

# VANA PREMI

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**Vana Premi wishes very Happy Bakrid  
and Dussera**



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

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## EDITORIAL

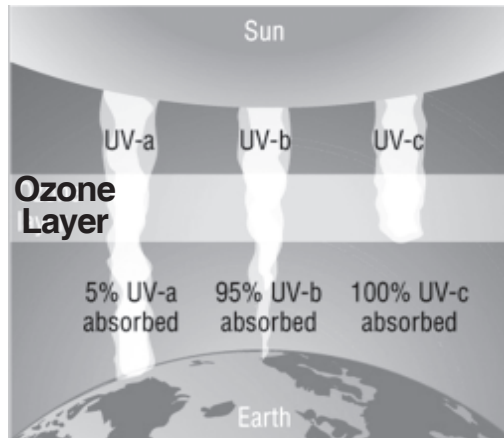
**World Ozone Day:** World Ozone Day is observed throughout the globe on September 16th every year. During December 1994, the United Nations General Assembly decided to observe September 16 as "World Ozone Day". This event commemorates the date of the signing of the Montreal Protocol in 1987, on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The ozone layer, a fragile shield of gas, protects the Earth from the harmful portion of the rays of the sun, thus helping preserve life on the planet. Ozone plays a very important role in our atmosphere.

Although it is toxic to breathe directly, but without it, life cannot exist on the globe. The discovery of the depletion of ozone above the Antarctic was first discovered and announced by Joe Farman, Brian Gardiner and Jonathan Shanklin. Ultra violet rays emitted from sun are divided into three

as UV-A UV-B and UV-C. UV-C is absorbed by the ozone layer and does not allow the rays to reach surface of the earth. Both UV-A and UV-B, however, penetrate the atmosphere and play an important role in conditions such as premature skin aging, eye damage including cataracts, and skin cancers. The ozone layer, a fragile shield of gas, protects the Earth from the harmful portion of the rays of the sun, thus helping preserve life on the planet.

The atmosphere of Earth is the layer of gases, commonly known as air that surrounds the planet Earth, and is retained by Earth's gravity.

The atmosphere of Earth protects life on Earth by absorbing ultraviolet solar radiation, warming the surface through heat retention (greenhouse effect), and reducing temperature extremes between day and night. The atmosphere is comprised of layers based on temperature. These layers are the troposphere, stratosphere, mesosphere and thermosphere. A further region at about 400 to 500 km above the Earth's surface the 5th and last layer is called the exosphere. The stratosphere is the second-lowest layer of Earth's atmosphere. It lies above the troposphere. This layer extends from the



top of the troposphere at roughly 12 km above Earth's surface. It contains the ozone layer, which is the part of Earth's atmosphere that contains relatively high concentrations of Ozone gas. Ozone layer is a layer in the earth's stratosphere at an altitude of about 20 to 30 kilometers above Earth,

although its thickness varies seasonally and geographically which absorbs most of the ultraviolet radiation reaching the earth from the sun. Ozone is a colorless gas. Chemically, ozone is very active. Ozone absorbs harmful components of sunlight, known as "ultraviolet rays". Each year for the past few decades during the Southern Hemisphere spring, chemical reactions involving chlorine and bromine cause ozone in the southern polar region to be destroyed rapidly and severely. This depleted region is known as the "ozone hole". The ozone

hole is not technically a "hole" where no ozone is present, but it is actually a region of exceptionally depleted ozone in the stratosphere through which ultra violet sun rays can pass through and reach surface of the globe. The ozone layer absorbs 97 to 99 percent of the Sun's medium-frequency ultraviolet light, which otherwise would potentially damage exposed life forms near the surface.

The main cause of ozone depletion and the ozone hole is man-made chemicals, in particular man-made halocarbon refrigerants, solvents, propellants, and foam-blowing agents (chlorofluorocarbon (CFCs), HCFC Freon's halons), known as ozone-depleting substances (ODS). Ozone depletion or the ozone hole generated worldwide concern over increased cancer risks and other negative effects and causes skin cancer, sunburn, and cataracts, which were projected to increase dramatically as a result of thinning ozone layer, as well as harming plants and animals. In November 2010 a scientist at the Institute of Zoology in London found that whales off the coast of California have shown a sharp rise in sun damage, and these scientists "fear that the thinning of the ozone layer is to blame" The scientist photographed and took skin biopsies from over 150 whales in the Gulf of California and found "widespread evidence of epidermal damage commonly associated with acute and severe sunburn", caused by UV radiation. The findings suggest "rising UV levels as a result of ozone depletion are to blame for the observed skin damage, in the same way that human skin cancer rates have been on the increase in recent decades".

An increase of UV radiation would be expected to affect also crops. A number of economically important species of plants depend on cyanobacteria also known as Cyanophyta, is a

phylum of bacteria that obtain their energy through photosynthesis, residing on the roots of plants for the retention of nitrogen. Cyanobacteria are sensitive to UV radiation and would be affected by its increase. These plants have a limited ability to adapt to increased levels of UV-B rays, therefore plant growth and yield can be directly affected by UV-B radiation." We have to reverse the ozone hole to its original status to filter UV rays, by checking the contents of fire extinguishers ingredients; we should stop using aerosol products with chlorofluorocarbons, dispose of the pre-1995 refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioning units properly, as they contain ozone depleting substances. Small lifestyle changes like carpooling or cycling to work can make a lot of difference in lowering the pollution levels. Tires of the vehicles should be properly inflated to consume minimum fuel and thereby releasing minimum quantity of obnoxious gasses which damages ozone layer. By conserving energy at home and at work, for example by switching off lights fans, air conditioners, washing machines, and dish washers when they are not needed, using eco-friendly household cleaning products, avoiding use of pesticides, banning the use of dangerous nitrous oxide and purchasing only products that are labeled "ozone friendly" or "CFC free". Stop the use of methyl bromide for soil fumigation. Bring awareness among the general public about the depletion of ozone layer and its ill effects on people, animals, plants and the environment and the importance & need to protect the ozone layer.

Vana Premi wishes that we all should follow the above mentioned methods and together we all should bring back the ozone layer to its pre 1985 stage and live comfortably and heathy.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Dear Sir,**

Of particular interest was the July'17 issue, as it stood dedicated to late H. Rajagopal Shetty, a member of KRFOA who used to punctually attend our meets with great regularity until a couple of months prior to his sad demise. Also that number marked your return to the Editor's Desk (after being away for a few months in OZ, to be with your son's family) and then jauntily setting about to glean the required material for a Special Issue on Vana Mahotsava, followed by a gush on 'International Senior Citizens' Day' through a punctilious Editorial, in the August-Issue. Congratulations!

I share the sentiments expressed by Dr. A. R. Maslekar (through his letter published in the Special Issue) and agree to the fact that dedicated persons like the present QMK & earlier KBR transmogrified the Journal, which is what it is now!

Incidentally, the serendipitous 'Legal Notes' by KBR also made way recently to our Quarterly Vana Vikas as it was so educative (to the whole caboodle of serving officers), while being informative to all others, for which he deserves kudos. Of an equal asset to both the Journals is the versatile J.V. Sharma who never disappoints his ardent readers with his acuity, despite his personal inconveniences and as old age is invariably accompanied by depressing exuberance and health problems. Wishing the thaumaturgy efforts to continue, I remain,

Sincerely,

**Dr. Raghotham Rao Desai**

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**Sir,**

We had started Vana Premi in right earnest in the year 1997. The first issue of the magazine was published in June 1997; then in January 1998, June 1998, and December 1998 and so on. From July 2001, we introduced a regular column, Legal Notes. The readership of Vana Premi was extended to the in-service officers of the Forest Department and it was thought that the column of Legal Notes would be useful and educative to them. I was the columnist from its inception.

Some readers have expressed to me orally that Legal Notes is a very useful column of the Vana Premi and they read it regularly every month. There is feed-back from the readers on the get-up and content of the magazine in general, but there is no opinion expressed specifically with regard to the Legal Notes.

I request you to ascertain through your editorial or by other means the views of the readers so that a decision could be taken on its continuity or otherwise. The opinion of readers, if received, may be published in the next issue of Vana Premi. I congratulate you for the effort you are making for the up-keep, quality and regularity of the magazine.

**K.B.R. Reddy**

**Dear Sir,**

I join many other foresters in appreciation of excellent efforts of Shri J.V. Sharma, Joshi and others, to challenge the forest right Act, 2006. The spirit of these officers and perseverance to stand for forests needs to be saluted. It is made out very well that the provision of Act are doing colossal damage to forests and is seen as culmination of destructive policies pursued by successive governments. It is perhaps first time that a full perspective is put together, encompassing all the aspects of forest management with historical backgrounds. Now, the question is, if the case is lost in legality, then what is the remedial action, citizens of this country can take. I think, in that case we may say that leave forests to its fate. I don't subscribe to a defeatist idea, but I certainly believe that when examining legality of an act by Supreme Court, a remedial course is also discussed, which may converge on two opposing views. With this in view this article may be seen beyond prejudices, opinions or forester's views. Our conditionality's may not allow us to have a different view. It hurts us, when someone points at us and asks us to introspect "Are we managing forests or forest lands? Historically, we have managed forests and forest lands together and with time, land became precious than forests, and naturally young democracy found ways to appease their constituents by regularization of unauthorized cultivation, not once but many times. If, for a moment we think that we are managing forests and attached Land is incidental and we separate land ownership issue, Then I think, we can see light at the end of tunnel.

I will not like to discuss, what went wrong with forest management in first forty years after independence, but to put in right perspective briefly I will only pick up some threads from my book. Forestry practices generally concentrate on the following .1) Establishing a legal curtain between people and forests; policing the forest estate with an abiding obsession; fixing targets for commercial production of logs and increasing the income... 2) Earning revenue (despite adopting to concept like, sustained yield production), which resulted in gradual erosion of the resources base itself .3) using dependent people as wage laborers ignoring their role in safeguarding the resource...

These practices no doubt served a purpose during times when population pressure was low, when society's perception of equity and social justice was still not formed, and when people and society was subjugated by the power and fear of governments, instead the other way around. But, as the resource diminished and local populations traditionally dependent on natural forests for a wide range of goods grew, forest management practices of the past started losing their relevance and effectiveness. Actually, the political leadership remained busy in buying little favors for their constituents at all the levels, which I have recollected in details in my book. Policy change in JFM in nineties was not only inadequate but a dishonest effort. Actually, we neither could protect forests, nor we could safeguard forest lands.

Coming back to the issue of regularizing unauthorized cultivation, I will reproduce few paragraphs from my published book ". in 1985, I faced a case in Honorable Supreme Court of India, where court issued a notice to me and Government of Gujarat, why court should not admit the case in which prayer is for restraining the state, not to interfere with the cultivation ( unauthorized ) in forest area

.The petitioner's plea was based on social justice for poorest of poor,as they have no other livelihood and restraining the only means of livelihood would mean,suffering with hunger for these petitioner's. It had amongst many other pleas such as,Tribal' rights in the forests and protection given to them in Scheduled areas by constitution of India. ..The counter affidavit filed by me made the following points (in brief)

1) The encroachers are not necessarily poorest of poor. They are stronger Section of the community and those who have obeyed the law are left out. Hence it can't be social justice. 2) Rights and privileges provided in the law are enjoyed by the whole community and opening of forests for cultivation would adversely affect these rights and privileges to the extent,even livelihood will be jeopardized for the whole community. Thus providing social justice for few cannot be at the cost of depriving many other of their rightful enjoyment of rights and privileges. We further pointed out that most of a village community is forest dependent people. 3) we quoted the studies that on average to convert one acre of forest land into an improvised cultivation land ,ten acres of forest are destroyed.4) moreover, such patches of land are not fit for agriculture and bound to be subjected to soil erosion. 5) With this background what is essential is to stop further encroachment,and remove the existing honeycombing of the area of encroachers,so that forests could be maintained as forests. Unauthorized cultivation's continuation is not in the interest of people,state or nation and these rural poor are bound to be poorer in case these forests are continued to be encroached upon year after year.

The result was case was not admitted.

I will pick up few paragraphs from somewhere else from the same book to complete my story in the context, I have picked up in this article. "I am a witness and player in forest management since 1961 till today and with grave concern and seriousness,I have to admit that foresters have failed to keep up wellbeing of the forests and would continue to do it, until and unless, we don't think holistically and in totality.... Therefore, let us examine honestly, whether we should oppose the Act, as has been the case up till now,taking a view that except me everybody else are cause of degradation of forests. I feel there is still hope, if we start looking at growing forests, irrespective of land ownership in all these ecosystems and create an environment where those bits of land appropriated by community from forest areas is also put to use for growing trees and forests. Recently, NABARD has sanctioned a project for south Gujarat to cover the awarded land under the provision of Act 2006, to be covered by trees to be implemented by DHRUVA (BAIF), where I am one of the trustees. This will help to manage the whole Eco system as Forests.

We also had few alternatives to change the way land is allotted as provided in the act, but missed it completely. It is as follows.

A) We would have suggested developing waste land in the village as agriculture land to be given to those who qualified to get the piece of land in reserved forests in that village, in lieu of forest land. And if that much land is not available, then that much land could have been carved out from forest in one chunk, so that honeycombing of the forest area is avoided B) if this alternative was not

possible, then at least we could have drafted a scheme to support them to grow trees in their allotted land so as to maintain sanctity of forests. Such, it would have allowed to derive benefits of livelihood to the beneficiaries and better benefits to the whole forest dependent community. It can be supported by funds, such as NREGA and other welfare schemes and a component of loan to support farmer till the full flow of returns starts.

Thus, we can pray, to decide the tenure of land allocation to individuals in such a way that it obligates on them to maintain forests as forests as per a scheme, I sketched in previous paragraphs. I have no intension to hurt anyone: I want to salvage the present situation so that environment protection is ensured and it serves the purpose of forests, to be nursed in a way that ecological benefits in managing land scape on the principle of watersheds flows optimally to the whole community. I am sending separately a small note which we have flagged in 'VAN VATSALYA' newsletters brought out last week, which can connect my suggestions with social forestry. It is published by Association of retired forest officers, Gujarat. If found useful, this may please be published, in your esteemed magazines. Thanks.

**R.K. Sama**

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**Dear Sir,**

My heartfelt thanks, to you for bringing out, a brilliant piece of article in Vana Premi July 2017 edition on late H.Rajagopala Shetty by Sri V. SANTHASEELA BABU Garu. It is a splendid biography of this great forester. I had the privilege of working under him during his last tenure as CF Tirumelveli Social Forestry Circle in 1986-87. I remember long hot hours in the field with him. In fact he made me a master in compass survey and yield estimation of *Acacia nilotica* (Karuvel). Incidentally it is his volume table (Wedge Prism) we are still using. He was a great teacher who can make even damned fools to learn. We organized a grand farewell to him when he retired. Late Prof. Kondas the then CCF and Mr. M. Harikrishnan was CF Madurai who took addl. charge from him recalled his greatness. Though we timed the party at 5.00 pm, but he was away in the field even on that day with Mr. Amanulla Khan who was DFO Trunelveli SF Dn. and returned to lunch with Mr. Khan at 4.30 PM. I also remember his long long hours in office and we were even called back from Cinema shows on few occasions. He was very strict but compassionate person. I have great memories of him. I am happy Tamil Nadu Association of Senior Professionals of Environment and Forests (TASPEF) paid respects to his memory along with other departed souls on 8.07.2017

I once again thank you very much for honoring Shetty though he belonged to TN Cadre.

Yours sincerely

**Ram Prasad. G.**

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**Dear Sir,**

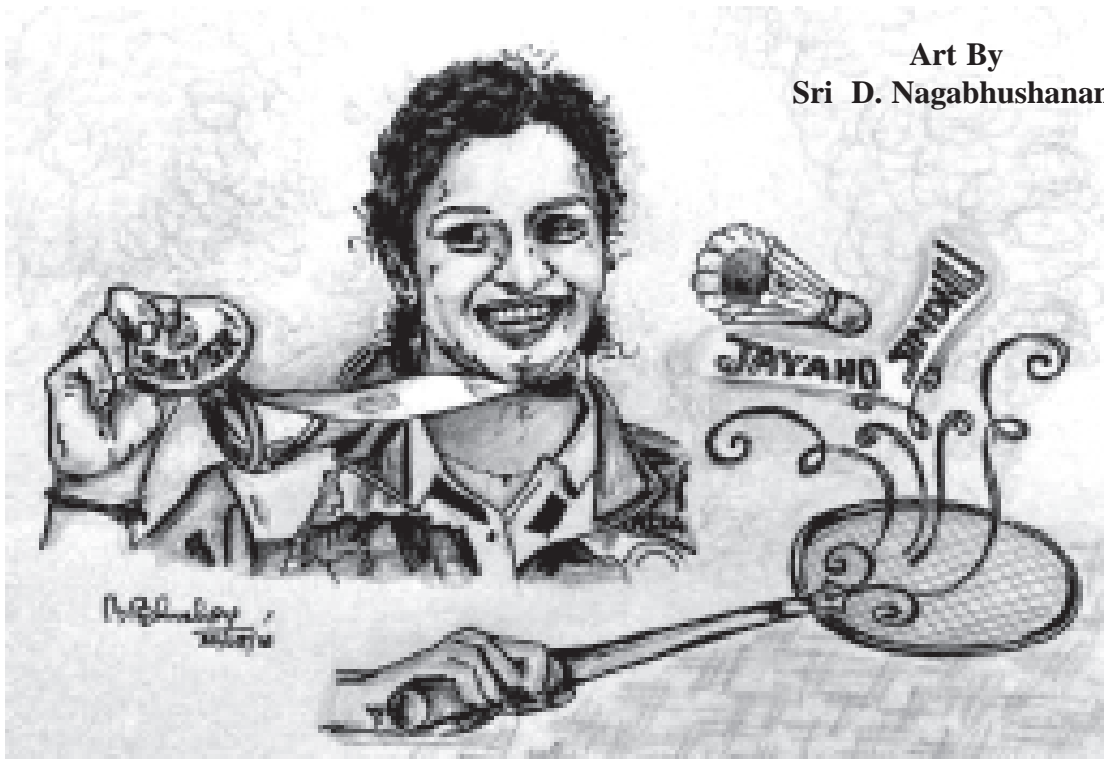
Apropos to the article '**Wildlife poaching; poisoning as a tool**' by Dr. G.V.Rao in the Vana Premi of August, 2017; the author has dealt well about the efforts of Govt. of India in conserving the wildlife through creation of a net-work of PAs and launching of '**Project Tiger**', '**Project Elephant**' and other

projects with considerable budgets and amendments to the 'Wildlife Protection Act, 1972' to further strengthen it. He has listed the mode of poisoning of tigers for pelt and claws and has suggested for further enhancement of the punishments for wildlife crimes and also to enhance the wildlife grants for better conservation and secret funds to tap more information against the perpetrators.

The causes of repetition of crimes against wildlife are not the laws or funds or secret funds or efforts or the judiciary or the publicity but, the slackness in pursuing with the investigation, framing charge sheets in accordance with the law of evidence and pursuing the trials in the courts by the concerned wildlife officers to get convictions of the culprits. For e.g. why the case of hunting a Sch-I animal against the film star *Salman Khan* was failed in the trial... only due to lack of evidence ie due to failure in observing all the principles investigation and framing charge sheet by collecting all evidences. So, it is necessary to train the field staff/officers to draw correct *panchanama/ mahazar*, investigation and filing charge sheets and pursuing the trial by coordinating in calling and briefing witnesses, for which additional funds should be made available to concerned officer.

**B. M. T. Rajeev.**

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**Art By  
Sri D. Nagabhusanam**

***Congrats PV.Sindhu, All Indians are proud of your excellent performance in World Shuttle Badminton Championship finals & winning First Silver Medal.***

***Vana Premi Wishes You All The Best***

# LOUD THINKING OF AN OLD FORESTER

*By*  
**J. V. Sharma**

Normally, I am averse to write about self, particularly when it is likely to appear as self-promotion. Despite the care I take, it becomes inevitable at times to bring the 'I' factor into picture if the context warrants. I hope I will be excused for the occasional departures from the normal. For once, I tend to be personal in this article as the content is related to me in person. I request the readers to bear with me. J.V.Sharma is the shortened form of my full name and surname. Yet many prefer to call me just 'Sharma'. I too like it the best because firstly it is not cumbersome to pronounce and remember. Secondly, there is an element of fondness & personal bonding and intimacy in the six-letter name. It is equally comfortable for the caller as well as the called to prefer the name 'Sharma'. It came to be popularized as years passed, by my affectionate friends and by the fraternity. Luckily, there are not many *Sharmas* around to stand in competition with me. The name became so common that it will be instantaneously identified with me when spoken in forest fraternity. I continue to be in the ring side seat 27 years after retirement. I am 85 and continue to burden the exchequer drawing my pension every month regularly.

The Association of Retired Forest Officers, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh put in place a tradition to felicitate its members when they turn 75, 80, 85, 90, 95 and 100. It is an appreciation by the Association that the member had been successful in crossing the age-related milestones –an expression of relief and happiness. I have just qualified for felicitation for 85-year slot. The Executive Committee at its recent meeting decided to felicitate me along with others who qualify in respective age criteria. I am slated for felicitation at the GB Meeting scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017. Frankly speaking, I was privy to the decision or rather was even part of it as I was present in the said meeting. The formality of felicitation is to call the recipient to the main table at the GB Meeting, cover him with a shawl and place a bouquet in his hands.

The impending felicitation sounded very encouraging. I was greatly thrilled at the prospect. Honestly speaking, the elation was more for the prospect of felicitation than crossing the milestone. I did not happen to be in focus for felicitation often in the past nor do I have many achievements to my credit to deserve felicitation barring the very few which were more incidental than substantive. Even my liberal claims for recognition, though very rarely and obliquely suggested, went unheeded.

I would not have myself craved for any honor but my friends and diehard well-wishers, for reasons not comprehensible to me, mounted consistent campaign to reassure me that I have qualities to merit recognition. It was difficult for me not to believe them. It is human nature. Years passed without any honor bestowed upon me. Now comes the felicitation at 85. My friends are thrilled too. But I knew in my heart of hearts that this felicitation is not for any notable achievement but the one that comes in routine with age at the pleasure of the Almighty.

I started preparing for the felicitation in all seriousness. I took out an archaic dress from an old forgotten trunk which cannot fit into any modern day descriptions. I knew it is odd but still opted for it because of its potential for surprise. People are bound to take notice of me because of the dress. Oddity is also a factor for recognition. They had not seen Sharma in decades attired in this way.

But there is an issue on which I have grave reservations. It is customary that Organizers ask the recipient to say a few words after he is felicitated. They ask so more as formality than in seriousness. I am strongly of the opinion that the occasion is a felicitation and if a 'few words' have to be said, it is better they are said by Organizers and it is their privilege. It is perhaps proper for the recipient to maintain dignified silence rather than opting for a monologue. Situations where the recipients behave as if they were waiting for the occasion only to deliver long winding speeches on life, conduct and achievements are perhaps avoidable aberrations for the simple reason they appear and sound bizarre. Solemnity of the occasion gets greatly diluted. Worse will be the situation when recipients come up with prepared texts running into pages or slips with points jotted down therein. Some even resort to narrate the family history and achievements of their children and grandchildren. This is an occasion where we talk to persons who worked with us for five decades. I don't think they need to be told anything. Everyone knows what the other one in the fraternity is. It is not uncommon to see the listeners turning their heads away in drudgery while speaker goes ahead with his speech unmindful of the response from the audience.

This apart, self-assessment suffers from subjectivity and conflict of interest. No one will be prepared to say ill of him or narrate his weaknesses & failures. Hypocrisy is not the lone reason for it. They don't do it simply because the occasion is a felicitation and not a confessional chamber in a Catholic Church. So, occasion demands for a positive bearing on the part of recipient. The question boils down to where the *Lakshman Rekha* lies to which the speaker could go. Given the usual compulsive tendency to apportion all the credit to self, it may be appropriate and safer for the recipient not to

enter the slippery terrain of eulogizing self. It is slippery because once the recipient embarks upon self-adulation, he may not be in full control of the situation and the facts may spin out of trajectory.

Besides this, in the event of the recipient claiming credit for an extraordinary achievement, the statement should be such as to stand the test of scrutiny. To elaborate the point, historians say that Taj Mahal was constructed by Moghul Emperor Shah Jahan. The Emperor too may have claimed it. Even otherwise it is universally believed that the Great Taj Mahal in Agra was got constructed by Shah Jahan in memory of his late wife Mumtaz Mahal and in his own life time. Many say that the Emperor who was later held captive by his own son in Agra Fort, used to sit silently and watch Taj Mahal from a vantage point in the Fort. But the famous modern day Telugu poet Sri Sri (since no more) refused to give credit to the Emperor. The Poet in turn gave the credit to hundreds and thousands of artisans and labor who actually created the Great Marvel called Taj Mahal with their own sweat and toil. None can deny this fact. Shah Jahan may have provided the funds and the authority. But the Marvel is indisputably the creation of the workers. There is no possibility of the Emperor himself possessing all the artistic skills seen in Taj Mahal.

To extend the argument further, we all worked in a system. We are like spokes in the wheel. If the wheel moved, no one can be singled out for credit. It is a collective effort. If the boss allotted you the work and you made it a phenomenal success, the boss too can claim credit for assigning the work to you. Or, like in queer instances, he would deserve credit for allowing you to do that work. It cannot be said that you did the entire work by yourself for the simple reason that no one works in isolation in a system. One should therefore be very careful in embarking upon self-assessment. There may indeed be cases where singular contribution by an individual may merit recognition. But such instances can only be few in a system. Under normal circumstances, one can stake claim for apportionment of larger share of credit but not the full. There is need to come out of self-promotion syndrome and be extremely objective and generous to accommodate others' role too. Suddenly, I remembered a story of an extra smart villager who contributed just 10 grams of wool and staked claim for a *Kambal*, a hand woven rug of coarse wool collected from the sheep. It is called *Gongadiin* native Telugu. I made up my mind not to be so.

All such thoughts crowded my mind during the run-up period to felicitation. Finally the day came. It was nice to see members of the fraternity gathered in good number. There is warmth in atmosphere and the mood exhilarating. Some have complimented me for being active even in

this advanced age. I knew the praise was hollow because I use a walking stick for support but yet responded with an obliging smile. I happened to be first person to be felicitated on the day. As anticipated, the President and the Vice President asked me to say a few words. Having debated the issue at length in mind, I opted for safer course expressing my gratitude to the Association with a big 'Thank You' but not before adding my share of pun that the felicitation was a pleasant way of reminding the recipient of his advancing age. It was all taken in good humor by the members. My old friend KBR was the next man to be felicitated at 85-year slot. He sprang a real surprise when he said some very nice words about me of being his mentor and Guru. This was more than any honor that could be showered upon me. It was music to my ears and the cup of joy was full to the brim.

Interestingly, programme of the day included a guest lecture by Dr. Adil Kadri. He is a re-known Psychiatrist. By looks he appeared young and we were really stumped when his further details were unveiled. He is a Member of the Royal College of Physicians, England, with more than 20 years standing in the field of which he spent 15 years in England. He has a tri-polar activity covering Hyderabad, Mumbai and Wales in England by turns. He spoke mostly about 'depression and dementia among elderly people' and it was audience oriented and well received. After hearing him I thought that it would perhaps be better to make him cover other relevant aspects of psychiatry not covered on the day.

This GB Meeting introduced a new tradition on the day. Hitherto, all the members used to join the buffet lunch and the younger among the old used to help the very old and infirm members. This time, the lunch was served on a table for very old persons. I was asked to join the Chief Guest at the lunch table along with members of my age and other seniors in age. I heard a welcome comment from the Psychiatrist over the lunch table that he saw unusually large percentage of old men at the meeting healthy, active and fit which can be seen only in western countries, particularly Scandinavian. It is a tribute to foresters at large and we owe it to the forest life we had. For a while I wanted to forget my walking stick.

The day has been hectic but memorable to me. It is an occasion for me to treasure because I honestly felt proud to have crossed the mile stone and with a positive frame of mind. God has been extravagantly kind to keep me going bestowing a contented life upon me. The fraternity showered abundant love and affection on me and I still enjoy great amount of goodwill. It is an un-repayable debt I earned in life.

It is sunset in the day and the night followed. Did not feel like having dinner. Events of the day continue to engage my mind. I normally follow panel discussions on TV till late in the night. On this day, I could not watch the TV with usual interest. Events of life, particularly the official aspect, started unwinding one after the other. It is like an old movie being screened. Persons who worked with me and superiors whom I served under invaded my thoughts. Many of them are gone. I felt lonely. I went to bed at 11 pm but sleep continued to elude.

Thoughts go on flooding and I go back to my young days when I was hard up for money. I desperately needed a job to stand on my legs. By a quirk of destiny I lost selection as Forest Range Officer even after having secured a rank good enough to send me to Coimbatore for training. I happened to be away from the City and could not reach in time for the walking test. I took up a job as teacher in a Govt. High School to keep me going but my heart did not lie in it. I tried for two other jobs and I was selected in both. But the Selection Authority declined to give me the first job telling me on my face that I deserved better job. That elusive 'better job' did indeed come soon after but again the history repeated. I thought government office does not function on Sunday but it did function very effectively and decisively on that fateful Sunday and I was replaced by a person who was first in the waiting list. The year passed agonizingly slow in the job hunt and I happened to get selection as Forest Range Officer in the next batch. It is destiny. It does not normally happen to net the lost job again in the very succeeding selection. I thought my destiny is linked to forests. Only impartial observers can say whether it is a case of "made for each other". However, I earned two instalments of bonus in the process. T. Narayan Swamy who was my friend and classmate in the degree class was selected in my place in 1954 and L. Lohit Reddy joined Forest Department along with me in the next batch. Both of them remain my closest friends till today. I had to narrate these personal details to highlight the role of destiny in my tryst with forests.

Then it was nostalgia of our days at SFRC that took over my thoughts. The College was a laboratory where the raw material is molded into live and purposeful specimens as foresters. There is nothing like 'self' there. The regimen dictates your life and activity. One does not think too much and follows the schedule strictly. Forest College is like quarantine where the person is made to jettison his earlier baggage and prepare himself for a new life ahead.

The wonderful forests I saw as probationer at the tri-junction of Sirchalma, Utnoor and Wadgaon Blocks of Utnoor Range occupied my thoughts. The teak trees were so tall that I had to remove my sun hat to look up to the clear bole, lest it may fall. Then I remembered the forests between

Rajulmadugu and Domdhari and the vegetation between Pochampalli and Utnoor Series. Most of the Felling Series were worked under Improvement Felling System and the exploitable girth for teak was 54 inches at breast height and 60 inches for Nallamaddi as per Working Plan prepared by Mr. Mazharuddin Ahmed. I then remembered the days of my working plan period in composite Karimnagar Division. All the major forest blocks in Jagtial, Kodmial and Manthani Ranges were pure teak forests with teak forming more than 90% of the stand with exploitable girth fixed at 48 inches at BH. While Mahadevpur and Tadicherla Blocks boasted of luxuriant forests with teak dominating in the company of other valuable non-teak species like *Nallamaddi*, *Bijasal* etc., forest crop in Singaram North and South Blocks, by and large, presented a typical pattern of *Methams* and *Gerrals* interspersing each other. *Gerrals* are eroded stretches with the fertile top soil washed away but yet supporting hardy non-teak species like *Hardwickia binata*. *Methams* are the elevated landscapes where the rich alluvial soil is intact which support luxuriant vegetation. Proximity of Godavari River and the topography may have given rise to manifestation of this terrain pattern. Tree growth was very valuable with large sized teak in the company of other valuable non-teak species. Forests were worked under Improvement Felling System where only mature, over mature, unsound and defective trees are selected for removal to provide room to younger age classes to put on girth. Exploitable girth was fixed at 48 inches at BH for teak as per Mr. Maudood Ahmed Khan's Working Plan. I undertook stump and stem analysis in Pratapgiri Felling Series and in Kamanpally forests of (then) Mahadevpur Range and arrived at the same girth limit. I must place on record that I had stock mapped AP II Quality (All India IV Quality) teak patches at these two places and shown them to Mr. M S Khan, CF, Working Plans.

Then an incident connected with Mr. A. A. Khan, IFS Officer of the British era, who was also the Principal of Madras Forest College, came to my mind. He was Conservator of Forests, Working Plan Circle at the relevant period. Mr. Rai Daulat Rai, Head of the Department, in a course of conversation with Mr. Khan enquired whether he had seen the forests of Mahadevpur. When the CF replied in the negative, the CCF commented he better do it soon before the Working Plan work progresses further adding that he would himself love to join the visit if the CF finalizes the tour programme. It was the month of August and normally Mahadevpur and Tadicherla Ranges are shut out during the rainy season. Yet, he planned a 3-day visit and issued the tour programme sending a copy to the CCF with a request to make it convenient to join the visit. Visiting party was to camp, at Parkal and makes a day trip to the nearest forest patch of Mahadevpur Block with lunch arranged at Nasturpally

Forest Rest House. Parkal-Mahadevpur Road was under formation and the distance was to be covered partly by jeeps and partly by bullock carts. A black cotton soil patch of about 5 miles on Mahadevpur side was particularly bad where carts alone could be used.

A three day tour of Mr. Khan was by itself scary. The prospect of the CCF joining the tour unsettled not only the Working Plan staff but the entire Karimnagar Division, particularly the DFO, the Sub DFO and ROs Mahadevpur and Tadicherla. Elaborate planning had to be there not to leave any grey areas. RO Mahadevpur Mr. K. L. N. Reddy had to bear the bulk of the burden.

No sooner Mr. Khan reached IB, Parkal he enquired whether we heard anything from the CCF about his visit. On being told 'no', he called me and instructed me to rush to Warangal and speak to the CCF on phone about his visit. I was scared. Speaking to the CCF was a tall order to comply and asking him about the visit was worse. I sensed that it is unusual. Seeing my troubled face, Mr. Khan said; "Ranger, you are speaking to CCF on my behalf. Tell the CCF that the CF asked you to enquire. Don't forget to mention his promise to join the visit. I will wait the entire tomorrow for his response and he can join us day after tomorrow. Remember, you will come back only with a response." He turned to the WPO and the DFO and told them to arrange the visit on the third day. It was literally hell for the next 24 hours for me. I booked an urgent trunk call from Warangal which does not materialize for hours. Finally when I got the connection and asked for the CCF after identifying myself, the person at the other end derisively said he would convey that a Ranger wanted to talk to him. I booked another call and waited. I do not know what happened there; no one was prepared to take the call. I went on booking the calls. In the afternoon, I could talk to a person. He sounded amiable and enquired why I was persisting to speak to the CCF. It was Mr. Srinivas Reddy. He heard me patiently and understood my predicament. He asked me to call after half an hour. When contacted again he told me; "The CCF did not like your insistence to talk to him. I explained the situation. He expressed sympathy for you. As for tomorrow's programme, he has no such programme." I informed the CF accordingly.

Mercifully, there were no rains for the last two days and the *kutch*a road was just jeep able though with difficulty until we reached the low lying black cotton soil patch which was slushy with sticky mud. RO Mahadevpur kept at least half a dozen carts ready there. He was so thoughtful to muster many extra pairs of bullocks at different places on the way. The slush was so sticky; it was difficult for the bullocks to pull the carts out. They had to harness extra pairs of bullocks and it was a great procession. Much of the time was lost in the journey. We took the CF to a virgin forest patch nearer

to Nasturpally. He saw the standing growth and dictated the Inspection Notes to me on the spot, a part of which read something like "It is a standing example of how a forest would look without interference. Not many such areas can be seen these days and the situation is worsening by the day. The glory of these forests lies in their inaccessibility and once this Parkal-Mahadevpur Road becomes operable, these forests also will disappear."

Mr. A. A. Khan's words were prophetic. It has become an important road linking Kaleshwaram and other interior areas. Bhoopalpally, a sleepy village with a couple of make-shift huts on the roadside has now become the headquarters of a new District, Jaishankar Bhoopalpally District. Entire picture of the terrain changed what with frenetic coal mining activity, Kaleshwaram Irrigation Project and many other activities. My generation has the ignominy of witnessing the fall of the prized citadels of nature. This assault is not restricted to these areas alone. Fate of forests in entire Telangana, barring a few patches in Bejjur Range is equally deplorable. It is painful even to describe the ground situation in detail. It is there for everybody to see. I felt some pain in the heart.

The forests I had seen and associated with are no longer the same. Their degradation in size and content is no longer a topic for serious discussion barring lip sympathy from persons who matter, their tall talk about climate change, global warming etc. notwithstanding. Many persons with whom I have been associated with in my duties are no longer around and it is a wound that does not heal and continues to fester frequently. Yet, I continue. How long? Don't know. I took a sleeping pill and slipped into sleep. It was 1:30 AM the next day.

Savoring the fond memories of the function and the few good words said of him at the meeting, he was in high spirits the whole of evening and till late in the night. When he realized that his usual time of going to bed is long over, he reluctantly got into the bed but found the sleep elusive bed as night progressed. But he was unable to sleep. He involuntarily became thoughtful.

***“Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love” (Mother Teresa)***

***“The best charity is that given by one who has little”.***  
***(Prophet Mohammad)***

*Birthday 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		3.	Chandan Mitra	27-09-1958
			4.	Dr.Rajendra Prasad Khajuria	05-10-1968
1.	P.Rajendranath	10-08-1953	5.	A.Sreenivasulu	11-09-1967
1.	A.H.Qureshi	7-09-01941	6.	M.Samuel	12-09-1978
2.	A.Raja Reddy	13-09-1926	7.	N.Rama Chandra Rao	18-09-1984
3.	J.V.Subba Rao	13-09-1934	8.	S.Venkateshwarlu	22-09-1961
4.	Narpat Singh	15-09-1952	9.	B.Jayachandra Reddy	01-10-1958
5.	V.Kishan Reddy	20-09-1941	10.	S.Satyanarayana	04-10-1967
6.	G.Sagar	23-09-1952	11.	K.Purushotham	05-10-1962
7.	V.V.Hari Prasad	25-09-1953	12.	M.Keshavaram	05-10-1960
8.	K.S.Rao	26-09-1948			
9.	D.S.Gangakhedkar	29-09-1934			<b>Secretary</b>
10.	P.S.Reddy	30-09-1932			
11.	P.Ranga Rao	05-10-1927			
12.	P.Subramanyam	05-10-1946			

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of Serving Officers</b>	<b>D.O.B.</b>
1.	Smt.M.Revathi	09-08-1970
1.	Smt.Priyanka Varghese	08-09-1978
2.	K.S.Reddy	10-09-1957



# TO WHAT EXTENT FORBIDDEN- THINGS REMAIN FORBIDDEN

By

*Dr. B Raghotham Rao Desai*

It is beyond the realm of our knowledge and hence we continue to wonder why human nature yearns to do a thing which is forbidden! Despite God having ordained **to 'believe in one God' and asked them through scriptures to 'remain united following one faith'**, further beseeching them **'give no scope to trigger difference in beliefs and come to Him when their respective assignments are over on this Earth as mortals'**, humans relegated the commandments to their backyards and started having beliefs in umpteen no. of gods and with that invited innumerable infightings & bickering!! Sordidly they are found running away from Him, conveniently forgetting their responsibilities and obligations. In other words, **they are deliberately disobeying what they were asked to follow and doing the things they were forbidden to do.** However, God being after all God and since there exists a world of difference between the distant Heaven and far away Earth ——it was not surprising if He could not keep track of the deeds perpetrated by His creatures far away from His abode! Hence the angels were entrusted to maintain day-to-day records of his deeds,

presuming that human being continues to be an angel-like creature in thoughts and deeds as at the time he was first created.

Of late, we find human beings foisting their perceptions or perspectives on others, having lost patience and tolerance in accepting people as they are and listen to them, having lost respect for others' feelings or emotions & views or opinions. We find such humans to be caustic, conceited and cockish in their manners, while also finding a few to be crafty, conniving and calculative in their moves—— we should not be surprised further if we find a majority of them to be crabby, callous and uncompassionate in their mental attitudes. Gone are the times when humility, modesty, simplicity and unimpeachable sincerity & honesty (in everything they did) existed along-with high standards of moral values, principles and ideologies. Those were the splendid traits and crowns of their scintillating persona, never giving scope to any misgivings of their spoken words getting misconstrued. They often indulged themselves in bouts of self-analyzing exercises —— even swift enough to swing back to the right one, whenever they inadvertently

swerved on the wrong moral tracks, thanks to their moral scruples. On the other hand, we find a majority of the succeeding generations to be snooty, envious, supercilious and super-highfalutin with vindictive attitudes, as also unhealthy competitive spirits.

This sort of negative attitude and nature continues to grow from infancy to childhood to adulthood and majority of human beings get blown away with it. For example, the very first rule everyone is asked to observe is punctuality for the employees in work-places like offices, schools or factories, etc., And what we find is just the opposite, **bringing the pedagogical effort to naught** — if we find anyone coming 'early' following the rule as an exception, **the 'serendipity' surprising some: making a few of them even whining, going to the extent of doubting his credentials!** That does not mean we call him a 'devil', because a saying goes that 'it is devilish if anything is done hurriedly'! Further, if they are asked to talk less and work more, they do the opposite. Still further, if they are forbidden to accept bribe or even expect it, they just disregard, and not only 'indulge' but

even 'immerse' themselves in it. **Turning to the lesser souls to find out how the things go about**, just ask the milkman to bring pure unadulterated milk, and **you find him pertinaciously** adding more & more water as the days go by, until a day comes when you get only a little milk added to all water! And you insist the washer-man to wash the clothes carefully & do not damage or stain them, he does just the opposite, as if he never heard you telling him your requirements, the maverick 'dhobi', **underrating and categorizing it as a soliloquy!** Knowing fully well 'trash should be thrown in dustbins & not spill on streets'; and 'spittoons & urinals to be used whenever and wherever the need arises', more often than not the requirements of decency and community-health are flouted. Sadly things continue to go on and on like that in India, that is Bharath, and we are left to accept the difficulties stoically.

We seem to ignore the fact that **what counts in life is not the mere fact that we lived, but the difference we would be making to the lives of others.** And that determines the significance of the life we lead!

*“The simplest acts of kindness are by far more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer.” (Mahatma Gandhi)*

*Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference (Kathy Calvin)*

# SRI E.V. RAM REDDY & CAPT. TYABJI – THE SAVIORS OF KARLAPALLI FOREST

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

## 1.0 Introduction:

**1.1** Karlapalli is a small village under the erstwhile Taluk of Mulug in Warangal district. The whole village was granted on *Ijara* (lease) to the predecessors-in-interest of one Sri T.V.K. Sastry under the Deserted Villages (*Ijara*) *Dastur-ul-Amal* of 1292 Hijri (1875 A.D.). The *Dastur-ul-Amal* was the law relating to *Ijara*, promulgated by the H.E.H the Nizam's Government and it was applicable to the whole of Nizam's Dominion.

## 2.0 Scheme of *Ijara*:

**2.1** The scheme of the law was to grant *ijara* (lease) on attractive terms for a period of about 30 years to a person, called *Ijaradar*, on condition that he shall bring more area under cultivation and establish homesteads. On conclusion of the lease period, there would be a settlement of rights of *Ijaradar*. A special officer of the rank of *Awwal Talukdar* (District Collector) would enquire into the fulfillment of the conditions of lease. If the *Ijaradar* had fulfilled the conditions of lease and was able to bring under cultivation half the arable land under cultivation, the *Ijaradar* was entitled to get *Bilmaktha* grant over double the area mentioned as arable in the lease deed. The recommendation of the Special Officer was subject to approval of the Government. Unless the recommendation of the Special Officer for *Ijara* Settlement is approved by the Government and orders of the Government are issued

accordingly, the *Ijara* settlement would not be complete. This ancient law was in force for a few years and the Government then realized the futility of the scheme as not profitable; therefore the *Dastur-ul-Amal* (Regulation) was rescinded.

## 3.0 Cancellation of Irregular *Pattas*:

**3.1** In some of the *Ijara* lands in respect of which settlement had taken place, they had left behind a legacy. During 1959, it was found that there was thick forest growth in *Ijara* lands, and the Forest Department had either included them or proposed to include them in reserve forest with the result that the *Ijaradars* were not in actual possession of the lands although *pattas* had been granted in the name of the ex-*Ijaradars*. It was therefore proposed to cancel all the *pattas* of such lands in view of the valuable timber and the forests in the public interest. The continuance of the *bilmaktha* tenure was considered an anachronism. A Bill was introduced in the Assembly in December 1959.

**3.2** The Bill was passed and the enactment under the title, The Andhra Pradesh (Telangana Area) *Ijara* and *Kowli* Lands Cancellation of Irregular *Pattas* and Abolition of Concessional Assessment Act, 1961 (Act No. 36 of 1961) emerged. The Act came into force with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1962. According to Section 3 of

the Act 36 of 1961, if before the commencement of the Act, *bilmaktha* or *patta* in excess of *bilmaktha* is granted in settlement of any *Ijara*, but the *pattadar* is not put in actual possession of the land for the reason that the land is part of a reserved forest or the land is proposed to be constituted a reserve forest, the *patta* of such land stands cancelled on the said date and the *pattadar* shall be deemed never to have acquired any right in respect of such land or of any forest produce thereon. Rule 3 of the Rules made under Act 36 of 1961, the Tahsildar having jurisdiction over the area is made the statutory authority to enquire and determine the category and extent of such land. Karlapally forest is one such land falling under the category of cancelled *patta*.

#### 4.0 The Order of Tahsildar, Mulug:

4.1 The Tahsildar, Mulug ought to have determined that area of the land which was included in the Bandal Reserved Forest whose *patta* had to be cancelled by virtue of Sec.3 of the Act because the *pattadar* was not put in actual possession of the land and the land remained in possession of the Forest Department. He ought to have called for the information from the Forest Department. The forest officers were negligent in placing the full record before the Tahsildar. The Tahsildar by his order dated 21.4.1977 created dubious right to the *pattadar*, instead of determining the area for cancellation of *patta*. The claim of dubious ownership was over forest land in Sy.Nos. 173,174 & 175 (part) of Karlapalli village of an extent of

Ac.2,610 These lands were part of Bandal Forest Block and Bandal Extension Forest Block of Warangal North division. The Tahsildar's order made a wrong case of the *pattadar*, a strong case in his favor.

#### 5.0 Revision before the Commissioner of Land Revenue:

5.1 The matter was reported to the Chief Conservator of Forests when I was the Asst.C.C.F. concerned to attend to it. After carefully going through the record with reference to the relevant law, I gave my opinion and suggested to the C.C.F that we should file a revision before the Commissioner of Land Revenue under Clause (3) of Section 4 -A of the Act No. 36 of 1961. A revision petition was accordingly drafted and it was filed before the C.L.R along with the following documents in support of our claim:

1. Order of the Asst. Director of Settlement dated 1343 F.
2. Memorandum of Appeal dated 28.2.1343 F. filed by the *ex-ijaradar*.
3. Counter dated 23.12.1349 F.
4. Lr.No. 6846 dated 30.10.1354 F. of the DFO Warangal
5. Lr. No. 1964 dated 7.10.1355 F. of the Subedar, Warangal
6. Inspection Report dated 31.5.1355 F. of Revenue and Forest Officials.
7. Joint Inspection Report dated 27.1.1951
8. Govt.'s Notification No. 240 dated 7.11.1952
9. Proceedings No. 2038 dated 3.9.1350 *Fasli* of Director of Settlement

10. G.O.Ms. No. 769 dated 14.4.1959  
 11. Map prepared by the Land Record Assistant

7. Lr. No. 676 dated 27.6.1341 F.  
 8. Lr. No. 915 dated 2.9.1341 F. of Asst. Director, Settlement.  
 9. Lr. No. 5054 dated 8.10.1341 F.  
 10. Lr. No. 1146 dated 7.11.1341 F. of Forest Range Officer, Chintaguda.

**5.2** The revision petition of the C.C.F was heard by the C.L.R Sri M.R.Pai. He found that the *Pattadar/ex-Ijaradar* was in possession of the disputed land, simply on the basis of the entries in the *Pahani* and dismissed the revision petition of the C.C.F. I was disappointed but did not lose my cool.

### **6.0 Further Revision to Government:**

**6.1** I went through the provisions of law in greater detail and found that there is possibility for filing a further revision before the Government. The scope of revision as envisaged in the law is to call for and examine the legality, propriety and regularity of the decision taken by the lower authority to determine its correctness and pass such order as the revisional authority thinks fit. With a view to make the case of the Forest Department stronger, I have filed along with the revision petition, the following documents:

1. Map of Karlapalli village showing Bandal and Bandal Extension Forest Blocks.
2. Lr. No. 1031 dated 27.9.1341 F. of Assistant Director Settlement and Lr. No. 1008 dated 4. 10.1341 F.
3. Lr. No. 5054 dated 8.10.1341 F. of DFO Warangal
4. Lr. No. 6346 dated 30.10.1354 F. of DFO Warangal
5. Appeal petition dated 28.2.1348 F. filed by TVK Sastry before Director of Settlement.
6. Lr, No. 1964 dated 7.10.1355 F. of Subedar, Warangal.

**6.2** I carried the revision petition with additional documents to the Revenue Secretariat for presenting the petition to the Secretary to Government. Sri E.V. Ram Reddy was the Revenue Secretary. He was the Forest Secretary before. I was privileged to argue a case before him which was similar to the one on hand - popular as *Gonepally* case of Warangal district. This enquiry was held by Sri E.V. Ram Reddy under the orders of the High Court. He was impressed with my performance and developed liking for me. I submitted the papers of the present case before him and requested to obtain and communicate the orders of Government staying the operation of the order of the Tahsildar as confirmed by the Commissioner of Land Revenue.

### **7.0 Memoir of Sri E.V. Ram Reddy:**

**7.1** Sri E.V. Ram Reddy recounted the episode in his Memoirs – My Reminiscences – in the following words:

“When I was the Secretary, Revenue, the Chief Conservator of Forests filed a revision petition to the Government against the decision of the Commissioner (Land Revenue) confirming, in the appeal preferred to him, the order of the Tahsildar, Mulug (Warangal) holding that the *Ijaradar* was in actual possession and not the

Forest Department and so the *patta* could not be cancelled under the *Ijara* Abolition Act. The Forest Department sought stay of the Commissioner's decision on the ground that on the *Ijaradar's* admission as reflected in several of his own representations, for over more than two decades, to Government complaining of Forest Department's refusal to part with possession: he was not in possession. Documentary evidence of such representations was too sturdy to deny stay. So I made a strong case for stay of the commissioner's order. Minister (Revenue) N. Janardhan Reddy agreed with me and stay orders were issued. "I felt happy and satisfied with the outcome.

### **8.0 Hearing of Revision Petition before Government:**

**8.1** On an appointed day, the revision petition was heard by the Revenue Minister N. Janardhan Reddy. I was present during the hearing by the Minister. The case of the Forest Department was placed before the Minister and the matter was vehemently argued. The Minister looked convinced of the legality and genuineness of the Forest Department's case. We were hoping for an order of the Government in favor of the Forest Department.

**8.2** A few days passed. I found in the *Tappal*, a Government Memorandum (instead of a G.O.) from the Government (Revenue Department), vacating the stay order passed earlier. I thought, this is a 'coming event casting its shadow'. I smelt a rat. It gave me no surprise when we received G.O. Ms. No. 1243 Revenue Department dated 18 October 1979 subsequently, upholding the

Commissioner's order and rejecting the pleadings of the Forest Department. My happiness turned to horror. Heart broken, I went with the order in my hand to the Addl.C.C.F. Sri A. Ramakrishna and reported to him the result of the case. He said: "It is the Government Order. There is nothing we can do. Don't waste your time any more on this case." I approached then the C.C.F. Sri P.S.Rao. He said: "It is a statutory order by Government in Revenue Department. Let us challenge its correctness by filing writ petition." But the Government in Forest Department refused to give permission to move the matter in the High Court. The authorities of the Revenue Department including the Government (Revenue Department) have drawn their conclusions more for wrong, rather than right reasons. The problem became increasingly significant with the parent department's refusal to seek legal remedy. It was a daunting task to proceed further. However I went about the task with ease and dignity. I could not however escape the agony and turmoil.

### **9.0 Powerful Lobby Behind the Claim:**

**9.1** I suspected that for all the happenings, there is a powerful lobby working behind the curtain for the claim of *patta* rights of ex-*Ijaradar* T.V.K. Sastry. My suspicion was later confirmed. I came to know that behind all this, some influential forces were working in Dr. Chenna Reddy's regime. Whatever be the background of the matter, the Government passed the order unabashedly, unwisely and ill-advisedly without caring for its credibility and giving no thought

to the public interest. I am all at sea with the new developments and my superiors also expressed their helplessness. It is a 'Do or Die' situation. I have no one else to look up for help and advice. I therefore approached Sri E.V. Ram Reddy who left secretariat on transfer and was ready to help me.

### 10.0 Public Interest Litigation:

**10.1** Sri E.V. Ram Reddy and I sat together and discussed the matter; we came to a conclusion that a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) is the only course open to assail the questionable Government Order. Capt. N.S.Tyabji, a representative of WWF at Hyderabad, with whom I had friendly relations, on my request, readily agreed to file the PIL. I prepared the PIL petition with affidavit. The next formidable task was to find a senior advocate to plead the case of the PIL petitioner. The property involved is worth a few crores of rupees. The stakes involved are very high and any advocate would demand a high fee which I could neither afford to pay nor arrange payment. Again Sri Ram Reddy came to my rescue and helped me in fixing up a Senior Advocate Sri Koka Srinivasa Murthy, who kindly agreed to plead the case gratis on behalf of Capt. Tyabji, a known nature lover and a wildlife enthusiast. The deeds are cleared by me. I have obtained signatures on the *vakalath* and the affidavit and the PIL was filed in the High Court; the PIL was admitted and numbered as W.P. No. 6869 of 1979. PIL is a way of using the law strategically to effect social change; the pursuit should however be selfless.

### 11.0 Hearing of the PIL:

**11.1** The writ petition was posted for hearing before the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Raghuvver in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh. Sri Koka Srinivasa Murthy appeared on behalf of the petitioner and a Senior Advocate pleaded the case of the *Ex-Ijaradar*. After hearing the rival contentions, the judgment was pronounced on 22 February 1980. In the judgment, the entire history of the case was brought on record.

**11.2** The Hon'ble Justice Raghuvver quoted in the judgment the history of Karlapalliljara and said that, the original *Ijaradar* was one Sri Jagannadha Dharma Rao. His widow Ranganayakamma and their three daughters Suryakanthamma, Rangamma and Laxmidevamma succeeded him and transferred their right, title and interest in *Ijara* to Tungathurthi Narasimha Rao, adoptive father of Tungathurthi Venkata Krishna Sastry (T.V.K Sastry, for short) in 1329 F. The *Ijaradar* had to pay to the Forest Department the value of the forest growth, which is calculated on the area basis. There was dispute regarding the extent. The Forest Department therefore surveyed the area and arrived at the extent as Acs. 8,525.21 *guntas*, Thereupon the *Ijaradar* surrendered excess land of Acs. 2,258-36 *guntas*. The Survey & Settlement Department determined the area of Karlapalli village and fixed it at Acs. 10,106.21 *guntas*. The *Ijaradar* surrendered a further area of Acs. 1,581 as excess land. The total area surrendered worked out to Acs. 3,389-36 *guntas*. The settlement of *ijara* rights was completed and the *ijaradar*, predecessor of T.V.K. Sastry, was

granted *bilmaktha patta* by the Government on 21.2.1343 F.

**11.3** The Tahsildar: Mulug held that the rights of *Ijaradar* were settled in 1343 Fasli; the *Ijaradar* took possession of the land and was in possession of the land since then. It was therefore held that the provisions of Sec. 3 of Act 36 of 1961 could not be applied to the land in dispute. The Commissioner of Land Revenue affirmed the order of the Tahsildar. On further revision, the Government rejected the contention of the C.C.F. These are the facts that had been brought on record by The Hon'ble Justice Raghuvver.

**11.4** Justice Raghuvver recognized the status and locus standi of the writ petitioner as a responsible citizen, a member of the WWF and was concerned in the disputed forest of Karlapalli where there are rare species of fauna and flora and if these species are not preserved the state in particular, the country in general would be put to irreparable loss. It was further averred that, throughout the world every country is planning to have forests in one-third of the area to influence rainfall, stream-flow, floods, climate conditions, solar radiation and light, earth temperature, wind velocity, atmospheric moisture, fog-drip, evaporation and condensation and snow fall, soil temperature, soil moisture, erosion of land, vegetation and floods. The petitioner referred to the citizen's duty and directive principles of state policy under Art. 51-A (g) and 48-A respectively of the Constitution of India. The main question at issue in the instant case, according to Justice Raghuvver, was whether on the facts of the case

the order of the Tahsildar: Mulug, the Commissioner of Land Revenue and that of the Government in the impugned order were proper under Act 36 of 1961.

**11.5** It was observed that the issue before all the authorities was whether the *Ijaradar* was in possession of the land of Karlapalli which formed Bandal Forest Block and Bandal Extension Block. The issue, or aspects in the issue, is not adverted with a view to review the evidence forming part of the record called for by *rule nisi*. The Commissioner and the State Government, as a question of fact, found in their respective orders that the *ijaradar* was in possession of the land. In coming to the conclusion whether the documents filed by the Forest Department were considered by the respective authorities was not discernible. In the circumstances, the Hon'ble Judge was of the opinion that the justice of the case commands impugned order of the State Government be set aside. The record was remitted back to the Commissioner for *de novo* consideration. In the result the writ petition was allowed on 22 February 1980. This brought us joy after gloom for a brief period.

**11.6** The C.L.R. Sri P.K. Dorai Swamy after consideration of the matter in the *de novo* enquiry allowed the revision petition of the forest department holding that the disputed land was in possession of the Forest Department. It was further held that notwithstanding the grant of *patta*, since the land was not in possession of the *pattadar*, the *patta* stood cancelled.

## 12.0 Writ Appeals and Writ Petition:

**12.1** Not satisfied with the judgment of the Single Judge, a Writ Appeal was filed on behalf of the *Ijaradar*. The Government also thoughtlessly and foolishly asked the Advocate General to file an appeal to support the case of the *Ijaradar* –“a disgraceful move”. That was Chief Minister Dr. M. Chenna Reddy’s regime.

**12.2** On the intervention of Sri E.V. Ram Reddy with the successor C.M. T. Anjaiah, the attitude of the Government towards the case changed. It was virtually swimming against the current to reach this stage. In addition to two Writ Appeals i.e. W.A. No. 256 and 257 of 1980, there was another writ petition W.P.No. 19616 of 1987 filed on behalf of *Pattadar* against the new order of the C.L.R. A few more litigations, like Forest Settlement Officer’s adverse order and an appeal in the District Court; a civil suit in the Sub-Court at Warangal; all were combined and were jointly heard by a Division Bench comprising The Hon’ble Justice Jeevan Reddy and Hon’ble Justice Jagannadha Rao.

**12.3** The Division Bench, by a common judgment, dismissed Writ Appeals 256 & 257 of 1980 and Writ Petition No. 19616 of 1987. The long drawn battle came to an end happily. My approach to the problem was in the spirit of, *karmany vadhi karasthe maa phaleshu kadachana*. Sri E.V. Ram Reddy was satisfied with the end result. He said: “I am so happy at the ultimate vindication of my advice”.

## 13.0 Conclusion:

**13.1** The Government Pleader Sri P.Sitarama Raju eulogized my help to him and addressed a letter

of appreciation to Sri K.V.S. Babu, the Prl.C.C.F and Ex-Officio Secretary to Government. There was also a letter addressed to him by Sri E. Manohar, Advocate General, saying that the Government should recognize the meritorious effort of Sri K. Buchi Ram Reddy. While I was on deputation to the A.C.B, Sri K.V.S Babu, in a letter to the Director General, A.C.B, commended my services to the Forest Department. Sri P.S. Rao, Rtd. C.C.F, A.P wrote to me from Assam and said: “There were many stalwarts of Hyderabad Forest Service who knew nothing of the *Ijara*. There is only one and the only one K.B.R. who was a master of the *Ijara*.”

**13.2** I acknowledge with gratitude the help and guidance I received from the former G.P. for Forest Sri P. Raja Rao; Senior Advocate Sri Koka Srinivasa Murthy, for his professional service; Capt.Tyabji, for acting as PIL petitioner; and friends and well-wishers for their encouragement. I owe a deep debt of gratitude to Sri E.V. Ram Reddy for his valuable advice, timely guidance and moral support. Sri E.V. Ram Reddy was my unfailing source of inspiration.

**13.3** I would like to know through these columns of the esteemed journal if there is in any part of the the country where a single person in forest service struggled for over a decade fighting legal battle in courts and saved thousands of acres of valuable forest worth a few crores of rupees.

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**FROM THE HISTORY SHEETS TOUR NOTES OF SRI RAI  
DAULAT RAI B.SC.(WALES)  
CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, HYDERABAD STATE  
BROUGHT OUT BY DR.AKULA KISHAN**

While I was going through certain old periodicals and books, I got on hand a printed copy of tour notes of Sri Rai Daulat Rai B.Sc.(Wales), Chief Conservator of Forests, Hyderabad State. The tour notes related to the years 1950-51 to 1955-56. It is becoming hard to find any technical or instructive or educative tour notes in these days when Senior Forest Officers are busy in administrative matters or attending on priority certain other works.

The following extracts are illustrative of the vision of the then "Head of Forest Force" of Hyderabad State:

**1. August, 1951, Medak Division:**

*The new arrangement of this Division is, that Ibrahimpatnam Range comprising an area of 1,84,923 acres has been transferred from this division to Afforestation Division Hyderabad and an area of 1,48,451 acres has been added to it by the merger of Jagirs. This leaves a net total of 3,33,375 acres under Medak Division. The merged area passed on to the forest department in the over-worked, neglected and badly used state. The first and foremost step for such area is to give them a legal status, hence, I advise such areas to be declared as Protected Forests under Section 29 of Hyderabad Forest Act. The next step is to examine each block by complete stock mapping and then come to conclusion whether they are fit to be proposed as Reserved Forests or should continue as Protected Forests or be constituted into Village Forests. The fate of each block will be*

*decided on individual merits. I regret to state that the progress of notifying the merged blocks as Protected Forests has not received the attention it deserves. Narsapur block comprising 70,000 acres was found to have been exploited in a very haphazard manner during Jagir regime. This, being the large sized block should be intensively stock mapped and a regular plan drawn by the Working Plan officer No.3. Smaller areas should be stock mapped and proposals for bringing them under systematic working put up. I find that the progress of reservation of forests in this Division is not satisfactory. Out of 1,84,920 acres, 1,43,863 acres have been notified under Section 19 and 15,450 acres under Section 4. The remaining areas should be notified without delay.*

**Nizamabad Division; Navipet Plantation and Mosra nursery**

*Plantation area is situated about a mile from Railway Station Navipet. This is an area of 90 acres spread over soils of different nature, viz. sandy loam, alkaline soils and inundated soils. It was taken up in 1948 and worked under irrigated plantations scheme prepared by the Conservator of Forests, Working Plans Circle, under the Nizamsagar Development Project. This plantation contains mixture of Casuarina equisetifolia and Dalbergiasissoo, raised by direct sowing, transplanting Casuarina and stump planting of sissoo. Casuarina attained a height of 15' to 20' and Sisoo is not lagging behind. It was a surprise*

to me to learn that instead of maintaining the standard forms for plantations, a register prepared by Divisional office was kept. I must stress that unless standard forms are maintained, growth statistics, formation charges, and subsequent expenditure will not be readily available. Standard forms are essential for maintaining records of such works. The Silviculturist should supply the necessary forms to the Divisional Forest Officer for recording the details from the very initial stages of formation. Inspected the local nursery which is, supplying, stock to the plantation. Plants were being taken out from the Sisoo beds for preparing stumps. Unskilled labor employed on the operation was damaging the roots of the seedlings and the supervising staff was oblivious of this. Nursery beds should be well watered before extraction of seedlings. The seedlings should be dug out in convenient sections- individual seedlings taken out by raking soil with a fork. The Range Officer must demonstrate this to the Forest Guard. In alkaline soil where both Casuarina and Sisoo are not doing well I advise introducing Tamarix articulata. Inspected Mosra Nursery which is being maintained from funds allotted under the Nizamsagar Development.

## **2. September 1951- Narsapur Range, Medak Division**

The Range staff of Narsapur consists of one Range Officer, one Deputy Range Officer, three Foresters and 23 Forest Guards. This is fairly good staff and I don't see why survey, demarcation and clearance of boundary lines cannot be carried out by them. I suggest that the staff shall be constituted into 3 or 4 parties. Trained personnel may be kept in

charge of survey and demarcation and non-trained staff allotted the work of clearing lines and fixing boundary pillars. Since there is no other work for this staff, they should be able to complete this work within a short time. The Divisional Forest Officer states that the funds at his disposal are not sufficient for clearing the lines. In that case, funds will have to be provided; in the meanwhile survey should not be delayed just for want of line clearance. Survey should proceed and at places definite marks or small stones should be fixed. After funds are made available the boundary line cleared to specified width. Simultaneously with this, notification papers under Section 4 of the Forest Act, should also be prepared and submitted to me and the Revenue Officers. Certain blocks like Mumbapur and Royapalli, being within the jurisdiction of Narsapur Range, happen to be under the control of the Divisional Forest Officer, Afforestation Division, Hyderabad. The Conservator of Forests, Working Plans Circle, should review such discrepancies and report the matter for orders. In my orders pertaining to notifications under Section 29, it was clearly stated that in all cases a peripheral survey should be done for preparing notification statements but I find, that, traces have been taken from the settlement maps and notifications based thereon. The local staff has adopted a more convenient way to suit which has caused the boundaries to be indefinite. This is a great mistake which should be rectified before the things are finalized.

These extracts contain the authority and clear instructions and there is need for emulation.

# TRIBUTE TO OUR GURU SRI H.RAJAGOPAL SHETTY IFS, CF (RETD.)

*By*

***V.Sambasivam & N.S.Syed Mustafa***

We were students of Sri H. Rajagopal Shetty during 1963-65 in SFRC Coimbatore. He taught us survey and Accounts procedure. He entered the class room with accounts book as if he was carrying huge cash with him. He emphasized the importance of handling cash and maintaining cash book. He was an unassuming gentleman and liked and loved by one and all in the department. During practical training on tours and excursions he never allowed students to drink water while trekking for more than three hours. He will check water bottle and permit us to drink water and tell us this is endurance test. During training period he made the trainees to understand that walking is the best part of a forester's job; at no point he hesitated to walk. He used to tell: 'Ranger means walker'. He used to tell all trainees to walk at least 5 miles a day to keep fit for the job. We followed his advice even today and walk more than 8 KM every day and keep ourselves fit, healthy and active.

Forest Department was not in a position to dispose of produce from Farm forestry plantations throughout the State due to irregular assessment of yield by the foresters concerned. Assessment of yield was done in an unscientific manner according to the whims and fancy of forest officers. The contractors were not satisfied

by the assessment of yield in different method in different places. Contractors boycotted the sale of coupes. The Chief Conservator of Forests asked Sri Shetty to find a solution to the problem and gave him free hand to evolve a correct and reliable method for assessment of yield.

Sri H.Rajagopl Shetty was the architect of the assessment of yield for *karuvelan* plantations (*Acacia nilotica*) in Tamilnadu. He published a hand book on volume tables for assessment of yield for Babul and Blue gum plantations. While he was the District Forest Officer: Cuddalore, he had taken firm decision of solving the burning problem of assessment of yield in a scientific manner and introduced the Wedge prism for assessment of yield. He has drafted a detailed note on how to use the wedge prism for assessment of yield and circulated to all Forest Rangers, Assistant conservators, District Forest Officers, and Conservators. He conducted classes to Rangers throughout the State and taught them how to record and assess the yield in a systematic and scientific manner. He has also taken classes to all Extension Forestry Divisional forest officers throughout the State. He has also trained selected rangers as trainers to train foresters.

Thousands of manmade plantations were sold year after year by following scientific method of assessment of yield. His work on Wedge prism will ever remain in the annals of the Forest Department. His hand book on wedge prism will be a Bible for all Rangers for assessment of yield. One of us (Sambasivam) published a book on retired forest officers and released the same during 2006 for which Sri Shetty came all the way from Bangalore and attended the book release function. After participating in the book release function, he advised us to start a Senior Officers Association in Tamil Nadu. The present Tamilnadu Association of Senior Professionals of Environment & Forests is the brain-child of Sri H. Rajagopal Shetty. As advised by him, Sri S.Shanmugasundaram IFS CCF (Retd.) and I started the present Association and got it registered during 2007. Sri Rajagopal Shetty attended every Annual General Body Meeting of the Association continually until 2011 so long as he was healthy.

He was very active even after retirement and was consultant to World Bank, Washington DC, and Food and Agriculture organization, Rome, Italy, Asian Development Bank, Manila, Philippines. He was a hard worker and disciplined gentleman. He was an unforgettable personality. He was very simple, never had any ego. His works are monumental. We had the chance to see the plantation raised by him. It

was a monumental work. His reviews are very critical and pin pointing.

I happened to go through his inspection notes. He has brought all salient features including nature of the land, the entire topography of the surroundings, biotic factors from human, wild animals, and the conflict between animals and human beings including the bearing capacity of the soil. He is always meticulous in his works. He came for checking of the survey by prismatic compass. After checking the survey point he asked us what is missing in the compass instrument. We said nothing. He pointed out the glass pan was missing. Even the components of the instruments used in our day to day life was important in his calculations. Notes of inspection and instructions drawn have all minute details which show his foresight. He was a good field worker and a strong man. I was told on the day of his retirement he went with the DFO to the field and came to attend farewell party by 5.30 PM. He is all time an efficient officer, soft spoken and kind hearted.

Normally the students after passing out ceremony meet the instructors before leaving the precincts of the Forest College to get their blessings and advice. Sri Shetty Sir said to us **“Brush aside differences among yourselves, for professional jealousy will ruin your character”**

Alas we lost one of the noble souls. May God bless his soul!

# DEPRESSION: A GUIDE TO KEEPING WELL

*By*  
**Dr Adil Kadri**

## **Looking after the Body**

- Exercise regularly
- Sleep hygiene
- Blood sugar control
- Eat healthy fats and Omega-3 rich foods (fish, flaxseeds (*aviseginzalu*) and walnuts)
- Monitor overall health
- Avoid Alcohol

## **Looking after the Mind**

- Follow your passions in life
- Positive Mental Attitude
- Keep close to loved ones
- Maintain social networks
- Managing stress with activities like Yoga, Acupuncture, Meditation,...

## **Living a Balanced Life**

- Have a routine
- Make time for fun activities
- Don't take on too much
- Deal with vulnerabilities
- Volunteering and helping others

## **Signs to watch out for:**

- Withdrawal from friends and family
- Decreased enjoyment in life
- Increase in worries and anxieties
- Increasing negative thoughts
- Anger and irritability
- Change in sleep pattern
- Change in appetite
- Thoughts of self-harm

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# A SOJOURN IN THE GORGEOUS STATE OF ISLANDS TASMANIA

By  
**B.M.T. Rajeev**

**Introduction:** Tasmania, abbreviated as Tas and known colloquially as "Tessie" is an island state of the Commonwealth of Australia. It is located 240 km to the south of the Australian mainland, separated by Bass Strait. The state encompasses the main island of Tasmania, the 26th-largest island in the world and the surrounding 334 islands. It is situated at south longitude 42° and east latitude 147°; and it is to the north of Antarctica and to the west of New Zealand, surrounded by Indian Ocean.

Tasmania's Geographical area is 68,401 km<sup>2</sup>, of which the main island covers over 64,519 km<sup>2</sup>. Tasmania is promoted as a natural state; almost 45% of Tasmania lies in Reserves, National Parks, and World Heritage Sites; and the state was the founding place of the first environmental party in the world.

This island state was formed in 1803 and it was called 'Van Diemen's land' in the name of the Dutch Governor since 1825; about 75,000 convicts were sent here by British in 1853 to thwart the Napoleon's plans to occupy it. Constitution was framed in 1854 and renamed as Tasmania 1855 in recognition of Dutch-European Explorer who found it in 1642; in 1901 it became a state through the process of the Federation of Australia.

The island is believed to have been occupied by Aborigines for 40,000 years before colonization by British. The Aborigines, estimated to be 3000-7000 were wiped out in guerrilla warfare conflict fought for 30 years and spread of infectious diseases-for which Aborigines had no resistance by 1831.

The state has a population of around 5,19,100 (2016), just over 40% of which resides in the Greater Hobart precinct, which forms the metropolitan area of the state capital and largest city in the state.

The state is connected by air and water ways to main land Australia. It has its own immigration rules especially against any form of flora/fauna from anywhere including OZ with care and respect to its floral/ faunal components. No short of fruits, seeds and plants or animals are allowed to enter the land of Tasmania- a very rigid restrictions-immigration.

**Sojourn In Tasmania:** We (my wife, son, daughter-in-law & a kid), chose to travel by Sea in a ship 'Spirit of Tasmania' with our car with a overnight journey from Melbourne to Devonport Harbor on 01.02.2017. It was a new experience in a well-equipped ship with cars in the base and 8 storiedship for cabins with 2 floors for Dinner and entertainment and also

top opening for observation. Cabins are luxurious with attached restroom/bath facilities. Mindblowing opportunity to watch Sun set stars and Sun rise.

Marakoopa Cave (02.02.2017): After reaching Devanport port by 6.00 Am, we drove to country side to visit Caves- about 150 Km and reached Marakoopa cave: The drive was an ecstatic early in the morning with a mesmerizing landscape in between the surrounding hill ranges clothed with beautiful virgin forests. We had breakfast to our taste in a Hotel at Mole creek, a small town close to Caves in the hill ranges of 'Greater Western Tier'; The Great Western Tiers (GWT) are a collection of mountain bluffs that form the northern edge of the Central Highlands plateau in Tasmania, Australia. The bluffs are contained within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Site.

Marakoopa Cave is a wet cave located at Mayberry, a few kms. west of Mole Creek, enroute to Cradle Mountain. Marakoopa Cave is highly decorated, including natural water features, and is also home to the fascinating *Tasmanian Cave spider and glowworms*. It was first discovered in 1906 and opened to the public in 1912. It was shown to visitors in lantern till electrified in 1940; declared as a 'world heritage site' in 1983 and included in Mole Creek Karst NP in 1996. It has 120 steps and visitors have to walk in controlled light with the guide through steps built in stages. The cave is a live cave with flooding partly during rains and was very cold. Sparkling crystals were

very attractive to eyes with hanging stalactites (*hanging of rock formed by dripping calcium carbonate- limestone solution from the roof of the cave for many years*) and stalagmites (*Uprights of stones formed from the droppings of limestone solution from stalactites to the ground*)- in plenty. One column of the stalactite and stalagmite joined together in to a column is the star of attraction in the cave- which could be possible in a span of more than one million years. *The glowworms (Arachnocampa luminosa) are aquatic worms in the flowing water; when hungry, they fly to roof of the cave and starts glowing to attract insects to feed on till they satisfy; and then stop glowing and return to the water body-a special attraction of the cave.* There are a few caves like Marakoopa in this valley being maintained for tourism

After visit to cave where entry fee was AUD 20, we started to next destination ie Lemon thyme- A resort in the midst of 'Great Western Tier-(GWT)'. We should have reached for lunch; but, in a long drive in Ghats sections and thick forests, we missed the route and drove close to the 'Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair NP'(CMNP). On enquiry in a resort after lunch, we were asked to go back and take a turn at particular point. On the way, we could see the grand sight of forests from foot hills to mountain top-different tier of forests' of GWT at vantage point marked for it; this must be the reason for naming these Ghats as 'Great Western Tier'. The GWT forests are no way inferior to our evergreen forests of

'Western Ghats in Karnataka' except in biodiversity.

We reached Lemonthyme resort by 4 pm and took a walk in to the 'Giant tree trail' which took us in to the virgin rain forests in the GWT with lots of ferns and varieties of trees mixed with Eucalypts. The giant tree is the 'Eucalyptus globulus' tree which is said to be 50 m tall- none to say about its girth and said to be about 500 years old as per a hand bill in the resort. Some huge trees were left to perish after felling due to un-favorable conditions for logging in the sub-tropical rain forests.

Dove Lake(03.02.2017): Morning we started for 'Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair NP (CMNP), with drive in the same route in the midst of the high forests in meandering Ghats roads formed without air pin curves/ bends and reached the Reception Centre of CMNP, which was with full of vehicles like and it was raining in summer. Pic: Wallaby with joey in pouch

This NP is said to be established in 1922 over an area of 1,614.43 sq. km. It is situated in high mountain region. The habitat is unique and includes the Tasmanian deciduous beech (*Nothofagus gunnii*), tussock grasses, snow gums and pencil pines. *The animals found in it are pademelons, Bennett's wallabies, quolls, wombats, Tasmanian devils (State Animal), platypus, echidnas and possums etc. and varieties of reptiles, ravens, currawongs and other birds etc.* Entry fee was 180 AUD per head. Visitors are said to be more than 2.00 lakh per year. It is famous

for walking trails in the midst of natural forests in Tasmania than sighting of animals as in India or Africa.

After getting entry tickets, we proceeded in the well maintained asphalt road in the middle of the NP (unlike our mud roads in Indian NPs) and found a lot of trails all along the route on either sides with varieties of local names; the people were thronging to walk leisurely through them; and we choose to take a walk in 'Enchanting walking trail' of 1.00km- close to shopping Centre in the NP; it was beautiful with wooden flanks laid to paths with parapet toward the winding stream from the mountain with wooden bridge to cross it at a point of scenic attraction. The forests are alpine forests with lots of the bushes and ground orchids in flowers. It was raining, but we accomplished the walk and it was worth to its name. While moving to Dove lake, we could see a big patch burnt in the past in the NP and dead tree were standing along the road and forest re-equipped well.

The 'Dove Lake' and the 'Dove lake Trail' is the star of attraction of this NP. The Trail is said to be walked in 2.30 to 3.00 hours' time without giving the distance- to the walkers. We were there after lunch and it was in a valley surrounded by high rise mountains around the lake except to the route we entered ie the stream's out let. The vegetation in the valley was stunted and dwarf trees of Alpine spp, bushes in blossom and course grasses. It was raining and very cold. It was full of visitors more from

China and Japan. All were guzzling with spirit of joy to walk around the famous 'Dove lake'; we took the trail after getting ourselves ready .... and after reaching the entry point of lake's bank- two km or so in slippery terrain not developed like in other trails; we decided to windup due to un-favorable weather after rejoicing the beauty of the lake and its' surroundings. The water of lake was so crystal clear, pure and attractive; we touched the water and enjoyed the sight of the lake by taking photographs under a stunted/ branched eucalyptus tree bent towards lake and returned to vehicle to find a *Wallaby* foraging near our car and had its photo and bid good bye to Dove Lake and the NP.

Journey to Hobart: we started for Hobart, a journey of 300 km; reaching the foot hills/ plain was tedious in the GWT region. I use to be exited with the '*sight of natural forests/ their beauty without any sign of exploitation or vandalism or encroachment or weeds or fire burn except a plantation in the foot hills etc'*... compare to our country's vista of vandalism in forests; and I use to catch the scenes in video, wherever I was attracted, which made me to suffer giddiness and vomiting. I was forced to close the whatsapp and sit quite. I could not resist the instinct to observe the scenes of rural civilization till Sun set. We reached Hobart by 10 pm and retired to rest in a Sea shore side Hotel. *Pic: Koala with joey on the back -feeds on Eucalypts leaves.*

Hobart (04.02.2017): Day's visit was to the hill station, Kunanyi or Mount Wellington. This

beautiful Mount is adjoining to the city of Hobart, the capital of Tasmania with a harbor. Mountain is 1270 m above MSL with marked change in its weather conditions compare to the city due to elevation. It houses an observatory and a visitor cabin with all its details built in 1988. It has a two way road and trails for walking, biking and horse riding. Part of it forms the '*Wellington Park*'. The forests right from the foot hill-city (at sea level) to the summit are with full of *Eucalyptus* spp mixed with some local spp. It is a feast for the eyes of any '*Forester*' to have a glimpse of the changing vegetation as we move go up. *The journey starts with the sight of well grown big sized and towering trees, gradually falling in size and height to stunt and to bushy growth at the summit.* We could see the bushy *Eucalyptus* spp. It was summer, the alpine shrubs were in bloom attracting swarm of bees... a sight for wonder!!! It was said to be suffered in the worst bush fire of February, 1967. The portion of the mountain towards Hobart and part of city was said to be burnt with a lot of damage to the houses in the city and suburb and to the forests; now, it has recovered well and no traces except in summit, where the traces of past fires could be felt with close observation.

We had a nice time by going round to all the vantage points provided with wonderful wooden walking trails to see the scenic topography of the land scape and its vegetation, city-Hobart and the infinite ocean from the

mountain top- a feast to the photographers' talents and returned to the city for lunch/ visit. A wonderful scenic city planked by ocean from two sides, mountain and forests from other sides, said to be the advantage of this city- for its clean and pure weather- the inhabitants are proud of their city. We had a visit to Botanical garden and halt after dinner in an Indian hotel.

**Mona Museum (05.02.2027):** This day was reserved for the visit to famous 'Mona Museum' in Hobart. *The Museum of Old and New Art (MONA)* is an art museum located within the Moorilla winery on the Berriedale peninsula in Hobart. It is the largest privately funded museum in Australia. The museum presents antiquities, modern and contemporary art from the David Walsh collections. Walsh has described the museum as a "*Subversive Adult Disney land.*"

MONA was officially opened in 2011. Along with its frequently updated indoor collections; MONA also hosts the annual MOFO and Dark Mofo festivals which showcase large-scale public art and live performances. (*Mofo*, or Mona Foma, is Mona's summer festival: an eclectic mix of music and art, plus food, booze and more at Mona and all over the place, curated by Brian)

#### *Architecture:*

The single-story MONA building appears at street level to be dominated by its surroundings, but its interior possesses a spiral staircase that leads down to three larger levels of labyrinthine display spaces built into the side of the cliffs around Berriedale peninsula. The decision to

build it largely underground was to preserve the heritage setting of the two Roy Grounds houses on the property. Walsh has also said that he wanted a building that "*could sneak up on visitors rather than broadcast its presence ... 'a sense of danger' that would enliven the experience of viewing art.*" Most visitors approach by ferry up the River Derwent.

There are no windows and the atmosphere is intentionally ominous. On entering the museum, visitors descend a "*seemingly endless flight of stairs*"; an experience one critic compared with "*going down into Petra*". To see the art, the visitor must work back upwards towards the surface, a trajectory that has been contrasted with the descending spiral that many visitors follow in New York's Guggenheim Museum.

Number of visitors is about 3.70 lakh (during 2016). The Oz has plan to dove -tail Mona with 'Dove lake' of CMNP to attract about 5 lakh visitors annually from Japan and China with a tourism project.

One day is required to see this museum with an entry fee of 30 AUD. But, we had half a day. On entry visitors will be given a video cassette with ear phones with demonstration- to return at the exit; as we move in to a gallery, the picture appears in the video; if we press on it, it will go on telling all the details of the exhibits...but, where was the time for us? The bottom 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors are with full of scientific features on nature, evolution, flora and

flowers; animals, birds, reptiles, insects, human races; human- anatomy, biology, sexology (*Some galleries can't be seen in the company of the family or friends/ children; it is possible only with likeminded friends of same sex or young couples or old couples- as rightly said by the designer as 'Tending to adult Disneyland'*) and world history, art, painting, sculptures, , and Jewelry; Science-inventions and modern technological, inventions, photography and many wonders, medical science etc. cinematography, explorations etc. in the first floor...When we come out, we were in to a Disney land of leisurely time spending people-with eating to their varieties of eateries around and a stage for 'light n music' to watch and loitering with shopping of clothes, paintings with attractions for kids etc. We could have *Masala dosa* from an eatery of Chennai based cabin and left to proceed back. We left for Devanport by road; I had a chance to observe the rural life what I could not see after sunset in the same route while driving to Hobart. I could stop at a point to see the greenish growth in the cattle farm- it was *Stylosanthes hemata*/*S. scabra*- perennial fodder, which I was familiar for having worked in Water Sheds-DLDB twice in my service. Here, they grow *S. hemata* with lift irrigation- to feed the cattle or sheep during summer. All along the route, I could see cattle farms as explained earlier. Before reaching Devanport, we came across a small town- Campbell, where I could see plantations of Eucalyptus, Pines adjoining to forests and then

grapes/ pomegranates farms and intensive vegetable and maize cultivation with lift irrigation facilities. After boarding the Ship at 7.00 pm, we settled and had dinner before retiring to get up early in the next morning at Melbourne to reach home by 8.00 am.

Observations: Forests in Tasmania are temperate rain forests dominated by Eucalyptus spp especially *Eucalyptus globulus* (Blue gum) which is also a state tree of Tasmania with pines- a commercial wood in housing. Plantations of the Eucalyptus and Pines are seen commercially grown in vast areas. Eucalyptus is more costly than pines as timber. It is said to be harder and heavy. Eucalyptus has more demand in international market as wood for extraction of dye for clothes. It is converted into chips, boiled and dye is extracted as it is proved to be natural without any side effects to human skin. After the dye extraction, the Eucalyptus chips have great demand as mulching material for perennial crops/ gardening against- weeds, evaporation of moisture in summer and also to save the plants from frost bite during winter in the 'temperate regions'. (The cost of the chips in Melbourne is 50 AUD per bag of 50 Kgs.)

The wild animals in the forests are a few and not visible to attract visitors like our country/ Africa. They are simple and very small in size and shy in nature; mostly *Marsupial mammals- which, gives birth to very tiny offspring that crawl to the pouch of the mother and lives in it with*

suckling till it develops to the stage of walking and feed on itself (vide Dove lake) except *Platypus*- a semi-aquatic mammal that lays eggs and echidnas (ant eater)- egg laying mammals. Other aquatic animals of Tasmania are Dolphins, little penguin and whales.

The landed properties are found to be fenced as estates with a farm houses. Farms are mostly to rear cattle/ cows or sheep for meat. The farm ponds are seen in most of the farms. Cattle and sheep reared in open and harvested fodder stored in bales/ silos for use in winter. The animals are said to be kept in closed sheds with monitored temperature during winter- since Tasmania is a temperate region. The rural economy is meat farming; the life in remote farms is in simple wooden farm houses. But cars are common in front of many farm houses with machineries in villages. Villages are rare and towns still very rare. The people appear to be well prepared for isolated life. The southern region is seen with wine yards. The sights of bullock carts, horse carts, tilling by men, people waiting for buses or buses in rural routes or people walking to villages or farms or working

in fields or loitering in front of shops etc... are totally absent compare to our country side - India. With drive for 4 days in the country side and hilly forest tracks .... never had a jump due to road hump or a pot hole is the standard of the road ways in this state Tasmania of Oz- a developed country. It was summer with vast areas shining with dry grasses; but astonished to observe any fire burnt areas- what a restrain from incendiary fires by the people!!! A fruitful visit worthy to remember as a Forester/tourist interested to know about a new state of 200 years old.

(N.B: The Thylacine a binomial name: *Thylacinus cynocephalus*, Greek for "dog-headed pouched one") was the largest known carnivorous marsupial of modern times. It is commonly known as the Tasmanian tiger (because of its striped upper back) or the Tasmanian wolf. Native to continental Australia, Tasmania and New Guinea, it is believed to have become extinct in the 20th century. It was the last extant member of its family, Thylacinidae; specimens of other members of the family have been found in the fossil record.

***Before becoming a Sikh, a Muslim, a Hindu or a Christian let's become a Human first.  
(Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji)***

# MY SFRC DAYS

By  
**Uma Kant Parashar**

Richness of a training institute is based on the number of people trained by it. It is the only and valuable resource for that institute. **SFRC Coimbatore** (previously known as Madras Forest College), also takes pride in training initial recruits to forest service at apex level in the country, for last 107 years. All the foresters who have shaped this sector immediately before and after independence of the country have passed out from portals of the institute. My very short story 46 yrs back, which I remember in short from beginning, is as under –

On October 31st 1971, I, V.S. Saxena & late SN Gautam reached Coimbatore from Bhopal to join SFRC training to be commenced from 1st November but as we feared ragging, we decided to reach there on dot..

**Hotel Devi** –We stayed at Hotel Devi opp. Coimbatore Railway station on reaching from Bhopal on 31<sup>st</sup> October, where we met our Batch mates Shri Nagoriji & Shri Purohitji who became self-proclaimed leaders and they advised us to be aware of ragging & reach campus only on 1<sup>st</sup> November. In that Hotel we were also advised by them to be familiar with Alcohol drink as it will be useful in future tuning with seniors.

**Ragging**- On reaching campus We were

welcomed by seniors & one Grand senior Mr. K.K.Sharma .They ordered some very simple task which we did. Then these made us comfortable with their advices (what to do & what to not ) in SFRC campus.

**Welcome party**- Our seniors of MP state gave us very lavish welcome party at Hotel NEDOS, which we enjoyed a lot & became comfortable with our seniors after some drinks. Our seniors Mr.HS Tomar, RK Dixit ,R.P.Tripathi, Mr.Pawar R.P.Kaushal, Manager Singh & Tiwari sir etc. all were very good with us.

**Faculty**- SFRC faculty was really filled with some very great learned IFS officers like Mr. M.Harikrishnan, Late Mr. John Joseph, Late, Mr.P.Padmanabhan, Mr.H.Rajgopal Shetty & ofcourse very mild Principal Mr. Hussain who taught us very very well together with very young Engineering Faculty Mr.PN. Doraiswami, Mr.Rajmanna, very lenient Mr.Boppaiya, very bubbly Mr.TC Ramkrishna & ofcourse Mr. Kulkarni whom people called Lallu Sir. We had hate & love relationship with most of them at that time, but now we respect & remember all of them immensely. Some famous Banging of them-

1. God has forgotten to affix a Tail to your body. (Doraiswami)

2. You should be thrown in a deepest Well,where there is no water.
3. Siruvani water is second best water in India/ World (Doraiswami)
3. Blow hot,blow cold at Quilon port Seafish export Ice storage.(TCR)
4. Going for Sightseeing or Seed sowing at Ooty(TCR)

**Daily routine-** After joining & finishing all required formalities,we reached our rooms,I was allotted C batch with room C-13 on Second floor

**P.T.-**We had to wake-up early morning & reach PT ground by 6.00 AM. Our PT instructors were 2 retired Military personals,whom we called CHANGU & MANGU.They were very hard task masters for that ½ an hour, and we all enjoyed their Hindi. Some famous one liner of them-

1. Tumko Kambalkida kata kya? – to PT late comers

**Breakfast-** after PT Breakfast was served in our mess, I enjoyed all except Vermicelli.We too cheated our colleagues by entering from backdoor under leadership of my Batch mate Shri VK Johari by stealing top of Bread piece filled with jam& Butter share of others & eating it too.

**Morning classes & Donkey-** Our morning were to start at 8.00AM,we had to reach there in khaki uniform to attend classes of various subjects like Silviculture,Botany,Mensuration,Forest Survey-Engineering,Utilization,Soil Science,Forest Law,Geology etc. Most enjoyable periods were

by Mr.Boppaiya& TC Ramkrishna who gave us independence to bunk classes.A lot of Donkey pairs use to roam in campus especially around our classes,their act of romance diverted every body's attention but late Mr.Gautam was banged by Mr. Doraiswami seriously which we remember fondly.

**Lunch-** Initially being North Indian,I could not enjoy Sambhar,Rasam,Very sour Curd,hard chapattis & Rice.But with passing of time,I started to relish it.

**Afternoon classes-**These were practical classes of Botany,Geology or field work which we had to attend after lunch,but did not enjoy it.

**Games, the most enjoyable time at SFRC;** I use to play Tennis & in next year became Champion & won Fischer cup by defeating my Colleague from Andhra Mr.Laxman Rao,who was older to me agewise.By this I got chance to play Tennis with our college Faculty.Mostly Mr. Harikrishnan sir used to bang me-move your wood coated legs whenever I failed to reach a shot.I fondly remember it.My M.P. state Colleagues Mr.Y.Purohit,DP Dixit,Asif Ali,Chacko and VS Bhandari were all Good players of Volleyball, Hockey, Basketball, Football & Mr.V.Mani Shankar from TN state too was a very fast sprinter in Hockey, Mr. Balgi & Radhakrishna from Karnataka in athletics, Mr.C.S. Sharma & VS Saxena again from MP in Marathon race all were

good sportsman of that period.

**Hotel Aroma & RS Puram Dosa shop-** Only 2 places where we very comfortably & independently enjoyed our evening Tea & Dosas, which were very cheap and could, listen to Music on Jukebox. Mr.V.K. Johari use to be our leader there.

**Doctor-** Some of my friends use to bunk classes giving reason for treatment of some hidden ailment in Hospital not to meet Doctor but just to see Nurse. (one way traffic)

**Saturday field work-** An exercise with Billhook to clear Abutilon, Lantana & Prosopis was a very torturous job.

**Annual function-** Mr. VK Sood was General Secretary & Mr.S.V.Mane was our Common Room Secretary. Mr.Sood with his English oratory & Spl.Mannerism got big applause during functions. Mr.Mane with his ever smiling face & simplicity was liked by everybody. He too was a very good calligrapher, his expertise in writing, we used on our course books & Tour

journals. I used to play Mouthorgan in functions & use to play Table Tennis & Carom in Common room & listen to music on record player.

Our Field tours to Bennari, Sadivayal, Thekadi, Rameshwaram sand dunes, Kanyakumari, Kunjarmalai, Topslip, Kerela, Parambikulum, Ooty, Kodaikanal, Tamilnadu Forests, Rameshwaram, Goa, North India, and Banglore etc., I fondly remember all. Our teastall old man **SWAMI**, Hostel discipline bunking, Coimbatore's polite Police & bicycle ride in night, The **CHINTAMANI**, Marwadi hotel, our three Cards club members & all other Truck & Bus rides during field tour, are all affixed very well in my memory.

**I am one of those lucky persons trained during original two years course that's 1971-73 batch. Never forgot my duration of training, still dreams my new hostel, common room and British pattern built college building with my batchmates.**

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## NOTICE

**The 85th GENERAL BODY MEETING of the Association of Retired Forest Officers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh will be held on 17-09-2017 (Sunday) at 11.00 a.m. in Aranya Bhavan, Hyderabad. All the members of the Association are requested to make it convenient to attend the meeting with their spouses.**

*B.M.Swami Dass, SECRETARY*

**MINUTES OF THE 84<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL BODY MEETING OF THE  
ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FOREST OFFICERS OF TELANGANA AND  
ANDHRA PRADESH HELD ON 02-07-2017 IN ARANYA BHAVAN,  
HYDERABAD.**

Sri B.M. Swami Dass Secretary of the Association welcomed ladies and members to the 84<sup>th</sup> General Body meeting of the Association. Sri S.K. Das President, Sri. T. Narayan Swamy Vice President, Sri. A. V. Govindarajulu Joint Secretary cum Treasurer, and Sri. Qamar Mohd. Khan Editor Vana Premi were requested to occupy their seats. Sri S.K. Das, President, was requested to preside over the meeting. The agenda was placed before the president with a request to conduct the proceedings.

**Shradhanjali:** All the Members, Ladies and Guests present in the General Body Meeting paid homage to the following departed souls.

<u>Name</u>		<u>Date of Death</u>
1. Late S. Appa Rao	- Member	01-04-2017
2. Late P.V. Padhmanabham	- Member	29-04-2017
3. Late P.V. Krishna Murthy	- Member	18-05-2017
4. Late Anil Mohan Dave	- Minister, MoEFCC, Govt. of India	18-05-2017
5. Late H. Raja Gopal Shetty	- Former Instructor SFRC	23-05-2017

Sri K. Buchi Ram Reddy spoke about above persons and the services rendered by them to the society in general and to the forest department in particular. The entire congregation stood and observed silence for two minutes in memory of the above and prayed for their souls to rest in peace.

**Action Taken Report of the Secretary:**

The Secretary presented action taken report on the decisions taken at the Executive Committee meeting on 25-05-2017 and at General Body Meeting held on 19-03-2017.

The tradition to felicitate the members who attained the age of 80, 85, and 95 years in addition to 75, 90, and 100 years approved in the last before General Body Meeting is being appreciated. This decision to felicitate to the members on attainment of specified age is being implemented. The Attendance of members in General Body Meetings is improving compared to the previous meetings. The Quarterly General Body Meetings are being regularly conducted in the premises of Aranya Bhavan, Hyderabad. All the members of the Association have expressed their appreciations to the persons who are volunteered to host the lunch during the General Body Meetings.

**Presentation of Accounts for financial year 2016-17**

Sri A.V. Govindarajulu Joint Secretary cum Treasurer presented the statement of Accounts for the financial year 2016-17 with details of receipts and expenditure. These Accounts were discussed and approved by the Executive Committee on 25-05-2017. The members present in the General Body Meeting unanimously confirmed the approval and granted for financial year 2016-17 and

Budget estimates for the financial year 2017-18. Sri V.V. Hari Prasad Associate Editor Vana Premi presented the accounts for the financial year 2016-17 with details of receipts and expenditure. These Accounts were discussed and approved by the Executive Committee on 25-05-2017. The members present in the General Body Meeting discussed and unanimously approved the receipts and expenditure for financial year 2016-17 and Budget estimates for the financial year 2017-18.

### **Enhancement of Remuneration to the persons assisting Vana Premi**

Sri Qamar Mohd. Khan Editor Vana Premi mooted a proposal enhancement of remuneration, to persons assisting him in distribution of Vana Premi Journal to the effective from 01-06-2017.

1. For Office Assistant existing from Rs. 4000/- per month to Rs. 5000/- per month.
2. Office Boy existing from Rs. 1500/- per month to Rs. 2000/- per month.

The above proposal was discussed and approved in the Executive Committee Meeting on 25-05-2017. This proposal is placed to day before the General Body for approval. The members present in the General Body Meeting discussed and approved unanimously to enhance remuneration to the effective from 01-06-2017 as proposed by Editor Vana Premi.

### **Resignation of Sri. V.V. Hari Prasad Associate Editor Vana Premi**

Sri V.V. Hari Prasad, Associate Editor, Vana Premi, submitted his resignation to the post of Associate Editor Vana Premi on personal grounds. The members present in General Body

Meeting Unanimously accepted the resignation of V.V. Hari Prasad from post of Associate Editor Vana Premi.

### **Election of Sri. D. Nagabhushanam as Associate Editor Vana Premi**

Sri Qamar Mohd. Khan, Editor, Vana Premi proposed the name of Sri. D. Nagabhushanam as Associate Editor and the same was seconded by Sri K.B.R. Reddy. The members present in the General Body Meeting unanimously elected Sri. D. Nagabhushanam as Associate Editor Vana Premi. President of Association declared Sri. D. Nagabhushanam as Associate Editor Vana Premi for the remainder of the term to the effective from 02-07-2017. The President appreciated the services rendered by Sri. V.V. Hari Prasad.

### **Talk by Sri T. Narayan Swami Vice President on Pensioners Issues.**

Sri T. Narayan Swami Vice President spoke about the pensioner issues in detail. He explained to the members about the revised enhancement of pension to AIS Officers. He also spoke about health issues, Government facilities and health cards to the pensioners.

### **Felicitations to the members**

The members who attained 85, 80, and 75, years of age were felicitated with a Shawl and Flower Bouquet in the General Body by the President Sri. S.K. Das and Vice President, Sri T. Narayan Swami of the Association.

### **1) Felicitations to the members who attained 85 years**

Sri J.V. Sharma D.O.B. 20-06-1932

Sri K. Buchi Rami Reddy D.O.B. 07-07-1932

### **Felicitations to the members who attained**

**80 years**

Sri B. Malla Reddy D.O.B. 20-06-1937

**Felicitation to the members who attained 75 years**

Sri Sultan Mohiuddin D.O.B. 17-02-1942

Sri Jayaram Prasad D.O.B. 15-03-1942

Sri Navratan Singh D.O.B. 22-06-1942

The above senior members, who were felicitated, responded and shared their life time experiences in the department with members present in the meeting. They thanked the Association for the felicitations.

**Talk by the Chief Guest:** - Dr. Adil Kadri MRCP (sych. UK), MRCP(UK) CCT(UK), MSc(UK), M.B.B.S. (INDIA) is a practicing Neuro Psychiatrist with 25 years of experience during which he worked for 18 years in the United Kingdom. Currently he practices in London, Hyderabad and Mumbai. Besides core Psychiatry his areas of special interest include Depression, Memory loss (Dementia) and Psychiatric illnesses in aged persons. He spoke on Depression in old age and Dementia and the lecture was informative and exhaustive and it was greatly appreciated by the members for its content and value. It was considered more valuable since lecture also thrown ample light on memory loss and Psychiatric illnesses in older adults. His talk was very interesting, thought provoking and practically applicable to members. The members were deeply involved in the lecture and benefited by his lucid talk. The Chief Guest patiently answered all queries by members during the interactive session.

The chief Guest was honored with a bouquet of

flowers by Sri. T. Narayan Swami Vice president. Sri S.K. Das President honored the Chief Guest with flower bouquet, shawl and memento.

**Presidential Address:-**

Sri S.K. Das President of the Association said in his remarks that the members of the Association to think and come forward with suggestions and contributions for betterment of our Forests and development of tribals. He also requested the members to contribute articles to Vana Premi Journal.

The President welcomed the new members Sri. P.K. Sharma I.F.S. Retd., Sri. A.A. Ramarao Choudhary I.F.S. Retd., Sri. B. Anand Mohan I.F.S. Retd., Sri. P.V. Ramana Reddy I.F.S. Retd., and Sri A. L. Pandu Rao, D.F.O. Retd. who attended the meeting for first time. All the members welcomed the new members with a big applause.

Sri Qama Mohd. Khan Editor Vana Premi requested all the members to contribute articles for our Vana Premi

**Vote of Thanks:-** Sri. A.V. Govindarajulu, Jt. Secretary cum Treasurer proposed vote of thanks to ladies and members who attended the meeting. He thanked the Chief Guest for his valuable, educative, informative and health conscious lecture. Special Thanks were extended to Sri. N. Syam Prasad I.F.S. Retd. and Sri. D. Naga Bhushanam I.F.S. Retd., for hosting the lunch. He also thanked all the persons who assisted in successful conduct of the meeting.

**The next General Body meeting will be held in September - 2017.**

Secretary

## BOOK REVIEW

Name of the Book: The Zoo Story

Name of the Author: S. Subbarayalu

Reviewed by: K.B.R. Reddy

'The Zoo Story' is a 'true story' of the Arignar Anna Zoological Park (AAZP), also known as Vandalur Zoo, located in Vandalur Reserved Forest. The book gives a graphic description of the Zoo from the stage of site selection until it is finally established and thrown open to visitors as a full-fledged zoological park in 1985 in the State of Tamil Nadu.

The author, as a student of forestry in the University of Edinburg during 1956 – '58, got interested in ecology and wildlife, influenced by Sir Fraser Darling, the world famous ecologist and an authority on animal behavior. That kept him in good stead in the service, starting his career as an ACF, rose to the rank of Prl. CCF of Tamil Nadu and retired in May 1991. When the Vandalur Zoo Project was conceived, the author went to study the subject to UK, France and Germany.

The book is divided into five chapters. The first chapter gives an account of the concept and evolution of zoo. The author traced the history of Zoo in Madras and the idea of shifting the Zoo to a better and a healthy environment. Ruben David was instrumental in establishing the zoo in Ahmadabad. He headed a committee to select a suitable site and it was known as 'Ruben Committee'. After selection of the site in the reserved forest, the area was surveyed. For the lay-out and design, Mr. Pushp Kumar, the founder

and the Director of the zoo at Hyderabad was involved. The selected staff was sent to Hyderabad for training.

It is because of the sincere effort of the author; the then Chief Minister Thiru M.G. Ramachandran took personal interest and made several suggestions to keep the animals in artificially created natural surroundings. The author did not forget the staff that performed their duties faithfully and efficiently. At Page 27, the work done by Forester Moses, (with his picture) is appreciated. The author experienced difficulty in getting laborers for doing various jobs. He commended at page 30, the yeoman service rendered by Range Officers S. Selvaraj and N.A. Myer. Their photographs are printed at Page 108. A separate chapter is added to remember 'unsung heroes of the zoo'. It is sad to read that FRO Rajasekharan was brutally murdered by miscreants while he was tackling a problem with laborers.

A good number of lay-out plan sketches, beautiful photographs of animals and birds, including the picture of entrance, and pictures of the visitors are useful additions to the book, printed on glossy paper. The description of the animals is not only informative but it serves as a text book for reference. Kudos, to THE author for producing this volume. The only thing that is lacking in the book is an Index at the end of the book.

Author's E-mail ID :

buchiramkeesara@yahoo.co.in

## LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Wife: Shall I prepare *Sambar* or *Rasam* today.

Husband: First make it, we will name it later

A frustrated husband in front of his laptop:

Dear google, please do not behave like my wife...Please allow me to complete my sentence before you start guessing & suggesting

A married man's prayer;

Dear God, u gave me childhood, u took it away, U gave me youth, u took it away. U gave me a wife..... It has been years now, just reminding u.....

Husband: I found Aladdin's lamp today.

Wife: wow, what did u ask for darling??

Husband: I asked him to increase your brain ten times.

Wife: oh..jaan..luv u so much.. Did he do that??

Husband: He laughed and said multiplication doesn't apply on zero.

Employee: Sir you are like a lion in the office! What about at home??

Boss: I am a lion at home too but Goddess Durga sits on the lion there!

A man gifted his wife a diamond necklace for their anniversary and wife didn't speak to him for 6 months.

Was the necklace FAKE?

Nooooo! That was the deal :)

A couple was having dinner at a fancy restaurant.

As the food was served, the husband said, "the food looks delicious, let's eat."

Wife: honey.....you say prayer before eating at home.

Husband: that's at home sweetheart.....here the chef knows how to cook.

Best Slogan on a MAN's T-Shirt:

"Please Do Not disturb me, I am married and already very disturbed"

Wife: How much do you love me?

Husband: 72%

Wife: Why not 100%

Husband: 28% is GST on luxurious item

Boss: Where were you born?

Candidate: India.

Boss: which part?

Candidate: What 'which part'? Whole body was born in India.

2 persons were fixing a bomb in a car.

First person: What would you do if the bomb explodes while fixing.

Second person: Don't worry, I have one more.

Police Officer: What is the name of your car?

Lady: I forgot the name, but it starts with 'T'.

Police Officer: Oh, what a strange car, starts with Tea. All cars that I know start with petrol.

At the scene of an accident a man was crying: O

God! I have lost my hand, oh!

Police Officer: Control yourself. Don't cry. See that man. He has lost his head. Is he crying?

Purchaser: U cheated me.

Shopkeeper: No, I sold a good radio to u.

Purchaser: Radio label shows Made in Japan but radio says this is 'All India Radio!'

Tourist: Whose skeleton is that?

Guide: An old king's skeleton.

Tourist: Who's that smaller skeleton next to it?

Guide: That was same king's skeleton when he was a child...

Teacher: Which is the oldest animal in the world?

Student: ZEBRA

Teacher: How?

Student: Because it is Black & White

Candidate: attending, an interview in Software Company.

Manager: Do U know MS Office?

Candidate: If U give me the address I will go there sir.

Father: Doctor! My Son swallowed a key

Doctor: When?

Father: 3 Months Ago

Dr: What were u doing till now?

Father: We were using duplicate key

Passenger: made a call to airport. "How long is the journey from India to America?"

Girl: One second sir....

Thanks: Thanks!!

Santa: laughing behind Banta in an ATM counter...Ha ha I have seen your password.

Banta: What is it?

Santa: it is four stars (\*\*\*\*)

Banta: Ha ha wrong it is 3384.

Teacher: How does the hen comes out of the egg?

Student: that is not a big question madam the big question is how the hen went inside the egg...!!!

A friend: how was your exam?

Second friend: it was OK...but I couldn't answer the past tense of 'THINK'

I thought & thought & thought...and finally wrote THUNK!!!

One tourist from USA asked: Any great man born in this village?

Guide: No sir, only small babies!!!

Santa was driving a jeep in a jungle.

Tourist: If a lion comes against us, how can we escape?

Santa: So simple...Give RIGHT turn indicator and turn LEFT!!!

Patient: Doctor, in my dreams rats play football every night.

Dr: OK no problem. Have these tablets from tonight.

Patient: can I start from tomorrow?

Dr: why?

Patient: Because today is FINAL!!

Source : Internet

# ABOUT THE ASIATIC LION

<b>Common name</b>	: Asiatic Lion
<b>Scientific name</b>	: <i>Panthera leo persica</i>
<b>Group name</b>	: Pride
<b>Average life span in the wild</b>	: 16 to 18 years
<b>Weight</b>	: 300 lbs. to 500 lbs.

Nearly all wild lions live in sub-Saharan Africa, but one small population of Asiatic lions exists in India's Gir Forest. Asiatic lions and African lions are subspecies of the same species.

**Population:** - Asiatic lions once prowled from the Middle East to India. Now, only a fraction of these magnificent animals survive in the wild. The Gir Forest's dry teak woods were once a royal hunting ground. Today they are a reserve where these at-risk big cats are heavily protected.

**Prides:** - Lions are the only cats that live in groups, called prides. Prides are family units that may include up to three males, a dozen or so females, and their young. All of a pride's lionesses are related and female cubs typically stay with the group as they age. Young males eventually leave and may establish their own prides by taking over a group headed by another male.

**Males vs. Females:** - Only male lions boast manes, the impressive fringe of long hair that encircles their heads. Males defend the pride's territory. They mark the area with urine, roar menacingly to warn intruders, and chase off animals that encroach on their turf.

Female lions are the pride's primary hunters. They often work together to prey upon large mammals. **Lion Hunting:** - After the hunt, the

group effort often degenerates to squabbling over the sharing of the kill, with cubs at the bottom of the pecking order. Young lions do not help the pride hunt until they are about a year old. Lions will hunt alone if the opportunity presents itself, and they also steal kills from hyenas or wild dogs.

The Asiatic lion, a subspecies that split from African lions around 100,000 years ago, once prowled across Asia and the Middle East. Sadly, the lions were hunted nearly to extinction.

Five facts you need to know about the Asiatic Lions.

**1. Only One Place to Live:** - Asiatic Lions are found only in Gir Forests of Gujarat, India. There is no other place in the world where a wild population exists. The approximate population here is between 300-400 lions. Lions have been marked as Endangered in the IUCN Red List of threatened species.

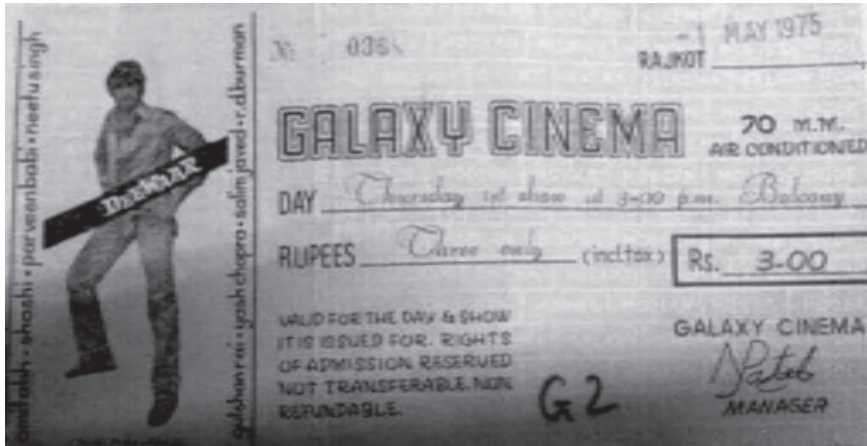
**2. Tip Toes:** - A lion's heels do not touch the ground when they walk.

**3. Smaller than Their Cousins:** - Asiatic lions are smaller in size than African lions. The mane too, of the male lions is short, sparse and darker in color.

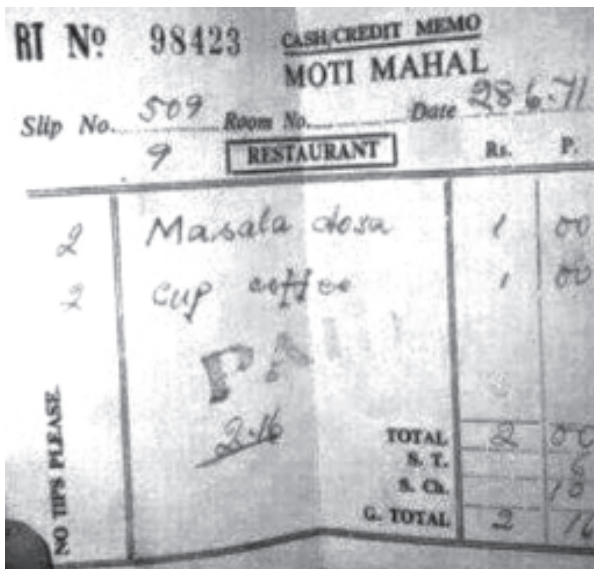
**4. Belly Folds:** - Asiatic lions have a very unique longitudinal fold of skin that runs along their belly. This is absent in African lions.

**5. Social Females, Solitary Males:** - Lions are the only wild cats that live in groups called pride. However, unlike the African lion, the Asiatic lion does not live with the females and the cubs except during mating season.

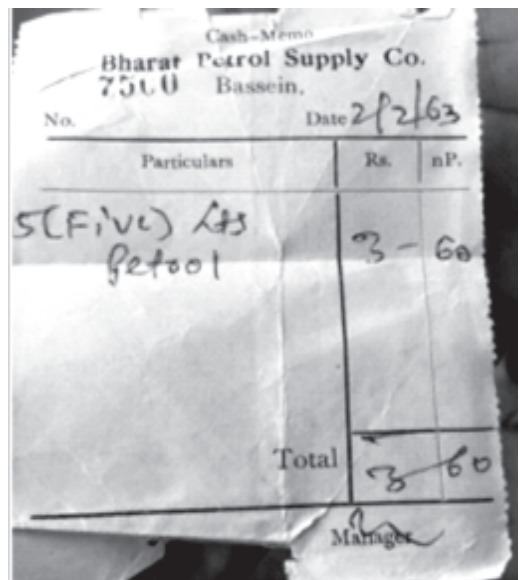
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E. S. G. S.

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## History of gold price (10 gm) for the last 90 years in India

Given below is a year wise Price of Gold in India in the last 90 years. In the initial period, the price of gold was around Rs. 18.43 per 10 gm. In 2012 it reached an all time high of Rs.30,680 per 10 gm. Gold has seen a huge price rise in the past 90 years. So investing in gold most probably will not disappoint you.

Here is the Price History list.

### Price of gold (10 gm) for the last 90 years

Year	Price	Year	Price	Year	Price	Year	Price
1926	₹ 18.43	1950	₹ 99.18	1973	₹ 208.00	1996	₹ 5,180.00
1927	₹ 18.37	1951	₹ 98.00	1974	₹ 208.00	1997	₹ 4,725.00
1928	₹ 18.37	1952	₹ 76.81	1975	₹ 240.00	1998	₹ 4,045.00
1929	₹ 18.43	1953	₹ 73.00	1976	₹ 432.00	1999	₹ 4,204.00
1930	₹ 18.00	1954	₹ 77.75	1977	₹ 488.00	2000	₹ 4,400.00
1931	₹ 18.18	1955	₹ 79.78	1978	₹ 685.00	2001	₹ 4,300.00
1932	₹ 20.08	1956	₹ 60.81	1979	₹ 937.00	2002	₹ 4,990.00
1933	₹ 24.05	1957	₹ 60.62	1980	₹ 1,320.00	2003	₹ 5,800.00
1934	₹ 28.81	1958	₹ 66.38	1981	₹ 1,800.00	2004	₹ 5,850.00
1935	₹ 30.81	1959	₹ 102.84	1982	₹ 1,945.00	2005	₹ 7,300.00
1936	₹ 28.81	1960	₹ 111.87	1983	₹ 1,900.00	2006	₹ 8,400.00
1937	₹ 30.18	1961	₹ 118.35	1984	₹ 1,970.00	2007	₹ 10,800.00
1938	₹ 29.00	1962	₹ 119.75	1985	₹ 2,120.00	2008	₹ 12,500.00
1939	₹ 31.74	1963	₹ 97.00	1986	₹ 2,140.00	2009	₹ 14,500.00
1940	₹ 38.04	1964	₹ 63.35	1987	₹ 2,370.00	2010	₹ 18,500.00
1941	₹ 37.43	1965	₹ 71.75	1988	₹ 3,100.00	2011	₹ 26,400.00
1942	₹ 44.05	1966	₹ 83.75	1989	₹ 3,140.00	2012	₹ 30,680.00
1943	₹ 51.05	1967	₹ 102.50	1990	₹ 3,200.00	2013	₹ 29,800.00
1944	₹ 52.00	1968	₹ 102.00	1991	₹ 3,485.00	2014	₹ 28,000.00
1945	₹ 62.00	1969	₹ 176.00	1992	₹ 4,334.00	2015	₹ 28,543.50
1946	₹ 83.07	1970	₹ 184.50	1993	₹ 4,140.00	2016	₹ 28,623.00
1947	₹ 88.62	1971	₹ 192.00	1994	₹ 5,598.00		
1948	₹ 95.87	1972	₹ 202.00	1995	₹ 4,680.00		
1949	₹ 94.17						

## LEGAL NOTES

### ***State of Kerala & others v. P.V. Mathew (Died) by L.Rs***

A simple omission in dealing with an offence case under the relevant law and failure to proceed further according to the law, the Kerala Forest Department lost the case before the District Court, High Court and the Supreme Court. The facts are as follows.

On 09.04.1991, a car belonging to P.V. Mathew was seized as it was illegally used in committing an offence. An offence was registered as CR. No. 5 of 1990 in Vazhachal Range for the alleged killing of three wild elephants. During investigation, three persons were taken into custody. The culprits admitted on 01.04.1991 and 09.04.1991 before the forest officers that they had killed three adult elephants and a baby elephant. The tusks were sold for a sum of Rs. 72,000. The culprits disclosed that they had used a car bearing No. KL8 6755, to reach the scene of offence in the forest, and for shooting the elephants. They again used the same car for fetching the tusks hidden in a cave in the forest. The driver was paid Rs. 3,500 for making two trips. After recording the statements of the culprits, the forest officers seized the car and produced it before the DFO Chalakudy.

The owner of the car, P.V. Mathew filed O.P. No. 4555 of 1991 before the High Court of Kerala requesting the court to direct the authorities to release his car. The High Court passed order on

30.04.1991 directing forest officers to release the car for interim custody after the owner furnishing immovable property security for Rs. 50,000.00. The car was accordingly released.

On 30.10.1996, a notice was issued to the owner of the car asking him to show cause as to why the car should not be confiscated under Sec. 61A of the Kerala Forest Act, 1961. An enquiry was held on 26.11.1996. After giving to the owner, an opportunity of being heard, the car was confiscated by an order dated 20.12.1996. Aggrieved by the order of confiscation passed by the DFO, Chalakudy, the car owner filed C.M.A No. 16 of 1997 before the District Judge, Thrissur. The appeal was allowed on 04.12.1998. Against the order of the District Judge, the State preferred revision in the High Court and the High Court dismissed the petition of the State on 02 December 2005. Thereupon the matter was taken to the Supreme Court by filing SLP No. 6300 of 2006. Leave to appeal was granted in Civil Appeal No. 3337 of 2012. During the pendency of the appeal in the Supreme Court, the Respondent died. His legal representatives were brought on record as Respondents 1 to 8. Forest Law provides for confiscation of 'forest produce' involved in a 'forest offence' by authorized officer, together with tools, ropes,

vehicles etc. used for commission of the offence. The definitions of 'forest offence' and 'forest produce' assume significant importance in dealing with cases for confiscation of property. The State Appeal in the Supreme Court was against the concurrent judgments of the Thrissur District Court and the Kerala High Court. In the Supreme Court, a Bench comprising Justices P. Sathasivam and J. Chalmeshwar heard the appeal. Their Lordships went through carefully all the relevant provisions of the Kerala Forest Act and dismissed the appeal asking the Government to return the vehicle to the respondents.

The reason for the Supreme Court judgment was, because of the definition of 'forest produce' provided in the Forest Act under Section 2 (f), which does not include any part of living or dead wild animal. 'Ivory' was once included in the definition of the Forest Produce. But the ivory etc. was deleted from the definition of the forest produce by Amendment Act No. 23 of 1974, after the enactment of the Wildlife (Protection) Act in 1972. It was clarified that, "As the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 take care of wild

animals, skins, tusks, horns, bones, honey, wax and other parts or produce of animals, in the absence of specific charge under the said Act, the Authorized Officer was not justified in ordering confiscation of the vehicle."

It was further held, "Neither any property was seized from the car nor any seizure had taken effect as provided in Sec. 52. Inasmuch as seizure under Section 52 of the Act has not taken place and no 'forest offence' in respect of 'forest produce' is shown to have been committed or established in the case, there is absolutely no justification for the seizure and the order of confiscation of the aforesaid car is beyond the jurisdiction of the Authorized Officer."

The proper course in the circumstances would have been to register a case for violation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act and proceed further according to law for forfeiture of property and punishment to the accused.

The court was unable to agree with the stand of the State. Consequently the appeal failed and the same was dismissed on 02 April 2012.

**Source:** Internet

**K.B.R**

*The greatest comforts and lasting peace are obtained, when one eradicates selfishness from within.*

*(Guru Gobind Singh)*



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