

# VANA PREMI

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Photo collected and contributed by Mr. Deorenarayan

**It wasn't just a forest; it was home for many.  
If we destroy forests at the current rate,  
very soon, our fate will also be the same.**

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

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- Two Eco-Tourism Projects in the back water of Nagarjunasagar and near Kawal Tiger Reserve are in the pipe line.
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## EDITORIAL

Water is essential for the survival of all living organisms; let it be human beings, pet animals, wild animals or plants. In human beings and animals including wild animal's fluid and electrolyte is maintained. Water accounts for 60% to 70% of our body weight. It is a constituent of blood and other vital body fluids. Water plays a key role in elimination of body wastes and regulation of body temperature. Plants can synthesis food through photosynthesis only in the presence of water in their system. Water is essential for the germination of seeds, growth of plant, and nutrition and multiplication of soil organism. It helps in the conversion of starch to sugar. Water maintains turgidity in plants. Turgidity is essential in plant cells to make them keep standing upright. Plant cells that lose much water have less turgid pressure, and tend to become flaccid. Humans ingest water as plain drinking water, as beverages, and in food. Water in food can be inherent or added during preparation, and also produced by metabolism. All contribute to the "total water intake." Human beings need on an average daily two liters of water intake and each person uses about 80-100 liters of water per day including all needs. This may vary depending on weather condition. An individual's level of activity is one of the greatest indicators of the amount of water he/she should drink each day. As an individual grows older, the need for water intake decreases slightly, but adequate water intake is still just as vital to the body's functioning. Dehydration is

the adverse consequence of inadequate water intake. The symptoms of acute dehydration vary with the degree of water deficit. For example, fluid loss at 1% of body weight impairs thermoregulation and, thirst occurs at this level of dehydration. Thirst increases at 2%, with dry mouth appearing at approximately 3%. A 10% loss of body water through dehydration is life-threatening. Excess of water in the body may cause water intoxication. The conditions would range from nausea, vomiting to lethargy, convulsions coma and even death. All living organisms except plants lose water through sweat, urine and feces and they need water continuously. Plants also lose water every day through the process of transpiration, the evaporation of water from plants primarily through pores in their leaves. Guttation is a process in which leaves lose water in the shape of liquid through stomata i.e. small openings in the leaf.

If we go back to the year 1970 that is about 50 years ago there was copious of water available. Sources of water were open wells, bore wells, tanks Rivers, streams, Lakes and Dams with full of water. Every year rainfall was good. Total rainy days were more than today. Total forest cover including private forest was much higher than today. Water was available everywhere. In 1971 India's total population was only 56.62 crores. During 1970 we never expected that after few years we will feel acute shortage of water and have to purchase water and drink. India's

population started increasing. Today India's total population is 1.36 hundred crores which are almost an increase of 2.5 times of 1970 population and the water sources have reduced many folds. Now 18 percent of the world's population which resides in India only has access to 4 percent of usable water sources. Due to increase in population demand for food items increased and to produce more and more food large numbers of bore wells were dug. Instead of selecting crops which require less water, traditionally we are raising crops whose water requirement is the maximum and wasting huge quantity of water. Slowly water crisis started. Rivers, streams open wells, bore wells and tanks, started drying up. Water table has gone down. Once, a source of sweet, pure water for the textile towns of Coimbatore and Tiruppur, the Noyyal River is now a lifeless receptacle of human wastes and toxic industrial effluents from the dyeing units and textile factories of Tiruppur. River Musi which was once the lifeline of Hyderabad is a small drainage *nala* today. Yamuna at Delhi and Agra, there is no original water left, only narrow streams of urban and industrial waste water that's pumped continuously into these glorified sewers. These are only few examples and if we enumerate countries rivers there will be many more. Many other rivers are dead or dying. All the 13 great river systems of our country are endangered. As the rivers wither away, millions who depend on them for their livelihood are finding their way of life changing and worse, finding their very lives in peril: Each of India's 13

major river basins-making up 80 per cent of the total surface water and home to nearly 85 per cent of the population - is so polluted, mainly in stretches near towns and industrial belts, that bacteria feeding on the waste are the only things that have proliferated their counts are anywhere between 20 times and 1,000 times over safe levels. Skin diseases are increasing. Contaminated river water is also blamed for the rising incidence of water-borne diseases like dysentery, typhoid and jaundice in small towns and villages, where household water is drawn directly from rivers without treatment. River water laced with industrial toxins is irrigating farmland, the effects on our food still mostly unknown. Millions of liters of untreated sewage are dumped in water bodies every day.

A report on the Bhavani in Tamil Nadu warned that some of the most toxic chemicals known to man, cancer-causing dioxins and organochlorines, were being released by factories near Mettur directly into the river. Its waters were irrigating nearby fields. The four reservoirs supplying the bulk of the Chennai city's drinking water have completely dried up, this year leading the Chennai Metro Water to cut the water it provides by about 40%. The water shortage in Chennai started several weeks ago and Madras's high court has criticized the Tamil Nadu state government for inaction. The court accused the government of waiting passively for the arrival of the monsoon instead of proactively handling the water crisis which, it said, did not happen in a day. Many student

hostels have been closed in Chennai. Some of the hotels have reduced their working hours. Some software companies have sent employees home because of the water shortage but, as one employee said, being at home is no solution as the taps there are also dry. In 2016, the city of Latur experienced a great water shortage and water was transported to Latur by Railway wagons, and shortage of water is again repeated this year. Much of the farming industry came to a halt and created both food insecurity and massive unemployment. Much of the local economy and farming regions nearly collapsed with the citizens having no choice but to use the polluted water or migrate to other cities which are already overcrowded and over populated. The acute water shortage prevailing in the forest areas of Tamil Nadu's districts of Madurai and Dindigul has led to the deaths of Indian gaurs found in the forest region, as they come in search of water are killed falling into the wells.

In news item published in Deccan Chronicle dated 22-06-2019 it says that "India is facing the worst water crises in history. The report says more than 600 million people are facing acute water shortages and 21 cities in India including

Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai and Delhi are expected to run out of ground water by 2020". Water scarcity in India is expected to worsen as the overall population is expected to increase to 1.6 billion by year 2050.

We know the importance and necessity of water for the survival of all living organisms and we have to save water for our survival. The following are some of the methods of saving the water. Turn off the tap when you brush your teeth and , shave, place a cistern displacement device in your toilet cistern to reduce the volume of water, take a shorter shower, always use full loads in your washing machine and dishwasher, fix a dripping tap, water your garden with a watering can, fill a jug with tap water and place this in your fridge, install a water meter, invest in water-efficient goods, use water in a bucket for washing car instead a hose.

Vana Premi wishes that we together will follow water saving methods and protect our water bodies from getting polluted. We also have to reduce our population for reducing the water usage.

**QMK**

*Water Covers 2/3 of the surface of the Earth but Only 0.002% is Drinkable. Save Water.*

## MINISTER FOR MOEF&CC CANNOT OVERRULE THE OPINION OF MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR WILDLIFE - RULING BY NGT

By  
**P. S. Rao**

1. An appeal was filed before National Green Tribunal (NGT) with a prayer to set aside Forest Clearance (FC) granted by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (FC Act) and the consequent order issued by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh for diversion of 1415.92 ha of forest land for construction of 1750 MW Demwe Lower Hydroelectric Project (HEP) across Lohit river in Lohit District of Arunachal Pradesh by M/s. Athena Demwe Power Pvt. Ltd. (ADPPL). (The author of this article was part of the Bench which heard the case and delivered the judgment)

2. The appellants contended that FC was granted based on wrong, misleading and inadequate information submitted by the Government of Aunachal Pradesh. It was wrongly mentioned that in the proposed area the existence of rare/ endangered species of flora and fauna is not significant and the area does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve or Elephant Corridor. The appellants have alleged that the location of the proposed project is in the midst of several ecologically and culturally important sites and it is one of

the 34 biodiversity hotspots identified globally and therefore the project would be having an impact on the flora and fauna. Further, the appellants referred to the inspection report of Deputy Conservator of Forests (Dy. CF) of the Division, based on which proposals were submitted under FC Act, which according to them is misleading. To a question whether the forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view, the reply given by the Dy. CF is in the negative. On the other hand, it is the case of the appellants that several Schedule-I species under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 are available in the area and by the proposed diversion of forest land migratory routes of wild animals will be affected.

3. The appellants also stated that in the proposals filled by the Dy. CF even the scientific names of animals and plants are not properly recorded. The appellants referred to the Important Bird Area (IBA) and Chapories of Lohit River which covers the entire river bed of the Lohit from Brahmakund Bridge to the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border which forms an area crisis crossed with numerous channels turning it into a complex water bodies, riverine

islands, grasslands and forests. Substantial portions of downstream stretches of the Lohit river are part of the forest land. The appellants also averred that in the proposals there is no mention of potential Ramsar site in the area. Eventhough Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary is mentioned, the proposal does not reveal the proposed forest area which falls in the Ecologically Fragile Zone around the sanctuary. A reference is made in the appeal about the Wildlife Conservation Strategy 2002 adopted by the Indian Board for Wildlife stating that by default an area within 10 km radius of National Parks and Sanctuaries is to be declared as Ecologically Sensitive Zone (ESZ) as per the Supreme Court orders if ESZ is not yet declared by the Central government under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. A reference is also made in the appeal about Arunachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The Demwe HEP submergence area extends to 23 KM upstream including submergence along the river which is part of this identified Conservation Priority Site. In the appeal the appellants have also stated how the Bengal Floricans and Wild Buffalos are likely to be affected by the project. The appellants contended that the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) has not applied it's mind while clearing the proposals. They also quoted various judgments of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in support of their averments.

4. With regard to the decision of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) concurring the diversion of forest land falling in the ESZ of Kamlang Sanctuary, the appellants contended that no enquiry was conducted on the complaint made by one of the appellants Mr. Akhil Gogoi. The former Union Minister of State for MoFF&CC, Sri Jairam Ramesh who is stated to have held public consultation, has written a letter to the then Prime Minister raising serious concerns about the project. However, the complaint made by Mr. Akhil Gogoi along with the reply of the Arunachal Pradesh Government was not placed before the Standing Committee.

5. It is the further case of the appellants that Dr. Asad Rahmani, Director, Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) who is one of the members of the Standing Committee of NBWL and who is an expert in wildlife and who was requested to make a site visit, has clearly endorsed by saying that the project will be definitely affecting the Wildlife. Views of such eminent non official members of Standing Committee of NBWL and objection raised in the representation of Mr. Akhil Gogoi which was supported by at least seven members of the Standing Committee of NBWL have been brushed aside and FC was granted. The appellants have also stated that only ape available in India i.e. Hoolock Gibbon is extremely rare and confined to only Arunachal Pradesh and construction of the HEP is going to

affect its habitat.

6. It is the further case of the appellants that various conditions of Stage-I clearance are opposed to the 'Precautionary principle' and the conditions are imposed after the proposal was appraised by the FAC rendering Stage-I approval meaningless, particularly when the conditions state that the State Government will carry out study on the impact on the wildlife.

7. The appellants thus challenged the impugned orders on the grounds of wrong and inadequate information mentioned in the FC proposal on wildlife habitats, biodiversity rich areas and ecologically and culturally sensitive areas. Many other objections raised by the appellants and observations of the Tribunal on these objections, are not dealt here due to paucity of space.

8. The 1<sup>st</sup> respondent State of Arunachal Pradesh in the reply, have stated that Arunachal Pradesh which is the farthest North Eastern part of the country, is having immense Hydroelectric Power potential as the State is drained by major river basins viz., Tawang, Kameng, Subansiri, Dikrong, Siang, Dibang, Lohit and Tirap. The potential is assessed to be 57,000 MW which is more than 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the total potential in the country. Therefore, the State is going to be immensely benefited by the construction of this project.

9. The State has also contended that the FC Act, 1980 permits unavoidable use of forest land for

developmental purposes and a balance has to be maintained on the conservation of forests on one hand and sustainable development of the country on the other. Therefore the feature of the FC Act, 1980 is regulatory in nature and not prohibitory. While denying the allegations made in the appeal that the State Government has concealed information and there is deliberate suppression of information in the FC proposals and lack of application of mind and furnishing of misleading and wrong information, the State government has chosen to give chronology of events leading to granting of FC and made a prayer to dismiss the appeal. The MoEF&CC also filed their reply giving full details of the circumstances under which they cleared the proposals and granted the FC. The ADPPL which is constructing the project has also given a detailed reply with a prayer to dismiss the appeal.

10. After elaborately hearing the learned counsel appearing for the parties and having referred to the documents filed including various reports and also by referring to the provisions of various enactments the Tribunal felt that the broad issue to be decided is whether granting permission for diversion of forest land is in accordance with law or liable to be set aside on various grounds raised by the appellants. But here in this article the issue with regard to clearance granted by the Standing Committee of NBWL for diverting forest land in

ESZ of Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary is only dealt.

11. As part of the area proposed for diversion is falling in the ESZ of Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary, approval of NBWL is a must before FC is granted. At state level, the State Board for Wildlife (SBWL) under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, has examined the proposal and given its recommendation to the Standing Committee of NBWL which considered the proposal under the Chairmanship of the Minister for MoEF&CC. One of the members of the Standing Committee, Dr. Madhusudhan of Nature Conservation Foundation, made a statement that the impact of the project will be felt downstream and the impact will be beyond the physical area of the project depending upon the manner in which the water flow would be regulated in the river. He also submitted that the fishing activity in the river as well as agriculture and river transportation and livestock rearing might adversely get affected by the project. Another Member Dr. Asad Rahmani pointed out that the proposed dam would have significant negative impact on the wildlife, the Chapories of Lohit river and Dibru Saikhowa National Park, both of which are designated as Important Bird Areas containing critically endangered bird species including Bengal Florican which is a Schedule-I species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act.1972. Another Member Ms. Prerna Bindra pointed out that State does not rest on the said project alone

and many more such projects would be taken up in Arunachal Pradesh's Lohit basin affecting the wildlife. She also stated that the projected aerial distance of 8.5 KM from the Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary was the distance from the proposed dam site, and that the distance of the reservoir created as part of the project would be just 50 Mt. from the sanctuary. However, the Chief Conservator of Forests and Forest Secretary have stated that the impact assessment study has been done by the State Wildlife Department on the downstream of Lohit river and there would be no impact. They also argued that subsequent to the operationalization of the project, minimum flow at 20% level would be maintained in the river even during lean season.

12. After hearing the objections raised by the above non-official members of the Standing Committee of NBWL, it was decided to constitute a Team consisting Dr. Asad Rahmani and Sri. Pratap Singh, a Forest officer to get a clear and balanced picture of the possible impact of the project on the aquatic and other fauna downstream of Lohit river and get a first-hand assessment report on the impact on wildlife. After conducting a detail inspection Dr. Asad Rahmani and Mr. Pratap Singh have given separate reports which were discussed by the Standing Committee of NBWL. It is seen that the other non-official members supported

the report of Dr. Asad Rahmani for rejecting the proposal. However the Minister brushed aside the majority view and recommended the case for granting FC with following additional measures.

a) A comprehensive study will be conducted on the ecological impacts of the environmental changes and mitigation thereof, associated with the commissioning of the project.

b.) A Cumulative Impact Assessment shall be conducted presuming all the proposed dams are constructed on the Lohit River. This study should be made the basis of consideration of any subsequent proposal on the upstream river stretches.

c.) The State Government in consultation with this Ministry will commission Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee to conduct the studies related to the ecological impacts and cumulative impacts of the project.

d.) The above mentioned studies by the IIT, Roorkee will not precede construction of the project, but will continue concurrently and mitigation measures proposed in the studies will also be complied with concurrently.

The said four conditions were incorporated as Condition Nos. 20, 21, 22 and 23 in the Stage-I clearance. This was followed by the Stage-II Clearance by the MoEF&CC and the consequential order of the State Government.

13. The narration of the above said facts would clearly shows that the views of the majority members of the Standing Committee of NBWL, constituted under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, have not been taken into consideration before recommending the case for granting FC.

14. NBWL is constituted under the WL (P) Act, 1972 as follows:

*Section 5-A: Constitution of the National Board for Wild Life.—*

*(1) The Central Government shall, within three months from the date of commencement of the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002 (16 of 2003), constitute the National Board for Wild Life consisting of the following members, namely:— (a) the Prime Minister as Chairperson; (b) the Minister in-charge of Forests and Wild Life as Vice-Chairperson; (c) three members of Parliament of whom two shall be from the House of the People and one from the Council of States; (d) Member, Planning Commission in-charge of Forests and Wild Life; (e) five persons to represent non-governmental organizations to be nominated by the Central Government; (f) ten persons to be nominated by the Central Government from amongst eminent conservationists, ecologists and environmentalists; (g) the Secretary to the Government of India in-charge of the Ministry or Department of the Central Government dealing*

with Forests and Wild Life; (h) the Chief of the Army Staff; (i) the Secretary to the Government of India in-charge of the Ministry of Defence; (j) the Secretary to the Government of India in-charge of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; (k) the Secretary to the Government of India in-charge of the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance; (l) the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Tribal Welfare; (m) the Director-General of Forests in the Ministry or Department of the Central Government dealing with Forests and Wild Life; (n) the Director-General of Tourism, Government of India; (o) the Director-General, Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun; (p) the Director, Wild Life Institute of India, Dehradun; (q) the Director, Zoological Survey of India; (r) the Director, Botanical Survey of India; (s) the Director, Indian Veterinary Research Institute; (t) the Member-Secretary, Central Zoo Authority; (u) the Director, National Institute of Oceanography; (v) one representative each from ten States and Union territories by rotation, to be nominated by the Central Government; (w) the Director of Wild Life Preservation who shall be the Member-Secretary of the National Board.

(2) The term of office of the members other than those who are members *ex officio*, the manner of filling vacancies referred to in clauses (e), (f) and (v) of sub-section (1), and the procedure to

be followed in the discharge of their functions by the members of the National Board shall be such, as may be prescribed.

(3) The members (except members *ex officio*) shall be entitled to receive such allowances in respect of expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as may be prescribed.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the office of a member of the National Board shall not be deemed to be an office of profit.

15. Section 5 B of the said Act enables the NBWL at its discretion, to constitute a Standing Committee consisting of the Vice-Chairman of NBWL, who is the Minister in charge of the Wildlife, the Member Secretary and not more than 10 members to be nominated by the Vice-Chairperson from amongst the members of the National Board. Section 5 B reads as follows:

“ Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife.-

(1) The National Board may, in its discretion, constitute a Standing Committee for the purpose of exercising such powers and performing such duties as may be delegated to the Committee by the National Board.

(2) The Standing Committee shall consist of the Vice-Chairperson, the Member-Secretary, and not more than ten members to be nominated by the Vice-Chairperson from amongst the members of

*the National Board.*

*(3) The National Board may constitute committees, sub-committees or study groups, as may be necessary, from time to time in proper discharge of the functions assigned to it.*

16. The Tribunal observed that it is incumbent on the part of MoEF&CC to examine the decision taken by the Standing Committee of NBWL before granting FC. The issue here is whether the recommendation of the Standing Committee of NBWL is sustainable in law or not. Even if the Standing Committee of NBWL which is a delegated authority of NBWL, is taken as an Advisory Body for NBWL to take a decision, is it open to the Minister to just brush aside the views of majority of the members of the Standing Committee, who are experts in their field. The Tribunal observed that the record placed before it does not in any manner reveal the reasons for not considering the views of the non-official members of the Standing Committee who opposed the diversion of forest land located in ESZ of Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary which incidentally has been declared as a Tiger Reserve. Having been statutorily constituted as per the provisions of the Wildlife (protection) Act, 1972 and in the absence of the method of decision to be taken, the Tribunal was of the view that either the Minister should have recorded the reasons for rejecting the objections raised by majority of the non official members or the decision ought

to have been arrived at based on the opinion of majority of the members of the Standing Committee. Neither of these acceptable principles were followed in arriving at a decision by the Minister. NGT concluded that even though the Standing Committee of NBWL is a recommendatory body, the same being a Statutory Committee established under Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, is bound by the laudable principles of justice and fair play while taking a decision particularly in respect of the region which is admittedly an ecologically sensitive area. It was further observed by the NGT that if any convincing reason is given by the Standing Committee of NBWL, it stands differently for considering the validity or otherwise of the same. In the absence of any reason but only to reject the opinion of the majority of the non-official members who are experts in their field, the NGT observed that in its considered opinion and in all fairness, the Minister who is the Vice-Chairperson of the NBWL, should have taken the decision by recording the reasons. In the absence of acceptable reasons, the Tribunal observed that it has got no hesitation to hold that the decision of the Minister as if it is the decision of the Standing Committee of NBWL which forms the basis of granting FC under the FC Act, 1980, is not sustainable in law.

17. However, in the end the NGT stated that

the FAC has dealt with every aspect of the issues involved in the project and in fact considered the objections raised by the outsiders. Therefore, there is no question of non-application of mind by FAC and it was decided not to set aside the impugned FC (both Stage-I and Stage-II clearance) and the consequential order issued by the State Government. However, the NGT was of the view that in the interest of justice, the Standing Committee of NBWL should consider all the issues afresh, taking into consideration the views expressed by the majority of the members and also to have a fresh look on the ESZ in respect of which various points have been raised which were elicited in the judgment and take a decision. Till such decision is taken, the Tribunal suspended the impugned FC and the consequential order of the Government of Arunachal Pradesh.

18. Accordingly, the NGT ordered that the appeal is partly allowed, holding

a. That there is no illegality or infirmity in the proceedings of the authorities under the FC Act,

1980 during the consideration of the proposal of the project in question by FAC and other authorities under the Act.

b. However, the decision taken by the Standing Committee of NBWL is not in accordance with the established principles of law and hence the Standing Committee of NBWL shall reconsider the issue and pass appropriate revised orders within a period of six months from the date of the judgment.

c. Till such orders are passed, the impugned FC Stage-I and Stage-II clearance issued by the MoEF&CC and the consequential order of the Government of Arunachal Pradesh diverting 1415.92 ha of Forest Land for construction of HEPP stands suspended.

d. After the appropriate revised directions/orders are passed by the Standing Committee of NBWL as per the direction given above, it will be open to pass suitable further orders by the MoEF&CC in respect of the project.

*Whatever may be the occupation  
Water preservation is our  
obligation*

## MOVING FROM 'BREAKING UP OR CLEARING OF FOREST LAND' TO 'OCCUPATION': UNDERSTANDING THE TERM 'ENCROACHMENT' AND BEYOND.

By

**Dr Arvind Kumar Jha**

### **Introduction:**

While hearing a writ petition in the matter of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (Forest Rights Act 2006, in short); the Hon. Supreme Court has ordered on 13-2-2019: "Let Forest Survey of India (FSI) make a satellite survey and place on record the encroachment positions and also state the positions after the eviction as far as possible." The issue of making a satellite survey and placing on record the encroachment positions has been reiterated in the order dated 28-2-2019 also by which a stay has been granted by the Hon. Supreme Court on the eviction of claimants whose claims of Forest Rights were rejected. The term 'encroachment' has been used by the Apex Court which needs to be viewed and understood in its entirety since, as the following paras would reveal, neither the Indian Forest Act 1927, nor the Forest Rights Act 2006 contains the term 'encroachment'.

The section 5 of the Indian Forest Act 1927 provides for bar of accrual of forest rights in the Reserve Forests and also mentions that "After the issue of a notification under section 4, ..... *no fresh clearing for cultivation or for any other purpose shall be made in such land except in accordance with such rules as may be made by the State Government in this behalf*"

The Section 26 provides for punishment to any person who as per sub-section (a) makes any fresh clearing prohibited by section 5, and also who as per sub-section (h) clears or breaks up any land for cultivation or any other purpose in a Reserve Forest.

As per section 30 of the Indian Forest Act, the State Government may, by notification in the

Official Gazette, prohibit, from a date fixed by the notification, ..... the breaking up or clearing for cultivation, for building, for herding cattle or for any other purpose, on any land in any such forest.

As per section 32 of the Indian Forest Act, the State Government may make rules to regulate in the Protected Forests, as mentioned in the sub-section (g), the clearing and breaking up of land for cultivation or other purposes in such forests.

As regards forests and land not being the property of the Government, which includes any land containing trees and shrubs, pasture, lands and any other land whatsoever which the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare to be a forest, the State Government is empowered under section 35 of the Indian Forest Act to protect such forests for special purposes and regulate or prohibit in such forests the breaking up or clearing of the land for cultivation, and clearing of vegetation.

The Forest Rights Act 2006, however, recognizes forest rights in favour of 'forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes' and 'other traditional forest dwellers'. As per section 3(1) (a), the right to hold and live in the forest land under the individual or common occupation for habitation or for self-cultivation for livelihood by a member or members of a forest dwelling Scheduled Tribe or other traditional forest dwellers which secure individual or community tenure or both, is recognized as a forest right on all 'forest lands'. The Forest Rights Act 2006 defines forest land as per section 2(d) as land of any description falling within any forest area and includes

unclassified forests, un-demarcated forests, existing or deemed forests, protected forests, reserved forests, Sanctuaries and National Parks. Forest Rights can be claimed and recognized only on Forest Lands. Thus, although the Forest Rights Act does not explicitly use the term 'encroachment', it basically recognized and legalises the same as 'forest right' subject to a set of conditions, applicable to claimants as well as to the forest land, duly specified under the Act

#### **Encroachment:**

It is important to recognize that the term 'encroachment' needs to be understood in its 'true' meaning when it relates to government land or public property. Forest land is not just a piece of 'land'. It is in fact a public property laden with a bundle of rights of people of this country whose dependence on it ranges from supporting their daily needs and economy to that of serving their 'right to life' through provision of ecological services. Further, the 'right to life' is not restricted to the villagers of the area where such resources exist. It may extend to long distances and larger populations existing in areas upto which the services of the 'locally seen' forests reach through various channels of eco-services.

Encroachment on a government land or public property is an 'unlawful gaining upon the right or possession of another'. This has been dealt with by Hon. Supreme Court in its order dated 19 September 2018 in the case *Janabai vs. Additional Commissioner and Ors.* [S.L.P. (civil) 24212 of 2017]. In view of this, all forest lands and forest resources on which claims of forest rights have been rejected under the Forest Rights Act 2006 (FRA) are encroachments. It is not surprising because the predominant perception about relevance of FRA in our country has revolved around habitation and cultivation on 'forest land'.

Viewing closely, within the perspective of Forest

Rights Act, the term encroachment has been interpreted by most of the people to cover only such cases where the claims of forest rights of habitation and self-cultivation as enunciated in section 3(1)(a) have been rejected. One must understand, however, that all forest lands as also forest resources in all such cases where recognition of forest rights has been done by the Authorities in violation of FRA provisions are also subjects of state supported continuance of 'encroachments'. Further, all orders of District Level Committees under FRA allowing forest rights in violation of the provisions of FRA leads to allowing encroachments into the rights of others, results in injustice, and severely impacts all citizens as well as ecology of the country in the manner enunciated below.

#### **Encroachment and the Rights of stakeholders:**

The local people have been breaking or clearing forest land for various purposes in the past and they have been taken cognizance of as forest offence. Different states have regularized such illegal uses from time to time giving signals to one and all that the forest land was available for such process of final allotment of '*pattas*' in favour of such encroachers. The FRA came as an intervention from the Government of India in this regard directed in favour of FDSTs and OTFDs. It is a matter of record that the FRA also spurred a massively spread activity all over India directed towards making of new 'encroachments' in the forest land which was further accelerated due to the lack of strictness in the implementation of the Act. While the recognition of forest rights in violation of FRA is a simultaneous violation of provisions of Indian Forest Act 1927, Forest Conservation Act 1980, Wildlife Protection Act 1972, and the orders of Hon. Supreme Court in specific cases, the recognition in favour of ineligible persons/communities results in encroachment into the

rights of and gross injustice towards the genuine Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDSTs) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs) and their communities; akin to what happens when the benefits of reservation meant for Scheduled Tribes is granted to others. The illegal recognition of forest rights in favour of ineligible persons/ communities results in encroachment into the existing rights of other villagers on that forest land; rights that were granted in previous settlements to them. Accordingly it results in injustice to all such people in the village.

The illegal recognition of forest rights results in encroachment into the rights of all villagers through legalization of the ineligible person's use of the concerned piece of forest land to the exclusion of all others in the village who depended on such forest lands for various services essential for their life and livelihood. Thus it results in injustice towards the whole population in the village.

The illegal recognition of forest rights causes encroachment into the 'right to life' of every citizen of this country, which includes the present as also our future generations whom we would not like to gasp for oxygen or perish for want of water and adequate ecological services. Such encroachments' effect on common citizen's right to life has an extended scope to include right to wholesome environment and right to sustainable development.

The illegal recognition of individual forest rights, resulting into encouragement of new encroachments, results in unprecedented pock marking of the forests, excessive degree of fragmentation, and increased ingress of human population into the habitat of wildlife thus resulting in encroachment into the home of as also on the right of life of wildlife which includes, inter alia, their right to survive as a species.

The mass scale illegal recognition of forest right

under 3(1)(i), in effect, leads to the unwarranted transfer of the responsibility of protection and management of ecological frontiers of our country from the Government into the hands of masses geographically as well as politically divided on the basis of village boundaries. Such illegal orders result in a de-facto encroachment into State's authority and its mandate under Article 48(A) of the constitution.

Illegal recognition of forest rights, prima facie, allows encroachment into the right to survival of all living forms (including each one of us) and an injustice to all those who have direct or indirect dependence on forests for supply of oxygen, water, biodiversity elements etc.

#### **Summary:**

Continuance of encroachments as also those apparently regularized due to illegal orders on forest rights, through justification of illegal activities, undermines the fundamental principle that ecology and environment are not objects of ownership but are nature's gift intended to be preserved in trust for future generations. They also blatantly violate the Doctrine of Public Trust regarding the use of public lands or natural resources. Unfortunately the public as well as the Government looks at 'encroachment' as an illegal occupation of forest land and nothing beyond. It is necessary that all stakeholders including the Government should understand the implication of such activity as also that of its regularization.

The regularization of illegality as also misuse of FRA needs to be stopped immediately lest it results in utter chaos and confusion like the classic case of Hardin's "tragedy of the commons" wherein multiple individuals, acting independently, and solely and rationally consulting their own self-interest, will ultimately deplete a shared limited forest resource even when it is clear that it is not in anyone's long-term interest for this to happen. Author can be contacted on mobile No. 09822601595

## A TRAVELOGUE: SRI LANKA: A PEARL OF INDIAN OCEAN, AT CROSSROADS?

By  
**Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai.**

### **Introduction:**

Beginning in early 16<sup>th</sup> Century, Sri Lanka's coastal lowlands were successively colonized by (i) the Portuguese, (ii) the Dutch and (iii) the British — until the entire island came under the British by the commencement of 19<sup>th</sup> Century, with the capture (by subterfuge) of the Kandyan kingdom. As Western religion and ideologies spread, Colonial plantations undermined local subsistence-agriculture and the ecological balance, which weakened the people's historical pride in their (and the island's) sovereignty.

Sri Lanka's independence from the British rule came on 4<sup>th</sup> of February, 1948, and I happened to be in Colombo on a parsimonious visit after 3 days of the 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary in a 'gallant ceremony at the Galle Face Green', and was given to understand that Geopolitical rivalry, foreign intervention and constitutional reform for political devolution are posing serious threats to the Island's sovereignty & environmental and human well-being, threatening severely even the country's 'flag independence'!

Though in the early years following independence, policies to nationalize

plantations (& other private enterprises), foster local industries (& develop local culture and identities) were introduced, the same remained only on paper as many of the post-colonial policies backfired — giving rise to massive youth unemployment (& violent social class and communal conflicts). However, the 1972 Constitution replaced the Island's colonial name 'Ceylon' with 'Sri Lanka', declaring the country to be a 'Free, Sovereign, Independent and Democratic Socialist Republic'.

Notwithstanding promises of prosperity and freedom for all, horrific armed conflict over Tamil separation emerged in about five years after the island-nation thus got renamed (as Sri Lanka), that lasted for more than 30 years and which put the extremists in the Government's crosshairs. The Indian Ocean which surrounds it became the centre of world politics, strategy & economics and one of the most strategically contested regions in the world — several States including U.S., China, India and Japan struggling for influence over Sri Lanka, which is so strategically located in the heart of the Ocean, with more than 80% of global seaborne oil-trade to be passing through it.





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ప్రజాబో ముందు

# రైతు సంక్షేమమే 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 కౌలు రైతులకు ప్రాధాన్యత ఇవ్వబడినది.
- ◆ మరణించిన రైతుల ఖాతాలకు కూడా రూ. 51.54 కోట్ల పూర్తి ఋణ ఉపశమనం కల్పించబడినది.
- ◆ ద్రువీకరణ పత్రాలు ఇవ్వక అర్హత కోల్పోయిన రైతులకు అవకాశము కల్పించి ఇప్పటికీ కూడా పూర్తి సారధ్యకృతతో 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**



Present state of affairs:

Two years ago, the Sri Lankan Government made a deal with China granting it a 99-year-lease of Hambantota-Port (in the South) in exchange for a billion-dollar debt relief, raising concerns of the long-term impact on the Sri Lankan people and loss of economic sovereignty. Meanwhile, India is putting together its efforts through available processes by trying to connect to snapped ties that entwined the two nations some half-a-century ago, which can be described at best as **crossing the river by feeling the stones beneath!** Excavation of sand along the coast, which is now rapidly moving forward, is stated to be destroying the habitats of various species including corals, while disturbing the ecological balance and the livelihood of those in the fishing and related industries.

Columbo port is one of the busiest ports in South Asia and an important trans-shipment hub in the region. India is planning to build a sea-bridge and a tunnel, to connect the Southern tip of it with the North West of Sri Lanka, financed by Asian Development Bank. Eastern port of Trincomalee is the second deepest natural harbour in the world, and is of great strategic military value in the Indian Ocean — a logistic hub is being setup to secure support, supplies and services at sea. However, the island nation is severely threatened by climate change — rising sea levels, frequent droughts, floods, landslides and the like.

Sri Lanka will begin hanging convicted drug-dealers within the next few months, its President having announced ending a 43-years moratorium on executions, as part of a track-down. Some 20 people with convictions related to drugs are stated to be in line for execution, with eight of those cases under appeal — Sri Lanka last executing a person in 1976: since then it has sentenced convicted criminals to death, but not carried out the punishment.

A few observations:

Kandy is the home to the Buddhist Temple of the Sacred Tooth, and was the earlier capital of Sri Lankan kings. From a vantage point, we get an overview of British town-planning: a tiered city, built around a man-made lake, placid and picturesque, with tall green trees dotting its periphery. As we made the long ascent up to Nuwara Eliya, by a curvaceous road clinging to the mountain-side, we are provided with dramatic-views of the terraced-tea-plantations and the verdant valleys below. Between the rows of tea-bushes are planted saplings of ***Gliricidia septum* (Fabacea family)** — a symbolic fertilizer, providing the necessary nitrogen into the soil. Every scrap of land is cultivated and beautifully tended — in perfect climatic conditions, a tea-harvest being possible every six weeks.

NuwaraEliya is a delightful mountain-resort and apparently with strict building & development regulations to preserve the integrity of the

architectural character. The climate is so refreshing that it makes the place a favourite destination — the highlight being a leisurely stroll around the grounds of **Ashok Vatika** (or **Hakgala Botanical Gardens**) where **Lord Rama's consort (Devi Sitha) of the great Epic Ramayana (in Sanskrit verse of high quality by Maharshi Vaalmeeki, the Aadi-kavi) had purportedly been held captive by Lanka's Ruler Ravana in Thretha-yuga as per the legend:** I was excited to find the front portion containing abundant number of sub-tropical spp., the wooded hinterland thus stealing the limelight! Not very far away is a temple dedicated to **Lord Hanuman** (at a spot he too is purported to have landed after his legendary flight in search of the 'captive spouse of the Epic's hero', after she was cunningly abducted by the Lanka's ruler, thus virtually committing hamartia) As we journeyed uphill, enjoying the pain after the gain and excited by the prospects of what might be encountered along the path, it eventually took us through hectares & hectares of pepper-plantations — their glossy leaves representing the fertility of the rich soil in the area. Sometimes the road took on a series of hairpin-bends — yet, the enchanting scenery of the countryside was so enticing to the eyes: hills cloaked in dense forest-covers, painted an endless canvass of nature in shades of green ranging from emerald to soft mint hues. The charm and serene village-life (with garden-

picked vegies & fruits laid out for sale) and the friendly reception from villagers en route, warmed my heart. Filled with a desire for exploring, & having been enthused by the pleasant surprises in store, I looked down upon the gathering-clouds: indeed, the view beneath was such a surreal experience to witness! I had a thoroughly relaxed time, taking in the beautiful views. Twinkling lights of the town spread below us, and twinkling of the stars above, was just idyllic!!

Pretty Morning Glories in bright purple shades adorned the waysides, conjuring a picture straight out of a fairy-tale — I gasped with awe as the rainforest dominated the view amidst blue shades of the mountains: the quietude only momentarily interrupted by an occasional village-bus or truck, carrying a bounty of tea-leaves to nearby factories. The quaint village was sheathed in a flimsy veil of mist — located around 900M above MSL, it was an ideal look-out for panoramas of endless mountain-slopes and hilltops — the highlight being a cascading stream flowing to an unknown tributary, and the Gem Museum & Factory, as also the famed temple of tooth-relic at Kandy (purported to that of Gauthama Buddha) and the expansive Gangarama Buddhist Temple at Colombo wherein housed is a similar relic of a small tuft of hair. The Saakya-Muni (i.e., Siddhartha Gauthama — Buddha: C.563-C.460 B.C.) who belonged to N.E. India,

founded the widespread Asian Religion & Philosophy (known as Buddhism) which teaches that (i) enlightenment maybe reached by elimination of earthly desires and (ii) of the idea of the self. This tranquil and picturesque journey offered a fascinating glimpse of the spell-binding low-land-hills of the paradise-isle—— travelling along the said road was to unlock many serendipitous encounters blending with nature —— the events enhancing in a happy way, and the experiences to cherish.

### Conclusion:

Though inclement weather is season-agnostic, still I had willed it not to rain until I left the island nation, much against everyone else's wishes —— the residents of Kandy saying though that they were just not used to use the fans and the plants were dying, etc., etc., but for me coming from warm climate of Bengaluru, I did not want the rain to change the bright blue skies or dampen the summer breeze. I wanted to enjoy my rare sojourn in Sri Lanka at that time of the year, to the hilt! And I did not want to walk around in gum boots, like we used to in the Forest College while on excursions to rainforests during field-visits on tours, in the Company of a multitude of

green duck-back rain-coat-altered batch-mates, led by the Instructor through the rains —— it was great fun then: I being too old to enjoy that now. The bright blue skies were the panacea for all inconveniences and the unusual warmth meant it was perfect weather to get down the car and walk few steps every now & then and reach an olive tree to lean at & look around!

All too soon in a humdinger the holiday was to be over —— it being a fact that in such short visits of fine margins, it sometimes can be the difference between an enjoyable tour or a routine one, I look out for the bright sunshine on the way downhill to Benthota and beyond to Colombo (to have a look at Independence Memorial Hall, Old Parliament and Galle Face Green) on the next two days —— when the forests gave way soon to well-manicured tea-gardens (on either side of the *ghat-road*), not feeling queasy, which was a good sign. With someone or the other always on call and utmost side was taken to see that my routine was unaffected to a T; it rained heavily en route —— one cannot expect to be lucky every time, right?

**You are 60% water. Save 60% of  
YOURSELF**

# PSEUDO INTELLECTUAL

By  
**V.V.Hariprasad**

What can I talk about?

My country which is full of filth and dirt,  
Where Cleanliness is a rare commodity,  
Administration is least concerned with,  
And People exhibit no civic sense!

What more can I do?

I do shout from the roof top "*Swacha* Bharat",  
I am sure it will do!!

I pity!

Our elders who are dogmatic,  
Who have been ignorant for ages?

What Indian culture? I despise it,  
Its roots are unscientific,

I do revere the British,

All Kudos to Macaulay,

Who paved the way for our great English ridden education?

Yeah! I am good at English,

An indication that I am an erudite person,

Why should I admit?

How can it be the pinnacle of my stupidity?

I hate!

The politicians, all are corrupt,

The bureaucracy, a synonym for nepotism,

All the rich, the exploiters to the core,

The entire system a rotten one,

What if?  
My contribution in this regard,  
Can only be a naught,  
After all I talk on behalf of,  
The silent majority and  
The faceless multitude of the nation!!

I regret,  
Poverty, thy name is India!  
Where Illiteracy is all pervasive,  
Alas!  
Our population explosion,  
The root cause of all maladies,  
Likely to end up soon crossing China's,  
So what if, my fifth child is a son?  
How the society is concerned with?  
I am entitled for one more and even beyond!!

I exhort!  
I have fundamental rights, the boon  
What Fundamental duties, a bane?  
I have freedom of speech and expression,  
I can talk anything and yes,  
I am bound to get away with it,  
I am not accountable to the society an abstract thing,  
I am an optimist as well,  
Almighty does come to its rescue one day,  
And I am answerable to none,  
As I represent the common man,  
And yes, I am proud the way I am,  
I do not hesitate to blow my own trumpet,  
After all I am an Intellectual!!!

## ETHNO BOTANY AND INCOME FROM SCRUB JUNGLES

By

**D.B. Sankar Rao**

Globalization has brought with it opportunities and challenges in all business sectors. Government of India has identified medicinal and aromatic plants as one of the sectors that can make India a global leader in the 21<sup>st</sup> century owing to the treasure of 8000 medicinal and 2500 aromatic plants that can provide large number of consumer products with national and international demand.

Through secondary metabolism, medicinal plants (those that are commonly used in treating and preventing specific ailments and diseases, and that are generally considered to play a beneficial role in health care) synthesize a number of secondary plant metabolites such as **alkaloids, steroids, flavonoids, aponins, lignans, glycosides, terpenoids, curcumins** etc. that are credited with several pharmacological properties. The chemicals isolated from medicinal plants are currently used in traditional and western systems of medicine to treat diseases of not only mankind but also animals and other living organisms. A number of important drugs to cure cancer, diabetes, heart ailments are presently made from molecules obtained from medicinal plants. The demand for medicinal plants and chemicals derived from them is increasing globally coupled with the use of traditional systems of medicine in industrially developed countries. As a result, the medicinal

plants' exports from India have increased from Rs. 450 crores (1999-2000) few years ago to beyond Rs. 1500 crores now. The world Health Organization estimated that by the year 2050 trade in plant based drugs will reach US \$ 5 trillion (Rs. 245 lakh crores).

Due to the tremendous global demand for medicinal plants, they are indiscriminately collected from their natural habitats (mostly forest areas) resulting in their dwindling availability and seriously threatening their survival. A number of **Indian medicinal plants have become endangered, threatened** and their occurrence has become rare forcing Government of India to ban exports of some of these plants (29nos). Global and Indian demand has provided excellent opportunity for scientifically cultivating economically important medicinal plants.

Such being the scenario, it is essential that cultivation of medicinal plants especially from unproductive areas of that **type of forests such as scrub jungles** has to be promoted to make them productive and useful medicinal plant bearing areas.

Scrub jungle to be made productive:

The Deccan thorn scrub forests comprise scrubland eco region of south India. Historically this area was covered by tropical dry deciduous forest, but this only remains in

isolated fragments. The vegetation now consists of mainly of southern tropical thorn scrub type forests. These consist of open woodland with thorny trees with short trunks and low, branching crowns; spiny and **xerophytes shrubs**; and dry grassland. This is the habitat of the great Indian bustard and blackbuck, though these and other animals are declining in numbers; this area was at one time home to large numbers of elephants and tigers. Almost 350 species of birds have been recorded here. The remaining natural habitat is threatened by overgrazing and invasive weeds, but there are a number of small protected areas which provide a haven for the wildlife these trees in these forests have adapted and do not require that much water.

This eco region covers the arid portions of the Deccan Plateau, extending across the Indian states of Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu to the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. Only small patches of natural habitat remain, as most of the region has become unproductive due to biotic pressure. The species that can be considered to be planted in scrub jungles and unproductive forest areas towards income generation and their medicinal properties are as follows.

***Gymnema sylvestre*** (Podapatri, Madhunasini, GUDMAR) *This is a woody climbing shrub*:. One of the primary active components in this plant is **gymnemic acid**, which helps suppress sweetness

*Gymnema leaves contain substances that*

*decrease the absorption of sugar from the intestine. Gymnema may also increase the amount of insulin in the body and increase the growth of cells in the pancreas, which is the place in the body where insulin is made.* According to the World Health Organization, more than 420 million people worldwide have diabetes, and this number is expected to increase. Diabetes is a metabolic disorder characterized by high blood sugar levels. It's caused by the inability of the body to produce or use insulin effectively. *Gymnema sylvestre* is considered to have anti-diabetic properties

***Cissus quadrangularis***:( climbing shrub : Nalleru / Hathjod / ) : It is used by common folk in India to hasten the fracture healing process. Most people with BMI  $e > 30$  (Body mass index) have post prandial hyper insulinemia and relatively low insulin sensitivity, there is variation in insulin sensitivity even within the obese population. Overweight persons (BMI 25–29) also exhibit a spectrum of insulin sensitivities, which seems to suggest an inherited component to insulin resistance.

***Tinospora cordifolia*** (Amrita" or "Guduchi/ Tippa Teega): It is an important drug of Indian Systems of Medicine (ISM) and used in medicines since times immemorial. The drug is well known Indian bitter and prescribed in fevers, diabetes, dyspepsia, jaundice, urinary problems, skin diseases and chronic diarrhea and dysentery

Alcoholic extracts of the stem showed activity

against *E. coli*. The acute and chronic effect of oral feeding of the plant extracts affect rabbit and albino rats. Effect on fasting blood sugar, glucose tolerance and against equieprine induced hyperglycaemia have been studied

***Decalepis hamiltonii*** (nannari/ Maridu gaddalu/ Barre sugandhapala

The roots are also used as a **substitute for *Hemidesmus indicus*** in the traditional Indian system of medicine because of the similar aromatic properties. Presence of aroma, **the roots are consumed as pickles and juices**

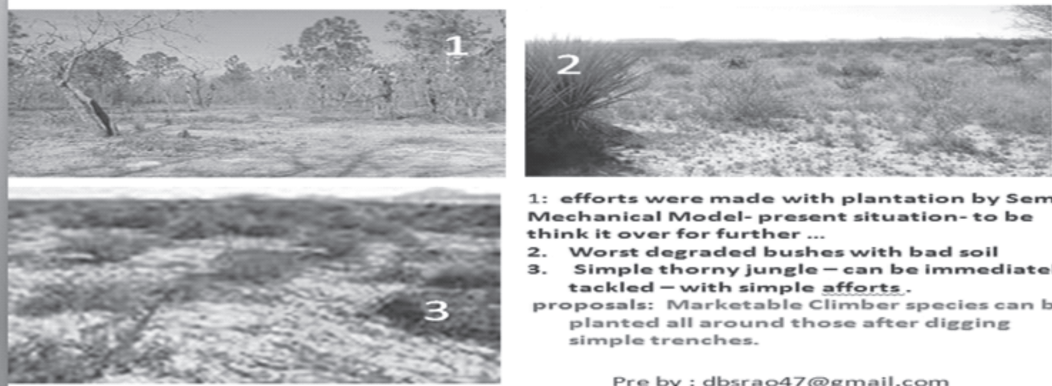
The antimicrobial properties of the roots of *D. hamiltonii* have been attributed to the presence of 2-hydroxy 4-methoxy benzaldehyde and vanillin. It is recently shown that the roots of *D. hamiltonii* possess antioxidant properties and several bioactive compounds which have been isolated and characterized. Indian medicinal plants having hepato protective potential have been reported.

*The species proposed to be planted in unproductive areas are listed along with the information on their utility/ medicinal purpose as follows*

*The species proposed to be planted in unproductive areas are listed along with the information on their utility/ medicinal purpose as follows*

No	Botanical name	Local name	Part used	Usage	Area proposed
1	<i>Gymnema sylvestre</i>	Podapatri	Leaves	diabetes	Open jungle, over fencing , compound walls, over hedges.
2	<i>Cissus quadrangularis</i>	Nalleru	Stem	Bone settings	Open jungle, over fencing , compound walls, over hedges.
3	<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i>	Tippa teega	Stem	rejuvenation	Open jungle, over fencing , compound walls, over hedges.
4	<i>Decalepis hamiltonii</i>	Nannari	Root	Blood purification	All over thorny jungle trees
5	<i>Tylophora indica</i>	Meka meyani	Leaves	ashtma	Open jungle
6	<i>Mcuna pruriens</i>	Dulagondi	Seed	Parkinson's disease	Open jungle

**Wasted scrub jungles- income proposals**



1: efforts were made with plantation by Semi Mechanical Model- present situation- to be think it over for further ...

2. Worst degraded bushes with bad soil

3. Simple thorny jungle – can be immediately tackled – with simple efforts.

proposals: Marketable Climber species can be planted all around those after digging simple trenches.


Pre by : dbsrao47@gmail.com

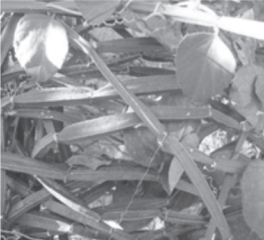



### METHODOLOGY: SUGGESTED ABOVE

In a particular unproductive thorny jungle area, let us estimate 3000 bushes per hectare covering approximately 2-3 square meters /each bush.

Basing on the crown spreading area / crown dia. we can assess 3 to 10 climber plants around each bush after digging 30cms to 40cms small trench, manually or with local tractor plough.

All the plants/ bag plants can be obtained from TKHH nurseries, raised nearby areas with little cost .If we plant them on rainy days no watering is needed and In regular plantations also these climbers can be planted in left over areas, on boundary fencings etc.

	<p><b><i>Gymnema sylvestre</i> is a woody climbing shrub: Podapatri, Madhunasini , GUDMAR,</b></p> <p>One of the primary active components in this plant is gymnemic acid, which helps suppress sweetness</p> <p><i>Gymnema contains substances that decrease the absorption of sugar from the intestine. Gymnema may also increase the amount of insulin in the body and increase the growth of cells in the pancreas, which is the place in the body where insulin is made. According to the World Health Organization, more than 420 million people worldwide have diabetes, and this number is expected to increase. Diabetes is a metabolic disease characterized by high blood sugar levels. It's caused by the inability of your body to produce or use insulin effectively. <i>Gymnema sylvestre</i> is considered to have anti-diabetic properties</i></p>
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	<p><b><i>Cissus quadrangularis</i></b>, climbing shrub : Nalleru / Hathjod / , is used by common folk in India to hasten the fracture healing process.</p>
	<p><b><i>Tinospora cordifolia</i></b> (Amrita" or "Guduchi/ TippaTeega) <b>an important drug of Indian Systems of Medicine (ISM) and used in medicines since times immemorial. The drug is well known Indian bitter and prescribed in fevers, diabetes, dyspepsia, jaundice, urinary problems, skin diseases and chronic diarrhea and dysentery</b></p> <p>Alcoholic extracts of the stem showed activity against <i>E. coli</i>. The acute and chronic effect of oral feeding of the plant extracts affect rabbit and albino rats. Effect on fasting blood sugar, glucose tolerance and against equieprine induced hyperglycaemia have been studied</p>
	<p><b><i>Decalepis hamiltonii</i></b> (nannari/ Maridugaddalu/ Barre sugandhipala/</p> <p>The roots are also used as a substitute for <i>Hemidesmus indicus</i> in the traditional Indian system of medicine because of the similar aromatic properties. presence of aroma, the roots are consumed as pickles and juices</p> <p>The antimicrobial properties of the roots of <i>D. hamiltonii</i> have been attributed to the presence of 2-hydroxy 4-methoxy benzaldehyde and vanillin. recently shown that the roots of <i>D. hamiltonii</i> possess antioxidant properties and several bioactive compounds have</p>
	<p><b><i>Tylophora ashtmatica/ indica:</i></b> kakkupala</p> <p>alliterative and as a blood purifier, often used in rheumatism and syphilitic rheumatism</p> <p>Root or leaf powder is used in diarrhea, dysentery and intermittent fever. It is an expectorant and administered in respiratory affections, bronchitis and whooping cough Dried leaves are emetic diaphoretic and expectorant. It is regarded as one of the best indigenous substitute for ipecacuanha</p>

The approximate cost benefit ratio is provided towards explaining to local people.

Name	Quantity expected dried in kgs.	Market Rate per kg	Approximate net income per Hactare area	Remarks
Podapatri	200kgs	Rs.50/-	Rs.1000/-	If maintenance is good, we can obtain two cuttings per year: also through seed sale.
Nalleru	500kgs	Rs.25/-	Rs.1500/-	Yearly once only
Tippateega	1000kgs	Rs.15/-	Rs.1500/-	Yearly once
Nannari	50kgs	Rs.300/-	Rs.15000/-	After 2 <sup>nd</sup> year
Kakku Pala	100kgs	Rs.40/-	Rs.4000/-	Yearly once

All the above are annual yielders, continuously subject to the maintenance like putting stop to cattle menace.

There are several herbal extraction companies coming forward to purchase the above climber (species) plant's raw materials towards processing and exporting to various countries including for local utilization. Some such companies are Natural remedies, Bangalore: Arya Vydyala, Kottakkal: Arya Rasa Sala, PUNE etc. Even in Hyderabad Herbochem etc. firms are procuring from different agencies across India. If we grow in our area and produce, they will be very glad to purchase (under MoU) with reasonable rate and less transportation.

Conclusion:

BIOTRIM Tirupati, having been funded by National medicinal plants board has taken up the cultivation of medicinal plants in the campus by planting *Gymnema Sylvestre*, *Mucuna pruriens* the climbers and other species

during 2000-2001 which have yielded good results. There has been a lot of impetus on cultivation of medicinal plants in India under the guidance and provision of subsidy by National medicinal plants Board which has increased lot of awareness among farmers. But unfortunately even today the medicinal plants' market is a buyers' market and there have been lot of fluctuations in the profit making by medicinal plants cultivators in the Indian scenario. The onus squarely lies on the Ministry of Health and Family welfare, (AYUSH), Govt. of India to make cultivation of medicinal plants more profitable by regulating the medicinal plants market through necessary market interventions as required for.

**(The author is grateful to Sri. V.V. Hariprasad Dy. C.F (retd.0 for sharing his experiences with him in penning this article on medicinal plants)**

## BIO-INTENSIVE PEST MANAGEMENT OF LEAF WEBBER (*DIAPHANIA PULVERULENTALIS* H.) ON MULBERRY ECOSYSTEM

By  
**R. Ramamoorthy, and N. Krishnakumar**

### Introduction

Sericulture is the science that deals with the production of silk by rearing of silkworm larvae. Silk is called the queen of textiles due to its glittering lustre, softness, elegance, durability and tensile properties. Mulberry leaf is the sole food for silkworm (*Bombyx mori* L.) and is a major economic component in sericulture, the quality and quantity of the leaf produced per unit area has a direct relation to quality of cocoon production. Mulberry the food plant of silkworm (*B. mori*) is prone to attack by about 300 species of arthropod pests worldwide, among which lepidopteron insects causes severe damage to the mulberry.

In India, leaf webber (*Diaphania pulverulentais*) becomes serious threat to mulberry plants of the states Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir etc. Leaf Webber is one of the major defoliating pest of mulberry, the incidence is more especially during post rainy season in the months of November to January this pest is becoming a major problem in the sericulture areas. Peak infestation was recorded during the rainy season and the incidence was correlated with the onset of monsoon and

availability extra moisture in mulberry leaf and atmosphere humidity builds up.

The highest incidence of the infestation was recorded during September (39.40%) and July (39.10%). The early stages, larvae of the pest inhabits apical succulent portion of the shoot and leads to its destruction, resulting in stunted growth thereby affecting considerable decline in leaf quality. Leaf Webber has recently become a major problem for mulberry cultivators in South India causing a leaf yield loss of 12.8% with an average incidence of 21.77%.

Highest pest incidence was caused by defoliating pest, *D. pulverulentalis* (39.43%) during September. The severe infestation of leaf webber larvae is observed in G2, MR2, S36 and V1 mulberry varieties in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The incidence of pest occurs during June-February months and causing severe damage to young plantation and it affects severe loss in tender chawki leaves, which is very much essential for young age silkworm larvae.

Bionomics

**Egg:** lay about 80-150 eggs on tender apical

leaf buds of mulberry and hatching generally take place within 2-3 days. Eggs are pale yellow in colour and deposited singly along the leaf vein on the lower surface of the mulberry leaves.

**Larva:** The larval stage, which causes severe damage to apical portion of the plant and the period, completes 8-12 days.

I Instar: Very minute and the larval body is fluorescent yellow in colour.

II Instar: Larva is light yellowish orange with small sub-median black spots surrounded by white patch.

III Instar: Larva is deep orange in colour. The dorsal, mid dorsal lines and spots are clearly visible and expanded.

IV Instar: Larval colour is dark greenish brown.

V Instar: Larval colour is dark pinkish brown.

**Pupa:** The pupation takes place in the soil or dried leaves and the period takes 7-9 days.

**Adult:** The adult longevities of 7-12 days and 9-14 days were recorded for male and female respectively. Total life cycle completed within 17-24 days. Yellowish grey in colour.



Pupa



Adult



Damaged shoot

### Symptoms of damage

The target area of the leaf webber is the apical portion of the mulberry shoot. The young caterpillar binds the leaflets together with silky secretion, settles inside, and devours the soft tissues of the leaf surface. Larvae web the leaves together and feed from inside on soft tissues, and skeletonize them.

The web protects the larvae from natural enemies and even spraying of insecticide and killing the target pest become difficult. Late instar caterpillars feeds, on tender leaves and cause severe damage. The infestation is resulting in the shortage of leaf for silkworm rearing during this season.

### Integrated Pest Management

- Ø Clip off infested portion along with the larva, collect in polythene cover/bucket and destroy by burning or dipping in 0.5% soap solution.
- Ø Providing perches to encourage predatory birds activity on mulberry field.
- Ø Setting of light traps to attract and kill the adults.



Early instar larva



Matured larva

Ø Growing moderately tolerant varieties like KNG, Saniish-5, Himachal Local and Chinese white in temperate and TR8, TR10, C1301, C4, M5 and Mysore Local in tropical regions help in regulating the pest population.

Ø Spray of 0.076% DDVP (76% EC 1ml/litre of water) 10-12 days after pruning) followed by neem pesticide for effective management.

Ø Encourage natural enemies in mulberry ecosystem to regulate the pest.

Ø Spray the infested crop with Nuvan 0.2%

mixed with 0.5% soap solution. Repeat, if necessary, after 15 days. Follow a safe period of 10 days.

Ø Spray botanicals like NSKE at 2.5%, Azadiractin at 0.05% or neem oil at 5 %. Follow a safe period of 8 days.

Ø Releasing natural enemies, namely, egg parasitoid (*Trichogramma chilonis*) at 3 trichocard/week/hectare and pupal parasitoid (*Tetrastichus howardi*) at 1,25,000 adult /ha.

(**Note:** Do not spray any insecticide after release of egg parasitoid)

*Water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink Just think about it.*

*If we don't learn to conserve,  
we'll all be fish out of water,  
and You Know the Result!!*

# TREES SUITABILITY FOR INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION

By

**N.Krishnakumar, K. T. Parthiban and R. Ramamoorthy**

Air pollution due to industries and increased traffic is becoming an increasingly dominant problem, especially in the developing countries. The levels of one or more air pollutants are higher than the permissible limits set by Central Pollution Control Board in many industrialized / urbanized pockets of India. Control of air pollution is possibly by two ways, namely control at source by implementing industrial ecology and by restricting the spread of air pollution through development of greenbelt around industries and plantations in urban areas.

## Selection of species

Careful attention could be devoted to the selection of plant species. Selection of the appropriate plant species, which are tolerant to the particular pollutants of that area, can be done on the basis of climatologically conditions and ecological status of that region.

The ideal characters of trees control industrial pollution are furnished.

- i) Fast growth rate for quick development of canopy
- ii) Strong branches, thick and durable canopy which can withstand storm
- iii) Large leaf size for greater retention of pollutants
- iv) Dense foliage for better trapping of pollutants

- v) Preferably perennial and evergreen species
- vi) The species should be Indigenous
- vii) Resistant to specific air pollutants, diseases and insects
- viii) Able to maintain the ecological and hydrological balance of the region
- ix) Leaves with hairy, resinous, scaly, and coarse surfaces could capture more particles than smooth leaf
- x) Species must have the ability to tolerate the unique features of urban soil.

Role of trees in controlling industrial pollution  
The tree species by nature of its carbon sequestration potential absorbs more carbon-di-oxide and release more oxygen thereby help to balance carbon-di-oxide and oxygen in the atmosphere. It is estimated that each and every tone of biomass produced by the tree sequest 0.5 ton of carbon-di-oxide.

## Reduction in noise pollution

Dense vegetation with heavy foliage will help to control the noise pollution the sound absorbing potential of the trees , the structure, density and type of vegetation, the dense foliage based vegetation reduces noises to the greater extent. The dense belt of 50 m width of trees is able to reduce the noise level 20 – 30 decibel.

Choice of species for various industrial pollutants

The major industrial pollutant are SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub> suspended particles, noise pollution etc., and the trees suitable for each category of pollution are furnished.

S.No.	Pollution type	Trees suitable
1.	Dust pollution	All broad leaved and coarse textured species Teak, Ficus, Mango, Peltoforum, Terminalia
2.	Noise pollution	<i>Alstonia scholaris, Acer negundo, Erythrina spp.,</i> Butea monosperma, Alnus indica, Grevellia, Juniperus chinensis, Terminalia arjuna.
3.	Lead pollution	<i>Cassis siamea, Zizyphus mauritiana</i>
4.	SO <sub>2</sub>	<i>Albizia lebbeck, Ailanthus, Alstonia, Neem, Ficus,</i> <i>Polyalthia, Terminalia arjuna, Quercus palustris</i>
5.	Ozone	<i>Acer campestrial, A.platanoides, A. negundo,</i> <i>Quercus rubra</i>
6.	Peroxy Acetyl Nitrite (PAN)	<i>Acer platanoides, Juniperus, Quercus spp.,</i> <i>Eunonymus europalaus</i>
7.	Oxides of nitrogen	<i>Quercus rubra, Robinia pseudocacia, Sambucus nigra,</i> Taxus buccata, Ulnus Montana, Pinus spp.
8	CO <sub>2</sub>	All types of trees

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***Water is the most critical resource  
issue of our lifetime and our  
children's lifetime***




# GreenAP Mobile App

- ◆ With a vision to increase green spaces and to improve the quality of life of the people, **Andhra Pradesh** Government has come up with a unique initiative with the support of APG&BC in launching **GreenAP** mobile application.
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6 years old plantation (Hardwickia)

- SCCL contributes 10% of country's total coal production. SCCL achieved the highest ever coal dispatches of 64.6 M.T. during 2017-18.
- SCCL planted 3.72 crores of saplings in 10,932 Hectars of land (up to July 2017)

**Rehabilitation of RF land (Non mandated)**

- SCCL honoured with "Indira Gandhi Vriksha Mitra Award - 2004", "Teri Corporate Environment Award - 2004", "Golden Peacock Environment Management Award-2005" and "Golden Peacock Innovative Product/ service award -2015" and many more for it's Eco & Environmental friendly mining.
- Sri N.Sridhar I.A.S., C&MD SCCL honoured with "Asia Pacific Enterprenuer Ship Award - 2018" and "Outstanding Leadership Award - 2018".



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# SHOLA FOREST – A HOUSE OF DIVERSITY

By

**S.Umesh Kanna and N.Krishnakumar**

## INTRODUCTION - SHOLA FOREST

**Sholas** are the local name for patches of stunted tropical montane forest found in valleys amid rolling grassland in the higher montane regions of South India. These patches of shola forest are found mainly in the valleys and are usually separated from one another by undulating montane grassland. The shola and grassland together form the shola-grassland complex or mosaic. The word 'Shola' is probably derived from the Tamil language word "cōlai" meaning grove. The shola-forest and grassland complex has been described as climatic climax vegetation with forest regeneration and expansion restricted by climatic conditions such as frost or soil characteristics while others have suggested that it may have anthropogenic origins in the burning and removal of forests by early herders and shifting agriculturists.

Many trees in any healthy Shola will be several centuries old, and a few may well exceed five hundred or a thousand years. It is not uncommon to come across a tree whose trunk is completely empty, and which yet lives on thanks to the sap in its bark. Shola trees are as slow-dying as they are slow-growing. Unlike fast-growing exotic species (e.g. eucalyptus, wattle), Shola species absorb very little water for their own growth.

Their vast root system can thus retain rain water in a soil made loose by insects, fungi, wild boars, etc. Also, since almost all Shola species are of non-deciduous type, they constantly shed a leaf, which considerably enriches the soil by creating humus, and helps maintain its loose texture. Most branches are directed upward, in an attempt to reach or re-create the canopy.

## DISTRIBUTION

Shola forests are found in the higher elevation hill regions of the Nilgiris, Anaimalai, Munnar, Palani hills, Meghamalai, Agasthyamalai to the south and the Malnad and associated ranges in parts of Wayanad, Coorg, Baba Budangiri and Kudremukh up the north, in the states of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Although generally said to occur above 2000 meters above sea level, shola forests can be found at 1600 meters elevation in many hill ranges. Shola forests are tropical Montane forests found in the valleys separated by rolling grasslands only in the higher elevations. Generally they are patches of forests found mainly in the valleys where there is least reach of the fog and mist. They are usually separated from one another by undulating montane grassland. They are found only in South India in the Southern Western Ghats.

The origin of the shola forest and grassland complex has been the subject of scientific debate. Some early researchers suggested that the floristic composition represents a stable final state or climax vegetation. This stability being maintained by climatic conditions such as frost which allow the grass to grow but kill off any forest seedlings. Others have suggested that the grassland may have been created and maintained by early pastoralists and point out that fire has a major role in the maintenance of the grassland. There is evidence for both and several features of the forest trees and the grasslands have been considered and debated. Pollen analyses from bogs in the Nilgiris suggest that the complex of grassland and forest existed 35,000 years ago, long before human impact began. Long term studies on the dynamic processes of vegetation change continue.

#### IMPORTANCE OF SHOLA FOREST

- The shola forests have **high water retention capacity** than any other soil. These forests absorb the Monsoon rains and they retain them within their soil. The retained water is then slowly released in the year's course and they form small streams. These streams join to form larger streams which form rivers that feed the entire civilizations in the plains down.
- They are the source of water in rivers like **Cauvery, Thamirabarani, Vaigai**. These rivers are perennial and they never go dry like the

Ganges in the North India. River Ganges is perennial because it is fed by a melting glacier all the year round. There is no ice in the Western Ghats and yet these rivers manage to supply water all round the year. The reason behind this is the presence of Shola forests.

- They are the reason for moderate climates for several cities along their foothills. Example – Coimbatore, a city that is near the Western Ghats in Western Tamil Nadu. The city unlike other cities in Tamil Nadu enjoys a moderate climate all the year round.
- They are home to several **endemic species of plants and animals**. Endemic means that they can exist only in that specific region and not found in any other part of the world. Without these forests, they lose their habitat and they will eventually go extinct.

#### SHOLA FOREST – UNIQUE

**Sky Islands** – The shola forests form unique regions called “Sky Islands” which occur only at higher elevations are usually isolated and separated from each other and the lowland terrain. The distance of separation may be from a few metres to several hundred kilometers. Each sky island may have a climatic condition that is unique to itself. This leads to a great endemism in plants and animals. They adapt themselves to that climatic condition and they evolve there. As a result, they cannot live outside the climatic region where they are

supposed to exist! Surprising nature!

**Climatic climax** – The shola forest and grassland complex has been described as a climatic climax vegetation with forest regeneration and expansion restricted by climatic conditions such as frost or soil characteristics. The soil characteristics widely vary between the Shola forest and that of the grasslands surrounding it. The soils of the grasslands are usually poor in nutrition and water retention and hence cannot support the shola species. Grass can grow even in soils with lowest nutritive values. While, the soil of the shola forests, are highly nutritive and they have high water retention capacity. The top layer of the soil mainly is made of peat and leaf debris which when removed is very difficult to form again. This adds to the vulnerability of these forests.

### FLORA

Shola forests harbour a very wide variety of flora: not only trees, but also bushes, flowers and ferns of many kinds, mosses, orchids, lianas, bamboo reeds, creepers, many types of grass in the streams and swampy areas, and a large number of mushrooms and fungi. Each of these plants, from the biggest tree to the smallest moss or fungus, plays an important role in the eco-logical cycle of the forest. The forest is the totality of these plants, not just the trees. As a general rule, the higher the altitude, the smaller and the glossier the leaves of the trees, because the trees

require less foliage area to capture light. A simple road travel from Kotagiri to Mettupalayam is enough to ascertain this rule. Apart from native species, exotic bushes and weeds are often found in Sholas; they usually invade mostly the fringe areas, and grow scarcer towards the interior or the better preserved areas. A few exotic species of trees, mainly wattle, pine, cypress, are found also in the fringe areas, where they have often spread from nearby plantations and gardens. They grow in competition with Shola species, as they ordinarily suck up much more water than Shola trees, and tend to impoverish and acidify the soil.

At least 25 types of trees are present in the major sholas of the Nilgiri Hills. The dominant trees in this type of forest are *Michelia niligirica*, *Bischofia javanica* (bishop wood), *Calophyllum tomentosum*, *Cedrela toona* (Indian mahogany), *Eugenia* (myrtle) spp., *Ficus glomerata* (attil or cluster fig tree or gular fig tree) and *Mallotus* spp. Shola forests have an upper storey of small trees, generally *Pygeum gardneri*, *Schefflera racemosa*, *Linociera ramiflora*, *Syzygium* spp., *Rhododendron nilgirimum*, *Mahonia nepalensis*, *Elaeocarpus recurvatus*, *Ilex denticulata*, *Michelia nilagirica*, *Actinodaphne bourdellonii*, and *Litsea wightiana*. Below the upper story is a low understory and a dense shrub layer. There is a thick concentration of mosses growing on the

understory and many ferns in the sunlit narrow transition to grassland.

Shola forests are interspersed with montane grasslands, characterized by frost- and fire-resistant grass species like *Chrysopogon zeylanicus*, *Cymbopogon flexuosus*, *Arundinella ciliata*, *Arundinella mesophylla*, *Arundinella tuberculata*, *Themeda tremula*, and *Sehima nervosum*.

### FAUNA

Fauna has nowadays become less conspicuous than flora, and is all the more striking, especially the bigger animals: deer (barking deer in Longwood Shola), monkeys (bonnet macaque), wild cats, wild boars, wild rabbits, the rare Nilgiri marten, the fairly common Malabar squirrel, porcu-pines, and of course, the bulky bison found roaming in and around the Shola. Temporary visitors may include a rare leopard and some jackals. Among the species that have vanished from Longwood Shola is the bear, which was still seen some thirty years ago. Since sightings of wildlife are growing increasingly rare owing to the degradation of the Shola and of the nearby hills, a good habit is to carefully observe the tracks, especially after rains, and also the droppings. Below is a list of birds actually observed in and around Longwood Shola over the years, starting from the bigger in size.

**Common birds :** Grey jungle fowl, pond heron, shikra, jungle crow, crow-pheasant, one or two

species of quails, spotted dove, blackbird, golden-backed woodpecker, green barbet, jungle babbler, common babbler, rufous babbler, Nilgiri laughing thrush, parakeet, hoopoe, chestnut-headed bee-eater, scarlet minivet, red-whiskered bulbul, magpie robin, pied flycatcher shrike, Tickell's blue flycatcher, Nilgiri verditer flycatcher, grey-headed flycatcher, yellow wagtail, blue chat, warbler, black-and-orange flycatcher, grey tit, spotted munia, white-eye, small sunbird.

**Rarer birds:** Eagle, one species of large owl, one species of smaller owl, imperial pigeon, Nilgiri wood pigeon, blue-headed rock thrush. Finally, attention must be paid to the smaller yet important animals, such as the small jungle squirrel, bats, frogs, toads, snakes, and of course insects in their thousands. The latter range from stunning butterflies, impressive scarabs, beetles and bees, to centipedes and down to nearly invisible thrips. Again, each of these animals plays a role in the forest life. Most birds, for instance, could not survive without both insects for food and trees for shelter. The forest has over million of years of evolution reached a harmonious equilibrium with all these animal species, each of which contributes in its own way to the life of the forest.

Due to their isolation, altitude and evergreen character, shola forests are home to many threatened and endemic species. Some of the

species found here have close relatives only in the distant evergreen forests of Northeast India and Southeast Asia.

The Western Ghats are one of the globally recognized biodiversity hotspots. Among the many larger animals inhabiting a shola-grassland mosaic are tigers and leopards, elephants and gaur. The endangered Nilgiri tahr is endemic to the shola-grassland, and its range is now restricted to a 400-km stretch of shola-grassland mosaic, from the Nilgiri Hills to the Agasthyamalai Hills. Laughingthrushes, Nilgiri woodpigeons, shortwings, and some of the endemic flycatchers are some of the 300+ species of birds that inhabit this area. The area shows high endemism and is rivalled only by the forests in northeast India; 35 percent of the plants, 42 percent of the fishes, 48 percent of the reptiles, and 75 percent of the amphibians that live in these rain forests are endemic species.

#### **THREATS**

Invasive Introduced species are a serious threat to this high altitude ecosystem. Some, like *Acacia*

*mearnsii* and *Eucalyptus globulus* are the consequence of commercial plantation and afforestation drives. Other threatening invasives include *Lantana camara* and *Ageratina adenophora*.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Shola forests are some of the unique gifts that were given to human beings. Sholas are precious not only as unrivalled water sources. They also attract the rain, by sending a considerable amount of transpiration back into the air through their dense foliage (this transpiration acts as a catalyst for rain clouds). They break the force of wind, rain, drought, and thus temper the climate. They provide a shelter to thousands of animal and vegetable species, which have as much a right to exist as ours. They hold a store of medicinal plants, many of which are still little known. In short, these forests are part of the skin of the earth which man has recklessly tampered with in almost every part of the globe.

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*If you don't want mental hydration then  
think about water conservation.*

## NEWS AND NOTES

### **Black-crested Bulbul sighted after several years in Dudhwa National Park:**

- The black-crested Bulbul was spotted after several years in Dudhwa as the counting of birds during summer season was held last week, an official said on June 9.

Field director of Dudhwa Tiger Reserve Ramesh Kumar Pandey told *PTI*, "Experts from Katarniaghat Foundation, Ruhelkhand Nature Club and WWF-India apart from Dudhwa nature guides visited a number of locations inside Dudhwa National Park and Kishanpur wildlife sanctuary. The experts photographed the winged species and recorded their data."

"The data collected by counting teams would be compiled and analysed in next few days to ascertain the number of bird species found in Dudhwa," he added.

Pandey informed that during the counting, experts sighted the black-crested Bulbul, which was sighted in Dudhwa after several years. The black-crested Bulbul is a bird species with a black head and deep yellow body. The sighting of black-crested Bulbul after several years has come as a great joy for the authorities and bird lovers, he said.

### **New species of birds**

Notably enough, during the winter bird-count, the experts had sighted five new species of birds

in Dudhwa which included Maroon Oriole, Eurasian sparrow hawk and short-eared eagle owl.

Renowned ornithologist Mr. Asad Rahmani, who arrived in Dudhwa on June 9 told *PTI*, "The summer bird count helped to discover the native bird species in Dudhwa as in winter migratory birds also join here."

Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, which is located on the India-Nepal border, is home to over 450 bird species, tigers, leopards, wild elephants, swamp deer, one-horned rhinos besides hundreds of other wild animals and reptiles. Its rich wildlife, massive forest cover and fabulous flora and fauna attract tourists and wildlife research scholars every year.

### **In a first, wildlife allowance for frontline staff in Karnataka State:**

- For the first time in the country, the State government has approved wildlife allowance to support frontline staff working in protected areas. The move will benefit nearly 1,500 Forest Department staff. The initiative was proposed by Sanjay Gubbi, member, State Wildlife Board and scientist with Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru, and has borne fruit after almost seven years of relentless campaigning.

In addition to the regular salaries, the government had approved Rs. 3,500 for Range

Forest Officers and Deputy Range Forest Officers, Rs. 2,700 for Forest Guards and Rs. 2,000 for Group D employees (watchers, MR watchers, drivers, and others) working in national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, tiger reserves, and all other protected areas in the State.

The order was issued earlier this month and will come into force with immediate effect. Mr. Gubbi said it took several years to convince many political leaders besides government officials. "I am happy about the approval and thank Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who took a personal interest in providing the benefit by understanding the problems of the frontline staff. The Forest Minister and few others, including retired PCCFs B.K. Singh, Dipak Sarmah and Vinay Luthra, extended support," Mr. Gubbi said.

Though the success of conservation hinges to a great extent on the efforts of the frontline staff, they are a neglected lot and the current allowance will boost their morale, he said. Till date, an allowance of Rs. 800 was being provided to staff working in tiger reserves by the Central government through the National Tiger Conservation Authority, he added.

Mr. Gubbi said the staff lives away from their families in remote areas and difficult terrains facing threats from poachers, besides the inherent risks they face from wildlife.

**Perfectly Preserved Head of Ice Age Wolf That Died 40,000 Years Ago, Found in Siberia: -**

Russian scientists have found the furry head of an Ice Age wolf perfectly preserved in the Siberian permafrost.

The head of a wolf, which died 40,000 years ago, was discovered in the Russian Arctic region of Yakutia

Valery Plotnikov, a top researcher at the local branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, said the animal belonged to an ancient subspecies of wolf that lived at the same time as the mammoths and became extinct alongside them. Scientists said it was an adult, about 25% bigger than today's wolves, but did not say whether it was male or female.

Plotnikov called the discovery unique because scientists previously only had found wolf skulls without tissues or fur, while this head has ears, a tongue and a perfectly preserved brain.

Zero-carbon energy to power majority of UK's electricity generation for first time, says National Grid

More UK electricity is to come from zero-carbon sources than from fossil fuels this year – the first time since the industrial revolution, according to the National Grid.

Wind, solar, nuclear and hydropower are on course to outstrip supply from coal and gas-fired power stations after the closure of a number of older plants in recent years and a

rapid expansion in renewable capacity.

Green energy sources have more than doubled their contribution to Britain's energy mix from 22.3 per cent in 2009 to 47.9 per cent in the first half of 2019.

The country has now reached a "tipping point" on renewable energy, National Grid said.

John Pettigrew, chief executive of the utility firm, described this as a "key milestone" on the journey towards the net zero emissions target recently set out by the government.

"The incredible progress Britain has made in the past 10 years means we can now say 2019 will be the year zero-carbon power beats fossil fuel-fired generation for the first time," he said.

"As the UK de carbonizes and we've more intermittent wind, the opportunity – when we've got too much – to export to Europe means renewable sources will be better used and that's beneficial to consumers in terms of cost."

There are now just seven coal-fired power stations left in the UK, with the last one planned to close in 2025.

The dominant source of energy in the country has been in terminal decline for several decades, with the pace quickening since 2009. Coal now supplies just 2.5 per cent of national electricity needs, down from 30.4 per cent 10 years ago.

Meanwhile, the cost of renewables has tumbled, with onshore wind and solar power frequently cheaper than fossil fuels.

Onshore and offshore wind now account for 18.8 per cent of electricity generation, up from just 11.3 per cent a decade ago.

In May, Britain registered its first coal-free fortnight and generated record levels of solar power for two consecutive days, powering more than a quarter of the country's daily electricity consumption.

National Grid said innovative approaches including linking up Britain's electricity grid to neighbouring countries with more interconnectors would help cut carbon emissions in the future. An interconnector is a connection between the electricity transmission systems of different countries.

By 2030, Britain will have six interconnectors linking it up to other countries, and 90 per cent of the power they import will be zero-carbon – up from 63 per cent today.

These connections will allow British homes to use electricity generated overseas. They are forecast to cut carbon emissions from the electricity sector by 17 per cent by 2030.

### **Karnataka arecanut farmer develops bike-like machine to climb trees, video goes viral:**

- In a bid to solve the problem of labour shortage in Karnataka, a farmer from Mangaluru district has developed a machine that will help areca nut growers spray pesticides and harvest nuts from the trees. The machine, developed by a 60-year-old farmer, K Ganapathi Bhat, is

modeled on a bike and allows a person to sit on it to scale the trees up and down with ease.

A video of Bhat's invention has gone viral on social media and has also earned the praise of business tycoon Anand Mahindra who described the machine as "elegantly designed with minimum weight".

Ganapathi Bhat, farmer from Sajipamooda village, has developed a machine that helps in climbing areca nut tree; says, 'It's simple innovation, climber (60-80kg) can climb up to 80 trees using one liter of petrol on average. Gave priority to safety while developing it.

**Please See Page No: 56 for Photo**

**Buses that suck pollution out of the air to be rolled out in Southampton:** - A bus company is bringing a fleet of pollution-busting buses to Southampton that suck in dirty air in a bid to clean up the city.

Go-Ahead Group announced its plans to expand a fleet of buses fitted with air-filters after a 100-day pilot that saw one of the buses travel 9,000 miles while cleaning the air.

The trial, started in September 2018, saw the Bluestar bus extract 65g of particulate matter from the city air – the equivalent of a tennis ball. Southampton was chosen as the location for the pilot following a 2018 World Health Organisation report, which warned that the city was at its limit of unsafe air pollution.

The company planned to now install filters on

all five of its Bluestar buses travelling Route 7 – an 11.5 mile path running across the city.

Go-Ahead said it hoped to expand to other cities around the UK, including Manchester, Oxford, Brighton & Hove, Newcastle, Norwich, Durham, as well as parts of Sussex and Kent.

Chief executive David Brown said: "We already know that a fully loaded double-decker can take up to 75 cars off the road, reducing congestion and pollution.

"Now we have hard data showing that buses with the fitment of an air filter can actively improve air quality."

The company estimated the expanded fleet within Southampton could remove as much as 1.25kg of particulate matter from the air every year – and if fitted on 2,500 buses as much as 588kg

**What is hurting tiger translocation project in India:** - Long before Rajasthan's Sariska lost

all its tigers to poachers in 2004. It was believed that the tiger reserve, would regain its past glory. But despite the phased translocation of tigers ever since, the programme appears to have achieved little, thanks to the shoddy handling of the habitat.

If numbers are to be believed, with ST-16's death, now there's one male tiger for eight tigresses in Sariska. According to the experts, just one male tiger for every eight females an extremely dangerous sign, and clearly indicates

that Sariska could soon become tiger-less once again.

Interestingly, Panna National Park was the second tiger reserve in India after Sariska to lose all its native tigers. Though tigers were repopulated in Sarsika before Panna, the latter has three times the number of the tigers than in the former.

Over the years five females and two males have mated over 30 times and produced over 80 plus cubs and now it has become one of the major success stories in the country. However, the Tiger relocation has remained an arduous task in Sariska.

Why the need for transfer?

With decades of efforts at conservation bearing fruit, India has 70% of the tiger population in the world. The count increased from 1,411 during 2006 to 1,706 during 2010 and 2,226 during 2014, according to census figures. In the past, tigers have been relocated within the reserves of a State.

Tiger transfer is done in order to ensure a healthy tiger population in a reserve. It can be done in various condition ranging from reserve having no tiger to ensuring a balanced sex ratio in a tiger reserve. In the case of Sariska, there is a high number of tigress when compared to tigers.

**Please See Page No: 56 for Photo**

**India loses 51 tigers in five months, Madhya Pradesh tops the list:** - The process of tiger

translocation is governed by the "Protocol for Tiger Re-introduction", framed by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), a body to manage and conserve tigers, under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). It states that a team of experts from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), forest department of the state, a qualified veterinarian and a qualified wildlife biologist should evaluate the socio-economic impact of the translocation on the people in the area.

History of the translocation project

Last year Kanha National Park in Madhya Pradesh and Satkosia Tiger Reserve in Odisha were the first two participants for this project.

The first tiger to be transferred under this was Tigress Sundari. However, things didn't go as expected. But days later, the carcass of the tiger was found in the reserve and it was said that the tiger died of an infection. This made authorities halt the tiger relocation project.

Since 2008, around 20 tigers were to be reintroduced in Sariska Tiger Reserve (STR) in Alwar district of Rajasthan. Of which nine till date have been reintroduced in STR. Four of them — three males and a female — died due to various reasons such as poisoning (ST-1), territorial fight (ST-4), poaching (ST-5) and heat stroke (ST-16). STR now has 15 big cats, of which seven are female, three male and five cubs.

Where did the previous project go wrong?

The biggest reason that was attributed to tiger deaths in translocation project was the different gene pool of tigers across different tiger reserves in the country. It was said that the tiger translocation project didn't take this into account before transferring a tiger from gene pool to Satkosia Tiger Reserve.

The second reason stems from the fact that the big cats translocated in Sariska were transit animals in the age group of five years, who didn't have their territories. A male tiger becomes dominating only at the age of around eight.

The third biggest reason is the presence of 29 villages inside the reserve. The Rajasthan government has made no earnest attempt was made to clear the forest for the big cat, its rightful owner.

Is the translocation project doomed to fail?

The series of unfortunate events while translocating tigers have actually raised question over the success rate of such projects. But undoubtedly, translocation is possible but it takes a lot of planning and risk. This is why, it is considered as a last resort for repopulating the

tiger reserves.

### **Starving Polar Bear Strays into Norilsk, Russia Hundreds of Kms Away From Natural**

**Habitat:** - It seems the polar bear had been starving and walked hundreds of kilometres from the Arctic region to Russia's northern city of Norilsk.

A polar bear was unusually spotted in a Russian industrial city located in northern Siberia, far away from its normal habitat. It seems the polar bear had been starving and walked hundreds of kilometres from the Arctic region to Russia's northern city of Norilsk. After the female bear was spotted roaming around a factory, it is now under observation.

Anatoly Nikolaichuk, head of the Taimyr Department of the State Forest Control Agency, told Russian state news agency TASS that last time, a polar bear was spotted near Norilsk, almost 40 years ago. He said that they will decide if they can catch the polar bear and airlift back to the north.

*We never know the worth of water till  
the well is dry. Save Water!!*

*Birthday Greetings*  
*We wish the following born on the dates mentioned*  
*" A very Happy Birth Day "*

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of the member</b>	<b>D.O.B.</b>			
	Sarva Sri		7.	G.Chandrasekhar Reddy	18-07-1965
			8.	Dr. Sunil S. Hiremath	20-07-1980
1.	K.Buchiram Reddy	07-07-1932	9.	Dr.K.Gopinatha	21-07-1963
2.	K.Madan Mohan	10-07-1942	10.	Smt.T.Jyothi	23-07-1975
3.	N.Varaprasad Rao	10-07-1948	11.	S.V. PradeepKumar Setty	01-08-1986
4.	M.Prasada Rao	10-07-1947	12.	Ratnakar Jauhari	02-08-1970
5.	C.Ramakrishna Reddy	11-07-1931	13.	Ajay Kumar Naik	03-08-1965
6.	M.Padmanabha Reddy	14-07-1941	14.	N.Khadar Vali	06-07-1960
7.	M.K.Prasad	14-07-1945	15.	P.Premkumar	10-07-1983
8.	N.Shyam Prasad	16-07-1955	16.	S.Ravishankar	16-07-1964
9.	A.Shankaran	16-07-1956	17.	Smt.S.Sujatha	18-07-1975
10.	B.Pratap Reddy	18-07-1928	18.	B.M.Chanakyam Raju	18-07-1957
11.	K.Santokh Singh	21-07-1937	19.	Mrs.G.Krishna Priya	24-07-1982
12.	G.Prakash	22-07-1952	20.	V.Anjaneyulu	24-07-1966
13.	Mohd.Ibrahim	22-07-1954	21.	Smt.I.Padmaja Rani	26-07-1976
14.	Rajesh Mittal	25-07-1955	22.	B.Janaki Rao	26-07-1961
15.	Omkar Singh	27-07-1953	23.	Ms.M.Babita	26-07-1972
16.	S.M.Selvaraj	01-08-1953	24.	P.Dhanraj	28-07-1963
17.	L.Ch.Tirupaelu Reddy	01-08-1956	25.	A.V.Ramana Murthy	28-07-1969
18.	V.Parthsarathy	02-08-1944	26.	Smt.M.Hima Sailaja	29-07-1980
19.	Hitesh Malhotra	03-08-1952	27.	Jagarapu Ganesh	04-08-1963
20.	P.Adivappa	03-08-1953			
21.	A.V. Joseph	05-08-1956			

**Secretary**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of Serving Officers</b>	<b>D.O.B.</b>
1.	Prashanth Kumar Jha	07-07-1959
2.	N.Pratheep Kumar	07-07-1963
3.	Rahul Pandey	14-07-1974
4.	D.Nalini Mohan	15-07-1962
5.	Swargam Srinivas	15-07-1962
6.	Smt.Arpana	15-07-1985



# LEGAL NOTES

## **State of Madhya Pradesh Vs. Uday Singh (Crl. A. No. 524 of 2019: SLP No. 2001 of 2012)**

A landmark judgment of Supreme Court; criminal court has no power to pass order for interim release of property when Authorised Officer has initiated confiscation proceedings.

On 20.03.2011, forest officer seized a tractor and trolley belonging to Uday Singh while it was carrying sand illegally excavated from Dalijeetpura ghat within National Sanctuary Chambal for which there was no permission and no permit. A case was registered under the Indian Forest Act 1927 and Wildlife Protection Act 1972. Intimation of seizure was given to the Magistrate concerned and the seized property was produced before the Authorized Officer.

The owner of the tractor and trolley filed a petition before the Magistrate, Ambah under Sec. 451 Cr.P.C for interim release of the tractor and trolley. The Magistrate dismissed the petition on 21.04.2011. Thereafter a revision petition was filed in the Court of District and Sessions Judge at Morena. The Additional Sessions Judge confirmed the order of the Magistrate on 16.06.2011. Aggrieved by the order, Uday Singh filed a petition under Sec. 482 Cr. P.C in the High Court of Madhya Pradesh at Gwalior Bench. The High Court passed order to the Magistrate for interim release of the seized property. The State of Madhya Pradesh, aggrieved by the order of the High Court, filed

Crl. A. No. 524 of 2019 under Art. 136 of the Constitution.

The appeal was posted for hearing before the Bench comprising The Hon'ble Justice Dr. Dhanajaya Y. Chandrachud and the Hon'ble Justice Hemant Gupta.

The grievance of the State was that the High Court was passing orders for interim release of seized property following the judgment in *State of Madhya Pradesh Vs. Madhukar Rao* (2008-14 SCC624). But that was a case under the Wildlife Protection Act and the Magistrate was competent to pass orders for interim release of seized property. On the other hand, the present case, as well as other similar cases, was being dealt with under the Forest Act and the Authorized Officer had already initiated proceedings for confiscation of property produced before him.

The Counsel for the appellant placed before the court the relevant provisions of law relating to confiscation of property contained in the Indian Forest Act as amended by the state of Madhya Pradesh. The appellant State of M.P relied on the following case law:

- (1). Divisional Forest Officer Vs. G.V. Sudhakar Rao: 1985 (4) SCC 573
- (2). State of Karnataka Vs. K.A. Kunchindammad: 2002 (9) SCC129

(3). State of West Bengal Vs. Sujit Kumar Rana: 2004 (4) SCC 129

(4). State of Madhya Pradesh Vs. Kallo Bai: 2017 (14) SCC 502

It was submitted that the High Court erred in passing the impugned order directing the release of the seized property; once proceedings for confiscation of property are initiated, the jurisdiction of the criminal court is excluded.

The Respondent's counsel argued that the Forest Act as amended by the State of Madhya Pradesh does not oust the jurisdiction of the criminal court.

The court elaborately dealt with the provisions of law as applicable to the case under appeal. Besides the case law cited on behalf of the appellant, the court referred to the following rulings:

(1). State of A.P. Vs P.K. Mohammad: 1976 (1) APL J 391

(2). Mohd. Yaseen Vs. F.R.O, F.S., Rayachoti: 1980 (1) ALT 8

(3). Kailash Chand Vs. State of M.P: AIR 1995 (M.P) 1

(4). Ram Kumar Sahoo Vs. State of M.P: W.P. No. 18818 of 2007 dt. 15.2.2018

The Court made analysis of the amendment to the Indian Forest Act by M.P. Act No. 25 of 1983 and concluded that specific provisions have been made for the seizure and confiscation of forest produce and tools boats, vehicles and other articles used in commission of offences. Upon seizure, the officer effecting the seizure

has either to produce the property before the Authorized Officer or to make a report of the seizure to the Magistrate concerned. Upon being satisfied that a forest offence has been committed, the Authorized Officer is empowered, for reasons to be recorded, to confiscate the forest produce together with the tools, vehicles, boats and other articles used in commission of the offence. Before confiscating any property the Authorized Officer is required to send an intimation of the initiation of the proceedings for the confiscation of the property to the Magistrate having jurisdiction to try the offence. Where it is intended to immediately launch a criminal proceeding, a report of the seizure is made to the Magistrate having jurisdiction to try the offence. The order of confiscation is subject to an appeal before the Conservator of Forests or a revision before the Court of Sessions Judge. The order of Sessions Court is final notwithstanding anything contained to the contrary in the Cr.P.C. and provided that it shall not be called into question before any court. On receipt of intimation by the Magistrate, no court, tribunal or authority, other than Authorised Officer, Appellate Authority or Court of Session Judge, shall have jurisdiction to pass orders with regard to possession, delivery, disposal or distribution of the property in regard to which confiscation proceedings have been initiated. There is a *non obstante* provision which operates notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the Indian Forest Act or any other

law for the time being in force.

Hence upon receipt of intimation by the Magistrate of confiscation proceedings, the bar of jurisdiction is clearly attracted. The scheme contained in the amendment enacted to the Indian Forest Act, makes it abundantly clear that the direction which was issued by the High Court in the case on a petition under Sec. 482 Cr. P.C, to the Magistrate for interim release of the vehicle was contrary to law. The jurisdiction under Sec. 451 Cr. P.C was not available to the Magistrate, once the Authorized Officer initiated confiscation proceedings

The amendments to the Forest Act are infused with a statutory public purpose. Protection of forests against depredation is a constitutionally mandated goal exemplified by Art. 48-A of the Directive Principles and Fundamental Duty of every citizen incorporated in Art. 51-A (g) by isolating the confiscation of forest produce and the instruments used for commission of an offence from criminal trial, the legislature intended to ensure that confiscation is an effective deterrent. The absence of effective deterrence was considered by the Legislature to be deficiency in the legal regime. The amendment sought to overcome the deficiency by imposing stringent deterrents against activities which threaten the pristine existence of forests. As an effective tool for protecting and

preserving environment, these provisions must receive a purposive interpretation. For, it is only when the interpretation of law keeps pace with the object of the legislature that grave evils which pose a danger to our natural environment can be suppressed. The avarice of humankind through the ages has resulted in alarming depletion of natural environment. The consequences of climate change are bearing down on every day of our existence. Statutory interpretation must remain eternally vigilant to the daily assaults on the environment

For the above reasons, the appeal is allowed and impugned judgment and order of the High Court dated 29.07.2011 in MCRC 5171 of 2011 is set aside. The judgment of the Supreme Court is pronounced on 26 March 2019.

On the same grounds the following three criminal appeals are allowed and the orders of the High Court are set aside:

1. The State of M.P. Vs. Rakesh Lavania, CrI. A. No. 525 of 2019 is allowed.
2. Adhikshak Rashtriya Chambal Abhiyan Vs. Narotham Singh: CrI A. Nos. 1362 & 1363 of 2012 are allowed.
3. Authorised Officer & Sub-DFO Shivpur Vs. Jashrat Singh: CrI. A. No. 1364 of 2012 is allowed.

**Source: Internet**

**K.B.R** keesarabuchiram@gmail.com

## OBITUARY

### Sri Kakumani Prakash Rao.

**19.12.1943-19.05.2019**



Sri Kakumani Prakash Rao Retired DFO breathed his last on 19-05-2019 in America where he was staying with his son. He was born in M. Nidamannur village of Prakasham District of Andhra Pradesh.

He was the eldest son born

to Sri Narayana and Smt. Subbamma. He was the eldest of all six brothers. He hails from a middle class agricultural family.

He did his graduation (B.Sc.) and was recruited as Forest Apprentice by the Government of united Andhra Pradesh and was deputed to Southern Forest Rangers College, Coimbatore in 1966-68 batch. He after undergoing training for two years passed out with Higher Certificate in the year 1968 and posted as ARO. He worked as Forest Range Officer Sudikonda, Jangareddygudem,

Vijayawada, Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanam, and Working Plans Eluru. He also worked as Plantation Manager on deputation to Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation. He was promoted as Assistant Conservator of Forest in the year 1982 and worked as D.F.O. Vijayanagaram S. F, Wild life Rajahmundry, and DFO S. F. Kakinada. He also worked as Divisional Manager Sulerpet in APFDC. He retired as DFO from Achampet of Mahboobnagar district. He did exemplary work as DM Sulerpet which was appreciated by one and all.

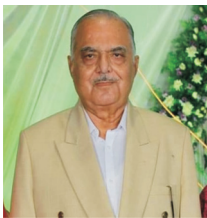
He is survived by wife Smt. Ranganayakamma, a son and two Daughters. Son and both the daughters are Doctors and well settled in United States. Sri Prakash Rao was a very hard and dedicated worker. He was a good host and of friendly nature. He was amiable with his friends. He was liked by superiors as well as by his subordinate alike.

**May his noble soul rest in peace**

## OBITUARY

### Sri Vishwanath Singh Chouhan

**18.04.1944-19.05.2019**



Sri Vishwanath Singh Chouhan retired DFO breathed his last on 19-05-2019 at Hyderabad He was born to Bhagirath Singh & Smt. Tara Bai on 18-04-1944 and was the eldest of 4 brothers and five sisters.

He did his B.Sc. from Osmania University Hyderabad.

Mr. Singh was appointed as Forest Apprentice by the Government of united Andhra Pradesh and was deputed to undergo two years training at Southern Forest Rangers College, Coimbatore in 1966-68 batch. He passed out from the forest college in the year 1968 and after completion of

practical training he was posted to Tadvai of Warangal district. He worked in Warangal and Karimnagar districts in the capacity of Forest Range Officer and was promoted as Assistant Conservator of Forest in the year 1983. As a DFO, he served in Khammam, Cuddapah, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Adilabad and Hyderabad. He also worked on deputation in APFDC & Dept. of Horticulture successfully.

Mr. Singh was a noble, learned person and was a very hard and dedicated worker. He was a good host and of friendly nature. He was amiable with his friends. He was liked by superiors as well as by his subordinate alike.

**May his noble soul rest in peace**



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