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VANA PREMI

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Single Flower



Yellow Flowers

Photo: Sri Narahari Kanike (with thanks)

***Butea monosperma* (Palas or Palash) with Jerdon's leaf Bird perching on it**

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

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- ❖ The TSFDC has also taken up the challenging task of Eco-Tourism development in the State. Already open to public – Hyderabad Botanical Garden, Pala Pitta Cycling Park near Hi-Tech City, Madhapur, Mahavir Nischal Van Eco-Tourism Centre, Vanasthalipuram, JLTC Shamirpet Deer Park and Mrugavani National Park at Chilkur attracting increasing number of visitors.
- ❖ Two Eco-Tourism Projects in the back water of Nagarjunasagar and near Kawal Tiger Reserve are in the pipe line.
- ❖ TSFDC is also developing Urban Parks in Lalgadi Malakpet RF Cluster, Thumukunta RF & Gowdelli PC Kalan & PC Khurd Cluster

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EDITORIAL

International Mother Earth Day: international mother earth day is observed throughout the globe on April 22nd every year. In the late sixties pollution was increasing in the United States. During 1968, Morton Hilbert and the U.S. Public Health Service organized the Human Ecology Symposium, an environmental conference for students to hear from scientists about the effects of environmental degradation on human health. This symposium was the beginning of Earth Day. For the next two years, Hilbert and students worked to plan the first Earth Day. In the year 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California inspired Gaylord Nelson, who was a U.S. Senator to think of a day to be observed for mother earth and focus on the Environment. In April 1970—along with a federal proclamation from U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson—the first Earth Day was held to promote ecology and respect for life on the planet as well as to encourage awareness of the growing problems of air, water, and soil pollution.

On April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment in massive coast-to-coast rallies and to protest the negative impacts of 150 years of industrial development. Thousands of college and university students organized protests against the deterioration of the environment. Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the

loss of wilderness, and the extinction of wildlife, suddenly realized they shared common values. Gaylord Nelson was disturbed that an issue as important as our environment was not addressed in politics or by the media, so he created the first Earth Day, on April 22, 1970. April 22, falling between Spring Break and Final Exams, was selected as the date. April 22 is celebrated as Earth Day, since 1970 to raise awareness of global environmental issues and activism. Events and celebrations, coordinated by the Earth Day Network, are held around the world. Earth Day had reached into its current status as the largest secular observance in the world, celebrated by more than a billion people every year, and a day of action that changes human behavior and provokes policy changes. Today, the fight for a clean environment continues with increasing urgency, as the ravages of climate change become more manifest every day.

Every year a theme is selected and earth day is celebrated. The theme of 2019 Earth Day is to “protect threatened and endangered species”. The theme for 2018 was to End Plastic Pollution, including creating support for a global effort to eliminate primarily single-use plastics along with global regulation for the disposal of plastics. Earth Day is now a global event each year, and it is believed that more than 1 billion people in 193 countries now take part in what is the largest civic-focused day of action in the world, and now coordinated globally by the

Earth Day Network.

“Earth Day” was “an obvious and logical name” suggested by the people in 1969. They chose the date in order to maximize participation on college campuses for what they conceived as an “environmental teach-in”. They determined the week of April 19–25 as the best as it did not fall during exams or spring breaks. Hence April 22 was taken as World Earth Day. President Richard Nixon and First Lady Pat Nixon planted a tree on the White House South Lawn to recognize the first Earth Day in 1970.

Mother Earth is a common expression for the planet earth in a number of countries and regions, which reflects the interdependence that exists among human beings, other living species and the planet we all inhabit. The Earth and its ecosystems are our home. In order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social, and environmental needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature and the Earth. International Mother Earth Day is celebrated to remind each of us that the Earth and its ecosystems provide us with life and sustenance. International Mother Earth Day provides an opportunity to raise public awareness around the world to the challenges regarding the well-being of the planet and all the life it supports.

The April 22 Earth Day is usually celebrated with outdoor performances, where individuals or groups perform acts of service to Earth. Schools and college students can make a huge difference now and for future generations by teaching kids how to take care of the Earth. Typical ways of

observing Earth Day include planting trees, picking up roadside trash, (*Swatch Bharat Abhyan*) conducting various programs for recycling and conservation, and using recyclable containers for snacks and lunches. Some people are encouraged to sign petitions to governments, calling for stronger or immediate action to stop global warming and to reverse environmental destruction. Television stations frequently air programs dealing with environmental issues.

Earth day is a time to start recycling, stop pollution, plant seedlings wherever possible, composting and reusing in our areas everywhere on this globe, not only on 22 April but throughout the year if we want our globe to be a livable place. Young children should also get involved and learn how to help our planet. The best part about Earth Day activities is using what we have. Reuse items in different ways. We should teach our children, what they can recycle? What they can do around the house to conserve energy? What the plants and earth is doing for us? Why should not we litter and what is littering? Why should we not dump trash in oceans? What can we make from old or recyclable items? Why should we not litter plastic?

Vana Premi wishes that all human beings living on this planet understand the importance of International Mother Earth Day and take up the activities enumerated above seriously not only on 22 April but every day in their life and make this world livable for all the living organisms.

QMK

BUTEA MONOSPERMA

Source Internet

Butea monosperma is a species of *Butea* native to tropical and sub-tropical parts of the Indian Subcontinent and Southeast Asia, ranging across India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, and western Indonesia.^[1] Common names include flame-of-the-forest and bastard teak.

It is a medium-sized dry deciduous tree, growing to 15 m (49 ft) tall. It is a slow growing tree young trees have a growth rate of a few feet per year. The leaves are pinnate, with an 8–16 cm (3.1–6.3 in) petiole and three leaflets, each leaflet 10–20 cm (3.9–7.9 in) long. The flowers are 2.5 cm (0.98 in) long, bright orange-red, and produced in racemes up to 15 cm (5.9 in) long. The fruit is a pod 15–20 cm (5.9–7.9 in) long and 4–5 cm (1.6–2.0 in) broad.

In West Bengal, it is associated with spring, especially through the poems and songs of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, who likened its bright orange flame-like flower to fire. In Santiniketan, where Tagore lived, this flower has become an indispensable part of the celebration of spring. The plant has lent its name to the town of Palashi, famous for the historic Battle of Plassey fought there.

In the state of Jharkhand Palash is associated with the folk tradition. Many folk literary expressions describe palash as the forest fire. The beauty of dry deciduous forests of Jharkhand reaches their height when most trees have fallen their leaves and Palash is in its full bloom. Palash is also the State Flower of Jharkhand.

It is said that the tree is a form of Agni, God of Fire. In Telangana, these flowers are specially

used in the worship of Lord Shiva on occasion of Shivratri. In Telugu, this tree is called *Modugu chettu*.

In Kerala, this is called 'plasu' and 'chamata'. Chamata is the vernacular version of Sanskrit word '*Samidha*', small piece of wood that is used for '*agnihotra*' or fire ritual. In most of the old namboodiri houses, one can find this tree because this is widely used for their fire ritual. Tamil Brahmins have a daily *Agnihotra* ritual called "*Samidha Dhanan*"; where barks of this tree is a main component for *agnihotra*, and this ritual is very essential for *Brahmacharis* during the first year of *Brahmacharya*.

It is used for timber, resin, fodder, medicine, and dye. The wood is dirty white and soft and, being durable under water, is used for well-curbs and water scoops. Spoons/Ladles are made of this tree and used. Good charcoal can be obtained from it. The leaves are usually very leathery and not eaten by cattle. The leaves were used by previous generations of people to serve food instead of plastics of today.

Usage in leather: The gum is known as Bengal Kino and is considered valuable by druggists because of its astringent qualities and by leather workers because of its tannin.

Patroali plate or leaf plate: In villages of many parts of India, for example in Maharashtra, this tree provides leaves that are used either with many pieced together or singly (only in case of a banana leaf) to make a leaf-plate for serving a meal. In olden times (until a century ago) a would be son-in-law was tested on his dexterity in making this plate and bowl (used to serve

daal, gravy dishes) before being declared acceptable by the father-in-law-to-be.

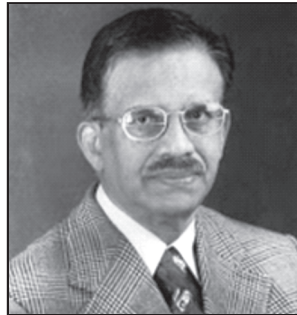
Dye: The flowers are used to prepare a traditional Holi color. It is also used as a dye for fabric.

This tree has been used in Punjabi literature extensively. The Punjabi poet Harinder Singh Mahboob has used it as a symbol in his poetry. In Rudyard Kipling's short story *Beyond the Pale* (contained in *Plain Tales from the Hills*, published in 1888), he says of the *dhak*: 'The flower of the *dhak* means diversely 'desire', 'come', 'write', or 'danger', according to the other things with it.'

The tree was also featured in *The Jungle Book* in the story "Tiger! Tiger!" as the tree Mowgli instructs his wolf brother Grey Brother wait under a signal that Shere Khan has returned.

The first *sloka* of *sukla yajurveda* speaks about Palasa tree. The Palasa tree branch is cut & trimmed by the *Adhvaryu* priest who performs the practical part of sacrifice, the day before New or the full moon, uses it to drive the calves away from cows whose milk is to form part of the offerings of the next day's special ceremony.

HOMAGE AND REMEMBRANCE



Almost a year passed, our revered friend and colleague passed away on April 18, 2018 at Hyderabad. He was the President of the Association of Retired Forest Officers of A.P. for a term between 2008 & 2010. He was a strong supporter of our magazine - Vana Premi - and enrolled subscribers from far and near. Sri Naidu donated money when the magazine was passing through difficult period for lack of funds. He has not only authored several articles for the magazine but also encouraged others to contribute papers. The First Anniversary combined with Memorial Day is organized on Sunday April 07, 2019 at 12.30 p.m at Marigold Hotel (Peacock Hall), beside Green Park in Ameerpet (Hyderabad).

The family of the late Sri Naidu invites his friends to attend the Memorial Day followed by lunch at the Aforesaid place in Ameerpet. **K.B.R. Reddy**

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Dear editor,

First of all we foresters congratulate your association for fighting out the most important issues in Supreme Court. The results are a turning point in management of forests. I posted following, addressing Gujarat forest association and I am posting it for publishing in your esteem magazine. The "Tribal and other forest dwellers (right) Act, 2006" is still in fluxes after 13 years of its enactment. It was meant to be one time settlement of issues. Now, these parties and activists are trying to keep the issue alive.

Why the people who are suspicious of injustice at this stage didn't do anything up till now? Supreme Court orders have exposed the plan of activists and some political parties to keep the land bank open for assault till last drop of blood is available.

It is simple and straightforward that these people want to continue this stalemate, till a new deadline of date arrives in the name of justice. Actually, recently fought elections some parties have already promised it. It is continued agenda of "**garibi hatao**" a 50 years old slogan. This agenda included, an easiest way to distribute forest land, (by accessing to the largest land bank called forests- 25% of total land of the country.) whenever they have danger of losing or have lost, to regain power, this pool of resources is very handy to appease poor.

Regulation of unauthorized cultivation didn't start with 2006 law, but it already had at least three rounds by almost every states before 'forest conservation act' came into force.

Actually all the rights of poor as law came in the year, when they failed miserably in their promises in last 60 years. Right to education, right to health, rights to drinking water, and the land rights were an attempt to hide their wealth they amassed by pauperizing the poor and yet a big promise to distribute and inviting them to occupy 'forests land' a big land bank. It was last ditched effort to remain in power.

The rules under this act of 2006 provided for allotment of other land to the eligible persons in the village, but no state attempted it, because other government lands are already under encroachment, No government tried to bring all the eligible persons to a portion of the forest, where such piece could have been developed for agriculture and irrigation and all the persons can have a productive land and rest forest could be managed as forest. They want it to use to lure them for voting them till last bit of forest land is available. Thus, such parties want it to stretch it as much as possible and keep the public treasury open. In the process the country has lost forests, (capital loss much bigger than sum of all the budgets till now), the very base provider of water, bio services, eco services and destroyed bio- diversity. Poor are left with a piece of land which is unfit for sustainable

agriculture. Where are environmentalists who beat their chest for diverting few hectares of land for irrigation projects?

Are they understood it or it is not their agenda?

Mr. Poroush Borgaonkar commented; Sama Sir, I share your concern seriously. I am extremely shocked at the attitude of press and TV channels after the judgment of SC that it is against tribal community. Thus they are provoking sentiments of tribals. TOI has published an article on this issue. How *aadivasis* have been left to the law of jungle" in Feb 24 issue.

People, who have no knowledge of detrimental effect of this law, are braying publicly of tribal welfare.

In past 1962, 1965, 1971 and 1976 various governments have settled encroachments. How can it be that even after 50 years one gets up from slumber and start shouting that he was left out in previous settlements?

How farcical is it that soon after claiming right, may be genuine or not, he cannot be evicted from land till final decision. Adverse implications of this act should be brought to the knowledge of general public and also the malice design if politicians behind keeping this issue alive for ever. One must remember that since 1965 till 1980, forest land encroachments have been settled by various governments by different parties but they did not return to power after doing favor to tribal community.

Forest is nature's wealth, meant for everyone, not only for people living in forest.

We should thank Mr. J. V. Sharma and feel grateful to him for his efforts

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Actually, what you see as forests even after such assaults is the ceaseless efforts of the forest Department. It is like battlefields, wherever the department looses battles they withdraw and consolidate their positions to save whatever is left. We are in war mode in all our sanctuaries and national parks. I prove to be right, when I rallied all powers to get declared shoopalneshwar sanctuary in 1986. These 600 sq. Kms are saved and when I visited it last month, I was proud that it is beautiful forests and we are still holding our last posts.

R. K. Sama (IFS Retd)

REMOVAL OF TREES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF FLYOVERS AROUND KBR PARK – NGT ORDER

By
P. S. Rao

Based on a news item published in 'The Times of India' Hyderabad City Edition dated 02.05.2016 under the caption "*Hacking of Trees shameful, senseless*" that the Government of Telangana is proposing to cut down about 3000 trees at Kasu Brahmananda Reddy (KBR) National Park located in the heart of Hyderabad City, National Green Tribunal (NGT), Southern Zone Bench, Chennai (The author of this article is a Member of the Bench and authored the judgment dated 24th May 2017) has taken up the case *suo motu*. Notices were issued to the Chief Secretary; Secretary, Environment, Forest, Science & Technology, Commissioner, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF). As the newspaper reported that trees are likely to be cut at any time, *status quo* order was issued until further orders. Subsequently, three more private respondents were permitted to be impleaded in the case.

The respondents filed their replies, affidavits, counter affidavits, rejoinders etc. Having gone through the record placed before the Bench and having heard the counsel for the parties at length, following points were considered by the NGT to comprehensively understand the issue and come to a conclusion as to whether any substantial question relating to environment is involved in this case:

1. Whether the trees proposed to be cut/

translocated fall inside or outside the KBR Park and whether due process of law is being followed in removing the trees?

2. Whether the construction of multi-level flyovers at 4 road junctions around the KBR Park come under the ambit of EIA notification, 2006 requiring EC?

3. Whether there is any violation of the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules made there under particularly with reference to ESZ?

Point No.1:

KBR National Park is located in the densely populated mixed residential and commercial zone of Hyderabad city. This was originally a private property belonging to erstwhile Rulers of Princely State of Hyderabad known as 'Chiran Palace' which was taken possession by the State government and declared as Protected Forest vide G.O.Ms. No.22, E&F (For.III) dated 3rd February, 1994 under Section 24 of Andhra Pradesh Forest Act, 1967 and named 'Jubilee Hills Forest Block'. 17 locations inside the Park amounting to an extent of about 2.44 ha are retained duly conferring right of way to have access to the servants and security personnel of the erstwhile rulers of Princely State of Hyderabad. The Park stands as one of the last vestiges of the flora and fauna and unique rock formations representing the biodiversity and landscape typical of Deccan Plateau mainly

consisting of dry deciduous species. Later on, considering the ecological and biological significance of the Forest Block, it was notified as KBR National Park in G.O. Ms. No.187 EFS&T (For. III) Department dated 03.12.1998 with an extent of 142.50 ha. duly excluding an area of 13.80 ha. for widening of the road system around the Park located in the heart of the city in posh Jubilee Hills and Banjara Hills locality. Thus at the time of issuing notification itself, a provision has been made to leave sufficient space to meet future requirement for the road network around the Park. The park is located at the highest elevated point in the city at a height of approximately 600 m above msl.

Considering this as one of the last vestiges of typical landscape of Deccan Plateau and as a valuable green/lung space in the middle of concrete jungle, the entire Park was provided with foolproof fencing/wall which eventually allowed good protection to the flora and fauna inside the park. To enable the citizens to have morning and evening walk, Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) has developed walkway around the Park and also planted ornamental and shade bearing trees not only to give an aesthetic look but also to provide shade to the people walking and relaxing around the Park. Most of the trees now proposed to be cut for constructing flyovers, are artificially planted and are about 15 years old. A total of 1394 trees are proposed to be cut.

The satellite imageries and other records placed before NGT clearly show that the Park is surrounded by a Circular Road having major road

junctions connecting arterial roads at six places. All these road systems around the Park constitute major traffic hubs in the area which is densely populated with large scale commercial and residential complexes having come up in the past and are ever expanding. To mitigate the traffic congestion problem and consequently reduce the emissions due to the ever increasing vehicular movement at various localities in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad including at the six major road junctions around the KBR Park, the State Government has approved Strategic Road Development Programme (SRDP) to be executed by GHMC. After examining the pros and cons and after considering various alternatives, it was decided to develop multi-level flyovers at the existing 6 traffic junctions around the Park, in the first phase at 4 junctions and subsequently at the remaining 2 junctions. As per the satellite data the urban built up area in Hyderabad city has risen 400 % between 1999 and 2009. The built up area which was just 2.55% of the total geographical area in the year 1999 is predicted to go up to 51.27% by 2030. Whereas the tree cover in Hyderabad city fell from 2.71% to 1.66% over a period of 20 years. There will be a tremendous pressure on land for residential, commercial etc. uses shooting up from 540 sq. km in the year 2001 to 1056 sq. km by 2021 as a result of which the agricultural, recreational and conservation areas are shrinking rapidly and traffic is increasing by leaps and bounds.

A Comprehensive Traffic Study (CTS) for the

twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad was conducted by a Consultant engaged by GHMC. The survey revealed that in the year 2015 the total traffic volume at the six road junctions around the KBR Park was 2.5 lakhs vehicles per day which is likely to go up 5.5 lakh vehicles per day in the year 2035. While giving details of traffic flow and pollution caused by the vehicles at the traffic junctions the survey reveals that because of traffic congestion about 32,000 liters of fuel is wasted every day due to keeping the vehicle engine in idling condition and operating the vehicles at lower speed resulting in emission of 101.87 tons of Carbon Dioxide, 0.05 tone of Methane, 0.02 tone of Nitrous Oxide per day and all these are equivalent to 107.92 tons of Carbon Dioxide emission per day. By taking up traffic improvement at the road junctions around the Park, the pollutant load is likely to come down to about 47.65 tons of Carbon Dioxide equivalent per day viz., a reduction of 55.85%. However, if the proposed interventions were not taken up, due to increase in traffic volume, the pollution load going to be generated by the year 2035 will be 456.19 tons of Carbon Dioxide equivalents per day. On account of grounding the project, the pollution load is estimated to come down to 126.01 tons of Carbon Dioxide equivalent per day which amounts to a decrease of 72.38 %. Therefore, the project will help in significant reduction of pollution besides saving a staggering 40.59 crore liters of fuel over of period of 20 years from 2015 to 2035 which amounts to a cumulative reduction of 13.66 lakh tons of Carbon Dioxide equivalent emissions. The

effect on carbon sequestration on account of felling 1394 trees at 4 junctions (Maharaja Agrasen Junction, Park entrance Junction, Filmnagar Junction and Road No.45 Junction under Phase-I) was estimated to be 76.05 tons considering that the average age of the trees to be felled is about 15 years and as per the cost benefit analysis the project is highly beneficial in reducing the pollution and improving the environment. Further, reduction of time for the movement of traffic and reduction of pollution levels around the Park were considered to be added bonus.

The authorities argued that this project is taken up in the interest of smooth flow of traffic which in turn leads to protection and improvement of the environment and no damage is going to be caused to the flora and fauna existing inside the National Park and the Government has taken up appropriate steps to maintain the ecological balance while speeding up of the projects to meet the developmental needs of the city which ultimately provide long lasting benefits like reduction in emission levels, reduction in fuel consumption, reduction in travel time etc. SRDP has huge environmental benefits which far outweigh the loss of few hundred trees and the KBR National Park spread over an area of 390 acres will not be touched and there will be no damage to the flora and fauna existing inside the Park and in fact the pollution levels around the Park will be considerably reduced benefiting the flora and fauna once the project becomes operational. Moreover, the project has been examined from

Removal of trees at 4 junctions is as follows.

S.No.	Junction	No. of Trees
1.	Park Entrance Junction 1 st level flyover	225
2.	Park Entrance Junction 2 nd level flyover	181
3.	Road No.45 Junction 1 st level flyover	164
4.	Road No.45 Junction 2 nd level flyover	98
5.	Film Nagar Junction 1 st level flyover	167
6.	Film Nagar Junction 2 nd level flyover	139
7.	Maharaja Agrasen Junction 1 st level flyover	248
8.	Maharaja Agrasen Junction 2 nd level flyover	172
	Total	1394

all angles and all the required efforts were made to maintain the balance between environment and development and minimize the number of trees to be removed keeping the same to the barest minimum and loss of tree cover is compensated by planting 3 times the number of trees permitted to be removed. It was stated that the GHMC will take up the construction work only after obtaining all the requisite permissions in accordance with law.

Wherever possible trees will be trans located. The project proponent GHMC submitted proposals to the DFO, Hyderabad who is the Designated Officer, to grant permission for cutting and removal of the trees under Section 28 of Water, Land and Trees Act, (WALTA) 2002. Upon receiving the said application from GHMC the Designated Officer referred the application to the District Level Tree Protection Committee (TPC) for Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy Districts constituted vide G.O.Ms.No.539 dated 11.12.2008. The TPC consists among others, 3 prominent NGOs. The Committee Members

inspected the site and have drawn minutes of the meeting dated 2nd May, 2016 duly recommending to fell / trans locate a total of 1394 trees at 4 junctions with certain conditions. The DFO accorded permission to the GHMC for felling/translocation of 1394 number of trees incorporating all the conditions suggested by the TPC. Perusal of the list of trees permitted to be felled, indicates that most of them are either ornamental or shade bearing trees. It is clear that the trees permitted to be cut are located outside the boundary of the Park and most of them are planted about 15 years ago by the HMDA

After examining the above, NGT found that the averments made by the impleaded non-official respondents that the cutting of trees will affect the National Park are found to be unsustainable. No tree growth inside the Park is either required or permitted to be cut. WALTA 2002 has been specifically enacted to prevent indiscriminate cutting of trees and take care of such cases of cutting trees in public places outside the

Notified/Deemed Forests and PAs irrespective of the ownership of the trees in the larger interest of environment particularly in urban areas. To compensate the loss of trees for construction of flyovers around KBR Park, it was proposed to plant 3 times more the no. of trees to be removed in the property owned by the GHMC within 3 km. radius of the Park.

In its order NGT noted that permission was granted to fell/trans locate the trees duly following the process of law. When it is inevitable to cut a tree then only the TPC is supposed to recommend the case and accordingly the Designated Officer has granted permission to fell/trans locate the trees. However, the Bench stated in its order that the NGT is conscious of the fact that definitely it will be a temporary setback to the existing green cover at road junctions outside the Park and nobody welcomes such decision of sacrificing large no. of trees. But here, one cannot ignore the fact that no commercial activity is involved and the project is not for the benefit of any individual. The Notification declaring the National Park itself provides widening of the road network around the Park and when public interest is involved one has to look into all aspects including the concept of 'Sustainable Development' and decide the case on merits which varies from case to case. Particularly in this case the project involved is for allowing smooth flow of traffic and thereby reduce emissions by the vehicles and prevent further deterioration of ambient air quality in the surroundings of the Park. Basically such projects demand evaluation of trade offs

for balancing the development needs with environmental sustainability. NGT stated in its judgment that the details of CTS and record placed before it justify that the project needs to be considered and one has to look into the issue in a holistic manner.

The apprehension of the impleaded non-official respondents is that permission to remove such large number of trees in the heart of Hyderabad city is against the principles of conservation and protection of environment. NGT observed that there is a provision to make an appeal to the District Authority constituted under rules framed under WALTA with a further provision of making appeal to the State Authority. Such appeal can be filed within a period of 30 days and on receipt of such appeal, the Authority shall, after giving a reasonable opportunity to the appellant of being heard, pass such order as it may think fit. The Government of Telangana vide G.O.Ms No.9, PR&RD (RD.II) Dept. dated 29.01.2016 and G.O.Ms No.10, PR&RD (RD.II) Dept. dated 29.01.2016 has constituted the Telangana State Water, Land and Trees Authority and District Authority respectively, in exercise of the powers conferred under the WALTA, 2002. The order of the DFO is always appealable. Further, the project proponent has clearly stated that all the trees will not be removed at a time and it will be done in a staggered fashion. Initially only those trees which are falling at the spot where foundation for construction of piers is taken up, will be felled /trans located that too as and when the works are under progress.

However wherever possible, trees shall be pollarded to avoid the branches obstructing the construction. NGT observed that as long as no tree is touched inside the Park there is no violation of Environment and Forest Acts. If some trees are required to be removed for undertaking certain environmentally friendly developmental/infrastructure projects in larger public interest particularly in urban areas that too if such permission is granted by the Competent Authority in accordance with law, it cannot be said that it is against the concept of protection and conservation of environment and such project should not be allowed to come up. The creation of WALTA, 2002 and Rules made there under itself is to regulate such activities and to safeguard the interest of protection of trees existing in public and private places which otherwise are liable to be indiscriminately removed. No doubt irrespective of the legal status of the land, the trees require full protection but in extreme and inevitable cases, law itself permits for removal of such trees. In this case, when the trees planted by the local civic body are permitted to be cut/trans located in the interest of development of an infrastructure project and such removal of trees is going to be compensated by taking up Compensatory Afforestation, NGT felt that it is justified not to interfere with the decision taken by the authorities which is in accordance with law. The learned Additional Advocate General of State of Telangana argued that government is very particular about increasing green cover in the State including Hyderabad city by

undertaking massive tree plantation under the flagship programme of the government '*Telangana ku Haritha Haram*' .

This answers the Point No.1

Point No.2:

It is not denied that transport sector particularly the vehicular traffic, is a significant and often major source of environmental pollution consisting of noise and air. Urban air pollution from road transport is a growing concern in mega-cities/major urban centers, particularly in developing countries. Road transport is identified as a major source of pollution, contributing 40% to 80% of the total air pollution in such cities. Air pollution has been shown to have serious short and long-term adverse effects on public health. The cities are expanding their boundaries, both horizontally and vertically, accommodating more and more people and associated activities. As a result, the use of motorized transport is increasing continuously worsening air quality. The increased use of transport activities often results in traffic congestion problems particularly in city limits in commercial activity zones. Commuters as well as people residing in the vicinity of such areas are exposed to high levels of air pollution emitted from the vehicles moving in congested areas and/or while waiting at road junctions for the traffic signals to turn green. The literature shows that the impact of the flyover construction to curb traffic congestion problem has been assessed across the world in terms of traffic

decongestion, time saving, fuel saving and emission reduction and the result is always positive.

In this case the whole purpose of removing the trees is to execute a project to construct multi-level flyovers around the KBR Park under SRDP in order to facilitate free flow of traffic and ease out the congestion at major road junctions which otherwise are choked with slow moving vehicles belching heavy amount of air pollutants into the atmosphere. It is a fact that Hyderabad city like any other Metropolitan city in the country, is expanding rapidly with a phenomenal increase in population. Consequently there is a pressure on utility services like transport, water supply, education, health, recreation etc. and the density of vehicles on the city roads is increasing day by day. After conducting detailed study and survey the Consultant has suggested various solutions to ease the traffic congestion which mainly includes implementing long term Traffic Management Plan for the next 25 years with the main focus on dispersing the future developments to the outer limits of Hyderabad Metropolitan Area and to achieve at least 60% approval by public transport modes such as Metro rail, buses and MMTS as against the present 40% and therefore SRDP is only a part of overall plan to meet the demand of the road transport and if this project materializes, there will be a threefold decrease in the vehicular emission levels. The project authorities under the SRDP propose to take up the project at various road junctions in twin cities in a phased manner. Accordingly the State Government in

the G.O. Rt. No. 208 MA & UD (F2) Dept. dated 30.05.2015, has accorded in principle permission for constructing multi-level flyover projects at 20 road junctions in the jurisdiction of GHMC. All these road junctions are part of the existing road network in the city. They do not propose construction of new road but only flyovers to facilitate free flow of traffic at various road junctions which is a common practice in all the urban areas not only in this country but across the world to help reduce the bottlenecks of the road transport system and it is the case of the official respondents that there is no violation of law and no damage to the environment.

The State Government also accorded administrative sanction vide G.O. Ms.No.121 MA & UD (F2) Dept. Dated 8.09.2015 for multi-level flyovers at different road junctions which are spread over across the city and separated from each other some even at a distance up to 20 to 30 km. The contention of the official respondents is that for convenience, comprehensive SRDP was prepared and projects have been grouped into two packages and all these road junctions are independent to each other separated with the existing road. For inviting tenders, packages are proposed so that package cost becomes substantial which in turn attracts reputed contractors having skill and experience in the field. In case of KBR Park all 6 projects are located differently at a distance of a minimum of 1 km or more from each other around the Park and individual flyover located at each road junction is taken as a

distinct project. However, for administrative convenience all the projects are grouped under single package for awarding contract to a suitable bidder. The NGT noted that as held in *Vikrant Kumar Thongad Vs. Delhi Tourism and Transportation Corporation and Others* case (order dated 12.12.2015 in Application No.137 of 2014) and in *Sushil Raghav vs. Union of India and Others* (Order dated 20.09.2016 in Application No.180 of 2015) by the Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal and also subsequently in the combined judgment of the Southern Zone Bench in the case of *Neelaiah vs. Union of India and Others* (Application No.243 of 2016) and *Citizen Action Forum and another vs. Union of India and Others* (O.A.No.245 of 2016) the construction of bridges/elevated corridors/flyovers attract EIA Notification 2006 and as per activity 8 (b) townships and area development projects covering an area of 50 hectares and above or 1,50,000 m² of built up area or above require Environmental Clearance (EC). In this case the built up area of each flyover at 6 junctions is quite less and even if all the 6 flyovers around the Park are grouped together the total built up area comes to only 68,214 m². In fact, if flyovers are considered in isolation the built up area for each project is even less than 20,000 m². The project around the Park does not attract the activity 8(b) of the Schedule to the EIA Notification 2006 and hence does not require EC.

Area left out for road network while notifying the National Park under Wildlife (Protection) Act vide G.O. Ms. No. 187, EFS&T (For.III) Department

dated 5th Dec. 1998 is 13.80 ha. The area proposed to be utilized by GHMC for construction of flyovers is about 0.8215 ha and requirement for peripheral road is about 2.99 ha making a total of about 3.81 ha.

NGT did not agree with the contention of the unofficial respondents that the whole SRDP has to be considered as a single project and it has to be implemented only after getting prior EC under the EIA Notification, 2006. The proposed flyovers at 20 junctions are spread over across the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad and are located far away from each other, some even separated with a distance of 20-30 km. Construction involved is only at the existing road junctions within the city limits and hence NGT observed that it can't be considered as a single project exceeding 1.50 lakh m² of built up area requiring EC under EIA Notification, 2006.

Mr. M.C. Mehta, renowned Environmental lawyer and Senior Counsel for the private respondents has argued that the construction of multi-level flyovers is not a panacea for the traffic problems and such ill-conceived project under SRDP is not going to solve the traffic problems, rather it may aggravate the problem particularly the project around KBR Park which may cause further degradation of environment, loss of flora and fauna etc. His contention is that no clearance is obtained from National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) for undertaking such project around the Park. He quoted the urban planning in some of the developed countries and argued that more emphasis should be laid

on public transport system. NGT opined that his comparison to Parks and facilities existing in Metro Cities like Amsterdam, New York, London etc. is of little relevance here in this case considering the location of the Park, density of population, socio economic conditions and local laws. His concern and suggestion to go for large scale public transportation and discourage private vehicles is laudable but that cannot be a ground to stall the project for improvement of the existing road network to ease the traffic congestion at road junctions and NGT having mandate to deal with disputes arising in implementation of the Acts listed in Schedule to the NGT Act 2010, cannot interfere in the policy matter/decision of the State unless it is a case where there is violation of any of the seven Acts listed in the Schedule to the NGT Act 2010. It is for the State Government, Urban Planners and Civic authorities to devise urban planning compatible with environmental norms.

It is not the case of the impleaded parties that no vehicular traffic should be allowed to ply around the Park. But they are opposing the construction of flyovers which in fact help in regulating and allowing smooth flow of traffic and reduce air and noise pollution around the park. It is also not denied by them that the Park is surrounded by the major road network which connects important arterial roads leading to newly developing IT, Financial and Industrial corridors and it is densely populated and highly congested. The respondents could not substantiate their claim that the flyovers hasten the process of particulate matter settling down

inside the Park and damage the flora and fauna. In fact as contested by the official respondents presently due to severe traffic congestion at the road junctions, the emission levels are quite high and causing much more harm to the environment and construction of flyovers allows smooth flow of traffic thereby reducing the emission of particulate matter and other pollutants. This fact cannot be denied. Further, there is no dispute about the policy of the Government of India making it compulsory to produce vehicles which meet stringent emission standards. Bharat stage emission standards (BSEs) are instituted by the Government of India to regulate the output of air pollutants from the motor vehicles. The standards and the timeline for implementation are set by the government. Bharat Stage (BS) - IV emission norms have been enforced for whole country from April 2017 and it is planned that the country would skip the BS-V norms altogether and adopt BS-VI norms by 2020. Further, as more and more environment friendly Electric and Hybrid vehicles are introduced into the market, consumption of fossil fuels will come down. This will definitely help in reducing the air pollution caused by the motor vehicles, particularly in urban areas. As per the availability of space, establishment of a green belt with trees having dense canopy all along the inner and outer boundary of the Park, will also reduce the impact of air and noise pollution.

NGT observed that it is for the authorities to consider the suggestion of the private



Please see Page No : 33 for details

A TYPICAL MANGROVE FOREST WITH PROP ROOTS



Please see Page No : 41 for details

REUNION OF SFRC 75-77 BATCH AT GOA

949615/2017/IT SEC-RSS
 ప్రజల ముందు



రైతు సంక్షేమ మే ఈ ప్రభుత్వ లక్ష్యం

- ◆ ఇప్పటి వరకు ఇచ్చిన ఋణ ఉపశమనం రూ. 14,710 కోట్లు (3వ విడతతో కలిపి).
- ◆ లబ్ధి పొందిన పంట ఋణము ఖాతాల సంఖ్య 57.57 లక్షలు.
- ◆ ఉద్యాన పంటల ఋణ ఉపశమనం రూ. 384.47 కోట్లు.
- ◆ రూ. 4495 కోట్లతో, రూ. 50 వేల లోపు ఋణాలు తీసుకున్న 23.45 లక్షల రైతు ఖాతాలకు ఒకేసారి ఋణ ఉపశమనం
- ◆ ఋణ ఉపశమనంలో కొలు రైతులకు ప్రాధాన్యత ఇవ్వబడినది.
- ◆ మరణించిన రైతుల ఖాతాలకు కూడా రూ. 51.54 కోట్ల పూర్తి ఋణ ఉపశమనం కల్పించబడినది.
- ◆ ధ్రువీకరణ సత్రాలు ఇన్స్టాల్ అర్హత కోల్పోయిన రైతులకు అవకాశము కల్పించి ఇప్పటికీ కూడా పూర్తి పారదర్శకతతో ఋణ ఉపశమనంకు చేయూత.



రైతు సాధికార సంస్థ, ఆంధ్ర ప్రభుత్వం

దేశ చరిత్రలోనే 24 వేల కోట్ల రూపాయల రైతు ఋణ ఉపశమనం చేస్తున్న ఏకైక ప్రభుత్వం
 ఋణ ఉపశమన పథకము 3వ విడత రూ. 3600 కోట్లు విడుదల, రెండు సంవత్సరాలకు వార్షిక 10% వడ్డీతో



respondents that instead of constructing flyovers and encouraging more and more private vehicles to compete the limited road space it is advisable to provide convenient public transport system, create bicycle tracks and encourage people to switch over to bicycles for commuting between different work places in the city and implementing odd/even formula of allowing private vehicles to ply on to the roads. NGT has to look into only the aspect whether such projects are causing any damage to the environment or violating any environmental laws and whether environment impact studies are required and whether EC has to be obtained. However, in the present case dealing with the construction of flyovers adjacent to the KBR Park, as mentioned supra, the project/activity does not come under the EIA Notification, 2006.

This answers Point No.2.

Point No. 3

Notification declaring the KBR National Park clearly states that an area of 13.80 ha is excluded from the Park and earmarked for widening of the road system around the Park. This makes it abundantly clear that while declaring the National Park about two decades back, the authorities having found that this park is located in the heart of the city and subjected to severe anthropogenic pressure mainly due to the heavy traffic movement round the clock, excluded an extent of 13.80 ha. with a clear foresight and made this exclusion as a part of the Notification itself. Therefore, when such provision for widening of the road system connecting various arterial roads around the Park exists at the time

of Notification of the Park itself, the decision of the authorities to improve the existing road network by constructing flyovers to allow smooth flow of traffic is natural and expected. This is not a National Park or Wildlife Sanctuary located in the wild but lies in a thickly populated human habitation in a burgeoning Metropolitan city. Incidentally as the Park consists of flora and fauna and unique rock formations it acts as one of the heritage sites typical to Deccan Plateau and serves conservation purpose also.

As per the National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) 2002-16, the areas outside the PA network are of a vital ecological corridor links and require protection to prevent isolation and fragmenting of biodiversity. The Action Plan also indicates that all identified areas around the PAs and Wildlife corridors to be declared ecologically fragile by the Central Government under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Under Point No.9 of the Wildlife Conservation Strategy - 2002 which was adopted by the Indian Board for Wildlife, it is envisaged that lands falling within 10 km of the boundaries of the National Parks and Sanctuaries should be notified as ecologically fragile zones under Section 3 (v) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rule 5 sub rule (viii) and (x) of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986. The purpose of declaring ESZ around the National Parks and Sanctuaries is to provide some kind of shock absorber and they would also act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to areas of lesser protection. Depending upon the location

of National Park or Sanctuary, the width of the Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ) will differ from PA to PA. Accordingly, all the State Governments were requested by the MoEF&CC to submit proposals for listing out such areas within 10 km. of the boundaries of the National Parks and Sanctuaries for notifying as ESZ. The delineation of ESZ would have to be site specific and the purpose is to regulate the activities rather than total prohibition. Therefore, keeping in view of the location and ecological significance of the PAs, State Governments have to submit proposals to MoEF&CC to declare ESZ. In PIL W.P.No.460 of 2004 in *Goa Foundation* case, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 4th December, 2006 had directed that in all such cases where ESZ is not notified, 10 km distance is to be maintained as ESZ and for granting permission for various activities/projects located in 10 km distance, such proposals are to be referred to Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL).

NGT observed that the record placed before it reveals that in respect of KBR National Park the PCCF (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden, government of Telangana vide his letter dated 06.01.2014 proposed to declare ESZ to a width of 25 to 35 meters all along the periphery of the Park. The MoEF&CC vide draft Notification dated 18.12.2015 issued under sub section (1) read with clause (v) and clause (xiv) of sub section (2) and Sub section 3 of Section (3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and as required under sub-rule (3) of Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, notified ESZ ranging from 25 to 35 m width

covering HMDA walkway along the boundary of the KBR Park and if any person has any objection or suggestion on the proposals contained in the draft Notification, may forward the same in writing for consideration of the Central Government within a period of 60 days. The draft Notification clearly specifies various measures to be taken by the State government and the activities that are prohibited, regulated and promoted as per the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Construction works and removal of trees are regulated activities and has to be in consonance with the applicable laws. As per the guidelines, felling of trees is not allowed without permission of the Competent Authority in the State Government under the relevant Central or State Act and the Rules made there under. Therefore, tree felling in ESZ, does not fall under the prohibited activity but it falls under regulated activity. However, final Notification on ESZ is yet to be issued.

After publication of draft Notification on 18.12.2015, PCCF submitted proposals dated 20th May, 2016 addressed to MoEF&CC, requesting to consider revised ESZ around the KBR National Park to a width of 3 to 7 m in public interest to accommodate the SRDP project to ease traffic congestion. It was further proposed to reduce the width of the ESZ to 'zero' m from the earlier proposal of 25 to 35 m as it was done in a similar case of Guindy National Park, Chennai since at the time of declaration of KBR National Park itself in the year 1998 an extent of 13.80 ha area all along the boundary of the

National Park, was excluded for the purpose of road system out of the total extent of 156.30 ha of Jubilee Hills Forest Block. The State Government justified that there is a strong case for declaring 'zero' m width ESZ around KBR National Park as was done in the case of Guindy National Park in Chennai.

NGT observed that it is true that in respect of KBR National Park similar to Guindy National Park in Chennai, there is tremendous urban development just across the boundary of the Park and both the National Parks are all located amidst densely populated areas in the heart of metropolitan cities. Therefore, they cannot be compared with the National Parks and Sanctuaries declared in the Wildlife areas.

Finally NGT concluded that though the MoEF&CC has notified draft ESZ Notification as long back as on 18th December, 2015, final Notification is yet to be issued. Now in the context of revised ESZ proposals submitted by State of Telangana, it is for the MoEF&CC to take appropriate decision including publishing of a revised draft Notification. Undoubtedly it is the MoEF&CC which has to decide on issuing final notification based on the already published draft Notification

or consider the subsequent proposal of the State Government. In the considered view of the NGT and in all fairness the GHMC shall wait till a final decision is taken in this regard by the MoEF&CC and then proceed. This is relevant because if ultimately the MoEF&CC decides and declares 25 to 35 m width ESZ, obviously the project proponent may have to obtain clearance from the Standing Committee of the NBWL for construction of flyovers. Even in respect of cutting/translocation of trees the same can be proceeded with only if the MoEF&CC agrees with the proposal of the State Government to make 'zero' width ESZ.

With the above observations the case was disposed by the NGT

Recently it was reported in the press that based on the revised proposals of the state government, MoEF&CC published revised draft ESZ notification in Oct 2018 proposing 3 to 29.8 m width ESZ and Expert Committee on ESZ in its meeting held on 28th Feb 2019 has requested the State government to conduct Public Hearing on the proposed ESZ to elicit public views and submit a report before the ESZ is finally declared.

It is common knowledge that smoking is considered one of the nation's leading causes of preventable death, but it's less widely known that cigarettes are also the leading cause of fatal forest fires.

FRA; BITTER RIVALS JOIN HANDS AGAINST FORESTS

By
J. V. Sharma

There used to be a popular saying in Telangana country side which roughly means that even bitter rivals join hands in looting others and share spoils. Something like that happened in the latter half of February 2019 when the Central Government & the States ruled by BJP and the States ruled by Congress suddenly became hyperactive to be on the same page to seek stay of evictions ordered by the Supreme Court of the encroachers whose claims were not recognised under Forest Rights Act. Needless to elaborate that the BJP and Congress are serious contenders for the Delhi Throne and the victim they targeted is the invaluable national asset 'forests' and the urgency for the unholy bonhomie is *Lok Sabha* Polls slated for April-May.

On an application filed by the Central Government and the State of Gujarat, the Supreme Court Bench comprising Honourable Justices Arun Mishra, Navin Sinha and M. R. Shah, has on 28th. February 2019 stayed its orders of 13th February 2019 directing eviction of STs and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers whose claims under the Forest Rights Act were rejected.

The Order is issued in the process of hearing of Writ Petitions filed directly in Supreme Court and those petitions filed in various High Courts which have since been transferred to Apex Court. The Petitioners have challenged the constitutional validity and other provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 popularly known as Forest Rights Act. Wildlife First, the NGO Petitioner, is vigorously pursuing the case in Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court, in the process of hearing the case, has on January 29, 2016, ordered the eviction of encroachers whose claims under FRA were rejected. The Hon Court, in its hearing on 13th February 2019, reviewed the affidavits filed by 21 States and noted that no action was taken by the Govt. for three years till now. The Hon Court took the matter seriously and directed the Chief Secretaries of the States to file affidavits as to why after the rejection of claims which had attained finality, eviction has not been made. It is further ordered that the Chief Secretaries should ensure that where the rejection orders have been passed, eviction will be carried out on or before the next date of hearing. There was also a note of caution in the order that in case the eviction is carried out, the matter will be viewed seriously. The Apex Court further directed that where the verification /re-verification/review process is pending, the concerned State should do the needful within four

months from the day and report submitted to the Court. The Hon Court also ordered for a satellite survey by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) and places on record the encroachment positions and also states the positions after eviction as far as possible. It is ordered for filing of requisite affidavits on or before and posted the matters to be heard on 24.07.2019.

A reading of the order makes it clear that the Supreme Court is unhappy with State Governments for their inaction for three years over directions issued by the Court. They considered it expedient to make the Chief Secretaries responsible for the compliance of eviction orders making it clear that consequences for inaction would be serious. A time line has also been specified which cannot go beyond next date of hearing i.e. 24.07.2019. It is obvious that the Order had caused a great deal of discomfiture to the States and to even Centre. Discomfiture because the Supreme Court ordered a time bound definitive action after waiting for three years and the States cannot afford flout or delay action on court orders. At the same time, the Governments, though not said, can ill-afford to comply with the order inviting the wrath of affected claimants in the face of elections which are only weeks away. It is in this context, the Central Government came up with an application for stay taking a plea that due procedure had not been followed in the process.

To go by media reports the Centre filed an application on 27th February 2019 urging the Supreme Court to modify its February 13 Order directing the eviction of thousands of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers whose claims were rejected under Forest Rights Act. Solicitor General made an urgent oral mention before the Bench who has agreed to hear the case the next day i.e. the 28th February. The Centre in its application cited the following grounds, among others, in support of its request:

- a) The claims of lakhs of STs & OTFDs had been rejected by the States without observing due process of law.
- b) Referring to a certain letter of 2014 written by Centre to States listing out various injustices meted out to tribal population and such States are hit by Left Wing Extremism (LWE).
- c) Forest land claims of population who live off the forest are mostly rejected by States. Being poor and illiterate and living in remote areas, they do not know the appropriate procedure for filing the claims.
- d) The Gram Sabhas which initiate the verification of claims are low on awareness on how to deal with claims and rejection orders are not even communicated.
- e) High rate of rejection orders,

- f) Unrealistic time lines in deciding claims,
- g) Irregular holding of State Level Monitoring Committee meetings,
- h) Lack of support from district administrations concerned in providing revenue and forest maps,
- i) Rejection of claims despite incomplete and insufficient evidence,
- j) Over 11 lakhs ST and OTFDs across 16 States faced the brunt of the Apex Court Order of eviction dated 13.02.2019.

The Solicitor General submitted that the order has affected a large number of families and the States should first file proper affidavits on the procedure followed in the verification of claims before any such eviction. He requested for withholding eviction and the eviction without such information would cause serious prejudice to them who have been residing in forests for generations and many are poor and illiterate.

Senior Counsel appearing for Petitioner NGO countered that lakhs of genuine claims are honored. He showed the Ministry of Tribal Affairs data up to November 2018 that 42,24,951 claims from individual and communities were received and of them 18,94,225 claims were admitted while 19,39,231 claims were rejected. He also informed that the Ministry data is collated from the inputs supplied by the States. He also submitted that titles were distributed in 44.83 % of the claims filed. The Hon Bench of the Supreme Court, upon hearing the counsel, acknowledged the need to further delve into whether the process was followed by gram sabhas and States' authorities under FRA before the claims were finally rejected. The Court directed the States to file affidavits responding to the grounds urged by the Centre within four months to show that the process of verification and rejection was fair. And the eviction order dated 13th February 2019 was stayed but not before chastising "whether the Centre was in a slumber for the past three tears."

I must place on record here that being a litigant in the case myself I am within my limits to articulate my views on the grounds urged by the Centre in its application. But the matter is with the Apex Court for adjudication and I am not sure to what extent I can go in placing the case in perspective to rebut the points prejudicial to my case. However, I choose to confine myself to points where on Hon Court commented during the course of hearing.

As the readers are aware, the FRA has been under implementation for over 11 years. It is a central legislation and Section 11 of the Act names the Ministry of Tribal Affairs or any other officer authorized by the Central Govt. shall be the nodal agency for implementation of the Act. Section 12 of the Act empowers the Central Govt. to issue directions. Central Govt. is also empowered in S-

14 of the Act to make rules for carrying out the provisions of the Act. Rules have been made and the FRA has been operationalized from the New Year Day of 2008. It is thus clear that though the States implement the legislation, the primary responsibility to carry out the provisions of the Act lies with Central Government.

Now, the Central Government, after implementing the legislation for 11 years, comes up before the Apex Court alleging a host of omissions & commissions on the part of States. Lapses pointed out include 'irregular holding of State Level Monitoring Committee meetings'. It is pertinent to state here that the Chief Secretary of the State is the Chairperson of the Committee and nothing prevented him to ensure proper implementation of the Act. Allegations include lapses at every stage of process right from the Gram Sabha to Sub-Divisional Level Committee to District Level Committee up to State Level Monitoring Committee. The application filed by the Centre looks like a document of indictment of States' mechanism. Should the processing mechanism of the States be so inefficient in implementing the legislation, it invariably means that the legislative provisions and rules made which provided scope for violation are equally useless and bad.

High rate of rejections is cited as one of the reasons to justify their request for staying the eviction. While the correctness or otherwise is subject to scrutiny, there could also be an argument that those who erred in rejecting claims could also have erred in accepting some bogus claims. High rate of rejection by itself cannot be seen as a reason to doubt the verification process and high rejection can as well be the sequel to high filing of bogus claims. It is not uncommon to witness heavy response to populist schemes. In the instant case the forest land is on offer and given the weakness of people for land in populous India, claims could be unusually high.

The Apex Court placed reliance on satellite survey and asked for Forest Survey of India to place on record the encroachment positions to oversee the situation at site of the evictions. Rules made to implement the legislation devised its own criteria of evidences under Rule 13 as against the basic principles of evidence enshrined in Indian Evidence Act which stood the test of times for more than a century. To put it in simple words, a claim over the forest land is a claim over property and claims need to be settled according to the provisions of the Indian Evidence Act. Determination of a right is the exclusive jurisdiction of a Civil Court. Satellite imagery is not one of the primary evidences prescribed in the rules. Instead, we find a mention of it only in Explanation 2 under Rule 12 A (11) to the effect "The satellite imagery and other uses of technology may supplement other form of evidence and shall not be treated as a replacement." This is in contrast to Supreme Court

rulings in other cases to place more reliance on satellite information. The Central Government appears keen to have a different set of rules of the game and shift the goal post to suit its purpose as is evident when the Solicitor General stated that the FRA 2006 is a beneficial legislation which should be liberally construed in favor of the poor.

The latest move by the Central Government seeking stay of eviction of forest encroachments ordered is part of an old game played by all governments since Independence. Encroachments have been happening but the Central and State Governments, irrespective of their color, did not have the resolve to curb them. They lacked the political will to deal with the problem for obvious reasons. Standard practice of the Government is to stall any decisive action against encroachments for years and then find excuses to regularize them. The story repeats this time round too. My apprehensions are based on recent happenings. About 20000 people, whose claims under FRA were rejected, instigated by the leftists and self-styled social activists, threaten to march to Bombay demanding title deeds for their illegal possessions. Maharashtra Government developed cold feet and assured sympathetic action. The Congress President, Mr. Rahul Gandhi vowed publicly to grant title deeds the moment he comes into power. The Telangana CM while replying to the debate on motion of thanks to the Governor's address in State Assembly is heard saying that there is need to end the encroachments at the present level and ensure that no further incursions take place. The statement of the Chief Minister conveys, though not in so many words, a hint that the forest land under *Podu* cultivation as of now could be considered for regularization in which case the forests of Telangana are surely in for another spell of disaster. Governments in power always emphasized that forest lands are unalienable. It has been an unsavory experience to forest lovers that the assurances given by Government were always flouted. Illegal occupations were soft-peddled and allowed to proliferate and eventually regularized in the past. Assurance to limit the *Podu* Lands at the present level and taking stringent action against future encroachments, though looks benign on the face of it, is beset with veiled prospect of regularizing all illegal occupations as of now. It is necessary to point out that such regularizations of illegal occupations in the past had always proved to be an incentive for more and more encroachments.

Environmentalists and forest lovers hoped that the fortunes of forests took a turn for the better when the Apex Court ordered eviction of forest encroachments on 13th February. They earnestly hope that the stay order issued on 28th February is only a small respite for the Government and the Hon Court would surely do justice to forests after hearing from the States.

SOCCKER WORLD CUP: THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH!

By

Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai.

“Put your heads down, work hard and focus. Things may go wrong but you need to stand with both feet firmly on the ground”

Definition/Origin: Called ‘soccer’ in US, it is any of a number of forms of team-game involving kicking a large inflated ball, and is also famously called ‘football’ in UK and most parts of the world. It is played by two teams of eleven players with the round-ball which may not be handled during play except by the goalkeepers, the object of the game being to score goals by **kicking or heading** the ball into the opponents’ goal.

The game and the word originated in the 19th Century and has since captured audiences and imaginations across the globe. However, what is so much striking about it is the fact that most populous countries in the world have been **marginal** in World Football — China with 1.4 billion people has featured **only in one World Cup** (in 2002) at least, whereas India with 1.33 billion souls, has never come even **close to qualifying**. The 4th and 5th most populous nations Indonesia and Pakistan have **never made it** to the grand stage.

Ground Realities: As the football World Cup captured audiences during June & July in 2018, some figures appear to be instructive. Just some **4 decades ago**, this game was traditionally played by countries **from Europe and South America**. In 1978 World Cup, just **three places were made available for countries from Asian, African, Australian and North**

American continents and Central American Nations. In the recently concluded World Cup in Russia we had **13 nations from these regions** in contention.

In India, the politics of football administration has unfortunately divided the sport into two rival fiefdoms, though the fan-base can be found growing in an undeterred manner — Television ratings for **European football leagues having been vaulting to record levels** each year. This has spurred interest in the new Indian Super League and even in the national team. **India’s world-ranking has improved from 173 (in 2015) to 97 at present** — making it to the **world’s top 48 ‘no longer looks like an improbable dream’!**

Present Situation: Football is undoubtedly an expanding game and this is by ‘design’. **The Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) has though been beset in recent years by accusations of corruption, mis-governance and sleaze** (i.e., immoral, sordid and corrupt behavior or material), but it has surely helped **democratize** the sport and **spread its appeal** across the globe — in 2018, as many as 209 nations entered the **qualification process**, but 32 teams only qualified to play in Russia. **FIFA says it intends to expand the World Cup to 48 teams from the next edition of this quadrennial conflict which will be**

conducted in 2022. The scale of participation reveals that **FIFA has taken on with messianic zeal the mission of expanding the appeal and reach, of the sport of which it is the custodian.**

Conclusion: Soccer or Football is decidedly the most beautiful, compleandaesthetically pleasing of sports, and has been found enhancing its appeal in a number of nations **not traditionally associated** with the game. FIFA understands that if the game has to grow, more countries need to be involved in a World Cup, to attract fans, win new acolytes or followers, attract sponsors and government- funding, to inspire new potential players — thus take football to new heights as a global sport.

Trivia

Moments of high drama/ action savored (during latest World Cup):

(a) As the Teams competed to reach pre-quarter finals stage:

(i) Former 2010 champions Spain, who have never beaten a host at World Cup or Euros, were sent packing after shattering their World Cup dream in pre-quarter final before a sell-out crowd of 78,000 spectators, in the high drama of penalty-shootout in the game which lacked pace & tempo even after the break with both teams being cautious not to concede too much space (which was Russia's first ever shootout), at Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow when the arguably incomparable goalkeeper became a national hero by saving the two spot-kicks with a formidable defense that was arguably the best in International football — particularly the 2nd one with his left foot (of god?) in a spectacular

manner to trigger wild celebrations as the Russians advanced to quarter finals in a fantastic way to face Croatia who too incidentally had progressed in a similar lackluster fashion against Denmark! However, it should never be classified as a 'battle of attrition' many may be tempted to interpret. Spain's goal was the first-time opponents' defense had been breached, after which the Russians stood firm and were beginning to look like contenders moving into the latter stages of the game.

(ii) Strong, athletic and intelligent, the five-time champions Brazil, after comfortably preventing stubborn opponent Mexico — which was such a threat on the counter — from turning territorial domination into real chances, roared into quarter finals with an emphatic victory in a scintillating pre-quarter final match at Samara in Russia, inflicting a shocking blow as their superstar Neymar, showcasing both sublime and ridiculous sides — being world's most expensive footballer — inevitably grabbed plaudits with a goal and an assist that dumped the Central Americans out who missed a litany of chances by frequently squandering a better side and even pegged back the opponent by creating several half-chances.

With such a lead-performance in an exquisite fashion, Brazil forward Neymar Jr. has taken the lead when it mattered most and has answered a number of questions with much more positive display and decisive finish, which many others would have found difficult to comeback the way he had done after about three months' layoff following an injury.

(b) As the teams reached quarter finals stage:

After game sparring its usual template more upheavals and upsets, 8 teams (as is the long held re-conception — six from Europe and two from South America — made it to have roller-coaster rides at Novogorod, in Russia on 6th and 7th of July, '18, after many of the usual combatants had already exited (including perennial challengers Germany, Spain and Argentina) that had thrown-up a never-ending-series of surprises. Dashing any hope of a revolutionary breakthrough in the eventual destination of the trophy, three participating continents (of Africa, Asia and North America) have not been represented in the quarter finals. However, one thing which would happen this time (as this paragraph is being written before the commencement to play the games at the said stage) is at least one of the finalists (if at all) had not reached the title-decider for the last half century!

(c) As the tournament reached semifinal-stage: The matches at this stage provenly become loaded with a rich cast of exciting footballers who hold out the promise of exquisite skills, devastating movement and brilliant finishing, exhibiting strengths at defending dead-ball citations by getting as many defensive structures as possible — right at the corners if it could come their way! The simplicity of football is all there to emphasize despite the intricate planning, cagey tactics and chess-like choreography.

The games between four semi-finalists were similar in watching two heavyweight boxers in

each of the two rings eyeing each other out and waiting for the first to blink! And when the breakthroughs came, they were not from flowing moves or pieces of individual skills but rather from standard situations — the ones that proved unusually decisive at the highest levels of the game. An important observation that can be made after watching the FIFA matches this far is 'As football grows increasingly sophisticated with cutting-edge science and video-technology, it is a vivid reminder of how simple the sport remained still!

France and Croatia (looking better in each game and seizing the opportunities whenever they came their way and peaking at right time and gaining momentum slowly) secured places in the World Cup final, Moscow, from what they call 'basic set-pieces' — employing opposite tactics when the loosing sides suggested that the opponents planned to run them ragged, but they were only fleeting illusions! The losers Belgium and England must instead try to lift themselves for the third-place play-off, back in S. Petersburg (Russia), as there will be no World Cup final for them — the 'Red Devils' and the 'Three Lions', however much difficult they may feel accountable — having had the ambitions of getting to the final — they will have to play, for pride which was at stake, Belgium succeeding emphatically.

There were no easy rides, however, in the knock-out stages where the finalists had to show their full capabilities in beating their formidable opponents — thus earning the right perhaps to even brag a little at that! There have been

many positive aspects to their games ——— lack of panic when France was 2-1 down against Argentina (in the last – 16) before coming back to win a thriller 4-3 and when steely Croatia was similarly 1-0 down against England (in the 2nd semifinal) before coming back to win a thriller 2-1 ——— both finalists being watchful, disciplined and motivated.

(d) And in the Finals: Showcasing the fact that the International football can still be so unpredictable, and changing perceptions of Russia while giving hope to the underdog on the field, shattering the fears of racism, violence and diplomatic spats which clouded the build-up in Russia, and imparting an overwhelmingly positive experience for foreign visitors, France won the World Cup in Moscow in a pulsating final, joining Uruguay and Argentina in winning it for the second time after their 1998 triumph (over Brazil when the present French Coach was their Captain and the tournament was played in France.

On the last day, Russian President **handed over the mantle of World Cup** to the Emir of Qatar who had come to Moscow to join the celebrations ——— the oil-rich island with fabulous wealth having **persuaded FIFA earlier to allow it to host, though having never played at the World Cup!** Qatar is a small gulf kingdom, stretching only 180km from one end to the other, is unlike any previous host, **with little sporting tradition** ——— A population of just over 2.5 Million, and being so hot in the customary mid-year-window for the tournament: has moved towards the end of 2002! It will be, however, the first Arab Country to host

the event and is planning eight new stadia ——— having only one such stadium completed and two more being due this year while the rest being scheduled to be finished by 2021 ——— none more than 85km from the centre of the capital Doha, but all serviced by a brand-new metro system. **The Relay Baton is thus passed on from world's largest country by landmass to one of the smallest!**

The most complex event in the world, engaging 12 stadia has thus ended ——— the stunning venues having risen from the ground in developed cities far from Moscow, on Volga river and in some small and isolated places: the Russian President, being in office for a major portion of the last two decades and having known the fact that the venerable crucible of Soviet sport entered the era of Russia's independence in the 1990s looking scruffy and bleeding cash ——— after knowing that the legacy of the World Cup will be judged partly by their fate after the tournament, should not be underscoring their importance.

Lastly but not leastly, it must be stated (as per the media reports), about the conduct of the mega-meet: Russia's **infrastructure** and **welcome** by their **positive experiences** certainly allied to the quality of football, and success of **VAR** (Video Assistant Referee) system, as world fell in love with the host country, as everything was put in place for the tournament for the month-long period, in which more than a million foreign fans visited, as everyone found their preconceived notions of the country!

MANGROVE FORESTS

BY

V. SANTHASEELA BABU

The definition of a Mangrove is a tropical tree or shrub that grows in swampy areas and has tangled roots located above ground, or a tidal swamp with a number of these types of trees and shrubs. Generally they grow in coastal saline or brackish waters. The term is also used for tropical coastal vegetation consisting of such species. They fall under the classification "Littoral and Swamp Forests". Mangroves are a diverse group of trees capable of growing in marine intertidal environments. They do not rely on salt water but are able to tolerate it. Mangrove trees have developed a range of incredible adaptations to deal with the harsh environment they live in (salt water, changing intertidal regimes). The habitat of Mangroves is often referred to as Mangrove forest or 'tidal forest'. These plants are constantly subjected to tidal flushing with the ability to live in salt water. Pneumatophores, supporting stilt roots and buttresses, salt excreting glands in the leaves and viviparous propagules are some of the several highly specialized and collectively well-known adaptations of this group.

Mangroves occur worldwide in the tropics and subtropics. Being very abundant on tropical coasts Mangroves are often referred to as "tropical forests by the sea". They can be found in 123 countries and cover about 152,000 km² in the tropics and subtropics and the largest contiguous Mangrove forest in the world is in 'Sundarbans' forest comprising approximately 10,000 km² across Indian and Bangladeshi territories between the river Baleswar in the East and the Harinbanga in the West, adjoining to the

Bay of Bengal. Certain shrubs and trees belong primarily to the families *Rhizophoraceae*, *Acanthaceae*, *Lythraceae*, *Combretaceae*, and *Areaceae* etc; that grow in dense thickets or forests along tidal estuaries, in salt marshes, and on muddy coasts; and that characteristically have prop roots—i.e., exposed supporting, form the flora of Mangrove forests.

India is the third richest country in possessing Mangrove Biodiversity in the entire world after Indonesia and Australia. According to the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, the Mangrove coverage in India was 4,046 sq. km in 1987 and was 4,921 sq. km in 2017, based on remote sensing data. In the past 30 years, the Mangrove cover decreased in Andhra Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands at 0.61% and 0.34% per year respectively, whereas it increased in all other places by 168% in Gujarat; 117% in Maharashtra; 113% in Tamil Nadu; 22% in Odisha; 26 folds in Goa; 10 folds in Karnataka; 9 folds in Kerala; 3 folds in Daman and Diu and 2 folds in Puduchery. There was a marginal increase of only 1.83% at 0.061% per year in the Sundarbans. The Mangrove Forest cover increased in India by 21.63% over 30 years at 0.72% per year. Mangrove cover in India increased by 181 sq. km. between 2013 and 2017 which comes to 1.9% per year as against global Mangroves, which disappear at 0.66%.

Change of Mangrove cover in different Maritime States and Union Territories of India between 1987 and 2017 according Forest Survey of India

State/UT	Mangrove cover (Sq. km)		Change of cover between 1987 and 2017	
	1987	2017	Area (Sq. Km)	% of increase, loss or fold of
Andhra Pradesh	495 (12.4%)	404 (8.21%)	- 91	- 18.38%
Andaman & Nicobar	686 (17.2%)	617 (12.54%)	- 69	- 10.05%
Gujarat	427 (10.74%)	1,140 (23.17%)	+ 713	+ 167.98%
Maharashtra	140 (3.5%)	304 (6.18%)	+164	+ 117.14%
Odisha	199 (5.0%)	243 (4.94%)	+ 44	+ 22.11%
West Bengal	2,076 (51.9%)	2114 (42.95%)	+ 38	+ 1.83%
Goa	0	26 (0.53%)	+ 26	+ 26 fold
Kerala	0	9 (0.18%)	+ 9	+ 9 fold
Daman & Diu	0	3 (0.06%)	+ 3	+ 3 fold
Karnataka	0	10 (0.20%)	+ 10	+ 10 fold
Tamilnadu	23 (0.58%)	49 (1.0%)	+ 26	+113%
Puducherry	0	2 (0.041%)	+ 2	+ 2 fold
Total	4,046 (100%)	4,921 (100%)	+ 875	21.63%

India has the highest record of biodiversity in Mangrove forests of the world and no other country has recorded so many species to be present in the ecosystem. So far, 4107 species including 23% of flora and 77% of faunal species have been recorded. Eight groups of organisms are dominant by exceeding 100 species and they are Mangrove species (true Mangroves + Mangrove associates), Marine Algae (Phytoplankton + Seaweeds), Fungi, Crabs, Mollusks, Insects, other Invertebrates and Fin Fish.

Total number of Floral and Faunal Species reported to exist in Mangrove Ecosystems of India

Groups	Varieties	No.of Species
Floral Groups	Mangroves	44
	Mangrove Associates	86
	Sea grass Vegetation	11
	Marine Algae	557
	Bacteria	69
	Fungi	103
	Actinomycetes	23
	Lichens	32
	Total of Floral Species	925
Groups	Varieties	No.of Species
Faunal Groups	Prawns & Lobsters	55
	Crabs	145
	Insects	661
	Mollusks	337
	Other Invertebrates	745

Fish Parasites	7
Fin Fish	554
Amphibians	13
Reptiles	84
Birds	513
Mammals	68
Total of Faunal Species	3,182
Total No. of Floral & Faunal Species	4,107

In Andhra Pradesh an area of 404 sq. km is under the Mangrove forests, which accounts 1.09% of the total forest area of the state. Andhra Pradesh has the geographical advantage of having most of the east flowing rivers in the heart of the state bringing in copious supplies of sediments from the Western and Eastern Ghats and Deccan Plateau up to the coast. The major, medium and minor rivers, which flow through the state, are about 40. Out of these, the most important rivers are (1) The Godavari (2) The Krishna (3) The Pennar and (4) The Vamsadhara. The majority of the Mangroves are present in the estuaries of these rivers. The Godavari Mangroves are located in the Godavari estuary in the East Godavari district in Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary in Corangi RF, Corangi Extn. R.F. and Bhairavapalem RF. Also the Mangroves are found in Rathikalava RF, Masanitippa RF, Matlatippa RF, Balusutippa RF, Kothapalem RF and Kandikuppa RF which are non-sanctuary areas. Krishna Mangroves are located in the Krishna estuary of Krishna and Guntur districts. The area of the Mangrove wetland declared as Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary falls in Sorlagondi RF, Nachugunta RF, Yelichetladibba RF, Lankivanidibba RF, Molagunta RF, Kottapalem RF Bit-1, Kottapalem RF Bit-2 and Adavuladivi RF. Apart from these estuaries, Mangroves are also found in small patches in the

coasts of Visakhapatnam, West Godavari, Guntur and Prakasam districts.

Mangroves are salt-tolerant trees, also called halophytes, and are adapted to life in harsh coastal conditions. They contain a complex salt filtration system and complex root system to cope up with salt water immersion and wave action. They are adapted to the low oxygen conditions of waterlogged mud. Mangrove plants require a number of physiological adaptations to overcome the problems of anoxia, high salinity and frequent tidal inundation. Each species has its own solutions to these problems; this may be the primary reason why, on some shorelines, Mangrove tree species show distinct zonation. Because the soil is perpetually waterlogged, little free oxygen is available. Anaerobic bacteria liberate nitrogen gas, soluble ferrum (iron), inorganic phosphates, sulfides and methane, which make the soil much less nutritious. Pneumatophores (aerial roots) allow Mangroves to absorb gases directly from the atmosphere and other nutrients such as iron, from the inhospitable soil. Mangroves store gases directly inside the roots, processing them even when the roots are submerged during high tide.

In this harsh environment, Mangroves have evolved a special mechanism to help their offspring survive. Mangrove seeds are buoyant and are therefore suited to water dispersal. Unlike most plants, whose seeds germinate in soil, many Mangroves (e.g. red Mangrove) are viviparous, whose seeds germinate while still attached to the parent tree. Once germinated, the seedling grows either within the fruit (e.g. *Aegialitis*, *Avicennia* and *Aegiceras*), or out through the fruit (e.g. *Rhizophora*, *Ceriops*, *Bruguiera* and *Nypa*) to form a propagule (a

ready-to-go seedling) which can produce its own food via photosynthesis. The mature propagule then drops into the water, which can transport it over great distances. Propagules can survive desiccation and remain dormant for over a year before arriving in a suitable environment. Once a propagule is ready, to root, its density changes so the elongated shape now floats vertically rather than horizontally. In this position, it is more likely to lodge in the mud and root. If it does not root, it can alter its density and drift again in search of more favorable conditions.

Mangrove forests are just about the most useful ecosystems on Earth, storing up to 10 times more carbon than tropical forests, making Mangroves a critical solution in the fight against climate change. Mangrove forest and the thick, impenetrable tangle of their above and below-water roots are vital to shoreline communities as natural buffers against storm surges, an increasing threat in a changing global climate with rising sea levels. Mangroves' dense root systems inhibit the flow of tidal water and encourage the deposition of nutrient-rich sediments. But once lost, Mangroves are very difficult to replant. Mangrove forests are an important part of the cycling and storage of carbon in tropical coastal ecosystems. Mangrove forests store high densities of organic carbon compared to other forested ecosystems. High carbon storage coupled with high rates of deforestation means that Mangroves contribute substantially to carbon emissions. Thus, Mangroves are candidates for inclusion in Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to the UNFCCC Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) program. This study quantifies two datasets required for INDCs and PES reporting. These are annual Mangrove carbon stocks from

2000 to 2012 at the global, national, and sub-national levels and global carbon emissions resulting from deforestation. Using this it is possible to attempt to reconstruct the environment and investigate changes to the coastal ecosystem for thousands of years by using sediment cores. Mangroves are an important source of blue carbon. Globally, Mangroves stored 4.19 Pg of carbon in 2012. Two percent of global Mangrove carbon was lost between 2000 and 2012, equivalent to a maximum potential of 316,996,250 tons of CO₂ emissions.

Forestry, Agriculture, and other land use changes account for almost 25% (up to 12 Pg CO₂-e yr⁻¹) of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, due to factors such as deforestation, forest degradation and biomass burning. The deforestation of tropical coastal wetlands such as Mangrove forests contributes disproportionately to anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, as the Mangrove forests can hold up to four times as much organic carbon per unit area when compared to other terrestrial forested ecosystems and are undergoing deforestation across the tropics. Recent estimates have put global Mangrove deforestation rates at up to 0.39% per year since 2000, driven primarily by large-scale agricultural and aqua cultural commodity production, coastal development and sea level rise. High carbon densities per unit area coupled with high deforestation rates mean that globally Mangrove deforestation may be contributing as much as 0.21 Pg CO₂-e yr⁻¹ or 0.45 Pg CO₂-e yr⁻¹ to the atmosphere . Mangrove deforestation is so high in particular countries, such as Indonesia that halting deforestation has been estimated to reduce its



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national land use sector emissions by between 10% and 31%. As a result, carbon stored in coastal wetlands such as Mangroves has recently been placed on the international policy agenda through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Agreement in 2015. Due to this inclusion, emissions from wetlands are now explicitly considered in national greenhouse gas emissions reporting through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s wetland supplement to the Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories.

The Paris Agreement also provides new opportunities for Mangrove conservation, as it promoted novel funding avenues for the financing of forest protection. Several conservation mechanisms have recently been established or proposed that utilize vegetated carbon stocks as a financial incentive to reduce deforestation, under the broad umbrella of PES. PES is broadly defined as a set of "voluntary transactions between service users and service providers that are conditional on agreed rules of natural resource management"

Mangroves are extremely important to the coastal ecosystems they inhabit. Physically, they serve as a buffer between marine and terrestrial communities and protect shorelines from damaging winds, waves, and floods. Mangrove thickets improve water quality by filtering pollutants and trapping sediments from the land, and they reduce coastal erosion. Ecologically, they provide habitat for a diverse array of terrestrial organisms, and many species of coastal and offshore fish and shellfish rely exclusively on Mangroves as their breeding, spawning, and hatching grounds. Mangroves are considered as a natural barrier protecting the

lives and property of coastal communities from storms and cyclones, flooding, and coastal soil erosion. Many diverse species inhabit Mangrove forests, such as fish, birds, reptiles, amphibians, mollusks, crustaceans and many other invertebrates. Algae, sponges, corals and anemones can often be found attached to exposed roots. Clams, sea snails and mussels can be found hidden in the crevices. Crabs can also be found inhabiting Mangrove forests. Coastal birds, such as Pelicans, Spoonbills and Ospreys, use the Mangrove canopy for nesting, roosting and feeding. Because of their high salt tolerance, Mangroves are often among the first species to colonize mud and sandbanks flooded by seawater, but an increase in coastal development and altered land use led to a decline in global populations.

The following species of plants generally occur in the Mangrove Forests:

Avicennia alba, *Avicennia marina*, *Avicennia officinalis*, *Lumnitzera racemosa*, *Excoecaria agallocha*, *Xylocarpus granatum*, *Xylocarpus moluccensis*, *Aegiceras corniculatum*, *Bruguiera cylindrica*, *Bruguiera gymnorhiza*, *Ceriops decandra*, *Rhizophora apiculata*, *Rhizophora mucronata*, *Scyphiphora hydrophyllacea*, *Sonneratia apetala*, *Sonneratia alba*, *Derris trifoliata*, *Sesuvium portulacastrum*, *Acanthus ilicifolius*, *Dalbergia spinosa*, *Sarcobolus carinatus*, *Caesalpinia crista*, *Ipomoea pescaprae*, *Ipomoea tuba*, *Salicornia brachiata*, *Suaeda maritime*, *Suaeda nudiflora*, *Fimbristylis ferruginea*, *Aeluropus lagopoides*, *Myriostachya wightiana*, *Porteresia coarctata*, *Hibiscus tiliaceus*, *Thespesia poulneoides*, *Tamarix troupitii*, *Clerodendrum inerme* etc.

A total of 70 species of true Mangroves are recorded across the globe while India

represents 39 species of true Mangroves and 86 species of associates totaling to 125 species. According to the IUCN, out of the 70 species of Mangroves, 11 are threatened with extinction. Mangroves contain certain shrubs and trees that belong primarily to the families Rhizophoraceae, Acanthaceae, Lythraceae, Combretaceae, and Arecaceae; that grow in dense thickets or forests along tidal estuaries, in salt marshes, and on muddy coasts; that characteristically have prop roots—i.e., exposed supporting roots. The term Mangrove also applies to thickets and forests of such plants. Respiratory or knee roots (pneumatophores) are characteristic of many species; they project above the mud and have small openings (lenticels) through which air enters, passing through the soft spongy tissue to the roots beneath the mud. Mangroves are the only species of trees in the world that can tolerate saltwater. Their strategy for dealing with otherwise toxic levels of salt is that they excrete it through their waxy leaves. Mangroves are tropical trees that thrive in conditions most timber trees could never tolerate — salty, coastal waters, and the interminable ebb and flow of the tide. With the ability to store vast amounts of carbon, Mangrove forests are key weapons in the fight against climate change, but they are under threat worldwide. By protecting Mangroves, we can help protect the future of our planet.

Conservation of Mangroves can be enhanced by:

- Gazetting all remaining Mangrove forests within forest reserves or protected areas. Many other Mangrove areas are still without any protection.
- Devising well-balanced coastal land-use plans, such as maintaining sustainable limits in logging

and other harvesting activities of its resources.

- Retaining protective Mangrove buffers along coastlines and rivers to prevent erosion.
- Managing Mangrove forests as fishery reserves to encourage environmentally-sensitive commercial aquaculture activities. Raising public awareness and educating the community to discourage indiscriminate clearing.
- Introduction of social forestry schemes. Damaged forest areas can be planted and managed for small-scale village timber enterprises. Mangrove species like *Rhizophora mucronata* or *R. apiculata* are particularly ideal for Mangrove plantations as they are both fast growing and lucrative.

Mangroves are largely degraded in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. The reason for the degradation is attributed to high salinity of dry soil as a result of lack of regular tidal flushing due to low tidal amplitude. To overcome this situation, the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (Chennai) and the Forest Department demonstrated the 'Canal-Bank Planting' technique with 'fish bone' design, in Muthupet and Pichavaram in Tamil Nadu as well as East Godavari and Krishna districts of Andhra Pradesh. In this technique, canals are formed so that the high saline soil gets regular tidal inundation, leaches out salts and becomes suitable for Mangrove restoration. This effort was undertaken with the participation of local Mangrove user communities resulting in increased forest cover by about 90% in the degraded areas of Pichavaram Mangrove wetland, between 1986 and 2002 as proved by satellite data.

SUSTAINING RELATIONSHIPS.....

By
V. V. Hari prasad

The “Velhas Conquistas” region of Goa is famous for architectural beauty of yester year which we (75-77batch of SFRC) have visited in the second week of March. The “Velhas Conquistas” or old conquests are a group of four administrative districts in Goa which were incorporated into Portuguese India in the 16th Century. The indigenous population of the erstwhile Portuguese colony of Goa underwent a large scale conversion to Christianity after its conquest and occupation by the Portuguese empire. After conversion to Roman Catholicism they were usually granted Portuguese citizenship. The issue of Goa has cropped up now in the context of “SFRC (75-77) batch mates’ meet” in Goa in the 2nd week of March 2019.

On the penultimate day of the alumni meet of SFRC (75-77 batch) when they met at Coimbatore in SFRC campus in 2018 after 40 years of completion of their training the members of the batch have taken a decision to meet at Goa in the year 2019 under the stewardship of Sri R. N. Desai, Dy. C.F(Retd.) Goa. That made the SFRC batch mates to have their meet in Goa from 12th March to 14th March and 60 participants took part in the meet out of whom eighteen ladies were present. The participants there by enjoyed the beauty of Goa.

Top reasons why Goa is so famous.

. All forms of water and beach activities are best enjoyed in Goa.

. Goa is the Las Vegas for India with casinos, water sports and extensive night life.

. One can enjoy fusion of culture in Goa.

. Goa is a prime centre for art and culture

. The cuisine of the land is noteworthy as the seafood is fresh and they have a combination of style of Portuguese and spice palate of India

The participants of the meet were accommodated in the “Rivasa resort” in Calangute about 50 KM away from the International Airport of Dabolim. The airport was built, in 1955, by the Government of th e Estado da Índia Portuguesa, on 249 acres (101 ha) of land, as the Aeroporto de Dabolim, which was later officially renamed to Aeroporto General Bénard Guedes. Until 1961, the airport served as the main hub of the Portuguese India’s airline TAIP (Transportes Aéreos da Índia Portuguesa), which on a regular schedule served Daman, Diu, Karachi, Mozambique, Portuguese Timor, and other destinations.

During the Indian annexation of Goa, in December 1961, the airport was bombarded by the Indian Air Force with parts of the infrastructure being destroyed. Two civilian planes that were in the airport – a Lockheed Constellation from TAP (Portuguese

International Airlines) and a Douglas DC-4 from TAIIP – managed to escape with refugees, during the night, to Karachi. In April 1962, it was occupied by the Indian Navy's air wing when Major General K.P. Candeth, who had led the successful military operation into Goa, "handed over" the airport to the Indian Navy before relinquishing charge as its military governor to a Lieutenant Governor of the then Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu in June 1962.

Coming to the get together it started with the inaugural ceremony in the evening of 12th March in the open space of "Rivasa Resort" at Calangute. The opening address by Sri.R.N.Desai was followed by formal introduction of new participants, recital of prosaic verse written by me in chaste Hindi with the caption "**Meri Yaden**" while recollecting the pleasant memories of all those departed souls from among the batch mates and while paying homage to all of them which went on well with the participants though it was all Greek and Latin to some of the participants in particular to those who are from the southern part of India.

On this pleasant occasion the songs sung by Kum. Siri Sariraj daughter of Sri Rajender Reddy, a retired DCF, who completed, her B.A Hons. in music from Middlesex University from London, U.K in Hindi, English and French received a standing ovation from all the participants as an acknowledgement of her great rendition. Graduate in Music from Middlesex University in

London will have the opportunity to explore music technology, studio music production, sound art, and live computer sound transformation. Concepts in music history are discussed and contemporary music are studied in the university as part of curriculum. One learns harmony, counterpoint, instrumentation, orchestration and musicianship, and also to write and/or perform music convincingly in a range of styles in the university.

The following day the participants visited Museum of Goa in Pilarne, North Goa, where the visitors could see number of beautiful structures and paintings which caused a pleasant feast to the eyes of the beholders.

This was followed by a visit to temple of Sri Mangesh in Ponda taluq a deity of Mangeshkar family. This temple had its origins in Kushasthali Cortalim, a village in Marmugao which fell to the invading Portuguese in 1543. In the year 1560, when the Portuguese started Christian conversions in Marmugao taluka, the Saraswats of Kaundinya Gotra and Vatsa Gotra moved the Mangesh Linga from the original site at the Kushasthali or Cortalim on the banks of river Aghanashini to its present location at Mangeshi in Priol village of Atrunja Taluka, which was then ruled by the Hindu kings of Sonde of Antruz Mahal (Ponda), to be more secure.

Since the time of the shifting, the temple has been rebuilt and renovated twice during the reign of the Marathas and again in the year 1890.

The final renovation occurred in the year 1973 when a golden kalasha (holy vessel) was fitted atop the tallest dome of the temple.

The original site was a very simple structure, and the current structure was only built under Maratha rule, some 150 years after it had been moved. The Peshwas donated the village of Mangeshi to the temple in 1739 on the suggestion of their Sardar, Shri Ramchandra Malhar Sukhtankar, who was a staunch follower of Shri Mangesh. Just a few years after, it was built this area too fell into Portuguese hands in 1763, but by then the Portuguese had lost their initial religious zeal and had become quite tolerant of other religions, and this structure remained untouched.

The main temple is dedicated to Bhagavan Mangesh, an incarnation of Shiva. Bhagavan Mangesh is worshipped here as Shiva linga. According to the legend, Shiva had manifested into a tiger to scare his wife Parvati. Paravati, who was frightened at the sight of the tiger, went in search of Shiva and cried out, "Trahi Mam girisha!" (Oh Lord of Mountains, save me!). Upon hearing the words, Shiva turned himself back to his normal form. The words "mam girisha" became associated with Shiva and over time the words got abbreviated to Manguirisha or Manguesh.

The visit of Church of St. Francis of Assisites one of the World famous Catholic Churches is worth mentioning here. The church was built in 1661 by the Portuguese Viceroyalty of India. The Church is best known for its painting designs and

rich carvings. "Baroque" was described to be the architecture style adopted by them. This was followed by the visit of Campal beach and Goa Kalaacademy.

The evening was spent by the group in a befitting manner by undertaking Boat cruise in Mandovi Panji river where the visitors were spell bound by enjoying the dance performances performed by the local artists exhibiting the combination of Indian and Portuguese cultures.

On the last day of the visit the participants of the meet visited sinquetim beach in north Goa, Bagha and Calangute beach in north Goa and Fort Aguda

The visit of the fort was very interesting. The fort was constructed in 1612 to guard against the Dutch and the Marathas. It was a reference point for the vessels coming from Europe at that time. This Old Portuguese fort stands on the beach south of Candolim, at the shore of the Mandovi River. It was initially tasked with defense of shipping and the nearby Bardez sub district.

A freshwater spring within the fort provided water supply to the ships that used to stop by. This is how the fort got its name: Aguada, meaning Water. Crews of passing ships would often visit to replenish their fresh water stores. On the fort stands a four-storey Portuguese lighthouse, erected in 1864 and the oldest of its kind in Asia. Built in 1612, it was once the grand stand of 79 cannons. It has the capacity

of storing 2,376,000 gallons of water, one of the biggest freshwater storages of the time in whole of Asia. This fort is divided in two segments: the upper part acted as fort and watering station, while the lower part served as a safe berth for Portuguese ships. Whereas the upper part has a moat, underground water storage chamber, gunpowder room, light house and bastions, it also has a secret escape passage to use during time of war and emergency. The lighthouse at initial stage was used to emit light once in 7 minutes. In 1834 it was changed to emit light creating eclipse every 30 seconds however it was abandoned in 1976.

Fort Aguada was the most prized and crucial fort of Portuguese. The fort is so large that it envelopes the entire peninsula at the south western tip of Bardez. Built on the mouth of river Mandovi, it was strategically located and was the chief defence of Portuguese against the Dutch and Marathas.

During the Salazar Administration, Fort Aguada was repurposed for use as a prison primarily, some claim, for Salazar's political opponents. The delicious lunch on the last day of the "reunion meet" was followed by a closing ceremony where all the participants felicitated Mr. & Mrs. R.N.Desai by presenting them with shawls and mementoes. The Speakers were all praise for Desai couple whose persistence, constant pursuance and patience yielded good results in making the batch meets meet a grand success. The participants took a decision to conduct two

"Reunion (75-77 batch of SFRC) meets" one at Bali in Indonesia to be organized by Sri. G. D. Golani who is presently posted in Jakarta and another one near Mysore in Karnataka to be organized by Sri Narayana the owner of Jala Dhama resorts within a span of one year. Both of them belong to 75-77 SFRC alumni.

Conclusion: Sustaining human relationships with the near and dear ones is one of the greatest traits of any individual endowed with wisdom and maturity. One may meet any individual initially as an acquaintance who may turn out to be a friend later. If a friend turns out to be one with whom a human relationship is established and sustained it will be the best outcome in anybody's fruitful life.

The Chief Secretary of a State Government or a clerk in any office before their retirement and a person who picks up rags or one who rises to riches shall by and large have their ego directly proportional to the office they were holding earlier or the riches that they possess respectively which is bound to come to a "naught" at some time or other.

Then what matters is how many will truly shed their tears once an individual passes away. Such "Reunion meets" will definitely pave the way to sustain good relationships between all those participants which are also expected through cultural meets among ethnic groups from time to time.

WORLD HEMOPHILIA DAY

By

M. Vasudeva Rao

Hemophilia is a medical condition in which the ability of the blood to clot is severely reduced, causing the sufferer to bleed severely from even a slight injury. The condition is typically caused by a hereditary lack of a coagulation factor. World Hemophilia Day was started in 1989 by the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH) which chose to bring the community together on April 17 in honor of WFH founder Frank Schnabel's birthday. Every year a theme is selected and Hemophilia day is observed. This year's theme is "Reaching Out: The first step to care." The theme of year 2018 was "Sharing knowledge makes us stronger". Globally, it is spearheaded by the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH) based in Montreal, Canada. Its symptoms include frequent nosebleeds, gum bleeds, unexplained and excessive bleeding from cuts or injuries or after surgery or dental work, large or deep bruises, or unusual bleeding after vaccinations.

The History of Hemophilia: People in ancient times wrote about blood and bleeding problems. They could see that some people bled differently. But they knew very little about how blood clots. It was not until just before World War II that doctors learned that hemophilia A was caused by a problem with a protein in the blood, later called factor VIII. Eleven other blood factors were recognized in the 1950s. They were given Roman numeral names in 1961 to avoid

confusion.

Hemophilia has been called a "royal disease". This is because the hemophilia gene was passed from Queen Victoria, who became Queen of England in 1837, to the ruling families of Russia, Spain, and Germany. Queen Victoria's gene for hemophilia was caused by spontaneous mutation. Of her children, one son, Leopold, had hemophilia, and two daughters, Alice and Beatrice, were carriers. Beatrice's daughter married to the Spanish royal family. She passed the gene to the male heir to the Spanish throne. Queen Victoria's other daughter, Alice, had a carrier daughter, Alix. Alix became Empress Alexandra at her marriage to Russia's Czar Nicholas in 1894. Their son, born in 1904 and named Alexis, inherited hemophilia from his mother. The young man Alexis was treated for bleeds by the mysterious Rasputin, known as a holy man with the power to heal. The fascinating story of this royal family is told in the book Nicholas and Alexandra by Robert Massie (the father of a son with hemophilia).

Hemophilia research has come a long way. Around 1900, scientists found that human blood could be divided into groups or types. This made blood transfusions much more successful. In 1930, scientists learned how to separate blood into its major parts, plasma and red cells.

In the early 1960s, Dr. Judith Graham Pool discovered a process of freezing and thawing plasma to get a layer of factor-rich plasma (cryoprecipitate). Cryoprecipitate was the best way of stopping hemophilia bleeds ever seen. The greatest breakthrough in hemophilia treatment, however, was the development of factor concentrates. Clotting factor could be freeze-dried into a powder that is easy to store, carry, and take. With factor concentrates, people with hemophilia can be treated more quickly than ever before. Factor concentrates have made it possible for people to treat their bleeds at home or at work, so they can lead more normal lives.

The first factor concentrates were all made from human blood. The newest forms are not made from blood but are manufactured using recombinant technology. Both plasma-based (from blood) factor concentrates and recombinant factor concentrates are explained in The Treatment Chapter.

Types of Hemophilia: There are mainly two types of hemophilia. Hemophilia A, also called factor VIII (FVIII) deficiency, another one is hemophilia B, also called Factor IX (FIX) deficiency. Other types are factor II, V, VII, XIII, are genetic disorder caused by missing or defective factors, a clotting protein mostly passed down, from parents to children.

According to our Hemophilia Federation (India), and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, hemophilia occurs in approximately

1 in 5,000 live births. There are about 20,000 people with hemophilia in the U.S, and so far identified cases are more than 13000 in India, 3300 in our Telangana and Andhra Pradesh states. All races and ethnic groups are affected.

Genetics: The X and Y chromosomes are called sex chromosomes. The gene for hemophilia is carried on the X chromosome. Hemophilia is inherited in an X-linked recessive manner. Females inherit two X chromosomes, one from their mother and one from their father (XX). Males inherit X chromosome from their mother and a Y chromosome from their father (XY). That means if a son inherits an X chromosome carrying hemophilia from his mother, he will have hemophilia. It also means that fathers cannot pass hemophilia on to their sons.

But because daughters have two X chromosomes, even if they inherit the hemophilia gene from their mother, most likely they will inherit a healthy X chromosome from their father and not have hemophilia. A daughter who inherits an X chromosome that contains the gene for hemophilia is called a carrier. She can pass the gene on to her children. Hence females are carriers, males are sufferers. Hemophilia can occur in daughters, but is rare. For a female carrier, there are four possible outcomes for each pregnancy: A girl who is not a carrier, A girl who is a carrier, A boy without hemophilia, A boy with hemophilia.

Symptoms: People with hemophilia A often, bleed longer than other people. Bleeds can

occur internally, into joints and muscles, or externally, from minor cuts, dental procedures or trauma. How frequently a person bleeds and the severity of those bleeds depends on how much FVIII is in the plasma, the straw-colored fluid portion of blood. At the 3rd month, red patches, skin bleeds appear. Abnormality in basic blood test of APP, APTT give accurate diagnosis show Normal plasma levels of FVIII range from 50% to 150%. Levels below 50%, or half of what is needed to form a clot, determine a person's symptoms.

Mild hemophilia A- 6% to 49% of FVIII in the blood. People with mild hemophilia A generally experience bleeding only after serious injury, trauma or surgery. In many cases, mild hemophilia is not diagnosed until an injury, surgery or tooth extraction results in prolonged bleeding. The first episode may not occur until adulthood. Women with mild hemophilia often experience menorrhagia, heavy menstrual periods, and can hemorrhage after childbirth.

Moderate hemophilia A. 1% up to 5% of FVIII in the blood. People with moderate hemophilia A tend to have bleeding episodes after injuries. Bleeds that occur without obvious cause are called spontaneous bleeding episodes.

Severe hemophilia A <1% of FVIII in the blood. People with severe hemophilia A experience bleeding following an injury and may have frequent spontaneous bleeding episodes, often into their joints and muscles.

Diagnosis: The best place for patients with

hemophilia to be diagnosed and treated is at one of the federally-funded hemophilia treatment centers (HTCs) that are spread throughout the country. HTCs provide comprehensive care from skilled hematologists and other professional staff, including nurses, physical therapists, social workers and sometimes dentists, dieticians and other healthcare providers.

A medical health history is important to help determine if other relatives have been diagnosed with a bleeding disorder or have experienced symptoms. Tests that evaluate clotting time and a patient's ability to form a clot

Different bleeds: Common bleeds are in joints. Gum bleed occur for a longer period. Hip, Brain, Gastric, Urinary bleeds are life threatening. The inner spontaneous bleeds cause severe pain. Pain killers increase the more bleed tendency. Only aids like Paracetamol, Crocin are to be used, with required factor replacement.

Treatment: The hematologist can treat, but managed easily with a physician also. The treatment with factor replacement is very expensive. The main medication to treat hemophilia A is concentrated **FVIII product**, called clotting factor or simply factor. Recombinant factor products, which are developed in a lab through the use of DNA technology, preclude the use of human-derived pools of donor-sourced plasma. And while

plasma-derived FVIII products are still available, approximately 75% of the hemophilia community takes a recombinant FVIII product. The factor is infused as per body weight, like insulin in diabetic patients. Each vial of factor VIII 250 units cost Rs 6000. And on an average, a child of 40 kg body weight with normal elbow bleed requires more than 600 units costing to Rs 12000 per dose, & required it for minimum 3 days almost Rs.36000. If the bleed is repeated, more high dosage is required. In life threatening bleed the person requires more dosage, many more days.

In rare cases, 1% patients get inhibitors, (antigens to factor) in the middle of treatment. Resulting the factor does not support to control bleed, so Factor VII has to be infused. Each 1 gram vial cost Rs 43000. And depending on an internal bleed the 40 kg body weight patient requires 5 vials every 12 hours for 3 days minimum.

Recently, a PIL was filed in high court, for free treatment in Govt. hospitals. But due to expensive treatment, lack of enough hospital budget many times, insufficient FACTOR dose or delayed treatment causing life threatening or leading to cripples in many cases.

Good private set up & NIMS hospital is well equipped, supporting even major surgeries saved many lives. Due to this, we have few patients turned Doctors, soft ware engineers, scientists, bank employees and many more.

Due to this type of rare disorder, 70% of children do not have basic education. 10% have normal

education. 10% have higher education, as parents are affording for treatment. 5% of patients are affected with HIV, 25 affected with blood born infections like Hepatitis... etc. Mostly poverty made these to opt for fresh blood, cheaply available for immediate relief from pain. With a minimum required treatment these persons can lead near normal life.

These factor therapies are infused intravenously through a vein in the arm or a port in the chest. The Medical and Scientific Advisory Council (MASAC) of the National Hemophilia Foundation encourages the use of recombinant clotting factor products because they are safer. Patients with severe hemophilia may be on a routine treatment regimen, called prophylaxis, to maintain enough clotting factor in their bloodstream to prevent bleeds. In USA, it's covered in health insurance scheme and on regular, normal, free treatment. So people are leading normal life

Prevention: The girls can be tested for carrier detection of hemophilia. The pregnant lady can be tested for affected child with PNDT – (pre natal detection test). So that future generations are saved.

HEMOPHILIA FEDERATION: World head office is in Montreal, Canada. Hemophilia Federation (India) in India with 75 associated Chapters are working all over the nation.

Our head office and chapters are working selflessly with motto "hemophilia without disability – free of pain". In the last 25 years, we

are successful in creating good awareness among public, treating Physicians, Orthopedician, Physiotherapists and all. Recently we are concentrating on prevention of this plight in future generations. Not only HEMOPHILIA, THALESAMIA, DELAYED MILE STONES, but also many more genetic disorders can be corrected and prevented with Rs 12000

test. The government has to set up supportive treatment centers, Pathology labs to cater to the needs at least in capital cities of our country. For more updates & information please feel free to contact us.

(The author can be contacted on mobile No. 9154173111)



Birthday Greetings

We wish the following born on the dates mentioned

" A very Happy Birth Day "

S.No.	Name of the member	D.O.B.		
	Sarva Sri		16. Ravuri Hanumantha Rao	01-05-1961
1.	Iqbal Singh	09-04-1953	17. B.Nagaraju	01-05-1963
2.	V. Subbaraghavaiah	10-04-1935	18. Padal Sagar	03-05-1964
3.	S. Mahadev	10-04-1951	19. Kallol Biswas	04-05-1964
4.	S. Krishnaiah	15-04-1952	20. Maddela Joji	04-05-1967
5.	J.V.K.T Prabakar Rao	15-04-1953	21. Tadepalli Sreenivasa Rao	04-05-1969
6.	S.Veerabhadram	17-04-1950		
7.	S.V.Kumar	21-04-1953		
8.	C. Sammi Reddy	01-05-1951		
9.	K.Prabhu Prasad	02-05-1946		
10.	G.Prabhakar Reddy	02-05-1952		
11.	P. Kanaka Ratnam	05-05-1949		
12.	G.Satyanarayana	05-05-1950		

Secretary

S.No.	Name of Serving Officers	D.O.B.
1.	Ms. Nandani Salaria	06-04-1988
2.	Dr. Shanthi Priya Pandey	08-04-1972
3.	G. Kista Goud	08-04-1974
4.	R.M. Dobriyal	10-04-1965
5.	Bora Raja Rao	12-04-1965
6.	Leli Bheemaiah	17-04-1963
7.	R. Jagannath Singh	18-04-1985
8.	B.N.N Murthy	19-04-1979
9.	M. Siva Prasad	20-04-1981
10.	K. Rajasekhara Rao	20-04-1968
11.	C. Sridhara Rao	24-04-1965
12.	Bolleddu Vijay Kumar	24-04-1968
13.	C. Selvam	24-04-1986
14.	M.J Akbar	26-04-1962
15.	Poojari Venkateshwarlu	01-05-1962



Please see Page No : 51 for details

NEWS AND NOTES

CBI arrests two Indian Forest Service officers:

The CBI has arrested two senior Indian Forest Service officers for allegedly bribing an environment ministry official, officials said.

Tarun Johri and D Gogoi, chief conservators of forest, posted in Arunachal Pradesh and Port Blair, respectively, were arrested in a case of Rs 20,000 bribe to the ministry official for getting a departmental work done.

It is alleged that a departmental service matter of Gogoi was pending in the ministry for which he sought help of batch mate Johri, who was on a visit to Delhi. Johri paid Rs 10,000 to the official on behalf of Gogoi to a ministry official, they said.

Scientists found a new venomous snake that can strike sideways:

- Like other stiletto snakes, this new species can inject venom into prey without even opening its mouth.

The stiletto breeds of snakes are, tricky for scientists and handlers to deal with. It's not because they're particularly aggressive, rather it's because they inject their venom by stabbing their fangs out to the side of their mouth.

In what's good news for nature lovers and bad news for anyone who may have to actually hold one of these snakes, a new species of stiletto snake has been discovered in West Africa by Dr. Mark-Oliver Roedel and his team from Berlin's Natural History Museum.

The new snake is called Branch's Stiletto Snake, or *Atractaspis branchi*, in honour of South African snake expert William Branch, who passed away last October. The team found three of the new snakes, and said in their paper that the species can be found in western Liberia and

southeastern Guinea.

Scientists usually hold snakes with fingers-behind-the-head technique, since most snakes attack by opening their mouth and lunging forward. This doesn't work for Branch's Stiletto Snake and others in its family, who can bite — by stabbing with their fangs — without even opening their mouths. The team says the new species is thinner with a longer tail-to-snout ratio compared to other stiletto snakes. They also hypothesize that such snakes are endemic to the Upper Guinea forest zone.

Brigadier struts his stuff! Highly decorated PENGUIN Sir Nils Olav waddles past the King of Norway's Guards as he receives his new

title: - King penguin Sir Nils Olav was promoted to Brigadier by his Majesty the King of Norway's Guard, who paid him a visit for a special ceremony at Edinburgh Zoo in Scotland.

Sir Nils wore a gold military pin as he proudly paraded his way up the zoo's Penguin Walk, whilst the soldiers of the guard stood to attention.

Barbara Smith, from the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, said: 'We are honored to host His Majesty the King of Norway's Guard as they bestow a prestigious new title upon our king penguin, Sir Nils Olav.

'It is a very proud moment and represents the close collaboration between our two countries, Scotland and Norway.'

Over 50 soldiers were in attendance to watch their favorite penguin get rewarded for his years of dedicated service.

The Guardsmen were in Scotland as they are

taking part in The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, a grand concert featuring military bands, later this month.

Sir Nils is visited by the Guardsmen every few years and it is said that he recognizes them each time they stop by to say hello. Crowds gather to watch Sir Nils receive his prestigious promotion at Edinburgh Zoo.

Brigadier David Allfrey, Producer and Chief Executive of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, added: 'This is just a simply fantastic example of the great relations between our two countries, and it couldn't be a more charming tradition.'

'At the Tattoo we of course have many inspecting officers but this is by far my favorite. Congratulations, Brigadier Olav!'

Pictured, Sir Nils is promoted by the King of Norway's Guard during an awards ceremony. Pictured, Sir Nils waddles past the 50 Guardsmen. The Guardsmen visit Sir Nils every few years and his keepers say that 'Nils always recognizes the Norwegian Guardsmen when they visit.'

Since his adoption by the Norwegian military, over two decades ago, he has worked his way up the ranks - beginning his career as just a mascot.

Iceland elects 41-year-old environmentalist as prime minister: - Katrin Jakobsdottir, the 41-year-old chairwoman of the Left-Green Movement, has been elected Prime Minister of Iceland. One of the most well-liked politicians in Iceland, Katrín, a former education minister and avowed environmentalist, has pledged to set Iceland on the path to carbon neutrality by 2040. As Iceland's fourth prime minister in only two years, Katrín will take office at a time when national politics have been tainted by public

distrust and scandal. A democratic socialist, Katrín is viewed as a bridge-building leader that may lead the country towards positive, incremental change. "She is the party leader who can best unite voters from the left and right," said Eva H. Onnudottir, a political scientist at the University of Iceland, according to the New York Times. "Because this coalition includes parties from the left to the right, their work will be more about managing the system instead of making 'revolutionary' changes."

Since forming its governing coalition, Katrín's Left-Green party has already taken bold steps to assert its environmentalism. Rather than appointing a party member of parliament, the Left-Greens have picked Guðmundur Ingi Guðbrandsson, environmental activist and CEO of Landvernd, the largest nature conservation and environmental NGO in Iceland, to serve as Minister of the Environment. The government's new coalition is expected to continue the work to address climate change began under previous administrations.

While climate change has proven to be somewhat of a boost for Iceland's tourism industry, which welcomed approximately 2.2 million visitors in 2017, the nation of just over 300,000 recognizes the importance of shifting to a clean energy economy and preparing for disruptive changes in the coming decades. Iceland's climate change action plan involves shifting to clean energy in transportation by improving infrastructure for electric cars, planting more trees, and sourcing all energy for public institutions from renewable sources.

LEGAL NOTES

State of Bihar Vs. Murad Ali Khan & Ors

On 08.06.1986, the Forest Range Officer, Kundurugutu, on information about killing of an elephant in Compt. No. 13 of Kundurugutu reserved forest, made a report to the Officer in Charge of Sonu Police Station, with a request to register a case and take up investigation. On enquiry by the Range Officer, it is disclosed that a coupe overseer had seen the accused persons entering the forest by using a vehicle Jeep No. BRX 9588, on the morning of, 01.06.1986, at about 9 A.M. He had seen the driver and could identify him. On further investigation, it was found that Murad Ali Khan, Farukh Salahuddin, Vikram Singh and others are involved in the offence. The Range Officer visited the scene of offence and exhumed the body of the elephant. It was found that both tusks of the elephant have been removed and are missing.

The police, on the information furnished by the Range Officer, registered a case under Sections 447, 429 and 379 read with sections 54 and 39 of the Wildlife Protection Act.

The Range Officer collected more details of the offence and recovered one tusk; the other tusk could not be recovered as it was sent to another place for its disposal. After recording the statements of the accused, the Range Officer filed a complaint before the Judicial Magistrate of First Class at Chaibasa. The Magistrate took

cognizance of the offence under S. 9 (1) read with S. 51 of the Wildlife Protection Act and ordered issue of process to the accused on 01.07.1986. The case registered by the police was still under investigation.

The accused persons filed a petition in the High Court at Patna under S. 482, Cr. P.C. to quash proceedings commenced at the instance of the Range Officer. It was urged before the High Court by the accused that the case is under investigation by the police and that the police investigation is still in progress; the matter is also attracted by S. 210 (1), Cr. P.C. It was submitted that the Learned Magistrate acted without jurisdiction. The High Court quashed the proceedings against the accused persons on 13.02.1987/18.02.1987.

Aggrieved by the order of the High Court, the State filed Special Leave Petition (SLP) and Criminal Appeal Nos. 551-553 of 1988 before the Supreme Court under Art. 136 of the Constitution of India. The appeals were heard by a Bench comprising The Hon'ble Justice M.N. Venkatachalaiah and The Hon'ble Justice Ranganath Misra. While considering the facts of the case, the Court felt that the High Court quashed the proceedings of the Magistrate for the reason that the FIR does not contain the names of the accused and that there is no eye

witness to the crime. The Magistrate acted beyond his jurisdiction in taking cognizance of the offence, as for the same allegation the investigation by police was said to be still in progress. It was inferred by the High Court that the Magistrate acted contrary to the provisions of Sec. 210 Cr. P.C

The Hon'ble Supreme Court observed that on a careful consideration of the matter, the approach and the conclusion reached by the High Court is unsupportable. It was stated that certain provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act in regard to cognizability and investigation of wildlife offences were not placed before the High Court. At this stage, the Hon'ble Supreme Court referred to the dangers of ecological imbalances on account of activities of the 'civilized man'. The state to which the ecological imbalances and consequent environmental damage have reached is so alarming that unless immediate, determined and effective steps were taken damage might become irreversible. The court referred to the foreword on 'International Wildlife Law' by HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh; international conventions; environmentalists' conception of the ecological balance in nature. The court also referred to the ban imposed on hunting certain animals by the Emperor Ashoka. The Bench dealt at length with the various

provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act viz. S.2 (16) (definition of hunting), S. 51 (Penalties), S.9 (1) (Violation), S.55 (Cognizance of offences) and found that the person who lodged the complaint on 23.06.1986 is a statutory functionary though Jurisdictional police purported to have registered a case for the alleged offence but Sec. 210 (1) Cr. P.C would not be attracted having regard to the position that cognizance of such offence can only be taken on complaint of an officer mentioned in S. 55 of the Wildlife Protection Act. Held, it could not be said that the complaint does not spell out the ingredients of the alleged offence and the view taken by the High Court cannot be sustained. Sec. 482 Cr. P.C gives inherent power to High Court to prevent abuse of the process of any court. This power has to be sparingly used. The High Court should not embark upon an enquiry. That is the function of the trial court. The ground on which the High Court came to quash proceedings of the Magistrate, on the facts of the case, is impermissible. In the result, the appeals were allowed on 10.10.1988 and the proceedings of the Magistrate were restored.

A. I. R 1989 SC. 1 & 1989 Crl. L. J. 1005. **K.B.R**



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