

VANA PREMI

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EDITORIAL

World No Tobacco day: -Tobacco is a product of the leaves of *Nicotiana tabacum* plants and it is consumed by human beings throughout the globe. It originated in the America, but was introduced to Europe by Jean Nicot, the French ambassador to Portugal in 1559. It quickly became popular and an important trade crop in most of the countries. Tobacco was brought to India by the Portuguese merchant in 1508 and its cultivation started in the Western Coastal region of the country. India is today the third leading producer of tobacco (after USA and China) in the world. Bulk of the country's production comes from Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar and Maharashtra. In our country it is cultivated in black & red soils as a cash crop and trees used to be felled from the forests for curing the tobacco. Curing tobacco has always been a process necessary to prepare the leaf for consumption. Fire-cured tobacco is hung in large barns where fires of hardwoods are kept on continuous or intermittent low smolders and takes between three days and ten weeks, depending on the process and the tobacco. Fire curing produces a tobacco low in sugar and high in nicotine. Pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, and snuff are fire cured. The main purpose of the fire is to give the tobacco a smoky taste and aroma by letting smoke come in direct contact with the leaf. Medical research made it clear during the 1900s that tobacco use increased the likelihood of

many illnesses including heart attacks, strokes, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, and many forms of cancer. Tobacco chewing causes stomach, lung, throat, and mouth cancers. The objective of observing World No Tobacco Day is to reduce tobacco consumption which can lead to deadly diseases mentioned above and early death. The tobacco is used in the following forms. Cigarettes, Cigars, Chutta, *Bidis*, Pipes and Water pipes (Huqqa), Chewing tobacco, Snuff, and *Ghutka* (a version of chewing tobacco mixed with areca nut, catechu, slaked lime and other condiments) People, non-governmental organizations and governments unite on World No Tobacco Day to draw attention to the health problems that tobacco use can cause. It is held on May 31 each year

The concept of World No Tobacco Day was initiated because millions of people die each year around the world owing to tobacco consumption and abuse. Initially, April 7 was chosen as the "world no-smoking day" when the World Health Assembly passed a resolution regarding the same in 1987. In 1988, the World Health Assembly passed another resolution calling for May 31 to be celebrated as "World No Tobacco Day" every year. This event has been observed each year since 1989

It is intended to encourage a 24-hour period of abstinence from all forms of tobacco consumption around the globe. The day is

further intended to draw attention to the widespread prevalence of tobacco use and to negative health effects, which currently lead to nearly 6 million deaths each year worldwide, including 600,000 of which are the results of non-smokers being exposed to passive smoking. Passive smoking is that when some body is very close to a smoker and inhaling the smoke released from smoker's cigarette or *beedi*. This is more dangerous.

In 2008, on the eve of the World No Tobacco Day, the WHO called for a worldwide ban on all tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship. The theme of that year's No Tobacco Day was Tobacco-free youth ; therefore, this initiative was especially meant to target advertising efforts aimed at youth. WHO put a complete ban on advertising tobacco products through any means from May 31, 2008. According to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, large, clear and visible health warnings or other pictorial messages depicting the harmful effects of tobacco use must be printed on all the tobacco products these warnings have been made mandatory for all countries. In our country though on tobacco products it is mentioned that "smoking is injurious for health" but it is written with very small illegible font size and in very inconspicuous place. All products related to tobaccos in India carry graphic pictorial warnings like the skull and cross bones or a cancer-disfigured face or diseased lungs to highlight the hazards of tobacco

intake. In our country smoking is banned in public places and if found smoking in these public places smokers are penalized.

Each year, World No Tobacco Day is observed with a new theme. WHO selects a theme for the day in order to create a more unified global message for World No Tobacco Day. This theme then becomes the central component of the WHO's tobacco-related agenda. The theme for 2013 was "Ban tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship". The theme for 2014 was "raise taxes on tobacco" and the theme for 2015 would be "Stop illicit trade of tobacco products".

On No Tobacco Day the attempt is to draw public and Government attention on the need to take effective measures to prevent tobacco consumption which contaminates the air we live in. Hence if your dream is to live in a pollution free environment, then Anti-Tobacco Day 2015 is the right time to express your support to help create a safe and healthy environment for future generations. In India World No Tobacco day is observed with fervor. The Government, individuals and public health organizations organize health camps and rallies to create a tobacco free society.

Tobacco consumption in any form is dangerous for health. People need to be made aware of the ills of tobacco. It is a fact that use of tobacco in all forms has gone down very much when compared to 50 years ago, but this reduction is only in educated and in urban areas who have

become more health conscious. In rural areas where the percentage of literacy is low consumption of tobacco is still very high. Even in urban areas the illiterates are using tobacco in the form of Cigarettes, *beedis* and *Ghutka*. In most of the states *Ghutka* is banned by the State Governments yet it is sold clandestinely. World No Tobacco Day is the event dedicated to call attention towards the impact of tobacco use on public health and reduce individual tobacco dependence. Governments of all the countries across the globe are imposing strict regulations on tobacco products.

World No Tobacco Day drew global attention to the prevailing use of tobacco and to its negative health effects. The day focuses on reduction of tobacco-related health problems and deaths. According to a National Family Health Survey conducted in 2005-06, in India, over 57 per cent men in the age group of 15-49 years consume tobacco in some form and over 10.9 per cent of women in this age group also use tobacco. Smoking kills 900,000 people every year in India, and unless corrective action is taken soon that number will increase to 1 million. The World Health Organization predicts that tobacco deaths in India may exceed 1.5 million annually by 2020. The introduction of reality about the harms and addiction of tobacco products to people helps improve their own health, as well as the health of their families, friends, and others in their community. WHO honor organizations or individuals who have made exceptional

contributions to reducing tobacco consumption.

Cancer Patients Aid Association regularly organizes awareness programmes for people to educate them. Free awareness lectures & screening camps are organized for public to commemorate World No Tobacco Day. Street plays, skits, debates, painting and extempore competitions are held on the evils of tobacco consumption on this day.

The main objective of celebrating the World No Tobacco Day all over the world is to promote and encourage the common public to reduce or stop the use of tobacco or its products consumption as it may lead to some lethal diseases (cancer, and cardiac related problems) or even death. Individuals from different regions of the country, non-profit and public health organizations participate very actively in the campaign celebration to get global success and become involved in distributing placards, posters display having latest theme and information related to the bad effects of tobacco use or its product smoking.

Vana Premi wishes a very success full No Tobacco day 2015 and wishes that all those who are consuming tobacco in any form should give it up from today only, without waiting for the New Year to come and resolve on new year's day to give up tobacco consumption completely and save the health of our relatives, friends and those who are working with us. **QMK**

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Sir,

Wish to express my happiness on getting a very informative Vana Premi after you sounded so worried at our meeting at Doolapalli that you did not have enough articles to bring out the issue. Like a wizard you picked up some very interesting articles of valuable advices to old retired guys like us to maintain good health without going to CGHS but taking things available in our household. The magazine was highly appreciated by many oldies in our complex to which I circulated the magazine. When Buchiram Reddy opted out of publishing Vana Premi I was worried, but am happy that there is an equally great stalwart in you to manage it with equal competence and interest, to give us access to article which we may not capability to see on internet in plenty for want of computer and capacity to download on internet as you have been doing for our benefit. Please find attached an article on Vontimitta I was provoked to write on where i started my independent career with range training, in a woe-begone place.

Best wishes & regards,

M. Kamal Naidu

Sir,

'Mutation of House Property in Municipal Records' by KBR (VP – April 2015) is a classic illustration of the travails any one has to undergo in government offices. He has in fact been soft with the system. Most of the formalities and the bottlenecks are avoidable. I checked up with KBR and was told that the story had a happy ending when he obtained the Certificate personally on 16th April 2015. Even on the last day, he had to request the head of the office to intervene.

It is significant that KBR with his stature had to face many ordeals when the Certificate had to be issued in routine on the basis of evidence produced. He must have revealed his identity wherever he had approached and also told them that he had retired as Joint Director, Anti-Corruption Bureau. System is so rotten that it is immune to sensibilities and do not allow healthy practices to take roots. Exhortations by even the Chief Minister that procedures have been simplified and timelines fixed become meaningless.

Yours sincerely

J.V. SHARMA

Date: 18.04.2015

REMEMBERING VONTIMITTA

By
M.Kamal Naidu

I travelled fifty years down my memory lane this year 2015, on Ramanaomi, when the KodandaRamaswamy temple of Vontimitta shot into very high prominence. Hitherto 'Bhadrachallam Temple' used to be the center of attraction on the occasion, but this year it went to Telangana State. So as an alternative, the festival came to be celebrated by Andhra State at Vontimitta, to perform the auspicious *pooja*, and was graced by the Governor and the CM of AP. Hitherto the *pooja* was performed every year, graced by FRO Vontimitta, as the senior most official of the place. In 1965, I enjoyed this privileged honor, to mark the beginning of my independent charges in my career. This happened for I had taken independent charge of Vontimitta Range on 1-4-1965, and that year Ramanavaomi occurred on 2nd April. The priest considered it as a great privilege of Shri Ramalayam that an ACF level officer was present that year to perform the *pooja*, as against the usual routine by FRO. I felt too honored at the privilege, particularly my wife, for it happened less than six months, since we were married in November.

Thus my association with this simple quiet village came accidentally, not at my asking, at the end of my attached trainings in the state after two years at Forest Academy, starting with Mr.

Sitarama Rao, DFO Cuddapah South, followed with Mr.Mareddy DFO Nizamabad, and finally with MrMunawar Hussain, CF Kurnool Circle. It was a coincidence that I started off with training under Sitarama Rao and ended with Ramanaomi. Vontimitta became a range of the reorganized Cuddapah Division under Mr. SA Reddy, when Rajampet and Proddutur Divisions were also formed in the district. Thus Vontimitta in Cuddapah had been etched in my mind as an important land-mark in my life, with many other important associations to follow associated with my places of posting.

In 1965 Vontimitta was a small village being the HQ of SI Police, Revenue Inspector and Forest Range Officer, and no hospital worth the name, but had its importance because of the prominent Ramalayam and a huge tank with a long winding bund, tank being mostly dry round the year barring rainy season. This tank was built during the Vijayanagara Kingdom for irrigation, in this severely drought prone area. Vontimitta was fortunate to have a prominent big Forest RH at the bus stop, frequented by district officials on visit for duty, to visit the temple, and for a change from Cuddapah. There was a High School located behind the FRH to cater for the needs of surrounding hamlets besides itself. The village would be virtually dead

after 7.00PM, when the last bus left for Cuddapah, till the next morning with arrival of first bus. The place used to be so dead, that even if murders occur during the night, it would not be known till morning. During my 6-months tenure, the first two months were in FRH, till FRO quarter was vacated by the relieved FRO.

While at Vontimitta, I was being watchfully guarded out of sympathy by many, than senior young direct recruit officers like Mr.Laxmipathy of FS Party,Keshav Reddy from Rajampet and PratapBahadur of Chitoor nearby divisions, for Mr.SA Reddy was reputed among many as a person having a strong dislike for direct recruits, and so feared possibility of him causing mental hardships and harassing me, given the opportunity of having me posted under him. And so they would come to Vontimitta on way to Cuddapah to cheer me up. On the contrary the reality was otherwise for Mr. SA Reddy was a very practical and fatherly figure to me, who regularly visited us at Vontimitta with family and lot of good homely food, to cheer us up in the woe-begone place, without minimal city comforts. He appointed the first in-house servant for us, to take care of us, who served us for first three years of our domestic life, which habit became a life-long institution till very recently. Every month he would insist, I go over to HQ Cuddapah with my wife, stay with him in his spacious house, in a room kept reserved for us, when he would take her for regular checkup, as my wife was pregnant, assisted by his wife, as he would have done to his own daughter under similar circumstance.

He used to call me as 'aye Vontimitta Ranger' while in his office, and never by name when he called for Rangers meeting, but otherwise he was all love and hospitality, and goodwill outside the office premises. He was proud that he started his career as a forester under Englishmen prior to independence, and rose to become a DFO, very justifiedly so. These experiences of his were interesting on the style of life led by British officer. Often I felt his behavior pattern was an imitation of what he suffered under his white bosses in his earlier days.

Again it was the Vontimitta Tank bund, where we took our evening walks, where the legendary 'Srinath' of Vijaynagar Maharajas court would travel, for he happened to be a brother-in-law of Telugu poet Pottana, who resided at Vontimitta, besides the ever full 'PottanaBhavi', even during the driest summer, as we witnessed during our stay. While at Vontimitta was born my first son Srinath, whom we named in memory of the legend of the place. We did not name him as 'Pottana', because my wife took objection that my son would resent later when classmates tease him, not knowing the historical significances of the name.

Vontimitta even carries my memories back to the surrounding hills, set on fire by grazers, to stimulate flush of fresh green grass for the sheep. These fires would resemble like garlands of rubies in the pitch darkness of night, when seen helplessly from the FRH veranda. I am reminded of my cycle ride and foot inspections of burnt areas of red sander forest to

Mantapampally, Madhavaram, known to women better for sarees, Chintarajupally FRH, and KG Penta FRH on hill top, enroute to Vontimitta on forest track and also passing through the large dry tank bed. Nandalur, etc. The raids on red sander smugglers and goat grazers was a routine feature and used to be very exciting, though extremely risky, which SA Reddy strongly discouraged me, as not worth the risk with seasoned hoodlums of Cuddapah, well known to him as being armed with sickles, axes and plenty of stones.

My later association to Vontimitta was rare, being once in 1982 as Curator NZP, while on a visit to Tirupathi by car from Hyderabad on a pilgrimage for my daughter fist hair cutting, after visiting Srisailam, and LakshmiNarashimaSwamy temple at Ahobilam enroute, thanks to Mr. P. Ranga Rao's arrangement of good *darshan*.

The next visit to Vontimitta came about on posting as CF, Social Forestry, Cuddapah in 1985. It was on this occasion I took a decision to afforest the barren dry hillock besides the temple un-

der Social Forest as a 'Temple Grove'. I asked DFO Cuddapah to take up this project, but unfortunately I got transferred from there to Delhi Zoological Park, and later I found that the task was not carried out. When I saw the hillock on my visit to Vontimitta as PCCF in 1996, I once again entrusted the task to DFO to be taken up in 1997 monsoon after good soil preparation in the rocky, dry shallow terrain. But this I presume did not materialize with my premature transfer out of dept. as Chairman Godavari Valley Development Authority. Now I am very expectant that Lord Rama himself will take care of the afforestation project of the hillock, with the renewed importance given by CM and Governors visit, which will become my dream fulfilled of 1965 as Vontimitta RO, when I planted a *Neem* sapling on the hillock on Van Mahotsava as remembrance of my Range charge. This sapling did not have a survival instinct like me, to survive many adversities.

However the good days of Vontimitta have come, thanks to bifurcation of the state. All the best Vontimitta for a glorious future

Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws. Plato

The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people. Martin Luther King, Jr.

THE KILLING OF TWENTY WOOD CUTTERS IN SESHCHALAM FORESTS

By
S.D.Mukharjee

Red sander (RS) is endemic species to Seshachalam region (including adjoining areas in Kudapa, kurnool and Nellore districts), which means they are not found anywhere else in the world. It has been classified as endangered species with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and included in appendix –ii of Conservation on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Trading in RS is not permitted without the sanction of Government of India. The use of RS wood is known only to the extent that it is used for making musical instrument, certain type of dyes and decorative furnishing. But looking at the rising cost in the international market, Rs 50 to 80 lakh per tonne, it looks there may be some other uses of the wood. It is this high value of RS that has attracted smugglers, who are prepared to take risk and invest heavily on its smuggling.

Smugglers engage people to fell, transport the logs out of the forests, load it on vehicles, transport it to designated destinations and ship the wood illegally from different ports of India to different international destinations and sell it in the international market. Some limited quantity of RS also goes to the adjoining countries -

Nepal, Myanmar, and other countries- by road. To maintain secrecy different people are engaged in different stages and paid handsomely. Logs are generally concealed under some agriculture produce like husk, dung, vegetables, etc. during transportation in stolen vehicles with false registration number plates. Drivers are hired from the local markets without revealing the contraband and ownership of the material. Before the RS reaches its final destination several drivers are changed. Logs are transported in containers with false declaration. In case of any failure in smooth conduct of smuggling they leave the produce and the middlemen engaged are left to fend for themselves and bear the consequences. Majority of the cases the people are unaware of the kingpin as they are dealt by the middlemen. Even after knowing the illegality of the clandestine transactions in the process of RS smuggling, the people engaged in different operations are prepared to take risk keeping eye on the high wages paid for the work entrusted. To ensure hassle free process of smuggling, to the extent possible, the concerned officials at different points from the origin to the final destination,

including politicians, are bribed suitably and kept in their good books.

Most of the people involved in tree felling and shifting operations belong to two economically backward castes of Tamil Nadu (TN) – Vanniyars and Malayalis. The traditional occupation of many people from these two castes is wood cutting. As per the fact finding report of the National Campaign for DNT Human Rights, most of them are hired from Thiruvannamalai, Salem, Villupuram, and Dharmapuri districts of TN. Many from these districts had worked earlier for Sandalwood dons like Veerappan. Keeping their poor economic status, proficiency in woodcutting and traveling through forests in mind, the RS mafia prefers to hire them.

The smuggling of RS is going on since ages but lately there is increased interest in the produce due to increase of wood value in the international market. Presently one metric ton of RS cost is Rs twenty lakh in Indian market and it ranges between Rs fifty to eighty lakh in international market as against a mere Rs one lakh per tonne in 2009. The Forest Department (FD) had been fighting lone losing battle with increasing risk of life for decades. For example in the recent past following cases of killing in the hands of the wood cutters gives a glimpse of danger involved in protecting the RS forests:

1. July 2011 M.Sreenivasulu a forest officer was killed

2. December 2012, 2 forest officers were killed and three were injured.

3. December 15,2013, N.R.Sridhar Deputy Range Officer and David Karunakaran forest beat officer were attacked with axes, stones and sticks killing both by about a mob of 500 woodcutters.

However, lately government of Andhra Pradesh (AP) has taken strong measures to check the menace by constituting Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling Task Force (RSASTF) in November 2014 with the personnel from FD and Police duly armed. For better coordination of police force, the Task Force (TF) is headed by an IPS officer of Deputy Inspector General rank that functions under the command and administrative control of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, AP. TF not only enforces area domination exercise in the forests and applies Preventive Detection (PD) Act on the smugglers, but also conducts awareness programme in the affected villages to forewarn the people about the risk involved in smuggling activity of RS. Additionally, FD has set up sixty four base camps and installed solar powered CCTV cameras in deep forests. The CCTV cameras are remotely controlled from Hyderabad and its findings are communicated to the field units for catching the smugglers and produce detected by the cameras. Six more cameras are being installed to make total CCTV coverage at 60

identified vulnerable points in deep forests. It has been found very effective to detect and catch the culprits and produce. 150 forest officials, from Forest guards to foresters, have been equipped with double action pump guns. Another 250 guns are being imported from United States. It was also proposed to have three meter deep trenches along 1250 km stretch, mostly in Chittoor and Kadapa districts to curb the smuggling of RS. With all these efforts combined the TF has registered 831 cases, 5239 arrests, seizure of 15,520 logs and 715 vehicles. Among the people arrested 2202 are from AP, 3033 from TN and Karnataka. 31 inter-state smugglers were arrested, 45 kingpins of smugglers were detained under PD Act out of which 13 were released on bail and remaining remains in judicial custody.

In spite of all such measures the lure of big money from RS prompts the continuity of smuggling activity. On the other hand to finish the task without giving chance to be caught in the process of smuggling, larger number of woodcutters and transporters are being engaged by offering lucrative wages and insurance against risk. It is said the wages go up to Rs. 5000 and death is compensated with Rs 15 lakh to the family of deceased and injured is paid Rs. 5 lakh. Therefore, the poor people, knowing fully well about the illegal business and risk to life, agree to smugglers dictates.

Under this background, on the 7th of April 2015 morning 20 woodcutters were killed in Seshachalam forests in an encounter with RSASTF. Eleven persons were killed in an area known as Eetamakulagunda and nine others at Cheekateegalakona in Chandragirimandal of Chittoor district, AP. According to Additional DG of Police (Law and Order) there was information about a large number of smugglers in the forests. TF teams laid ambush at two places. The smugglers armed with stones, axes, sickle and sticks were asked to surrender but they retaliated forcing the police to open fire in self-defense that resulted in the killing of twenty people while 8 police men were injured. Large number of smugglers escaped with Red sanders (RS) logs to the adjoining forests. Search teams of TF have been constituted to nab them and some have been caught with logs of RS. The search is in progress.

Instead of supporting the efforts of RSASTF who are relentlessly working day and night with life at risk to save the RS forests, the killing of 20 woodcutters has generated tsunami of protests from different quarters.

1. Tamil speaking youths carrying sticks and petrol in plastic sachets, stopped the APSRTC bus plying from Nellore to Chennai and smashed the glass panes and assaulted the driver. Fringe outfits resorted to protests and targeted at the Chennai Mofussil Bus Terminus

and pelted stones on 5 buses damaging the wind shields. The passengers traveling had harrowing time. APSRTC had to suspend the buses putting the general public to great inconvenience for ten days before resuming the services.

2. Cutting across party lines political leaders of TN expressed shock and termed the firing incident a brutal attack on the hapless workers. Condemning the action of the TF political parties-DMK, MDMK, BJP, PMK, CPI, VCK and Congress-opined, "Shooting people is not acceptable and victims should have been dealt in accordance with law". They asked the AP government to "pursue lawful means" to check RS smuggling. VCK leader condemned the incident as a brutal attack and demanded apology from AP CM. MDMK leader said there are no legal provisions to randomly fire at those who intrude into forests. The law of the land does not entertain firing animals in the wild, but gunning down people is inhuman. The TN CM has addressed to AP CM to order speedy and credible enquiry.

3. People's Union for Civil Liberties condemned the encounter calling it "massacre" and demanded CBI probe into the incident. The Human Rights Forum has demanded that a murder case be booked against the police personnel who participated in the encounters and criminally prosecuted. The National Human Rights Commission has issued notices to CS and DGP of AP seeking report within two weeks on the

killing of the twenty people in an alleged encounter with RS smugglers. The Hyderabad High Court sought to know from the AP DGP whether a case of unnatural death had been reported regarding the encounter killings of the twenty wood cutters near Tirupati. Cases have been also filed in the High Court Hyderabad by the relations of the deceased.

4. Under the pressure created against the TF the AP government has registered a case of murder against the police personnel involved in the encounter and the investigation is in progress.

In an article: "Blood in the woods" (The Hindu 16.04.2015), the writer has concluded that exploited by forest officials and mafia, the forest-dwellers were involved both legal and illegal activities. But there was always the fear that the tribal would expose the illegal goings-on. There was also need to show that some degree of forest protection was underway. This led to forest dwellers being routinely arrested for forest offences. The number of cases was notched up to show efficient forest protection. The forest mafia remained well protected. The odd honest forest officer faced the brunt of mafia anger and if he dared to act, it was safer not to. Forest bureaucracy was itself divided within. Writer further claims the Forest Rights Act of 2006 with the law conceding the rights of forest dwellers is the only solution to save the forests. Even

skeptics now accept the Forest Rights Act as the only way forward for both forests and forest people. But powerful lobby within the FD continues to resist it. The Act has been challenged by number of retired forest officials. For instance in AP, it was J.V.Sharma and Ors. Vs. Union of India and while in TN, it was the V.Sambasivam vs Union of India and Ors. Official reports too blame the resistance from the FD for the poor implementation of the law. In TN, not a single title has been issued to tribals till date. The utter desperation of the tribal people that makes them venture into forests for illegal work is a result of such moves. Recognition and legal protection of their rights can alone ensure that forest dwellers get a fair deal. When forest become open, inclusive and come under the watchful eyes of the forest dwellers themselves, forest conservation and protection become possible. The Seshachalam killings come from the delusion of gun-toting commandos that they are protecting forests. Rather than convert forests into conflict zones, conservation is best achieved by those who know the forests. Guns only do what they do the best, kill. Forests, however, are about life and coexistence.

It is concluded that it would be impossible for the FD, even when police help is provided, if such opinions are aired and forest officers are blamed all the time. Unless the political class and civil society is prepared to understand the complication involved in the protection and development of forests, it will be impossible to save the forests. Those who claim that giving free access to the forest dwellers is the only viable solution to forest protection fail to see the ground realities. The forest officers who have spent their life time in the forests, have witnessed the flow of people from outside to the forests, clearing of forestlands on large scale and illegal occupation of forestland, which was never with them in the past, and got recognized as tribal forest dwellers are now claiming more forestlands even by felling existing forests in order to get recognition and Forest Rights Act. Giving free access to such people would be the last step to see complete wiping out of the remaining forests and wildlife. The government may realize the folly of believing such stories only at the risk of receiving the wrath of nature that is already visible to some extent but the real fall out would be unbearable wiping out the life on large scale.

I think it's important to always keep professional and surround yourself with good people, work hard, and be nice to everyone.

Caroline Weinberg

INDIA OF GOOD OLD TIMES AND WHAT A FALL!

By
J. V. Sharma

Editor, *VANA PREMI* deserves all the praise for publishing a photocopy of an excerpt of Lord Macaulay's speech in British Parliament on 2nd February 1835. It is reproduced below for the benefit of those who could not lay their hand on March 2014 issue of the journal:

"I have travelled across the length and breadth of India and I have not seen one person who is a beggar, who is a thief –such wealth I have seen in this country, such high moral values, people of such caliber, that I do not think we would ever conquer this country, unless we break the very backbone of this nation, which is her spiritual and cultural heritage and therefore, I propose that we replace her old and ancient education system, her culture, for if the Indians think that all that is foreign and English is good and greater than their own, they will lose self-esteem, their native culture and they will become what we want them, a truly dominated nation."

The editor, very thoughtfully, implored upon the readers to explore the possibilities of reverting to the position of 1835 which otherwise means to go into the matter seriously without however committing himself to the thought process or the debate he thus initiated. We should thank him for reminding about the Nation and values connected therewith.

Before we start debating over the issue, we must first assume that the situation in India was correctly stated by Macaulay. Since this is based on record and not on imagination or premises and conjectures of historians, it should be taken as true and authentic. Perhaps it is impossible for us to go back to 1835 situation where there was no hunger and poverty in India and the entire society was bound by moral values. Macaulay was a staunch promoter of colonialism and his determination to transform India into "a dominated nation" is amply reflected in his un-ambiguous language. He had an agenda which he spelt out clearly and he had also suggested a solution how to "break the very backbone of this nation, which is her spiritual and cultural heritage and therefore, I propose that we replace her old and ancient education system, her culture....". He also visualized the result of implementation of his policy where the Indians think that "all that is foreign and English is good and greater than their own, they will lose their self-esteem, their native culture and they will become what we want them "

In retrospect, we must accept that Lord Macaulay succeeded to great extent in ruining whatever is native. Though he won several battles, he lost the war because the British could not sustain their rule in India. They had to leave India unsung and unwept, 112 years, 6 months and 13 days after Macaulay's famous speech of 2nd February 1835. Ironically, the very prescription for sustained British Rule given by Macaulay proved to be their undoing leading to their ignominious exit. But the backbone of India was broken; Indians became poor and started begging; they lost the moral fiber and they lost the spiritual and cultural heritage. But they learnt English and learnt it so well that the English themselves envied them. With English, they also became aware that they were being ruled by aliens and that they should free themselves of the foreign rule.

Much water had flowed down the rivers of India between 1835 and 1947. The backbone of the nation which could not be broken for two thousand years, despite numerous invasions and influx of different ethnic & religious groups, had been successfully broken in a span of about 112 years. India, at the time of Independence did not match the good description of Macaulay or rather became anti-thesis to it. Illiteracy, poverty, ignorance, disease, squalor etc. became very common. Horrendous experiences of Bengal famine were still fresh in memory. Hordes of sick, starving, emaciated and scantily clad people had to become nomads in search of succor. Begging became an unavoidable avocation for survival. The land where Macaulay could not spot a beggar had become a haven of beggar-population.

Incidentally, a small account of a debate held recently in England 'How British Rule made India poor' by Mr. ShashiTharoor is in circulation in social media. Mr. Tharoor is a well-known personality and a Lok Sabha Member and he was the lone participant from India. He marshalled his facts so well that the majority of the audience agreed with Tharoor that the British Rule did in fact more harm to India. That the ethnic English audience accepted his arguments is a tribute to English sensibility. The evidence adduced must have been incontrovertible. The British hostility towards, Indian ethos evident from Macaulay's speech stands conclusively confirmed by the (in)famous sarcastic comments by (then) British Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill as to why Gandhi was not dying with lakhs of people dying of starvation in Bengal famine. The truth was that 40 lakh people died in Bengal alone and it was the time of Second World War. All the food produced in India was forcibly exported for British soldiers and others. Evidently, we were ruled by heartless people then. That those rulers had lot of racial hatred is an undeniable truth.

Worse is the loss of self-esteem and native culture. Islam made inroads into India more than a thousand years ago and spread to all parts of the country. Muslim dynasties held power over better

part of the country almost on a sustained basis until the British arrived. Budhists, Sikhs, Christians, Jains and Parsis were all part of the Indian society and prospered well without any visible strife. Despite this hugely complex divergence, the nation as a whole held its self-esteem and native culture which made Macaulay to suggest that (in)famous prescription to break the country's backbone. If the hundreds and thousands of historical events that took place before the advent of the British could not dent the self-esteem and native culture, despite social and religious diversity, it was because all the different social groups were generally absorbed into native culture considering the country as their home. The exception however is partition of India on account of religious identity claimed by Jinnah. In contrast, the British never considered India their home and treated it as their colony until they left. Many political scientists believe that partition of the country was a geo-political expedience of colonialism.

On closer look, we have reason to feel that Lord Macaulay was extra-courteous to India. Because it is difficult to digest that there was not even one beggar and a thief in the country during the corresponding period. Well documented medieval history and even ancient history do not subscribe to this theory. Hindu scriptures ordain certain class of people to live only on alms as they are not expected to entertain greed for any worldly material possessions. Macaulay was perhaps driving home his point with force in British Parliament and the statement could be a hyperbole. But at the same time it is equally incorrect to conclude that the country was a land of beggars and thieves. Poverty could not have been as virulent as to prompt large scale begging and thefts. After all, begging and theft are symptoms and not the disease. The fact population of the country was a mere 17.74 Crore in 1831 as per reverse projection of subsequent census figures and given the resources available, life could have been certainly comfortable if not lavish.

Coming back to begging, it became very common by the time the British left. It is an indisputable fact. Statements of Macaulay and Churchill vouch for it. It was a noticeable downswing in the fortunes of the country during the British Rule or may be more aptly on account of the British Rule. The first native government in India had two difficult challenges; one, to establish communal harmony after partition holocaust and two, to feed the starving population. There was acute shortage of food grains in the country. Rationing was in vogue. India had to officially go begging for food. Countries with surplus food grain stocks like the US were attaching strings for supply of food grains hurting self-respect of the country instead of treating it as human problem. However, the leadership of the nascent democracy was not prepared to bend and was not prepared to compromise nation's self-esteem. They counselled less consumption of food and even called on people to fast for a day

in a week. It was all a bad dream but with precious lessons for future.

India has travelled great distance in the 67 years after Independence. We are surplus in food grains even after feeding the population quadrupled thereafter. We also hold enough buffer stocks to tide over a couple of years' drought. But very strangely, a new trend in begging appears to have set in. It is not begging for survival but begging for affluence. A strange situation indeed! Begging which was encouraged as an honorable avocation in some sections to ensure good conduct and a healthy society in good old days, had with passage of time, become a necessary avocation during British period, poverty, hunger and starvation being the causes. In independent India, of late, we find that begging had since graduated into a highly specialized profession. Several innovations had come in the field and begging had assumed an art form practiced by many, not necessarily to meet basic requirement of sustenance but as a route to prosperity.

Literally speaking, begging is different from borrowing. The two are separate practices. But the advancements made in operational plane appear to have obliterated the dividing line to great extent. Some avowed opponents of the present trends argue that begging is the basic concept around which practices like corruption, borrowing etc. revolve. They say it is purpose centric and could as well envelope theft, robbery, cheating and even murder for gain among many other similar activities. Begging has thus gained wider acceptability, recognition and respectability. They argue that the human society is never equal and uniform and bound to have disparities. As long as there is disparity/inequality, the lesser gifted will look at the affluent with envy while the rich try to keep the divide as wide as possible.

Central and State Governments appear eternally in short of funds. Running governments on borrowed money had become a standard practice. Development needs investment. The government is not in a position to establish industries on its own in public sector as it does not have the funds required. To look at the financial health of the country, every rupee accounted as 'revenue receipts' has 27 *paise* in the form of borrowings & liabilities. What is more worrying is the fact that every rupee spent by the Government has 18 *paise* towards interest payments. If the Government were to be financially sound and strong, the 18 *paise* component of expenditure does not arise. It means that the Indian State accumulates a liability of 27 *paise* per year on accounted receipts which we pass on to posterity while the 18 *paise* paid is on interest account and the 'Principal' remains intact and accumulates over the years as debt. In this context, it is pertinent to mention that India spent as much as Rs. 4,33,343 crore on debt servicing during financial year 2012-13 against total revenue receipts of Rs. 14,30,825 Crores.

Since we cannot ignore development on the grounds of paucity of funds, the desired industries can come only in private sector or by foreign direct investment. There is yet another important basic sector of 'infrastructure development'. This is primarily the State's domain and its active participation is essential. It therefore becomes the responsibility of the Government to find ways and means to finance the infrastructure projects. The Govt. with no money of its own, has to go for heavy borrowing either from local investors, with or without participation, or external financial institutions. In either case, it is Shylock's story and they demand their pound of flesh. Experience shows that internal investors with participatory rights are the worst.

Without being so called, begging, nay the borrowing, has become an internationally accepted practice. As any poor nation is desperate to borrow from local money bags (call them investors) or to resort for external borrowings, to meet its governing responsibility, the lenders also are keen float their money as wide as possible to multiply its size. Who among the lender and borrower buckles first is crucial in this context.

Nations on the globe have been classified as developed, developing and the poor on the basis of their economic strength. Strong economies like US, Japan, UK, and Germany etc. are confirmed developed countries. Poor countries are those who have no potentially stable economy and dependent upon others. In between are countries like India, Brazil, and China etc. who have strong economic base and lucrative markets but with inadequate finances to encash the economic advantages. It should now be clear that the poor and the developing countries are in need of money and the money has to come only from developed countries. Among the borrowers the developing nations have an edge on account of their strength in inputs required for production. Besides the developed nations, there also are financial institutions, private investors with tons of money and global and regional banks with lending capacity.

There is a place called Davos in Switzerland. Money bags of the world hold court there every year. Countries in need of money gravitate to Davos with their requirement catalogue to convince the prospective lenders that their money is safe and will bring heavy profits if loaned/invested in their countries and to bargain for advantageous terms of repayment, more like good-looking ladies walking the ramp in a beauty contest or business promotion fete. This is however separate from bilateral financial dealings between the nations. Borrowing/begging fever has become so virulent among the needy countries that they liberalized external borrowing norms to the extent individual States in a country are permitted foreign jaunts in search of money, the Centre offering collateral security. No sooner a Chief Minister assumes office a pilgrimage to Singapore had become an

essential ritual. Macaulay wanted the destination to be England but it is now some other places. We have the example of a Chief Minister who considers that Singapore is the right country to advise, plan and develop everything in the State including preparation of plans for capital construction. This is a job which any experienced diploma engineer in architecture in India can easily deliver. Critics comment that the conceptual plan which had come into public domain was actually the idea of an Indian working there. Some ministers are said to be undertaking such business trips even before they acquaint themselves of their ministry and its requirements.

So far, it is the story of the countries bending before the investors acceding to their strings and conditions which are often unreasonable. If an honest audit is carried out it will be heavily loaded in favor of the lender/investor. Some experts in financial management say that there is no need for borrower to appease the lender at all. Reasons given in support of their argument are also equally convincing. They say that idle money is no money. Moneyed people, be it rich countries, persons or institutions, cannot afford to keep their money unused. Money in circulation will not only fetch profits but also add value to their position, status and political leverage. No wise man locks up his money in a bank as a deposit for long subjecting it to the risk of inflationary trends. A billionaire with unused money in banks is forgotten soon like demonetized currency. These circumstances compel the money bags bring their money into market for circulation.

It is for these reasons the banks in advanced countries tout for borrowers offering different sops. They come to your doorstep with offers of loans for all and sundry at attractive rates of interest and the procedures are unbelievably simple compared to Indian experience. We also come across instances where the borrower defaults and of bad debts. Banks do not mind these losses and continue to encourage loans. Important question that arises is; why do the money bags behave in contrast with outsiders with stiff necks compared to their domestic market while they are as desperate to lend as the others are for borrowing. It is a war of attrition to get the best of bargains and the beggar buckles first.

To see the situations at different milestones, India was prosperous with self-esteem and culture at its best as Macaulay saw it in 1835; India impoverished and pushed to starvation and beggary when the British left in 1947; and now independent India going begging, by volition, 67 years after it became a free nation. What a fall! Should India not be wary of consequences?

'OSMANIA' MEANS

By
Dr.B.Raghotham Rao Desai



Osmania University Logo:

Preamble:The University came into existence on 22nd September, 1918 and was inaugurated by the Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan in 1939.

In contrast to the rest of India, Hyderabad's Hindus and Muslims by and large could not be differentiated on the basis of their dress and sometimes not even by their names! They ate the same food and participated in each other's festivals. The nobility's patronage to these festivals transcended the distinctions of community and religion. If Mahbub Ali Pasha during the 1908 floods of the river Musi donned the holy thread on the advice of the Hindu Pandits and made an offering to appease the angry river goddess, if Maharaja Kishan Pershad transgressed the rules of commensality and connubiality — married Muslim as well as Hindu ladies, and ceased to make any distinctions between religions when seeking enlightenment — this created powerful symbols for the relations between religions in Hyderabad. The Malwala family (Kayasths) lit their palace on the

Prophet's birthday and distributed alms. In the palace of the Khurshid Jahi's a big annual festival was held during Nagapanchami. In this, Hyderabad's culture was not different from the Ganga – Jamnatehrib (culture) of Lucknow and the establishment of the Osmania University was a step towards the evolution of this culture.

Background:The Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan's *Firman* (edit) defined its objectives: In this University the Modern and the Ancient, the Oriental and Western arts and crafts should be so combined as to remove the defects of the modern systems of education in the physical, intellectual and spiritual fields. And in the University, with the spread of education, there should also be scope for the improvement and reform of the morals of the students. Further, in this University there should be provision for real research facilities in all the different sciences. Lastly, basic principle of this University would be that Urdu should be the Medium of Instruction for Higher Education; but that the

study of English as a language should be compulsory on every student. Accordingly, I gladly grant permission that, in memory of my coronation, on the principle described in the draft, steps should be taken for the establishment of Hyderabad University in the State; and that this University should be named as Osmania University, Hyderabad.

By 1936 Osmania University had established post-graduate courses and research facilities in physics, chemistry, biology, medicine, engineering, metallurgy, as well as established the faculty of law and education and various teacher-training courses. By 1948 it had reached its full stature at both the graduate and post-graduate levels. Its degrees were accepted not only by other Indian Universities, but also by British Universities.

Though there was some criticism that it was 'uncreative' as there was nothing basically original in the education: translations being mostly of text-books, from English; there was little that was startling among the works chosen for translating, still one must not underestimate the service that the University had performed in that capacity to the regions for a period of about 40 years after it was established. It continues to be a premier University of the Country though Urdu had ceased to be the medium of instruction after the States were reorganized in 1956.

No University logo better expresses a

commitment to linguistic diversity than that of Osmania University. Unfurling banners at its bottom declare Osmania Vishwavidyalayamu, 'Osmania University' in Telugu. The motto at the top, *tamasomajyotirgamay* — 'lead us from darkness into light' is drawn from the Sanskrit *Brhdaranyaka Upanishad* and is written in the Devanagari script (the same script being used to write modern Hindi). At its center is the solitary '*ain*, the Urdu - Perso and Arabic — letter with which the name Osmania begins. The appearance of English in the logo comes as no great surprise since Osmania University is located in the city of Hyderabad, a city of over eight million people known internationally as an English-language business hub.

Conclusion: The Muslim intellectuals who ran Osmania University in Hyderabad were profoundly engaged with questions of colonial displacement and national belonging, occupied as they were in an effort to transform the Urdu Language for national purposes and to produce alternatives to the system of higher education introduced to India by the British. The Viceroy Lord Chelmsford encouraged the project: 'Students try to read difficult subjects through a foreign language with the result that they memorize the prescribed books....without doubt, this system of education is against good educational principles.'

Praise flowed aplenty: C. Rajagopalachari, a veteran Congress leader and the first Indian to occupy the office of Governor General, said in his Convocation address to the University in February 1943: 'The only language that can claim to be an All India language in Hindustani, and that is the medium of instruction in this University. Yours then, is the true Vidyapith, the Swadeshi University of all India.'

Rabindranath Tagore was equally unstinting in his praise. He had 'waited long for this day', he said, 'when education would be free from the shackles of a foreign language to become accessible to everybody'.

This left one crucial question unanswered: What of the overwhelming majority of the populace? As per the census figures — (referred to by Miss. Padmaja Naidu, daughter of Smt. Sarojini Naidu 'the nightingale of India', who was as devoted a Hyderabadi and secular in her outlook as her parents, in her note prepared, at Hyderabad's 'Golden Threshold', on 'Communal relations in Hyderabad' on 11th December, 1938 with appendices)——at that given point of time:

Urdu was only spoken by 14 percent of the population (1.5 million); Telugu by 48 percent (7.0 million); Marathi by 26 (3.8 million) and Kannada (or Kanarese) by 12 percent (1.6 Million). In the capital, 50 percent notified Urdu as their mother tongue and only 38 percent as Telugu. The effect on people's minds, Telugu-speaking and Hindus in particular, was not difficult to understand. During his visit to Hyderabad in 1929 to Viceroy Lord Irwin advised the Nizam publicly, in a speech at the royal banquet, 'to make the University more useful and acceptable to his Telugu-subjects'.

Being an 'Osmanian' myself, I personally feel that if not for the fall of Hyderabad, no one would have thought of going out. Osmania had indeed produced a revolution and a multiclass-society surely though slowly was developing, perceptibly changing the State. Osmania was undoubtedly a brave venture!

(As the University celebrates its Platinum Jubilee of completing 75 years after its inauguration in 1939, though it came into existence 21 years earlier!).

I went to my son's graduation this weekend, and I heard a great quote I've never heard before from Albert Einstein. It was that the greatest danger to the world is not the bad people but it's the good people who don't speak out. Hamilton Jordan

TO REMINISCE AFTER 40 YEARS

BY

V.V. HARIPRASAD

Tourist plaza, Hyderabad has become the venue for the meeting of the batch mates of 75-77 of Southern Forest Rangers' College, Coimbatore who have assembled **there** along with their spouses on 18th April 2015 nearly after 40 years of their training period.

70 participants took part in the meet which included their family members. Participants belong to different states of the country namely Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamilnadu. The Government of Telangana has provided accommodation in Hotel Plaza to some of the participants under GAD quota along with permission for conducting the meeting with the initiative taken by Sri.K.Bhoopal Reddy I.F.S special secretary in the Hon'ble Chief Minister's Peshi Govt. of Telangana and he belongs to the alumni of S.F.R.C prior to getting selected into A.I.F.C later. The participants were quite

interested in visiting the places of Hyderabad which has been quite famous for its scenic beauty ,historical places and above all as a city which uniquely stands as an epitome of different cultures of Indian subcontinent popular for its "unity in diversity"

On 18th after arriving by different modes of

travelling from far off places, the participants went to visit Qutubshahi tombs and Golconda fort. Sri M.A.Waheed I.F.S who is also an alumnus of S.F.R.C prior to getting into A.I.F.C accompanied the participants and explained them on the historical importance of those tombs and Golconda fort in chaste Urdu and Hindi because most of them belong to the northern part of India.

In the evening the participants assembled in Hotel Plaza on the opulent green lawns along with their spouses fully enjoying the fine breeze and enchanting ambience. At the very outset one of the organizers has requested Sri M.A.Waheed I.F.S (Retd.) to come to the lectern and conduct the proceedings with his inimitable style of conducting such meetings in chaste Hindi coupled with impeccable English. The meet started with the observance of silence for two minutes as a mark of respect to all those departed souls from among our batch mates and Instructors who left to the heavenly abode.

Then started the self-introduction of the batch mates who introduced their respective wives while briefing about their family members and narrating their reminiscences. Sri K.Dileep

Kumar formerly Member of legislative council who resigned the job as Asst. conservator of forests seeking his fortunes in politics attended the meeting accompanied by his gun men. It is in every body's knowledge that during Telangana agitation he was considered as one of the popular leaders among the masses. During the course of self-introduction which started with G. Gurunathudu of Andhra Pradesh the participants began to recollect their memories of the training period which saw them right from undergoing a rigorous training to getting subjected to childish pranks by their colleagues in the college where we can find mammoth structures constructed by the British during their colonial regime in India. Sri Bhoopalreddy who arrived a little later cutting short his official schedule was explaining to his batch mates in a lighter vein as to how the junior P.T.I of S.F.R.C was instrumental in making him dispensing with his well-nourished beard for a very long period during his hey days as a student of the Agricultural university.

On the arrival of Sri K. Bhoopal Reddy I.F.S (Retd.) the alumnus of S.F.R.C, the programme of self-introduction has been cut short. He came along with Smt. Priyanka Verghese I.F.S another officer from the office of the C.M's Peshi and both of them were welcomed by the participants. At the very outset Smt. Verghese explained in connection with the paradigm shift made by the

Govt. of Telangana in promoting the green cover in the state by insisting upon raising 40 crore seedlings this year for taking up planting by different agencies of the state on a massive scale right from this year onwards. She added that 39 crore seedlings were already raised and in the coming planting season Telangana state would be witnessing a massive planting programme first of its kind in the region as well as in the country. She was all praise to the Hon'ble Chief minister of Telangana and "His fervor and zeal towards development of greenery are matchless," she added. She congratulated the organizers for having taken initiative in conducting such a meet and she was initially surprised having come to know that some of them were meeting their co-trainees after a period of about 40 years.

Sri K. Bhoopal Reddy I.F.S (Retd.) who left no stone unturned in obtaining help from the Govt. of Telangana in providing all possible admissible amenities in making the programme a success without any hitch took all pains in explaining in detail on the vision of Telangana govt. in taking up massive planting programme under "HARITHA HARAM" one of the pet projects of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana. When some of the participants expressed their doubts in the possibility of proper implementation of such a mammoth planting programme on such a massive scale

he categorically assured the successful implementation of the programme while quoting the saying "**Dare to dream and care to implement**". The meet received the messages sent by **Sri B.J.Pathak I.F.S Additional P.C.C.F, Gujarat, Sri A. Rama Rao choudhary I.F.S, Additional P.C.C.F (Retd.), Sri M.Arun Kumar business insurance consultant New Zealand and Sri P.Satya Narayana, Dy.C.F(Retd.) from United States of America** all of whom belong to the alumni of S.F.R.C (75-77) for successful conducting of the event. The programme on 18th came to an end followed by the dinner hosted by Sri K.Bhoopal Reddy on the lush green lawns of Hotel Plaza.

On 19th the following day a trip was arranged by the organizers for visiting Ramoji film city by the participants and they enjoyed the scenic beauty, action and light show, Japanese garden, Butterfly park and number of exotic birds in the film city. The wild life expert and UNDP project coordinator of Andhra Pradesh Dr.K.Tulsi Rao who attended the meet was discharging his self-imposed duty of taking photo graphs of the exotic birds in the film city was all praise to the hygiene maintained there in. The trip was followed by the dinner arranged by Sri K.Dileepkumar in Secunderabad club and he incidentally turned 60 years on that day along with Sateesh Williams who turned 61 years the following day Both of them cut their birth day

cakes in the presence of their batch mates and their spouses and the presence of their batch mates from nook and corner of all over the country made their joy knew no bounds

The participants cutting across states and genders praised the organizing committee comprising V.V.Hari Prasad, S.Kishandas, P.RajenderReddy, P.Bhushanam and K.MahenderReddy for conducting such a great event which bore fruit in a planned and meticulous manner. The all out help extended by a senior Forest Officer of Telangana State Sri K.Bhoopalreddy I.F.S (Retd.), and Sri.K.Dileep Kumar a seasoned politician and a former M.L.C made the job of the organizers easy and the organizers expressed their immense gratitude to both of them for the same. Having enjoyed the success of a rare event like this along with their family members participants hailing from two states came forward to conduct such an event in their respective states during 2016 and the District Forest officer Sounderpandian I.F.S was unanimously chosen to be provided with the opportunity of conducting next event in S.F.R.C Coimbatore in the year 2016 prior to his retirement. The members returned to their respective destinations while carrying with them the pleasant memories of such a great and memorable event conducted after a period of about four decades. The "Hindi Kavith" written in this connection by one of the participants is to be read and consequent feelings if any can be shared by the S.F.R.C fraternity with others.

(Pls see last cover page for photo)

FALCONS OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN STATE, USA

By
Dr.Sudhir K.Reddy

I convinced my employer Zoetis, the biggest Animal Health Company in the world, to sponsor this endeavour as a Conservation Project for the greater good of Planet Earth. On the website, www.kalamazoofalcons.com, as the Audubon Society of Kalamazoo now proudly displays the fruition of this Peregrine Project, it also enables a good PR-statement and brand publicity for our company, Zoetis. Our corporate motto, "For Animals, For Health, For You", now also makes ecological sense: "For Endangered Animals, For Health of the Planet, and For You in this eco-friendly city of Kalamazoo".

People from all over the world, interested in wildlife conservation, can follow the biology of this species *Falco peregrinus* through its breeding season. Rebecca, the female peregrine falcon now has a new mate, Kewpies. Last year's male somehow did not meet the expectations of Rebecca and was chased-out of town. Kewpies won the heart of Rebecca this year and we get to follow this wild animal soap opera also. Titbits of this news are featured in the local newspaper Kalamazoo Gazette and the online edition called

MLive also regularly publishes on this topic of interest for many a birdwatcher in this city. Something to look forward to every morning, if one is tired of hearing about police atrocities against minorities lately or the very hackneyed political rhetoric's....

Via the internet, we can all feel like ace wildlife-photographers or wildlife voyeurs with the fully-operational nestcam and smartphones! Thanks to Zoetis, Audubon Society, and me of course! Falcon-watching is more fun than ever lately in this Zoo of a city in Michigan, called Kalamazoo! All the viewing we want, from the comforts of our palms or desktops, of home or office or anywhere for that matter.... And whenever we want, we can peek into the lives of our fast flying falcon friends, day or night!! Oh what fun it can be!! To teach nature conservation to young minds, like the children in local schools. In a local school, where the under-privileged kids drag their feet in the morning to get to school on-time, a teacher used this trick to have these same children to be on-time to the class: "She would show the webcam on her computer, first thing in the morning". Now, I

always wonder why I don't see young amateur conservationists in North America!? Birding is not just retired-folk hobby, I wonder! As teenagers in Hyderabad, we started birding at a very young age whereas in North America, all I see is middle-aged folk like me or senior citizens only are often seen at field outings of Audubon and conservation meetings. Agreed, sports, part-time job opportunities to make pocket-expenses, financing their own education and high emphasis laid on academics predominate hobbies such as Nature and Wildlife for school/college-goers and the youth of the west.

Regarding nestcams, these are indeed very educational!! There's no better way than this, to teach the world about "all things wild and wonderful" in regards to spectacular species of birds that coinhabit our neighbourhoods and this planet as a whole. Internet and audiovisual technologies make it possible to learn about wildlife in far corners of the world and further the causes of conservation. Some avian species are more endangered than the others.... all having their own role to play in the ecosystem and Nature, whether they are in the cities or in the wild. Some species are more adaptive than some others; all deserving a chance to survive and thrive on this blessed earth, for as long as the natural resources are conserved. With some

help of right habitat and an opportunity to return from the brink of extinction, the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetusleucocephalus*) and Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) to name a few in our state, did bounce back to good numbers again. Every species' splendour and its own unique attributes make them special and worth watching. We however, are very fortunate in Kalamazoo to witness the fast flights and the high speed "hunting stoops" (their dives before they capture their prey) of the Peregrine Falcons, that give this species the coveted "fastest vertebrate on earth" status. We simply marvel their aerial acrobatics, as they do their share to keep in-check, as biological control of the pesky prey population such as the plentiful pigeons in our urban environment, which is their concrete jungle.

So, on a lighter note, it is also interesting to study the falcon biology as much as their day-to-day-drama developing into a soap opera, or a reality show of their own. Rebecca also earns the local reputation of a very demanding First Lady-Falcon, originally from South Bend, IN, now ruling the Kalamazoo downtown sky. This because, she recently chased away the last year's mate, we referred to as the unbanded Mr Peregrine, with the help of a new male that she started courting and wooing into her life after

the last breeding season, back in November 2014. Kewpie, the new male made his more prominent way into "Days of our Downtown Lives" early this year. Only in Feb-March, did we get a good glimpse of his bands, thanks to the nestcam.

Kewpie hails from Lima, Ohio, the neighbouring eastern state, just about 200 miles south of here. The banding records confirm the bird identities and histories, place and year of birth and their parents. Although in Nature, peregrines can mate for life, I anecdotally blame the carbon emissions or other pollutants or the simple spoils of urbanized lifestyle. Rebecca has the privilege to pick and choose what is right for the survival of her species..., the law of nature prevails, "survival of the fittest and may the best male/mate win her heart"...aside from the popular American doll and the downtown diner in Lima, OH, that he was named after, Kewpie. Etymological interpretation by me at least, for "cu" in cutie + "p" in pie = Cu+P pronounced the same way, Kewpies, has indeed lived up to his

name. He has been a loyal mate, a good hunter, and a valiant protector of the territory warding-off other birds of prey including the Ex-Mr-Peregrine and a Cooper's Hawk found dead, less than 200 meters on Zoetis' premises much like last year (published article in MLive,

24Mar2014: http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2014/03/dead_hawk_found_on_kalamazoo_r.html.

More important than anything for a breeding pair, the new 2015-Mr Peregrine, kewpie shares the responsibility of incubating the eggs, not merely as a daily chore or a mere "honey-do" but with serious dedication just like he spent his time making all the preparations. Of special significance are "the scrapes" (re-arranging the stones and pebbles in the nest box, into a bowl shaped nest before the eggs were laid. Stay tuned for more, as we await the arrival of another Fabulous Four Eyasses (falcon nestlings) by the end of April.

To be continued.....

The best executive is one who has sense enough to pick good people to do what he wants done, and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it.

Theodore Roosevelt

HOW TO LIVE WELL INTO OLD AGE

There's something to look forward to about getting old: contentment and satisfaction increases with age. Research has found people in 80s are even happier than people in their 70s. But before you start to celebrate, you need to ensure that you get there. It's never too late to make a new start. Even if you neglected healthy habits earlier in life, there are still benefits to changing your lifestyle now. You can reduce the risk of heart disease, cancer, and bone fractures by making smart changes with exercise and eating healthy.

Use technology to track your habits: When you start making changes, it's useful to have a fuller picture of your health and charting your progress helps give your insight into your progress. You can monitor your exercise with activity monitors and pedometers. You can also log your exercise and food intake with smart phone apps or monitor your blood pressure with a home blood pressure machine.

Wear sunscreen and say goodbye to wrinkles: Using sunscreen daily prevents wrinkles and protects skin from unnecessary aging. The benefits aren't only reaped from starting young, although that doesn't hurt. You can start in middle age. Use a product with SPF of 30, minimum.

Adopt a pet: Pets can help fill the void that empty nest often creates for some people. Studies show that people with pets have lower cholesterol, heart diseases and overall visits to the doctor. Having a dog also gives you a reason to go for a daily walk, which is an excellent form of exercise.

Exercise to decrease your chances of Alzheimer's: Exercise can help boost the blood flow to your brain and facilitate the growth of new brain cells. Studies have shown regular exercise in middle age can lessen your risk of memory and cognitive degeneration by 39%. You don't have to enter marathons: 30 minutes of walking, biking or gardening five times a week is more than enough to boost the blood flow.

Beware of salt: Blood pressure tends to increase as we age, and sodium is often at fault because it drives up blood pressure. Salt is often hidden in food such as packaged or canned foods, breads, and rolls. If you want to combat sodium naturally, eat a banana. Their high potassium content keeps your blood pressure low and helps lessen the effect of sodium in your diet.

Be more selective with your food

choices: Because your metabolism slows down with age, you need fewer calories in your diet. This means you have to be more selective about your food and choose foods packed with nutrients. Good choices are leafy green fruit and vegetables or foods fortified with vitamins such as cereal and milk. It's also advisable to cut down on candy and sugary drinks as they tend to have lots of empty calories.

Include good fats in your diet: While it's old news that saturated fats wreak havoc on your arteries and heart, it's not as well known that they can damage your memory and concentration. While it's a good idea to cut down on foods saturated in fats (e.g. red meat, butter), it's equally important to add good fats to your diet. Examples are fatty fish, seeds and nuts. These fats have added value for both your heart and brain.

Choose strength building exercises: A recent study found that regular strength training helped reverse the aging process in muscles in

older people. Make sure to include both aerobics and muscle building in your exercise choice.

Be a social butterfly, and volunteer: Studies show that people, who socialize with family and friends, have lower risks of memory problems and generally have a sharper mind. Similarly, volunteering has been linked to longevity and lower rates of heart disease. Studies reveal that the earlier you start, the lower your health risk problems.

Include balance exercise in your life: When choosing a form of exercise, consider Tai Chi or other balance focused movements. This can help you prevent future falls and injuries. A study found that six months of Tai Chi helped reduce the chances of falling in half.

Engage in learning: Seeking new experiences keeps the mind young and healthy because they help build new pathways in the brain. Try a new language, musical instrument or new hobbies. This can also help you make new friends and expand your options for excitement and happiness.

Surround yourself with good people. Whether they're the best or not, people are capable of learning if they've got good hearts and they're good souls.
Kid Rock

IN A LIGHTER VEIN

By
K.Pradeep

An atheist was taking a walk through the woods, admiring all that the "accident of evolution" had created.

"What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals!," he said to himself. As he was walking alongside the river he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him. He turned to look. He saw a huge bear charge towards him. He ran as fast as he could up the path. He looked over his shoulder and saw that the bear was closing, He ran even faster, so scared that tears were coming to his eyes. He looked over his shoulder again, and the bear was even closer. His heart was pumping frantically and he tried to run even faster. He tripped and fell on the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up but saw the bear right on top of him, reaching for him with his left paw and raising his right paw to strike him.

At that instant the Atheist cried out "Oh my God!" Time stopped. The bear froze. The forest was silent. Even the river stopped moving.

As a bright light shone upon the man, a voice came out of the sky, "You deny my existence for all of these years; teach others I don't exist; and even credit creation to a cosmic accident. Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?"

The atheist looked directly into the light "It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask You to treat me as Theist now, but perhaps could you make the bear a Theist?" "Very well," said the voice.

The light went out. The river ran again. And the sounds of the forest resumed.

And then the bear dropped his right paw... brought both paws together... bowed his head and spoke: "Lord, for this food which I am about

to receive, I am truly thankful.

Perfect archer

A duke was hunting in the forest with his men-at-arms and servants; he came across a tree. Upon it, archery targets were painted and smack in the middle of each was an arrow. "Who is this incredibly fine archer?" cried the duke. "I must find him!" After continuing through the forest for a few miles he came across a small boy carrying a bow and arrow. Eventually the boy admitted that it was he who shot the arrows plumb in the center of all the targets.

"You didn't just walk up to the targets and hammer the arrows into the middle, did you?" asked the duke worriedly.

"No my lord I shot them from a hundred paces. I swear it by all that I hold holy."

"That is truly astonishing," said the duke. "I hereby admit you into my service." The boy thanked him profusely.

"But I must ask one favor in return," the duke continued. "You must tell me how you came to be such an outstanding shot."

"Well," said the boy, "first I fire the arrow at the tree, and then I paint the target around it."

How do crazy people go through the forest? They take the psycho path.

"If there are any idiots in the room, will they please stand up" said the sarcastic teacher.

After a long silence, one freshman rose to his feet.

"Now then mister, why do you consider yourself an idiot?" enquired the teacher with a sneer.

"Well, actually I don't," said the student, "but I hate to see you standing up there all by yourself."

Birth Day Greetings

We wish the following born on the dates mentioned

“ A very Happy Birth Day ”

S.No.	Name of Members		
	Assn.Members	Date of Birth	
	Sarva Sri		N.Nageshwara Rao 10-05-1971
	G.Gurunathudu 10-05-1949		G.Ravi 05-05-1962
	B.Soma Sekar Reddy 10-05-1954		Smt.G.B.RekhaBanu 15-05-1984
	S.Kishan Das 10-05-1955		Ch.Ganga Reddy 19-05-1966
	Qamar Mohd Khan 11-05-1947		Y.Ramesh 20-05-1959
	M. A. Waheed 12-05-2015		G.N.Pavan Kumar Rao 20-05-1967
	P.Laxma Reddy 13-05-1929		D.Asha Kiran 20-05-1980
	K. Sekhara Reddy 16-05-1956		K.Mahaboob Basha 21-05-1986
	M.Purushotham Reddy 14-05-1952		J.Gopal Rao 22-05-1963
	K.C.Augustin 21-05-1930		N.Joginder 24-05-1965
	Shaik Noor Ahmed 22-05-1946		P.Balaswamy 25-05-1960
	S.Rama Rao 25-05-1950		V.Krishna 25-05-1966
	B.S.Yousuf Sharief 23-05-1953		K.Ramkishan 01-06-1963
	K.Pradeep 28-05-1954		D.Chandrasekhar Rao 01-06-1959
	T.Samboji Rao 01-06-1948		Smt.N.Kshitija 01-06-1976
	Y.Ram Mohan Rao 02-06-1941		T.Chakrapani 01-06-1966
	M. Darshanam 04-06-1951		D.Ravindranath Reddy 02-06-1982
	Gunturu Satyanarayana 04-06-1954		P.Ramakrishna 02-06-1972
			K.Srinivas 04-06-1977
			A.V.S.R.K.Appanna 04-06-1963
			Shaik Salaam 04-06-1963
			Y.V.Narsimha Rao 05-06-1980
	WORKING OFFICERS	DOB	
	S.Ramesh 21-05-1978		
	Mohammad DiwanMydeen 21-05-1978		
	Chinmay K Misra 25-05-1957		
	B.Murali Krishna 25-05-1955		
	M.Ramaprasad 25-05-1955		
	C. Sarvanan 01-06-1978		
	S.S.Sreedhar 04-06-1966		
	Smt.S.J.Asha 07-05-1975		
	M.Babji 08-05-1968		
	B.Saidulu 09-05-1974		



10 AMAZINGLY DEDICATED INDIAN CIVIL SERVANTS YOU WILL BE PROUD TO KNOW

Here are 10 amazing, brave, dedicated civil servants of India who have made us all extremely proud and done extra ordinary work for the country, some even losing their lives while performing their duty, but never taking the easy way out. We salute these true heroes.

With the sudden demise of the beloved bureaucrat D.K. Ravi, the entire country is in state of shock and is wondering whether there is a place for an honest and dedicated man like him in India. As we continue to grieve this huge loss to the nation, here are 10 other such amazing bureaucrats we wish to salute, who have been doing amazing work like Ravi and giving us hope that even a few good men can change the course of a nation –

1. **Narendra Kumar:** IPS Narendra Kumar started his career in Bihar in 2009, and since then he had shown great courage and commitment towards his work and then he joined office in Morena, Madhya Pradesh. He was famous for his active work in trying to stop illegally mined stones and spent a large amount of time in fighting the mining mafia. In 2012, this brave officer was allegedly killed by the members of the same mining mafia at the young age of 30. When he saw a tractor carrying illegally mined stones, he tried to stop it, and when the driver did not slow

down, he stood in front of it to bring it to a halt. But the driver did not stop and ran over Kumar, crushing him to death. His wife is an IAS officer in Gwalior.

2. **Ajit Doval:** Doval is already a known name and is famous for his commendable work during his tenure as an IPS officer from the batch of 1968. He played an active role in insurgencies operations in Mizoram, Punjab and Kashmir. He managed to turn militants and persuade them to assist Indian forces against the terrorists. Along with his exceptional work in these states, he has done a commendable job in the termination of all 15 hijackings of Indian Airlines aircraft from 1971-1999. He also stayed in Pakistan as an undercover agent in a high-risk assignment. He later joined the intelligence bureau

3. **B. Chandrakala:** This feisty District Magistrate of Bulandshahar is famous for taking tough stands against illegal practices. She has always spoken against corrupt officers and even got transferred from her earlier posting because she refused to accept the wrong doings going on. She never hesitates in publicly exposing those people who are not doing justice to their jobs. Thanks to her intervention, three corrupt contractors were booked, one of them being

the brother of a member of the ruling Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh. Watch her teach negligent civic officials a lesson here.

4. **SatyendraDubey:** Another name that stands out for commendable dedication and work ethics is SatyendraDubey. An Indian Engineering Services officer, he was Project Director in the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) at Koderma in Jharkhand where he was working on the Golden Quadrilateral Project. He showed extra ordinary courage in exposing serious financial irregularities and exposed many corrupt practices in the industry. He also made many contractors rebuild the poor quality roads. He wrote a letter to then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee exposing the corruption and financial irregularities in the project. When he wrote the letter he suggested to keep his identity hidden, as it had several big names involved, but his name was somehow revealed and he had to pay the price for that. After a few months, he was shot dead in Gaya, Bihar and the country lost yet another competent and sincere bureaucrat.

5. **Armstrong Pame:** Not many know about this exceptional young IAS officer from Manipur. His passion and dedication towards the betterment of the society was so strong that he built a 100 km long road in a remote hill of Manipur without the government's help. People came forward and supported him in large numbers and gave shape to the "people's road" which connects the

hill to the rest of the state. He used his own savings and turned to social networking sites to raise funds for the project and is fondly called "miracle man" by the villagers.

6. **ShanmugamManjunath:** This brave officer worked as a sales manager for Indian Oil Corporation and worked actively to stop selling of adulterated fuel. His courageous nature and honesty made him one of the most commendable officers the country has seen. But he too paid the price for being an honest man, while he was on his way to exposing two petrol pumps selling adulterated fuel in Lucknow. He ordered to seal them, and when they started working again, he conducted a surprise raid. He was shot dead the same night and his body with six bullets was found in his own car's backseat. That was a day the entire country hung its head in shame and despair.

7. **ShivdeepWamanLande:** This IPS officer of 2006 batch has been constantly in the news for all the good reasons. He has arrested many criminals, worked towards women safety and took on the pharmaceutical mafia, and under his tenure, the crime rate of Patna dropped drastically. He took strong action against eve teasers and has been very easily accessible to the people. It is said that he receives hundreds of messages every day and he makes sure that each message is attended to. He played an important role in eliminating illegal wine shops

in his jurisdiction. When he was transferred to Araria from Patna, many people turned to the streets and held candle light protests against the government's decision. He allegedly donates 70 percent of his salary to social causes which include marriages of poor girls and building hostels for poor students.

8. **U. Sagayam:** This civil servant from Tamil Nadu has been transferred around 20 times in the 20 years of his service. He is famous for fighting against corruption wherever he goes. He was also the first IAS officer to make his assets public. His extensive research on illegal granite-mining in Madurai led to charges against many known politicians and businessmen. He also confiscated over 5,000 subsidized gas cylinders intended for domestic use which were being illegally used by restaurants. He investigated and raised his voice against vote-buying. When he was transferred from the post of Madurai Collector to the post of MD of Co-optex, many people came out and protested against the government decision.

9. **V. V. Lakshminarayana:** Lakshminarayana is the quintessential common man who often takes the bus to work. He stayed humble but worked on some of the most talked about cases and exposed many corrupt officers. He became

the Joint Director of Central Bureau of Investigation and handled over 19 high profile cases including the Satyam scandal, GaliJanardhana Reddy's illegal mining case of Obulapuram Mining Company, Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy's disproportionate assets case and Sohrabuddin Sheikh's fake encounter case. He is also known for arresting Jagan Mohan Reddy and giving amazing, high impact speeches.

10. **S.R. Sankaran:** This former IAS officer was commonly known as "an ideal people's IAS officer". He played a crucial role in creating pro-poor policies and was the man behind the abolition of bonded labour, the creation of the special component plan for SCs & STs and the assigning of resources for marginalised communities in the rural development programmes. He remained unmarried so that he could serve the society and also contributed to the education of over 500 poor students. He died due to illness in 2010 but he will always be remembered as a "people's man".

We pay our respects to all of these amazing officers who inspire us every single day and help us believe that there is good in the world. It may be a small force at present, but if we all stand together, it has infinite potential to wipe out all evil. (Source internet)

When you realize who the good people are in your life, you're so lucky. Sophia Bush

NEWS AND NOTES

3 lion cubs crushed by goods train in Gujarat:

- RAJKOT: Three Asiatic lion cubs were crushed to death under a goods train in Gujarat's Amreli district on Wednesday, 8th April 2015.

Range forest officer, Rajula range, CB Dhandhiya, told TOI that the accident occurred when a lioness and her three cubs were crossing the track near a village railway crossing about a km from Pipavav station at around 7.30 pm.

"The train driver tried to avert the accident and applied the brakes. But it was too late and three cubs died," a forest official told TOI.

The goods train was going towards Surendranagar from Pipavav port.

Sources said that after a series of accidents forest department had deployed trackers to check the movement of lions on railway tracks. But these trackers were surprisingly relieved by the department last month.

There are close to 100 lions in Amreli district. Forest department team has rushed to the spot and the bodies were taken for postmortem.

New device converts diesel into household fuel for rural India: -Diesel, which is normally used in automobiles, buses, trucks and even railway engines and is considered "dirty", has been turned into a clean fuel for cooking and lighting

in rural areas courtesy a device developed at the Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), an NGO in Phaltan, Maharashtra.

Called "Lanstove", the diesel-powered gadget is claimed to simultaneously provide light (equivalent to that from a 200 watt electric bulb) and enable the cooking of a complete meal for a family of five. Besides it can purify 10 litres of water for drinking.

"It is ideal for rural households that do not have electricity," Anil Rajvanshi, an Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur alumnus and NARI director, told IANS.

The Lanstove has been tested for the last two months in five rural huts in western Maharashtra. "It has shown excellent results without producing smoke or smell and provides better light than a hurricane lantern," Rajvanshi added.

The carbon monoxide (CO) level from the Lanstove - a measure of combustion efficiency - is less than three parts per million (ppm) compared to 250-400 ppm emitted by regular coal or wood-fired "chulhas" (traditional stoves). "Thus Lanstove is an extremely clean device, equivalent to an LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) stove for cooking," he said.

NARI had earlier developed a Lanstove running

on kerosene but unavailability of the fuel for the rural poor hampered its growth. "Hence we thought it prudent to use diesel which is available everywhere and accordingly modified the kerosene Lanstove," Rajvanshi said.

"Every fuel is dirty and it is the way it is burnt that makes it clean or unclean," Rajvanshi said. "Lanstove's combustion technology allows diesel to burn very cleanly in this device," he said.

Lanstove that will cost less than Rs.3,000 (\$48) when mass-produced has been so designed that the diesel is stored in a slightly pressurized seven-litre cylinder from where it flows into the combustor and burns very cleanly. This detachable cylinder can be re-filled in diesel pump stations somewhat like getting an LPG cylinder changed.

However, for the Lanstove to spread on a large scale in rural areas, an enlightened government policy is needed to make diesel available at a subsidized rate of Rs.30 per litre to poor people through the "Aadhar" card, Rajvanshi said.

"With this diesel subsidy, the Lanstove's running cost will be equal to that of subsidized LPG for cooking and subsidized electricity for lighting."

NARI estimates that at Rs. 30 per litre the total diesel subsidy bill for 35,000 Indian villages that are not electrified will come to about Rs. 126 billion - less than one-third of the subsidy given at present for LPG.

"With diesel subsidy given to rural poor, around 21 million rural households will immediately benefit with excellent light and clean cooking technology," Rajvanshi said. *(Pls see last cover page for photo)*

Plane leaves Seattle with napping airport worker stuck in cargo: - SEATTLE (Reuters) - A

Los Angeles-bound Alaska Airlines flight made an emergency landing at a Seattle-area airport on Monday afternoon after it took off with a worker trapped in a cargo area under the cabin where he had fallen asleep, the U.S. carrier said. The pilot of Alaska Airlines flight 448 reported hearing banging from beneath the aircraft after takeoff from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, south of Seattle, the statement said.

Screaming could also be heard from the cargo hold, an airport spokesman said.

When the aircraft returned safely after being in the air for 14 minutes, a ramp agent was found inside the pressurized and temperature-controlled front cargo hold, the statement said. After exiting, the Menzies Aviation employee told authorities he had fallen asleep, Alaska Airlines said in a statement.

"The ramp agent appeared OK, and was transported to the hospital as a precaution," the airline said on its website. "We are actively investigating the matter."

(Reporting by Eric M. Johnson in Seattle; Editing by Peter Cooney)

Monkey catching making millionaires:

SHIMLA: Monkey menace prevailing in 10 districts of Himachal Pradesh may have left farmers worried but it has left some smiling as well with catching monkeys turning into a lucrative business in the hill state. It has enriched 336 people engaged in catching the simians by over Rs 3.22 crore till now. Monkeys are caught for sterilization and later released at the same spot. The state government pays Rs 500 for each monkey caught for sterilization.

Out of the 336 people in the business, 31 have earned income in lakhs supplying most of the monkeys. One person identified as Badridin from Haryana tops the list with total earning of Rs 36, 79,020. Badrudin had earned Rs 10, 46,000 by catching monkeys in Bilaspur circle, Rs 13, 77, 305 from Hamirpur circle and Rs 12, 55,715 from Gopalpur.

PitambarDutt Sharma of Una is second highest earner under the scheme as he was paid Rs 28,70,800 by the forest department for catching monkeys, while Rajinder Singh, also from Una, is third with total earning of Rs 22,96,640.

In Una district there are others who too have

ensured good income by catching monkeys. Ram Dev was paid Rs 8,61,240, Udham Singh Rs 6,45,930 and Gagan Singh was paid Rs 5,02, 390 by the forest department. Kumar Samir in Hamirpur earned Rs 17, 26,485, Raj Kumar earned Rs 13, 12, 250, Udham Singh Rs 7,98, 145, Mohammad YamanRs 4,79, 500. Raj Kumar a resident of Patlandhar in Sujampur tehsil of Hamirpur district earned Rs 5, 63,425, while Raj Kumar from Hamirpur earned Rs 2, 52, 300 and Joginder earned Rs 2, 15,300.

In Paonta area of SirmaurShabbir Ahmad earned Rs 4,50,000 while Subhash from Pachhad area of Sirmaur earned Rs 3,31,000. Soma Nath a resident of Unadistrict earned Rs 4,98,000 by catching monkeys in Dalhousie, Prem Singh of Sundernagar earned Rs 3,26,500, Barkat Ali of Mandi earned Rs 3,71,500. Madan LalRs 6, 94, 750 and Raj Kumar Rs 4, 41,000 from Gopalpur sterilization centre.

Initially the state government was paying only for non-sterilized monkeys but now a decision has been taken that Rs 300 would be paid if people catch sterilized monkey, which is going to add to their income. (Source: Internet)

Start with good people, lay out the rules, communicate with your employees, motivate them and reward them. If you do all those things effectively, you can't miss. Lee Iacocca

నిత్యకల్యాణం పచ్చతోరణం

పరకాల అనురాధ

ఇంటి ముందు పెల్టోపోరం చెట్టు వేయడం
ఎంత మంచి పని అయ్యిందీ అనిపిస్తుంది

చెట్టుమీద రకరకాల పక్షులు వాలడం
గొంతులు శృతి చేసుకొని రాగాలు ఆలపించడం

కొమ్మకొమ్మ రాసుకొని వాద్య సహకారం అందించడం
ఆ రాగాల గాలి మనల్ని మరోలోకాలకు తీసుకువెళ్ళడం

చెట్టుకు పూసిన సుగంధ పూలలోని తేనెకోసం
రఘుంఝుమ్మని తేనెటీగల వీణలు మీటడం

చెట్టునుంచి రాలిన కర్రశుల్లలను
బుణ్ణిబుణ్ణి గూళ్ళు కట్టుకోవటానికి
ముక్కులతో పట్టుకెళ్ళే రంగురంగుల పిట్టలు

పెళ్ళివారిల్లులా చెట్టు కళకళలాడుతూ ఉంటే
నాకెంతో గర్వం కలుగుతున్నదీ
నేనే దీనికి మూలం అని

ఇక చెట్టుకింద తోపుడుబళ్ళవారికి ఆశ్రయం
ఆ నీడలోనే భోజనాలు
భోజనానంతరం సేదతీరడం

పిచ్చాపాటి కబుర్లు, నవ్వులు, పరాచకాలు

సరదాగా బళ్ళమీద కొనేవారికి సందడి
అమ్మేవారికి ఇబ్బడి
ఆ హడావిడి చూస్తుంటే చెట్టుకే ముచ్చటేస్తున్నదీ
ఇదీనా సంసారం.

ఎప్పటికీ ఇలాగే

నిత్యకల్యాణం పచ్చతోరణంలా ఉండాలని
జలజలా పూలు రాల్చింది
ఆ దృశ్యం చూసి నా కళ్ళలో
ఆనందభాషోలు జలజలారాలాయి.

వృక్షాల హరివిల్లు
నొగసైన వొదరిల్లు
మానవాళికే విరిజల్లు
సంపదలోసిగే లోగిళ్ళు.

याराना वि.वि.हरिप्रसाद

प्यारे यारो

हमें इंतजार था
आप सबको देखने का
मौका मुझे मिला
मन की बात आपसे करने का

आप सबको देखने की खुशी में
याद आरहा है PTI एम्मान्युयेल का चिल्लाना
जान जोसफ साब का धमकाना
जिस से मिला हम सबको
अच्छे अनुशासन का नज़राना

बीत गये करीब चालीस साल
पूरा करके अपना शिक्षण काल
फिर याद आ रहा है बीता हुआ हर पल
जिसने अपनी जिंदगी को बनादिया है सफल

कॉलेज में दाखिल होने के बाद यारो
समझा मैंने अपने आपको एक हीरो
छः से छः तब जब मैं होने लगा पसीना-पसीना
मालूम पड़ा कि मैं था एक जीरो

जब पहली बार पकड़ी मैंने
बाल बाल बचके एक स्मग्लिंग लारी
सोचने लगा कि ये दुनिया मुझ पर बहुत आभारी
जब मैं ने खुद देखा एक अधिकारी
जंगल की रक्षा करते
दे दी अपनी जान, छोड़के अपनी प्यारी
फिरसे निकला मैं एक बड़ा जीरो

फिर मुझ में बढ़ने लगी वह चाहत
अपने आपको हीरो साबित करने की मोहब्बत
हीरो बनने या जीरो होने की यह झंझट में
छत्तीस साल गुज़र गये थे एक अफसर बन के
न हीरो बन सका न जीरो रह सका
आप जैसे अच्छे लोगों का
सिर्फ एक यार तो हो सका

दोस्तो

मानो या ना मानो
हो गये तो हम बुढ़े
हमने देखा है बहुत ज़माना
न जाने जब मिलेगा यहाँ से जाने का
भगवान का फरमाना
बाँटेंगे सबको अपना याराना
और दे कर एक दूसरे को
अपनी मोहब्बत का नज़राना

(75-77 रेंजर्स कॉलेज के बेचमेट्स
की मुलाकात के दिन पर लिखी गयी है।)



TEMPTING TALES OF A TOMB

By
N.Shiva Kumar

Gol Gumbaz, an elegant edifice located in a sprawling 70-acre manicured estate in Bijapur, deserves much more attention from tourists than what it is getting.

Considered the most beautiful building in the world, Taj Mahal nonchalantly dismisses other ancient constructions across the Indian subcontinent. This was evident as I recently ventured into the hinterlands of southern India to discover a magnificent medieval monument. Dominating the landscape of Bijapur in the Deccan plateau of Karnataka is India's largest antiquated but amazing dome that is aptly called Gol Gumbaz.

Once upon a time Gol Gumbaz was the only major structure visible on the horizon of ancient Bijapur but today it is sheltered in a sprawling 70 acre manicured estate. It is passionately preserved by a small army of gardeners, guards, horticulturists and archaeologists.

Constructed with diligent dexterity this mammoth monument has a dramatic dome that snugly sits atop an equally colossal tomb. With an age tag of nearly 357 years, Gol Gumbaz is a unique mega structure of incredible India. It is a must-see for every admirer of olden-golden era of our country.

The elegant edifice equating a seven storied structure is befittingly surrounded by lush lawns

under the surveillance of the Archaeology Survey of India (ASI). While some historians reckon that Gol Gumbaz is the second largest dome in the world, others deem it to be the biggest in Asia with a robust history.

Despite the disputed status it is worth admiring not merely for its sheer size but the mighty effort of translating tons of raw materials into a desirable structure. In the bygone days when mechanical paraphernalia was non-existent, pure horsepower and manpower was shrewdly applied to erect such an enduring edifice. It took away my breath as I energetically ascended the spiraling narrow stairway that can make the faint hearted pant and rant. Once on the uppermost balcony abutting the outer dome, the views of the tiny town all-round were spectacular and the inside of the dome was even more enchanting.

Curiously Gol Gumbaz (1627) and the Taj Mahal (1632) began construction during the same period by two different sultans governing independent swathes of land. Taj being in the north and the other in southern India separated by 1500 km. obviously were not aware of each other's strategy. Although Gol Gumbaz took 29 years to complete, the Taj Mahal took 22 years to finish and the former is almost double the size with massive measurements. I pondered

whether Taj Mahal has a feminine fetish, while the Gol Gumbaz is geometrically masculine. At any given time more than three million tourists visit the Taj Mahal in a year, which is double the current population of Agra. Comparatively very few travelers visit Gol Gumbaz just because it is not on the regular tourist trail and also not adequately publicized.

Gol Gumbaz is actually a mausoleum of the seventh Sultan of the AdilShahi dynasty, his two wives, mistress Rambha, daughter and a grandson. Being an architecture marvel it is not only known for its astounding dimensions but also unique acoustic features. This edifice, without doubt, ranks among the most imposing ones in India.

The foundation of this tomb is exceptionally engineered to rest on bedrock which has prevented any unequal settlement. The width of each of the sides is equal to the height at 200 feet. The exterior diameter of the top dome is 144 feet while the interior of the structure is a single large hall, one of the largest ever built, measuring 135 feet across and 178 feet high. The four tall twirling minarets at the corners of the mega tomb are actually a series of steps leading to the top. The inside balcony is called the 'Whispering Gallery', because even the faintest whisper or rustle gets magnified like an echo and is truly fascinating.

Bijapur is effortlessly approachable from far and wide because of admirable driving roads. It is nearest from Sholapur at 100 km; Goa at 340 km and 530 km northwest of Bangalore but I

preferred to self-drive 380 km west of Hyderabad in a friend's car and explore the town of tombs and domes. Avoiding the highways I romanced the rural roads, stopping once in a while to be smitten by wild water birds frolicking in pristine lakes and experience the rustic atmosphere.

Geographically Bijapur district consists of plain land devoid of any hills and dales. However the Deccan plateau provides enough rocky terrain to excavate stone material for construction. In an introduction to "Architecture at Beejapoor" published in 1866, Philip Meadows Taylor, an Anglo-Indian with a voracious appetite for Indian culture wrote: "Palaces, arches, tombs, cisterns, gateways, and minarets ...all carved from the rich basalt rock of the locality, garlanded by creepers, broken and disjointed by *peepul* trees, each in its turn is a gem of art and the whole a treasury."

I was so impressed with the Gol Gumbaz that I lingered all day walking all around for different perspectives and ruminating of its past glory. As Bijapur is still strewn with more than 300 mosques, mausoleums, tombs, domes and many ruins, I made up my mind to revisit.

Only a full week of meandering among the other monuments, which are also splendid specimens, would satisfy my hunger for relishing relics and remnants. Meanwhile the Gol Gumbaz deserves to be on the coveted list of world heritage sites and the government is making all efforts to accomplish that. (Courtsy: The Hidu (Delhi) dated 29.03.2015)

CONVOCATION OF XVIII BATCH OF F.B.O. TRAINEES AT T.S. FOREST ACADEMY, DULAPALLY, HYDERABAD

By
K.B.R.Reddy

The Convocation of the XVIII Batch of Forest Beat Officer (F.B.O) Trainees was held on 31.03.2015 in the picturesque precincts of the T.S. Forest Academy at Dulapally. This is in fact the Convocation of the First Batch of the F.B.Os of Telangana. The Chief Guest is Shri S.B.L. Misra, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) of Telangana State took the salute from a contingent of F.B.Os and the F.S.Os. After the inspection of the Guard of Honor and the March Past, the Convocation ceremony was held in the Auditorium. The proceedings commenced with a prayer by a Trainee.

Shri B.V. Rao, Deputy Director, made a beautiful introductory speech in Telugu and invited guests (Sarva Shri S.B.L. Misra, M.C. Pargaian, P. Mallikarjuna Rao, Dr. C. Suvarna, C.B. Malasi and P. Raghuvveer) to the dais.

The Director of the Academy Shri P. Raghuvveer gave an account of the history and growth of the Academy, and the innovative practices introduced to improve the effectiveness of training imparted to the F.R.Os., F.S.Os. and F.B.Os., in the Academy. The FRO trainees get an opportunity to visit many places in several states and share the best practices with the FSO and FBO trainees during mentor-mentee meetings. He exhorted the F.B.Os. who are passing out to

practice in the field honestly, what they had learnt in the Academy and work for the good of the Organization in particular and Society at large and that should go to him as the real **Guru Dakshina**.

Shri M.S.S. Murthy Raju, Course Director, gave details of the course in which 47 candidates participated. Out of them, 10 are post-graduates, 24 are graduates, 7 are Intermediate while others are pass / below X Class. In all 17 subjects are taught to them and they are tested in all the subjects. They have regularly the P.T. and Games. In addition, study tours are conducted for study of *Beedi* Leaves collection, study of Bamboos in Bhadrachalam Paper Boards, Teak and Pine Plantations in Papikonda Hills, Coffee plantation in Araku valley, study of the effects of Hudhud in Visakhapatnam, Kolleru bird sanctuary, Mada forest etc. The trainees are also trained in policing and night patrolling. The new features of the training are jeep driving, use of fire arms etc. He also referred to the guest faculty – Sarva Shri Qamar Mohd. Khan, Pradeep, Raman Gowd and Sankaran – all retired forest officers, who took classes in different subjects. When their names were mentioned, there was a thunderous applause from the trainees and it was indeed heart-warming. This shows the

reputation of the retired officers in the Academy and the mutual confidence between themselves and the trainees.

From among the trainees, two trainees namely Shri Jagan Mohan Goud and Ms. Mamatha gave an appraisal of their training experiences in the Academy. This is one of the unique features in the Convocation at the TSFA, Dulapally, where Trainees get an opportunity to speak from the dias in front of the dignitaries.

The Special Secretary to Government Shri M.C. Pargaian made a review of the training schemes and programmes. He announced that the Government is pleased to sanction an amount of Rs. 30.00 lakh for improvements to the existing infrastructure. The special attraction of his speech was that it was in Telugu, made effortlessly; and it was well received by the audience.

Additional PCCF Dr. C.B. Malasi who acquired special knowledge in "Amla" that is "Usiri", compared the duties of a Policeman with those of an F.B.O.

Former Director of the Academy Shri P. Mallikarjuna Rao emphasized the need for forest protection and management with his experience at Tirupathi. He said the real forestry practice is the protection of forest given by nature and its management. He suggested a Six Point Formula (*Shat Sutra*); (1). Protection against human interference and fire; (2). Forest Extension – VanaVikas; (3). Vanodayam; (4). VanaChaitanyam; (5). Eco tourism – VanaViharam; and (6). Cooperation – VanaSahayam.

Another former Director Dr. C. Suvarna, presently working as Member Secretary, T.S.Biodiversity Board, recalled her association with the Academy for three years and that she enjoyed every day in the field of forest education.

The trainees received medals and certificates at the hands of the Chief Guest. The names of the medal winners and the trainees who passed out the Academy are given in the Annexures I & II.

In the Convocation address, the chief Guest Shri S.B.L. Misra spoke in chaste Hindi which is the HIGHLIGHT of the day. He expressed satisfaction that the Academy has earned a unique distinction and received recognition in the country as a Centre of Excellence. There is a strong political support and the prospect of getting adequate financial support has brightened by sanction of additional budget amounting to Rs. 350 crore to the forest department. Forest protection has become difficult in an indisciplined situation over which we have no control. There is an immediate need to bring in change and restore the lost prestige. Forest protection by F.B.Os needs to be concentrated against illicit felling, poaching and encroachment. This duty has to be performed with diligence, honesty and sincerity. Concluding his speech to the trainees, the Chief Guest said: *Aap sab koBadhai; aauraapkefarzanjam dene me saphaltamilay.*

The celebration came to a close with vote of thanks by F.R.O. Smt. D. VeenaVani

(Pls see last cover page for photo)

LEGAL NOTES

D.S.Rame Vs The State of Maharashtra

D.S. Rame, born on 22.8.1915, was initially recruited as Range Forest Officer in 1942 in the State of Bombay. He served as such till 1959, when he was promoted to Maharashtra Forest Service Class II. He was further promoted to Class I in 1964 and had been working as Divisional Forest Officer. Though he did not get IFS, he held charge of cadre post right from 1964. He maintained good record of service and got all his increments. He even superseded two of his seniors when he was promoted to Class II and Class I Service. He also earned good annual confidential reports except in 1961 and 1965, when he was adversely commented alleging that he was soft with his subordinates. He was healthy and fit to discharge his duties satisfactorily.

On 1.6.1971, Rame was served with a notice dated 24.5.1971 from the Government stating that he was compulsorily retired as he reached the age of 55 years and that the Government decided that the order of the Government was in public interest.

D.S. Rame filed a writ petition on 8.8.1971 in the High Court of Bombay under Art. 226 of the Constitution questioning validity of the order of the Government and prayed for setting aside the

order and issuing an injunction restraining the respondent State of Maharashtra from enforcing the same.

The writ petition was heard by a Bench comprising G. Vaidya and V. Deshpande, JJ. The writ petition was opposed by the Government. In the counter affidavit filed by an Under-Secretary, it was simply stated that the confidential reports were seen by a review committee who recommended that the petitioner should be compulsorily retired. This was the basis of the compulsory retirement of the petitioner. The Secretary to Government also filed an affidavit stating that the Government is unable to produce any record before the court as it would be injurious to public interest. The Government therefore claimed privilege under Sec. 123 of the Evidence Act.

It was urged on behalf of the petitioner that the respondents are unable to produce before the court any relevant material to show that it was in public interest to retire the petitioner compulsorily. On the other hand it was claimed by the State that the service record relating to the petitioner is privileged document and

therefore the Government declined to produce the record before the court.

The question before the court was whether the plea of privilege made by the Secretary to Government with regard to confidential records of service of the petitioner can be upheld.

It was argued on behalf of the Petitioner that the documents relating to service record did not belong to that class of documents which are entitled to the privilege of non-disclosure. It was pleaded that the records in question have to be produced before the court and it is for the court to decide whether or not they are privileged documents.

The State Counsel submitted that no adverse inference could be drawn against the respondents merely because the respondents have not produced the said documents either for inspection of the court or for disclosure to the petitioner.

The court considered the facts of the case in the light of the rulings of the House of Lords of England and decisions of the Supreme Court of India and rejected the arguments of the Counsel

for the respondents and contention of the State Government on the ground that, according to rules, adverse remarks if any during the service of the Government Servant should invariably be communicated to the Government Servant concerned. This has not been done. The privilege claimed for the entire class of confidential records is not only inconsistent with rules but also with the practice with which the Government observed in contesting several petitions. The court did not think that such a privilege can be claimed by the State under Sec. 123 of the Evidence Act when opposing petition under Art. 226 of the Constitution without even placing sufficient material before the court to, uphold the plea of their privilege.

In the result, the petition succeeded. The order of compulsory retirement dated 24.5.1971 passed by the Government of Maharashtra against the petitioner is quashed and a writ was issued restraining the Government from enforcing the order. The writ petition is allowed on 23.12.1971 and the respondents are directed to pay costs to the petitioner.

(1973) ILLJ 213 Bom.K.B.R

Death is inexorable. Death being so certain it is better to die for a good cause.

اگر وہ چاہتے تو بہ آسانی انہیں یونیورسٹی کی پروفیسری مل سکتی تھی یا بہ حیثیت نغمہ نگاری فلموں میں کسی بڑے موسیقار کی درخواست منظور کر لیتے تو زندگی بہت آسان ہو سکتی تھی، لیکن مخدوم کو یہ سب گوارا نہ تھا۔ ان کے لئے پارٹی اور پارٹی کا کام اہم تھا۔ اسمبلی کی ممبر شپ ختم ہونے پر اردو گلی میں ایک پتلے دالان اور اس کے پیچھے ایک اندھیرے کمرے کا گھر دوبارہ ایم ایل سی بنے پر ایک کمرے کا کوارٹر اور وہی ایک میز دو دو تین کرسیوں کی جگہ کا کمرہ۔ ایک مرتبہ کہے ”جی چاہتا ہے اپنا ایک الگ کمرہ ہوتا“ چیزیں جگہ پر ہوتیں، سکون سے کچھ کام کیا جاسکتا، کچھ ایسی ہی بات سردار جعفری نے اپنے مکان کے بارے میں لکھی ہے۔۔۔ ”ایک چھوٹا سا کمرہ میرا کتب خانہ بھی ہے، میرے شاعر دوست کا ٹھکانا بھی، میرے گھر کا مہمان خانہ بھی۔۔۔ میں جس مکان کی پہلی منزل کے دو کمروں میں رہتا ہوں وہ ایک اسپتال کی پشت پر ہے۔ عین میرے نیچے کا کمرہ مردہ خانہ ہے۔ اسپتال بڑا ہے۔ کبھی دو تین مرنے والے ایک ہی دن کا انتخاب کرتے ہیں۔ ان کے عزیز واقارب جمع ہوتے ہیں۔ شور مارت م کبھی دن میں بلند ہوتا کبھی رات میں۔ ایسی حالت میں کوئی اچھی تخلیق کیسے ممکن ہے۔۔۔۔“

ادیبوں سے وہ الجھتے بھی تھے اور کبھی کبھی دوستوں کو جان بوجھ کر چھیڑتے بھی تھے۔ ایک دن حیدرآباد کے مشہور آرٹسٹ سعید بن محمد سے کہا ”شاعری“ مصوری سے کہیں زیادہ طاقتور میڈیم ہے، سعید نے برش بکف جواب دیا ”مصوری اور شاعری کا کیا تقابل؟ شاعری میں تم جو چیز بیان نہیں کر سکتے ہم رنگوں اور فارم میں بیان کر دیتے ہیں۔ تم کہو تو میں ساری اردو شاعری کو پینٹ کر کے رکھ دوں۔“

مخدوم بولے ”ساری اردو شاعری بہت بڑی بات ہے، تم اس معمولی مصرعے کو ہی پینٹ کر کے دکھا دو۔ پینکھڑی اک گلاب کی سی ہے۔ سعید بن محمد بولے ”یہ کون سی مشکل بات ہے، میں کیڑوس پر گلاب کی ایک پینکھڑی بنا دوں گا“۔ مخدوم بولے ”پینکھڑی گلاب کی تو پینٹ ہوگئی مگر سی کو کیسے پینٹ کرو گے؟

سعید بولے ”سی“ بھی بھلا کوئی پینٹ کرنے کی چیز ہے؟

مخدوم بولے ”مصرعے کی جان تو ”سی“ ہی ہے۔ سعید آج میں تمہیں جانے نہیں دوں گا جب تک تم ”سی“ کو پینٹ نہیں کرو گے“

یہ سنتے ہی سعید بن محمد وہاں سے بھاگ کھڑے ہوئے!

وہ ڈپلن کے بڑے پابند تھے اور بات کے بڑے پکے تھے۔ آخری مرتبہ جب وہ دہلی جا رہے تھے دوستوں سے یہ کہتے گئے کہ چار دن میں واپس آ جائینگے اور حسب وعدہ واپس آئے بھی۔ مگر کچھ اس شان کے ساتھ کے ڈاکٹر راج بہادر کے کندھے پر سوار تھے۔ سوار جو ہوئے تو نیچے نہیں اترے۔ ہمیشہ کیلئے سب کے دلوں میں ایک زخم بن کر اتر گئے۔ مخدوم کے جنازے میں ہزاروں لوگ دھاڑیں مار مار کر رو رہے تھے۔ ایسا جنازہ کسی شاعر اور وہ بھی اردو شاعر کو بھلا کہاں نصیب ہوگا۔ اور یوں وہ پھر ”زیر زمین چلے گئے۔ مگر اس بار وہ ”زیر زمین جاتے ہوئے اپنے ساتھ کچھ بھی نہیں لے گئے۔ اپنا سب کچھ دنیا کو سونپ گئے۔ اپنی شاعری، اپنا عقیدہ، اپنے باتیں، اپنے لطیف، اپنی یادیں، غرض سب کچھ!

مخدوم جو 1910 میں پیدا ہوئے تھے۔ ان کے اک سومانجوس سالگرہ کے موقع راک طرح کا خراج عقیدت

میں قتل تو ہو گیا تمہاری گلی میں لیکن
میرے لہو سے تمہاری دیوار گھل رہی ہے

مخدوم اور حیدرآباد

از : ڈاکٹر گھوٹم راؤ دیبائی

مخدوم محی الدین کو حیدرآباد سے بے پناہ پیار تھا جسے وہ ہمیشہ ”وطن مالوف“ کہا کرتے تھے۔ حیدرآباد مخدوم کے اندر تھا اور مخدوم حیدرآباد کے اندر۔ حیدرآباد کی گلی گلی میں ان کے چرچے رہتے تھے۔ حیدرآبادیوں نے انہیں ٹوٹ کر چاہا بھی۔ ڈاکٹر راج بہادر گوڈ نے تو اپنے گھر کا نام ہی ”چنبلی کا منڈوا“ رکھ چھوڑا تھا جو مخدوم کی ایک مشہور نظم کا عنوان ہے۔ لوگ اپنے گھروں کے نام رکھتے ہیں۔ ڈاکٹر گوڈ نے اپنے گھر کا عنوان رکھا تھا، اگرچہ اپنے میں معنویت پیدا کرنے کیلئے چنبلی کی بیل بھی لگا رکھی تھی!

چونٹھ (64) بینٹھ (65) برس اُدھر کی بات ہے کہ میں، سمنکنڈہ (ورنگل) کے عثمانیہ کالجیٹ (گورنمنٹ) ہائی اسکول کا طالب علم تھا کہ دکن کرائیکل یا ڈبلیو نیوز اخبار میں خبر پڑھی کہ مخدوم محی الدین انڈر گراؤنڈ ہیں تو اپنے تئیں اس کا آسان ترجمہ ”زیر زمین“ کر کے گھنٹوں حیرن رہا کہ مخدوم آخر زیر زمین کیا کر رہے ہیں۔ چونکہ ہماری ذریعہ تعلیم اردو تھی اور انگریزی میں محدود معلومات تھے۔ اور ادھر اردو بھی نہ ماردی زبان، نہ تجارتی زبان۔ اس طرح اردو میں بھی مہارت حاصل نہیں تھی۔ ایسی حالت میں لفظ ”روپوش“ کا علم نہیں تھا کہ وہ ”انڈر گراؤنڈ“ کا صحیح ترجمہ ہو سکتا ہے!

یہ غلطی تو مجھ سے بچپن میں سرزد ہوئی تھی مگر جب بڑا ہوا تو کہیں پڑھا کہ پاکستان کے ایک شاعر سے ترجمہ کی یہ غلطی تو عین جوانی میں سرزد ہوئی تھی۔ جن دنوں مشہور ادیب سجاد ظہیر پاکستان میں پارٹی کے سرگرمیوں کے سلسلے میں روپوش تھے۔ تاجستان کے ایک مشہور شاعر پاکستان کے دورے پر آئے اور ایک مقامی شاعر سے فارسی میں پوچھا ”سجاد ظہیر کجا است؟“

پاکستانی شاعر نے بڑی روانی کے ساتھ فارسی میں ترکی بہ ترکی جواب دیا۔ ”سجاد ظہیر زیر زمین است“ یہ سنتے ہی تاجستان کے شاعر کی آنکھوں میں کم و بیش اتنی روانی کے ساتھ آنسو آگئے اور بولے ”یہ کب ہوا؟ ہمیں تو کچھ بھی پتہ نہ چلا“ آخر انہیں کیا بیماری ہو گئی تھی؟ پاکستانی شاعر کو اچانک اپنی فارسی دانی کا احساس ہوا تو ہاتھوں اور ہنصوں کے اشارے سے باقی فارسی بولتے ہوئے مہمان شاعر پر ”زیر زمین“ اور ”روپوش“ ہونے کے نازک فرق کو واضح کیا!

مخدوم ایک بہت اچھے شاعر ہی نہیں اچھے مقرر اور ہر دل عزیز لیڈر بھی تھے۔ لوگ ان سے اس طرح ملتے جسے ان کے دیوانے ہوں۔ جن دنوں وہ روپوش تھے اور انہیں بمبئی بھیجنے کی تیاری مکمل ہو چکی تھی، حیدرآباد کے ایک علاقے ”رائنٹاپور“ میں شطرنج کے کھیل (جس کے وہ رسیا تھے) کے دوران ہی ان کی گرفتاری عمل میں آئی!

مخدوم کے بارے میں لوگ ان کی باتیں سنتے، مشاعروں میں ترنم سے ان کا کلام سناتے، رسائل میں ان کی نظمیں پڑھتے، ہم بچپن سے نوجوانی کی سرحد میں داخل ہوئے۔ ان کی مقبولیت، شہرت اور ہر دل عزیز کی قصبے تو سن رکھے تھے لیکن ان کو دیکھنے اور سننے کا موقع بھی ایک مرتبہ مجھے نصیب ہوا جب وہ حیدرآباد ریاست کے اسمبلی میں بحیثیت رکن تفریق کی اور میں اسمبلی کے کارروائی کو دیکھنے اپنے کالج کی طرف سے گیا ہوا تھا۔ پھول چند گاندھی کی وزارت سے متعلق چرچا ہو رہی تھی تو مخدوم اٹھ کھڑے ہوئے اور شروع کئے ”آپ کی وزارت میں پھول“ چند ہیں اور کانٹے زیادہ۔۔۔“ پوری اسمبلی تہقہوں سے گونج اٹھی۔ تصویر کے اس رخ کو بھی اس طرح مجھے دیکھنے کا اتفاق ہوا تو مخدوم کی منزلت میری نگاہوں میں اور بڑھ گئی۔



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, Go



THE SINGARENI COLLIERIES COMPANY LIMITED

Kothagudem, Khammam District, A.P. 507 101. India. www.scclmines.com

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