambhat in Gujarat's Bharuch district, where the Narmada is supposed to meet the sea.

Less river, more sea

Because the Narmada has been blocked by so many dams, big and small, and her waters taken away for 'productive' use to other places, and because the Narmada no longer reaches the sea, the sea has started a march inwards.

For nearly 40 km from the river's mouth backwards, the Narmada is less river and more sea. This happened in May last year and has been so this year since March. In the very last stretch of the river there is virtually no water; borewells in the river bed are spouting saline water with high levels of chloride; industries in Dahej and Vilayat are on the verge of closing down because of water shortage; salinity in the soil has also increased, destroying agriculture—according to one estimate, over 10,000 hectares; salt pans that occupied less than 1% of land in the estuary in 1990 were spread over 3.18% in 2011—an increase of more than 300% in two decades.

There have been suggestions that salt pans could, in fact, become a major economic activity here in the years to come.

Narmada's famous hilsa fisheries are on the verge of collapse (the fishing community will most likely follow the fish), and Alia Bet, an island at the mouth of the Narmada, is not an island any more, it has merged with the left bank of the estuary thanks to accretion from reduced freshwater inflow.

A remote sensing analysis, published by researchers of the Indian Space Research Organisation in 2014, shows, for instance, that the area occupied by the river and tidal creeks in the estuary have decreased significantly. The river, which covered about 12.18% in 1974 was down to 10.73% in 2011. The creek area has shrunk even more dramatically—from 1.45% in 1974 to 0.37% in 1990 and further to 0.10% in 2011.

Not 'waste'

A river's geography, ecology and geomorphology that have been shaped by millennia-long processes have been short-changed within decades. Not surprisingly, the river and the sea are changing in response and at a double-quick pace.

Yet we continue to argue that a river goes waste into the sea? We have refused and are still refusing to see that these waters play critical roles along the coastline by bringing nutrient-rich sediments to the sea, in maintaining salinity gradients, and in nourishing rich marine and coastal ecologies, not to mention the rich relevance they have for coastal communities. What indeed is the Narmada if it is not the water? The river is so drained now that it is dying of thirst itself.

The writer researches issues at the intersection of environment, science, society and technology. First published in The Hindu (magazine) dated 30.04.2017

NOTICE

The 84th GENERAL BODY MEETING of the Association of Retired Forest Officers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh will be held on 02-07-2017 (Sunday) at 11.00 a.m. in Aranya Bhavan, Hyderabad. All the members of the Association are requested to make it convenient to attend the meeting with their spouses.

B.M.Swami Dass, SECRETARY

THESE THEN ARE OUR HUMAN REMAINS

By
Mihir Vatsa

A filter might make trash look like flowers, but the forest is not for wishful thinking. A short drive from Hazaribagh is its Wildlife Sanctuary, halved neatly by NH 33 running through it. The eastern part of the forest is called Salparni, translating poetically to Leaves of Sal. Though sighting wildlife is rare, I adore it for being just a vast stretch of forest. Following the road, you reach a small lake and a rest house with unreliable amenities. An off-shoot of the road takes you to a cascade, the water there a function of the season. Six years ago, on a family trip, a short detour had revealed this humble fall to us, and since then, I have felt queerly possessive about it. To reach the cascade, you approach a small bridge whose architectural merit I cannot vouch for. Usually, I park my Alto at a corner before it, and walk the rest of the distance, which isn't really much.

Unlike previous visits, this time my first view was shaped not by the water but by the trace. Not of an animal, not of the elements, but ours. White thermocol plates lay scattered, empty soft drink bottles snuggled up to the bushes, and tobacco wrappers changed the soil composition.

As I walked towards the fall, I felt a dread rising inside me, and with every step I took, it thumped against my chest. When the cascade came in view, I sighed in defeat. The scene: the streams clogged,

pools conquered by plates and discarded bottles.

Picture imperfect

If you perceived it as an assemblage of colours, you would see the blues of the sky, the greens of the woods, the greys of the rocks, greens and greys reflected in the water.

Then, a million shimmering particles of red, yellow, white, brown, orange, red, yellow, blue, white, white, white, and white again. A watercolour filter might lend these particles the character of blooming flowers, but unlike social media, a forest is not a site for wishful thinking.

I climbed down the cascade to measure the immensity of garbage. I walked past the huge boulder at the foot of the fall, followed the stream down to the tiny check dam ahead, and returned.

Still, encouraged by the presence of water, I took out my camera and tried creating a frame. Another frame. Then another. The dread shot up. First to the point of frustration, and later to the point of despair. For there was no perspective, no smart framing, no changing of position or climbing up the rocks, no kneeling down on soggy soil or adjusting height of tripod that made possible even one photo whose

composition was spared by the litter that stared into the lens.

We remember the struggle for seats in the general compartment of a train. Afraid that someone else might occupy the seat which we have long eyed, we leave a handkerchief on it. It's an unwritten code of travel that once you leave that cloth on a seat, you have claimed it. Later, when we manage to get past the crowd, past the sweat and the haggling, and locate the coveted spot, we take the seat and fold the cloth back into our pockets. We don't fold the litter back into our pockets.

Every square unit of area that our sachets, bottles, thermocol plates and polythene bags occupy, they block a portion of public geography from the view of whoever comes next. They steal the very pleasure of accessibility to a place. The litter privatises a landscape for us, through us, in our presence and long after we have left. But we don't care for the privatisation; we are disgusted by it. We don't return to the candy wrappers or the inheritance that they hide.

What will people say

Has it ever happened that, frustrated by the litter around you, you think, 'Enough already. Tomorrow, I am taking up the broom and clean it up'? I refuse to believe that it hasn't.

In my case, every such outrage was met by the family's flat reply, "What will people say?" That we stop short of acting upon the impulse points to a fear. We fear the stares, the monolithic

"people". We fear our own guilt. We fear the judgment passed by those who are used to seeing us in roles that don't require cleaning a place that does not belong to us.

When I returned from Salparni that evening, I expressed my sadness to mother, told her I was planning to clean the cascade. Perhaps because of my attachment to the forest, or perhaps because she knew I would have done it anyway, or perhaps because she too felt it was time, she said, 'I'll also come with you.'

Two too less

The next Sunday, we drove to Salparni. We took two large empty sacks. We paid the entry fee of Rs. 80 and went straight to the fall. I took the lower reaches, while mother took the upper. I started from the huge boulder, filling up my sack and slowly moving upstream. She started by gathering the litter together with a stick. As I picked up the sachets, plates and bottles, I couldn't help but look at the brands. One doesn't need to travel far to see how consumerism affects the life of a landscape. If you looked down at the ground on which you walk, you will notice that it's not just the soil and grass and tarmac. It's also pan masala, candy, ice cream. These are our true human remains, neither buried nor washed down a river.

Soon, both sacks were full with not even 10% of the garbage. It was just too much for the two of us. An absence of a hundred people against the presence of two in the forest. The residue

grinned at our failure. What was I thinking, taking just two stupid sacks? As we drove back to the town, mother remarked, "You will need a team for this. Alone, it will take you days, and you will end up paying a thousand rupees just to enter the forest."

Social media is a wonderful thing. In the evening, I took to Facebook, sharing my plan to clear the cascade of garbage and inviting anyone who might be interested. In a few hours, I found companions. The planned Sunday, we set off.

Deepak is a theatre artist who often performs street plays to create environmental awareness. He speaks with a sense of drama, which is both arresting and amusing. Parmanand belongs to the neighbouring district of Chatra but studies in Hazaribagh. After the creation of Jharkhand, his family land fell over the border, making him both Bihari and Jharkhandi. On some days he goes home to Bihar; on others, he returns home to Jharkhand. Abhijeet studies at St. Columba's College and was a former Head Boy of DAV Public School. He seems to cherish this, and his pride reflects in his dexterity and eagerness to take charge.

We soon reached the fall. We had four sacks and two rolls of dustbin liner. As we picked up the trash, we joked. I found a bottle of vodka with water filled in it. This guy took the effort to fill the bottle with water, put the cap back on, then left it in the pool. Bigger. We found shampoo bottles, soap wrappers, discarded clothes. Dried-up carrots, radishes, and coriander. Deepak pulled

out a heap of plastic clogging a stream and the water rushed down with a force. The sun moved above us. In about two hours, we had reclaimed the fall. The streams were active again. The sound of water running through the rocks returned. A dry breeze caused the trees to create a symphony which we do not hear in cities. The senses were heightened, nuanced, our hearing acquired layers.

We walked upstream. I wanted to show them another of my "spots". It's a place where the oncoming stream, blocked by a bed of sand, collects into a pool. Rocks surround it. We picked our rocks and perched on them, the water cold to our feet. In the forest, we became friends. "Today, there are just four of us," Deepak began, "hopefully, there will soon be 40." Don't you dare, I laughed, or we will have to make another trip! While returning, we explained to the gatekeeper where we had assembled the trash. He gawked. Yes, we paid you to clear the mess inside. Back on NH 33, I put on Ed Sheeran's 'Shape of You'. I knew that once home, our limbs wouldn't really be in good shape.

The Hufflepuff wizard is the author of *Painting That Red Circle White*, his first poetry collection for muggles. He lives near a lake with lotuses and cormorants.

No perspective, no smart framing nor kneeling on soggy soil made possible even one photo whose composition was spared by the litter.

First published in *The Hindu* (Magazine) dated 30.04.2017

WHERE HAVE ALL THE PEEPAL TREES GONE?

By

Renu Singhal

Urbanisation has led to their removal, a trend that has to be reversed. Like the sparrows, the Peepal trees too seem to be disappearing from our cities. Urbanisation and the progressive change in the urban fabric has led to the widespread cutting down of existing trees. The trees, which are subsequently planted are flowering or ornamental. Though it is said to be an ornamental tree, the peepal is not a favoured plant in city areas. A reason for this could be its great height (it could even go up to 30 metres) and spread, and more so due to the spread of its roots which create problems with the walls and foundations of buildings.

A floating seed will take root in the smallest of crevices and crack up walls and floors, causing havoc with water supply and drainage pipes. One of the most unlikeliest of places where I spotted a peepal sprout was in the rusted bodywork of a passing bus in Madhapur, waving triumphantly green beside a window — a delight in the morning traffic.

With its heart shaped leaves on stems so slender that they quiver even without a breeze, the peepal looks uniquely beautiful and gives shade. There was a time not long ago when the leaves were dried to reveal the delicate veins and then painted on and sold. It was also a popular pastime among young girls along with embroidery and art.

One's visualisation of North Indian villages holds the peepal at its core, with a platform around it, a place for congregation and council; or idols and vermilion threads, perhaps a sadhu in meditation for spiritual understanding.

Ficus Religiosa in Latin, (sacred fig), the peepal is sacred in Indian tradition — it is also known as the Bodhi tree or Aswatha tree. Krishna said: I am

the Peepal (Aswatha in Sanskrit). Vishnu was born under such a tree. In Buddhism, it is significant as Buddha achieved enlightenment under the bodhi tree and it is revered in various cultures. The tree is considered most auspicious, the abode of gods and goddesses, and is planted to the north-east of temples. It is believed that the Trimurti resides there: Brahma the roots, Vishnu the trunk and Siva the leaves (perhaps that is why the leaves are in an eternal joyous dance).

Maximum oxygen

Along with neem and tulsi, it provides the maximum oxygen and purifies the surroundings. It plays a vital role in preserving the ozone layer and reducing air pollution. Since it gives out oxygen after sunset, it is also worshipped in the evenings.

In traditional medicine, it is beneficial in treating nearly 50 types of disorders such as asthma, dysentery, arthritis, boils and acne, etc. The leaves, the bark and the fibre are used for fodder, dye, tanning, and the milk is used as a sealant. These trees provide us shade, shelter, a purer environment, so many health and medicinal benefits besides their unique beauty and cultural significance.

Is it wisdom then to let these trees disappear? Let us revive our cities with the peepal trees. They could be planted in parks, religious precincts, institutional and public buildings and places where larger open areas are available, wider avenues, may be even groves.

Note: The writer is an architect and urban designer and the article was first published in The Hindu dated 11.04.2017

Birthday Greetings

We wish the following born on the dates mentioned

" A very Happy Birth Day "

S.No.	Name of the member	D.O.B.			
	Sarva Sri		17.	K.Suryanarayana	07/01/1958
			18.	M.Ravikumar	07/04/1957
1.	Masood Ali Khan	06-06-1941	19.	G.Rama Krishna Rao	06/06/1957
2.	V.Janakiram Naidu	06-08-1936	20.	B.Venkateswar Rao	06-08/1962
3.	M.A.Mabood Hazari	06-09-1955	21.	A.Chandrasekhar	06-10-1965
4.	V.Devachary	06-09-1946	22.	M.Srinivasa Rao	06-10-1964
5.	T.Hanmanth Reddy	06-10-1943	23.	G.Srinivasulu	06-10-1968
6.	Md.Rahamatullah	13-06-1946	24.	Smt. G.Mangamma	06-10-1983
7.	K.Rameshwar	14-06-1936	25.	N.Rajendra Kumar	06-12-1969
8.	M.V.S.Prakash Rao	15-06-1944	26.	V.Satish Kumar	06-13-1968
9.	Dr.N.R.K.Rao	15-06-1943	27.	G.P.Anand	06-13-1967
10.	Qudrath Mohiuddin Ahmed	06-15-1955	28.	S.Madhava Rao	06-16-1968
11.	P.Ashok Kumar	06-18-1953	29.	N.V.Sivaram Prasad	06-18-1966
12.	B.Malla Reddy	20-06-1937	30.	M.Janakiram	06-19-1964
13.	J.V.Sharma	20-06-1932	31.	M.Raja Ramana Reddy	06-19-1968
14.	S.Nauratan Singh	22-06-1942	32.	C.Venugopal Rao	20-06-1960
15.	D.Ramnarayan	25-06-1950	33.	M.V.Prasada Rao	06-20-1967
16.	N.Linganna	07-01-1941	34.	Smt.T.Nagamaneswari	06-22-1974
17.	M.Bullaiah	07-01-1952	35.	Joshi Gopal Rao	22-06-1963
18.	Sitaram Gupta	07-01-1952	36.	P.Jacob Benerjee	24-06-1958
19.	Badusha Saheb	07-01-1953	37.	J.Venkateswar Rao	06-24-1967
20.	Dr.E.Narasimhulu	07-01-1954	38.	Smt.B.Praveena	06-25-1980
21.	P. Eshwar Reddy	01-07-1955	39.	K.Mohan	26-06-1964
	S.No. Name of Serving Officers	D.O.B.	40.	Smt.Ch.Balamani	06-26-1974
1.	Munindra	06-06-1960	41.	Smt.P.Srilakshimi	06-27-1981
2.	N.Chandra Mohan Reddy	60-10-1961	42.	G.Laxman	28-06-1963
3.	Mohan Chandra Pargaien	06-12-1964	43.	K.Somasekaram	07-01-1964
4.	P.Madhusudhan Rao	15-06-1957	44.	B.V.A.Krishna Murthy	07-01-1967
5.	Dr.B.V.Prasada Reddy	15-06-1957	45.	P.Sivashankar Reddy	07-01-1963
6.	P.V.Chalapathi Rao	19-06-1968	46.	S.Mustafa	07-01-1961
7.	Dr.C.Suvarna	24-06-1966	47.	T.Narasimhulu	07-01-1959
8.	S.Sri Sarvanan	25-06-1973	48.	A.Srinivasa Rao	07-01-1961
9.	Dr.Mohd. Iliyas Rizvi	29-06-1961	49.	Y.Sanyasi Rao	07-01-1962
10.	Y.Babu Rao	30-06-1958	50.	G.Dharma Raju	07-01-1963
11.	Surendra Pandey	30-06-1957	51.	R.Srinivas	07-01-1986
12.	B.Anand Mohan	07-01-1957	52.	K.Khader Basha	07-03-1960
13.	Ashok Kumar Sinha	01/07-1965	53.	R.Srinivasa Reddy	07-05-1971
14.	TV Subba Reddy	07/01/1957	54.	P. Samuel	01-07-1964
15.	P.V.Ramana Reddy	07/01/1957			
16.	J.S.N.Murthy	07/01/1958			

Secretary

SKY ISLANDS UNDER SEIGE

By

'C.K.Vishnu Das and V.V.Robin

The fragile mountain-top habitats of the Western Ghats have never been more vulnerable. It was an early morning in May, 2015. The sun was yet to rise. A cold breeze from the south wafted over us. We were sitting on a giant rock on one of the highest mountains of the Western Ghats—the Camel's Hump mountain—overlooking the dark valley of Nilambur, waiting to catch the sunrise. And as we gazed east, the rays emerged from behind the giant peaks.

The silence was suddenly broken by a long musical call from a Sholakili from a bush, and the fluttering of a flock of mountain babblers. A giant white cloud appeared out of nowhere and gradually occupied the vacant valleys. Quite soon, the entire valley became a white ocean. Only a few mountain peaks emerged out of this vast swathe like islands, islands in the sky—the 'sky islands' of the Western Ghats—an extraordinary ecosystem that has always fascinated evolutionary biologists.

Mountaintops separated from each other by deep valleys are indeed much like islands of the ocean in terms of evolutionary processes because of their isolation. These mountains were

formed during the uplift of the Western Ghats, starting around 150 million years ago, where the high-elevation montane habitat, the shola (a mosaic of forest and grasslands), evolved. In fact, they are cradles of evolution. The formation of species here occurred over millennia, dictated by the geographic and climatic isolation of these mountain tops. And so what we have today is high endemism, that is, a concentration of species—birds, frogs, plants, and fish—that are found nowhere else in the world.

To a scientist, mountain habitats are also natural laboratories where one can study behavioural and evolutionary changes in response to climatic and human-made pressures.

Adapting to new ways

Life forms have adapted to these sky islands much like they would to oceanic islands. Each sky island is home to distinct species. Among birds, we see huge differences—morphological and acoustic—in these islands.

By examining bird diversity and distribution patterns using both ecological and genetic data,

we found that bird communities in the Western Ghats are shaped by both mountain structure and ancient climate. This also implies that future climate change can further impact these habitats and birds.

But these fragile mountain islands contend with more than climate change today. While large-scale deforestation is not common in these parts of the Western Ghats, invasive species have impacted the landscape tremendously. The scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), a shrub native to western and central Europe, is invading large parts of the Nilgiris grasslands, while the wattle (*Acacia sp.*) is also transforming these grasslands into wooded areas. In the shola forests, the *Cestrum aurantiacum*, a weed from South America, is invading the understorey.

There is also an alarming level of fragmentation—of both forest and grasslands—from agriculture, timber plantations and commercial plantations, a phenomenon that is affecting the large sky islands of the Nilgiris and Anamalai-Palani hills. And with this, bird populations are getting split into smaller populations with reduced or no gene flow between them. We uncovered that the Sholakili had a reduced gene flow on an east-west axis, between areas like Kodaikanal and Munnar. Even the songs (comparable to human language) of the Sholakili were different across this fragmented landscape, indicating cultural

divergence, most likely driven by human activity.

Some small populations may well be heading towards extinction—the Nilgiri pipit, for instance, in the grasslands of Palani Hills. Landscape change—particularly from plantations and invasive species—has reduced the total available habitat for this species (globally) to less than 400 sq.km. And as climate change shrinks grasslands, these birds really are getting a raw deal.

Habitat loss threatens not just birds but all other 'habitat specialists' surviving in the shola sky islands—the agamid lizard *Salea anamallayana*, shield-tail snakes, kurinji plants, perhaps even mammals (although to a lesser extent) such as the Nilgiri tahr and Nilgiri marten.

As the sun moved up, various life forms emerged from the shrubs and tree-tops, followed by a little chorus of laughing calls, murmurs, and whispers from the hiding life forms hiding underneath. A new day had begun for life on these tiny sky islands, where adaptation and evolution that began millions and millions of years ago must continue.

C.K. Vishnudas is a biologist affiliated to Hume's Centre for Ecology and V.V. Robin works on the ecology of birds on islands systems, and is based at IISER-Tirupati.

Courtesy: *The Hindu* (magazine) dated 16.9.2017

NEWS AND NOTES

Goldman Prize for Niyamgiri Hero:

Prafulla Samantara led a 12 year old battle to stall Vedanta Bauxite mining - Historic 12 year legal battle that affirmed the indigenous Dongria Kondh's land rights that protected the Niyamgiri Hills from a massive, open pit aluminium ore mine. Mr. Samantara, one of the key leaders responsible for rallying tribes, indigenous to Odisha's Niyamgiri region, and using legal provisions to thwart mining metal conglomerate, Vedanta. Samantara filed a petition in Supreme Court panel governing mining activities. Almost a decade later, the Supreme Court ruled on April 28, 2013 that gram sabhas would have the final say in mining projects on their land. By August 2013, all 12 tribal village Councils had unanimously voted against the mine.

Activist Prafulla Samantara was named on Monday April 24, 2017 as one of the six winners of the Goldman Environmental prize for 2017. Apart from a medal, citation, winners will receive a substantial cash award of about 175,000 dollars (Rs.1.13 crore).

Conviction of a High Court Judge

Calcutta High Court Judge sentenced:
Calcutta High Court Judge, Justice C.S. Karunan stepped up tirade against Supreme Court trying to make political capital of his Dalit identity. He made wild allegations against fellow judges of

Madras High Court. He said Indian Judiciary is corrupt. A Supreme Court Bench comprising seven judges heard him and for his calcitrant and unrestrained statements, slashed a charge of contempt of court. The public statements made by Justice Karunan, which received wide publicity in the media, the Supreme Court gagged publishing any of his further statements. The Constitution Bench ordered six-month jail for him. Writ Petition and a call back petition are rejected.

Corruption charge against Chief Engineer:

A Chief Engineer working under the Andhra Pradesh Government, facing corruption charge, is placed under suspension. He was arrested by the Anti Corruption Bureau for possessing assets disproportionate to known sources of his income. The market value of the assets is estimated at Rs. 100 crore. He was remanded to judicial custody.

A former Judge of Supreme Court facing contempt:

A former Judge of the Supreme Court Justice Katju interfered with the Supreme Court judgment relating to Govinda Chamy stating that there were fundamental flaws in the judgment. The remarks of the former Judge constituted contempt of court and the Bench slapped a contempt notice.

A former Director of C.B.I is charged for misconduct:

The C.B.I filed a case against its former Director Ranjit Sinha under Prevention of Corruption Act for allegedly scuttling and influencing the probe into allocation of coal blocks.

A Major's wife committed suicide:

A Major of Indian Army Vishal Vaibhav of Secunderabad married Sandhya 1 ½ year ago. Sandhya (39) was working as Radio Jockey with a local channel. She committed suicide by hanging herself by the ceiling fan. At the time of wedding there was neither any demand dowry from groom's side nor any offer from the bride's side. However the family of Vishal was harassing for dowry. Bolarum police registered a case of dowry death under Sec. 304 I.P.C

Orphaned Lion Cubs:

The Gujarat Forest Department deployed staff to look after two orphaned lion cubs found roaming in Nevasa, Amreli district. The personnel were deployed four days ago since 30.04.2017 to take care of the cubs, Rambhai Mor, RFO said. The mother was found dead in forest on April 18, 2017.

A New Plant Species:

A new plant *Oldenlandia vasudevani*, rarely found, was discovered by a team of Botanists from Government Victoria College at Palakkad in the Karasury region of the Neiliampathy hills which

comprises the Kollamgode Range forests. The plant was spotted as part of the research work initiated by Ms. Soumya under the supervision of the Botany department of the college on the floristic diversity in Kollamgode Range forests.

Mrugavani National Park:

Mrugavani National Park at Chilkur with an area of 3.5 sq.km is at a distance of about 25 km from Hyderabad. It was declared as National Park in 1994. The park is a home for 600 species of plants and animals like foxes, hares, wild boar, Indian vipers etc. There is a proposal to develop an eco-tourism project inside the National Park with the help of private agency M/s Lakshmi Jyothi Eco-Tourism & Jungle Resorts. The agency is permitted to bring visitors from the resort for a drive inside the National Park for viewing wildlife with a maximum of 90 trips on a monthly payment of Rs. 10,000/- to the Forest Department. The Agency is also requested to give a face-lift to main entrance and other constructions like ticket counter, waiting lounge, parking area. Design will be approved by the Forest Development Corporation and Chief wildlife Warden.

American Green Iguana in India:

A pair of American Green Iguana, procured by the Chennai Snake Park at Guindy is the latest attraction for visitors. The gigantic lizard is native to the Amazon forests of South America.

Wild Dogs to be released into Eastern Ghats:

Wild Dog or Dhone is an endangered species. The Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, running a conservation breeding centre, plans to re-introduce a pack of 16 wild dogs from the zoo into the wild. It is proposed to be done in two stages. First, they will be released into an area of 10 to 15 acres in Narsipatnam or Chintapalli forest called 'soft release'. After monitoring the animals in the soft release for a season and if they are found fit, genetically strong and must have instinct to hunt. In the next phase, they will go into thick forest. If the experiment is successful another pack of 16 dholes will be released in a similar fashion.

Sen Kumar is back as Kerala Police Chief:

After a historic battle against the alleged removal from the post of Kerala Police Chief, a year ago, the Apex Court powerfully expounded the principle in its judgment following the precedent in Prakash Singh case of 2006. It is widely reviewed as a reiteration of the Supreme Court's oft-quoted observation that a police officer is not a servant of any one, save the law itself. It is further observed that officers cannot be made scape goats by the politicians.

Spotted Deer rescued:

A full grown spotted deer was rescued by the residents of Satrawada of Nagari Municipal Corporation (Chittoor) when it was found barking in the agricultural well. The deer could have

strayed from the Nagari forest in search of water and had fallen into the farm well. The FRO thanked the villagers for rescuing a helpless deer.

A Bear Cub every one's favourite:

A young bear cub was seized from the possession of a tamer near Kuppam and a case was registered against the tamer. The rescued bear cub is kept in isolation to give medical attention at the S.V. Zoological Park in Tirupathi. The cub is fed with milk and glucose.

A Seed-Bomb Technique of Afforestation;

A 'seed-ball, or otherwise called 'Seed-Bomb', is made of clay, manure, and water with a seed in the centre of the ball and it is then dried up. Many such balls are prepared and thrown in barren lands just before the monsoon breaks. Once it starts raining, the ball of earth opens up and the seed starts germinating. This concept is explained at Warangal on 15.05.2017 by Sri K.Amaranarayana, a retired I.A.S. Officer of Karnataka to the District Collectors of Jangaon, Warangal (urban), Warangal (Rural), Conservator of Forests and several other officers. Ms. Priyanka, OSD to Chief Minister: Telangana, participated in the meeting. She says that this technique is suitable for greening interior and inaccessible and hilly areas and the operation will have to be repeated over a period of 4-5 years. Sri Amaranarayana said that it is vital to involve all people for success of the programme. He said

that the mission was successful in growing trees on hillocks in Karnataka. The germinated seedlings of treated seed need to be protected against fire and grazing.

In the third phase of the *Harita Haram*, Sri G. Sudheer Babu, Commissioner of Police, organized preparation of seed bombs by engaging Constable Trainees at PTC, Madikonda. A lakh of seed bombs are prepared for placing them in barren areas.

Convocation of 2015-17 IFS Probationers at the IGNFA:

ON 09.05.2017, 45 IFS Probationers and two foreign trainees of Bhutan received their diplomas and medals during the convocation at the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy. The President of India Sri Pranab Mukherjee was the Chief Guest and he delivered the convocation address. Dr. Sashi Kumar, Director of the Academy, welcomed the guests that included the Governor and Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, State Minister for Environment and Forests, G.O.I, Sri Anil Madhav Dave and many other VIPs.

In the convocation address, President Mukherjee said that development and conservation are not antithesis to each other but they coexist so they must strike a balance between them as both are necessary for humanity. The other highlights of the President's speech are——

1. The young officers, being natural resources

managers, it is their first duty to protect the forests, enhance their productivity and support the local populace in terms of their forest requirement by scientific means.

2. The young officers may have to provide expert solutions on development Vs. Conservation debates.

3. Development and environment are complementary rather than antagonistic.

4. The forest policy calls for one third of the total land area of the country as forest cover. This clearly discloses that there is a gap of about 15 % as against the present forest of about 19 %. This gap has to be bridged. Concrete measures must be ensured in this direction.

5. Indian Forest Service has not only the responsibility of serving the forestry sector, much larger onus of arresting climate change, apart from preservation of biodiversity and enhancement of forest cover livelihood, rests on them.

6. It is indeed a matter of satisfaction that, aided by technology like e-surveillance and GIS application along with the hard work put in by the officers of the Indian Forest Service, the forest cover in the country has increased from 64.2 million hectares in 1987 to 79.4 million hectares. This is a tremendous achievement in itself, but there are many more miles to be covered as yet.

There are about 7 Telugu speaking probationers who are allotted to other states. One among

them is Ranganadha Ramakrishna from Telangana. He is the grandson of our senior colleague and a retired ACF, the late P. Narasaiah garu (and son of his daughter Malleswari Rangaswamy). Ramakrishna became a lifetime subscriber of Vana Premi even before he joined the Academy. He is posted as DFO at Balrampur in the state of Chattisgarh. We wish him well in his career. May God bless him.

Two Crocodiles Rescued by Villagers in Karnataka:

A crocodile strayed into human habitat in search of food and cool place. It took shelter in a temple on the banks of Krishna River. This incident took place in a village of Bilagi taluk of Bagalkot district. The animal was handed over to Forest department who released it into the river near Chikkasangama village. In another incident a crocodile was exhausted because of lack of food and water. This animal was also taken over by forest officials in Korti village.

A Fat Monkey put on Diet

A morbidly obese monkey, who gorged himself on junk food and soda left behind by tourists in Thailand, has been rescued and placed on strict diet on 400 gm of lean protein, fruits and vegetables. Wildlife officials caught the monkey with difficulty and locals named it "Uncle Fat". Most of the monkeys that roam about are macaques. The weight of a typical adult monkey is about 9 kg. And Uncle Fat weighed three times

that. He is now in a critical condition and there is a risk of heart disease and diabetes.

Jumbo Collapsed Near Coffee Estate:

A lactating elephant, aged about 20, was found ill in a private land near Kabinagadde village in Saklespur taluk in Karnataka on the morning of Sunday 21.05.2017. The workers at an adjacent coffee estate noticed the elephant. ACF Ramesh Babu accompanied by veterinary doctors along other officials reached the spot after being alerted by the villagers. The elephant had fallen sick after not having eaten for the last couple of days. The animal may have contracted an infection. The doctors are treating the elephant. The elephant had given birth to a baby 2-3 months ago, and the baby must be moving with a group. The elephant showed signs of recovery after treatment.

12 Crocodiles Rescued in the Past Two Months in Karnataka:

With the heat wave intensifying and rivers drying up in Bagalkot, crocodiles have been affected badly with at least three deaths in the past fortnight. One of the casualties is a huge crocodile measuring 13.4 ft. and weighing 365 kg. – a rare find in recent past. Timely intervention by the 'well informed' residents and forest officials has resulted in the rescue of at least 12 crocodiles in Bilgi taluk of Bagalkot alone.

LEGAL NOTES

Pyarelal Vs. The State (Delhi Admn.)

Pyarelal is the owner of M/s Haryana Novelty Emporium at Delhi. On 01.09.1979, Wildlife Insoector on information conducted search of the premises of the emporium and found lion shaped trophies of chinkara skins meant for sale. A complaint was lodged stating that the provisions of Sections 44 and 49 punishable under Section have been contravened. The plea of the accused that those trophies are made of goat skin after being painted and that the skins were not that of wild animals mentioned in the schedules of the Wild life Protection Act.

The trial court accepted the prosecution case mainly relying on the evidence of the Wildlife Inspector and convicted the accused and sentenced him to six months rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs.50. His appeal and further revision were dismissed. Therefore he approached the Supreme Court by a Special Leave Petition.

The appeal petition at the Supreme Court was heard by a Bench comprising The Hon'ble Justices M.Punchchi and K.J. Reddy. Their Lordships found on the facts of the case that the appellant/accused contravened the provisions

of Sections 44 and 49 of the Act. The evidence shows that the accused was found in possession of the trophies. Section 44 prohibits any dealing in such trophies without a licence and Section 49 of the Act lays down that no person shall purchase, receive or acquire any trophy from otherwise than an authorized person. Wildlife Inspector is an experienced and specially trained officer. His evidence was accepted by all the courts below,

The court was of the view that only the first of sub-section (1) of Section 51 is attracted. There has been a failure of the appellant in not making a declaration under Section 40 and he had no licence in dealing with trophies. He had already suffered jail term for about two months. The court felt that ends of justice would be met if the sentence of imprisonment is reduced to the period the appellant was in jail. The sentence of fine and default clause was confirmed. The appeal is allowed on 18.01.1995 subject to modification of the sentence.

AIR 1995 SC 1159; 1995 Cri L J 2075
K.B.R

OBITUARIES

P.V. Padmanabham



02.04.1952 – 29.04.2017

We record with profound grief, the demise of Sri Palacholla Venkata Padmanabham, at Hyderabad due to sudden and silent cardiac arrest. He was 65. The death news to his friends was hardly believed, because he was perfectly healthy until he breathed his last on April 29, 2017.

Sri Padmanabham was the first born son of his parents Sri P.V. Sri Rama Rao and Smt. Sita Devi. He was born On 02.04.1952 in Amalapuram, East Godavari district in A.P. State. He had his school and college education upto B.Sc., in Amalapuram. He then did his M.Sc.Tech. from Andhra University.

Sri Padmanabham was selected to the State Forest Service for appointment as ACF on 16.06.1977 and joined service immediately. He worked as ACF until his next promotion. He was promoted to the senior scale of IFS on 14.03.1991. He was promoted as C.F. on 17.05.2001 and CCF in 2008. His last promotion as Addl PCCF was in 2011. Eventually he retired on superannuation on 30.04.2012.

He worked as ACF and DFO at several places. He

left behind good reputation wherever he worked like Sathupalli, Giddalur, Kakinada, Nellore, Chittoor, Paderu, Vijayawada, Vishakhapatnam and Anaparthi.

Sri Padmanabham was married to Smt. Meena Kumari in November 1981. They have one son Sri Rama Rao, one daughter Krishna Sita and a grandson. His performance in forest service was exemplary. His services were called for in relief operations during in emergency like natural calamities. He received NTR award in 1986 for efficiently organizing flood relief work in Kakinada.

Sri Padmanabham was industrious and an intelligent officer. His motto in life has been *Niswardha seva* (Selfless Service). He maintained good public relations wherever he worked. He respected his superiors and seniors, and treated his subordinates with love and affection. His friendship with Sri B.S.S. Reddy is worth mentioning here. They lived in the same apartments for eight long years like one family.

Padmanabham was an enthusiastic golf player and regularly played at Golconda Golf Club. He was a voracious reader of Telugu and English literature. We will miss his charming smile. He leaves behind his wife, son and grandson to mourn his loss. We express our deep condolences to the bereaved family.

MAY HIS NOBLE SOUL REST IN PEACE!

K.B.R.

P.V. Krishna Murthy'**03.10.1933 – 18.05.2017**

Sri Patibandla Venkata Krishna Murthy passed away peacefully at Visakhapatnam on the midnight of 17/18 May 2017, due to cardiac arrest. When he complained of slight chest pain, he was admitted to the CARE Hospital on Saturday 13.05.2017. In spite of the best medical attention, the end occurred inexorably. He was 83. Sri V. Santhaseela Babu and his wife paid floral tributes to the departed soul. According to his last wish, the body was taken from the hospital straight to the cremation ground for last rites.

Krishna Murthy was born to the late Sri Sadasiva Rao and Smt Vimala at Bapatla on 03.10.1933. Sri Sadasiva Rao was the Manager in the office of the CCF in Madras Province in pre-independent India. Krishna Murthy had his school education at Bellary and college education in Guntur and Kakinada. He did his B.A. from the Andhra University.

He was selected for appointment as Forest Ranger by the Government of Andhra and he underwent forestry training in the Forest College at Coimbatore during 1954-56. After successful completion of the training, he was appointed as Forest Range Officer and in that capacity; he worked at Venkatapuram, Machilipatnam, Anakapalli, Narsipatnam, Vinukonda, Araku Valley, Rajahmundry, Kannapuram and Satyaveedu. On

States Reorganisation he was allotted to Andhra Pradesh State.

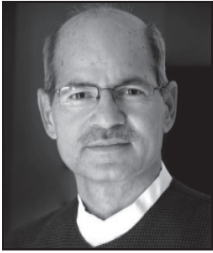
On promotion as ACF, he worked as Sub-DFO Palvancha and afterwards as DFO Logging division. He was then transferred and posted as DFO Flying Squad division at Kurnool and later as DFO Nandyal division. He prepared working plan for Nandyal, Nizamabad and Medak divisions. He was then transferred and posted as DFO Kurnool.

On promotion as DCF, he held charge of Rajampet and Rajahmundry divisions. His experience in forestry service was varied. He managed territorial divisions, prepared working plans and had done soil conservation works. He had the unique experience of working in Andhra, Rayalaseema and Telangana regions of the state. Undoubtedly, he was a versatile and an accomplished forester. Before retirement, he held charge of DFO Teak Plantations division at Rajahmundry and from there, he was relieved.

Sri Krishna Murthy was married to Smt. Sowbhagya Lakshmi and had two daughters and three grandsons, all well settled. He had widely travelled to many places in different countries like United Kingdom, Canada and USA. He was a disciplined officer and a strong disciplinarian. He was a friend and guide to his staff. Many subordinate officers who worked with him remember him for what they have learned from him. With friends and colleagues he used to be jovial and yet mindful of his own business. We express solemnly our sympathy to the bereaved family

MAY GOD REST HIS NOBLE SOUL IN PEACE!**K.B.R**

Anil Madhav Dave



06.07.1956 – 18.05.2017

Union Environment Minister Sri Anil Madhav Dave died of cardiac arrest in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences at New Delhi, on the morning of Thursday May 18, 2017. He was 60.

Known to be ailing for some time, Sri Dave left explicit instructions for a simple cremation with vedic rites on the banks of Narmada river at

Bandhrabhan in Madhya Pradesh. He has asked for no memorials except planting of some saplings.

Sri Dave was born at Barnagar village in Ujjain district to Smt. Pushpa Devi and Sri Madhav Dave. He took Master's degree in Commerce and Rural Development from Gujati College at Indore. He was a trained pilot and an expert in rafting.

He was admitted to hospital early on May 18, 2017 after complaining of uneasiness and died within an hour.

Sri Dave was unmarried and is an author of several books, one among them is *creation to cremation*.

WE PRAY FOR HIS SOUL TO REST INPEACE

K.B.R

My message, especially to young people is to have courage to think differently, courage to invent, to travel the unexplored path, courage to discover the impossible and to conquer the problems and succeed. These are great qualities that they must work towards. This is my message to the young people

“New friends may be poems but old friends are alphabets....Do not forget alphabets because you will need them to read the poems.” (Shakespeare)



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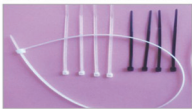
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Date of Publication: 26-05-2017 Total pages 48 Date of Dispatch : 4th or 5th of every month