

Vana Premi Wishes very Happy, Prosperous,  
Healthy New Year , Sankranti and Republic Day

# VANA PREMI



*Nav Say Navvay Sall Tak Ke Bachon Ka Sathi*

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**JANUARY - 2020**

No. 1



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- TSFDC is also developing Urban Parks in Lalgadi Malakpet RF Cluster, Thumukunta RF & Gowdelli PC Kalan & PC Khurd Cluster. Sankalp Taru NGO is collaborating with TSFDC in improving greenery at Gowdelli Park.
- TSFDC has also taken up consultancy work for NTPC and RFCL and successfully raised multiple Row avenue plantation along Rajiv Rahadari highway in peddapally Dist.
- Dhanvanthari herbal garden is revived with support from Deloitte and Technical support of environment forest solutions.

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T.S. Forest Development Corporation Ltd.,  
3rd Floor, UNI Building, A.C. Guards, Hyderabad - 500004.  
Telephone Nos. 040-23395750/23392652  
Email: [vcmd.tsfdcl@gmail.com](mailto:vcmd.tsfdcl@gmail.com), [www.tsfdc.telangana.gov.in](http://www.tsfdc.telangana.gov.in)

Editor : Qamar Mohd. Khan

Associate Editor: D. Nagabhushanam, I.F.S. (Retd.)

*The Association of Retired Forest**Contents**Officers, Telangana & Andhra Pradesh*

(Regd.No. 557/1990)

President : Sri. S.K. Das, I.F.S.  
Cell : 9550681964, 23115085

Vice President : Sri. T. Narayan Swamy, I.F.S.  
Cell : 9701336446

Secretary : Sri. A.V. Govindarajulu,  
Cell : 9440764611

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1. President : Ex- Officio President of Assn.
2. Editor : Qamar Mohd. Khan  
Tel: 04-4205831, 9849233624  
e-mail: qmar\_asima@yahoo.com

*Members*

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1. Editotial .... Q.M.K. ....4
2. Letters To The Editor..... 8
3. Parothi  
Ramesh Kalaghatgi..... 9
4. Can 'Thar Desert' Ever Become  
Green And Possibly Bloom?  
Dr. Raghotham Rao..... 13
5. Green Quiz Championship Jan-2020  
Dr K. Tirupataiah..... 15
6. Forest College And Research  
Institute (Fcric): Hyderabad  
K.B.R. Reddy ..... 16
7. Just Create Confusion; It Gets  
Automatically Confounded  
J. V. Sharma ..... 18
8. Haritha Haram: Massive Green  
Drive For The Future  
P. Nikitha And B. Gopichand..... 27
9. Birthday Greetings ..... 30
10. She  
V. V. Hariprasad..... 31
11. Demoiselle Cranes And Their  
Care Taker In Rajasthan  
N. Shiva Kumar ..... 32
12. The Importance Of Traditional  
Medicinal Systems  
Dr P. Shivakumar Singh ..... 34
13. "Reviving Ecology Through  
Vedic Science"  
Madhukar Swayambhu..... 37
14. Minutes of 94th General Body  
Meeting..... 38
15. News and Notes ..... 40
16. Legal Notes ..... 43
17. Sankranti and its Importance ..... 45
18. Obituary (P. Ranga Rao) ..... 46

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/Total Pages 48

## EDITORIAL

**Women and their safety:** I generally prefer writing editorial on the known and concerned subjects like forests, wildlife, environment, climate change and allied subjects of these topics, but an incidence took place recently in the outskirts of Hyderabad which has moved and disturbed the minds of everybody. Most of the readers might know this incident which occurred on 27th of November in the outskirts of Hyderabad. 26-year-old Disha (name changed) lady veterinarian, was raped killed and burnt. Her charred body was found in an underpass on the highway near Chattanpally village in Rangareddy district on the morning of 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Very close to the scene of offence there is a toll plaza which has CC TV cameras fixed. Since last few years such incidents are increasing in our country. Whether these types of incidents are increasing and if yes what are the reasons, and what are the remedies to stop such incidences?

The constitution of India is the longest in the world. Constitution is a social contract between people and Government. Though Article 21, of the Constitution of India guarantees life and personal liberty to all persons. It guarantees the right of persons to life with human dignity, yet women are raped and killed.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) 2013 annual report, 24,923 rape cases were reported across India in 2012, which comes to 68 rape cases every day on an average. The report for 2017 showed that in the year 2016, a total of 38,947 cases of rape were registered in the country which comes to 106 rapes a day. These are the cases which are reported to the police. There may be

many cases which are not reported. This shows that the rape cases are increasing and percentage of increase is around 55, from 2012 to 2016. The increase of population from 2012 to 2016 is definitely not 55 percent. India's population growth rate is 1.13% per annum. The NCRB figures also indicate that more and more rapes are being reported every year. In some cases, after rape the victims are also murdered and burnt to destroy the evidence.

What may be the reason for increase of these rape and murder cases? In my opinion the following are some of the reasons for increase of rape cases. Overpopulation, illiteracy, selfishness, ignorance, dropouts, lack of ethics, low number of personnel in law enforcing agencies, unnecessary interference of politicians, deployment of law enforcing agencies for protection of V. I. Ps, delayed justice, unemployment and easy availability of alcohol to everyone on highways.

Police department is responsible for the protection of lives and properties of the citizens. The following number of police personnel is deployed per 100000 persons in various countries. Algeria 396, Albania 325, Australia 202, Austria 314, India 138, Sri Lanka 404, Nepal 193, and Pakistan 181. The generally accepted police to civilian ratio are 225 police personnel for every 100,000 people. India's ratio of 138 police personnel per lakh of population is the fifth lowest among the 71 countries. Experts opine that the Indian police system designed in 1861 was best suited for colonial rule and doesn't meet the requirements of a modern days. The already understaffed system is also hit by many vacancies. The latest data reveals that some 20,000 VIPs

have on an average three police personnel to protect each of them while there is a huge shortage of policemen for ordinary citizens. Data compiled by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) shows that out of a total 19.26 lakh police force in the country, 56,944 are deployed just for the safety of 20,828 VIPs across 29 states and six Union territories. That makes an average of 2.73 cops for every VIP in the country. This number is constantly increasing. For ordinary citizens, however, India remains among the least policed countries in the world.

The difference between an educated and uneducated person is their thought process, mentality, and behaviour. India is the second highest populated country in the world. Due to over population it is becoming almost impossible to educate children due to various reasons. It is seen that very rich people's children and very poor people's children whose parents cannot spare time or money for the education of their children are drop outs. These drop outs follow wrong paths and become bad or spoiled persons. Only middle-class people's children are studying well (with exceptions). Crime rate is linked with poor parenting and schooling.

Ethics is moral principles that govern a person's behaviour or the conducting of an activity or the study of what is right and wrong in human behaviour. Our education system is not on the right track and no ethics, is taught in our schools, due to which children's character is not developed. Children's ought to know for their successful and peaceful life in future, how to behave with parents, Teachers, elderly people, brothers, sisters and women. If this is taught in the schools perhaps the incident of rape and murder will get reduced to great extent.

People are becoming self-centred, corrupt

and selfish. This is one of the reasons for thefts, and consumption of alcohol leads to bigger crimes. The intoxicated mood will work as catalyst for doing the wrong things in society. People want to become rich in the shortest time without working hard. Those children who are dropouts and spoiled will indulge in petty thefts and crimes which lead to these types of heinous offences. They have no one to correct them at adolescents' stage as they are generally away from their parents.

It is said that "India is having the best Acts, Rules and Regulations on the paper, but implementation is very poor". Disha's case is one of the best examples for worst implementation of Acts, Rules and Regulations which are the best in the world. The driver of the lorry was driving the vehicle even though his driving license expired in 2017 i.e. two years back. No action was taken against the driver or the owner of lorry by any authority. Even after detecting this offence no action was taken by the Transport department on the fateful day. The driver of lorry was driving the vehicle after consuming alcohol on this fateful day, which is against the Rules. This is because there is no fear of law in the minds of people. Petrol was sold in plastic bottle though there is restriction of sale of petrol in plastic bottles. These offences are very common in our country and this all is happening as there is acute shortage of law enforcing staff, and those who are available are under tremendous pressure due to over working as they have to work extra hours every day, due to in-sufficient number of staff. 25% of posts are vacant and deployment of available force for VIP's protection is the priority.

Jurisdiction is for the convenience, and equal distribution of work load among police personnel and not an air tight compart-

ment. If somebody approaches the police in emergencies the police should immediately help the persons who are in distress without bothering about jurisdiction. Government servants are public servants. The public servants are paid their salaries from the exchequer's money which public pays as taxes. Hence public is the real master and boss of public servants. Public servants should not shirk their responsibilities and should come forward to help the public without bothering about the jurisdiction. The police should be very friendly and with service motto to their masters and bosses. This type of behaviour of the police I think is again due to overworking and stressful working conditions.

Even after 72 years of independence India's literacy rate is at 86.1%. If we see some of the neighbouring countries literacy percentage is as follows. China 99.7, Sri Lanka 98.8, Myanmar 96.3, Nepal 86.9, Bangladesh 83.2, Pakistan 80.3 and the world's average is 91.2. Our countries literacy percentage is just above Pakistan and Bangladesh and below all other neighbouring countries as well as world average. Illiteracy or little education, makes a man ignorant and will not know what is happening around him, and does not know what electronic gadgets are fixed around. In this case of Disha's rape and murder also the offenders perhaps did not know that around toll plaza C.C. TV cameras are fixed and very easily they can be arrested and punished. All the accused persons were dropouts. Had they known this fact of CC, TV cameras, perhaps they would not have committed this inhuman and heinous crime at this place.

Justice delayed is justice denied. The beginning of Indian common law is traced back to 1726 AD, when a Mayor's Court in Madras, Bombay, and Calcutta was estab-

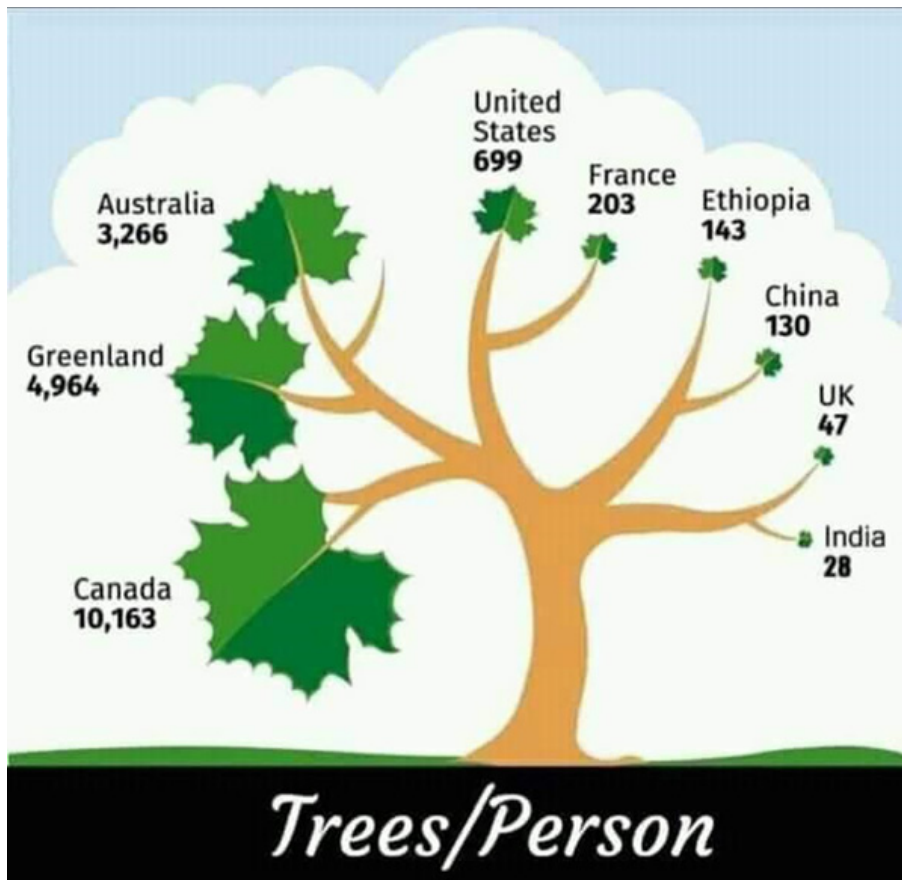
lished by the East India Company. An efficient judicial system was introduced in Hyderabad State by Sir Salar Jung, who was Prime Minister of Hyderabad State from 1853 to 1883. Most of the judges initially were Britishers or Europeans and they used to come to India after appointment as judges. As they were from U.K., they used to visit their country very frequently. The numbers of cases were few as population was also less. The judges from a cold country could not tolerate summer temperature in India and that is the reason judges and their staff were availing summer, winter vacations, and holidays for festivals to visit their country. Including vacations and weekly holidays courts were closed almost for six months in a year. Even after availing of these holidays' cases were not prolonged for years together and cases were decided in shortest time. Now the population has increased many folds and number of litigants has also increased due to which very large number of cases are registered in the courts. Presently the number of judges has not increased proportionately, even though the population and number of cases have increased manifolds, which takes very long time for judges to give their verdicts in registered cases. This is also one of the reasons for offenders to become fearless. Nirbhaya's case is seven years old and though judgment is pronounced punishment is not yet executed due to our legal system. Justice delayed is justice denied we all know this saying yet it is not corrected since many years. Hence now it is time to increase the number of judges proportionate to increase of population, increased number of cases, and withdraw all vacations, except weekly and festival holidays as granted to any other Government servants to get justice in a reasonable time for all. This will create confidence in the minds of litigants and fear

in the minds of guilty persons due to timely verdict as accused will be punished in shortest time. Fast track courts should not be only for rape cases alone, it should be for all cases which are registered in the courts to get justice immediately.

Patrolling on highways should also be improved by the police, to reduce the crime in our country and to help the people who are in distress. This is possible only by increasing the strength of police force and other law enforcing agencies. There is immediate need of controlling and regulating of traffic in the city of Hyderabad, which is chaotic presently and causing many accidents. This also needs increasing the number of police force drastically for controlling the com-

pletely uncontrolled traffic and to reduce the number of accidents, injuries and deaths. Presently the traffic police deployed is a mere spectator as there is heavy traffic on the roads and only one or two Home guards are deployed at cross roads who utterly fail to control traffic.

Vana Premi wishes that our Governments increase the number of police, other law enforcing agencies and number of judges for reduction of the crime rate and early verdict in courts. It is also requested to consider other suggestions also, to allow our India's women to live honourably with dignity and respectfully. **QMK** (Source: Statics collected from Internet)



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

The article "MOTTO FOR MOTIVATION" in your December 2019 monthly journal by Sri KBR Reddy is of excellent educational value. All members of every service would be highly motivated if they know, remembers and adhere to the letter and spirit of the motto that should guide and motivate his career all through. In my opinion this article should form part of academic and professional training and refresher courses. All phases of life will also be enriched

Congratulations and Best wishes to all of you for rendering memorable service to society.

Venkat Rao, IPS (Retd)

Sir,

In my article, Motto for Motivation, which was published in Vana Premi of Dec-2019, the following portion of the article is omitted. I am sending herewith the missed portion of my article and request you to publish this in the next issue which is as follows:

"There are educational institutions, Training centers, other organizations which impart knowledge and skills at the commencement of the career of the prospective and aspiring professionals and they have their own mottoes, some of which are mentioned below:

21. Siddhirbhavati Karmaja  
(Success is achieved through effort)

22. Yogah Karmasu Kaushalam  
(Proficiency in action is Yoga)

23. Shanti Seva Nyaya  
(Peace, Service & Justice)

24. Satya Seva Surkshanam  
(Truth, Service & Security)

25. Balasya mulam vijnanam

(Knowledge is power)

26. Samrakshan evam Suraksha  
(Protection and Security)

27. Tejasvi navadhitamastu  
(May the divine light illuminate our Studies)

28. Jnanam Samyaga Vekshanam  
(Wisdom lies in proper perspective)

29. Vidya Amrutha Masnutha  
(Immortal wisdom through knowledge)

30. Satye Sarvam Pratisthitam  
(Every thing established in truth)

31. Yuktiheena Vicharetu Dhavumuhnih  
(Judgement devoid of logic destroys Prayate Dharma)

32. Nyayastatra Pramanam Syat  
(There shall justice prevail)

33. Nishtha Dhriti Satyam  
(Dedication, Steadfastness & Truth)

34. Vidya Viniyogath Vikasah  
(Progress comes from proper application of knowledge)

35. allam al insane-a ma lam ya lam  
(Taught man what he knew not)

(Arabic)

36. Allahu akbar (Arabic)  
(God is Great)

37. Sat Sri Akal (Punjabi)  
(True is the Great Timeless One)

37. Do heartily, as to the Lord, and no unto men"

Yours faithfully,  
KBR Reddy

# PAROTHI

By  
Ramesh Kalaghati

(Continued from last month)

The lotus flowers come out from the pond on their own and fly gracefully into the hands of Shiviah who stands on the edge of the pond in a hallucinatory state. Then a pitcher with water raises high from the pond like a shining star and settles on Shiviah's head. Shiviah walks into the temple carrying the pitcher and the lotuses. The whole temple and its surroundings vibrate with soft and pleasant music.

That night, Parothi has a bad dream. She and Shivaiah are performing special Puja of Lord Shankara. Shiviah pours water on the Linga chanting Hara Hara Gange in a ringing tone. The bells hanging from the ceiling take a cue from his tone and ring loudly with a violent swing. Lord Siva's Damarukam rattles and makes a deafening sound. The sacred bull bellows with heavenly anger. Everything around, quivers. Shiviah's emaciated body convulses violently. He entreats. 'My Lord' I cannot offer you any oblations. Everything is rotten. Everything reeks of impiety. I cannot offer you these filthy things. I offer you my body and soul. My Lord! My God! Accept them. Shiviah's body convulsions increase. He gyrates and slithers in a frenzy motion and dances. His matted hair suddenly gets dishevelled and stands on his scalp. His dance is like the mortal and wild dance of Lord Shiva. The drum beat grows louder and louder. The blowing of a thousand conches and the raucous rattling of another thousand tabors fill the air. The terrific and apocalyptic music is resounded in all four directions Shiviah's frenzy motions grow delirious. Suddenly he falls prostrate before the Linga with his eyes wide open looking at the Linga.

Next morning when Parothi wakes up, she finds Shiviah lying prostrate. She screams, tries to wake him up and shakes him. Shiviah's wide open eyes tell her that Shiviah's life has joined the five

elements of nature. Parothi falls on his body and weeps. Her life is now as dry as the river Koneru. It has lost life and purpose.

**Chapter 11:** Ramana and Narsiah are away. The question of performing obsequies arises. Parothi's relatives come from Kamalapur to express their condolences. Hariprasad, her teacher in Kamalapur school, who after retirement had shifted to nearby Dhanwada also comes to express condolences. Seeing her pathetic and precarious condition, he suggests employing Siddareddy, his nephew who is an orphan to assist Parothi in performing the funeral rites. Parothi hugs Siddhareddy and says that the boy is her third son because he is lighting the pyre of her husband. The funeral rituals are performed in accordance with their custom. The whole tribe attends it. Rajarao also comes to the cremation ground in his newly bought motor car.

After all the ceremonies related to Shiviah's death are over, Rajarao convenes a meeting of the elders of the tribe. As the meeting is convened in the temple, Parothi is also there. Rajarao expresses his grief at the death of Shiviah. He says Shiviah was highly pious minded and had devoted his life to Lord Shankara. As his male descendants are abroad, someone else cannot step into Shiviah's shoes. The regular pujas cannot be disrupted because of the absence of Shiviah's offspring. He proposes to set up a trust to manage the temple and engage Badriah a tribal priest from his place to perform the regular Pujas of Lord Shiva. His supporters, who had come along with him welcome this proposal.

Parothi looks at Rajarao with eyes brimming with anger. She affirms that priesthood is her family tradition. She wants to continue it as Shiviah's wife. Rajarao says that such a precedent is not there in their society. A woman cannot be a priest. In a mocking tone he says that her act amounts to

blasphemy and is against to the ethics of the tribe. Parothi protests.

'Denuding the forest is against the ethics of the tribe. Supporting it for selfish ends is against the norms set up by the elders of the tribe. Changing the lotus pond, from which lotuses were being plucked to worship Lord Shiva since generations, into a muddy hole is a blatant sin against God. Lending money on usury to people is a crime against both God and man. When an outsider can set up such new and harmful precedents, a native of Shankaragudem has every right to set up a new precedent that is good for both the tribe and God'.

Rajarao did not expect such a retort from Parothi. He scowls. He tries to put forward a counter argument. The elders of the tribe intervene. They say it is the issue of their village and temple. They ask Rajarao not to meddle with the issue. Rajarao's face wreathes in anger. He walks out of the meeting fretting and fuming.

The elders support Parothi. They advise her to initiate Siddhareddy into priesthood so that he can continue the tradition. Parothi nods in favour. Parothi writes letters to both Ramana and Narsiah informing them about Shiviah's death. They write back expressing grief over Shiviah's death and inform her of their inability to come immediately as that they have no adequate means to travel.

Parothi since her marriage has been a part of the temple rituals. She assisted her husband in his temple duties. Now she takes up the job independently. She diligently grooms Siddhareddy for priesthood. She calls him Siddhu affectionately. Early in the morning she and Siddhu go to collect Bilvapatra. Only one tree is left in the vast tract of land that was once a green forest. On the way she narrates many great doings of Lord Shankara and about His benevolence. After bringing bilvapatra and flowers, they take collect water from the borewell. Then Parothi starts performing puja. Siddhu watches them with intent reverence and assists her. The few devotees who come for the morning puja sometimes drop

small coins in the Harathi plate. Every day in the afternoon, after the meal, she reads from the holy books. The gathering especially women listen with rapt attention. While narrating Dakshyani's self-immolation deep emotion turns her eyes watery and tears roll down her cheeks. Her narration touches the hearts of the listeners and moves them. Their hearts are filled with noble passions.

On Purnima and Amavasya, she performs special Pujas. Her devotion to God and her Pujas performed strictly in accordance with the age-old custom give a good impression to many devotees. Slowly they accept Parothi as the natural and fitting spiritual heiress to Shiviah.

**Chapter 12:** One day in the afternoon, when Parothi was sitting in the porch of the temple, an elderly man in late sixties clad in Kurtha and Dhoti approaches her. Due to growing age, Parothi's eye sights are fading and she could not recognise the person till he was almost in hearing distance. She suddenly places him and expresses apologies for bad eyesight. Hariprasad, the Kurtha and Dhoti clad gentleman, her guru, her teacher in Kamalapur school, informs her of his new avatar as a Social activist representing Grameena Abhivruddhi Trust, a Non-Governmental Organization dedicated to rural development. Having lived in Kamalapur for over four decades, he has special attachment with the landscape of Shankaragudem, Kamalapur and villages around. He requests her to arrange for an audience with the villagers to elaborate his plans and suggestions for development of the lomt of Shankaragudem and its inhabitants.

Through a Tam Tam, a drumbeat, Parothi announces through a villager and arranges a Grama Sabha in the evening. Villagers assemble in the Temple pranganam curious to know this stranger. Rajarao is away but some of his henchmen attend the meeting with equal curiosity though apprehensive of this stranger for their existence. After initial introduction, Hariprasad addresses the gathering. With his shining eyes, dazzling baldhead and benign face he gives a good impression to the people

sitting around him. Clearing his throat, he begins his speech praising the tribal culture to the skies. Then he laments that the inheritors of such a rich culture are living a deprived life that is laced with illiteracy, poverty and lack of medical care. He takes a pause and watches the faces of the people. He knows that his words have touched the hearts of the gathering. He begins his speech again. He says that his organisation is committed to fight against these evils in order to bring in a new life of dignity, joy and contentment.

He elaborates the atrocities of the mining company and that the company has been surreptitiously and illegally extending its mining activity to other hills of Lugalakondalu and even Shankarakonda has not been spared. If one approaches Shankarakonda from the rear side, from Sripur side, one can realise the extent of damage. Like termites, mining has been burrowing in the backside of the hill and unless the villagers wake up, organise themselves strongly, Shankarakonda will pass on into history books and Shankara's abode and Dakshina Kailasa will disappear in no time.

Villagers are aghast at this revelation. The elders foresee destruction of the Shankarakonda, the very embodiment of Lord Shankara and Dakshina Kailasa. But they are speechless. As Rajarao's men are in the audience, they are scared of opening their mouths. Slowly some of them come out. One villager who had gone for grazing his cattle in the forest near Shankarakonda confirms to Parothi in whispering tone what Hariprasad had revealed but begs not to be quoted as Rajarao and his henchmen would not hesitate to lynch him.

Speaking further, Hariprasad goads villagers to organise themselves and express their concerns to authorities. He also unfolds a development plan for improving the lots of villagers of Shankaragudem and for revival of Koneru and its ecosystem. He pleads for stopping mining in the Shankarakonda and nearby hills, construction of series of check-dams all along the river course, soil conservation measures and tree planting in the catchment area

and planting along the river bunds on either side. He also professes not to use chemical fertilisers but to promote organic farming and growing fruit plants along river banks.

The villagers show interest in his words. Then he puts forward the proposals of his organisation such as irrigation, power, roads and many other schemes. He says that with improved irrigation facilities the water supply will be enhanced. With such undisturbed water supply the farmers can grow high yielding and marketable crops instead of growing traditional crops which have no market value. He affirms that commercial crops such as vegetables, fruits and others can bring economic prosperity into their lives. They can also tend milch cows to earn more money. He eyes the people with professional looks. Their faces tell him that most of the tribals are excited and inspired by his speech. Armed with their enthusiasm he continues. But villagers are apprehensive of Rajarao, knowing fully well his role in mining.

Hariprasad continues further.

'The river, the waterfall and the lotus pond have already become things of the past and it is only a matter of time that they also on history. If this trend continues even the temple also will be a history and so will be Dakshina Kailasa, the Shankarakonda. If that happens what will remain of the identity and culture of their village and their tribe?'

He proposes to build a dam across the Koneru river once it recovers, so that its water can be stored in a reservoir. The reservoir becomes a permanent water source and irrigates their fields throughout the year. When such a thing becomes a reality, the village grows prosperous and they can lead a life that will be richer and fuller. He proposes laying of roads. He says modern transport comes to their very door steps. This enables them to market their goods and make a fast buck. With that increased income they can send their boys to good schools and can find good alliances for their daughters.

Young villagers with wide open eyes and loud

claps welcome his speech. A few of the villagers especially the older ones are cautious and murmur some misgivings. Their murmurings are drowned in the loud claps. Hariprasad is elated with the positive response of the youth but still worried about lukewarm attitude of the elders. He wants everyone to be on board. In that mood he invites the villagers to come to the dais and speak.

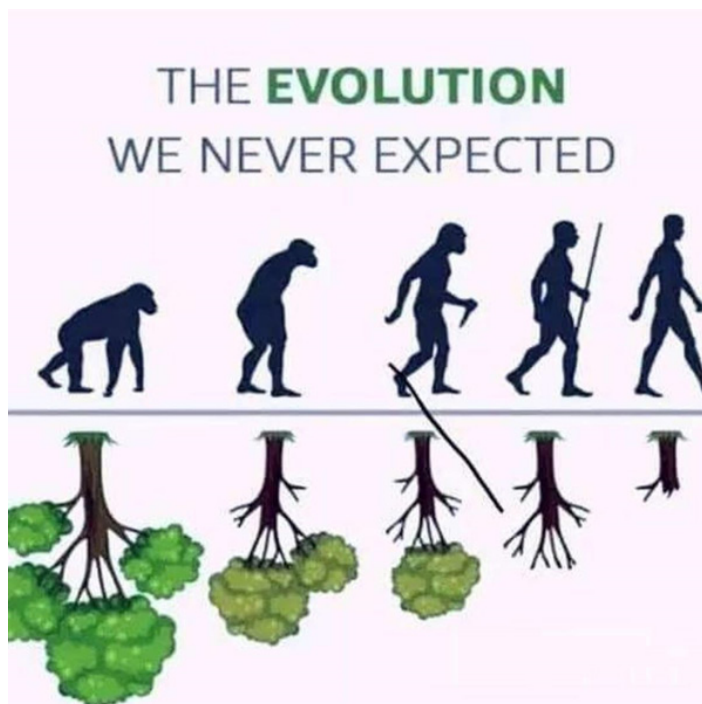
Parothi opens out and starts speaking. She vehemently argues of the ill effects of mining that is happening in the region. She reminds the villagers about what Shivai and She had spoken when Rajarao had brought up the issue of mining and how she and her husband were silenced. She laments, that better late than never, unless the Villagers wake up and start protecting their environment, their lands, their lives and their rights, even the entire village will pass on into history.

Gradually Parothi wins the hearts of the women who crowd around her to hear and decide to stand by her through thick and thin. Parothi addressing the villagers motivates them to build checkdams in the river bed that had dried up. In the ensuing

monsoon villagers plant up the degraded hills with saplings brought by Hariprasad's organization. In course of few years, the river shows symptoms of revival. The plants start growing and birds start returning. The chirpy sound returns to the hills.

When irrigation becomes a possibility, villagers start growing vegetables and flowers. Now flowers are available in the village itself for Shankara's Puja and water reappears in the river and the lotus pond.

However, some farmers use modern fertilisers, seeds and pesticides. They turn to Rajarao for money to buy these needed things. Rajarao advances them money on his own terms and conditions which the farmers meekly accept as there is no alternative left to them. Though illegal extension of mining into Shankarakonda has stopped, mining continues in the other hills. In the beginning stage commercial crops bring good profits to the farmers. They start spending money on various goods such as cosmetics, junk food, garments and electronic appliances. Cell phones keep on ringing throughout the village. (To be continued)



# CAN 'THAR DESERT' EVER BECOME GREEN AND POSSIBLY BLOOM?

By

Dr. Raghotham Rao

**1. Introduction:** The Thar desert ---- also known as the Great Indian Desert ---- is 200,000 sq.km in extent and is located in the North – Western part of our country (mainly in Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Barmer, Bikaner districts of Rajasthan & Indo-Pak boundary), and this large arid region is the world's 9th largest subtropical desert & world's 17th largest desert ---- about 85% being located in India, with the remaining 15% in Pakistan ---- the biome (or the large naturally occurring community of flora & fauna occupying a major habitat like a Tundra) having sand hillocks & sand ridges.

There happen to be only a few local tree spp., suitable for planting in the desert which are slow-growing, while there are several protected areas which make it the most widely populated desert in the world (with a population density of 83 people per sq.km) ---- about 40% of total population of Rajasthan living in the desert ---- though the climate is like that of any other desert. It is the biggest wool-producing area in the country.

Its 11 National Parks, covering 44,000 sq. kms are the only sources of protection for the native animals such as (i) the Indian spiny-tailed lizard, (ii) the desert snakes (iii) the Indian spotted Eagle, (iv) the Great Indian Bustard, the State bird of Rajasthan (v) the Blackbuck (vi) the Chinkara (vii) the Asiatic Wildcat (viii) the white-footed Fox (ix) the Indian Wild Ass (x) the Dromedary (the genus *Camelus* to which they belong, and there being three different spp., ---- the Bactrian or two humped camel, the wild Bactrian camel & the dromedary, virtually meaning an Arabian camel with one hump, especially one of a breed: trained for riding or racing, and is recognisable because it has only one hump)

Permanent features of the vegetation include trees & shrubs like *Acacia nilotica*, *Prosopis cineraria*, *Tamarix aphylla*, *Lycium barbarum*, *Salvadora*

*oleoides*, *Zizyphus numularia*, *Capparis decidua*, *Acacia jacquemontii*, *Calligonum polygonoides* and *Leptadenia pyrotechnica*. The common tree species found are: *Khejri* or *Prosopis cineraria*, *Prosopis juliflora*, *Acacia Jacquemontii*, *Acacia Senegal*, *Vachellia nilotica* ----all belonging to *Fabaceae*, *Temocella undulata*(*Bignoniaceae*), *Salvadora oleoides* & *Salvadora persica*---- both belonging to *Salvadoraceae*.

Luni is a river, and the only one, integrating into the desert (also known as Lonari, Lavanavati), originating in the Pushkar-valley of the western Aravalli Range (near Ajmer), passes through the south-eastern portion of the desert and ends in the marshy-lands of Rann of Kutch in Gujarat, after traversing a distance of 495 kms.

The Thar desert was formed when strong winds lifted sand & silt particles from alluvial sediments and deposited them in the region ---- aridity was repeatedly giving way to humidity---- when the sand dunes got stabilised, soil formed & vegetation sprang back to life. Man thrived during the said congenial periods.

Nomadic tribes still inhabit the region. However, there is an ingrained conservation-instinct among the residents of the region: the *Khejri* tree ---- one of the handful that exist in the area ---- is revered. While in bloom, it is stripped of foliage for fodder, but done cyclically in a very careful manner so that it does not prove fatal to the tree and it has enough-time to recover its leaf-cover.

**[Trivia:** Readers may recall the description of this species in a paragraph of an earlier article written ( after my visit to Bahrain) in 2010 under the caption 'Bahrain - a country with many hues' ( and which appeared in print soon after sometime in the middle of that year) which ran this way : " In

the middle of the tract of desert sands, however, there stands alone and spreading : a tree known as 'Sharjah-ul-Hayat'----- The tree of life. This unique tree (which is indeed a natural wonder) is Prosopis cineraria in all likelihood (belonging to the family Mimosideae), nearly evergreen (called Banni in

Kannada, Jammi in Telugu, Jhand -Khejri in Hindi and Sumri in Gujarati). It has been standing there apparently for centuries, sustaining magically without any discernible source of water. Perhaps this land was indeed the original site of the Garden of Eden----- who knows?"]



# GREEN QUIZ CHAMPIONSHIP

## JANUARY 2010

Dr K. Tirupataiah

This month's quiz competition is on **Banyan Tree** and the answers have to be given in the given blanks:

1. The Banyan Tree is the National Tree of India. Which other state of India has the Banyan tree as State tree?-----	2. Because of its longevity, Banyan tree is called --- tree.
3. Banyan tree starts its life by growing on another plant as an -----.	4. Where in Uttar Pradesh is the Giant Banyan Tree located? -----
5. The Banyan tree located inside the Jagannath Temple in Puri is known by the name -----	6. The Gigantic Banyan Tree located in Ranthambore is the ----- largest Banyan tree in India
7. Banyan Tree village in Punjab is located at -----	8. The Pirbaba Taroda Sacred Grove spread over 2.5 acres in Maharashtra is located in ----- District.
9. The biggest Banyan tree in Central India Located in Chosath Yogini Temple spread over 50,000 sq. feet and 1000 year old in MP is located in ----- district.	10. The 400 year old Banyan Tree called Dodda Alada Mara spread over 3.0 acres is located at Kethohalli near -----City.
11. The 450-year-old Banyan Tree at Adyar, Chennai a witness to discourses by Jiddu Krishnamurti, Annie Besant, Maria Montessori is located in the premises of -----.	12. The 3 <sup>rd</sup> largest Banyan tree spread over 4 acres and 800-year-old and located in Telangana is known by the name -----
13. The Great Banyan Tree with 330 M circumference in West Bengal is located in -----Gardens.	14. Probably the only large Banyan tree to be located on an island and named after Sant Kabir with 641 M perimeter is near ----- city of ----- state
15. The World's largest Banyan tree with more than 5.0 acres perimeter of canopy is located near ----- town in ----- state	

Answers to last month's Quiz on Wildlife are:

1. b; 2. c; 3. d; 4. c; 5. b; 6.a; 7. c; 8. b; 9. d; 10. b; 11. d; 12. a; 13. b; 14. c; 15. b;

Sri.Karunakar, FRO BE Range, Logging Division, Rampahodavaram scored 13 out of 15. Congratulations Karunakar.

Please see answers for January quize on page No. 25.

# FOREST COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE (FCRI): HYDERABAD

By  
K.B.R. Reddy

FCRI Hyderabad is situated on Secunderabad - Karimnagar Highway at Mulugu, Gajwel mandal of Siddipet district in Telangana state at a distance of about 50 Km. from Hyderabad city. The FCRI Campus is a modern sprawling complex in sylvan surroundings. The Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri K. Chandrasekhar Rao inaugurated the College Complex on Dec. 11, 2019 in the august presence of Sri Allola Indrakaran Reddy, Minister for Forests & Environment, Science and Technology; Sri Thanneeru Harish Rao, Minister for Finance and Sri Rajeshwar Tiwari Special Chief Secretary, EF&ST; Forest Officers in Service and Forest Officers Retired and many other dignitaries.

The infrastructure is developed under Government sanction by the Telangana Police Housing Corporation. Administrative Block with Classrooms, Museum, Hostels etc are complete. Some more works are in progress.

The FCRI is the brain-child of the Chief Minister Sri Chandrasekhar Rao. It was started in 2016. The campus was initially operated from the premise of Telangana Forest Academy (TSFA) under the aegis of Dr G. Chandrashekhar Reddy, Addl. PCCF. It has moved into its own beautiful Campus in 2019. Dr Reddy is its Director and Dean. The FCRI provides world class facilities and opportunities to its students. Admissions are completed for the Academic years 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. The FCRI is run by the State Forest Department and managed by the Governing Board and Academic Council constituted by the Government. FCRI is affiliated to Osmania University. The course design and other academic procedures are followed on the guidelines of Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR).

The annual intake of students in different courses is as mentioned below:

Course	Academic Intake		Total
	year	per year	
B.Sc. (Hons) Forestry	2016	50x4	200
M.Sc. (Forestry).	2020	36x2	72
Ph.D. (Forestry).	2022	18x3	54
<b>Total</b>			<b>326</b>

The objectives of establishing the institution are: To bring out appropriate qualified forestry professionals for conservation and sustainable management of forest resources; To develop appropriate methods through research for propagation of plantation crops to meet industrial demands and domestic needs; Extension training to the farmers; And to develop Agro Forestry models suitable for different agro-ecological situations in Telangana state,

The Governing Board and Academic Council are constituted in the year 2016. The Principal Secretary, EFS&T is the Chairman and the Prl. CCF (HoFF) is a member while Dean FCRI is Member/Convener. Other members are Secretary Agriculture, Secretary Finance, Mg. Dir., Telangana Forest Development Corporation, (TSFDC), Nominee of Indian Council of Forest Research (ICFR) Dehra Dun, Nominee of Director General, ICAR, New Delhi, Addl. PCCF Research and Training. The Board also includes four Non-Official members (One representing forest Industry and two from Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and progressive farmer among them one is a woman. The functions of Governing body and functions of Academic Council are specified.

The Academic Council suggested the following departments which are being established:

**S.No. Departments Name of the lab**

1. Silviculture and Agro-forestry Silviculture and Seed Techology Agro-forestry & Soil Science lab
2. Natural Resource Management Geometric lab and Conservation Forest Entomology lab Forest Pathology and Microbiology
3. Wildlife & Habitat Management Wildlife and Forensic lab
4. Forest Products and Utilization Wood Science Technology lab Non-Wood Forest Products
5. Tree Breeding and Improvement Tissue Culture lab Biotechnology lab Taxonomy lab
6. Forest Ecology and Climate Science environment Science lab
7. Basic and Social Sciences IT lab Biochemistry lab

Based on the recommendation by the Academic Council and Governing body, the Government authorized Telangana Public Service Commission (TSPSC) to recruit faculty members. The TSPSC has recruited one Professor, one Associate Professor and 11 Assistant Professors. In addition, 9

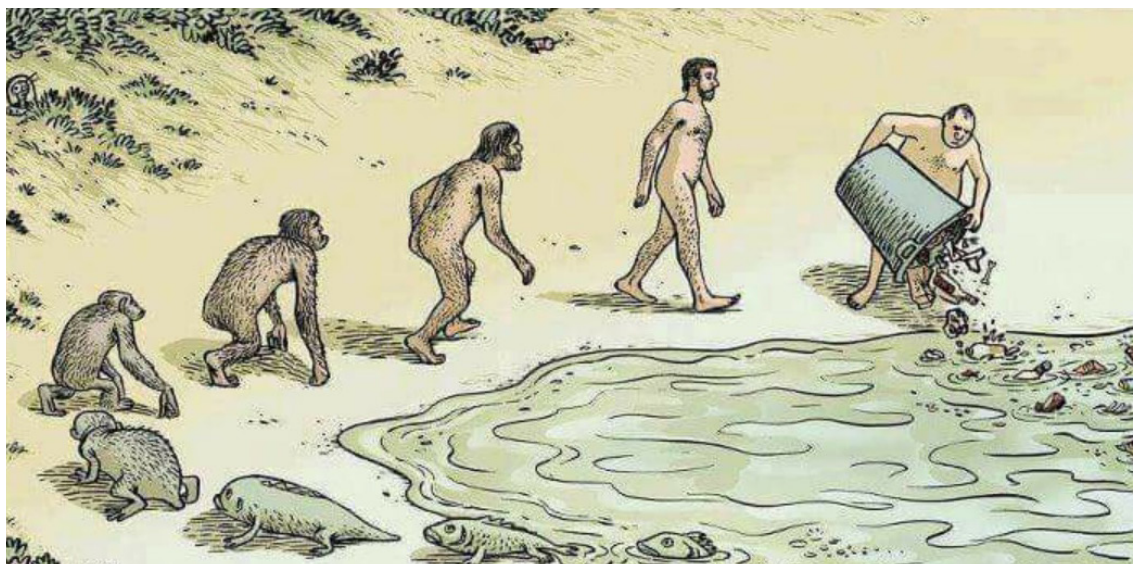
contract faculties are also permitted by the Government.

Practical's are conducted by field visits with exposure to various forest operations. The areas covered are Telangana, South India and North India.

College life is the time during which students stay away from their respective homes most of the time. So, club activities introduced in the FCRI will promote a sense of connection and togetherness of students having common interests. These activities are helpful in developing leadership qualities, self-confidence, improving skills, spirit of competition etc. With these objectives, some events are conducted by Nature Clubs, Bird Watchers Club, Fine Arts Club, Literary Club etc. and one Asst. Professor is designated as Students Club Coordinator. In addition, sports facilities and extracurricular activities are organized. Students of the young FCRI participated in several tournaments.

In short, the FCRI has all the prospects of rising into a very good educational institution and it is hoped that the Institution under the leadership of its Dean Dr. G. Chandrashekhara Reddy will march forward in true spirit of its motto – Nature Nature, Ensure Future.

Source: Dean's Report 2019



# JUST CREATE CONFUSION; IT GETS AUTOMATICALLY CONFOUNDED

By  
**J. V. Sharma**

According to a news report appearing in The Hindu dated 20th October 2019 (Hyderabad Edition), the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) of Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) clarified that the States need not take the Centre's approval to define what constitutes unclassified land as forest. The FAC is the statutory body comprising officials of the Ministry and independent experts meant to advise the Central Government on proposals received for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under Forest Conservation Act 1980 (FCA). It is said that Uttarakhand Government had put forth a set of criteria defining forest land and sought the opinion of the Centre. The matter is said to be under discussions ever since the Supreme Court expanded the definition of forests to include lands that were already notified as forests, that appear in government records as forests as well as those that fell in the "dictionary definition" of forest.

The news report also referred to certain observations attributed to the Director General of Forests & Special Secretary to MoEF&CC that the forests so defined constitute 1% of country's forest wealth and once so defined would be known as "deemed forests" and that an all-encompassing definition of the forest was not possible for India because the country has 16 different kinds of forests. "A tract of grass land in one State might qualify in one region as forest but not in another. However, once a State applied a criteria, it couldn't be reversed. The onus on the States to define forests is also significant, environmentalists pointed out, because the States often claim that they are helpless in preventing encroachments because a patch of land in question hadn't been notified as forests. A recent instance was the felling of trees in Mumbai's Aarey Colony which officially isn't classified as forest."

From the above, it is clear that the Central Government in Environment Ministry is not prepared to consider and issue directions/guidelines on the definition of forest sought by Uttarakhand Government. Entrusting the matter to FAC and FAC's clarification that the States need not take Centre's approval to define what constitutes an unclassified land as forest need to be seen in the light of Constitutional and legal position now existing.

Forest administration is relatively a recent happening in the history of forests. Scientific forestry is still a recent arrival. Forest Department came into existence in the middle of 19th Century and an inventory of the forests could be undertaken only thereafter. A comprehensive legislation in the Form of Indian Forest Act 1927 came into force after the first quarter of 20th Century.

Another news report titled "Centre likely to challenge Uttarakhand forest notice" (The Hindu dated 5th December 2019 – Hyderabad Edition) indicating that it would contest the 'deemed forest' tag . It conveys that the Union Environment Ministry is likely to challenge a recent notification by Uttarakhand Forest Department on its definition of a "deemed forest" and that Deemed forests which comprise of 1% of India's forest land are a controversial subject as they refer to land tracts that appear to be a "forest" but have not been notified so by the government or in historical records. It is said that the Uttarakhand Government in its notification dated 21st November 2019 said that in areas recorded as "deemed forest", only tracts 10 hectares and above and having a canopy density of greater than 60%, would be considered forest. The freedom to define which tracts of the forests qualify as forests has been the prerogative of States since 1996. However, this

only applies to forest land that has not already been historically classified as “forest” in revenue records, or categorized so by the government as “protected” or “Reserved forests”. The Notification appears to extend this definition even to tracts already recorded as forest in revenue records. The news report also quotes the Director General of Forests, Government of India; “We will be writing to the State. There is a hearing in the Supreme Court on this.”

Both the news reports seen together, give an impression that the issue central to the two reports is the same and what is happening is a sort of shadow boxing which can only confuse/entertain the public. It can perhaps also be a case of playing to the gallery. Those conversant with the subject are however dismayed because the whole controversy is unwarranted. The matter which surprises the most is the Centre has in the first place opened the window for controversy by allowing its own organ, the Forest Advisory Committee, to clarify to Uttarakhand Government that the States need not take the Centre’s approval to define what constitutes unclassified land as forest. And now, when the State Government has taken a decision and issued a notice the Centre comes out to challenge the decision. The whole story is a comedy of errors in as much as the Forest Advisory Committee created to advise the Centre on proposals received for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose is not the right authority to clarify what constitutes forest. The Centre has clearly outstepped the authorized contours of decision making. As if to compound the error, the Centre now decides to challenge the State’s decision given by Centre itself. It is necessary to remember that The Director General of Forests is ex-officio Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change looking after technical and professional aspects of the Ministry and also presides over Forest Advisory Committee Meetings.

If any clarification is sought by a State Government on issues concerning forests and their legal status, it is only appropriate that implicit reliance is placed the relevant legal provisions and the rulings given by the higher judiciary. No leeway is available for any other agency to say the final word. In the instant case, there was no need for the State to approach the Centre for clarification nor was it necessary for Centre to assign the job to the FAC. The FAC, though a statutory committee, did not acquit itself with glory and has a dubious record of being over-solicitous to needy clients.

A final word has already been said by the Supreme Court as far as definition of forests is concerned. An occasion arose when the Apex Court had to remove misconception in certain quarters about the true scope of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and the meaning of the word “forest” used therein. The Supreme Court in its order dated 12.12.1996 held that the Act was enacted with a view to check further deforestation which ultimately results in ecological imbalances and therefore, the provisions made therein for forest conservation must apply to all types of forests irrespective of the nature of ownership or classification. The Court also held that:

- a) the word “forest” must be understood according to the dictionary meaning. It was also clarified that this description covers all the statutorily recognised forests whether designated as reserved, protected or otherwise for the purpose of Section 2 (i) of the Act.
- b) The term “forest land” as occurring in Section 2 will not only include “forest” as understood in the dictionary sense, but also any area recorded as forest in the Government record irrespective of ownership.
- c) The provisions enacted in the Act, for the conservation of forests must apply clearly to all forests so understood irrespective of the ownership or classification thereof.

The Supreme Court, having thus extended the scope of the Act by including diverse categories as “forest”, directed each State Government to constitute an expert committee within a month to identify areas which are forests irrespective of whether they are so notified, recognised or classified under any law, and irrespec-

tive of the ownership of the land of such forest and to identify the areas which were earlier forests but stand degraded, denuded or cleared and also to identify areas covered by plantation trees belonging to the Government and those belonging to private parties. Needless to say that the Apex Court, with these directions, wanted all the forests, as defined by them, are properly inventoried to ensure that they are not tampered with in future on the pretext of ownership or classification or otherwise. However, State Governments or the Central Government have not adequately responded to these directions. Instead, instances galore where large chunks of land which would come within the definition of forests as ruled by the Supreme Court, have been diverted for non-forest purposes.

The Supreme Court specifically directed that in accordance with Section 2 of the Forest Conservation act, "all on-going activity within any forest in any State throughout the country, without prior approval of the Central Government, must cease forthwith". The felling of trees in all forests is to remain suspended except in accordance with working plans of the State Governments. This order of 12.12.1996 is of very great significance in that the Apex Court directed that it would operate and be implemented notwithstanding any order at variance, made or which may be made by any Government or any authority, tribunal or court, including the High Court. This order was further reiterated by another order dated 04.03.1997.

In the light of legal position enunciated by the Apex Court, there cannot be any ambiguity about what constitutes the forests. The definition is very clear. Notification, recognition or classification under any law or the ownership cannot take away any land from out of the ambit of definition of forests. What is of greater importance is the Supreme Court's assertion that their order dated 12.12.1996 will operate and be implemented notwithstanding any order at variance, made or which may be made by any Government, or any authority,..... including High Court (Repetition for context and emphasis). It otherwise means there is a virtual embargo against any action which is at variance with the Supreme Court.

Mr. Ritwic Dutta, an environmental lawyer has dealt the matter extensively in his book "Supreme Court on Forest Conservation" and I borrow the relevant material to place the issue in its right perspective. The Supreme Court in an Order dated 13.11.2000 restrained the government from dereserving Forests, Sanctuaries and National Parks. The inclusion of the word "forest" is significant and adds a completely new dimension in the implementation of forest laws in the country, especially the Forest Conservation Act and The Wildlife Protection Act. So, the legal position in respect of forest is:

- A) The Court by order dated 12.12.1996 restrained all State Governments from using forest land for non-forest purpose without the prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with FCA.
- B) The Court by the same order stayed all non-forest activities in so far as they were being carried without approval.
- C) The Court restrained the dereservation of any National Park, Sanctuary and Forest. This order is significant since by virtue of FCA, this power vested in the State Government under Section 27 of IFA can only be exercised by it after prior approval from the Centre. The fact that a Reserve Forest has been dereserved does not mean that it ceases to be a forest land. It also means that the RF can comprise of forest land as well as waste land. In turn it means that on dereservation of the RF the land would be forest land depending upon its nature when it was declared as RF.

In order to ensure more clarity to the issue under discussion, particularly in the light of Apex Court ruling, it would be better to know what exactly is the dictionary meaning of 'forest'. I have an old Chambers' Twentieth Century Dictionary of 1983 Edition. With all the evolutionary trends of the modern day, I am sure that the other dictionaries as well as the Chambers have more to offer now. According to the available edition, Forest means; A large uncultivated tract of land covered with trees and underwood; woody ground and rude

pasture; a preserve of big game: a royal preserve for hunting, governed by a special code called the Forest Law. Adj. pertaining to a forest, sylvan, rustic, .... That the Supreme Court held that the Act was enacted with a view to check further deforestation which ultimately results in ecological imbalances and therefore, the provisions made therein for forest conservation must apply to all types of forests irrespective of the nature of ownership or classification. It implies that when the legislation is to check ecological imbalances, protection, preservation and conservation of all its biotic and abiotic features is a must.

In this context, it would be necessary to go through the text of SC ruling. The word "forest" must be understood according to the dictionary meaning. It was also clarified that this description covers all the statutorily recognised forests whether designated as reserved, protected or otherwise for the purpose of Section 2 (i) of the Act. The word "otherwise" accords unlimited scope much beyond anything done to call it forest. This could be the reason why the Supreme Court emphasized that the provisions enacted in the Act, for the conservation of forests must apply clearly to all forests so understood irrespective of the ownership or classification thereof.

Given the above discussed legal position, the substantive issues in the instant case are answered as below:

a) Whether it was proper for the Ministry to refer Uttarakhand Govt's proposal to Forest Advisory Committee?

The answer has to be an emphatic "No". FAC is a Statutory Committee meant to advise the Central Government on the Proposals received for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose. In the instant case it is a referral whether the States need the Centre's approval to define what constitutes unclassified land as forest. It is an administrative matter to be answered in accordance with provisions of law. Instead of going for legal opinion the matter has been placed before the FAC for reasons unknown which amounts to passing of buck. To go by past history, the FAC too cannot boast of enviable record. There are instances of its acting as hand maid of powers that be and often played to the tunes of higher ups and vested interests. There is reason to suspect that this is one other such exercise. In the instant case it had tendered advice in an area totally alien and beyond its jurisdiction. The FAC clarification in the case is far removed from the legal position.

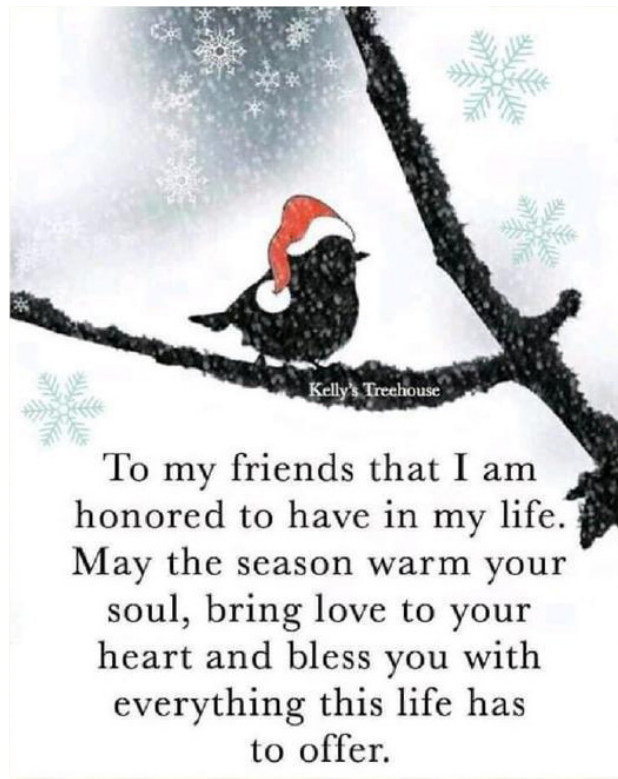
b) What is the legal position?

The clarification sought is whether the State needs the approval of the Centre to define what constitutes unclassified land as forest. The FCA mandates that prior approval of the Centre for diversion of any forest area for non-forest purposes. There is no scope for confusion as far as notified forests are concerned. The Supreme Court considered it necessary to expand the scope of definition of forests to be understood by dictionary meaning of the word 'forest' and also include any area recorded as forest in records. It is further made clear that the provisions of the FCA apply to all forests so understood irrespective of the ownership or classification. The order of the Supreme Court is clear and unambiguous. The classification on which the Uttarakhand State sought clarification is of no consideration nor the ownership once the area in question falls in the category of forest land. The ruling of the Supreme Court is the law of the Land with all the enforceability it contemplates.

Uttarakhand is a State with enormous potential for tourism. Governments in power, whether the Congress or the BJP, have a compulsive obsession to exploit the same in the name of development. It also suits the public in general because they see large sums of money under circulation. Not much attention is paid whether the so called development activities are in sync with environmental considerations OR would prove to be injurious to them. Experts often warned that that such hasty and knee-jerk initiatives in the name of development had already caused immense harm to the ecology and environment of the State. It is unfortunate that persons in authority wantonly ignore to distinguish between good governance and populism.

Even in the instant case, there is ample reason to be suspicious of the whole exercise in that the State seeks a clarification from the Centre where there was actually no such need. What is particularly alarming is the State had put forth a set of criteria defining forest land. The fact that the Uttarakhand Government in its notification dated 21st November 2019 said that in areas recorded as “deemed forest”, only tracts 10 hectares and above and having a canopy density of greater than 60%, would be considered forest, confirms our fears that this exercise is aimed at creating confusion on the definition of forest to facilitate dilution of FCA. Need less to say that close to 88% of the country’s forests do not have canopy density of 60% and it is impossible to find large chunks land of more than 10 ha. In a populous country like India where even forests are severely fragmented.

**ADDENDUM:** Not much long after I had gone through the article “Just create confusion....” by Mr. J. V. Sharma sent to me for publication in January 2020 issue of Vana Premi, a news story titled “Uttarakhand High Court stays Govt. Order on definition of deemed forests” appeared in Times News (TMM) dated 12.12.2019. Given the context of the matter under discussion and its importance, Mr. Sharma’s article could not have at a better time. He has correctly identified the machinations of the vested interests to dilute the uncomfortable provisions of forest law and did not hesitate to place the blame even at the doorstep of Environment Ministry. Vana Premi is proud to highlight issues prejudicial to the interests of forests and compliments profusely its esteemed scribe Mr. J. V. Sharma for his bold and classic presentation of the matter. Readers are requested to read report printed in News and Notes column to have the right perception of the matter dealt by Mr. Sharma. **EDITOR**





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



6 years old plantation (Hardwickia)

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

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

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



**THE SINGARENI COLLIERIES COMPANY LIMITED**

(A Government Company)  
Telangana State



Tiger skin seized and accused persons arrested at Raipur. Please see Page No. 40. (for details)



Dr Karthikeyan Vasudevan Senior Principal Scientist, delivering lecture on Breeding, Conservation and Population Management of Critically Endanger wildlife species in GB Meting of Association.



Felicitaton of Sri B. Bhoomarajam on attaining 90 years of age.



Felicitaton of Smt. Manjula Reddy daughter of Sri K. Mohan Reddy on receiving Infosys award



Sri S.K. Das President of the Association delivering Presidential address.



Felicitation of Sri K. Mohan Reddy on attaining the age of 85 years



Felicitation of Dr. Jayanth Babu for receiving Doctorate Degree in Pharmacology



Felicitation of Sri D. S . Gangakhetkar on attaining 85 years of age

# 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.

## Salient Features



Vendor Directory



News



Enquiries



Forums



Events

Consumers can select vendors who are closer to their city or town for any purchase by browsing through the hundreds of profiles available in the **GreenAP** mobile app. Consumers can access vendors via WhatsApp, SMS or Phone.



Download **GreenAP** app today!



For more information, please contact our help line number: **+91 7997650835**

# HARITHA HARAM: MASSIVE GREEN DRIVE FOR THE FUTURE

By

P. Nikitha and B. Gopichand

- ❖ **The Earth Does Not belong to Us - We Belong to the Mother Earth**
- ❖ **Flower plant should smile in front of your home and fruit crop should call you to backyard of your home.**
- ❖ **FCRI students - key to success of Telangana Ku Haritha Haram**

Nature has the best beauty to be admired in this world. Trees have been in existence for thousands of years they are mankind's and Wildlife's lifeline for survival. But humans tendency is to take things for granted has become hazardous for the mother earth, degrading environment with the pollution and chopping trees for survival. This scarcity of trees in forest runs river dry and damages natural habitat of species that live in the forest. To overcome and repair the damage Telangana government planned "Telangana Ku Haritha Haram" a movement devoted for increasing the tree count or tree coverage area in each and every district of Telangana state. Haritha Haram contribution to ecological balance can be an eye opener, a role model to those who neglect the environment and create environmental problems like global warming, acid rains, drought not only these problems would perish the advantages of Haritha Haram can result into improved economy and social welfare due to increased number of jobs in farming and forestry. People will respect and protect the environment because parks and trees will become the most vital components of urban life in the future.

The Global School Strike for Climate Change kick off ahead of UN Climate Change summit September 2019 in 3400 towns/cities of 130 countries. The kids on streets showing their love to their mother earth and sensitize political community to take immediate actions against Climate change. The

Greta Thunberg's speech to world leaders at UN Climate Action Summit had highlighted that we are watching world leaders to take action as we are already in the starting stage of massive extinction of ecosystems. The roots of Telangana (erstwhile Andhra Pradesh) committed to Biodiversity started in 2012 where Hyderabad, the present capital of Telangana organized UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Telangana Ku Haritha Haram (TKHH) was a flagship programme launched by Government of Telangana to conceive 33% of forest area from present 25.16 percent in 2015 to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 13 of United Nations i.e., Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. The name itself indicate the Haritha means Green and the Haram means Jewel or Necklace to the Telangana in the Telugu language. Twenty-five Central Government departments, 25 State government departments and many private entities were partners of this programme. It goes with the slogan that "A child is enough for family; but, many plants can be grown by family." Environmental Protection Training and Research Institute (EPTRI) is the nodal agency has prepared State Action Plan on Climate Change for the newly formed State of Telangana separately in line with the objectives of National Action Plan on Climate Change. Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) of Haritha haram was highlighted in the XXV World Congress of International Union of Forest Research Organisation (IUFRO) held at Curitiba in Brazil.

The Achievements of plantation drive through TKHH has been tremendously increased from 15.86 crores of plants (2015-16) to 31.67 crores of plants (2017-18) 61,75,680 Plants planted, 61,62,892 plants geo-referenced and out of 770 sites geo registered 741 geo referenced in

the Forest arrears of Telangana under TKHH till 30.09.2019. Other department except Rural development and Forest 20,490 of 110 sites registered from 2015 to 20.09.2019. Bhadradi Kothagudem district (14,28,906) was highest planted followed by Komaram bheem Asifabad (6,32,620), Mancheril (6,05,929), Mahabubabad (4,87,701), Nizamabad (3,86,892) and Kamareddy (3,25,221) whereas Jagtial (7,300) and Warangal Urban (8,200) were very least planted.

In the year 2019 till date DWMA/DPAP (18,23,13,486) followed by Agriculture (1,08,07,252), Forests (2,88,28,020), Municipal (1,01,35,487), Panchayat Raj (50,35,958) and ITC (49,10,331) were the major plants planted by departments. Major watering to plants done by Forest department (1,74,82,229) and other departments together except Panchayat Raj watered 10,02,456 plants. The total achievement percentage was 66.91 except GHMC and HMDA where, they reach 83.22 percent. Jayashankar Bhupalpally topped in achievement percentage with 101.62 percentage followed by Kamareddy (99.35%), Medchal (98.30) and Sangareddy (96.31) whereas least achievement percentage in Narayanpet (19.91%), Komaram bheem Asifabad (32.78%) and Jangoan (33.16%). This creates a need to develop a scientific evaluation mechanism which bring out the drawbacks in the existing system in the districts of less achievement percentage and pave a way to overall targets achievement. In this context the alignment of the programme according to the diversified Socio-geographical factors is the need of the day.

Green Brigade report of TKHH says that 30,904 teams with 2,65,657 male and 2,16,892 female members at different levels in operation. Even though the gap between male and female participation not much alarming the role of Women could be much more strengthened. As a team work, the Women are more successful as evident in the Self-Help Group (SHGs) programme achievements in the state. Awareness as well as motivating them to participate in such a huge plantation programme by assuring the advantages of these in different ways to the community and making them as torch bearers of this initiative at the ground level plays a

major role in strengthening the TKHH programme. Majority participants were 25-40 years population (1,94,556) followed by 40-60 years (1,25,340), 5-15 years (81,611), 15-25 years (32,278) and above 60 (10,748). This big number 4,44,533 of participation makes this programme a people led programme. Participation of age group above 60 could be more encouraged as they were knowledge hub of the suitable forest species and indigenous techniques which were valuable for the local conditions and informal education continued to further generations. The disappointing rate of participation of age group of 15-25 should be concentrated by departments as we can inculcate such habits in the younger generation at this phase of life where it becomes complex further. The majority education level of members was below SSC (1,74,314) followed by SSC (1,48,874), No education (49,639), Intermediate (39,710), UG (25,336), Post graduate (13,376) and PhD. (437). Once again, this data proves that the people with basic or minimal education participate better in environmental protection issues than the so-called educated class as their most technologies were not environment friendly.

Taking this as an inspiration the students of B. Sc (Forestry), Forest College & Research Institute (FCRI), Hyderabad at Mulugu have actively participated in the greenery activity to provide a helping hand in the Third, Fourth and Fifth phase of "Haritha Haram" in Warangal, Karimnagar and Sanga Reddy districts of Telangana state. As a part of the program in Warangal district FCRI students have planted the seedlings in the forest nursery area, road side avenues, local community lands, farm fields, waste lands, institutional premises, tank bunds, canals etc. In fact they were also geotagged Apart from that students have educated and inculcated environmental cautiousness among Government School children of Sanga Reddy and Nizamabad districts ensuring that every child to plant a tree and created awareness among the local village communities, farmers about the benefits by planting trees to meet their immediate needs at the local level and also to fulfil their global environmental responsibility,

for Bangaru Telangana Ku Balala Haritha Haram.

In Karimnagar district the students have distributed the saplings as "Vriksha Prasadam" to the forest department, government schools, farmers and Anganwadi Kendras in Jagityal. They have motivated the local communities to plant trees such as Neem, Tulasi, Maredu, Raavi etc which can be useful in performing their festivals. Finally, they have ended up the activity with slogans to improve the tree cover.

Apart from plantation activity the effective maintenance of planted trees under TKHH is the need of the hour that need to be focussed.

**Strategies for effective maintenance:** A campaign such as 'Haritha Haram' may target the concrete jungles and growing townships but it also has a strong bond with the farmers. Agriculture is primarily dependent on the green cover and vegetation because it leads to proper rainfall, cooling down of temperatures. Hence, even farmers need to do their bit. Here are a few things they can look at.

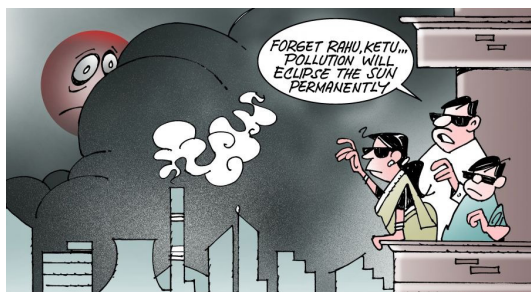
- Agro forestry – farmers should be encouraged to adopt various models of agro forestry for increased income levels and economic security.
- Creation of Smriti Vanams otherwise known as 'Memorial Parks' needs to be encouraged more in the areas which come under municipalities.
- Tree watchers/ caretakers should be appointed at community/village level for the maintenance of plants
- The major problem of farmers to take up is water scarcity particularly during more than 40-degree Centigrade temperatures

and grazing by animals. Hence this problem needs to be addressed.

- The ground level intentions of this scheme had shaped with progressing years (4<sup>th</sup> phase) that the 50 percent fruit crops should be planted in forests and village surroundings so that the biodiversity is protected and forest animals won't damage the farmers' fields in search of food. This creates a congenial ecosystem that won't disturb the others ecosystem. For this Horticultural, Agricultural, Forestry, DRDO (District Rural Development Office) and Revenue departments work together with an action plan in coordination with nursery to get plantings in time for each phase of Haritha haram.
- Involvement of local people in participatory decision making in preparation of Haritha Haram action plan for effective implementation.

#### Answers to Green Quiz January 2020.

1. MP, 2. Immortal Tree, 3. Epiphyte, 4. Majhi near Lucknow, 5. Kalpa Bata, 6. Second largest, 7. Cholti Kheri village in Fatehgarh Sahib, 8. Amravathi district, 9. Maharajpur, Sagar District, 10. Kethohalli near Bengaluru, 11. Theosophical Society, 12. Pillalamarri in Mahabubnagar, 13. Jagdish Chandra Bose Indian Botanical Garden/ Indian Botanical Garden/Kolkata Botanical Garden, 14. Bharuch, Gujarat on Narmada river, 15. Kadiri, AP.



## *Birthday Greetings*

*We wish the following born on the dates mentioned*

*"A Very Happy Birth Day"*

S.No.	Name of the member	D.O.B.	5.	Ramesh Kumar Suman	03-02-1966
	Sarva Sri		6.	I. Prakash	09-01-1977
1.	D.V. Rao	09-01-1931	7.	P. Ashok Rao	10-01-1961
2.	R.D. Reddy	14-01-1938	8.	C. Vajra Reddy	10-01-1967
3.	K. Mohan Reddy	16-01-1934	9.	V. Srihari Gopal	14-01-1966
4.	P. Bhaskar Reddy	21-01-1953	10.	R. Kondal Rao	15-01-1970
5.	R.G. Kalaghatgi	20-01-1957	11.	Ms. D. Samhita	21-01-1988
6.	Dr. Manoranjan Bhanja	22-01-1958	12.	M. Nagarjuna Reddy	30-01-1965
7.	H.K. Desai	23-01-1936	13.	B. Venkateswara Rao	31-01-1968
8.	Dr. K. Tirupathaiah	23-01-1959	14.	Y. Narasimha Rao	03-02-1962
9.	V.P. Adinarayana	28-01-1940	15.	K. Mohan Rao	04-02-1963
10.	P. Gracious	24-01-1949			
11.	Dr. C.N. Rao	26-01-1938			<b>Secretary</b>
12.	T. Narayana Swamy	30-01-1933			
13.	P. Upender Reddy	05-02-1942			

### S.No. Name of the Serving Officers D.O.B.

1.	M. Prudviraj	09-01-1960
2.	B. Sunder	20-01-1970
3.	S. Shantharam	20-01-1980
4.	Dr. P. Subbaraghavaiah	25-01-1961



# SHE

By

V. V. HARIPRASAD

“She” the epitome of love,  
An affable mother to her child,  
An indispensable life partner to “He”,  
A Synonym for endurance,  
And above all the better half of even the  
“Creator”,

Is Alas at the cross roads,  
Having been aghast, dejected and caught  
unawares,  
Seeking for security and craving for freedom,  
In a society turned out to be a jungle,  
where jungle law is all pervasive.

Be it “Abhaya” of Delhi in the long past,  
Or in the recent past  
“Samata” of Nirmal in Asifabad,  
Or “Disha” the young and ardent veterinarian  
in Shadnagar,  
or a number of others including kids,  
And countless oppressed not in the lime light,  
Became the innocent victims of,  
Onslaught of beastly “men” over powered by  
Lust.

On each such sordid and despicable event,  
Kneejerk reactions pour in.  
The rulers reiterate the enforcement of law  
with iron hand,  
Re assuring the curbing of lawlessness.  
The masses at large give vent to their short-  
lived anger,  
By blaming the state for its apathy,  
unmindful of their social and civic responsibil-  
ities,  
Hell bent on instant justice,  
Exhorting the police to step into the shoes of  
the judiciary,  
Being unaware of the basic tenets of criminal  
justice system,

The celebrities too start preaching,  
And feminists’ resort to unabated cursing,  
Whereas the judiciary continues to function,  
with its inevitable and repulsive snail’s pace,  
Being unable to wriggle them out from legal  
hassles.

This turns out to be a vicious circle,  
An outcome of the social maladies,  
Be they Psychological or sociological inade-  
quacies,  
Or the economic and cultural impoverish-  
ments,  
That the society is riddled with.

The need of the hour is  
Not only the provision of additional teeth to  
the law,  
But also,  
Moulding and empowering “she” to be tough  
and brave,  
To be aware of her intrinsic constraints and  
strengths,  
Introspection by all wise and law-abiding  
people,  
Insisting on all to develop awareness on  
cultural values,  
unmindful of incurring the wrath of the pseudo  
intellectuals,  
while adhering to the tenets of traditional  
wisdom,  
That our great nation is endowed with.

*(Kudos to our elders who insisted “Yatra  
Naryastu poojyante Ramante Tha-  
tra devataha”)*

# DEMOISELLE CRANES AND THEIR CARE TAKER IN RAJASTHAN

By  
N. Shiva Kumar

Come September, the residents of Kheechan, a tiny hamlet near Phalodi town in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan, get ready to welcome winged visitors from abroad. Kheechan is located on the edge of the sprawling Thar Desert that covers an area of 2,00,000 Sq.Km, and seemingly barren, but the landscape attracts migratory birds.

Breathless from their long journey of over 5,000 Km, Demoiselle cranes chose the tropical desert to spend their sabbatical of seven months. They escape their breeding grounds in the frigid winters of Russia, Mongolia, Europe and China, to make a beeline to the Indian Sub-Continent by deftly negotiating the mighty Himalayas.

In the last five to six decades, Demoiselle cranes have galvanized the countryside of Kheechan, making it an ornithological delight for scientists, shutterbugs and foreigners.

Kheechan-Phalodi is equidistant from Bikaner, Jodhpur and Nagaur in Rajasthan and tourists criss-crossing the highways invariably stop over for sightseeing of the cranes.

## A cafeteria for cranes

In the remote but ancient settlement of Kheechan, a school dropout Sevaram Mali Parihar has become a messiah for the dainty Demoiselle cranes. After he failed his 7 exams., Sevaram often made excuses to disappear into the hinterlands to watch endlessly the congregating bird life near water ponds.

As a lone Ranger, fell in love with the curious cranes that visit his village every year like far-off relatives. Spending all his time with them, as his zest grew, he watched keenly all the action around the cranes. He saw how the elders of the village frequently fed grains to the cranes. He noticed his father, grandfather and other villagers lived in harmony with the

feathered fowl despite the desolate terrain. He also learned from ecologists that the lack of vegetation does not deter wildlife. – Indeed, scanty flora can sustain nearly 150 species of migratory and resident birds in the Thar.

He earnestly learned the English names like lapwing, lark, finch and sand grouse, among others, that thrive in the heat and dust of the desert. However, his favourite was always the demoiselle crane standing three feet tall with its elegant plumage, long black necktie feathers and red moody eyes.

As a young lad of 17, Sevaram learned the nuances of nature conservation from village elders and even tended to injured birds, nurturing them back to health. Now at the age of 37, he has ample experience in providing help and comfort to the winged visitors wounded either due to the vagaries of Nature or man-made impediments.

Today, Sevaram is known for fighting spirit and guards the dainty cranes at Kheechan. They are treated like royalty as not a day goes without their being fed sumptuously with grain. Every year, during their stay between September and March, the residents' cooperative gathers grain or lends money to stock grain at a designated warehouse. A large enclosure locally created known as Pakshi Chugga Ghar, is the open-air cafeteria for the cranes.

"They are our honoured guests. We customarily feed them every time they visit and in the peak season nearly 2,000 Kg of cereal grain is spread," says Sevaram. Though he is a school dropout with very little of English, he has fought many battles over 20 years with local Gram Panchayat and with various Government authorities. He managed to get the overhead cables and power lines from the entire village insulated, removed or replaced with under-

ground cables. He filed complaints with the Collector of Phalodi, the Rajasthan High Court, Rajasthan Electricity Board (REB) to remove these wires.

A fine of around Rs. 4.25 lakh was slapped on him, by REB. But with the help of Forest Department, he fought the fine and won the complicated verdict. One can understand why he fought so relentlessly to eliminate the aerial power lines they often became death traps for the large winged demoiselle cranes. Often the demoiselle cranes, with a wing span of six feet got entangled while approaching for feeding or quenching their thirst. Sevaram is also fighting to free the rooftops of jutting-into-the-air mobile network towers by redesigning or relocating them to a safer zone.

Sevaram in his guttural drawl proudly proclaims, "I would have rescued about 500 demoiselle cranes in about 20 years and have been awarded by various organizations from time to time for my effort to save the cranes,"

He encourages donations from tourists, wayfarers, anyone who is willing to contribute for the cause of the winged visitors. He also engages with local and national media for making interesting news items and episodes for TV channels on the activities of demoiselle cranes. Sevaram's service in the cause of demoiselle cranes is paying rich dividends as he successfully coaxed the government to allot a plot of land in the village to set up a bird rescue centre. Nevertheless, for want of funds, the parcel of land remains vacant awaiting philanthropic organiza-

tions to take up the good cause.

### Daily Struggle

The countryside crusader says ruefully, "I have fought many battles but life is a daily struggle in my village where opportunities are few and far between." Sevaram works as a small-time contractor, of offering brick and mortar services and also runs mini plant for supply of clean drinking water to villagers. His ambition is to have a bird rehabilitation centre of his own to ensure demoiselle cranes get the best hospitality.

In the meanwhile, one can spot Sevaram perched on the rooftop of his house updating the logbook that he has been maintaining since 2010, which contains details about the inbound and outbound movement of cranes. As his dwelling is on the fringes of the feeding pen, he meticulously maintains the daily ritual of arrival and departure timings of cranes keeping a sharp eye out for sick birds and tourists.

November and December witness a spurt in the number of cranes to over 20,000 which is double the population of Kheechan, and the boisterous demoiselle cranes convert the hamlet into a 'crane country' with their honking, bugle-like calls.

Source: The Hindu (Business Line) Delhi dated October 5, 2019

The author is a wildlife enthusiast and photographer based in Noida



# THE IMPORTANCE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINAL SYSTEMS

By

Dr P. Shivakumar Singh

**INTRODUCTION:** Medicinal Plants or Medicinal herbs are essence of Traditional medicine practice. Treatment using herbs developed different parts of world in different names. Herbalism is the systematic study of medicinal herbs and its botany. Mainly focusing its medicinal uses. Ethnomedicine is the study of traditional medicine. Researchers identify and separate various active chemicals in the medicinal plants. Indian medicinal plants or Ayurvedic medicinal Plants are the essence of Ayurveda and Ayurvedic treatments. When used judiciously and clocking with the basic principles they produce miraculous effects. Hence, Ayurvedic drugs are rightly called the elixirs of life. Ayurvedic Herbs played important role in Ayurvedic treatment, from ancient time to this most modern time.

**HISTORY OF MEDICINAL PLANTS:** The uses of medicinal plants can even see in pre historic time from the Sumerian civilization. In Sumerian civilization medicinal plants listed in clay. They mentioned about 100 medicinal plants. Ancient Egyptians documented about 800 medicinal plants in 'Ebers Papyrus'.

'Shennong Ben Cao Jing', is the Chinese pharmacopeia of medicinal plants, which helped Chinese Traditional healers to treat patients. 'Dioscorides' was a Greek physician, he wrote a pharmacopeia of medicinal plants called 'De Materia Medica'. which described 600 medicinal plants and its various combinations useful in treatments.

Aristotle's and his student, Theophrastus wrote the first systematic botany text called 'Historia plantarum'. That was the first book in botany which classified plants into systematic groups.

In India, various traditional system of medicine is developed. Ayurveda and Sidha are well known,

now commonly called Indian System of Medicine. Treatments based upon medicinal herbs and herbo mineral combination are essence of Ayurveda and Sidha. Medicinal plants listed in Ayurvedic text books or coming under ayurveda listed as Ayurvedic Medicinal Plants. Ayurveda books classified medicinal plants according to its uses and properties. About 800 medicinal plants were listed.

**HERBALISM:** From historical time, medicinal plants used for medical purpose. It is believed that about 50 thousand before herbalism existed. Written history could be seen in sumerian civilization, which was 5000 years old. Herbalism may apply modern standards of effectiveness testing to herbs and medicines derived from natural sources because many modern medicine compounds are derived from plants. It referred as phytomedicine, phytotherapy or paraherbalism. Nutrient supplements prepared from herbs classified under phytotherapy. According to WHO (World Health Organization) 80 % of Asian and African population uses herbal medicine due to its low expense. About 25% of drugs using in USA derived from medicinal plants. 7,000 medical compounds and 120 active compounds currently isolated from herbs.

**HERBAL PREPARATIONS:** Single plant or multiple plant combinations are used. It Prepared in many forms. Herbal juice extract, dry powder, tea, decoction, Tinctures, alcoholic preparation and oil or ghee preparations are available.

**USES OF HERBAL MEDICINES BY ANIMALS MY WORDS:** It is believed that traditional healers started learning herbal medicine on observing the sick animals.

**ETHNOMEDICINE:** Ethnomedicine is a study or comparison of the traditional medicine based on

bioactive chemicals in the herbs and animals and practiced by various ethnic groups. Ethnobotany and medical anthropology are the tools using in Ethnomedicine. The purpose of the research is to identify and develop a marketable pharmaceutical product. From Chinese medicine 'Yu' identified 'Artemisia' named chemical compound useful in Malaria disease.

**PHYTOCHEMICALS:** These are chemical compounds synthesized by plants as its part of metabolism, may be part of defensive mechanism. Alkaloids, Glycosides, Glycosides, Terpenes are main Phytochemicals. Alkaloids are bitter-tasting chemicals examples are atropine, scopolamine, hyoscyamine, caffeine, cocaine, ephedrine (Ephedra), and morphine. Anthraquinone glycosides are found in medicinal plants such as rhubarb, cascara, and Alexandrian Senna. Polyphenols of several classes of chemicals, useful defences against plant diseases and predators. Examples are phytoestrogens and astringent tannins. Terpenes and terpenoids are found in resinous plants such as the conifers.

**Cultivation:** Cultivation may be traditional or conservative agriculture practices. World Health Organization recommends the use of rotation. Study about Soil type, climate, temperature, humidity is needed to obtain satisfactory yields.

**Safety of Medicinal Plants:** *It is a blind belief that herbal medicines are safe. Side effects are present for herbal medicines also. Wrong prescription, wrong dosage, adulteration, and quackery cause herbal treatments more unsafe. Many governments started giving license under strict order to practice herbal medicine. 3*

**32 Medicinal Plants to keep at your Home Always:** Have u ever found your grandma running after a doctor or medical store for every now & then? We have so many wonderful natural remedies all around for any burns, cut, cold, fever, sneezes and more.

It is very important to have medicinal plants around

the house because you never know when you might need them. So, here are lists of plants that have the highest medicinal value compared to the other million species around the world worth planting around the house.

Here we have few medicinal plants....

**TULSI:** There are four types of Tulsi mentioned in ayurvedic texts I.e. Rama, Krishna, Vana & Kapoor Tulsi.

For over the centuries Tulsi (the queen of herbs) has been known for its remarkable healing properties.

- Tulsi is taken as the herbal tea.
- The oil extracted from the Karpoora Tulsi is mostly used in the herbal toiletry. Its oil is also used against the insects and bacteria.
- The Rama Tulsi is the effective remedy for the Severe acute Respiratory Syndrome. Juice of its leaves gives relief in cold, fever, bronchitis and cough.
- Tulsi oil is also used as the ear drop.
- Tulsi helps in curing malaria.
- It is very effective against indigestion, headache, hysteria, insomnia and cholera.
- The fresh leaves of Tulsi are taken by the millions of people every day.
- Many people wear the Tulsi beads, which is said to have certain physical and medicinal properties.

**ASHWANGANDHA:** Ashwagandha is best known for stress Reduction, Neural Protection, and a Lot More from an Ancient Herb

The benefits of ashwagandha are many; in addition to promoting fertility, aiding in wound care, and boosting the immune system, some other benefits are: Diuretic, Sleep aid, Galactagogue, Anti-ep-

ileptic, Anti-tumour, Pain relief, Eye health, Heart tonic, Lowers cholesterol & Regulates blood sugar, Reduces depression and anxiety, Combats stress, Fights cognitive decline due to brain cell degeneration

**LEMON GRASS:** Lemongrass has been reported to have innumerable therapeutic and other health benefits. Alleviate certain respiratory conditions including laryngitis and sore throats, Anti-pyretic property which reduces high fevers, useful for all types of pain including abdominal pain, headaches, joint pains, muscle pains, digestive tract spasms, muscle cramps, stomach ache and others, Lemon-grass inhibits bacteria and yeast growth, Beneficial for nervous and stress-related conditions.

**VITEX NEGUNDO:** Commonly known as the five-leaved chaste tree, is a large aromatic shrub with quadrangular, densely whitish, Tomatoes' branchlets.

**Key therapeutic benefits:** Because of its anti-inflammatory, antibacterial and antifungal properties, the plant is useful in treating sores and skin infections, Five-Leaved Chaste Tree relieves muscle aches and joint pains, the herb is effective in treating vaginal discharge.

(Dr P. Shivakumar Singh is Head, Department of Botany, Palamuru University, Mahbubnagar, Telangana State, email: [shivakumarsinghp@gmail.com](mailto:shivakumarsinghp@gmail.com) cell: 9989063063.)



# “REVIVING ECOLOGY THROUGH VEDIC SCIENCE”

By

**Madhukar Swayambhu**

India is the oldest surviving continuous civilisation, and the very fact that we've been here in the same land mass for at least 25,000 years (that can be corroborated with documentary & archaeological evidences) cultivating the same land and producing our food, gives a hint that we must have cracked the code of sustainability.

Now in past 400 years, India has been the most invaded country in the history of mankind and due to this there has been many changes in the way we've been living and more specifically the way our knowledge is transferred to the next generations. With an influence of Middle Eastern culture during Mughals and later European influence with British rulers, the original Vedic culture of the land was suppressed in all the possible ways and the education system was almost abolished.

This was not just a loss to the country but to the whole humanity, because this led to the destructive development that the World has undergone across the globe resulting into the biggest question on the very survival of life on the planet. Our lifestyle today is not sustainable. Because we are the only beings on this planet who generate waste. And this waste is choking the existence of life. We are the only one who pollute and then suffer pollution, but suffering is not just restricted to us, it is for the whole planet.

Today, all the global problems that we discuss in the international forums are result of anthropogenic activities from Climate change to global warming, food security to drinking water scarcity, endangered to lost species of plants and animal, disease to anti-microbial resistance, drying of river to rise of oceans to melting of ice – all are linked to our unsustainable lifestyles.

But all this can be reversed.

And the key to reverse this is Vedic Science, because Vedic Science is the most comprehensive knowledge base to understand the natural processes and life sciences, because it starts from the basic building blocks of life and goes till the universe.

Bharat is in a position to LEAD the World in solving the global warming & climate change crisis, just

by adhering to our own holistic knowledge of Vedic Science.

“कषतिजिल पावक गगन समीरा, पंच तत्व से बना शरीरा”

– it is not just spirituality it is pure natural science. This is ecology. And this has the solution for climate change restoration.

When we say

“पूरणमदः पूरणमदिं पूरणात् पूरण मुदच्यते, पूरणस्य पूरणमादाय, पूरण मेवा वशष्यते।”

This is not just philosophy this is pure Life Science. This might fall flat in mathematics, as  $2-2=2$  cannot be true in maths, but this is what happens when a mother delivers a baby, you take a whole out of whole and still whole is left. This is ecologically correct.

And when we said

“वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्”

It wasn't spirituality but ecology, everything is connected, and thus the whole planet is one family.

Thus, inspired by Vedic Science, there is a new technology for ecological restoration called Cownomics© Technology that is successfully implemented in many projects and ensures the following

1. Conversion of sewage in to asset from liability
2. Most effective process of underground aquifer recharge
3. Curbing air pollution with generation of oxygen and speeding photosynthesis
4. Restoring Chemical free, fertilizer free & antibiotic free agriculture & animal husbandry
5. Restoring Soil, Water & Air Ecology

The author can be contacted [madhukar@cownomics.in](mailto:madhukar@cownomics.in)

# Minutes of 94<sup>th</sup> General Body Meeting Association of Retired Forest Officers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

**1. Welcome by the Secretary:** The Secretary Sri A. V. Govindarajulu extended a hearty welcome to the Members and their spouses to the 94<sup>th</sup> General Body Meeting (GBM) of the Association. The Secretary also welcomed the special invitee's Dr Manjula Reddy D/o Sri K. Mohan Reddy IFS (Retd.), who won the Infosys prize in the field Life Sciences for her research Dr Jayant Babu N.V. Association Member who has been awarded Ph. D by Andhra University and Dr Karthikeyan Vasudevan Chief Guest.

The agenda for the meeting was placed before the President Sri S. K. Das IFS (Retd) with request to preside over the meeting and conduct the proceedings as per the Agenda listed. The proceeding of the meeting is as under.

**2. Shraddanjali:** Sri K. Buchiram Reddy, Senior Member informed that Sri P. Ranga Rao Association Member passed away on 24.11.2019 at the age of 92 years after the brief illness at his Native village Bethapudi Repalle (M), Guntur District. His services to the Forest Department in various capacities with utmost sincerity and honesty are recalled. 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 105<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting held on 15.11.2019 at Arya Bhavan Hyderabad

- a) 94<sup>th</sup> General Body Meeting is arranged on 15th Dec 2019 at Arya Bhavan Hyderabad.
- b) Agenda for General Body Meeting is prepared, Sent by WhatsApp to Members, and Published in December 2019 issue of Vana Premi

- c) Sri P. Upendra Reddy's Talk on hydroponics is postponed to 95<sup>th</sup> General Body Meeting to be held in March 2020 due constraints in time in the present General Body Meeting
- d) Arrangements are made to felicitate veteran's and Special invitees in 94th General Body Meeting.
- e) Dr Karthikeyan Vasudevan Senior Prl. Scientist I/C Director CCMB LaCONES Hyderabad agreed to be Chief Guest on 15.12.2019, 94th General Body Meeting and to Deliver lecture on Breeding, Conservation and Population Management of Critically Endangered wildlife species.
- f) Invited Dr Manjula Reddy D/o Sri K. Mohan Reddy IFS (RTD) for International recognition – through Infosys award for the year 2019 in the area of Life Sciences.
- g) Invited Dr Jayanth Babu N.V. M. Sc (Botany) Ph. D PGDES for receiving Ph. D by Andhra University recently.
- h) Invited Dr Kanwarjit Singh IFS to Join the Association, after retiring on superannuation by end of this month.
- i) Statutory Audited Account is placed before 94th general body meeting for approval

**4. Felicitations:** a. The Association felicitated following veterans on attaining the age mentioned against each.

- i. Sri B. Bhoomarajam IFS (Rtd) – 90 years Felicitated along with spouse.

- ii. Sri K Mohan Reddy IFS (Retd) – 85 years felicitated along with spouse.
- iii. Sri D.S. Gangakhedkar IFS (Retd) – 85 years.

The felicitated Veterans thanked Association Members for inviting them and facilitating them. They recalled their memories with Forest Department and Association Members.

b. The Association also felicitated the following for their achievements in their Academic Career.

- i. Dr Manjula Reddy D/o Sri K. Mohan Reddy IFS (Retd.) for getting awarded Infosys International award for her research in the field of Life Sciences.

Dr Manjula Reddy thanked the Association Members for the felicitations. She recalled her childhood memories where she got her initial education in interior places where her father worked. She also recalled her association with veterans like Sri Narayana Swamy, Sri K. B. Reddy and others when she was a teen ager. She also recalled the support she got from her husband Dr Krishna Reddy renowned Cardiologist in Hyderabad. Dr Krishna Reddy also spoke about the achievements of Dr Manjula Reddy.

- ii. Dr Jayanth Babu DFO (Retd) M. Sc (Botany) Ph. D PGDFS, for getting awarded Ph. D by Andhra University recently on his research work done in Pharmacology (Study of Medicinal plants) under applied Botany.

Dr Jayanth Babu thanked the Association for the felicitations – recalled his academic and sport excellences and talked about Medicinal plants especially in Orthopaedics and treatment of Arthritis.

**4. Talk by Chief Guest:** Dr Karthikeyan Vasudevan, Senior Principal Scientist for conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) CSIR – Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, talked about Breeding, Conservation and Population Management of Critically Endanger wild life species. His talk is simple, understandable and illustrative. He enumerated the challenges in the conservation of endangered species, about ecology, evolutionary biography and systematic focus on South Asian amphibians and reptiles' studies. His talk was interesting and informative. The members interacted and got clear clarification on their queries.

Dr Karthikeyan Vasudevan and his spouse were felicitated with shawl and memento.

**5. Address by President:** Sri S. K. Das IFS thanked the veterans who accepted the felicitations of the Association and wished them a long and healthy life in the years to come. He expressed happiness about the talk by Chief Guest Dr Vasudevan Karthikeyan and for giving field realities about Breeding, Conservation and Population Management and the interaction with Members of the Association.

**6. Vote of Thanks:** Sri B. M. Swamidas Executive Member proposed vote of thanks. He first thanked the Chief Guest Dr Karthikeya Vasudevan for his informative talk on Breeding Conservation and Population Management of Wild Life Species and interaction with Members of Association. He thanked the veterans and their spouses for attending facilitations. He thanked member for participating in good number and making the meeting successful. He thanked Sri Omkar Singh IFS (Retd) and other members who are hosting lunch for 94<sup>th</sup> General Body Meeting. He thanked all the staff members of Forest Department for providing the conference hall and making arrangements for the General Body meeting. He lastly thanked one and all. Secretary.

## News and Notes

**Uttarakhand high court stays government order on definition of deemed forests:** - The state government through an office order on November 21 defined deemed forest as “a land patch of 10 hectare or above with 60% canopy density and 75% native plant species. The move has been opposed by several environmentalists who say that the decision will benefit only land mafia and will damage the sensitive ecology of Uttarakhand. Activists have said that the step will lead to the increase of non-forestry activities.

While the court had heard a PIL filed by resident Vinod Kumar Pande last week and sent notices to the state government and Centre, the bench of Chief Justice Ramesh Ranganathan and Justice Alok Kumar Verma while hearing the fresh petition stayed the office order and directed the state government to file its response within three weeks. “We had explained the illegality involved in changing the definition of the forests by the state government in diluting the definition of ‘forests’ and, being convinced, the honourable court put a stay on the effect and operation of the impugned order dated November 21,” said Ajay Singh Rawat, a Nainital-based environmentalist and petitioner in the case.

The stay comes after the petitioner presented before the court Centre government’s letter which said that the land area recorded as forest in “any” government record will be considered forest without any confusion. As reported by TOI, the order by the Centre read, “As per this order, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 shall be applicable to all areas recorded as forest in any government record, and any other area that has been considered to conform to the dictionary meaning of forest. The area recorded as forest in any government record should be considered without any qualification.”

Rawat has argued in his petition that the government’s decision is illegal and in gross violation of the Supreme Court order in the matter of TN Godavarman and therefore is an example of deliberate and wilful disregard of the apex court attracting contemptuous liability.

The petition adds that it is evident that the plan of the government is to ensure destruction of forest which would prove hazardous to the environment as well as human life. “It is amply clear that the government has had the audacity to pass such an illegal order in violation of the predominant Forest Laws only with a motive to dilute the provisions restricting non-forest activities in the forest area and for accomplishing this dreaded task it has wrongfully tried to change the definition of the word ‘Forest’ ensuring an unrestricted destruction,” the petitioner said.

**9 accused arrested by forest department for catching red handed tiger smugglers;** -Raipur Forest Department has been successful against the smugglers of wildlife, but questions are being raised on the officers and employees of the Forest Department. How do the hunters of wildlife in the state carry weapons in the forest? Do the forest department employees not check vehicles? Catch smugglers in about two forest departments in two days. The biggest case is that of the national animal tiger.

9 accused have been arrested for hunting tigers. Which includes two constables. According to the information received, on 29 November, the forest department received information that a tiger skin is being traded in Bijapur. Taking special note of the matter, the Forest Department’s special team Ant Poaching Unit and Dog Squad Achanakmar Tiger Reserve contacted a person from Bijapur by phone and tried to strike a deal. The man said, “I am looking for Baba who is throwing money.”

The forest department caught such a trafficker, af-

ter making an employee of his own as a tantric baba, sent them to the place of worshiping people with tiger skin. At the same time, the team of Ant Poaching Unit and Dog Squad Achanakmar Tiger Reserve busted the smuggling and the accused were worshiping at Kishanupari in Kanker. One Nag tiger skin has been seized from them, 4 bikes and 11 Nag mobile phones have been seized from them. The accused in the case are being questioned.

During the night patrol by a team constituted by the Forest Department, one of the accused, who had killed the chital under Baranvapara and Devpur enclosure on Saturday, 7 December, was caught on the spot. Three other associate accused are absconding, one of whom Javed Farooqui, an employee of Forest Development Corporation, is also involved. The absconding criminals are being searched. Further action is being taken by presenting accused Narendra Patel on the spot in the court.

Assistant Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Shri Arun Pandey said that on the night of December 7, a vehicle car number -CG-06 GP 8910 was seen in the suspicious road from Bari near the Hardi beat. After examining it by the night patrol party, two dead chital were found to be killed in a car trunk. Also, a male chital was found dead at the scene. Action is being taken under Wildlife Protection Act by seizing it. The night patrolling team consists of officers and employees of Baranvapara and Devpur forest zones, RS Mishra, Krishnu Chandrakar, PK Sinha, Mo. Mabilia Khan, Salik Ram Dadse-na etc. had active support in catching the accused.

**In a brutal Body of leopard sans head, paws found in Wardha, 4 held;** - case of crime against wildlife, the carcass of a leopard was found on Wardha-Mandwa road with its head and paws of both legs severed. Four persons from Waghddhar village have been arrested and body parts seized from them. According to Wardha deputy conservator of forests (Dy.CF) Sunil Sharma the carcass was noticed by Mandwa villagers. "Investigations are still on," said Sharma.

According to assistant commissioner of animal husbandry and veterinarian Dr SB Bagal, who conducted the post-mortem, the leopard seems to have died after getting trapped in wires laid for herbivores. There were scratch marks on the carcass.

"Prima facie it looks the head and paws were cut at some other spot and leopard was dumped along the road to destroy evidence. No blood stains were found at the spot where the animal was found," said Bagal. This is the third leopard death in the region in the last three days. Two leopards died in the Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve landscape. Wildlife lovers are shocked with the series of leopard and tiger deaths in the region.

According to the database of Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI), an NGO working for wildlife law enforcement, in 2019, 458 leopards have died in India. Of these, 120 deaths were due to poaching and body parts seizures.

**Pollution linked to higher rates of depression and suicide:** - Scientists from University College London analysed nine studies that looked at the link between exposure to particulate matter (PM) and mental-health issues.

PM gets released from vehicle emissions and floats unseen in the atmosphere. When smaller than 2.5µm (PM2.5) - 400th of a millimetre - the particles are known to get "lodged" in the lungs.

The scientists found that for every 10 micrograms increase in PM2.5 per metre cubed, the risk of depression rose by 10%.

They also looked at "coarser" PM of 10µm across, with suicides rising on days when the pollutant was higher.

PM2.5 comes about from the burning of coal and other fossil fuels for "electricity, transport and household heating", according to the 2019 Lancet Countdown on health and climate change report.

On a global scale, exposure to PM2.5 is "the largest environmental risk factor for premature mortality".

Inhaling the microscopic substances is said to have caused 2.9 million people worldwide to die too soon from cardiovascular or respiratory diseases in 2016 alone.

Air pollution's impact on mental health, however, was less clear.

In the UK alone, nearly one in five (19.7%) of people aged 16 or over showed signs of depression or anxiety in 2014, according to the Mental Health Foundation.

Last year, 6,507 people died by suicide, Government statistics show.

After analysing studies from 16 countries, the scientists found a link between depression and PM2.5.

"We found quite consistent results across the studies we reviewed that analysed the relationship between long-term air pollution exposure and depression, even after adjustment for many other factors which could explain the association," lead author Dr Isobel Braithwaite said.

"The association seems to be similar in magnitude to those that have been found for some physical health impacts of particulate matter, such as all-cause mortality."

PM2.5 levels vary around the world, peaking at 114 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in Delhi, and as low as 6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in Ottawa and Wellington.

UK cities tend to average at 12.8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , the scientists wrote in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives*.

They estimate lowering levels to the World Health Organization's recommended limit of 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  would reduce a city dweller's risk of depression by around 2.5%.

While it is unclear if air pollution directly impacts mental health, the scientists claim it is plausible.

"We know the finest particulates from dirty air can reach the brain via both the bloodstream and the nose," Dr Braithwaite said.

"And air pollution has been implicated in increased neuroinflammation, damage to nerve cells and changes in stress hormone production, which have been linked to poor mental health."

Study author Dr Joseph Hayes added: "While we cannot yet say that this relationship is causal, the evidence is highly suggestive that air pollution itself increases the risk of adverse mental health outcomes.

"A lot of what we can do to reduce air pollution can also benefit our mental health in other ways, such as enabling people to cycle or walk rather than drive - and enhancing access to parks - so this adds support to the promotion of active travel and urban green spaces."

The scientists acknowledge none of the studies looked at green spaces, like parks, while many ignored the impact of noise on mental health.

They took into account other factors that may influence the risk of depression, like income, however, not all were considered.

"Why might a city with similar demographics have higher levels of PM 2.5?" Dr Katharina Janke, from Lancaster University, asked.

"Maybe it has a badly functioning public transport system, leading to a stressful commuting experience for residents. Such stressful experience might affect mental health."

The scientists hope to look into the impact of indoor air pollution, such as from candles, on mental health.

## LEGAL NOTES

### Secretary to Govt of T.N. Vs. N. Venkatesh & Prl. Dist. And Sessions Judge, Coimbatore

The petitioner representing the State of Tamil Nadu filed W.P. No. 42086 of 2002 in the High Court of Madras challenging the validity of the order of Respondent-2 dated 14.08.2002 made in CrI.A. No. 239 of 2002 on his file. It was prayed that writ of certiorari be issued calling for the records of the lower court and the impugned order be quashed. The writ petition was heard by the Hon'ble Justice S. Mani Kumar.

The facts giving rise to the case are that a vehicle, bearing Registration No. TN-27-W-0343 belonging to Respondent-1 was involved in an offence of smuggling sandalwood from Annamalai RF of Amravathy Range. When the Forest Officers were about to apprehend the vehicle, persons traveling in it escaped. The vehicle together with 42 Kg of sandalwood was seized; and the seized property was produced before the Authorised Officer. The driver Shanmugam surrendered before the FRO the next day and stated that Sivalingam of Salem had engaged the vehicle and that the offence occurred without the knowledge of the owner of the vehicle. The Authorised Officer issued a Show-Cause- Notice on 09.03.2002 to the owner (R-1) and the driver for confiscation of the vehicle.

After holding an enquiry, The Authorised Officer confiscated the vehicle on 18.04.2002. Aggrieved by the order of the Authorised Officer, the owner filed an appeal before the Responent-2 and the appeal was allowed. The Writ petition is against that order of Respondent-2.

The Petitioner submitted that it is bounden duty of the owner to prove to the satisfaction of the Authorised Officer that the vehicle was used for the transport of the sandalwood without his knowledge and connivance, his agent and that each of them had taken all reasonable and necessary precautions against such use. The owner was expected to substantiate his claim with tangible evidence. It was contended that the Authorised Officer was right in confiscating the vehicle.

The owner in his Counter Affidavit denied all the averments and submitted that Sivalingam was made accused in the criminal case. The Petitioner cannot be termed as an aggrieved person to chal-

lenge the order of Respondent-2. There is no rival claim over the vehicle. Therefore, the writ petition is not maintainable.

The Petitioner submitted that the owner of the vehicle had admitted the involvement of the vehicle in commission of the offence. The learned Judge (R-2) erred in allowing the appeal. The provisions of Forest Act are deterrent to curtail smuggling activities and the Appellate Authority has failed to consider the same in proper perspective.

The Counsel for the Respondent-1 argued that once the owner proves to the satisfaction of the Authority that vehicle was used in carrying timber without his knowledge or connivance, then he is entitled to return of the vehicle. It is submitted further that the moment he came to know that his neighbour and another person involved in the commission of the offence had used his vehicle for transporting sandalwood, he has voluntarily produced the offenders before the Authorised Officer and that on investigation a criminal case was registered, only against his neighbour and another person. The conduct of the owner is bonafide in assisting the prosecution and considering the fact he was not implicated as an accused in the criminal case, the order of the Appellate Court cannot be termed as perverse. Furthermore, the Petitioner is not an aggrieved person. Therefore, it was pleaded, that the writ petition is not maintainable.

His Lordship, before deciding the case, considered the following case-law which is mentioned below with excerpts of the rulings ----

i). State of Karnataka vs. K. Krishnan (AIR 2000 SC 2729): Liberal approach with respect to the property seized, which is liable to confiscation, is uncalled for as the same is likely to frustrate provisions of the Forest Act. ....Courts cannot shut their eyes and ignore their obligations inducted in the Act enacted with the purpose of protecting and safeguarding both the forests and their produce.

ii). DFO Vs. G.V. Sudhakar Rao (AIR1986 SC 328): Confiscation of the vehicle carrying timber, goods forming the subject matter is not depended upon whether prosecution has been launched against the offender or not. The change in law was brought

about with a view to prevent the growing menace of ruthless exploitation of Government forests by illicit felling by unscrupulous traders, particularly from reserved forests, by providing for a machinery for confiscation of illegally felled trees or forest produce by the forest authorities.

iii). State of WB Vs Sujit Kumar Rana (2004 (4) SCC 129) Forest is a national wealth which is required to be preserved. Depletion of forests would lead to ecological imbalance. The provisions for confiscation have been made as a deterrent object so that felling of trees and deforestation is not made.

iv). State of Bihar Vs. Kedar Sao (2004-9-SCC 344): Provisions of seizure and its procedure for confiscation were made having regard to the fact that not only the commission of forest are on the increase but rampant acts involving large scale pilferage and depletion of forest wealth not only causing serious onslaught on nature and environment causing ecological imbalance and irreparable loss and damage to public property were taking place and the States therefore, had to take such drastic legislative measures with a view to prevent commission of such offences.

v). W.A. No. 1296 /1995 dated 04.12.1995: A D.B. of Madras High Court held that it is not enough for the owner of the vehicle to prove that the vehicle was used without his knowledge or connivance. He is further required to prove that the agent or the driver, under whom the vehicle was kept, had taken all reasonable and necessary precautions against such use. The provision of law has to be strictly observed in order to prevent the smuggling of sandalwood.

vi). The State of TN Vs. A. K. Raju (2005-1-MLJ 448) Burden is fastened on the owner to prove that he had no knowledge of using the vehicle for illegal purpose and also to prove that he, his agent, if any, and person in charge have taken reasonable and necessary precautions against such use of the vehicle for committing forest offence.

vii). S. Gowri Vs. ACF Prosecution squad (2004 Writ L.R 53): The vehicle was involved in the illegal transport of sandalwood; the owner of the vehicle submitted that she had purchased the vehicle by raising loan. On receipt of Show-Cause-Notice, she replied that she has no knowledge of the use of the vehicle for transport of sandalwood. She asserted that the driver is solely responsible. The driver made a statement before the Authorised Of-

ficer that he got the permission from the owner; but he retracted the statement and said that the owner had no knowledge. On the basis of the retracted statement, the owner contended before the Authorised Officer that she had no knowledge of the use of the vehicle for committing forest offence. The Authorised Officer confiscated the vehicle, as the owner failed to prove that she has taken precaution against the use of the vehicle for illegal purpose. On appeal by the owner of the vehicle, the order of the Authorised officer was confirmed.

The Hon'ble High Court held that involvement of the vehicle in the forest offence on 21.02. 2012 is not in dispute. When the forest officers intercepted the vehicle, 3 persons viz. Shanmugam, Sivalingam and Jothiraj were in the vehicle. Jothiraj compounded the case against him by paying Rs. 15,000. Shanmugam and Jothiraj were charge-sheeted in the criminal court. While the prosecution of the accused was pending, confiscation order was passed on 18.04.2002.

The Appellate Authority, the District and Sessions Judge (R-2) was of the opinion that the owner of the vehicle (R-1) had no knowledge about the use of the vehicle in the commission of the offence. The Leaned Judge proceeded on the footing that the burden which is cast on the owner to prove that he had no knowledge of the illegal transport of sandalwood was negative thing and there cannot be a positive and direct evidence to say that he had no knowledge. The Appellate Authority also considered on hypothetical situation where the driver hired the vehicle for taking people from one place to another and during the course of transport, if any illegal thing had taken place, naturally, the court should presume that the owner had no knowledge.

In the instant case, the Hon'ble High Court felt that the driver had committed the offence and the owner himself had accepted it. When there is ample evidence to prove that the driver had not taken reasonable and necessary precaution in the use of the vehicle for the commission of the offence, the Act is fairly attracted and confiscation ordered by the Authorised Officer was within the ambit of the provision. Therefore, the impugned order of the District and Sessions Judge, Coimbatore is liable to be set aside. The order of the Authorised Officer is restored and the writ petition is allowed on 12.12.2007.

Source: Internet

K.B.R

## SANKRANTI AND ITS IMPORTANCE

Makar Sankranti is one of the most propitious days for the Hindus, and is distinguished in almost all parts of India in countless cultural forms, with immense devotion, gaiety and fervour. It is the main festival of Hindus and is dedicated to Lord Sun. It also refers to a specific solar day in the Hindu calendar. On this auspicious day, the sun enters the zodiac sign of Capricorn or Makar which marks the end of winter month and start of longer days. This is the beginning of the month of Magh. To recompense for the distinction that happens due to the revolution around the sun, every 80 years the day of Sankranti is deferred by one day. Makar Sankranti generally falls on January 14th. From the day of Makar Sankranti, the sun begins its northward journey or Uttarayan journey. Therefore, this festival is also known as Uttarayan.

**History of Makar Sankranti :** Sankranti is deemed a Deity. As per the legend Sankranti killed a devil named Sankarasur. The day next to Makar Sankranti is called Karidin or Kinkrant. On this day, Devi slayed the devil Kinkarasur. The information of Makar Sankranti is available in Panchang. The Panchang is the Hindu Almanac that provides information on the age, form, clothing, direction and movement of Sankranti.

**Importance of Makar Sankranti:** Makar Sankranti is the date from which Northward movement of the sun begins. The period from Karka Sankranti to Makar Sankranti is known as the Dakshinayan.

**10 Unknown traditions of the Modern India :** - According to the scriptures, Dakshinayan symbolizes as the night of god or the sign of negativity and Uttarayan is considered as a symbol of day of Gods or a sign of positivity. Since on this day sun starts its journey towards the north so, people take a holy dip in Ganga, Godavari, Krishna, Yamuna River at holy places, chant mantras etc. Normally the sun affects all the zodiac signs, but it is said that the entry of the sun in the zodiac sign of Cancer and Capricorn religiously is very fruitful.

Before Makar Sankranti, the sun is in the Southern Hemisphere. For this reason, in India, in winter nights are longer and days are smaller. But with the Makar Sankranti, sun starts its journey towards Northern Hemisphere and so, days will be longer

and nights smaller.

On the occasion of Makar Sankranti, people express their gratitude towards the people of India throughout the year by worshiping the sun God in various forms. Any meritorious deeds or donation during this period establishes more fruitful.

Performing haldi kumkum ceremony in a way that invokes the waves of quiescent Adi - Shakti in the Universe to get triggered. This helps in generating impression of Sagun devotion on the mind of a person & enhances the Spiritual emotion to God.

In different regions of the country, Makar Sankranti is celebrated by different names

**Lohri:** One day before Makar Sankranti, on 13th January, Lohri is celebrated in Haryana and Punjab. At night, people gather around the bonfire and throw til, puffed rice & popcorns into the flames of the bonfire. Prayers are offered to the bonfire seeking abundance & prosperity.

In Uttar Pradesh it is mainly the festival of 'Donation'. The Magh fair, which continues for one month on the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati in Allahabad, starts from the day of Makar Sankranti only. On this auspicious day people do fast in Uttar Pradesh eat and offer khichdi. Also, Khichdi Mela is organized at Gorakhdham in Gorakhpur.

In Bihar, Makar Sankranti festival is known as Khichdi. On this day, donating urad, rice, gold, woollen clothes, blankets etc. have their own importance.

In Maharashtra, all married women donate cotton, oil and salt to other suhagin or married women on their first Sankranti.

In Bengal, there is a tradition of donating til after taking bath in Makar Sankranti. Huge fair is also organised every year in Gangasagar.

**Pongal:** On the occasion of Makar Sankranti in Tamil Nadu, this festival is celebrated as Pongal for four days.

**Kite Festival:** In Gujarat, the kite festival is organized on the occasion of Makar Sankranti.

Source: Internet

# OBITUARY

**P. Ranga Rao**

**05.10.1927 – 24.11.2019**



Paruchuri Ranga Rao (known to many as P. Ranga Rao), Retd. Conservator of Forests, passed away on 24.11.2019 at 9:38 p.m. at his residence in Bethapudi village in Repalle Mandal of Guntur District. He had been suffering from spinal cord problem since 2014. And was under treatment. Since January 2019 the condition started deteriorating and he became bed-ridden. He expressed his desire to move him to his native place Bethapudi. Accordingly, he was shifted to his native place. Three days after reaching his village, he breathed his last. His wife and daughters were by his bed side.

Sri Ranga Rao was born on 05.10.1927 in an agricultural family. He was the youngest son of his parents Sri Adinarayana and Smt. Raghavamma. His early education was in Bethapudi; High School education at Repalle; Intermediate at Machilipatnam and B.A. from A.C. College, Guntur. He was selected by the Government of Madras for appointment as Forest Ranger. He was deputed to Madras Forest College for undergoing training in 1949-'51 batch.

Sri Ranga Rao worked for 14 years from 1951 to 1965 as Range Officer at Bailuty, Gundla Brahmeswaram, Bakarapet, Vontimitta and Research Ranges of Tirupati and Kadapa. He had in-service training in soil conservation and wood preservation and seasoning.

Sri Ranga Rao was promoted as Asst. Conservator of Forests in the year 1965. He worked as ACF for 9 years at Sawmill division Rajahmundry, DFO, Nandyal, DFO Flying Squad Kakinada, DFO Kamareddy, DFO, Pre-investment Survey at Tirupati, Estate Manager in Coffee division Narsipatnam, and Working Plan Officer at Visakhapatnam.

He was promoted to the Senior Scale of Indian Forest Service (IFS) in 1977. As IFS officer, Sri Ranga Rao worked as Silviculturist at Tirupati, worked on deputation in A.P. Forest Development Corporation at Nandyal and Guntur. He was then promoted to Super Time Scale and worked as Conservator of Forests, Research & Development Circle. He retired on superannuation on 31.10.1985.

He was married to Smt. Bhuvanewari in 1956 and the couple had four daughters.

He was a master of punctuality and a stickler for discipline. His honesty is well known in the department and to the general public. He was a thorough gentleman, a true professional. He had tremendous patience and anyone who placed a problem before him had the satisfaction of being heard. I have known Sri Ranga Rao when I was 12 through my uncle Lakshman Singh, DFO. Sri Ranga Rao was helpful to all. He helped Office Supdt. Perumal Chetty's son for his education at Chittoor and the beneficiary is no other than the late K.P. Muniswamy who retired as CCF. He built no house for himself. He lived in his ancestral home. According to Sri Ranga Rao's will his eyes were donated to Sankara Eye Hospital, Guntur. What a noble gesture in deed!

Sri Ranga Rao was a friend and guide to all of us. His death has caused a vacuum and it is hard to fill. He is survived by his wife, four daughters, three sons-in-laws, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren to mourn his loss. **MAY HIS NOBLE SOUL REST IN PEACE.**

**B. Mohan Singh**



## ANDHRA PRADESH FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.



A fully owned, financially well managed State Government Company. Raising massive plantations to cater to the needs of the wood based industries.

- Watershed approach adopted for raising plantations, to make them ecologically sustainable, socially acceptable and commercially viable, with the long-term goal to improve the site quality of plantation areas.
- Largest grower of 31,991 ha. of Eucalyptus Clonal plantations in the country and is harvesting about 2.50 Lakh mt. of Pulpwood every year. Besides this, it has Bamboo, Cashew, Coffee and Teak Plantations over 12,000 ha.
- The Corporation has bagged awards “Flavour of India - Fine Cup Awards” for producing quality coffee during the years 2003, 2005, 2007 to 2016.
- The Corporation has bagged “CAPEXIL Excellence in Export Awards (Top)” for export of Red Sanders wood during the years 2015-16 and 2016-17 and by earning a total foreign exchange of Rs.388.00 crore during 2015-16 & 2016-17.
- 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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### Plant A Sapling And Protect The Environment

Vice Chairman & Managing Director,  
A.P. Forest Development Corporation Ltd.,  
Plot no. 80 A / 81 A, Sri Venkateswara Arcade, The Annapurna Nagar Public Servants'  
Co-Operative House Building Society, Gorantla (V), GUNTUR – 522 034.  
Ph: 0863 – 2223800, 2230600 Fax: 0863 - 2230800  
Website: <https://apfdcl.com> e-mail: [vcmd\\_apfdc@yahoo.co.in](mailto:vcmd_apfdc@yahoo.co.in)



**Forest College and Research Institute, Mulugu, Dist. Siddipet, Telangana**

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