

VANA PREMI

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Indian Golden oriole (Oriolus kundoo)

The species was once considered to be a subspecies of the Eurasian golden oriole, but has been elevated to a full species on the basis of differences in morphology, plumage, calls and the fact that the two do not intergrade. The Indian Golden Oriole inhabits a range of habitats including open deciduous forests, semi-evergreen forests, woodland, forest edge, mangroves, and open country with scattered trees, parks, gardens orchards and plantations.



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EDITORIAL

World Earth Day: Out of the nine planets of the solar system, Earth is the only planet which has implausible biodiversity. Earth Day is a day to educate people on how to protect the planet. World Earth Day is observed on April 22 every year and marks the anniversary of what many consider the birth of the modern environmental movement. A senator from Wisconsin, USA, Gaylord Nelson first conceived of this day. The senator was worried about the rate of industrialization and the careless attitude of everyone towards our environment. It was envisaged to promote the idea of ecology, to encourage respect for life on Earth, and highlight growing concerns about different kinds of pollutions. He believed that the state of the environment was not considered an important issue in politics. In 1963, Senator Nelson asked President Kennedy to go on a nationwide tour promoting the environment. The President liked the idea and went on a five-day conservation tour. In September 1969, during a conference in Seattle, Washington, Senator Nelson made an announcement that in the following spring (1970), there would be a nationwide grassroots demonstration on the environment to demonstrate support for environmental protection. It was first celebrated in 1970, and is now coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network, and celebrated in more than 192 countries each year. As a founder of Earth Day, Gaylord Nelson senator cre-

ated a movement and helped all of us. Earth Day was created to raise awareness and appreciation for the Earth's environment. The theme of World Earth Day 2015 is "Water Wonderful World". But a question arises as to why we celebrate Earth Day? It's because we seem to have forgotten what a beautiful gift we have been given in the form of planet Earth. We also seem to have forgotten that this is our home and we need to keep it in order to stay healthy and alive. Over the centuries we have mercilessly utilized and depleted the Earth's resources. Our sheer ignorance has begun to cause severe problems like depletion of the Ozone layer, death of rivers due to dumping of industrial waste, global warming etc. In our quest for industrialization heavy amount of deforestation took place. This has harmed the Earth's environment. The ice at the Poles has started to melt due to the rise in Earth's temperature. This is an ominous sign of what is to come. We have dug quite a huge pit for ourselves already, but we can still get out of it. So, days like the Earth Day remind us to be caring and loving to the Earth. We must realize the danger and start taking small steps like planting trees, limiting the use of vehicles thereby reducing pollution, switching off lights when unnecessary and also conserving petrol diesel and coal. These might be small steps but when a billion people do it together, one can definitely see the results. One very good example is the

introduction of CNG vehicles in New Delhi. These vehicles have considerably reduced the amount of pollution in Delhi's atmosphere. Government should make it compulsory to use CNG for vehicles at Hyderabad also to reduce pollution and at the same time Govt. should see that CNG is available at all the petrol bunks. On the same side people should see what we have done to the river Musi. Years of dumping of waste, garbage and opening drainage lines into the river has turned the river into a stinking *nallah* which is passing through Hyderabad city. The governments and politicians will have become impartial and to take giant leaps to save the mankind. Stringent laws and rules have to be made, to make people realize the importance of protecting the nature. Every nation has to cut down on carbon emissions to reduce the effects of global warming. If not contained, global warming will make the ice-caps at the Poles to melt and raise sea levels. It can be so devastating that it will wipe us out. It is our fight to save the mankind from annihilation. But if we decide to do nothing and let things be as they are, it could just be worse. Earth might just decide to take revenge. The wrath of the planet would be even more furious. Many times we have seen it happen right in front of our eyes. What else are cyclones, flash floods, sudden fires in forests, tsunamis, earthquakes? Yes, they are revenge of the Earth. And a small revenge by Earth takes a huge toll on mankind. A major climatic shift happens only when we play around with our environment. The natural resources are depleting fast. It is ac-

ceptable that we need petrol, but that is something the Earth is not refusing. It only wants us to use it judiciously. We, human beings, are so caught up in our day-to-day life that we don't have time to stand and think about the planet we live on. Don't worry the feeling could be mutual and dangerous for us. The Earth will find some way to survive, with us if we love and respect it, or without us. So, it's we who stand to lose. So on this Earth Day, let us pledge to do take whatever little we can to do to help the planet. Perhaps we can avoid using our car on this day and save petrol and free the atmosphere of some pollution. May be we could recycle the papers and stop using plastic bags. It could be anything, but it will definitely go a long way in saving the mankind. On the Earth Day, we should pledge to reduce the carbon footprints. Let us return some balance to our planet this Earth Day, so that our planet and all those who inhabit it can coexist in peace.

As you're already aware, environmental issues are gaining popularity and momentum in today's world. Issues of global climate change, pollution, waste control, and reusable energy are now so important, there are hundreds of organizations dedicated to raise awareness and find solutions. Earth Day helps to serve as a reminder that there's a surplus of things we can do every single day to help our planet. Here are just a few ideas: 1. Save power, 2. Save water 3. Save petrol, 4. Save forests, 5. Save Wildlife, Vana Premi wishes very happy and successful earth day to all and hope we all will unite and take steps to save our planet. **QMK**

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Dear Sir,

While thanking you for publishing my and Sankarans article in the March issue, I find that the full title of the article was not given, titles matter!!! I also sent a note on the developments on this issue in a subsequent mail. It is forwarded once again here, can you issue a correction in the next issue.

Thanks for accepting the article since it only states the position as in 2003, I thought I should give the subsequent developments till now I am briefly giving a note which may be given below the main article

"A committee with Sankaran as chairman was constituted by GOI to prepare an act to provide for traditional rights to the forest dwelling tribal communities. This act called the 'The scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers [recognition of forest rights] Act 2006. The act has provided among other rights to forest produce, the regularization of reserve forest land under occupation by tribals - an issue that has led to several tribal revolts mentioned in the above article according to statistics in the ministry of tribal welfare of GOI, so far approximately four million hectares have been transferred to tribal owners/communities under this act. This constitutes 6% of the forest area of 68 million hectares."

- R. K. RAO

(Editor's Note: The note was not given under the main article and it is regretted.)

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for the SMS sent on the occasion of Ugadi this morning. I reciprocate the same.

For inexplicable reasons the hard copy of Vana Premi for the month reached me (and all other subscribers here) by a delay of 16 days after the date of posting at Hyderabad — thank God that the same reached at least at last and made every one of us happy to go through the said hard copy. As ever the editorial on International Women's Day was timely and informative, while conveying the right message to the other gender! The getup (on a superior paper with clear print) had been quite impressive: obviously an outcome of your hard-work to see the same through Venu Graph-

ics, which inevitable procedural methodology being the case to ensure quality, which is the bane for having accepted the role of an Editor! I wish you all the best in this endeavor.

I am in full agreement with my colleague K B R Reddy to request the readers to send their feedback every now and then which will certainly help the editorial board to carry on the work incorporating their suggestions, if any.

I also take the opportunity to enclose revised "free from errors" version of the article on "Osmania means..." in lieu of last week's article sent for publication.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Dr. Raghotham Rao Desai

Sir,

Your editorial on International Women's Day is very well written. My hearty congratulations to you. You have succinctly traced the history of the movement of the women world over for equal rights and their demand on right to vote. As I read the editorial I am reminded of what Manu, the ancient law giver of India, had said -

"Where women are honored, Gods are pleased; where they are not honored all work becomes useless."

Six noble virtues of a good house-wife, according to the moral code of conduct, mentioned in the *Neeti Sara* are given below:

*Karyeshu Dasi, Karanasha Mantri,
Bhojeshu Matha, Shayaneshu Rambha,
Roopeshu Lakshmi, Kshamayeshu Dharithri,
Shat dharmayuktha, Kuladharm Pathni.*

(Works like a servant; Advises like a Minister; Feeds like a Mother; pleases in Bed like the celestial beauty queen, Rambha; Beautiful like Lakshmi; Patience like the Earth; A woman who has the six virtues, makes a good housewife.)

On the injustice and ill treatment to women, poet Sahir Ludhinvi said:

Aurat ne janam diya mardon ko, mardon ne use bazar diya ...

In the modern world women broke the shackles and have entered the arena of sports and games (P.T. Usha, Sania Mirza, Saina Nehwal etc.), Music (M.S. Subbulakshmi, Lata Mangeshkar etc.) Politics

(Indira Gandhi, Sushma Swaraj etc.), Capt. Lakshmi (Freedom fighter in the Azad Hind Fauj), Justice Fathima Beevi (First woman Judge of Supreme Court of India) Many more have made mark in Civil Services, Defense, Science and Technology, Medicine, Engineering etc. We have recently heard of Syeda S. Fatima, coming from a poor background, has become a commercial pilot. She is sanctioned financial assistance by the Govt. of Telangana.

I wish, you keep writing on interesting topics for the benefit of the readers.

Hyderabad

K.B.R. Reddy

22.03.2015

buchiramkeesara@yahoo.co.in

(Editor's Note: Thank you very much sir, your letter has encouraged me a lot)

Dear Sir

I have read the Vana Premi's February issue. I found articles of Sri J.V. Sharma and Sri S.D. Mukherji very interesting. Sri J.V. Sharma has precisely communicated the intended message. Both the authors are for protection of Forests. My regards to them

It is unreasonable to assume that habitat fragmentation will subside as long as human interference for meeting the needs and greed of the increasing population continues. In our situation "forests" is rapidly degrading product. It will continue like this, till alternatives are adopted. We know that deforestation is a complex phenomenon and the people value forests more dead than alive. Otherwise, knowingly well about the diverse ecosystem services like climate stabilization, rainfall generation, crop pollination, soil fertility, food security, waste disposal, flood control, water conservation and purification, pest control, recreational services, purifying air, wildlife protection and Carbon sequestration etc., value accorded by most of the people is minimum.

Status of Forest is clear and known to most of the people, as brought out, in the State of Telangana about 484 Sq.Km is dense forest and major chunk is open forests which are getting increasingly infested with *Lantana*, *Hyptis*, and *Eupatorium & Parthenium* etc. All these are serious environmental weeds which may work as threat for rare and threatened species. There is need to see why measures suggested are not being followed. Our past experience with certain new philosophy in forest management has resulted in Pyrrhic victory. It would be better if we can re-generate the open forests and improve density in moderately dense forests by massive afforestation, @ 50000 Ha. to 60000 Ha. Annually, with suitable forest species, adopting water conservation and improved silvicultural practices. Otherwise goal post for sustainable forestry will continue to be shifted and may remain an illusion.

With regards & respect

- Surendra Pandey

GOLDEN ORIOLE

Golden Oriole Classification and Evolution:

The Golden Oriole (also known as the Eurasian Oriole), is a small species of Bird found throughout Europe and western Asia. The Golden Oriole's name is thought to have arisen during the 18th century after the classical Latin word meaning gold. Although almost indistinguishable in appearance, some believe that the Golden Orioles found in Europe, are actually a separate sub-species to those found in Asia. They are also known to be the only member of the Oriole family that breeds in the more temperate regions of the northern hemisphere.

Golden Oriole Anatomy and Appearance:

The male Golden Oriole is an incredibly colored Bird, with striking yellow and jet black plumage, and fully black wings. As with many other Birds, the female of the species is more dull-looking being slightly greener in color. Both however, are hard to spot in the canopy as they are perfectly camouflaged amongst the leaves. Golden Orioles tend to be between 20 to 24 cm in height and are often mistaken for Thrushes and even green Woodpeckers when in flight. They have dark red eyes, and a fairly thick, pink beak that is curved slightly downwards at the end.

Golden Oriole Distribution and Habitat:

The Golden Oriole is predominantly found throughout Europe and western Asia but also in parts of Africa. The Golden Oriole is a summer migrant meaning that it migrates north for the cooler

summer climates, and flies back south to the tropics when the winter begins to emerge. The Golden Oriole is nearly always found in well-timbered forests and woodland, along with parks, orchards and gardens. They spend the majority of their time high in the tree canopy where their distinctive plumage helps them to remain hidden from lurking predators.

Golden Oriole Behavior and Lifestyle:

Due to its excellent camouflage amongst the leaves, and its shy nature, the Golden Oriole is an almost impossible Bird to spot. However, it is its unmistakable song that alerts all around to its presence, which is said to sound very fluty and can be heard over considerable distances. Their basic calls however are often compared to the screech of a Jay, but both are used to communicate with other Golden Orioles inhabiting the surrounding forest. The Golden Oriole is a migratory and generally quite solitary Bird, but can be seen migrating, often under the cover of night, in large flocks.

Golden Oriole Reproduction and Life Cycles:

The Golden Oriole breeds in the more temperate northern regions during the summer months, where courtship displays involve them chasing one another from tree to tree and through the canopy. The female Golden Oriole builds her nest, generally in the fork of a tree out of plant fibers and stems, in the shape of a shallow cup. She lays between 3 and 6 eggs

which hatch after an incubation period of between 15 and 18 days, that is predominantly conducted by the female. Once hatched, both Golden Oriole parents help to feed and look after their young, which will have left their nest (fledged) within 20 days. Golden Orioles usually live to be around 9 or 10 years old.

Golden Oriole Diet and Prey: The Golden Oriole is an omnivorous animal that primarily feeds on insects, fruits and seeds high up in the tree canopy. The relatively thick, slightly curved beak of the Golden Oriole is the perfect shape for picking Insects out of holes and plucking fruits off the branches. The Golden Oriole also has wide, clawed feet which assist the Bird in holding onto the more tricky branches when it is trying to gather food. They also play a vital role in re-distributing the seeds from the fruits, throughout their native eco-systems.

Golden Oriole Predators and Threats: Despite their shy disposition, the Golden Oriole can become incredibly aggressive towards any animal that tries to go near its nest, swooping and diving at the invader to try and intimidate it. Due to its tree-top lifestyle, the Golden Oriole is safe from numerous predators lower down the trees, but it is still vulnerable to larger Birds such as Crows, and Birds Of Prey including Eagles, Hawks and Raptors. They are also threatened by deforestation and therefore habitat destruction in their native environments.

Golden Oriole Interesting Facts and Features: The people living in the northern parts of

Europe, are known to be able to predict the start of spring with the coming of the Golden Oriole. The Golden Orioles inhabiting more western European regions are known to migrate as far south as Namibia and South Africa when the winter begins to set in. Despite that the Golden Oriole was thought to have been properly named in the 18th century, it is thought that the Romans could have been calling them Orioles as early as the 12th century.

Golden Oriole Relationship with Humans: The Golden Oriole is an incredibly shy Bird and very hard to spot high up in the canopy. Without the use of binoculars, the greener females particularly, are commonly mistaken for Green Woodpeckers, although their flight after a time is noticeably different. Humans have however, always been awe-struck by their beautifully distinctive, floaty song. The biggest impact that Humans have on the Golden Oriole is the deforestation of their native forests, meaning that their range is quite rapidly decreasing in size as they are losing more and more of their natural habitat.

Golden Oriole Conservation Status and Life Today: The Golden Oriole has been listed as being an animal that is of Least Concern of imminent extinction in the wild, as even though their territories are shrinking, populations generally seem to be stable. The Golden Orioles found across Asia are known to be decreasing slightly in number, but it is thought that those found in Europe, actually seem to be on the rise. (Source Internet)

MUTATION OF HOUSE PROPERTY IN MUNICIPAL RECORDS

By
K.B.R.Reddy

A friend of mine and a retired senior surgeon passed away in November 2014. After the cremation of the mortal remains, all rituals over a period of one month from date of death are performed solemnly and religiously. This friend left behind assets which among others included a two storied building within the limits of the city of Hyderabad under the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation.

About two years before his demise, my friend executed a 'will' on a Rs. 100-00 worth non-judicial stamp paper with two witnesses to the document. The said document was mainly intended to bequeath the house property in Hyderabad City in favor of his wife. I have perused the 'last will'; it is well drafted and is free from any ambiguity. I am told that it was drafted in consultation with a practicing advocate.

The widow requested me to help her in getting the house property mutated in her name in the municipal records. I promised to do the needful. But I found myself at odds with the task I have to take up, as I have no knowledge of the procedure involved. To comply with the request of my friend's wife, I thought, I need to know the procedure laid down in law. I borrowed from a law-

yer friend, The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Act. The Act was passed in 1955 and had been amended 73 times, the latest being the Amendment Act No. 13 of 2008. By the said amendment the short title of the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Act was substituted by the words, The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Act, 1955.

The matter – Transfer of Premises Assessable to Property Tax – falls within the purview of Sections 207 and 208 of the Act. Sec. 207 requires the transferee to give notice of the transfer to the Commissioner within one year from the date of demise of the transferor while Section 208 prescribed the Form of Notice and payment of mutation fee.

I wanted to peruse, for the sake of precision, any case law on the subject so as to be free from any doubt on the procedure. I found a judgment of the High Court in *Mohamad Abdul Jabbar Vs. Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation*, passed on November 5, 2013. The judgment affirmed all the procedure laid down under the GHMC Act and the rule regarding payment of mutation fee at 0.1 % of the valuation

of the property as fixed by the Registration Department.

I approached with all the particulars of the property, the Sub-Registrar concerned. I am pleasantly surprised the response was very quick and I received the valuation statement within the shortest possible time on payment of a nominal fee of Rs. 50.00. The market value of the property was assessed at Rs. 82,98,400/- With the market value of property in hand, a Demand Draft was drawn for a sum of Rs. 8,300.00 (0.1 % of the market value of the property) favoring the Commissioner, G.H.M.C. on 12.01.2015.

I approached then a senior officer in the office of the Commissioner, G.H.M.C and presented to him the following papers along with the Notice prescribed under Sec. 208:

1. Death Certificate of the transferor;
2. Attested copy of the Will;
3. Copies of Property Tax paid up to-date;
4. Market value statement; and
5. Demand Draft dated 12.01. 2015 issued by the Bank of Baroda for Rs. 8,300/-

The officer, having seen the above papers, advised me to produce Family Members Certificate issued by the Revenue Department and also No Objection Certificate for granting mutation of property from the other legal heirs.

The venue of my struggle is shifted to the Mandal Revenue Office of the area concerned. On enquiry in the office, I am told that, for obtaining a Family Members Certificate, the following docu-

ments need to be filed along with a proforma application before the Tahsildar:

1. Death Certificate;
2. A Certificate of last drawn pension;
3. Proof of residence;
4. Affidavit attested by Notary giving details of family members; and
5. Proof of the age of legal heirs and their dates of birth.

All the above documents could be prepared by the widow herself except the Pension Certificate. Therefore we decided to visit the Office of the Assistant Pension Payment Officer concerned and make a request to grant a certificate of last drawn pension of my friend. The A.P.P.O, tried to evade the issuance of the certificate on some pretext or the other. I had to enter into an argument for getting the certificate in an easy way. Finally we got the required certificate after spending a couple of hours in the Pension Payment Office.

Now well equipped with the necessary papers, the application for granting a Family Members Certificate along with the enclosures was presented to the Tahsildar. I am advised to file the papers in the Mee Seva Centre. I filed the papers in the Mee Seva Centre. There was no messenger to carry the papers to the office of the Tahsildar. I had to carry the papers and deliver them in the Tahsildar's office myself on 27.01. 2015.

A Revenue Inspector is supposed to conduct an enquiry and submit report to the Tahsildar for issuing Family Member Certificate. According to the norms prescribed, the matter needed to be disposed of within 30 working days from the date of handing over application in the Mee Seva Centre. There was no trace of the Revenue Inspector even after 30 working days. I had to influence the Tahsildar through a friend.

The Revenue Inspector appeared on the scene after the 30 days limit and completed the enquiry. Thereafter the Certificate is supposed to be transmitted to the Mee Seva Centre. My friend's wife made enquiry at the Mee Seva center many a time but there was always a negative reply. I had to again put in a word to the Tahsildar through the friend. Delay gives rise to doubt. The delay I suspect is for non-payment of speed money or greed-money. But thanks to my friend, who intervened in the matter, the Certificate was ready and I got a message from the Tahsil Office. I took delivery of the Family Members Certificate on 12.03.2015.

With all the documents collected after strenuous effort, I met the senior officer again in the office of the GHMC. I am advised to submit the papers at the counter of the Citizen Service Centre in the office of the Deputy Commissioners, GHMC, which I did without loss of time. There I found that the ordeal has not ended. The Service

Executive wanted an attested copy of the Link Document, an Affidavit of Undertaking-cum-Indemnity Bond on Rs. 50/- Non-Judicial Stamp Paper, Encumbrance certificate from the Registration Department and some other papers along with a blank non-judicial stamp paper of Rs. 20/-.

I have complied with the requirements. In getting the Encumbrance Certificate at the Registration office, I must say, its preparation and delivery was very quick again. I must state here that the officer and the staff of the Sub-Registrar's office have done excellent job with the least possible delay in helping the cause of my friend's wife. It is indeed commendable.

The papers are finally submitted in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, GHMC on 16.03.2015. It is said that all the employees are busy in Tax Collection as it is the financial year end. I am promised that the matter will be disposed of within 25 working days in the month of April 2015.

I have volunteered to do the job as a man-on-mission and it took almost two months in spite of vigorous pursuit to get the matter to its logical end. I hope to get a positive reply from the GHMC by April month-end. I least expected that the matter is so laborious and so tedious. I feel there is scope to simplify the procedure and reduce hardship to the citizen.

VAASTHU

By
J.V.Sharma

Fiction

Bechara appeared to be in high spirits when he dropped in at my place. "Good Morning Sir, I came here to take leave of you. I may not be seeing you again in life. I am leaving the country for good."

"You expect me not to live even till you are back from US?" I thought he will be going to US on a visit.

"I am migrating to China and will be leaving in a week. I have to fix a few more things and hardly have time to pack."

I was shocked. I never thought he would ever leave Indian shores even for a short visit. I have known him to be fiercely patriotic and critical of Indian expatriates and their relatives going on foreign jaunts. He always talked of brain drain and vehemently accused them of making business of their talent instead of using it for motherland. He often called them ungrateful. He firmly believed that it is better to live in penury in India than opting for green pastures abroad. What baffled me more is why did he choose China of all countries under the sun?

When I asked this, he said with his characteristic pride and confidence; "Yes, that is how I thought all these decades. Though I served the Government for nearly four decades and retired, I could not lead a decent life and did not have a house

of my own. It is all on account *Vaasthu* of the country. It is so powerful that it does not permit anyone even to entertain thoughts for his own good. *Vaasthu* dictates *Karma* (call it destiny here) and destiny dictates intellect (call it *Buddhi* here). *Buddhi Karma-anusarini*. (*Intellect drives one to destiny*)"

I became more confused. We discussed many issues over all these years and today he came up with a new topic. What surprised me even more is; how is it he is speaking so authoritatively on a topic so alien to him? Apart from this, this man did not have a house of his own and lived in rented houses all his life. How did *Vaasthu* bother him? I expressed it.

"I know you would ask this. Yes, I lived in fool's paradise all these years on account of *vaasthu dosham*. Our CM KCR's decision to shift the century old Secretariat premises on *vaasthu* considerations opened my eyes. I became curious of the subject and wanted to know more about it. I visited some book stalls and purchased some books on *vaasthu*. To make my task easy, I also purchased *Vaasthu Made Easy*, which gave the points in brief. I made enquiries about *Vaasthu Pundits* and had long sessions with two of them to clear my doubts. Now I am confident of the subject."

Bechara continued; "Then I started studying the *vaasthu* of our country. To my horror, I found everything wrong of India. *Vaasthu*-wise there are incurable defects in India. Most serious defects are:

1. Ideal shape of the country's land mass should be as regular as possible with minimum of curves and kinks. The shape of India is very irregular.
2. General topography should be such that South-West part is elevated, gently sloping towards North-East. For India, the Southern part, be it Kanyakumari of mainland or Indira Point of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, merges with sea at Zero-altitude.
3. Northern part of the land should be lower than the Southern part. For India, it is exactly the opposite. While the South is at sea level, we have world's highest mountains Himalayas forming northern boundary.
4. North-East point of the land should be the lowest. We have Arunachal Pradesh in the extreme North-East. Not only Arunachal Pradesh but even other States of North-East are of hilly terrain merging with mighty Himalayas.
5. General slope should be from South to North and West to East. Water flow should also conform to this principle. In India we do not have rivers flowing from south to north. We do have rivers flowing from west

or north-west to east and south east. All the good of western origin and eastern flow is more than off-set by the association of 'north' in the origin and of 'south' in the general direction of the flow of the rivers. To be honest, Jinnah did a good turn to India taking away the west and south-west flowing Sind to Pakistan. Otherwise, it would have been worse for India. We however continue to suffer on account of Narmada and north-western States.

6. Brahmaputra is particularly harmful as it flows westwards from north-East.
7. Peninsular India is better placed *vaasthu*-wise though not ideally placed. But we will be adding one more dimension of geographical diversity to the already confused and complex culture of the country. While some proudly declare that unity in diversity is our real strength, some others argue that diversity breeds divisive tendencies."

Continuing his monologue, *Bechara* said; "Because of such serious *vaasthu* defects, India suffered innumerable invasions and the history is replete with such incidents. Had the founders of the Nation thousands of years ago been *vaasthu* conscious, they would have tailored the territory ideally and there would not have been invasions by Alexander, nor the influx from North-West, nor the Slave Dynasty, nor the

Mughuls, nor the British. We would not have heard about Ghorri, Ghazni and Nadir Shah. In hindsight, I feel that Partition of India was on account of *Vaasthu Dosham*. Sardar Patel should have consulted a *Vaasthu Pundit* at least before giving final shape to what is now called India. We would have been saved of present day turmoil in many States and insurgencies in particular."

"But what has all this to do with your migration to China?" I asked.

"I am coming to that, Sir. Please bear with me. I think it all started in a small group discussion among friends and acquaintances. With my newfound love for *Vaasthu* and in my enthusiasm to expose my just acquired knowledge in it, I catalogued some of the *vaasthu* defects the country is afflicted with. A listener asked whether there is any cure. I responded that the defects are potential and incurable but mitigative steps can be tried which might help to some extent but that will be at very heavy price. It may have some salutary effect if the whole of North-East and the entire land mass to the north of Yamuna-Ganga flow line is delinked from the rest of the country. There happened to a person present who was the brother-in-law of an anchor of a noted TV Channel. He surreptitiously snapped a few shots and Lo!; there was a hot debate on TV. Different people said different things. One panelist interpreted it as anti-national and accused me of indirectly strengthening the claims of our

hostile neighbors China and Pakistan. Obviously, this programme attracted the attention of those countries. As I was given to understand later, there were some quick consultations between China and Pakistan. A back channel messenger approached me and asked whether I am prepared to accept the offer."

"What was the Offer?" I enquired.

"It is an assignment as 'Advisor on Cultural Planning of Land Resource' and to deliver lectures on *Vaasthu* in Chinese and Pakistani Universities, covering Beijing, Shanghai, Lahore and Karachi in the first spell. Task is to establish a faculty on the subject and to oversee its working. Immigration, a permanent allotment of a decent house in Beijing suburb, chauffeur driven car, secretarial and domestic assistance, with a pay packet of tax-free three hundred thousand US dollars per annum, with an escalation of 10% for every succeeding year, work time optional but not less than 12 days in a month including the travel time. I couldn't refuse the offer. I stipulated only one condition; that I will work only on *Vaasthu* and not on any other thing. Temporary Immigration letter, Visa, offer letter and air tickets were delivered in three days. Thus I am on my way to China. Good Bye."

"It is incredible, my friend. I am unable to comprehend the events. Hard to believe you made so much of progress in matter of weeks. Hats

off to your genius - you mastered the subject in such short time." I said.

"Sir, let me be honest at least with you. I am as ignorant on *Vaasthu* in academic sense as I was ever. What made the difference is my belief in it."

"But, before you leave, please do me a favor. How is our new State's *vaasthu*?" I asked.

"I will tell you when I return alive. And if you are still around." *Bechara* left my place so saying.

(Editor's Note: *Vasthu* is Indian Engineering Science before modern engineering science developed, which envisages maximum light, maximum ventilation, minimum entry of rain water into the house during rainy season, slope for the draining of rain water, and positioning of the toi-

let and kitchen in such a way that if fire accident takes place the least damage should occur to the house and property, as lot of timber was used in construction of houses. That is the reason the *Vasthu* of Tamilnadu is totally reverse to the *Vasthu* of Andhra Pradesh due to the opposite direction of rainas. We get South East monsoon and Tamilnadu gets North East monsoon. The people who are knowing this Indian Engineering science realized that if simply they tell this to people they will not listen and they have said that *Vasthu Dosham*, and they frighten the people by saying if you don't follow this you will be put to loss, or you will die, or your son, daughter or wife will die or you will incur lose in business. People started following their advices after this.)

Notice

During the General body meeting of retired forest officers at forest academy Dulapally on 22-3-2015, discussion took place on the vigorous efforts being made by Governments of Telangana and A.P. to improve the green cover within and outside the forests. In this context it is decided that retired officer also should involve themselves for successful implementation of Haritha Haram and Neeru Chettu Programmes of T.S. and A.P. governments respectively.

In this regard it is proposed to constitute a small group (committee) to go into the activities to be taken up by retired officers. Members interested to take part in the programme may contact Secretary Retired FOREST OFFICERS ASSOCIATION.

WATER WOES OF HYDERABAD

By

M. Padmanabha Reddy

The greatest problem for the residents of Hyderabad is non availability of potable water. With one crore plus population we need about 500 million gallons of water per day (mgd.). The current availability is hardly 350 mgd. The details :

I. Water from Rivers:

S.No.	Name of the source	Year of Commission	Normal supply (Million Gallons Per day)
1.	Osman Sagar	1920	25 (on musli river)
2.	HimayatSagar	1927	20 (on Esa river)
3.	Manjeera Phase – I	1965	15 (Manjeera Barrage)
4.	Manjeera Phase - II	1981	30 (Manjeera Barrage)
5.	Manjeera Phase - III	1991	30 (Singur Dam)
6.	Manjeera Phase – IV	1993	30 (Singur Dam)
7.	Krishna Project Phase – I	2005	90 (NagarjunaSagar)
8.	Krishna Project Phase – II	2007	90
9.	Water from bore wells of water board		25
----- Total. -----			355 mgd.

II Projects in the pipeline

1.	Krishna Phase III (Likely completion date)	2015	90 mgd
2.	Godavari Phase I (Likely completion date)	2016	180 mgd

Due to leakages in transmission about 25% of water i.e 85 mgd.is lost.

The net availability is

355 - 85mgd	=	270
Through individual bore wells of residents	=	80
Total	=	350 mgd

Come summer the water woes of common man especially women starts, while the middle class families spend about 10-15% of their income on water tankers, poor depending on water board tankers spend hours for arrival of water tankers. Water availability in Siwar municipalities is much more serious.

Apart from short supply the quality of water supplied is doubtful. Various research reports show that 30% of the water supplied especially in slums is contaminated. The water distribution pipelines in Hyderabad were laid about 70 years back. In the course of time the G.I. pipes rusted and leaking at many places, thus much water is lost in transmission. Added to it, when the pipes are empty the drain water is entering into the pipes leading to contamination. 2014 being a drought year shortage is felt before the onset of summer. The bores in houses started drying up there by reducing supply. The second thing to follow is Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar which account for 45 mgd., started drying up reducing supply. With this shortage looming large, the much talked about Krishna phase III may marginally improve the position but still large gap persists between demand and supply.

Krishna Phase III: In August 2011 Government gave clearance for taking up Krishna Phase III with an estimated cost of Rs. 1670 crores. Shortage of funds compelled the government to authorize M.D. water board to avail a loan of Rs. 1500 crores at 12% interest from HUDCO and balance 170 crores will be funded by government. The project was to complete by December 2013. Due to various reasons the project could not be completed by appointed day, hence completion date extended to March 2014, by which date also it could not be completed and further extended by a year up to March 2015. Even now one is not sure as to when the Krishna Phase III water reaches city.

Godavari drinking water phase I : To improve the availability of drinking water to Hyderabad government have taken up Godavari drinking water project in the year 2008 at the cost of Rs.3375 crores. The project is supposed to be completed by March 2010. Water has to be pumped from Pranahita River to Yellampally project and from there to Hyderabad. Pranahita project is a non-starter and may take decades to complete. Meanwhile government planned to draw 10 TMC (180 mgd.) water from Yellampally. The funniest part here is Yellampally project has a storage capacity of 20 TMC. It is estimated that due to floods in Godavari the project will be filled up thrice so that availability of water will be 60 TMC. But then, 65 TMC water allotments are already made for irrigation and drinking water to various municipalities around Yellampally. Now water board is planning to draw 10 TMC of water from Yellampally without any allotment. If 10 TMC is draw from

Yellampally to Hyderabad it will be only by cutting down water to other Municipalities like Bellampally, Mancherial, Mandamarri etc. It is nothing but a bad planning by water board.

Godavari drinking water phase I is supposed to be completed by March 2010. Number of times the date was extended. If all goes well it may complete by March 2016.

Looking at the prospects, this summer is going to be very difficult for the people of Hyderabad. To meet the demand hundreds of Tankers are running on the roads of Hyderabad transporting water from different places. Big water mafia of tanker owners is operating in the city extracting heavy price for the water they supply. Some times 300% more than official price.

Solutions:

1. Reduce transmission losses by replacing the old rusted pipes. It also helps preventing contamination of water.
2. 'In-situ' water conservation: GHMC has an area of 700 sq.km and with 750 mm annual rainfall the amount of rainwater received is equal to 15 TMC. If 50% of rain water received is harvested through 'In-situ' water conservation with Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS) in every house and other common lands the quantity harvested will be is equal to 130 mgd., which will go a long way to recharge the bore wells. In the name of construction of RWHS, (as per WALTA Act) water board has collected Rs. 22 crores and GHMC collected (about) 100 crores from public. These 122 crores is sufficient to construct 2 lakh RWHS. If authorities start working now there will be a RWHS in every house by June 2015 and help recharge the dried up bore wells and with recharged bore wells there will be substantial improvement in water availability.
3. As population increases demand for water also increases. Recycling of used water should be taken up to meet the ever increasing demand. This is what is being done in many smart cities in the world.
4. There should be awareness campaign to avoid wastage of water by people and industry.
5. Keeping in view of increase in population in coming 10 years, work should start on Godavari phase II.

Strict implementation of Water Land and Trees Act (WALTA) to prevent commercial exploitation of ground water by water mafia.

Birth Day Greetings

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

S.No.	Name of Members	Date of Birth		
	Assn.Members			
	Sarva Sri		Kallol Biswas	4/5/1964
	Iqbal Singh	9/4/1953	P.Mallikarjun Rao	4/5/1958
	A.Rama Krishna	10/4/1923	G.KistaGoud	8/4/1974
	V.Subbaraghaviah	10/4/1935	B.Raja Rao	12/4/1965
	S.Mahadev	10/4/1951	L.Bheemaiah	17/4/1963
	S.Krishnaiah	15/4/1952	K.Rajasekhara Rao	20/4/1968
	JVKT Prabhakar Rao	15/4/1953	C.Sreedhara Rao	24/4/1965
	S.Veerabhadram	17/4/1950	B.Vijay Kumar	24/4/1968
	S.V.Kumar	21/4/1953	R.Hanumantha Rao	1/5/1961
	N.Manohar Rao	1/5/1942	P.Venkateshwarlu	1/5/1962
	D.BasavaSankara Rao	1/5/1954	B.Nagaraju	1/5/1963
	K.Prabhu Prasad	2/5/1946	P.Sagar	3/5/1965
	G.Prabhakar Reddy	2/5/1952	M.Joji	4/5/1967
	P.KanakaRatnam	5/5/1949	T.Sreenivasa Rao	4/5/1969
	G.SatyaNarayana	5/5/1950		

- Secretary

Working Officers

Sarva Sri	
Dr.Shanthi Priya Pandey	8/4/1972
R.M.Dobriyal	10/4/1965
BNN Murthy	19/4/1979
M.J. Akbar	26/4/1962
RU Kashappa	1/5/1958



10 NATURAL REMEDIES TO STRENGTHEN YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM

Your immunity is the shield that protects your body from a whole host of infections like cold and cough, skin infections, respiratory ailments, and strengthening it is very essential to staying healthy. While you can do a number of things to help strengthen it like exercising, eating right and paying attention to your cleanliness there are certain natural ways to give it a boost. Here are 10 foods that can help give your immune system that much needed boost.

Guavas, oranges and lemons: - Guavas, oranges and lemons contain vitamin C which plays an important role as a natural antioxidant in our body. Vitamin C also helps the white blood cells perform their function of responding quickly to infections and thus, has an immunity-enhancing action. Apart from that, guavas also contain a lot of fiber which has a protective role against high cholesterol and heart disease.

Carrots, red pumpkins and papayas: - All orange, yellow and red colored fruits and vegetables are rich sources of beta carotene that is known to have immune-protective action. By acting on different components of the immune system, beta carotene helps the body fend off infection quite effectively. So make sure you include a lot of papaya, carrots and red pumpkins in your diet to keep your immune system running smoothly.

Garlic: - Along with its action against bacterial and viral infections and anti-inflammatory ac-

tivity, garlic has been known for its protective action against heart disease and high levels of blood cholesterol. In recent times, studies have been increasingly finding garlic plays a role in preventing cancers of different organs. Include a little crushed garlic in your cooking every day and the allicin it contains will keep your immune system up and running in perfect condition.

Flaxseeds: - Flaxseed contains alpha-linolenic acid, omega-3 fatty acid and phytoestrogens called lignans – all these ingredients are important in modulating the response of the immune system. By acting on the components that mediate the immune response, these compounds can help keep infections and autoimmune diseases away.

Turmeric: - Turmeric contains vitamin B6 and a lot of minerals such as potassium, manganese and iron that play an important role in the functioning of different body systems. Besides, it also contains curcumin which has valuable antioxidant action and this enhances the functioning of the immune system.

Yogurt: - You may have heard of yogurt as being good for digestion because it contains probiotics. Several studies have found that it can also improve immune function and protect the body against common bacterial and viral infections. This action is believed to be a result of yogurt's ability to stimulate the pro-

duction of interferon – a component that boosts the immune system's functioning. Some studies have also found that consuming yogurt daily can reduce your chances of developing vaginal yeast infections.

Almonds: - A lack of vitamin E can affect the immune system's ability to fight infections. Chew on a handful of almonds which are rich in vitamin E; this will keep your immune system running in smooth order.

Crab, oyster and red meat: - Zinc is one of the minerals that is essential for the body to function at optimal levels. It helps the white blood cells perform their protective action against infections; it also plays an important role as a catalyst in the reactions of the immune system in destroying foreign organisms. Make sure you get enough zinc by including crab, oyster and red meat in your diet. Vegetarians especially are at risk of zinc deficiency; however, foods such as whole grains, beans and fortified cereals do contain zinc, so make sure you include these in your diet.

Green leafy vegetables: - If you have always eaten green leafy vegetables out of compulsion, here is some news to make you love them. These leaf veggies are a rich source of folic acid which has an important role in the working of the immune system. Studies have found that people with deficiency of folic acid are unable to secrete necessary quantities of antibodies that have infection-fighting properties. Especially if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, make sure you get more of folic acid to supplement your

body's increased requirement during these times.

Green Tea: - Green tea is a potent source of antioxidants called the polyphenols – especially catechins. Some studies have found that these have the ability to destroy the influenza – or common cold – virus. However, when you have green tea, it is important you leave the milk out because the proteins in milk will bind with the catechins, causing it to lose its antioxidant properties. Adding a little lemon or honey will not have such effects and can even improve palatability. Make sure you only have a few cups of green tea a day, as this excellent health drink also has side effects.

Foods and products that can weaken your immune system: - While all these foods do help to boost immunity, it is also vital to avoid those foods that diminish the immune system's ability to deal with infection. Substances that irritate the inner lining of the stomach – **alcohol** and some drugs such as **ibuprofen** for example – can have the effect of reducing immune system responses and therefore, should be avoided. Several **pesticides** that are used in growing food contain metals such as **lead, mercury and cadmium**; if these find a way into your food, they can have a harmful effect on your immunity – yet another reason to switch to organically grown foods.

So, what are you waiting for? Stock your kitchen with the foods mentioned here to cut your odds of suffering from health problems that interfere with the quality of your life.

STATUS OF WILDLIFE AND NEW RECORDS, DISCOVERY FROM SESA CHALAM HILLS, ANDHRA PRADESH

By
M.Bubesh Gupta and N.V.Sivaram Prasad

The Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve designated recently in 2011, these hill ranges are part of the Eastern Ghats lie between 13°38' E and 13°55'N latitudes and 79°07' and 79°24'E longitudes spread over 4755.997 Km², Chittoor and Kadapa districts of Andhra Pradesh. Tirumala hills which are popularly known as the seven hills of Lord Sri Venkateswara. The elevation ranges from 150 to 1,130 m, the terrain is undulating, with deep forest-covered valleys. The mean maximum temperature ranges from 16° C to 46° C and minimum from 9.7°C to 25 ° C depending upon the season. Average rainfall in this region is between 800 to 900mm. Most of the rainfall is received from the northeast monsoon and a little from the southwest monsoon. The vegetation is a unique mix of the tropical southern dry mixed deciduous type (Champion and Seth, 1968). It is the richest floristic hot spot harboring many endemic and rare plants. *The entire sanctuary is an uninhabited large chunk of dry deciduous Red Sanders bearing forest, forming catchments to Swarnamukhi and Pennar rivers, both in Chittoor and Kadapa districts.* It includes three protected areas, namely Sri

Venkateswara Wildlife Sanctuary, Sri Venkateswara National Park and Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve.

STUDY ON THE FAUNAL DIVERSITY FROM SESHACHALAM HILLS

Various groups of animals found in the study area were recorded by both direct and indirect methods during the present study period. Different sampling techniques were applied to record different faunal groups in the study area. Animals recorded in the present study include butterflies, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.

MAMMALS SURVEY METHOD:

Survey the presence of mammals in the Seshachalam Hills was conducted following standard methods. Direct, indirect and camera trap gird methods (2kmX2km) for selected location and covered all three ranges namely, Tirupati, Balapalli and Chamala (tracks, signs, visual encounter survey and camera trap image) were applied to get an overall view on mammals present in the study area and abundance were analysed. For survey of mammals,

tracks, signs, visual encounter survey and camera trap were used. Species were also identified by indirect evidences such as pug marks, calls, signs and scats (Bang et al. 1972; Burnham et al. 1980 and Heyer et al. 1994). Mammals were identified following Menon (2003).

BUTTERFLY SURVEY METHOD:

Preliminary observation was conducted to identify areas with large population of butterflies. Seven locations were selected which were visited every week (Fig.1) from August 2011 to August 2013. Observations were made through transects each of 500 m length with 5-10 m on either side. Some species which are difficult to identify, were caught by hand net and released after identification. Every week eight transects were covered from 0700-1130hr & 1400-1700hr. Abundance of butterflies and in different habitats were recorded. Mostly photographic documents were done. Species identification was made using various field guides and other available literature (Antram, 2002; Evans, 1932; Gunathilagaraj, 1998; Haribal, 1992 & Kunte, 2000).

HERPETOFAUNA SURVEY METHOD:

Totally 68 field days in three different ranges namely Tirupati, Balapalli and Chamala were spent to rapidly assess the research on herpetofauna, during May 2011 to January 2014, with the objective to determine the present distribution and presence of the species. Data

collection will be carried out by using Visual Encounter Survey Method. Transects of 500 m length will be covered on foot and carefully examine for obtaining sighting of the target species on both the sides. Such transects will be selected systematically in such a way that equal number of transects will be laid in the entire habitat. The area was different zones, like Road, water bodies, scrub jungle, dense forest, open forest etc. Each zone was randomly explored on the basis of habitat structure and possibility and availability of the species. All important major and minor water bodies, including seasonal rivulets were extensively explored for aquatic species, especially amphibians. Preliminary information on habitat and IUCN status was also gathered (Molur & Walker 1998). All collected herpetofaunal specimens were examined and carefully identified by using the diagnostic keys given by Smith (1935, 1943), Daniel 1963b and 1975), Daniel (1997) and the nomenclatures adopted here are those of [Das (1994), Dutta (1997). (Smith 1943; Schulz 1996; Daniel 2002; Sharma 2003; Whitaker & Captain 2004)

AVIFAUNA SURVEY METHOD:

The Avifauna study was conducted discontinuously from August 2011 to December 2013. Using direct visual count. Accessible forest trails and in and around the wetlands were used to cover the forest by foot. The observations were carried out mainly in the morning between

6:30 to 10:30 hrs. evening 3:30 to 5:30 hrs. The birds were sighted using a binocular (8x40) and only confirmed species are included in the checklist. For the spot identification we followed standard field guide (Grimmett *et al.* 1999) and nomenclature and classification is followed according to Manakadan and Pittie (2001).

OBSERVATIONS AND RESULTS

MAMMALS SURVEY:

A total of 25 species of mammals belonging to 17 families were recorded (**Annexure 1**). IUCN status and schedule species were analyzed. During camera traps as well as direct sighting (28 individuals) of Elephant were recorded. The Leopard *Panthera pardus* and Wild Dog *Cuon alpinus* is quite common in our study, other predators and ungulates were captured. The nocturnal Slender Loris *Loristoides gracilis* could be common but is seldom seen. Indian Giant Squirrel *Ratufa indica* and Ruddy mongoose *Herpestes smithi* are other interesting species.

BUTTERFLY SURVEY:

A total of 96 species of butterflies belonging to five families were recorded (Annexure II). The family Nymphalidae and Lycaenidae were found dominant with 32 (33%) species and 22 (23%) species, respectively, followed by Pieridae (19 (20%) species), Hesperidae (14 (15%) species) and Papilionidae (9 (9%) species) were recorded (Fig 2) and rank abundance, cluster analyze were calculated (Fig 3 & 4). Observed species were

grouped in five categories on basis of number of sighting in the field. The butterflies were categorized as Very Common (VC) 20% (19 species), Common (C) 37% (36 species), Uncommon (UC) 16% (15 species), Occasional (O) 18% (17 species) and Rare (R) 9% (9 species) (Fig 5). In our observation more number of butterflies preferred open forest (36%), followed by Scrub jungle (37%), dense forest (21%), grass land (5%) and mud puddle (1%) Composition and status of butterflies in the study area also gathered (Table 2). And also Alpha diversity index were analyzed (Table 3). Generally a large numbers of butterflies were seen in the month of October. Out of 96 butterflies were recorded, among which seven species come under the protection category of the Indian Wildlife (protection) Act 1972. Among them *Pachliopta hector*, *Hypolimnas bolina*, *Castalius rosion*, came under schedule I Part IV of the act. The species recorded which come under schedule II Part II of the Wildlife protection Act, 1972 *Euchrysops cnefus*, *Lampides boeticus* and *Cepora nerissa*. The species recorded which came under schedule IV of the Wildlife protection act were *Euploea core* (Gupta & Mondal, 2005).

HERPETOFAUNA SURVEY

A detailed survey of herpetofauna was conducted from 2nd May 2011 Onwards. Data collection was carried out by using Visual Encoun-

ter Survey Method. So far 43 species of Reptiles belonging to 37 genera, distributed in 12 families were recorded (30 species of snakes (93%) and 13 species of lizards (7%) (Annexure III). The snakes belong to six families, more number of snakes were recorded from the family Colubridae (18 species) followed by, Boidae (3 species), Elapidae (3 species), Viperidae (3 species), Typhlopidae (2 species) and Uropeltidae (1 species). The lizards belongs to six families have been recorded in the study area, more number of lizards were recorded from the family Gekkonidae (5 species) followed by Agamidae (3 species), Scincidae (2 species), Varanidae (1 species), Chamaeleonidae (1 species) and Testudinidae (1 species). Snake IUCN status were gathered i.e. 77% (LR-nt) followed by 17% (LR-lc) and 6% (VU). The lizards status like, 46% (LR-lc) followed by 23% (LR-nt), 23% (VU) and 8% (EN) were recorded. So for 30 snake species were recorded, among which six species are venomous snakes were recorded. A total of 8 species of Amphibians belonging to 4 families were recorded.

AVIFAUNA SURVEY

The Seshachalam hills are the first biosphere reserve in Andhra Pradesh, and are located in the southern Eastern Ghats of Chittoor and kadapa districts. The vegetation comprises of unique mix of the tropical southern dry mixed deciduous type. The study was carried out from August

2011 to February 2014. The present study recorded 215 species of birds, which belong to 17 orders and 45 families. The study yielded 172 species (80%) were resident, 30 (14%) winter migrant, 8 (4%) Seasonal local migrant and 5 (2%) were local migrant. 88 species were found common (C); followed by 91 species uncommon (UC); 15 species rare (R); 14 species occasional (O) and 7 species were found very rare (VR). Passeriform birds are the dominating order of birds, more than 14 families and 79 species of birds were recorded. During bird survey IUCN status also gathered, out of 215 species, (n= 209), 97% species were least concern (LR-lc), (n= 4), 2% species were Near Threatened (LR-nt) and (n= 3), 1% species were vulnerable (VU) status. The finding of the present study underline the importance of Seshachalam Hills and also provided baseline data about birds of the in and around the reserve.

The overall biodiversity value about the Seshachalam hills are so rich that the, herpetofauna diversity was studied in depth by (Gupthaet *al.*, 2013), followed by butterfly diversity (Gupthaet *al.*, 2013 and 2014) and new records, New locality records, rediscoveries and discovery also reported in this hills. Slender coral snake (Guptha and Rajsekhar, 2011); Elliot's Shield tail (Gupthaet *al.* 2013), Brown vine snake (Gupthaet *al.* 2013), Gooty Tarantula (Gupthaet *al.* 2014), Nagarjunasagar Racer

(Gupthaet.al. 2013), and Yellow collared wolf snake (Gupthaet.al. 2013) and Sri Lankan Flying snake (Gupthaet.al. 2015) were recorded.

We recommend that further studies be carried out in the Eastern Ghats and its surrounding areas at the earliest possible opportunity to confirm the presence of many such new species. Also everyone should realize that the protection of habitat is an important aspect in conservation of such species

NEW RECORDS AND DISCOVERY FROM BIO-LAB

1. SLENDER CORAL SNAKE *CALLIOPHIS MELANURUS*

This snake one of the rare species in India and also one of the poisonous snake. The Slender Coral Snake is light brown and to some extent speckled. Its head and neck are black with two prominent yellow spots on the top of the head. This snake mostly found underground, under stones and scrub forests. This species were recorded and proved a **new record in this region** and also published in **Journal of Reptile Rap.**

Status: Rare. Species and listed as Lower Risk-Near Threatened

2. ELLIOT'S SHIELDTAIL *UROPELTIS ELLIOTI*

The Elliot's Shieldtail one of the non-poisonous snake. The ventral scales, dark brown body powdered with minute yellow and the anal region and obliquely truncates tail forming a feebly u-shaped disc with multi-carinate scales.

This mostly distributed in Western Ghats. Few studies have been done in Eastern Ghats. In Andhra Pradesh, especially Seshachalam Hills, *Uropeltisellioti* are **new records in this region** and also published in **Journal of Reptile Rap.**

Status: *Uropeltisellioti* listed as Lower Risk-near threatened

3. BROWN VINE SNAKE *AHAETULLA PULVERULENTA*

Brown vine snake *Ahaetullapulverulenta* is a very uncommon species which was known to occur in India along the Western Ghats from Gujarat to Kerala, especially Eastern Ghats there is no report earlier. Our report showing, this is the **first new locality record** in Eastern Ghats. This is one of the Mildly Venomous snakes. This species is characterized by thin, dark brown rhomboidal mark on top of the head with a brown stripe passing through the eye on side of the head. Its eye is large, transversely oval with horizontal pupil. The head is extremely pointed with enlarged nose tip. This paper also published in **Universal Journal of Environmental Research and Technology.**

Status: Uncommon. Species and listed as Lower Risk near threatened

4. NAGARJUNASAGAR RACER *COLUBER BHOLANATHI*

Nagarjunasagar Racer is so far known only from the type locality in Nagarjuna Hills, in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. This species discov-

ered by Sharma 1976, after that there is no record in our county. Our record is the, **second records in India** and also **rediscovered after 37 years in Seshachalam Hills**. This is one of the non-poisonous snakes in India. This paper also published in **Journal of Herpetology Note**.

5. GOOTY TARANTULA *POECILOThERIA METALLICA*

Gooty Tarantulas known only from southwestern India; near Gooty in Andhra Pradesh. So far very little information is available or published about this species ecology, distribution and breeding biology. First discovered by Pocock, 1899, after that there is no record in our county. Now our report shows, this is the **second report in India** especially real habitat record and also **rediscovered after 114 year in Seshachalam Hills**. It reflects brilliant metallic blue color. Behavior parallels that of many arboreal spiders. In the wild the *P. metallica* live in holes of tall trees where they make asymmetric funnel webs. Their primary prey consists of various flying insects, which they seize in flight and paralyze. This paper also published in **Universal Journal of Environmental Research and Technology**.

Status: Very Rare Species and listed as Critically Endangered

6. YELLOW COLLARED WOLF SNAKE *LYCODON FLAVICOLLIS*

Yellow Collared Wolf Snake *Lycodon flavicollis* is a species of nonvenomous snake, Snout broad, much depressed, long, spatulate, with the upper lip swollen. Uniform brownish grey above, with a yellow collar

So far very little information is available or published about this species, *Lycodon flavicollis* a new species were described recently from Anaikatti Hills, Tamil Nadu, and Western Ghats. After that there is no report in India. Now our report shows, this is second report in India and also **First records in Eastern Ghats**. This paper also published in **International Journal of Research in Biology**.

7. SRI LANKAN FLYING SNAKE (*CHRYSOPELEA TAPROBANICA*)

Sri Lankan Flying Snake Smith, 1943 was previously considered to be endemic to the dry and intermediate zones of Sri Lanka. However, an adult specimen of *C. taprobanica* was collected from Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve of Andhra Pradesh, India, being the first record of this snake species from India, significantly extending the known range of distribution of the species. The dry zones of peninsular India were connected with Sri Lanka as recently as ca. 17,000 years ago, which probably allowed movement of species between these two regions. **First Record in India**. This paper also published in **International Journal of Checklist**.

10 HEALTHY RESOLUTIONS EVERY DIABETIC SHOULD FOLLOW FOR A BETTER LIFE

Source: internet

Here are some simple yet practical ways for you to bring your blood sugar under control.

You do not have to wait for the New Year to start all over again to get your resolutions in place. Especially if you are suffering, from, a condition like diabetes. The reason being the time you decide to start to live healthy to control diabetes is the time when your year-of-good-health starts. So here is how you can gain control over your fluctuating blood sugar and be on the healthier side even with a condition like diabetes.

Resolution #1: Check blood sugar levels regularly; For a diabetic his/her blood sugar level is an extremely important aspect of staying healthy. It indicates how well you are managing your diabetes and, if you have either high amounts of blood sugar (hyperglycaemia) or low blood sugar levels (hypoglycaemia) in your blood – both are extremely dangerous.

Hypoglycemia is a condition in which the blood glucose levels drop below the lower normal limit (80 mg), and it affects the working of the entire body. The common symptoms of the condition are lethargy, decrease in mental function, irritability, shakiness, weakness in the arm and/or leg muscles, sweating and loss of consciousness. In severe cases, one may suffer from brain damage as well.

In the case of **hyperglycemia**, one's blood sugar levels are higher than the normal limit (120 mg). While suppressed appetite is a short-term symptom, long-term symptoms include eye, kidney and nerve damage plus increased risk of heart disease.

What you can do about it: The best way to check your blood sugar levels at regular intervals is to have a glucometer at hand. According to Dr Rajiv Kovil, 'A type 2 diabetic should measure his/her glucose levels once before a meal and once two hours after a meal. This should be done on different days at different times, also known as scattered checks. In the case of people suffering from type 1 diabetes, they should get a 7 point check, before and after meals, along with a 3 am reading.' Invest in a blood glucometer, it will not only cut down all the trouble of going to a hospital to get your blood tested, but will also make the process much more convenient.

Resolution #2: Get your HbA1 checked twice a year; - HbA1c (Hemoglobin A1c) is a simple blood test that tells you and your doctor how well your diabetes is managed over time. It is aimed at measuring your average blood sugar levels, and to see if it has stayed within the required range. The test works by measuring the amount of glucose that gets attached to your

red blood cells – that are said to be ‘glycated’ when the glucose molecule gets attached to it. This means that the higher the amount of glucose that gets attached to the cells, the lesser the amount of oxygen the cells can transport to your body and tissues. The average percentage of glycoslated cells directly translates to the HbA1c reading. According to Dr Rajiv Kovil, renowned diabetologist, ‘A diabetic should get his/her HbA1c levels tested every six months, and the level should be below 7% to avoid any further complications.’ A normal person’s HbA1c level is usually below 5%, but in a diabetic this level is increased because of the amount of glucose in their blood. An average above 7% is an alarm that you are more susceptible to diabetes related complications. Uncontrolled diabetes can raise the risk of you developing eye diseases like diabetic retinopathy by 76%, Kidney disease by 50% and nerve damage by 60%*.

What you can do: Get this test done either twice a year (every 6 months) or once in three months depending on how well your diabetes is controlled. If you tend to forget, you can ask our doctor to schedule the test for you whenever it has to be done. The test is simple and does not require you to fast to take it, so just take an appointment and get tested. Know why ‘Diabetes is not a blood sugar disease it is a vascular disorder’, says expert.

Resolution #3: Have all your medication on time; Eating the right amount of medication at the right time is one of the most important aspects to controlling your diabetes. It is impor-

tant for you to understand that you cannot eat two tablets instead of one if you miss your previous medication or if you eat more than you should have. These medicines work on a particular enzyme produced in the body at a particular time, and therefore more is not always better. Missing medication can increase your risk of suffering from the common complications associated with diabetes like kidney disease, diabetic retinopathy, diabetic dyslipidemia and diabetic foot. Constantly fluctuating blood sugar levels wreak havoc in your body, so keeping a close track of your medication is essential.

What you can do: A good way to keep a track of your medication is to have a schedule written down, referring to your prescription might not always be feasible. You could also buy a daily drug dispenser that will help you have your medication on time, every day. Alternatively you could tell your friend or relative about your schedule and ask him/her to remind you.

Resolution #4: Take care of your kidneys; One of the most serious consequences of diabetes mellitus (DM) is renal or kidney disease, also known as diabetic nephropathy. This happens if your diabetes is not well controlled, leading to kidney damage and finally nephropathy. Another common complication is chronic kidney disease (CKD). This is a condition where the kidneys have been damaged to such an extent that they start to malfunction. The final stage of this disease is the complete failure of your kidneys, which inhibits it from performing any of

its essential functions like filtering out toxins or eliminating waste from the body. Depending on the amount of damage your kidneys sustain you may require dialysis or a kidney transplant.

What you can do about it: The best thing you can do for your kidneys is to eat right and drink lots of water. A diet rich in fiber, potassium and other minerals can do wonders for you kidney's health. You can also talk to your doctor about your likely hood of suffering from kidney disease and ask for medication to slow its degradation. Getting specific tests like serum albumin and creatinine once a year is also a good idea.

Resolution #5: Keep your cholesterol levels in check; As a diabetic you are more prone to higher levels of LDL 'bad' cholesterol, increasing your risk of suffering from heart disease and stroke. High cholesterol also leads to a common complication of diabetes known as diabetic dyslipidemia (where your LDL cholesterol becomes dense and the amount of HDL cholesterol increases). Diabetic dyslipidemia is dangerous since it leads to clogged arteries that make you more susceptible to coronary heart disease due to arteriosclerosis, stroke and other vascular problems.

What you can do about it: The best way to keep your cholesterol levels in check is by maintaining a healthy diet and exercising regular. You should ideally stay away from high fat foods like sweets, deep fried foods, foods labeled cholesterol-free and junk food. Instead you could include cholesterol busting foods into your diet

like oats, fish, **methi**, onions, brinjal, green tea and brown rice. Also, know about

Resolution #6: Eat right; Monitoring your diet is highly vital as the food you eat directly affects your blood sugar levels and weight. In order to make sure you are eating healthy, follow these tips:

- Eat every 2-3 hours in small quantities rather than eating 3 large meals.
- Include complex carbs in every meal – whole wheat, **ragi, jowar**, brown rice, oats, etc.
- Avoid refined cereal products like bread, noodles, polished rice, etc. as they can raise blood sugar levels.
- Choose fibre-rich foods like vegetables, whole grains, etc. You should aim for 25-25g of fibre/day through diet to maintain blood glucose levels.
- Low-fat milk products like curd, **paneer** and egg whites, lean chicken and fish are great protein sources which can prove helpful in diabetes management.
- If you are a vegetarian, whole pulses and **dals** can provide little protein and good amounts of fibre.
- You can enjoy all vegetables especially green, leafy ones. Limit your intake of potatoes.
- Depending on your blood sugar, don't have more than 2 fruits/day and if you are fond of mango/banana, opt for these early in the morning.

- Reduce butter, ghee or oil intake. Also, avoid processed foods like cakes, biscuits, ready-to-eat foods as they are loaded with fats. Salt and sugar and can aggravate complications like blood pressure and cholesterol levels.
- Sugary foods are a complete no-no. You can use artificial sweeteners occasionally, but avoid over-dependence on them.
- Always carry a snack with you when travelling to avoid hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) and dizziness.

What you can do about it: Eating healthy is as simple as making wise choices. Just because you have diabetes, it does not mean that you have to give up everything you love eating. It is as simple as making small changes in the foods you choose.

Resolution #7: Exercise regularly; Only monitoring your diet won't work, physical exercise is also an important aspect to maintain normal blood sugar levels. It not only gets the 'happy hormones' flowing making you happier, it increases your lung capacity, helps in better blood circulation, reduces cholesterol levels and improves the overall working of your body. But before you hit the gym, here are a few guidelines you should follow:

- Make sure you check your blood sugar levels at home before and after exercise and avoid exercising if your blood sugar levels are too high or too low. If you are on insulin,

modify your carb intake depending on your sugar levels

- Eat a complex carb snack like sandwich, wrap, oats an hour before you do any activity.
- Eat immediately after exercise to avoid fall in blood sugar.
- Carry sugar tablets or glucose water with you in case of an emergency hypoglycemia situation.
- Avoid exercise in case of severe complications like kidney problems, nerve problems or wounds.

What you can do about it: Make sure you exercise at least 4-5 times/week to help you get your blood sugar in control. If you are just starting off, choose moderate exercises like aerobics, brisk walking, weight training, swimming, dancing, etc.

Resolution #8: Lose weight; If you are obese, it is best that you decide to lose weight – immediately. Obesity is one of the most crucial mitigating factors of diabetes. It not only throws your hormones out of sync, it also causes a decrease in the amount of insulin sensitivity (the main reason why a person suffers from diabetes). The fat present around your stomach is also another reason for this. It exerts pressure on the stomach and the organs within, leading to the malfunctioning of the pancreas (the organ that is responsible for the production of insulin), increases blood pressure and reduces the amount of space you have to inhale (by com-

pressing your lungs). Obesity also causes your cholesterol levels to skyrocket, increasing the chances of heart disease. All this put together can be a death knell for a diabetic.

What you can do about it: The best way to lose weight is to exercise and control your diet. Doctors say that a mere 10% of weight loss can show drastic improvements on one's health. If you are morbidly obese, start with simply walking for about 30 minutes in a day. Once you feel up to it, you can increase the intensity of your workouts. Apart from that cut down of high fat foods and those that can add to your waistline like junk food, sweets and fried foods. If you find it difficult to give up everything at one time, try quitting one favorite fatty food at a time. Soon you will be eating healthy.

Resolution #9: Take care of your feet; Diabetics are **highly prone to a condition called diabetic foot**. When diabetes is not well controlled, damage to the organs and impairment of the immune system is likely. With damage to the nervous system, a person with diabetes may not be able to feel his or her feet properly and the normal sweat secretion and oil production (that lubricates the skin of the foot) is impaired. These factors together can lead to abnormal pressure on the skin, bones, and joints of the foot and can lead to injuries of the foot. Once injured, the healing process is extremely slow due to the lack of proper blood supply and a strong enough immune system. Apart from this bacterial in-

fection of the skin, connective tissues, muscles, and bones can also occur. These infections if left untreated can lead to gangrene, which can be life threatening and often doctors are left no other choice that to amputate the foot. Several factors lead to diabetic foot like improper footwear, nerve damage, poor circulation, injuries to the feet and infections.

What you can do about it: Examine your feet every day, especially after an injury. Do visit your doctor if you see formation of pus, soreness around the wound, swelling or greenish/blackish layer forming in and around the wound. As a diabetic you should use a water-based moisturizer every day (but not between your toes) to prevent dry skin and cracking. Wear cotton or wool socks and avoid elastic socks and hosiery since they may impair circulation.

Resolution #10:Quit smoking; You must have heard about all the ill effects of smoking, and if you are a diabetic, this one habit can make more prone to the complications that arise of the diabetes. Smoking contributes to the clogging of the arteries, contributes to raising your blood pressure and increases your LDL and triglyceride levels and lowers your HDL levels.

What you can do about it: Take a step and quit today. There are various ways you can do it, either quit cold turkey, use nicotine patches to help wean you off your cravings or use electronic cigarettes to help speed up the process. So, trying to kick the butt.

NEWS AND NOTES

A Cross-Border Royal Wedding of a Pakistani

Boy and an Indian Girl: - It is rightly said that a wedding not only unites the two souls taking the wedding vows, but also their respective families. However, this time it was the union of two nations that happened through this beautiful royal Rajput wedding on February 19, 2015. It was the wedding of Padmini Singh Rathore, from Jaipur, India, with Kunwar Karni Singh Sodha, from Umerkot, Pakistan.

So, as this beautiful wedding tied the two families from the other sides of the border in the bond of love, let us give you a peek into this royal affair.

The matchmaking: Being a cross-border wedding, you might have thought it to be a love marriage. But, it was an absolutely arranged affair that was fixed last year in June, when the couple exchanged rings in Jaipur after meeting each other at a relative's place.

Following this, the *tikka* ceremony took place in Pakistan in December, last year. It is believed that this is the first time after partition, that the *tikka* ceremony took place in Pakistan. And that made this wedding all the more special. As the customs do not allow them to marry within their own family, the suitable matches are hence found from India. And, that is how even this match was fixed!

Meet the couple: The gorgeous bride, Padmini Singh Rathore, hails from the royal Kanota family of Jaipur district. Her father, Man Singh, owns the famous heritage hotels, Narain Niwas Palace and Castle Kanota. She is an alumna of Maharani Gayatri Devi School, Jaipur and St Bedes College, Shimla, and specializes in graphic designing.

The groom, Kunwar Karni Singh Sodha, belongs to the leading political and royal family of Umerkot district of Sindh, Pakistan. He graduated from Karachi and earned a degree in law from the University of London. His family owns the Umerkot Fort, which is famous for being the birthplace of the Mughal Emperor, Akbar, as the then Sodha ruler of Umerkot gave refuge to Humayun and his wife, after he was defeated by Sher Shah Suri. Karni Singh's father, Rana Hamir Singh, is a renowned politician in Pakistan.

The royal cross-border wedding: The *baraat* arrived from the other side of the border along with over 100 people. They were welcomed in a truly royal and grand style and were served a large variety of Rajasthani and Mughlai cuisines. The couple took the wedding vows at the royal Narain Niwas Palace.

The bride, Padmini, said to a leading daily, "It is an arranged marriage and a girl takes time to

acquaint herself with her in-laws and husband. I will settle with my husband at Umerkot in Pakistan after I get the visa." As per the reports, the groom's family will stay in Jaipur till Holi.

Even though their marriage was arranged by the families, this beautiful couple truly symbolised love and harmony between the two nations.(Source Internet) Please see last cover page for Photo (Editor's note : Politicians can divide villeges, Mandals, districs, States and Countries but they can't divide the hearts of people).

Man and bike, Germany to India: -An off-road motorcycle named after the Ténéré desert in Sahara is a rare sight inside the Office of the Commissioner of Police in Vepery. And so is the man who rode it all the way from Freiburg in Germany to Chennai and reached the top cop's office.

Most policemen turned into children at a candy store, at the commissionerate, after Stefan Rheiner, a 32-year-old civil engineer from Deutschland, arrived on his Yamaha XTZ 660 Ténéré motorcycle, last Tuesday. "I'm here to obtain a no-objection certificate to ship my motorcycle back home," said Rheiner ecstatically. He rode over 16,000 km in four months to get here.

A much-dreamt motorcycle expedition, Rheiner began his solo ride from his home in Freiburg on October 3, 2014, bound for Austria.

"It was me, my motorcycle and the long roads

ahead. I rode through Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Montenegro, Serbia, Bulgaria and entered Turkey after passing through cities, scenic villages and misty mountains," said the diehard biker who claims to have planned the long ride for nearly a decade.

Rheiner rolled into Iran from Turkey and rode around the country for over 30 days. "My days in Iran were well spent in the homes of welcoming friends who hosted me," said Rheiner.

His real challenge began after he entered Pakistan through the Balochistan province with some fellow bikers he befriended on the road. "We rode through Pakistan a total of 12 days, with police escort, and were not permitted to interact with the locals. We had to spend the night at police stations en route," he said.

Riding for over 90 days, Rheiner entered India via the Wagah border on December 3. He then rode around the length and breadth of the country making stops at Dharamshala, Agra, Ranthambore, Mumbai, Aurangabad, Bengaluru, Ooty, Munnar, Alappuzha and Rameswaram, and entered Chennai last Sunday, thus completing his expedition.

Booked on a flight back to Germany on Tuesday, Rheiner is on a tight schedule to ship his motorcycle back home. "The paper work is so laborious and complex," he said.

Keeping birds away from orchards, the ecofriendly way: - Farmers cultivating fruits

like grapes on '*pandal*' are advised to erect anti-bird nets with subsidy under the National Horticulture Mission to protect the fruits from birds, squirrels, owls, etc., as the netting protects the crops from extensive damage to fruits and vegetables.

Anti-bird netting is an effective method for preventing crop loss usually caused by birds that invade the vineyards in flocks. Anti-bird netting can be done manually or mechanically depending upon the need. The anti-bird nets can also be used for holding animals in an enclosure, thus preventing any pillaging by birds and in some instances for keeping wild animals out and preventing consequent damage. With regard to aviary protection, wide-meshed nets are recommended.

Plastic anti-bird netting is a light weight but strong netting that will protect soft fruits and vegetables from bird attacks and browsing animals. Anti-bird netting can be used for fruit cages, protection of crops from birds, rabbits, squirrels and other similar pests, he added.

The plastic bird netting is lightweight, easy to handle and simple to install over fruit cages, directly over fruit trees and on vegetable or fruit growing areas.

The netting apertures allow smaller essential pollinating insects through and smaller butterflies while preventing birds. Anti-bird nets have a rectangular structure which creates a

strong plastic mesh structure, making it easier to install and long lasting than the diamond mesh structured plastic bird netting.

Inspecting a field with anti-bird netting protection at Krishnapuram in the district, S. Raja Mohamed, Deputy Director of Horticulture, said 50 percent subsidy at the rate of Rs. 17.50 per sq.m., limited to 5,000 sq.m. Per beneficiary was being given under the NHM to the farmers, who needed anti-bird nets.

"Farmers cultivating fruits like grapes and vegetables grown on '*pandal*' may go for anti-bird netting with the NHM subsidy. While this effort fetches sizable assistance, the yield is also increased substantially by preventing invading birds and smaller animals," Mr. Raja Mohamed said.

Lose weight quickly with the help of these

10 Indian foods: -Indian cuisine is diverse, and the variety of ingredients used in preparing some of the dishes, have a range of health benefits. In today's day and age, a major chunk of the urban population is victim to obesity and stress. The following foods have medicinal properties that will aid in your weight loss goal. However, they will only aid in helping you lose weight, and you'll still have to exercise and maintain a good diet.

Turmeric; Turmeric is one of the basic ingredients used in almost all Indian dishes. It is known to have cancer curbing, antiseptic and healthy

weight loss properties. A compound called curcumin present in turmeric helps reduce insulin and leptin resistance levels, both of which are responsible for fat deposits. Turmeric also helps in maintaining blood pressure and in eliminating bad cholesterol from the body.

Garlic; Garlic is known for its medicinal properties. Allicin, a sulphur compound present in garlic has anti-bacterial properties. It also has anti-inflammatory properties that also help in burning fat deposits. Garlic has many other health benefits that will encourage you to include it in your diet.

Cardamom; Another Indian spice that not only adds flavour but also helps in burning calories is cardamom. This spice is full of digestive properties and helps in enhancing metabolic activity and hence aids weight loss.

Mustard oil; When compared to other cooking oils, mustard oil has very low quantity of saturated fat. It also has a host of other beneficial elements like fatty acid, linoleic acid, oleic acid, erucic acid, essential vitamins and antioxidants which help in reducing cholesterol levels and maintaining an optimum body weight.

Honey; Most of us are aware of honey's power in reducing calories. Honey dissolved in warm water consumed in the morning helps in cutting down fat within the body.

Curry leaves; Curry leaves not only provide flavour to our food, but they also help in remov-

ing harmful toxins and unwanted fat deposits from the body.

Chillies; Chillies are a staple ingredient in Indian cuisine. Powered with a key element called capsaicin, chillies help in increasing the metabolic activity and the heat generating property of capsaicin helps in burning additional fat within the body.

Bean sprouts; Bean sprouts are quite beneficial because they have loads of essential vitamins, minerals and fibre. They reduce hunger pangs and aid in weight reduction.

Cabbage; Cabbage is grown locally in almost all parts of India. It slows the process of transformation of carbohydrate and sugar contents into fat, which in turn helps in maintaining the fat content. Read more about

Millets; Millets such as *ragi*, *jowar* and *bajra* are rich in dietary fibre and help in maintaining a good cholesterol level. Millets also enhance bile secretion which burns down the extra calories. Read more about the health benefits of *ragi* and find out why *bajrais* extremely healthy for you.

124 Lions and 135 Leopards Died in Gujarat in 2 Years: -GANDHINAGAR: The Gujarat government today said that as many as 124 lions died during the last two years in and around Gir forest.

During the question hour in the Assembly, Congress MLA NatvarsinhThakor raised a question about deaths of lions as well as leopards

in SasanGir and DhariGir forests in the last two years. In a written question, Thakor asked the Gujarat government to reveal how many animals died due to poaching.

In his written reply, Gujarat Forest Minister Mangubhai Patel stated that 124 lions and 135 leopards died during the last two years, adding that out of 124 lions, 63 died during 2013-14 (February 1, 2013 to January 31, 2014) while 61 died during 2014-15.

Out of 135 leopards, 69 died during 2013-14, while 66 died during 2014-15, stated Patel's reply to the House. He clarified that none of these wild cats died due to poaching, adding that the majority of them have either died natural deaths or due to internal fights.

Congress MLA Raghavji Patel raised three separate questions about unnatural deaths of lions near the forest area in Junagadh and Amreli districts.

Through his written questions, Mr Patel sought answers from the Gujarat government about two cases of lion's deaths, where he suspected that locals intentionally killed these lions to get rid of them.

In his first written question, Mr. Patel asked the Gujarat government if farmers living near forest were involved in poisoning the water by diluting urea in it, so that lions die after drinking it.

He was referring to the death of a lion on the Visavadar-Dhari road in Amreli district during July-2013 after possibly drinking such water.

In his written answer, the Gujarat Forest Minister stated that it is not true that the lion died after drinking such poisonous water, since no such substance was found in the post mortem report.

On the issue of farmers' involvement in killing lions, the minister stated that no such question arose.

The Congress MLA also raised a question about the death of a lion cub, whose carcass was found inside a farm owned by the Junagadh Agricultural University on September 2014. Mr Patel asked the Gujarat government that what action was taken against culprits involved in killing that cub.

In his reply, Mangubhai Patel stated that the lion cub died a natural death and to there is no question of taking any action against anyone.

How good is Milk for Us? A Look at the Science: -Embattled milk producers in the U.S. launched a social media campaign this week to rebuild public confidence in the health benefits of their product.

But how healthy is it?

While the U.S. government urges milk consumption, some studies have begun to suggest potential ill effects from drinking too much of

the white stuff. It gives a body pause, so to speak. Here then is a quick review of what science currently says about milk's health benefits:

THE OLD HURRAH; A diet rich in milk has long been promoted as a way for children to build strong bones and muscles, and stave off the harms of osteoporosis in seniors. Proponents have especially noted its calcium, potassium, and Vitamin D content. The U.S. Department of Agriculture recommends daily consumption of fat-free or low-fat milk or dairy products, at 2 to 2 1/2 cups for younger children and 3 cups a day for older children and adults.

RAW MILK CONCERNS; Some consumers say the healthiest type of milk is raw milk, straight from the cow. But health officials say milk must be pasteurized to kill off disease-causing germs like campylobacter and salmonella. Studies indicate pasteurization can affect a few of the vitamins found in milk, like thiamine, vitamin B12, and vitamin C - but milk is only a minor source of these vitamins. Overall, pasteurization does not significantly change the nutritional value of milk - and it may save lives, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

RECENT QUESTIONS; Some scientists have begun to question previous statements about milk's benefits. For example, some researchers have noted low fracture rates in Asian countries where little milk is consumed, and questioned whether there is enough evidence to support

the federal milk consumption recommendations. What's more, some studies have linked milk to risk of ovarian and prostate cancers - though many scientists believe more research is needed before drawing conclusions about milk as a cause.

THE SWEDISH STUDY; Last year, a Swedish study published in a British medical journal found women who drank three or more glasses a day died at a nearly twice the rate of those who drank less than one glass a day. Broken bones were more common in women who were heavy milk drinkers, too. Other dairy products were not linked to such problems. The study's lead author - Dr. Karl Michelson of Uppsala University - called the results too preliminary to merit a change in dietary recommendations, and said differences in the American diet might diminish the kind of potential harms seen in the Swedes in his study.

THE MILK INDUSTRY SAYS; The Swedish study prompted media headlines such as "Milk may not be very good for bones or the body." Calling it a breaking point, milk producers decided to do something more to address declining milk consumption and anti-milk messages from vegan groups, non-dairy competitors and others. The new social media campaign highlights, for example, how much more protein a consumer can get from cow milk compared to almond milk. Milk producers also are arguing

the importance of milk in a culture where soda consumption is high and many kids don't eat recommended amounts of fruits and vegetables.

LESS THAN PERFECT; "The idea that milk is 'a perfect food' has been discredited," said David Levitsky, a nutrition and psychology expert at Cornell University. But it remains a rich source of calcium and is still viewed as a valuable part of a well-balanced diet - especially for kids, Levitsky said, adding that the bone-building benefits of milks fall off for people during their 20s. "It's a good food," Levitsky said. "But you shouldn't look at it as a magic food."

Mangaluru's first car wowed its residents: -

On hindsight, a car running at a speed of 19.5 km per hour may be a poor cousin to modern day cars. But in the early part of the last century when the first car negotiated the streets of what was then Mangalore, it was a novelty and a star attraction. Prior to this, a horse-drawn coach was the chief means of transport for the upper echelons of society.

The French-made De Dion, an 8-10 HP single cylinder four-wheel, couch-type automobile was the first ever motor car to negotiate the narrow, winding and undulating roads of the coastal city of Mangalore, which was then a sleepy town, almost like an overgrown village. It was brought from Paris by P F X Saldanha (1860-1938) of Highland Coffee Works, pioneer

of the coffee curing industry in Mangalore. The car was shipped to the port town in October 1906. Its arrival created a sensation and crowds used to flock regularly to Mr.Saldanha's house to gaze at this four-wheeled miracle on wheels.

Driver hired on contract: As no drivers were available in Mangalore in those days, a driver called Luis Williams from what was then Bombay was hired under a contract written on a stamp paper, signed by the driver with three witnesses. The stamp paper of the contract is still preserved by the descendants of P F X Saldanha. According to the details of the contract, signed on September 10, 1907, the driver Luis Williams alias Luis D'Souza is a 22 years old youth with Motor Vehicle License No 430 issued on June 13, 1907, by the Commissioner of Police, Bombay City. Perhaps there was no Transport authority then. The contract period was for one year ending on August 31, 1908. His monthly salary was fixed at Rs 30 per month — quite a substantial amount compared with the wages and salaries of other occupations. The monthly salary was for days actually worked and if he absented himself he was liable to pay a fine of Rs 2 per day.

The conditions of the driver's service included washing, cleaning, oiling and keeping the motor car in perfect order and condition. He was expected to drive carefully, not going too fast endangering the life of passengers, animals, or

causing collusion. In case of accident due to his negligence he would be responsible for all the consequences.

The hours of his work were from 7 am to 7 pm with two hours lunch break. If his services were required beyond this time he would not be given any extra pay or allowance. If he quit before the contract period he was required to pay three months' pay, Rs. 90, as damages. His services could be dispensed with at any time by his employer, without giving notice.

Petrol ferried by boat: The car was used sparingly, for though there was no petrol rationing, petrol was a commodity for which there was no use and therefore not available. Petrol had to be ferried by boat all the way from Madras (now Chennai) to Bombay in five or ten gallon drums, under a special license. Petrol was then brought to Mangalore from Bombay.

Mangalore was earlier a part of Madras province. In October 1907, when the Governor of Madras, Sir Arthur Lawley, visited Mangalore the De Dion was loaned to his two daughters, to motor up to Karkala, 33 miles from Mangalore, where the historic monolithic statue of Bahubali, revered by the Jains, stands. Sir Arthur had brought along his own magnificent, high-powered Daimler Sedan. But, it was not enough to accommodate his family and entourage. Saldanha gladly offered the use of the De Dion for the visiting party. The De Dion was originally an open car, but in

1920, it was fitted with a hood over the front seat and the rear seat was converted into a dickey seat.

After the death of PFX Saldanha in 1935, the car fell into disuse. In 1946, a coffee planter, and a friend of the family, found the car lying unused in the shed. Finding that the engine was still in good condition, he asked for it and the retrieved engine was said to have been used a water pump. For ten years since then the engineless De Dion gathered dust in the shed.

Then, in 1956, Joseph G X Saldanha, son of the original owner, presented the car to the college museum. It now occupies a prominent place in the Aloyseum, the museum attached to St Aloysius College, located on the ground floor of the 'Red Building'.

Adapting this new method to cook rice can help reduce obesity rates: - Washington,

March 24 (ANI): Scientists have come up with a new way to cook rice, that reduces the calories absorbed by the body by more than half, leading to decrease in obesity rates.

This simple way to cook rice, which has about 240 calories per cup, is especially important in countries where the food is a staple.

Team leader Sudhair A. James, at the College of Chemical Sciences in Sri Lanka, said that because obesity was a growing health problem, they wanted to find food-based solutions, and found that increasing rice resistant starch (RS)

concentrations was a novel way to approach the problem. By using a specific heating and cooking regimen, the scientists concluded that "if the best rice variety is processed, it might reduce the calories by about 50-60 percent."

The team experimented with 38 kinds of rice from Sri Lanka, developing a new way of cooking rice that increased the RS content. In this method, they added a teaspoon of coconut oil to boiling water. Then, they added a half a cup of rice. They simmered this for 40 minutes, but one could boil it for 20-25 minutes instead, the researchers note.

Then, they refrigerated it for 12 hours. This procedure increased the RS by 10 times for traditional, non-fortified rice.

Explaining how can a simple change in cooking result in a lower-calorie food, James said that the oil enters the starch granules during cooking, changing its architecture so that it becomes resistant to the action of digestive enzymes. This means that fewer calories ultimately get absorbed into the body. The cooling was essential because amylase, the soluble part of the starch, leaves the granules during gelatinization. "Cooling for 12 hours will lead to formation of hydrogen bonds between the amylase molecules outside the rice grains which also turn it into a resistant starch." Reheating the rice for consumption, he notes, does not affect the RS levels.

The presentation will be held at the 249th National Meeting and Exposition of the American

Chemical Society (ACS). (ANI)

Bio-diversity conservation necessary to stop climate change: - Ujjain:

To save our existence and stop climate change, there is an urgent need of bio-diversity conservation. The little effort towards the conservation of biodiversity is sufficient.

This was said by Principal of Government Girls PG College Dr Mohammad Ishaque at a daylong workshop organised by Department of Botany here on Monday. Speaker Dr VK Sukhwani of Government Engineering College delivered an elaborative lecture on Intellectual Property Rights. He informed that one can get his invention or research patented. Second speaker Dr J Palsania spoke on biodiversity. He said that there is a need of working apart from the conventional syllabus. Next speaker was Head of Botany Department, Holkar College Indore, Dr. Arun Kher. He gave detailed information about the works done for biodiversity and conservation of birds.

Dr AB Shirvani said that public awareness for conservation of biodiversity is very necessary. If people want to live for hundred years they have to plant trees. Bird expert M Chandra gave interesting information about birds. Dr Tripta Sapru, Dr Rekha Khanna and Dr VK Gupta welcomed the guests. Dr RM Shukla conducted the programme.

LEGAL NOTES

Kailash Chand & another Vs.State of Madhya Pradesh & others

The Indian Forest Act, 1927 as applicable to the State of Madhya Pradesh, was amended in the year 1983 providing for a new forum of 'authorized officer' who is appointed by the Government from among the forest officers who is not below the rank of an Assistant Conservator of Forests. This amendment enabled the authorized officer to confiscate property used in commission of forest offences. This amendment like in many other states was intended to curb the smuggling of forest produce.

The reason for the amendment as reflected in the Statement of Objections and Reasons appended to the Amending Bill is as follows:

"The illegal trading in forest produce has gone up as a result of soaring price of forest produce as also as a reason of increase in the fast means of transportation, particularly in the last 10 years. It has come to be known that the real culprits, who are normally influential persons, keep themselves in the background and the work of illegal felling of forest produce and collection thereof, is taken by hired laborers who are ordinarily very poor and work for meager gain. The forest produce is brought by these hired laborers to some place from where during night, carts or boats are kept ready for loading. It is, therefore, proposed in order to curb such malpractices that responsible Forest Officers should be

invested with the power of confiscation of the property in commission of forest offences saving the provision of judicial overview and without prejudice to the power of the Magistrate to punish the offenders."

During the implementation of the Forest Act with its amendment of 1983, motor vehicles such as trucks, jeeps, tractors, stage carriage vehicles, were seized on the allegation that that the vehicles have been used for removing forest produce in contravention of law. They have been seized by forest officers or police officers and confiscation proceedings have been initiated against them. The owners of vehicles filed writ petitions questioning the vires of the provisions of the Act as amended and the action of seizing the vehicles. The petitions were heard by a Division Bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court comprising the Hon'ble Chief Justice U.L. Bhat and the Hon'ble Justice P. Naolekar and the matter was disposed of by a common judgment dated 19.04.1994.

The counsels for the petitioners have made several submissions and some of them are recorded below:

1. The amendment is unjust, unfair and arbitrary and violates Art., 14 of the Constitution.
2. Conferral of power of confiscation is arbitrary. He is made Judge in his own cause, which

violates the principle of natural justice. There is violation of Articles 14, 19 (1) (g) and 21 of the Constitution.

3. The provision for confiscation is arbitrary and unfair. It leaves no discretion to the Forest Officer to impose any penalty less than that of confiscation.

4. The amendment bars the jurisdiction of courts in regard to disposal of property which is arbitrary and violative of Articles 14, 19 (1) (g) of the Constitution. Legislative encroachment into judicial powers is bad in law.

5. Absence of provision for interim release of vehicle or time limit for keeping vehicle in custody renders the scheme of the Act arbitrary.

Their Lordships have examined the provisions of the Act including its amendment very minutely and in full detail. As for the broad scheme of punishment of the offenders is concerned, it is observed as follows:

“The scheme of the Act is to secure punishment of the offenders at the hands of criminal court, the power of confiscation being incidental and ancillary to conviction. The amendment partially separates the process of confiscation from the process of prosecution. On receipt of report of seizure, the authorized officer can initiate confiscation proceedings. The production or report is to be made before the authorized officer and if immediately launching of prosecution is intended, the report is to be sent to the Magistrate concerned. The power of criminal court in regard to disposal of property is made subject

to the jurisdiction of the authorized officer. With regard to that aspect, the jurisdiction of the criminal court in regard to arrest and trial of the offender is unaffected. It is affected only in regard to disposal of property.”

Their Lordships quoted extensively from the judgment of Supreme Court in *DFO & Anr. vs. G.V. Sudhakar Rao & Ors.* (AIR 1986 SC 328). It was held in that case: “The change in the law was brought about with a view to prevent the growing menace of ruthless exploitation of government forests by illicit felling of teak and other valuable forest produce by unscrupulous traders particularly from reserved forest by providing for a machinery for confiscation of illegally felled trees or forest produce by forest authorities. There was no provision in the Act enabling the forest officers to confiscate such timber or forest produce and implements etc. used for committing forest offences even in a case where he was satisfied that a forest offence has been committed.”

The Supreme Court was convinced of the genuine need the change of law. The Apex Court was satisfied of the adequate safeguard provided for persons interested in the property confiscated by a revision to the Conservator of Forests and an appeal to the District Court.

The Supreme Court approved the view taken in the *State of A.P Vs. P.K. Mohamad* (1971-1-APLJ 30) that was seized property is produced before the authorized officer the

Magistrate would have no jurisdiction to deal with the seized property.

In the *State of A.P Vs. Haji Begum*, the Supreme Court approved of the legality of the confiscation of property by authorized officer. The Supreme Court also referred to the judgment in *Mohd. Yasin Vs. F.R.O. Flying Squad Rayachoti* (1980-1-ALT 8) wherein it was held that an acquittal of an accused does not negate the confiscation ordered by Authorized Officer. The court did not find any arbitrariness in the amendment.

In the writ petitions under judicial scrutiny of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, it is observed that the order of confiscation is subject to revision and appeal before the appropriate authorities. There is nothing in the provision which even remotely can be regarded as violative of Art., 19 (1) (g) and Art., 21 of the Constitution.

On the question of absence of provision for awarding lesser penalty it is held; the assumption that confiscation is mandatory or is intended to be punishment for the offender is erroneous. Their Lordships also referred to the judgment of Kerala High Court in *State of Kerala Vs. SukumaraPanicker* (1987-2-KLT 341). A Full Bench of the High Court held that "It is for the

officer concerned to consider in each case having regard to all circumstances, whether confiscation of the vessel is to be made. But it leaves no room for doubt in our mind that the power vested in the authorized officer should be exercised bearing in mind the policy and purpose and background of the Act. Illicit removal of the government property is a matter which should be viewed with serious concern." On the contention of interim release, it is stated that the forest officer has the power to release; power also vests with the revision and appellate authority. On the question of prescribing time limit for disposal of confiscation proceedings, it is observed that there is no time limit prescribed for criminal prosecution either. In conclusion it is said the scheme of the Act providing for a separate confiscation procedure has a substantial public purpose to serve and is in tune with Art. 48A and 51A (g), of the Constitution, of India.

In view of the conclusions drawn on the contentions raised by the petitioners and in the light of the case law, the court held that the petitions deserve to be dismissed and they are therefore dismissed.

A.I.R. 1995 M.P. 1

K.B.R.

***"Your most unhappy customers are your
greatest source of learning."
- Bill Gates,***

ఏరు దాటాక..

రచన : వి.వి.హరిప్రసాద్

అప్పుడు

ఆకలితో గుక్కపట్టి ఏడుస్తుంటే
పరుగెట్టుకుంటూ వచ్చి
అక్కన చేర్చుకొని
ప్రేమను రంగరించి చనుబాలిచ్చి
తనలో నవ్వులు పూయించిన అమ్మ!

దారితప్పి పోతారని
తాను ఎన్నైనా ఎదురుదెబ్బలు తిని
తన చిటికెనవ్వేలిచ్చి
నడక, నడత నేర్పిన నాన్న!
తనెంతో ఎదగాలని
పార్లుదండాలు పెట్టి
కోటి దేవుళ్ళకు మ్రొక్కుకుంటే

యిప్పుడు

తమకంటూ ఏమీ దాచుకొనని
ఆ పిచ్చోళ్ళ ఆ్యాగాల పునాదులపై
భవంతులు కట్టుకొని
జవసత్వాలుడిగిన ఆ అమ్మా నాన్న
వయోభారంతో క్రుంగి పోయి
పాతబడి, పెను భారంగా మారి
వెతలతో రోత పుట్టిస్తుంటే

క్రొత్త ప్రేమ బంధాల రుచి మరిగిన వాళ్ళు
వృద్ధ శరణాలయాల చరవాణులకై
వాకబు చేస్తుంటే
ఏరుదాటాక
తెప్ప తగల బెడ్డావా అని

అంతరాత్మ ఘోషించినా లెక్కచేయక
పండు ముసలోళ్ళను
వదిలించుకుంటే
స్వార్థం గెలిచి
మానవత్వం మంటగలిసింది
రాబోయే రేపున
నీగతి ఏంటని
అతడి అంతరాత్మ నిలదీసింది

ఎప్పటికీ

ఇవేమీ పట్టని
కూలీనాలీ చేసుకునే మరో అమ్మ
ఆయాసంతో పరుగు పరుగున వచ్చి
రోదిస్తున్న శిశువుకు గోరుముద్దులు పెట్టి
తాను గంజి తాగితే

రెక్కాడితే గాని డొక్కాడని మరో నాన్న
అబ్బాయి డొనేషన్ కు
తనుండే యింటిని తాకట్టు పెట్టి
కలల సాధంలో కాపురం చేస్తుంటే

దర్త దేవత నివ్వెరపోయింది
ఎప్పటిలాగానే
పొద్దు పొడిచి తెల్లారింది
ఏరు దాటించే బోడి మల్లన్నల లెక్క
గణాంకాలకు అంతుపట్టక
ఓ శేష ప్రశ్నగా మిగిలిపోయింది
ఏమీ పట్టించుకొనని కాలచక్రం మాత్రం
తనమానాన తాను నిల్లిప్తంగా
కదిలిపోయింది

ఎ - టు జెడ్ చిట్కాలు - తెలంగాణకు హరిత హారమునకు

రచన : ఉషా వినోద్ రాజవరం

- ఎ - ఎక్కడ ఖాళీ ప్రదేశము ఉందో అక్కడ చెట్లు నాటండి
- బి - బిజీ లైఫ్ అంటూ తప్పించుకోవద్దు... మొక్కలు నాటవల్సిందే!
- సి - సినిమా ద్వారా పచ్చదనం ప్రాముఖ్యత తెలియజెప్పాలి
- డి - డీలా పడకుండా ఉత్సాహంగా పెరటి మొక్కలు పెంచాలి
- ఇ - ఇప్పటి మొక్కలే భావి వృక్షాలు
- ఎఫ్ - ఎఫ్ శియోస్సీతో నాటిన మొక్కలే చక్కగా ఎదుగుతాయి
- జి - జీవితం.. మొక్కలు నాటడం ద్వారా సార్థకం చేసుకోవాలి
- హెచ్ - హెచ్చుతగ్గులు అనే భేదం వద్దు.. అందరు కలిసి హరిత వనాలను పెంచాలి
- ఐ - ఐక్యంతో అందరు పర్యావరణాన్ని కాపాడాలి
- జె - జనజీవనంలో మొక్కలు వృక్షాలు.. వన్య ప్రాణుల ప్రాముఖ్యత తెలుసుకోవాలి
- కె - కెరటాలతో ఎగసిపడే జీవనదులు.. చెరువులతో గ్రామాలు కళకళలాడాలి
- ఎల్ - ఎల్లులు ఎరుగని ఉత్సాహంతో ప్రతిఒక్కరు హరిత హారంలో పాలు పంచుకోవాలి
- ఎం - ఎంత మందినైనా కూడా గట్టుకుని అడవులను, తోటలను పెంచాలి
- ఎన్ - ఎండలో చెట్ల నీడ చల్లదనం విలువ తెలుసుకోవాలి
- ఓ - ఓపిక, సహనంతో ఎన్ని మొక్కలైనా నాటి పెంచవచ్చు
- పి - పిరికి తనం వదిలి వృక్షాలు నరికే వారికి బుద్ధి చెప్పాలి
- క్యా - క్యూ కట్టి అయినా సరే! ఓపికతో మొక్కలు సంపాదించి పరిసరాలను పచ్చదనంతో నింపాలి
- ఆర్ - ఆర్జిటెక్ట్ లా ఆలోచించి గ్రీన్ బిల్డింగ్ నిర్మాణం చేపట్టాలి
- ఎస్ - ఎస్ అనేలా ఉండాలి.. నీవు ప్రకృతి ప్రేమికునివా? అని ఎవరైనా అడిగితే
- టీ - టీ అంటే తెలంగాణకు హరిత హారము అని చెప్పాలి
- యు - యువతే యువకులందరూ తెలంగాణకు హరిత హారమును విజయవంతం చేయాలి
- వి - విజయ పథం వైపు దూసుకెళ్లాలంటే నీవు ప్రకృతి ప్రేమికునివి కావాలి
- డబ్ల్యు - డబ్ల్యు డబ్ల్యు డబ్ల్యు కామ్ టెక్నాలజీలో హరిత హారముపై విస్తృత ప్రచారం చేయాలి
- ఎక్స్ - ఎక్స్ వేగంతో నీ గ్రామం, జిల్లాను హరిత మయం చేయాలి
- వై - వైద్యమునకు పనికొచ్చే ఔషధ మొక్కల విలువ అందరికీ తెలియజెప్పాలి
- జెడ్ - జెడ్డు (బద్దకం) తనం వదిలి జేట్కా బండి వేగంతో వడి వడిగా హరిత హారం నిర్మాణంలో నీ విజయాలను, ప్రపంచానికి చాటి చెప్పాలి



అభయారణ్యమే రక్తచందనానికి రక్ష

రచన : డా.కృష్ణ చంద్రమౌళి, I.A.S. (Rtd)

రక్తచందనం! దక్షిణ భారతంలోని తూర్పు కనుమలకే పరిమితమైన అరుదైన ఈ కలప కోసం రక్తం చిందుతోంది. ఎర్ర బంగారంగా పేరు మోపిన అపురూప సంపద అంతర్జాతీయ స్మగ్లర్ల గొడ్డలి వేటుకు బలైపోతోంది. ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్, తెలంగాణ రాష్ట్రాల్లో విస్తరించి ఉన్న నల్లమల అడవులకే నేడు పరిమితమైన ఎర్రచందనం ఉనికికే ముప్పు వాటిల్లే పరిస్థితి నెలకొంది. ఎర్రచందనం ప్రధానంగా చిత్తూరు, కడప, కర్నూలు, నెల్లూరు జిల్లాల్లోనే ఉంది. ప్రపంచంలో మరెక్కడా దొరకని ఈ కలపను షార్పీకులు రోకళ్లుగా ఉపయోగించేవారు! దశాబ్దంనర క్రితం నేను కడప జిల్లా కలెక్టర్ గా పని చేస్తుండగా వంట చెరుకుగా, గుడిసెల గుంజలుగా బొమ్మల తయారీకి ఆ కలపను వాడటం చూశాను. ఆపు రూపమైన ఈ కలపను ఇలా వాడటమేమిటని ప్రశ్నిస్తే ప్రజలు విస్తుపోవడమూ గమనించాను. ఆ నాలుగు జిల్లాల్లో దాన్ని రక్త చందనం అంటారనీ అప్పుడే తెలిసింది. పాత కాలపు ఫర్నిచర్ గా దర్శనమిచ్చే ఎర్రచందనానికి పెనుముప్పు రానున్నదని గానీ, ప్రపంచంలో మరే కలపకు లేని ధర దానికి వలుకుతుందని గానీ ఊహించలేకపోయాను. స్మగ్లర్ల నుంచి దాన్ని రక్షించడానికి అధికారులు రక్తం చిందించాల్సి వస్తుందని అసలే అనుకోలేదు.

ఈ మధ్య ఏపీ ప్రభుత్వం ఎర్రచందనం దుంగలను వేలం వేస్తే మొదటి శ్రేణి కలపకు కిలో పదిహేను వేల రూపాయల ధర పలికింది. దాదాపు వెండి ధరలో సగం! ఇంత విలువ కాబట్టే ప్రభుత్వం దాని ఎగుమతులను నిషేధించినా స్మగ్లర్లు, అసాంఘిక శక్తుల ప్రాణాలు తీయడానికి, ఇవ్వడానికి వెనుకాడక అక్రమ రవాణాకు పాల్పడుతున్నారు. అసలు ఈ కలపకు విదేశాల్లో అంత విలువ ఎందుకుంటుందో అంతుబట్టడం లేదు. చైనాలో సంగీత వాద్యాల, వాస్తు సంబంధ వస్తువుల తయారీలో వాడుతారని మాత్రం వింటున్నాం. అత్యంత ఖరీదైన వయాగ్రా వంటి ఔషధాల తయారీలో వాడుతున్నారని కొందరు అంటున్నారు. అటు ప్రభుత్వం, ఇటు ప్రజలు స్మగ్లర్ల దుష్ట రాక్షస క్రీడ పట్ల ఉపేక్ష వహించడం వల్లనే ఎర్రచందనం అంతరించిపోయే ప్రమాదం ముంచుకొచ్చింది. ఇప్పటికే ఎంతో అటవీ సంపదను, ప్రభుత్వ రాబడిని నష్టపోయాం. అంతరించిపోతున్న పక్షి, జంతు జాతుల పరిరక్షణ, వృద్ధిలో అభయారణ్యాల వల్ల మంచి ఫలితాలు లభించాయి. అలాగే ఎర్రచందన ప్రాంతాలను కూడా అభయారణ్యంగా గుర్తించి, ప్రత్యేక రక్షణ చర్యలు తీసుకుంటే

మంచి ఫలితాలు లభిస్తాయి.

ఏం చెయ్యాలి?

1920లో సర్ కేసిన్ అనే బ్రిటిష్ అటవీ అధికారి ఎర్రచందనం అడవుల పరిరక్షణకు ఒంటరిగా చేసిన కృషి మనకు ప్రేరణ కావాలి. వర్షం కురిసిన ప్రతిరోజు ఆయన సాయంత్రం వ్యాహ్యశికి వెళ్తూ కోటు జేబులనిండా ఎర్రచందనం విత్తనాలను నింపుకొని, చేతికర్ర వాడి మొనతో తడిచిన నేలలో రంధ్రాలు చేస్తూ ఒక్కొక్క విత్తే వేసి బూటు కాలుతో మట్టి కప్పేవారు. ఏళ్ల తరబడి ఆ ఒక్కడు చేసిన కృషి ఫలితం చిత్తూరు నడిబొడ్డున సగర్వంగా నిలిచి ఉన్న 156 హెక్టార్ల వనం. రచయిత ఈ వ్యాసం రాసినది ఆ రక్తచందనం చెట్ల నీడన సేద తీరుతూనే!

- ◆ ఈ వృక్ష సంపద పరిరక్షణ అవశ్యకతపైనా, అందుకోసం ఇప్పటికే ఉన్న చట్టాలపైనా ప్రజలకు అవగాహన కల్పించాలి.
- ◆ అటవీ, పోలీసు సిబ్బందితో సమన్వయం ఉండేలా గ్రామగ్రామనా యువతతో నిఘా విభాగాల్ని ఏర్పాటు చేయాలి.
- ◆ విదేశాల్లో ఈ కలపను ఎందుకు ఉపయోగిస్తున్నారనే రహస్యాన్ని కనిపెట్టి, ఆ అంతిమ వస్తువును మనమే తయారు చేసి ఎగుమతి చేయవచ్చు. తద్వారా దొంగ రవాణాను అరికట్టడంతో పాటూ ప్రభుత్వ రాబడిని, విదేశీ మారక ద్రవ్య ఆర్జనను పెంచుకోవచ్చు.
- ◆ అడవుల్లోని వృక్షాలను ప్రభుత్వ వయసు, వన్నె చేవ ఆధారంగా గుర్తించి, నరికించి, తగురీతిని ఉపయోగించాలి. విలువైన వృక్షాలు వయసుమీరి ఎండిపోయి, చెదవట్టి వ్యర్థమైపోతున్నాయనే విమర్శా ఉంది.
- ◆ తమిళనాడులోని కృష్ణగిరి, తిరువణ్ణమలై, సేలం, ధర్మపురి జిల్లాల్లో ఎర్రచందనం నరికే కూలీలను నెలవులు, ఒక్కో చెట్టుకు కూలీగా ఉన్న వేలు లభిస్తాయన్న ఆశతోనే వాళ్లు ఎంతకన్నా తెగిస్తున్నారు.
- ◆ స్వచ్ఛంద సంస్థల సహాయంతో కలిసి ఆ ప్రాంతాల్లోని అక్రమ కూలీలలో పరివర్తనకు కృషి చేయాలి. తెగింపు కలిగిన కూలీలు లేనిదే స్మగ్లర్ల ఆటలు సాగవు.
- ◆ అటవీశాఖను సమూలంగా ప్రక్షాళనచేసి నిజాయితీ, నిబద్ధత, సమర్థతలకు మారుపేరుగా తీర్చిదిద్దాలి. నాలుగు జిల్లాల్లోని

దట్టమైన విలువైన ఎర్రచందనం అడవుల రక్షణకుగానూ ప్రతి 20చదరపు కిలోమీటర్లకు ఒక బీట్ ఆఫీసర్‌ను, అసిస్టెంటును నియమించాలి.

- ◆ అంతిమంగా అడవి రక్షణ బాధ్యత ఫారెస్టర్లు, బీట్ ఆఫీసర్లదే కాబట్టి రాజకీయ జోక్యం పట్ల వారిలో ఉన్న ఆందోళనలను తొలగించి, దైర్యాన్ని కలిగించి, ఉత్తేజితలను చేయాలి. సిబ్బందికి మంచి ఆయుధాలను, ప్రత్యేక అధికారాలను సమకూర్చాలి.
- ◆ అవసరమైన చోట్ల పటిష్టమైన కంచె నిర్మాణం చేపట్టాలి.
- ◆ స్మగ్లర్లకు కఠినశిక్షలు పడేలా చేయడమేగాక, వారికి రాజకీయ

అండదండలు ఉంటున్నాయన్న ఆరోపణే రాకుండా నేతలు జాగ్రత్త వహించాలి.

- ◆ పోలీసు, రెవెన్యూ, అటవీ అధికారులు స్థానిక సంస్థలతో కలిసి పనిచేయాలి. ఈ అందరి భాగస్వామ్యమే ఎర్ర చందనం అడవులకు రక్ష.
- ◆ ఎర్ర చందనం నర్సరీలను విస్తరింపజేయడంతో పాటూ, వాటిని పెంచుకుంటామనే రైతులకు మొక్కల్ని ఇచ్చి ప్రోత్సహించాలి.

సాక్షి (3-2-2015) సౌజన్యంతో...

హారితహారం - అందరికీ ఆనందం

రచన : చింతమర్ల ప్రకాశ్రావు, అటవీమండలాధికారి, లాగింగ్ విభాగము, భద్రాచలం

పల్లవి :	వచ్చింది వచ్చింది హారితహారం ఇస్తుంది ఇస్తుంది అందరికీ ఆరోగ్యం వస్తుంది వస్తుంది పచ్చదనం తెస్తుంది తెస్తుంది అందరికీ ఆనందం	2 సార్లు 2 సార్లు వచ్చింది వచ్చింది
చరణం.1 :	కదం త్రొక్కతు కదులుదాం ఖాళీ స్థలాలను కనుగొందాం చేయి చేయి కల్పదాం కోట్ల మొక్కలను నాటుదా	2 సార్లు 2 సార్లు వచ్చింది వచ్చింది
చరణం.2 :	అటవి అభివృద్ధిని సాధిద్దాం బీడు భూములను తొలగిద్దాం ప్రాణ వాయువులను పొందుదాం కాలుష్యాలను తొలగిద్దాం	2 సార్లు 2 సార్లు వచ్చింది వచ్చింది
చరణం.3 :	పచ్చని బొట్టు పెట్టుదాం పరిసరాలను పచ్చదనంతో నింపేద్దాం పోయిన వానలు రప్పిద్దాం చెరువుల నిండ నీరు నింపుదాం	2 సార్లు 2 సార్లు వచ్చింది వచ్చింది
చరణం.4 :	పంట భూములను పండిద్దాం కరువు కటకాలు తొలగిద్దాం భావితరానికి బాసట గుందాం బంగారు తెలంగాణకు బాటలేద్దాం	2 సార్లు 2 సార్లు వచ్చింది వచ్చింది

اقبال نے معذرت کر دی اور وکالت کی محدود آمدنی میں ہی گزار بسر کرتے رہے۔

غالباً ۱۹۲۸ء میں بحیثیت کونسل ممبر اقبال کو جنوبی ہند کا دورہ کرنے کا موقع ملا۔۔۔۔۔ یہ سفر مذہبی اور علمی نوعیت کا تھا مگر اس کے سیاسی پہلو کو بھی نظر انداز نہیں کیا جاسکتا کیونکہ اب عوام میں ان کی حیثیت مسلمانوں کے سیاسی رہنما کی تھی۔ مدراس کی کئی انجمنوں نے اقبال کے اعزاز میں جلسے کئے اور سپاس نامے پیش کئے۔ مدراس کے بعد بنگلور اور شہر میسور میں اقبال کا شاندار خیر مقدم کیا گیا۔ ریاست میسور کے بعد اقبال حیدرآباد پہنچے۔ حیدرآباد کے اسٹیشن پر ان کا زبردست استقبال ہوا۔ اسٹیشن پر اقبال کے مداحوں کا ایک جھوم ان کے خیر مقدم کو موجود تھا، اُس موقع پر مٹھانیہ یونیورسٹی کے اراکین اور سرکاری افسران بھی حاضر تھے۔ مہاراجا سرکشن پرشاد نے ان کی تشریف آوری کی تقریب میں ایک مشاعرے کا اہتمام کیا۔ میسور کی طرح یہاں بھی وہ ریاست کے مہمان رہے۔ حیدرآباد کے دوران قیام نواب میر عثمان علی خان (آصف جاہ سادس) سے بھی ملاقات ہوئی۔

ہندوستان اور یورپ میں اقبال کی شہرت کو دیکھتے ہوئے حکومت برطانیہ نے جنوری ۱۹۲۳ء میں انہیں ”سر“ کا خطاب عطا کیا۔ اقبال کے قدر دانوں نے اس پر مسرت کا اظہار کیا۔ اس قدر افزائی پر اقبال کو مبارکباد دینے کے لئے اہل لاہور نے جہانگیر کے مقبرے میں ایک جلسے کا اہتمام کیا جس میں پنجاب کے معزز اشخاص نے شرکت کی۔ شرکاء میں انگریز افسران اور پنجاب کے انگریز گورنر بھی شامل تھے۔ اقبال کو جب ”سر“ کا خطاب دیا جائے گا تو انہوں نے شرط رکھی کہ پہلے ان کے استاد شاہ صاحب (یعنی سید میر حسن) کو ”مٹھانیہ“ کا خطاب دیا جائے! اُس پر گورنر نے ان کی تصانیف کے نام دریافت کئے اقبال نے جواب دیا کہ ”اُن کی زندہ تصنیف میں خود ہوں“۔ آخر کار حکومت کو یہ شرط منظور کرنی پڑی!!

ملک کی یونیورسٹیوں نے بھی اقبال کی علمی، ادبی، تدریسی اور تعلیمی خدمات کا اعتراف کیا۔ چنانچہ علی گڑھ مسلم یونیورسٹی نے ۱۹۲۹ء میں پنجاب یونیورسٹی نے ۱۹۳۳ء میں الہ آباد یونیورسٹی اور عثمانیہ یونیورسٹی نے ۱۹۳۷ء میں انہیں ڈی۔ لٹ کی اعزازی ڈگریاں تفویض کیں۔

سر اس مسعود اقبال سے تعلق خاطر رکھتے تھے اور ان کی مالی پریشانیوں سے پوری طرح آگاہ تھے ان کی کوشش سے نواب بھوپال نے اقبال کے لئے ۱۹۳۵ء میں پانچ سو روپے ماہانہ کا تاحیات وظیفہ مقرر کر دیا تاکہ ایک سو سو روپے پر ایک کتاب لکھ سکیں۔ سر اس مسعود چاہتے تھے کہ نواب حیدرآباد، نواب بھادلو اور سر آغا خاں بھی اقبال کے لئے وظیفہ مقرر کریں۔ اقبال کو پتا چلا تو انہوں نے سر اس مسعود کو لکھا کہ نواب بھوپال کی طرف سے وظیفے کی رقم مقرر کریں۔ اقبال کو پتا چلا تو انہوں نے اس مسعود کو لکھا کہ ”نواب بھوپال کی طرف سے وظیفے کی جو رقم مقرر ہوئی ہے وہ میرے لئے کافی ہے۔ میں امیرانہ زندگی کا عادی نہیں۔ ضرورت سے زیادہ کی ہوس کرنا روپے کا لالچ ہے جو مسلمان کے شایان شان نہیں۔“

گول میز کانفرنس، اٹلی، اسپین اور افغانستان کے دوروں کے بعد آخری چار سال اقبال بیماری کی حالت میں گزارے۔ اقبال کے والد شیخ نور محمد نے ۸۱ برس کی طویل عمر پائی (وفات دسمبر ۱۹۳۰ء)۔۔۔۔۔ انہوں نے اقبال کی وفات سے صرف آٹھ سال پہلے (۱۱ اگست ۱۹۳۰ء) انتقال کیا۔ شیخ عطاء محمد جو عمر میں اقبال سے اٹھارہ برس بڑے تھے اقبال کے دو سال بعد تک حیات رہے۔ اقبال نے صرف آٹھ سال کی عمر پائی۔۔۔۔۔ اس مختصر زندگی کے آخری چار سال شدید عیاشی میں گزارے اور ۱۲ اپریل ۱۹۳۸ء کا سورج طلوع ہوا تو روشا عمری کا ایک آفتاب غروب ہو چکا تھا اور تو م ایک مخلص مدبر رہ رہتا تھا۔ بیماری کے دوران یعنی جنوری ۱۹۳۸ء میں ریاست حیدرآباد کی طرف سے اقبال کو ایک ہزار روپے کا چیک موصول ہوا۔ سر اکبر حیدری کے دفتر کی طرف سے ایک خط بھی منسلک تھا جس میں یہ اشارہ تھا کہ یہ امداد سر اکبر حیدری کی کوشش سے منظور ہوئی ہے۔ اس سے اقبال کے جذبہ خودداری کو ٹھیس لگی۔ انہوں نے چیک لوٹا تے ہوئے لکھا:

”غیرت فقر مگر نہ کسی اسکو قبول جب کہا اس نے یہ ہے میری خدائی کی زکات“

اقبال اور ریاست حیدرآباد

ڈاکٹری۔ رکھتے اور ڈیپٹی

علامہ اقبال کے لئے ۱۹۰۸ء کے بعد کا زمانہ بے حد کشمکش کا تھا۔ عقلی اور وکالت دو پیشوں کی ذمہ داریاں نبھانے اور سخت محنت کرنے کے باوجود آمدنی اُن کی ضروریات کو ناکافی تھی۔ اب تک بڑے بھائی شیخ عطا محمد (جو اقبال سے اٹھارہ سال بڑے تھے) اُن کی مدد کی تھی۔ اب اُنہیں خود مدد کی ضرورت تھی۔ اقبال اُن کی ذمہ داریوں میں شریک ہونا چاہتے تھے، اسلئے وہ بہتر وسیلہ معاش کی فکر میں تھے۔

نظام حیدرآباد کی فیاضی اور بلندوصلگی کے قہقہے اُنہوں نے سن رکھے تھے۔۔۔۔۔ اس لئے حیدرآباد جانے کا ارادہ کیا، گورنمنٹ کالج لاہور سے دس روز کی رخصت لی اور مارچ ۱۹۱۰ء میں حیدرآباد پہنچ گئے۔ اُس وقت میر محبوب علی خاں (احف جاہ سادس) حیدرآباد کے فرماں روا تھے۔ یہ داغ و بلبی کے شاگرد اور اس رشتے سے اقبال کے ”استاد بھائی“ تھے۔ اقبال ۱۸۹۳ء کے آس پاس داغ کے حلقہ سٹانڈہ میں شامل ہو چکے تھے۔ داغ نے حیدرآباد میں اصلاحی تحریک کا دفتر قائم کر رکھا تھا جس کا باقاعدہ عملہ تھا اور ڈاک سے موصول ہونے والی غزلیں اصلاح دے کر واپس بھیجی جاتی تھیں۔۔۔۔۔ اقبال نے دوری کے باوجود داغ سے فیض اٹھایا اور ۱۸۹۲ء اُنہوں نے اس رشتے کا فخر کے ساتھ ذکر کیا تھا۔ مجھے بھی فخر ہے شاگردی داغ خندان کا۔ ممکن ہے اقبال احف جاہ سادس سے کسی غیر معمولی سلوک و نوازش کی توقع رکھتے ہوں۔ لیکن اُن کے دربار تک رسائی نہ ہو سکی۔ نواب نے جب مزاج پایا تھا: جس پر مہربان ہوتے اُسے ساری زندگی کے لئے لکڑی معاش سے بے نیاز کر دیتے، خفا ہو جاتے تو ذرا دیر میں ملک بدر کر دیتے! اُن تک رسائی آسان بات نہ تھی۔ بڑے بڑے صاحب کمال برسوں ملاقات کی امیدواری کر کے حیدرآباد سے ناکام لوٹ گئے۔

حیدرآباد میں کئی مقتدر ہستیوں سے اقبال کی ملاقات رہی۔ یہاں وہ سراج اکبر حیدری کے مہمان تھے۔ اُن کی مہمان نوازی کا ذکر ہمیشہ بڑی احسانمندی کے ساتھ کرتے تھے۔ حیدرآباد میں نظم طباطبائی، جلیل مانک پوری اور نظیر دہلوی سے ملاقات ہوئی اور اُن کی زبان سے شعر سننے کا موقع ملا۔ مہاراجا سرکشن پرشاد شاہ ریاست کے وزیر اعظم تھے۔ جن کا راجا ٹوڈرل کی نسل سے تعلق تھا۔ بہت بڑی جاگیر کے مالک تھے مگر درویشانہ مزاج پایا تھا۔ صوفی تھے اور مسلک پہ تھا کہ ”ہمیں ہوں ہندو“ ”ہمیں ہوں مسلمان“ مسجد میں نماز پڑھتے مندر میں تشقہ لگاتے تھے۔ چار بیویاں مسلمان اور تین ہندو تھیں: مسلمان بیویوں کی اولاد مسلمان اور ہندو بیویوں کی اولاد ہندو تھی! اقبال کے ساتھ مہاراجا بڑی شفقت سے پیش آئے اور اُنہیں ہمیشہ کے لئے اپنا گرویدہ کر لیا۔

حیدرآباد میں اقبال کے مستقل قیام کی کوئی صورت پیدا نہ ہو سکی۔ معمولی ملازمت اُنہیں قبول نہ تھی، درس و تدریس کے مشغلے سے وہ اکتا گئے تھے۔ اُن کی خواہش تھی کہ دلی ریاست اُن کی تفصیلی منصوبوں سے واقف ہوں اور اُن کی سرپرستی کریں مگر یہ سب نہ ہو سکا اور اقبال واپس لاہور چلے گئے۔

اُسی سال مہاراجا سرکشن پرشاد لاہور پہنچے۔۔۔۔۔ اقبال نے اُن کا خیر مقدم کیا اور جب تک اُن کا قیام رہا، بیشتر وقت اُن کے ساتھ گزارا۔ حیدرآباد واپس پہنچ کر اُنہوں نے اقبال کو معقول وظیفے کی پیشکش کی مگر اقبال نے منظور نہ کیا۔۔۔۔۔ علیرہ کہ ”مرؤت اور دیانت سے دور ہے کہ اقبال آپ سے ایک پیشہ قرار تنخواہ پائے اور اُس کے عوض میں کوئی ایسی خدمت نہ کرے جس کی اہمیت بقدر اُس مشاہرے کے ہو“

چار سال بعد یعنی ۱۹۱۰ء میں ایک ایسی صورت نکلے کہ اقبال ریاست حیدرآباد سے وابستہ ہو سکیں۔۔۔۔۔ وہاں ہائی کورٹ کے جج کی جگہ خالی ہوئی، اخبارات میں قیاس آرائیاں ہوئیں کہ یہ منصب شاید اقبال کو سونپا جائے۔ یہ بھی پتا چلا کہ جو نام نظام کے زیر غور ہیں اُن میں ایک نام اقبال کا بھی ہے۔ اقبال اُس کے خواہشمند بھی تھے۔ اس سلسلے میں اقبال نے مہاراجا سرکشن پرشاد کو خط بھی لکھا مگر بات آگے نہ بڑھی۔ اب زمام اختیار سراج اکبر حیدری کے ہاتھ میں تھی۔ اُنہوں نے اقبال کو قانون کی پروفیسر شپ پیش کی۔ حیدرآباد میں یونیورسٹی کا قیام زیر غور تھا، اس لئے اکبر حیدری اقبال کی حیدرآباد میں موجودگی کو مفید خیال کرتے تھے مگر

STUDY FOR FOREST IMPROVEMENT

The forestry situation, both nationally and internationally, is passing through a difficult period with vast extent of forests being cleared for short-term gains while sacrificing the long-term advantage, economical and ecological, provided by the forests. The biggest harm to the environment is done when the forests are cut and burnt. The burning forests, aiding global warming, is the biggest threat faced by the world experiencing the adverse impact of climate change. It is predicted that future may see a further escalation of global warming and consequential climate change bringing more misery to the people due to increasing cycle of drought and flood and decreasing crop yield adding the number of hungry people due to failure of agriculture crop production.

During the meeting of the retired forest officers held at Dulapalli on March 22, 2015, it was proposed to form a group of retired officers who are willing to put their time and energy to reverse the trend of forest degradation in the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. This was felt as the various data show an accelerated degradation of forests in both the States due to certain political decisions of the government in the combined State of Andhra Pradesh. Unfortunately, the forest bureaucracy could not save the situation under the strong will of the government. Forest fringe villages are not satisfied with more than 14 lakh acres of forestland given under the Forest Rights Act and claiming more land. The new governments in both the States want to take up massive afforestation programme to bring thirty three percent of geographical area under tree cover. However, the field data indicates complete break-down in the executive capacity of the department in raising successful plantations and protection the existing forests. Fortunately, the new governments have not yielded and look to be willing to walk extra mile to save the forests.

During the meeting at Dulapalli Director of Forest Academy was ready to take up projects for forest improvement as a part of field work for the forest trainees. This opens up a very good opportunity for the retired forest officers who are willing to put their experience, energy and time to find solution to stop the degradation of forests and improve the forestry situation. The initial task would be to take a sample area-either a district or a forest division - and gather complete information about the ground reality. The information may include the state of the forest boundary, the density of vegetation, situation of wildlife, the geographic location of the forestlands given under Forest Rights Act, the forestlands under encroachments, illegal villages existing within the forests, review of the old plantations, their status and causes of success or failure, lands suitable for forest regeneration, method of regeneration based on the past results, status of people participation on forest development under JFM/CFM and people's perception about it, status of people's dependence on forests, the impact of poverty elevation programmes in the livelihood of the forest dependent people. The list is not exhaustive but the study must include all items connected with the livelihood of the people. As long as the forest dependent people will remain hungry and deprived from improving their livelihood forests cannot be saved. Hence the sample study has to be comprehensive.

I, therefore, request all the interested forest officers to give their willingness in participation to find ways and means to change the forest scenario that we all will like to see. Once the names of officers are known the methodology can be discussed. Names may please be given to editor Vana-Premi for further action.

OBITUARY

Dr.S.Chinnamani

03.04.1934 - 23.02.2015



We read in the newspaper the sad demise of Dr. S. Chinnamani due to cardiac arrest at Chennai on 23.02.2015. He was 80.

Dr.S.Chinnamani was born in Chennai on 03.04.1934. He received education at various places and in different schools in Lucknow and Patna. He had his higher education in Madras and completed B.Sc. (Botany) from Madras Christian College in 1954. He secured a job in the same year in the Soil and Water Conservation Directorate, Government of India. He was then deputed for forestry training at Coimbatore.

He underwent forestry course at the Southern Forest Rangers College at Coimbatore during 1955 – '57 and passed the training course with distinction. He cleared selection for Indian Forest Service (IFS) but did not opt to join the service and joined instead, the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) as scientist. He was married to Thirumathi C. Soundaravalli but she predeceased him in 2003 when she was 67. Chinnamani completed his MS from Colorado State University (USA) in 1976 and from the same University and in the same year, he obtained a PG Diploma in Watershed Management. He received his Ph.D. from Anna University at Chennai in 1983.

Dr. Chinnamani served ICAR under Soil and Water Conservation Directorate from 1954 to 1990. He was stationed at various Research Centers

across the country. He headed the Research Stations at Hyderabad, Bellary, Ooty, Vasad and Kota. By dint of his hard work and sincerity, he rose to the rank of Assistant Director General (Agro Forestry) in 1991 and worked as such till 1994, and then took retirement on superannuation after an eventful career for about 40 years. He has more than 400 research publications, and contributed many chapters in various books. He received 'Leadership Award' from Soil and Water Conservation Directorate. He was known for his simplicity, sociability and amiability. These qualities made him popular among his friends and colleagues.

Chinnamani is survived by two daughters, a son and five grandchildren. His elder daughter Dr. Vijayee (married to Prof. Narasimhan) is an Executive Engineer in the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board; younger daughter Prof. Valli (married to Er. Mahadevan) is Head, Institute of Animal Nutrition, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University; and son Dr. Eswar (married to Dr. Kalal) is Consultant Oncologist at Clatter Bridge Centre of Oncology, UK. His wife is consultant physician in UK.

Chinnamani will be fondly remembered by his family members including grandchildren, relatives colleagues and a large number of friends.

May his soulrest in peace!

Valli & KBR



The Sole coal producer in South India and a key partner in the country's economic and industrial progress, Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) is more than committed to caring for the environment. Company's mission statement aptly reflects the emphasis given to protection of environment and ecology. Company has established benchmark practices and internationally accepted soil conservation, Overburden bio-engineering measures in its Open Cast mines. Mine plans include development of Siltation ponds, timely back filling and regeneration of original species on the back filled areas etc.



- Monitoring of air / water / noise / ambient pollution at each mine on a regular basis. Establishment of 16 effluent treatment plants (Oil and Grease traps) at mines / stores / workshops
- Constructed 7 Sewerage Treatment Plants
- Introduced LPG to its staff for cooking in lieu of the supply of 20,000 tonnes of coal per month
- Rehabilitation of mine sites / over dumps with a due emphasis on biological engineering. This has been done through protective and mechanical engineering works like gabions, cribs, rock fill dams, toe walls, garland canals, siltation ponds and contour stretches along with plantation of sapling of local suitable species
- Large scale greening of colonies through plantation of suitable shade and flowering species, free supply of saplings to households
- Adoption of environment friendly technologies like Input Crusher, Conveyors for reducing consumption of diesel and oil. Replacement of timber supports in mines with steel supports resulting in a 20% reduction in usage of wood and protection of natural resources
- Introduction of "Environment" as a subject in 13 schools run by SCCL, about 200 of SCCL's teachers trained on environment by WWF
- Construction of 641 rain water harvesting structures and 236 Sulabh complexes

AWARDS

- Best practices in Bio-medical waste disposal in the State during the 2007 from APPCB, Hyderabad
- Greentech Environment excellence Gold Award -2006 from Greentech Foundation
- Good Green Governance Award-2006 from Srishti Publications (P) Ltd
- Golden Peacock Environment Management Award - 2006, by the World Environment Foundation
- TERI Environmental Award - 2004/05
- Fly Ash Utilisation Award, jointly instituted by Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Environment & Forests and Ministry of Power
- Indira Priyadarshini Vriksha Mitra (IPVM) award 2004 from Ministry of Environment and Forests, Gol



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