VANA PREMI

Nau Say Navvay Sall Ke Bachon Ka Sathi

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Vana Premi wishes very happy, prosperous, and healthy Sri Rama Navami and Good Friday to all

Amanita muscaria

Commonly known as the fly agaric or fly amanita, is a mushroom and psychoactive basidiomycete fungus, one of many in the genus Amanita.

JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FOREST OFFICERS ANDHRA PRADESH

VANA PREMI

Vol : 15 April - 2014 No 4

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EDITORIAL

World Health Day: - World Health Day is observed on 7th April every year to mark the anniversary of the founding of World Health Organization in1948. Each year a theme is selected that highlights a priority area of public health. In 1948, the World Health Organization held the First World Health Assembly. The Assembly decided to celebrate 7th April of each year, with effect from 1950, as the World Health Day. The World Health Day is seen as an opportunity by the organization to draw worldwide attention to a subject of major importance to global health each year. The World Health Organization international, regional and local events on the Day related to a particular theme. The topic for 2014 is vector-borne diseases, in 2013 it was Healthy heart beat, Healthy blood pressure, in 2012 it was good health adds life to years and 2011 was Anti-microbial resistance: no action today, no cure tomorrow. The Day provides an opportunity for individuals in every community to get involved in activities that can lead to better health.

What are vectors and vector-borne diseases which is the theme of this year? Vectors are organisms that transmit pathogens and parasites from one infected person or animal to another of the same or other species. Vector-borne diseases are illnesses caused by these pathogens and parasites in human populations. They are most commonly found in tropical areas and places where access to safe drinking-water and sanitation systems is problematic. The most deadly vector-borne disease is malaria, and to give some idea of the scope of the problem surrounding vector-borne diseases, there were approximately 207 million cases of malaria and 627,000 deaths from the disease in 2012. Most of these were African children. However, the world's fastest growing vector-borne disease is dengue, with a 30-fold increase in disease incidence over the last 50 years. Globalization of trade and travel and environmental challenges such as climate change and urbanization are having an impact on transmission of vector-borne diseases, and causing their appearance in countries where they were previously unknown.

Disease spreading vectors like mosquitoes which cause malaria, dengue fever, filaria, chikungunya, yellow fever, ticks, bugs, sand flies, and snails are also spotlighted by the WHO to make the world free from a wide range of diseases caused by parasites and pathogens. Mosquitoes, for example, not only transmit malaria and dengue, but also lymphatic filariasis, chikungunya, Japanese encephalitis and yellow fever. I will mention here that the World Malaria Day occurs annually on 25th April. .

Why is World Health Day celebrated? World Health Day celebration focuses on increasing the life expectancy by adding good health to the lives of people and promoting healthier living habits. The youths of the new era are also targeted by this event to prevent and make them healthy to make the world healthy and free from AIDS and HIV which are diseases spreading very fast.

World Health Day is acknowledged by various governments and non-governmental organizations with interest in public health issues, who also organize activities and highlight their support. In addition to the activities conducted by the WHO, people are also encouraged to mark the day by organizing their own activities including conferences and workshops, giving press releases, presentations and initiating classroom discussions. WHO also supports various health authorities on a global basis to help them make their own effort to handle public health problems to inform the quality of life without any diseases. WHO provides better prevention and cure from the vector-borne diseases spread by vectors and travelers from one country to the other

Some of the objectives, why it is celebrated yearly are listed below:

- To increase public awareness about causes and prevention of diseases.
- To provide detailed knowledge of getting prevented from various diseases and their complications.
- To encourage most vulnerable group of people to frequently undergo medical checkups specially elderly people and follow medications from the professionals.
- To promote self-care among people.
- To motivate the worldwide health authorities to make their own efforts for creating healthy environments in their country.
- To protect families living in the disease vulnerable areas.
- To teach travelers and send them a message about how to get protected from the vector- borne diseases while travelling.

Vana Premi requests all the members, subscribers, and writers to resolve on this World Health Day to maintain good health by walking every morning, doing yoga, reducing intake of the salt sugar, oils and thereby live a longer and healthy life. QMK

If you see the moon..... You see the beauty of God..... If you see the Sun..... You see the power of God..... And.... If you see the Mirror..... You see the best Creation of GOD.... So Believe in YOURSELF..... We all are tourists God is our travel agent who already fixed all our Routes Reservations Destinations So! Trust him Enjoy the "Trip" called LIFE...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

It is always on 1st/2nd of every month I eagerly wait for the email to get VANA PREMI and you mail it promptly. Thanks a lot. On 20th March we will celebrate World Sparrow Day. I hope the house sparrow will soon get a house in every house.

P.G. Borgaonkar.

Dear Sir,

In continuation of my earlier e-mail, inviting your attention to certain typographical errors (to which you had so promptly responded), being attached herewith an article, on the lines which transpired between us, the subject of which you had been insisting for the last couple of months as: 'A tree is made to speak for itself'. I am happy; I received the Journal's March-Issue 'promptly' by post this month too, and was able to go through it in its entirety, which had come-up so beautifully. As your 'Editorial' has lived up to the 'expectations & aspirations' Hope your readers will take the message to 'save the water' in the right spirit by adopting any or all of the 11 measures you had cited, and also spread the awareness around them in the avowed manner.

Further, the color-photograph of Cactus-flowers on the front-cover is indeed as attractive as had been last month, and you deserve to be congratulated for the same. And you have resorted to make the back page attractive as had been the wont in the past.

With best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours

Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai.

If people but knew their own religion, how tolerant they would become and how free from any grudge against the religion of others!

Walk patiently through this troubled world and you'll find a great treasure.

VANA PREMI FILLS THE PAGES OF THESIS OF AN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY.

Dr. Forrest Daniel Fleischman did his Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy) from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Department of Political Science Indiana University. His topic was

"PUBLIC SERVANT BEHAVIOR AND FOREST POLICY IMPLEMENTATION IN CENTRAL INDIA"

He visited India between 2006 and 2012 for collection of data and submitted his thesis during September 2012, which contains 347 pages. During collection of data he visited Telangana of Andhra Pradesh and Vidharbha of Maharashtra. He selected four forest divisions in each of the areas mentioned and named those divisions as AP1, AP2, AP3, AP4, MH1 MH2, MH3, and MH4. During collection of data he met Officers and members of public and interviewed them. He also met Sri J.V. Sharma and Qamar Mohammad Khan Editor Vana Premi and discussed Forest and wild life Acts including Forest Rights Act. He mentioned it in his thesis on Page number 101 and a foot note is given, this is reproduced below.

"Details of this opposition, as well as debates among forest officers about the merits of the law, are regularly reported on in the monthly magazine, Vana Premi, the Journal of the Association of Retired Forest Officers, Andhra Pradesh, edited by Qamar Mohd. Khan, and published out of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests office in Hyderabad."

Dr. Forrest Daniel Fleischman is presently working as

Associate Professor in University of Texas.

AN APPRECIATION OF VANA PREMI

By
M. Kamal Naidu

Before the advent of Vana Premi as a vehicle of communication and sharing of our experiences with our colleagues, I used the magazines like, Environment and People, Hyderabad Bachao, Journal of Soil Conservation Society Dehra Dun, Zoo Print, Indian Forester, etc. to share my inner felt feelings and experiences and thoughts, and occasionally also Deccan Chronicle and Hindu Week-end Magazine section. With the advent of Vana Premi, starting in the year 1998 I was able to share more than 100 articles till today. Vana Premi gave to spell out facts and observations that lay hidden inside as personal experiences, untold and un known. It gave many silent observers to beam out their thoughts like the normally silent Mr. JV Sharma, Mr. Mukherjee, Mr. Santhaseela Babu to share their thoughts by filling the pages with excellent reading material on controversial but required aspects in Forest Management, and Sardar Nauratan Singh to come out with the depth of humor that lay hidden in him.This magazine brought out the writing talent of many silent volcanoes amidst us to gush out their worthwhile lava.

For all these, we should thank Sri Buchiram Reddy's sustained passion to make the magazine from a humble newsletter to an important monthly magazine, crossing innumerable hurdles financially, and for a regular flow of contribution of articles. But for his tenacity, it would not have been what it is. He would make humble requests for funds, when he was in a fix to make both ends meet, which one could not, resists because of his sincerity for the cause.

In regards of contribution of articles, I have also made fervent appeals to Mr. Desai to enlighten us about his Indrakeladri and Nigerian experiences, Mr. Mukherjee about his rehabilitation of Bangladesh refugees in Adilabad District, an unique experience handled very competently, Mr. RK Rao the father of coffee project of AP and bread earner of APFDC, Mr. Malla Reddy on the herculean success of Telugu Ganga Project and the techniques of implementation. Mr. Bhoopal Reddy for greening Hyderabad city, etc. which can make useful and inspiring contributions, which are still to come forth. Otherwise it will happen like in case of few officers who never shared their very valuable experiences neither in print, nor verbally, which all went down with them. This reminds me of what Mr. Seshan told me after my recovering from the snake bite. He said on a visit to the zoo thereafter, what would have happened to all what I told him, both by way of knowledge and experiences. He told me foresters are worthless goldmines, if they do not share with others and for posterity. That advice prompted me to come out with my two books—'Nandini Tigress of Nallamalai' and 'Hand book for Indian Zoo Directors' without allowing the wealth I acquired, going down into the grave with me.

I personally was worried about the magazine after Buchiram Reddy hands it over to a successor, whether it would grow or gradually collapse. It is very heartening to see the

continuance performance by Qamar. It was outstanding and a great relief to know that Vana Premi is very much alive, and alive with more steam and bubble, and accessible even online, before the magazine is in hand, and wherever we are, like I read it while at London last year, and my son states, he read the article with relish at Dubai and feels at home with many foresters known to him from childhood. It is heartening to hear about it on my visit to several states like Gujarat, Sikkim, Arunachal, West Bengal, Orissa, UP and Karnataka, the magazine caters to common requirement, and did not go too technical like "My forest" of Karnataka. With this I conclude with my appreciations especially on hearing and delighted to hear that it contributed to fill the pages of a thesis in an American University as a valuable source of references, and it was cited with an appreciation and a worthy of mention and efforts of managers of its publication on time with interesting articles I look forward to read. God bless all success and growth to this magazine in the interest of all foresters especially of AP beyond the frontiers of Telengana to keep all members of retired foresters in touch.

APPEAL

The Association of Retired Forest Officers, Andhra Pradesh will be 25 years old this year and it has

been decided to celebrate the Silver Jubilee in a befitting manner in. The Association also decided to bring out a 'SOUVENIR' to commemorate the occasion and constituted a SOUVENIR COMMITTEE with the undersigned as Convener. We request the foresters –retired and serving, nature lovers and well-wishers to contribute articles for publication in the Souvenir so as to reach the undersigned on the given address by 15th May 2014. Selected articles conforming to the following conditions will be included in the Souvenir

1. The articles should mainly be in English language. Articles in Telugu and Urdu will also beconsidered.

2. Articles should generally not exceed 1500 words.

3. Topics chosen should preferably be relevant to forests and environment and issues connected therewith. Articles on issues of general public welfare will also be considered.

4. Educative and informative articles of durable value will be preferred.

The Souvenir Committee will have the exclusive discretion in selection of articles.

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TAMING A HERD OF WILD ELEPHANTS

By
Hitesh Malhotra

"Nine people killed by the Elephants", "Elephant Herd on Rampage in Vijaynagram" were the headlines in all the Newspapers in the second fortnight of October 2007. I read the news with casual interest. I also saw lot of activity and anxiety in the wildlife wing of PCCF's office not knowing that suddenly I will be called on to handle this problem.

After my first stint as CWLW from 2002 to 2006, I, was working as special PCCF (Development) in PCCF's office. In October 2007, the Chief wildlife warden of AP went on leave at the peak of man-elephant conflict in Vijaynagram and Srikakulam districts. By then elephants had already killed 9 people and the 10th was killed on 23-10-2007 as I reached the spot just after taking the charge of CWLW. I had not seen such tension throughout my entire career. I saw a herd of elephants running and charging hundreds of people in the mango gardens in GL Puram area. As I reached the spot I was informed that the elephants have killed a person 5 minutes back and crushed the dead body into pulp. I was also informed that angry elephants are marching towards another village. There were hundreds of people on the location and elephants were charging and chasing people repeatedly. My dilemma was to go and see the dead person or to follow the elephants on their destructive trail.

In a split second I decided to follow the elephants and warn people in the next village. On the way, there was a chance to have a glimpse of the herd. After some time, I saw 3 big elephants charging a group of people running and scampering helter- skelter. I enquired about police force or revenue officers. I was told that because of an important *Jatra* (local fair) entire police force and revenue personnel had been drafted for duty there. Situation was hopeless. A handful of Forest staff and local people were burning crackers to drive away the elephants from human beings and the village. A cursory look at the map of the area was enough to tell me that the elephants were right in the middle of several villages. Driving them away will only mean transferring the problem to another area. With no police, there was little control over the people and I feared a good chance of more mishaps. Local forest staff organized a portable loudspeaker and we tried to call people to a safer area away from the mango garden. Inefficacy of the effort was glaringly obvious. I tried to contact the collector and the S.P of the district with no

success. A messenger was then dispatched to them with my message requesting them to control human beings while forest people tackled the elephants.

Meanwhile elephants were proceeding to another village and our jeep had to take a detour to reach that area. By evening we reached that area. I was told that the elephants were stationery under shaded coconut grove 1 km away from the road point where we stopped. I went to have a look at the elephants from a distance .Now it was getting dark and elephants probably decided to take rest. After posting our people on guard I came back to my camp.

There were several phone calls from government, Chief Secretary, other well-wishers and media people. Everyone suggested driving the elephants to the forest which was non-existent even up to 50Kms on any side. The situation appeared impossible as any effort to drive or to frighten the elephants with honey-bee sound would have set the stage for devastation by the elephants. There were villages on all sides and frightening elephants could have led them to the areas with thicker human population. At this stage, I was wondering why I had to take the charge of CWLW at this time. Only possible solution suggested by the people at that time was shooting the elephants. This was neither practical nor welcome solution for me. At night while figuring out the solution to this problem an idea occurred to me that instead of driving the elephants if I try to restrain the elephants we may have lesser difficulties. This could have been a possible solution with 1 or 2 animals but may not work for 11 animals because firstly it may have taken longer and secondly it would have required much more man power and resources if the herd broke and spread in to a bigger area. With the limited options available I decided to take the risk in favor of this option. In retrospect I feel satisfied about it but I could hardly sleep that night. Any wrong move and its consequence could send me home. At that time I remembered the advice of a respected senior. "Weigh your options well and take a decision and stand by it. That makes a good leader." After discussing with my veterinary doctor, I ordered Vizag Zoo curator to get as many chains readied as he could and send them to the spot as early as possible.

Next morning we set out to the area. Our vets were on our 2 inexperienced elephant backs with our half trained *mahavats*. When our elephants saw the herd of elephants they came back running faster than they had ever done. Our effort apparently failed. Probably we had very high expectations from our inexperienced elephants and the *mahawats*. We were all crest fallen and clueless again. At this stage we had a ray of hope. Responding to our request, Sri

Bijoyanand Chowdhary, a famous elephant expert with his 2 well trained *mahavats* arrived to our rescue. He could not get his elephants from Assam. After seeing our elephants and after being told about that day's encounter, he was also not very hopeful. After studying the whole situation and the limited options he felt that there was no other option but to give our proposal a try with our elephants and his *mahavats*. Meanwhile more chains were also received from Vizag and we had 20 chains ready. We were now ready to start Operation Gaja as named by the Vizag CF, Mr. Padmanabhan.

Next morning everything was made ready. *Mahavats* tied ropes to the elephants and when they climbed the elephant's backs there was a different energy in the elephants. These *Mahavats* could ride the elephants in standing posture. Mr. Chowdhury and Dr. Navin also sat on elephant backs with their tranquilizers and set out to the area where the herd of wild elephants was resting. Our elephants did a remarkable job on that day and took the tranquilizing team within the striking range. They could tranquilize two elephants on that day because they were trying to avoid darting the two young ones who were clinging on to a big female. One big and one small elephant was tranquilized and chained to coconut trees. Only standing sedation was given to the elephants so the two were standing sedated.

Regarding the remaining herd, there were two possibilities before we started this exercise. One, they could get scattered too far off areas and cause damage. Second, they could stick to their herd mates in distress. While first possibility could have been disastrous for our operation, I was banking on the second possibility basing on the behavior of herds observed so far. I must admit that I took this chance praying to God several times till the news of the tranquilization came and I was told that all the other elephants were hovering nearby as the operation of chaining of tranquilized elephants was done by our zoo staff; I heaved a sigh of relief.

If tranquilization was a difficult task, the rehabilitation of the herd to their natural habitat was more troublesome. Only way to transport the tranquilized elephants over more than 100 km distance was by Lorries. We were in a remote area where getting good Lorries was difficult. However, I ordered for as strong Lorries as possible by next morning. 2 Lorries were brought. We did whatever strengthening of their wooden frame was possible. Good quantity of banana stem, sugar cane, and water was kept ready. We wanted to start early to avoid hot sun and the troublesome spectators on the way. Taking the sedated animal up the lorry proved to be difficult because our domesticated elephants proved quite

insufficient for this task. However, after a long struggle by very good *mahavats* and our staff the elephants could be taken up the Lorries. Transportation was postponed to the next morning.

On 27th October early morning the Lorries started with a Veterinary doctor and Orissa state forest range officer following them in the jeeps. Our problem was not yet over. We had not even taken a sigh of relief when we got the news that one of our Lorries had broken down en route and both the Lorries were held up. Local staff was arranging for repairs. Hundreds of people had gathered near the Lorries. It started getting hot and our staff and veterinary team had tough time comforting the elephants while the repair was going on. Police was doing their job of keeping people away from the scene. It took nine hours for the repair and the Lorries started again to complete remaining two hours of the journey. This was probably the most difficult period in the whole incident.

By evening the elephants reached Lekhari Sanctuary of Orissa state only to meet strong protests against the release of elephants in their area. However, with no other option left and after lot of arguments the local forest officer placed the Lorries closed to a tank bund to facilitate unloading of the elephants who were given the antidote for the tranquilizer dose. This was pointed out that release of tranquilized elephants near water source is risky as they tend to consume an overdose of water but it was ignored for want of limited options and peoples protests. The smaller elephant escaped into the forest because of loud noise by people but the bigger elephant went down in the water pond and started drinking water. This elephant was found dead in the water in the morning whereas younger one was rehabilitated in its original habitat.

This step had a different response from Orissa and AP Governments. Though this step was taken as a result of the decision, taken by joint action team, constituted for a coordinated action by the two states, to rehabilitate the elephants to their original habitat. There was lot of opposition to tranquilization and continuation of operation Gaja from Orissa Govt. AP state, however, requested me to continue the operation as there was no suitable habitat for these elephants nearby this area. Nine remaining female elephants would have no future in this area in the absence of any natural population of elephants.

I continued the capture operation and in next two operations another four elephants were captured and kept at Chimani Vani Valasa. We also arranged good Lorries to transport the captured elephants but Orissa forest department went back on the recommendation of the joint action team and

refused to accept the elephants. The chief minister of Orissa addressed a letter to the chief minister of AP on 30th October 2007 requesting him to stop the translocation and explore the possibility of controlled drive without resorting to capture of the elephants. This was a clear indication that the state of Orissa had withdrawn from the joint effort. When the CM's orders were communicated to us we stopped the translocation but the elephants and the associated problem remained with us. After discussion with Honorable forest minister it was decided to transport and release these elephants in some remote safe forest location on the next day.

As luck would have it, it rained heavily on 30th night and the entire area where elephants were tied became slushy. It became unfit for taking lorries there for next one week. Since we could not keep the elephants like that for so long, I resigned to my fate. I decided to release the four captured elephants and continue operation Gaja later. On 31st October 2007 we released these four elephants with parties on their trail to watch their movements.

To my surprise and to a very big relief these four elephants and remaining three elephants united within a day and proceeded straight and peacefully towards Srikakulam where a small patch of good forest area was available. The way the herd of seven elephants moved we felt as if the herd knew where they had to go. And this time they were so well behaved that we felt as if a batch of well-behaved school children was proceeding to their class after the morning prayers.

Since 2007 these elephants have been living in the same forest area. As pointed out earlier they have no future except slowly vanishing. One elephant died when it pulled down an electric transformer and wires on it. Another two died when local villagers organized a kind of trap by covering a dug up area by some vegetation. When I left the department in 2012 there were still four elephants living there without causing any major problem.

There are only two days in the year that nothing can be done. One is called yesterday, the other is called tomorrow. Today is the right day to love, believes, do and mostly do and mostly live.

You have never really lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.

Satire / Fiction:

PEOPLE'S MANIFESTO

By
J. V. Sharma

Thursday the 6th March 2014.

Gopi made his sudden appearance at my residence at that unearthly hour of 10.45 PM. I was preparing to go to bed. Even as he was entering, he said; "Sorry Sir. I know you go to bed at 11 PM. I thought of catching you before that to disturb you for another one hour at least. Matter is so urgent."

"What is the matter" I asked inquisitively.

"Election Commission announced the schedule for elections to 16th Lok Sabha and the Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim. The entire process should be completed before the end of May 2014. There has been hectic activity and things moved very fast during the past four weeks and I have resigned from service today to enter politics." He said all these words in one breath. The last words aroused my curiosity and I asked him;

"But you told me last time that you got some plum posting and the Minister and the ruling establishment were very happy with you. You also told me that you have unfettered freedom to do anything you want and there is virtually no control over your activities."

"It was true. But events happened faster than imagined and most of them un-expectedly. The Chief Minister resigned. It is President's rule now. Most of the former ministers are unable to chart out their future course of action. So are many legislators. Political climate is extremely uncertain and unpredictable, to say the least."

JVS: How did these political developments lead to your resignation? You were a senior bureaucrat and politics should not bother you."

Gopi: It should be so but I have never been a bureaucrat in the conventional mould. I always treated my job as a commercial activity and the politicians have been my partners. I have another two years left for superannuation but elections do not wait for my retirement. I want to explore greener pastures and grow really big. I am now looking beyond superannuation. I have no intension of resting my oars. Diversification is a standard practice for success in commercial sector. So I put in my papers today opting for voluntary retirement. I have been thinking over it for the last six months and it is all over today.

JVS: But politics is an alien territory for you. For all these years you have been in government

service. Politics is a dirty business. Politicians do not rate high in public esteem either for credibility or character and many of them are even criminals. I am afraid you are bargaining for a big risk –to be honest.

Gopi laughed loudly. "I conscientiously opt for the wrong route. I am no saint, nor a practitioner of virtue. In the world I operate, there is no place for ethics"

"But the issue here is how you are going to compete with politicians already in the field. They are cut throat and unscrupulous. Politics means business with people. How can you ever strike an equation with them? You are from a different stream totally incompatible with service to people."

"Sir, you are right. I thought of all these problems and mine is a considered decision. I am fully aware of the risks involved. I came here with a road map at this odd hour to share my thoughts with you. Please hear me."

It was all a lengthy monologue thereafter by Gopi.

"Politics mean people, leaders, money and faith. You are justified being skeptical about my finding a place on the political canvas. But, as you know, I had always chosen the wrong course in my career and succeeded. I amassed wealth and developed contacts with persons in high places particularly those in public life. It is also true that many of them are scoundrels. I practiced corruption not with any sense of guilt but with the pride of a professional. It was never a clandestine activity as far as I am concerned. Barring the period in initial service when I was trying to establish myself, it was I who set the terms for my superiors and political bosses most of the time. We managed it as a well-crafted commercial activity. The political class treated me as a partner of superior intellect and not as subordinate officer. They always gave me my due. Why, to cite an example, a Minister sought a favor two days ago in a land matter in which my department is a party before the Court. I said my counter affidavit in claimants' favor may not help. Yet he insisted. I put a price of one crore. He sent the money yesterday and I have signed the affidavit today. So, what I am trying to impress is that if they are rogues, I am no better. They acknowledge my experience, importance and superiority. Why should I not extend the same advantage to politics?"

"Now, let us talk about the people first. In the context of our present discussion, people mean voters. You must have read in papers that Justice Markandey Katju, Chairman of Press Council of India recently said that 90% of people in India are idiots. A person of that stature and equanimity does not make statements of this nature for nothing. An idiot is always manageable. Justice Katju also said that the people are like cattle. See how these idiots flock in droves at meetings and *padayatras* of leaders who have been cheating them time and again. The truth is that sizeable sections of people (read for voters) are corrupt. They are prepared to barter their vote for money

and liquor. They greedily look for personal gain and accept the sops and freebies without ever bothering whether the funding matches the resources. They do not care for the public debt and sinking economy. The people refuse to realize that the State has been running on borrowed money and the public debt stands at Rs. 1.79 lakh Crores. With State's population at 8.46 Crores, each citizen has a public debt burden of Rs. 21,000 on his head. Yet, they irresponsibly look for misplaced favors."

"In democracy, people are the masters and if the master is corrupt, you cannot blame the politicians who are said to be servants of people. They can throw out a government if onion prices go up and also vote a government to power even if it resorted to gross abuse of power and squandered away valuable assets of the State for the personal gain. Underlying political philosophy is that the corrupt people should deserve only the corrupt government. Considering the electoral logistics, my purpose will be served if I can win over this corrupt segment among voters. I want votes but am not serious about voters. Though the people are of least importance in my scheme of things, the name of the party I am going to float, ironically, will be People's Party of Andhra Pradesh."

'As you rightly said, it will not be possible for me to strike a direct rapport with the people. Nor do I intend to. Only those leaders who grew up among the people can have the advantage of interacting directly with people. As I am not from that breed, I cannot be a mass leader. So, chose to be the supreme leader of Party, a leader of leaders."

"I designed the party structure to suit my requirements. I intend having a second tier of leaders who will comprise of unemployed politicians, persons aspiring to be big leaders and disgruntled & over ambitious politicians who look for greener pasture in other parties. These persons with strong motivation to move ahead in the game of politics, do all the work at field level and will also be responsible for organization, funds and propaganda. Fortunately, the present fluid political climate in the State is eminently suitable for my scheme of things. In short, I provide the face and they act with their own resources. I stand to gain if they win but I don't lose if they fail."

"As you said it may be difficult for me to establish rapport with people and gain their acceptance and faith. I don't approach the people directly seeking acceptance. There are thousands working among the people in the hope of rising to higher levels in politics. These are my target group. They also serve as opinion leaders. For that matter, several senior politicians of different hues including some ministers are eager to sail with me. These are the conduits between the supreme leader and the people. They form the most crucial link. Success depends upon the number of the resourceful middle level workers the second tier hard core leaders can muster. "

"Politicians in olden days used to promise community welfare measures and works beneficial to

the area if voted to power. Now it is the era of promises and packages. These are not confined to people as a whole but address various sections of society at micro level infusing as much diversity as possible. Target groups are identified by class, creed, religion, sect, caste, sub-caste, social status, occupation, etc. which run into hundreds and thousands. I admit that it is, in practical sense, promotion of divisive tendencies in society. But unfortunately, that is the route to build and win vote banks. I agree this trend is harmful to society. Having entered politics, I need to sail with the wind to be in the reckoning. Bottom line of the art of politics is "Corrupt the people and be criminally corrupt". I am also a cog in this wheel of corruption."

"Now the challenge before me is how innovative I can to corrupt voters. As I have been thinking of joining politics since long, I made some study and I have a strategy. Events in Andhra Pradesh provided very useful material. Regimes of recent past gave practical demonstration of methods of looting the State wholesale and passing on the pittance to the people. Populism is the *Mantra* to entice the voters."

"To be in tune with the trend, I opt for a liberalized system of manifesto. Even the middle level workers will be authorized to make promises to accommodate the demands of each section, group or even individuals on local problems. At State level, we will unveil a number of manifestos for different sections of people besides a General Manifesto which will roughly be on the following lines:

1. Our Govt. will provide an independent 3-bed room house to each family free of cost. Earlier irregular acquisitions, if any, will be condoned. A house maintenance allowance not less than 10% of the cost of the house will also be paid annually.
2. Eligibility criteria will be liberalized. All those with annual income less than 15 lakhs will be issued white cards to make them eligible for all the benefits under government schemes.
3. Free education to all from KG to PG in Corporate educational institutions.
4. Free medical aid to all in corporate hospitals.
5. Govt. will ensure that employment is provided to at least two members in a family. In case there are no posts, each unemployed persons will be granted a subsistence allowance which shall not be less than Rs. 25,000 per month.
6. The State would provide free gas and water.
7. Each family will be given a color TV set, furniture, computer and electronic household gadgets free of cost.
8. Work is optional. Those who have no intention to work will be paid an allowance of Rs. 30000 per month.

9. Occupation of Government land as on 30th May 2014 whether it is revenue or forest land will no longer is an offence. Land will be regularized in their name. If the occupant establishes any commercial venture over the occupied land, an incentive bonus of equivalent land will be given.
10. There will be no requirement of attendance in any educational institutions or of examinations.

In respect of Ministers, Legislators and Bureaucrats, there will be greater protection and facilities on the lines …….

a) They will enjoy full freedom and independence in carrying out their responsibilities and exercise discretion in interpretation of rules and procedure and will enjoy total immunity against any such action.
b) Investigative agencies can take up inquiry of allegations of corruption or misdemeanor against them only on express permission from the Chief Minister.
c) No action can be taken against them without the permission of the CM who will have the exclusive powers to condone the omissions/commissions, even if there are any.
d) In case they happen to be prosecuted, the State will bear all legal expenses and pendency of disciplinary action or prosecution will not be a bar for advancement in service of bureaucrats.
e) In case they are suspended, the period of suspension will be treated as duty.
f) In case an officer is jailed, his family will be paid the salary the person would have drawn had he been not jailed. The family will be entitled for govt. accommodation during the period of incarceration.

If voted to power, I will provide legal frame work to above promises.

I was aghast. "What is all this Gopi? Is it governance or spreading chaos? Are you not undermining the intrinsic values social fabric? People will laugh at you. Wherefrom will you get money to meet all these promises? It is absurd.

Gopi laughed. "Question of implementation of manifesto arises when I ascend the seat of power. I know it is not possible. As for the wild promises, I think I am not the first person to make such promises. Several politicians made similar promises in a different way. You find them preposterous because I put them together in a bland manner. As I said, I have to gain even if I don't win. I can split the votes and the hopefuls in the fray may come to me with offers. If it is a hung House and if I happen to have a few seats in the kitty, I can bargain for a better deal. In the worst case scenario, even if my party fails to win any seats, I have nothing to lose. That is politics, Sir."

CARDIOLOGIST vs. CARDIAC SURGEON

By
K.B.R. Reddy

Sarire jarjaribhute vyadhigraste kalebare
Ausadham jahnavitoyam vaidyo narayano harih

(When the body is subjected to decay due to old age and the body is beset with disease, medicine is like the sacred water of the Ganga and the doctor is Narayana, the God himself.)

Water of Ganga, when the river flowing down the Himalayas, was pure and sacred; and it was believed that the water was able to cure many ailments. Medicine given by *Vaid* (doctor) was equated with that 'ganga jal'. That was the scenario of ancient India. Ganga is polluted and the river is misused and abused. The water has lost its purity and curative properties. So also is the efficacy of the (spurious) drugs manufactured by pharmaceutical companies. Due to pollution of environment including pollution of air, water, soil etc., diseases have multiplied. Some diseases are discovered; some are yet to be discovered. There is cure for many diseases; cure for some is obscure.

Modern medicine is practiced by doctors of eminence. Dedicated doctors are looked upon and venerated as God. I was fortunate to take the services of two such doctors – one Cardiologist and another Cardiac Surgeon. These two doctors, if I cannot say God, they are godly, devoted to the noble profession and service to the patients.

Sometime in 1988, I started feeling discomfort in my chest. I went immediately to a physician friend for consultation. He suspected some problem in my heart. I was advised to see a cardiologist and I was given a letter of introduction. The cardiologist, when approached, after investigation, gave the opinion that I may need a bypass surgery. Then I decided to take the help of my senior and respectable colleague Sri A.H. Moosvi, who had good rapport with cardiac surgeon in the Nizam's Institute of Medical Science (NIMS). He took an appointment for me with the surgeon. On the appointed date we met the surgeon. He examined my record of investigation and fixed a date for surgery. The operation was fixed for February 8, 1989. In preparing me for the surgery, the cardiologist took all the care and the surgery was done most skillfully. The postoperative care by the surgeon and the cardiologist was excellent. I was 57.

More than two decades passed I had no complaint. Only recently I started feeling pain in my chest during my morning walk. The pain subsides when I stop walking for a few minutes. Therefore, I thought I must consult cardiologist at the NIMS and I did. After detailed investigations, the cardiologist advised me to

have stents fixed to my artery. The team of cardiologists tried to fix stents to one artery, two others being intact. But for some reason fixing stents was not possible and I was advised to manage my problem with medicines which I have been doing religiously.

While so, one day I attended a lecture by an eminent cardiac surgeon of a local hospital. He made a good presentation. At the end of his talk an opportunity was given to audience to ask questions. I gave the history of my case and gave an account of my problem and the advice I received from the cardiologist of the NIMS. I was asked if I had taken a second opinion. I said, 'yes, I took the opinion of another cardiologist'. Then he said he would like to go through my record. I took an appointment and showed him my record. He said he would like me to undergo some diagnostic tests by supposedly an expert in molecular medicine. Then I asked if I could have the tests at another reputed diagnostic center, where I usually go for clinical investigations. But the surgeon insisted that I should go to that particular diagnostic center recommended by him. I did not understand the reason why the surgeon was insisting that I should go to that particular Diagnostic Centre only. It is left to anybody's imagination. Nevertheless I went to that particular diagnostic center where I was subjected to several tests – Nuclear Scan; Myocardial Perfusion Spect.

Soon after the tests, the diagnostician said that I may have to undergo bypass surgery immediately. I said I have to leave for USA and I have booked my ticket. I was advised to cancel the booking. He charged me ten thousand rupees. Ordinarily nobody bargains for payment of medical bills. I paid the money and received all the investigation reports. I was advised to show the reports to the surgeon who referred me to him. The surgeon going through the reports advised me to undergo soon bypass surgery the second time, in the face of the advice of the Cardiologist of NIMS for medical management.

Normally a decision for bypass surgery is taken on the advice of a cardiologist but not unilaterally by a cardiac surgeon. Brushing aside the advice of the cardiac surgeon, I flew to USA and flew back to India over a period of more than three or four years. I am able to walk for half an hour to forty-five minutes with little discomfort in my chest even when the temperature is –10 degrees.

I wonder if the advice of the Cardiac Surgeon of a private hospital on the basis of report of a diagnostician of his choice making me poorer by ten thousand rupees was fair. I was told by a surgeon, 'He is the best surgeon who does not decide to operate'. Opinions of experts in the medical science, like any other science, may be contentious; but that opinion, I consider, is the best which is in favor of the patient.

(Vana Premi wishes you very long and healthy life - Editor)

LATE KK NAIR: FEW REMINISCENCES AND A TRIBUTE

By
Dr. Raghotham Rao Desai

A vacuum, which cannot possibly be filled, had been created in the very sad demise of Kelath Karunakaran Nair, IFS known all over the country by abbreviatedly as 'KK Nair' on the night intervening 12th & 13th of Jan., '14 at Kozhikode (Calicut). He would have celebrated his 93rd Birthday, had the death delayed in knocking at his door by another 6 months. He was the Instructor and House Tutor at Madras Forest College, when I was deputed to undergo the training during 1954. It was such a surprise that he continued to remember all the names of our batch-mates affectionately, even as he visited my Division (at Shimoga) 30 years later, and again when I happened to meet him at Kochi (Cochin) more than two decades after that. These attributes of him thrilled me to no end finding him so alert mentally as ever, even till he attained the ripe old age of 90 ! It did not stop at that: to my surprise he sent me a congratulatory letter (in his own handwriting) after going through an issue of our Journal which published the award of Ph.D.

His ailments were age-related which had restricted his movements considerably, when he found himself confined to a wheelchair which was embarrassing him so much since he had led such an active and eventful life all through. An instance I would like to recall, to prove that he was very kind-hearted, though looking externally so stern, that he took personal care and full responsibility to get my class-fellow & batchmate KBR Reddy treated of a serious-ailment which required hospitalisation & surgery (during our survey–camp at Walayar), even exempting him from field-work during post-recovery period.

Somehow he had taken a sort of liking for me right from the first tour, which became evident from certain observations he made in my tour-journal, such as "A neat journal", "A fairly neat journal", "A very neat journal" and the like — though there was an exception too during the tour of Feb., 1955 when we happened to return to the base-camp (of Makut, Coorg) one day, as I had concluded the day's diary, stating: "We returned hungry by 1730 hrs, without any lunch", to which his remarks were "Still you are alive, hale and healthy. Let it stay without regrets"!

Not having been 'trained as a teacher' conventionally, he turned out to be such a great teacher, and we used to thoroughly enjoy all his classes, admiring his versatility be it in the lecture- halls, college-laboratories or on the field. After his retirement he used to tell often that he enjoyed his association as Instructor, rather than his work during his administrative assignments, which culminated in his becoming Head of the Department in Kerala.

Such a benevolent and noble gentleman like Sri K K Nair is no more. With a very heart it is wished that his kindred soul may rest in eternal peace.

ROLE OF GRANDPARENTS IN THE FAMILY

By
Harleena Singh

"What children need most are the essentials that grandparents provide in abundance. They give unconditional love, kindness, patience, humor, comfort, lessons in life. And most importantly, cookies" Rudolph Giuliani.

Have you ever wondered about what is the role of grandparents in the family? Did you ever try considering that the role of grandparents in the family is as important as your role? You as parents have your daily duty towards your children, but the role of grandparents is a very consistent, often unacknowledged one.

Nowadays, fewer grandparents get to be real grandparents in the real sense of the word, in the lives of their grandchildren. The reason being because of the various changes in the society like, migration of young couples to farther distance, greater disharmony between parents and grandparents, and higher divorce rates between parents and even grandparents, which are weakening the family as an institution.

Such changes have completely produced opposite results: on one hand some grandchildren are raised by their grandparents with minimal involvement of parents, and on the other hand, some grandchildren have little contact with their grandparents.

America is fast becoming a granny state, where less frail and more involved grandparents are shunning retirement homes and stepping in more to raise their grandchildren, while young adults struggle in the poor economy. They teach their grandchildren the traditional American values of hard work, honesty, and integrity. Had it not been for these grandparents, many children would have been denied a moral and healthy environment, and some would have become wards of the state!

However, some grandparents can also be an unhealthy influence, like when they interfere and meddle with parent-child relationship, which happens when instead of being grandparents; they compete with their children to be virtual parents, while some try to parent a child through proxy. They need to take care about being a part of the family, yet maintaining a respectable distance.

As per research, the grandparent-grandchild relationship can have lasting positive effects, and it's worth putting in efforts to help your kids know your parents. Research shows that language skills develop better for preschool kids who are in the care of grandparents; though in some cases they don't go quite far in the academic learning areas when cared for by grandparents. But at the end of the day, wouldn't you prefer having your kids cuddled and chatted with, and let their language skills develop, rather than developing only the paper-and-pen skills that they would have to deal with for the rest of their lives?

According to research, the better the relationship is between parents and grandparents, the greater the contact and closeness between grandparent and grandchildren. However, it's up to us parents to convey the message that the role of grandparents in the family is integral to our children's lives. Even if you don't have a great relationship with your parents, your kids may still get along well with them.

If there aren't any potentially harmful situations, it's best to be positive about your parents to your children. You should be willing to discuss things that are and aren't working to create positive relationships, as the strength of the grandparent-grandchild relationship mainly depends upon the parents.

At times grandparents hesitate to participate in their children's families because they are unsure about the expectations we may have about them, or the kids and others may have about them. We need to make an extra effort to invite grandparents into the family. Whether grandparents live close by or far away, they have a lot to offer us. Most of the times grandparents have resources that parents do not, and they are able to reach our children in ways we might not.

Mentioned below are some of the roles of grandparents in the family that they play in the lives of their grandchildren. As an ancestor and historian.

One of the important roles of grandparents in the family is that of a historian, which helps grandchildren find their identity in a larger context. They are the link to their grandchildren's ancestors, the head of the family, and a connection to the family's common history. Grandparents share the stories of the past, which maybe about relatives, important events, family traditions etc. as these stories are passed on.

The grandchildren gain a positive image of aging and their place within the family solidifies grandchildren feel now that they belong to a family unit, a sense of 'we' develops, and that gives them a sense of safety and security.

As a hero: - Grandparents, who have fought in or lived through wars or other extreme hardships, may be the real-time heroes to their grandchildren, who feel that as their grandparents have endured for many years, they would step in to help or rescue their grandchildren in a time of need. A grandparent being a hero gives the grandchildren someone to turn and look up to, and someone to inspire them.

As a mentor: - Grandparents in the family are like cheerleaders always inspiring grandchildren, in developing their imaginations and dreams, nurturing their spirit, and encouraging their intellectual growth while giving them a sense of self-worth. They are mentors and "heroes that many children seek to pattern their lives after." Grandparents are especially effective as teachers because of their unconditional love, which makes the grandchildren feel safe, comfortable, and loved for who they are, now how they perform.

As a role model: - The actions of grandparents in the family can teach their grandchildren how they should behave in society, care for themselves, and how they should aspire to be as future parents and grandparents themselves.

The influence and role of grandparents in the family helps create a positive perception of older people in general. The relationship of grandparents with their grandchildren can also serve as a model for your grandchildren's relationship, with their own parents and children.

As a nurturer: - The support of grandparents provides an emotional and social safety net for the entire family, making the grandchildren feel safe and secure. This role of grandparents in the family is more important nowadays with the increasing divorce rates, teenage pregnancy, parents' career demands, and other social problems. Grandparents in the family need to assure their children and grandchildren that they are always there if needed, and keep in close touch with them through frequent phone calls, letters or postcards, if frequent visits are not possible.

As a friend; - Grandparents are playmates to their grandchildren, and it's nice for children to have fresh spectators to perform for once in a while! As they are not responsible for the day-to-day care and discipline of their grandchildren, they are able to assume the role of a secret confidant, and pal.

Grandparents offer kids a broader range of knowledge, experience and emotions than they did as parents. They provide a safe place for children to turn in times of stress when they feel they cannot approach their parents. They also occupy a special place in the family as a trusted adult, yet separate and different from the child's parent.

As grandparents treat their grandchildren in a more relaxed and lenient manner than they ever treated their own kids, children often feel more comfortable discussing sensitive issues with grandparents than with their own parents. However, grandparents need to be careful of pitfalls such as planning activities that are against the parents' wishes, spoiling, and partiality towards one grandchild over another. Sometimes your parents may surprise you with a hidden sense of humor or fun that seems to have been born along with your first child!

As a spiritual guide: - Role of grandparents in the family as a spiritual guide can help teach their grandchildren to value and achieve spiritual rewards like compassion, joy, peace, love, tolerance, reverence, faith, gentleness, and kindness.

As grandparents are not responsible for the daily wellbeing of their grandchildren, they can focus on their moral, spiritual growth and development, by setting an example for their grandchildren to emulate.

As a teacher: - Grandparents in the family have a great opportunity to impart their knowledge, special skills, and experience to their grandchildren as their teacher. However, if the subject matter meets with opposition

from the grandchildren's parents- as in the case of values, lifestyle, religion and tradition, grandparents need to talk it over with them, in a calm and open manner, and try to come to a compromise.

Grandparents can strengthen families in ways that parents alone sometimes cannot. They can also support lessons that the parents are teaching children.

As a care-taker: - While some grandparents in the family are full-time care providers for grandchildren, but in most families grandparents fill in the gaps. You need someone at home who can step in when the regular child-care plan breaks down, as in the case of a sick child to be left with a stranger. Most parents can only afford part-time daycare, so grandparents take the child the rest of the day till the parents comes home. They are always ready to help out in case of need.

As a student: - While grandparents have lots to teach their grandchildren, they have many valuable lessons to learn about, and from them also. Grandparents can become students by joining grand parenting groups, taking classes, reading grand parenting books and magazines, besides listening to what grandchildren have to teach them.

Grandchildren can teach grandparents about keeping up with new inventions and ideas to help them grow and change, which is the key to remaining youthful and vibrant. Grandchildren also get a sense of self-worth and empowerment by teaching grandparents new things and sharing a bit of their life and culture with them. Something that grandparents in the family should think about is to have the courage to be honest with their own children. They shouldn't let themselves get pushed into a child-care arrangement that they don't really want, and should clarify things as to why they are doing this. Grandparents need to sort out any kind of resentment they may have so that they don't feel they are being taken for granted.

The role of grandparents in the family also includes having open discussions with their children. They can do this by sharing a meal or a cup of coffee with them, to share anything about their grandchildren that may need attention. Discuss their progress, fill each other in on what's going on, plan activities, and come up with new ideas together. Instead of letting the days drift by, plan one activity for each day so that the days are not monotonous.

Grandchildren bring energy, love, optimism, laughter, youthfulness, and purpose to the lives of grandparents in the family. Similarly, the role of grandparents in the family is also to provide knowledge,

maturity, stability, and unconditional love to the lives of their grandchildren.

Take some time way and think about your grandparents, which of these roles did they fulfill in your family? Were your experiences with your grandparents positive or negative? What role of grandparents in the family did your grandparents play for you? (Collected and contributed by Sri P.S. Reddy)

10 REASONS WHY THE HUMBLE PEANUT IS GREAT FOR YOU!

By
Sameer Jha

Peanuts or *moongphalli* are crunchy to taste and easier on the pocket as compared to other nuts. A member of the legume family, along with peas and beans, peanuts are available throughout the year all across India. In terms of nutrition too, these pea-sized nuts pack a punch. Here are the top 10 health benefits of peanuts.

Reduces risk of heart disease: - 70% of the urban Indian population is at risk of heart disease. This is an alarming percentage and the factors responsible are sedentary lifestyle, unhealthy eating habits and stress. Peanuts are rich in mono saturated fats and oleic acid which makes it good for your heart. Eat a handful every day, to keep heart disease at bay!

Prevents cancer: - Peanuts have high concentration of a form of phytosterol called beta-sisterol, which inhibits tumor growth thus preventing you from having a deadly disease like cancer Research has also linked the consumption of peanuts to a decreased risk of colon cancer.

Boosts memory: - Vitamin B3 and niacin present in peanuts can boost your memory. Additionally, a flavonoid called reservatol can help in improving blood flow to the brain by 30%!

Helps fight depression: - Depression is caused due to a lack of serotonin secretion in the brain. Peanuts have tryptophan which helps release serotonin helping you fight depression.

Pregnant women are often confused about what they should eat: - Peanuts could be a great option since a study has found that children whose mothers ate nuts (including peanuts) during pregnancy can decrease the risk of allergic diseases like asthma in children.

Good for growing children: - What a child eats in his/her growing years will lay the foundation for his entire life! Peanuts are a good source of protein and have amino acids present in them which promote growth.

Eliminates toxins: - Peanuts are loaded with fiber which helps, in flushing out the excess toxins from your body making it, great for your skin. Toxins are responsible for breakouts, excess oil on our skin. Additionally, peanuts have Vitamin C and Vitamin E which prevents wrinkles and signs of ageing.

Prevents gall stones: - According to a study conducted over 20 years, eating just one ounce of peanuts every week can reduce the risk of developing gallstones by 25%. The study was conducted on 80,000 women making the results all the more convincing!

Prevents hair loss: - Vitamin C present in peanuts help in the production of collagen, which keeps the tissues in our hair together. They also have l-arginine which is used in treating male pattern baldness and omega 3 fatty acids which strengthens our hair follicles and promotes hair growth.

Helps you lose weight: - Peanuts are rich in fiber which means that eating peanuts before your meal can leave you feeling fuller and make you eat lesser. They also are good sources of energy and helpful in increasing your metabolic rate. Not only this, peanuts are a rich source of vitamins, minerals and antioxidants which makes you feel energetic!

So, the next time you see a vendor selling peanuts, make sure to grab a handful. However, some people are allergic to peanuts and peanut products and if you have food allergies, it is better if you avoid them.

Tip: According to a research published in Journal of agricultural and food chemistry, boiling peanuts can improve their antioxidant concentration.

AN OLD PATIENT IS BETTER THAN A NEW DOCTOR!

By
Usha Rajavaram

A - Avil/Anacin
B - Becosule
C - Crocin
D - Digene
E - Erythrosine
F - Folic Acid tablet
G - Gelusil
H - Halls/Hydrogen Peroxide Drops
I - Ibuprofen
J - Junior Mellitus Chesty Coughs (Syrup)
K - Ketanol Tablet
L - Loridin
M – Moov ointment.
N - Nice Tablet
O - Otrivin
P – Polybion Tablet
Q - Quinine
R - Relent/ Relcer Gel
S - Silverex /Saridon
T - Thyronorm
U - Uni Enzime
V - Vicks
W - White soft Paraffin
X - X- Ray
Y - Yello Tonic(incremin)
Z - Zinda Thilismath /Zincovit

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

1. Innocent Girl;

A girl was crying bitterly.

Mom: What happened dear?

Daughter: Mom do I look like a wicked witch?

Mom: No!

Daughter: Are my eyes big as toad?

Mom: No!

Daughter: Is my nose flat?

Mom: No baby!

Daughter: Am I fat like a bulldog?

Mom: You have a fine physique, you are a Barbie doll!

Daughter: Then why people tell me that you look like your mom?

2. Wife won't like it!

One day I accidentally overturned my golf buggy.

Elizabeth, a very attractive and keen golfer, who lived in a villa on the golf course, heard the noise and called out. Are you okay, what's your name?"

"It is Jack, and I'm Okay thanks," I replied. "Jack, forget your troubles. Come to my villa, rest a while, and I'll help you get the cart up later." "That's mighty nice of you," I answered, but I don't think my wife would like it." "Oh, come on," Elizabeth insisted. She was very pretty, very sexy and persuasive... I was weak. "Well okay," I finally agreed, and added, "but my wife won't like it."

After a restorative brandy, and some creative putting lessons, I thanked my host. "I feel a lot better now, but I know my wife is going to be really upset."

"Don't be silly! Elizabeth said with a smile, she won't know anything. By the way, where is she?" "Under the cart" I said.

3. Let them be paying

Santa walked into a bar one evening, sat down and said, "Bar man, give me 1 bottle of beer, and give everybody here 2 bottles. As I am drinking, let them be drinking."

The bar man obeyed. Everybody hailed Santa. As they were all drinking, Santa said, "Bar man, give me 1 bowl of chicken soup, and give everybody here 2 bowls of chicken soup each, as I am eating, let them be eating."

The bar man obeyed. Everybody praised Santa.

Minutes later, Santa said, "Bar man, bring me my bill, and bring everybody their bill, as I am paying, let them be paying."

I have chosen to be happy because it is good for my health.

ARE WE BECOMING A NATION OF NOISE-MAKERS?

"Noise should be seen but not heard," states one advertisement for window glass. However, we Indians love noise the more the better! That's the reason why we do not pay much attention given to noise reduction in homes.

An incident of outside noise causing problem to a residential area came up a few years ago. The newly opened high-rise building had installed an air-conditioner. The water used was re-circulated by cooling through a motor/pump. This set off a continuous humming sound that was a source of annoyance to the neighborhood. A complaint given to the owner of the building was ignored stating that the noise was within limits.

Thoroughly disappointed with such a negative attitude, some of the residents approached the Corporation authorities. Thanks to the investigation work done by the inspector concerned, the owner agreed to install a barrier to contain the sound. Then the noise level reduced considerably much to the relief of the residents, who had suffered for so long.

Traffic noise is one of the sources of noise that affects a householder. He/she has little control over such man-made noise, except taking certain steps to minimize the effect of noise inside. Plants outside, where possible, could cut some of the noise. Blinds and drapes on windows could further act as barriers. It is rare to see a construction, which has proactively taken steps to install noise-reducing steps such as fixing foam boards and other sound absorbing materials inside or outside the walls. That applies to windows, which could have a frame outside that could absorb or deflect sound.

Noise generated inside a house is rarely recognized by someone who has been living along. He/she fails to appreciate the fact that the noise level is high and could have long-term deleterious effects such as loss of hearing or other effects on the human body due to prolonged exposure to noise. There are a few sources of noise inside a house TV, music system, air-conditioner, washing machine, refrigerator, microwave and so on.

Some of the modern domestic appliances have less noise level. For example, a refrigerator, as it is on continuous operation, makes a buzzing noise when the compressor is activated periodically. The modern refrigerator, especially the compressor, is improved as far as energy and noise level are concerned as compared to the older versions. It would be desirable if the householder pays attention to noise emanating from domestic appliances and seeks advice before buying a particular model. While some noise is unavoidable, one has to look for constant buzz or heavy noise that could lead to long-term effects without one's knowledge.

Loss of hearing is one health hazard which one recognizes when it's too late. Personal stereos and cellphones should be used with caution,

preferably at reduced sound levels or with hand-held devices and that too sparingly. Another problem is noisy neighbors! We can only appeal to them to tone their TV/music system and talk/ laugh less loudly!

Indoor drapes, shades, indoor plants and lower noise domestic equipment are the means to achieve lower noise levels for a comfortable living. A floor could have sound absorbing materials coated to minimize noise when someone walks on it. Sound absorbing material could be fixed inside or outside at strategic locations which could minimize the external noise effect.That applies to noise deflectors, such as barriers and plants that could deflect noise if it is from any specific location.

Noise could lead to health hazards, besides spoiling one's mood when someone seeks quiet and peace at his/own home.The government has fixed a limit of 55 db maximum for residential areas during daytime and 45 db maximum during nighttime, which unfortunately is followed more in the breach than in practice. A citizen has a right to complain about noise that disturbs him. Police could lend a helping hand to shut down loudspeakers beyond 10 p.m. or warn a boisterous party going on next door.

For the information of the readers

I. Loudspeakers 1.The noise level at the boundary of the public place, where loudspeaker or public address system or any other noise source is being used shall not exceed 10 dB(A) above the ambient noise standards for the area or 75 dB(A) whichever is lower.

2. No one shall beat a drum or tom-tom or blow a trumpet or beat or sound any instrument or use any sound amplifier at night (between 10. 00 p.m. and 6.a.m.) except in public mergencies.

3. The peripheral noise level of privately owned sound system shall not exceed by more than 5 dB(A) than the ambient air quality standard specified for the area in which it is used, at the boundary of the private place.

4. Vehicular Noise No horn should be allowed to be used at night (between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.) in residential area except in exceptional circumstances.

5. Awareness 1. There is a need for creating general awareness towards the hazardous effects of noise pollution. Suitable chapters may be added in the text-books which teach civic sense to the children and youth at the initial/early level of education. Special talks and lectures be organized in the schools to highlight the menace of noise pollution and the role of the children and younger generation in preventing it. Police and civil administration should be trained to understand the various methods to curb the problem and also the laws on the subject.

6. The State must play an active role in this process. Resident Welfare Associations, service Clubs and Societies engaged in preventing noise pollution as a part of their projects need to be encouraged and actively involved by the local administration.

7. Special public awareness campaigns in anticipation of festivals, events and ceremonial occasions where at firecrackers are likely to be used, need to be carried out.

NEWS AND NOTES

PM dedicates "Indira Paryavaran Bhawan" to nation: - Prime Minister Dr. Man Mohan Singh on Tuesday dedicated the "Indira Paryavaran Bhawan" to the nation.

The centrally air conditioned office building, which has a provision to accommodate about 600 officials of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, is located on Jorbagh Road and in proximity to other central government ministries and departments. Indira Paryavaran Bhawan is India's first on site net Zero Building built by adoption of solar passive design and energy efficient building material. This building is expected to be a trend setter in the country and shall inspire people towards adoption of green technology. The building has been designed as the highest green rated building, i.e., GRIHA 5-Star and LEED India Platinum.

The cost of the project is about Rs. 209 crore, including the cost of land, solar photo voltaic power generation and its evacuation system, three level mechanized basement parking system, air-conditioning system supported by geo-thermal cooling, IT services, audio and video system in auditoriums and committee rooms, furniture, provision for horticulture and other services.

The building has an earthquake resistant structure with a total plinth area of 31,488 Sq.mt. The building covers only 30 percent of the plot area. More than 50 percent area, outside the building, is a soft area with plantation and grassing. Even circulation roads and pathways are a soft area to enable ground water recharge. Robotic parking system in the basement can accommodate 330 cars. Provisions have been made for a cafeteria roof garden, as well as a gymnasium and yoga room for recreation and wellness of the employees. The office has been furnished with modular furniture and work stations.

Thin client networking system has been provided instead of conventional desktop computers to minimize energy consumption. A Solar power generation system has been provided at terrace level, by creating 6000sqm support area, for meeting with the complete power demand of the building. Power generation has already started w.e.f. 19.11.2013 which is being fed to the NDMC grid.

The Indira Paryavaran Bhavan building has already received the following awards.

Feb 2013: The project received an award from Adarsh/GRIHA of MNRE for exemplary demonstration of Integration of Renewable Energy Technologies

Jan. 2014: The project was accorded 5-Star Green Building Certification by GRIHA under MNRE.

Mukesh Ambani richest Indian as Bill Gates returns to top: - Washington, March 3 (IANS) Mukesh Ambani again emerged as the richest among ten Indians in the Forbes annual list of a record 1,645 billionaires with an aggregate net worth of $6.41 trillion, up from $5.4 trillion last year.

Ambani, with a net worth of $18.6 billion was

ranked 40th as Microsoft founder Bill Gates was back on top as the world's richest person on Forbes' 28th annual ranking of the world's billionaires after a four-year hiatus. His younger brother Anil Ambani was valued with a net worth of $5 billion.

Gates has topped the list for 15 of the last 20 years. With a net worth of $76 billion, up from $67 billion in 2013, the technology guru moved up on the list by one slot this year.

The Reliance industries chairman was followed among the Indians by steel tycoon Lakshmi Mittal (No. 52) with $16.7 billion in the second place and Wipro's Azim Premji (No. 61) with $15.3 billion in the third place.

Other Indians on the list were: Dilip Shanghvi (No.82) $12.8 billion, Shiv Nadar (102) $11.1 billion, Kumar Birla (191) $7 billion, Sunil Mittal & family (244), $5.7 billion, Anil Ambani $5 billion, Micky Jagtiani (281) $5 billion and Savitri Jindal & family (295) $4.9 billion.

Gates beat out telecom mogul Carlos Slim Helu (2), who had maintained the number one spot for the past four consecutive years but lost $1 billion of his net worth, now valued at $72 billion, according to a Forbes media release.

Spanish clothing retailer Amancio Ortega (best known for the Zara fashion chain) maintained his number 3 spot from 2013, but increased his net worth $7 billion for a total of $64 billion, ahead of Warren Buffett (No.4) with a net worth of $58.2 billion.

While Google co-founder Sergey Brin (19) made it into the top 20, the biggest net worth gainer was Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg (21), who more than doubled his fortune from $13.3 billion in 2013 to $28.5 billion.

The company's CEO, Sheryl Sandberg (1,540), made the list for the first time.

Thanks to the tech boom and strong equity markets, the US led with the greatest number of billionaires, with 492, followed by China with 152 and Russia with 111, Forbes said.

Regionally, Europe boasted the most billionaires outside of the US, with 468 billionaires, followed by Asia-Pacific with 444.

Europeans had darker skin, hair, and eye pigmentation 5,000 years ago: - New analysis from ancient DNA of archaeological skeletons shows that Europeans had darker skin, hair, and eye pigmentation 5,000 years ago. Anthropologists at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (JGU) and geneticists at University College London (UCL), working in collaboration with archaeologists from Berlin and Kiev, have analyzed ancient DNA from skeletons and found that selection has had a significant effect on the human genome even in the past 5,000 years, resulting in sustained changes to the appearance of people.

For a number of years population geneticists have been able to detect echoes of natural selection in the genomes of living humans, but those techniques are typically not very accurate about when that natural selection took place. While investigating numerous genetic markers in archaeological and living individuals, Sandra Wilde of the Palaeogenetics Group at the JGU Institute of Anthropology noticed striking differences in genes associated with hair, skin, and eye pigmentation.

"Prehistoric Europeans in the region we studied would have been consistently darker than their descendants today," first author Wilde, said. "This is particularly interesting as the darker phenotype seems to have been preferred by evolution over hundreds of thousands of years. All our early ancestors were more darkly pigmented," she said. However, things must have changed in the last 50,000 years as humans began to migrate to northern latitudes.

"In Europe we find a particularly wide range of genetic variation in terms of pigmentation," co-author Dr. Karola Kirsanow, who is also a member of the Palaeo genetics Group at Mainz University, said.

"However, we did not expect to find that natural selection had been favoring lighter pigmentation over the past few thousand years," Kirsanow said.

The signals of selection that the Mainz palaeo geneticists and their colleagues at University College London have identified are comparable to those for malaria resistance and lactase persistence, meaning that they are among the most pronounced that have been discovered to date in the human genome. The authors see several possible explanations. "Perhaps the most obvious is that this is the result of adaptation to the reduced level of sunlight in northern latitudes," Professor Mark Thomas of UCL, corresponding author of the study, said.

"Most people of the world make most of their vitamin D in their skin as a result UV exposure. But at northern latitudes and with dark skin, this would have been less efficient. If people weren't getting much vitamin D in their diet, then having lighter skin may have been the best option," he added.

The results have been published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

10 most expensive cities in the world: - Thanks to its weakening yen Tokyo has lost its crown as the world's most expensive metropolis.

Now, Singapore topped the list due to various factors such as having the world's highest concentrations of millionaires relative to its 5.4 million population; a per capita income of more than $51,000 in 2012, among others. Also, a new Toyota Corolla Altis costs $110,000 in Singapore compared to around $35,000 in neighboring Malaysia.

In ascending order, here are the ten most costly cities, according to 2014 Worldwide Cost of Living survey by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) 10. Copenhagen, 9. Melbourne, 8. Geneva, 7.Caracas, 6. Tokyo, 5.Sydney, 4.Zurich, 3. Paris, 2.Oslo, 1.Singapore

Guinness World Record: Fastest Typing with Nose: - AN Indian man has set a new speed typing world record - using his nose. Khursheed Hussain correctly typed a sentence using his conk in an astonishing 47.44 seconds. The 103-character sentence read: "Guinness World Records has challenged me to type this sentence using my nose in the fastest time." The 23-year-old says he spent six hours a day practicing in the run up to the attempt, held in Hyderabad, India, last week. His latest attempt - 6.56 seconds faster than his first, carried out in

2013 - smashed the previous official world record of a measly 1 minute, 33 seconds, set in 2008 in Dubai by another Indian man.

Long Life Expectancy: - Planning to travel the world when you retire? If you live in Monaco, you'll likely have time to see a few extra places. That's because people in Monaco currently have an average life expectancy of 90 years, the highest of any country. Followed by the tiny microstate of San Marino, with 83 years. The U.S. ranks 51st worldwide, according to figures from the CIA, with an average life expectancy of 79 years. Why does the U.S. lag behind? A 2012 study by the federal government's National Institute on Aging found that diet and nutrition play an important role in life expectancy. Many Asian countries have diets consisting mostly of fish and vegetables, which helps avoid heart disease. That's one reason why life expectancy in Japan is 84 years and in Hong Kong it's 82 years – both above America. Of course, economic conditions and access to medicine also play a big role. That's why the tiny, wealthy country of Monaco has its high life expectancy, and why the U.S. is well ahead of many poor and developing countries, such as Chad, an African nation with the lowest life expectancy in the world at — 49 years. And regardless of geography, women tend to live 5-10 years longer than men in industrialized countries. Some scientists think this is due to the fact that women naturally tend to have lower levels of iron in their blood, as excessive iron levels can lead to cell damage as we age. A 2008 article in Time magazine also speculated that women's ability to manage stress better than men contributed to their longevity. Whatever the reason, some women can plan on having a little extra time on their hands when they retire. Monaco anyone?

The world's most livable cities: - Vienna, Austria's glorious capital, is recognized as a city best for quality of living in the world, according to a recent global survey from consulting firm Mercer. While Baghdad is ranked the worst city for its quality of living, European cities like Zurich, Munich, Frankfurt and Copenhagen made the top 10. Important business decisions are determined based on Mercer's annual survey. It helps multinational companies choose places to open offices and settle on salaries for international staff. The survey compares 221 cities based on 39 criteria, such as safety, education, hygiene, health care, culture, environment, recreation, political-economic stability and public transportation.

The music capital of the world, Vienna topped the survey, for the fifth consecutive year. Among other things, this city is popular for its spirited culture, lively atmosphere, public transport, operas, art and architecture. Last year, Vienna attracted nearly six million tourists.

Apart from European cities, Austria, New Zealand and Canada each have a city in the top 10. Singapore (25 globally) tops the Asia-Pacific cities chart. Of the top five in this region, Japan has four cities — Tokyo, Kobe, Yokohoma and Osaka.

The survey states that many second-tier Asian cities are starting to emerge as important places of business for multinational companies. Examples include, Pune, India (139 globally) has

developed into an education hub and home to IT, other high-tech industries, and automobile manufacturing.

Vancouver (5th globally) is the highest-ranking city in North America where as Dubai (73 globally) ranks first across Middle East and Africa. Baghdad is ranked the worst livable city. Bangui, Central African Republic; N'Djamena, Chad; Sana'a, Yemen; and Brazzaville, Congo are other cities which are categorized among cities with worst quality of living.

Top 9 health benefits of *Amla* or Indian gooseberry: - Ever wonder why almost all Ayurvedic preparations contain *amla?* Or why it is suggested that everyone should have one piece of *amla* on a daily basis? Well studies have shown that *amla* or the Indian gooseberry is packed with nutrients and can actually help you live a longer healthier life. One of the most important fruits in Ayurveda, the fruit grows well in a warm climate. It is known to be a rich source of Vitamin C. So much so, that one small *amla* has as much Vitamin C as 2 medium oranges. Packed with compounds like polyphenols, minerals like Iron and zinc and vitamins like Carotenes and Vitamin B complex, *amla* can definitely keep a number of diseases at bay.

1. Rich in Vitamin C and polyphenols, *amla* is a great source of antioxidants. Research has shown that it has a high content of tannins, which when combined with polyphenols gives the fruit a unique free radical scavenging property. This unique asset helps reduce the damage caused by free radicals on the body.

2. *Amla* is known to reduce cholesterol, and keep heart disease under check. Rich in fiber and iron, it is very effective in controlling the oxidation of LDL (Low density lipoprotein). Oxidation of LDL releases free radicals which are known to cause coronary artery disease, therefore stopping this oxidation is essential for preventing heart disease. *Amla* also helps to maintain cholesterol levels by inhibiting the oxidative properties of a chemical called thiobarbituric acid (TBA) that induces LDL oxidation. Another benefit of this wonder fruit is that it prevents arthrosclerosis (accumulation of plaque in the arteries) thereby protecting you from heart disease.

3. Research studies show that the polyphenol-rich fruit actually has properties that can protect the body from the oxidative properties of high blood sugar. The same compound is also effective in preventing the insulin resistance caused due to a high fructose diet. What this means is that the fruit can actually assist in the proper absorption of insulin leading to a drop in blood sugar in diabetics. Read more about natural ways to control diabetes.

4. The extract of *amla* is rich in Vitamin A. This vitamin is essential in collagen production, a compound that keeps the skin looking young and elastic. *Amla* when consumed on an empty stomach has properties that slow down the degradation of collagen and helps the body produce more. Here are more articles on healthy ageing.

5. In a recent study, it was found that the iron content in *amla* has sperm enhancing properties. *Ayurvedic* practitioners suggest, drinking *amla* juice once a day helps increase the virility as well as sexual vigor. *Amla* has also

proven to increase the motility of sperm and increase sperm production in men suffering from Oligospermia (a condition where a man has a low sperm count). Here are some exercises that can help you to improve your sex life. Incorporate these lifestyle changes for a better sex life.

6. Packed with antioxidant properties, *amla* has the potential to keep cancer at bay. Research into this particular property of the fruit, has found that it had the potential to prevent cancer by helping the body fight the harmful effects of chemicals that are carcinogenic. It also helps to inhibit the further growth of cancer affected cells. Apart from this, *Amla* extract can reduce the harmful effects of radiation and chemotherapy without reducing their beneficial effects as an anti-cancer treatment. Here are food habits that can prevent cancer.

7. The fiber, polyphenol and water content of *amla* combined with its anti-inflammatory properties make it a great antidote for an upset stomach. Having one teaspoon of *amla* juice on an empty stomach can take care of acidity and resolve a stomach upset. Try these home remedies for acidity.

8. *Amla* juice mixed with some ginger provides instant relief from a sore throat and cough.

9. Studies have proved that *amla* has properties that protect the liver from oxidative damage caused by chemicals or alcohol. So after a long night of partying, have a piece of *amla* first thing in the morning, to get rid of that hangover and keep your liver safe.

Lion Tamer Teenager in South Africa: - While most teenagers are playing computer games, Shandor Larenty likes to indulge in a different pastime - taming lions. The 18-year-old has built up an unbreakable rapport with 250kg Zavu - stroking, hugging and playing with him at home in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The pair is now so comfortable with each other Shandor is able to give Zavu a foot rubs - just like his wildlife expert father Alex, who was famously pictured doing the same with another lion named Jamu. Brit Alex, who relocated to South Africa in 1999 from Chipping Norton, Oxford shire, has been passing on his unique skills to Shandor so he can carry on the family tradition (Please see last cover page for photo)

Why you should include lemon in your diet : You may have heard your grandmother tell you to start your day with a glass of lemon and lukewarm water. This is because lemons contain alkaline-forming nutrients which are excellent for your body and helps alleviate several illnesses. The lemon water removes toxins and restores your body's pH balance.

Lemons are packed with anti-bacterial properties and are therefore excellent for indigestion and constipation. They destroy the bad bacteria and let the good bacteria flourish in turn giving you relief from indigestion or constipation. Lemon juice is good for you. If you want to lose weight, make sure lemon is a part of your daily diet. You can stop yourself from overeating by drinking a cup of tea with half a lemon squeezed into it. This can stop you from overeating. The soluble fiber called pectin found in lemon makes you feel full quickly. Make a drink with the juice of one lemon, two

teaspoons honey and one glass of warm water. Drink it before breakfast. Again the feeling of fullness will stop you from eating too much.

Did you know that you can alleviate your tooth ache with fresh lemon juice? Apply freshly squeezed lemon juice on the aching tooth and you'll soon feel much better. Also, lemon juice can keep gum disease at bay and stop bleeding gums.

Lemons are packed with vitamin C and are excellent for your skin. Slice half a lemon and use it like a scrub on your face. It removes dirt, exfoliates, rejuvenates your skin and keeps your skin looking young and glowing. The flavonoids or the vitamin P in lemons strengthen your blood vessels, pectin lower your cholesterol levels in the blood and potassium helps prevents high blood pressure. In other words, if you want a healthy heart, lemons are a must in your daily diet.

Tiger fighter: - Meet the only man in the world who can withstand a full-scale assault by a 400lb tiger. Fearless Randy Miller, 45, has trained big cat Eden to leap 15 feet and pile-drive him into the ground in an inch-perfect fake tiger attack. It then looks like Randy's days are numbered as the huge predator then mauls him on the floor. But it's all part of the duo's perfect act - as Randy walks away unharmed.

Dad-of-two Randy rears his star animals from birth and uses his lifelong bond with them to achieve wild things on the big screen. He bottle fed Eden when she was a cub, and eventually taught her to jump on him for food rewards.

Randy's predator stunts are so astonishing they landed him a top stunt award for his work on Russell Crowe blockbuster Gladiator after - they superimposed Crowe's face onto Randy for a famous scene when main character Maximus was attacked by one of Miller's tigers, Tara, in a Colosseum battle. At his special animal training facility in Big Bear, California, Randy has trained amazing creatures for roles in Transformers 2, The Last Samurai and many other movies. (Please see last cover page for photo)

Om Ashram: - The central building of this large complex, is constructed in the shape of the ancient Sanskrit symbol OM. The sound of OM consists of three letters: A, U and M. It represents the cosmic vibration, the original eternal sound. Situated in an area of 250 acres, this central monument will be the largest man-made symbol of OM in the world. The 108 compartments of residential units that are to form this impressive OM shape, is supposed to attract tremendous cosmic energy. These units are symbolic of the 108 beads of the *Japa Mala*. A lake will represent the crescent Moon of the OM symbol. Its central point, known as *bindu*, will be constructed as a tower, 108 feet in height, with 12 temples. At 90 feet, there will be a large overhead water tank and above this, a *Surya* temple dedicated to the Lord of the Sun. OM Ashram is part of Om Vishwa Deep Gurukul Swami Maheshwarananda Ashram Education & Research Centre, Jadan, Distr. Pali, Rajasthan, India. Readers may open the website with this I.D. http://www.omashram.com/projects/om-ashram (Please see last cover page for photo)

Tusker saves infant trapped under debris: - KOLKATA: An elephant displayed an incredible

act of kindness when it saved an infant trapped under the debris of a house wall, which the tusker itself had smashed in a fit of rage.

The heart-warming incident took place in Olgara, a village in West Bengal's Purulia district, on Monday, when the elephant entered the village and smashed the wall of a house in the evening. The same jumbo is said to have killed at least three people in the last year, reports the Times of India.

After knocking down the house, when the tusker was about to return to the forest, it heard the cry of a human baby from the debris. The elephant turned back, removed the debris using its trunk from the body of the 10-month-old baby ensuring it was safe and then walked away.

The infant's family, which witnessed this 'kind act' of the tusker, shared the same with a Times of India correspondent. They were having dinner at around 8 pm when they heard a cracking sound from the bedroom. When they ran over, they found the tusker standing near the broken wall. They then saw it remove the debris that had fallen over the baby.

Lalita Mahato, the awestruck mother of the infant, said that the villagers worshipped Lord Ganesha and it was by the grace of god the child was saved.

The infant, which had received minor injuries, was taken to Deben Mahato Sadar Hospital. The condition of the baby is stable.

According to the local forest officials, the same elephant had killed at least three people and damaged more than 17 houses earlier. Jhalda ranger Samir Bose said it was difficult to monitor a lone elephant.

Man's increased use of the forest land for cultivation has disturbed the elephant corridor and has resulted in elephants entering and raiding villages, he added.

Student creates shoe that charges phone while walking: - A student of class 12 in hill town of Nainital, Rajesh Adhikari, has created a shoe that can now even charge a mobile phone. This means that no matter where you are, wearing these shoes gives one a reason to get up and walk. Adhikari said that the idea of making such a waterproof charger struck when it snowed heavily in Nainital and many people, including him, had to suffer due to power shutdown in the city.

8 Fat-Burning Drinks to Boost Your Weight Loss: - We have often told you about foods that can help you to achieve your weight loss goals and can bless you with a healthier and fitter body. Well surely, you have added those to your grocery list and your diet plans. But, all this can go for a toss if you are planning to drink some cola or packaged juice to gulp your salad and fruits down. Yes, what you drink is as important as what you eat, especially when it comes to boosting your metabolism and aiding weight loss. So, here are some excellent drinks that will provide a positive boost to your diet.

Fat free milk: - Adding moderate amounts of skimmed milk at regular intervals in your daily diet can help you to accelerate your weight loss process. Being rich in calcium, it can trigger faster dissolution on fat cells in the body. So, this will help you to lose a few inches as well. It is also rich in other essential nutrients, which boost your metabolism.

Water: -This is one drink which nutritionists, dieticians, fitness instructors, and even your grand mom would advise you for weight loss. Water turns your food into fuel, helps to work away your fat deposits, keeps you hydrated and boosts your metabolism. Here is a something more to convince you: University of Utah has found that those who drink 8 or more glasses of water daily burn more calories than those who drink less than four glasses of it.

Coconut water: - We know it is your favourite drink during the hot summer months, now here is an added advantage that will make you add this to your daily diet. Coconut water naturally helps in speeding up your metabolic rate and provides you with more energy. It also keeps you hydrated and makes you feel satiated for a longer time. This in turn, reduces your hunger pangs and sugar cravings. Coconut water also flushes toxins out of your system, and is also known to be packed with anti-ageing properties.

Vegetable juice: - Not as tasteless as it sounds, if you know how to make it properly, and realise its various health benefits. Vegetable juice is a power packed drink for those aiming at weight loss. It is filled with some essential nutrients, like vitamins and minerals. Mix a few of your favourite vegetables together to prepare a healthy juice. Say, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, spinach, tomato and lettuce. Add some honey and salt to it for the taste. Consume the juice before meals to decelerate the calorie intake from the meal.

Green tea: - Green tea is rich in antioxidants that help to purify your blood. It is a tested diet and agility drink and can be consumed without any milk. The soothing taste of green tea has other additional properties like- protection against cancer, keeping the skin supple, and other herbal benefits. Studies have also shown that you can burn about 35-43 per cent more fat if you drink 3-5 cups of green tea every day.

Honey and Lime drink: -Fitness freaks swear by it, and nutritionists are ready to back them as well on this one. Honey speeds up the metabolism of the body and lime acts as a catalyst in the process. It helps in burning fat deposits in the body. To top it all, it is easy to prepare: take a glass of lukewarm water, add a tablespoon of honey and squeeze a fresh lemon into it, stir it well and you have the drink ready. Hot water is essential in this, as it helps to get the best antioxidants out of these two ingredients in your drink. Have it on an empty stomach in the morning or after your meals.

Apple cider vinegar drinks:- This is another ingredient to boost to your metabolism and weight loss process. It stabilises blood sugar levels, improves digestion, and helps in curbing hunger pangs, so what is there not to like? Just the taste, we guess. So, add some lemon or honey in it. Put these in a glass of water to prepare a healthy drink. Take our word of advice, when it comes to weight loss don't rely on one thing. Have a healthy lifestyle with a fitness regime in place to make sure that you get in shape and stay fit!

Black coffee: - Black coffee boosts metabolism, and helps to burn more energy from food. It is also a very effective agent in disciplining body fat. Prepare it without sugar and find out the differences yourself. Remember, adding cream, sugar, milk powder or any flavouring will strip it away of its fat burning goodness.

Birth Day Greetings

We wish the following born on the dates mentioned

" A very Happy Birth Day"

S.No.	Name of Members	
	Sarva Sri	
1.	Munawar Hussain	09-04-2024
2.	Iqbal Singh	09-04-1953
3.	A. Ramakrishna	10-04-1923
4.	V. Subbaragaviah	10-04-1935
5.	S. Krishnaiah	15-04-1952
6.	S. Veerabhadram	17-04-1950
7.	SV Kumar	21-04-1953
8.	K N Benerji	26-04-1954
9.	N. Manohar Rao	01-05-1942
10.	D. Basava Sankara Rao	01-05-1954
11.	K. Prabhu Prasad	02-05-1946
12.	G. Prabhakar Reddy	02-05-1952
13.	P. KanakaRatnam	05-05-1949
14.	G. Satyanarayana	05-05-1950

S.No.	Name of Serving Officers	
	Sarva Sri	
1.	Dr. Shanthi Priya Pandey	08-04-1972
2.	G. Kista Goud	08-04-1974
3.	R.M. Dobriyal	10-04-1965
4.	JVKT PrabakarRao	15-04-1953
5.	P. Ramakrishna	15-04-1956
6.	Y. Rajendra	11-04-1955
7.	L. Bheemaiah	17-04-1963
8.	BNN Murthy	19-04-1979
9.	K. Rajasekhara Rao	20-04-1968
10	M Siva Prasad	20-04-1981
11.	A. Partha Sarathy	22-04-1956
12.	B. Vijay Kumar	24-04-1968
13.	C. Sreedhar Rao	24-04-1965
14.	MJ Akbar	26-04-1962
15.	RU Kashappa	01-05-1958
16.	P. Venkateshwarlu	01-05-1962
17.	B. Nagaraju	01-05-1963
18	R. Hanumantrha Rao	01-05-1961
19.	P. Sagar	03-05-1964
20.	Kallol Biswas	04-05-1964
21	P. Mallikarjun Rao	04-05-1958
22.	M. Joji	04-05-1967
23.	T. Srinivasa Rao	04-05-1969

HAVE YOU ANY IDEA OF THE IMPACT OF YOUR ACTIONS?

By
Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai

Millions of years ago, the planet Earth must have been a wonderful place with a plethora of flora and fauna. Year after year, such priceless treasure is being destroyed, mostly due to man-made activities. It is estimated that 27,000 species are lost every year because of loss of natural habitat. To protect the remaining species is of everyone's concern, as man cannot create the lost genes. His only hope is to, conserve the gene-banks by taking care and not to tinker with biodiversity-regions of which our country have only a few. At least we should hear the cry of a tree which had fallen on deaf-ears in the past, and which happens to be as follows:

"Man, what have I done to you and how have I offended you?

"If only I could speak your language, I would communicate with you. Look, I am a tree. I came to this Earth long before you set foot on it. I struggled to exist and come up amidst harsh and severe conditions when there was scarcely any soil. To begin with, I was just a minute organism and came into being in the vast ocean some two billion years ago. It took another billion years for me to evolve as a plant to appear on land, and my progeny of the living-plants thus came up, and my tribe spread to 400,000 species! However, many of them vanished, in conditions that were not favorable to them.

"Through these long aeons, I plodded on to land from the marshy swamps and survived through travails and tribulations, while making it possible for you to arrive and survive on this earth and be my companion. Many perished in quakes and deluges and millions of them are lying deeply embedded in the bowels of the earth or in the beds of deep oceans not that they are lost or of no use to you, but as you dig up they come to you as coal, tar, oil or gas for your own use as energy.

"To make the earth pleasant and habitable for you and to help you lead a civilized existence, I tempered the elements, purified the air for you and other living beings breathe, and cushioned the downpours and storms to prevent soil erosion. Not only that: I gave soothing balm to your eyes with my pleasing green color, without which you would have certainly gone blind. I played no little role in preserving and maintaining the delicate balance of Nature, of which you are also a part.

"I wish we could make a brief trip together to the Moon and to some other Planets in the Galaxy —— to help open your eyes to a stark reality. After seeing the desolate and barren face of the said bodies, you would realize the value and importance of my life-giving green mantle on our Planet.

"I have never been avaricious like you, nor do I compete with you for food even. I produce food from the soil, air and sunshine, which you cannot do, though you are vainglorious of your science & technology, only to be robbed of it! Truly speaking, you cannot survive for long, nay even for a moment, without my help, direct or indirect.

"I serve you in many ways: from cradle to coffin I follow you like a faithful retainer, ever sustaining, ever sharing and ever supporting, with so many articles of daily use in your life—— all being my blessings and benison to you.

"One of the enlightened of your tribe Henry Van Dyke had been gracious enough to salute me with the following paean and tribute:

'Many a tree is found in the wood
And every tree for its use is good.
In the wealth of the wood since the world began,
The trees have offered their gifts to man.
I open the window and make salute,
God bless thy branches, and feed thy root.
Thou hast lived before, live after me,
Thou ancient, friendly, faithful tree'

"I am touched by this grateful appreciation of me. How I wish many more like him opened their eyes and saw me not only as your friend and well-wisher, but as the one who sustains and nurtures you. It pains me that most of you have not only being heedless of my benevolent presence but have even gravely wronged me by carrying on relentless onslaught—— it is a cruel irony that while you arguably profess to co-exist peacefully among your own, you have not cherished the same feeling and concern towards me. Perhaps I cannot speak your language, and do not rise and revolt against your tyranny, and torture. I am at a loss to know!"

Anyone can give up; it is the easiest thing in the world to do. But to hold it to gather when everyone else would understand if you fell apart, that is true strength.

You have to leave your city of comfort and go into the wilderness of your intuition.

Use your smile to change the world but don't let the world to change your smile.

CARE OF THE STAFF

There were about 70 scientists working on a very hectic project. All of them were really frustrated due to the pressure of work and the demands of their boss but everyone was loyal to him and did not think of quitting the job.

One day, one scientist came to his boss and told him - Sir, I have promised to my children that I will take them to the exhibition going on in our township. So I want to leave the office at 5 30 pm.

His boss replied "OK, You're permitted to leave the office early today"

The Scientist started working. He continued his work after lunch. As usual he got involved to such an extent that he looked at his watch when he felt he was close to completion. The time was 8.30 PM. suddenly he remembered of the promise he had given to his children.

He looked for his boss. He was not there. Having told him in the morning itself, he closed everything and left for home.

Deep within himself, he was feeling guilty for having disappointed his children. He reached home. Children were not there. His wife alone was sitting in the hall and reading magazines.

The situation was explosive any talk would boomerang on him. His wife asked him "Would you like to have coffee or shall I straight away serve dinner if you are hungry.

The man replied "If you would like to have coffee, I too will have but what about Children?"

Wife replied "You don't know? Your manager came here at 5.15 PM and has taken the children to the exhibition"

What had really happened was ... The boss who granted him permission was observing him working seriously at 5.00 PM. He thought to himself, this person will not leave the work, but if he has promised his children they should enjoy the visit to exhibition. So he took the lead in taking them to exhibition

The boss does not have to do it every time. But once it is done, loyalty is established.

That is why all the scientists at Thumba continued to work under their boss even though the stress was tremendous.

By the way can you guess as who the boss was? He was none other than Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Ex- President of India.(Collected and contributed by Sri V.S.S. Babu)

The greatness of a man is not in how much wealth he acquires, but in his integrity and his ability to affect those around him positively. (Robert Nesta Marley)

LEGAL NOTES

Vikram Trivedi vs Union of India and others

The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) had a project for expansion (six lining) of National Highway No. 8 under the National Highways Act 1956 in the State of Gujarat between Ahmedabad and Vadodara. This proposed expansion of road, passes through Survey Nos. 134, 136, 137 & 138 of Khajipura village under taluk and district Kheda. The land had been acquired. But the petitioner Vikram Trivedi raised an objection to the project for the reason that the road construction requires cutting of a large number of trees in the aforesaid land which offer shelter to a variety of birds and felling trees will adversely affect the bird life and destroy the habitat. He filed Special Civil Application No. 8173 of 2013 before the Gujarat High Court. The grounds among others urged in the application are:

1. The trees grown in an area of 50,000 Smtrs. Is a home for several species of birds and felling trees in the area will destroy the habitat, which constitutes a contravention of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

2. The respondents have no right to violate the mandatory provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act. Driving any wild animal including every attempt to do so and disturbing the eggs and nests constitute hunting under the Wildlife Protection Act.

3. The respondents have not considered the deviation of the road line to a certain extent to avoid destruction of hundreds of trees. If that is not possible, they should consider translocation of the trees.

The respondents have opposed the application for the main reason that the land had already been acquired and it vests with the Government. The petitioner has only a right to receive compensation for the land and the cost of trees, which is being worked out for payment. The project is under implementation under the public private partnership mode.

The first respondent explained in detail the mode of execution of the project. The most important aspect is safety of traffic and road users. On the application of the respondent for obtaining Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), the Expert Appraisal Committee held public hearing at Ahmedabad, Kheda and Vadodara and gave its opinion. Based on the recommendation of the Committee, the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) granted environmental clearance on 16.10.2012. In the road widening project, some trees in forest and non-forest lands have to be inevitably cut for which the MoEF laid a

condition to plant a minimum of three times the number of trees to be cut.

The application came up for consideration before the Division Bench comprising The Hon'ble Chief Justice Sri Bhaskar Bhattacharya and the Hon'ble Justice Sri J.B. Pardiwala. The court dealt, at length, with the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act and its legislative history as well as the legislative intent. Quoting case-laws Their Lordships explained the scope and meaning of "hunting". The court made a strenuous effort for the interpretation of the statute and held that cutting of trees for expansion of highway will not amount to hunting. The term, 'hunting' as defined should be read in the context of the Objects and Reasons for the enactment of the Act of 1972.

The court heard the arguments of either party on the development and thereby the adverse effect on ecology. The subject was dealt with elaborately and extensively placing reliance on several judgments of the Supreme Court. In the opinion of Their Lordships "expansion of highway is a project of wide public importance. It is not open to frustrate the project of such public importance, only with a view to safeguard few trees standing on the lands of the petitioner which has vested with the Government."

The court further held, "Once the Government has taken the precautions to ensure that the impact on the environment is transient and minimal, the court will not substitute its own assessment in place of the opinion of persons who are specialists and who may have decided the question with objectivity and ability".

The High Court followed the law laid down by the Supreme Court in *Essar Oil Ltd. Vs. Halar Utkarsh Samiti* reported in A.I.R. 2004 S.C. 1834. The Supreme Court relied on the principles laid down in the Stockholm declaration. One of the principles said: "economic and social development is essential for ensuring favourable living and working environment for men and for creating conditions on earth that are necessary for improvement of the quality of life".

The Supreme Court, in *Enviro-Legal Action vs. Union of India* reported in 1966 (5) SCC 281 observed, "Both the development and environment must go hand in hand. In other words, there should not be development at the cost of environment and vice versa; but there should be development while taking due care and ensuring the protection of environment".

Since the respondents have taken all safeguards in respect of Environment Impact Assessment and also in planting more trees as required by the MoEF, the contentions of the petitioner are rejected. The Application was dismissed on 14.10.2013.

Source: Internet

K.B.R.

గుమస్తా జీవితం

రచన : అగస్త్య చంద్ర కుమార్

బాధామయం
బ్రతుకే భయం
భయం భయం
తెల్లవారే లేస్తాడు
ఆఫీసుకి వస్తాడు
ఆఫీసరు ఏది చెప్పినా
అవునంటూ చేస్తాడు
తనవల్ల ఎలాంటి తప్పులు జరక్కూడదని
అనుక్షణం మదన పడుతూనే
వుంటుందతడి మనసు
ఎప్పుడు ఏం చేస్తే
ఏమౌతుందోనని భయం
ఎప్పుడయినా, ఏదైనా చెయ్యటం
మరచిపోతే గనక
ఏం ముంచుకు వస్తుందోనని బెరుకు!
ఎప్పుడో, ఏదో పొరపాటు చేసేస్తానేమోనన్న
జ్ఞాపకాలతో బెంగ!!

మొత్తానికి
ఎప్పుడు, ఎవరు, ఏది చెప్పినా
అప్పటికప్పుడు చేసేయ్యటానికి సిద్ధంగా ఉంటాడు

ఎలాగో కష్టపడి
ముప్పయో తారీఖుకి చేరుకుంటాడు
ఒకటో తారీఖుకి ఒక రేజే కదా
అడ్డం అనుకుంటాడు
అడ్డం కాస్తా తొలగిన తరువాత
ముప్పయి రోజుల కష్టాన్ని మరచి,
జీతం డబ్బుల్ని పట్టుకుంటాడు
ఒక చేత్తో
మరు క్షణం
తన తలని పట్టుకుంటాడు మరోచేత్తో!

తన ఆదాయానికి ఖర్చులకి మధ్యనున్న
అంతరాన్ని చూసి
బిత్తర పోతాడో క్షణం!
తన జీతానికి, జీవితానికి గల తారతమ్యాన్ని
తలుచుకొని
తత్తర పడతాడో నిముషం

అయినా తానొక గుమాస్తా గనుక
తన అనుభవాన్నింతా కూడదీసుకుని
కళ్ళు మూసుకుని
మౌనంగా ఏదో ఆలోచిస్తాడు కాసేపు

కొన్ని కొట్టివేతలు వేస్తాడు
తన నెలసరి ఖర్చుల లెక్కలతో
కొన్ని మార్పులు చేర్పులు చేస్తాడు,
తాను ఇచ్చి పుచ్చుకునే అంకెలతో!
మరోసారి 'వెరిఫై' చేసుకుంటాడు
తన ఆదాయ వ్యయం పట్టికని.

గట్టి నిట్టూర్పు విడుస్తూ!
ఈ నెలకిక పర్లేదనుకుంటూ
స్థిమిత పరుచుకుంటాడు తన మనసు

కొన్ని క్షణాల నిశ్శబ్ద శబ్దాల అనంతర
మళ్ళీ మొదలెడతాడు ఫైళ్ళతో కుస్తీ
మళ్ళీ మొదటి తారీఖు కోసం
ఎదురు చూస్తూ..

بولی ''اب تو اردو ادب ہی میرا اوڑھنا بچھونا اور کھانا پینا بن گیا ہے''

پوچھا ''کیا اردو زبان تمہیں بہت پسند ہے؟

بولی پسند ناپسند کا کیا سوال پیدا ہوتا ہے۔ زندگی میں سب سے بڑی اہمیت آرام وسکون کی ہوتی ہے جو مجھے یہاں مل جاتا ہے۔ تم جس سماج میں رہتے ہو وہاں آرام، سکون اور شانتی کا دور دور تک کہیں کوئی پتہ نہیں ہے۔ امن وامان کی تلاش میں مارے مارے پھرتے ہو۔ اب اگر میں یہاں آرام سے رہنے لگی ہوں تو تمہیں کیوں تکلیف ہو رہی ہے

میں نے پوچھا لیکن تمہیں یہاں سکون کس طرح مل جاتا ہے؟

بولی 'ان کتابوں کو پڑھنے کیلئے اب یہاں کوئی آتا ہی نہیں ہے۔ مجھے تو یوں لگتا ہے جیسے یہ ساری کتابیں میرے لئے فوڈ کارپویشن انڈیا کا درجہ رکھتی ہیں۔ کیا تم بھی کہیں اردو کے آدمی تو نہیں ہو؟

میں نے حیرت سے پوچھا کیسے پہچانا کہ میں اردو کا آدمی ہوں؟

بولی ''میں تمہیں جانتی ہوں۔ ''اردو۔ کنڑ' یا کنڑ۔ اردو کے لغت کی ورق نوشی کرتے ہوئے میں نے نہ صرف تمہاری تصویر دیکھی تھی بلکہ تھوڑی سی تصویر کھائی بھی تھی۔ ایک دم بدذائقہ اور کڑوی کسیلی نکلی' حالانکہ وہ تمہاری جوانی کی تصویر تھی۔ پھر بھی اتنی کڑوی تھی کہ کئی دنوں تک منہ کا مزہ خراب رہا۔ میں تو صرف تمہاری آنکھیں ہی بڑی مشکل سے کھا سکی تھی کیونکہ تمہارے چہرے میں کھانے کیلئے ہے ہی کیا؟

باتوں باتوں میں یاد آیا۔ تم نے سرسید احمد خان کو داڑھی کے بغیر دیکھا ہے؟ نہیں دیکھا تو سامنے والی پڑی ہوئی جلد کو دیکھو۔ ایک دن خیال آیا داڑھی اور اپنی مخصوص ٹوپی کے بغیر سرسید کیسے لگتے ہوں گے۔ اس خیال کے آتے ہی میں نے بڑی جتن کے ساتھ ان کی ساری داڑھی کھالی۔ پھر ٹوپی کا حصہ کھالیا۔ اب یہ تصویر میرے آرٹ کا ایک نادر نمونہ ہے!

میں نے کہا ''اردو ادب پر تو تمہاری گہری نظر ہے۔ مولانا آزاد کے بارے میں تمہارا کیا خیال ہے؟

بولی ''زندگی بھر ٹھاٹ سے عربی لکھتے رہے اور لوگ اسے اردو سمجھ کر پڑھتے رہے'

میں نے کہا یہ بتاؤ تمہیں اردو کی کتابیں کیسی لگتی ہیں؟ میں نے تو اردو میں پی ایچ ڈی کرنے کا ارادہ کیا ہے اور بہ عنوان ''اساطیری ادب میں سائنس کے مضمرات اپنا مقالہ بھی تحریر کرنے لگا ہوں تاکہ اندرون معیاد اسے شیموگہ یونیورسٹی میں داخل کرسکوں۔

بولی ''ایک بات میری سمجھ میں نہیں آتی کہ اردو کے مصنف اپنی کتابوں کے دیباچوں میں بات بات پر اس قدر شکریے کیوں ادا کرتے ہیں۔ پبلیشر اور سرپرستوں وغیرہ کا شکریہ تو خیر' اس سائیکل رکشا والے کا بھی شکریہ ادا کرنے پر مجبور نظر آتے ہیں جس میں بیٹھ کر وہ کتاب کی پروف ریڈنگ کرنے جایا کرتے تھے۔ کہیں ایسا تو نہیں کہ رکشے کا کرایہ بھی وہ ادا نہیں کرسکتے تھے؟ شکریہ ادا کرنا اچھی بات ہے لیکن اصل میں جس کا شکریہ ادا ہونا چاہئے اس کا تو ادا کرو۔ میں نے پوچھا ''مثلاً'' کس کا؟''

شرما کر بولی ''مجھے کہتے ہوئے لاج سی آتی ہے۔ اردو کے ادیبوں اور شاعروں کو اب میرے سوائے کسی کا اور کا شکریہ ادا نہیں کرنا چاہئے۔ کیونکہ بالآخر اب میں ہی ان کتابوں میں پائی جاتی ہوں۔ ورنہ انہیں پوچھتا کون ہے؟''

دیمکوں کی ملکہ کی بات سچی تھی۔ میں نے گھبرا کر کہا ''تم بالکل ٹھیک کہتی ہو۔ اگلی بار اگر میرے مقالہ کو کتابی شکل میں لاسکوں اور وہ چھپی تو اس میں تمہارا شکریہ ضرور ادا کرونگا۔ ہنس کر بولی۔ اتنی ساری بات چیت کے بعد تم اپنی کتاب چھپواؤ گے؟ بڑے بے شرم اور ڈھیٹ آدمی ہو۔ مرضی تمہاری۔ ویسے میرا شکریہ ادا کرنے کے بجائے اگر کتاب ہی میرے نام معنون یعنی ڈیڈیکیٹ کردو تو کیسا رہے گا؟'' یہ کہہ کر دیمکوں کی ملکہ ''کلیات میر'' کی گہرائیوں میں کہیں گم ہوگئی اور میں لائبریری سے باہر نکل آیا جہاں میرے پانچوں دوست آگئے تھے۔

(پدم شری ڈاکٹر مجتبیٰ حسین صاحب کی عنایت سے)

حیدرآباد میں دیمکوں کی ملکہ سے ملاقات

از

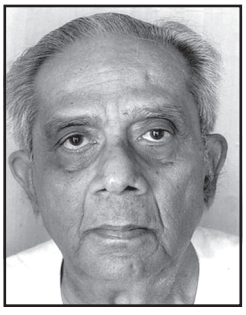
ڈاکٹر رگھوتم راؤ دیسائی

ایک زمانہ تھا جب میرا وقت زیادہ تر کتب خانوں میں گذرتا تھا۔لیکن جب دیکھا کہ سماج میں جاہل لوگ ترقی کرتے چلے جارہے ہیں اور اونچی اونچی کرسیوں پر قبضہ جما چکے ہیں تو سوچا ''لعنت ہو ایسے علم پر جس سے علم کی پیاس تو بھلے ہی بجھ جائے لیکن پیٹ کی آگ بجھنے نہ پائے'' ملک کی یونیورسٹیوں پر غصہ بھی آیا کہ اگر وہ علم کو پھیلانے کے بجائے جہالت کو ہی عام کرنے کا بیڑہ اٹھالیتیں تو آج نہ جانے ملک کتنی ترقی کرلیتا''۔اس خیال کے آتے ہی میں نے لائبریریوں کو خیرآباد کہا اور پھر کبھی ان کی طرف آنکھ اٹھا کر بھی نہ دیکھا۔ میں نے باہر آکر جہالت کے گر سیکھنے کی کوشش کی۔ یہاں تک کہ سیاست دانوں کی صحبتوں سے بھی فیض یاب ہوا کہ یہ ہستیاں جہالت کا سرچشمہ ہوتی ہیں۔لیکن یہ گر کام نہ آیا۔کسی نے سچ کہا ہے کہ علم کی دولت آدمی کے پاس ایک بار آجاتی ہے تو پھر کبھی نہیں جاتی۔ میں نے لاکھ کوشش کی کہ اپنے اندر یہ جو ''علم کا افلاس'' ہے اسے کسی طرح باہر نکالوں اور اس کی جگہ ''جہالت کی دولت'' سے اپنے سارے وجود کو مالا مال کردوں، مگر یہ کام نہ ہوسکا۔ یہ اور بات ہے کہ ایک عرصہ تک علم سے لگاتار اور مسلسل دور رہنے اور جنگلوں میں مارا مارا پھرتے رہنے کی وجہ سے میں نے تھوڑی بہت ترقی ضرور کرلی۔

مگر پچھلے دنوں یعنی آوائل مارچ 2009 میں بات کچھ یوں ہوئی کہ حیدرآباد سے زمانہ طالب علم کے چند دوستوں نے (نارائن سوامی، بچی رام ریڈی، سرینواس ریڈی، جے وی شرما اور لوہت ریڈی صاحبان) جن کی اسوسی ایشن کی ایک تقریب میں حصہ لینے اور ان کے عطا کردہ اعزاز کو حاصل کرنے مجھے دعوت دیئے اور دفتر نظامت جنگلات میں میرے قیام کا انتظام ہوا تھا۔ یہ پانچوں مہربان ایک دن صبح مجھ سے ملنے آنے والے تھے کہ اچانک کچھ مجبوریاں درپیش ہوئیں اور اطلاع دئے کہ دو ایک گھنٹہ دیر سے دوپہر تک آجائیں گے۔ تو نزدیک میں ایک پارک تھا سوچا وہاں وقت گذارلوں لیکن اس عمر میں نوجوانوں کی خوشگوار مصروفیتوں اور ناخوشگوار حرکتوں میں مخل ہونا پسند نہ آیا۔ سامنے ایک ہوٹل تھا جہاں نہایت اونچی آواز میں موسیقی کو بجا کر گاہکوں کو ہوٹل کے اندر آنے سے روکا جارہا تھا۔اب نزدیک کی وہ برٹش لائبریری ہی برابر میں رہ گئی جہاں میں اپنے زمانہ جاہلیت میں نہایت پابندی سے جایا کرتا تھا۔ خیال آیا چلو آج لائبریری میں چل کر دیکھتے ہیں کہ کس حال میں ہیں یاران وطن!

افسوس ہوا کہ اب بھی وہاں کچھ لوگ علم کی دولت کو سمیٹنے میں مصروف تھے۔ چونکہ علم کی دولت چرائی نہیں جاسکتی اسی لئے ایک صاحب ضروری علم حاصل کرنے کے بعد اپنے سارے گھوڑے بیچ کر کتاب پر سر رکھ کر سو رہے تھے۔ چاروں طرف کتابیں ہی کتابیں تھیں۔ بہت دنوں بعد لسان العقر حضرت شیکسپیر، مصور فطرت علامہ ورڈس ورتھ، شمس العلماء تھامس ہارڈی، مصور غم جان کیٹس وغیرہ کی کتابوں کا دیدار کرنے کا موقع ملا۔ میں نے سوچا کہ ان کتابوں میں اب میرے لئے کیا رکھا ہے۔ کیوں نہ اردو سیکشن پہنچ کر اردو کتابوں کی ورق گردانی کی جائے۔ چنانچہ جب میں لائبریری کے اردو سیکشن میں داخل ہوا تو یوں لگا جیسے میں کسی بھوت بنگلہ میں داخل ہوگیا ہوں۔ میں خوفزدہ سا ہوگیا لیکن ڈرتے ڈرتے میں گرد میں اٹی ہوئی ''کلیات میر'' کھولی تو دیکھا کہ اس میں سے ایک موٹی تازہ دیمک بھاگنے کی کوشش کررہی ہے۔ میں اسے مارنا ہی چاہتا تھا کہ اچانک دیمک نے کہا ''خبردار! مجھے ہاتھ لگایا تو۔ میں دیمکوں کی ملکہ ہوں۔ باادب۔ باملاحظہ ہوشیار۔ ابھی ابھی محمد حسین آزاد کی ''آب حیات'' کا خاتمہ کرکے یہاں پہنچی ہوں۔جس نے ''آب حیات'' پی رکھا ہو اسے تم کیا مارو گے؟''

میں نے حیرت سے کہا ''تم تو بہت اچھی اردو بولتی ہو''



OBITUARY

D.K. Deshmukh (7.2.1926 - 12.3.2014)

With deep sense of sorrow, we record the sad demise of Sri Deo Rao Kishan Rao Deshmukh, on March 12, 2014 at 15.30 hrs. at his son's place in Pune, after brief illness due to age-related problems of health. He was 88.

Sri Deshmukh was a native of Gulbarga and was a scion of one of the very elite and rich landlord families. He graduated in Forestry, from the University of Edinburgh, after his B.Sc. (Hons.) from University of Pune.

Sri Deshmukh originally belonged to the Hyderabad State Forest Service and on States' Reorganization he was allotted to the State of Mysore (as it was known then). Starting his career as DFO in the erstwhile State of Hyderabad, he served as such and held charges of Nalgonda, Gulbarga, Bangalore and Bhadravathi divisions successively, for about ten years. He then proceeded on deputation to Dehra Dun as Central Silviculturist. On repatriation to the State, Sri Deshmukh was promoted as Conservator of Forests and posted as CF, Shimoga Circle. He was then transferred as CF, Canara Circle. He went on deputation again to Government of India and worked for a stint as CF, Eucalyptus Research Centre, at Hyderabad. Returning to the State, he served as Director, Project Tiger, and then got elevated as CCF to retire as MD, Cashew Development Corporation, in February 1984.

After retirement, for the last 10-15 years, he was staying with his son, Kishan Rao, an Industrialist at Pune, engaging himself in his favorite avocation of wood-carving which won him many laurels.

Sri Deshmukh's entry into service reads like a fairy tale. After his return from UK, he came across an advertisement in the press, sometime in 1953-54. That made him to scribble an inland-letter addressed to the CCF, Hyderabad stating whether he could be considered for an outright appointment as an officer against one of the advertised posts. Sri Rai Daulat Rai, the then CCF sent the letter to the State Government for consideration. The Government in turn forwarded it to the Hyderabad PSC for doing the needful and disposes the letter at its end. The PSC considered it worthwhile to call him for an interview, which he attended with all his original testimonials & credentials and impressed the Commission, ending up in his selection for appointment as an ACF in the Hyderabad State. He was appointed and posted as DFO at Gulbarga. He was eventually appointed to the Indian Forest Service under the 'IFS Initial Recruitment rules' along-with the IFC batches of 1954 - 1955.

His eldest brother was Bar-at-Law while his elder brother joined government service in the Cooperative Department. Sri D.K. Deshmukh gave away all his properties for philanthropic purposes before migrating to Pune. The people still remember him for his generosity and noble gesture. He was a stickler for discipline and exalted principles.

He leaves behind his wife, a son and a daughter; and a host of admirers and friends to bereave the loss. **May his noble soul Rest in Peace!**

(Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai)

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