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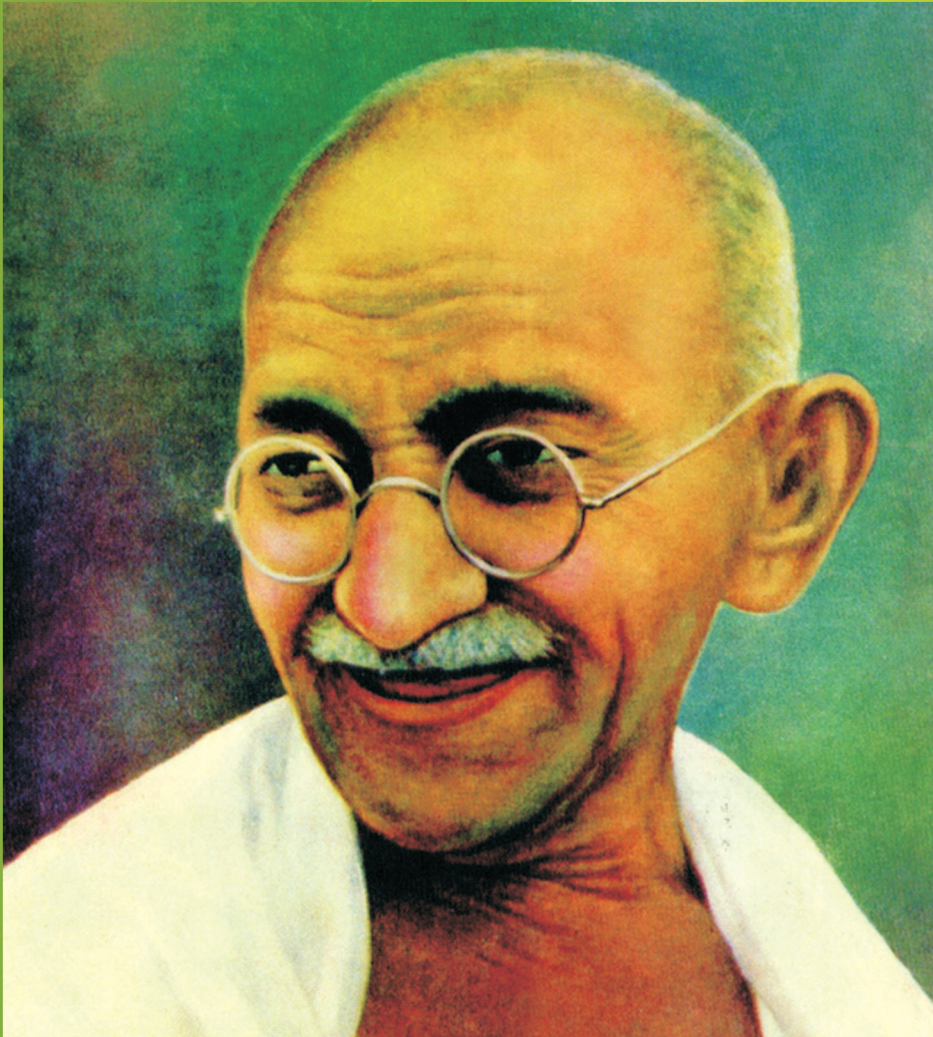
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**AUGUST - 2015**

No.8

**Vana Premi Wishes Happy Independence Day to All**



**The Smile of Non-Violence**

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

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## VANA PREMI

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August - 2015

No.8

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## EDITORIAL

**Artificially Ripening of Fruits:** - A Telugu poem beautifully written, by Mrs Usha Vinod Rajavaram was published in the June issue of Vana Premi in which she described the health hazards of consuming artificially ripened fruits. Incidentally in the last week of May, Dr Raghottam Rao, Sri KBR and I met in our Vana Premi office room and discussed the impact of artificially ripening of fruits. These two incidents prompted and inspired me to make artificially ripening of fruits the subject of my editorial.

A large variety of fruits are grown in diverse agro-climatic zones in India. According to the *Indian Horticultural Database 2009* of the National Horticulture Board (under the Union ministry of agriculture), total production of fruits in the country in 2008-09 was 68.47 million MT, from an area of 6.1 million hectares. The present area under fruit cultivation is 6.98 million hectares with a total production of 81.28 million MT. India is the second largest producer of fruits in the world, falling behind China. It is, however, the largest producer of mango, banana, papaya, sapota, (Chiku) and pomegranate. About 40 per cent of the world's mangoes and 30 per cent of the world's bananas and papayas are produced in India. Few decades ago we used to get very few varieties and quantities of fruits in the market but fruits used to be fully ripened, sweet, tasty,

and attractive in colour and only grown locally. Today due to increase in fruit production and due to blowing up of human population we are getting huge quantities of un-ripened fruits grown at far off places.

The main fruits grown in our country are mangoes and Banana accounting for 38% and 19% of total fruit production respectively. Other major fruits are citrus fruits, papaya, guava, grapes, pineapple, Straw berries, sapota or chiku, Musk melon, Water melon and pomegranate. In addition to these fruits, in North India litchi, apple, plum and aadoo (peach) are also grown. In terms of production, the major fruit-producing states are Andhra Pradesh (undivided) and Maharashtra, accounting for 19% and 18% of total production of fruits respectively followed by Gujarat, Karnataka, Utter Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Assam, J&K, Orissa and Punjab. Maharashtra, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh are the leading cashew nut producing states followed by Orissa. Kerala is the leading producer of Areca nut, coconut and cocoa. The country has exported 2, 74,436.08 MT of fruits to the world for the worth of Rs. 1,245.82 crores during the year 2014-15 to United Arab Emirates, Bangladesh, Nepal, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Ripening is a process in fruits that causes them

to become more palatable. In general, a fruit becomes sweeter, less green, may turn to yellow, red or pale white in colour and softer as it ripens. Even though the acidity of fruit increases as it ripens, the higher acidity level does not make the fruit tarter. Farmers and fruit vendors normally have to transport the fruits from long distances to the market place, and store these fruits for a period of time before they get sold. So, to help keep these fruits ripe enough to sell and not allow them to rot, farmers pluck them when they are still raw.

Climacteric fruits are those which are able to continue ripening even after being picked when they are unripe like mango, banana, papaya, sapota and custard apple which undergo a number of changes during ripening, by a process accelerated by ethylene gas. The major changes include fruit softening, sweetening, decreased bitterness, and colour change. Non-climacteric fruits can ripen only on the plant and thus have a short shelf life if harvested when they are ripe. They are citrus, grapes, cherries, raspberries, strawberries and cashews and cannot be artificially ripened. These are just a few examples. There are many more fruits in both categories.

Farmers and traders allow many fruits to be picked prior to full ripening, which is useful, since ripened fruits cannot be transported to long

distances. For example, bananas and mangoes are picked when green and artificially ripened by being gassed with ethylene. Till recently Calcium Carbide was used for ripening fruits artificially in our country. When Calcium Carbide comes in contact with moisture, it produces acetylene gas, which is quite similar in reaction to the natural ripening agent ethylene. Acetylene acts like ethylene and accelerates the ripening process, but is inadvisable because Calcium Carbide has carcinogenic properties. Recently there was rumour in most of the cities that this season's mangoes might cause cancer. The news was based on the fact that mangoes were being artificially ripened using a chemical Calcium Carbide. Industrial-grade Calcium Carbide may also contain traces of arsenic and phosphorus which makes it a human health concern. The use of this chemical for this purpose is also illegal. The reason for using Calcium Carbide is that it is freely available and very cheap when compared to Ethylene.

Fruits are still being commercially ripened with banned chemical like Calcium Carbide. Some traders ripen fruits like banana in enclosed chambers where large quantities of Calcium Carbide is put and water sprinkled before sealing the chambers. Though the released acetylene triggers ripening process in fruits, it is an inflammable gas involving risk

of fire hazards. This gas we can see in the street, which is used for gas welding in welding shops. Calcium Carbide is also put in small packets in the fruit boxes and in some cases sprinkled onto the fruit surface. However, Calcium Carbide contains chemical impurities such as arsenic hydride and phosphorus hydride that are highly carcinogenic compounds. Further fruits ripened with calcium carbide though develop attractive surface colour, are inferior in taste, flavour and spoil faster. Government of India has banned the use of Calcium Carbide for ripening of fruits under "The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954". Chemicals like Calcium Carbide and pesticides cause a variety of diseases, some of the ill effects they cause are diseases like hypothyroid, polycystic ovaries, diabetes etc., and pesticides apart from that have been known to lead to Parkinson's disease, cancer, and worst of all are passed on from mother to child via breast milk.

Ethylene has been found not harmful or toxic to humans in the concentrations found in ripening rooms. Therefore, use of ethylene is suggested as a safe alternative to Calcium Carbide for ripening of climacteric fruits. Generally the fruit traders, who use ethylene gas for ripening, call this system, as a/c system of ripening of fruits, as in this system at some stage a particular temperature is maintained for certain period using air conditioning.

Vana Premi wishes and requests the growers and traders of fruits if at all they have to use any ripening agent to use only ethylene gas for ripening of fruits to save the health of consumers as ethylene compared to calcium carbide is not harmful or toxic to humans in the concentrations found in ripening rooms. **QMK**

*You must be the change you want to see in the world. (Mahatma Gandhi)*

*Live as if you were to die tomorrow, learn as if you were to live for ever (Mahatma Gandhi)*

*The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong. (Mahatma Gandhi)*

# LETTERS TO EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Eid Mubarak. You might have received an Urdu article along with a small covering letter (also in Urdu) by post by now at your residential address. However am to convey you the Greetings once again by this Mail today.

I was so happy to have gone through VP of July 2015 when the hardcopy was received last week promptly here, along with other subscribers, and was particularly pleased to find your article in Urdu on a relevant subject. It has been finely got up and I was very much impressed with the description, style and expression. While we discovered a good prose writer in you for Urdu, you must have also felt that you have rediscovered yourself, for language is the essence and identity of culture while a focus is provided that binds together a community for social togetherness which makes individual accomplishments much easier and is the major tool for communication. It is a repository of a community's history and heritage. To know your language is the key element in keeping and preserving the fundamental nature of the culture. In recent times the idea of cultural awareness have increased four-folds, thus allowing Urdu to be more culturally accepted as it has a prominent place since it is spoken by a third of the population and with this trend it has become part of curriculum of many a university, one of its beauties being a host of words showing respect and politeness. Hence I would like you to continue to write more and more in Urdu.

Sincerely,

Dr. Raghotham Rao Desai

Dear Sir,

I express my sincere gratitude to you for publishing my article entitled "Future of Indian Forests ....." in the July issue of your esteemed journal.

2. However I am extremely sorry for a factual mistake in my article which appears on page 25 of the journal. While discussing about the applicability of section 11(b) of WLP Act, I was not aware of 2003 amendment which allows its use against herds as well. This however does not dilute the thrust of my argument about the difficulty in using the section to control the menace of herds of Blue Bulls.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely

S.B. Singh.

# AMARNATH YATRA, SPIRIT OF LANGARS- JOURNEY TO SELF

By  
Surendra Pandey

God is great and remain so till you believe. Is there need to remind this? Sri Guru Nanak Ji said "Ek Naam Satnam". He is the truth and His name only true and "Sat Sri Akal" i.e. who is beyond the limit of time. Any attempt to give definition is not possible, only selected few have felt Him and forgotten to define him. It was their realisation. Their experiences cannot become our experience. We have to make our journeys. Mohammad Sahib informed He is the greatest. Hindus, believe I am That (Aham Bramashmi). Al Hillaj Mansoor asserted "ANAL HAK", I am the God. Between "there is a God" and "there is no God" lies a whole vast tract.

If beliefs are such then why we run from here to there, reached people said, actual journey is towards inside. After reaching, there is no place to go. Fools like me make attempts towards outside. One such attempt we (including my wife) made and started for Amaranth (J&K) from Hyderabad on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015. She insisted to accompany me, thinking such journeys have to be performed along with husband, otherwise journey remains incomplete and berths are reserved in heaven. She is always full with contentment, she believed for fixed seven *Janmas* ( re-births) relations but I am having

consolation of this *Janma* at least, next *Janma* I am not sure, I may get Moksha. I felt great about correctness of Murphy's law "anything good in life is either illegal, immoral, fattening or married". Her inner fear, I know was my being diabetic and added benefit of one stent in my heart, somewhere inside her she was not sure, what may happen if I go alone. I tried to convince her that individual's journey is of individual only but of no avail.

I know such attempts are plans of escape. Human have made thousands of invention to escape, it hardly matters one goes to cinema, dance party or *Yatras*, hardly any difference is there, all these attempts are to fool oneself or remain in delusion.

Feeling of belief and non-belief are timely, one moment it is there, other moment it is not. It depends on level of deep sensibilities in a person to have a feeling of supreme being otherwise what I am doing is only following, what my parents and grandparents were doing, they were also going to temple and doing various liturgical practices. Number of times I tried to become religious but every time my religion came in between. Whenever, there was

evolution of a thought in me to go somewhere to pay my obeisance to the God in the temple, simultaneously another thought also propped up about what I am going to ask the deity. Never, it happened to go for giving thanks. Fraction of scientific knowledge sitting inside me always questions, why He should listen to me as I have not done anything extra to earn His favour, if He was to listen, why there are beggars outside of every temple.

However, Air India was the forced choice, it proved better than others carrier, I always feel very homely, no cosmic renovation of faces, what is there, is there. The free food provided at 30,000 feet height gives immense pleasure, as it is difficult to differentiate it from the *Prasadam* distributed after any *Pooja*. Air India also takes pride to announce, it is part of Star Alliance Group and operates in 200 countries, it is different matter, it cannot inform the passengers about the luggage belt number to which luggage will be delivered or departure gate well in advance without making change. My wife maintained different opinion, the entertainment channel on TV screen showing "will be soon available" never appeared, like most of government employee's wishful thinking of no Income Tax deduction from salary.

The journey started at 6.50 AM from Hyderabad to Delhi and then to Srinagar was comfortable. Plane hovered over Srinagar for about 40 minutes we had aerial view of Gulmarg and

Sonmarg and landed at Srinagar at 3.45 PM. A taxi was booked with the help of Sri Amarnath *Yatra* Board the usual rate written on the information board of tourist department is Rs 3500 from Srinagar airport to Baltal a distance of about 115 Kms. However, the taxi driver charged RS. 4500 on the promise that he will, directly drop us near to pre-fabricated huts of the shrine board and not in between as before 1<sup>st</sup> July, entry may not be allowed and we may have to make a forced stay at Sonmarg. Starting from markets of Charminar in Hyderabad to Darjeeling, Nainital, Shimla, Lucknow and Tibetan markets spread throughout country, one needs to be expert in bargaining and this trait has to be very well developed particularly here. Marketing is a trick, there is no common law of marketing, which forewarn the consumers to be careful, because of lack of this law one is bound to fall prey to market mediators.

On the way we passed through town of Gandharbal (town of mythical Gandharva), here we camped along the Sind River, a tributary of River Jhelum, during 1984 during our IFS training, that time this was a village and now all along, buildings and buildings. Kangan, Gund and Sonmarg were other beautiful towns with beautiful people and homes.

Taxi driver true to his words made us to reach the pre-fabricated huts of Sri Amarnath Shrine Board at Baltal. In-between on the way my ID

card did some miracle. These huts are only place where attached conveniences are there otherwise in the tents it is common facility.

The care taker of these huts was Mohammad Amin Pundit what a rare combination, Mohammad with Pundit, gentleman to the core. I was thinking why not there should be fusion of all the religions to make a person religious, is it not our religions which are not allowing one to become truly religious and see no difference. Are all religions treat each-other equal?

As an example while passing before a temple, earlier as a Hindu, I tend to bow even from outside of the temple but why same feelings never cropped up while passing before a Church or Mosque?., off late I am bowing before everything and everywhere. I remember a couplet of "Meer Taqi Meer" a great poet of 18<sup>th</sup> century.

" I have gone beyond the temple and mosque,  
I have made my heart my sanctuary;

On this thorn-strewn path end

All my wanderings and my journey"

He accepted that "I am neither Shia nor Sunni, neither Muslim nor Hindu". Probably all these might have aroused in him after being witness of barbaric plunder of Delhi by Nadir Shah, Ahmad Shah Abdali ( who has claimed himself as "Dur-i- Dauraan" (a Pearl among Pearls), Jatts, Marathas, Sikhs and Rohilas.

Usually religions are decorated with philosophy, doctrines, dogmas, traditions, metaphysics etc.

but religiousness does not require all these minds, it requirement is only heart.

Baltal, a small temporary town of pilgrims situated in a valley along the bank of Sind River, at the base of Zojila pass and road leading to Kargil & beyond. This town gets life with this *Yatra* and by August ending it is almost deserted except presence of Army. I felt irrationality of creator otherwise in such a beautiful place why physical poverty?

Pitched tents, and security check posts are adding beauty to the snow peaked mountains. We reached the place at about 7.30PM and in the sky on the western horizon just above the snow clad mountains, conjunction of Venus and Jupiter was there, this phenomenon happens once in 2000 years (during night ) and together these two planets are referred as Star of Bethlehem. These two are seems to be together but actual distance of billions kilometres exists between them.

After getting fresh, our first job was to search for something for the body, we were feeling actually hungry. To our surprise to a walking distance from our hut we found number of "**Langars**" (a place temporary or permanent where food is served free of cost to pilgrims, anyone, by various social service- private organisations). We zeroed on "Amarnath Seva *Mandal* of Amritsar Punjab" and joined for dinner therein. Quality of food served in these

places is excellent. As I started my first few bites, few drops of tears rolled down, I explained my wife that these are due to excess chillies. But, in that charged atmosphere of devotion of people by which they are extending such services, first time I felt that the food was going to my soul directly, thanks was emanating from my every living cell of the body, earlier I had hundreds of times free foods in guest houses, marriage parties sometime even our staff brought from their houses but it was always for the body and never any gratitude was there from soul except some lip movement. First time I was continuously thinking why I was so dead in not extending gratitude to our colleagues who took pains in providing this energy during my camps. I extended belated thanks to all my colleagues then and there, my dinner lasted for about one hour during this process. Night was cold but sufficient woollen beddings have kept us warm. By 4.30 AM itself bright sunlight was there, the snow peaks in the western horizons were in beautiful golden aura. We spent next day in rest and going along the river, various camps, arrangements being provided, everything was to the need.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> of July, i.e. 1st day of the *Yatra* we hired Ponies for rides, my pony driver (Md. Arif) a young boy from border town of Poonch was very energetic, lot of labour migration takes places during this season. The rate for mule to carry us to the Cave and back was bargained for Rs. 2600

each though the Shrine Board rate is Rs. 3200 each, after crossing the entry gate even mules were available for Rs. 500 to 1500 each.

We started from our camp at about 4 AM but at entry check point we were delayed for about two hours, one of the reasons best known to authorities as usually happened and other is our social behaviour in mob. On getting permission all the people have to pass through two check gates where double the number required. Our ponies were climbing, descending as per the winding steep trails along the Amarnath valley, sceneries and sound of flowing river was psychedelic phenomenon appeared as not of this world, something of beyond may be certainly there. Presence of BSF and local Police at almost every turn gives to understand the threat perception under which this *Yatra* is being organised. During my ride I was trying to be in contact with the soul of my Pony, who was taking burden of another 81 kilograms of weight of mine, it was a torture to the animal, I was in doubt whether in my next *Janma* (re-incarnation-if I get) I have to settle my account with this pony or making extra payment to the pony driver for this pony will suffice my accounts. I do not know. My communication with soul of the animal has not allowed me to appreciate the beauty of Alpine meadows/ Conifers/ Junipers and Birch trees below the snow line on the way and blooming of beautiful flowers on the rubbles. It is not clear what makes

these mules to navigate the steep slopes and climb, is it the thread in the nose or fortune of the fellow above. Even if they walk on the margins, journey is safe but to rainfall and slips.

People of every creed, colour, age, well bodies and differential abled were the fellow travellers, ride from Baltal took about four hours, a climb from 9500 to 13500 feet, most of the places rough earthen road is about two meters wide, at places boulders, except short distances where width is less than one meters and passes through snow where it is cut to make roads. Most of the places snow is slippery and hardly one fails to slip and fall, though fellow travellers are always there to lift. Cave is situated in a narrow gorge at the farther end of the Lidder valley at the height of about 13500 feet, where Lord Shiva is known to have made his home, Ice Lingam is geologically a formation of Stalagmite but it is faith of millions, which gives them continuous support in their lives. One has to compulsorily walk over the snow for about one kilometre to reach the temple. At the gate of the temple, where 20 to 30 people can easily enter at a time, unruly mob of hundreds rush for the first berth, that is where as a community we fail every time and do not follow common etiquettes, in a mob it is not we who move but it is mob who makes you to go. My wife was feeling shameful on the behaviour of devotes and I was also not appreciative. Hardly there were 300 to 400

people, but they were so eager to enter the temple and come out as they are aware of their last departure plan. This behaviour of the mob has not allowed anything inside me to die and anything inside me to born. Inside the cave I was gazing into the snow Lingam and other two statues of snow said to be of Ganesha and Parvati. A brief list have read before the Gods of universe, bowed before them and came out, wishing, sometimes in future we may again come for another view. Or return journey also took about four hours, along the way supportive roles of the para military is highly appreciative, they are there in such remote areas only for us. All along the way "Langar" are present and offer services to all. On my return to Baltal, we were totally out of control our every joint of the body was asking special attention, a good dinner in the "Langar" again was soul comfort.

Next day on 3<sup>rd</sup> July we returned to Srinagar. On the way, a short stay at Sonmarg, given chance to my taxi driver to narrates, Salman Khan came here and made film shooting on the slopes of Thajiwas Ranges for his film Bajrangi Bhaijan and he stayed in this particular hotel. Sonmarg is a scenic beauty place and a paradise for honeymooners, but only from May to November. The temperature was running highest during this summer local informed there may be rains soon.

Rising Kashmir dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July in editorial opinion

(out of box by Malik Zahra Khalid) commented on shrinking wet lands of Dal and Wullar Lake, as credit has to be given to someone for slow pace of restoration and present mess, as usual it was Forest Department as in some of the other States. I was thinking why educated people fail to recognise the root cause i.e. increasing uncontrolled population instead of making one or other department as scapegoat, and why it is always Forest department blamed throughout country for failure of system. However, author also given one of the reason of vote bank politics leading to encroachment.

We stayed 4 days in Srinagar and Gulmarg. Both these places (Gulmarg and Srinagar ) are getting polluted and dusty, whatever may be the reasons, it hurts the health of people, like other hilly areas, burnt diesel is very corrosive to lungs. Traffic regulations are at the will and pleasure of people.

A Gondola ride at the cost of Rs.1400 to second stage at Gulmarg was very impressive, Apparwat peak and Nanga Mountains are soothing to the eyes. A feeling of my visit to Canada after seeing "Whistler" was reborn here again, why not we can develop this area also to that scale, we are having money and will but what is missing.

I visited Gulmarg during 2006 March, the road to Gulmarg was picturesque but now said development is seen all along, agricultural field are being converted into real state property, my driver Mr Ghulam Quadir of about 60 years of age expressed repentance on such development, but hardly anything can be done. He is feeling for the price of rice which has gone up to Rs. 40-45/ Kg.

On our return to Hyderabad again our flight was Air India, no communication at Airport at Srinagar, entire airport was only air cooled. At Delhi airport again we were in our best to show our best colour, everyone knows that Air India flight will not leave a passenger if he/she is at gate, still three lines were formed and in-between entries not barred. This has given chance to a foreign tourist to utter Indian they do not know Que. I was surprised and asking myself, is it so and if so then why?

On my return I was recollecting a couplet of Iqbal "Ashiq ke liye eksan, Kaba ho ki Butkhana" ( for a believer there is no difference between Kaba or Temple). If we are real believer then why so much reminding every day and why so much fuss, is He not the river and different faiths are Ghats to enter into the river "Jo dooba so paar". (One who drowned into the river has crossed it).

# DOESN'T INDIA NEED A LAND POLICY?

By  
**J. V. Sharma**

Way back in 2007, when I challenged the provisions of Forest Rights Act in High Court, one of the grounds urged was that India is a populous country and land being a fixed asset, cannot be the right solution to eradicate poverty and backwardness in the country. Ever since, I have been consistently trying to impress that population continues to increase while land asset remains static resulting in fragmentation of landholdings which at one point of time are bound to become unprofitable and unviable.

To illustrate the point for better appreciation, the CP (M) enjoyed the uninterrupted rule in West Bengal from 1977 till 2011. It is an unbelievably difficult feat to win the people's mandate for such long period. In this context, two questions demand answers; One, how could the Party sustain its rule for 34 years and the second, with such vice like grip over the sentiments of people, why did it lose so meekly when they surrendered power to Trinamul Congress? Somnath Chatterjee, himself one of the highly respected leaders of the Party once (since expelled) and former Speaker of Lok Sabha, explained the matter succinctly. He said

that the land reforms brought in by Jyothi Basu in his first term as CM provided land to most of the landless who gratefully acknowledged the favour by voting CPM to power again and again. With passage of time new generations emerged with increase in population and the landholdings got severely fragmented making them unviable. They needed more land which is not available. Livelihood concerns of the people came on to centre stage again erasing the old loyalties.

Nearer home in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, the State Government conducted the land distribution *Mela* in several instalments. All the government lands such as village poramboke, grazing lands, un-reserves were assigned leaving not an inch of land for public purposes. This happened against the backdrop of a situation where there is no place to construct a school building or a police station or providing a playing ground for students or in extreme cases even to bury or cremate the dead. In earlier days if a death occurred, the landless villagers went to some government land to get the needed wood to cremate the dead body.

Now the situation is so grave that the wood needs to be purchased at exorbitant cost. I have seen a poor man in a village paying as much as Rs. 15000/- for two small trees of miscellaneous species just enough to consume the mortal remains. When I said the cremation cost is far less in Hyderabad, an innocent villager commented on the spur "Then, death in Hyderabad is a boon". In Khammam Town, I had seen (very recently) a sign board in the *Hindu Smashan Vatika* (on the Muneru river side) that burials will not be permitted due to paucity of space. Very unfortunate situation indeed!

A kind of silent canvassing is in progress in rural Telangana for parting with land. Here the prospective purchaser is none other than the State Government. Its land requirement is quite substantial in every village. The Chief Minister promised three acres of land to every landless SC & ST family. All the government lands, once available having been exhausted, the State is at receiving end now, with an unusually huge financial burden staring in the eye. While the STs hold about 2 ha. per household, most of the SCs are disadvantageously placed with an average landholding of only 0.5 ha. These figures are however subject to later changes consequent to land distribution and alienation of forest land under Forest Rights Act. Forest dependent ST population must be better off now.

As per the recent economic survey in Telangana, 4.69 lakh SC households and 1.98 lakh ST households are entirely dependent upon daily wages for livelihood and they are deemed landless. If they are to be provided with three acres of land each, as promised by the CM, the total land requirement on quick calculation comes to 20 lakh acres or 8 lakh hectares. Now that the Govt does not have any land of its own, the entire requirement needs to be procured on consideration. Even at the very modest price of Rs. 5 lakh per acre, the financial burden of the Scheme works out to One Lakh Crore rupees on land cost alone, comparable to the annual budget of the State.

Another ground I urged while challenging the Forest Rights Act was that the four hectares of forest land granted under the Act cannot be the panacea for all the problems of tribals in these days when farming is becoming increasingly unprofitable. I contended that it is an inducement to tribals to stick to the unremunerative avocation of farming, rendering them eternally poor. It is a part of vote bank promotion akin to that of *Jyothi Basu* of late Seventies. The spirit of social justice is not to confine the disadvantaged sections to backwardness for generations in the name of their habitat and culture by giving a piece of land, but to ground proactive initiatives which would ensure them to take their rightful place

among administrators, technocrats, scientists, doctors, professors etc. alongside those from the civilized society.

Interesting findings of great significance came to light in a survey conducted in the recent past. The survey was conducted in 137 districts of the country in 18 States. Respondents comprise 20% SCs, 12% STs, 40% BCs, 14% Minorities and 14% others. There were also 4298 woman-farmers among the respondents. Important findings are:

1. 60% of the persons in farming sector say that their children are not interested in pursuing farming and would rather prefer to migrate to urban areas and seek any other employment.
  2. 47% feel that farming sector is not at all healthy.
  3. 58% of the respondents allege that the State and Central Governments are responsible for their miseries.
  4. 74 % said that they do not receive any suggestions or guidance from the agricultural officials. Only 3% say that they get regular guidance on farming.
  5. 62% say that they are totally unaware of the Minimum Support Price announced by Government.
  6. 90% opine that that Government Programmes benefit only rich farmers.
  7. 70% said that they did not hear about Direct Cash Transfer Scheme. 34% said that such a programme, if implemented, would however be beneficial to farmers.
  8. 83% said that they do not know anything about Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). More than half of the remaining are strongly against introducing FDI in Farm Sector.
  9. 15% admit that they are aware of farmers' suicides in their area. But, very significantly, 41% opine that domestic problems are the cause for suicides while 35% attribute it to indebtedness and only 14% place the blame on crop damage.
  10. 67% of the women respondents said that income on farming is inadequate and it is insufficient to meet the family needs.
  11. Of the 2116 young farmers interviewed, 80% emphatically told that they would not continue in farming.
  12. 57% said that no political party cares for their plight.
  13. Only 10% of the interviewed believed that poor and small farmers got the benefit from farmer related schemes.
  14. Education, health and employment are the major responsibilities that worry Indian farmers.
- Findings are self-explanatory. They are important because they bring into focus the health of the farm sector with special reference to disadvantaged sections such as SCs, STs, BCs and minorities. Attention is particularly invited

to Findings No. 1, 2, 10, 11, 13 and 14. The Telangana CM's programme to give three acres of land to landless Dalits & STs as well as alienation of forest land under FRA, both, viewed in the context of the findings, are bound to come a cropper. To put it differently, it will be an inadvisable land use. I pray, for Heaven sake, the Readers should not take my plea as discounting the poverty or backwardness of the target group. What I mean to convey is that ailments need proper medicines but not any other medicines readily available in your pharmacy. By any rational evaluation the land distribution cannot qualify for a genuine exercise of public interest. They are just tools of populism which may surely bring votes but without serving the intended purpose.

As if to prove me right, the figures for 2014 just released by the National Crime Records Bureau reveal that Maharashtra with 4004 deaths acquires the dubious distinction of maximum farmer suicides in the country followed by our new State of Telangana with 1347 farmer suicides in second highest position. Its sister State Andhra Pradesh stands at 7<sup>th</sup> place with 632 deaths. Other States have their own figures to convey that farm sector does not offer secured returns or risk-free avocation.

India is not only a land of diversity but also of paradoxes. There is poverty and also affluence.

There is highly skilled and talented work force and also unskilled labourers. There is plenty of land for trading but not for public purpose. There is rank illiteracy on one side while its Diaspora occupies crucial jobs abroad. There is unemployment but it is difficult get man power when needed. A friend of mine told me that that he saw a labourer of below poverty line as per govt records, in his native village, going to the work under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on a Hero Honda Motor Cycle. This incident should explain the situation well. Underlying message is; a lot to be desired in assessment of resource pool, identification of grey areas & their prioritisation, devising and implementing strategies and monitoring, evaluation and course correction wherever necessary. To put it in simple words, it is a classic case of perception deficit, absence of honest management pool and inept governance.

While misuse of land resource for populism and unproductive non-performing activities is illustrated above, there is another channel of land abuse in the name of development running parallel. The ruling elite have developed an obsession for development irrespective of its relevance and viability. Infrastructure development, once the exclusive preserve of the public sector, is thrown open for Public-Private Partnership. Land being the commodity in short supply in India, the private investors

demand land on priority. Domestic investors are very keen to garner as much land as possible irrespective of the actual requirement. Development encompasses a variety of sectors like mining, industries, irrigation & power projects, ports, communications, housing, infrastructure etc. Previous UPA government has done the maximum damage in land management by resorting to a variety of objectionable methods. The then Vice Chairman, Planning Commission, with the active support and encouragement from Prime Minister, popularised the Public-Private Partnership almost in every sector, the State losing heavily on resources. The PPP mode is employed as a tool to get land in the name of infrastructure projects to use it later for illegal commercial purposes.

Presently, the Central and State Governments are gripped with 'development' fever. That the development is a must and it forms an essential feature of evolution of civilisation is an accepted fact. No sane person opposes development *per se*. But misplaced enthusiasm for development which hurts the Nation should be avoided totally. Golden principle is to live within the means. But in a competitive world one cannot afford to be always inward looking. The nation has a responsibility to keep pace with the economic trends on international stage. Finding investments for developmental projects becomes unavoidable.

But, there is any number of projects which failed to stand to judicial scrutiny resulting in their cancellation indicative of lackadaisical approach by Government. Mining leases were granted arbitrarily and without following environmental norms. Coastal zone which is very crucial for the security of the country was abused at the rate of nearly 100 km. per annum. Even environmentally sensitive zones like Himalayas are not spared with disastrous consequences. Since the government land outside the forests is no longer available, the entire pressure is now on the forest lands.

The emerging picture of forests, as fallout of these developments, is simply pathetic. From the commencement of the Constitution in 1950 until 1980 when Forest Conservation Act came into force, about 43 lakh hectares of forest land was diverted for non-forest purpose by the States. The loss of forest land, on an average, was about 1.43 lakh hectares per annum. If we keep the agriculture/encroachment component aside and compare the forest diversions, the loss of forests per annum has been 70,000 ha during 1950 to 1980, 40,000 ha. during 1980-2004 and 82,000 ha. during 2004 to 2009.

After the Forest Conservation Act has come into force in 1980, proposals for diversion of forest land of an extent of 9.55 lakh hectares for non-forest purpose had been cleared by the Central

Government over a period of 24 years up to March 2004. As against this, 7.36 lakh hectares of forest land has been diverted by Centre during the subsequent period of 9 years up to 2013. While the Nation lost forest land at nearly 40,000 ha per annum in the first 24 years of FCA enforcement, the loss of forest land on this count had more than doubled to 82,000 ha per year during the UPA rule since 2004.

Diversion of a whopping 2.43 lakh hectares of forests had been cleared for industrial and development projects under the UPA regime between 2004 and 2013. Oil and mineral exploration has been permitted over another 1.64 lakh hectares during the same period. Proposals for another 3.30 lakh hectares of forest land were under consideration of the Central and State Governments in the country in 2013. Only 331 projects were rejected against the 10,294 projects received under the UPA regime. The rejections thus work out to less than 0.032% and all the rejected cases add up to an area of 10,153 hectares, a mere 2.50% of the forest land given away by government over the same period. The forest areas diverted for non-forest use during the nine years of UPA tenure alone accounts for 7.36 lakh hectares.

The exit of UPA is no solace to the woes of forests. NDA appears to be in more hurry to push the projects through, much faster. High sounding

speeches of the Minister in favour of environment and forests sound hollow in the face of his proactive initiatives to simplify (or rather over simplify) the clearance procedures, casting away even the fig leaf of scrutiny. Single window clearances, time lines, simplification of procedures are the new slogans. Appointment of High Level Committee (HLC) under Mr. T S R Subramanian is the concrete step taken in that direction and the HLC did not disappoint the Minister. Needless to say, that the entire exercise is to please the investors.

Whether it is forest land, government land or any other land in private sector, aberrations are bound to manifest if the same is not managed properly. Consequences of mismanagement of land in public sector are apparent. No attempt is made so far to look at land resource as a whole to evolve a semblance of uniformity in land management. Land in private sector is outside the loop and is not subject to regulation. Steep hill slopes, watersheds, drainage, irrigation and farming patterns as a whole come for contention in this regard. To cite an example, the craze for irrigation may result in the death of perennial rivers. Unregulated extensive paddy cultivation over continuous large tracts will release large quantities of methane gas accentuating global warming. Indiscriminate use of fertilizers and pesticides has its own harmful effect on the soil. A coordinated land policy thus becomes necessary.

But, there appears to be a genuine difficulty in evolving a land policy in India. India is a Union of States. Jurisdiction over subjects for legislation and governance are specifically detailed in Seventh Schedule under Article 246 of the Constitution. Central Government has exclusive jurisdiction over List-I. List-II, also called State List is in States' domain. The Constitution empowers Central Government to legislate on subjects in List-III (Concurrent List) and the State may also legislate in conformity. Land and land management do not find place in Union List. Land, land rights, land improvement, agriculture, colonization, land revenue, land records, survey for revenue purposes and record of rights are in the State List. Acquisition and requisition of property is however in the Concurrent List. These provisions imply that the Centre has to take the States along in matters of land and land policy. The Centre should have done this long ago to arrive at consensus in the larger interests of the country. Even otherwise, the Centre can unveil a policy document to serve as guidance, though not legislation.

It also needs to be remembered that most of the land mismanagement took place post-Independence. The State Governments, the revenue departments in particular, are to blame for land banks going bankrupt. The *babus* who scripted the destiny of land and wielded all the administrative power, have been more

conscious of their position of authority than the obligations of good governance. Not only did they fail to tender right advice to the political leadership but became active accomplices in abuse of land asset. The story of land mismanagement makes good reading material replete with fun, fiction, intrigue, suspense, thrill, sabotage and conspiracy.

India's population which was 121 crores as per 2011 Census has, on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2015 (World Population Day), reached 127, 42, 39, 769 mark. But the geographical area remains at 32, 87, 26, 296 hectares. By a simple arithmetical calculation the per capita land resource works out to 0.258 ha. or 0.645 acres or to be more explicit 3121.8 sq. yards. This includes the entire land including water bodies, farm land, waste land and forests. About 51% of the land is under agriculture use. Despite poor productivity by international standards, food grains production is around 260 million metric tons which is sufficient not only to feed the huge population but also to build buffer for a couple of years drought. So, priority in farming sector should be to improve productivity and to take up regulatory measures in landholding and cropping rather than increasing the area under agriculture.

As it is clear that land is a very precious commodity and is bound to become more and more scarcer in future, it is time we try to look

into future and take cognizance of the precarious situation of 'Demand and Supply.' A true patriot will love his country and likes its future to be great and does not hesitate to sacrifice even his life in that cause. All that is necessary now is to compromise a little on our ego and rights to bring them in tune with national interests. Whether the land is a State subject or of the Centre, is a minor issue once we start looking ahead. India cannot afford to be complacent any longer. Even a much delayed land policy should be welcome than not having any. The following, among many other pertinent points, may deserve consideration for a place in the policy document:

1. Government should declare that the land is a priceless fixed asset and national wealth with primary right of ownership resting with the Governments. It should mean that ownership or occupation and enjoyment are only rights regulated at the pleasure of the State. Even the Constitution does not guarantee right to property.
2. Land to be the Public Trust and the State the Trustee. Public Trust Doctrine becomes applicable.
3. Land Management should be guided by the principles of conservation & improvement of environment and efficacious use.
4. All land transactions to be processed through the State.

5. Land to be made *ipso facto* inalienable.
6. Land required for industries, mining or other projects should be purchased in open market.
7. Land use mapping should be done on scientific lines.
8. Tampering with the Eco-sensitive areas, biospheres, ecology and biodiversity to be prohibited irrespective of property rights.
9. Policy document may also provide guidelines for need based farming, industry, mining, urban planning, irrigation and power projects.
10. Article 48 A to be strictly followed.
11. Matters relating to land are dealt by revenue departments headed by bureaucrats with dismal results. Experience shows that the institutional land, with Railways, and Defence etc. are better managed. Revolutionary changes may be necessary to replace the failed administrative mechanism.

The list is by no means complete. It is only the beginning and these are random thoughts on the spur. The issue needs an extensive public debate and there may be much more to add with inputs from experts from various fields.

# Birth Day Greetings

*We wish the following born on the dates mentioned*

*“ A very Happy Birth Day ”*

S.No.	Name of Members			
	<b>Assn.Members</b>	<b>Date of Birth</b>		
	Sarva Sri			
1.	P. Rajendranath	10-08-1953	6.	Smt.Sunita Mahesh Bhagwat 26-08-1970
2.	M.Mohan Rao	12-08-1952	7.	B.Srinivas 02-09-1962
3.	L.R.Sekhar	13-08-1953	8.	S. Srikanthanatha Reddy 25-08-1974
4.	S.Appa Rao	18-08-1925	9.	V.Ram Mohan 06-08-1967
5.	M.Kamal Naidu	21-08-1939	10.	A.Narsimha Reddy 08-08-1983
6.	M.Pradyumna Reddy	23-08-1955	11.	T.Venu Babu 09-08-1969
7.	A.Sudhakar	24-08-1948	12.	M.Yogaiah 16-08-1956
8.	P.Vishweshwaraiah	27-08-1951	13.	K.Mahender Raju 10-08-1959
9.	P.Satyanarayana Rao	27-08-1953	14.	A.Rama Murthy 10-08-1969
10.	C.Muralidhar Rao	28-08-1941	15.	S.Venkatesh 15-08-1977
11.	P.Ranga Raju	30-08-1952	16.	Smt.P.Sunitha 15-08-1980
12.	T.V.Ranga Rajan	31-08-1935	17.	Sivala RamBabu 21-08-1980
13.	M.Narasimha Reddy	03-09-1954	18.	M.Venu Madhav Rao 16-08-1967
			19.	Ch.Sivaiah 20-08-1967
			20.	S.Rajasekhar 20-08-1970
			21.	Kasi Vishwanadham Raju 20-08-1967
			22.	S.M.Hussainy 20-08-1961
	<b>WORKING OFFICERS</b>	<b>DOB</b>	23.	Ms.E.Harika 24-08-1984
1.	Smt.M.Revathi	09-08-1970	24.	P.Anil Kumar 30-08-1965
2.	P.S.Srinivasa Sastry	14-08-1962	25.	K.Ashok Kumar 31-08-1976
3.	A.Bharath Kumar	15-08-1959	26.	M.Ravi Prasad 04-09-1966
4.	Sunil Kumar Gupta	19-08-1958		
5.	Dr. Bhaskara Ramana Murthy	24-08-1961		

Secretary

# RECIPES TO SUCCESS, A FEW PRESCRIPTIONS

By

**Dr B. Raghotham Rao Desai**

I dread to think of what if I start bumbling, creating woofers while speaking and in the process make a mockery of myself, sounding like a doltish nincompoop!

Well, many times it so happens that many of us underrate our various capabilities—as I recall it happened once in my own case during the academic year of 1946-'47 (11 years old, and was in 7th standard then) when I was elected (with a thumping majority as General Secretary of the Students' Union, New Riddle School Lashkar Bazar, Hanamkonda (Warangal), and I had to deliver the thanksgiving-speech in Urdu before a large gathering of fellow-students (when we met for the first time during that year), with our headmaster and counsellor-teachers too being present!

We undervalue our abilities, acumen and our overall potential, owing to which we dillydally: dithering over doing even a normal thing—apparently we'd called it quits too, even before trying out many things!

Incidentally, it's those misgivings, streaks of diffidence, fears of failure or getting ridiculed, which are the main culprits that can undermine, even annihilate the confidence in a person at

times. To develop confidence and trust in oneself, we should first try nurturing this “so what” attitude—even when we muck up while doing something, we should learn to say so to ourselves, we don't get death sentence for committing blunders after all!

Moreover we should not forget the fact that no one is perfection personified, and that each one has his own set of flaws or frailties—everyone keeps bungling up every now and then!

Just as we think of our shortcomings, why ignore our strong points? Quite often our talents or skills are dormant that need to be minded, tapped and channelized in the right direction: once we do it, we'd then be able to exploit all our potentials. Interestingly, there are several secret ingredients in the recipes to success: the undaunted spunk, the unflinching mental resolve, the unwavering gung-ho attitude, the flagging achiever—spirit et al. But what reigns supreme among these is the unstinted supply of confidence or trust in oneself. Once we have this, then maybe a task which someone considers bugbear would perhaps be a mere doodle for us, and quite likely that we may seamlessly be able to accomplish it!

# INCREASING FOREST COVER, A CHALLENGE

By  
**Imran Siddiqui**

Since 1952 National Forest Policy (NFP), there has been an advocacy for 33% forest cover with a 60% forest cover in mountainous and hilly regions. This objective was reiterated in the NFP 1988 and also confirmed in the National Forestry Commission report in 2006.

**The ground reality :** Ambitious drives to increase forest/green cover to 33% has been taken up by many states but with little success. For instance, the CM of Maharashtra, Prithviraj Chauhan had launched ambitious project of planting 500 crore saplings in 5 years starting from 2012. However, in first year targets were curtailed to 20 crore and actually 16 crore were planted.

The external audit reported several discrepancies and recorded very poor recruitment rate forcing the government to abandon the project. In 2011 Karnataka State Government launched "Krishi Aranya Protsah Yojane" with a target to afforest 20 lakh hectares with the help of 200 crore saplings in 10 years. This project also had not taken any shape in past 4 years and is likely to be discontinued.

**Forest degradation in Telangana :** Telangana's forest deforestation peaked in 1970's when huge influx of settlers from neighbouring states was facilitated by vested interest groups. The strong Maoist presence shielded the encroachers and

in the melee many forest officers even lost their lives. Distribution of pattas on forest lands in the name of land for landless, undoing historical injustice, electoral mined government policies gave unreasonable justification for encroachments.

The policies adopted in the World Bank project under Joint/Community Forest Management were not sustained as the village level Van Samrakshan Samithis (VSS) groups in rare cases took stewardship of forest conservation saw it as temporary employment. The wide spread corruption in our society have had tremendous impact on forests too. Riding the wave of globalization market forces penetrated deep inside as forest produce were systematically looted.

The linear intrusions like the roads, canals, electric lines brought unforeseen destruction of forests. The juggernaut continues as Muriatribals from Chhattisgarh or local folks continue to expand agriculture lands or occupy huge forested areas. Forest in Telangana became the classic example of Haddin's notion of 'Tragedy of Commons', which states that common resources are collectively exploited as individual cares only about self-interest.

**Haritha Haram :** KCR launched an innovative "Telangana Haritha Haaram (THH)", flagship

programme of Telangana Government that envisages increasing the tree cover of the State from assumed 24% to 33% of the total geographical area. It is envisaged that in 3 years a massive plantation drive of 230 crore seedlings with 120 crore in possible outside forests, 100 crore through natural rejuvenation and 10 crore in urban areas.

Hence annually 40 crore seedlings are proposed, that comes to 40 lakh seedlings per Assembly constituency and 40,000 seedlings for each village through 4000 nurseries. However the hallmark of THH is missionary zeal of KCR, his famous first meeting on 17th Jan 2015, was with all the forest staff up to Range Officers with his personal interactions and sensible suggestions, brought a new impetus for forest conservation, steering Telangana into a possible new era.

In two days a circular was issued from CMO with a "33-point CM agenda" and directions that highlighted immediate boundary fixation, curbing smuggling, filling up of vacancies, creation of legal cells, police protection for forests and dropping of compounding fees targets. An unfamiliar political backing, support of revenue department and police department has set new tone for conservation of forests.

**Making it work :** Forest Conservation is not stalling development it augments sustainable growth of Telangana. Forests are essential for poverty alleviation, the three important things that we need forests for Telangana's water security (both flowing and ground water recharge), absorb heat radiations caused due to

growth and maintaining the balance of an ecosystem.

The plantation of forests/green cover is going to be tough and what is great interest is raising of 100 crore seedlings by the way of natural rejuvenation of viable root stock using traditional silviculture practices, along with identification of drivers of degradation with management interventions is prescribed.

The main drivers rally around dependence on forests that include overgrazing, fuelwood, wood for agricultural implements and fencing material, over-exploitation of forest produce, anthropogenic fire resulting in degradation, poor regeneration, soil compaction and erosion, loss of fertility etc. In order to conserve forests, it is pertinent to identify the overall dependence on forests at a micro-level.

The solution for restoration of forests lies in reducing the factors that are responsible for degradation of forests. Another exploitation of forests is done by higher influential class employing fringe villagers as daily wagers. It can be for smuggling of valuable timber species, Sand mining (which causes water-run off, early drying of rivulets influencing the local micro-climate), rock quarry, civil works in forests, illicit electric lines, road works etc.

A logical must-take first step would be to identify and reduce the dependency. For instance fuel wood via LPG connections and promoting fast growing timbers in forest fringes, Grazing via stall feeding or rotational grazing, controlling commercial exploitation of

forests, adopt zero-tolerance to fires setting targets to reduce fires by 50%, 25% to 10% etc. The second step could be increase surveillance and setup legal cell in forest department to follow-up on court cases.

**Securing the Protected Areas :** Protected Areas (PAs) are beacons of conservation of biological diversity and are cornerstones of sustainable development strategies. Aside from their environmental benefits, they can also generate significant economic resources and can be used for poverty reduction, ecotourism etc. In addition PAs can help guard against environmental disturbances and the impacts of climate change by helping society to both mitigate and adapt to stressors.

Unfortunately, despite the significant monetary and non-monetary values of PAs their importance remains poorly understood and greatly undervalued resulting in inadequate financing and hence improper management. Telangana has 5 per cent of its land under Protected Area (PA) Network in the form of two Tiger Reserves, seven Sanctuaries and three tiny National Parks.

These PAs are the safeguards for future of Telangana which are catchments to rivers like Godavari, Krishna, Manjeera, Peddavagu etc. They have a legal framework for protection and also enjoy social acceptance. These areas can yield more than prescribed targets of 100 crore rejuvenation through enhanced protection,

reduced dependency, creation of in volatile spaces and optimization of benefits from PAs.

**Voluntary Relocation a Win-Win Solution :** National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) offers an excellent package of Rs 10 Lakh for voluntary relocation from Tiger Reserves (TRs). Some degraded forest areas can be exchanged with prime forests in the middle of the TRs. In TRs of Telangana at least 1100 families has given their willingness to relocate to avoid harsh conditions of remote forests that lacks public amenities.

Relocation can be taken up under TKHH and later financial burden can be transferred to the Central Government. A state level relocation committee and district level committees would be logical first step. The collector of Mahbubnagar Mrs. TK Sreedevi, have heard the plea of 650 families who gave representations for relocation and she constituted district level committee.

**Conclusion :** KCR's vision has given Telangana's forests an unexpected second chance. THH might give some positive results but might not yield a turnaround in 3 years. However, natural rejuvenation is a very good way forward, if coupled with understanding the drivers influencing degradation, dependencies of people on forests and minimizing their impact. Protected Areas should be taken on priority and programmes like voluntary relocation would help secure some best forests of Telangana. (The writer is Director, Hyderabad Tiger Conservation Society, HyTiCos)

# OSMANIA UNIVERSITY AND I

By  
**K.B.R. Reddy**



In the last few issues of Vana Premi, much has been written by Dr. B. Raghotham Rao and Sri J.V. Sharma, both alumni of Osmania University. I am also one like them. Raghotham was my classmate in B.Sc. (and also 8 yrs. earlier). It was a wonderful experience of hostel life for two years within the university campus. The other classmates in B.Sc. were Sarva Sri Pratap Bahadur, P. Hemanga Rao, and P.S. Reddy. We all graduated from the Osmania University Science College in 1954. Soon after, Raghotham and I joined the Forest College at Coimbatore. After joining Forest Service, I had no occasion to turn to the Osmania University.

While in College in 1954, Dr. S. Bhagavantham, a Physicist and a co-researcher with Sir C.V. Raman, was the Vice Chancellor. It was in the same year in which National Cadet Corps (NCC) was organized in the University. A date was fixed for the inauguration of the Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), which in course of time was rechristened as Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT). For the inaugural function of

the RRL, the first Prime Minister of India, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru was the Chief Guest. A Guard of Honour by the NCC was fixed in the Landscape Garden and I was one of the cadets to participate in the Guard of Honour.

I did B.Sc. with Physics (Main) and Chemistry and Maths (subsidiaries). Soon after my B.Sc., I was selected for the post of Forest Ranger by the Government of Hyderabad and was deputed to Forest College, Coimbatore. After serving Forest Dept. for about 29 years and Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) for about 5 years, I retired in July 1990.

After my retirement, a friend proposed my name for appointment as enquiry officer for disciplinary cases of Osmania University. The Executive Council gave its approval for my appointment as the Enquiry Officer. A Joint Registrar of the University visited me to take my consent and I readily agreed to the proposal. On coming to know of this appointment, some friends called it a thankless job. But I considered it an opportunity to serve my *Alma Mater* to help in arriving at the truth after a fair, impartial and uninfluenced enquiry for the alleged misconduct of the employees of the University. My appointment as enquiry officer was made when Prof. Ramakishtaiyah was the Vice Chancellor and I continued for a few years during the Vice Chancellorship of Sarva Sri

Devender C. Reddy, Anantha Swamy, Tirupathi Rao, and Suleman Siddiqui.

While acquainting myself with the job I am supposed to do, I wanted to know the legal system of the functioning of the University. The University was functioning under a charter issued by the Nizam. It was revised in 1947. The revised Charter of 1947 was repealed by the Osmania University Act, 1959. In 1991, the Government of AP considered it expedient to enact a common law viz. The Andhra Pradesh Universities Act, 1991 for all the Universities in the State i.e. Andhra University, Kakatiya University, Krishna Devaraya University, Nagarjuna University, Osmania University and Sri Venkateshwara University.

This consolidated Act deals inter alia with powers, functions and objects of the Universities including officers of University and their powers; authorities of the University and their constitution, their duties and powers etc. Most important of the university authorities is the Executive Council (E.C). The E.C is the Executive Authority of the university. The E.C is empowered to make Statutes, Ordinances, and Regulations which among others direct maintenance of discipline among teaching and non-teaching staff of the university.

The discipline among the teaching and non-teaching staff is enforceable under the Osmania University Employees Conduct Rules, 1965 and Osmania University Service (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1990. Both the Rules were made

as Ordinances by the then E.C. These rules were made prior to the commencement of the AP Universities Act, 1991. By a saving clause provided in 1991 Act, the ordinances are deemed to have been made under the said Act.

The rules provide for appointment of enquiry officers from among the High Court Judges (in service or retired), an Eminent Educationist, senior IAS Officers (in service or retired) or any person who has adequate administrative experience.

For the service rendered as enquiry officer, the university fixed remuneration and it is paid on submission of the enquiry report. In the course of conducting enquiries I found some deficiencies in the rules, and suggested amendments which have been carried.

Some of the disciplinary cases were simple and they were disposed of simply. Some cases have been challenging, particularly when the delinquents are cantankerous or engaged lawyers to defend them. Such cases had to be dealt with care, tact and diligence.

I did my job to the best of my ability to the satisfaction of the University and I have been substantially benefited by the remuneration paid to me. It has been an experience of learning as a student of the University and earning as an enquiry officer of the Institution.

May the University serve the cause of education in true spirit of its motto – **Tamaso Ma Jyotir Gamaya**: Lead us from darkness to light.

## INDIA'S WATER SECURITY CRISIS: DAMS, POLLUTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE BIGGEST THREATS FACING HIMALAYAN RIVERS

By  
**G. Seetharaman**

For most pilgrims on their way to Kedarnath, Srinagar in the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand is just a town they might stop at for a cup of tea or a snack. Almost equidistant from Haridwar and Kedarnath, there is nothing that marks it out.

However, all you need to do is stop your car just outside Srinagar before you enter it from Haridwar, near the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) training academy, step off the road and take a few steps toward the Alaknanda river. Almost immediately, of the floods in Uttarakhand would be visible to everyone, over two years after the disaster.

The SSB auditorium, damaged then, still stands askew with its dome — a not so insignificant reminder of the havoc the river wrought between June 15 and 18 in 2013. As if that were not enough, what used to be a park till June 14 now has mounds of muck the river brought from upstream, which from a distance gives one the feeling of impending construction activity. Vijaylaxmi Raturi, a lawyer who stays across the road, says most of the muck is debris from GVK Power & Infrastructure's 330 MW MW hydel power project a few kilometers upstream, which was under construction then. "It had rained as heavily before as well but there was never any

muck," says Raturi. The Alaknanda meets the Bhagirathi downstream at Devprayag to form the Ganga.

In a 2014 report by a committee set up by the ministry of environment and forests (MoEF), which said hydel projects in Uttarakhand — home to the controversial Tehri dam — aggravated the June 2013 disaster, there were conflicting views on the impact of the Srinagar project.

According to environmental activists and scientists, dams along with pollution and climate change are among the biggest threats facing Himalayan Rivers like the Brahmaputra, the Indus and the Ganga. These have a direct bearing on India's water security because Himalayan rivers account for nearly two-thirds of India's national river flows, and 43 per cent of India's population depends on just the Ganga for their water needs.

India has 4,857 large dams (more than 15 m in height or 10-15 m if it fulfills some other conditions) in operation and 314 under construction. While nine out of 10 dams in India have irrigation as their main purpose, in the Himalayan region, which accounts for 70 per cent of hydel power potential, India, China, Nepal

and Bhutan are in a race to build dams for hydro power.

Dams are increasingly becoming a source of geopolitical tension between countries, especially India and China over the Brahmaputra, which originates in Tibet. According to an article in Science magazine, India also has plans for 292 dams in the Himalayas to double hydel power by 2030 and that region could have one of the highest dam densities in the world.

Large hydro power projects (more than 25 MW) account for 15 per cent of India's installed power capacity of 2,72,503 MW, but it has identified hydel capacity to be developed which is two-and-a-half times the existing hydel capacity, the highest of which is in Arunachal Pradesh, followed by Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim.

The GVK project, which changed hands a few times since the 1980s before being acquired by the company in 2005, has faced opposition from the locals (it was commissioned in March).

Bharat Jhunjunwala, an activist and a former professor at the Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru, contested in the High Court of Uttarakhand in Nainital in 2009 that the original capacity approved for the project was only 200 MW and that the environmental clearance given had lapsed. The case then went to the Supreme Court which in 2013 gave a go ahead to the project.

### Projects & Their Impact

Locals say that ever since the project started operating, there has been severe water scarcity. A GVK spokesperson says since it is a run-of-the-river project, "the flow in the river after the powerhouse is the same as the inflows before the dam".

He adds that to meet the water requirements of the stretch between the dam and the powerhouse, there are minimum environmental flows of 5 cubic meters per second, which includes public water supply requirements, as approved by the MoEF. Environmental flows, which refer to the quantity, quality and timing of water flows required for a river to perform its ecological functions, has gained credence.

In the Indian context, given rivers' religious significance some people have even added the socio-cultural dimension to environmental flows.

Ashok Khurana, director general of Association of Power Producers, says there should be an objective scientific assessment of hydro projects in the Himalayas. "No one wants to defile the environment. Every project will have an impact, but there are mitigating measures. We first need to find out how much hydel power can be developed in a sustainable manner in the Himalayas," he adds.

While those critical of large dams in India cite the US' policy to decommission some large dams, Kameswara Rao, partner, energy and utilities, Price water house Coopers, believes there is more to it: "Canada has continued to invest in hydel [power] and the US imports hydro power from Canada, and European countries like Norway, Sweden and Switzerland continue to depend on hydro power."

One of the proposed ways to regulate development along the rivers is cumulative impact assessment which, in case of a hydel project, does not look only at the impact of that project which is what environment impact assessment (EIA) does, but also the impact on the river of all the other hydel projects and other developmental activities like roads and irrigation projects in the region, the people living there and the biodiversity. "We need a river basin approach to rivers, similar to the landscape approach we have for forest and wildlife conservation," says VB Mathur, director of Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India.

Jhunjhunwala, who fought an unsuccessful legal battle against the Srinagar project, says while he is not opposed to hydel power, a part of the river should be allowed to flow uninterrupted at all times, unlike now when sometimes the entire flow of the river is halted. Adds Himanshu Thakkar of the South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People, "We have accepted we need to save

tigers, but we have no law to save rivers. India's long-pending plan to link 37 rivers has been criticized on the grounds that it could do irreversible damage to rivers."

Saving India's rivers, particularly the Ganga, is one of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pet projects. The Narendra Modi government has even carved out a separate ministry for river development and the Ganga rejuvenation. In 2009, the Ganga National River Basin Authority was reconstituted and the river was made the national river and the government has so far spent '4,000 crore on cleaning the Ganga, not to much avail.

The newest moniker for the government's efforts is 'Namami Gange' under which the Centre has set aside `20,000 crore over five years. About 6,100 million liters per day (MLD) of sewage is discharged into the Ganga every day, with sewage treatment capacity only a fifth of that. The National Green Tribunal earlier this week banned the use of plastic bags in Haridwar, which is on the banks of the Ganga, and imposed a fine of `5,000 per violation.

### Others in Trouble too

The Yamuna, which is a tributary of the Ganga, is in no better shape, with a sewage discharge of 3,445 MLD in the first 10 months of 2014. The government has spent over '1,500 crore to clean up the river. While India's per capita water

availability is expected to drop from around 1,500 cubic meters to 1,240 cubic meters in 2030, the actual figure could be much lower if the quality of the water available is taken into account.

While most people ET Magazine spoke to were quite skeptical of what the government can achieve, some are hopeful.

"If the Ganga, with all its complexities, can be cleaned up till Kanpur, any river can be cleaned up. We welcome the political attention on the initiative, and the PM's personal attention," says Suresh Babu, director, water policy, World Wildlife Fund-India.

A threat which is not as well understood as dams and pollution is that of climate change. While the impact of climate change on the Himalayas and the rivers there is yet to be extensively studied, it is clear that the period of rainfall is going to get shorter but the intensity of rains is going to increase, leading to flooding. On the other hand, during the non-monsoon months, the water availability might go down eventually after seeing a spurt.

Snow and glacier melt account for 29 per cent of the annual flow of the Ganges at Devprayag, and in summer, the figure goes up to 70 per cent. With the glaciers and snow melting at a faster

clip thanks to the rise in temperature, there will be an initial rise in the flow in rivers, but in the long term the flow will reduce. According to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fifth Assessment Report, the Himalayan glaciers would shrink by 45 per cent by 2100 if the average surface temperature of the earth rose by 1.8 degree Celsius.

In case the temperature rose by 3.7 degree Celsius, the shrinkage would be 68 per cent.

People's Science Institute's Ravi Chopra, who headed the MoEF committee on the 2013 disaster, says since glacier melt accounts for less than a third of the Ganga's annual flow at Devprayag, base flows, which are from the seepage of groundwater, contribute the rest and we need to ensure that continues: "In the last few decades, more and more of springs and underground seepages have disappeared throughout the mountains. One primary reason is the loss of forests."

With the increase in India's population, India's water security is certainly not getting any less precarious. This combined with the fact that Himalayan Rivers are central to ecosystems the loss of which cannot be reversed should get us to act with alacrity. (Source Internet and Economic Times)

# A TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND OF FORESTS

By  
**R.K. Rao**

R. Rajamani, former Secretary, Forests and Environment, both in Andhra Pradesh as well as at the Center, passed away in Hyderabad, on 25th June 2015 after a brief illness. Early in his career as District Collector, in the forest rich district of Adilabad, he developed a lifelong interest and love for forests and forestry as well as friendship with foresters. His distinguished career included a long stint with four Prime ministers - Indira Gandhi, Morarji Desai, Charan Singh and Rajiv Gandhi. As Secretary Forests and Environment at the Centre, he was instrumental in formulating the Forest Conservation Act, Coastal Zone Regulation, Project Elephant and expansion of Project Tiger and increased budget and funding for forests.

Andhra Pradesh owes, a sanctuary for elephants to his efforts. When the first herd of elephants moved into Chittoor district forests from Tamil Nadu area and there were some human casualties, there was uproar in the Assembly alleging that Tamil Nadu elephants killed people

of Andhra. The then Chief Minister of TN asked the TN Forest Department to bring the elephants back. At an inter-state meeting chaired by Sri Rajamani, it was amicably settled that the elephants recognize no boundaries and may be left to decide for themselves. The elephants remained in AP and a sanctuary for elephants was created.

He was a keen sportsman and promoted sports wherever he worked; the inter-state forest sports which has become an annual event now has been started by him as Union Secretary. Long after retirement he used to attend this event every year.

He was a tall person not only in height but also in stature and in all aspects that attribute to a good human being, such as humility, sincerity, integrity, honesty and friendship. True to his name, he was a **Raja Mani – Gem of a RAJA**. He leaves behind a host of **foresters** to mourn his loss.

**MAY HIS NOBLE SOUL REST IN PEACE!**

- 1. Hate the sin love the sinner.**
- 2. My life is my message**
- 3. In a gentle way, you can shake the world.**

*(Mahathma Gandhi)*

# A LIVING LEGEND

BY

V. S. Joshi

On a breezy evening of 4<sup>th</sup> July 2015, the hall of a famous auditorium in Pune was packed to capacity. After rendition of a Sufi musical performance as a curtain raiser, the atmosphere was enlivened and the expectant audience, of which I and M. A. Bodas, my batch mate from SFRC were part, was eagerly waiting for unfolding of the next event. As a lean tall man in his late seventies attired in pristine white clothes appeared on the stage, the audience broke into spontaneous applaud. He slowly strolled towards the pedestal covered with white linen, squatted on it in a lotus body posture, folded his hands, closed his eyes for few seconds, bowed to audience in humility and uttered 'Namaste'. The audience too responded with folded hands in silent reverence. He was none other than Mumtaz Ali Khan, known in spiritual circles world over as Sri. M. For next one hour, he delivered an elevating speech in chaste Hindi in measured tone as the audience listened in pin drop silence. He most eloquently highlighted the nuances of living in peaceful harmony with our fellow citizens during the present day turbulent atmosphere full of anxieties and violence all around us. Sri M was on his 'Walk of hope' Mission undertaken by him for spreading message of peace among masses by covering entire length of India from Kanyakumari to Kashmir on foot

along with his dedicated core team of seventy volunteers since 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015. He had so far traversed through Tamilnadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra states and is expected to traverse through Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana states to reach Srinagar during March 2016.

The life story of Sri M is immensely fascinating as vividly narrated by him in his famous book titled 'Apprenticed to a Himalayan master, a yogi's autobiography' published by Magenta Press and Publications, Medikeri during year 2012. Having born to Muslim parents belonging to Wanchiyur in Kerala, Sri M received his extensive spiritual upbringing through in depth study of Vedic knowledge and rigorous practice of Kriya yoga under watchful eye of his Himalayan Guru Maheshwarnath during period of three and half years spent by him at the age of nineteen years in the snow clad mountainous terrain of Himalayas. After being ordained into the ancient yogic tradition by grace of highly enlightened soul like Sri Guru Babaji, he travelled across length and breadth of India as directed by Guru Maheshwarnath in order to gain spiritual knowledge from various religious disciplines like Vedanta-ism, Buddhism and Sufism etc. from the enlightened masters in the respective field. Sri M also spent ten years at

Krishnamurti Foundation in Chennai and had opportunity of personally interacting with a great philosopher J Krishnamurti on philosophical issues. During that period he got acquainted with and later on married to a Hindu Brahman girl Sunanda Sanadi. His being a householder with two children and leading a peaceful family life in normal sense was also to be his destined fate in order to demonstrate to the world that spirituality and householder-ship can go hand in hand as expected from him by his learned Guru. The stunning event from Sri M's past birth as a young Kashmiri Hindu yogi called Madhu was the cause of his present birth as Mumtaj Ali Khan. The instances of his dramatic encounter with a highly evolved alien cobra specie hailing from a distant planet in presence of his Guru and tele-transportation of his subtle body to an unknown celestial location for having face to face dialogue with divine souls like Lord Shiva, Jesus Christ, Guru Nanak, Saint Gorakhnath and Buddhist Guru Rimpoche during his pilgrimage to Mount Kailas and Man Sarovar along with his followers, though apparently unrealistic, happened due to great yogic powers involved in bringing them into realms of reality.

Sri M after his long stint at Krishnamurti Foundation started a Satsang (Spiritual association) Foundation and Satsang free school at Madanapalli near Bengaluru. Later on he started residential ICSC 'Pipul Grove School' near Tirupati which was visited and highly

appreciated by Dr A. P. J. Abudl Kalam, the then president of India. So far, he had extensively travelled world over and delivered many lectures on spirituality before international audience. He had also addressed the enlightened Religious Leaders Conference at UNO during year 2000. He maintains personal rapport with learned Dr Karan Sing and Raja Martand Varma from ex-princely families of India. His other books, namely 'Little guide to greater glories and a happier life' and 'Jewel in the lotus' expound supreme tenets of Indian Vedic culture and have been widely translated in many other languages.

On 5<sup>th</sup> July 2015, Sri M spent whole day along with his followers squatting on a stage in front of Shanivarvada, a historical Peshva Palace at Pune while observing a day's fast and appealed those present on the occasion to join his unique 'Walk of hope' for as much period as they wish. Sri M is undoubtedly a living legend dedicated to the cause of peace and harmony among people of India. His noble thoughts and sincere efforts are needed not only to be lauded, but also to be emulated and brought into practice by one and all in the interest of perpetuating lasting peace in our presently disturbed social environment.

**Note:** Sri M could be contacted on website [www.satsang-foundation.org](http://www.satsang-foundation.org) or at email id [ali.mistern@gmail.com](mailto:ali.mistern@gmail.com). All his books could be had on line at [www.magentapress.in](http://www.magentapress.in).

# A WEDDING IN RUSSIA

By  
**Sudha Murthy**

A wedding is a great event in everyone's life. In India, it is done with a great deal of ceremony. In our films, a large number of stories are based upon weddings. The amount of money spent sometimes constitutes the entire life's savings of a person. It is an occasion where young boys get to meet young girls, old people talk of their ailments and women exhibit their finest jewellery and silk saris.

Recently I was in Moscow, Russia. Moscow city has many war memorials. Russia has won three great wars in its history, which are a source of pride to them. They have built war memorials and erected many statues of the generals who were responsible for the victories. The first war was between Peter the Great and Sweden. The second war was between Tsar Alexander and Napoleon of France. The third one was against Hitler in World War-2 in 1945.

There is a huge park in Moscow, known as Peace Park. In the middle of this Peace Park there is a large monument. There is a pillar, and on the pillar the different battles fought by Russia have been mentioned along with dates and places. The park has beautiful fountains. In the summer, flowers of many colours bloom and the place is a feast for the eyes. In the night it is decorated with

lights. Every Russian is proud of this park and it is a spot visited by all tourists.

The day I went to the park was Sunday. It was drizzling and cold, though it was summer. I was standing under an umbrella and enjoying the beauty. Suddenly, my eyes fell on a young couple. It was apparent that they had just got married. The girl was in her mid-twenties, slim and blond hair and blue eyes. She was very beautiful. The boy was almost the same age and very handsome. He was in a military uniform. The bride was wearing a white satin dress, decorated with pearls and pretty laces. It was very long so two young girls were standing behind her holding up the ends of the gown, so it should not be dirtied. One young boy was holding an umbrella over their heads so that they should not get drenched. The girl was holding a bouquet and the two were standing with their arms linked. It was a beautiful sight. I started wondering why they had come to this park in this rain soon after getting married. They could have surely gone to a merrier place. I watched as they walked together to the dias near the memorial, kept the bouquet, bowed their heads in silence and slowly walked back.

By now I was very curious to know what was

going on. There was an old man standing with them. He looked at me, my sari and asked, 'Are you Indian?'. I replied, 'Yes, I am an Indian.' Since we were chatting quite amicably now, I decided to use the opportunity to ask some questions.

'How come you know English?'

'Oh I worked abroad'

'Will you tell me why that young couple visited the war memorial on their wedding day?'

'Oh, that is the custom in Russia. The wedding takes place normally on a Saturday or a Sunday. Irrespective of the season, after signing the register at the marriage office, married couple must visit the important national monuments nearby. Every boy in this country has to serve in the military for a couple of years at least. Regardless of his position, he must wear his service uniform for the wedding.'

'Why is that?'

'This is a mark of gratitude. Our forefathers have given their lives in various wars Russia has fought. Some of them we won, and some we lost, but

their sacrifice was always for the country. The newly married couple needs to remember they are living in a peaceful, independent Russia because of their ancestors' sacrifices. They must ask for their blessings. Love for the country is more important than wedding celebrations. We elders insist on continuing with this tradition whether it be in Moscow, St. Petersburg or any other part of Russia. On the wedding day they have to visit the nearest war memorial.'

This set me wondering about what we teach our children. Do we Indians have the courtesy to remember our martyrs on the most important day of our lives? We are busy shopping for saris, buying jewellery and preparing elaborate menus and partying in discos.

My eyes filled with tears at the thought and I wished we could learn a lesson from the Russians.

NB: The author is the wife of Infosys founder Narayan Murthy.

*Anger is the enemy of Ahimsa and pride is the monster that swallows it up*

*An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind*

## NEWS AND NOTES

### **Diabetes drug may help obese people lose**

**fat:** - New York, July 5 (IANS) A drug originally meant for diabetics may help obese individuals without diabetes shed weight and also keep it off, suggests a research. A little more than one year of treatment with the drug named Liraglutide was found to reduce at least five percent of body weight in over 60 percent of study participants.

"It is a very effective drug. It seems to be as good as any of the others on the market, so it adds another possibility for doctors to treat patients who are having trouble either losing weight or maintaining weight loss once they get the weight off," Xavier Pi-Sunyer, professor of medicine at the Columbia University Medical Center in New York City was quoted as saying by Live Science.

The researchers conducted a 56-week trial involving 3,731 patients who did not have Type-2 diabetes and who had a body-mass index (BMI) of 30 or a BMI of at least 27 if they if they also had high cholesterol or high blood pressure. They randomly assigned patients in a 2:1 ratio to receive once-daily shot of of Liraglutide at a dose of 3.0 mg (2,487 patients) or placebo (1,244 patients).

The researchers found that a total of 63.2 percent of the patients in the liraglutide group as compared with 27.1 percent in the placebo group lost at least five percent of their body weight. Among the patients on liraglutide, 33 percent lost at least 10 percent of their body

weight. Only 11 percent of the placebo group lost that much weight.

The study was published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

### **Langurs make madari millionaire, land him behind bars for illegal trade:** - NEW DELHI:

July 04, 2015, DHNS A 36-year-old primary school dropout became a millionaire, providing the services of langurs at offices harassed by monkeys. Monkeys can't stand langurs.

Police caught him on Friday when he was travelling in a Scorpio with four members of his interstate gang – and four langurs in the back of the SUV.

Badarpur-resident Shahid Khan was taking them to a cloth mill in Phagwara in Punjab's Kapurthala district.

Shahid hired out langurs and their handlers to companies like Tata Motors, JCB, Escorts Group, and a warehouse of a luxury car maker in southeast Delhi's Okhla, police said.

"The langurs were hired from Shahid to drive away monkeys and tackle the monkey menace. He earned Rs 10,000-15,000 per langur against their services for a month," said Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime) Ravindra Yadav.

Shahid was born in a poor family of south-east Delhi's Badarpur. At a very young age, he started working as a madari and used to handle monkeys and bears. For the last four years,

Shahid has been catching baby langurs from Pali jungle in Haryana's Faridabad district and supplying them to people involved in langur trade across the country.

"He became a millionaire with the illegal business and purchased a Mahindra Scorpio SUV. He used the vehicle for transportation of langurs," Yadav added.

On Friday, Delhi Police were tipped off about the gang by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) of Union Environment and Forests Ministry. Sub-inspector Nagender Singh was informed that a langur trader will come near south Delhi's Dhaula Kuan along with his accomplices in a Scorpio.

A police team signalled the Scorpio to stop.

"Shahid tried to flee, but the SUV was forced to stop by our team," Yadav said. Shahid and his four gang members Barish, 20, Sunil Kumar, 20, Shahid Ali, 26, and Golu, 20, were in the SUV. Golu drove the car while the others were langur handlers. The four langurs were recovered from the boot-space, stuffed in four gunny bags. They were between 12 and 18 months old, and were called Sonu, Monu, Kundan and Mangal. A case under Wildlife Protection Act has been registered with Crime Branch police station.

**Jamshedpur's Plastic Roads:** - Disposal of waste plastic is no longer a problem in the steel city with Jamshedpur Utility and Services Company (JUSCO) using bitumen technology on waste plastic, ranging from polybags to biscuit packets, for constructing roads.

JUSCO, a 100 per cent subsidiary company of Tata Steel which maintains and provides municipal services in Tata command area of the city, has constructed 12-15 kms road in the steel city as well as Tata Steel Works besides widening 22 roads using the environment-friendly technology of utilizing waste plastic.

"As far as we know, Jamshedpur is the only city in eastern India where bitumen technology (Dry Process) patented by Thiagarajar College of Engineering (TCE), Tirupparankuram, Madurai, has been implemented on accumulated waste plastic for the first time", Gaurav Anand, Senior Manager (Quality Assurance) of JUSCO, said today. Claiming that there is no maintenance cost involved for the first five years, Anand, who is an environment engineer, said that for every stretch of such one km long and four metre wide road, one tonne of bitumen costing Rs 50,000 is saved. The use of bitumen has been reduced by 7 per cent ever since JUSCO began using waste plastic in road construction work, he said, adding that the quality and longevity of roads made of waste plastic-aggregate-bitumen was two times better than bitumen road.

Describing plastic tar road as a "new pathway", Pratyush Dandpat, Deputy Manager (Quality Assurance) of JUSCO, said that the technology turned out to be successful. Besides being water resistant, it has better binding property, higher softening point, can withstand high temperature and higher load, has lower penetration value, costs less as compared to bitumen road and has no toxic gas emission,

Dandpat said. Though there is great demand for the technology, including from Chattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand governments, but “we do not have any plan to commercialize it but to serve society. We have even received a request from Nigeria, which wants to replicate it in their country”, Anand said.

Due to the JUSCO initiative, the city will now have strong, durable, eco-friendly roads which will also relieve the residents from the sight of heaps of plastic waste.

*(Pls see last cover page for photo)*

**10 Microwave Hacks You Must Try:** - *The microwave is a fantastic timesaver for plenty of straightforward tasks — reheating leftovers, melting butter and thawing ice cream, to say the least — but there are a few unexpected places where it really excels. Here are our favorite mind-blowing microwave tricks.*

**1. Toasting Coconut and Nuts:** Toasting coconut and nuts brings out their flavor in a huge way, but their high fat content makes them easy to scorch on the stovetop or in the oven. Pop them in the microwave for 30-second increments, until they reach the desired color (for coconut) or are toasty and fragrant (for nuts).

**2. Foaming Milk:** Want to make a cappuccino but don't have the frothing equipment? Fill a lidded jar halfway with milk, then shake vigorously. Remove the lid, microwave for 30 seconds, then pour the milk into your coffee. Scoop the milk foam onto your coffee as desired.

**3. Drying Herbs:** Is your garden overflowing? Lay fresh herbs out on a paper towel, with another paper towel on top, and microwave in 30-second increments until herbs are adequately dry. Transfer to a sealed container and store at room temperature. This also works well with citrus peel.

**4. Peeling Garlic:** Microwave a whole head of garlic for 20 seconds and the peels will slip off the cloves in seconds

**5. Softening Collards:** We're obsessed with using collard green leaves in place of wraps for sandwiches. Wash them well; layer them in a circle shape, then zap for 10 seconds, just to soften them enough to roll.

**6. Dulce de Leche:** If you're terrified at the thought of cooking a sealed can but still want dulce de leche, open a can of sweetened condensed milk into a microwave-safe bowl, cover, then microwave in 2-minute increments, stirring between each one, until it's as caramelly as you want it.

**7. Peeling Corn on the Cob:** While it's less practical than actually husking the corn by hand, this is handy if you just want a couple of cobs cooked and husked quickly: Cut off the root end of the cob with a serrated knife, just above the “shoulder,” then microwave the entire cob for 2 to 4 minutes, depending on your microwave. Once it's done, shake the cob gently from the silk end until it shakes loose from the husk.

**8. Poaching Eggs:** For almost-instant poached eggs, crack an egg into a bowl or mug with ½ cup water and cover. Microwave for about 1 minute for just-set eggs, and follow with 10-second intervals if you like yours better done.

**9. Homemade Fresh Cheeses:** Combine 1 cup milk and 1 cup lemon juice (and a pinch of salt) in a microwave-safe container, then microwave for 2 minutes. Stir to separate curds from whey, then strain and drain in cheesecloth until as firm as desired.

**10. Potato Chips:** Yes, really. Slice thinly on a mandoline, rinse well, dry thoroughly, brush with olive oil, and then spread out on a plate. Microwave for 3 minutes, then flip and microwave for another 3.

**Illegal, China-bound snake venom consignment seized near Siliguri:** - Siliguri, a town in the northern part of West Bengal, may be becoming a hub for illegal international trade in snake venom.

A consignment of what's suspected to be processed Black Cobra venom, estimated to be worth Rs 100 crore (\$15.8 million), was seized near Siliguri on Saturday, allegedly on its way to from France to China via Bangladesh, India, Bhutan.

The shipment was intercepted at Belakoba, about 30 km (18 miles) southeast of Siliguri, which is a transit point for air, road and rail traffic to the neighboring countries of Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh and to the northeastern states.

Belakoba is about 100 km from the Indo-Bhutan border and 20 km from the border with Bangladesh. Acting on a tip off, a team of Bengal forest officials nabbed six people with three glass containers containing substances weighing about 4.1 kg (9 pounds). All those arrested are from the northern part of the state.

The containers were labeled 'Made in France' and 'Red Dragon Cobra' and were neatly packed inside strong carry cases, said S Dutta, a forest ranger of Baikunthapur Forest Division and a member of the raiding team. While some contained a viscous substance, others had crystallized material. Snake venom is in demand for use in medicines and to make intoxicants.

During preliminary interrogation, the arrested people said they were responsible for handling the consignment of processed venom only in India on its passage to China from France. They collected it from their Bangladesh counterpart to deliver to Bhutan for a payment of Rs 2 lakh (\$3,150). Another consignment of three containers may have already reached its destination, it is learnt.

Samples from the seized consignment are being sent to forensic laboratories, said P Pradhan, divisional forest officer Baikunthapur.

According to top forest officials, similar consignments were seized in 2014 close to the Indo-Bangla border and in Siliguri. In December 2013, a consignment of about 500 ml of raw venom was seized from Siliguri on its way to

China. On several occasions, live snakes, too, have been seized from nearby places.

“The issue demands a deep probe with multi-country coordinated investigations,” security agency officials said.

**A 17-year-old invented an ingenious way to instantly stop bleeding:**

- Imagine this: You're gushing blood. Nothing seems to make it stop. Then you apply a gel to your wound and the bleeding stops within seconds. You're healed in minutes. This is the premise of VetGel, an algae-based polymer created by Joe Landolina — a 22 year-old who invented the product when he was just 17. Landolina is now the cofounder and CEO of Suneris, a biotech company that manufactures the gel. Suneris announced last week that it would begin to ship VetGel to veterinarians later this summer. Humans won't be far behind. When injected into a wound site, the gel can form a clot within 12 seconds and permanently heal the wound within minutes, Landolina says. “The fastest piece of equipment we have measures every 12 seconds,” Landolina tells Business Insider. “So we know that it happens in less than 12 seconds.” The science that makes this all possible is surprisingly basic.

Each batch of gel begins as algae, which is made up of tiny individual polymers. If you break those polymers down into even tinier pieces, “kind of like Lego blocks,” Landolina says, you can put them into the gel and inject that gel into a wound site.

Once it hits the damaged tissue, whether it's open skin or a biopsied soft organ — livers,

kidneys, spleens — the gel instantly forms a mesh-like structure.

“What that means, on the one hand, is that the gel will make a very strong adhesive that holds the wound together,” Landolina says. “But on the other hand, that mesh acts as a scaffold to help the body produce fibrin at the wound's surface.” Fibrin helps repair tissue over the long-term. It's what allows VetGel not only to work fast in sealing leaks, but to actually heal the skin. Within a few minutes of application, the gel can be safely removed.

**From classroom to company:** As fast-acting as VetGel is, its inventor may be faster. Landolina invented an early version of the gel out of his grandfather's lab. He was still in high school. As a freshman at New York University, he and a junior entered the gel in a business competition. Up against graduate students and university professors, they were they only undergraduates who entered. They took second place.

Over the next four and a half years, Landolina turned the prototype into a business. His project partner, Isaac Miller, became his cofounder and CFO. VetGel started taking shape.

Today, Suneris is bringing VetGel to the (four-legged) masses. The company is taking preorders from veterinarian offices and will begin shipment from its Brooklyn offices later this summer. The first product in the rollout is a five-pack of 5-milliliter syringes that costs \$150. Landolina says Suneris has its sights set on a US

rollout first, followed by a release in Europe and Asia sometime early next year. The company has partnered with VetPlus, a British company focused on animal medicine, to expand its manufacturing across the pond.

A few years down the line, Landolina says, the goal will be to expand out of vet offices to help treat members of our own species. He forecasts receiving FDA approval within the year for testing on human wounds. If all goes according to plan, VetGel will first help military personnel and EMTs treat traumatic injuries. Then it will enter operating rooms and, finally, individual homes.

Landolina says Suneris has yet to observe any negative side effects of VetGel. The company holds weekly meetings with veterinarians to ensure the product meets their needs. VetGel isn't the only wound-healing invention of its kind. Another product, named — oddly enough — Vitagel, also helps the body stop bleeding quickly using similar methods.

A future in which, we no longer have to make a panicked, blood-spurting trip to the hospital?

### **A Muslim scholar felicitated by a monastery for his research on an ancient temple. :-**

Sheikh Makbul Islam, a Muslim scholar, had never imagined that he would be conferred an award by revered seer, Shankaracharya Nischalananda Saraswati of the Govardhan monastery, one of the most sacred monasteries.

Islam had conducted a research on the Jagannath

temple and its deity, Lord Jagannath at Puri, Odisha.

He earned a DLitt from Utkal University of the state for his work.

The professor, who is the Dean of Kalyani University in eastern West Bengal state, received the Nabakalebar award, the highest honor bestowed to any individual by the monastery.

The award was conferred by Shree Jagannath Research Institute at a function hosted in Bhubaneswar city on Saturday, July 11.

Islam said that he had published numerous works on lord Jagannath, and the culture and traditions associated with the deity.

"I have done research on Lord Jagannath. I have presented two major research projects of UGC and written major books on Lord Jagannath. That is why they have chosen me for this award," said Islam on Sunday, July 12.

Islam has worked for 22 years on the propagation of the Jagannath culture beyond Puri, especially in West Bengal, northeastern Indian states and neighbouring countries like Bangladesh and Nepal.

Revered seer of Puri, Shankaracharya Nischalananda Saraswati, presented him the award. Islam added it was the biggest honour of his life.

"This is a very fulfilling moment of my life. Nothing like this has happened in my life and I do not think anything of this sort would ever happen again. This is a very valuable occasion

in my life," said Islam.

The previous recipient of this award was the famous German historian and Indologist, Hermann Kulke. (ANI)

**Office space demand in Bengaluru highest in Asia-Pacific region':** - Bengaluru, July 6 (IANS)

Robust demand for office and commercial space from the booming IT sector has placed Bengaluru on the top among Asia-Pacific cities, indicates a real estate survey.

"Bengaluru pipped other Asia-Pacific cities in demand for office space while growing need for commercial space from the IT sector is helping boost absorption levels," global real estate services firm Jones Lang Lasalle (JLL) said in a report here on Monday.

Strong growth in office rents has also pushed Bengaluru to 12th slot among the 20 top technologically-rich cities around the world in JLL's global office index and the city is estimated to add a whopping 12 million square feet office space over the next 18 months.

"A five-10 percent hike in prime office rents is seen this year for which construction is rapidly growing to meet the demand generated by the city's rapidly expanding economy," said JLL India head Anuj Puri.

"Bengaluru top scores in the city momentum index of 120 cities, ranking sixth in gross domestic product (GDP) growth, eighth in population growth and improvement in real estate market transparency, 11th in office net

absorption," he said.

The survey also found that Bengaluru had the largest number of applications filed in India for international patents.

"An increase in the number of high-tech start-ups registered in the city over the year has also helped boost Bengaluru's score, reflecting its strengths in innovation and depth of venture capital funding," said Puri.

**A researcher explains why Panamanians are the happiest people in the world:** - Gallup

recently published its Gallup-Health ways State of Global Well-Being: "2014 Country Well-Being Rankings" report. For the second year in a row, Panama came out on top of the rankings, with the highest score overall.

"The Global Well-Being Index measures well-being across five elements (purpose, social, financial, community and physical) and individual responses are categorized as thriving, struggling or suffering....," the report's authors wrote. "Our analysis ranks countries based on the percentage of the population that is thriving in three or more elements of well-being."

Panama "leads all other countries in well-being, with 53% of its residents thriving in three or more elements," Gallup reported. "Panama is also the highest country for purpose (60%) and physical well-being (52%)."

But Panama's repeat isn't the whole story. In fact, seven of the ten "highest well-being countries," as defined by Gallup, are in Latin America.

For perspective, the US dropped to 23rd place

in 2014, from 12th in 2013. Afghanistan ranked last in the report, at 145.

We were curious about why Latin Americans fared so well in terms of their well-being, so we checked in with Dan Witters, Gallup-Healthways Research Director, to get some insight.

“It’s a culture of positive outlook,” he said. “It permeates Latin America.”

He added: “There are some pretty poor countries there, characterized by many decades of civil strife, human rights abuses, and outright civil war — yet people maintain pretty impressive levels of objective well-being. For those of us who spend all of time in well-being measurement, it was no surprise to see Latin American countries in there.”

For all of 2014, Gallup’s researchers interviewed 146,000 adults in 145 countries to obtain its data.

“Our research shows that people with higher well-being have higher productivity, lower healthcare costs, are more resilient in the face of challenges and are more likely to contribute to the success of their organizations and communities,” the authors wrote.

Money is a factor in well-being, but as Witters noted, it’s only important up to a point. This is backed up by a significant amount of research that has been conducted over the past four decades, under the rubric of “happiness economics,” a field that has gained increasing respect in the academic world after being pioneered in the 1970s by Richard Easterlin, who is now at the University of Southern California.

In the US for example, happiness peaks at about \$75,000 in annual income and then doesn’t climb higher. And if you’re already rich, you have to get much, much richer to move up the happiness scale.

According to Witter, “negative affect,” or the tendency to view one’s well-being as limited, bottoms out at \$75,000. And unfortunately, stress can start to increase again if you move beyond that income bracket.

In Panama, the ability to be optimistic about finding employment also moves the needle of well-being. Witter said that in the happiest country in the happiest overall region, Latin America, people report that it’s a good time to find a job.

**Yes, You Can Eat Sugar! 5 Nutritionist Hacks to Make It Healthier:** - Sugar has a bad rep for good reason: It’s a major culprit in our country’s biggest health problems. Too much of the stuff is linked to everything from root canals and mood swings to diabetes, heart disease, and obesity.

In fact, in March, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended we reduce our intake of free sugars (meaning sugar added to food and drinks, as well as sugar naturally present in fruit juices, honey, and syrups) to less than 10 percent of our total energy intake. And reducing intake to below 5 percent — about 25 grams (or six teaspoons) a day — would be even better for our health.

What is sugar, to begin with? It’s one of three

main types of carbohydrate (the other two being fiber and starches, or complex carbohydrates). The types of sugar include glucose (an energy source that fuels the brain and body, and is made when the body processes most carbohydrate foods), fructose (which is naturally found in fruits and vegetables, and can also be added to foods), and sucrose (also known as table sugar, and is made from fructose and glucose).

"We don't need sugar to function, but we need complex carbohydrates — through whole grains, some vegetables, and legumes — in order to fuel our brain," Kristin Kirkpatrick, manager of nutrition services at Cleveland Clinic Wellness Institute, tells Yahoo Health. Without carbs, negative effects — such as fatigue, difficulty concentrating, and even a life-threatening condition called ketoacidosis — can occur.

But sugar, when consumed in the form of "bad for you" food, is not a necessary part of our diet at all, she says.

Sugar can be found naturally in foods — like fructose in fruit and lactose in milk — or it can be added when food is prepared or processed (hence the term "added sugar"). Food manufacturers may add natural sugars, like fructose and lactose (but these are not naturally occurring), and processed sugars, such as high-fructose corn syrup, to foods, explains nutritionist Keri Glassman, founder of Nutritious Life.

Take yogurt, for example. Depending on which kind you buy, there can be added sugar. But the form of sugar that is naturally present in yogurt

is lactose. Meanwhile, "a natural sugar like honey can be turned into an added sugar if it's added to crackers," Kirkpatrick says.

The problem with all kinds of sugar — no matter where it comes from — is that after years of eating too much of it, insulin (a hormone that allows your body to use sugar as energy) becomes tired, Glassman explains. This can ultimately lead to insulin impairment or resistance, Type 2 diabetes, obesity, and heart disease, she says.

And that's why you shouldn't necessarily believe a food is healthy just because its label says it contains a "natural" sugar: "Sugar is sugar regardless, of how sexy it's packaged," Kirkpatrick says. "When consumed in excess, it can cause plenty of problems in our body."

But is it possible to eat the sweet stuff in a healthy way? Beyond steering clear of the obvious culprits — syrups, cookies, and sweet pastries like doughnuts (double trouble for your heart because they're usually fried in trans fats, says Kirkpatrick) — there are some basic rules to follow if you want to eat sugar smartly:

**Pair sugars with fiber.** Never, ever eat sugar alone — always have it paired, says Kirkpatrick. For example, have an orange and a few almonds, and not just an orange, because nuts have more fiber than the orange alone. "This will help slow absorption of sugar into the bloodstream," Kirkpatrick says.

Why that matters: When something high in sugar is consumed, it increases levels of blood sugar and insulin, with higher sugar contents leading to higher spikes in insulin. Extreme ups and downs in insulin and blood sugar increase inflammatory factors in the body, which can lead to disease. But when sugar is more slowly absorbed into the bloodstream, it leads to more of a “hump” than a spike — which is a good thing. Here’s why fiber is so vital in slowing that blood sugar spike: Soluble fiber, found in foods such as apples and pears, slows down gastric emptying — your stomach emptying food into the intestines, says Kirkpatrick. Think of it as the two — both fiber and sugar — having to compete to be digested. Your body needs to process the indigestible food, fiber, first, which takes some effort, thereby lessening the blood-sugar spike, she says.

**Choose produce for your sugar source.**

Produce is packed with fiber and brings more of a nutritional bang as well. Fruits and vegetables have sugar in them, but also offer vitamins, minerals, and phytonutrients, says Glassman. Sweet potatoes are complex carbohydrates that have beta carotene and lots of fiber. Apples have both soluble and insoluble fiber, and a lot of health benefits for one fruit, Kirkpatrick adds. Plus, apples are low on the glycemic index — which indicates how high your blood sugar rises when you eat a food. (Pears are low on the index, too, whereas watermelon and bananas are high.)

**Don’t count dairy out.** Lactose is a simple sugar found in dairy, and “has a minimal effect on blood sugar,” says Kirkpatrick. That’s why you should opt for string cheese over a cheese Danish, as added sugars from the refined grains can have a greater effect on blood sugar. A bonus: Cheese also has protein to keep you full and satisfied. “Plain yogurt is also an option — you are getting calcium, protein, and probiotics,” adds Glassman.

**Eat, don’t drink, your sugar.** Nothing good comes from drinking soda. “Never, ever drink your sugar,” says Kirkpatrick. Not only are you imbibing extra, empty calories, but you could be putting yourself at risk for health disasters down the road. And get this: A study from UC Davis found that even drinks sweetened with *low* amounts of high-fructose corn syrup can up your risk for heart disease. Reducing your risk of health problems could be as simple as stopping the habit: One study in the journal *Diabetologia* found that drinking one less sugary drink a day is linked to a lower risk of Type 2 diabetes.

**If you *must* sweeten, sweeten with honey.**

Can’t quite sip your tea unsweetened? Reach for a little bit of honey over straight table sugar. While honey is mostly sugar, you are also getting minerals and antibacterial benefits as well as antioxidants, says Glassman. These perks are absent in the straight white stuff.

# LEGAL NOTES

## State of Karnataka by Hanur Police vs. Sathisha and 2 Ors

On 14.8.2001, Kollegal Sub-Division Police received credible information about two persons killing a wild animal in Government forest and carrying the hide for sale. On the basis of the information, a police party headed by an Inspector of Police reached a place near Kongarahalli bus stop. A bus came and stopped at the place and two persons, Sathisa A1 and Mara A2 alighted from the bus with a plastic bag. On seeing the police, they started running away. The Inspector of Police of Hanur Police Station chased them and took them into custody. After arresting them it was found that the desperadoes were carrying an 'Uncured Trophy' of tiger in the plastic bag, for sale.

The hide of tiger was seized from the possession of the two accused persons A1&A2. On the confessional statements of A1 and A2, another person Kumba A3 was roped in and after investigation, in all 6 persons were prosecuted. The trial court acquitted A4 to A6 and convicted and sentenced A1 to A3 for offences under Sec. 9, 39 (1) r/w Sec.51 of the Wildlife Protection Act, under Sec. 24 of the Karnataka Forest Act, under Sec. 379 of IPC and Sec. 25 of the Arms Act for possessing a muzzle loader. On appeal, conviction was confirmed by the appellate court but conviction for offence under the Arms Act was set aside.

CrI. A. No. 194 of 2009 was filed in the High Court under Sec.378 (1) & (2) of the Cr.P.C. by the Hanur Police against A1 to A3, praying to set aside acquittal of the accused for the alleged offence under the Arms Act by Appellate Court (Fast

Track Court) at Chamarajanagar.

CrI.R.P.No.28 of 2009 was filed by Sathisha under Sec. 397 (1) of the Cr. P.C to set aside the judgment dated 10.11.2008 passed in CrI. A. No. 20 of 2005 by the Appellate Court (Fast Track Court) at Chamarajanagar.

The appeal petition by the police and the Revision Petition filed by Sathisha were heard by Sri Justice N. Anand at the Karnataka High Court. The High Court found that the hide of a tiger being the property of the State was discovered from the possession of A1 and A2 it was therefore held that they had committed theft. As far as A3 is concerned, it was observed that it was not a case that A3 had a licence for the gun and that he had acquired the arm from a legitimate source. In the circumstances, the High Court felt that the courts below were not justified in convicting A1 and A2 for an offence under Sec. 3 read with Sec 25 of the Arms Act. The implication of A3 for the charge of theft based upon confession of A1 and A2 cannot be relied upon to record conviction on the confession of the co-accused. CrI. A. No. 194 of 2009 by State is dismissed. CrI. R. P.No.28 / 2009 filed by the accused is accepted in part. The impugned judgment relating to conviction of A1 for the offence under sec. 24 (1) of the Karnataka Forest Act is set aside. The conviction of A1 for offence punishable under Sec. 39 (1) r/w Sec. 51 of the Wildlife Protection Act and also for an offence under Sec. 379, IPC is confirmed. The judgment was pronounced on 22.4.2014  
Source: Internet

**K.B.R**

## OBITUARY



**Joseph K. Kurian,**  
24-01-1925-12-06-2015

Joseph Karakattu Kurian passed away on 12 June, 2015 at his home in Kaipuzha Village, Kottayam (Kerala) due to age related ailments. He was 90. Mr Kurian was born on 24—01-1925 at Kaipuzha near Kottayam. He had his school

Education in his home village and joined as Forester in the Forest Department of erstwhile Princely State of Travancore. He was a born leader. He was the Founder General Secretary of Kerala Forest Protective Staff Association and continued as such till he was deputed to 1959- 1961 Course at SFRC, Coimbatore.

In his capacity as the General Secretary of the Association, he convinced the authorities and got the Sub ordinate Service rules revised for improving promotion opportunities. After revising the rules, he underwent Foresters training in the Regional Forester's School, SFRC Campus, Coimbatore during 57-58 and passed out with Honours and First Rank. When he found that he was denied deputation to 59-61 SFRC course, he met the then Chief Minister late Sri Pattom A. Thanu Pillai and convinced that he was eligible in every respects. From SFRC he passed out with Honours and 3<sup>rd</sup> Rank when he was 34 years old.

He was Founder President of All India Forest Employees Federation. He was President of the Kerala Forest Range Officers Association till he was promoted as Assistant conservator of Forests in 1976. He retired on superannuation On 31<sup>st</sup> January 1980 while working as D F O, Kozhikode (Calicut).

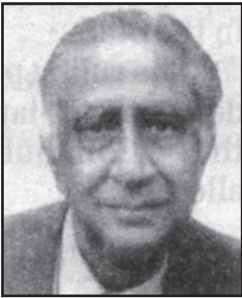
His eldest son Justice Cyriac Joseph was Chief Justice, Delhi and later Karnataka High court and later Judge of the Supreme Court of India and now Acting Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission. His second son Shri James Joseph retired as Director, Higher Secondary Education, Kerala. His surviving daughter Smt. Lila Joseph retired as Professor, B C M College, Kottayam. His youngest son Shri Bose Joseph is Chief H R Manager, Indian Oil Corporation. His eldest daughter in law is Smt. Bibi Cyriac. Second Daughter in law Dr Jansi James was Former Vice-Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam and later, Former Vice Chancellor, Central University. Elder son in law Shri Babu Joseph retired as Principal, St Thomas College, Ranni. His younger son in law Shri E M Thomas was former Deputy General Manager, Bank of Maharashtra. Youngest daughter in law is Smt. Anita Bose.

After retirement from Service, Mr Kurian joined hands with Environment Protection Activists and also Anti Narcotic Activists. He was President, Kottayam District Committee for Eradicating Alcoholism, and also Secretary of the Kottayam Diocesan Committee for Anti Alcoholism. Later, these Organizations remembered his services in specially convened meetings. He is survived by his wife Smt. Annamma, 3 sons and 1 daughter. His elder daughter Smt. Geethamma Joseph predeceased him.

Kurian's body was interred in the cemetery of Kaipuzha St. George Church. The Bishop of Kottayam Diocese and a number of Priests exhorted the large gathering to emulate Kurian in bringing up children and lauded Kurian's ardent trust in God. Kurian's pleasant memories linker around 60-62 SFRC Kerala Batch trainees about his filial affection showered on them.

**May his soul rest in peace (By Zachariah P K.)**

## OBITUARY



**R. RAJAMANI,**  
**17.08.1936-25.6.2015**

Sri R. Rajamani, IAS (Rtd), a lover of forest (Vana Premi). passed away on June 25, 2015 at Hyderabad in a private hospital after a brief illness. He was 78.

Sri Raghunathan Rajamani was born on August 17, 1936 at Madras. His parents Sri C.Raghunathan and mother Smt. Janaki arranged for his early education in different towns of Tamil Nadu and Chittoor. He did B.Com. Hons. from Loyola College, Madras and worked for two years at Punjab National Bank in New Delhi when he acquired diploma : "Certified Associate of the Indian Institute of Bankers" (CAIIB). He then joined the IAS on May 11, 1959. He was married to Smt. Prema on November 6, 1960. After his allotment to the A.P. cadre, he served with distinction several posts held by him including Collector of two districts viz., Adilabad and Medak. Apart from his multifarious duties of District Administration, he used to take some time off to go to the forests particularly, wildlife sanctuaries. He worked as Secretary to Government of AP in Finance and Forests and Environment Departments.

When Sri Rajamani was called by the Government of India he was Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's office during the tenure of Morarji Desai, Charan Singh and Indira Gandhi. He is responsible for enactment of Forest Conservation Act. He was Additional Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat during Rajiv Gandhi's tenure. He was the first bureaucrat to become Secretary Electronics. He was also Director-

General of CAPART (Council for Advancement of Peoples' Action and Rural Technology) in New Delhi for a short while. After serving the State and Central Governments with dignity and honour for 35 years, Sri Rajamani retired on superannuation on August 31, 1994 as Secretary, Environment and Forest, Government of India.

Sports and Environment have been his pet subjects. He zealously participated in sports programmes and in matters relating to environment during service and after retirement. Sri Rajamani was instrumental in starting the All India Forest Sports which is an annual event even today. He held important positions in the United Nations Environmental bodies and was on the Supreme Court appointed Committees concerning environment. There are occasions when the Supreme Court eulogised his services and his performance. He was the Chairman of the Heritage Conservation Committee (HCE) of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority. He was founding member of the Forum for Better Hyderabad (FBH)

The following stanza of a song composed by him is a reflection of his love for forests:

*Kadu, Vanam, Adavi, Jungle, chahe jobhi pukaro  
Hai ye hamare jeevan ka ek sahara yaron*

He is known during his lifetime for his simplicity, amiability, and upright character. He is fondly remembered by his family – wife Smt. Prema, Daughter Radhika, Son Raghunandan, Daughter-in-Law Veena, and Grandchildren Ruchita & Ruhan. A host of friends, colleagues and relatives mourn the loss,

**MAY THE LORD REST HIS NOBLE SOUL IN  
PEACE!**

# అమ్మా ధరిత్రీ! తప్పు కాయమ్మా

రచన : ఉషా వినోద్ రాజవరం

(నేపాల్ భూకంపానికి చలించిన మనసుతో వ్రాసిన కవిత)

అవనిలో సకల చరాచరములను మనిషితో బాటుగా సృజించాడు దేవుడు  
జీవులన్నిటి లోన మనిషికే ప్రముఖ స్థానాన్ని కలిగించాడు కూడాఁ  
అవని మాట వింటూ ప్రకృతి ని అనుసరిస్తూ హాయిగా కాలాన్ని గడుపుతూ ఉన్నాయి.  
జీవరాసులన్నీ క్రమబద్ధంగా సమయ పాలన చూస్తూ పశు పక్షి గణములు,  
తరు లతలు మరి జల చరములెన్నో..  
భూ మాత ఒడిలోన పసి పాపలై అల్ప సంతోషులై సుఖముగా ఉన్నాయి.  
ఒక్క మనిషి తృప్తి లేని జీవుడై నిత్యమేదో వంక ఆలోకనం చేస్తూ  
సాంకేతికత అంటూ ప్రకృతికి ఎదురేగి పరి పిరి విధాల పతనమవుతూ..  
మొక్కలసలే లేని కాంక్రీటు అడవిని తయారు చూస్తూ నేడు పర్యావరణ పరిరక్షన ను పూర్తిగా మరిచి ..  
పదము మోసిన భువినే పలు బాధలకు గురి చేస్తుంటే సహనమెంతని భరించేదంటూ..  
ఒక్క సారిగా ఘెల్లుమన్నది భూమాత వరదలై ఆమె మది రోదనలు చేస్తుంటే  
దుఃఖాగ్ని కార్చిచ్చు లా పొంగుకొస్తుంటే ఒక్క రుల్లనిపించేలా  
భూ ప్రకంపనలే వస్తుంటే ఏమిటో ఈ ప్రకృతి వైపరీత్యాలుఁ  
అమ్మకు కోపం వచ్చిందని ఇకనైనా మానవుడు తెలుసుకుంటే సరిఁఁ  
అమ్మా! ధరిత్రీ! తప్పు కాయమ్మా! ఇక మేలుకుంటాము  
కళ్ళు తెరిచి మెలగుతాము., మొక్కలెన్నో నాటి సంరక్షణ చేపడతాము.  
పశు పక్షి జాతులను మరల ఆహ్వానిస్తూ పశ్చాత్తాపముతో పర జీవులను కాచేము..  
అంటూ ప్రమాణాలు చేసేము నిండు హృదయాలతో నీకు నీరాజన మిచ్చేము!!  
శాన్తించవమ్మా! అవని మాతా!  
నీ బడ్డలందరినీ కాపాడుమమ్మా!

## “క్యూ” వి.వి. హరిప్రసాద్

గాంధీజీ గతించారు  
మహాత్ముడిగా మిగిలారు  
నరేంద్రుడు అస్తమించారు  
నరోత్తముడై భాసిల్లారు  
ఏను ప్రభువు జన్మ చాలించారు  
దేవదూతగా నిలిచారు

చిరంజీవిని కాదుకదా!  
నేనూ “క్యూ” లో వున్నాను  
ఎప్పటికైనా చిరిగే నా చీటీ సంఖ్య  
ఎవ్వనికెరుక ఆ పరంధాముడికి తప్ప  
నేను మాత్రం ఏం చెయ్యగలను అందాకా  
భవబంధాలను తెంచుకోలేక  
సుఖ దుఃఖాల కడలిలో ఈదటం తప్ప

నా బ్రతుకు బాటలో తారసపడ్డ  
ఎల్లారావు అంటే నాకు ఎలర్జీ  
అతడు అన్నిటో గొప్పాడే  
చిన్నయ్య అంటే నాకు కడు చీతారం  
వాడు నాకంటే అన్నిటో చిన్నే  
మల్లప్పంటే నాకు చచ్చే మంట  
ఆయన అన్నిటోనూ నాకు పోటీ

ఏతా వాతా  
ఈ సమాజమంటే నాకు మహా రోత  
నాకు ఏమిచ్చింది గనుక?  
పైగా నేనిమిచ్చానని ఎదురు సొడ్డు  
అరిషడ్వర్గాలు నా మనో నేతలుగా

నేను, నాకు, నాది అంటూ  
ఆటు పోట్ల నడుమ  
బ్రతుకు ఈడ్చుకుంటూ వచ్చా  
అనుకోకుండా ఆ రోజు రానే వచ్చింది. పుటుక్కున నా  
చీటీ చినిగినట్లుంది

నిశబ్దం రాజ్యం ఏలుతోంది  
చుట్టూ చిమ్మ చీకటి  
నా మనో నేత్రం విప్పాలింది  
నా పెదాలు ఏవో పలుకుతున్నాయి.  
ఎవ్వరికీ వినపడుతున్నట్లు లేదు  
స్వశాన వైరాగ్యం నన్ను ఆవహించింది  
నాకర్థల కడలి నన్ను  
వెంటాడుతోంది ఓ సునామిలా  
మన్నిమంచాలంటూ ఎలుగెత్తి అరాలనుంది  
నా గొంతు పెగలటం లేదు  
నే పలికిన పలుకులు మిగిలాయి  
విత్తినా పైకి రాని మొలకలుగా  
నా అంతరాత్మ ఘోషిస్తోంది  
ఏం బ్రతుకు బ్రతికావురా అని!

నేనో సగటు మనిషిని  
ముగిసిన ఓ అధ్యాయాన్ని  
వెలిగి ఆరిన ఓ దీపాన్ని  
లేచి పడిన ఓ కెరటాన్ని  
గతించినా బ్రతుకు పరమార్థం తెలిసింది  
ఓ జీవత కాలం లేటుగా !  
( ఈ ధరిత్రి పై ఉదయించి అస్తమించిన సామాన్య  
జనులకు అంకితం)

میں ہمارے انگریزی کے استاد پی ایل این شرما ایک شریں کلام دلچسپ اور متحرک شخصیت کے مالک تھے۔ انگریزی ادب سے ان کی دلچسپی اصلی تھی۔ سب سے بڑھ کر یہ کہ ان میں یہ صلاحیت تھی کہ وہ اپنے شاگردوں میں ادب کا ذوق اور اس کے اشتیاق و بے تحاشہ ذوق پیدا کرنا جانتے تھے۔ نظریات کے اعتبار سے وہ ترقی پسند تھے لیکن وہ اچھے ادب کے قائل پہلے تھے اور نظریے کے بعد میں نے انہیں کی دیکھا دیکھی الگرا انڈر ڈیو ما (س) کے ناول اور شیکسپیر کے ڈرامے پڑھنا شروع کئے۔ ان دنوں میرے انگریزی مطالعے کی رفتار اردو کے مقابلے میں اتنی تیز نہیں تھی۔ مجھے اچھی طرح یاد ہے کہ شیکسپیر کے باریک ٹائپ میں چھپے ہوئے ۱۲۰۰ بارہ سو صفحوں کے ڈرامے کو دیکھ کر میرا دل بیٹھ جاتا تھا۔ لیکن میں ہمت کر کے ہر ڈرامے کو شروع کرتا تھا اور جلدی یہ دعا کرنے لگتا تھا کہ یہ جلدی سے ختم نہ ہو! چارلس ڈیکنس کے ناول پڑھتے ہوئے یہ تمنا ایک طرف رہتی کہ مطالعے کی رفتار بڑھاؤں اور زیادہ سے زیادہ صفحات ایک گھنٹے میں پڑھ ڈالوں تو دوسری طرف سے یہ خواہش کہ کاش یہ کتاب دیر میں ختم ہو!

ورنگل کی گرمی آج بھی ملک بھر میں مشہور ہے۔ اس گرمی کی پتی ہوئی دو پہروں اور چاندنی چھلکتی ہوئی راتوں میں میں نے لائین کی روشنی میں اس عظیم الشان دنیا کا سفر کیا جو شیکسپیر کے اوراق میں آباد ہے۔ مجھے محسوس ہوا کہ ادب اور زندگی کے بارے میں اس وقت تک جو کچھ میں نے سوچا سمجھا تھا وہ بالکل سطحی، بے رنگ اور بانجھ تھا۔ شیکسپیر نے مجھ کو اس طرح جکڑ لیا جس طرح کوئی خواب کسی ننھے بچے کو قابو میں جکڑ لیتا ہے۔ ان دنوں سے لے کر آج تک شیکسپیر اور میرے درمیان ایک ایسا ربط قائم ہے جس کا اظہار الفاظ میں نہیں ہو سکتا۔

بی ایس سی کا داخلہ ۱۹۵۱ء میں جامعہ عثمانیہ کے سائنس کالج میں ہونے پر حیدرآباد منتقل ہوا اور جب دو سال بعد فارسٹ کالج کو نمبتور کو بھیجا گیا تو وہاں بھی دو سال کا عرضہ گزارا۔ اس طرح ملازمت کا آغاز ہوا۔ جس کا سلسلہ ۱۹۹۳ء تک رہا اور اس کا ذکر اڑ پڑ کہیں آچکا ہے۔ آدمی کسی مدت کے دوران کچھ پاتا ہے تو کچھ کھوتا بھی ہے۔ میں نے گذشتہ برسوں میں صحت، فرصت، سکون قلب بہت کچھ کھویا ہے۔ مطالعے کی بات کریں تو میں نے جہاں اس مدت میں بہت سی نئی کتابیں اور مضمون پڑھے ہیں وہاں پہلے کی پڑھی ہوئی باتیں میں بہت کچھ بھول بھی گیا ہوں۔ اب حافظہ کمزور ہو جانے کے باعث انگریزی شاعری میں شیکسپیر پہلے کی طرح مستحضر نہیں۔ بعض چیزوں کی اہمیت اب میرے نزدیک بہت کم ہو گئی ہے۔ میرا خیال ہے کہ ہر سوچنے والے شخص کو اس قسم کا تجربہ زندگی کی کسی نہ کسی منزل پر یقیناً ہوتا ہوگا۔

سننا گورا کریں تو مجھے بھی کچھ کہنا ہے۔۔۔۔۔

ڈاکٹر راگھوتم راؤ دیسائی

آپ جو پڑھنے جا رہے ہیں وہ ہے آنجمنائی بی شیشگیر راؤ دیسائی کے بڑے بیٹے کا نامہ اعمال۔۔۔ مجھ میں اس قدر تلخی تو شائد نہیں ہے جتنی اس مضمون میں ظاہر ہوگی لیکن ہم عنصر دنیا میں معنویت اور دیانت داری کے فقدان پر رنجیدگی ضرور ہے۔ والد کہتے تھے کہ تم بہت ساری باتیں لکھ دینا چاہتے ہو تو اپنی تاریخ پیدائش ضرور لکھو تو لوگوں کو معلوم ہو جائے گا کہ تم نے نوعمری میں اتنا کچھ حاصل کیا اور کر ڈالا۔۔۔۔۔ اس وقت میری عمر چھتیس سال تھی لیکن ان کی محبت بھری نگاہ مجھے نوعمر ہی سمجھتی تھی! پروردگار ان کے درجات بلند کرے۔ ان کی اس واحد وصیت کی تعمیل میں عرض کر رہا ہوں کہ میں یکم اسیفند ۱۳۴۵ھ کو اس فانی دنیا میں بہ مقام پٹنلی (تعلقہ کولاپور، ضلع محبوب نگر، ریاست حیدرآباد) اپنے نانہال میں آیا تھا۔ جواب ان سے خالی ہے۔ آپ کو یقین مشکل سے آئے گا لیکن حقیقت یہی ہے کہ میں نے بچپن میں نہ کبھی کبڈی کھیلی، نہ گلی ڈنڈا، اور نہ گولیاں کھلیں، نہ پتنگ اڑایا، نہ درختوں پر جھاڑ بندر کھیلنے چڑھا، نہ کود پھاند کی۔ میں اگر ان عام تقریبوں اور کھیل کود سے محروم رہا تو اس میں گھریلو ماحول کا اتنا ہی دخل تھا جتنا خود میرے مزاج کا۔

۱۹۴۵ء کا واقعہ ہے میں ہمنکنڈہ (ورنگل) میں چھٹی جماعت میں پڑھتا تھا۔ ایک بار گھومتا پھرتا اسکول کپاؤنڈ کے ایک کونے میں جا نکلا جہاں پر میرے دوست تاش کھیل رہے تھے۔ میرے تقدس کا اخلاقی دباؤ اس قدر تھا کہ انہوں نے جلدی سے تاش چھپا دئے اور چور بن کر مجھے دیکھنے لگے۔ مجھے اچھی طرح یاد ہے کہ میں نے انہیں ایک لمبا لکچر دیا جس میں تاش کھیلنے کی اخلاقی نقصانات پر روشنی ڈالی گئی تھی۔ یہ بھی اچھی طرح یاد ہے کہ لکچر دیتے وقت مجھے دل ہی دل میں محسوس ہو رہا تھا کہ میں بھی کیا خوب زاہد خشک کا جھوٹا رول ادا کیا ہے! اپنے اوپر احتساب اور ہر ایک کے قول فعل کے ساتھ ساتھ اپنے قول فعل کو بھی معروضی نظر سے دیکھا اور اپنے بارے میں کسی قسم کے پیغمبرانہ مغالطوں میں مبتلا نہ ہوا۔ میری اس کمزوری نے زندگی کے تقریباً ہر لمحے میں مجھے بے اطمینانی سے دوچار کیا ہے۔ مثلاً میرے بارے میں مشہور تھا کہ میں دفتر کا کام تیزی نپٹا دیتا ہوں۔ مجھے بھی اس کا احساس رہتا تھا اور میں سوچ سوچ کر خوش بھی ہوتا تھا لیکن فوراً ہی مجھے خیال بھی آتا کہ اگر ہر مثل اور ہر کارروائی پر زیادہ وقت صرف کرتا تو ممکن ہے نکاسی اور بھی باریک اور گہرا ہوتا! لیکن بات ہو رہی تھی میرے بچپن کی۔ ۱۹۴۸ء میں پولیس ایکشن کے بعد میری توجہ انگریزی کی طرف بھی مائل ہوئی۔ یوں تو ماموں صاحب کے گھر کے ماحول کے باعث جن کے گھر میں نو سال رہا اور جماعت چہارم سے انٹرمیڈیٹ تک ورنگل (ہمنکنڈہ) میں تعلیم حاصل کرتا رہا۔ میں اپنی عمر و تعلیم کے لحاظ سے بہت اچھی انگریزی و تملگو لکھتا اور بولتا تھا لیکن انگریزی زبان و ادب کے مطالعہ کا اردو کے مقابلہ میں مجھ میں کوئی خاص ذوق نہیں تھا۔ ہائی اسکول یاس کرنے کے بعد انگریزی کی طرف رجحان اور بڑھا۔ انٹرمیڈیٹ



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



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

## AWARDS

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



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