

# VANA PREMI



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**Great Hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*)**



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## EDITORIAL

**Foresters of India:** The term forester can be defined as a person who is trained in forestry or a person whose profession is forestry. Forestry is defined as the science or practice of planting, managing, and caring for forests. India is one of the ten most forest-rich countries of the world. The following are the 10 countries with the largest forest area in the world, Russia, Brazil, Canada, United States, China, Australia, Congo, Argentina, Indonesia, and India. Together, India and these other 9 countries account for 67 percent of total forest area of the world. The total forest cover in India is 708,273 Square km, which is around 22 percent of the total area of the country. In addition to the production of wood and non-wood products India's paper industry produces over 3,000 metric tonnes of paper annually from 400 paper mills. India annually consumes 270 million tonnes of fuelwood, 2800 million tonnes of fodder and about 400 million of cattle graze in India's forest where boarding and lodging is free for these cattle. India is one of the world's largest consumer of fuel-wood which is produced in the forest. Fuel-wood meets about 40% of the energy needs of the country. Around 80% of rural people and 48% of urban people use fuel-wood. Forestry in India is more than just about wood, fodder and fuel. India is a country whose human population is second highest in the world and India's forest provide livelihood to those who are residing in and around forests. India has a thriving non-wood forest products industry, which produces honey, spices, latex, gums, resins, essential oils, flavours, fragrances, aroma chemicals, incense sticks, handicrafts, thatching materials, bidi & plate leaves and medicinal plants. About 60% of non-wood forest-products production is consumed locally. Non-wood forest products are a source of significant supplemental income to over 400 million people in India, mostly rural.

In India the Imperial Forest Department was established in 1864. The British state monopoly over Indian forests was first asserted through the Indian Forest Act of 1865. This Act also enabled the administration to demarcate reserved and protected forests. These colonial laws brought the forests under the centralised sovereignty of the state. Sir Dietrich Brandis a German forester was, the first Inspector General of Forests in India from 1864 to 1883, and regarded as the father not only of modern scientific forestry in India, but also as the "father of tropical forestry. National Forest Policy 1988 of India, focused on ensuring environmental stability, restoring the ecological balance, and preserving the forests of the country. Other objectives of the policy are meeting the need for fuelwood, fodder, and small timber for rural and tribal people while recognising the need to actively involve local people in the management of forest resources. In 1980, the Forest Conservation Act, was enacted to facilitate stricter conservation measures, under this policy a target was fixed to increase the forest cover of India to 33% of total land area. States have also enacted Forest Acts for the protection of states forests. Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate change (MoEF&CC) is the nodal agency in the administrative structure of the Central Government for the planning, promotion, co-ordination and overseeing the implementation of India's environmental and forestry policies and programs. The Director General of forest is the highest post in Central Government and he is also the ex-officio Special Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

India's forests are managed scientifically by people who are appointed and trained in forestry. The subject of Forest is in concurrent list. Officers and staff are trained in various forestry

training institutes which are spread over the country. There are ten forest colleges which train Forest Range Officers, four colleges which train State Forest Service Officers and one college which trains Indian Forest Service Officers. In addition to this every state is having one or two institutes which train Forest Section Officers, Forest Guards (in some states designated as Forest Beat Officer) and Forest Watchers (Asst. Beat Officers). The duration of training ranges from 6 months to two years depending on the post one is appointed. There are 18 forest research institutes in the country for conducting research on various forestry subjects.

The importance of forests cannot be underestimated. We depend on forests and wildlife for our survival, from the air we breathe to the wood we use and food we consume. Forests are the backbone of the life forms and the life on earth sustained through them. Forest are the lungs of the nature; forests regulate the whole earth ecosystem by providing tangible and intangible benefits to all living organisms.

Besides direct benefits which forests provide in the way of products, it has many indirect beneficial influences which are often overlooked and their value underestimated. It includes all the effects of forests on climate, soil and water - the basics of life Besides providing habitats for animals and livelihoods for humans, forests also offer watershed protection, prevent soil erosion, landslides, avalanches, maintains water quality of rivers, draining catchments, and mitigate climate change. (In recent past we have seen nature's havoc & vagaries in Uttarakhand and Kerala due to mismanagement of forests). Forests play an important role in environmental protection. A major issue is air pollution. Forests have a major role to play in the protection of the global carbon cycle. Afforestation could contribute to reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations, and the use of biofuels

could help to reduce demand for fossil fuels. Forest is the habitat of wildlife. "If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe then man would only have four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man" said Albert Einstein.

Foresters are given the responsibility of increasing the area under forest by planting, protecting the existing forest & forest lands and scientifically managing these forests. Foresters are the custodians of crores and crores worth of property which is lying in open without lock and key (Treasures are guarded by armed guards where only few lakhs of cash is kept but foresters are unarmed who guard crores and crores worth property kept in open). All other departments of Government are considered as welfare departments because these departments distribute freebies to the public, but the forest department is the only department which says no to the public for anything. Foresters neither can distribute forest lands nor they can give any forest produce free of cost to anybody as it is the Government's property.

Forester's work starts from a point where civilization ends, Forester himself and his family members are deprived of medical facilities and foresters' children are deprived of good education as they have to stay in remote areas where facilities of medical and education are not existing. Foresters and their family members are deprived of modern recreational and entertainment facilities as they are posted in very interior places where there is no facility of recreation and where no other department personnel are posted. At times foresters face assaults while discharging their duty, in which they are injured as all the foresters are totally unarmed and sometimes these assaults are fatal also. Occasionally foresters are killed by the unsocial elements in the forests while protecting

forest and wildlife. Between 2012-2017, India accounted for nearly 31% of total deaths, 162 out of total 526–Ranger deaths, according to the International Federation of Rangers.

A forester is not only trained in forestry but he is also trained as an engineer, to construct and maintain roads bridges and buildings of forest department, as police officer to protect forests and prosecute offenders in the court of law (have to be well versed with Acts, rules, regulations and procedures), trained as surveyor to survey demarcate and prepare sketches, as an accountant to write cash book and maintain accounts of forest department, attends and provides first aid and emergency medical services in the field as well as in interior villages, as he is also trained and awarded a St. Johns first aid certificate. Hence a forester is a forester, an engineer, a police officer, a surveyor, an accountant and a medical assistant in emergencies, (jack of all and master of few) but Green Soldier's services are not recognized by the public though he is serving the nation on par with our armed forces.

The above-mentioned goals are achieved by Green Soldiers of the Country (Foresters) by walking alone in the midst of the jungles sometimes even after exhausting water in the peak summer, with minimum facilities and maximum risks from wild animals, fires, smugglers and unsocial elements, working day and night in the interior forests without weekly offs and even on festival days, without bothering about the welfare of their family members and who always accept the challenges throughout his service with smiling faces. Foresters have to walk daily long distances while discharging their duties as roads are absent in the forests.

I am trying to enumerate the importance of forests and foresters with a definite purpose. We are observing many days at national and international levels every year. In our country a

doctor's day is observed on 1<sup>st</sup> July every year, an Engineers day is observed on 15<sup>th</sup> September every year, National Youth day on 12<sup>th</sup> January, Central Excise day on 24<sup>th</sup> February and a National Civil Services day is observed on 21<sup>st</sup> of April every year and many more days. Though the services rendered by foresters are very important and essential for the country and countrymen but no day is observed as forester's day. It is high time that we in India should start observing a day for foresters also throughout the country once a year for doing good service to public at the risk of their own lives. This will bring awareness among the public about the importance of Forests, Foresters and Foresters activities. A convenient day once a year may be selected and observed every year for saving our forests and boosting the morale of green soldiers, throughout the country. Though a forest martyrs' day is observed on 11<sup>th</sup> September every year in memory of all those foresters who laid down their lives while protecting our forests and wildlife, it is also necessary to observe a forester's day once a year for all those who are still in service, and to bring awareness among the public how important forest and forester are for us, and this will also boost the morale of foresters high. Principal Chief Conservators of Forests & HOFF of various States and Associations of various cadres of Forest department may try to fix a day as "Foresters' Day" in consultation with the MoFE&CC to recognize the services of foresters, boost the morale of our foresters' and save our forests.

Vana Premi wishes that a day every year is observed as Foresters' Day to apprise the public about the importance of forests, foresters, & the hardships faced by our foresters, to get the support of the public for the protection of forests of our country and to boost the morale of Green Soldiers of India (Foresters). QMK

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Dear Sir,**

Happy to receive the Vana Premi of October, 2019, dedicated exclusively for the wildlife with colour photos in two pages. I am a regular reader of the VP. The editorial in special issue on wildlife of Oct, 2019 is mind-blowing and very convincing about the reasons for celebrating the Wildlife Week in India in commemoration with the birth day of the father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, the wealth of wildlife and forests we had and the reasons for its depletion; enactment of WLPA 1972 and the wildlife conservation measures taken through project tiger, formation of chain of NPs, WLSs, Community Reserves and Conservation Reserves is beautiful. The role of individual species of fauna has in nature, its conservation for the good of human, role of the community in WL conservation, the responsibility in educating younger generation through WL tourism is wonderful. My congratulations to Sri QMK ji for this wonderful and timely cautioning editorial to the nation on WL.

I was also attracted by the Article of Sri V. Santhaseela Babu about his "Visit to the Bengaluru Bannerghatta Biological Park" (BBBP) in August, 2019 as I have worked it in at its initial stage. He is one of the noted writers in Vana Premi and has the talent of presenting the theme to readers with inputs to know further and further.

The article has come up well with the detailed information right from its formation as a Picnic corner inside the Bannerghatta National Park in 1972 to its declaration as BBBP under Zoo Authority of India in 2002 and to its present stage.

It is still in developing stage with a lot of construction activities. It will be a big Biological Park within the fast-growing Bengaluru city after the completion of the development projects initiated 2-3 years back.

In spite of it, the Author has nicely described all the facilities of the BBBP with its aims and objectives animals' exhibits in zoo/safaris/rescue centres/butterfly park/ facilities to visitors etc etc.... as he has seen on the ground even by quoting the nostalgic names given to some of the structural facilities constructed for housing animals.

He was invited by the ED, BBBP as a Forest Fraternity....but, the PRO might have not recognized the visitor Sri V.S.S. Babu as a writer to take him inside the Rescue Centre-a unique n successful one in India and also the BFF tiger facility....his writing on them would have got publicity through this magazine.

The BBBP should thank Sri V.S.S. Babu for having invited him to visit as a Forest Fraternity...but he has made it as a writer. In total he has done very good service for the Institution by writing a beautiful article with colour photos.

Congratulations to him to write more on Institutions like BBBP for the cause of ex-situ conservation of wildlife in India.

**B. M. T. Rajeev, IFS (Retd),**  
Bengaluru

## GREAT HORNBILL (*Buceros bicornis*)

The great hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*) also known as the great Indian hornbill or great pied hornbill, is one of the larger members of the hornbill family. It is found in South and Southeast Asia. Its impressive size and colour have made it important in many tribal cultures and rituals. The great hornbill is long-lived, living for nearly 50 years in captivity. It is predominantly frugivorous, but is an opportunist and will prey on small mammals, reptiles and birds.

**Description:** The great hornbill is a large bird, 95 – 130 cm long, with a wingspan of 152 cm (60 in) and weight of 2 to 4 kgs. It is the heaviest, but not the longest, Asian hornbill. Females are smaller than males and have bluish-white instead of red eyes, although the orbital skin is pinkish. Like other hornbills, they have prominent "eyelashes". The most prominent feature of the hornbill is the bright yellow and black casque on top of its massive bill. The casque appears U-shaped when viewed from the front, and the top is concave, with two ridges along the sides that form points in the front. The back of the casque is reddish in females, while the underside of the front and back of the casque is black in males.

The casque is hollow and serves no known purpose, although it is believed to be the result of sexual selection. Male hornbills have been known to indulge in aerial casque butting, with birds striking each other in flight. The male spreads the preen gland secretion, which is yellow, onto the primary feathers and bill to give them the bright yellow colour. The commissure of the beak is black and has a serrated edge which becomes worn with age.

**Distribution and habitat:** Great hornbills are found in the forests of Nepal, India, Southeast Asia and Sumatra. The distribution of the

species is fragmented over its range in South and Southeast Asia. In South Asia they are found in a few forest areas in the Western Ghats and in the forests along the Himalayas. Their distribution extends into Thailand, Burma, Malaya, and Sumatra. A small feral population is found in Singapore. Their habitat is dense old growth (unlogged) forests in hilly regions. They appear to be dependent on large stretches of forest, unlike many of the smaller hornbills.

**Food and feeding:** Great hornbills are usually seen in small parties, with larger groups sometimes aggregating at fruit trees. A congregation of 150 to 200 birds has been recorded in south eastern Bhutan. In the wild, the great hornbill's diet consists mainly of fruit. Figs are particularly important as a food source. *Vitex altissima* has been noted as another important food source. They obtain the water that they need entirely from their diet of fruits. They are important dispersers of many forest tree species. They will also eat small mammals, birds, small reptiles and insects. Lion-tailed macaques have been seen to forage alongside these hornbills.

**Breeding:** During the breeding season (January to April) great hornbills become very vocal. They make loud duets, beginning with a loud "kok" given about once a second by the male, to which the female joins in. The pair then calls in unison, turning into a rapid mixture of roars and barks. They prefer mature forests for nesting. Large, tall and old trees, particularly emergent that rise above the canopy, seem to be preferred for nesting. They form monogamous pair bonds and live in small groups of 2-40 individuals. Group courtship displays involving up to 20 birds have been observed.

The female hornbill builds a nest in the hollow of a large tree trunk, sealing the opening with a plaster made up mainly of faeces. She remains imprisoned there, relying on the male to bring her food, until the chicks are half developed. During this period the female undergoes a complete moult. The young chicks have no feathers and appear very plump. The mother is fed by her mate through a slit in the seal. The clutch consists of one or two eggs, which she incubates for 38–40 days. The female voids faeces through the nest slit, as do the chicks from the age of two weeks. Once the female emerges from the nest, the chicks seal it again.

The young birds have no trace of a casque. After the second year the front extremity separates from the culmen, and in the third year it becomes a transverse crescent with the two edges growing outwards and upwards, while the anterior widens to the width of the rear end. Full development takes five years.

**Roosting:** Roost sites are used regularly and birds arrive punctually at sunset from long distances, following the same routes each day. Several tall trees in the vicinity may be used, the birds choosing the highest branches with little foliage. They jockey for position until late at dusk. When sleeping they draw their neck back and the bill is held upwards at an angle.

**In captivity:** Very few hornbills are held in captivity, and few of them breed well. Females at the nests are extremely easy to capture, and birds caught in the wild are mostly female. Breeding them in captivity has been notoriously difficult, with fewer than a dozen successful attempts. Their extreme selectivity for mates and their long and strong pair bonds makes them difficult to maintain for breeding.

In captivity hornbills eat fruits and meat, a healthy diet consisting mostly of fruit and some source of protein. A few have been

tamed in captivity but hornbill behaviour in captivity is described as highly strung. Captive specimens may bask in the sun with outstretched wings.

**Conservation status:** Due to habitat loss and hunting in some areas, the great hornbill is evaluated as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. It is listed in Appendix I of CITES. Declines in population have been noted in many areas such as Cambodia. Molecular approaches to the study of their population diversity have been attempted.

**In culture:** Tribal peoples threaten the great Indian hornbill by hunting it for its various parts. The beaks and head are used in charms. Young birds are considered a delicacy. Tribesmen in parts of north eastern India and Borneo use the feathers for head-dresses, and the skulls are often worn as decorations. The Sema Nagas consider the flesh unfit for eating, believing that it produces sores on their feet, as in the bird. When dancing with the feathers of the hornbill, they avoid eating vegetables, as doing so is also believed to produce the same sores on the feet. Among the Zomi, a festival without a hornbill feather is incomplete. Conservation programmes have attempted to provide tribes with feathers from captive hornbills and ceramic casques to substitute for natural ones.

The great hornbill is called homrai in Nepal (hence the name of the Himalayan subspecies) and banrao, both meaning "king of the forest".

**Use as a symbol:** The great hornbill is the state bird of Kerala and Arunachal in India. A great hornbill called William was the model for the logo of the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and the name of their building.

## Convocation of the 27<sup>th</sup> Batch of Forest Beat Officers at TS Forest Academy N. R. Sangeetha and Dr. K. Tirupataiah

### Batch composition

The convocation of the 27<sup>th</sup> Batch of Forest Beat Officers (FBO) was held at Telangana State Forest Academy, Dulapalli on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2019. The course started on 14<sup>th</sup> April and had 38 Forest Beat Officers. It comprised 11 women officers and 27 Men officers. Uniqueness of this batch was that 34 out of the 38 were recruited as Assistant Beat Officers (ABOs) and promoted to FBO. The post of ABO has since been discontinued. Age of the batch ranged from 27 years to 56 years. There were 02 Post-Graduates, 22 Graduates while the rest studied up to plus two or below level.

### Course composition

The FBOs were imparted six months Induction Training Programme (ITP) covering 15 subjects: General Silviculture, Geology & Soil Science, Social Forestry & Extension Education, Forest Law, Accounts & Office Procedure, Forest Botany, Forest Engineering, Forest Protection, Forest Utilization, Forest Survey, Forest management, Wildlife Management, Information Technology, Forest Research and First Aid & Hygiene.

Apart from classroom teaching, adequate opportunities were provided for learning "by Doing". Practical exercises, field visits, seminars, assignments, peer learning (experience sharing), etc were organised for this. They actively participated in 'Children and Forest Education' (CAFÉ) programme and educated school children about Nature and Forests and Wildlife.

Revenue Survey methods, Weapon training, Jeep driving and Swimming modules were

special modules included in the course. Trainees also participated in Blood donation, did Swachch Bharat programme. FBOs were taken on Telangana tour for 15 days and all latest initiatives were shown on ground.

### Results

In the examinations conducted, all FBOs passed. Out of them, 28 got Honours (75% and above) and the rest passed in "Higher Grade" (60% and above). Nobody secured "Lower Grade". Sri.B.Sajan Lal, FBO from Kumrambheem Asifabad Forest Division secured the "Top Rank" with 86.74% marks as well as becoming "the Best All-round" trainee. He topped in 08 out of the 15 subjects.

### Convocation

Smt.R.Sobha, IFS, PCCF&HoFF (FAC) graced the convocation as the Chief Guest. In the beginning she inspected the "Passing out Parade" and took the salute. She along with other guests took keen interest in the photo-exhibition organised in the auditorium in which all activities of the batch were displayed.

The Convocation guest list included, besides Smt.R.Sobha, Sri.P.Raghuvier, IFS VC&MD TSFDC, Sri.M.Prudhvi Raju, IFS DG CEFNARM & Director, TSFA(FAC), Sri.Swargam Srinivas, IFS APCCF (Admn.), Dr.K.Tirupataiah, Consultant TSFA/CEFARM, Sri.A.Shankaran, OSD o/o PCCF and Sri.Govindarajulu, Secretary of the Retired Forest Officers' Association of TS&AP.

After the invocation song by Smt.Uma Rani, Dy.RO of TSFA, ceremonial lamp was lighted to mark the beginning of the official programme. Some of the FBO Trainees (Narasimha Rao, Sajan

Lal, Kavitha) gave their feedback. They said that the training gave them a new perspective on forests and their management. They learnt that there is lot of difference between what they have been doing and what they could do. However, they felt that the Induction Training could be given as soon as possible, after joining the service. Smt.N.R.Sageetha, Course Director read out the course report and thanked all faculty for their cooperation.

Sri.M.Prudhvi Raju, Director TSFA gave welcome address. He stressed on the issue of protection of forest land and forests. He called up on the FBOs to concentrate on illegal fellings and ensure stringent action is taken on the accused. He advised the FBOs to take care of themselves physically and mentally so that they can sustain the hard work expected from them.

Sri.Swargam Srinivas said that he was very happy to participate in the convocation. He complimented the Director, faculty and all concerned for conducting the course and the valedictory in a befitting manner.

Sri.Shankaran complimented the batch as "most disciplined" in their punctuality as well as interest in learning. He advised them to combine wildlife protection with general forest protection. Sri.Govindarajulu, said that the FBOs are very fortunate to get such high quality of training. He advised the FBOs to be sincere, honest and committed to the cause of forests and wildlife. Dr.K.Tirupataiah exhorted the FBOs to "Do their best as FBOs". He quoted Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam, "No matter how small the work is, you must do it so perfectly that nobody else can do it better". FBO post may be the last in the department, he said, but it is the first in protection of forests.

Sri.P.Raghuveer said that the FBO cadre forms

the backbone of Forest department. He called up on the FBOs to "Know Your Forests", "Know your Friends" and "Know Your Enemies". Unless FBOs know their area, blocks, boundaries, villages, people, etc they cannot be effective. He also said that all people are not forest smugglers or poachers. FBOs should spend time in villages and with villagers, know about good people and develop networks for support to the department. The enemies should be isolated so that they can be dealt easily.

The Chief Guest Smt.R.Sobha expressed her happiness at the way the course was conducted. She complimented the FBOs for the smart turn out during the march past, the photo exhibition and their performance in the course examinations. She felt very happy to see 11 women FBOs in the batch. The PCCF advised the FBOs to remember that they represent the face of the department to the people and conduct themselves accordingly. She exhorted them to be vigilant about forest land encroachments and prevent them in the initial stages itself. She said the process of retrieving encroached land is a very complex process and therefore, best thing is to prevent encroachments. The Cattle Proof Trench (CPT) work and its stabilization should be given top priority in all vulnerable forest Blocks, she said. She also advised the FBOs to be tactful in dealing with issues at grass-root level and seek help of senior officers, wherever required.

Gold Medals were presented to the subject toppers and the batch Topper by the Chief Guest and Guests of honour. The Chief Guest and Guests of Honour were felicitated by the Director TSFA. The convocation came to an end with vote of thanks by the Assistant Course Director Smt.K.Shiva Jyothi, FRO.

# Parothi

## By

### Ramesh Kalaghatgi.

(Continued from last month)

#### Chapter 4

After marriage, young Parvathi becomes an affectionate Parothi for the inmates of Shankaragudem. In the early days of the new phase in her life she misses the comforts of her Mother's house. She misses her parents, her friends and her pets. She misses the tutelage of Hariprasad, her *Guru*, his books and the intellectual conversations with him. But in the loving companionship of Shivaih, the affection of inmates of Shankaragudem and in *Puja* and rituals of Lord Shankara, she graduates into a mature housewife. Shivaih and Parothi spend many moonlit nights sitting on the edge of the lotus pond. The bright moon reflects her image in the lotus pond. Shiviah comments that her image in the pond is brighter than the full moon in the sky. Amidst the love and affection of Shivaih and *seva* of the Lord Shankara and in the company of the clear waters of the river Koneru, Parothi overcomes the pains of separation from Kamalapur, her Mother's house, her parents and all that symbolised her childhood.

Every morning Shiviah worships the Lord Shankara. He collects fresh *bilwapatras* and flowers from the nearby forests and pure flowing water from the River Koneru. Chanting *mantras*, he will pour water on the Lingam, wash with his hands, smear vibhuti, decorate the Lord with *Bilwapatras* and flowers and perform *harathi*. While Shivaih is busy collecting these *puja samagri*, Parothi, sweeps and swabs the inside of the temple and its premises and draws patterned '*rangoli*' on the floor. The patterns of *rangoli* change every day. Parothi sings in praise of Shankara after the *puja*. A few devotees witness the *harathi* with devotion and listen to her singing in apt attention. And this was their

daily routine. On every *Amavasya* and *Purnima* and on special occasions like *Shivaratri* and *Dasara*, *puja* would be elaborate and the number of devotees also would swell.

In course of time, Parithi develops attachment to the temple. The river Koneru is not a mere water body to her. It is a symbol of her soul. It is her goddess with whom she converses and opens her heart. Villagers of Shankaragudem, looking at the way Parothi adopts herself to the new role in life, the way she assists Shivaih in the temple affairs, the way she conducts during and after the *Pujas*, singing hymns in praise of the Lord, in treating the devotees visiting the temple, give her motherly respect and affection. Her soul is as pure as the clear waters of the lotus pond, her life as bubbling and energetic as the water fall, the flow of her thoughts and her songs, as vibrant and beautiful as those of the river Koneru. She is a virtual embodiment of the entire ecosystem. By the time she turned 20, Parothi becomes a mother. Her son Ramana brings a new hope and joy into her life.

It is not unnatural for joy to be followed by sorrow. Parothi experiences it, when she receives news that her parents are infected with malaria and are on death bed. Shiviah and Parothi rush to Kamalapur along with Ramana. As there is no proper medical assistance, her parents succumb to the disease. Parothi is heartbroken. Her relatives and other elders of the village, help her in completing the obsequies. After they are over, with the help of village elders Parothi decides to lease out the ancestral house and the land she inherited, to a needy farmer on a small annual rent.

Parothi takes time to overcome her grief. Most of

the time she remains dejected and broods over the turn of events in her life. But soon she recovers from the shock and finds solace in her husband's soothing love and her toddling son's baby-talk and in service of Lord Shankara. Above all the nature with its infinite beauties makes her forget her deep sorrow. She takes it in a philosophical stride. To cheer her up, Shivaiah shows the reflection of her face in the clear waters of the lotus pond alongside the image of bright moon and cajoles her.

### Chapter 5

After special *puja* on an *Amavasya*, after all rituals were completed and all devotees left, when Shiviah was about to close the temple, he finds a small boy huddled in a corner fast asleep. Shiviah calls his wife and shows her that boy. They wake the boy up and ask him about his whereabouts. The boy says he is Narsiah. He says he had accompanied his maternal uncle to the temple. Upon further enquiry, the boy reveals that he is an orphan having lost his parents during infancy and that he has grown under the care of his maternal uncle, Rajaiah in Sripura a village in the rear side of Shankarakonda. Further probes reveal that his maternal uncle might have abandoned him to get rid of burden of his upbringing or he might have tried in vain to locate him in the temple after the *Puja*.

Shiviah assures the boy that he will take him to his uncle. Hearing these words, Narsiah breaks down and starts weeping. Sobbing hard, he refuses to go back to his uncle. Shiviah and Parothi look closely at the boy. He is around 8 years old almost same age as that of Ramana. Though he has been underfed, there is some grace in his face and looks. Narsiah's looks and his wretched condition melt the heart of Parothi. She says

*'the boy is the boon given to us by Lord Shankara for our devotion to Him. Let us accept it gracefully.'*

Shiviah nods in agreement. Parothi gives the boy bananas to eat. She says she has two sons from that day. She says, though the boy is found on an *amavasya* day he will grow up like a full moon. Shiviah approves her intention. They take Narsiah to the *Linga*. They three stand before the *Linga* and bow to the Lord. Shiviah and Parothi express their gratitude to Shankara for giving such a gift to them. They adopt him in His presence.

Narasiah soon becomes the darling of not only Parothi's but the whole of Shankaragudem. He starts his schooling along with Ramana. Ramana too is happy. He has a friend and a playmate. One more mouth to be fed doesn't discourage Shiviah and Parothi though their income is meagre. They try their best to keep the boys in good spirits. Soon Narasiah adjusts himself to the new surroundings and behaves like their natural son. He treats Ramana, as his brother with affection. He finds cheer in his life as he gets love from all the three members of the family. Soon he forgets his life at his uncle's house which was devoid of any joy.

After about a month, Rajiah visits Shankaragudem looking for Narasiah. Rajiah is in his mid-forties and a literate Tribal businessman. Having spent some years in a city, he has learnt all the tricks of the city people. Rajiah feigns sorrow before Shiviah and Parothi. He says to them in a voice of pretended grief that bitten by poverty, he is forced to send Narasiah to the city. On being questioned about the reason, he says he is very poor and has lost everything in his business. He adds that he has decided to migrate to a far-off place in search of livelihood. As he cannot bear with the thought of Narsiah being starved along with him, he abandoned him in the temple hoping that Lord Shankara will take care of him. Repenting his move, he has now come to take his nephew back.

Shiviah and Parothi take compassion and offer

to help Rajiah. Regarding Narasaih, they are very clear that they have adopted him as a gift from the Lord and will raise him. Parting with a gift amounts to treachery to God and they will never do it. After lot of deliberations they assure Rajiah some sort of relief. They invite him to their house. Parothi serves food both to her husband and Rajiah, while are eating, Ramana and Narsiah come home from school carrying their school bags on their backs. On seeing Rajiah there, Narsiah becomes pale and tears roll down his cheeks. But Parothi reassures him that he will stay with Ramana. Narasaih is apprehensive, but happy.

Shiviah advises Rajiah to set up a shop in Shankaragudem instead of going to a far-off place. He promises to give a piece of his land for building a house and shop. Now the money that is needed to set up the shop and business crops up in their discussions. Parothi decides to sell her gold chain to raise money for setting up the shop. Rajiah feels relieved. Parothi, in her mind feels that it was the least that she could do for someone who was Narasaih's succour.

## Chapter 6

Rajiah moves to Shankaragudem and starts petty business through a small grocery shop with logistic and financial support from Shivaiah and Parothi. It is a small *Kirana* shop. Rajiah is a shrewd entrepreneur. Soon he realises that by selling the traditional goods he will never prosper. He finds Shankaragudem a virgin village that is not yet abused by modern goods and fashions. The tribes in around Shankaragudem smoke *beedies* which are made by hand by stuffing tobacco into a rolled leaf. They drink toddy. They are not used to smoking cigarettes and have no approach to alcohol. Rajiah decides to initiate the villagers into using them.

He begins with cheap chocolates, wrapped toffees and candies. As these are cheap and

tasty, the parent's grow considerate to the demands of their children and buy them. Then Rajiah introduces tea and coffee. Cigarettes and soft drinks follow soon. His hotel with two benches as its furniture becomes a chatting place for the tribal youth. They flock into it drink tea, smoke cigarettes and chat various things. Rajiah often joins them in conversations. He talks to the youth about films, film stars and their affairs using a sort of libidinous language. Soon the hotel becomes a rendezvous for the tribal youth and Rajiah becomes their *Guru*. Rajiah feels elevated because of his flourishing business. But he aims high. As he tasted success in his first phase, he decides to exploit the vulnerable villagers more and more. He introduces cheap bottled liquors with catchy and glazing labels on them initially to visiting urban pilgrims and then to locals. The liquor in eye-catching bottles tempt the villagers, especially the youth. They form a beeline to buy them. Liquor gives them tipsy enticement and they start despising the toddy. Rajiah's success in business disturbs the tranquil family atmosphere. Shankaragudem sees early signs of turbulence.

The villagers of Shankaragudem and the people around it become regular customers of Rajiah. When they are short of money to buy alcohol, Rajiah lends them and charges interest on it. Rajiah soon starts lending money for petty domestic needs as well. He juggles with their accounts and pushes them deep into heavy debts some time forcing a few to even mortgage their meagre land holdings. He is now a neo-feudal lord. He becomes a sort of chieftain who is respected and feared and addressed as Rajarao.

Ramana and Narsiah complete their primary education. As there is no high school in Kamalapur, they are to be sent to Dhanwada about a day's journey, for further education. Though they are supported by Government assistance, they being tribal boys, Shiviah feels

that it is beyond his means to keep two boys at town fulfilling their other needs. But Parothi insists that the boys must be sent to the town. She says that as a child it was her dream to attend high school. Her dream was shattered. She wants to fulfil her unfulfilled desire by sending the boys to high school. Rajarao remains indifferent to Shiviah and Parothi's struggle to keep the boys at high school. He says he has washed Narsiah off his hands.

Rajarao nurses silently ambition for growth and prosperity by whatever means possible. He secretly plans to buy a piece of 5-acre land in the village that is adjacent to Shiviah's land with an ulterior motive of usurping Shiviah's land in future. He opines that Shiviah as a headman of the village may prove a stumbling block on his way to prosperity. If he cripples Shiviah, no one can dare his sway over the village. He is sure that Shiviah will certainly run into debts because of the boys' education. Sooner or later Shiviah will not have any option except selling his land. Rajarao is sure that nobody in the village has guts to compete with him to buy Shiviah's land. Rajarao remains callous to Narasiah's needs. He has no love for Narasiah in his heart.

Ramana and Narasiah are in S.S.C. now. Financial burden starts telling upon Shivaiah. When the children had come for *Diwali* holidays, Ramana tells his mother about the school excursion to Hampi during Christmas holidays and that it would cost Rs. 1000 per person. Shiviah doesn't react and Rajarao too is reluctant. Parothi pays Narasiah for expenses for both from her savings and feels a motherly pride.

After passing out reasonably well from High School and Junior College both Ramana and Narasiah inform their intention for further studies. Parothi cannot say no to their aspiration. She remembers how she had longed for studies. How she was obstructed from going to high school by her parents and other elders. She wants to realise her dreams in her sons'

academic excellence. But money is an issue. The meagre earnings of Shivaiah is enough just for two square meals. The income from their land is not much and infact she had leased her land to another poor farmer in Kalamalpur. Even that was meagre. It was with these meagre incomes that she was supporting Ramana and Narasiah till now. There are now only two options left for Parothi, one is to convince her sons to seek some modest jobs or till the land as their forefathers had done. The other is to sell her maternal property and support her sons in the city as long as the money lasts. Parothi tries to discuss things with Shiviah. He doesn't react as he is slowly becoming an introvert, overweighed by financial problems. Parothi sells her maternal property and sends her sons to fulfil their ambition.

## Chapter 7

As part of their Annual Day, the school in Kamalapur has organised an excursion to Shankarakonda. The day trip is to begin with children exploring the flora of the forests around Shankarakonda, identify medicinal and other valuable plants, collect evidences of wild animals and write an essay on their observation. After reaching the hill top, some children notice some activity and movement of huge machinery like cranes etc in a distant valley. They come back and report it to their Teacher. The teacher also reaches the hill top accompanied by Shivaiah and a few other villagers and notices some strange activity they had never seen before.

Rajarao along with some of his followers goes to that valley next day. It is near Sripur, native village of Rajarao and the activity going on is granite quarrying. It is unusual in that landscape. Someone had secured a lease licence over one hillock of Ligalakondalu for quarrying granite stones for civil constructions in that area. They realise the potential of financial gains by extending the quarry to other neighbouring

hills. Rajarao approaches the quarry owner and negotiates stake in the quarry activity promising to help in expansion and becomes a partner.

The Lingalakondalu Range of hills around the Shankarakonda has huge potential for expansion particularly to manufacture granite slabs. However, as the Shankarakonda is an abode of Shankara as per local folklore, the Mining Company is apprehensive of getting permission and support from the authorities. But Rajarao, having mastered the art of manipulation, promises to find a way out and enters into partnership with the Company.

Considering its potential, a Multinational company takes up the project by buying the mining lease agreement. It constitutes a board of directors to run the show. Rajarao is taken on the board as a Resident Director.

After completing graduation, Ramana and Narsiah come to the temple with beaming faces. They tell the news of their flying abroad to study M.S. in the U.S.A. But they do not disclose the bond they signed for the Multinational Company involved in Mining at the behest of Rajarao. They tell that they have received

scholarship from an international foundation to provide financial support for their study. Shiviah reacts nonchalantly. Parothi's heart swells with pride. She takes the boys to the *Linga*. The three bow before it. Parothi speaks to the boys.

'You have arisen from this soil. You are soaring to the skies. Never forget the soil that has given birth to you. If you forget, that amounts to forgetting your mother from whose womb you have come out to breathe and enjoy life. After your education is completed come home to share your joys and learning with the sons of this soil and bring cheer into the lives of many who are forlorn and disadvantaged.'

Ramana and Narasiah exchange glances of apathy. Yet they nod in agreement. Parothi sees them off at the local bus stand only. She cannot leave her village and husband who needs constant care and attendance.

Parothi feels very lonely. As long as her sons were in the city, she felt that they were by her side. Now they are far away. Parothi knows that America is a far off country and it is impossible either for her sons or her to visit each other whenever they feel like seeing each other.

## Who is the real king of Forest? Navratan Singh

During the last few sessions of our General Body Meetings, there was a raging controversy to decide who is the real king of forest.

I am giving some valid reasons, quintessential for a king, to propose that Lion is the king of Forest.

- 1) Lion is sedentary, lethargic and lazy, and all of these put together.
- 2) He is not the meat winner of the family, his wife is.
- 3) His wife hunts, kills and gets the meat for her children.
- 4) He just sits, snores, farts and yawns which is so well projected by MGM.
- 5) Even then he snatches the Lion's share at the dining place and kicks away any intruder.
- 6) He has a bad, sleazy eye on others wives.
- 7) He picks up a quarrel with another Lion who is also a moron like him.
- 8) There is a mock fight and the other one runs away.
- 9) Then the real fight starts between his wife and the other lady whom he desires to appropriate.
- 10) He grabs the stronger one and continues business as usual.

In good humour:**As we sail through the river of life****By:****Dr. B Raghotham Rao Desai**

During the last week of June, '19, I had been to Hyderabad (on invitation by the Retired Forest Officers' Association) when I noticed an employee at the airport wearing a T-shirt on which a catchy slogan was inscribed as "**God is busy....May I help you?**" The quote kept ringing in my mind till I reached the lodge (at Aranya Bhavan, Saifabad) and thought: 'what if that is true?' Came to my mind, an article written by me way back in 2013 and published under the caption "**For a Bargain: Good or bad**", citing an 'imaginary' encounter with God (reproduced for ready-reference as a **footnote** to this article, at the cost of repetition!) while making me engrossed with the following thoughts:

People invest a fair share in God's miracles by constantly involving in the form of prayers by overcrowding the temples & other shrines and similar premises: be it in a child's success during an exam, or promotion at work---offering Him 'goodwill money' as well, promising to provide it when the demands are fulfilled! God being needed everywhere and at every moment, His presence can be seen & felt at every nook and corner of the hospitals as well, which witness a whole gamut of emotions---from happiness to grief---where prayers of well-wishers soar up endlessly, often in a silent manner---offered with mind and soul!! That's because, God is known for testing the devotees time & again, and hence all of us pray for those little mercies in the form of happiness, to ease an arduous journey in this world wherein people are so engrossed with their busy lives that even if God makes an appearance, it might go unnoticed!!!

**Footnote:**

You may be interested to know: **God and I have frequent conversations----sometimes we even banter with each other!** Last time it happened when I was strolling on a tank-bund in the city----it being slightly different that time. He said "**Now that you are nearing the age of eighty-five, I am in the process of planning your next life. Being aware that you had lived a moderately lusty past, you should know that you won't make the grade of one more stint in the human shape!**".

Seeing quite a number of pigeons around, I requested Him spontaneously and pleaded "**Make me a pigeon in that case in the next life** but give me birth preferably at St. Mark's Square (in Venice) or Trafalgar Square (in London) or at least at the Gateway of India (Mumbai)! No one seems to care that much elsewhere, but I have seen people go ga-ga over them, by feeding them & by having them sit on their shoulders and get the pictures taken. **I love it**".

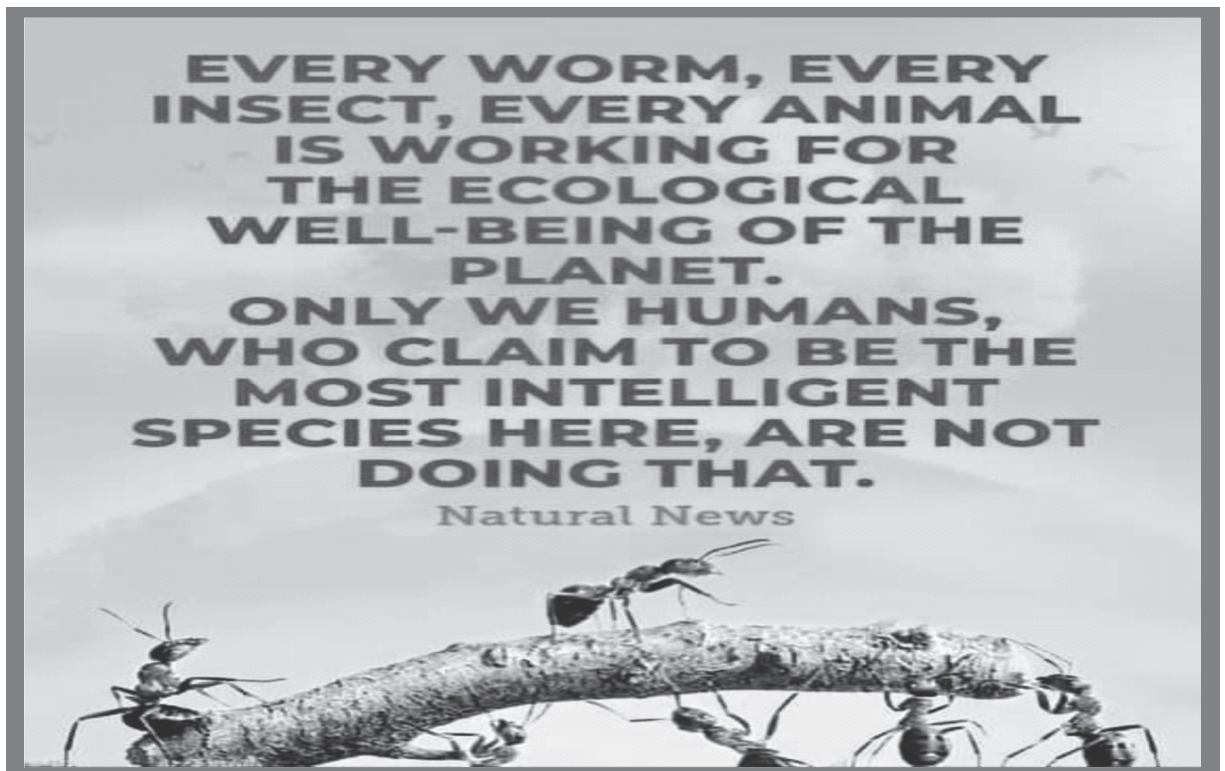
"**No,**" said Almighty, "**Gateway of India is also so much crowded already, with pigeons, just like the other two Squares, to have you there**". At which I spotted a duck diving in & out in the tank and **desired to be a duck in my next life**, but in lake-districts of England or America, since the tanks & lakes here are too polluted for ducks to enjoy. "**Even you** will find sustained flow of untreated sewage & industrial waste---the pollutants forming, out of the effluents, foam-bergs floating on the surfaces." **He brushed aside my suggestive request and said that He had planned me to be a four-legged creature!** To which I jumped with joy and almost shouted: "Make me a pet-dog in the

USA----I would really love it, as that is a country where they have 5-star-hotels for such creatures, with separate sections in shops (for snacks) and also pharmacies (specialising in medicines) for pets. They have velvet beds, a relaxing spa, round-the-clock medical care & non-alcoholic beers (imported from Belgium). The life of a pampered-pooch would leave many Indians---- why, for that any human---- envious! And, surely You are aware that they have organic foods & shampoos---- also, by Your grace, they are allowed to date & mate. They even have manicurists' & pedicurists' outlets, while some luxury hotels even offer suites for pets".

At this stage, God looked at the balance sheet of my life, and added tentatively: **"You are perhaps qualified for another tenure as human!"** On hearing of it, I requested Him: "In that case, I choose Bhutan, and plead you to send me there because that is where 'happiness

index' rules and not the GDP". To which, God asked **"Why not right here----you are familiar with the surroundings."** "Not here, God! Please!!---- one life here is enough. Without your help, I cannot even cross the roads safely---- other woes being breakdown of all systems, etc., "----I pleaded, "Please don't send me back to a country that has quite a few hardcore criminals as politicians and lawmakers, of late. I will send you a zipped copy of our Constitution, so that You can see for Yourself the gap between what is preached & what is practiced".

**"India it shall be!" God announced.** To which I requested Him "If that be my fate, please make me a driver or a cook of an MP or an MLA because they also happen to be *crorepathis*". **God looked down and walked away**----I am awaiting His verdict. What if God has chosen someone like me to help to make others' tasks a little easier? I should also think about that possibility, isn't it?



## Operation Tiger (Capture Man-eater) in Bandipur TR-2019

### Leads for a Model

By:

**B.M.T. Rajeev**

**Introduction:** Bandipur is one of the 9 Tiger Reserves(TR) initially started in India in 1973 and one of the 50 TRs in India at present and one of the 5 TRs in Karnataka. It is a national park spread over 872 sqkm, totally 1,000 sqkm including the Buffer zone. It is a part of the Niligiri Biosphere Reserve and contiguous to Mudumalai TR (TN), Wynad WLS (Kerala) and Nagarahole TR and is situated at mid-way between the famous tourist destinations Mysore and Ooty at 80 km. it spreads in the Chamarajanagar and Mysuru Districts of Karnataka. The tiger population count at the time of starting the TR was 11 and it gradually rose to 120 by 2018 as per the census.

With the rise in the population of tigers and its preys base- spotted deer, sambar, gaur, elephant, wild boar etc and the co-predators-leopard, wild dog etc and succession of vegetation to climatic climax /secondary climax; the animals started spreading spatially in search of food, water and space for spread of genes.....and came in contact with the human habitations spreading all along the northern boundary of Bandipur TR (BTR) creating man-animals conflicts (MAC) since the mid of 1990s.

Massive elephant proof trench (EPT), rubble stone walls, solar fencing and finally old rail fencing (ORF) are being erected along the boundary between BTR and the farm lands and could able to contain the depredation of elephants but, not the straying out of the tigers and leopards.

The tigers generally move to fringes in the course of their establishing individual home ranges (by new recruits) and indulge in cattle lifting (easy prey)-for which compensations are paid. Some

time indulge in mauling human whoever obstructs the tiger while attacking its prey-cattle. These incidences of tigers attacks on human results in mostly death of the victims- and such things explode in the mass media news and the culprit tiger will be named as '*Man-eater*' and the affected people demand for capture or elimination of the culprit tiger forcing the TR authorities to take action as demanded in the interest of gaining the good will of the people living close to the protected areas (PAs). The "*Operation Tiger (Capture Man-eater) in BTR-2019*" is one of such operations in Karnataka or elsewhere in India.

**Operation Tiger in Oct, 2019 in BTR:** A farmer by name Shivalingappa aged 52 yrs was mauled by a tiger in the outskirts of the BTR near Chowdapura in Gundlupet taluk, in the dusk on 8<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2019 and it was the second incidence to the man-mauling by a tiger on 1<sup>st</sup> Sept, 2019 when another farmer by name Shivamadappa was killed in the nearby locality including hunting of 16 heads of cattle in series terrorizing the locals..... The ire of farmers rose up and agitated with demand for capture or killing of man-eater immediately with adequate compensation for the family of the victims and it was breaking news in the mass media. Immediately, the Chief wildlife Warden, Karnataka responded by promising that the man-eater tiger will be captured within 24 hours or will be shot.

**The operation on 1<sup>st</sup> day** was started on the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2019 with deployment of hundreds of field staff including tribals, watchers, Forest Guards, DyRFOs, RFOs and officers headed by the Field Director Sri

T. Balachandra by roping in experienced Veterinarians in 5 teams. The Vets, shooters, gun men on the back of 2 tamed elephants for combing, tracking, tracing and tranquilizing and capturing the man-eater tiger in the Chowdapura locality of the Gopalaswamy betta Range of the BTR and its surroundings. The trained/experienced dogs with men on foot with guns were also deployed to scare and drive the tiger to a point of rounding. The first day's operation was ended in futile.

**The operation on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> the day** (10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> Oct.) continued with gradual increase in the men up to 150 and elephants up to six and even a famous shooter Mr Shariar Khan was also roped in for a day for the operation and they were also ended in futile.

**The 5<sup>th</sup> day operation on 13<sup>th</sup> Oct.,....** was launched with more vigour on the arrival of the head of the Karnataka Forest Force and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Sri P. Sridhar, and also the Chief Wildlife Warden & PCCF Sri Sanjay Mohan to the field. The Tribals by sect-Soligas (aboriginals) from Biligiri Ranga Temple TR (BRT-TR) in Chamarajanagara dist, who are said to be very talented in following the tracks of **"The King of the jungles- Tiger"** through its foot prints (Pug marks) to its hideout were also summoned and their service was switched on this day. After confirming that the targeted tiger is suspected to be within the Chowdapura area basing on 3-4 visuals of 'camera traps' out of the 100s of camera traps laid for this operation; and the spot of flood stains and remains of the baby elephant-suspected to have been hunted by the said tiger, its pug marks evidences were all led for zeroing down about the presence of the culprit tiger with in 2 sqkm of the spot of elephant calf killed in previous day....and the combing operation started around the 12.30 pm. The team assisted by the Soligas of the BRT-TR and the dog squad could be able to track and trace

the man-eater tiger hiding in the midst of thickets by 13.30 hours, .... the Vet on the back on elephant did the rest. After taking the dart of tranquillizing medicine ....the tiger sneaked in to thickets creating panic and forced the team of the said Vet to pursue and re-dart to sedate and make it to fall.

Immediately, tiger was possessed in to a net and lifted in to the squeezing cage kept ready in a nearby vehicle by the staff to administer the revival dose with all care for keeping its body cool by pouring water. On examination, it was found to be robust male tiger aged 4 yrs, weighing more than 200 kgs. Then, it was shifted to Chamundi Rehabilitation centre in the outskirts of Mysore, as it was notoriously known to have been killed two men and 16 cattle heads around Chowdapura without taking risk to release it to wild against the wish of the local people. The operation was a success and brought credit for the efforts and skill of the staff and officers of the BTR/Forest Department.

**Analysis of the Operation tiger of 13<sup>th</sup> Oct-2019:** It is very interesting that it took 6 days rigorous combing operation by pressing all power/strength of the staff/officers of the PA, tamed elephants, vehicles, outsourcing talented with huge cost. But, still it is very difficult to say definitely that the man-eater/ killer tiger of two farmers only has been nabbed; because, it is a young and robust tiger without any deformities to indulge in man-eating except an attribution that... it might have mauled the men-who might have obstructed it from preying on the cattle. Again, there is no proof to say- that same tiger only has killed man in two instances except pug marks and home range habitation...as there are reports suggesting that the buffer of Chowdapura is being visited by other tigers too.

Further, the zeroing on the tiger basing on presence of blood stains and remains of the elephant calf suspected to have been killed by

the tiger in the previous day and its revisit proves that, it was the same tiger that had hunted the elephant calf and not sure about the mauling of men by it for which a massive operation was conducted for 6 days (as it is open for suspicion).

**Conclusion:** However, basing on the pug marks tally and the home range habitation of tigers, conclusion can be drawn that the tiger caught in the operation on 13.10.2019 at Chowdapura is the tiger that has killed men on 01 Sept, & 8<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2019 and it has been caught live and sent to rehabilitation center, Mysore ( A general conception).

**Was this massive operation tiger in BTR right and has it not caused disturbance in the PA? Are some of the questions....** is analyzed for a model operation to be held for capture of man-eaters basing on the habits of the tigers and past experiences in such cases:

**1. Habits of the tigers:** Tiger is a partial nocturnal animal but, has good eye sight during day and night. It likes water and visits water holes to dip n cool in hot weathers. It has good sense of ear but poor sense of eye sight and taste. Tiger leads solitary life in a separate area by marking its home range and always defends its territory. Female lives in family except in gestation period. Tiger is a strong and bold animal and not afraid of challenging any animal it decides to hunt when hungry; it is royal and does not harm any animal-if not hungry. After the hunt, the tiger drags its kill to a safer place and feeds on after taking rest; eats up to 8 kg or more if hungry. The left over is hidden safely before leaving for a water source to have water, swim and relax and have rest in a safer place close to the spot of its kill ..... The next day, it will return to feed on the left over of its kill and will never indulge for hunting afresh-**its inborn habit**. It will continue to feed on the kill, even if perished as it is "**carriion**" (I had seen a tiger feeding on dead/perished elephant carcass for a fortnight near Nugu River in BTR-1992).

**Generally tiger is not a man-eater** except in the Sunderbans of West Bengal/ Bangladesh. But, some tigers take to man-eating if any of them become infirm due to old age/disease, or incapacitated due to piercing of the quails of porcupine to the paws in attempts to hunt it or infirm due to injury to legs in a quarrel with comrades or kicks of the strong herbivores while hunting etc or if any mother happens to feed the meat of man to cubs and so on as in Sunderban tigers or man eater due to its accidental killing and tasting of human flesh thinking that he is a weak animal etc .... Such infirm tiger/habitual man eaters can attempt to hunt man thinking as an easy prey and not otherwise.

**In fact, tigers are afraid of man** as he has been seen from time immemorial as a persecutor and enemy. Tiger may attempt on man for self defense by guessing that he may cause harm to its cubs or to it when it is weak without food for a week or more and as a man-eater not otherwise.

**2. Practices in the past:** Basing on the habits of tiger returning to the kills without fail.... *lots of tigers were hunted by the Shikaris/hunters* by waiting on tree top hide outs near the kills and tigers were also killed by farmers by **poisoning tiger kills** (cattle) as vengeance in the past..... The famous hunter of feline-man-eaters in Himalyan region **Jim Carbett** too had eliminated most of the man-eaters by shooting from tree tops-erected close to the kills of the man-eaters by waiting throughout nights in those days of no torch for spot light by using lanterns and even in moon lights in the 1st half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The PAs held *tiger shows* by tying baits.... (Eg. I as one of the trainees of Wildlife Institute of India, seen a tiger show in 1993 in Kanha TR in wild on elephants back).

**3. Operation tiger (capture man-eater) held in Karnataka and in other states and the disturbances caused to the animals.....**

**i. Karnataka:** Suspected man-eaters in Karnataka have been captured with the 'operation tiger to capture' by arranging massive combing operations by deploying hundreds of staff, men with drums, crackers, guns on foot and Vets and shooters on the backs of tamed elephants, vehicles to ferry etc for days... But, earlier to 1990s (i.e adoption of the technique of immobilization of animals) it was only shoot out or killing by gun, spears n sticks by chasing/netting. Fore.gs

**a) In the winter of 2013...** three cases of man-eating by tigers happened... one forest watcher was lifted by tiger in Nagarahole TR... Then one cattle grazer at Chickabargi, and another cattle grazer at Maddur-Gundlupet- in the limits of BTR were killed by the tigers. Massive operations for days were held and both tigers were caught in BTR and put in Zoos.

**b) In Dec, 2014.....** a tiger killed a woman labour in the limits of Bhadra TR limits of Chickamagaluru and it was caught by an operation and taken to Bhimaghad WLS of Belagavi district and left in it. While, wandering in its new place being chased by people- it killed a woman and it was virtually pursued as man-eater for a month or more and finally shot in Jan, 2015-the WLS was virtually pounded by staff and villagers in the operation.

**c) In Nov, 2015** a cattle grazer was killed by a tiger in Hadanur limits of BTR, a massive combing operation was held for 2 days and at close of the days' futile operation, the authorities tied a bait in the dusk of 2<sup>nd</sup> day near the spot of tiger kill (man); for the surprise of the authorities, tiger appeared and attacked the team from behind... luckily, a shooter who was hired on that day by the CWLW, shot the tiger point blank and saved a watcher from the jaws of tiger/death.

**ii. Tamil Nadu-** Jan, 2016 a tiger killed a man in

tea estate at *Gudalur in the Nilgiris*, it was killed by conducting a combing operation.

**iii. Maharashtra State:** In 2018..a nursing tigress-Anvi- in the Thippeshwar WLS, Yavatmal turned to be a man-eater in and around it. All the operations made to capture and relocate.... failed and in the course of these operations it managed to kill 13 people in the locality. The affected people living close to the WLS went on agitating with demand for killing of the man-eater by shooting. As tiger-Anvi- was nursing two cubs, the NGOs took for its right to live in the forests and moved the High Court against the attempt of the Wildlife Authorities to capture/shoot it down. The Hon'ble HC ordered for shooting down the man-eater in the interest of the lives of the innocent people living around the WLS.

An operation was conducted to bait and capture the evading man-eater in August/Sept, 2018 by roping in a marks man; the man-eater Manvi took the dart near a bait and before the medicine react to sedate... it pounced towards the party of darting; with mere fear of attack by the tigress, the marks man in the party shot it down. This was accused/blamed by the NGOs as the- lust of the marks man to shoot it and not warranted to save the men from attack after darting with sedating medicine. The news went viral in mass-media erupting a big controversy all over the state and in the nation with demand for punishment to the Chief Wildlife Warden and also the Forest Minister of the State for having hired the marks man and also the marks for his instant shot at the man-eater. It took months to settle down the dust of controversies.

**4. Conclusion:** *With the above information about the habits /behavior of tigers, mode of wooing tigers by bait/ kill for hunting or killing by poisoning its kill; and with the present disturbing massive combing operation after the arrival of modern means of sedating medicines, darting*

*guns, torches, tamed elephants for safe conveyance in tiger affected areas and vehicles with roads for conveyance, communication etc what will be the non-disturbing or least disturbing to animals and economical Model for Operation Tiger (Capture man-eater) should be? .... It is as follows.*

**New Model for 'Operation (Capture man-eater) tiger'.... (Suggested for trial/ follow):**

1. The spot of man-eating/kill by tiger should be inspected by experienced wildlifer.... Details of the spot, pug marks if any should be taken, and the waterhole nearby to the spot of kill should be located and details taken in addition to other legal formalities. As a precaution, an old and big-cattle bait should be tied in the spot of the tiger kill (prey) n left in the dusk...since in the case of man-mauling tiger is deprived of eating anything and it is bound to kill the bait on its return visit or may not... but, it will help for the future course of action against the man-eater

2. After deciding that a man-eating tiger has to be captured in a forest or PA to quell and satisfy the demands of the affected people in the interest of the safe guarding the affected people and also to gain their co-operation in wildlife conservation- a prohibitory order under Sec.144 from the District Collector and police protection against public intrusion to the operation area planned obtained with talk to people to not to interfere with tiger capture operation.

3. **1st day...** the spot of the bait and a nearby water hole to be inspected on elephants back and the visit of the tiger/ killing of bait verified- If the man-eater happens to kill the bait- a good sign to be taken as half of the operation is success. Then camera traps to be installed to monitor the movement of the man-eater. Care should be taken to keep the cattle and villagers away from the spot. Home range of its habitation carefully drawn on the map and demarcated and

plan made for capture man-eater next day.

4. **2<sup>nd</sup> day...** the visit of the man-eater to the bait and its movement and its presence basing on the kill of the bait, visuals of the camera traps verified and its hideout guessed with firm belief that the man-eater rests around the kill and it will continue to stay so till it consumes the kill. Then, the operation tiger to be held to capture with all force, facilities to accomplish by surrounding the hide out....as done in BTR on 5<sup>th</sup> day (13<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2013).

In the case of man-eater evading to kill the bait- no operation should be held... the process to be continued on 2<sup>nd</sup> day and repeated on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7th day by tying bait .... The option is to wait for the kill of bait tied at the spot of kill by the tiger....to take next course of operation to nab the tiger. If the tiger fail to return in 7 days, it should be declared that it has left the spot...and wait for next chance without resorting to combing operation..... which causes a lot of disturbances to all form of wild animals in the forest/PA.

**N.B: If, the man-eater tiger has been decided to be killed** by the authorities ... a tree top-machhan should be erected at the spot of kill and a marks man and vet put together day and night on shift basis with movements on elephants back by tying old-big bait (cattle, live or dead) for 4 days and if man-eater fails to visit, shift the machhan to another suspected spot and tie the bait for 3 days .... if tiger/man-eater fails to visit..... it has to be abandoned to try in next time. If the people insists- conduct combing operation for a day to kill... if it fails... abandon the operation. Care should be taken to cordon the area from the visit of people and cattle.

(Author is a Former Deputy Director, Project Tiger, Bandipur TR during 1994-96 and a lance writer/ Author on wildlife. Mob; 9632781811, E-mail: bmt.rajeev.ifs@gmail.com)

## Unsung Lone Rangers

By:

R. K. Sama and B. R. Pandya

***A South African proverb is aptly true for writing the history of forests in independent India. The proverb is "Until the lion have their own story teller, the history of the hunt will always glorify the hunter."***

Nexus of political rulers and their bureaucracy (Indian Administrative Service) are the story makers and their cronies are story tellers of forests in independent India. The story of destruction of forests (26% of land mass), a most important natural resource of pristine beauty and value is culminated into an enactment of a law in 2007, "The Schedule Tribes and other Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006". This happened exactly after 60 years of independence in India. Enactment of this piece of legislation envelopes the story of the failed opportunities to make these people partners in richness of this resource. This disconnect made these people and forests poorer. The Government discovered in 2006 that most pervasive poverty-stricken people are living in forests and around it. The recent Global Hunger Index placing India at 103 out of 117 countries tells the story of under nourishment, acute under-nourishment, child stunting and high child mortality amongst the poor. The highest percentage of these children comes from the tribal.

The tragedy is that this law was enacted after destroying forests and resultant diminishing ecosystem services from this greatest resource. The forest resources and forest dependent people became poorest of poor. In process the whole country became loser. This law is the last post to destroy the sanctity of forests and its biodiversity. We are on way to limit forests as sanctuary, national parks, Safari etc. Communities living in and around forests are losing the basics for livelihood and they have

patches of eroded soils and deteriorating soil moisture in the midst of destroyed forests around. The whole country will pay the price in form of water scarcity, effects of climate change and polluted air and water.

These following paragraphs are to know, how the country's leaderships failed to formulate appropriate policies to manage the most important natural resources, 'Forests'. Whatever policies were made were very late, inadequate and didn't make the dwellers stock holders in wellbeing of the resources. It was based on political expediency to distribute land.

"For most of the state's, forest revenue was substantial of their kitty and state governments coerced the department to increase it. Every one of them saw in forests many things to give to their electorate: timber for building houses, land for cultivation, employment from logging and diversion of forest land under any pretext and that also without any accountability. Forests were treated as open treasure which could be looted; it was orphaned."

"Policy inadequacy and lack of vision to connect the fate of the forest dwellers with forests, to generate mutual wealth and health for forests and people, who would nurture forests for their benefits was nowhere on the horizon. It was the only reason the pervasive absolute poverty in the forest areas prevailed even after 60 years of independence. The last nail in the coffin was (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. No one is questioning them, "why these rights of at least

four generations were overlooked after independence and by whom?"

"We were made to believe that forests are plentiful and nature is bountiful and generous to regenerate. This belief helped politicians, local leaders and many others to get what they wanted and became powerful in process, when they played a role of shielding unscrupulous elements in society from enforcing the law and for many, they became arbitrator." Ironically, in the process the forest dwellers were found with smugglers, encroachers, poachers and thousands of forest officers lost their lives fighting the battle for law.

Gujarat forest department also fought the battles, many of them fiercely fought losing lives of many forest officials and they stood well in time of crisis. Most of these battles were not of our making.

Advent of social forestry made a big difference and our presence outside forest area gave us new identity. Gujarat lead the country in 1969 with successful extension forestry, later on named "Social Forestry". Gujarat was also first in India, and one of the few in world to have Marine national park, to protect marine life. Lions, once on verge of extinction from whole Asia is assured a safe abode in Gir and Brihad Gir. We owe it to the forest officials for their courage, leadership and vision to look much beyond in future. Gujarat's forests and its wild life are vivid and rich and its journey from 1960 till today is dotted with great achievements.

Forest officials' trainings are unique and tougher. It was art of survival in hardships to face the brute law of "survival of the fittest". The Ranger with his team is a standalone arrangement, a custodian of forests burdened with rights and privileges of forest dwellers, an estate manager with police duties, a prosecutor of law, a prodigious feat of management in the department. In absence of near missing of all the communications facilities, no help will be available to sort out his problems, if he or his team is in trouble or created a trouble.

Ranger appointed has to be the best man for all the jobs; he is called upon to do so. His two years long training is to make him ready to know everything; Forest management, mensuration, mycology, entomology, forest botany, wildlife, silviculture, engineering, accounting and ecology and many other sciences. This training and soft skills developed made him confident to face any situation. This made them uniquely equipped to do his duties efficiently and also provided unique opportunities to break new uncharted paths, as the challenges were also unique and very complex. Many of them rose to prominence, as they faced challenges in extraordinary manners and it became possible due to their parentage of training in Forest rangers' colleges, especially SFRC. It was established in 1911 as Madras Forest College and renamed as SFRC in 1955.

Few of them went much beyond their call for duty, grew to be great learners and talented and were passionate to dedicate their life for a cause which was dear to them and loved their work and left an indelible mark in developing wild life reserves beyond forests, extended trees cover all over Gujarat beyond 9% of forest areas and involved people to understand the ecology and environment and its importance to the human kind. They took the nature's education and awareness of environmental protection, wild life and its habitat protection beyond forests and organized groups of citizens in nature's clubs. It paved way for committed environmentalists to be with department to make their voices heard.

These forest officials were the prime mover and lead by their example. They stayed alive all their life for doing great big things. They had winning attitude which was combination of faith, self-confidence, enthusiasm and a worthwhile goal dear to their hearts. They brought social forestry and wild life conservation at the central stage of development. One of them became an icon for water resources management in the state and the country and remains in central stage of tribal

development. They are amongst unsung heroes of forests and wildlife.

The occasion of "XX meet of Forest Rangers college Alumni" at Vadodara in Gujarat (2019), triggered us to firm up an idea to remember those alumni of forest Rangers Colleges, whose contribution to Gujarat's forests and wild life have been immense and path breaking ,since Gujarat was carved out as a state( 1960) . It was easier to collect the names of the winners, who were awarded recognition through public awards instituted by government of India and other prestigious awards. But there are always unsung heroes, especially those who struggled to make a new pathway, who laid the foundations for a big change remained unsung heroes. Multilevel consultations amongst colleagues and seniors made the work of organizing committee easier and five illuminating personality was the unanimous choice. A common thread running in all these great personalities is honesty, hardworking, passion and love for their duties. They are simple persons, lived with values and aimed very high. They are great learners as they started with modest educational qualifications and grew into multi-faceted and hugely talented persons.

They are Shri R. G. Joshi, Retd. DCF, Shri

Pruduman.P. Raval, Retd. DCF, Shri Jayant Vinayak Aras, IFS Retd., Shri Siddiqe Ahmad Retd. DCF, Shri R. K. Sama. IFS Retd.

Award winners; We owe gratitude for martyrdom of Shri Shaktisinh Vishana, Range forest officer, who sacrificed his life to save the lives of other officers. He was awarded KIRTI CHAKRA.

Indira Priyadarshani Variksha Mitra Awardees. Shri Papa Rao IFS (Retd), Shri S. B. Baleja Retd. DCF, Shri B. B. Limbasiya, Retd. DCF, Shri M.K. Patel, Retd. DCF, Shri P.H. Rohit.

On the day of "XX meet of All India Forest Ranger's colleges Alumni Meet" at Vadodara, 7th November 2019 in presence of around 220 retired forest officers from 14 states and other dignitaries of the department, we are proud to recall contributions of all these illuminates for forestry of Gujarat, and honour them for their great achievements.

Five of them are no more with us in this world and we feel honoured to remember them in presence of their family members. We are proud and have honour of presence of all the recipients of honour today in this function. Shri Siddique Ahmad is not maintaining good health. (Authors Sri R.K Sama IFS is President and Sri B.R. Pandya IFS is the vice President of Forest Ranger's Alumni society.)

### **Cooking gas and precautions.**

A couple came home at midnight after having a good time at a restaurant, only to find the smell of gas around the house. The man went to the kitchen and detected a stronger smell. The subconscious mind pushed him to turn on the light. and the kitchen exploded, the husband died instantly and the wife was moved to intensive care where she still remains.

The furniture was seen 200 metres from the house, which meant that the gas pipe explosion was stronger than a bomb.

The lesson from this appalling incident is as follows: When you smell the gas do not turn on the light, but open all the doors and windows calmly, so that no spark occurs, then close the gas tube and do not turn on the light until the smell of gas completely disappears. Also do not open the refrigerator if you smell the gas, because it also causes an explosion, and even the suction fan does not switch it on because it has an electrical charge, just open the windows.

You should not read this letter alone, circulate it as much as you can, perhaps God will help you to avoid danger, and you will be rewarded



Sri N.Sridhar, I.A.S., C&MD, SCCL inaugurating Telanganaku Harithaharam in Singareni



- 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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# 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.
- ◆ This app helps in bridging the gap between consumers and the vast vendor eco-system across the country who are dealing with green products and services.
- ◆ Consumers will now have access to vendors to procure plants of various kinds including indoor, exotic, lawns, roof top gardens, vertical gardens, etc.
- ◆ With this mobile app they will have access to the products like pot vendors, aquariums, landscape designers and many more.

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## Note on Zoo Day Celebrations held on Dt 06-10-2019 at Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad

65th Vanya Prani Saptah and 56th Zoo Day was celebrated at Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad on 06.10.2019. Dr. S.K. Joshi, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana is the Chief Guest and Sri Rajeshwar Tiwari, IAS, Special Chief Secretary, EFS & T Department, Government of Telangana, Hyderabad along with Smt.R.Sobha, IFS, PCCF (HoFF) & CWW, Telangana, Sri. Munindra, PCCF (Admin), were the Guest of Honour. Sri A.V. Joseph, IFS, Rtd PCCF, Sri. Bucchi Ram Reddy, IFS Rtd were also present on. A pair of Lion Tailed Macaque released into the enclosure for the public display. These animals were brought from Anna Arignar Zoological Garden, Vandaluru, Chennai as a part of animal exchange programme. Later, the Chief Secretary along with the Special Chief Secretary and Zoo Officials inaugurated the renovated Butterfly Park. This open butterfly park is first in its kind in India and housing more than (35) species of butterflies.

Dr. Sidanand Kukrety, I.F.S., Addl. Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests/ C.F & Director Zoo Parks, Hyderabad and Smt. N. Kshitija, I.F.S., Curator, Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad welcomed the dignitaries on the dais. The Chief Guest felicitated the Major donors to the zoo. Sri. O.P. Mishra, Chief General Manager, SBI and Sri Charan, MD, Varsity Educational Institutes, Hyd. and also felicitated to Sri. A.V. Joseph, IFS, Rtd. for his major contribution in developing the zoo. Vana Premi monthly Journal, brought out by the Association of Retired Forest Officers of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, now Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, was inaugurated by the Dr. S.K. Joshi, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana. Late Sri K.V.S. Babu, IFS, Memorial Award in Recognition of services has been awarded to Sri G. Veeraiah, Lion Keeper, Sri G. Nagi Reddy, Head Animal Keeper and Sri K. Krishna Reddy, Head Mali, Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad details are as follows.

Sri G. Veeraiah, Lion Keeper, has contributed immensely in improving the Lion Population in Zoo. In the past (03) years around (03) no. of African Lion cubs and (03) no. of Asiatic Lion Cubs are born in Hyderabad Zoo. Under his able guidance as Lion Keeper. He has motivated his team and has done excellent service, contributed 31 years of

service. He is awarded a cash prize of Rs. 10,000/- along with Late Sri K.V.S. Babu, IFS, Memorial Award in Recognition of his services.

Sri G. Nagi Reddy, Head Animal Keeper, In-charge of Animal section in Lion Moat and Tiger Moat, for the past (03) years. He is instrumental in proper maintenance of night houses and proper health care of animals in his area. His constant supervision and dedication as Head Animal keeper has contributed immensely in the animal health care and hygiene. He has rendered a very meritorious service of 30 Years. He is awarded a cash prize of Rs. 10,000/- along with Late Sri K.V.S. Babu, IFS, Memorial Award in Recognition of his services.

Sri K. Krishna Reddy, Head Mali, and incharge of butterfly garden and surrounding areas. He has put great efforts with lots of sincerity in developing the habitat in butterfly area and all surrounding area. Contributed to greenery and landscaping in that area. He has always been a great motivation to his team and is a deserving candidate of this award. He has been rendered 30 years. He is awarded a cash prize of Rs. 10,000/- along with Late Sri K.V.S. Babu, IFS, Memorial Award in Recognition of his services.

The Royal Admin, Roaring Lions, Green Warriors and Zoo Corps were (4) teams in the Zoo participated in the various sports events like Cricket, Kabaddi, Tennikoit, Chess, Carroms, Badminton, Tug of War, Musical Chairs, Lemon & Spoon etc., The Chief Secretary, The Spl. Chief Secretary and PCCF distributed the prizes to the winners. On this occasion the Annual Report of Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad for the year 2018-19, Butterfly Park Broucher and Zoo Broucher were also released by the Chief Guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Sri S.K. Joshi, IAS, Chief Secretary to Government of Telangana said that, he is happy to be a part of the 56th Zoo day celebrations of the Nehru Zoological Park, established in the year 1963 and has appreciated the efforts of Nehru Zoological Park, in maintaining standards and creating a mark in the country.

Talking points Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana.

☞ This zoo is considered as pioneer among all other Zoos in the country in introducing Safari Park, Nocturnal Animal House, Open Enclosures and several other initiatives.

☞ Successful breeding of indigenous species Asiatic Lion, Royal Bengal Tiger, Herbivores, Antelopes, Gaur, Reptiles and almost all species of Birds including Exotic species, has placed Nehru zoological Park as one among the top three (3) zoos of the country.

☞ The animal diversity in the zoo and sprawling gardens and pleasant climate of zoo is attracting approximately 29 lakh visitors every year.

☞ Much emphasis is being laid on providing better Visitor amenities in near future which a very welcome trend.

☞ A very huge aviary is being built to house several indigenous and exotic bird and I understand that it will be the first of its kind in the country. The Chief Secretary congratulated the officers for their innovative thinking and implementation of works.

☞ This year the zoo added a pair of Giraffe, a pair of King Cobra, and several other species as part of animal exchange programme and several other are in pipeline. Adding new species to the collection would certainly provide the visitors interested in visiting the park again.

☞ I am happy to announce that our Zoo is getting two pairs of Kangaroos and a pair of Meerkats from Yokohoma Zoological Garden, Japan very shortly through an exchange programme. I appreciate the hard work done by all officers and staff towards this.

☞ I also congratulate all the zoo staff who have participated in the sports and games conducted with team spirit.

☞ The dedicated team of Nehru Zoological Park will no doubt achieve laurels and I wish the team a huge success.

Talking points Special Chief Secretary, EFS&T, Government of Telangana.

Sri Rajeshwar Tiwari, IAS, Special Chief Secretary, EFS&T,

Government of Telangana said that Today, we all are celebrating 66th Vanya prani saptah and 56th Zoo day celebrations of Nehru Zoological Park today and I am happy to be a part of it.

✦ Hyderabad zoo has been a forerunner in many of the initiatives for meeting the objectives of zoos i.e., Conservation, Education, Research and Recreation.

✦ We are providing many visitor amenities like Canteen, Dairy Parlor, Food Court, Purified Water Units (R.O Units), Baby feeding Centres, Bicycles, Pagodas, Benches, Sit outs, Amrutha Clinic, Children Park, Wheel Chairs and Wash Rooms. Improvement of visitor facilities are under progress.

✦ Our zoo has always been successful in breeding of almost all indigenous species like the Asiatic Lion, Royal Bengal Tiger, Herbivores, Antelopes, Gaur, Reptiles and Birds.

✦ The trainings organized for Zoo staff are very much essential for their capacity building and increase in work efficiency. The animal keepers training sponsored by the CZA has also provided a good exposure to the animal keepers.

✦ All the Eco days are being celebrated in the Zoo involving school and college students and visitors.

✦ This year Aldabra tortoise, Giraffe, Hippo, Lion tailed macaque, Nilgiri Langur, Grey wolf have been brought to zoo under animal exchange programme. Many more are in pipeline.

✦ The enthusiasm of the zoo staff in participating in the sports and games events is worth mentioning. I congratulate one and all for their participation and performance.

✦ It is happy to note that 380 children from 20 school participated in the events organized for the Zoo day. I congratulate all the students and parents.

Smt. N. Kshitija, IFS., Curator, Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad concluded the programme and gave vote of thanks to all the Chief Guest, dignitaries, officers, Press and Zoo Staff.

## Rejuvenation of Godavari and Krishna rivers -A mission

By:

**V. V. Hari Prasad**

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) passed a landmark order on 20 September 2018 pertaining to increasing polluted river stretches in the country (NGT 2018). It ordered all states and union territories to prepare action plans within two months to improve the quality of polluted river stretches to "at least bathing purpose" within six months of the finalization of the plans. The NGT observed that the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) have failed to check pollution. The tribunal distinctly stated that the chief secretary of each state and the administrator of each union territory will be responsible for preparation of the action plan.

### Study by Central pollution control Board

The NGT took suo motu cognizance of a report published in the *Hindu* on 17th September 2018. The report was based on a study done by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for identifying polluted river stretches in the country. Similar studies were conducted by the CPCB in 2012 and 2015. The 2018 study observed that the number of polluted stretches in the country was 351, an increase from 302 in 2015 and 150 in 2012. The 2018 data highlights that there are 45 river stretches attracting Priority I (Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) value  $\geq 30$  mg/l) for restoration. Out of these, five are in Gujarat, nine in Maharashtra and four in Tamil Nadu—the three most industrialized states in the country.

### Constitutional obligations:

In India, there is a constitutional mandate to protect and improve the environment. The Constitution makes the state responsible for the protection of the environment under the Directive Principles of State Policy (Article 48A of the Constitution), which state that "the state shall

endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country." Further, Article 51 A(g), in the form of "fundamental duties," makes every citizen of India responsible for protecting and improving the natural environment, including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures

The CPCB, since the 1990s, has a programme to monitor the quality of rivers primarily by measuring BOD (Biochemical oxygen demand), which is a proxy for organic pollution — the higher it is, the worse the river. The health of a river and the efficacy of water treatment measures by the States and municipal bodies are classified depending on BOD, with a BOD greater than or equal to 30 mg/l termed 'priority 1,' while that between 3.1-6 mg/l is 'priority 5.'

The CPCB considers a BOD less than 3 mg/l an indicator of a healthy river.

In its 2015 report, the CPCB identified 302 polluted stretches on 275 rivers, spanning 28 States and six Union Territories

### 'Namami Gange Programme

In this context '**Namami Gange Programme**', is worth mentioning which an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government in June 2014 with budget outlay of Rs.20,000 Crore to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.

Main pillars of the Namami Gange Programme were

- Sewerage Treatment Infrastructure
- River-Front Development

- River-Surface Cleaning
- Bio-Diversity
- Afforestation
- Public Awareness
- Industrial Effluent Monitoring
- Ganga Gram

In line with Detailed project report for rejuvenation of Ganga which was completed by Forest research Institute Dehradun by March 2016 ICFRE has conceptualized for DPR preparation for nine major river systems in India. MoEF&CC has awarded the project on preparation for Godavari, Krishna and seven other rivers to ICFRE.

### **Preparing DPR on rejuvenation of rivers Godavari and Krishna:**

In this connection it was proposed to follow a multi-pronged multi stake holder consultative approach for preparing DPR on rejuvenation of rivers Godavari and Krishna.

In this connection following the nodal officers meeting at IFB Hyderabad, the stakeholder's consultation meeting was conducted on **10-10-2019** at Hotel Gate way Vijayawada by Institute of Forest Biodiversity Hyderabad for preparation of DPR on rejuvenation of Godavari and Krishna rivers through forestry interventions. The meeting was attended by officers of Forest department, Agriculture department Police department Ground water department Pollution control Board along with academicians from the universities, scientists, N.G. Os journalists and farmers.

After the customary practice of lighting the lamp by the dignitaries and the invocation song "**Maathelugu Thalli Ki Malle Pu Danda**" **Sri D. Jayaprasad IFS** Director IFB Hyderabad and the team leader of the project while welcoming the dignitaries and all other participants elaborated upon the methodology being adopted in the preparation of DPR for rejuvenation of Godavari and Krishna rivers through forestry interventions

while involving all the stake holders in this regard.

To begin with the Deputy conservators of forests Sri Arul Rajan IFS, IFB Hyderabad and Sri Prubhuda IFS, IWST Bangalore jointly gave a presentation with regard to the need of stakeholders' meeting in the context of preparation of DPR for rejuvenation of Godavari and Krishna rivers and the strategy and approach in the context of forestry interventions being adopted in this regard. The presentation was followed by the address by **Sri Tirumala Rao IPS Commissioner of police Vijayawada**. While asserting that there has been an inseparable relation between man, nature and riverine eco system he explained in detail how the people have been responsible for pollution of river waters. He also gave an account of how efforts were put in in Krishna district on a campaign mode for cleansing river Krishna. He informed as to how the district police personnel have been doing their best in coming to the rescue of the common man either in case of floods or any other calamities. He assured all cooperation in the context of rejuvenation of river of Krishna by involving all stakeholders.

This was followed by the lecture delivered by **Sri A. K. Jha IFS Additional principal Chief conservator of forests**, A.P Forest department and also the nodal officer for the projects of rejuvenation of Godavari and Krishna rivers in Andhra Pradesh who asserted on the need of ground truthing and capturing the ground realities in the process of preparation of DPR. Later Dr K. Yella Reddy dean Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural university Guntur gave a detailed presentation in connection with National water policy-2012, Asset management plan in the implementation of the projects, the way pollution has taken place in Hussain Sagar lake in Hyderabad and also on the interventions to be taken up in Connection with the Agricultural activities in the process of rejuvenation of river waters in Andhra Pradesh.

### **WATER POLLUTION OF KRISHNA RIVER**

**Sri B. S. S. Prasad IFS (Retd.) chairman pollution Control Board Govt. of Andhra Pradesh** gave a detailed account of water pollution, reasons there for and the steps that have been taken by the pollution control board either in preventing or controlling water pollution levels in the river waters of Andhra Pradesh. He narrated the figures in connection with the values pertaining to 1.DO (Dissolved Oxygen) 2.BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand) 3.COD (Chemical Oxygen Demand) 4.Total Solids 5.Phosphates 6.Nitrites 7.PH Value of Krishna waters and added that when compared with rivers like Ganges and Yamuna the pollution levels are very low in case of river Krishna in Andhra Pradesh. He asserted that all Municipal corporations of Andhra Pradesh are bound to take up sewage treatment plans on a big scale in preventing the river water pollution. He has also dealt with the problem of siltation that crops up in the absence of proper implementation of catchment area treatment plans after completion of the projects.

Chief guest of the meeting **Sri N. Pratheep kumar IFS** Head of forest force Govt. of Andhra Pradesh narrated his experiences of the period when he worked as spl. secretary irrigation department in the erstwhile Govt. of Integrated Andhra Pradesh and also on the impact of people centered movements taken up in Rajasthan involving N.G.Os with regard to water conservation and water pollution. He also gave a detailed account of his visit to Australia where the treatment of complex river basin was taken up on a big scale. He exhorted on the need of river linkages in India which is a herculean task. He stressed upon the need of conservation of fauna in Andhra Pradesh in the process of conservation of biodiversity and also on the need of adopting a holistic approach in the rejuvenation of the rivers.

In the first technical session conducted under the chairmanship of **Dr V. Bhaskar Romana Murty IFS** Principal Chief Conservator of forests (FR). **Sri Nalini Mohan IFS Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL)** explained in detail about the

conservation of biodiversity in general and of wild life in particular which aspect he asserted has to be taken care of in connection with forestry interventions to be envisaged in the DPR. In this context he too stressed upon the need of adopting a holistic approach. Later Dr S. Patnaik, Nodal officer IFB Hyderabad gave a presentation on the approach to be adopted in connection with the rejuvenation of river Godavari which was followed by the presentation given by Dr Nagaraj consultant on the rejuvenation of river Krishna.

#### **AKIRA MIYAWAKI METHOD**

Sri B. N. N. Murty IFS Executive officer APFDC made a presentation on the planting method **AKIRA MIYAWAKI** through which high density plantations costing about 25.00 lakh rupees per hectare have been developed in Andhra Pradesh and its relevance in connection with the rejuvenation of river waters. This was followed by the presentations made by **Sri Varaprasad Director/Head Ground water department** who explained in chaste Telugu on bio geographic regions of India and APWRIMS (Impressive water information system of Andhra Pradesh). Later **Sri Ratnakumar Chief Engineer surface water department** gave a presentation on the study taken up recently on Vamsadhara river mouth and related matters. In the winding up session the chairman of the session expressed his views and made remarks in a lucid manner.

The second technical session was chaired by **Sri Nalini Mohan IFS Principal Chief conservator of forests (WL)**. In the presentation made by **Dr T. Ravi Sankar EGREE foundation** on mangroves and biodiversity in the estuaries of Godavari and Krishna rivers in Andhra Pradesh he dwelt upon the relevance of biodiversity in the present context and scenario. Later Dr Rama Subramanyam MSS Research foundation made a presentation on participatory mangrove conservation which was followed by the presentation given by Smt. M. Ganga Bhavani

Deputy director Krishna and Godavari basin organization, Central water commission on Hydro metrological and water quality network in Krishna and Godavari river basin. Lastly a presentation was made by **Dr K. Tulasi Rao Director Biodiversity research and extension. A. P. Biodiversity Board** with regard to the case study on catchment development of river Krishna. On completion of the session the chairman made the winding up remarks while covering the topics dealt with and their outcomes.

The session was followed by the panel discussion with Sri Nalini Mohan IFS, Principal CCF (WL), Sri D. Jay prasad IFS Director IFB, Sri Varprasad Director Ground water department, Sri Praveen Chauhan scientist IFB, T. Ravi and N.G.O representative Ravi as panel members. The participants comprising of Chief Conservators of forests, Conservators of forests, Deputy conservators of forests, Divisional Forest officers, Forest Range officers and officials of line departments discussed the issues thread bare and the senior officials on the dais while welcoming the to the suggestions made by the participants gave clarifications to the doubts expressed while calling a spade a spade. Sri Chauhan the scientist IFB gave a detailed account of the ground work carried out so far by IFB. Finally, **Sri D. Jay prasad IFS, Director IFB** gave a detailed account of the ground work already carried out by IFB, the methodology being adopted, and the issue of focusing upon the involvement of stakeholders in the preparation of DPR for rejuvenation of Krishna and Godavari rivers. The meeting was also attended by **Sri. Madhusudhan Reddy IFS, Principal secretary(I/C) Department of Agriculture and cooperation**, Sri Sreedhar IFS, Sri B. K. Singh IFS, Sri Gopinath IFS, Smt. Santi Priya Pandey IFS, Sri Rahul Pandey IFS, Sri Srinivasa Sastry IFS, Sri Ramakrishna IFS, Sri Nageswara Rao IFS and also other dignitaries. The stakeholders meeting came to an end with the vote of thanks presented By Dr

G. R. S. Reddy, scientist-GIFB Hyderabad.

### Conclusion:

Water pollution is a major environmental issue in India. The largest source of **water pollution in India** is untreated sewage. Other sources of pollution include agricultural runoff and unregulated small scale industry. Most rivers, lakes and surface water in India are polluted due to industries, untreated sewage and solid wastes. The Central Pollution Control Board, a Ministry of Environment & Forests Government of India entity, has established a National Water Quality Monitoring Network comprising 1429 monitoring stations in 28 states and 6 in Union Territories on various rivers and water bodies across the country. This effort monitors water quality year-round. The monitoring network covers 293 rivers, 94 lakes, 9 tanks, 41 ponds, 8 creeks, 23 canals, 18 drains and 411 wells distributed across India. Water samples are routinely analysed for 28 parameters including dissolved oxygen, bacteriological and other internationally established parameters for water quality. Additionally, 9 trace metals parameters and 28 pesticide residues are analysed. Bio-monitoring is also carried out on specific locations.

The scientific analysis of water samples from 1995 to 2008 indicates that the organic and bacterial contamination is severe in water bodies of India. This is mainly due to discharge of domestic waste water in untreated form, mostly from the urban centres of India. In view of the legal obligation on Govt. of India in the context of the orders passed by N.G.T to take up measures for preventing and controlling water pollution within a specified time limit it requires not only the political will but also the awareness among masses so that the destined goals can be arrived at. (The author is a retired Deputy conservator of forests, and an advocate who is presently working as consultant with IFB, Govt. of India Dulapali, Hyderabad)

# Wild Edible Fruits And Their Nutritional, Medicinal Properties

By:

**Dr. P. Shivakumar Singh**

**ABSTRACT:** Current report 34 discloses the edible wild fruits and their nutritional, medicinal properties were reported. The outcome of this research is exploring the wisdom on documentation and conservation of wild fruit plants consumed by rural, folkloric people. Of 34 wild edible fruit species belonging to 24 genera and 19 families were found valuable. The leading families Anacardiaceae (04 species) followed by each of three species from *Annonaceae*, *Arecaceae*, *Moraceae*, whereas *Combrataceae*, *Cucurbitaceae*, *Euphorbiaceae*, *Rhamnaceae*, *Rutaceae* having 02 species of each family. The remaining 09 families showing single species. There are no side effects if we have consumed wild edible fruits. The rich amount of antioxidants, secondary metabolites and micro, macro elements were found in wild fruits. This type of information could contribute awareness in rural, below poverty people.

**INTRODUCTION:** Since the time when early times, the man had used plants for various purposes like medicine, fuel, timber and food. The documented wisdom on the usage of traditional, folkloric, ethnic knowledge on plants as medicine is glowing accredited, but there are no evidences on wild fruits authentication. However, the knowledge on the use of wild fruit plants as food is very much limited<sup>3-10</sup>. Major sections of population of Telangana living in villages and remote forests depend on edible wild fruits. Even the people in cities showing very much interest in purchasing wild edible fruits marketed by village folk. The plant assortment is very rich and an excellent quantity of wild fruit plants are using in the nutritional medicinal resources. There was no

detail document on wild fruits from the specific study area.

There is no precise documentation on wild edible fruits and their nutritional, medicinal properties of wild plant fruits. The folk wisdom is hasty declining due to factors such as relocation of villagers to cities, input of high-quality food in markets, etc. therefore, a investigation was undertaken to document rural knowledge on wild edible fruits of specific study area of Telangana state.

**METHODOLOGY:** Numerals of field trips were undertaken in south district of specific study area (Fig. 1). At each one time of trip, varied folkloric and forest or rural people's information was composed in diverse seasons. The information was accrued after discussions with several users like village workers, elder women and other local formers. Repetitive interviews through questionnaires were made in different villages to confirm the information. Fruits and plants specimens were collected and identified with regional floras.

**ABOUT THE BOAD STUDY AREA:** Telangana State is situated in the central stretch of the eastern seaboard of the Indian Peninsula. Telangana state has an area of 114,840 square kilometers (44,300 sq mi). The area is divided into two main regions, the Eastern Ghats and the plains. Telangana lies between 15 50' – 19 55' North latitudes and 77 14' – 78 50' East longitudes. Telangana is bordered by the states of Maharashtra to the north and north-west, Karnataka to the west, Chhattisgarh to the north-east and Odisha to the east and Andhra Pradesh to the south. The state is drained by two major rivers, with about 79% of the Godavari river catchment area and about 69% of the

Krishna catchment area, but most of the land is arid. It is an extensive plateau with an average elevation of about 400 m above sea level. This plateau consists mainly of the ranges of erosion surface: (i) above 600 mt, (ii) from 300 – 450 mt and (iii) from 150 – 300 mt. The State Telangana has the monsoon type of tropical climate. On the whole State enjoys warm climate. In northern Telangana tropical rainy type of climate prevails. Hot Steppe type of climate is noticed in the southern parts of the State. In Tropical Rainy type, the mean daily 0 temperature is above 20C with an annual rainfall of 150 to 200 cms, mostly in summer and South-West monsoon. In the Hot Steppe type, the mean daily temperature is 18C and less. In the state of Telangana Maximum temperature in the summer season varies between 37C and 44C and minimum temperature in the winter season ranging between 14C and 19C. The State has a wide variety of soils and they form into three broad categories - red, black and laterite. The type of forests met within Telangana, as per the classification of Champion and Seth (1968) are Tropical moist deciduous forests, Southern dry deciduous forests, Northern mixed dry deciduous forests, Dry savannah forests and Tropical dry evergreen scrub<sup>14</sup>. In Telangana state there is about more than 20 tribes were recorded. Commonly they are located hilly and interior forest areas. The research report focussing on a number of the important wild food plants, which need to be documented for food security in future.

#### **ABOUT THE SPECIFIC STUDY AREA:**

Mahbubnagar is the largest district (Figure 1) in Telangana in terms of area (18432.00 sq. km) covered. It is also known as Palamoor. The name was changed to Mahabubnagar in honour of Mir Mahbub Ali Khan Asaf Jah VI, the Nizam of Hyderabad (1869-1911 AD). The district was situated between 77° 15' and 79° 15'E, of the

eastern longitudes and 15° 55' and 17° 20'N, of northern latitudes. Mahbubnagar is southern district of Hyderabad state under Nizam and bordered with River Krishna in the south and surrounded by the Guntur District of AP to the east, Kurnool district of AP to the south, Nalgonda and Ranga Reddy Districts to the north and Gulbarga and Raichur Districts of the state of Karnataka to the West.

The district has population of 40,53,028 as per the 2011 census which accounts for 11.52% of the total population of the State with 15.34% decadal growth. The people of this district are economically backward. They can speak three languages, knowledge flows from one culture to other. The plant assortment is very rich and an excellent quantity of wild fruit plants are using in the nutritional medicinal resources. There was no detail document on wild fruits from the specific study area.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:** The present report on wild fruits and their medicinal and nutritional resources revealing a total of 34 wild fruits using in specific study area of Mahbubnagar district, Telangana state. The documentation has been carried out using standard questioner. Of 34 wild fruit species belonging to 24 genera and 19 families were found valuable. The leading families Anacardiaceae (04 species) followed by each of three species from Annonaceae, Arecaceae, Moraceae, whereas Combrataceae, Cucurbitaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Rhamnaceae, Rutaceae having 02 species of each family. The remaining 09 families showing single species. The current report described them in meticulous along with the habit, vernacular name, botanical name, family and nutritional, medicinal properties. The maximum nutritional ethnic or seasonal importance of wild fruit findings were predicted [Table 1]. The habitat of the wild fruit plants.

Table - 1: Wild edible fruits and their nutritional, medicinal properties.

Sl. No	Botanical Name	Family	Habit	Local Name	Nutritional, medicinal properties
1	<i>Aegle marmelos</i>	Rutaceae	Tree	Maredu	Aeromatic. Tannin Diarrhea ysentery Sweet drinks
2	<i>Alangium salvifolium</i>	Alangiaceae	Tree	Uduga	Astringent, Laxative, Refrigerant haemorrhages.
3	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>	Anacardiaceae	Tree	Jeedimamidi	nuts highly nutritious, adessert
4	<i>Anana sqomusus</i>	Bromiliaceae	Shrub	Anasa	Antiscorbutic Purgative Abortifacient
5	<i>Annona muricata</i>	Annonaceae	Tree	Lakshmana phalum	Wine or cognac
6	<i>Annona reticulata</i>	Annonaceae	Tree	Ramaphalum	Anthelmintic.
7	<i>Annona squamosa</i>	Annonaceae	Tree	Seetaphalum	Vitamin-c
8	<i>Borassus flabellifer</i>	Arecaceae	Tree	Tati	Source of vitamins
9	<i>Buchanania</i>	Anacardiaceae	Tree	Sarapappu	Leprosy
10	<i>Coccinia grandis</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Climber	Thonda	Skin diseases
11	<i>Ficus religiosa</i>	Moraceae	Tree	Ravi	Scarcity laxative
12	<i>Ficus auriculata</i>	Moraceae	Tree	Konda ravi	Curries or jams
13	<i>Ficus racemsoa</i>	Moraceae	Tree	Medi Atti	Diabetes bagatha.

14	<i>Limonia acidissima</i>	Rutaceae	Tree	Velaga	Gum-arabic acidity
15	<i>Mangifera indica</i>	Anacardiaceae	Tree	Mamidi	Vitamin c scarcity.
16	<i>Manilkara hexandra</i>	Sapotaceae	Tree	Palachettu	Edible oil.
17	<i>Mimordica dioica</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Climber	Agakara	Vegetable
18	<i>Opuntia dillenii</i>	Cactaceae	Shrub	Nagajamudu	Secretion of the bile.
19	<i>Pavonia odorata</i>	Malvaceae	Herb	Tigabenda	Highly nutrient
20	<i>Phoenix loureiroi</i>	Arecaceae	Shrub	Chittietha	Astringent
21	<i>Phoenix sylvastris</i>	Arecaceae	Tree	Etha	Restorative preservative
22	<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Tree	Usiri	Liver, piles, stomach eye treatments C vitamin
23	<i>Pithecolobium</i>	Mimosaceae	Tree	Chimachinta	Eaten raw curries
24	<i>Semecarpus</i>	Anacardiaceae	Tree	Nallajeedi	Skin diseases
25	<i>Sicca acida</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Tree	Rachausiri	Chetnyes pickels
26	<i>Solanum anguivi</i>	Solanaceae	Herb	Mulla vankaya	Skin diseases urinary retention fever cough asthma
27	<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Solanaceae	Herb	Kamanchi	Delightful jam
28	<i>Syzygium</i>	Myrtaceae	Tree	Neradu	Diabetic

29	<i>Tamarindus</i>	Caesalpiniaceae	Tree	Chinta	Refrigerant.
30	<i>Terminalia bellerica</i>	Combretaceae	Tree	Tani	Purgative
31	<i>Terminalia chebula</i>	Combretaceae	Tree	Karakaya	Dentifrices asthma
32	<i>Vitis heyneana</i>	Vitaceae	Climber	Adavi draksha	Eaten as raw
33	<i>Zizyphus mauritiana</i>	Rhamnaceae	Tree	Pedda regu	Cooling chest troubles
34	<i>Zizyphus jujuba</i>	Rhamnaceae	Tree	Regu	Antidote to nausea vomiting abdominal pain in pregnancy

Due to the importance of 34 species of wild fruit plants, the fruit pulp of *Limonia acidissima* mixed with *bellam* forms a good refreshing drink, which has an export value. Perusal of literature indicates the diversity of wild edible plants in different regions in India. For example, edible wild fruit plants documented in North India. are entirely different compared to South India. Even in South India, the diversity of wild edible plants for Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka is different from that of Telangana. Therefore, it is imperative to document the folk knowledge on wild fruit plants in specific study area for their optimum utilization and conservation.

**CONCLUSION:** Day by day the inhabitants are increasing abundantly, at the same time people

are depending on artificial or cultivated fruits. This is resulting in the deficiency of nutritional and medicines. Our ancestors usually had been taken seasonal wild fruits. So that they wouldn't got any deficiencies. Today human being has been forgotten about the wild fruits or seasonal fruits. So, the results we are observing. The present report is exploring awareness of wild fruits and their nutritional and medicinal properties. The outcome of this article is contributing some of interesting in conservation of traditional knowledge on wild fruits and their conservation. ((The author is from Department of Botany, Palamuru University, Mahabubnagr-509001, Telangana State, India.

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**“The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character and faith.”**

## Bali of Indonesia- A Tourist Paradise

By:

**Ajay Noding**

Bali is a place that fascinated me since last 35 years. When I was in Orissa from 1982 to 2000, we used to attend Bali Jatara (voyage to Bali) and Boita bandana festival along banks of Mahanadi river in Cuttack. This is to commemorate our ancient maritime glory when Kalinga merchants used to sail off in Boitas (large boats) to places like Ceylon, Java, Sumatra and Bali in Indonesia for trade and cultural exchanges on Kartik Purnima day. This was more than 2000 years before till 14th century. Afterwards Arabian merchants took over trade and voyages from Kalinga stopped. Mostly cotton was traded and in return they used to bring Chinese silk, camphor and cloves etc. In 1992, our government, in memory of this voyage, sent a 7-member crew in a 13 meters yacht called Samudra to Bali taking same route. It took them 17 weeks to travel 5810 nautical miles. Records show that the voyages were also from Bengal, Andhra coasts and Kerala. But Kalinga was most prominent amongst them and you can feel the influence of Oriya culture and language still continuing in Bali.

The scientific analysis of water samples from 1995 to 2008 indicates that the organic and bacterial contamination is severe in water bodies of India. This is mainly due to discharge of domestic waste water in untreated form, mostly from the urban centres of India. In view of the legal obligation on Govt. of India in the context of the orders passed by N.G.T to take up measures for preventing and controlling water pollution within a specified time limit it requires not only the political will but also the awareness among masses so that the destined goals can be arrived at. (The author is a retired Deputy conservator of forests, and an

advocate who is presently working as consultant with IFB, Govt. of India Dulapali, Hyderabad)

The idea of Bali get-together of SFRC batch mates of 75-77 batch was conceived during our Goa Reunion in February 2019. There was good response for this then. But somehow many interested friends opted out. At last we were 26 persons whose tickets were booked. But Unfortunately, 5 couples (Mrs & Mr. B. Somshekhar Reddy, Mrs & Mr. Bhoopal Reddy, Mrs and Mr. Purushottam Reddy, Mrs & Mr. Mahendra Reddy, Daughter & Son in Law of Mr. Thulasi Rao) had to opt out of the tour at the 11th hour due to unfortunate and unavoidable circumstances. So, we were left with total of 16 people. We were two families from Maharashtra, and eleven persons from AP/Telangana We all went from Hyderabad via Bangkok. Thulasirao also from Andhra-Telangana joined via Singapore. Arun Kumar joined from New Zealand. Mr and Mrs Golani (Our hosts) came from Jakarta.

***On 6.9.19 all of us reached Bali by 3 pm and were received by the Tour organizer Bee Journey and provided lodging facilities at Aston Kuta Hotel which was hardly 2 KM from airport. Get-together in the night.***

In the night, special program was organised where everyone enjoyed Balinese Bailey dance and songs over drinks and Indian food. Mr. Golani as host was perfect and quite entertaining. Mrs Golani's presence, gave the event real family feeling. Everyone was relaxed after a tiring long journey.

**On 7-09-2019 the places visited by us were Keranjang, Nusa Dua, Water blow Beach, Pandwa Beach, Uluwatu Temple/ Kecak**

## Dance

### Keranjang Centre:

We left by 30-seater bus at about 9.30 am. First stop was at Keranjang Cultural centre. A cultural centre showcasing what real Bali is. The best part was 15 minutes film with theme "Hand". It shows how hands are important in day to day life and convey Spirituality, Empathy, Peace, Nature, Tranquillity, Simplicity, and Harmony as integral part of Balinese culture so beautifully. The staff was so cooperative to explain the different dimensions of Balinese culture all thru.

**Nusa Dua, Water Blow point sea beach:** Nusa Dua is an area of 5-star hotels besides water blow point sea beach. Beautiful statues of Rama and Laxmana can be seen very near sea shore. Usually high tides hit the beach and can drench you if you are near. Black coloured Lava rocks along shores are in contrast with deep clear sea water.

**Pandawa Beach:** This beautiful beach is named after 5 Pandavas whose statues can be seen carved out on the hill side by the road.

**Uluwatu Temple and Kecak Dance:** Uluwatu temple one of 6 key temples of Bali dates back to 10th century. It was built by Mpu Kuritan a Majapati Monk. A holy priest Dhang Hyang Dwijendra (Danghyang Nirartha) was the architect who attained moksha here. Monkeys protect the temple now. You have to be careful with the monkeys here. The temple was not accessible till 1983.

**Kecak Dance or Fire dance:** It is based on Ramayana. What we saw was Sita Haran by Ravana and Hanuman's visit to Lanka to meet Sita as a Ram's messenger. This unique dance has no instrumental music but vocal music by about more than 50 bare chested male members calling chak-chak-chak as if they were in trance. More than 2000 international

tourists watch this with keen interest every day at 6.00 PM. There is another show for limited 300 tourists at 9.00 PM.

**The places that we have visited on 08-09-2019 were Barang Dance at (Sari Wisata Budaya) Sari dewi Gold & Silver shop, Kintamani / Batuk Sari, Bali Putina coffee plantations, and Ubud Market**

**Barang Dance at Sari Wisata Budaya:** It depicts Balinese folklore of fight between Barong (good) and Rangda (Evil) which dates back to 10th century. Rangda is a demon queen. What we saw was Sahdev from Mahabharata was offered as sacrifice by his mother Kunti to the forest witch (Rangda). God Mahadev saves Shadev who then in fight defeats Rangda.

**Sari Devi Gold and silver shop:** This is a big silver and gold ornament making centre engaging local artisans. The making of ornaments was explained well and you could buy the items in their show room. The prices quoted are highly negotiable.

**Kintamani, Mount Batur and Batuk Sari Restaurant:** Next stop was village Kintamani from where 1717 meters tall Mount Batur where from a volcano has erupted and Lake Batur were clearly visible. First documented eruption from Mount Batur was recorded in 1804. Its Last eruption was seen in 1968. Black colour of lava can still be seen on its slope. We had nice Indian Lunch at Batur Sari II restaurant while enjoying the lovely scenic beauty of Mount Batur and Lake Batur.

While returning we had a visit to this well managed coffee plantation. Its Speciality was that it makes world's costliest Luwak Coffee made from seeds collected from excreta of Civet cat. It contains very low % of caffeine (.05%) which has no side effects.

The plantations had cocoa plants also. The

management had very well used the steep slopes there to build facilities for the tourists' recreation like swings, lovely wooden platforms as restaurants etc.

We all tasted the Luwak coffee as well as bought coffee, cocoa from the sales shop here.

**Ubud:** Ubud is the town famous for traditional crafts, money forests, dances, yoga and healing centres etc. we were late in reaching Ubud so we could not see the Ubud Palace. Had a round of traditional craft market and could buy a few mementos. We had nice Indian dinner at Indian restaurant there.

**On 9-09-2019 the places visited by us were Ghatotkach square, Kisna Market, Taman Ayun Temple, Pacung Bedungal, Danau Beratan lake, Tanah lot temple**

**Satriya Ghatotkach Park:** A scene of fight between Karna and Bhima's son Ghatotkach is depicted so well that one cannot stop appreciating it. It is located just beside the airport. We have also seen mythological sculptures at most of the squares in Denpasar like construction of Ram sethu, Five Pandawas, God Varuna etc

**Kisna Market:** A nice fixed price market to buy local items, mementos, etc. We spent lot of time here buying mementos and gifts.

**Taman Ayun Temple:** It's an important temple 17 kms from Denpasar in village Mengwi It was built in 1634 by the king Tjokerda Sakti Blambangan a Mengwi kingdom. The architecture is too beautiful.

**Pacung:** We had another day of lovely Indian food at Pacung restaurant on high hills having wonderful view of the mountains and rice terraces.

**Ulun Danu Beratan Temple and Lake Beratan:** This temple is built in 1633 to worship Bramha, Vishnu Mahesh and Lake

Goddess Dewi Danu. But is a mainly a shivaite temple located about 1239 meters above MSL.

U can find its photo on Indonesian National Currency notes of Rupiah 50,000. . The lake is too beautiful. It's also called Holy lake due to fertility of the areas around. It is located next to Mount Bratan and Mount Catur. The landscaping and garden with blooming flowers is treat to eyes. **Tanah Lot Temple:** One of the most important temples of Bali is a part of seven seas temple. God Varuna (Sea God) is worshipped here. Best time to visit here is during sunset which is unique like Uluwatu temple. It is located about 20 kms North west of Denpasar. As the legend goes, in 1489 Dang Hyng Nirartha, a high priest from Majapahit kingdom (Jawa) came here to spread Hinduism. He established this site in honour of Sea God Varuna meditating on the rock. He was opposed by Chief of Beratan village. Village chief tried to oust Nirartha but he resisted by shifting large rock into the sea and transforming his slashes into sea snakes. Later on, village chief was humbled and became his follower. Before leaving the place priest Nirartha gifted a Kris dagger to village chief which is still preserved in Kediri Royal Palace.

We were late by very narrow margin to Beratan, and missed an awesome Sunset. Somehow, we tried to run and take some snaps. Mr. Golani could reach the spot well before us. So, we could see it thru video which was sent to us by him.

**Farewell function at Hotel Aston Kuta:** It was an emotional moment as the organised tour was over and Mrs & Mr Golani and Mrs. & Mr. Rama Rao Choudhary would be leaving in the morning. We all thanked Mrs and Mr Golani for being with us and organising the trip so well by planning everything meticulously well in advance. Mr V.V. Hariparasad recited a decent

poem (composed by himself) as a gesture of love and gratitude for Mr. Golani. Mr. Golani presented us mementos of Balinese culture as lovely gifts which shall be part of our drawing rooms forever. On 10-09-2019 Mr Golani the host who organized the programme went to Jakarta along with his better half. Mr and Mrs Ramarao chowdary also left for Hyderabad. The remaining persons split into two groups. One group went to Turtle island and local zoo there while other went to Kuta beach and local market namely Chintamani, Discovery and Kisna. At night Indian Buffet dinner was organised at Roof top restaurant in Hotel Aston Kuta. It was more awesome due to the ambience there.

**On 11.9.19 the places visited by me and others were Lembongan Island (Devil's Tear Creek, Dream Beach, Snorkelling)** Since we had earlier opted for one day extra stay at Bali, we could use this time to visit Lembongan island. On my request, our good friend Mr. Golani had asked the organiser to book this tour for us. We were only 2 Indians in the entire Chinese and Europeans group.

We were picked up from Hotel at 6.30 am and taken to Sanur port along with two more couples from another hotel. It was 30 minutes by fast boat from there to the island. It was a different world all together here. After getting down we were served with Chinese food and then along with 8 other tourists from china, we visited Devil's tear creek and Dream land beach. It was a beautiful a site to be visited. The rainbow reflections on the receding waves were simply mesmerising.

After returning back, to the shore, we went for a snorkelling trip. It was different experience as compared to Phi Phi island Phuket. The waves here were quite strong and it was initially difficult to swim. But the overall experience was quite thrilling. After returning

we enjoyed swimming at the pool of the Tanis Villas Lembongan express company. Then there an interesting incident took place. When we went for bath my wife and all the Chinese ladies had a shocking experience while enjoying common bath. So was the case in the gent's bathroom also where all the Chinese males who were stark naked while enjoying their bath.

This was our first such experience of this kind. Though embarrassing for us initially, it was ok as it is a part of Chinese/Japanese culture. We returned back by 4.00 pm to the Hotel. In the evening we had long stroll at Kuta Beach and enjoyed the local food there. Next day we relaxed at the hotel left for airport by 1.00 PM.

**Conclusion:** It was really a mesmerising atmosphere in Bali. The simplicity, spirituality, cultural richness, natural beauty is so well preserved that you feel you are in a dreamland.

Our trip has been really memorable due to the efforts put in by Mr. Golani who had come personally to Bali prior to our trip our trip and ensured that all best places are covered. Indian Lunch and dinner were served hot and at the best locations which can never be possible in normal tours. Though these were long days from morning 8.30 am to 9.00 pm, we did not realise how the time passed. I would love to visit this place once again not as a tourist but as a student to study people, culture, nature and history.

(The author is a retired vice president (Raw material development and procurement) Orient paper industries limited and belong to the alumni of 75-77 SFRC batch and settled in Nagpur. His Mobile number is +91-8463851574)

## Proceedings of the 93<sup>rd</sup> General Body Meeting Association of Retired Forest Officers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh held at Botanical Garden, Kondapur. Hyderabad on 29.09.2019.

### 1. Welcome by the Secretary:

The Secretary, Sri. A.V. Govindarajulu extended a hearty welcome to the members and their spouses to the 93<sup>rd</sup> General Body Meeting (GBM) of the Association, which also marked the Tri-Decennial celebrations of the Association. The Secretary congratulated the members on the successful completion of (30) years of the Association. The agenda for the meeting was placed before the President, Sri S. K. Das, with request to preside over the meeting and conduct the proceedings as per the agenda listed. The proceedings of the meeting are as under:

### 2. Shraddanjali:

Sri K. Buchi Ram Reddy Senior Member informed that, Tummalluru Somashekara Reddy, ACF passed away on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2019. He recalled his services as Assistant Conservator of Forests, who was born on 14.09.1953 holding several important posts in the Department including his stint as DFO, Hyderabad, Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board. He was a man of pleasant disposition and was soft spoken. The Members paid their respects to the departed soul by standing in silence for two minutes

### 3. Action taken Report by Secretary.

1. As decided in 104<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at Aranya Bhavan.

a) 93<sup>rd</sup> General Body Meeting is being held at Botanical Gardens, Kondapur, Hyderabad on this day 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019 Tri-

Decennial Celebrations is also being held along with 93<sup>rd</sup> General Body Meeting.

- b) Special issue of Vana Premi is brought out in September 2019.
  - c) Smt. R. Sobha IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force is invited to be the Chief Guest for 93<sup>rd</sup> General Body Meeting and Tri-decennial celebrations.
  - d) Sri Munindra, IFS Principal Chief Conservator of Forest is also invited to be Guest of the Day and to felicitate him on elevation to the post of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.
  - e) Sri Prudvi Raj IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests is also invited to be the Guest of the Day and to felicitate him for helping the Association in providing transport of Members from Aranya Bhavan to Botanical Gardens and back.
2. Appealed T. Prabhakar and Sri. V. V. Rajam Members of the Association for donation of Rs.10,000/- each for meeting extra expenditure in conducting of General Body Meeting and Tri-decennial Celebrations. Sri. A. V. Govindarajulu donated Rs.10,000/- for the same purpose.
  3. Dr. K. Tirupathiah, IFS, Sri. S.M. Selvaraj, IFS and Dr. M. Bulliah, IFS readily agreed to be hosts of 93<sup>rd</sup> General Body Meeting and Tri-decennial Celebrations.
  4. As decided in Executive Committee Meeting the following veterans are to be felicitated in this General Body Meeting.

1. Sri J. V. Subba Rao, 85 years  
DOB:13.09.1934.
2. Sri D.S. Gangakhedkar 85 years  
DOB:29.09.1934
3. Sri V. Parthasarathy 75 years      D O B :  
02.08.1944
5. Invited articles for Special issue of Vana Premi from Members and from other regular contributors.
6. Statutory Auditing of Accounts pertaining to Financial year 2018-19 is completed. Audit Report is awaited. The same will be communicated to the members soon.
7. The Annual Accounts of 2018-19 and Estimated Budget for 2019-20 is communicated to members by whatsapp and E-mail.
8. The Agenda of 93<sup>rd</sup> General Body Meeting and Tri-Decennial Celebrations is also published in Vana Premi.
9. Notice about 93<sup>rd</sup> General Meeting and Tri-Decennial Celebrations is published in Vana Premi in September 2019 issue. The members are also informed through Whatsapp by creating group for Association of Retired Forest Officers. Members were also invited for the Trio-decennial celebrations by way of personnel mobile calls.

#### 4. Felicitations:

- a. The Association felicitated Smt. R. Sobha, IFS Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest, on her elevation to the Apex Post of Forest Department, for being the First Lady Officer to hold the post of HOFF in the country and for being the Chief Guest of the 93<sup>rd</sup> General Body Meeting and Tri-decennial celebrations.
- b. The Association also felicitated Sri. Munindra, IFS on his promotion as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Admin). He is the Guest of Honor to the 93<sup>rd</sup> General Body Meeting and Tri-decennial Celebrations.
- c. The Association felicitated the following veterans in the 93<sup>rd</sup> General Body Meeting and Tri-decennial Celebrations.
  - i. Sri L. Lohith Reddy and attaining the age of 90 years.
  - ii. Sri J.V. Subba Rao, on attaining the age of 85 years.

#### 5. Address by Vice President:

Sri T. Narayana Swamy, IFS, Vice President of the Association addressed the gathering by recalling the activities of the Association in the last thirty years and contributions made by members in the advancement of the Association during these thirty years. He recalled that the Association started with 9 members and grown to considerable number of members year after year. Paid homage to the members who passed away in these thirty years.

#### 6. Brief talk by Members:

- i. Sri B.S.S. Reddy hoped that, the members would come on time, so that the meeting can start on time as announced. It would also give more time for deliberations on important issues and enable members to express their reviews.
- ii. Sri S. K. Mukherji stated that, Vana Premi is an excellent magazine, which is well read all over the Country. But of late the number of articles being contributed to the magazine is coming down. He stated that, it is important to sustain the interest of the members in reading the magazine. For this, fresh and interesting articles must be contributed by the members.

iii. Dr. K. Tirupathiah stressed on the need to develop a network of members staying close by for easy and better communication, like travelling together etc.

iv. Dr. N. R. K. Rao remarked that, the Executive body has been doing a good job and thanked the members for their active participation.

v. Sri K. Buchi Ram Reddy informed that the Association is growing in strength year after year. The Vana Premi magazine gives an opportunity to write and express their views. He requested the young blood among the members to come forward and take responsibilities in the activities of Association and in publication of Vana Premi magazine.

### **7. Release of Vana Premi:**

The Special October 2019 issue Vanapremi on Wild-Life is released by Chief Guest Smt. R. Sobha, IFS Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (HOFF) on the occasion of Tri-decennial Celebration of the Association

### **8. Address by Guest of Honour:**

Sri Munindra, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Admn) stated that he is delighted to be part of the Tri-decennial celebrations of the association and wished the Association for many such happy occasions in future.

### **9. Address by Chief Guest:**

Smt R. Shobha speaking on the occasion stated that she is extremely happy that the Association has felicitated on her promotion and being the Chief Guest of the day. She further stated that she is blessed by many Senior Officers gathered at the place and with their blessings she will be able to

discharge her duties and responsibilities to the satisfaction of people. She thanked the ladies who had graced the occasion and having part of Tri-decennial celebrations.

### **10. Address by the President of the Association:**

Sri S. K. Das IFS addressed the gathering by recalling the activities of the Association and particularly the services of Sri T. Narayana Swamy, IFS, Sri KBR Reddy IFS and Sri J. V. Sharma, IFS to the Association and for being active in guiding the Association from time to time. He expressed his happiness about conducting the 93<sup>rd</sup> General Body Meeting and Tri-decennial Celebrations with the participation of members in good number along with their spouses at Botanical Gardens, Kondapur, Hyderabad. He thanked the members as well the staff of Botanical Garden for putting up a good show.

### **12. Vote of Thanks:**

Sri A. Shankaran Joint Secretary proposed a Vote of Thanks. He thanked Smt. R. Sobha, IFS and Sri Munindra IFS for accepting the invitation to be part of the Tri-Decennial celebrations of the Association. He also thanked Sri D. Nagabhushanam and Sri Basava Shankar for taking the initiative in organizing the 93<sup>rd</sup> general Body meeting. He thanked the VC & MD, TSFDC and all the staff members for providing the premises for conducting the meeting. He thanked the members who have come forward to host the lunch and for monetary contributions for organizing a grand Tri-Decennial celebration.

The members dispersed for the lunch after the meeting and celebration.

Secretary

**“Children are not things to be molded,  
but are people to be unfolded.”**

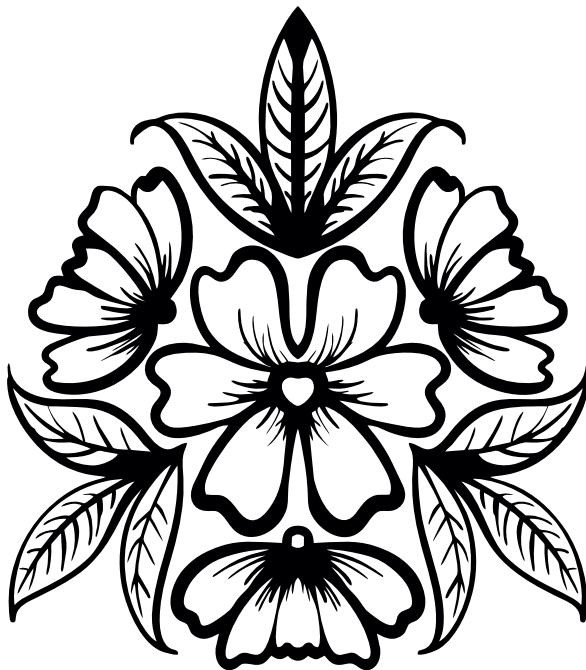
## *Birthday Greetings*

*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.	P.Raghaveer	30-11-1960
1.	T.P.Thimma Reddy	06-11-1956	8.	Anoop Singh	01-12-1965
2.	P.S.Sankar Reddy	09-11-1936	9.	D.Bheema	15-11-1967
3.	C.Sivasankara Reddy	10-11-1951	10.	D.V.Reddy	15-11-1964
4.	G.K.Reddy	12-11-1931	11.	G.Mukund Reddy	16-11-1978
5.	C.Madukar Raj	19-11-1951	12.	V.Prabhakar Rao	26-11-1964
6.	D.Nagagopala Rao	23-11-1952	13.	K.Damodar Reddy	28-11-1967
7.	K.Venkat Ramudu	23-11-1948			
8.	K.Murali Krishna Rao	29-11-1940			
9.	Solleti Chandra Mouli	30-11-1954			
10.	P.K.Sharma	01-12-1956			

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of Serving Officers</b>	<b>D.O.B.</b>
1.	Alan Chong Teron	08-11-1976
2.	Elusing Meru	11-11-1965
3.	P.Ram Mohan Rao	15-11-1962
4.	Anand Kumar Jha	25-11-1969
5.	Kanwar Jit Singh	25-11-1959
6.	Sanjeev Kumar Gupta	26-11-1970



## News and Notes

### **"World's Rarest" Critically-Endangered Monkey Born in Australia:**

One of the world's rarest monkeys has been born at an Australian zoo.

The male Francois' Langur with its distinctive orange fur was born at Sydney's Taronga zoo last week and has not yet been named.

Critically-endangered, the animal is only found in China and Vietnam where it is threatened by poachers and loss of habitat from encroaching development.

"Seeing Francois' Langurs in the wild is incredibly rare, but seeing a baby is even more so," said Senior Zoo Keeper Jane Marshall.

The baby's bright orange hair lasts just a few weeks before it begins to darken to the colour of its mother Noel's fur.

The zoo estimates there are only about 3,000 of the species left in the wild.

"Not a lot of people know about Francois' Langurs as a species, but these beautiful animals are very vibrant animals, who are incredibly agile and intelligent," Marshall added.



**Water bottles contain hundreds of thousands of bacteria if not properly cleaned:** - Reusable water bottles are brilliant for eliminating single-use plastics and saving money, but how often should we be cleaning them?

A microbiologist has warned of the dangers of not cleaning your reusable bottle enough and has suggested that thoroughly washing your bottle once a week with hot, soapy water will get rid of any bacteria.

We earn a commission for products purchased through some of the links in this article.

A recent study by Langone Medical Centre has uncovered just how much bacteria is lingering in and around our water bottles. By swabbing 12 different bottles, the research team conducting the study found that there were more than 300,000 colony-forming units (CFU) per square centimetre in some of the bottles.

The lab looked at the four most popular bottle types and found that the one with a slide-top hosted over 900,000 CFU where lips touch the rim. This shows us the importance of regularly cleaning (not just rinsing) our bottles.

Dr Philip Tierno clinical professor of pathology and microbiology at NYU Langone Medical Centre, told Mashable that "it's imperative to scrub the inside of the bottle, too. Merely rinsing is not going to do the trick."

Experts have raised the importance of using bottle brushes to clean both the inside and out, saying that a lack of cleaning could see the bacteria accumulation compare to barnacles on a boat or the soap grime that builds up on a bathtub.

It's also recommended that you place your water bottle on a dishwasher cycle every few weeks to give it a deep clean.

**Air pollution is now a 'health emergency', head of NHS England warns:** The head of NHS England has warned of a "health emergency" as new figures revealed hundreds more children and adults are suffering cardiac arrests, strokes or severe asthma attacks because of days of high air

pollution. Stunted lung growth in children and links between pollution and lung cancer, was also found by researchers who looked at nine cities across England.

Higher air pollution triggered each year an extra 124 cardiac arrests in people not already in hospital, 231 cases of stroke and 193 children and adults being admitted to hospital for asthma, the study found.

The figures, from King's College London and UK100, a group of 94 local government leaders, highlighted the "immediate, short-term and avoidable" impact of high air pollution, the experts said.

Government data has previously shown that pollution contributes to up to 36,000 deaths every year.

In London, days with worse pollution accounted for 87 extra cardiac arrests, and 251 people being admitted to hospital for asthma or strokes, the research showed.

In Birmingham, they were responsible for 12 more cardiac arrests, and 53 children or adults being taken to hospital for asthma or a stroke.

Simon Stevens, chief executive of NHS England, said that it was clear that the climate emergency was in fact "also a health emergency" and that it meant the NHS needed to cut its own greenhouse gas emissions.

"Since these avoidable deaths are happening now – not in 2025 or 2050 – together we need to act now," he said. "For the NHS that is going to mean further comprehensive action building on the reduction of our carbon footprint of one fifth in the past decade.

"So, our NHS energy use, supply chain, building adaptations and our transport will all need to change substantially."

Polly Billington, director of UK100, added: "Local

government needs additional powers and resources to address this public health crisis, alongside a timetable for when air pollution levels will meet World Health Organisation guidelines."

The research, which will be published in full in November, was released before an international clean air summit hosted by Sadiq Khan, the mayor of London, and UK100 next week.

The summit is expected to push the government to provide new powers and resources to local authorities to clean up the air alongside a timetable for implementing World Health Organisation targets on one of the most dangerous forms of pollution.

Rita Issa, a GP in Tower Hamlets, London, and a co-founder of Doctors for Extinction Rebellion, said the findings were "shocking but not surprising".

"London has never met the legal limits on pollutants, which has been declared unlawful by the Supreme Court," she said. "Air pollution hits our poorest communities the hardest."

Other findings included that higher pollution days caused four more cardiac arrests, and 18 children or adults taken to hospital for asthma or strokes in Bristol, 16 children or adults being taken to hospital for asthma or strokes in Derby and four more cardiac arrests, and 24 children or adults taken to hospital for asthma or strokes in Liverpool.

Six more cardiac arrests and 28 children or adults were also taken to hospital for asthma or strokes in Manchester

### **NGT Halts Karnataka-TN Highway Expansion:**

- NGT Halts Karnataka-TN Highway Expansion to Protect Elephant Corridor, Lakes. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has halted the highway expansion project between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu as the construction would potentially harm

critical elephant corridor and seven lakes in and around Hosur in Krishnagiri district.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has proposed to widen NH-844 from Neraluru in Bengaluru to Adhiyamankottai near Dharmapuri as an alternative to 'congested' NH-44, which connects Bengaluru and Dharmapuri. However, the proposal drew flak from environmentalists.

**Climate scientist: our profession is letting down humanity – we must change the way we approach the climate crisis:** - As a climate scientist of more than 25 years, I'm proud of the work my profession has done in recent decades to alert humanity to the unfolding climate crisis. But as the emergency becomes ever more acute, we scientists need to alter the way we approach it – or face being part of the problem.

Climate science has in large part been a remarkable success story. Swedish physicist Svante Arrhenius accurately calculated how much a doubling of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere would warm the planet as early as 1896.

The 1979 Charney report raised concerns about an impending climate crisis long before we could directly evidence it. In response, the scientific community stepped up its research efforts, and has been conducting regular scientific assessments to build a consensus view, and send a strong message to policy makers to spur them into action.

The problem is that 40 years of these efforts, however well-intentioned, have not had any impact on the carbon course of humanity. Since the middle of the 19th century, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from human activities have been growing exponentially, on average by 1.65% per year since 1850.

There were times when economic hardships temporarily stalled emissions, such as the oil price shocks of the early 1980s, the collapse of the

Soviet block and the 2008 financial crisis. But these had nothing to do with climate policy.

If we continue this exponential rise for just five more years, we will have already exhausted the carbon allowance that gives us a two-thirds chance of limiting warming to 1.5°C. That's according to the IPCC, the UN body responsible for communicating the science of climate breakdown. Other scientists estimate that we have already missed the boat.

Our painful sluggishness to act is not the fault of scientists. But the crisis is now more urgent than ever, and our current approach to it is starting to make us part of the problem.

Scientists are by nature conservative. This tendency is intimately linked to the way science operates: before a new theory is accepted it needs to be repeatedly scrutinised to make sure we are absolutely sure it holds up.

Usually, this is good practice. But it has caused climate scientists to consistently underestimate both the speed at which the climate is destabilising, and the severity of the threat it poses.

The IPCC is a chief culprit for this. It has the added difficulty of having to seek ratification from the world's governments for its summary reports, and has been consistently singled out for underselling the impending crisis.

The scientists across the world that contribute to the body's reports must heed its track record of mistaken conservatism, and adjust their approach going forward. Uncertainties are of course inherent in modelling how and when the climate will destabilise, but when the stakes are as high as they are, we must operate on the precautionary principle – the normal burden of proof on scientists should be reversed.

At the current level of 1.1 of global heating, climate change and ecological breakdown are

already displacing and killing hundreds of thousands of humans, and sending other species towards extinction. Above 1.5 °C though, risks to humanity and ecosystems amplify greatly.

Professions such as doctors wouldn't take such a punt on preserving life if better odds were available. Why is the same not true of climate scientists? We need to shift both our own and society's ideas about what is an acceptable level of risk to offer government leaders, and therefore the living planet's inhabitants.

Even the above pathways to a half-chance of limiting heating to 1.5 °C rely on unproven technologies to suck carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere in the second half of the century. They also fail to take into account the political landscape in which these models are being applied. Leaders are well aware that the three to four degrees warming we're headed for may be beyond civilisation's ability to adapt, and yet are still to make any serious headway in phasing out global fossil fuel subsidies that total at least USD\$100 billion a year.

In the face of a genuine existential threat to our civilisation, we scientists need to shift our focus from long-term models that give a false sense of control over the climate crisis and paint drastic

emissions cuts as easily achievable.

Instead, we should focus on vulnerability in the here and now. For example, our global food system is already vulnerable to extreme weather events. If drought strikes in several countries at the same time, there are no guarantees that our food supply chains – in which deliveries arrive **“just-in-time”** to minimise costs – will not experience collapses in the next decade or two.

Yet compared to the vast amount of research focused on the uncertain impacts of global heating on humanity by 2050 and 2100, we know worryingly little about just how fragile our supply chains – or other parts of our highly efficient clockwork global economy – are in the near-term. Refocusing resources on such dramatically under-researched short-term vulnerabilities is vital, not least because it will make the climate and ecological crisis feel closer to home than abstract carbon budgets and temperature rises.

Ultimately, the way the world responds to the impending crisis depends on the extent to which its citizens and leaders feel radical action is necessary. By reframing our research and changing accepted levels of risk and uncertainty, perhaps climate scientists can finally help humanity change its carbon course.



**“There can be no keener  
revelation of a society's soul than  
the way in which it treats its children.”**



**“We worry about what a child will become  
tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone  
today.”**



## LEGAL NOTES:

### Salavath Billu & 3 Others Vs State of Telangana rep. by its Prl. Secretary Forest, at Hyderabad

Salavath Billu and others, the petitioners herein, claimed that they are in possession and enjoyment of a total extent of land admeasuring Acs. 10.00 in Manchippa reserved forest, Compt. No. 170 of Nizamabad district. They further claim that they belong to scheduled tribes and are living in the said forest for several generations. Their allegation is that they are now being evicted from the said land though they are eligible for forest right.

On the above plea, they approached the High Court of Telangana at Hyderabad and filed W.P. No.14775/2019. The writ petition was heard by the Hon'ble Justice P.Naveen Kumar. During the hearing of the case, it was urged that the petitioners cannot be dispossessed from the land in question in view of the order of the Supreme Court dated 28.02.2019 in W.P. No. 109/2008 whereby the Hon'ble Supreme Court stayed the eviction of persons in occupation of forest land until further orders. The counsel submitted that the petitioners had filed their claims before the authorities concerned for grant of forest right under the Forest Rights Act.

The writ petition was opposed by the Government Pleader and it was submitted that the factual position is different from what the petitioners contended. The land is in possession of the Forest Department and that the petitioners are trying to occupy the land for cultivation. Recently when the petitioners tried to occupy the land, a report was submitted to the Second Addl. Judicial First-Class Magistrate at Nizamabad on 08.01.2019. In the circumstances, the writ petition was dismissed on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

Aggrieved by the order of the Single Judge, the petitioners filed Writ Appeal No. 662 of 2019, which

was heard by a Division Bench comprising the Hon'ble Chief Justice Sri Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and the Hon'ble Justice Dr. Shameem Akthar. The appellants contended that they are living in the land for several years in the past and that their father as far back as 2001 had applied to the Government for supplying document relating to the land in question. It is urged that their request has fallen on deaf ears and they are being dispossessed from the land.

The Government Pleader submitted that according to the report of the Forest Department filed before the II Addl. Judicial First-Class Magistrate, Nizamabad it would clearly appear that the appellants are repeatedly trying to encroach the land. The learned Single Judge was therefore right in dismissing the writ petition.

Their Lordships said that it would indeed be trite to say that a party which asserts certain facts has to prove the said facts with cogent and convincing evidence. Although the appellants claim that they have been in possession for many decades, they have failed to submit any documentary proof of their legal and legitimate right of the possession of the said property. On the other hand, the report dated 08.01.2019 of the Forest Department filed before the II Addl. Judicial First-Class Magistrate established that the appellants are not in occupation of the land. While confirming the order of the Single Judge, the Division Bench did not find any merit in the appeal. The writ appeal was accordingly dismissed on 09 August 2019.

**Source:** Internet.

**K.B.R**



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- The company has also got plans for exporting value added products of Red Sanders wood in the coming years.
- Diversifying its activities through promotion of Eco-Tourism, Tree Ambulance Services and Consultancy Services.

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