

VANA PREMI

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EDITORIAL

World Environment Day: World environment day is being celebrated worldwide by the people to protect the unique and life nurturing Nature. World Environment Day has been started celebrating as an annual event since 1973 in order to raise the global awareness about the importance of the healthy and green environment in the human lives, to solve the environmental issues by implementing some positive environmental actions as well as to make aware common public worldwide that everyone is responsible for saving his environment. Since 1974, the celebration campaign of the world environment day is hosted in different cities of the world. Last year on the occasion of World Environment Day 2015, our Prime Sri Narendra Modi ji planted a sapling at his official residence, 7 Race Course Road, New Delhi. We all should follow him, plant as many saplings as we can, not necessarily on 5th June 2016 but any day during the month of June 2016, with the onset of monsoon, and see that all the planted saplings survive. Linking the intense heat wave and drought to environmental degradation, our Prime Minister Modi ji on 22nd of May 2016 gave a strong call for a mass movement to save forests and conserve every drop of water in future. Government of Nepal our neighboring country declares the Scholarship for 15 Students from all cities that

have major contribution for the environment. It also sends the Army out of barracks on the road to clean the environment and for afforestation programmes where all the media personalities also gather giving the live coverage.

Each year celebration of the World Environment Day is based on the particular theme decided by the United Nations to make the celebrations more effective by encouraging mass people worldwide to hugely take part in addressing environmental issues on global scale. The theme of the year 2016 is "Join the race to make the world a better place" and the slogan is "Zero Tolerance for the Illegal Wildlife trade" and the city is Delhi. The theme of the year 2015 was "One World, One Environment" the theme of the year 2014 was "Small Island developing states" and "Raise your voice, not the sea level.

Albert Einstein who was a physicist once said "The environment is everything that isn't me". What is Environment or what is the definition of Environment? It can be defined as "the sum total of all surroundings of a living organism, including Natural forces and other living things, which provide conditions for development and growth as well as of danger and damage", or "the surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives or operates". The environment is something we

are very familiar with. It's everything that makes up our surroundings and affects our ability to live on the earth—the air we breathe the water that covers most of the earth's surface, the plants and animals around us, and much more.

In recent years, scientists have been carefully examining the ways that people affect the environment. They have found that we are causing air pollution, like the release of chemicals and particulates into the atmosphere. Common gaseous pollutants include carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and nitrogen oxides produced by industry, and motor vehicle, deforestation, acid rain, and other problems that are dangerous both to the earth as well as to us. These days, when we hear people talk about "the environment", they are often referring to the overall condition of our planet, or how healthy it is. I will give only one example by which esteemed readers can visualize the damage or losses all other pollutants are causing to our environment. 90% of milk produced worldwide is distributed in sachets or plastic containers and after consuming milk it is estimated that only 40 % of plastic used for distribution of milk is recycled. The plastic bags are thrown in the open ground which spreads even up to sea shores and will be remaining in the soil for hundreds of years as plastic are very slow to degrade and the impact is often highly injurious and damaging

to our environment. In total, today we are producing more than 300 million tons of plastic every year. "In 1950, we virtually made none at all. It is an incredible rise. Annual total of 300 million tons is close to the weight of the entire human population of the planet. In 2014, researchers found "significant" amounts of plastic granules frozen in the Arctic Sea, having been swept there from the Pacific Ocean. Most of the impact of plastic on wildlife is harmful. Creatures ranging from seabirds, fishes to turtles become entangled in plastic and drown or choke to death. Cattle are dying by consuming, plastic thrown everywhere by us and plastic is found in the stomach of animals after post mortem is conducted." The Earth will find some way to survive, with us if we love and respect it or without us. So, it's we who stand to lose.

World Environment Day is celebrated to successfully get carbon neutrality, focusing on the forest management, reducing greenhouse effects, promoting bio-fuels production by planting on degraded lands, encourage common public to use solar water heaters, energy production through solar sources, promoting coral reefs, and mangroves restoration in order to get prevented from flooding and erosion including other ways of environmental preservation. Central and State Governments should give generously, subsidy

to all those who are harnessing solar energy based on their economic condition, instead of a common subsidy to rich and poor alike. Variety of activities are planned to celebrate this great event in different countries to encourage more people towards the celebration. It is celebrated to make aware the common public about the environmental issues, encourage common people from different society and communities to actively participate in the celebration as well as become an active agent in developing environmental safety measures, let them know that community people are very essential to inhibit negative changes towards the environmental issues, encourage people to make their nearby surroundings safe and clean to enjoy safer, cleaner and more prosperous future. People of all age groups actively involve during the celebration to save our planet in

original form as gifted by the nature. The celebration takes place at national and international level by organizing various activities in the public places to aware common public about the real causes of environment status degradation as well as let them know what steps should be taken to solve such environmental issues. Many more activities are taken up in order to draw people's attention towards wide range of environmental issues as well as bring difference.

We have not inherited this earth from our parents to do with it what we will. We have borrowed it from our children, whom has to be returned and we must be careful to use it in their interests as well as our own.

Everyone talks about leaving a better planet for our kids; let us try to leave better kids for our planet and keep it in its original and unpolluted form. **QMK**



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

I have gone through the article on National Forest Program by Mr. R.K.Rao in VANA PREMI of May,2016.I found it very comprehensive.I agree that there is large gap in the demand and supply of wood in the country.We also require large tracts of green belts to act as carbon sinks,keeping in view the growing urbanization and industrialization in the country.With tremendous increase in human population and their need for wood based products, Forest dept. by itself cannot provide wood,though they are trustees of nearly 25 percent of the land in the country,without the active participation of the people.The Green revolution(production of food grains),the White revolution(Production of milk) and the Blue revolution(fish cultivation) could not have become so successful,if the participation of rural people was not there.

Agroforestry,surely, is the best way to increase the extent of tree lands substantively.But unlike agriculture,dairying and pisciculture,forest crops have long gestation period,though we can bring it down with improved varieties of fast growing species.The farmers require best seeds,planting stock and cultivation practices,for which,the forest dept.can act as nodal agency.

Ultimately without motivation, the program cannot be successful.This reminds me of recent events.There was scanty rainfall for the last 2 years and all the water sources have almost dried up.The ground water level has fallen down making all the bore wells useless.The temperatures have risen this summer sharply,making lives miserable for humans and animals,with not enough drinking water.People have become receptive to the idea of water harvesting devices.Electronic and print media have taken up the issue aggressively and motivated the people to go in for rain harvesting pits in a big way.Such an aggressive motivational program is required for grounding agroforestry and green belt plantations.The Govt.,NGOs,print and electronic media, wood based industries etc. should take up the issue more seriously to create awareness and motivation among all the stakeholders.The Forest dept.has to concentrate more on research in finding suitable species for different soil types and agro climatic zones and evolve best seed and planting stock,besides ensuring marketing facilities for the wood and wood based products produced by the farmers.

Large tracts of forest are dereserved for allotting to industries,irrigation projects and infrastructure development.In lieu of this,compensatory lands are given to Forest dept. for afforestation in scattered bits.It is extremely difficult to afforest and protect them.Probably such areas can be given on long lease to either wood based industries or self-help groups for raising tree crops with suitable safeguards.

V.Janakiram Naidu

Sir,

While agreeing with the suggestion of Dr. A.R. Maslekar (Letters to The Editor - April 2016 issue of Vana Premi) for giving email IDs of authors, I feel other details may not be necessary.
S.B.Singh.

Dear Editor,

Surprisingly I received the copy of May 16 issue of Vana Premi on 7th May, thanks to yours and Indian Postal Services' efficiency. Mr. J.V. Sharma's article on J & K is most educative and thought provoking.

This amply demonstrates his expertise in effortlessly sailing through any diverse subject of his choice, may be the FRA his usual fort to fight or Functioning of Indian Democracy or the present subject. This provides the reader with rare insight into the complex issue of Kashmir and ever evasive solution to this constantly bleeding national problem. With regards,

V. S. Joshi Pune, 07.05.2016

Sir,

Sri R.K. Rao's "A National Forest Policy/Program for 21st Century" in May 16 issue of Vana Premi, is a well-researched, well-argued and convincing article. Indian Forestry of future has to go in three ways, Joint Forest Management, Construction of water conservation measures in each village with creating wood lots, and forest department to protect and consolidate whatever forests are left with them. "Hands Off" policy for wild life protection areas also needs reconsideration. Harvest judiciously should be the aim- whether animals or trees. Plant what suits the local site, should also be the guiding principle.

This article should be mailed to PM on his site. Last year I sent one note addressed to the PM and received prompt reply along with directive to Min Environment, Forest and Climate change to answer my suggestions. I got their reply too in short time. One suggestion on CAMPA funds was accepted but is hanging in the Parliament.

Sri J.V Sharma's say on J&K is informative. One question always troubles me. Why not go for "Plebiscite" as promised by Pt. Nehru so magnanimously. That may expose all vested interests and may prove our point once for all.

As usual VANAPREMI gave lot to read and think.

Thanks and regards,

Dr. A. R. Maslekar.

THE POWER OF DEMOCRACY

By
S.D.Mukherji

The following few examples are placed to show how India, in spite of all other shortcomings, is gradually proving the power of democracy and rights of the people and democratic institutions to oppose any move that is not in their interest, including the interest of the wildlife that has no voice.

People's objection from Chhattisgarh to Odisha, against large development project has brought out the real power of the forest right act of 2006. Democracy is alive and kicking. A series of events reported in the last couple of months point out how people on the ground have the primary power of decision making. The following events elaborate the ground truth:

1. On March 16, Five Adivasi villages in Raigad, Chhattisgarh, unanimously rejected the Plans of south eastern coal fields limited to mine their forests.

2. On March 23rd, Kamanda gram sabha of Kalta G.P in Koida tehsil of Sundargadh district in Orissa unanimously decided not to give its land for the Kungta mines proposed by the Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation of Orissa Limited.

3. On May 4th, The Nation Green Tribunal directed that before clearance can be given the Kashang hydroelectric project proposal be placed for

approval before the LTITPA village gram sabha in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh. The 1200 residents of LITPA have been waging a 7 year struggle against the project.

4. On May 6th the Supreme Court rejected a petition by the Orissa Mining Corporation seeking reconvening of gram sabhas in the Niyamgiri hills to consider a mining proposal that the sabhas had rejected in 2013.

The court observed that the conclusion of the gram sabhas at that time was to reject the mining and the petitioner would have to approach an appropriate forum if it wanted to challenge this.

Generally, the eminent domain status of the Government has been used to override local objections. Development decisions are top-down, and communities or citizens have no significant financial and legal powers.

Among the first instances when the power of a community to provide or withhold consent for a development project recognized was in the case of the Vedanta corporation proposal to mine in the Niyamgiri hills. In its order of April, 2015 the Supreme court directed the Government to hold gram sabha meeting to ascertain the opinion of the Dongria Kondh Adivasis living there.

All 12 gram sabhas rejected the project, forcing the union ministry of environment and forest to withdraw permission for mining. The State Government launched a fresh bid by approaching the Supreme Court again in early 2016. It had, meanwhile, done everything possible to scare the adivasis into submission through regular harassment (including imprisonment and killing of tribal members) by armed police forces. The adivasis have stood firm in the face of this repression and the Supreme Court's recent decision is a vindication of their campaign.

Some of the decisions have brought out a real implication of the forest right act of the 2006. The act provides for recognition of the rights of communities to govern use and conserve forest they have traditionally managed and used, reversing 200 years of colonial and post-colonial history in which the state had taken over control of forests. Logically such right should mean that any activity in a community govern forests should be subject to consent by the community, in recognition of which MoEF issued a circular in 2009, requiring such consent for diversion of forest for development projects.

The Principle of Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) enshrined the international agreements was reiterated most strongly in the recent UN declaration on the rights of indigenous people. India has not yet brought this into its legislative

frameworks other than in partial forms such as the circular under the forest right act & PESA. Ken Betwa river inter linking project is being rigorously promoted by the NDA Government as the first in a series of projects to transfer surplus water from certain rivers into deficient ones and improve irrigation as well as hydro power availability. The Project involves building the 288 Mt. Daudhan Dam and transfer of surplus water from the Ken river basin to the Betwa basin. The project is estimated to irrigate 6.35 lakh hectares and improve a lot of nearby 70 lakh people.

This will submerge nearly 4141 hectares of the Panna tiger reserve held as a model of tiger conservation after its number fell from 35 in 2006 to zero in 2009 and rose again to 18 after seven years of conservation. The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) clearance is necessary for the go ahead and subsequent commissioning of the Rs. 9,000 crore projects that propose to irrigate the drought ravaged Bundelkhand region.

There is a Supreme Court directive to the Government to implement the project. The number of Tigers in Panna Tiger reserve has plummeted from 35 in 2006 to zero in 2009. The conservation efforts in the seven years since, Tigers for other reserves were relocated and are now believed to number 18. Given the threat to the tiger reserves the environment

ministry has asked an expert analysis and the environmental impact to the NBWL.

The Union Water Resource Ministry which is spear heading the Ken Betwa river inter linking project to irrigate six lakh hectares in MP and UP has told the Union Environment Ministry that territories and habitats of tigers and vultures in the region are not damaged.

The MP Government has already agreed to compensate twice the area that will be lost in the reserve as reducing dam height would make the project unviable as per the D.G, National Water Development Agency (NWDA) Ministry of Water Resources. The MP Government had promised 8000 hectares of alternate forest land as compensation which will be replenished with vegetation.

Given the importance to the conservation of wildlife, the clearance of the project depends upon the decision of NBWL in spite of the importance the government attaches to this scheme.

The voting percentage in the States that went to the polls recently shows 84.7 percent in Assam, nearly 9 percent increase as compared to 2011; provisional estimate from the election commission for Kerala is 77.4% which is 2.1 % more than previous election. Tamilnadu turnout is 74.3%, Pudducherry 84.1% and WB 82.8%. The massive voter turnout in the recently concluded legislative assembly election shows the importance attached to it by the public while electing their representatives in government formation. It also shows how the democracy is empowering the people.

NOTICE

The 80th GENERAL BODY MEETING of the Association of Retired Forest Officers of Telangana & Andhra Pradesh will be held on 26-06-2016 (Sunday) 11:00 am at Aranya Bhavan, Hyderabad. All the members are requested to attend the General Body meeting with their spouses. Suggestions and contributions are invited for the better functioning of the Association. Sri BSS Reddy, IFS, PCCF (Retd), member of the association will host the lunch.

SECRETARY

WHITE PAPER NEEDED ON KALESHWARAM LIFT IRRIGATION PROJECT

By
M. Padmanabha Reddy

About 40 years back (on 6-10-1975) a meeting was held between Sri JalagamVengala Rao the then Hon'able Chief Minister of A.P. and Sri S. B. Chavan Hon'able Chief Minister of Maharashtra to finalize the following three interstate projects on River Pranahita a tributary of River Godavari viz.

1. Lendi project
2. Lower Penganga Project
3. Pranahita Project

Issues relating to Lendi and lower Penganga which are very small projects have been sorted out. Pranahita project needed further clarification and settlement. There after series of meetings were held between two State Governments for clearance of Pranahita Project. Government of A.P.in the year 2004 have decided to take up Pranahita Project and allotted the work of survey and preparation of Detailed Project Report (D.P.R.) to Water and Power Consultancy services (WAPCOS) a government of India under taking. After detailed survey WAPCOS submitted D.P.R. on Pranahita project – Named as Pranahita – Chevella Lift Irrigation Project (PCLIF).

The salient features of D.P.R. are

1. About 160 TMC of water can be lifted during monsoon period of July to September from

Pranahita at Tummidu hatti village of Adilabad district.

2. There is no need of any Dam or Barrage construction. From natural water pool at Tummidu hatti village 160TMC of flood water can be lifted during floods - Run of the river scheme.
3. The survey report further stated that the upper riparian states like Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have not fully utilized the potential of the river. Once that is done the availability of water in Pranahita may reduce.

1. The water should be lifted to a height of 480 meters to reach Chevella through 20 lift points requiring 2527 M.W. of power to bring the water from Tummidu Hatti to Chevella.

2. An amount of Rs. 17875 crores are required to compel the project.

Based on the said D.P.R. Government of A.P.gave administrative sanction vide G.O. Ms. No. 124, I & CAD department dated 16-5-2007.

Inter alia the G.O. says,

1. The project to provide irrigation to 12.2 lakh acres in Adilabad, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Medak and R.R. Districts.

2. To provide 40 T.M.C. for drinking water

and 17 TMC for industrial use around Hyderabad and balance 103 T.M.C. for irrigation.

After about 7 months vide G.O. 238 dated 17-12-2007 the cost of the project was increased to Rs. 38,500 crores, a jump of 220%. The reasons attributed for cost increase are, the WAPCOS did not prepare the estimates properly. The second reason is some areas in Nirmal and Mudhole are newly included for irrigation. Again in the year 2011 the cost was further increased to Rs. 40,300 crores.

For any project on Interstate River permissions from about 18 agencies of Government of India are required. As of now many ministries of Government of India are yet to give clearance to this project. Without clearances from various ministries of G.O.I, the state government has started the work as a part of Jalayagnam. The entire work was divided into 28 packages covering a distance of about 230 K.M. from Tummidihatti to Chevella. Surprisingly most of the works like canals, tunnels etc. were taken up around chevella (tail end) inspite of the fact that foundation stone for the project was yet to be laid. In this way by the end of financial year 2016-17 about Rs.8, 000 crores were spent

Right from 2007, state government is stating that the project will be taken up as a National Project. Government of India, Ministry of water resources has well laid out guidelines to take a project as National project. Pranahita Project doesn't fit

into these guidelines as such it may not be possible for G.O.I. to accord National project status to Pranahita. Here it is not out of place to mention that since independence A.P. has not got a single project as a national project except Polavaram as a concession for bi-furcating the state.

For proper Co-ordination for Pranahita Project the then Chief Minister Sri Kiran Kumar Reddy held a meeting with Chief Minister of Maharashtra Sri Pruthvi Raj Chavan on 5-5-2012 and an Interstate Board for investigation, survey and preparation of project report was constituted. The composition of the Board is: Chairman – Chief Minister of A.P. and Maharashtra (by rotation) and about 15 Prl. Secretaries and H.O.D.s To assist the Board a standing committee of 14 officers and coordinating committee of 8 other officers was constituted. After the constitution of this jumbo Board no meetings were held nor were any decisions taken, it just remained on paper.

Again on 17-2-2015 a high level delegation headed by Chief Minister of Telangana State went to Mumbai and held discussions on Pranahita Project. After this meeting it was clear that government of Maharashtra is not agreeable for construction of a barrage on river Pranahita as it submerges large chunks of lands in their state. Again a Second meeting was also held which did not break the ice.

Kaleshwaram Project:

Government of Telangana has reexamined the whole project and decided that sufficient water may not be available at Tummidu Hetti and also to minimize the submergence has modified entire project structure (Re- engineering) and decided to take up 3 additional projects at Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla villages. Administrative sanctions were given to these new project vide G.O.s 231,232 and 233 dated 1-3-2016 respectively, while retaining the Pranahita Chevella project in reduced stage to provide water to Adilabad district only. The three new barrages are treated as part of Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project.

In this way the utilization of water from Pranahita River which was initiated in 1975 has taken many twists and turns. Now the Kaleshwaram project is likely to cost about 80 thousand crores. The following are the issues which needs clarification

1. Till now about 8 thousand crores are spent Pranahita Chevella Project mostly around Chevella, which is now a wasteful expenditure as in reengineering Kaleshwaram project water will not reach Chevella.
2. The benefit cost analysis of new Kaleshwaram project shows that per acre capital cost to provide water will be about 6 lakhs and recurring cost towards power charges to lift the water will be Rs.15

thousand per Ac. per annum. In the present political atmosphere no government will dare to collect the electricity charges from farmers and have to be provided from state budget. The project appears to be not cost effective.

3. Land acquisition both forest and non-forest is going to be time consuming and costly.
4. As per accepted norms one T.M.C. of water is required to provide irrigation to 10 thousand acres. In this project about 120 T.M.C. water is said to irrigate 20 lakh acres which needs clarification.

To dispel the doubts about Kaleshwaram project, Hon'able Chief Minister has made a detailed power point presentation in the assembly which was interesting. But ultimately the tax payer (common man) has a right to know the finer details of this mega project which is going to change the lives of Telangana people.

Hence a white paper on Kaleshwaram project especially providing clarity on estimated cost source of funding, technical feasibility, power source, cost effectiveness, timeline etc. is needed. It is an accepted fact that democracy requires an informed citizenry and transparency of information which are vital to its functioning and also to contain corruption and to hold governments and their instrumentalities accountable to the governed.

URDU AT CROSSROADS

By

Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai

Background:Urdu within India had faced many a turbulent times: a great shift had taken place after we gained Independence in 1947, towards its maintainability. There had been many roadblocks to its progress, though a number of organizations & individuals — with and without the support of the Union Govt. — had worked to preserve it and ensure its education to younger generations. With so much of a sympathy of our first Prime Minister and the Govt. of India had for Urdu, the best that could be done was to provide funds and back the organizations that supported this language which was native to India — examining the progress of these organizations at an individual & small community level, followed by the role of larger and independent organizations.

Urdu belongs to the composite culture of India. Hindi and Urdu are complimentary and supplementary — they are in fact like sisters strengthening each other.

Hindi films which are immensely popular in the country had greatly helped the spread of Urdu which they use profusely, to spread popular culture and street life. They also have bridged the gap between Urdu and Hindi in Indian Culture, while wide use of Urdu indicates that a vast no. of people in the population do understand and appreciate Urdu — although they may not be able to read & write Urdu script.

Present Situation:A somewhat twisted interpretation of the three language formula, devised by the Govt. of India, is a device by which the State Governments attacked Urdu — by adopting the language of the State, Hindi and English by most of the State, while the Hindi-speaking states chose Sanskrit as the allied Classic Language (or “modern” language), to be taught in schools. As a result, Urdu which was

taught before Independence in the area which one might call the heartland of Urdu — Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh and even Jharkhand — was discontinued. It is a different story that Urdu became a casualty in the area covered by the erstwhile Hyderabad State after the State was trifurcated, since it was the medium of instruction in schools & colleges and also as it was the Official Language of the State for the first half of twentieth century.

Most of the Urdu speakers as at present do not know the Urdu written scripts. So, giving these people access to Urdu literary works in the Devanagari-script would perhaps further serve the cause of Urdu, seeing to an increasingly important audience for Urdu literature, presented in English-script amongst second-generation immigrants from Urdu-speaking areas within Europe and the US. The comparison between writings from the East and those of the West is constantly under way — so many authors from both sides have contributed to this discussion which reflects on the characteristics of the text, including concepts of reality and humanistic relationships.

Conclusion:Urdu language had seen many shifts in support throughout its long history and as the times change, people led by their Governments, fall in line and certain languages go out of favor. However where the use of Urdu is a cause for which many people and organizations have been working to uphold, it is the mix of these efforts, along with popular interest developed by films as also ongoing research, which ensures that classical Urdu texts will be preserved and the language promoted as such.

RESCUING THE DYING FORESTS OF INDIA

By
Dr.AKULA KISHAN

1. INTRODUCTION

FORESTS PRECEDE CIVILIZATION AND DESERTS SUCCEEDED THEM

The above saying is tested in history and it is true that the many civilizations flourished and vanished depending on the conservation of forests. Wherever the forests were revered the people of that era flourished and they were sustained for many generations. And where they were neglected the people faced starvation and penury.

The importance of forests is getting recognized by one and all due to the vagaries of nature in the shape of drought or floods. The planners in India have recognized the importance and are proposing intensive and extensive measures to conserve retain and improve the forests.

In earlier days the population was less and geographical area was much more than the requirements of population and there was enough forest cover for humans and wild animals. The abundance of forests ensured ecological equilibrium and the pollution was hardly heard of. There was sufficient water and forage and the forests sustained the people and their cattle by providing fuel, fodder and herbal medicines, fibers etc. The major forest produce like timber was sufficiently available and the

minor forest produce like honey, oils, lac, different seeds etc. were sufficiently available. The people used to utilize these resources to the extent of their requirements and as each habitation had its resources there was no competition for the resources between habitations. There was individual and society control over the resources.

The scenario changed over the times with increase in population and invasion by foreigners. The agrarian economy of the olden days was mostly pastoral and the wealth of the individual was assessed on the number of cattle heads one possessed. And many a times the fights or wars broke out for capturing the cattle. The demand on the forest resources raised and there was need for increasing the land under agricultural cultivation. The lands under forest cover were cleared for increasing the arable land and also for setting up new habitations. The greed of individuals increased and the cornering of land and forest resources increased for personal gain. The moral control began to wane and the State had to begin the control and exploitation of the forest resources.

With the reduction in forest cover there is perceptible change in the weather conditions,

which is directly proportional to the loss of forest cover. Most of the forest areas are denuded and degraded and are becoming barren wastelands, and whatever natural forest growth is left is in inaccessible areas, mostly in tribal areas. Foreseeing the pressure on forests, the Britishers have felt that some of the forest areas should be demarcated as 'reserved forests' for posterity, and sufficient forest area was left as buffer zone to meet the needs of the local people and the community. But with the passage of time and with the increase in population, the buffer zones disappeared and, therefore, the entire pressure is on 'reserved forests' as can be seen from the data presented below:

OWNERSHIP	FOREST AREA IN MILLIONS HECTARES		
	1946-47	1950-51	1986-87
Government for-est Community & Private forest	26.16	53.82	66.65
	13.78	14.20	08.53

As can be seen from the data the buffer area kept under control of community and private persons has reduced compared to the increase in forest area under Government control. The availability of major and minor forest produce is becoming scarce day by day and the increased transport facilities and the greed of persons living within and outside forest areas under government control, the different tactics adopted by the forest smugglers is causing fast depletion of forests compared to the efforts made by the

Government for increasing the land under forest cover.

The participatory system of forest management is getting good results in areas where dedicated efforts are made by the government officials and the inhabitants of the habitation. In the participatory system of management the responsibility of protection of forest resources has become the joint responsibility of forest department and the villagers. The villagers are given full rights over the minor forest produce available in the forest areas given to their control, and they are also roped in preparing the plans for development of forest resources depending on their locality factors.

However, the attitudinal changes take some time to occur and the ideal conditions when the forests will redeem their pristine glory is very far off as the depletion is occurring at fast pace and the joint efforts by the forest department and the forest dependent habitations are not comparable to the depletion rate. Mother Nature has taken millions of years' time to build the forest ecosystem which is destroyed by man in no time. The time and monetary resources will not match the Mother Nature and it is impossible to reconstruct the ecology within a short period.

The moral control and control by the society is taking a back stage and personal interest and

personal gain at the cost of others has become the rule of the day. The voluntary conservation efforts are yielding results in very few cases and the conservation of forests, though a community need, is becoming difficult to be achieved. The compulsion by way of duties cast by the Constitution of India and various enactments relating to Conservation of natural resources and forests are making the individuals to initiate action, at least in limited manner.

2. WHY TO CONSERVE FORESTS?

The Conservation of Forests is dependent upon survival of mankind in various ways. Forests provide us with tangible and intangible benefits. Some of them are;

1. Timber derived from forests is used in construction of houses and in furniture making etc.
2. Fuel- wood is the universal fuel, even today half of the total world consumption of wood is for fuel. Approximately 175 million cubic meters of wood is used as fuel in India.
3. Raw material to number of industries such as paper and pulp, plywood, saw mills etc.
4. Fibers are obtained from certain woody plants which are used in making ropes etc.
5. Fodder in the shape of grasses and leaves are available from forests.
6. Many forest species yield oils which are used in preparation of soaps, chemicals etc.
7. Gums and resins obtained from trees are

used in many ways.

8. Medicinal plants – number of medicinal plants available from forests.
9. Lac and other products, tendu leaves, tanning material and dyes are available from forests.
10. The protective and ameliorative functions of the forests are of great importance. Some of them are:
 - a. The carbon dioxide and oxygen balance is maintained by the forests.
 - b. Forests increase local precipitation by about 5-10% by creating conditions favorable for the condensation of the clouds.
 - c. Forests reduce temperature and increase humidity. It also reduces evaporation losses.
 - d. Forests maintain the productivity of soil by adding large quantity of organic matter and recycling of nutrients.
 - e. Tree crowns reduce the velocity of the wind and act as shelter belts.
 - f. Forests check the floods and about 15-30% of rainfall is intercepted by forests which are percolated down to the ground water aquifers.
 - g. Forests control wind and soil erosion and thus conserve soil and water.
10. Forests provide recreation facilities to the people. National Parks and Sanctuaries are visited by

number of people.

11. Forests provide educational functions in the shape of field experiments for students for the purpose of taxonomy and ecological studies.

13. Large number of people is employed in forestry. Many persons living in remote areas find work nearer to their habitations.

Mangroves along the coastline play a crucial role during natural disasters. The tsunami of December 26, 2004, destroyed property worth billions of rupees and took away lives of nearly 300,000 people.

On 27-11-1981, Smt. Indira Gandhi directed all the Chief Ministers of all Coastal States to ensure that the entire coastline should be protected from environmental degradation. It was directed to keep 500 mt. strip of coastline free from all other development. Unfortunately, the directions of the Prime Minister had no legal basis, and the directions were not seriously enforced. Mangroves are salt tolerant characteristic complex plant communities occurring in sheltered coastline areas in the tropical and sub-tropical inter tidal regions of the world, such as bays, estuaries, lagoons and creeks. Mangroves

provide important nutrient inputs and act as primary sources of energy for tropical estuaries. Biomass productivity of mangroves is relatively high and they act as reservoir in assimilation of wastes. Mangroves stabilize the devastating impact of hurricanes and cyclones as well as encroachment by the sea and check soil erosion. Mangroves also provide a wide variety of goods and services such as durable timbers, fuel wood of high calorific values, proteins rich fodder for cattle, edible fruits and vegetables and traditional medicines.

Of late, the fragile Mangrove ecosystem has been subjected to various anthropogenic and biotic pressures resulting in habitat destructions, loss of bio-diversity, affecting avifauna and their migration paths. Unsustainable aquaculture, siltation, weed infestation, uncontrolled discharge of waste water, industrial effluents, surface run-off, encroachment around the water bodies etc. which is resulting in shrinkage of their area. Effective measures are needed to save the mangrove ecosystem.

The result of precipitation/rainfall on different types of land surfaces is given below:

Item	Forest area	Agricultural area
1. Base flow	10%	10%
2. Subsurface consumption by trees and shrubs/agriculture	30%	25%
3. Subsurface run off	20%	05%
4. Surface run off	05%	35%
5. Land surface – consumption by herbs and ground vegetation	10%	10%
6. Interception	25%	15%

The sub surface run off and surface run off in forest areas when compared to open land/ agricultural area, show that in forest areas, the ground water is recharged whereas, in open areas it is allowed to run free to join the oceans. The splash erosion by raindrops is also prevented by the leaves of the trees and other vegetation as the drops are intercepted before they touch the ground. The splash erosion loosens the compact soil and makes the soil vulnerable by either surface run off or by wind erosion. This activity thus makes the top fertile layer of the soil to disappear leaving the barren and not so useful surfaces for agricultural and other vegetative growth. The rainfall is also intercepted by the branches and trunk of the trees and the water is made to slowly run down the tree trunk and reach the soil. The slow movement of water enables its effective absorption by soil easier.

The forests act as carbon sinks for the world, as they absorb the carbon di-oxide and other harmful gases and by combining with the sun light cause photosynthesis, to produce much needed oxygen.

The roots of the trees and other vegetation are spread in soil, hold the soil from breaking up, and go by different types of erosion. It is established fact that the forest growth lessens the fury of floods and also lessens the quantity of soil being washed away in rainwater.

It is also an established fact that the green cover of forest creates humid atmosphere, which attracts the clouds passing above them. The precipitation or rainfall pattern thus differs from non-forest areas.

The trees and shrubs create a microclimate, which enables small organisms to grow and also enables regeneration process to take place. It creates ideal habitat for small animals to live in

and multiply. The difference in temperature and humidity in forest stands and outside is remarkable. The lower temperatures are conducive for healthy growth of man and animals.

Hence, the imperative for conservation, protection and improvement of forests, which give the immense benefits to mankind

3. WHY TO CONSERVE WILD LIFE?

The wild life in India comprises of about 500 species of mammals, 3000 species of birds, reptiles etc. and 30,000 other forms of life.

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru the first Prime Minister of India referred to wild life as *'wild life – that is how we refer to the magnificent animals of our jungles and to the beautiful birds that brighten our lives. I wonder sometimes what these birds and animals think of man and how they would describe him; if they had the capacity to do so. I rather doubt if their description would be very complementary to man. In spite of our culture and civilization, in many ways, man continues to be not only wild but more dangerous than any of the so-called animals. Life would be very dull and colorless if we do not have these magnificent animals and birds to look at and to play with. We should, therefore, encourage as many sanctuaries as possible for preservation of what yet remains of our wild life.'*

The biological pyramid consists of a bottom layer of small insects and micro-organisms and the predators like Tiger, Lion etc. occupy the top

of the pyramid. Each layer/level of the pyramid is interrelated and if any level/layer disappears or becomes extinct, the sustainability of the animals in the higher levels will be at stake. The clear example of this kind of situation is the frequent entry of panthers/leopards into villages and towns/cities in search of food and water. The normal habitat of these animals was encroached upon and the food materials such as small animals have disappeared with the vanishing habitat/forests. Therefore, there is no alternative for the predators but to enter the human habitations.

Another example of the animal – plant relationship is found in China, where the sparrows and birds were killed systematically. The small pests in the agricultural crops were removed by the sparrows and birds. As the birds have been killed by man, the occurrence of pests on crop land increased many fold.

One more example which can be seen in India is the disappearance of the common vulture from the skies. The vulture was nature's scavenger and was seen hovering at all types of places wherever some dead organism was found. The increase use of pesticides in the fodder made the dead animals ingest the chemicals in their body tissues. The vultures thus came into contact with the deadly chemicals and have reached almost the level

of extinction within a span of ten years by 97% decline in their population.

The importance of conservation of wildlife cannot be understood, as the disappearance of an insect or animal may not have direct visible effect on the locality where they are commonly seen. The absence of these insects and animals can be felt at a later time when some loss or damage, which can be observed, occurs.

The co-existence of man, animal and forests is essential for the survival of man, animal and forests.

The above narrative on the need to conserve, forests and wildlife shows that apart from the efforts to be done by the policy planner, the legislature and judiciary have to perform their roles. The theory of separation of powers casts equal responsibility on the executive, legislature and judiciary to take steps for the conservation of forests and protection of wildlife.

Therefore, there is urgent need to support the efforts made by the Government to protect and conserve the available forest resources by enacting stringent laws and strengthening the existing laws by ensuring proper enforcement. The role of judiciary is of immense importance in this regard. And it is heartening to note that the Apex court has come to the rescue of Government in laying down law of the land in uncompromising terms through landmark judgments.

4. POLITICAL HISTORY

The civilizations of Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa date back to 5000 BC. The reasons for perishing of the Indus Valley Civilization are not clearly known but there is evidence to show that people during that period used wood for obtaining energy and for producing bricks and at the same time they venerated the trees. The supreme God of the Indus Valley Civilization was believed to live in **Peepal** (Raavi) (*Ficus religiosa*) tree. Peepal and babul plants were considered to have descended from heavens. The people were few and their requirements did not exceed the annual growth of forest.

The entire country was divided into small kingdoms and they were too occupied to fight wars than devote time for resource conservation. A relatively big empire was established by Chandragupta Mourya in 300 BC. Chanakya the Prime Minister of Chandra Gupta Mourya realized the need for forest conservation and administration. He appointed a Superintendent of Forest and divided the forests on functional basis. The forest produce considered most valuable in those days was Elephant and the punishment for unauthorized killing of elephant was death. The functional classification of forests was as follows:

- i) Forests for the study of religion.
- ii) Forests for supply of forest produce.

- iii) Forests for grazing by royal elephants.
- iv) Forests for hunting by royalty.
- v) Forests open to public for hunting.

The ruler was not only to protect produce-forest, elephant-forest but also setup new forest stands.

Forest was grown for their produce and persons working in such forests were settled there.

Penalties were imposed for cutting tender seedlings, branches of trees and cutting trees.

The Superintendent of Forest was to bring the forest produce to the factories where the same is processed. The price of the produce was controlled and monitored by the ruler. Wild animals and birds were also given sufficient protection. Animals from reserved parks or protected areas when found moving in a field the same have to be driven away back to their habitat without being hurt or killed.

After the Golden Age of The Guptas, which ended in 673 B.C., the conditions reverted back to the pre-Gupta period and there was lot of political instability aggravated by repeated aggressions by foreigners. Due to the internal conflicts and wars, the people were forced to abandon their habitations and seek new shelters by clearing forests.

The Moghuls did not make concerted effort for forest conservation though they specified certain trees as 'royal trees' and collected a fee for their felling and removal

The Moghuls were only indifferent to forests; the British Administrators were predators. Until about middle of 19th century, the British Administrators managed the forests of India for:

- i) exporting large quantities of Indian timber for British navy,
- ii) using of extensive timber for building constructions,
- iii) encouraging agriculture by clearing large areas of forests.

Captain Watson of Police was appointed as first Conservator of Forests in 1806 for procuring timber for British navy from Travancore and Malabar. The post was abolished in 1823.

The first step towards forest conservation was taken by Connolly, the then District Collector of Malabar in 1842, who was assisted by Chatu Menon, a sub Conservator of Forests. The teak plantations raised by them have become a model for raising teak plantations elsewhere in the country. The efforts of Connolly made the Directors of East India Company to realize the need to improve the forests. They appointed Gibson as Conservator of Forests Bombay presidency in 1847 and Dr. Hugh Francis Cleghorna Medical Surgeon was appointed in 1856 as Conservator of Forests, Madras. These officers followed the plantation technique adopted by Connolly and raised extensive teak plantations. No efforts were made either to

regulate the fellings or to improve the forests in Central and Northern India till Declaration of Royal Proclamation in 1858. In the years following Royal Proclamation, the destruction of forests was rampant throughout the country. The requirement of timber for laying new railway lines across the country was one of the main reasons for the destruction.

The scientific forest management started in 1864 with the appointment of Dietrich Brandis, a trained German Forester as Inspector General of Forests. The objective of forest management changed from procuring supplies of timber for various purposes to conserving to protecting the forests. The Government of India took a decision to treat forests as State property. The ownership rights of individuals was abolished or controlled. Forest administration was streamlined and trained foresters were kept as managers of the resource.

The Forest Policies and Forest Act enabled the Britishers during the pre-independence period and the Indians after Independence to control, conserve and improve the forests and wild life.

5. LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

As soon as Brandis was appointed as Inspector General of forests, Cleghorn was deputed to assist him. They developed a methodical system of forest management in India and also felt the need for independent enactment. The Indian Forest Act 1865 was enacted with the aim of

preventing injuries to forest. Under this Act, the local governments were allowed to make local rules suitable to their respective areas.

In 1869, the Forest Service was reorganized and all the officers from different Provinces were included in the General List and classified into Conservators of Forests, Dy. Conservators of Forests and Asst. Conservators of Forests.

A revised Indian Forest Act 1878 was passed which extended to all Provinces of British India with exception of Madras, Coorg, Burma, Bihar, the Hissar district of Punjab, Ajmer and Baluchistan. The Act provided for creation of Reserve and Protected forests. The Madras Government passed its own Forest Act of 1882.

The Movement for Indian Home Rule in 1916 and the Non-cooperation Movement created general defiance against Forest Laws and the Forest destruction was enormous during the period. Damage to forests was caused by fire and unnecessary fellings in Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh to protest against the British Rule.

The Indian Forest Act, 1927 was enacted repealing the previous enactments on the subject. This Act dealt with Reserved Forests, Village Forests and Protected Forests and prescribes penalties and procedure for forest Offences. The Indian forest Act, 1927 is a major step in conservation and protection of Forests.

The Act was adopted in British India and later it is adopted in independent India by all the States. The subject of Forests is in concurrent list and, therefore, some of the States in Indian Union have separate State laws without conflicting with the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927.

The following States have their own forest Acts:

1. Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh Forest Act, 1967

2. Assam

The Assam Forest Regulations, 1891

3. Kerala

The Kerala Forest Act, 1961

4. Karnataka

The Karnataka Forest Act, 1963

5. Tamilnadu

The Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882

6. Rajasthan

The Rajasthan Forest Act, 1953

7. Orissa

The Orissa Forest Act, 1972

Separate enactments are also made by different States for preservation of Private Forests. Private forests include all the forest areas outside Government control. Some of them are The Tamilnadu Preservation of Private Forest Act, 1949, The West Bengal Private Forest Act, 1948 and Kerala Private Forest (Assumption of Management) Act, 1957. In Andhra Pradesh the Forest Act of 1967 was amended by introducing Chapter IIIA for preservation of Private Forests,

mainly situated in Scheduled Areas of the State.

Wild Birds Protection Act, 1887 was the first enactment in British India for protection of Wildlife, whereas, Wild Elephants Preservation Act, 1879 extended to certain provinces only. The Wild Birds Protection Act which prohibited the possession and sale of certain specified Birds during their breeding season was applicable to Municipalities and Cantonments and not to other areas. There was no ban on killing of wild birds and animals and to prevent indiscriminate killing of wild animals, Government of India passed Wild Birds and Animals Protection Act, 1912. The Act of 1912 prohibited the killing or capturing of wild animals and birds and the Wildlife considered endangered was listed in the schedules. Wild Birds and Animals Protection Act, 1935 was issued as an amendment to Act of 1912. In the Schedule of Act of 1935 large number of birds and animals were included for protection. The Act also provided for creation of sanctuary for protection and growth of wild animals and birds. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 is a comprehensive Act for protection of Wild animals. The Act deals with protection of endangered species of flora and fauna, and prescribes severe penalties for offenders. An Important aspect of Wild life law is that the onus of proof is on the accused and not on the prosecution.

6. FOREST POLICIES:

There are three forest policies formulated so far to give direction to the forest administration and management of forests and also to define the role of public in the forest protection. These policies help the planner to plan for future forest development with the aims and objectives of the policy in mind. The policy also helps the judiciary in reading the mind of the government and is useful while interpreting the enactments made.

The three policies are:

1. Forest Policy, 1894
2. The Indian Forest Policy, 1952 and
3. The Indian Forest Policy, 1988

The First Forest Policy was formulated in **1894**.

The Policy aimed at giving priority to agriculture than forest preservation and it also enunciated that the public benefit should be the sole object of forest administration. The policy classified the forests as follows:

- a. Forests, the preservation of which is essential on climatic or physical grounds.
- b. Forests, which offered a supply of valuable timber for commercial purposes.
- c. Minor Forests which produce only inferior timber
- d. Pasture lands.

Analysis of 1894 Policy

The first policy was implemented to some extent in the areas under the control of the British

and it was a guideline for unorganized setup of administration, therefore, the results of implementation are not encouraging. The policy had following drawbacks:

1. It subordinated forests to agriculture, by giving preference to increase in agricultural area by felling forests
2. It did not give priority to protection and regulation of Forests
3. The requirements of people were to be met but not on the management principle of sustained yield, and
4. No measures were suggested for saving forests from the practices of shifting cultivation and uncontrolled grazing.

The Second Forest Policy was made in **1952**

made good the inadequacies of old forest policy. The priority for agriculture was removed and the protection of forests was given importance. It aimed at keeping one third of geographical area of the country under forest cover. It proposed a forest cover of at least 20% in plain areas where there is less problem of soil erosion and stipulated 60% area to be under vegetative cover in hills where there is problem of soil erosion. The management principle of sustained yield was to be followed in harvesting the forest areas. The grazing was to be controlled to prevent degradation of Forests, and grazing by goats in forests is to be prohibited.

The six paramount needs that were kept in mind while formulating the Forest Policy were as follows:

1. The need for evolving a system of balanced and complementary land use, under which each type of land is allotted to that form of land use under which it will produce most and deteriorate least;

2. The need for checking:-

(a) Denudation in mountainous regions, on which depends the perennial water supply of the river system

whose basins constitute the fertile core of the country;

(b) The erosion progressing rate along the treeless banks of the great rivers leading to ravine formation,

and on vast stretches of undulating wastelands depriving the adjoining field of their fertility;

(c) The invasion of sea sands on coastal tracts, and the shifting of sand dunes, more particularly in

Rajputana desert;

3. The need for establishing tree lands, wherever possible, for the amelioration of physical and climatic conditions promoting the general wellbeing of the people;

4. The need for ensuring progressively increasing supplies of grazing, small wood for agricultural implements, and in particular of firewood to release the cattle dung for manure to step up food production;

5. The need for sustained supply of timber and

other forest produce required for defense, communications and industry;

6. The need for the realization of the maximum annual revenue in perpetuity consistent with the fulfillment of the needs enumerated above.

Having regard to aims stated above the **functional classification** of Forests, both State owned and privately owned, was done as follows:

(a) **Protection forests** – those forests which must be preserved or created for physical and climatic considerations ;

(b) **National forests** – those which have to be maintained and managed to meet the needs of defense, communications, industry, and other general purposes of public importance ;

(c) **Village forests** – those which have to be maintained to provide firewood to release cow dung for manure, and to yield small timber for agricultural implements and other forest produce for local requirements and to provide grazing for cattle;

(d) **Tree lands** – those areas, which though outside the scope of the ordinary forest management are essential for the amelioration of physical conditions of the country.

The functional classification was made illustrative recognizing the multifarious role of a forest, which performs more than one function, and is therefore to be managed for the highest efficiency for the function for which it is chosen. The functional classification is different from the statutory classification of

forests mentioned in the Indian Forest Act, 1927. The policy provide for consideration of local interests to the extent possible without sacrificing the national interests of future generations.

The policy provides for revamping forest administration and education, training of field staff and taking up forest research.

Analysis of 1952 policy

The aims of forest policy were idealistic and, therefore, realization of ideals is difficult task. The functional classification of forests remained on paper and it is not transformed into practice.

The National Commission of Agriculture set up in 1970 studied the conservation and protection of forests and suggested that the investment in the forestry sector has to be increased by tapping the funds from private financial institutions. Based on this recommendation different State Governments set up the State Forest Development Corporations and these Corporations are borrowing funds from Consortium of Banks backed by Government guarantee. The Commission also studied the requirement of forest resources based on demand and supply. For preventing the encroachment in forest areas by the deprived classes in the rural sectors efforts were to be made for employment generation to them.

The increased biotic pressure on forest is not allowing the existing 22% of forest cover to be retained leave alone increasing it to the ideal situation of 33% as envisaged in the policy.

In forest administration the Indian Forest Service was started since 1966 to have uniform trained personnel all over the country that can implement and formulate the policies keeping the National considerations in mind.

The forestry research is recognized and many Institutions are set up all over the country for this purpose. However, the research is not comparable to the extent of research in agricultural sector. In agricultural sector, due to short gestation period the results are known within a cropping period whereas for forest trees the period is spread over many years and the continuous study is not being made. However efforts should be made by utilizing the genetic engineering to speed up the process of growth and maturity of forest trees at a lesser period.

The protection of forests remained the major responsibility of forest staff. And the staff was unable to perform their duties to the desired extent due to infrastructural difficulties such as lack of mobility, lack of communications, increased workload etc.

Keeping the shortcomings of 1952 policy in view the third forest policy was formulated.

The third Forest Policy was formulated in **1988**, and it is being continued to date. The new policy was necessary as extensive diversion of forestland has taken place for non-forestry purposes, and the genetic diversity is considerably affected by destruction of forests. The new policy lays emphasis on the

conservation and ecological aspects. The salient features of 1988 policy are:

1. Maintenance of environmental stability through preservation and restoration of ecological balance.
2. Conservation of the natural heritage of the country by preserving the remaining natural forests and protecting the vast genetic resources for the benefit of posterity.
3. Meeting the basic needs of the people for fuel wood, fodder and small timber for the rural and tribal people.
4. Maintain the intrinsic relationship between forests and the tribal and other poor people living in and around forests by protecting their customary rights and concessions on the forests.

The approach is envisaged as follows:

1. The existing forestland and forests will be fully protected and efforts will be made to improve their productivity. Efforts will be made to improve the forest cover on the hill slopes and catchments areas of rivers to prevent soil erosion.
2. To conserve the biological diversity number of sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserves and other protected areas will be increased and the existing ones will be better maintained.
3. Involvement people in forest protection, conservation and management will be increased.
4. Massive tree planting programme is to

be taken under social forestry sector.

Analysis of current forest policy

The forest policy has greatly encouraged the need for joint efforts by people and the Government for protecting, conserving and improving the forests. The policy made almost all the States in the country to take up Joint Forest management/ Community Forest Management with the involvement of village communities in planning and implementation of Forestry works, soil and moisture conservation works. The people suggest what is suited for their village surroundings depending on their conventional knowledge and it is supported by the technical inputs by the forest department.

The forest policy apart from giving responsibility to people has not stipulated the action to be taken on the forest offenders, as the existing laws did not provide for the new situation. The movement of protection of forests by the people for their own needs is to be supplemented by stringent legislation.

The socio-legal problems involved in dealing with the problem of forest encroachments needs to be answered. Land is not a resource, which can be extended or stretched to meet the growing requirements of land for the growing population. The existing resource is to be utilized by proper land use pattern. The forcible eviction of thousands of encroachers is not feasible and, therefore, they have to be

provided efficacious alternate means of livelihood.

The enacted legislation and the policies framed have not descended to grass root level of administration. The duties and responsibilities of a person in respect of environmental considerations and conservation of forests is nearly forgotten. In the earlier period of history the Rajas or Zamindars used to see that everyone in the population under their control perform their assigned duties. The trend continued till Independence. After Independence, the Constitution of India is written and given unto ourselves, guaranteeing the fundamental rights. The Constitutional guarantees gave one and all to behave as they please, giving personal gain and other personal benefit priority over the community or national needs. In the earlier days of Independence the Legislatures were filled by elected representatives who hailed from legal fraternity, and who struggled for the welfare of the people around and the community. The recent analysis of the background of members of Legislatures shows a dismal and alarming picture as persons with tainted background and criminal record gain entry into Legislatures and became policy planners! It is time that the rule of policy planner is to be seriously looked into. The three organs of the Government, namely the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary have to function effectively for making India a developed country.

In our country we have enough natural resources, and sufficient man power and highly intellectual personalities, but most of the time developmental works do not achieve the goals which are aimed at when the projects are initiated. The difficulty is in attitudes and outlook of the implementing agencies who sometimes fails to understand the spirit behind the goals enunciated and the means adopted for achieving the goals.

Forest and wildlife are such natural resources, which have to be dealt and nurtured carefully so that only incremental growth in forest is utilized leaving the principal (tree growth) intact for future needs. Similarly in good forest stands which support diverse flora, the fauna (wild animals) survive well. The wildlife and forest can be put to commercial use also by encouraging eco-tourism, which makes the urban dweller experience the bliss of forest and wildlife habitat.

The policy had made the people aware of the need for conservation and protection of forests. But the communities which live in and around forest areas and who do not have any settled vocation are interested in clearing the forest areas for the sake of few bags of annual dry crop of Jawar etc. The provision of making the resource dependent population to take steps to retain the forest areas for posterity is a big challenge for the planner as well as the enforcing agencies. **(To be continued)**

A PEEP INTO INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY – 2016

By
V. V. Hari Prasad

Mahati auditorium of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams of Tirupati became the venue of "International Day for Biological Diversity – 2016" celebration conducted by A.P. State Biodiversity Board. Live animals of different breeds namely Ongole bull, Punganur Cow, ox and Haryana Breed cattle were exhibited in the stall arranged by TTD, Goshala under the guidance of Dr. Harinath Reddy, the Director. Prof. Ramana of Veterinary University, Tirupati took all the pains in displaying different exhibits including live birds of different species. Stalls comprising the tall plants, display boards on biodiversity, bunch of paddy grain, different kinds of medicinal plants displayed by A.P. Forest Department and others drew the attention of hundreds of visitors who thronged at the stalls to have a glimpse of biological diversity.

Honorable Minister for Environment, Forests, Science and Technology and Co-operation Sri. Bojjala Gopala Krishna Reddy inaugurated the stalls and also the celebration.

The programme started with Kathak dances performed by young girls of DK Academy of dancing, Tirupati. The young girls with their enchanting performance forced the audience to keep glued to their seats. The Magician Ali of International repute performed magic leaving the spectators in a state of bewilderment trying to get down to the nitty gritty of the show. After lighting up of the lamp by the Hon'ble Minister the Sri A. V. Joseph, IFS chairman APSBD Board delivered the welcome address. He narrated

about the developments that took place at international and National level right from CBD (Convention of biological Diversity) to enactment of biological Diversity Act 2002 passed by Indian Parliament. He elaborated on the need of conservation of biological diversity. Honorable Minister in his address exhorted the importance of biodiversity and its conservation in a sustainable manner. He went on narrating about the importance of even honey bees which can forecast the rain fall well in advance. He distributed "Biological conservers' Awards 2016" to Sri N.V. Sivaramaprasad, Asst. Conservator of Forests who is presently working as DCF, TTD, Tirupati, Kum. Aparna, a research scholar from Andhra University, Sreenivasulu a free lance journalist from Visakhapatnam and four others for their contribution in the conservation of biodiversity and creating awareness in this regard..

Later Sri A. V. Joseph, IFS the chairman distributed mementos to two District Biodiversity Coordinators selected as Best DBCs of Andhra Pradesh and prizes to the students who won them in essay writing competitions conducted on "Importance of Biological Diversity". About six hundred participants took part in the celebration and the programme came to an end with the vote of thanks rendered by Smt M. S. Padma Kumari, Member Secretary, A. P. State Biodiversity Board.

(Please see last cover page for photos)

EAT LOTS OF SWEET POTATOES - QUITE INTERESTING INDEED!

It's been said that God first separated the salt water from the fresh, made dry land, planted a garden, made animals and fish... All before making a human

He made and provided what we'd need before we were born. These are best & more powerful when eaten raw. We're such slow learners...God left us a great clue as to what foods help what part of our body!

God's Pharmacy! Amazing!A sliced Carrot looks like the human eye. The pupil, iris and radiating lines look just like the human eye... And YES, science now shows carrots greatly enhance blood flow to and function of the eyes.

A Tomato has four chambers and is red. The heart has four chambers and is red. All of the research shows tomatoes are loaded with lycopene and are indeed pure heart and blood food.

Grapes hang in a cluster that has the shape of the heart. Each grape looks like a blood cell and all of the research today shows grapes are also profound heart and blood vitalizing food.

A Walnut looks like a little brain, a left and right hemisphere, upper cerebrums and lower cerebellums. Even the wrinkles or folds on the nut are just like the neo-cortex. We now know walnuts help develop more than three (3) dozen

neuron-transmitters for brain function.

Kidney Beans actually heal and help maintain kidney function and yes, they look exactly like the human kidneys.

Celery, Bok Choy, Rhubarb and many more look just like bones. These foods specifically target bone strength. Bones are 23% sodium and these foods are 23% sodium. If you don't have enough sodium in your diet, the body pulls it from the bones, thus making them weak. These foods replenish the skeletal needs of the body.

Avocadoes, Eggplant and Pears target the health and function of the womb and cervix of the female - they look just like these organs. Today's research shows that when a woman eats one avocado a week, it balances hormones, sheds unwanted birth weight, and prevents cervical cancers. And how profound is this? It takes exactly nine (9) months to grow an avocado from blossom to ripened fruit. There are over 14,000 photolytic chemical constituents of nutrition in each one of these foods (modern science has only studied and named about 141 of them).

Figs are full of seeds and hang in twos when they grow. Figs increase the mobility of male sperm and increase the numbers of Sperm as well to overcome male sterility.

Sweet Potatoes look like the pancreas and

actually balance the glycemic index of diabetics. Olives assist the health and function of the ovaries.

Oranges, Grapefruits, and other Citrus fruits look just like the mammary glands of the female and actually assist the health of the breasts and the movement of lymph in and out of the breasts.

Onions look like the body's cells. Today's research

shows onions help clear waste materials from all of the body cells. They even produce tears which wash the epithelial layers of the eyes. A working companion, Garlic, also helps eliminate waste materials and dangerous free radicals from the body.

Courtesy: K.J.M. Reddy, Canada.

CANCER

By
Riya

Cancer

I hate that word

It is a merciless and cruel illness.

It's a word people hate to be diagnosed with,

It's just like a bully,

It snatches your most valuable possession: your life just

Because you seem to happy

But why does cancer have to take someone away,

Can't anyone still be healthy?

Without having to worry all the time about their health

Can't anyone live their entire life without being pocked?

And prodded and waiting for their deaths to come

Can't we get a second chance and talk?

With those lovedones who have passed away.

Can't somebody not have to cry each night

Wishing theywere with their loved ones

Cancer

I hate that word

(Editor's Note Riya is great Grand Daughter of Mr. KBR. Reddy)

DROUGHT FREE BIOSPHERE FOR FUTURE

By
-Nagabhushanam Dasari

Smoothly heart touching wonderful fumes of fragrance
Came out from blossomed soil particles of earth crust
Roasted severely in scorching summer sun flames
After hugging cheerfully with first rain drops
Sprinkled from dark black heavy frozen clouds with breeze

The newly formed tender green leaves are smiling with serene
All trees are dancing with different postures of branches
Beautiful multi-color flowers are laying welcome path ways
To rainy season, this will give life to all living beings

Nature wealth including flora and fauna of the Forests
People and farmers extending tributes for timely rains
To the rain God with overwhelming happy tears & praying hands
Let Us harvest maximum quantum of rain water without wasting
By stopping encroachments and de-silting of all tanks & lakes
Reduce the speedy flow of water by creating soak pits & rock fill dams
Intensive network of check dams and innumerable staggered trenches

Stop the deaths of farmers by proper designing of projects
By making optimum utility of stored water of Sacred Rivers
Like exemplary intelligent & interlinking work of the Kakatiya dynasty
Duly increasing capacity of storages & avoiding waste flow of water into seas
Thus in reality the entire environment will acquire Heavenly grandeur

Give send-off to dreadful drought from world of graceful biosphere
Throw out the scarcity scenario of drinking water for all living creatures
Convert whole barren waste lands into bowl of edible green crops
Conserve the forests to maintain the holistic ecological balance
Present the protected planet carefully to the future generation

ANALYSIS WITH PROPOSAL FOR INCLUSION OF SOME WILD ANIMALS IN TO SCHEDULES OF WLPA, 1972

By
B. M. T. Rajeev

I wish to throw the following analysis with a proposal to include rare and left over spp. of wild animals in to the schedules of Indian Wildlife Protection Act,(IWLPA) 1972 in the best interest of conservation of the precious wildlife in India. This is for the information of the readers with open mind for comments.

I am able to write the following proposal basing on my experience in the field of wildlife management for a long period-exclusively in Protected Areas, extensive tours in India and abroad, study tours, private trips after retirement and also on my hobby of writing/ publishing articles and books on 'wildlife management issues' while in forest service and after retirement.

While writing a book 'A hand book of Indian wild animals' in Kannada – a translation of part of my book in English- Glimpses of Indian Wildlife- I tried to orient the descriptions of different animals in my book with reference to schedules of IWLPA, 1972, so that the reader can visualize the status of the wild animals in India. This put me to look in to the details of all the animals named in Sch. 1 to 5 to explore the status of their population in my book. The IWLPA, 1972, provides protection for wild animals, birds and plants (vide preamble) and Section no.2 clause-36 restricts the definition of wild animals named in Sch. I-IV. Even, the restriction imposed in Sec.9,

48, 49, armed with Sec.51 relies on Sec-2. Only in Sec-48, 49 the word 'animals' is used but it also implies on Sec-2 clause-36. This exercise gave me an opportunity to visualize the necessity for inclusion of some notable animals left out from the schedules to give them protection in the best interest of ensuring ecological and environmental balance in the nature. Otherwise, anybody can hunt the animals not included in Sch. I-IV and challenge the authorities and go free from punishments under the Wildlife Act. As per Sec 2- clause 36 all animals should find place either in Sch. I-IV or in V to consider them as Indian wild animals deemed to be fit for different degree of conservation or to learn that they are in abundance and can be persecuted.

Hence, this proposal for examination of the following analysis of schedules & left out animals for consideration for inclusion in to schedules to prevent the discrimination in protection and conservation of wild animals.

The details are as follows:

MAMMALS: Mammals are very important animals mostly hunted for meat, skin and medicinal values and also as games in India. Most of the animals are subjected for persecution and need protection at various degrees as prescribed in schedules. But, some animals are left over from the schedules even

though their population is at risk/ rare and needs to be included in schedules for their safety and protection. Such animals are as follows.....

1. The Himalayan wolf

(*Canis himalayensis*)- A wolf found in Himachal Pradesh and J & K states; and it is an endangered spp. needs to be included in Schedule II.

2. The striped backed weasel

(*Mustela strigidorsa*)- a weasel confined to temperate zones of Himalayas not included in any schedules. Needs to be considered for inclusion in schedule.

3. Shrews are the insectivorous mammals in islands of India and are said to be threatened due to loss of their habitats. They are

a. Andaman Shrew or **Andaman White-toothed Shrew** (*Crocidura andamanensis*):

b. Andaman Spiny Shrew (*Crocidura hispida*):

c. Nicobar Shrew or **Nicobar White-tailed Shrew** (*Crocidura nicobarica*)(**Nicobar Tree Shrew** (*Tupaia nicobarica*):

d. Jenkin's Shrew (*Crocidura jenkinsi*):

They have not been included in any schedule. They require to be considered for inclusion in schedule-IV.

4. Flying squirrels are endangered spp. The genus *Bulopetes* (is wrongly spelled instead of *Hylopetes*), *Petaurista*, *Belomys* and *Eupetaurus* are included in Sch.-II part II sl. no 1-C but genus- *Biswamoyoterus* has not been included i.e. **The Namdapha flying squirrels** (*Biswamoyopterus biswasi*) has been left over from the Schedules. It needs to be considered for inclusion in the schedule. The genus *Bulopetes* should be spelled as-*Hylopetes* in

Sch.-II part II sl. no 1-C.

5. Stripped squirrels: are the beautiful small animals found all over India with bushy tail and stripes on their back. They are subjected for persecution for meat by some tribals and also for their skin for taxidermy-articles. All needs to be declared as schedule animals, since only 'Five striped palm squirrel' is included in Sch.-IV. At least 'Three **striped palm squirrel, Dusky striped squirrel and Himalayan striped squirrel**' should be included in Sch.-IV.

6. The Indian desert gerbille (*Meriones hurricane*): It is unique in its own nature that survives on eating dry food without drinking water. For this character it should find place in Sch.-IV

7. Hares are subjected for hunting for meat and included in schedules except **Rufus tailed hare** (*Lepus nigricolisrufi caudatus*), This animal also needs to be included in schedule.

8. Wild oxen: Among wild oxen found in India, **Banteng or Tsaine** (*Bosbanteng*) confined to Manipur and a rare animal. But not included in schedule. This may be considered to be included in schedule.

9. Wild sheep & goats: Among wild sheep and goats found in India, **Marco Polo's sheep** (*Ovis ammon polii*) a beautiful animal because of its big horns and confined to high Himalayas; and the **Kabul Markhor** (*Capra falconerimegaceros*) found in NW of Himalayas- Ladakh valleys is not included in any schedules. The need to be included in schedule as they are persecuted for meat.

10. Alpine Musk deer (*Moschus chrysogaster*) it is confined to the higher altitudes in and around Uttar Khand, H P states, Nepal & Bhutan. It is the state animal of Uttarakhand state but not included in any schedule. It is a musk deer subjected for persecution and needs to be included in sch.-II part II.

11. Marine mammals: Marine mammals consist of Cetaceans, Sirenians, Pinnipeds and Otters. Cetaceans found in India are Whales, Dolphins, and Porpoise. All cetaceans are declared as Schedule I spp vide part I-SI no.4; Again listed Gangetic dolphin (*Platanist gangetica*) Sl.no 8-D; Snubfin Dolphin (*Oreaella brevezastri*) in Sl.no 33- **Little Indian Porpoise** (*Neomeris phocaenoides*) in Sl. no. 20-A in the same schedule. Further, in Sch.-II part I sl. no 3-C, it is said (Cetaceans spp. other than those listed in Sch.-I and Sch.-II p-II) and listed Sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*) in Sch.-II part II sl. no. 5-A. ; A Sirenian- Sea-cow (*Dugong dugon*) is listed in Sch.-I part-I at Sl.no.7;

The marine mammals are the very big animals and confined to waters and most vulnerable for hunting for meat and fats. Except listing of one Whale, two dolphins, one sea-cow and one porpoise; nowhere in schedules one can find the mention of all the **Whales and Dolphins** for reference in the field. How many Forest Officer/ Police Officer can make out any case pertaining to the crimes against these mammals except 5 Cetaceans named in the schedules in the field without the analyzing list of 'Cetaceans' present in the Indian waters? I found the list of 8 whales

said to be in Indian waters in a book- Indian Wildlife- and a few dolphins. When I tried to orient my book on Indian wild animals with the animals listed in Schedules, I was struck with the details as mentioned in the earlier para.

When Cetaceans were explored through web site- I could trace Cetaceans consists of whales (21 spp. of whales), Dolphins (13 spp. of dolphins) said to be found in Indian waters including rivers with maps of their distribution; I consider the information of the web site fit to be listed in my book and did so with details culled from literature.

These animals need to be listed in the schedules to make the concerned officers to understand and also for the reference of the judiciary and the public. This is the reason that when- **The short finned pilot whales**- school of whales found washed in to the sea shore of the Bay of Bengal in the limits of Tamil Nadu and some found dead in the winters of 2015; only the Marine Fisheries Dept. and fisher men were found attending on rescue operations and burying of dead whales as Samaritans with mercy for lovely animals. No Chief Wildlife Warden (CWW) and his line department officers- the guardians of the schedule animals were seen in action to save the sch.-I animals. Even in Bombay beach in the same season, **Indo-Pacific Bottle-nosed Dolphins**- 2 nos. were found dead and washed in to shore from Arabian Sea were attended by Marine department and City Corporation and not the CWW of Maharashtra State. If the press were to

know about this hidden secret of the IWLPA, 1972 about these schedule animals; they would have made CWWs to run and take responsibility. The law needs to write the details of these marine mammals as schedule animals and empower the CWW to authorize the Marine Officers or the Forest Officers to take safety measures for conservation of these animals and whole thing has to be moved under his nose and authority as per IWLPA, 1972.

Therefore, I propose for listing of the following marine mammals in schedules as detailed below in the interest of conservation of the said animals, Whales

1. **Blue Whale** (*Balaenoptera musculus*);
2. **Sperm Whale** (*Physeter catodon* or *Physeter macrocephalus*)- Already listed Sch-II, PartII
3. **Common Rorqual or Fin Whale** (*Balaenoptera physalus*)
4. The **Sea Whale** (Pronounced /se or sa/) *Balaenoptera borealis*)
5. **Lesser Rorqual or PikedRorqual** (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*)
6. **Hump-backed Whale** (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)
7. **Pygmy Sperm Whale** (*Kogia breviceps*)
8. **Sea Whale** (*Balaenoptera borealis*)
9. **Dwarf Sperm Whale** (*Kogiasima*, formerly *Kogiasimus*)
10. **Bryde's Whale** (*Balaenoptera brydei*):
11. **Eden's Whale** (*Balaenoptera edeni*):
12. **The Common Minke Whale or Northern Minke Whale** (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*)
13. **Omura's Whale or the Dwarf Fin Whale**

(*Balaenoptera omurai*)

14. **The Pygmy Killer Whale** (*Feresa attenuata*)
15. **The Short-finned Pilot Whale** (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*)
16. **The Killer Whale** (*Orcinus orca*)
17. **The Melon-headed Whale** (*Peponocephala electra*);
18. **The False Killer Whale** (*Pseudorca crassidens*):
19. **Cuvier's Beaked Whale or the Goose-beaked Whale** (*Ziphius cavirostris*):
20. **Blainville's Beaked Whale** (*Mesoplodon densirostris*)
21. **The Ginkgo-toothed Beaked Whale** (*Mesoplodon ginkgodens*)

Dolpins

1. **Gangetic Dolphin** (*Platanista gangetica gangetica*)- Already listed in Sch.-I
2. **Snubfin Dolphin** (*Oreaella brevezastri*)- already listed in Sch.-I
3. **IndoPacific Bottle-nosed Dolphin** (*Tursiops aduncus*)
4. **Common Dolphin** (*Dolphinus delphis*)
5. **Plumbeous Dolphin** (*Sotalia plumbea*):
6. **Risso's Dolphin** (*Grampus griseus*):
7. **Fraser's Dolphin** (*Lagenodelphis hosei*):
8. **Indian humpback dolphin** (*Sousa plumbea*)
9. **Pan tropical Spotted Dolphin** (*Stenella attenuata*)
10. **Spinner Dolphin** (*Stenella longirostris*):
11. **Striped Dolphin** (*Stenella coeruleoalba*):
12. **Rough-toothed Dolphin** (*Steno bredanensis*)

13. Common Bottle-nosed Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)

BIRDS: Most of the important birds have been named in the Schedule I and in mass under Schedule IV with common name of the genus in a family which covers all the birds of that genus. But, on close analysis of the birds of the genus in such families, notable birds are found to be left over from the schedules. That means, they are left free for exploitation by miscreants. One example for such left over is –**House sparrow**- a common bird and most liked by children. Therefore, it is necessary to consider for inclusion of the following genera of birds under Sch. IV in the interest of conservation of birds.

1. a) **Divers** (Gaviidae) 2 spp. of birds that visit North India in winter (b) **Shearwaters and Petrels**- Sea birds of 'Procellariidae' family -8 spp. (c) **Boobies** – 3 spp. of sea birds of the family 'Sulidae' have not been included any of the Schedules even though they are big water birds. These birds need to be considered for inclusion in Sch.-IV.

2. (a) **Tropic birds** (Phaethontidae)... 3 types of birds are found in India; (b) **Frigate birds**- sea birds of the family 'Fregatidae' - 3 spp. in India; all these birds are not included in any Schedules and need to be considered for inclusion in Sch.-IV.

3. **Eagles** (Accipitridae)- These are the predatory birds that come under the family 'Accipitridae' along with Hawks, vultures. All Hawks have been included in Sch.-I and vultures under Sch.-I by name and rest under Sch.-IV- but, **Eagles** have been left over from schedules. We

have a very religious and most venerated bird- **Brahminy kite**- under eagles- how can it be left over from the schedule.... even the **Crested Serpent eagle**- the most beautiful bird is also left over.... Therefore, it is necessary to include the Eagles (Accipitridae) under Sch.-IV. There is hardly any difference between Hawks & Eagles as they belong to same family and food habits are same.

4. Plovers and **Lapwings**- are the birds under family-Charadriidae... The Plovers have been included in Sch.-IV vide Sl.no 11 sub clause 56- but lapwings have been leftover. Lapwings are very beautiful song birds in the rural areas like-**Red wattled lapwing**. One will wonder, if he is told that it is not found in Sch. Who is not attracted by the songs of this bird in open grass lands of South India? — It needs to be included.

5. Curlews, Sandpipers, **Wood cocks** are the birds under sub-family-'Scolopacinae'— all these birds are wet land birds that feed on minor aquatic animals, insects and seeds of weeds. Curlew, Sandpipers have been included vide Sch.-IV vide Sl.no 11 clauses 17-A and 61 and Wood-cocks have been leftover— **Wood cocks** need to be included in Sch.-IV as they are water birds and have importance like their cousins.

6. Stilts, Avocets and **Ibis bills**- are the birds of family the 'Recurvirostridae'—4 species are found in India- Stilts and Avocets have been included in Sch.-IV vide Sl.no 11 clauses no 67 and 2 and the Ibis bills are not included under Schedule- This bird needs to be included to

avoid confusion in distinguishing the Schedule & non-schedule birds as they are similar birds.

7. Crab-plover- is a bird of the family- 'Dromadidae'- it needs to be included in Sch.-IV as it is not included in Sch.-V

8. Coursers -are the birds under family- 'Glariolidae'- these are insectivorous land birds famous for running on land and not included in Sch.-V. Hence, they need to be included in Sch.-IV as they play important role in controlling insects.

9. Skua, Jaegers is the water birds of the family- 'Stercoraridae'; they are as big as ducks and subjected for hunting- They need to be included in Sch.-IV.

10. Gulls, Terns- are birds of the family 'Laridae'- who is not fascinated by the water bird like- Indian river terns- by looking in to their beauty and their mating display- very rare birds- They need to be included in sch.-IV

11. Frogmouths – are birds of the family- 'Batrachastomus'and are the birds endemic to Western Ghats and rare birds- only 2 spp. are found in India out of which one is included under Sch-I vide SI no 2-C (*Genuesbatrachastomus*) and the another bird –Ceylon frogmouth- is left out; it should found place under Sch.-IV as there is no reason to leave it out.

12. Swifts-are the birds of the family- 'Apodidae' and they have not been included in schedules of WLPA, 1972. But swiftlets have been listed under Sch.-I vide SI. no. 19. Hence, swifts need to be listed under sch.-IV as they are similar in behaviour and look except size.

13. Bee-eaters-are the birds of the 'Meropidae'- They feed on bees- the farmers friendly insects those plays very important role in nature- effective cross pollination of plant species. Hence, the bee-eaters might have been left over; but, how come the government of Karnataka is contemplating an idea to open a Bee –eaters' birds Sanctuary in Mandya- very close to Ranaganathittu Bird Sanctuary, Karnataka. Hence, it also needs to be included in Sch.-IV as it has not placed under Sch.-V

14. Hoopoes- are colourful birds of the family- 'Upupidae'; and have 4 species in India and they are subjected for persecution due to their colourful feathers but not included in Schedules- It needs to brought under sch.-IV

15. Board bills- colourful birds of the family-'Eurylaimidae'; we have only 2 spp. in India but not included in any schedules. It needs to be included under Sch.-IV

16. Swallows- are the birds of the family- 'Hirundinidae'; we have 23 spp. of these birds in India. Some of them live very close to the human habitations. They have not been included under Sch.-V. Hence, they need to be included under Sch.-IV

17. Shrikes or Bucher birds- are the birds of the family- 'Laniidae'; there are 19 spp. in India. They have not been included under Sch.-V. Hence, they need to be included under Sch.-IV

18. Swallow-shrikes or wood swallows- are the birds of the family- Artamidae; there are 2 spp. in India. They have not been included under

Sch.-V. Hence, they need to be included under Sch.-IV

19. Cuckoo-shrikes and Munivets are the birds of the family-'Campephagidae'; there are 33 spp. of these birds in India. Munivets are included in Sch.-IV vide clause.No.43. But, '**Cuckoo-shrikes**' have not been included under Sch.-V. They are colourful birds and very attractive in nature. And are predatory birds. Hence, they need to be included under Sch.-IV

20. Monarch flycatchers are birds of the family-'Monarchinae'; we have 10 spp. in India. A most beautiful and are eye catching birds for the Ornithologists and the bird watchers. But, not included under any schedule. It needs to be done under Sch.-IV

21. Warblers- birds of the family 'Sylviidae'; we have 164 spp. in India. They are famous for their noise making songs and called as – Seven Sisters.They have not been included under Sch.-V.Hence, they need to be included under Sch.-IV

22. Thrushes and Chats- are the birds of the family-'Turdidae'; we have 134 spp. in India. Thrushes have been included in Sch.-IV vide clause No.71. But, **Chats** have been left over; and not included in any schedules. Hence, they need to be included under Sch.-IV as their cousins are in Sch.

23. Dippers are the birds of the family-'Prunellidae'; we have 5 spp. of these water birds in India.They are not in Sch.-V.Hence, they need to be included under Sch.-IV

24. Accentors or Hedge sparrow- birds of the family-'Prunellidae'; we have 7 spp. of these

birds in India.They have not been included any Sch.or in Sch.-V.Hence,they need to be included under Sch.-IV

25. Nuthatches and Creepers are the birds of the family-'Sittidae'; we have 28 spp. of these birds in India.They are not vermin as in Sch.-V. Hence, they need to be included under Sch.-IV

26. Pipits and wagtails- are the birds of the family-'Motacillidae'; they are very commonly seen with wagging tails. We have 40 spp. of these birds in India. Pipits have been included in Sch.-IV vide sl. no 11 clause No.55a. But, Wagtails have been left over from Schedules. Hence, they need to be included under Sch.-IV

27. House and Rock sparrow- are the birds of the family-'Ploceidae'; we have 19 spp. of these birds in India. The population of the house sparrow, the most commonly known bird to the children in the past is facing extinction in India and many organizations are working for the revival of its population. One can find Organizations in cities to save this bird. But they have not been included under any Schedules. It looks odd. Hence, they need to be included under Sch.-IV

28. Sl. no. 4, 4-C, 4-F, & 9 of Sch.-I Part-III- Hornbills – totally 6 spp. Horn bills have been named in Sch.-I; and 2 spp. have been left over like 1) **Grey Indian Hornbill**-(*Ocyerosbirostris*). 2) **Malabar Grey Hornbill** (*Tockusgriseus*). These two birds are also rare birds and they need to be included in Sch.-I and all these birds should be at one serial number as horn bills- to

make it easy for reference in the field instead of naming them as per Alphabets.

THE REPTILES: Most of the important reptiles are found listed in the schedules. But, some rare and endangered spp. of reptiles are found missing in the schedules. They may be included in the schedules.

1. **Cane turtle** (*Vijayachelys silvatica*)- a spp. said to vanished has resurfaced recently in Western Ghats of Kerala at Kavalai forests. This may be included in Sch.-I

2. **Common roofed terrapin** (*Kachunga tectum*)- A sweet water small terrapin found in marsh & sea shores. It is eaten and reared as pet. It needs to be included in Sch.-I

AMPHIBIANS: A few animals from this class of animals have been listed in the schedules. These animals play a very important role in controlling the insects that harm the human beings, animals & the crops in nature. Few of the important animals have been left over and needs to be included in Schedules.

1. **Indian Purple Frog** (*Nasikabatrachussahydrensis*): it is endemic to Silent valley of Western Ghats in Kerala and it is persecuted by tribals as food at toad stage with belief that it has medicinal value. This frog needs to be protected by including in to Sch.-IV

2. **Fresh water frog** (*Rana* species) Sch.-IV spp. - are the big frogs subjected for trapping for meat. The traders play havoc during monsoons in Western Ghats. They need to be included in Sch.- II part II to control their trade with severe punishments against the

perpetrators.

FISHES: Among the fishes the Cartilaginous fishes are the big fishes subjected for persecution for meat trade. Some of the big sharks and ray fishes have been included in schedules and some left over even though they are hunted very badly. Such of the fishes are as follows.

1. **The Bull shark** (*Carcharhinusleucas*)- sweet water loving shark found in estuaries and in Ganges & Brahmaputra rivers. It is not included in any schedules and needs to be included in Sch.-IV

2. **Great White Shark** (*Carcharodon carcharias*- A fish of soft bones much hunted for meat. It is not included in any schedules and needs to be included in Sch.-IV

3. **Mahasheer or SorMachha** (*Tor tor*) – is a rare fish of fresh waters and subjected for high fishing for its meat. It needs to be included in Sch.-IV as it is not included in any schedules.

INVERTEBRATES: Among the invertebrates- The animals listed under schedules are- Under Sch.-I Crustaceans and Insects in part-IV, Coelenterates in part IV- A, Mollusca in Part-IV- B, Echinodermata in Part IV-C; Beetles under Sch.-II part II; Sponges under Sl. no 20 in Sch.-III; Butter flies & Moths under Sl. no-18 in Sch.-IV; Mollusca under Sl. no. 19 in Sch.-IV.

When attempted to search the details of the animals listed under some family under schedules in web site, it leads to Schedules of the Wild life Protection Act, 1972 and not to details of the animals; which indicates that the

details are not available even in web sites. The families given indicate variety of insects- Beetles, butter flies and moths and individual spp. leads to WLPA, 1972 schedules. Regarding Crustacean- only one spp.-Coconut or Robber Crab is named vide Sl. no-1-A.(Sch.-I part-IV). Crustaceans are the sea animals most exploited for food and some of the bigger sized crabs, lobsters and Shrimps are over exploited and needs to be identified and named under schedules for better conservation.

Further, the animals named in schedules under Fishes and Invertebrates- Crustaceans, Sponges, Coelenterates, Mollusca, Echinoderms are sea/aquatic animals and they are under the administrative control of the Marine/ Fisheries Depts. Even after working in Wildlife wing for quite a long period in my service... I never came across any discussion or a plan or review of the conservation strategies for the above cited marine animals in CWW office of the state. Hence, it is not known to public that how, the safety of these schedule animals listed in the IWLPA, 1972 is ensured for the marine animals. The Act itself needs to make it known to the public and the Wildlife Authorities in the country to ensure the provisions of the Act are followed and respected. Eg.: In sea shore tourist centers one can see trade in shells/ conches i.e. Mollusca- exploited and sold in huge quantities most of them are scheduled animals.

Finally, one issue that has cropped in my mind while in service and daunting me is the Schedule I animals and the severe punishments

prescribed in Sec, 51. We know well how the famous five icon animals- the tiger, elephant, rhinoceros, leopard and lions have been subjected for hunting for their body parts to meet the demand in international black market for the oriental medicines and for ornaments etc. The wildlife management in India is more dedicated for conservation of these animals and for the control of hunting/ trade in the body parts of these animals; but the punishments achieved in court trials are negligible. Because, in the court the sch.-I animals like tiger, leopard, lion, rhinoceros, elephant, even Forest little owl, dragon fly, butter fly-tiger and sea cucumbers (Echinoderms) are treated as similarly in trials. The Assam State govt. even went ahead and has a special provision to impose 10 years RI for crimes against rhinos. Therefore, it appears pertinent to declare these five icon animals of India as –‘Special Schedule-I’ animals and prescribe RI of minimum 7 years and maximum 10 years with fines as in for Sch.-I for crimes against these animals to create a special importance for these animals in the minds of the perpetrators, the law enforcing authorities and also the public in the best interest of the conservation of these animals.

Conclusion: In addition to inclusion of the above cited animals in to the schedules of IWLPA,1972; the ambiguity in reigning the protection and conservation of marine mammals and other aquatic animals needs to be streamlined under the authority of CWWs

Birth Day Greetings

We wish the following born on the dates mentioned

" A very Happy Birth Day "

S.No.	Name of the member	D.O.B.			
	Sarva Sri		18.	P.K.Sharma	07-01-1956
			19.	K.Suryanarayana	07-01-1958
1.	Masood Ali Khan	06-06-1941	20.	V.venkataramaiah	07-03-1956
2.	V.Janakiram Naidu	06-08-1936	21.	D.K.Pandey	07-03-1956
3.	M.A.MaboodHazari	06-09-1955	22.	M.Ravikumar	07-04-1957
4.	V.Devachary	06-09-1946	23.	G.Rama Krishna Rao	06-06-1957
5.	T.Hanmanth Reddy	06-10-1943	24.	B.Venkateshwar Rao	06-08-1962
6.	Md.Rahamatullah	13-06-1946	25.	A.Chandrasekhar	06-10-1965
7.	K.Rameshwar	14-06-1936	26.	M.Srinivasa Rao	06-10-1961
8.	D.Sudhakar	14-06-1954	27.	G.Srinivasulu	06-10-1968
9.	M.V.S.Prakash Rao	15-06-1944	28.	Smt. G.Mangamma	06-10-1983
10.	Dr.N.R.K.Rao	15-06-1943	29.	N.Rajendra Kumar	06-12-1969
11.	Qudrath Mohiuddin Ahmed	06-15-1955	30.	V.Satish Kumar	06-13-1968
12.	P.Ashok Kumar	06-18-1953	31.	G.P.Anand	06-13-1967
13.	B.Malla Reddy	20-06-1937	32.	S.Madhava Rao	06-16-1968
14.	J.V.Sharma	20-06-1932	33.	N.V.Sivaram Prasad	06-18-1966
15.	S.Nauratan Singh	22-06-1942	34.	M.Janakiram	06-19-1964
16.	D.Ramnarayan	25-06-1950	35.	M.RajaRamana Reddy	06-19-1968
17.	N.Linganna	07-01-1941	36.	C.Venugopal Rao	20-06-1960
18.	M.Bullaiah	07-01-1952	37.	M.V.Prasada Rao	06-20-1967
19.	Sitaram Gupta	07-01-1952	38.	J. Gopal Rao	22-06-1963
20.	BadushaSaheb	07-01-1953	39.	Smt.T.Nagamaneswari	06-22-1974
21.	Dr.E.Narasimhulu	07-01-1954	40.	P.Jacob Benerjee	24-06-1958
22.	P.Eshwar Reddy	01-07-1955	41.	J.Venkateswar Rao	06-24-1967
S.No.	Name of Serving Officers	D.O.B.	42.	Smt.B.Praveena	06-25-1980
	Sarva Sri		43.	K.Mohan	26-06-1964
1.	Munindra	06-06-1960	44.	Smt.Ch.Balamani	06-26-1974
2.	N.Chandra Mohan Reddy	06-10-1961	45.	Smt.P.Srilakshimi	06-27-1981
3.	Mohan Chandra Pargaian	06-12-1964	46.	G.Laxman	28-06-1963
4.	P.Madhusudhan Rao	15-06-1957	47.	K.Somasekharam	07-01-1964
5.	Dr.B.V.Prasada Reddy	15-06-1957	48.	P.Samuel	01-07-1964
6.	P.V.Chalapathi Rao	19-06-1968	49.	B.V.A.Krishna Murthy	07-01-1967
7.	Dr.C.Suvarna	24-06-1966	50.	P.Sivashankar Reddy	07-01-1963
8.	S.SriSarvanan	25-06-1973	51.	S.Mustafa	07-01-1961
9.	Dr.Mohd. Iliyas Rizvi	29-06-1961	52.	T.Narasimhulu	07-01-1959
10.	Y.Babu Rao	30-06-1958	53.	A.Srinivasa Rao	07-01-1961
11.	Surendra Pandey	30-06-1957	54.	Y.Sanyasi Naidu	07-01-1962
12.	B.Anand Mohan	07-01-1957	55.	G.Dharma Raju	07-01-1963
13.	Ashok Kumar Sinha	01-07-1965	56.	R.Srinivas	07-01-1986
14.	TV Subba Reddy	07-01/1957	57.	K.KhaderBasha	07-03-1960
15.	Dr.K.P.Srivasaki	07-01-1956	58.	R.Srinivasa Reddy	07-05-1971
16.	P.V.Ramana Reddy	07-01-1957			
17.	J.S.N.Murthy	07-01-1958			

Secretary

NEWS AND NOTES

Kenya Burns over 100 Tons of Ivory Tusks to

Protest Poaching: - (NAIROBI, Kenya) — Kenya's president set fire to 105 tons of elephant ivory and more than 1 ton of rhino horn, believed to be the largest stockpile ever destroyed, in a dramatic statement by this East African country against the trade in ivory and products from endangered species.

Uhuru Kenyatta put a flame to the biggest of 11 pyres of ivory tusks and one of rhino horn in a chilly afternoon. Overnight torrential rains that stopped midday had threatened to ruin the event and created a mud field around the piles inside Nairobi National Park.

"A time has come when we must take a stand and the stand is clear ... Kenya is making a statement that for us ivory is worthless unless it is on our elephants," he said.

The stacks of tusks represent more than 8,000 elephants and some 343 rhinos slaughtered for their ivory and horns, according to the Kenya Wildlife Service.

Kenya will push for the total ban on trade in ivory at the 17th meeting of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species to be held in South Africa later this year, said Kenyatta. Kenya decided to destroy the ivory instead of selling it for an estimated \$150 million. Some critics had suggested that the money raised from the ivory sales could be used to develop Kenya and protect wildlife. But Kenyatta said that Kenya

wants to make the point that ivory should not have any commercial value.

Others said the burning will not end the killing of elephants because international gangs take advantage of Kenya's porous borders and corruption to continue the illegal trade.

Wildlife Authorities say illegal ivory smuggling in Africa increased after the 2007 temporary lifting of an international ban on the ivory trade.

The CITES group allowed a once-off sale by African countries that had stockpiles of ivory from elephants that had died naturally or problem elephants killed by wildlife officials.

Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe were granted a one-time exemption from a global ivory ban because of their thriving elephant herds.

But Kenya maintains that such sales, even though it is of approved ivory, fuel the ivory trade.

Two deer rescued: -A spotted deer died while two other deer of the group were rescued after they had fallen into a farm well at Kenjanur on the fringes of Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Erode district. On seeing the deer struggling for life, the farm owner Lakshmanan alerted the Fire and Rescue Services Department. A team of Fire personnel entered the well and pulled up the struggling deer with ropes. The deer group had ventured out of the forest in search of water.

One deer died of shock, and the other two were treated by veterinarians at the Sathy Range Office where the animals were taken in an auto rickshaw.

The rescued deer were let into the forest, District Forest Officer of Sathyamangalam Division K. Raj Kumar said. *(Please see last cover page for phot)*

Great Green Wall' thousands of mile long could be built across Africa to stop the spread of the Sahara: - A grand vision for a wall

of vegetation reaching thousands of miles across Africa and slowing the spread of the Sahara Desert took a step closer to becoming a reality yesterday with the first international conference to discuss how to bring it about.

The Great Green Wall would be a nine-mile wide band of trees and shrubbery across the southern border of the Sahara's southern Sahel desert, stretching 4,400 miles through 11 countries from the Senegalese capital of Dakar in the west to Djibouti on the Indian Ocean coast.

"Two thirds of arable land could be lost if the current desertification trend continues": -

The harsh conditions and resultant lack of economic opportunities are in part blamed for sending economic migrants north to Europe and as factors in the spread of Islamist extremism in the area. Groups such as Boko Haram and al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) prey on young men who are unemployed and desperate. Boko Haram has been known to offer microloans to prospective fighters.

Adopted by the African Union in 2005, the

ambitious Great Green Wall plan was boosted in December by \$4bn of funding from signatories to the historic UN climate change summit in Paris (COP21). Further pledges have been made by the World Bank and the French government, one of the continent's major former colonizers.

The Great Green Wall, it is hoped, could help meet that target by absorbing as much as 250 million tons of carbon.

Dr. Dlamini Zuma, chairperson of the African Union Commission, said the wall could become one of the 21st Century wonders of the world.

"There are many world wonders, but the Great Green Wall will be unique and everyone can be a part of its history," she said during an event on the sidelines on COP21. "Together, we can change the future of African communities in the Sahel."

Romy Chevalier, environmental expert with the South African Institute for International Affairs, said considerable resources and research had been ploughed into natural resource sustainability. She said the plan had the potential to change the entire region's future but implementing it would require a delicate balance of regional, national and local interests.

"We know that with many other projects in the past that regional collaboration is difficult because we always look after ourselves but ecosystems and climate change don't respect national boundaries, so it is crucial," she said.

"But the more you internalize the management,

the more each country takes responsibility and the more they devolve that responsibility to communities living in these areas that live in these areas and harness local expertise, the more feasible this project is and likely to thrive.” Elvis Paul Tangam, the African Union Commissioner in charge of the plan, said 15 per cent of the trees were planted already, largely in Senegal and Burkina Faso.

“Senegal has reclaimed more than four million hectares of land along the Great Green Wall,” he told America’s Public Radio International this week. “They have planted more than 27,000 hectares of indigenous trees that don’t need watering. Many animals that had disappeared from those regions are reappearing - animals like antelopes, hares and birds that for the past 50 years nobody saw.”

Senegal has largely planted acacia trees which can be harvested for Gum Arabic, a substance used widely to manufacture products including pharmaceuticals and soft drinks, for which demand is currently outstripping supply. Other indigenous trees are planted to maximize shade and prevent ground water loss and shrubs that can be grazed by livestock.

Countries signed up to the initiative have now put together national action plans which will be presented at a conference between African ministers, development bodies, local civil society groups and environmental charities in Dakar this week

Would you dare go up in the world’s tallest lift? (Its 1,070ft. tall): - Would you dare go up in the world’s tallest lift? For people with vertigo, getting on an elevator is never easy, and getting onto this one will be nigh impossible. After all, it is all of 326m, or 1,070ft, tall!

Yes, you read that right. A series of images of China’s 326m-tall glass Bailong Elevator, situated on the side of a cliff, have gone viral online, and people can’t get enough of it.

This is the world’s tallest outdoor lift that can get passengers to the top, or the ground, in just 2 minutes. Made of glass, the lift can hold up to 50 people at a time. Located in the Wulingyuan Scenic Area, in China’s Zhangjiajie Forest Park, the elevator is known as the ‘hundred dragons sky lift’. No wonder!

Scientists have detected oxygen on Mars — and it could reveal something fascinating about the planet’s past: - For the first time in four decades, a team of researchers has found atomic oxygen lingering in the upper Martian atmosphere.

But don’t get carried away too quickly — **atomic** oxygen is very different from the stuff we breathe.

But it does affect how easily gases escape the Martian atmosphere, so these measurements will likely help uncover more about why and how the protective gases enveloping Mars eroded over the last few billions of years. If Mars ever supported life, those gases may have played a critical role.

On Earth, our atmosphere contains the air we breathe, protects us from the Sun's harmful radiation, enables the cycling of water, and keeps the Sun's heat from escaping back into space. Scientists believe that billions of years ago, Mars also had a thick atmosphere capable of sustaining liquid water and even life. But over time, the planet evolved to become cold and barren gallery

Mars today is a cold, barren desert, but scientists think it was once a warm and wet planet. The change may have been caused by the loss of an early atmosphere driven into space by the sun's solar wind.

In 2015, scientists came to the conclusion that around 3.5 billion years ago, Mars mysteriously lost its magnetic field, allowing huge bursts of energy from the Sun to gradually strip it of its atmosphere. This stripping is still happening today. And this is where atomic oxygen comes into play.

Atomic oxygen is made up of just one atom, unlike the oxygen we breathe (O₂), which is made up of two. Because it reacts easily with other substances, atomic oxygen doesn't stick around for very long on Earth's surface. The reason it's so prevalent in space is because of an excess of ultraviolet radiation: All that UV is constantly breaking apart O₂ to create atomic oxygen.

Because of this, most of the atomic oxygen in the atmosphere resides in the top layer, where atoms and molecules escape into space. Scientists believe it is a key factor in determining how easily gases break free. Measuring the

amount of atomic oxygen in Mars' atmosphere will give scientists more clues about this puzzling erosion.

The last time atomic oxygen was detected in the Martian atmosphere was in the 1970s, during NASA's Viking and Mariner missions. This time around, researchers used an observatory called the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA).

SOFIA, which flies between 37,000 and 45,000 feet above sea level, actually measured about half the amount of atomic oxygen that the researchers were expecting — perhaps due to variations in the atmosphere. The researchers plan to continue using SOFIA to get a clearer picture of the Martian atmosphere and compare their latest findings with measurements on other regions of the Red Planet

Thousands of tiny red crabs stranding on

California beach: - Thousands of tiny red crabs are carpeting beaches in Orange County and creating an amazing spectacle for swimmers and surfers. Lifeguards estimate that hundreds of thousands of the tiny crustaceans washed up Friday on beaches in Newport Beach. Others were spotted in Laguna Beach.

The Orange County Register reports that pelagic red crabs are usually found off Baja California, but currents that are part of the El Nino weather pattern are sweeping them north. The 1- to 3-inch-long crabs have washed up for several years along the Orange County coastline. Before that, they hadn't been seen in the area for decades.

BOOK REVIEW: 'MEMOIRS OF A FORESTER' REVIEWED

By

Dr. B Raghatham Rao Desai., IFS (R)

The book could not have come out at a better time — a first-class entertainer and a thoroughly enjoyable 'read', the material for it coming mostly from the daily entries he must have made over the years, in his diary, occasionally recalling with nostalgia which he does with good grace. To quote his own words: "During this period, the forest administration in the State and Country was going through rapid changes both in terms of Policy and its implementation, consequent to the re-discovery of the role of forests in protecting the ecology & environment in the country and the subject of forest being brought under the concurrent list of the Constitution. ...had the privilege of working closely with many of the eminent foresters, civil servants, environmentalists & ministers.... were responsible for redefining the role of forests in the changing context; laying down policies and roadmaps for their implementation...." Thus we have in him a rich repository of the Department's history for the last quarter of the preceding century, which makes the said memoirs 'a must read', as it pertains not only to a crucial period but also a period significant for him for his own career. As the memoirs contain images in context which give us a sense of vulnerabilities of the

said times, we sink in them — living, loving and lingering there!

As things stand presently, not only are conclusions drawn in a jiffy, opinions quashed in limited characters, are expressed for consumption of people around. On top of it, space for those who could influence readership appears to have shrunk and scope for engaging youth in dialogue on the kind of literary standards they wish to find has considerably narrowed down.

Among a staple of Memoires by fellow-foresters, noted pragmatic & conventional forester of rare brilliance, R M Palanna whose life appears to be a well-documented roller-coaster ride, takes a suomoto stance on the **growing-inability to publicly debate** liberal views, in an ego-filled & politically-surcharged **environment, with an aim to resurrect the in-service intellectual who could think independently**, on behalf of the voiceless "and the compromised". It is **not as if young intellectuals are absent** in the Department: they never were, as **generations of foresters had subconsciously nurtured them** through the centuries gone by. From Dietrich Brandis to C R Ranganathan, to name only a few, intellectuals serving in the Department have

always challenged entrenched notions and questioned identity-policies with an unwritten premise, to promote the welfare of pristine forests, and the denizens inhabiting them.

Silviculture is a euphemism for managing any type of forest entrusted with, a celebration of diversity in letter and spirit. Palanna shows us through his memoirs why it is important for objective, fearless and constructive voices to take charge, to shape the Department on issues flagged by him and affect the forests, and the country's environment at large. The book is all about **exploring reasons behind the rather erring silence of the authorities of intellect, arguing that the real essence of an intellectual is to create a public opinion, in which his role becomes 'redundant and not so necessary', stressing the need for fearless independence, in the quest for implementation of the provisions of the Forest Act & Rules, in letter & spirit, to have progress. Why has the intellectual exercised self-censorship in speaking up, and why we only communicate with people, 'with whom we agree'? And why are there angry mobs ready to lynch any divergent viewpoint?**

If an intellectual holding a public office is perceived as one who speaks up against the present order, then there are growing numbers of his colleagues in everyday affairs of the Department, who are unwilling to be guided by the past — not only do we need to locate

them, but nurture them too! While agreeing that **any attempt at being silenced must be resisted**, the author wonders if the present picture is as dismal as most of his colleagues paint – **isn't silence a virtue, with an immense power of communicating more than words?** Depending on how it is perceived, **silence can turn out to be an active state of being!**

Respect for nature spills over into cloying reverence — Palanna & his family rarely drive more than a few kilometers without being struck dumb by some flare of natural beauty: we know what the author thinks about fineness and how excited he gets over a raven sighting. **The Memoirs of a Forester** with its insights into the protagonists' ways of taking decisions & approaches, as also exhibiting administrative skills, is an enjoyable book. The images & the voices are likely to stay with you for a long time and one can easily identify with the whole slew of feelings & flavors the book throws up, simultaneously bringing to the fore and offering such a rich insight into a fascinating, frenetic goings-on in the shadows behind the corridors of power.

Is an assumption true that a good book is more intelligent than its author and it is capable of saying things that the writer is not aware of? I leave the answer to connoisseur reader. This book is published by Abhiram Graphics (2015) and is priced at Rs. 300/-

LEGAL NOTES

Sakthivel vs. State through Forest Range Officer

This case is disposed of by the Madras High Court, an important question of law of public importance: whether benefit of the Probation of Offenders Act can be given to an accused that is convicted of an offence punishable with a minimum imprisonment and fine, is examined.

Forest Officers, on the basis of a tip-off kept vigil on 25.09.1998 and found the accused Sakthivel gaining entry into Somakulathur beat forest and carrying 18 kilos of sandal wood valued Rs 8,500. He had no permission, permit or license for being in possession of the sandal wood. Therefore Offence No. 17/1998 was registered for the offence punishable under 36 (A) and (E) of the Tamil Nadu Forest Act. The accused was arrested and produced before the Magistrate. He was remanded to judicial custody. The property seized was produced before the Authorized Officer.

The accused was prosecuted before the Special Magistrate (Sandal Wood Offences) at Thirupattur, Vellore district in C.C. No. 103/2000 and he was convicted and sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for two years and to pay a fine of Rs. 7,500. failing which to undergo further simple imprisonment for six months CrI. A. No. 65/2007 was dismissed on 22.11.2007 by the Additional

Sessions Judge (Fast Track Court) Vellore

The accused then approached the High Court by filing CrI. R. C. No. 49/2008 under Sections 397 and 401 Cr. P.C. The Revision Petition was heard by the Honorable Justice Sri B. Rajendran. It was argued on behalf of the revision petitioner that the place where the sandal wood was allegedly seized was reserved forest was not proved. Seized sandal wood was not produced before the Magistrate court. To prove that the property seized was sandal wood, it was not sent for chemical analysis. Authorized Officer was not examined. It was urged that the petitioner is the sole bread winner and therefore he deserves to be given the benefit of the Probation of Offenders Act.

The Government Pleader (Criminal Side) opposed the revision petition. He argued that there is ample evidence to show that the petitioner has committed the alleged offence. Both the courts below appreciated the oral as well as documentary evidence. Minimum punishment is imposed admittedly for the illegal possession of sandal wood. Officials who seized the sandal wood are forest officers and they can easily identify the sandal wood by its fragrance and smell. There is therefore no need

for examination of the seized sandal wood by a Forensic expert.

In the course of hearing, the court took the assistance of senior counsel Sri B. Kumar to clarify the legal position on giving benefit to the accused and release him under the Probation of Offenders Act when the courts below imposed minimum punishment. It was submitted that in view of the judgment in *Public Prosecutor vs. Chinnaraja* (2005 MLJ CrI. 500) it would not be permissible to give the benefit of Probation of Offenders Act in cases where minimum punishment is laid down in law. It was held in that case that invoking Probation of Offenders Act in offences relating to Tamil Nadu Forest Act could have deleterious effect of polluting criminal justice system. It might subvert the process of law and frustrating the social object and purpose behind the Forest Act. The practice would also tend to encourage corruption and collusion and as a direct consequence contribute to the lowering of the standard practice.

The petitioner was arrested for having trespassed into the forest land unauthorized and for possession of sandalwood without any authorization or license According to the amendment made to the TN Forest Act, property seized has to be produced before the Authorized Officer. The forest officers are trained in

identifying the forest produce, especially sandal wood by cutting a piece of it. It cannot be said that the officials of the Forest Department lack in such a skill.

Non-production of sandalwood before the trial court will not vitiate the case of prosecution. Another plea taken on behalf of the petitioner was that the sandal wood was transported by bus from Thiruvannamalai to Devanpattu but the prosecution did not produce bus tickets. Therefore the theory of prosecution cannot be relied on. The court did not accept the argument for simple reason that the statements of the officials and admission of the accused have are creditworthy.

It is argued on behalf of the petitioner that the place of occurrence or the place of detection is not a notified as reserved forest. The action taken against the petitioner is therefore without jurisdiction as the prosecution failed to prove the fact. The prosecution produced only a cyclostyled copy of gazette notification. It was rejected by the trial court as no competent authority was examined to prove the authority of the document.

Since prosecution failed to prove the notification, it was urged that the punishment deserves to be set aside and the petitioner may be released under the Probation of Offenders Act.

It is not in dispute that the petitioner was found in possession of 18 kilos of sandal wood. Between Public prosecutor vs Chinnaraji (2005 MLJ CrL 500) it was held that when an offence under Forest Act is proved it is mandatory to impose appropriate punishment or at least the minimum punishment otherwise it will have deleterious effect of polluting criminal justice system.

The court discussed in detail the implementation of Probation of Offenders Act. The court also referred to the case law on the subject. The Supreme Court dissuaded from invoking the provisions of the Probation of Offenders Act to give its benefit to the convicts. Referring to quantum of punishment prescribed in the Act it is said, the Legislature has used the expression ".....shall not be less than two years and shall not be less than Rs. 7,500 respectively." The counsel argued that there is no bar in TN Forest Act for invoking provisions of the Probation of Offenders Act and therefore the Petitioner could be given the benefit of that Act. It is observed that the lower courts are duty

bound to share the consciousness of protection of forest and environment. The lower courts, particularly the courts which are dealing with offences under the TN Forest Act cannot be oblivious of the depletion of the vast area of forest resources and their obligation to share parliamentary concern and the concern of the Apex Court in the sphere of protection of forest and preservation of ecology and environment. There could be absolutely no room for leniency. It was observed that often criminal courts must properly respond to the social problems, particularly in the area of protection of forest and environment. Need to rise up to the occasion have become great and imperative when the forest cover is shrinking.

The court was not inclined to show any indulgence to the petitioner by extending the provisions the Probation of Offenders Act. Accordingly the conviction and sentence imposed on the petitioner by the trial court is confirmed. The CrL. Petition is dismissed on 29.06.2015.

Source: Internet

K.B.R

“Birds are indicators of the environment. If they are in trouble, we know we’ll soon be in trouble”. – Roger Tory Peterson

“By polluting clear water with slime you will never find good drinking water”. – Aeschylus

OBITUARY

K. RAMAKRISHNA
(28.10.1930 - 01.05.2016)



We record with profound grief the sad demise of Sri K. Ramakrishna (KRK), on 1st May 2016 due to cardiac arrest. He was 86. Sri Kotamraju Ramakrishna was the eldest of 5 brothers and 3

sisters born to Sri K. Venkateswara Rao and Smt. Aivelu Mangamma. He had his school education at the famous All Saints High School and higher education at Nizam College in Hyderabad. He was in the last leg of graduation, when he was selected for appointment as Forest Range Officer in the erstwhile Hyderabad State. His consequent deputation to Madras Forest College, Coimbatore for training in 1951-53 batch of Rangers Course forced him to quit the college. After successful completion of training at Forest College, Coimbatore, he worked for a long time as Range Officer in Silvicultural Research before he was sent to shoulder more onerous field duties of forest management, protection and timber operations in the valuable forest tracts of Kadam, Jannaram and Tadlapet in Adilabad District. After his promotion as Asst. Conservator of Forests in 1971, he worked as Sub-DFO in Nirmal and Kaghaznagar Divisions and then was transferred to Department's Head Office at Hyderabad where he worked until his premature / voluntary retirement on 30.04.1984.

K. Ramakrishna, affectionately accosted by his friends as Ramu, was a forester with a difference in many respects. He had his own mind and counsel. He was frank and bold to speak his mind.

Impeccable honesty and integrity were his forte. He did not know what 'fear' was. He earned an appellation from a senior officer as "Born Free and Fearless". He was strong of views and marshalled his views forcefully unmindful of the effect it had on listeners. It is to his credit that most of the times he had his 'way'. It is an irony that the self-esteem, a trait which he prized most, proved to be the cause for his voluntary retirement, but for which he would have reached much higher positions in the Department.

He was very jovial, a gifted speaker and an accomplished conversationist. That he did not have to regret for anything done or said is a tribute to his sagacity. While words fail to project his personality in entirety, the single fact that he left a will behind, donating his eyes to an eye bank and his mortal remains to a Medical College speaks volumes of the qualities of his head and heart and personal conduct.

Like his illustrious father, KRK's heart lies in imparting education. He steadfastly continued to run the educational institution founded by his father, after voluntary retirement, often against odds, until modern trends of commercial education set in. He has hordes of friends and legion of admirers besides his relatives, to mourn his death not to speak of thousands of wards whom he taught.

He is survived by wife Smt. Bhavani, two sons, two daughters and eight grandchildren.

MAY HIS NOBLE SOUL REST IN PEACE! - J. V. Sharma, and KBR



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- A fully owned, financially well managed State Government Company. Raising massive plantations to cater to the needs of the wood based industries.
- Watershed approach adopted for raising plantations, to make them ecologically sustainable, socially acceptable and commercially viable, with the long-term goal to improve the site quality of plantation areas.
- Largest grower of about 29,640 Ha of Eucalyptus Clonal Plantations in the country and is harvesting about 2.50 Lakh MTs of Pulpwood every year. Besides this, it has Bamboo, Coffee and Teak plantations over 12,000 Ha.
- The corporation has bagged awards “ **Flavour of India- Fine cup awards** ” for producing quality coffee during the years 2003, 2005, 2007 to 2015.

Plant A Sapling And Protect The Environment

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