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EDITORIAL

Sacred Groves: I have, like many, a habit of regularly reading newspaper every morning. While doing so, I came across a write-up by Preeti Zachariah, "The Gods of Small Things" in The Hindu (Metro Plus Travel) dated 13.04.2017. The author describes her visit to a small temple in a village near Puducherry. The temple is barely visible under cover of trees. The Deity is *Mulagu Muthu Ayyappan*. "Mulagu" in Tamil means pepper. A story is narrated how pepper is connected with the temple and the deity

The author describes the shrine and the trees around. She is informed by a local person that, "reverence held for the village god stretches unto the forests too adding that grove of trees is as powerful as the god who inhabits it." Very true, in deed.

A flash of insight. I realized the need to recapitulate and it gave some food for my thought on Sacred Groves (*Pavithra Vriksha vatikalu*, my own translation of the expression). Each village, small or big, has a temple where the villagers perform puja. Some temples have no space around; some have limited space; and a few others have large extent. Wherever possible trees are grown, protected and managed by the temple committee with full cooperation of the village folks. The sacred groves are forest fragments of varying sizes. They have religious connotation for protecting community.

A few years ago, survey was conducted under the aegis of WWF by Sri R.K. Rao when he was

with the organization; the sacred groves numbering about 1500 were documented in a book; the late Rajamani was inspirational in the task. The work was zealously accomplished. It was well received. The need was to encourage growing trees around temples and enrich the existing groves. But the subject became the water under the bridge.

To create awareness among the people on the value of the trees and forests on human and animal life, schemes like Social Forestry – forestry of the people, for the people and by the people – have emerged on the scene, followed by JFM, CFM etc Now another scheme more vigorously put on ground is *Telangana-ku-Haritha Haram*. This scheme envisages participation by all members of the society Viz., general public, government departments, representatives of people, NGOs etc.

Raising, protecting and managing the sacred groves can be voluntarily undertaken by the villagers concerned. They have to be educated on the benefits of sacred groves. The required planting material can be obtained from the nearest forest nursery. The saplings of tree species like Neem, Tamarind, Mango, Bel (Maredu), Jamun etc. would be ideal for the sacred groves. The sacred groves though fragmented at different places will certainly help in creating bio-mass and would offer shelter to fauna and help in environmental protection and conservation of biodiversity.

K.B.R.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Dear KBR,

This is about your compilation of the book 'Forest Martyrs' graciously issued by the AP Forest Department in collaboration with the Association of Retired Forest Officers, Andhra Pradesh. It is unique in many respects and the reasons that readily come to my mind are:

1. We, the Indians in general, are not known to be good in documentation. Perhaps the Forest Department and Foresters are least known in this regard. Your compilation on Martyrs is a parh-breaking effort which deserves emulation by others.
2. You have succeeded in convincing the Forest Department in appreciating the need to bring out such publications which will travel far and wide within the State and outside instead of confining the issue to the Martyrs' Memorial at NZP, Hyderabad and ritually celebrating Martyrs Day once in a year.
3. The contents of the book, notably the main feature of sacrifice by the individual martyrs, is your script of "Roll of Honour" painstakingly prepared by you and published in Vana Premi over the years. You deserve all the compliments for projecting the Martyrs at centre stage.
4. Incidentally, you have also brought out the views of others on Martyrs appeared in Vana Premi in the form of articles from time to time.
5. By this compilation, you have prepared a sort of permanent record of the service Vana Premi has been rendering to the cause of forests and the fraternity.
6. By far the most significant is the richest tributes you paid to Martyrs in this way.
7. Forest Matyrs are the brave men who sacrificed their very life for the good of forests and well-being of the generations to come. The book is a fitting tribute to their memory.

Regards,

J.V. Sharma, Hyderabad

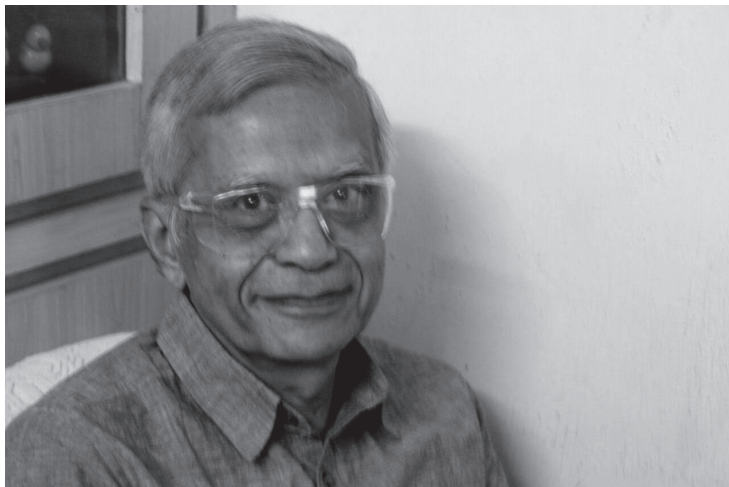
13 April 2017

Email ID: jvsharma32@gmail.com

HOW I FELL IN LOVE WITH FORESTS

By

Dasu Kesava Rao



It all began with an accident in the dense forests of Khammam and East Godavari districts some forty years ago.

We, a batch of journalists from Hyderabad, were on a tour of power projects in the region at the invitation of the Government. After covering the commissioning of a 60 mw unit of the Kothagudem thermal power station, we headed for Upper Sileru guest house for overnight stay. We lost our way and ended up in the forest. As we moved on, the mud track got narrower and the forest turned thicker. There was only one way – forward. Our Willys Jeep plodded along in pitch darkness negotiating hill streams and bamboo

bridges. Authorities built bamboo bridges in place of those blasted by the naxalites. The bamboo creaked in great pain as the sturdy station wagon rolled over, triggering panic that it would give way under the weight of the vehicle. After clearing more streams and bamboo bridges, we faced a bigger hurdle. We drove up a boulder-strewn hill with sharp u-turns. One false move by the driver

meant a fatal plunge into the valley below. But our ace driver, stood between us and the next world and steered us to safety.

As we took to what seemed a road to nowhere, we found a group of tribals sitting in front of bonfire at an unearthly hour of two in the morning. These were the first human beings we came across in six hours of drive through the wilderness. They explained that a tiger had just killed a calf. They feared it might return. The nearest habitation, we were told, was Rampachodavaram. The same place, we remembered with pride, where the fearless revolutionary, Alluri Seetamaraju, staged a daring attack on the police station.

Negotiating the inhospitable terrain, we reached Rampachodavaram, dead tired, hungry and sleepy. The police, we thought, could help us find some place to rest our weary limbs. While trying to locate the police station, we unwittingly passed it more than once at that odd hour, arousing the suspicion of policemen, always alert for a possible naxalite attack. As our jeep moved into the driveway, we were greeted with a blood-curdling 'charge' by the gun-wielding men. We would all have collapsed in a heap of bullet-ridden bodies, but for the presence of mind demonstrated by a colleague. Waving his white shirt, he shouted 'we are friends, not foes'. The police checked our pockets and press cards while we stood in 'hands up' position. Once convinced, they became friendly, fetched us snacks and steaming tea and put us up in the small guest house.

The experience traumatised my friends so much that they vowed never to embark on such risky enterprise. On the other hand, it cast a strange spell on me. The fascinating spell stayed with me ever since. The forests, its flora and fauna, and the indigenous tribes have cemented a strong, abiding bond. I came back to the same place more than once. In my long career, I seized every opportunity to visit the forest areas of

Khammam, Adilabad, Mahbubnagar, Kurnool, Chittoor and Visakhapatnam. My three-year stint as the roving correspondent of The Hindu for Rayalaseema region gave me a chance to study the biodiversity of the Nallamalas, closely and over a time.

The Redwood forests of California, particularly the stretch known as the Avenue of Giants, captivated me much more than the Golden Gate Bridge, the Statue of Liberty, the Niagara Falls, the White House, the skyscrapers of New York, automatic choice of tourists. The Redwood forest boasts of hundreds of giant trees which have survived floods, fires, lightning and other calamities. One of them, Chandelier tree, so named for its shape, has a wide opening cut into its base. The opening is wide enough for a SUV like Innova to pass through!

It is this love for Nature that has enabled me to write a book documenting the community forest management initiatives in Andhra Pradesh in 2007 and recently, another on the biodiversity of the Nallamalas titled 'The Nallamalas: Emerald Paradise', both for the Forest department.

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FORESTER AND FORESTRY

By
M. Padmanabha Reddy

Major part of India, in 19th Century was under the control of East India Company. Due to various reasons the princely states were unhappy with the company and in 1857 a revolt called war of First Independence took place. The British army with their superior arms and with the local help has crushed the mutiny and in the process many British soldiers died, there upon the British rulers took the administration of India directly into their control. India of 1857 consists of present Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Burma. To control such a big colony from thousands of miles away they enacted certain Acts like Indian Police Act, I.P.C., Cr. P.C., Indian Evidence Act etc. To operationalise the Acts services like I.C.S. and I.P.S. were created. The I.C.S. officer was entrusted with collection of revenue and Law and order and was empowered with lot of powers and he is treated as representative of her Majesty the Queen of England. To Assist I.C.S. officer in revenue collection and law and order Imperial Police Service was established subsequently it was renamed as Indian Police (I.P.). During that time India was famous for its hard wood timbers especially Teak, to manage the valuable forests Imperial Forest Service (I.F.S.) was created.

After independence I.C.S. was renamed as I.A.S. and I.P. was renamed as I.P.S. the I.F.S. was abandoned and forestry remained as state subject. In independent India forests suffered heavily from encroachments and degradation, no state government gave importance to forest department. In combined state of A.P. there used to be only a Minister of state incharge of forests. Forests were treated as a revenue yielding department with not much of importance. To achieve higher revenue target large tracts of forests were cut much against the working plan prescriptions. There were not many schemes for afforestation, as such budget provided was just sufficient for establishment expenditure. At field level, in most of the ranges it was just protection and supervising the timber extraction and other forest produce collection by contractors.

In the year 1968 nearly after 20 years of withdrawing I.F.S., it was again reconstituted, thus making forestry as All India Service. This step has injected new blood into service, people with higher qualification and broad outlook and managerial capacities joined the service. Being A.I.S. officers, they went on deputation to centre and other wings of

administration in the state, on return from deputation they brought rich experience and new ideas with them benefiting the forest service. At district level many young I.F.S. officers worked as P.O.I.T. D.A, P.D. D.R.D. A.s etc. Their performance was outstanding and they brought laurels to department and service.

As the time passed somehow the forest department lost the direction. Protection and improvement of natural forests received less attention. In erstwhile A.P. people migrated in large number from neighboring states like Maharashtra and Orissa, cleared the forests and started cultivation. New Tandras and settlements appeared in virgin forests. The short sighted politicians went on regularizing the encroachments and the culmination of such regularization is F.R.A. Act in 2005.

Forest Act was enacted to help the forester to protect the forests, at that time it was felt that to protect the unlocked property such as forests there should be a stringent law and the forester should be vested with required authority. Unfortunately many of the provisions of the Act were anti people especially tribals who are dependent on forests for their lively hood. The definition of forest produce as per the Act is "The following, whether found in, or brought from a forest or not, that is to say timber, bamboo charcoal, rubber, catechu, wood oil, resin, natural

varnish, bark, lac, mohwa flowers and seeds, myrobalans, tumkileaves, rousa grass, adda leavels etc. The second category if brought from a forests that is to say trees, such leaves, flowers and fruits and all other parts or produce, grass, creepers, seeds, wild animals, birds, honey, wax, gum, surface sail etc. are defined as forest produce and transport of the said produce needs transit permit issued by D.F.O.

Sec. 19 of Forest Act gives powers to D.F.O. to stop ways and water courses in R.Fs.

Sec. 20 prescribes penalties for offences, inter-alia such as tress pass, pasture cattle or allow the cattle to tress pass, strips of the bark or leaves etc. The provision mentioned above gave unlimited powers to forester and many times misused to trouble the locals virtually the Forest Act suffocated the forest dependent communities.

In the year 1967 I was posted as Range Officer Utnoor. One day during my field visit I found some cattle (cows) grazing in forests. The staff accompanying me rushed to the grazer and demanded permits, the tribal produced permit neatly preserved in a bamboo tube issued by Range Officer for grazing 25 cattle in R.F. The forest guard than started counting the animals and found 30 cows i.e. 5 animals extra grazing in the forests. He directed the tribal to come next day to range office and pay grazing fee

(Bancharaye) for balance 5 animals at the rate of four Anas total one rupee four Anas otherwise his cattle will be seized. On that they I felt the Forest Act is a draconian law. In the year 1968, (thank God), government abolished the gazing fee (Bancharaye) and allowed free grazing.

In 70s and 80s for about 20 years the Naxalite movement was sweeping across the state. In forest areas the extreme left wing ideology was targeting the forest department and many forest personal lost their life. In districts like Adilabad, Kareemnagar, Warangal and Khammam the forest staff could not go to forest areas. In early 90s the Naxal movement subsided, added to it implementations of J.F.M. made some openings to forest department to go to tribal hamlets and forest areas.

In the year 1994, I was posted as D.F.O. Adilabad . As the district was having about 40% area under forest cover there was lot of scope for J.F.M. programme. Mr. Mukharjee C.C.F. was incharge of J.F.M. He had a good idea of Adilabad circle as he worked there earlier. With his constant persuasion and guidance large numbers of Vana Samrakshana Samithies were formed in Adilabad. Lot of money was pumped in V.S.S. under tribal development plan and employment provided through works in forest areas. In spite of all this, I had a feeling that the tribal's are still keeping a distance from Forest

department. One incident in a village has strengthened my opinion.

Tribals regularly conduct Rai Sabhas (opinion meetings) where they discuss their problems followed by a cultural activity. I happened to attend one such Rai Sabha in Marlawai village. During the meeting the tribals discussed their problems than a play was enacted where in how the local Patwari of revenue department and Chowkidar (Forest beat officer of forest department) trouble them and how they grab their fowls, goats and food grains. Though there is little bit of exaggeration, never the less it conveys forcefully and clearly how the average tribal feels about the Forest department.

It is reported in the press that few journalists from Delhi visited a tribal Jatra in Bastar. One of the journalists asked the tribal youth how is life etc and further asked him what is Heaven, the tribal without mincing words replied - "Miles and Miles of forests without a Forest Guard".

Forest department, whose primary duty is to protect and improve the forests, due to various reasons, is unable to perform its entrusted work and forests are getting reduced. But for Forest Conservation Act the loss of forests could have been much faster. Most of the timber bearing high forests has become degraded forests

during last 5 decades. The department is found wanting in protection of forests.

After forest service becoming all India service there is tremendous expansion of the department especially at senior level. Mobility and Communication was improved. Technology was used for improvement of administration. Forest academy helped the department in trainings and use of latest techniques. Taking 1980 as base year the strength of senior level posts now and then give a picture of how senior level posts have increased making the department as top heavy and an Inverted Pyramid.

C.F.s and above officers in 1980 in the state of Telangana (10 districts of erstwhile A.P.)

1.	C.C.F.	-	1
2.	C.F.s	-	11
			12

C.F. and above posts in 2017 in the state of Telangana (source I.F.S. civil list)

1.	P.C.C.F.s	-	2
2.	A.P.C.C.F.s	-	10
3.	Additional P.C.C.F.s	-	8
4.	C.C.F.s	-	10
5.	C.F.s	-	6
			36

But of 36 officers 10 officers are on deputation (3 central deputations 7 on state deputation) that leaves a balance of 26 officers of C.F. and above working in the department as against 12 in 1980 - while the forests are shrinking foresters are increasing.

Degradation of forests is a national problem, to improve degraded forests, in the year 2011, planning Commission's working group has recommended leasing out 2.5 million ha. of forest lands to paper industry but could not be pushed through. Again in the year 2015 Government of India has formulated guidelines for the participation of the private sector in afforestation of degraded forests. The state governments have been asked to identify such degraded forest areas not exceeding 5 thousand to 10 thousand ha. on a pilot basis for leasing out to private sector through a competitive bidding process. Out of the leased area 10-15% will be developed for local communities, the matter is under consideration. There is a general feeling that forest management is a complicated and important subject which the Forest department alone cannot manage and needs external input.

TAPASYA FOR GREEN ENLIGHTENMENT

NAGABHUSHANAM DASARI

Me standing living green tree
Indication of past memories of old ages
Symbol of present running history
Cross section of stem circular rings
Denoting the different age demarcations
Converted fossils with fore father's impressions
Non erasable time measuring numericals
Protecting mankind like fort wall selflessly
Providing all requirements always sufficiently
Taking care of everything from womb to tomb

O great literate dignitaries! & high techies!!
What harm made the tiny beautiful creatures?
Without adapting any conservation measures
Cutting all trees indiscriminately with green hunger
Throwing entire flora & fauna life in dreadful danger
Making mouth less mother land moist less barren
Spoiling the environ by full of poisonous gases
Filling her stomach with killing indigestible wastes

On the same Earth
Great king Ashoka planted trees in the past with fore sight
Lord Buddha enlightened under Peepal tree for the peace of life
Now all remaining trees are doing tapasya by standing lonely
Under hot sun in the midst of concrete jungles & sharpened axes
For the transformation of present plastic human hearts
To bring back the greenery on the entire earth premises

DARTING AN ELEPHANT, WITH THE WRONG AIM

By
E.M. Manoj

'Bharathan SI' can neither be held nor released as relocation is not seen as a solution to human-elephant conflict

A lone elephant lumbering up the wooded paths of hamlets like Thottamoola, Kottanod, Golur, Edathara and Mamadhanmoola, which nestle by the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS), would normally be cause for alarm. But 'Bharathan SI' (for Sub Inspector), named so because his trunk rises rather like that of a saluting policeman, was a guest often welcomed with palm leaves and plantain fruits, albeit from a safe distance.

Bharathan, in turn, politely waited on the outskirts of human settlements till he was called and served. But when nothing was forthcoming, he raided paddy fields and plantain crop on farmlands in the buffer zone. Bharathan SI was not to know that this was only the beginning of his troubles.

After one raid too many, villagers complained to forest officials, who tranquilised Bharathan, fixed a radio collar, and released him in mid-February 2016. He lost the collar in a fight, so the process

was repeated in November 2016. Each time, he was enfeebled with two doses of tranquilisers. "Repeated incidences of tranquilisation on an elephant may adversely affect its health and immunity, and may cause liver and kidney toxicity," Dr. T.P. Sethumadhavan, Director-Entrepreneurship at the Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, who is associated with research on human-elephant conflict, told *The Hindu*.

Later, forest officials tried to drive the 27-year-old back into forest with the help of *kumki* (trained) elephants, but he proved unwilling to leave. On November 20, 2016, while he was raiding a paddy field in Kallur, a group of villagers tried to drive him back to the forest by pelting stones at him. He hit a farmer as he ran and villagers staged a protest demanding protection from wildlife attacks.

The very next day, a significant contingent of forest officials, veterinary doctors, trackers and *kumki* elephants from the adjacent Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) in Tamil Nadu gathered at Thottamoola to capture Bharathan SI,

tranquilisers at the ready, following a directive from Kerala's Minister of Forests K. Raju.

Dart dosage

"Though the permitted dosage of Xylazine, which is usually used for the purpose in India, is 150 mg per kg, the dosage may often not be accurate. The effect of darting may vary with variables like the season, body weight, age, climate, dosage of medicine and the health of the animal," says Dr. Sethumadhavan, who is also Visiting Scientist with the Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.

The team located the truant jumbo in the Arupathiyezhu forest near Kallur at 5.30 a.m. on November 21. Soon after, he was administered the first dose of a tranquiliser dart, followed by a milder dose after a while. About three hours later, *kumki* elephants led the sluggish animal to a mobile ambulance parked near the forest.

Overnight, Bharathan SI went from being a wild fugitive in one of India's major elephant habitats to a captive in a temporary kraal for set up for him at Muthanga.

"The elephant was allegedly tranquilised around nine times in a couple of years for attaching radio collars, capturing and translocation," says V.K. Venkitachalam, secretary of the Thrissur-based

Heritage Animal Task Force. "The unscientific administration of tranquilisers on an elephant in captivity is unheard of in recent history."

The State Forest Department faced a shortage of trained *kumki* elephants, and Bharathan SI appeared destined to become one. Till, that is, a group of environmentalists opposed the move to keep him in a kraal, which is typically an enclosure for cattle or sheep. "The condition of the elephant at the kraal is pathetic," agrees Mr. Venkitachalam.

Next ordeal

Thus did Bharathan's next ordeal begin on February 11, 2017. State Additional Chief Secretary (Forest) P. Marapandyan directed the authorities to release Bharathan SI into the Parambikulam Tiger Reserve (PTR), nearly 320 km away in the Palakkad district on the Kerala-Tamil Nadu border. Forest officials feared that releasing him inside the Wayanad sanctuary would lead to another public outcry. Two *kumkis* were deployed to ensure Bharathan, tranquilised yet again, embarked on his journey in a specially designed ambulance, radio collar back in place.

"The impact of darting may be comparatively high in captive elephants," says Dr. Sethumadhavan. Although such studies are thin

on the ground in Asian countries, research on African elephants in American and European zoological parks has revealed repeated darting would adversely affect the lifespan and immunity of the animals.

'Irrational and cruel'

But the translocation operation was called off when the people in Parambikulam protested against it. This fiasco, and earlier abortive attempts to shift three tigers to different zoos in the State, led wildlife lovers to demand an exclusive enclosure for 'unruly' elephants and captured tigers inside the WWS.

Translocation has had unhappy consequences. Three years ago, when forest authorities translocated an elephant from the Wayanad sanctuary to the PTR, it was found dead with serious wounds all over its body after nine months of its release, says Mr. Venkitachalam. He termed the decision to tranquilise and transport

Bharathan far away without ensuring his admission there irrational and cruel.

Concurs N. Badusha, president of the Wayanad Prakruthi Samrakshana Samiti, "Elephants are highly social animals with complex family structures. To hold an elephant captive alone is tantamount to solitary confinement, which would be considered torture if arbitrarily enforced on a human."

Mr. Venkitachalam recommends that 60 acres of degraded forestland in the Kurichiyad forest range, with ample vegetation and water for the pachyderms, be set aside as a sanctuary within the sanctuary for captive elephants.

An online campaign is also underway to have Bharathan SI released into the wild. Zoologist and mahout Nibha Namboodhiri has filed a case in the Kerala High Court demanding his release. Bharathan SI's fate, however, is less than clear.

Courtesy: The Hindu dated 02.04.2017

"It is very easy to defeat someone but it is very hard to win someone".

"If you want to shine like sun, first burn like sun".

SHOULD WE CONFER LEGAL RIGHT UPON NATURE?

*By
Pralhad Singh Shekhawat*

French philosopher Michel Seres had long ago proposed the idea of agency for the natural environment as a whole so that its rights can be protected. If rivers have agency and are entitled to rights, they should also have responsibilities and duties like human beings. Credit: Barry Silver/ Flickr

The legal entity, along with human rights, granted to the Ganga and the Yamuna is welcome, but raises interesting dilemmas. If rivers have agency and are entitled to rights, they should also have responsibilities and duties like human beings.

This means, it has to be ensured that rivers do not run wild. Also, they need to be dammed if it is compatible with the principles of sustainability to store water, provide irrigation and electricity, and avoid floods during the monsoon.

The dams should not be too large to avoid siltation and displacement. People displaced to make way for dams should be rehabilitated and provided livelihood opportunities.

The idea of duties to be tagged along with rights was suggested by Mahatma Gandhi when he

was asked about what he thought about the idea of human rights. Recently, the World Futures Council has suggested that the present generation has not only rights like human rights and rights over natural resources like rivers, but also duties and responsibilities towards future generations.

French philosopher Michel Seres had long ago proposed the idea of agency for the natural environment as a whole so that its rights can be protected. These rights can be protected by people on behalf of rivers. These rights ought to apply not only to one or two holy rivers, mountains, trees and plants, but to the entire natural environment, which is inter-related in a web of life, sustains us and provides livelihood to the poor.

In the Indian context, the idea that one or two rivers, as also certain mountains, trees and plants, represent superior qualities of nature just because they are holier than others seems to be flawed. All creation of nature deserves equal respect, as they are all born from the same source.

The natural environment needs to be represented by certain groups or individuals

to argue the case about their specific rights as well as to demand compensation, if required from those who damage or pollute natural resources. Many inter-related issues may arise about legal entitlements, but they can perhaps at least be partly resolved provided we agree on the particular rights and duties.

It was argued by Gandhi and Swami Vivekananda that all human beings, including those belonging to lower castes and even untouchables, deserve dignity and rights as they had the same divinity. They were called "Harijans" or children of God by Gandhi and "Daridranarayans" by Vivekananda. Both Gandhi and Vivekananda also mentioned that all of us have divinity regardless of caste.

It would be not out of turn if we could ask the Supreme Court to consider nature as a whole and not a particular river or mountain or tree. In a secular country, other religions and creeds, including atheists, may also have their sacred natural resources. How can we deny the same legal rights to other holy places, natural spots and resources?

In the context of trees and plants, one could say that the Peepal tree and the Tulsi plant are considered holy. But this idea should apply to all trees and plants which are beneficial to us.

The idea of deep ecology propagated by Norwegian philosopher Arne Naess considers all nature and its beings as worthy of deserving the

same respect and of being considered worth protecting and preserving without discrimination.

However, Naess, valued human life relatively more as human beings are conscious and aware. Being conscious and having intelligence is considered a human quality. But humans cannot survive in isolation and needs the sustenance of the natural environment.

Naess also believed that some species could be sacrificed or asked to give up their "natural freedom and pre-existing rights", as well-known environmentalist Ashish Kothari puts it. Human beings who consider themselves superior could fall prey to arrogance. Australian philosopher Peter Albert David Singer is of the opinion that if one considers a certain species superior to another, it amounts to the same as racism and sexism. He uses the term speciesism to underline the discrimination made on the basis of belonging to a wrong or so-called bad species.

Perhaps we in India and everywhere else can learn that nature is interconnected in a web of life and that human beings are part of it. Finally, the inter-dependence within the web of life in nature acquires more significance than the holiness of a particular river or a mountain or a tree.

Courtesy: Down to Earth dated 27.03.2017

TIT BITS - MY EXPERIENCES IN RAJAHMUNDRY AND RAJAMPET

1. Flying squad range officer booked a lorry transporting Tamarind and compounded the case for 10000/ rupees and after collection of the amount released the lorry. To facilitate compounding range officer recorded that tamarind was brought from trees in a village. The accused appealed to the conservator for refund of 10000/ as the seized tamarind does not come under the definition of M.F.P and so no transit permit is needed. Conservator asked my opinion and I suggested to call for the remarks of D.F.O. concerned. On verification it was revealed that there were no tamarind trees in the village and the appeal was rejected.

2. Flying Squad D.F.O. has booked a lorry transporting timber under the cover of fire wood permit purchase in a our depot. The case was compounded and the timber was forfeited. But the clerk corrected the word as confiscated. The accused filed a writ petition in the High court that confiscation was done without following the full procedure and asked for justice. I verified and found that the value of timber seize is many time more than the cost paid for the firewood purchased an the correction is a clerical error and the full procedure will be followed and revised order will be issued. The petition was dismissed. FORFEITED means taking back our

property. CONFISCATED means taking accused property

3. A Lorry transporting Eucalyptus logs was seized by the R.M. of A.P F D Corporation and kept in the office compound for two days for the D.M. to deal with it.

It is a exempted species and we cannot ask for transit permit. The accused was waiting as he is guilty. Ultimately the case was compounded after establishing that the produce was from the corporation plantations

4. An amount 13 crore was disputed by the A.P. Paper mills and not paid. It was repeated in the monthly demand notice for the previous 15 years. A retired forest officer working in the paper mills has said the demand has lapsed after 3 years. The limitation for money due Government is 30 years. After action has been initiated under the revenue recovery act the paper mills got the amount waived.

5. Insurance company refused the pay 3000000/ for fire damage of the Red Sanders depot Rajampet on the plea that the loss was due riot and it was not insured for that.

A civil suit has been filed stating that damage is due to fire but for cause fire me due riot

P.V. Krishna Murthy

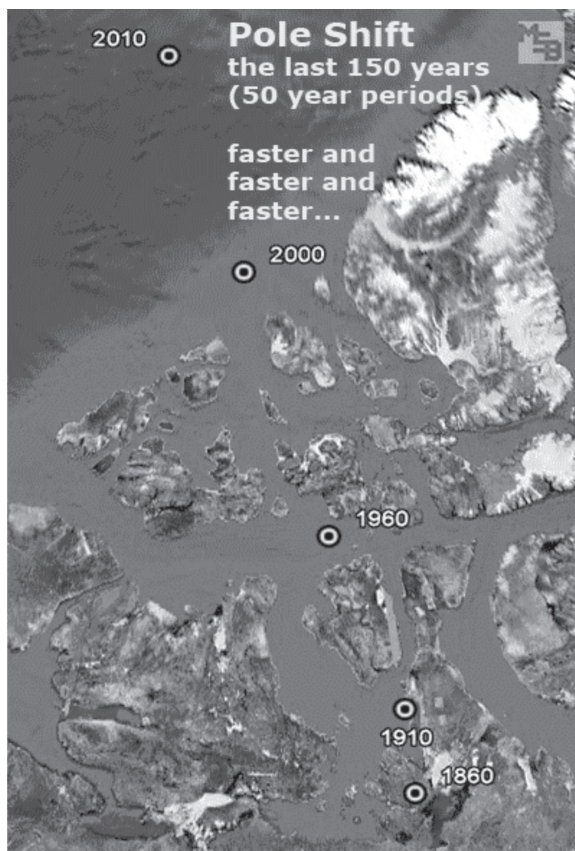
A CASE STUDY ON MAGNETIC DEVIATION AND ITS IMPACT ON SURVEY BY CHAIN AND COMPASS METHOD

By
S. Madhava Rao

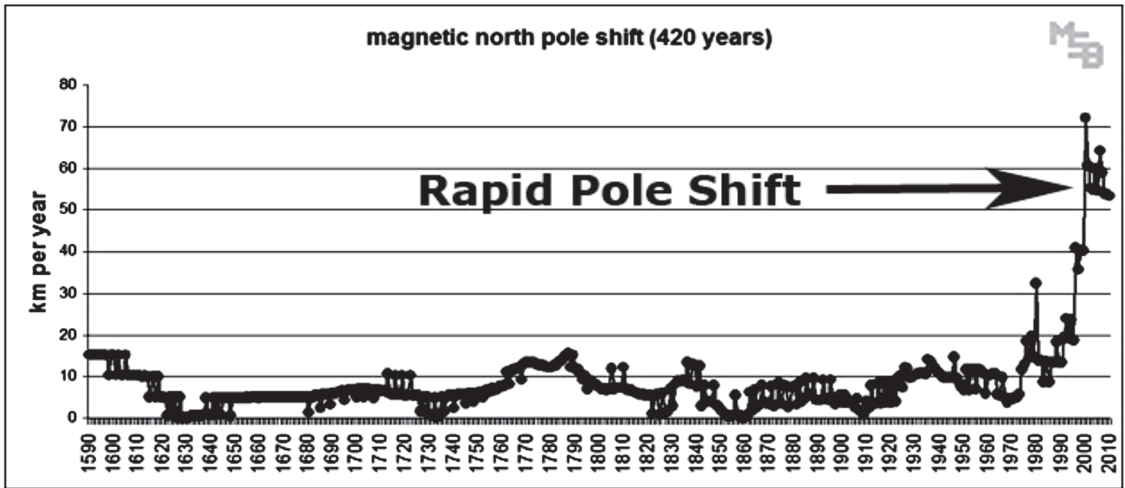
Introduction:

The chain-and-prismatic-compass method of survey of forest areas is popular in the Forest Department. This is being used for many years in the past several years, before independence and after independence. In the Telangana and Andhra Pradesh states, most of the blocks are notified recording distance between one station to another and noting down magnetic bearing at every station by using chain and prismatic compass. The conventional survey method which was in practice in those days have got certain limitations to ensure accuracy. However it was not a big issue in those days as there was not so much value for the lands. There are certain blocks which are notified by using simple boundary description. **They might not have thought of the impact of magnetic deviation in relocating the Forest boundary.**

This is truly a technical problem and now causing difficulty in finding the boundary stations while using compass bearings, since the magnetic north is a dynamic feature and it is deviating the direction over a period of time. The impact of magnetic deviation at the pole is very high and



when it comes down to the equatorial zone, it is less. However even this minor magnetic deviation is causing trouble and is not helpful in guiding the survey teams correctly, who use the compass and the old field book for identification of boundary in the field. Usually



the deviation direction of survey line is towards right hand side while moving in a clockwise direction. From the picture it can be seen, the change of magnetic north from 1860 to 2010. The present rate of magnetic north pole shift is about 55 kilometers per year. The shift of magnetic north is more than 70 Kms during the year 2000. From the above graph representing last 420 years, change in magnetic north is in evidence and the change in magnetic north is high in recent past years.

Case Study on Turkayamjal Forest Block:

Introduction: Hyderabad Forest Division is experiencing boundary problems as most of the Forest Blocks are in and around Hyderabad City. There is great expansion of real estate business in Hyderabad between the years 2000 and onwards. The primary duty of the Forest Department is to protect the forest land from encroachers. Hence the department has taken up as a special case and started conducting

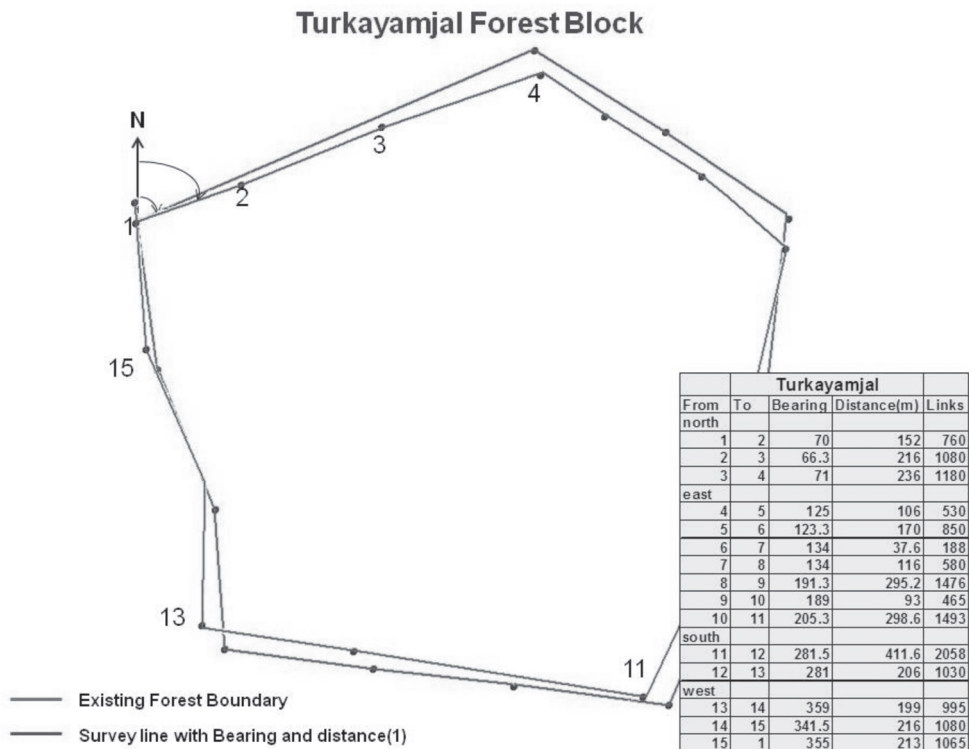
survey of the forest block with reference to existing records. I have been specially deputed for the purpose of DGPS Survey of Forest Blocks of Hyderabad Division.

DGPS Survey of Turkayamjal Forest Block: Most of the people have not correctly understood the technique of DGPS survey. The DGPS instrument gives the precise readings at any given location on earth surface, but it will not solve the problem of boundary issues which is caused because of survey made in the passt. While conducting the survey using DGPS instrument and reconciling with the records, that is magnetic bearings and distances, it is noticed that the survey line is not matching with the actual boundary of the block. This was observed in several forest blocks which were surveyed, using chain and compass method. It is also noticed at several places that, the survey line

has gone into genuine private lands and therefore notices had to be issued to them. I am convinced that there is some problem with the bearings and distances which do not match by and large with the position on the ground.

Survey of Forest Blocks: It is decided to conduct survey of the forest blocks which are intact and boundary is available on ground without any encroachments since its notification. Turkayamjal and Yellempet Forest Blocks are selected for conducting survey, since boundaries are intact. Initially it has been surveyed the forest blocks duly considering the

existing boundary on field by using DGPS instrument. Later on survey of the boundary was made using the chain and compass method starting from station No:1 with the readings collected from the notification. The stations have been identified on the ground purely based on the readings without looking at the actual boundary of the block. After fixing of the stations by using chain and compass method and same has been recorded using DGPS instrument. Both the boundaries have been overlaid one upon the other. It will be seen from the map both the boundaries are not matching



with each other. The deviation gravity is little higher than the deviation shown in the literature. It will be seen the deviation from the map clearly between both the boundaries of the block. Similar exercise has been done for Yellempet Forest Block and similar result have been obtained.

Conclusion: Interestingly the fact is that, the magnetic deviation in the field is showing more than what it is calculated as per the literature. The reasons may be the various signals occupied in the atmosphere and causing some problem while measuring the bearing using the compass. The reason may be something else also.

In view of the above situation it is very difficult to locate the exact boundary of the forest blocks with the existing records. Relocating of the forest

block boundary is very challenging task with the present scenario. There are several court cases filed by the individuals taking advantage of limitations of the old surveys and mismatches of the revenue records. In Hyderabad division more than 25 block boundaries have been relocated by using the integrated approach.

The boundary pillars also constructed for the blocks where boundary was fixed. There are several issues encountered while fixing the forest block boundary with the integrated and knowledge based method. I will share my experience like methodologies adopted for fixing of the boundaries, problems faced, court cases handled etc.,.

The author is an ACF presently working as asst. Director, Urban Forestry, HMDA at Hyderabad

“Unless India stands up To The World, No One Will Respect Us. In This World, Fear Has No Place. Only Strength Respects Strength.”

Respect cannot be demanded, it must be earned. Respect is earned by giving it away.

NEWS AND NOTES

No escape for Chimpanzees of Visakhapatnam Zoo

In a bid to escape to freedom of the two chimpanzees, one male and a female, was intelligently thwarted by the Zoo veterinarian Dr. Srinivas and the other staff of the zoo.

The chimps were able to escape from their kraal on Friday 31 March 2017 by scaling the 20ft wall as the 4 ft solar fence became defunct. This was noticed by the Animal keeper Appa Rao. All efforts by a 16-member emergency staff of the zoo to persuade them to return to their enclosure by offering fruits failed. Then the female was tranquilized by using a blow pipe. After that the male also entered the enclosure.

Ganga and Yamuna – Legal Entities:

The Uttarakhand High Court, comprising Justices Alok Singh and Rajiv Sharma, on March 20, 2017, on a Public Interest Litigation, accorded the status of a legal person to Ganga and Yamuna including their tributaries. This enables the rivers as juridical person to enjoy all the rights, duties and liabilities. This kind of status is enjoyed by deities, religious books, corporations etc. It is for the first time that an element of natural environment has been declared a legal person. The Director of Namami Gange, the Chief Secretary to the Government of Uttarakhand and

the Advocate General of the State have been appointed as the *Loco Parentis* (Legal Parents). This order is passed by the High Court following the precedent relating to River Whanganut in New Zealand.

The legal parents are bound to uphold the status of the two rivers and also promote their “health and well being”. The third largest river, the Ganga is the holiest river for Hindus, and also among the dirtiest in the world. ‘The longest, the holiest and the dirtiest’ is a pathetic description of the sacred ri

We must wait and see how this order of the High Cort of Uttarakhand works out in safeguarding the health and well being of the the two rivers.

By another order dated 28.03.2017 of the Uttarakhand High Court, the Government is restrained from granting mining leases for four months. The order is passed four days after a forest worker was killed while chasing the mining mafia.

Poaching in Mahadevpur Forest:

N. Satyanarayana and 3 others involved in killing two deer on the night of 2nd April 2017 in Palmela forest were arrested and produced

before the Court at Manthani. They are remanded to judicial custody for two weeks. The Police seized one Springfield rifle used in killing wild animals and 150 rounds of ammunition from their possession. A few more accused persons are stated to be absconding.

After hunting the animals, when the poachers were returning, the forest officials intercepted and tried to apprehend them but they threatened the forest staff and tried to escape in the car. The forest staff chased the car but the poachers took to heels leaving the vehicle and carcasses.

On information given to police about the offence, the Police registered a case under Wildlife Act, Arms Act and other sections of IPC. The manhunt is on to nab the other accused who were stated to be absconding.

It is said that there is a gang of habitual hunters behind this poaching case. A methodical and skillful investigation is needed in the matter to bring all the culprits to book.

Shourya Chakra Award to a Cop – A Forest Officer Received it First:

Sri Kokadapu Srinivasulu (35), a constable in the Counter Intelligence Cell, received the Shourya Chakra award this year on 06.04.2017, Thursday. The award was presented to him at the Rashtrapathi Bhavan by the President of India Sri Pranab Mukherjee. Srinivasulu was a member of a team for tracking at Bengaluru, a known criminal. He was statlking on a motor cycle in January 2016, the suspect terrorist operative Alam Zeb Afridi (30) of Ahmedabad involved in several crimes of bomb blast. Alam was also on a bike with a woman pinion rider. Smelling a rat, Alam turned back and dashed against Srinivasulu's bike at Dodda-Naga-Mangala near Electronic city. As the cop fell, he was mercilessly stabbed with a dagger; consequently he sustained multiple injuries and started bleeding profusely. Undaunted, Srinivasulu caught hold of him and pinned him down and the culprit was overpowered until he got support and was handed over to NIA. The award is presented to him for display of bravery and exemplary valour. This is perhaps is the first Shourya Chakra Award to any policeman in the state of Telangana.

Sri M. Kamal Naidu, Forest Officer of the former state of A.P was the first recipient of the Shourya Chakra Award in 1988 for facing a brutal attack

by naxalites in Khammam district when they shot at him and the bullet pierced into his jaw. Later when he was the Curator of the Delhi Zoo, he saved, at the risk of his life. Lion cubs in a cage from an attack by Black Cobra. The cobra had bitten him instead and it was a miracle he survived. The decision to present the award of Shourya Chakra Medal to Sri Naidu was taken under the specific orders of Sri Rajiv Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, in consultation with the then Defence Secretary Sri N.N. Vohra and the then Forest & Environment Secretary Sri T.N.Seshan, This became a military decoration afterwards and many civilians also received the award for bravery and valour.

The C. M. of U.P – The Priest and The Politician, and Son of a Forest Ranger:

Yogi Adithyanath, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, was born as Ajay Singh Bisht on 05.06.1972 in Garhwal district, presently in Uttarakhand. His father Anad Singh Bisht was a Forest Ranger. The Yogi did B.Sc. (Maths) from Hemanti Nandan Guru Garhwal University. He left home around 1990. He came under the influence of Mahant Avaidyanath and became his successor. He is a priest and a politician. He was elected to Lok Sabha in 1998, 1999, 2004.

2009, and 2014 from Gorakhpur Constituency. He actively participated in the debates of the Lok Sabha.

After assuming the reins of Chief Ministership, Yogi Adithyanath kept to himself the Home portfolio. He made a surprise visit to the Hazrathganj Police Station. He said that he had visited the police station to ascertain for himself how the rule of law is enforced in the state. He laid emphasis on the rule of law being established in his state. There cannot be any politics here for any tardiness and there should be an urge to act swiftly and fairly without looking to the political machinery. He would have surely learnt some administrative skills from his father.

The First IFS Officer to Reach the Top of the World

It goes to the credit of S. Prabhakaran to be the first IFS officer to scale the Mt. Everest, at a height of 8,848 M, in May 2016. Tamil speaking Indian Forest Service Officer aged 29, hailing from Thiruvannamalai and borne on Karnataka cadre belongs to 2011 batch. A Punjabi speaking IPS Officer hailing from Amritsar and belonging to 2012 batch, borne on Maharashtra cadre was his companion. Prabhakaran and Sharma had

to give up their attempt of climbing in 2005 because of the quake in Nepal. The duo received logistic support from an experienced mountaineer, Shekarbabu Bachinapally, who runs Bhongir Rock Climbing School. He has been their guide throughout.

The other AIS officers who were in the team are: Vikram Jindal, IAS (2012) of Rajathan, Ravindra Kumar, IAS (2011) of Sikkim, Saroj Kumar, IPS (2011) of Gujarath.

The team was flagged off by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Another marvelous achievement of an IPS Officer in September 2016 was that of Ms. G.R. Radhika, Additional S.P. of Adilabad in Telangana State.

Malavath Poorna, a young tribal girl of 14 years of Nizamabad district and Sadhanapalli Anand Kumar, a young Dalit boy of Khammam district have displayed their tenacity and determination in May 2016 in reaching the top of the world.

Tiger Rescued; But Conflict Remains

Four years ago, a full grown male tiger had strayed into a village Valaprai in Tamil Nadu (Anamalai Tiger Reserve) and had fallen into a muddy well. He was looking like a bundle of striped fur soiled in slush, with his eyes twinkling in failing light. The tiger was tranquilized and caged under the

supervision of a Veterinarian along with his friend R. Senthil Kumaran, a phographer and a wildlife enthusiast. He documented the tiger rescue operation.

Kumaran, the photogtapher in an interview narrated the above event to A. Shiva Kumar as it appeared in The Hindu dated 27.3.2017. In the interview, he narrated what all he observed after the tiger was rescued. The tiger had killed two cows but had not eaten. The villagers surrounded the tiger with sticks and stones and raising their voice against the Forest Department officials. That gave an insight to Kumaran to work up on human-tiger conflict. He toured various tiger reserves including Sundarbans, Bandipur, Mudumalai, Anamalai, Tadoba, Kalakkad and Mundanthurai. It is an interesting narration of man,tiger conflict. As a conservationist, Kimaran suggests usage of terms like human - animal interface and coexistence policy, instead of conflict.

Violation of FCA by Irrigation Dept. Engineer:

Despite the instructions of the Government and clear mandatory provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, the Irrigation department high handedly excavated trench 400 M long, 6 to 10 M wide and with a depth of 6 to 8 M in

Kollapur reserved forest to facilitate Palamut-Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation Scheme. The DFO Nagar Kurnool issued a notice dated 20.03.2017 calling upon the Executive Engineer concerned to show cause why action should not be taken against him as per law. The Irrigation department has violated the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act by committing a prohibited act which entails penal action. The action taken by the DFO Nagar Kurnool is within the framework of law.

A Dentist in Nilgiris Discovered New Species of Plants

Dr. Tarun Chhabra in collaboration with Ramneek Singh discovered three species belonging to the family, Balsminaceae, a few years ago, in Mukurthi National Park in the Nilgiris. They are *Impatiens kawtryana*, *Impatiens taihmushkulni* and *Impatiens nilgirica*. The discovery is published in Nordic Journal of Botany in December 2016. Dr. Tarun Chhabra, apart from being interested in Botany is also a cultural anthropologist, and

has done considerable research on Todas. The specific names of the two species are given after the deities of Todas. Dr. Chhabra feels that Todas have a crucial role in maintaining pristine eco-system in Mukurthi National Park.

Wildlife Offenders apprehended:

The South Zone Police task force apprehended Syed Zameer of Falaknuma and seized animal and bird carcasses from his possession on Monday 16.04.2017. He was then handed over to the Forest Department. Zameer said he is merely selling the meat of the wild animals and disclosed the source of supply as one Rajesh of Medak district. During skillful investigation by the forest officers, Rajesh was caught by surprise. Further search conducted at Zameer's room in Jahanuma, more evidence of his involvement, in the illegal trade in meat of wild animals, was discovered and more meat stuffed in refrigerator was found. Further investigation is in progress.

“Man needs difficulties in life because they are necessary to enjoy the success”.

“Failure will never overtake me if my definition to succeed is strong enough.

KOH-E-NOOR (THE MOUNTAIN OF LIGHT)

By

Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai

1. Introduction:

The origin and early history of the many-faced stone—which was worn by Queen Victoria, and whose crown is now in the safe vaults of the Tower of London (both the crown and the brooch having been designed by Gerrards of London, the jewellers to the Queen, withingeniously-engineered clasps, strong enough to hold the Koh-e-Noor securely, yet clever enough to release it when the Queen wished to transfer the diamond to her brooch), the same having been last visited by me during April/May, 2016 (when the British were celebrating the 400th death-anniversary of the Bard-of-Avon)—**is not clear, except the probability of it being derived from the Golconda-mines (Telangana) at an uncertain date.** It went out of India for some years but came back to the Mughals. The journey of the diamond after the Mughal Period, however, is traceable. The work of Gerrard, the diadem's gold and silver trellis of interweaving flowers, was indeed with hundreds of small pearls and almost 3000 small diamonds. They caught the candle-flames in a myriad-of-tiny-sparkles, but were themselves

rendered so insignificant by what has been laid in the front- centrepiece of the crown! Sitting above Victoria's brow, the legendary Koh-e-Noor might have gleamed like a 'third eye'(as in legendary Mythological "Phaalaaksha / Trinethra")!!

Its first public appearance was, however, on the Peacock-Throne ("Takht-e-Taaos") during the reign of Mughal Emperor Md Shahabuddin 'Shah-e-Jahaan' (in the 17th Century), though the same was probably in the possession of founder of the Mughal Empire Md Zaheeruddin 'Baabur'. Defeating Muhammad-Shah (Rangeela) and laying Delhi to waste. Nadir-Shah took it away to Persia, who was though, as his misfortune to be had it: assassinated later. Pouring molten-lead on the head of Shah-Rukh (Nadir-Shah's grandson) and killing him thus, Ahmed-Shah 'Durraani' (known also as 'Abdaali') got it subsequently. Abdaali also was not spared of the misfortune of possessing it: he had a painful infection, which killed him. Later, deposing his grandson Shah-Zaman and blinding him with hot needles, Shah-Shuja came to possess of it. Strangely, he was also not spared

of the ordeal as he too was even deposed by his brother—— not only that: Shuja's son was tortured. The same fate awaited as well his son, after which it once again came into the possession of Maharaja Ranjit-Singh. But misfortune comes back to his dynasty after him, as one after the other, his successors to the throne were subjected to violent deaths. Finally his youngest son Duleep Singh (by then the lone survivor of the Maharaja's children, just 10 years of age) was enthroned, when the British get the diamond as a 'gift' from young monarch! Lo, the misfortune continued to follow the jewel as the same was shipped to England: the ship almost sank in a storm, while many members of crew, besides, died of Cholera. Thus, it can be stated that the diamond had a bloody trail. This, in short, happens to be the history and the route of its journey.

2. Facts and Figures:

Having come to know (through a Mughal-courtesan of the time, of great repute at Muhammad-Shah 'Rangeela's' Court) that Muhammad-Shah had hidden the Koh-e-Noor along with another fabled stone 'Timur Ruby (by getting them pulled out of the Peacock-Throne) in his turban, Nadir-Shah won it, by "offering to swap turbans, as brother-rulers," as a fascinating memento of their friendship! It was then,

according to Theo Metcalfe (who was asked by Lord Dalhousie to write a history of the diamond), the great diamond gained its name—— Koh-e-Noor or Mountain of Light——as Nadir-Shah held the precious stone in his hand, quite awe-struck!!

The Koh-e-Noor as such, does not appear to be a remarkable stone —— it is only the 90th biggest diamond in the world, and there may be others which would command a better price, if at all and when such stones are correctly evaluated. **But the fact remains that no other stone has been coveted so much and mixed-up in histories for so long as this one happened to have had: it had passed through the hands of several kings and conquerors——and through dynasties even——moving across geographies!** It had been worn on the arms, and displayed on streets, and also hidden away under the floor in a prison at some point of time, while it had adorned the crowns of emperors later!

3. Conclusion:

Its story, as can possibly be surmised from history, is one of power, greed, ambition and betrayals: the most basic emotions played out on big stages——the effect being multiplied many times, since

most of the 'actors' were 'big men', and the story was interlinked with the stories of kingdoms and empires. The history of this diamond also happens to be the history of the times and places where it travelled!

For nearly three hundred years after Nadir-Shah carried the great diamond away from Delhi, fracturing the Mughal-Empire as he did so, and 170 years after it first came into British hands, the **Koh-e-Noor has lost none of its power to create divisions and dissensions**—at its best: it seems to have brought mixed-fortunes wherever it went, and whoever wore it.

But not anymore, it appears, after it reached England: The diamond seems to have been 'cut free of its bad luck'—instead of mentioning the 'curse' in the same breath as the diamond, the name Koh-e-Noor began to be associated with 'good fortune'—the diamond had become a 'celebrity in its own right'. But, it was made possible, (after it had been quite poorly received in its original form) ,by the Dutch-cutters by getting it cut 'flatter and rounder' than its original 'egg-shape': cut into

perfect symmetry with thirty-three faces on top, and underneath.

Having been fashioned earlier twice by Queen-consort Alexandra Mary (in 1901 and 1910) who found the crown to be ostentatious, by asking Gerrard to fashion simpler, Queen-consort Elizabeth had the crown refashioned for her husband George VI's coronation: the new crown had been framed in 'platinum with 2800 diamonds'. She would wear the crown at each of her husband's State-openings of Parliament, and also at her own daughter's Coronation: when the present monarch Queen Elizabeth II took the throne on 6th of February, 1952. Though the British had come to believe that "the Koh-e-Noor curse" would only bring down a male-monarch, it seems Queen Elizabeth II continues to take no chances being apprehensive she has refrained from wearing the jewel! That means no Monarch has worn it after Queen Victoria!! It now sits prettily on display, as I could see and had indeed seen, at the 'Jewel House' in the Tower of London.

If you FAIL, never give up because F.A.I.L. means "First Attempt in Learning". END is not the end; in fact E.N.D. means "Effort Never Dies". If you get NO as an answer, remember N.O. means "Next Opportunity"

THE THIRSTY BANDIPUR- NAGAHOLE FORESTS

By
K. Bhagya Prakash

The slightest wind kicks up a plume of dust from the dry, cracked ground; the trees are bare and the bushes brittle and thorny. As one of the worst droughts in recent years cuts a swathe through the Bandipur and Nagarhole Tiger Reserves in southern Karnataka, the 1,515 sq.km of forests have become a desolate land scape. By conservative estimates, just one in five water-holes, even lakes and ponds, remains wet. Langurs, elephants, Gaurs, Deer and Neelgai crowd the remaining water sources and the once expansive Kabini back waters are on the lookout for just water

The drying up of water holes is tripping the fragile ecological balance of the forests, home to one of the densest populations of tigers in the world. The 2014 tiger census counted 221 big cats in the region. Even the density of the herbivores is high. Forest Officials say spotted deer and sambar, elephants, gaurs and even tigers are moving towards agricultural fields on

the peripheries of the forests in search of water.

With the summer yet to peak and the drought already severe, forest officials are trying out innovations. Digging small pits in the water holes and running water tankers and fill them every week is one. A more lasting solution is seen in the Bandipur and Nagarhole National Parks. Borewells are dug beside ponds, and solar panels are installed to power the motor pump through the day.

The idea seems seems to be working , as the ponds remain among the few bright blue spots in an otherwise barren canvas of brown. Nearly 18 such ponds have been restored with an intricate "elephant proof" system/

With the state government grant in the offing, more are in the pipeline.

Sorce: The Hindu dated 16.04.2017

UNDERSTANDING CROWD DYNAMICS

In human-animal conflicts, there is little relection on the role of people in inciting a wild animal
by Neha Sinha

Anyone scanning the headlines for the past month would conclude that India is in the throes of irrevocable human-wildlife conflict. In this time period, a tiger was crushed by a JCB machine near Corbett while a mob screamed on, a leopard was burnt in Sariska by a crowd which also stoned forest department personnel, and a 33- member herd of elephants is being teased daily by a mob in Athgarh, Odisha.

Close encounters

In the encounters between a wild animal and a group of people, there are casualties on both sides. The question is, is conflict truly irrevocable? In several cases of conflict this year, it has been noted that groups of people have prevented the forest department from carrying out its duties. Rather than only focussing on a wild, snarling animal, a greater understanding of crowd dynamics is also called for.

A group of people is often deined as a mob if the group becomes unruly or aggressive. One must also consider if the mob has a collective conscience or whether it simply follows the cues by leaders within it. How it gets composed, and what it wants are also important.

After a leopard entered a school in Bengaluru last year, a group of about 5,000 people surrounded the school. The fact that it is dangerous to be in the vicinity of a panicked leopard is belied only by the absurdity of the fact that most wanted to see the animal and take pictures. In the case of elephants in Athgarh, conservationists have documented a mob of people attacking the elephants almost daily. Activists say this is a form of entertainment for the people concerned, as the elephants are not always harming people. While there is potential for serious conflict or injury, the mob also feels safe in its numbers. Other mobs that have gathered around wildlife have clamoured for instant 'justice', gratiication or resolution — in the form of killing the animal, beheading it, or parading it after its death. In Sariska last month, a leopard, blamed for killing a man, was burnt alive; the mob also hurt forest department oicials. In a case last November, a leopard was bludgeoned to death in Mandawar, Haryana. The symbolic control of an animal by killing it and then parading the carcass has not escaped judicial attention. A December order of the Uttarakhand High Court said that if

animals were (legally) put down, their dead bodies could not be displayed or shown in the media. But in perhaps the most visceral and tragic human-wildlife conflict of recent times, a tiger was crushed by a JCB near Corbett after a mob demanded 'justice' for deaths. Two people from a labour camp working in forests near Corbett died after being reportedly attacked by the tiger.

The forest department was caught in a human conflict situation — a crowd of people did not allow officials to do their difficult job of catching the tiger. The terrain was undulating. In its haste, the forest department brought in a JCB to capture the animal. The JCB attempted to 'pick up' the tiger, akin to sandpaper being used to snatch up a protesting butterfly. The results were gruesome — the tiger was hit repeatedly by the JCB, and crushed to death, all part of its 'rescue'. In a video made documenting this, one can clearly hear a group of people around the animal, with a voice shouting "*dabao, dabao*" (press it down).

Human-human conflict The Corbett story is telling. When going into an area inhabited by an obligate carnivore like a tiger, very few precautions are taken. Most labour camps are not provided with protocol, proper toilets, or monitoring to avoid work in the early morning or late night, and to move about only in groups.

Many cases of conflict or aggression towards animals are exacerbated by carelessness and

existing human-human conflict or tensions. The question is also linked to control and which groups or classes are interested in being dominant. In 2012, when a tiger was spotted near Lucknow, members and volunteers of the Samajwadi Party declared they would catch it.

This was framed as 'public interest'. Needless to add, one needs training, not bravado, to catch a wild tiger. The discourse around a wild animal, especially as it comes closer to people or human habitation, is that it is a criminal, a rogue, a stray, or a killer. There is, however, very little reflection on the role of people in inciting a wild animal.

We need proper cordoning of areas when wildlife comes close to people, with animal capture being done with full police involvement and not just with a helpless forest department. We need investigations and action against groups that deliberately incite a panicked wild animal. To not do so would be to allow future situations to become even more dangerous; and to privilege revenge over solutions.

A general mob mentality is on the rise in India. Mobs are involved in attacks related to race, food preferences, and various forms of moral policing. In the face of such 'mobocracy', does wildlife stand a chance?

Neha Sinha is with the Bombay Natural History Society. Views expressed are personal

GRAND PARENTS

written by

a class of 8-year-olds You'll love it...

Grandparents are a lady and a man who have no little children of their own.

They like other people's children.

A grandfather is a man, and a grandmother is a lady!

Grandparents don't have to do anything except be there when we come to see them.

They are so old they shouldn't play hard or run.

It is good if they drive us to the shops and give us money.

When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars.

They show us and talk to us about the colors of the flowers and also why we shouldn't step on 'cracks.'

They don't say, 'Hurry up.'

Usually they are fat but not too fat to tie your shoes.

They wear glasses and funny underwear.

They can take their teeth and gums out.

Grandparents don't have to be smart.

They have to answer questions like 'Why isn't

God married?' and 'How come dogs chase cats?'

When they read to us, they don't skip.

They don't mind if we ask for the same story over again.

Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have television because they are the only grownups who like to spend time with us...

They know we should have snack time before bed time.

They say prayers with us and kiss us even when we've acted bad.

Grandpa is the smartest man on earth!

He teaches me good things, but I don't get to see him enough to get as smart as him!

A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lived.

"Oh," he said,

"she lives at the airport??, and when we want her, we just go get her. Then when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport"

Send this to other grandparents, almost grandparents, or send it to everyone.

It will make their day.

Birthday Greetings

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

S.No.	Name of the member	D.O.B.		
	Sarva Sri		9.	M.Babji 08-05-1968
1.	G.Gurunathudu	10-05-1949	10.	B.Saidulu 09-05-1974
2.	B.Soma Sekara Reddy	10-05-1954	11.	N.Nageshwara Rao 10-05-1971
3.	S.Kishan Das	10-05-1955	12.	G.Ravi 15-05-1962
4.	Qamar Mohd Khan	11-05-1947	13.	Smt.G.B.Rekha Banu 15-05-1984
5.	P.Laxma Reddy	13-05-1929	14.	Ch.Ganga Reddy 19-05-1966
6.	M.Purushotham Reddy	14-05-1952	15.	Y.Ramesh 20-05-1959
7.	K.C.Augustin	21-05-1930	16.	G.N.Pavan Kumar Rao 20-05-1967
8.	Shaik Noor Ahmed	22-05-1946	17.	D.Asha Kiran 20-05-1980
9.	S.Rama Rao	25-05-1950	18.	K.Mahaboob Basha 21-05-1986
10.	B.S.Yousuf Sharief	23-05-1953	19.	J.Gopal Rao 22-05-1963
11.	K.Pradeep	28-05-1954	20.	N.Joginder 24-05-1965
12.	T.Samboji Rao	01-06-1948	21.	P.Balaswamy 25-05-1960
13.	Y.Ram Mohan Rao	02-06-1941	22.	V.Krishna 25-05-1966
14.	Gunturu Satyanarayana	04-06-1954	23.	K.Ramkishan 01-06-1963
			24.	D.Chandrasekhar Rao 01-06-1959
			25.	Smt.N.Kshitija 01-06-1976
S.No.	Name of Serving Officers	D.O.B.	26.	T.Chakrapani 01-06-1966
1.	S.Ramesh	21-05-1978	27.	D.Ravindranath Reddy 02-06-1982
2.	Mohammad Diwan Mydeen	21-05-1978	28.	P.Ramakrishna 02-06-1972
3.	Chinmay K Misra	25-05-1957	29.	K.Srinivas 04-06-1977
4.	B.Murali Krishna	25-05-1955	30.	A.V.S.R.K.Appanna 04-06-1963
5.	M.Ramaprasad	25-05-1955	31.	Shaik Salaam 04-06-1963
6.	C. Sarvanan	01-06-1978	32.	Y.V.Narsimha Rao 05-06-1980
7.	S.S.Sreedhar	04-06-1966		
8.	Smt.S.J.Asha	07-05-1975		Secretary

WATER IS LIFE

By
KONDA MOHAN

Water is too precious
Let us be very precautious
Wasting water is a crime
Allowing wasting water is also a crime
World without water can't be imagined
God blessed us with full of ice mountains
Water is life for all the living beings
Protect every drop to avoid water dearth
A drop of water save the lives
Crops raised through this water feed the life
No water, no life; No water, no plants
So, Save the water to save our lives !!

Seasons shifted, ices melted
Forests vanished, wildlife disappeared,
Irrational and unscientific
over utilisation of resources by us
Kept the mankind on knife's edge
Conserve water, conserve Nature!
Every drop of water, lifeline to mankind
Every leaf of nature, lifeline to mankind
Save the nature, save our future
Save the water, Save the Mankind!!

LEGAL NOTES

Arjun Singh and Ors Vs. state of Chattisgarh at Bilaspur

Arjun Singh and others were charged for hunting a barking deer in the forest of Chattisgarh state. The Forest Range Officer, Duddula in Jaspur district arrested and produced them before the Magistrate. The alleged offence was hunting barking deer and concealing the meat in the forest. The alleged offence was in violation of the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act and the Indian Forest Act.

The accused persons moved a bail petition before the Magistrate and the bail refused and the petition was rejected. They filed an appeal against the order of the Magistrate. The Sessions Judge also without granting bail dismissed the petition. Then the accused approached the High Court with an application under Section 436 of the Cr.P.C.

The matter was heard by the Hon'ble Justice Sanjay K. Agrawal. The provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act and those of the Forest Act vis-à-vis the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure were carefully examined. The wild animal that was hunted was a barking deer which is specified in Schedule- III of the Wildlife Protection Act and the punishment prescribed is imprisonment upto three years and fine upto Rs. 25,000/- Punishment for hunting wild animal in a reserved forest is imprisonment upto three months. Part II of Schedule I annexed to the Cr.P.C, prescribes classification of offences against other laws. (offences other than those punishable under the Indian Penal Code). According to the schedule annexed to the Cr.P.C., if the punishment for offence is less than three years

or with fine only, it would be non-cognizable and bailable, and would be triable by Magistrate.

The grant of bail to a person accused of a bailable offence is provided and governed by Section 436 of Cr.P.C. The question before the court was whether a person accused of a bailable offence is entitled to grant of bail as a matter of right stands authoritatively concluded by the Supreme Court in Raiklal Vs. Kishore. It is held that in bailable offence, the right of accused to get bail is absolute and indefensible right and the courts have no discretion in granting bail.

Bearing in mind the principle of law laid down by the courts and under the provisions of section 436 Cr.P.C., court cannot refuse to grant bail provided they are ready and willing to offer bail. The Magistrate as well as the Sessions Judge rejected the bail applications without taking into consideration that both the offences allegedly committed by the applicants are bailable offences.

The High Court considered the application and held that the applicants are entitled to be released on bail as a matter of right. The applicants should be enlarged on bail. Bail application filed under Sec. 436 of the Cr.P.C. is allowed on 20.02.2015. Each of the accused i.e, Arjun Singh and six others shall be released on bail on each of them furnishing a personal bond in the sum of Rs. 25,000 with one surety in the like sum to the satisfaction of the concerned court with a condition for appearance as and when directed.

K.B.R

TIGER SAVED

By
Dr. Naveen Kumar

I received a call from Project Director Srisailam Tiger reserve Sri Sarvanan at about 8 a.m., requesting me to come over to Atmakur to capture one adult tiger which had taken shelter in a bush surrounded by agricultural fields. The animal is not in a condition to walk and unable to move.

I was on my way to Ramoji film city and was travelling in the company's car, I contacted one of a known rent a car fellow and was told that all his cars are engaged for "Pushkaralu". I had decided to go in my own car and asked the driver to turn back home, I just enquired if he can accompany me in this venture. He informed me that he has already promised someone for Pushkaralu. Then I thought of one of my close friend, if he can spare his driver for a day for which he immediately called up his driver to directly go to my house and accompany.

I reached Kurnool town and reached Forest complex at 1 PM, parked my car. DFO'S car was already waiting for me to pick up and take me to Atmakur. I reached Atmakur guest house after one hour, Sri Sarvanan was waiting for me, immediately after quick lunch we went to the

spot where the tiger was taking rest in a thick bush.

I could go close to have a view of the tiger for its physical condition for preparing the dosage of drug. I had spotted the tiger which was in lateral recumbence and as it heard some sounds, it raised its head and again lied down. I had roughly estimated the weight between 70 to 80 kilos and weak. I prepared the Dan inject dart with 200 mg of Ketamin Hcl. and 40 mg of Xylaxine Hcl., shot the animal but the dart deviated as it hit a creeper in between and landed somewhere by the side. The animal got up and slowly walked away and again sat on the other side of the bushes but this time in the open. I sat in the four wheeler and spotted the tiger in sitting position and as close as 15 ft. I aimed at the shoulder, and triggered, the dart straight hit the left shoulder muscle, the tiger got up and slowly walked away to the same spot where it was first sitting. Within 7 minutes the animal became unconscious. I checked for its reflexes and found no movement, and then I called other team members to get the stretcher. Recorded the respiration and pulse, and found it was very

slow and weak, temperature was sub normal. I could not take measurements of the body as required, due to heavy crowd along with press personal.

The animal was a female and quite emaciated and dehydrated .The tigress was shifted to the transport cage of the rescue van and immediately shifted to nearby forest Nursery, there I could access the age of the tigress and estimated it to be 16 to 17 years.The canine teeth were aroused at both the tips, One frontal tooth was missing. I gave Intra venous fluids, Ringers lactate 450 ml and 10 ml Meloxicam (anti-inflammatory) intra muscular. The respiration was ten per minute and pulse was 40 per minute. The Project Director after consulting PCCF Andhra Pradesh decided to transport the tigress to SVZP Tirupati for further treatment and care. We got the news that the tigress got up and

consumed adequate water and also meat which was carried along. It was a very good sign and relief as I could save a tiger which was about to die if not rescued and taken care. I had started back for Kurnool town, had my dinner and started back for Hyderabad and reached Hyderabad at 1 a.m.

Next day morning I received news that the animal had reached Zoo and shifted to a cage and was given water and chicken which it consumed.

Later I had enquired about the tigress and given to understand that it improved a lot and doing fine. Fortunately I had to make a visit along with my family to visit the shrine of Venkateshwara, and I made a visit to the zoo to see the tigress and got very happy for saving a tigress which was to die due to starvation.

Confidence and Hard work is the Best Medicine to Kill the Disease Called Failure. It will Make You Successful Person..... - Abdul Kalam

***One best book is equal to hundred good friends but one good friend is equal to a library.
- Abdul Kalam***

ZOO TIGER'S LEAP INTO OPEN

By
K.B.R. Reddy

Nehru Zoological Park with sylvan surroundings abutting the historical Mir Alam tank with an area of 380 Acres in Hyderabad city of Telangana state is a picturesque place and a tourist attraction. It was established in the year 1959 and opened to the public on October 6, 1963. It is pioneer in the country for creating natural conditions artificially. Nehru Zoological Park is the first Zoo in India to introduce open moat enclosures giving visitors a close look at the animals. It is also the first zoo to open an Animal Safari for Lions, Tigers, Bison and Sloth Bear. Arranged in Zoological order, the park has been divided into mammal, fish and bird zones. The Nocturnal Animal House, Butterfly Park, Aquarium, Natural History Museum and the Jurassic Park will take the visitors to a different world altogether. It is considered as the second best zoo in Asia. On an average, about 10,000 people visit the zoo each day and the number increases twofold or more on week-ends and public holidays. 320.

The scheme of change of 'blood line' in breeding of tiger was suggested by the Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi. With a view to change 'blood line' in the NZP, a six year old male Royal Bengal Tiger, by name KADAMBA, was brought into the NZP on March 6, 2014 from Pillikula

Biological Park at Mangalore in Karnataka state and was kept in the LaCONES (Laboratory for Conservation of Endangered Species) area. This area is out-of-bounds to visitors.

In the afternoon of Saturday on 22nd August, 2015, Tiger Kadamba and a tigress by name KAREENA were shifted to newly constructed 'Delivery Room' in the LaCONES area. Kadamba leapt out a 10 ft. fence and came into open. After a few moments, he walked gently up to his night house, as it is his wont under the influence of a hormone called 'Pheromones'. The workers moving around there got frightened and locked themselves in a cage which was vacant at LaCONES. Tiger Kadamba walked down towards jaguar cage and got into a lane and sat there silently and peaceably.

Tiger Kadamba's escape from the Delivery Room by jumping over the fence occurred around 03.45 p.m. when thousands of visitors within the zoo elsewhere got panicky and started running helter skelter. It was a challenging task to control the mob and evacuate them to safety. The zoo staff pressed into service the battery operated vehicles. There was also timely police assistance to meet the challenge. The Zoo staff took utmost care for

evacuation of the visitors to avoid stampede by deploying all the available staff at the zoo exits. Meanwhile the veterinary personnel were alerted to visit the scene at once to deal with the tiger. In a well-planned rescue operation, Kadamba was tranquilized by shots of Ketamine and xylazine. This way the tiger was recaptured by 04.30 p.m., and immediately antidote (Yohimbine hydrochloride) was also administered by Dr. Naveen Kumar retired Dy. Director NZP who arrived to the zoo by this time. The tiger gained full consciousness within about 30 minutes. Pain-killers were administered as a precautionary measure to reduce inflammatory pain.

The incident attracted the attention of media agencies; press people became agog and rushed to the Zoo for details. They were given the true picture of what happened. The zoo staff breathed a sigh of relief. They kept close watch on Kadamba's recovery following the tranquilization. The tiger recovered though in 30 minutes, the sedation effect from the ketamine drug remained for about 36 hours. Kadamba has

recovered completely in 2 days. He is back on his feet and ate his normal food of about 7 Kgs. of beef. The recovery of Kadamba has also been reported extensively in the press to the satisfaction of the public. The Police personnel under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner, Bahadurpura have rendered timely assistance and their help is acknowledged with gratitude.

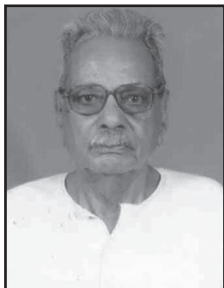
A big establishment like the Nehru Zoological Park needs constant vigilance. Questionable characters and bad elements with ulterior motive are kept under surveillance and a watchful eye is kept on them. Even then undesirable and unforeseen events do occur either by negligence or by accident and each such incident are addressed promptly and its recurrence is avoided. It is truly said, prevention is better than cure. When prevention fails, curative measures become inevitable. In the present episode, the Zoo staff feels extremely happy at the calm and quiet behavior of Kadamba. All is well that ends well.

“Thinking should become your capital asset, no matter whatever ups and downs you come across in your life”.
- Abdul Kalam

When Mother is Happy Family is Happy, When Family is Happy Nation is Happy. - Abdul Kalam

OBITUARY

S. Appa Rao, 01.08.1925 - 01.04.2017



Sri Sayam Appa Rao, Retired Dy. Conservator of Forests from Indian Forest Service of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh Cadre, had breathed his last on 1 st April 2017; at New Delhi while under his son's care. He was 91. He was hospitalized as he was suffering from prostrate-kidney related issues leading

to cardiac arrest and clinical death.

Sri Appa Rao's father was serving in Nizam State Railways at Tandur of the then Hyderabad District, in the Princely State of Hyderabad at the time of his birth. He had his early schooling in Secunderabad and studied for his graduation at the Mrs AVN College, at Visakhapatnam

(*Sir CV Raman, Nobel Laureate, was a student of this prestigious school*). Sri Appa Rao had worked for a while as a sub-editor of *Deccan Chronicle*, (*English Daily*) before he chose a Forestry career, He was selected for appointment in the state of Hyderabad as Forest Ranger in 1949, and deputed for training to Forest Rangers College at Dehra Dun. On his return from training, he was posted as Forest Range Officer at different places in the State, of which the significant places he served include Nirmal, Jannaram, Kollahpur, Kothagudem and more importantly in Silviculture Research wing at Hyderabad for a long stint. On promotion as ACF, he was posted as Soil Conservation Officer under the State Silviculturist. On further promotion eventually to Indian Forest Service as a Dy Conservator of Forests, his important postings included Kurnool and Mancherial Divisions as Divisional Forest Officer. He had retired from service on superannuation in August 1983, while serving

in Hyderabad, in the erstwhile state of Andhra Pradesh,

He was married to Smt Rajeswari on 24 Dec 1953. Both lived a happy life, affectionate and friendly to colleagues and neighbors alike, ready to lend a helping hand. They had four children, a son and three daughters, all well settled by the time of his retirement. His son had an Indian Air Force career and has retired as a Wing Commander. His sons-in-law include: a Colonel (Retd) from the Indian Army, a Chief Executive of British Standards Institute for Asia Region and a senior level executive retired from Arcelor Mittal, the Steel Magnate. His seven grand children too are holding prestigious careers as varied as professional doctors, Info technologists, corporate lawyers, merchant navy executives etc.

On his retirement, he had finally settled down in Jal Vayu Vihar, Hyderabad. It was a newly come-up Air Force and Naval Officers' colony; he contributed with his professional background and inspired others to provide the green ambience to the colony that people admire even today.

His wife pre-deceased him in December 2010; but he preferred to live by himself with a live-in servant thereafter. But given the advancing age and failing health his son persuaded him to move to Delhi about three years ago where he lived, to provide his father the filial comfort and care until he passed away.

He leaves behind grieving a son, three daughters with all their spouses, grandchildren and a host of friends and career colleagues sharing his memories.

May his soul rest in Peace.

A V R K Rao



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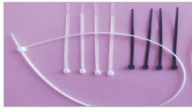
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