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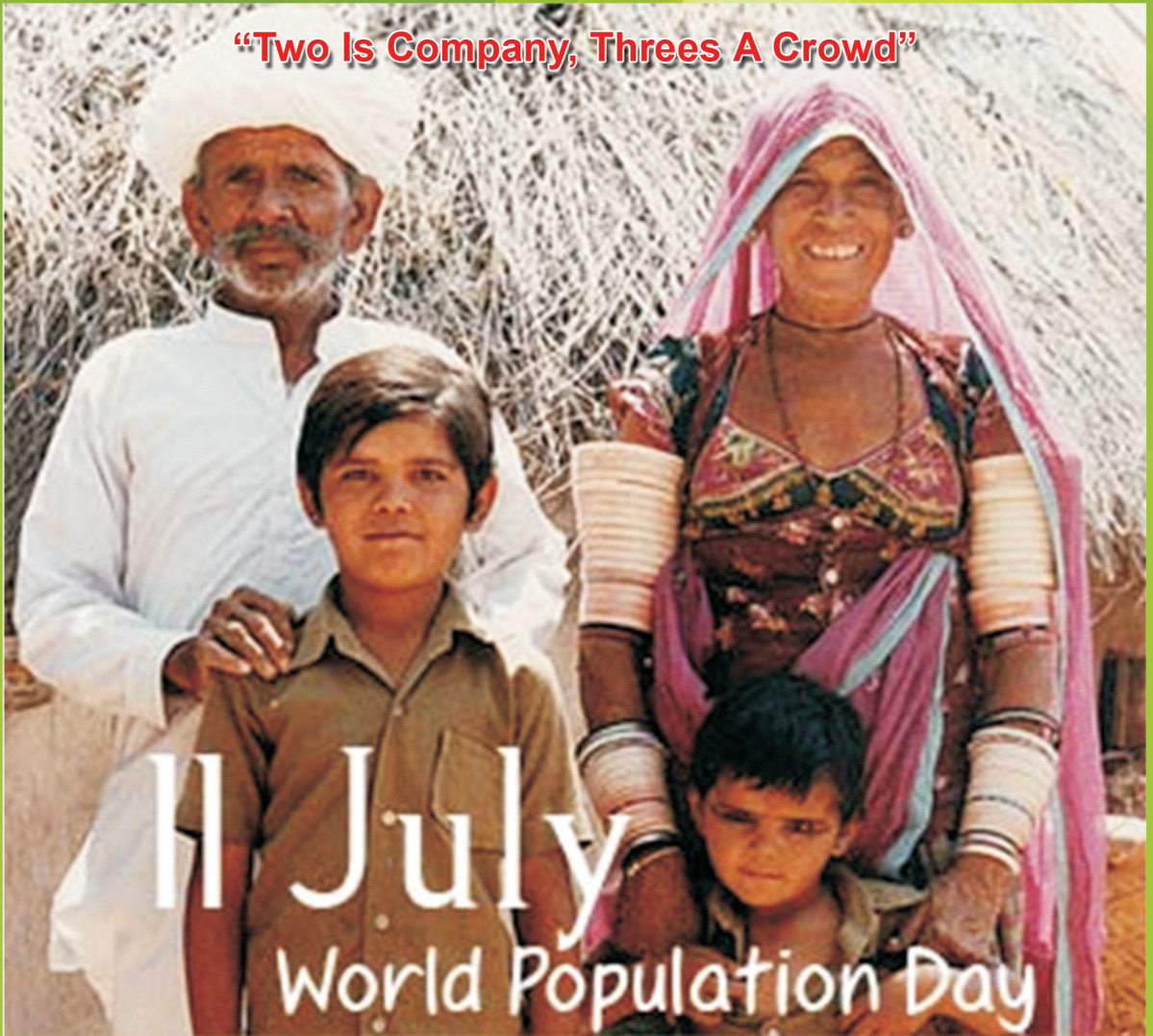
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*Vana Premi Wishes Very Happy, Prosperous and Healthy Idd-ul-Fitar*

**“Two Is Company, Threes A Crowd”**



**11 July**  
**World Population Day**

**“Ham Do Hamaray Do”**

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## EDITORIAL

**World Population Day:** -World Population Day is observed as an international level awareness campaign throughout the globe on 11<sup>th</sup> of July every year. In 1989, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme recommended that, in order to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues in the context of overall development plans and programmes, and the need to find solutions for these issues, 11<sup>th</sup> July should be observed every year throughout the globe as World Population Day. World Population Day is observed every year in more than 200 countries to bring awareness to people about importance of small families and living healthy lives. It was first started in the year 1989 to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues. Today, the need to address those issues is more urgent than ever.

The main goal of World Population Day is for all humans to be given the right to determine the number and timing of their children both responsibly and freely. Another objective of world population day is to inform the people about population issues and the impact the large population has on the environment and development. The world's population is rapidly expanding, and the world is also confronting unprecedented levels of crisis and displacement caused by conflict, persecution and natural disasters, intensified by climate change. Due to

over population we are polluting all rivers of our country, this is only one of the consequences of overpopulation out of many. I will give two examples for this. Due to over population and indiscriminate urbanization, the famous river Musi of Hyderabad which flows from the center of the city, was once the lifeline and whose water was used by Hyderabad is for drinking, has now shrunk in to a small stinking dirty drain and its water has become highly toxic to the extent that none would like even to touch this water. This has happened due to overpopulation and by domestic and industrial waste dumping into it. The color of water has become blackish. It is estimated that 350 to 400 million liters a day of polluted water and sewage originating from Hyderabad and Secunderabad flows into the river. Ganga River starts from Gangotri Glacier, at Gomukh, at an elevation of 3,892 m or 12769 ft. which is very pure. Ganges is the most sacred and biggest river of our country. Ganges is also third largest river of the world by discharge, lifeline to millions of people and worshiped as goddess. 60 years ago its water was very clean and pure, but due to over population this river is also highly polluted. The Ganges was ranked as the fifth most polluted river of the world in 2007. Pollution threatens not only humans, but also more than 140 fish species, 90 amphibian species and the endangered Ganges river

dolphin. Readers can imagine the condition and fate of rest of the famous rivers of our country. The severe summer of 2016, during which at some places temperature touched 50 degrees C and acute shortage of water throughout the country is felt, again is an example of overpopulation and loss of good environment. Instead of controlling environment for benefit of population, maybe we should control population to ensure survival of our environment. Dr. Henry W. Kendall once said that "If we don't halt population growth with justice and compassion, it will be done for us by nature, brutally and without pity- and will leave a ravaged world". (Tsunamis, earthquakes, cloud bursting, droughts, and floods) Let us not wait for that day.

Close to a billion people, about one-eighth of the world's population still starves and lives in hunger. Some of us are eating too much while others starve perhaps because of poverty and shortage of food. Yet we are increasing our population. The greatest identifiable threat caused due to over population is the alarmingly fast depletion of natural resources and threat to sustainability. Few of the major consequences of the rapid growth of population in the current time are Poverty, Unemployment, Pollution, Deforestation, Diseases etc. The power of population is indefinitely greater than the power in the earth to produce subsistence for man. Population of the globe is steadily increasing

every day, and on 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2016 at 8 PM it is estimated that the population of globe has increased to 7,427,372,236, but the size of the globe has not increased even by an inch, which means the natural resources of the globe per person is in fact reducing every day due to increase of the population. The population of India on the above date and time is estimated around 1,290,323,680. Every second worldwide, five people are born and two people die, leaving three more humans to inhabit the earth. That is approximately 180 more people per minute right now and this is likely to increase. How long can the earth provide for all of us? Indian population accounts for 17.5% of the world's population next only to China whose population is 1,381,900,831, which is equivalent to 18.72% of the world population. Countries like China and India together constitute about 37% of world's population. The area of globe is 510.1 million Sq. Km. and area of continent Asia is only 44.58 million sq. Km. but 60% of the world's population resides in Asia. China's 'One Child Policy' of 1978, has brought tremendous results but it is given up last year. Population of India since getting independence from Britain in 1947 increased almost three times. India is all set to overtake China's population by 2030 or even earlier than that if our birth rate continues to be the same. Uttar Pradesh with a population of 199.6 million is the highest contributor to the Indian population. Every year,

India adds more people than any other nation in the world, and in fact population of some of our states is equal to the total population of many countries. For example, Population of Uttar Pradesh almost equals to the population of Brazil. The population of the second most populous state Maharashtra, which has a growth rate of 9.42%, is equal to that of Mexico's population. Bihar, with 8.07% growth rate is the third most populous state in India and its population is more than Germany's. Delhi is the world's second largest urban agglomerate with a population of 22,157,000 Tokyo being the world's largest urban agglomerate with a population of 37.2 million. Some of the reasons for India's rapidly growing population are poverty, illiteracy, high fertility rate, idles, and rapid decline in mortality rates. Alarmed by its swelling population, India started taking measures to stem the growth rate quite early. In fact India by launching the National Family Planning program in 1952 became the first country in the world to have a population policy. The family planning program yielded good results, bringing down significantly the country's fertility rate. From 1965 to 2009, the contraceptive usage more than tripled and the fertility rate more than halved. Unfortunately today we are not following family planning very strictly as there is no political will and some of the leaders are encouraging to produce more children. In fact time has now come to say "Ham Do Hamara Ek" instead of "Ham Do Hamaray Do"

The campaign of the World Population Day every year increases the knowledge and skills of the people worldwide towards their reproductive health and family planning. World Population Day is celebrated on international level by organizing variety of activities and events to draw attention of mass people to work together on the issues of growing population. Some of the activities include seminar discussions, educational competitions, educational information sessions, essay writing competition, public contests on various topics, poster distribution, songs, sports activity, speeches, poems, slogans, themes and messages distribution, workshops, lectures, debates, round table discussions, news distribution through press conferences, TV channels and news channels, relay of population related programmes on radio and television and so many. Various health organizations and population divisions works together to solve population issues by organizing conferences, research works, meetings, project analysis etc.

Once it was necessary that the people should multiply and be fruitful if the human race was to survive. But now to preserve the race it is necessary that people hold back the power of propagation. Vana Premi wishes that we all follow family planning strictly, control the population of our country, and live longer healthier and happier life without degrading the environment of our planet. **QMK**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Not a day too soon you have nicely dealt with the subject of Environment through an Editorial in June, '16 Issue of VP. It could not have come at a better time, but ironically, on this 44th observance of World Environment Day, we find Environmental Destruction to be the Fourth most notorious crime at the world level. According to a report of the UNEP ( United Nations Environment Programme) and Interpol, the said " criminal enterprise is next only to world's drug-smuggling, counterfeiting and human-trafficking, undermining local land rights and threatening sustainable development & financial conflicts, as a result of weak laws and poorly funded security forces emboldening international criminal networks & armed rebels to profit from a trade that also damages ecosystems, threatening species with extinction.

Sophisticated international criminal gangs are indeed plundering the Earth's natural resources faster than previously thought, with vast sums of money generated from such crimes keeping them in business, fueling insecurity around the world. The world has taken so long to accept the fact that its climate is changing because of human activity!

Deforestation and the rampant exploitation of the Earth's natural resources, due to the increasing industrial activity, coupled with burgeoning human population have altered our ecosystem irrevocably — the devastating consequences of which are now becoming so apparent. Deliberately unwilling to look at the bigger picture, experts offer local phenomena as the explanation, in spite of all these happenings and having obvious picture before them of Earth's climate changing for the worse. Nature has indeed turned harsher after helping man live on this planet for thousands of years — providing sunshine, food and water! All manifestations of nature such as devastatingly destructive Tsunami —which killed more than two lakh people and many times more of animal & plant life — cannot be near anomalies, making it that clear that they are the result of vast damage done to the Environment & the price being paid for abusing nature. How ignorant we are to these warning signs in our preoccupations with achieving economic growth and trying to outsmart nature, instead of learning from our mistakes?

Still, it appears that it is not too late even now as there is perhaps time to change our course towards more sustainable, nature-friendly practices, provided we have the will to do so, by changing our mindset from that of acquisition & consumption to one of sharing and caring.

Sincerely,

Dr. Raghotham Rao Desai.

Sir,

I convey my grateful thanks to Mr. V S Joshi and Dr. A R Maslekar for the kind words expressed in their letters to the Editor (*VP-June 2016*). As for Dr. A R Maslekar's question 'why not go for "plebiscite" as promised by Pt. Nehru', I venture to answer as below:

- a) Partition of British India and formation of two sovereign Dominions, namely Pakistan and India, are facilitated by India Independence Act 1947 passed by British Parliament. There is also a provision in the Act permitting the Princely States to either remain independent or join any of the two Dominions named. The element of 'wishes of the people', did not figure anywhere. Ruler's choice was supposed to be absolute. Word "Plebiscite" was non-existent in the scheme of things envisaged at the time of Partition.
- b) Voluntary merger with any one of the Dominions was sought to be accomplished through an Instrument of Accession signed by the Prince. The letter of accession to India signed and sent by Maharaja Hari Singh was unequivocal and without any conditions.
- c) Government of India accepted the accession but Pt. Nehru being a great democrat, magnanimously announced that the future of the State will be decided according to the wishes of the people. Mr. Nehru's assurance was unwarranted. This was in October 1947.
- d) The UN Security Council passed Resolution No. 47 on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1948 imposing immediate ceasefire and called on Parties to resolve the dispute in three steps. First, UNSC called on Pakistan to secure the withdrawal from J&K of tribesmen and Pakistani nationals not normally resident therein who have entered the State for the purpose of fighting; Second, it had asked India to reduce its forces to minimum strength; and Three, after the first and second steps are complied, the circumstances for holding a plebiscite could be put into effect on the question of Accession of the State to India or Pakistan. It is in this resolution the word "Plebiscite" came in the first time.
- e) It is significant that the UNSC called for total withdrawal of Pakistani Regulars and tribesmen, all those not normally resident in J&K, as the very first step for resolution of the dispute. This part of the resolution amply implies that Pakistan is not a necessary party in J&K. Had this been complied by Pakistan, there would not have been a 'Pakistan occupied Kashmir'. When Pakistan was asked to withdraw its forces, as a precondition and first step, it should also imply that the Security Council just stopped short of naming Pakistan an aggressor.
- f) Pakistan's refusal to comply the first part of resolution did not permit the other steps to follow. Plebiscite figures in the third stage and it remained a non-starter for obvious reasons. It is also significant that the resolution did not ask India to withdraw its troops on par with Pakistan. Instead, it asked India to reduce its forces. It obviously means that the presence of Indian forces in J&K is a *necessity*.

g) Time did not freeze in 1948. More than 15 years passed even in 21<sup>st</sup> century. We are in 2016. Nor is the J&K the same. It adopted its own Constitution and unequivocally affirmed its accession to India and declared itself as integral part of India. Ever since, elections to State Assembly are held every six years and popular governments have been in place. Democratic process is on. All these events are nothing but expression of people's wishes. Pt. Nehru's promise has effectively been implemented in spirit, though not strictly in the plebiscite route.

h) Yes, it is true Pt. Nehru agreed for plebiscite after UNSC Resolution. But first things should come first. Nor the people can be deprived of legitimate right to rule themselves, indefinitely for decades, as is the case in PoK. It is also true that there are different shades of public opinion. There are sections among the people who want the J&K to merge with Pakistan. There are also sections who want J&K to remain Independent. These elements have been persistently asking the people not to participate in elections and boycott them. Yet, majority of the people, about 65% of the electorate, exercised their franchise even in recent elections and elected government is in power. NC, PDP, Congress and BJP, notable political outfits, comprising of all the elected members, despite political bickering, believe their destiny is irreversibly linked with India. And for the rest of India, secularism is an article of faith and J&K is its inseparable part.

i) Proxy wars, terrorism, sabotage and other excesses cannot become valid reasons for holding plebiscite. A small group of hardcore terrorists/anti-social elements can disturb the peace and hold the entire community to ransom. It is not advisable to give in to threats posed by rogue elements who intend to gain by threats in a plebiscite what they failed to get by legally acceptable route.

Under these circumstances, a plebiscite to solve the J&K problem is neither necessary nor advisable nor feasible. We must appreciate the fact that one cannot go back six decades in time capsule.

Regards,

J V Sharma

*“Almost half of the population of the world lives in rural regions and mostly in a state of poverty. Such inequalities in human development have been one of the primary reasons for unrest and, in some parts of the world, even violence”. – A. P. J. Abdul Kalam*

# QUEEN'S 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION IN UK

By

**M. Kamal Naidu**

I was very fortunate to be at UK to witness the grandest show of UK, to mark the birthday celebration of the most gracious, most humble queen, most loved person her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. This occasion carried my memory back to the pre-independence days, spanning from my school days at the '(LMRM)Lawrence Memorial Royal Military School' Lovedale, near Ooty, and life at Wellington in Nilgiris, which I now realize are a miniature UK for landscape settings and the culture established there. I now know how well the English made Nilgiris a second home with names of streets, places, house so akin to UK countryside even today.

The parade to celebrate the occasion to wish the queen was so meticulously planned for details of decorum, timing it till ending up with the colorful fly-past by RAF, akin to our Republic day parades at Delhi, with the queen, like any of our youthful presidents, in very smartly taking the 'Guard of Honor Salute', ending up in a satisfied goodbye wave, along with Prince Phillips, who also crossed his 95 years a day earlier. Both were humanity in grace and youthfulness, and simplicity. I was able to judge the love and pride of the people for the distinguished royalty from sparkle in the eyes in their faces. when they cheered 'Long live the queen' accompanied by joyous waving, despite the fact the empire crumbled during her reign,

she being no reason for the debacle, which the people well understood as shown by their gestures.

I was fortunate to get a good respectable viewing gallery, arranged by my son-in-law, working with 'UK National Health Service' as a Consultant, in a stall reserved for NHS personnel , considering me as a distinguished VIP guest from India, as explained to the concerned for seating me and my wife, which is thanks to my post department assignments paved the way to be a distinguished Member of a Supreme Court Commission, following my elevated posting as Chairman, Godavari Valley Development Authority, a river well known to the British.

The parade reminded me of my school because our drill master, a retired Sargent- Major Nicholas, a stern bachelor trimmed us to perfection in drill for the annual founder's day parade. The queen's parade had 1500 men drawn from all regiments to represent the entire armed forces of UK including women who now constitute a substantial part of the present forces. They were a perfect coordination of stepping both in the slow and quick marching. I noticed one change, the shoulder arms command from present arms was shifting of gun to left shoulder rather than right we were trained and used to. The horses were also very

well groomed and perfect in their stepping at the trot. It was a day well spent being fortunately a good sunny day, too hot for the locals, but most pleasant to us from India. It was more thrilling for us for the day enhanced our celebrating mood for it was our grand-sons third birthday as a British citizen as well. The beauty of the parade was that the eyes of every participant at the parade was glittering and bubbling as could be seen very clearly on the large TV screen besides our seating area, exhibiting great love and loyalty to the queen at the march past at eyes right command passing the queen waving out equally eagerly at them dressed in elegant light emerald green dress with a white cap, with Prince Phillip saluting besides her very smartly, like any youthful proud soldier in full uniform glittering with innumerable medals, befitting the most spectacularly colorful uniform of black pants, red tunics and the traditional huge black furry caps of the guards.

The parade ended up with the queen getting in with great agility into her horse drawn coach, following the most colorful band on quick march, comprising of drummers, trumpeters and bag pipers from the several regiments, with perfect blending music of 'God save the queen', 'Auld Lang sign' and many other traditional marching tune numbers reminding me once again of our march past at Lovedale. The parade reminded me of the Parade Major Nicholas who organized at the first Founders Day Parade after the Republic Day, when the school had to change over the flag from the British flag to our present Indian tricolor, and the school changed its name from LMRM school to just Lawrence School, as is

known even now.

The queen entourage drove past us seated along the Mall Road to Buckingham Palace, lined by school children waving gaily and smartly in their boy scouts and Girl Guide uniforms, and the public shouting good wishes at top of their voices, to show how the nation loved and respected their monarch.

Thus the day was a day of youthful remembrances and great celebration to our little fellow who completed three over a large chocolate cake at a posh restraint, which was all decked up for the queen's birthday occasion. It was a great day of joy and happiness, which only British know how to express to the aging but youthful queen.

The gaiety of the nation continued until 16-6-2016, when it fell into a deep sense of mourning and sorrow because a lunatic chose to gun down the nation's youngest MP, just 41 years old and stabbed her to death, who was mother of two young girls 3 and 5 years old, because of a grudge only an idiotic lunatic harbor. This threw the entire nation to a deep state of gloom and sorrow, and disrepute to the nation who love and respect their leaders. We could see the sorrow everywhere with half-mast flags, no more fun in places of enjoyment, and every news channel and churches praying for the departed soul who everyone seemed to have loved for her noble service to downtrodden and displaced immigrants. We saw this devotion to Shri Abdul Kalam, former President of India when he died from all shades of people in India, out of sheer love and appreciation for his simplicity and sincerity. (mkamalnaidu@hotmail.com)

## SO MUCH TO LEARN IN THE FORESTS- (FROM MY GURUS IN THE FIELD)

By  
**Dr. A.R.Maslekar**

I joined Forest Service and learnt many things from my subordinates and labor in the field. What I learnt has stayed with me over so many years. Occasions of the lesson remain fresh in my mind even at this age. I am grateful to each of them. I joined as ACF – Attached Officer- at the West Chanda Division on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1961, after completing training of three years at IFC, Dehra Dun. On the fourth day of my service, my DFO called me at seven in the evening, at my residence, and asked me to go with the RFO Chanda to retrieve a dead tiger. In half an hour a jeep came with RFO, Forester and a Fire watcher. We went to Mamla, some 8 KMs on Mul road and then turned into a dense patch of jungle. The Firewatcher asked the driver to stop the Jeep after a km in an opening .We all got down. RFO carried his twelve barrel gun. Forester had a cane and a torch. A Forest Guard met us after some walk and guided us to the dead tiger. Another furlong we covered and whiff of strong,rotten smell, hit my nose.RFO asked me to cover my mouth by kerchief. He did so himself.RFO was a veteran of 32 years' service.

We were about to reach the spot when some striped animal suddenly got up and started staring at us. We switched on our torch. His eyes

were gleaming, yellow. All of us were startled and I gulped in fear. The fire watcher moved further, hit his stick on ground and shouted loudly. Animal moved back, turned and went away. RFO had firmly held my hand and said "Sir, do not be afraid. It is only a Hyena. And remember,Sir, never to run away from any threatening situation in the Jungle. No animal does it unless it confirms the threat and possibility of action."

We went near the carcass. FG told that the Tiger was dead two days back. He was poisoned. His hair came off loosely.RFO gave instructions. Skinning the carcass was not possible now. Four paws were cut, with an axe by firewatcher, animals whiskers were pulled out, and tail was cut and taken *Panchanama* was done and we returned back. First Lesson well learnt.

I joined as Sub DFO –cum Saw Mill Manager-cum Saw Mill Engineer at Allapalli in July 1964.Saw Mill Manager had been transferred a year back, Saw Mill engineer retired two years before. The saw mill at Allapalli was erected in 1924 to salvage teak wood from big, bottom logs,of huge teak trees. Allapalli was famous for its CP Teak, number one in the Market). Saw mill was run on a Lancashire boiler, which consumed

teak offcuts .Posting here was considered as a stepping stone to promotion. It in itself was a great learning experience. All works were done departmentally. Allapalli was established as the biggest forest village, in the Madhya Bharat.

In first week of August 64, CF (HQ at Nagpur,) along with CF Research from Pune, DFO from Chanda, came on a visit. We were visiting a recent plantation of teak, where first weeding was being done. As we moved around CF research saw on small mound of grass and climbed over it to get a good view. Both the bosses were discussing their times, giving some instructions to RFO, FGs and others. Everytime I was addressed to note the same. Suddenly the dome started sinking and CF Research had to be helped from falling. There was loud grumbling sound and a big sow and her six young piglets came out charging from an opening in the rear of the dome and went angrily away, cursing all of us. The dome was an igloo like structure, built by wild pigs from grass and sticks. A meticulous job to breed and nurse the VARAH family FG explained in details. Both bosses forgot the plantation and we returned for a tea break. Good experience of wild way of life. All of us had seen this for the first time in life.

Buccha Master was a Gond Adivasi and worked as a Helper on Band saw of the Mill. We had three band saws and one break-down saw in the mill. Helper assisted the sawyer in handling logs on

the bench and saw that the log was prepared for sawing, after removing butts and knots. He had no education but was working for last 25 years. He was a virtual genius with tools. Once I slipped in my bathroom, and hurt my right knee very badly. It was swollen and I could not stand or walk. Buccha Master learnt about same and came to the bungalow with some darkened oil. In spite of my resistance he massaged the knee with that oil. In two days I was walking, normally. The oil was burnt-used- brake oil. Since then I keep a small bottle in the house.

He came to me in one evening and suggested that I start wood carving. He had prepared some tools for my use. Few, different edged, *pataashis* (chisels), and one wooden & one iron hammer, one wooden drill with thread, and started giving me lessons on the grain of different woods, how to apply chisels, and how not to split the wood. Even now I indulge in this hobby. I took to this like a duck to water. My house is full of assorted creations from teak, shivan, (*Gmelina arborea*), haldu (*Adina cardifolia*) woods and bamboo rhizomes. My hobby later on inspired one Prof. Sapre of Chandrapur, a friend of mine, who used to observe me doing this in spare time. He developed this so much that in 2014 he had exported his creations to various western countries, as curios, worth Rs. 3 crores. He thanks me, everytime we meet. He has his website on internet. I thank Buccha Master.

Patekar was our RFO in Forest Corporation. I had joined as Regional Manager, Chandrapur, on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 1983. Before that I was in Bhopal, establishing IIFM. I developed a kidney stone there. An X-ray showed a ground nut sized stone on my left kidney. This made me suffer renal pain and frequent urination. It was embarrassing in the field. One day Patekar came to the Forest Rest House, where I was camping. He gave me a packet of small black tiny seeds. He asked me to take a spoonful in the morning, before tea, with water. I started the course. In one year my "precious" stone had dissolved. The seed belonged to a plant called Kardu, (*Celosia argentea*) also called as KOMBDA (Cock). This plant grows profusely in dry cultivation along with Bajra, Jowar crops. A middle sized shrub, with a white flower (comb) with red tip, at the end of a branch.

Patekar was a good field botanist. Once, while walking through a plantation I saw one shrub and called it "Chirayat", a potent concoction made for malaria fever in Ayurved. He corrected me saying it was false chirayat (*Andrographis*

*paniculata*) and not true chirayat, which is *Swertia chirata*. Use of false chirayat is common. He told me many such medicines. His father was Ayurved practitioner at Nagpur.

In 1962, a Forest Guard saw me scratching my hands and neck. He said ticks must have stung me. Teak Trees and Ticks go together. He then brought a small bottle of oil and asked me to apply to itching parts before taking bath. It is very effective but simple mixture of kerosene, mustard oil, camphor, moth balls and Mag Sulph powder.

This is just a small sample of my various field gurus in Forest Service. In 36 years I met a lot in different places, In India, In Bhutan. In Ethiopia I was even adopted as a son in one Bhutanese family. Late Pratap Bahadur and Late V.K. Seth were witnesses to this event in 1973. We were a Team of GOI-Min of External affairs, to assess forest resources of that country. The head of that family, was a Mondal, a Sarpanch of that village, and said he liked me. I am grateful. I am grateful to all of them. (anand.maslekar@gmail.com)

*“Population growth is straining the Earth’s resources to the breaking point, and educating girls is the single most important factor in stabilizing that. That, plus helping women gain political and economic power and safeguarding their reproductive rights”.*

# KOMARAM BHEEMU, THE EARLIEST MARTYR AMONG GONDS

By  
**J. V. Sharma**

Martyrdom of any creed is associated with supreme sacrifice and the same has to be understood and respected for its sheer commitment, courage and devotion. It is the ultimate feature of human sensibility. Unfortunately, the martyr in this story is a tribal hero, pushed to be on the opposite side of Administration, dictated by force of circumstances obtaining during corresponding period in history.

Adilabad District was famous for its forests, tribal population, harsh terrain and backwardness. Political awareness was slow to reach and even slower to assert. Ever since the final phase of agitation for separate Telangana State had intensified and more notably after the New State has come into existence, we hear a lot of praise for the princely rule prior to Police Action. Responsible political leaders make statements that are far removed from truth. The issue is not of simple case of difference of perception. Political considerations notwithstanding, the fact of history should not be tinkered with, as that would project an incorrect history for future.

Now at 84+, I have lived through when all these political changes took place and therefore I consider it my moral duty to say what I had seen and known. I went to Utnoor in Adilabad District,

the first time, in the first week of July 1957, not very long after Professor Haimendorf's first spell of stay in the District. I heard people telling that the Professor lived as one among the tribes and worked for their welfare. I was too young and did not have the awareness or exposure to the connected problems then to enable me probe and learn more of those days. However, I could avail the opportunity of seeing and talking to the German Professor during his last visit. I have drawn facts mostly from his writings while I tried to analyze them in my own way. In this article, I wish to set the record straight on Komaram Bheemu's struggle and the events that led to his death.

Not many outside Adilabad District will be knowing that a person by name Komaram Bheemu, a *Gond* Tribal of the district, was killed by policemen on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1940 when he was fighting for a piece of land for cultivation. He thus became the first among the tribal population to seek/demand land and laid down his life in the cause of his and community's land rights. He rightly became an icon of tribe's land rights. He is now a part of folklore among tribes of the District, particularly the *Gonds*. The times were totally different and the political awareness was totally nonexistent. What is

strikingly important is that Bheemu took to arms to assert his right to land even in those days when there was no extremist philosophy to guide. It was his sheer determination and courage that prompted him to fight for the cause of tribes. Komaram Bheemu's story was confined to tribal community for decades until political leaders appeared on the scene to resurrect his name for political dividends. Komaram Bheemu was a 'martyr' in the true sense of the word and his death was certainly the 'supreme sacrifice'. There is some confusion about the date of his killing as the Anniversary of martyrdom is celebrated on the full moon day immediately following Dussehra. S. Harpal Singh who is regularly reporting events of the District clarified in *The Hindu* dated 9<sup>th</sup> October 2014 that the *Gond* leader was actually killed on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1940. Several stories are making rounds about the incident. To have an authentic version of the past, one should either depend upon the recorded material or obtain reliable information from those who were witness to the events or depend upon the researchers and chroniclers. Without any fear of contradiction, the version recorded by Professor Christoph von Furer Haimendorf should reckon as authentic and reliable. He was one who spent the best part of his life to study the tribes and their life when not much of information was on record. He was a German Anthropologist of international repute. He lived among tribes of India for considerable period. The Professor studied the tribal life in Adilabad

District, in particular, staying for years at Marlavai village of Utnoor Taluk. He wrote extensively on the subject and his presentation of facts can be taken as authentic though the analysis may suffer subjectivity. Very significantly, he recorded the events prior to Police Action and also the developments thereafter during the popular regime, to provide true picture of events in different phases.

The very mention of Adilabad evokes some strange thoughts in those who have known it. For long in the past, Adilabad District was considered a 'dark area' on the analogy of 'Dark Continent' of Africa. It was a vast stretch of woodland with a sprinkling of tribal habitations, totally backward and devoid of any communication facility. The District Headquarters which was once at Asifabad, though relatively centrally located, had to be shifted to Adilabad because of termite menace! People travelled in bullock carts from Nirmal to Adilabad. Gudihatnur-Utnoor Road was non-existent and so also Utnoor-Asifabad and Utnoor-Indanpally Roads. Utnoor, considered being the epicenter of tribal life, though a Taluk headquarters, was a small village and the only tiled house was the Forest Range Officer's Office-cum-Residence. There used to be a saying in Urdu; "*Utnoor, Qudakanoor – Mauth nazdik aur Kafan door*". It roughly means; Utnoor is like halo around God with death closing in but no cloth at hand to cover the dead body.

Entire Utnoor Taluk had a population of only 34,404 people in 1941 and almost the entire population was tribal.

Prof. Haimendorf gave an account of Komaram Bheem's martyrdom and the same is reproduced below verbatim:

*"This policy of clearing large tracts of forest of all human habitation, including old, established villages inhabited for many generations, led to the only case of armed resistance by Gonds in the annals of Adilabad District. That mini-rebellion, as it may be called, is known as the Babijheri incident after the locality in which it occurred. As it clearly reflects the relations between the tribal population and the forest authorities and has found a place in Gond folklore, it merits description in some detail."*

"The leader of the Gonds at Babijheri was Kumra Bhimu, whose home village was Sankepalli, about five miles from Asifabad. He, like other Gonds of the area, felt a deep resentment that at that time any outsider, whether Brahmin, Muslim, or Komti, could get patta land, but Gonds could not obtain patta rights. Kumra Bhimu, who was an intelligent young man able to read and write, had repeatedly tried to get some land. In his home village most of the land had fallen into the hands of non-aboriginals. After staying for some years in various villages of Muslim and Brahmin landlords, he finally settled in Babijheri. This village was subsequently established as an enclave in the Dhanora State Forest, but those inhabitants who had no patta were told that they

must vacate the place. As they had not left by the date fixed, all their houses were burnt by forest guards. Some Gonds and nine families of Kolams got permission to settle at Jhoreghat, a site east of Babijheri, and some land was measured and allotted to individual families by the revenue inspector and the patwari. The forest guard then came and told the Gonds and Kolams that they could clear as much forest as they liked if they paid him Rs 500. The Gonds and Kolams borrowed the money, paid it to the forest guard, and cleared some more land. But after some time the same forest guard came again and said that the Rs 500 was only for himself; if the Gonds wanted to stay they would have to pay Rs 2,000 for the forester and the forest ranger, otherwise they would be driven away and their houses burnt as had happened in Babijheri. (It must be remembered that, in 1940 Rs 500 and Rs 2,000 were enormous sums for tribals.)"

"Then Bhimu and four other Gonds went to Hyderabad, and they are believed to have obtained permission to cultivate fifty-seven acres at Jhoreghat. But when they showed the paper to the forest guard, he still insisted on the payment of Rs 2,000, and again threatened to burn all their houses. Bhimu therefore tried once more to approach higher authorities, and he sent by registered post a petition to the divisional forest officer, with a copy to the second talukdar (sub collector), in which he applied for permission to be allowed to stay

and cultivate at Jhoreghat. But the forest ranger sent without the knowledge of the divisional forest officer a party consisting of the forester, several forest guards, and an Arab with a gun to enforce the evacuation of Jhoreghat."

"As the party approached Jhoreghat they burned without warning several outlying settlements, and some cattle tied up in sheds were trapped and perished in the flames. The Gonds, enraged by the firing of the hamlets, opposed the party, but without fire-arms. The Arab, however, threatened to shoot Bhimu, and shot him through the hand. At that the assembled Gonds fell upon the party and gave them a good beating. Yet, all the forest officials made their escape and walked home."

"It seems that Bhimu and the other Gonds of Jhoreghat decided to resist evacuation by force and that several hundred malcontent Gonds rallied to their support. This was a symptom of bitterness against the forest subordinates comparable to the exasperation of exploited and harassed tribals in Srikakulam District, who in the 1960s and 1970s joined the Naxalite uprising."

"Bhimu and his supporters had no revolutionary aims, and their demands were simply freedom from harassment and extortions by forest subordinates, and the right to live undisturbed in their ancestral homeland."

"Negotiations with Bhimu and his supporters by the district officers were clearly mismanaged, and were abortive because there was no one on

the side of government who had the confidence of the tribesmen. Bhimu refused to give himself up, and when a police party advanced into the hills, where he and his followers had gathered, Bhimu fired a shot without wounding anyone. Thereupon the police opened fire, killed Bhimu and ten other Gonds on the spot and wounded many more."

"The incident left the Gonds deeply resentful of the policy of government and particularly of the forest officials, who intensified their oppression and exploitation, using the example of Bhimu's fate as a threat whenever Gonds resisted their exactions."

The Professor's account of the incident cannot be faulted on facts. Basing on the details provided, following are crucial to the unfortunate episode:

1. The incident relates to 1940, much before the Police Action & merger of Hyderabad State into Indian Union. The State was under the princely rule of His Exalted Highness, Nizam the Seventh of Asafjahi Dynasty, Sir Mir Osman Ali Khan Bahadur under the overall paramountcy of the British.
2. From the succession of events, it can be concluded that Bheemu and his supporters were discriminated in allotment of land. While persons of other communities could get land for agriculture, the tribals were not treated on par.
3. Forest settlement was in progress and the

Forest Department was intent on constituting as much area as possible as Reserve Forest unmindful of the needs of local population.

4. It is also possible that the forest personnel pursuing the forest settlement demanded bribe for leaving any land outside proposed reserve forest for enjoyment of locals.
5. Bheemu tried to secure the land through normal process of request and representations but the forest officials at the level of Range Officer and below resorted to strong arm tactics to dispossess them of land occupied. The Forest Ranger dispatched a party consisting of his subordinates and an Arab with a gun to 'evacuate' Jodeghat, without the knowledge of the DFO.
6. Burning of settlements by the forest party and the loss of cattle perished in fire must have infuriated the tribals.
7. Presence of an armed Arab in the party is not explainable. He had also inflicted injury on Bheemu shooting through his hand. Enough to kindle revenge among victims.
8. The police was not in the picture when all these events took place and entered the scene only in the last Act of the episode to subjugate the defiant tribal group and kill Bheemu & his 10 supporters. The Revenue Administration was not in the picture throughout.
9. Bheemu had a fire arm and it is not clear whether it is licensed. He fired the first shot at the police, though without injuring none

as stated by the Professor.

Foregoing facts will explain that Bheemu was a literate tribal who had some exposure to outside civil society or else there was absolutely no possibility of his knowing reading and writing. This argument is further strengthened by the fact he made representations to various authorities and had even visited Hyderabad and obtained permission to cultivate 57 acres land in Jodeghat. The Professor was not sure of this fact. The role of the Forest Guard appears more crucial in as much as he happened to set the trend leading to disastrous consequences.

But the killing of Komram Bheemu cannot be seen in isolation. There is every possibility of the present day polity to paint it as peasant uprising or a war against the State. Some may even go to the extent that Bheemu was influenced by the philosophy propounded by Marx, Lenin and Stalin. Some may say it is an organized rebellion. Fortunately, Professor's account of the incident effectively pre-empts any such distortion when he said; "*Bhimu and his supporters had no revolutionary aims, and their demands were simply freedom from harassment and extortions by forest subordinates, and the right to live undisturbed in their ancestral homeland.*" Yet, it is necessary to see the entire incident in perspective.

To reconstruct the story in brief, Komram Bheemu left his native village Sankepally early in life when he could not get any land for cultivation in the village while many non-tribals

could manage. He felt discriminated and resentful. He worked in various villages for sustenance under Muslim and Brahmin landlords of the villages. It is possible that he picked up reading and writing skills and above all, the awareness to struggle for getting land during this period. Evidently, the means to be adopted for getting land were to be peaceful through representations. He shifted to Babijheri, a village in the midst of forests. The forest people took up forest settlement and Babijheri was to be an enclave (enclosure) in the proposed Dhanora Forest Block. Forest personnel asked all those residents of the village who did not have patta certificates to vacate. With no fixed place to go, Bheemu and some other tribals stay put in the village inviting reprisal from forest staff. Their huts were burnt and they were rendered homeless. This is the beginning of the sordid story.

Bheemu and his co-landless friends moved to a nearby place called Jodeghat supposedly with the consent of lower rung of revenue staff. They struck a deal with Forest Guard who is said to have orally permitted to clear as much forest land as they could, on payment of Rs. 500/-. But the trouble started when the Forest Guard demanded Rs. 2000/- more which the poor tribals could not afford. They were threatened of dire consequences citing Babijheri experience. Bheem and his associates were helpless. It is said they went to Hyderabad and brought permission for about 57 acres of land. But the Forest Guard was unrelenting. Bheem was made to run from

pillar to post. There were no responses from the Divisional Forest Officer and the Revenue Divisional Officer whom they petitioned.

The Forest Range Officer, obviously instigated by the Forest Guard, dispatched forest staff and an armed Arab, to subjugate the tribals. The party burnt all the huts and some cattle too perished in the fire. When the Arab shot Bheemu through hand, the assembled Gonds became incensed and restive. The mob gave a good thrashing to the attackers. Now, Bheemu became a fugitive suddenly having assaulted the State Machinery. The Police stepped in and conducted a raid in which Bheemu and 10 others were killed in the police firing on the spot.

It is abundantly clear that forest staff were the villains in the story. It cannot be argued that they were discharging their legitimate duty with zeal and commitment to constitute as much forest land as possible into Reserved Forest. Demanding and accepting bribe in return to cultivate forest land puts a question mark on the sincerity of the forest personnel. There is no credible reason to disbelieve the 'bribe theory' as the dispatch of a party to site without the DFO's knowledge and the presence of a non-State actor in the Arab are too brazen in the context. Forest Ranger and down below were certainly guilty. Present generation of foresters need not be apologetic about it for the simple reason that 1940 was too distant in the past to bring shame to them.

The presence of an Arab in the Forest party sent

by Ranger can be explained as; there was a practice in Nizam's regime to encourage immigration of people from gulf and middle-east. It was pre-oil exploitation era and there was stark poverty in those countries. Many Arabs happened to migrate to Hyderabad State. They were illiterate and not fit for any white collar job. But because of the covert & overt patronage from the State, they mostly worked as treasury guards and security guards. They acquired reputation of being bold, courageous and ruthless and often paraded as musclemen. Feudal and persons in power employed them as their private army and body guards. They were the law unto themselves and the State turned Nelson's eye to their high handed behavior of threats and extortions. They always sported a dagger (*Jambia*) tucked at waist and a *lathi* in hand. People were scared at the very sight of an Arab, more popular as *Chaavoosh*. We, as students, never dared to go anywhere near them and took to a circuitous route to avoid them. In the instant case, the Arab must have been the hired muscleman. Fire arm in the possession of Bhimu, however, is still enigmatic.

The incident needs to be seen beyond the culpability of forest staff. To go to geneses of the problem, there was blatant discrimination of tribals in land allotment. Persons of various other caste formations succeeded in getting land while the tribals were ignored. It is not as though the Nizam Government was very conservative in ceding land. The Nizam felt that there was too

much of land area under tree cover and human habitations are inadequate. His Government evolved a policy of creating new habitations to bring more and more land under agriculture with liberal offer of additional land for accomplishing it. There are innumerable instances where large chunks of forest areas were granted as *Makhtas*, *Ijaras*, *Bil-makhtas* to influential persons to encourage colonization. Not very long after Komaram Bheemu's incident, the Nizam encouraged immigration of Muslim families from Multan of Pakistan and highly valuable virgin forest area of 4000 Acres was de-reserved from Sirchalma RF of Utnoor Range. The injustice to tribals, who are local, is too apparent to miss attention. It is difficult to digest that the local tribes could be excluded from the Policy of Colonization.

Forest Settlement Procedure in those days was not arbitrary either. Revenue Authorities had bigger say in Reservation process. Authentic source for basic information about land to be constituted as State Forest, like Survey Nos., maps, classification, nature of rights held over the said land and extent, required by the Forest Department, was the Revenue Department and nothing moved without the consent of the DuvvamTaluqdar (RDO) and AvvalTaluqdar (Collector). Curiously, they did not figure anywhere in Bhimu's unfortunate story either for land allotment or in General Administration. Even the Police entered the scene only in the

last stage. It makes one to conclude that everything was arbitrary and *ad-hoc* during the period and the Government Departments, particularly the forest staff acted as if it is not accountable to any. But unfortunately that was the way things happened in those days. It was a systemic deficiency and a classic example of State's inept governance.

Foresters in post-Independence era are placed in an unenviable position. Seen in the context of events leading to Bheemu's death, challenges before the foresters today are too daunting to surmount. The two situations are totally different and are not comparable. Then, the forest staff was trying to dispossess the occupation of an un-notified forest land. In the present era, his challenge is to protect the notified forests from encroachers. What is unfortunate is the fact that the encroachers derive covert support from the State/Central Governments dissuading the forester from taking meaningful steps to initiate penal action and eviction for populist reasons. Looking the other way when forest lands were

being encroached, disabling the staff from evicting the encroachers on one reason or the other and finally bringing a law to legalize the encroachments is ample enough evidence to prove it. If Komaram Bheemu had to lay down his life for a piece of land to sustain himself in the past, today we have martyrs among foresters like R. Gangaiah, RO, Gandhari in Nizamabad District who made the supreme sacrifice to save a piece of forest land from encroachers.

The Honorable Chief Minister of Telangana State had left enough hints to carve out Mancherial District out of present Adilabad District. As smaller States are considered good for effective governance, smaller districts too are perhaps ideal for good administration, subject however to viability and logistics. Should this loud thinking materialize, it may be appropriate to give Komaram Bheemu's name to the district which includes Babijheri & Jodeghat, the *Karmabhoomi* of the *Gond* leader.  
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*We need to continue to decrease the growth rate of the global population; the planet can't support many more people.*

*We all worry about the population explosion, but we don't worry about it at the right time.*

# MORE OF SHAKESPEARE BETTER UNDERSTOOD IN INDIA THAN UK!

By

**Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai**

[This article is an attempt to answer the question, "wherefore art thou now, O Shakespeare?"]

Universality being the hallmark of a great artiste, versatility of his text across cultures being easily seen, strength lying there in his characters which provide a universal context, Shakespeare is able to reach across countries, cultures and centuries to shake up impressionable imaginations and put the fear of literature into the hearts of school children! An incident proves my point when I visited Vellore as part of a tour conducted by our Association (KRFOA) during early years of its formation, to participate in special pooja celebrations at a wonderful golden temple which had come up nearby (at Sripuram/Mataikodi) in Tamil Nadu. In this historical town of Vellore which boasts of a famous Medical College and a host of leading educational institutions, I came across a large sign that boldly stated. "Don't fear Shakespeare!" - apparently an obvious attempt by a high school English teacher to scare students into joining his coaching center, proving also a point that a playwright's leaky pen is mightier than bloody swords!

Imagine a writer who still commands the attention of readers and actors, more than 4 centuries after his birth - a 16th century writer

whose one-liners are used in contemporary conversations and debates. Age cannot wither him nor customs stale his infinite variety - his works transcending languages, borders & cultures, As he was found so close to the common man. and who believed that there is oneness in the suffering of the common man. Long may we be spellbound by his ghost stories, his love epics, his murder plots and his war tales; because it's not just literature but also fields such as psychology sociology political theory business, medicine and law that have fallen victim to the Shakespearization phenomenon. For example, Psychology loves Shakespeare since most of his characters are made! A psychology student would probably get outstanding grade if he is able to explain why Hamlet was talking to a skull instead of his therapist or friends. Shakespeare was an intuitive psychologist, creating characters that reflected the mental turmoil and problems of his audience. His lines reveal clear understanding of human psychology - "most ignorant of what he's most assured— a statement which nutshells a common psychological ailment we suffer from: over estimating our own knowledge and wisdom. In other words, we think we are always right and

people who disagree with are stupid & ignorant. Incidentally, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre played at just one city in India: Bangalore and I happened to be part of the audience (taking a seat besides the TV Actor Prof. CK Govinda Rao) that evening, over an eclectic high tea of Sabudana-Vada, Sandwiches, tender-coconut-water & tea - a tour of "Globe" to globe, launched on April 23, 2014: the 450 birth anniversary of the Bard of Stratford - upon - Avon, which had by then travelled over 3 lakh kilometers, visiting 109 countries, and set to cover all 205 countries of the world by April 23, 2016. We saw one actor (Nayeem Hayat) playing Hamlet in the afternoon, and another character with different interpretations in the evening, while another actor (Ladi Emerua of Nigerian Origin) playing the said character of Hamlet. Though each actor playing various roles is not new to a touring theatre watching them swap roles and still keep the core of Shakespeare intact was a treat, being completely loyal to the written word! Interestingly, I had an impression after a tete-a-tete with a few of the members of the theatrical group & its artistic director Dominic Dromgoole, the iconic playwright is understood far better and proved more popular. Exceeding his fame, in almost all, emerging economies (like Mexico Brazil and India) than his birth country UK. And, "could business school leadership institutes find better case studies than Shakespearean plays? We find Transformationed Leadership where a leader as in King Henry V motivates and changes

the attitude of his followers. And how should one handle a suicidal person like Hamlet with his depressing to be or not to be, thoughts? That is exactly what a crisis management student should study. And if you are a business student, Julius Caesar is a case study in how to execute a ruthless takeover \_ just don't kill the CEO in the process

**Ahead of times:** You will be surprised to know that Shakespeare gave a voice to marginalized minorities! Today though we have progressive and multiplural society, we are unable to climb out of shameful social swamps like sexism male chauvinism and other dubious discriminations imagine then the gender prejudices prevalent during his times when women were relegated to a socially— stunted secondary stature. But Shakespeare came to their rescue, giving his female characters independent identities and defiant voices \_ in his plays, strong women speak their minds and express harsh opinions. The beautiful intelligent Portia disguises herself as a male lawyer in the Merchant of Venice and wins a case using her wits. Lady Macbeth taunts and forces her husband to commit murder. Beatrice in Much Ado about Nothing is a feisty feminist who looks upon men with contempt. And Shakespeare also forces us to look at social lower-rung personalities like jesters and servants: Fester of Twelfth Night and Touchstone of As you like it prove they are not really fools but unappreciated philosophers - in the words of Touchstone, "The more pity that fools may

not speak wisely what wise men do foolishly". Which college-boy wouldn't feel collar-lifting\_proud if someone referred to him as a "Romeo"\_ a faithful till-death-do-us-apart lover? And you might know 'Hamlet', a person who thinks and rethinks but cannot make decisions! Such names have gone beyond being stage characters to become cultural identities

And not just his characters, but Shakespeare himself has become part of our language. The Daily telegraph of London writes that throwing a children's party can be a drama of Shakespearean proportions,\_ the Bard would never have guessed that his name would become an all-purpose adjective used to describe anything that's great or grand, intense or iconic. Shakespearean phrases have not only survived the winds of change, but have also helped shape the ideas and thoughts of global generations: and made him the most quoted author in the Oxford Dictionary.

**What's in a phrase?** There are so many popular expressions that we throw around in casual conversations without knowing that Shakespeare said it first!

If "All of a sudden" you "Go on a wild goose chase" and "Vanish into thin air" or end up "Dead as a door nail" then it's perhaps Shakespeare's fault for coining such gloomy phrases! However, on the brighter side, if you have a "Heart of gold" and are good to your "own flesh and blood", then for goodness sake "all is well that ends well" His frenzied souls as characters on stage portray

frenetic emotions like elated ecstasies, despairing desires, pathetic passions, shameful sorrows or raging remorsefulness - all the while holding up either a skull or dagger to emphasis their inner turmoil. The Board brings to life timeless human issues like love and loathing, friendship and forgiveness, vanity and vengeance so vividly that readers or audiences feel a sense of dejavo

His extraordinary and flamboyant characters actually turn out to be quite ordinary and fallible: Grand kings enter and grander queens exit! But between this entry and exit, we find that these upper class royals have the same tension-inducing problems as us - they fall madly in love, get red-hot-angry, jump for joy, slump down in the dumps, yearn for things they cannot get, and want to smash & bash their enemies!

Romeo falls in love with the wrong girl, Hamlet mourns the untimely death of his father, and Macbeth gets over-ambitions & comes to grief - these upper class kings & queens exhibit the raw emotions & feelings of commons: in fact, they are just like us, the only difference being they tend to wear Elizabethan era clothes, while we wear what advertising companies tell us to wear What is more, even in today's media-cultured world of communication communities, movie mills, interactive internet, television talkies and digital distractions, Shakespearean lines (or funny variations) are being tweeted, twittered and texted regularly

**Quoting Shakespeare:** Perhaps readers still remember the contents of my article "How much is Bard-of-Avon relevant in present-day-times?" as also my letter to the Editor paying a tribute to William Shakespeare, which appeared in Vana Premi of May, 2014, as 23 of April happened to be the date of his birth and demise, 52 years apart. And now two years thence, April, 2016 happens to be 400th death anniversary of the Bard and I would like to remember his philanthropic deeds for which he is so well known.

As already mentioned, he generously donated more than 1700 common words to English language, even changing nouns into verbs, verbs into adjectives or adding prefixes & suffixes to existing words or just inventing whole new original words. His generosity did not stop with just words - hundreds of today's clichés were born in the mind of Shakespeare and came to life on the pages of his plays. A few of these are quoted in the following lines:

If you have not understood my argument and declare vexed "it's Greek to me", you are quoting Shakespeare.

If you claim to be more sinned against than sinning, you are quoting Shakespeare.

If you act more in sorrow than in anger, or if your wish is father to the thought or if you make statements such as Brevity is the soul of wit and frailty thy name is woman or if your neglected property has vanished into thin air, you are quoting Shakespeare.

If you had ever refused to budge an inch or thought you are, either here nor there, or suffered from green-eyed jealousy, or if you have played fast and loose or if you have been tongue-tied, hood winked, a tower of strength, or in a pickle, or if you have knitted your brows - made a virtue of necessity, or insisted on fair play or slept not one wink or stood on ceremony or danced attendance on your lord and master or laughed yourself into stitches or had short shrift cold comfort too much of a good thing or if you have seen better days or lived in a fool's paradise - why be that as it may, the more fool you, for it is a foregone conclusion that you are good luck would have it, you are quoting Shakespeare.

If you think it is early days and clear out bag and baggage or if you think it is high time and that it is the long and short of it or if you believe that the game is up and that truth will be out, or if it involves your own flesh and blood or if you lie low till the crack of doom because you suspect foul play or if you have teeth, set on edge at one fell swoop - without rhyme or reason, then to give the devil his due if the truth were known or surely you have a tongue in your head, you are quoting Shakespeare.

Even if you bid me good riddance and send me packing or if you wish was dead as a doornail or if you think I am an eyesore - a laughing stock - the devil incarnate - a stony-hearted villain - bloody-minded, or a blinking idiot, then by Jove - O Lord - tut, tut! - For goodness, sake - what

the dickens! - but me no buts - it's all one to me, you are quoting Shakespeare.

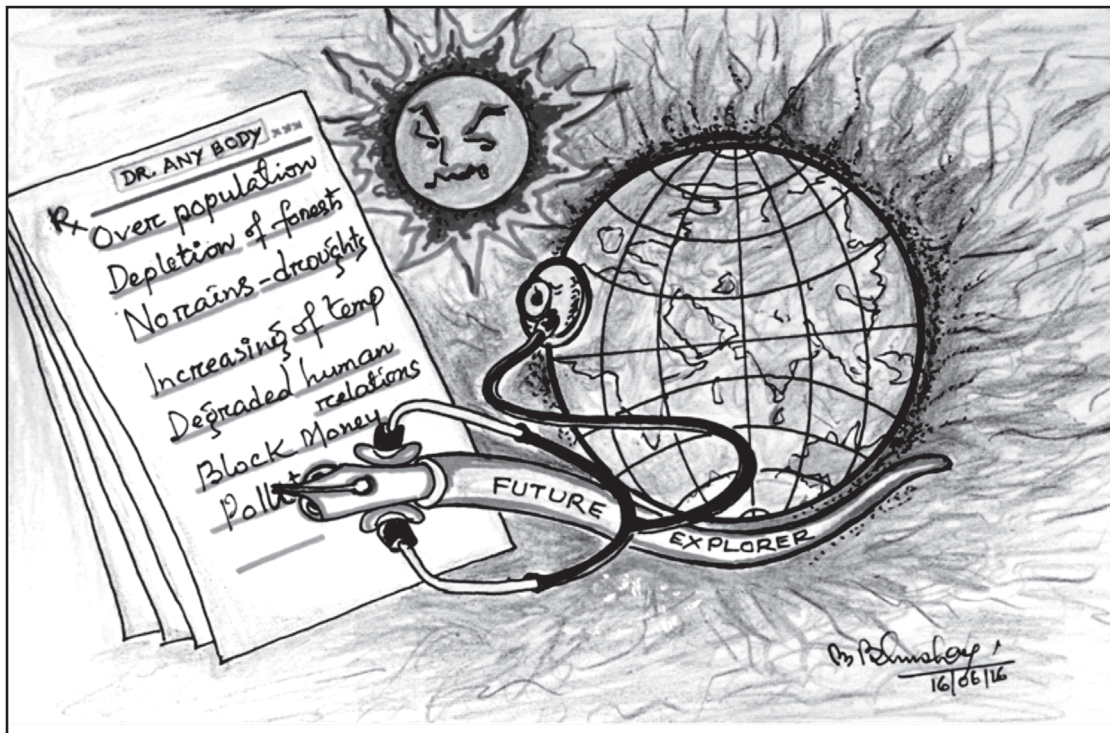
If you had ever been aroused or had accused someone or had been influenced by cheap advertising of expensive addiction or had been a witness to an assassination, or beseeching spotless reputation, salad days or planning to have your speech on the ground that brevity is the soul of wit and had turned full circle, you are quoting Shakespeare.

Please note that these are just a few of the 'A' words coined by Shakespeare quoted in the preceding para. And imagine what emotions he could stir up with the rest of the alphabets: Bedroom, Blushing, Courtship, Dishearten,

Drugged, Excitement, Fashionable, Generous, Gossip, Invulnerable, Laughable, Majestic, Obscene, Premeditated, Rant, Swagger, Torture, Tranquil, and Undress

And being mindful that these witty words and pretty phrases he invented are not wasted, he managed to write 38 plays, 154 sonnets and a few other assorted verses

Am I feeling as old as Shakespeare? On the 400th anniversary of his death (23d April), by visiting Stratford-upon Avon where the outlines for this article were conceptualized if I remembered his 400th birth anniversary, 52 years ago (the same 23d of April) (raghothamrao@rediffmail.com)



Art by Sri Nagabhushanam Dasari (dasari.nagabhushanam@gmail.com)

# THE GENII IN A CREATIVE CRISIS

By

**L. Lohit Reddy**

Though I was a couple of years senior to him at Osmania University, Raghotham Rao (Desai) got selected to Forestry Training an year ahead, by the then Hyderabad State and I had known him ever since for the last sixty years. In fact, we come from the same district (which is quite an expansive one: a person at one end may not be knowing the other at the other end, and it was indeed the case in our case!) and are among very few surviving old-timers who had the education in Urdu Medium, which was in vogue during those times.

It is impossible not to love him — what is there not to love about this extraordinary man? He wears his genius lightly — like a stylish Cashmere-scarf carelessly thrown-on during an autumn-evening. His puckish sense of humor (sharpened after a few glasses of robust red), interspersed with elegant references to classical texts in Telugu, Urdu and English, makes him a sought-after dinner-guest, even though he calls himself a hermit! Desai's mind and the range of his varied passions are so overwhelming & so dazzling, that it is difficult to take it all in, during the course of an evening. He makes me feel greedy — really, really greedy: I want to devour his every word, joke, aside any observation. I can't stop marveling at the dexterity of each delicately-nuanced-expression. Most of the time, Raghotham Rao is forced to underplay his intellect: that is because he is not a show-off,

unlike a lot of his pompous contemporaries. He really doesn't need to bother about impressing anybody — he freed himself from that awful trap long, long ago.

It must be pretty tough being Dr. Raghotham Rao Desai — the expectations riding on his next articles to be written being terrifyingly high: as high as the staggering advance he had procured for what he had already written month after month for the last several years, which got published in "Vana Premi" and "Vana Vikas", the mouthpieces of TRFOA/APRFOA and KRFOA. I get the feeling that of late, Dr. Desai might be facing a bit of creative-crisis in his life — he does have a deadline and is supposed to e-mail a finished article by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> week of each month; and I suspect he gets stuck! That's him — a supremely confident writer on any topic, who fights to retain every comma, colon and semicolon or other punctuations; it is this level of self-belief that makes him who he is — a priceless gift to readers.

Now, let me dwell a few instances to share them with the readers, when I had occasions to accompany him and be a member of his entourage, during my stays with our son at Bangalore — we keep visiting the Garden City now & then for the last several years and invariably keep Dr. Raghotham Rao (Desai) informed about our arrivals & departures. On one such occasion he was to go with his team to evaluate the Departmental works carried out

for the last five years under Japanese aid in Kolar & Chikballapur districts' watersheds, which was entrusted to him, in addition to a few more districts, with which he was so busy. He requested me to be with him for the day. It was a revelation to find him the way he checked measured in the field and conducted meetings with the techies of the concerned watersheds, also participated by the respective directors.

On another occasion several years ago Sriyuths T Narayan Swamy & J V Sharma joined me at Bangalore and we were all eager to visit interiors of Western Ghats to have a look at the vegetation, rolling downs, coffee-estates, pilgrimage centers and picturesque countryside which included evergreen sholas & vast grasslands (parts of them having been planted with exotics like *eucalypts*, *Acacia auriculiformis* and *pinus*). Dr. Desai readily agreed to lead, since he knew Malnad like the palm of his hand, having spent several years of his latter service in Chikmagalur, Hunsur (covering South Coorg), Shimoga & Koppa divisions — but only diffident to an extent since no prior lodging reservations were not there, and that it was more than a decade since he had retired & hence personnel known to him or heard of him may not be there anymore. But it proved to be a resounding success, as we got lodging facilities and excellent boarding arrangements at each of the interior forest lodges even when we reached there at the dead of any night — just by a phone call by him to the concerned forest officer could deliver the goods, perhaps even to his surprise!

Visits to all the places we intended were impeccably organized and we found ourselves enriched by a fund of knowledge at the end of it — additionally being regaled with anecdotes and a variety of topics in Telugu, Urdu and English literatures in which he was found so prolific, never leaving a moment dull. Dr. Desai has things to say and says it well as there is elegance & depth in the languages he is conversant with, which later resulted in compiling his magnum opus Trilingual Dictionary (Urdu-English-Kannada), a labour of 10 long years, (during which period he had also to compile voluminous thesis in chaste Urdu on an elusive & tough topic as well, to earn his Ph.D in Urdu language & literature, from Kuvempu University, Shimoga), which was published & released in 2015 by the Ministry of HRD, G.O.I. — either of them being no small achievements, particularly unique for a Forest Officer at such an advanced age!

I had the privilege to accompany him to a few workshops at Agricultural University and Institute of Wood Science (IISc Campus) at Bangalore, and to a couple of Seminars & Book-release-cum-felicitation-functions at Aranya Bhavan (Head-Quarters of the Karnataka Forest Dept. at Malleswaram) during other visits of mine to Bangalore. One of them had the distinguished presence of the DGF (Sri Dilip Kumar of Karnataka Cadre who knew Dr. Desai well) and where we were treated so specially, his demeanor being exemplary as ever, which made him & the persons accompanying him the cynosure of several eyes present.

Lastly I should also mention that, Dr. Raghotham Rao never missed an opportunity to take me to the Association's monthly meetings if it was a second Saturday and I happened to be in Bangalore. At times when the Association's Quarterly 'Vanavikas', (being ably edited by him) gets released accompanied by stirring speech by him, if the occasion demands. The extempore speech for instance, he was asked to deliver in May, '16 on Shakespeare (following his visit to Stratford-upon-Avon, England in April-May, '16 to commemorate the Bard's 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary) at the Meet was so well received by us for the content and diction. My admiration of him is thus ever growing with every occasion I make it to his company whom I find always busy, making

me awe-struck. I can think of only three colleagues of mine who are in league with him viz., Sriyuths KBR Reddy, T Narayan Swamy and JV Sharma. My ardent prayer is that it is enough if their grey cells keep working overtime and their intellects to continue in top gear, with all the bones in shape and having enough vision in their eyes to see the beauty, of nature unfold every morn, as well as sharp ears to hear the chirping of the birds, in addition to finally a sense of smell that can catch the aroma of fresh "rasam" brewing in the kitchen, as also an ability to take their coffee cups to their lips without their respective hands shivering like an aspen leaf in a winter storm!!



Art by Sri Nagabhushanam Dasari ([dasari.nagabhushanam@gmail.com](mailto:dasari.nagabhushanam@gmail.com))

## “ZERO TOLERANCE FOR THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE”

There lived a parakeet with wings as light as a kite that could take him anywhere he wanted to go. But it was not meant to be. He spent 20 years inside a tiny cage. When freedom came, he could barely move. He'd forgotten to fly.

Joseph Reginald, a member of Coimbatore-based Animal Rescuers, tells us this heart-breaking story of a parakeet his group rescued. “People should realize that it's cruel to confine a bird to a cage,” he says. Imagine, the endless sky is its home, and here we are, treating it like a mere showpiece for our benefit. Joseph and his team assist the Forest Department in rescuing and rehabilitating parakeets that are caught to be sold as pets.

“The sellers are part of a wide network,” says Joseph. “Most of them smuggle the parakeets to Kerala, where they are raised as pets.” The birds are seized at the border. Animal Rescuers helps maintain an aviary, where the parakeets are rehabilitated. “They are in a state of extreme

physical abuse,” says Joseph. “The wings are clipped; the claws are cut and the beaks are damaged too. It takes three to six months for them to get back to normal.”

This is not even a small fraction of what our birds and animals undergo in the hands of mankind. birds.” Shekar feels, “Only strong political will and a determination to stamp out this horrendous trade will produce results, as the problem has to be tackled on a war footing. Intelligence-led enforcement is absolutely vital, but the agencies entrusted with tackling the illegal wildlife trade in India are hamstrung by poor funding, staff shortages and motivation.” He adds that the onus is on the Government to “take this trade very seriously and act urgently”.

Apart from medicinal uses, animals are poached for ornamental purposes as well

**NOTE:-** This article is first published in The Hindu (Melange) dated June 4, 2016

*“Either a species learns to control its own population, or something like disease, famine, war, will take care of the issue.”*

*“If we don't halt population growth with justice and compassion, it will be done for us by nature, brutally and without pity- and will leave a ravaged world”. Nobel Laureate Dr. Henry W. Kendall*

# MY NAME IS WATER

By  
**NagabhushanamDasari**

I am water diverted course from my mother river  
Flowing in the form of small canals between farm lands  
For flourishing the life of my beloved farmer friends  
Eradicating deaths by wiping their despair tears

Embracing the soil particles - wetting the dry barren lands  
Helping for the growth of all agriculture crops  
Playing with labor in the field with muddy legs & hands  
Cleaning the dirty clothes and satisfying thirsty lives  
Giving happiness to birds, animals and all creatures

Evaporating from earth's surface - coming back as rain drops  
Percolating into soil to give new flush of leaves for all plants  
Don't encroach in to my catchment spread over areas  
Requesting not to adulterate with pollutants chemical wastes  
Utilize me without wasting duly conserving the resources

In summer wild life can't purchase water like human-beings  
Create sources for them to face adverse drought conditions  
Search for perfect solutions - avoid quarrels and disputes  
Minimize or restrict the process of drilling of bore wells  
Stop squeezing the earth indiscriminately by multiple ruptures

People collects & preserves me in rainy season in containers  
Consumes throughout the year preciously with care in some Islands  
Not to reach such situation harvest me during rains by all means  
Everywhere construct judiciously various SMC structures  
For my abundance availability improve the coverage of forests

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# RESCUING THE DYING FORESTS OF INDIA II

By

**Dr. AkulaKishan**

(Continued from last month)

**7. THE FOREST LAWS:** The Forest laws that are applicable throughout India are:

1. The Indian Forest Act, 1927
2. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972
3. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
4. The Scheduled Tribes & Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006

The Indian Forest Act 1927 broadly categorizes the forest as reserve forest, village forest, protected forest and non-Government forest. The Government may declare any forest land or waste land as reserve forest by following the prescribed procedure. The Government may assign to any village community its right or any reserve forest and after such assignment the forest shall be village forest. Protected forest is constituted by including any forest land or waste land over which Government has proprietary rights. The Government may control the forest and land not being the property of the Government when such land is required for protection against natural calamities, protection of goods etc., the Act provides for imposing duty on timber and other forest produce. It also enables the Government to regulate the transport of timber and other forest produce. It

also deals with collection of drift and standard timber. The properties seized are liable to confiscation after due enquiry. The Act empowers the forest officers to implement the provisions of the Act and also gives powers to compel the attendance of the witnesses, record evidence and arrest without a warrant.

**The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** provides for the protection of wild animals, birds and plants that are specified in the schedules. The Act consists of 139 sections spread over 13 chapters and 6 schedules. Some of the important definitions in the Act are:

- a. '*animal*' includes amphibians, birds, mammals and reptiles and their young, and also includes, in cases of birds and reptiles their eggs;
- b. '*animal article*' means an article made from any captive animal or wild animal, other than vermin, and includes an article or object in which the whole or any part of such animal has been used;
- c. '*hunting*', with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions includes-
  - (i) capturing, killing, poisoning, snaring and trapping of any wild animal and every attempt to do so,

(ii) driving any wild animal for any of the purposes specified in clause(i)

(iii) injuring or destroying or taking any part of the body of any such animal, or in the case of wild birds or reptiles, damaging the eggs of such birds or reptiles or disturbing the eggs or nests of such birds or reptiles;

d. '*land*' includes canals, creeks, and other water channels, reservoirs, rivers, streams and lakes, whether artificial or natural, marshes and waste lands and also includes boulders and rocks

e. '*meat*' includes blood, bones, sinew, eggs, fat and flesh, whether raw or cooked, of any wild animal, other than vermin;

f. '*trophy*' means the whole or any part of any captive animal or wild animal, other than vermin, which has been kept or preserved by any means, whether artificial or natural and includes-

(i) Rugs, skins and specimens of such animals mounted in whole or in part through process of taxidermy, and

(ii) Antler, horn, rhinoceros horn, hair, feather, nail, tooth, musk, eggs and nests;

g. '*uncured trophy*' means the whole or any part of any captive animal or wild animal, other than vermin, which has not undergone the process of taxidermy, and includes a freshly killed wild animal;

h. '*vehicle*' means any conveyance used for movement on land, water or air and includes buffalo, bull, bullock, camel, donkey, elephant, horse and mules;

i. '*weapon*' includes ammunition, bows and arrows, explosives, fire-arms, hooks, knives, nets, poison, snares, traps, and any instrument or apparatus capable of anaesthetizing, decoying, destroying, injuring or killing an animal;

j. '*wild animal*' means any animal found wild in nature and includes any animal specified in Schedule I, Schedule II, Schedule III, Schedule IV or Schedule V, wherever found.

k. '*wildlife*' includes any animal, bees, butterflies, crustacean, fish and moths; and aquatic or land vegetation which forms part of any habitat; The above definitions were extracted for the benefit appreciation of the interpretation and application of legal provisions depending on the nature of offence.

Chapter II of the Act provides for appointment of different officers and constitution of Wildlife Advisory Board, the duties of the Board and procedures to be followed by it.

Chapter III deals with prohibition of hunting, and hunting to be permitted in certain cases.

Chapter IIIA deals with protection of specified plants as specified in Schedule VI of the Act.

Chapter IV deals with declaration of Sanctuaries, National Parks and Closed Areas, the restrictions in these areas.

Chapter IVA deals with creation of Central ZOO Authority and recognition of zoos.

Chapter V deals with trade or commerce in wild animals, animal articles, and trophies, issue of certificate of ownership and licenses etc.

Chapter VA deals with prohibition of trade or

commerce in trophies, animal articles etc., derived from certain animals.

Chapter VI deals with prevention and detection of offences.

Chapter VIA deals with the forfeiture of property derived from illegal hunting and trade.

Chapter VII deals with miscellaneous provisions.

**The offences under the Act:** Section 9 of the Act prohibits hunting of wild animals specified in the schedules.

Section 17A of the Act prohibits picking, uprooting etc. of specified plants mentioned in Schedule VI

Section 27 to 32 mentions the restrictions on entry into sanctuary, prohibition of destruction in sanctuary, causing fire and use of injurious substances in a sanctuary.

Section 35 deals with restrictions in National Parks.

Section 38 H prohibits operation of a Zoo without being recognized by the Central Zoo Authority.

Section 38 J prohibits the ill treatment of animals in zoo.

Section 39 declares that wild animals, trophies, and any vehicle, vessel, weapon, trap or tool that has been used in committing the offence and has been seized under the provisions of the Act shall be the property of Government.

Section 44 prohibits dealing in trophy or animal article without license.

Section 48 A imposes restrictions on transportation of Wild life.

Section 49 B prohibits dealing in trophies, animal

articles etc. derived from Scheduled animals.

Section 51 lists the penalties that can be imposed for the violation of different provisions of the Act. The maximum term of punishment is seven years and with a fine of not less than ten thousand rupees for offences concerning animals specified in Schedule I or Part II of Schedule II.

Section 57 presumes that the accused is guilty until the contrary is proved.

Section 58 F empowers an officer conducting an inquiry under Section 58 E to seize or freeze the illegal acquired property

Section 58 I deals with forfeiture of property in certain cases

**Cognizance of offences:** - Section 55 of the Act specifies that no Court shall take cognizance of any offence against this Act except on the complaint of any person other than:

1. The Director of Wild Life Preservation or any other officer authorized in that behalf vide central government, or;
2. The Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority in matters relating to violation of the provisions of Chapter IV A, or;
3. The Chief Wild Life Warden or any other officer authorized in that behalf by the State Government, subject to such conditions as may be specified by the State Government, or;
4. The Officer in charge of the Zoo in respect of violation of provisions of Section 38 J, or;

5. Any person who has given notice of not less than 60 days in the manner prescribed, of the alleged offence and of his intention to make a complaint to the Central Government or the State Government, or the officer authorized by the respective Governments.

**THE FOREST (CONSERVATION) ACT 1980** is made to provide for the conservation of the forests and to check further deforestation. The Act consists of 7 sections only and the section 2 deals with restriction on the dis-reservation of the forests or use of forest land for non-forestry purposes. However, in cases where forest land is required for implementation of a scheme or for mining activity by private person etc., the proposals have to be submitted to the Central Government by the State Government for obtaining their approval or clearance. For examining the proposals received, an Advisory Committee with Director General of Forests as Chair Person and 6 other members is constituted. The Committee recommends the clearance of the project by stipulating certain conditions and the intention of the Government is to keep the forest area intact i.e., exchange of land is permitted but alienation is not permitted. Minor penalties are proposed in the shape of simple imprisonment for a period, which may extend to 15 days. The procedure for booking offence is not given in the Forest Conservation Rules, and it is stipulated through executive instructions that the contravention has to be

reported to the Government of India for taking cognizance. There is hardly any case that has reached the higher Courts where a penalty under this Act has been imposed.

The Act has regulated the utilization of forestland for non-forestry purposes mainly by Governmental agencies. The Act is not dealing with the alarming problem of encroachment of forestland.

**The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006:** -is made to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land by forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded, the cutoff date being put as 13.12.2005.

**8. FOREST ADMINISTRATION:** - The following extract from the National Forest Commission Report summarizes the present status:

**“At National Level** -The set-up dealing with forests and wildlife was separated from the Ministry of Agriculture in 1985 and was constituted as a part of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). The Director General of Forests and Special Secretary (DGF & SS) is the chief adviser to the Government on forestry and wildlife matters and discharges all administrative and executive functions delegated to him. MoEF is the cadre controlling authority for the Indian Forest Service. It also operates the central staffing scheme of the

MoEF for the IFS for appointments to forestry posts in the Ministry, as well as to forestry institutions on a deputation basis.

There are four zonal offices at Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai under the Director, Wildlife Preservation, i.e. Addl. DGF (WL), for handling matters relating to the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and CITES and other international conventions to which India is a party. The Ministry has six regional offices headed by CCFs (except the northern regional office which is headed by a CF) having a mandate to scrutinize proposals for regulation of diversion of forestland for non-forestry purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and for monitoring and implementation of centrally sponsored schemes. Due to inadequacy of manpower, the regional offices of the MoEF are presently handling matters relating to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and environment impact assessment (EIA) of projects. They do not find time for monitoring and evaluation of centrally sponsored schemes being implemented in the States for which funds are released by the MoEF, and which is also the mandate of the regional offices. Presently, some of the subjects in the Forest and Wildlife Wings are not specifically allotted to any of the divisions i.e. issues relating to service matters of SFS officers, FROs, and other subordinate staff of the SFDs.

The subjects of wetlands, biosphere reserves, mangroves, combating desertification,

biodiversity, medicinal plants and animal welfare, although part of forestry and wildlife in the States, are dealt by the Environment Wing of the Ministry. Budgetary allocation for forests and wildlife at the Government of India level is inadequate. The technical and support staff is also insufficient. IFS officers selected for posts other than in the Forestry Wing are generally not assigned the jobs for which they are selected. The forest and wildlife sector does not get the priority, focus or the funds it deserves, in the present dispensation. Indeed, it appears to be a subservient branch of the Environment Wing, within the MoEF. Even subject areas, which should be more appropriately handled by the Forest and Wildlife Wing, are being dealt with by the Environment Wing.

**At State Level** –The Forest service structure is broadly similar in the different States, with minor variations to suit specific requirements. In most of the States, the forest organizations broadly structured in two parts, viz., the State Forest Department (SFD), and the Forest Development Corporation (FDC). IFS officers are appointed as Managing Directors of the Forest Development Corporations (FDC) and the Forest Department is represented on the board, either by the PCCF or CCF

The Department of Forests and Wildlife in the State is headed by a minister, assisted by a principal secretary (forests and wildlife) who for administrative matters generally acts as a link between the forest department and the

political executive. The present forestry administration and set-up in the States, with a few exceptions, is as follows:

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests- Head of the forest department, or special assignment/ forest Development Corporation.
2. Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests - Either entrusted with the supervision of two or three wings of the department or entrusted with duties and responsibilities separately like that of a CCF.
3. CCF - Heads a wing of the department like territorial, wildlife, social forestry, development, planning, Working Plans, research, training, vigilance, JFM, administration, etc. /special assignment.
4. CF - Heads a circle at regional level/non-functional circle/special assignment.
5. DFOs/ DCFs/ WL Warden /WPO/ Research M&E. In-charge of a forest division which can be a territorial or a functional division/special assignment in the department.
6. ACF -Either holds charge of a subdivision or a division or functional post/assignment.
7. FRO- Heads a forest range/special assignment.
8. Dy.RO- Given special assignment or charge of a block/forest station.
9. Forester -In-charge of a section/block/circle/ special assignment.
10. Forest Guard - In-charge of a beat/special assignment.
11. Forest Watchers: Generally employed to assist the field staff in protection matters.

The size of the organization in different States/ Union Territories is not necessarily proportional to the forest area, but may vary with various types of work to be handled. Protection of forests is a major consideration in deciding the strength of forestry staff. However, the strength of forest staff has not increased to cope with the increasing work load and biotic pressures, and the size of the beat, the lowest protection unit in the department, has remained constant as noted earlier. The number of posts (from PCCF down to Forest Guards) in 1985 was 132,385 and the same in 2004 is about 140, 000, **the increase being mainly at senior levels and its supportive administrative staff:**

Even though the problems related to forest protection and management have increased manifold, the strength of the frontline staff that has to actually handle these matters at the grass root level has not increased. A large number of posts have been abolished under the down-sizing policy of the government, or are lying vacant, with no prospects of their being filled up in the immediate future.

The PCCF's office mainly confines its role to administration and Supervision of the subordinate officers. No adequate steps are taken to promote professionalism in the personnel nor to inculcate research or the technical aspects of forestry. There is no dissemination of knowledge pertaining to forestry and forest-related problems, nor an inclination to publish papers or undertake field

surveys and data collection. The unplanned growth of forest administration has in many cases resulted in multiplicity of reporting and control. Such a command system leads to confusion, inefficiency, frustration and conflicts. The job of each level of functionary is not well defined, particularly of the attached officers and of the posts recently created / re-designated (CCF, Addl. PCCF). The job description of posts given in the old forest codes/manuals cannot hold good today because of changed roles and responsibilities of the Forest Department.

The culture of not staying in headquarters and of avoiding field tours has very much adversely affected forest protection and management activities, and even field officers are frequently not fully familiar with the forests in their charge. This lacuna is further compounded by the frequency of transfers.

Forest administration is distinguished by the following main characteristics.

1. Rigid hierarchical structure
2. Departmental discipline
3. Cohesiveness of organization
4. Centralized planning
5. Centralization of decision making
6. Lack of long-term planning
7. Target-oriented approach
8. One-way communication
9. Inadequate public contact
10. Inadequate interaction with other government departments

The forest personnel undertake perhaps the

most onerous task compared to any in the country. They have no help. Everyone in this country wants a share of the forest "pie" and the constituency they are trying to save – the forests – have no voice. There have been many failures, but the fact remains that there is no personnel in the country better organized or trained to save and manage the nation's most valued natural resources than the State Forest Departments. Their shortcomings and failures, their professionalism and performance would have to be overcome and improved so that they can discharge their duties much better.

Some of the strengths of the forestry administration are:

1. Well-organized structure
2. Discipline
3. Professional skills
4. Policy and legal framework
5. Scientific approach
6. Capacities to handle varied subjects
7. Employment provider
8. Conservative expenditure

The Constraints in the forestry sector, which need to be overcome, include:

1. Ever increasing pressure (both of human and livestock populations) resulting in : - forest degradation
2. Declining forest productivity because of over use and degradation
3. Inadequate investment
4. Inadequate participation of local communities

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Inadequacies and imbalances in forest policy (unclear goals, JFM, agroforestry etc)</li> <li>6. Subsidies resulting in wasteful use of forest products</li> <li>7. Low level of technology input</li> <li>8. Inadequate research and extension support</li> <li>9. Lack of private sector participation</li> <li>10. Lack of proper database.</li> <li>11. Inadequate training, especially at induction</li> <li>12. Recruitment policy needs modification</li> <li>13. Lack of specialization</li> <li>14. Tenure of postings, short and ad-hoc</li> <li>15. Lack of political and bureaucratic support</li> </ol> | <p>These constraints would have to be addressed while dealing with future forest administration.</p> <p>Forestry sector has no clear vision and goals. Indeed, there is a National Forest Policy and many States have also prepared their own forest policies and strategies. But these have not always transcended themselves to actions in the field and even the lower levels of the personnel of the forest departments are unaware of them, and have not been empowered and directed to implement them.</p> <p>(To be concluded)akulakishan@gmail.com</p> |
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## INVITATION

The Association of Retired Forest Officers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad Congratulates the following Forest Officers who is retiring from service on attaining the age of superannuation on the dates mentioned against their names. The Association cordially invites them join the Association of Retired Forest Officers to keep in touch with their old colleagues and to keep themselves occupied.

- |    |                            |            |
|----|----------------------------|------------|
| 1. | Sri. P.K. Sharma           | 30.06.2016 |
| 2. | Dr. K.P. Sri Vasuki        | 30.06.2016 |
| 3. | Sri. R. Sundaravadan       | 31.07.2016 |
| 4. | Sri. V. Venkatramaiah      | 31.07.2016 |
| 5. | Sri. D.K. Pandey           | 31.07.2016 |
| 6. | Sri. L.C. Thirupellu Reddy | 31.07.2016 |

A Personal request to all the Retired Forest Officers who have not joined the Association to kindly join the Association. Please contact the following for further details

Sri. B.M. Swami Das Secretary

**Mobile No 9000817781**

Sri. A.V. Govindarajulu, Joint Secretary cum Treasurer **Mobile No. 9440764611**

**Secretary**

## WHICH IS THE HEALTHIEST NUT?

It might seem strange that how can a food item rich in fats be considered good for health. The fact is that studies and clinical trials suggest that consuming about 30-50 gms. (a small handful) of nuts per day provides protection against heart disease & diabetes and may reduce the risk of obesity.

Nuts are a good source of protein and healthy fats. They also wonder which nut is the best to have. Compare the nutrition for each type of nut and tell you which one is the healthiest, a good source of dietary fiber & provide a wide range of essential nutrients including B vitamins, Vitamin E, iron, zinc, potassium and antioxidants.

**Almonds:** This delicately flavored nut is available throughout the year. Almonds have been an important part of our daily diet in most of Indian households especially as a growing child as it is believed to improve brain health. Studies support the fact too. Almonds contain two vital brain nutrients, riboflavin and L-carnitine which have been shown to increase brain activity and reduce risk of Alzheimer disease. Almonds are nutritive for the overall health and functioning of our nervous system. Monounsaturated fats, potassium, protein and fiber present in almonds all make a perfect combination to ensure heart health. It helps in increasing the good cholesterol (HDL). Eating about 15-20 almonds on daily basis is an easy way to get a dose of many vital nutrients. A small handful of almonds (about 23 kernels) provide 163 Kcals, 14g fat, 0g trans-fat, 0mg cholesterol, 0mg sodium, 3.5g fiber & 6g protein.

**Walnuts:** These are packed with omega-3-fatty acids. Studies indicate that omega-3 are anti-inflammatory and help people with rheumatoid arthritis. Studies also suggest that eating about 28 walnut halves provide daily dose of antioxidants and phytosterols which can help reduce risk of breast cancer. They provide protection against heart diseases and help in maintain blood vessel health. Eating walnuts have also been found to be helpful in dealing stress. A small handful of walnuts

(about 28gms) provide 175Kcals, 17g fat, 0mg cholesterol, 1mg sodium, 1.9g fiber & 7g protein.

**Pistachios:** Pistachios are a rich source of Vitamin B6, copper and manganese which are important for a healthy body. They are one of the best sources of Vitamin E, important to fight free radicals and for good skin health. They are the only nut with substantial amounts of two antioxidants, lutein and zeaxanthin which are helpful in reducing risk of age related blindness disorder in old people. Pistachios help in reducing Blood LDL cholesterol levels and hence support healthy heart health. A small handful of pistachios (about 28gms) provide 159Kcals, 13g fat, 0mg cholesterol, 0mg sodium, 2.9g fiber & 6g protein.

**Peanuts:** They are a good source of protein which makes them an important part of vegetarian and bodybuilding diets. Peanuts have higher concentration of anti-oxidants than many fruits and roasting increases its anti-oxidant content by 22%. Peanuts are also a good source of folate and iron, which is important for expecting women. Studies show that adding even small amounts of peanut products can LDL cholesterol by 14%. A small handful of dry roasted peanuts (about 28gms) provide 166Kcals, 14g fat, 0mg cholesterol, 2mg sodium, 2.3g fiber & 7g protein.

**Cashews:** 75% of fat in cashews contains unsaturated fatty acids and most of it comprises of oleic acid, which is known to boost cardiovascular health. Overall cashews contain more than 80 nutrients comprising of essential minerals, vitamins and antioxidants. It is free from cholesterol. Magnesium found in cashew nuts can help promote healthy bone structure. However one should avoid salted and roasted forms as these can elevate blood pressure due to high sodium content. A small handful of cashews (about 28gms) provide 157Kcals, 12g fat, 0mg cholesterol, 3mg sodium, 0.9g fiber & 5g protein. Most importantly, do not go overboard with the quantity. Stick to an ounce or about 30gms per day and reap the benefits of good health. (source : internet)

## *Birth Day Greetings*

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

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of the member</b>	<b>D.O.B.</b>			
	Sarva Sri		5.	D.Nalini Mohan	15-07-1962
			6.	Swargam Srinivas	15-07-1962
1.	K.Buchiram Reddy	07-07-1932	7.	G.Chandrasekhar Reddy	07-18-1965
2.	K.Madan Mohan	10-07-1942	8.	Dr.K.Gopinatha	21-07-1963
3.	N.Varaprasad Rao	10-07-1948	9.	R.Sundara Vadan	01-08-1956
4.	M.Prasada Rao	10-07-1947	10.	A.V.Joseph	05-08-1956
5.	C.Ramakrishna Reddy	11-07-1931	11.	Ajay Kumar Naik	03-08-1965
6.	M.Padmanabha Reddy	14-07-1941	12.	Ratnakar Jauhari	02-08-1970
7.	M.K.Prasad	14-07-1945	13.	N.Qadar Vali	06-07-1960
8.	N.Shyam Prasad	16-07-1955	14.	P.Premkumar	10-07-1983
9.	A.Shankaran	16-07-1956	15.	S.Ravishankar	16-07-1964
10.	B.Pratap Reddy	18-07-1928	16.	Smt.S.Sujatha	18-07-1975
11.	K.Santokh Singh	21-07-1937	17.	B.M.Chanakya Raju	18-07-1957
12.	Mohd.Ibrahim	22-07-1954	18.	Smt.T.Jyothi	23-07-1975
13.	Onkar Singh	27-07-1953	19.	Mrs.G.Krishna Priya	24-07-1982
14.	S.M.Selvaraj	01-08-1953	20.	V.Anjaneyulu	24-07-1966
15.	V.Parthsarathy	02-08-1944	21.	Smt.I.Padmaja Rani	26-07-1976
16.	Hitesh Malhotra	03-08-1952	22.	B.Janaki Rao	26-07-1961
17.	P.Adivappa	03-08-1953	23.	Ms.M.Babita	27-07-1972
<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of Serving Officers</b>	<b>D.O.B.</b>	24.	P.Dhanraj	28-07-1963
	Sarva Sri		25.	A.V.Ramana Murthy	28-07-1969
1.	Prashanth Kumar Jha	07-07-1959	26.	Smt.M.Hima Sailaja	29-07-1980
2.	N.Pratheep Kumar	07-07-1963	27.	L.Ch.Tirupaelu Reddy	01-08-1956
3.	Dr.Chandra B.Malasi	08-07-1957	28.	Jagarapu Ganesh	04-08-1963
4.	Rahul Pandey	14-07-1974			<b>Secretary</b>

## NEWS AND NOTES

### **74-Year-Old Designed His Own Leaf Shredder to Use Organic Waste from His Garden as Compost:**

“Waste collection and public composting activities are very poor in Bengaluru. I live in one of the old houses in the city where we have a large garden that generates a lot of organic waste. I have been trying to persuade the corporation people to set up an organic composting plant for a long time now, but that has not happened yet. I didn't want to throw the waste away or burn the leaves like many other do, so I decided to design a leaf shredder myself,” says S. Chandra Shekar, a resident of Jayanagar in Bengaluru. The 74-year-old developed the machine so that organic waste generated in his garden can be shredded and used to nourish the soil in the garden itself. “I add a bit of cow dung to heaps of the powder produced from the shredder and it slowly turns into compost after being processed for two to three months,” he says.

Explaining the design, Chandra Shekar says that it works like a mixer used in a kitchen, which has a motor, a cutting blade and a container to put the vegetables in. His design of the shredder has a 2 horsepower motor at the bottom, a gear box to enhance the cutting power of the stainless steel blades for cutting twigs, sticks, small branches and leaves.

All one has to do is put the leaves in the container on top, and the powdered form of the waste is obtained from the bottom to be collected and used. A long cable makes it possible for the shredder to be moved all across the garden.

Chandra Shekar designed and detailed the shredder himself and then a person from Pune,

who was familiar with the concept, helped him fabricate it. The material and the labour for the self-engineered machine cost him about Rs. 20,000, which according to Chandra Shekar is less than the cost of similar products in the market. He is willing to help people in the city who want to get their own shredders made. A retired mechanical engineer, Chandra Shekar has worked in the industry for 45 years and his passion for machines motivates him to continue working on different projects till today. “I am happy that my garden is a carbon sink and contributes to the reduction of carbon dioxide load on the city. I wish that more people take an interest in this idea and reduce waste by composting it themselves,” he concludes. You can contact Chandra Shekar by writing to him [atecokolar@yahoo.com](mailto:atecokolar@yahoo.com).

### **Animal Keeper in charge of Lions in Nehru Zoological Park Felicitated:-**

A bizarre incident occurred in the Nehru Zoological Park at Hyderabad at about 04.30 p.m. on Sunday, May 22, 2016. Mukesh, a Rajasthanilabourer working for L & T Metro Rail at Hyderabad, jumped into the moat surrounding the lion's enclosure. Mukesh was almost at a Shake-Hand distance from the Lioness, Radhika. In the meantime the Lion, Krishna, appeared on the scene. The onlookers visiting the Zoo felt aghast and they all raised alarm and made big noise.

Animal Keeper R. Papaiah, who was present on the spot, was alert and with presence of mind shouted at the lions by their pet names - Radha and Kittu. The Lions recognized his voice and obeyed his command. Papaiah asked his colleagues to give a feed-call. The reflex

response worked; the lions entered their cage to have their meal.

The intruder Mukesh was then rescued by lowering into the moat, a long pole. He was in an inebriated condition. It is the very alert Papaiah, who with his tact and prompt action saved the intruder and protected the lions.

Rampalli Papaiah, born in a poor family, hails from Edunuthula village of Warangal district. He was felicitated in the Zoo premises on Saturday May 28, 2016 by the members of the Keesara Memorial Trust and presented him a purse. On the occasion, the Zoo Curator Ms. Shivani Dogra exhorted the zoo staff to perform their duty with zeal and devotion. Papaiah was also felicitated in his native place by the members of the Gram Panchayath of Edunuthula on Thursday, June 2, 2016. Friends of Papaiah while complimenting him for his good work said, Papaiah saved a 'Papi' buchiramkeesara@yahoo.co.in. ***(Please see last cover page for photo)***

**Monkey taunts tiger stranded in tree:** - This amusing footage, filmed in India on May 11, shows a monkey on top of a tree mocking a tiger who has climbed up to try and catch him. The big cat eventually falls off the tree proving that climbing is best left to monkeys. ***(Please see last cover page for photo)***

**Kerala HC stays NGT order banning 10-year-old diesel vehicles:** - Kerala High Court on Friday stayed a National Green Tribunal Circuit Bench order banning light and heavy diesel vehicles, which are more than 10 years old, in six major cities Kerala, as well as registration of any diesel vehicle in the capacity of 2000 CC. Issuing the stay order, Justice P B Suresh Kumar said the High

Court has jurisdiction to interfere with the NGT orders.

The stay will continue till disposal of petitions filed by Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), Nippon Toyota and others against the NGT orders.

On May 27, the High Court had partially stayed for two months the order of the NGT Circuit Bench.

Last month, the National Green Tribunal Circuit Bench had banned light and heavy diesel vehicles, which are more than 10 years old, in six major cities, including state capital Thiruvananthapuram and commercial capital Kochi.

In its first sitting, the Bench, comprising NGT chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar and expert member Bikram Singh Sajwan, had also directed the state government not to register any diesel vehicle in 2000 CC capacity and more, except public transport and local authority vehicles.

"All the diesel vehicles whether light or heavy which are more than 10 years shall not be permitted to ply on the roads in the major cities like Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Kochi, Thrissur, Kozhikode and Kannur," the Bench had said in its order.

The NGT bench had issued the order while hearing a petition filed by the Lawyers' Environmental Awareness Forum (LEAF).

The Forum had sought action against highly polluting diesel vehicles such as trucks and buses.

It also noted that Kochi and other major cities

have earned the reputation of being the most polluted cities.

### **Bus Passengers' Lucky Escape in Bridge**

**Collapse:** -A bus was left dangling over the edge of a bridge which had collapsed. More than two dozen passengers had a lucky escape as they were able to safely get out of the vehicle despite part of the bridge falling into a ravine. They blamed local authorities for the poor state of the road and said the approaching monsoon season would make driving conditions in the area more dangerous.

One passenger, Jitubhai Solanki, said of the incident in Junagadh town, western Gujarat state: "The bus got stuck in the air. Thankfully all of us were saved.

"It is entirely the mistake of the administration. The bridge collapsed suddenly. They have used such poor material. These people have no concern for people's problems.

In March, **at least 23 people were killed and dozens injured** when a flyover collapsed in eastern Kolkata city, crushing pedestrians and vehicles below. *(Please see last cover page for photo)*

### **India records its hottest temperature ever amid heat wave:** - NEW DELHI -

Phalodi in Rajasthan has suffered through India's highest recorded temperature — a scorching 51 degrees Celsius (123.8 degrees Fahrenheit). The record was set Thursday in the city of Phalodi, in the western state of Rajasthan. India's meteorological department said the previous high was 50.6 C (123 F), reached in 1956 in the city of Alwar, also in Rajasthan. Authorities have issued a severe heat wave alert for the next two days in the western states of Gujarat, Rajasthan and parts of the central state of Madhya Pradesh.

That means the areas can expect temperatures of 47 C (116.6 F) or more.

The monsoon normally hits southern India in the first week of June and covers the rest of the nation within a month. It is especially eagerly awaited this year because several parts of the country are reeling under a drought brought on by two years of weak rains.

Clare Nullis, a spokeswoman for the World Meteorological Organization, told reporters in Geneva on Friday during a briefing on record global temperatures that meteorologists expect this year's Indian monsoon will bring more rain than normal, which would be good news for the drought-stricken regions.

"Obviously the monsoon hasn't yet started. The intervening weeks will be quite serious. But I understand the Indian government is actually taking quite serious measures to address this," she said.

In Rajasthan and Gujarat, authorities issued advisories urging people to remain indoors during the hottest parts of the day and stay hydrated.

Hospitals were asked to set aside beds to treat patients suffering from heatstroke.

Many people believe that certain foods help prevent heatstroke, and stalls selling a salty-sweet drink made of raw mangoes and ones selling sliced watermelon and cucumbers have been doing a brisk business.

The prolonged heat wave this year has already killed hundreds and destroyed crops in more than 13 states, impacting hundreds of millions of Indians.

Hundreds of farmers are reported to have killed themselves across the country and tens of thousands of small farmers have been forced

to abandon their farmland and live in squalor in urban slums in order to eke out a living.

Rivers, lakes and dams have dried up in many parts of the western states of Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Gujarat, and officials say groundwater reservoirs are severely depleted. In some areas, the situation is so bad the government has sent in water by train for emergency relief.

**'Godzilla' El Nino, primary reason for poor rainfall, has finally ended after 2 years:**

The 'Godzilla' El Nino, that was seen as the prime reason for poor monsoon rainfall in the last two years has finally come to an end, the Australia Bureau of Meteorology has announced. El Nino, an unusual warming of sea surface temperatures in equatorial Pacific Ocean, off the coast of Peru and Ecuador in South America, is known to influence weather events across the world, including the Indian monsoon rainfall. This current spell of El Nino was one of the longest and strongest ever, thus earning the name 'Godzilla'.

"Sea surface temperatures across the tropical Pacific have cooled to neutral levels over the past fortnight, supported by much cooler-than-average waters beneath the surface," the Australian bureau said in its latest El Nino bulletin on Tuesday.

It said there was little chance of sea surface getting warmer again this year, "in which case mid-May will mark the end of the 2015-16 El Nino".

Other weather agencies have not yet announced the end of El Nino though they have been

predicting that it will be over by the end of summer. The Climate Prediction Centre of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of United States, in its latest bulletin on Monday, said that "El Nino is weakening".

"Positive equatorial sea surface temperature anomalies (warming) are diminishing across the equatorial Pacific Ocean," it said, adding that La Nina conditions, the opposite of El Nino, were "favored to develop" during the summer of 2016. The Australian bureau also said that La Nina conditions were developing.

"International climate models indicate the tropical Pacific Ocean will continue to cool, with six of eight models suggesting La Nina is likely to form during the southern winter (June-August)," it said.

It said the Indian Ocean Dipole, a phenomenon similar to El Nino but in the Indian Ocean and with much more localized impact, was also in neutral conditions as of now. A positive IOD is known to assist the Indian monsoon.

After two years of depleted rainfall, this monsoon season is predicted to bring good rainfall. The Indian Met department has forecast above average rainfall in the four-month season of June to September. It has said India as a whole was likely to receive 106 per cent of normal rainfall during this season.

That good news has, however, been a bit tempered by the delay in the onset of monsoon over Kerala coast. The onset, whose normal date is June 1, is likely to happen around June 7 this year.

The monsoon is currently stationed around the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the last few days, after having reached around May 20.

**This \$225 million Boeing private jet is a flying luxury home:** - Imagine if you owned a 2,400 sq. ft. luxury home with the ability to fly you and 39 of your closest friends to anywhere you want in less than 17 hours? Next month, China's HNA Aviation Group will take delivery of a brand new Boeing 787-8 private jet. As configured, the 787 BBJ has a range of almost 9,800 miles even when packed with 40 passengers, luggage, and fuel. With a flying time of about 17 hours, the plane can reach virtually any destination on Earth, Kestrel Aviation Management CEO Stephen Vella told Business Insider.

From start to finish, aviation consulting firm, Kestrel Aviation Management oversaw the creation of this 787.

Although several 787s have been converted from passengers service to private use, this is the first Dreamliner to be built specifically as a Boeing Business Jet, Vella said.

It's the 143rd Dreamliner to roll out of Boeing's factory and first flew in December 2013. The plane was delivered to Kestrel in January of 2014. Since no one had done a true Boeing 787 private jet before, Kestrel along with partners Pyrenean Design Studios and Greenpoint Technologies had to design and engineer the interior of the aircraft from scratch. In fact, the interior took a year to engineer as well as another year and a half to fabricate and install, Vella said.

Kestrel and Boeing have released the final cost of the 787 private jet. But a standard passenger-ferrying 787-8 carries a list price of \$224.6 million.

Enter the plane through its round foyer and you'll immediately encounter the doors to its massive master suite. The suite is divided in several

sections and is designed to be totally independent from the rest of the plane.

The master suite's sleeping area features a large California king-sized bed. According to Vella, the suite is designed to be an "oasis of silence." In fact, the noise level in the room is during flight is just 48 decibels — on par with a quiet suburban home.

The massive master bathroom features a set of large marble his and hers sinks.

The bath area also features a double-sized shower as well as a massive walk-in closet with heated marble floors. In addition, the master suite is equipped with a refrigerator and safe. In total, the plane is equipped with five bathrooms.

Looking towards the front of the plane, the lounge features a pair of day beds positioned in front of a large 55-inch flatscreen display. On each side of the center screen, there are individual seats each equipped with a 24-inch screen.

Looking towards the back of the plane, are a pair of devans that can be turned into sleeping accommodations or used as a dining and meeting area. Also located at the rear of the lounge area pair of 47 inch screens. A stylish round VIP lavatory is located just aft of the lounge.

Aft of the round VIP lavatory is the guest cabin. It features 18 full-flat, first-class sleeper seats. Behind the guest cabin is a row of six premium economy seats for the staff.

This Boeing 787 BBJ is expected to enter service with HNA Group in July. According to Vella, the plane will likely be used by the company's chairman as well as ultra-high-end charter customers.

# LEGAL NOTES

## Afzal Baig vs State of Orissa

This is a case of criminal mastermind behind all the crimes who uses others for the purpose and indulges himself in illegal trading of ivory making huge profits.

JogeshLagun and Bipin Kishore Barua along with other accomplices hunted down two elephants in Kendrapur reserved forest in July 2014 and removed tusks. Forest Range Officer of Padiabahal Range booked a case and seized muzzle loaders and recovered money that was paid to the accused by Afzal Baig. The accused were forwarded to the SDJM Sambalpur. The case was taken on file in CC No. 10/2014. Simultaneously the wire-puller Afzal Baig, an International Trader of trophies of wild animals and tusks was also arrested and produced before the Magistrate. He moved a bail petition but that was rejected.

In another case the accused NaruLakra and others killed an elephant in Jamankira Range, forest and removed tusks. A case was registered against all the accused including the notorious smuggler of tusks Afzal Baig.. A bail petition was rejected. After preliminary enquiry by the forest officials, the above two cases along with another case were handed over to the Police. The CB CID Cuttack PS registered cases under Sections 429, 379,120-B of IPC; Sections 25 & 27 of Arms Act and Section 51 of the Wildlife Protection Act. Afzal

Baig filed petitions for bail before the District and Sessions Court but the petitions were turned down by the Additional Sessions Judge Kuchinda in April 2015. All the cases are pending in the Court of SDJM Sambalpur. While so, Afzal Baig approached the High Court seeking bail in all the three cases.

During preliminary enquiry, confessional statements of the main culprits were recorded by the forest officers. At the High Court, Bail Application Nos. 2002/2015, 2024/2015 and 3230//2015 filed by Afzal Baig were heard by the Hon'ble Justice S.K. Sahoo. The question before the Court was whether confession statements have got any evidentiary value and whether they can be taken into consideration at bail stage against the petitioner.

The Court meticulously looked into the relevant case law on the subject. The first decision that was followed was "E.C. Richard vs. Forest Range Officer" (A.I.R. 1958 Madras 31). It was held as follows:

"Forest Officer is on par with Customs Officer and hence what applies to the Customs Officer applies to the forest officers also. In the absence of specific provision in the Madras Forest Act conferring on the forest officer all the powers of officer-incharge of a Police Station, he cannot be called a police officer and a statement made

to him will not be hit by Section 25 of the Evidence Act.”

Another ruling is that of Kerala High Court rendered in “Forest Range Officer Vs. Aboobacker&anr” reported in 1989 Crl. Law Journal 2038. It was held as follows:

“The admissibility of the confession made to the Forest Range Officer is not open to doubt since the embargo contained in Section 25 of the Evidence Act is not applicable to it, Forest Officers, though they are invested with some of the police powers, are not police officers. Hence they can give evidence before court regarding admissions or confessions made to them by accused persons, whether or not such persons were then in custody. If the court considered such confessions to be reliable, there is no legal bar in acting on such confession.”

Dr. Emerico D’Souza vs. State (1995-1-Bombay Case Reporter 266), it was held: “The Range Forest Officer has clearly stated that these were the statements made by the respective accused persons, including the petitioner and hence there was prima facie offence established against the petitioner. It must also be observed that the statements made by the accused are not confessions under Section 25 of the Evidence Act. The same can be read as the statements against the co-accused. It is only the confession under Section 25 of the Evidence Act which

cannot be read against the co-accused. But such is not the situation in this case because the statements before the Range Forest Officer are not the statements recorded under Section 25 of the Indian Evidence Act as the Range Forest Officer is not a police officer.....”

In Sardar Khan Vs. Range Forest officer (2006-1-Maharashtra Law Journal 606), a Division Bench held:

“.....just as Authorised Officer is not a criminal court, the forest officer tendering material in support of prayer for confiscation is not a police officer.”

In State Vs. Francis Masrenhas, (Cr;. R.C. 1/2015 dated 22.6.3015), unreported decision of Bombay Hugh Court, it is held as follows:

“It is not in dispute that confessional statement in question has been recorded by a Deputy Range Forest Officer who was the investigating officer in the case.

It is also not disputed that under section 50 (8) of the Act of 1972, confessional statement can only be recorded by an officer not below the rank of Assistant Director of Wildlife P reservation or an officer not below the rank of Assistant Conservator of Forests, authorized by the State Government in this behalf. The question is, whether in the face of such provision, the State can fall back upon Section 25 of the Evidence Act in order to contend that inasmuch as the forest officers are not police

officers, the confessional statement would be admissible.”

Reliance is placed on State of Maharashtra Vs. Suraj pal (2015-2- Bombay Case Reporter-Crl-576) wherein it was held, “It is well settled law that the confessional statements made by the accused in forest or wildlife offences are not by Section 25 of the Evidence Act as a forest officer is not a police officer within the meaning of section 25 of Evidence Act”.

It was held that there is absolutely no bar created by law regarding the confessional statements recorded by forest officials, during the course of investigation in a forest offence.

In view of the ratio of several decisions, His Lordship said, “I am of the view that the Assistant Conservator of Forests who has recorded the confessional statement of accused JogeshLagun and Bipin Kishore Barua is not a police officer and section 25 of Evidence Act cannot apply to him.

The court observed: It cannot be said confessional statements of the co-accused cannot be looked into at all by the court while adjudicating the bail matter.

In conclusion the High Court held: Considering the material available on record, taking note of the objects and reasons of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, the confessional statements of co-accused JogeshLagun and Ajit Kishore Barua, the call detail records of the petitioner and the co-accused indicating frequent calls among them prior to and after the occurrence, the availability of prima facie material regarding criminal conspiracy between the accused persons for poaching the male elephants and illegal trading of tusks, the statement of accounts of the petitioner, particularly his involvement in similar type of cases, when further investigation is in progress and stolen tusks are yet to be recovered and trading links is yet to be established, without delving into detailed examination of the evidence and elaborate documentation of merits of the case, in the larger interest of society and State, I am not inclined to release the petitioner on bail at this stage.

Accordingly all the three bail applications filed by the petitioner stand rejected. **K.B.R Reddy**, [buchiramkeesara@yahoo.co.in](mailto:buchiramkeesara@yahoo.co.in). **Source:** Internet

*“When the family is small, whatever little they have they are able to share. There is peace”.*

*“Population Explosion, Leads To Starvation”*



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Website: <http://apfdc.gov.in> Email: [vcmd\\_apfdc@yahoo.co.in](mailto:vcmd_apfdc@yahoo.co.in)



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