

VANA PREMI



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*Vana Premi Wishes A Very Happy,
Prosperous and Healthy New Year 2022
and the Years to Come.*



Acampe praemorsa (Orchidaceae)

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- ✓ TSFDC has introduced new commercial species with in the RRR region viz., Seethaphal, Sandal wood, Red sandal, Rose wood, Teak, Panasa, Bambusatulda, etc.,
- ✓ TSFDC has also taken up consultancy works for NTPC & RFCL and successfully raised multiple row avenue plantation along with Rajiv Rahadari Highway in Peddapalli District.

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EDITORIAL:

A TRIBUTE**GEN. BIPIN RAWAT, First CDS.**

India has lost a capable and experienced military leader in the tragic death of General Bipin Laxman Singh Rawat, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, YSM, SM, VSM, India's first Chief of Defence Staff, or CDS, in a helicopter crash near Coonoor in the Nilgiris on December 8 2021. His wife, Madhulika, and 11 others also perished when the Indian Air Force's Mi-17V5 helicopter came down in a heavily wooded area. It was supposed to be an ordinary day trip from Suler Airbase to the Wellington Staff College, around 50 KMs, hardly 30 minutes of flying time. It should have been a simple pick and drop. Instead, it became a dark day in Indian history. When a country that spends around 14 per cent of the total central government expenditure (around 72 billion dollars on defence), the third-highest military budget in the world, many eyebrows were raised on the nature of the mishap world over. Was there a technical snap? Was it poor piloting? Was it just bad weather or conspiracy? The factors we do not know yet.

Born on March 16, 1958, in Uttarakhand, Rawat was a second-generation army man in his family; his father had earlier risen to lieutenant general. He

was an alumnus of St.Edward school, Shimla and the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla. He was also awarded an M.Phil in Defence Studies from Madras University. He also did his diplomas in Management and Computer studies. Rawat was a Defence Services Staff College, Wellington graduate and was awarded a PhD from Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut. He also attended the command and general staff course at Fort Leavenworth, USA.

While joining the 11 Gorkha Rifles of the Indian Army, he excelled at the National Defence Academy and later at the Indian Military Academy and was awarded the "sword of honour". Later, he was trained at the United States Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

His postings in the Indian Army saw him develop expertise in high-altitude warfare, counterinsurgency action, and strategic thinking. His leadership of the successful 2015 cross-border military operation in Myanmar to flush out Naga militants also remained one of the high points of his career. In a way, it was a sign of his later advocacy of the dogged pursuit of militants across the Line of Control in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. This was evident in how he monitored and strategized the surgical strikes across the LoC in 2016 and 2019, better known as the Uri and Balakot strikes, respectively. He also served in UN peacekeeping efforts in the Congo.

As a colonel serving in Arunachal Pradesh, he commanded troops on the Line of Actual Control during a standoff with China. In hindsight, it seemed to have stood him in good stead in firming India's response during the Doklam standoff with China in 2017, when he had risen to become India's 27th army chief.

During his career of nearly 43 years, he was awarded for gallantry and distinguished service

with the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Yudh Seva Medal, Sena Medal, Vishisht Seva Medal, the COAS Commendation on two occasions and the Army Commander's Commendation.

Gen Rawat's imprint could be seen in how he straddled the different imperatives of continuity and change. In attempting this balance, with varying degrees of success, he courted controversy, ruffled a few feathers, and won many admirers at the same time.

In January 2020, he took over as India's first CDS – a position created after years of feeling the need for better coordination between the Army, navy, and air force. Though a Group of Ministers recommended the concept of having a CDS in 2000 after the Kargil war, it took another 20 years for one to be appointed.

The CDS, which functions as Principal Military Adviser to the Defence Minister, is expected to work in tandem with the three service chiefs who continue to operate in their respective domains — a role and function still in the making. As CDS, General Rawat was effectively the first executive head of a new department of military affairs in the defence ministry. This new command structure is still to take concrete shape. As it evolves and systems and procedures get created and established, there will be jockeying for authority and influence between the civil and military officials within the defence ministry. He was entrusted with the task of bringing in the theatre command. He did justice to the "Duel Hatted" role to the satisfaction of all the sections.

General Bipin Rawat was a transformation-oriented Chief of Army Staff who endeavoured to prepare our Army for the wars and conflicts of the 21st century. Apart from being the first CDS and voicing his views, General Rawat also witnessed a phase when Indian defence procurement started looking at private

players in defence production. He was a votary of finding our solutions and resources for meeting our defence needs. An astute observer of the geopolitical scene and internal security challenges, he didn't mince words in emphasizing the need for a long-term security policy against possible threats.

He had taken steps for regrouping different commands functioning in the country for an integrated approach of the three wings and to work as one theatre command despite arguments and differences. Intending to curtail the increasing pension budget of the country, he was proposing to increase the retirement age for specific categories of soldiers not only to that where technical knowledge is required like Engineers, Doctors but to JCOs as well. He is keen on a proposal to equate the retirement age of all ranks and file in all three services. The next big thing that he was going on was the creation of integrated battle groups with Information warfare, cyber operations, psychological warfare. Since all these units come under the CD's domain, he was quick to launch the first experiment of the Defence Cyber Agency. When he says, "Let me be clear that we cannot fight the next war like we fought our last. We have to change as the nature of warfare is changing. New structures must be created incorporating modern technology. That's the way forward. These changes, reforms, will not happen overnight, but they will happen", he was already on the GO.

The Late General had his share of critics, who questioned his approach and some of his statements they thought were "politically" coloured. Gen. Rawat understood that critique is never personal; it is professional; because who can be more committed to the idea of transformation will have to take a lot of it. Known to have been proximate to the ruling establishment, he never had minced words while speaking about the country's challenges and had

waded into political controversies. It was often because media reports quoted them out of context or because the General resorted to problematic examples to make his point. He understood that critique is never personal; it is professional; because those who can be more committed to the idea of transformation would have to face antagonism from different quarters and in varied forms. General Rawat has authored numerous articles on National Security and Leadership, published in various publications.

He was bent upon bringing about a 'Revolution in Military Affairs', as done by all modern militaries in the world. Although most of them remain a work in progress, General Rawat's reforms cover a vast

canvas comprising every facet of our armed forces. There is every need for his successor to take them forward to achieve the desired result. The successor shall have very oversized shoes to fill the vacuum, and that's why we will Miss General Rawat even more. The best tribute to the General would be for the government and his successors to formalize the transformation process on the lines he paved and take it to its logical conclusion – a transformed Indian military by 2030.

Along with the great soul, we salute all the martyrs killed in the tragic accident in appreciation of their lifelong service to the nation.

- MOHD. THAYYAB

SLEEP

“People say, ‘I’m going to sleep now,’ as if it were nothing. But it’s really a bizarre activity. ‘For the next several hours, while the sun is gone, I’m going to become unconscious, temporarily losing command over everything I know and understand. When the sun returns, I will resume my life.’

If you didn’t know what sleep was, and you had only seen it in a science fiction movie, you would think it was weird and tell all your friends about the movie you’d seen.

They had these people, you know? And they would walk around all day and be OK? And then, once a day, usually after dark, they would lie down on these special platforms and become unconscious. They would stop functioning almost completely, except deep in their minds they would have adventures and experiences that were completely impossible in real life. As they lay there, completely vulnerable to their enemies, their only movements were to occasionally shift from one position to another; or, if one of the ‘mind adventures’ got too real, they would sit up and scream and be glad they weren’t unconscious anymore. Then they would drink a lot of coffee.’

So, next time you see someone sleeping, make believe you’re in a science fiction movie. And whisper, ‘The creature is regenerating itself.’

- George Carlin

Amendment in Forest Laws-Surge in Deforestation and Loss of Carbon Storage Potential

B.K.Singh, IFS (Retd.)



Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 is being suggested to be made inapplicable on private forests and deemed forests, and on forest lands for constructing temporary structures for tourism, for establishing Zoos and Safaris, rights of ways held by railways and road ministry prior to 1980 and is being made applicable on plantations grown outside forest areas.

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is being suggested to rearrange the list of species in different schedules for convenience, and adding a chapter on CITIES. We are also fortunate to find that the integrity of the habitats such as section 29 for Wildlife Sanctuaries, section 35 (6) for National Parks and section 38-O (g) for Tiger Reserves and areas linking one Protected Area with another is not tampered. In general, the amendments do not propose any change with the power to arrest the offenders, carry on investigation, launch prosecution, impose penalties and award of punishments etc, but the only alarming suggestion is to constitute and empower Standing Committee of State Board for Wildlife.

Like National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) is headed by Prime Minister of the country, the State Boards are headed by respective Chief Ministers. So far the Act provided for Standing Committee of NBWL only. In the regime of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, NBWL has never met. All the decisions have been taken by the Standing Committee and those who are 'yes man' find themselves on this Committee.

Clearance Trends Series Publication of August 2020 Vol. III No. I by LIFE (Legal Institute for Forest and Environment) indicate that between January and July 2020, NBWL considered a total of 59 proposals

for diversion of Forests for projects, including 28 of them that were located in Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks also termed as Protected Areas (PAs). All 28 projects in PAs covering 228.23 hectare have been approved by Standing Committee of NBWL. 74% of diversions were for linear projects like transmission lines, roads and bridges and not even a single proposal has been rejected. The cause of concern is the impact of multiple diversions in a single PA. Standing Committee of NBWL in 2019 approved doubling of rail track in Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary in Goa and in their first meeting in 2020 Standing Committee has approved widening of National Highway and laying of extra high voltage transmission line in the same sanctuary. Roads and railway lines are permanent barriers increase the risk of wildlife mortality and obstruct free movement of wild animals. Arboreal mammals move through the tree canopy are severely impacted. PAs are inviolate areas for wildlife conservation and statute prohibits damage and destruction. Standing committee has been approving 100% proposals of diversion compromising the integrity of PAs. The concern of the Standing Committee is not the conservation of wildlife, but favour development projects.

If Standing Committees of State Boards of Wildlife (SBWL) are constituted and empowered, more and more projects will be referred there and all cases will be recommended to NBWL. In fact SBWL will hardly meet and deliberate on issues; Standing Committees will meet and recommend the proposals. The more meetings will lead to more destruction of habitats and consequent deforestation.

Standing Committee of NBWL in its 64th meeting held on August 7, 2021 decided to levy 2% of proportionate cost of project falling inside PAs and Eco Sensitive Zones on user agencies for impact mitigation measures. The amount collected will be spent in the same PA, where habitat is impacted by the project. The perception of members of Standing Committee who think that damaged habitat can be restored with money is completely misplaced.

Praveen Bhargav, Trustee, Wildlife First and ex member NBWL observes on this development, "The ecosystem level consequences of habitat fragmentation are deleterious. Yet the NBWL, whose statutory duty is to protect habitat is justifying a project in PA by imposing 2% levy. Endangered wildlife now faces a double whammy of fragile habitats getting fragmented and excess money causing cascading impacts in PAs due to wide ranging construction and earth moving activities using bulldozers, which will be termed as mitigation and habitat improvement works. Already we are witnessing such negative impacts after the release of Rs 50,000 Crores CAMPA funds. With states not allocating the money for habitat consolidation through voluntary resettlement and land acquisition is a huge lost opportunity." I agree with Praveen entirely.

Suggested amendments in Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 can be disaster. It's inapplicability on private forests and deemed forests would open a flood gate of deforestation in several wooded areas outside notified forests. A hilly district like Kodagu in Western Ghats has only 1700 sq km area as notified forests and the remaining 2500 sq km (two third of it is still covered with thick forests) can now be plundered without making any reference to the Act. The bane lands, pysari lands, and many other classes of lands in Kodagu district, Kumaki lands of Dakshin Kannada district, betta lands of Uttar Kannada district and kan lands of Shivamogga district, which have very good

tree growth and are catchments of important rivers face immense pressure for development projects leading to accelerated deforestation.

Use of forest lands for non permanent structures for eco tourism would also not require approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, once the amendment goes through. It would again bring pressure of tourism on pristine forest areas. Temporary sheds and roads will be made in the forests without any reference to the Act. On paper only few big trees will be sacrificed, but people moving in the area for experiencing wilderness will aggravate chances of forest fires, loss of regeneration and reproduction capacity. Even there will be disruption in the corridors for movement of wild animals.

Similarly forest lands can be utilized for establishing Zoos and Safaris in forest areas without any reference to the Act. A tiger Safari is already established near Pakharo gate in Kalagarh division of Corbett Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand with proper permission under the Act, but it has cascading effect and tourist reception center and arches have been illegally constructed by Tiger Reserve management by sacrificing the tree growth and making the area as tourist hub. I witnessed in Lansdowne recently that a huge tourism complex with a compound wall is established by the same management in the area used by wild elephants. Several private resorts have come up and there is a proposal to widen the road from Kotdwar to Satpuli (NH 534) overlooking the fact that the area is an elephant habitat. Later I learnt from the press that National Tiger Conservation Authority, on a report from its panel has ordered for demolishing all illegal constructions by Forest department. But several trees sacrificed for the constructions cannot be brought back and also nothing can be done to prevent the expansion of private resorts. Concerned forest officers should be held accountable.

Inapplicability of the Act on forest lands within right of way of Surface transport department and Railways prior to 1980 will increase pressure for widening of roads and doubling of railway lines leading to accelerated deforestation. Suggested amendments under Forest (Conservation) Act can be put off. Further, proposal for Standing Committee of SBWL under Wildlife (Protection) Act can be dropped, and provisions for preliminary offence report on detection and charge sheet integrating with Cr P C be added.

Among the deals intended to avert catastrophic global warming, more than 100 countries have pledged at COP 26 to end deforestation by 2030. Although the experts observed that such promises have been made and broken in the past, but UK Government has confirmed that it has received leaders representing more than 85% of World's forests, which include Brazil, China, Columbia, Congo, Indonesia, Russia and United States. India has not joined this group, which means that we continue to plunder our forests for the sake of mining (including coal mining) and development.

Forests are important sink for carbon. On many domestic and international occasions, our PM has been calling for growing trees on 26 million hectare degraded lands in the country by 2030, which is likely to provide storage for 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ annually. Neither Union Environment and Forest Ministry nor State Governments have taken it forward. It is also not known what portion of the degraded lands is available for planting and what portion is under occupation of individuals/ institutions. Union Ministry must collate the data from the districts and states and provide funds for greening the areas. If the country does not want to end deforestation by 2030, it is all the more necessary to drive reforestation in degraded areas.

Studies have revealed that the blocks of forests subjected to degradation, denudation, logging,

fire and diseases etc, are net carbon emitting blocks. Thus all forests are not carbon absorbing entities. Switzerland based International Union for conservation of nature and UNESCO have studied the assessment of Green House Gases (GHGs) produced and absorbed by 257 sites of UNESCO listed forests, of these 10 sites are found to be net carbon emitters, 80 sites were net neutral and the remaining were net absorbers of CO₂. Factors like logging, wildfire and removal of tree growth for agriculture are the main reasons for net/ zero emission of CO₂ from these UNESCO forest sites.

FOREST FIRES ARE DOUBLE WHAMMY

Despite clear warning of significant increase in deadly heat waves, droughts, wildfires, floods and species extinction if global warming is beyond 1.5^o Celsius, negotiators at Glasgow COP 26 summit are competitive and leaders drag their feet to go whole hog in promising actions. We saw heat waves in this summer in Canada (Lytton broke all records and registered 49.6^o C temperature), US and Europe, forest fires lasting for several months in 1.5 million ha forests in Siberia, 2 million ha in California and millions of hectares in Turkey, Greece and Brazil.

Leaders from over 100 countries including Brazil, China, Columbia, Congo, Indonesia, Russia and United States representing more than 85% of World's forests, have pledged at COP 26 to end deforestation by 2030. Of course India has not joined this group, as our leadership believes in sustainable development and does not want deforestation to discontinue. At Glasgow meet, no one raised the issue of controlling forest fire, having been fully aware that the burning of wood releases GHG emissions and also damages the potential of forests to sequester CO₂ – clearly it is a double whammy.

Track record of rich nations in fighting forest fire is highly unsatisfactory. With so much of technological

advancements, forests in Siberia, California and many other places cannot be allowed to be burning for several months. Rich nations must focus on forest fire fighting in their own countries. World leaders should work out a mechanism to fund forest fire control within the purview of even poorer nations.

India also does not have good track record in controlling forest fires across its states. In 2021

summer, important biodiversity hotspots like Simlipal in Odisha, Bandavgarh in Madhya Pradesh, Bandipur and BRT in Karnataka etc have burned for weeks. Forest fires in Chir forests in Himalayas has been quite concerning. An effective control will render a cut in GHG annual emissions by 200 million tonnes and also create Carbon storage place for same quantity of CO₂ annually.

[The writer is Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) Karnataka and can be contacted over Mobile:9449863501 and Email: bksinghretiredpccf@gmail.com]

Vana Premi Welcomes The Writer In You

Do you know - There are a lot of excellent, published authors in the world that did not start writing until they retired. But regardless of your age, you may have a great narrative in you. Some people write for the sheer joy of writing, and most just post the work online for the world to enjoy. You may be one among them; please check.

You may be a professional with vast experience in a particular field but have a good flair in an unconnected area- you are welcome to share your knowledge with the retired, working and the public as well.

If you are not happy with the articles (content-wise or standard wise) being published in Vana Premi month after month, you are the one we need. Just scribble your heart content to a good article and mail it to me preferably by the 10th of every month, but no later than the 15th-please note. You can add good photographs, drawings wherever you feel necessary.

Though all matters related to Forestry and wildlife are generally preferred: Seasonal articles, travel, and vacation articles: health-related articles, personal grooming and professional articles dealing with senior citizens, home and family themes, puzzles, cartoons, trivia, jokes, quotes related to Forestry and services are not taboo and will be considered basing on the available space.

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**“Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara!”
(Don’t expect to beget life again!)**

Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai, IFS (Retd.)



“I’ve just one desire, I want to keep wielding my quill day and night, as I find words effortlessly come to my pen & I never had to struggle to write them!”

Prologue:

I chanced upon & bumped into meeting (in a mall) Hunter S. Thompson (1937 – 2005) during my visit to Denver (Colorado) in 2003 (as we were in the USA that year on an invitation by our daughter who had settled in the neighboring state of Nebraska), as he had also settled at a nearby place of Woody Creek, Colorado. Hunter Stockton Thompson had already become a celebrity & counter-culture icon, being an American journalist & author and more so as a founder of the ‘Gonzo Journalism’ (or new journalism) movement ---- an innovative mix of ‘journalism, subjectivity and fiction’. He made a name for his command of language, fearless reporting and his fearsome intellect.

During that meet of about an hour, I was very much impressed, as I happened to be a pragmatic person without any pretensions with the way he philosophically spoke on a variety of topics, most of his sentences being like quotable quotes. I was quick in noting a few of them and expanded notes helped by my son-in-law’s Dictaphone (as well) later, after returning to our daughter’s place of Sidney, Nebraska. In fact, Denver was the nearest International Airport we flew from Bangalore to reach her place wherefrom we were picked up, as we set our feet in the US, and we used to frequent to Colorado’s Capital now and then later on weekends. I will try to quote a few of them here (and share with the readers), and expand an essay on the caption given above, by taking help of the last one, the fact

being I am blessed with a pen which does not face a draught of words any time I set to write:

1. Hopes rise and dreams flicker & die.
2. Love plans for tomorrow and loneliness thinks of yesterday.
3. There is no honest way to explain ‘in the Edge’, because the only people who really know where it is are the ones who have gone over. The others – the living – are those who pushed their control as far as they felt they could handle and then pulled back or slowed down, or did whatever they had to when to choose between ‘now and later’.
4. A man who procrastinates in his choosing will inevitably have his choice made for him by circumstance.
5. In a closed society where everybody is guilty, the only crime is ‘getting caught’ ---- in a world of thieves, ‘the only final sin is stupidity’.
6. Faster, faster, faster, until the thrill of speed overcomes the fear of death.
7. Buy the ticket, take the ride.
8. When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro. Too weird to live, too rare to die.
9. Life is beautiful and living is pain.
10. Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well-preserved body, but rather to skid it broadside

in a cloud of smoke thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming "Wow! What a ride!!"

After savouring the quotes of a man who never shied away from speaking his mind and who was arguably one of the greatest ever chroniclers, let us take up the last quote to conclude that life is, after all, to be enjoyed, rather than endured.

Fact File:

God has given the following as some of the hints for preparation or dress-rehearsal to grow old gracefully, never desert the ideals, and face death without fear, in a controlled and dignified manner :-

You first notice your greying hair and then visit the ophthalmologist for correcting your vision; followed possibly by a visit to the dentist; simultaneously curtailing your activities (after feeling the weariness and weakness of your limbs); resulting in your inability to consume sumptuous meals and digest as usual; weakening of your mental efforts to remember things and events of the past and finally

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your dependence on others for attending to daily chores and movements!

And then, years might wrinkle the skin, but giving up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul. In short, you are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt, as young as your self-confidence, as old as your fear, as young as your hope, and as old as your despair!

Epilogue:

In our overly ambitious lives, many of us have sadly lost our sense of perception, becoming so materialistic by giving importance to material things and laying emphasis on personal achievements. By watching the passage of time with dread and fear of growing old, we worry and strive endlessly. Will an assured income or enormous wealth spare anybody from growing old or the inevitable death? No way!

Concludingly, it may be stated that we must enhance our mental pleasures, on the other hand, by accumulating friends, and plan for maintaining reasonably good health which is extremely important to happiness during old age.

"Religion has actually convinced people that there's an invisible man living in the sky who watches everything you do, every minute of every day. And the invisible man has a special list of things he does not want you to do. And if you do any of these things, he has a special place, full of fire and smoke and burning and torture and anguish, where he will send you to live and suffer and burn and choke and scream and cry forever and ever 'til the end of time! But He loves you. He loves you, and He needs money! He always needs money! He's all-powerful, all-perfect, all-knowing, and all-wise, somehow just can't handle money!"

- George Carlin

REMINISCENCES “Birthday”

Mohammad Ahsan, IFS (Retd.)



Time sometimes flows in a very swift manner like a turbulent river. Now it is almost twenty-seven years we four had seen ‘her’ in that foggy winter morning of February 1995. And that was exactly the 10th February.

I would not have taken that journey but for my fad for doing the things differently from others. That was the only reason we four had started early in the morning of 9th February from Dehradun by road to reach Ramnagar by lunch time. Road journey between Najibabad and Ramnagar was, as usual, tiresome. However partaking of homemade packed lunch at Ramnagar Forest Rest House helped us all to forget the pangs of a bumpy journey.

Meeting Dr. R L Singh at Ramnagar, the Field Director, Corbett Tiger Reserve, was really a very pleasant affair of the trip. He not only allowed me to use his ‘ Director’s Hut’ for my stay at Dhikala, but instructed the staff to provide me the necessary logistics. After having a cup of tea with him, I started for Dhikala.

Journey from Dhangari to Dhikala is always exciting and full of wild surprises at every blind bend. Those large tracts of grasslands at Dhikala, as usual exuded an aura of mystique, and meandering Ramganga River an unmatched serenity in a land of wilderness.

As the evening grew, a radiant sun gradually changed its color from fiery pale to blood red and silently dipped into a vast lake. The hills around onlooked the journey of the sun towards a grey horizon and promised an ageless silence over a jungle that was already abuzz with chirruping of million insects.

As the dark sheet of the night enveloped the land of wilderness, the theatre of jungle came alive with the prey and predators playing their predestined role. Silence sang an immortal melody through the night over a jungle wherein the bark of a *Sambhar* or screeching of an owl or growl of an animal coalesced in.

We, four of us - me, my wife Rani, our daughters Sana 11, and Saman 8, made our next day to start very early in the morning. We chose an elephant to ride which was known for its cool temperament and a friendly *mahout* who was known to me since my early Corbett days.

We rode this elephant on Sambhar Road until it met a grove of *jamun* trees, then traversed a field of tall grasses wet with the night dew and crossed the gently flowing Ramganga River. There was a deep eerie silence all around only to be interrupted by birds’ calls or distant barking of some deer. The two spur-winged fowls that were happy with their surroundings near Ramganga waters did not like our unannounced infringement on their privacy, and made a threatening gesture towards us, and walked away.

Now we were on the other side of Ramganga River, on its right bank. We crossed over another grass field wherein we surprised a *Sambhar* that bolted away in its blissful innocence. Next was a small herd of *Cheetals* that too eyed us like enemy, and made a run for life. I wish we could tell them by some manner we had no intension of harassing them.

And now we were on the edge of *Sal* forest. The terrain was hilly in a gentle way. *Mahout* drove his elephant through the *Sal* forest in a cautious way, trying to listen even the slightest noise coming from a dry twig or a clump of grass, his eyes keenly circumspecting the jungle. We moved for about half an hour this way, all very silent, not even trying to talk in whispers.

And then *mahout* pointed out in a whisper towards a big fallen dry log. The log was lying in an open space among the trees. And we all saw 'her'. She was a very young shy tigress, sitting silently basking under the sun behind the dead log.

As the tigress saw us, she rose from her position, took a nervous gait towards trees in the *Sal* forest, and moved ahead slowly in the jungle. It was very clear from her gait she had not liked our ingress into her privacy. She looked not very willing to leave her front. *Mahout* drove his elephant slowly on the hilly terrain following the shy tigress for about hundred meters, and then the tigress took a swift turn and disappeared into the thick jungle.

Each one of us was very happy. I guess *mahout* had prior knowledge of the tigress being there since last evening. I think either the tigress had her cubs or kill somewhere nearby. That was probably the reason she was not very willing to move. I told *mahout* to get back to Dhikala.

(The author is FormerPCCF, UP: Editor, Reminiscences-2021 of SORFO and author. He can be contacted over phone: +91 9415409325 and Email: ahsaanluck@gmail.com)

“Some humans would do anything to see if it was possible to do it. If you put a large switch in some cave somewhere, with a sign on it saying ‘End-of-the-World Switch. PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH’, the paint wouldn’t even have time to dry.”

- Terry Pratchett

INCHAMPALLI DAM PROJECT:**A Case Study Of Big Dam v/s Small Dams****Paresh Kumar Sharma, IFS (Retd.)**

The **Inchampalli Multipurpose Hydro-electric dam** Project was proposed by the then Govt. of AP in 2008, across River Godavari near a deserted village named Ichchampalli (Inchampalli) between villages Neelampalli and Venchepalli, downstream the confluence of Rivers Godavari and Indravati. It involved submerging a considerable area of land, approximately 9000 Sq. Km in 3 States-Telangana, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh; the majority was Forest land. About 70 villages needed to be relocated.

It was not the first time constructing a dam at the Inchampalli site had been proposed. In the 19th century (around 1860), the Nizam of Hyderabad had thought of creating a barrier very close to this site. For this purpose, he had sought the services of French Engineers. About a dozen Engineers had come to this village and camped there with their families. They did a survey etc., but before the work could commence, they were infected with the plague, which proved fatal for all of them. They were cremated in the outskirts of village Inchampalli. I had seen those graves several times between 1983 and 1986.

One proposal for constructing Inchampalli Dam under Section 2 of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, came during my tenure as DFO KE in 1984. It was only the AP part. A vast area was coming under submergence, including forest lands. 23 villages were also coming under submergence. Apparently, there was no consultation with the two other States concerned. More than AP, Maharashtra was going to lose most in terms of land, forests, and villages. There

was no clarity about the rehabilitation of the people to be displaced from the 23 villages mentioned all along River Godavari. If that were to be proposed in the forests, the loss of forests would have been much more than projected. And the forests adjoining R. Godavari in AP & Maharashtra and Indravati in MP were some of the best in the country in terms of vegetation and biodiversity. It was excellent habitat for Tigers and other Carnivora.

In addition to the above, we have been taught that Big Dams are ecological disasters; and smaller dams are eco-friendly. The problem with big dams is compounded because of improper protection and treatment of Catchment areas. Hence, I was convinced that such a project was not in the best interest of the State and the nation. Accordingly, I had made my views very clear and recommended against the construction of the Inchampalli Project. Till I was in the Division (April 1986), there was no communication regarding sanction or otherwise of the proposal. However, in my adjoining Division in Warangal District, to my surprise, work of formation of the road to the Project site had commenced. I don't know if the proper sanction for this had been obtained.

During this period, **Sri P.V. Narasimha Rao**, the then External Affairs Minister, GOI, was to visit **Bhopalpalli** village (HQ of Bhopalpalli North as well as Bhopalpalli East Forest Ranges) as part of the constituency visit programme of all the MPs as per the directive of the then Prime Minister **Smt. Indira Gandhi**. Before his scheduled visit, all the important District Officers had assembled in the

Guest House of the **M/s Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL)** at Bhopalpalli. In this gathering, I got an opportunity to explain my views on big dams in general and Inchampalli Dam in particular to the concerned Irrigation Department Engineers & all the other District level Officers.

Though big dam projects have brought multiple benefits to the country like the **supply of drinking & irrigation water, generation of hydroelectric power, flood control, socio-economic development** in the new irrigation systems, infrastructure development, etc., unfortunately, they also worsen the impact of climate change. Large chunks of natural forest ecosystems are destroyed once and for all. They come under submergence, hence are cleared before the construction of dams. This loosens the soil, which was hitherto bound by the roots of the trees, bushes and herbs, thereby leading to soil erosion. This leads to the siltation of dams, thereby reducing the water storage capacity. These also lead to the disappearance of birds in floodplains, erosion of deltas, wetland, and farmland, and many other irreversible impacts. They release greenhouse gases, destroy carbon sinks in wetlands and oceans, deprive ecosystems of nutrients, destroy habitats, increase sea levels, wastewater and displace poor communities. The problem gets compounded if the catchment area is not treated properly, which is often the case. I also explained that there was no standard protocol to assess the loss of ecological services provided by the forests, hence at that time, only the value of timber and fuelwood to be obtained, that too on the conservative side, was being taken into consideration. This led to a faulty projection

of the benefits in the Cost-Benefit ratio, justifying the projects. There was no Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environment Management Plan (EMP) concept. These were introduced later on. If a realistic assessment of ecological losses were made, most of the big dam projects would have been negated by duly monetising it. I also informed the gathering that I had read that due to the problem of siltation, the age of Bhakra Nangal Dam had been reduced to half of the projected period, besides silting of canals and huge expenditure was required to be incurred to de-silt both.

On the other hand, many small dams were found to be eco-friendly. This was the practice in the olden days. Tamil Nadu provided the best examples of the usefulness of small dams. They were convinced with my scientific explanation and rationale behind opposition to massive dams and endorsed my stand.

The then External Affairs Minister of the Govt. of India, Sri P.V. Narasimha Rao, arrived in Bhopalpalli. He straight away drove to the meeting venue, a vast shaded hall of the SCC. All the Officers and I met him and paid respects. He enquired from the public, Party Workers included Beedi Leaf contractors, Timber Merchants, Saw Mill Owners and GP functionaries, if they had any grievances. As there were no grievances against Government officers. After the introduction & exchange of pleasantries, we all dispersed, as the proposed public meeting was purely a political party affair. It appeared to be a mere formality. However, what impressed me was the simplicity and humility of the man, Sri PV Narsimha Rao. Nobody had imagined that they had met the future Prime Minister of India.

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“The world is a stage and the play is badly cast.”

- Oscar Wilde

FOR YOUR TINY TOTS

1. The heart of a shrimp is located in its head.
2. Gingko Biloba which dates to about 250 million years ago is the oldest living tree species in the world.
3. A snail can sleep for three years.
4. Apples, onions, and potatoes have the same taste. Test this by closing your nose while eating them.
5. Otters have the world's thickest fur.
6. Onions can make you sleepy if you eat too many at a time since they act as natural sedatives.
7. The fingerprints of a koala are so indistinguishable from humans that they have on occasion been confused at a crime scene.
8. The African tree, Baobab can store 1000 to 120,000 litres of water in its tree trunk.
9. Elephants are the only animal that can't jump.
10. Apple's volume consists of 25% air which is why it floats on water.
11. It is possible to hypnotize a frog by placing it on its back and gently stroking its stomach.
12. More than 20% of the world's oxygen supply is produced by the Amazon Rainforest.
13. Nearly three percent of the ice in Antarctic glaciers is penguin urine.
14. Onions contain sulphuric acid which causes tears when we cut them. The tears produced is how the body washes it away from the eyes.
15. There are more than 300,000 plant species identified till date and the list is constantly expanding.
16. An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
17. Strawberry is the only edible fruit that has seeds on the outside. It has about an average of 200 seeds.
18. Frogs cannot vomit. If one absolutely has to, then it will vomit its entire stomach.
19. Banana is actually an Arabic word for fingers.
20. Cabbage has 91% water content.
21. Zebra stripes act as a natural bug repellent.
22. More than 85% of plant life is found in the ocean.
23. Male horses have way more teeth than their female counterparts.
24. Baseball bats are created from the Hickory tree while cricket bats from Willow trees.
25. Giraffes have black tongues.
26. There are no flower species that are completely black in colour nor has anyone been able to develop it.
27. A cucumber is not a vegetable. It is a fruit as it has seeds.
28. Adult cats only meow at humans
29. Elephant grass found in Africa is named so because it can grow up to 4.5 meters, which is high enough to hide an elephant in it.
30. Snow leopards don't roar.



Slap of “Contempt of Court” for Subjecting The Compliance for Rules

B M T Rajeev, IFS (Retd.)

Sagar-Shimoga is a Division spread over 4 taluks- Sagar, Hosanagara, Sorab and Shikaripura in Western Ghats drained by the rivers- Sharavathi, Chakra, and Varahi to the west and the Rivers-Varada, Dandavati and other tributaries to the east to the Tunga Bhadra River. It is the home of Jog falls in the River course of Sharavati hosting forests of wet evergreen, semi evergreen, moist deciduous & dry deciduous forests with shola & grass lands in the WGs and Kaan forests. The climate, rainfall, soils and the topography are very conducive for the good forests, wildlife and human habitations-a treasurer of rich natural resources for all the living beings. It is the home of Sandal wood, varieties of timber, bamboo, canes, medicinal plants and varieties of non-timber products. It is ill famed for the sandal wood and timber smuggling and for forest land grabbing-encroachments but heaven for the afforestation activities. It is a very challenging Dvn for the Forest Officers and the staff to reign in it.

I was transferred to Sagar Dvn from FMS, Mysore as ACF & TA to the DCF, where I took charge from IFS probationer -KS Sugara on his promotion as DCF on May 27, 1987.

In my first meeting with the DCF-Shivanna, IFS, in his office-he gave me a very big file lying on his table with a suggestion to see and advise him tomorrow as he has to sign it as urgent by telling that you are from FMS and have knowledge to interpret rules. It was a file of implementation of the Hon'ble High Court order on a Writ Petition to permit felling of trees in Gauthampuram Inam lands over an area of 2,500 acre in Anandapuram Hobli of Sagara Taluk (a big



piece of land allotted by the Maharaja of Mysore as a token of gift for the meritorious service of a family rendered for the his govt-in judiciary or protection in vogue then.). There was a typed draft in half a sheet tagged to the file..... As per the order of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka, the petitioner is permitted to fell the malki-trees standing in the Inam lands and report....., whether the DCF were to sign or not was the question referred to me? If I were to return the file, okay as per HC order; the tree growth in a forest of over 2,500 acres of Inam land- taken over to the govt with abolition of the Inam lands would have gone in a stroke to the applicant for cut and lift; but,...

I took the file to the rest house and studied the whole file in the night-from the beginning and found that *it was a case of malki-permit in form no.28 which was sold before the notification of the Mysore Inam lands (Abolition) Act, 1954 for Rs10,000/- by ten Jagirdars of Anandapuram-the right over the malki in Inam lands at Gauthampuram to a timber contractor by name -Abul Razak. He had sufficiently extracted the timber and fuel wood from the said lands for years up to 1976 basing on that sale deed ...till a protest took place against the destruction of*

forests by the public in Inam lands for which the KFD stopped the issuing of permits and taken over the felled material to the govt.

The Contractor affected with taking over of the malki felled-filed a Writ Petition in Hon'ble High Court, Karnataka; got the order that 'the Petitioner has the right over the malki-trees in the inam lands of Gauthampura and the Respondents are directed to issue felling permission in 1986. The Petitioner delayed to approach the Respondent-the DCF Sagar till the appeal time is over. The Govt Advocate too... opined that there are no solid grounds for appeal in this case.....to the department.

With the above orders of the HC..., I visualized that KFD has to allow the petitioner to fell the trees. But, whether he has to be allowed with blanket order to fell trees or he has to follow all formalities to enable the KFD to issue permits as per the Karnataka Forest Manual, 1976 and Karnataka Tree (Preservation) Act, 1976 to get the transit passes were the questions arose in me. I opined that a blanket order cannot be issued as per the draft of the office-on the file and it has to be modified. I prepared a draft in the speaking order discussing the whole history of the case/order of the HC and the prevailing Acts and Rules of the KFD for issue of form no.28 and then order..... since, it has to be given order on the next day...

The Petitioner has rights over the malki in the Gowthampura Inam lands in Sy.no.....as per the HC order. He will be permitted to fell the trees provided that he submits the enumeration of the trees for felling with spp's name, girth, height and estimation of volume of timber/fire wood; surveyed sketch of the land with boundary bonds fixed on the ground with list of boundary trees marked with due certificate from the Deputy Director of Land Records stating "that the enumerated trees are within the Gauthampuram Inam lands" as per the prevailing rules of KMF 1976 & KTPA, 1976 to issue transit passes. The DCF felt

happy to sign the order.....and left on two days CL as he received a message about the death of his sister on the day.

The Petitioner who was waiting outside the office started shouting at the office after receiving the order. Saying... you have disobeyed the HC order by refusing to issue the order for felling of trees in Inam lands. You will be charged with contempt of court and will be punished. I will see to it...and went away with openly challenging the DCF office.

Contempt of Court Order:

Within a month he came with the notice of Contempt of Court Order for the DCF by name to appear before the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the HC, Karnataka and got it served on the DCF in person. A serious case to face...The DCF started worrying and went to appear for the CC of the HC on the given date by calling & telling to me...Let any anything happen, I will face, for my act of saving the forests. He was a youngster and it hurt me a lot.

I was put into pressure/worry/embarrassment for the fate of the DCF for having prepared the draft of the order and was not able to sleep overnight. The next day, date of hearing.... I called the RFO, Sagar-AS Gangaraju to rope in a dozen local leaders and the press people...after briefing them on the details of the Gauthampuram Inam land's forests-which they knew well and the problem of the CC against the DCF.....and requested them to stand by the DCF and send telegrams to the Governor, Chief Minister, Forest Minister , PCCF, CCF(GI), Chief Secretary and Forest Secretary by Referring the HC order for felling Malki in the Inam lands at Gowthampuram in WP No...and the order given by DCF-Sagar as per rules and slapping of the Contempt of Court order from the HC with request to protect the sincere DCF-Shivanna as he has not committed any contempt of court orders.

Dozens of telegrams were sent from Sagar to all the authorities.....due to which “the CCF(g)–S. Parameshwarappa, IFS appeared along with Govt. Advocate General -Santosh Hegde (then-who became Justice of the SC, on retirement became Lokayukta of Karnataka) before the Hon’ble Chief Justice and pleaded that...the DCF-Shivanna has done his duty as per rules. The case is not just a case of felling trees but a case to issue of transit passes for the out turn of timber & fuel wood from the felled trees; if the Petitioner wants to fell trees and needs no transit passes.... we will modify the order and issue felling order for trees today itself ... if the Hon’ble Court considers it to be contempt of Court Order.. I offer to face the punishment as head of the KFD by taking blame as it has been done as per prevailing rules as on today”. After hearing the arguments from both the sides.... the High court accepted the pleading of the KFD and dropped the CC proceedings against the DCF and gave permission to the KFD to file the SLP in the SC. ... The sword hanging on the DCF was averted and the matter was shifted to the Supreme Court.

N.B: Now-Postal Dept has given up the Telegrams system; There is no system to the level of alerting the government or an individual to the level of Telegram or telex now- we can send SMS or E-mail etc but the effect of Telegram was different and was an alarm- The Postal Dept should have retained it for the alarm/emergency of cases in the govt.)

To prepare the SLP, the retired Revenue Commissioner –Kantha Raje Urs was roped in by the KFD for which the HQ-DCF-MN Jayakumar, IFS visited with the consultant and collected all data from the Sagar dvs. The consultant opined-if the para, the Govt pleader also opined as so & so..... was not to be mentioned in the speaking order to the applicant..... the contempt of court would not have been raised since the speaking order given to the complainant was in order as per rules.

In the meanwhile the DCF was transferred and the New DCF-S Rajanna, IFS got information in 1989 about the base of the sale of the malki to the contractor by the Jodidars of the Gauthampuam Inam lands and managed to get the copies from the Revenue Dept with access through his AICS friends.... We planned to file a PIL for which an Advocate- O. Jayanna of Sorab came forward. I had to go to Bangalore with him on some official work and work with the Senior HC-advocate-B. Veerabhadrapa -(hailed from Sagar) to file the PIL and get a stay for the operation of the original order of the WP of the contractor Abdul Razak. Another Advocate-K.Shivappa, Kodakani-Sorab/co-brother of the Agriculture Minister -S Bangarappa too filed a WP for the same cause on the advice of the Minister. Matter went on in the HC and also in the SC for years... recently, I learnt that the issue is still in fluid & flux (2020). The applicant has died but, it is being pursued by a member of the Inamdars since it is a case of huge economic value-benefit in the present market rates. (Again a question will arise to what number of trees of age to be allowed since forest has grown with recruitment of trees between 1970s-2020s)

NB: The whole case reveals the high handedness of the petitioner with maneuvering capacity of money power in wrong conceivment of the order given by the DCF Sagar in approaching the HC with a plea of CC against the DCF. Instead, if he just coolly followed the order issued as per the rules in force, he would have been benefited in terms of huge wealth. I appreciate the good luck of the scores of trees which destined to live for years in forcing the moneyed contractor to approach the HC to charge the officer under contempt of Court.

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Compassion and Love for Wild Animals

K.B.R. Reddy, IFS (Retd.)



Independent India's first woman IAS officer, Anna Rajam Malhotra, who served the composite Madras State and the Central Government, passed away on 17.09.2018. She joined Civil Service in 1951. Rajaji, the Chief Minister, was skeptical that women entering Civil Service would not be able to handle law and order situation. After a few days Rajaji himself cited example of her as a progressive woman. She was posted in Hosur as Sub-Collector. During her tenure, she refused to issue orders to kill six elephants that had entered a village. Instead, she successfully managed the operation to drive the pachyderms back to the forests. She was the recipient of Padma Bhushan Award (Source: *The Hindu* dated 18.9.2018)

"Don't go for the kill immediately. It may not be a man-eater" said Madras High Court Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee, reacting to a case filed against the Forest Department's decision to hunt a 12-year old tiger, code named MDT 23 which is suspected to be on a killing spree involving humans and livestock in the Nilgiris district. Presiding over the First Division Bench along with Justice P.D Audi Keshavlu, the Chief Justice said the tiger might have been misunderstood as a habitual man-eater because of a few lethal chance encounters with humans in the forest. He insisted on making efforts to capture it alive."

"Passing interim orders on public interest litigation filed by people for cattle in India, the Bench directed the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests to ensure that least possible number of people entered the forest to capture the MDT 23 without disturbing the natural habitat. The Judges said a heavy human population might cause disturbance to wild animals.

The Bench suggested that discreet measures could be employed with the objective of 'ultimately seeking the animal and respecting its right to remain in the wild and roam freely in the forest. The Judges also called for a status report from the PCCF after October 19. It was brought to the notice of the court that the tiger MDT 23 was very elusive." (Source: *The Hindu* dated 06.10.2021)

Reacting to the news item C.V. Savitri Chennai, a reader of the Daily said, "The Chief Justice of the Madras High Court deserves praise for an animal friendly decision. Animal lovers salute him as thought has gone into the shaping into the order.

There are many instances where animals like elephant, tiger, leopard, bear etc. have been rescued from their accidental fall into irrigation wells. Love has no language. Recently a team of forest officers rescued a calf of an elephant which got separated from its mother. The baby elephant used to hug the forester who looked after it. After a few days, it was reunited with its mother. It's a good job, of course. Only animal lovers can understand connection called the human - animal bond.

Wild animals are voiceless denizens living in forests and forests are their home. There is no one to look after them or take care of them except the forester and a wildlife enthusiast. These men or women render their voice to the voiceless. India has a rich history and tradition of wildlife conservation. While Chandragupta Maurya was a great patron of conservation, his Minister Kautilya has not only authored rules for wildlife conservation but also prescribed severe penalties for those who defied the law.

Respecting the wild animals is common in Indian ethos. For example, four Asian Lions standing back-to-back, symbolizing power, courage, confidence and pride mounted on a circular base is chosen for the National Emblem. In the national emblem finally adopted, only three lions are visible, the fourth lion is hidden from view. This emblem used decoratively, dignifies the men who wear it on their shoulder badges, caps, letter heads etc. There are stories woven around to reflect the glory of human and animal relationship. One story that comes to my mind is Androcles and the Lion.

Androcles was a Roman slave and a pious Christian. He escaped punishment for being a Christian from his oppressive master and was roaming in the forest. One day, he saw a lion in pain. He removed a huge thorn from his paw. He made friendship with the lion and they started living together. The Emperor's men found him in the jungle and took him back and he was condemned to death. He was thrown before the lion but surprisingly the lion stroked him and started caressing him. Shocked at this strange behavior, the Emperor pardoned him and set free the lion.

In the firmament of wildlife conservation in India there are many stars that did yeoman service to the cause, sheer out of love and compassion to the wild animals and it is worthwhile to recount their performance.

Saroj Raj Choudhary was a legendary forest officer of IFS of Orissa cadre. He was Founder of Simlipal National Park in Mayurbhanj district and became its Director in 1972. Some Khairi tribals in 1974 brought before him a female tiger cub found near Khairi river and he named her as Khairi. He raised her until she became an adult. His love for the animal was so much that he wrote his autobiography "Khiri, the beloved tigress". Out of love for wild animals, he raised crocodile, bear, hyena, mongoose, deer etc

and they all moved freely in his court yard. He was Head of Forest Research Institute and also Head of Project Tiger. He introduced for the first time the technique of tiger census by pug mark. Government of India awarded him with civil honour of Padma Shri in 1983.

M. Kamal Naidu is a post graduate in agricultural science. He joined State Forest Service in 1972 and was appointed to the Indian Forest Service under the Initial Recruitment Regulations. He was a brave forest officer having escaped death on two occasions. As DFO in Khammam district, he was attacked by armed Naxalites while he was on duty. The Naxalites shot at him with two bullets; the first bullet hit him in the mouth which resulted in loss of his right jaw, while the second bullet went through his arm which was removed later. It took three-and-a-half month to recover. The State Government noted: "Service appreciated, does not merit an award".

Sri Naidu was posted as Curator of the Nehru Zoological Park, where he loved animals. He was then transferred and posted as Director of the National Zoological Park at New Delhi. There, he was informed that a six-and-half foot black cobra had entered the lion's enclosure and the life of two lion cubs was in danger. His love for the cubs compelled him to rush to the lion's cage. While rescuing the cubs, the cobra bit him. The cubs were saved and the cobra was killed. He risked his life merely out of love for the lion cubs and it was a miracle, he was saved. He was awarded Shourya Chakra in 1985, a rare distinction for a civilian. He authored two books and published many papers.

Kailash Sankhala, a former Chief Wildlife Warden of Rajasthan, was born on 30.01.1925. He had his forestry training in 1953. He managed many wildlife sanctuaries including Ramthambhore. He is a known biologist and conservationist. In 1965, he was appointed as Director of the Delhi Zoological

Park and was the first Director of the Project Tiger, a conservation programme started in 1973 in an attempt to save the tiger from extinction. Because of his immense love for tiger and his contribution for its conservation, he is called the "The Tiger Man of India". He was awarded Padma Shri in 1992. He passed away on 15.08.1994.

Dr. M.K. Ranjit Singh, belongs to the royal family of Wankaner. He joined IAS in 1961. As Collector Mandla in M.P., he helped save the Central Indian Barasingha from extinction. As the Secretary, Forest & Tourism in M.P., he established 14 new sanctuaries, 8 new National Parks and increased the area of 3 National Parks. He was the prime architect of the Wildlife (Protection) Act. He was the Wildlife Preservation Officer and Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Environment & Forest. He initiated the Project Tiger. He also initiated Project Snow Leopard, helped to save Manipur Sangai and other endangered species. He worked with UNEP as senior advisor in Nature Conservation for the Asia – Pacific Region. He has published numerous articles and two books. He has written thesis on tiger and black buck for his Ph.D. His book "A life with Wildlife" reflects his passion and love for wild animals.

Fateh Singh Rathore was born in Choradia village in Jodhpur district. He graduated from Rajputana University in 1960. He was offered a job of Park Ranger. He loved forest service and grew interested in conservation. After a stint of service at Sariska, Mount Abu game reserve, during 1963 and 1970, he was posted to Ranthambhore sanctuary in 1971 as game warden. Earlier he received training at the Wildlife Institute of India in 1969 in the first batch under Saroj Raj Choudhury.

Ranthambhore National Park was previously a game reserve of the royal family. Project Tiger was started at the instance of Indira Gandhi. Nine reserves were selected and Ranthambhore was

one of them. Rathore was sent there as Assistant Field Director and he was given free hand. In trying to evacuate a good number of tribal habitations, he faced stiff opposition. In 1981, Rathore was nearly killed by a group of villagers who resented being sent out from the park area. He had several fractures and a head injury and it took several months for him to recover. He was given bravery award. He went back to work, and nothing was going to stop him to save the tiger.

Valmik Thapar is not a forest officer but an ardent lover of nature, a conservationist, and a writer. Today, he is one of the most respected wildlife experts. He was born in 1952 and married to Sanjana Kapoor, daughter of Sashi Kapoor. Valmik Thapar spent decades in study of tiger's habits and habitat. His stewardship of Ranthambhore was recognized and he was appointed by the Government of India as a member of the Tiger Task Force of 2005. He was a fearless critic of failures of Project Tiger drawing attention to its mismanagement. He is the author of 14 books and several articles, and produced and narrated documentaries on India's natural habitat for such media like BBC, National Geographic etc. He contributed substantially in relocating a nine-year old tiger which had killed four persons in Ranthambhore National Park. He appreciated the Forest Department and Government of Rajasthan when the tiger was relocated. He was influenced by Fateh Singh Rathore. Throughout his life, he was eager to share his passion for natural world under the threat of extinction. He narrated a story of a fight between a tiger and a wild boar; the boar chased the tiger away.

Pushp Kumar was a M.Sc. from the Osmania University. He joined the Indian Forest College at Dehra Dun in 1957 and passed out in 1959. He was elevated to the Indian Forest Service with effect from 1966. He rose from ACF to PCCF in

the State of Andhra Pradesh. Most of his service was spent in designing and managing zoological gardens and deer parks. While doing this job skillfully, he developed love for animals. The credit goes to him for creating the Nehru Zoological Park at Hyderabad where animals are kept in open areas rather than closed cages. Pushp Kumar is known for artificially creating natural surroundings in the NZP where the animals enjoy the freedom of roaming in open. He successfully established the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park at Vishakhapatnam. Sri Pushp Kumar was also the Director of the Crocodile Breeding Centre at Hyderabad, an FAO-UNDP funded project. After becoming CCF, he is involved in establishing an open Zoo at Tirupathi. In 1992, after his retirement, he was nominated by the Government of India as a member of the Central Zoo Authority. During his life time he was looked upon as an architect of Zoos in India and abroad. He retired on 31.07.1990. Zoo community misses him for his premature death on 02.12.2005.

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Forestry and wildlife conservation were male privilege, but not anymore. Narendra Modi, as Chief Minister of Gujarat in 2007, carved out 33% quota for women in Gir forest. Kiran Pathija, Rasila Vadher and Darshana Kagda, all belonging to the first batch of 12 Forest Guards, Patrol the forest either on motor cycle or on foot to prevent felling of trees and protect lions from poaching. One of the positive situations of the women functioning as wildlife wardens is getting to nurture orphaned lion cubs. Nergish Sunawala, a press reporter vide Times of India date dated 31.10.2015 called these forest guards as 'Women in the Lions' Den'. Their job is to respond to catcalls.

While Jim Corbett shot dead man-eaters, Padma Shri M. Krisnan and E.P. Gee shot animals not with a gun but with a camera. All of them were great lovers of nature.

Ruskin Bond said, "You have not toiled for fame or favour; yours has been a love of labour".

"God does not play dice with the universe; He plays an ineffable game of His own devising, which might be compared, from the perspective of any of the other players [i.e. everybody], to being involved in an obscure and complex variant of poker in a pitch-dark room, with blank cards, for infinite stakes, with a Dealer who won't tell you the rules, and who smiles all the time."

- Terry Pratchett

*"Write what you know.
That should leave you with a lot of free time."*

- Howard Nemerov

Salute to Martyrs

(A tribute with tears to Late Shri Bipin Rawat, former CDS and other twelve officers who martyred in Chopper crash)



Konda Mohan, DyCF.

Great shock to our Nation
The sudden demise of our Bipin Rawat
CDS of our Defence Forces and
Eleven brave soldiers and his better half

Nation lost its greatest son
The protector, savior and peace keeper
He always turned down the enemy nations
In critical times he stood like the Himalayan Mountains

Our dare and fearless attacks at Galwan
Chinese soldiers ran away like mischievous mice
Doklam, Ladakh, Arunachal or any other place
He had shown the power of 'Mera Bharath Mahan'

He is the mysterious Missile of India
Enemy nations shivered to listen his name
Cunning Pakistan and Barking China
Never dared to lift up their heads

Whole country cried like an orphan
Every home wept as if lost their lovely son
Though you are away from our vision
We promise you to continue your Mission

Though he is physically not with us
His Soul will always guard us from the Heavens
With folded hands and utmost obedience
We say loudly "Bipin Rawath Amar Rahe"
Echoing the sounds all over the world
We Salute the Martyrs with deep feel from our hearts.

*(The writer is Dy Conservator of Forests, Telangana State and presently working on deputation with HMWSSB Hyderabad.
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KBR National Park – The Peacock Park

A. Shankaran

The KBR National Park, established on 3rd December 1998, has completed 23 years of existence, rendering exceptional services to the citizens of Hyderabad. Every year 3rd December is celebrated as “KBR National Park Day” and as “Peacock Festival”. This year has been no exception, and the day was celebrated with a lot of enthusiasm and happiness by visitors, students, NGOs, and officials.

The KBR NP spread over 142.5 Ha. of land was taken over from the former Nizam of Hyderabad under the Urban Land Ceiling Act by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. However, the Nizam was allowed to own 2.21 Ha. of land inside the National Park as a retainable area distributed in 17 locations, including the Chiran Palace.

After taking over the land from the Nizam, the Government of AP held a meeting with various Government departments to chalk out a plan of action for future protection and management of this valuable land located in the most expensive real estate area, Hyderabad city. During the meeting, some officials pointed out that the best option would be to hand over the land to the Forest Department, which has been zealously protecting forest lands in the State from encroachments. Accordingly, it was decided to hand over the 142.50 Ha. of valuable land with dry deciduous vegetation, natural grasslands and exquisite rock formations representing the Deccan Plateau.

After the said land was handed over to Forest Department, it was 1st notified as “Jubilee Hills Forest block” under the A.P.Forest Act, 1967 and later, it

was notified in 1998 as KBR National Park under the WL (P) Act, 1972. Since then, this area protected by a 3-meter-high ornamental grill was managed under the WL Act, providing the best possible protection and management. The Park’s vegetation has improved over the years due to its protection and scientific management. Along with the flora, the faunal species have also benefited from the management, and their numbers are showing improvement year after year. The Forest Department took up soil & moisture conservation works along hills slopes. The entire rainwater is retained within the National Park area in 17 large and small percolation tanks and one large lake towards the south of the Park.

Visitors are allowed into the National Park in the mornings and evenings by issuing entry permits on payment of a prescribed fee. The Department has put in place a ticketing system wherein entry permits are issued annually, monthly or on a daily basis as per the option of the visitors. The revenue from the entry fee has been increasing every year, and sufficient money is generated for the maintenance of the Park without depending on Government funding. On average, 1200 to 1500 visitors enter the Park every morning, and 500 to 800 visitors come to the Park in the evenings. The department has a pleasant and cordial relationship with the visitors, who are the primary stakeholders of the Park. There is constant interaction between the department officials and the visitors, and important decisions are taken after thorough discussions.

This year, as is being done every year, the Forest Department conducted Peafowl estimation in KBR NP on 1st December 2021 with the involvement



of NGOs, Nature lovers and volunteers numbering more than 50. The estimation was done through a trail walk and recording of Peafowl sighted. The entire park area was divided into eight trail paths, and the participants who were divided into eight groups started the simultaneous walk at 7.00 AM on the trail path assigned to them.

The Peafowl and other important birds and animals directly sighted were recorded by each team, and the results tabulated. The figures for the sampled area were interpolated on the entire area. The result showed Peafowl population in the National Park as 518, which is considered a very healthy population in a park of 142.50 ha. area.

The KBR day and Peacock festival are

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celebrated on 3rd December 2021 with the participation of over 400 students from 10 schools. The Pri. Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Telangana, Smt. R.Sobha, IFS was the Chief Guest. Other Senior Officers from the Head office also participated. The children perform peacock dance and skits in colourful costumes. They delivered a message to human beings not to disturb or destroy the habitat of wild animals. They also showcased that a healthy environment is a must for the survival of mankind on this planet. The PCCF & other Senior Officers distributed prizes to winning students of various competitions. NGOs and visitors to the Park also attended the festivities and appreciated the efforts of the Forest Department in the upkeep and management of the National Park.



Green Quiz - January 2022

Quiz Master: Dr K. Tirupataiah, IFS (Retd.)

(Quiz Master is the Defending Champion of the QUIZ competition held as part of All India Forest Sports Meet at Raipur, Chattisgarh, January 2019)

1. Name the plant that was used to make the Thorny crown that Jesus Christ was forced to wear during his crucifixion
2. When Jesus was born apart from Gold two plant extracts were presented symbolising the birth of a King. Name the products
3. What is common among Archana Soreng, Sanju Soman, Aditya Mukerji, Hina Saifi , etc with regard to climate change related Cop-26?
4. The extended rainfall and early winter snow in 2021 is attributed to which phenomenon?
5. The National Green Tribunal fined Jindal Steel for “Stealing a River nalah” in which state?
6. What is common among Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur around Delhi?
7. Recently UK Government declared Octopuses, Crabs and Lobsters by a term that describes that these beings are capable of experiencing pain and suffering. What term?
8. As per a Current Science report, after North and South Poles, this area in India is the most vulnerable for Climate Change. Which area?
9. This Cyclone is unique in the sense it is the first cyclone to hit India in Dec in 130 years. What name is given to the Cyclone?
10. Seed Swapping is one of earliest historical exchange in Human history. On which day is it celebrated?
11. A movement to create awareness on Bird trade, cruelty in bird breeding and welfare of birds in captivity is celebrated on which day in January?
12. Which insects’ breeding season in an Indian neighbour country shifted from Summer breeding to Spring breeding
13. What is the main contributor of air pollution in Delhi?
14. What phenomenon hit Kentucky and six other USA states recently causing heavy human and property damage?
15. What is the main objective of the TS government initiative to conduct joint survey on Podu lands?

(Answers on Page: 50)

Note: It is proposed to invite good quiz questions from the members and readers and the select questions (with answers) will be published in this article along with those from Quiz Master. Your quiz questions along with answers may be mailed to: kota_86@rediffmail.com.

*“Some people see things that are and ask, Why?
Some people dream of things that never were and ask, Why not?
Some people have to go to work and don’t have time for all that.”*

- George Carlin

We produce black - But our views are Green



Cultivation near Reclaimed Dump



Settling pond / Summer storage tank

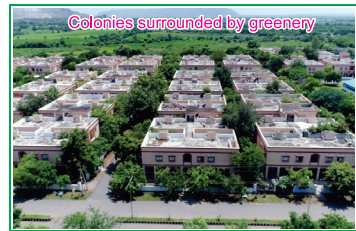


Eco-Friendly Park



Award in recognition of eco-friendly measures

- Pollution control and Soil Conservation Measures.
- About 5.50 crore saplings were planted in Singareni spread over area.
- Artificial forest covers to OC Dumps.
- Avenue plantation in colonies and roads.
- Eco-friendly parks developed in colonies.
- Sand manufactured from OB.
- STP/ ETP at all Colonies / Establishments.
- Efforts of Singareni were rewarded by State and National level awards.



Colonies surrounded by greenery



Reclaimed OB Dump



THE SINGARENI COLLIERIES COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government Company)

***Acampe
praemorsa***
(Orchidaceae)

-*Acampe praemorsa* also known as the Brittle Tiger Orchid is a monopodial robust epiphytic orchid distributed across Africa, India, Sri Lanka and other south-east Asian countries usually occurring in moist deciduous forests.



The plant is vigorous and hardy with thick waxy leaves growing in dense tufts and produces a lot of vermiform aerial roots that cling to the host tree. March to June is the bloom time. Flowers are creamy yellow with reddish brown transverse bands and occur in corymbose clusters. The lip is white speckled with pink spots along the edges. The plant parts are used in traditional medicine in the treatment of rheumatism, arthritis, and bone fractures. I stumbled upon this orchid that was found growing on a jack-fruit tree near Banakal, Chikmagalur on 06-05-2015 during one of my exploration trips.

- Cover Photo and Text: T.S. Prasanna Kumar, DyCF, Karnataka.



Parakeets are being released in Kambalakonda Reserve Forest and Wildlife Sanctuary (Page:44)

Peacock Day (3.12.2021)at KBR NP, Hyderabad



Release of the KBR poster by the Chief Guest Smt. R. Sobha, IFS., PCCF(HoFF) & Chief Wildlife Warden Sarvasri M. Joji, DFO, Hyd., A.K. Sinha, IFS, APCCF (STC), S. Srinivas, IFS., PCCF (P&V), M.C. Pargein, IFS., APCCF (Dev.), S. Kukrety, IFS., APCCF (Prod), Vinay Kumar, IFS., APCCF (IT), M.J. Akbar, IFS., CCF, Hyd. (Article on Page:26)



Cultural activities by the school children



Wildlife in Thadoba Andhari National Park/Tiger Reserve:

Photos Courtesy: Above Dr Jitendra S. Ramgaonkar, IFS, Field Director; Below: Mr. Vikas Kumar, Chennai (Vikasvics-Global Wildlife and Nature Lovers). Article on page:47.



Below: Landscape of Kawal Tiger Reserve

Photo :I. Nageshwar Rao, OWLS, Warangal





Operation Unicorn

Dr. K. THULSI RAO

*A Few of Us Could Have Been Killed, But for...
Timely help from our drivers...*

About forty years back when I was in my mid-twenties, physically fit, and hungry to learn, I had an urge to travel as far and wide as possible, particularly into the wilderness. I enjoyed the adventurous moments of basic training in forestry that exposed me to various landscapes, seascapes and ecosystems, from the start of Deccan Plateau to the end of the Indian sub-continent. To me life is a journey, not a destination. Inspired by motivational lectures at 'Forest College' by Dr. John Joseph and Dr. Harekrishnan, our beloved instructors and primary change agents of my destiny, I searched for avenues in the forest department that nurtured my interests. I found working in wildlife management was the only option available, which was the least preferred choice in 1970s by most of the forest fraternity. Soon I received a telegraph letter from the Prl.CCF, deputing me to the Wildlife Management Training.

I had my in-service wildlife management training at the 'Institute of Crocodile Breeding and Sanctuary Management (CCB&SM) that was established under the joint collaboration of the Government of India (Gol) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)' in 1978. Three of my forestry batch-mates, Ajay Pillarseth from Maharashtra, Varaprasad from Andhra Pradesh and the Chowdhury from Gujarat were co-participants in the course. The course contained (85%) topics related to Wildlife Management and a specialization (15%) on breeding and handling of Crocodiles.

After a month of joining the CCB&SM, we were asked to move to the 'Kaziranga Wildlife Sanctuary' in Assam for field training on the "Translocation of Asiatic One-horned Rhinoceros," that drifted outside the park during floods to the River Brahmaputra. It was the first time in India that capturing by use of tranquilizing equipment took place and it was under the able guidance of Dr. Woodforth, a highly experienced veterinarian from USA and Dr. J.F. Sales from England, as well as visiting professors to the institute, CCB&SM. Prior to our start to Kaziranga, we were showered with an abundance of modern knowledge of the effective use and handling of the equipment on one side, and the ethology and anatomy of the animal and its pre and post behavioural changes during and after the operation.

A trip to the Kaziranga requires a little more logistical planning than usual. This was my thought when, bags packed and camera equipment double checked, we finally boarded our train bound to Calcutta. After a brief halt we boarded another train in the evening bound to New Bongaigaon (820 kms) and arrived at 8 A.M after travelling over 15 hours. The Institute's two drivers, Govind and Pasha were ready with the Land Rovers driven from Hyderabad. We headed to the Guwahati after lunch and took a good part of a day to get there. The scenery *en route*, especially after getting past the outskirts, is simply breathtaking. Though the distance between New Bongaigaon and Guwahati is only 187 kms, it took about four hours due to rugged and potholed

roads spoiled during rains and floods. On arrival at Kaziranga, we were welcomed and first greeted by the Park Ranger Sonlowal and his dedicated team. After a detailed briefing about the park and its settings, we were taken around the park to get acquainted with the topography, ecology and the site of translocation operation.

About Kaziranga: Declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1985, the park offers excellent wildlife viewing over 430 sq.kms of land and contains over two thirds of the world's population of Indian one-horned rhinoceros then. Located on the edge of the Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspot, Kaziranga Wildlife sanctuary coalesces of high species diversity with great visibility. Considered by many to be, a bastion of biodiversity, Kaziranga National Park is situated in the flat plains and shallow swamplands that border the mighty Brahmaputra floodplain and is a mosaic of dense tropical moist broadleaf forests, vast expanse of tall elephant grass, riparian areas criss-crossed by four major rivers and marshland-wetlands etc. Scenically picturesque. Each year, the Brahmaputra river floods during the monsoon, inundating the state of Assam. In fact, it has shaped the ecosystems. Hundreds of years of flooding, siltation, and erosion have defined the Kaziranga National Park as forest-wedged riverine grassland and predominantly shaped the culture and socio-economic matrix of thousands of native inhabitants.

In the floodplains of the Brahmaputra, where the grass grows tall to hide predator and prey, every sound in the landscape has a tale to tell; Here, life and death is often decided in split seconds. While the park itself is in a low-lying area, wild animals need to move to higher ground. The adjoining and higher Karbi Anglong hills are a traditional dispersal and sheltering area during floods. Most of these animals are slain by the poachers for its horn when they had gone astray into the vulnerable locations and disappear into the oblivion

Operation Rhino: Strayed rhinoceros were visually identified in the grasslands outside the sanctuary and were kept in observance by armed patrolling teams riding elephants. Despite a close watch by these teams, many times these pachyderms were hunted, and their horns cut and stolen; the corpse abandoned.

On our first morning we were taken to the Elephant camp where the Park Ranger, Mr. Sonlowala was waiting with his team clad in camouflage uniform while Dr. Woodforth and Dr. Sales were in their desert khakis. Others were in sweaters to merge into the green background. I was in a green forest college blazer with a beret. We all boarded the elephant howdahs when the elephants assumed their squat positions. Even though we felt a little nervous while climbing on and settling in the huge seat, later we felt very confident and comfortable. The wobbling walk of the elephant was a strange experience as we passed through a small stretch of grassland with heavy greenery of shrubs and trees. It was a great and unique experience being a part of the team on the capturing mission. The mahout was kind enough to take our photographs. I noticed he was communicating with the elephants in his own special way.

Operation Unicorn

Chemical Capturing the Rhino:

It was 1979 and this was the first 'Chemical Capture' of large wild animals ever done in India and certainly never done on free ranging or strayed rhinos in Assam adjoining unprotected habitats around Kaziranga. Prior to the 1980s there was no availability of dart-gun equipment and drugs in India. Hence various physical capture methods were adopted resulting in capture stress, injuries, fractures, and were even responsible for the death of a few animals during and after the operation. We had seen the capture of elephants by 'khedda' operations during our training where sizeable pits were dug across the an-



Dr. Woodforth Slowly approaching the Tranquilized Rhinoceros while Dr. JB Sales arms keeping on waist relaxing after a miraculous escape from the death clutch.

imal paths. These pits were nicely camouflaged with branches and leaves and the elephants were made to move along the paths, tread on the concealed pit and fall into it.

Chemical capturing technology was found to be the safest means of capture. Chemical immobilization facilitates the veterinarians ability to attend to clinical diagnosis, surgery and translocation of captured wild animals. We had elaborate theoretical lectures at the Institute and were exposed to hands-on real-time experience in handling the equipment, dosages, and pre and post-operative care, as well as appropriate strategies to deal with unexpected exigencies.

Drugs used to tranquilise and immobilise wild animals vary from species to species. These drugs and their combinations act at various sites within the brain to produce tranquilisation, sedation, analgesia, and anaesthesia. The chemical immobilisation varies depending on factors such as drug molecular size, pH and ionic change, route of administration,



Transporting of Sedated Rhinoceros partly by Elephant Draging and partly by a Tractor through the grasslands of Assam.



tissue change and leakage, amount of drug per body weight (dosage) and other variables such as the species of animal, age, sex, season, time of day, animal behaviour and pathological conditions. Professor Woodforth transferred his knowledge of the above subjects both at the Institute and in the field.

We were also taught about the most useful and safest dosage which rapidly immobilises an animal without causing adverse effects. He stressed that the immobilising agent should be reversible and rapidly eliminated. Preliminary learning through live demonstration was carried out at Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad and a few immobilization pistol dartings were done using immobilisation drugs on a few species of carnivores and the herbivores. The most common drugs we used were Immobilon,

Etorphine, Xylazine, Ketamine, Telezol, and Medetomidine.

Following intramuscular injection the first signs of the drugs' effects were seen within five (5) minutes and the impact lasts for a few hours. The action of Etorphine might be reversed through competitive antagonism by the morphine antagonists like Diprenorphine (Revivon) M-50.

To move just one rhino is an enormous operation by itself. Not only did we need specialist vets, handlers and trackers, but we also needed heavy-duty vehicles and drivers. In addition to all the regular 4x4 vehicles, several flatbed trucks were made available to move on dirt roads and through the bushes. All these precautions were provided by the Assam State Forest Department and the necessary human and material infrastructure was at hand. Large wooden crates were constructed to release the animal without stress and anger after administering the revivon.

Luckily I got berth on the same elephant where Dr. Woodforth had mounted. He worked in African safaris and had enormous working experience capturing and translocating large mammals like elephants and rhinos. I had volunteered to carry the equipment, so that I could be very close to him to observe the way he dealt with the operation.

He pulled out the box containing various lengths and diameters of syringes fitted with needles of different gauges. He picked up the 25-gauge long needle and fitted the syringe for the operation. He explained his choice of selection based on the drug to be administered in a timely manner while also considering the penetration through tough armour-like folded skin having subcutaneous tissues and thick cutaneous muscles that act as a thermo-regulator.

Based on his capturing experiences administering the right dosages to the African rhinoceros, Dr. Woodforth confidently asked me to

load the syringe of Etorphine 2.45mg, calculated on the assumed weight of 700-1000 kgs. We were trained in the pharmacology of certain drugs like Etorphine Hydrochloride (M-99), a synthetic morphine-related derivative. It is a potent analgesic and narcotic. In ungulates it produces excitation followed by analgesia, alleviation of the feeling of fear, loss of aggressiveness, depression of respiration, stiffness in muscles of neck and limbs, inhibition of gastro-intestinal and ruminal motility and lowering of the body temperature. At low doses animals remain on their feet but ataxia and a certain amount of excitement dominates the condition. Injected animals walk away with a typical mincing gait. At higher doses animals rest in a cataleptic state or lay down in sternal recumbence. Excitements are covered by deep analgesia of the reflexes. Consciousness is depressed but not totally lost.

The first Chemical Capturing and Translocation in India of an Asiatic One-horned Rhinoceros outside the Kaziranga Landscape.

After getting the okay signal from us, mahout got on the elephant's back by holding both the ears, running fast over its trunk while the elephant lifted him onto the back of its neck. He gave the elephant verbal commands, barefoot nudges, kicks to the back of the ears and occasional jabs, and took us to the open grassland where a 'crash' of strayed rhinos were grazing unmindful of our presence. We moved through tall elephant grasses to select one animal for darting from a comfortable place, and from where the darted animal would have abundant space to run off before it got sedated.

Suddenly to our shock, the elephant went amok. Unexpectedly it stood on hind limbs, erected its tail horizontally and with a violent trumpeting roar the elephant turned fast and retreated. Then we saw what had made the elephant so nervous. There was a tiger in the tall grass in a charging mood ready to jump. I was literally drained of my energy. My heart was pounding fast. Couldn't catch my breath. Felt

ANIMAL KEPT ON SLEDGE



Seen in the picture are (Right to Left) administering post-operative care

Dr K.Thulsi Rao (in Blazer & Beret), 2) Chakravarty from Nagaland (standing 1); (3). Mohammed from Kerala; (5). Biswas from W. Bengal, Chowdhury from Gujarat (7). Late K. Varaprasd in Blazer & Beret and JB Sales at his back, 7. Pradhan from Bhutan near the elephant.

consumed by fear and thought of dying and did not know what I was doing. Everything was happening on its own without my knowledge. And in a split second I realized we were safe hanging upright clinging to the protective crossbars of the howdah. We were hardly a few feet up over the ground and could have been the tiger's easy prey; but for its magnanimity, we survived. Mahout brought the elephant under control and mounted its back again. Meanwhile Dr. Woodforth, after collecting the strewn gadgets, got up on the elephant again with the tool box. I looked into his eyes. With a sly smile and flashing eyes, he looked at me as if nothing had happened. There was no sign of fear or relief; for him, it was routine business. I learned a great lesson from my teacher in the field, and still, his picture flashes in mind often as to how one should be in such situations.

Now we were after our targeted animal. Dr. Woodforth aimed at a junction point where armour plate meets the leg muscle and darted on its right flank shoulder point from a safe distance of 150 meters from our elephant mount, correctly judging the projectile curvature (path) allowance. What a wonderful judgement! The projectile loaded with tranquilizer struck exactly at the right point as seen in the (photo 1). We were cautioned not to dismount for a few minutes until the animal was totally sedated. We waited for five minutes and slowly got down and approached the animal from its back. Dr. Woodforth twisted its tail to test whether it was fully sedated. Upon twisting the tail, the animal got up on all four stumpy legs and furiously started chasing us. The elephants retreated with trumpeting sounds leaving us in the battle field unarmed. Unfortunately Dr. J.B. Sales, who was holding the tranquilizing gun,

moved to the front of the animal and became its target. We all were running helter-skelter to save our lives. Meanwhile the drivers of our two land rovers sensed the danger, drove fast towards the operation team and picked up every one of us except Dr. J.B Sales who was still running for his life and about to be pierced by the rhino with its horn, hardly a few centimetres away. There in the middle of the battle field, we prayed for a miracle to happen. Some of us closed our eyes not to see the stabbing. As if our collective prayers were heard by the Almighty, one of the rhino's forelimbs landed in a small pothole ditch of not more than a few centimetres depth. The wobbling rhino fell on its front limbs and Dr. J.B. Sales miraculously and unbelievably escaped the clutch of death. Perhaps by that time the animal was totally tranquilized. The dosage administered was normally sufficient for its weight. We all mounted back on the elephants and darted it again with the same dosage of 2.45 mg Etorphine. Now we took a fairly good time to approach the animal and very cautiously twisted the tail. This time the animal was fully sedated. The necessary health check-ups were done by the local veterinarians under Dr. Woodforth's supervision.

Meanwhile a large sledge was brought and the animal was slowly rolled onto one side of its body. Since the terrain was undulating grassland the sledge was dragged for some distance by the trained elephant and then by a tractor which finally loaded the rhino onto an open bodied lorry. After reaching the destination at Kaziranga Dr.Woodforth administered the 'revivon' cautiously through the animal's ear blood vessel. Dr. Woodforth remained alert keeping one leg outside the cage for his safety as the chemical acts fast. As anticipated, the animal got up aggressively and tried to break open the wooden cage. He beat his head and horn against the sides of the strong but narrow cage. Using his body as a

wrecking ball, it succeeded partially in cracking two of its cross bars. A decision was taken to winch up the lifting door to release the rhino into the crawl to avoid fatal injuries. It ran fast down the ramp, hit against the stout hay wrapped wooden crawl posts many times and continued until it tired and got adjusted. The operation continued for a week until we captured four more. Thus the 'Operation Unicorn' was successfully handled and I benefited greatly from the significant experience. An unforgettable memory, it still flashes in mind quite often. It taught me many lessons to meet the professional challenges in my future.

A few of us could have been killed in the operation, but for the shrewd and timely action of our drivers whose services were well appreciated!

Perhaps this operational knowledge helped me to successfully handle many such adventurous operations like "Physical Capture and Translocation of 6000 Blackbuck", with the least mortality, to a distance of 350 Kms. It was a first of its kind in the world successfully handling a highly sensitive animal using ingenious technique. Will be discussed in next series.

Acknowledgements: My thanks to Dr Woodforth and Dr J.B.Sales for extending their teachings and guidance both in-house and in-situ knowledge and experiences. I also acknowledge the cooperation received from my friends and batchmates Ajay Pillarseth, Late B.Varaprasad, Biswas, Chowdhury, Chakravarty. My sincere thanks are due to Dr Al and Davy Davidson (Shakthi) for their comments and editing of the of the draft. Also acknowledge my thanks to my friends V. Hariprasad and Thayyab ji, Editor, VanaPremi for their constant persuasion to write this article.

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Analysis of wild tree diversity in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

Dr N. Chandra Mohan Reddy, I.F.S. (Retd.)

Floristic studies on wild plants with a conservation perspective is critical in the current scenario of climate change. Trees are the dominant constituents of tropical forest ecosystems. An attempt has been made here to summarise the diversity of the wild trees of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states in respect of their endemism, rarity and economic importance. (Large shrubs which often grow into small trees are also considered as trees).

The forests of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana belong to five major forest type groups (Champion & Seth, 1968) viz. Tropical moist deciduous forests, Tropical dry deciduous forests, Tropical thorn forests, Tropical dry evergreen forests and Littoral and swamp forests.

Many plant taxonomists and foresters have documented the tree wealth of this region through floras, floristic inventories, research papers and field guides. Based on the literature and also as observed during the floristic explorations made by the author since 1987, some of the major features of the wild tree flora of this region is being presented for the information of the forest officers.

FLORISTIC ANALYSIS

- There are about 386 tree taxa (in 66 families) recorded for the region as per the recent inventories and publications.
- The zone with maximum tree diversity is north eastern region comprising of Visakhapatnam, East Godavari and Bhadradi Kothagudem districts.
- The genus with largest number of tree species is *Ficus* (25 species) followed by *Diospyros* (9 species) and *Grewia* (9 species).
- The family with maximum number of tree taxa is FABACEAE (41 species) followed by MORACEAE (30 species) and RUBIACEAE (28 species).
- 139 genera are represented by single tree species.
- Out of the total 66 families, 18 families have single tree species.
 1. BIXACEAE (*Cochlospermum religiosum*)
 2. CYATHEACEAE (*Cyathea gigantea*)
 3. ERYTHROXYLACEAE (*Erythroxylum monogynum*)
 4. HERNANDIACEAE (*Gyrocarpus americanus*)
 5. MAGNOLIACEAE (*Magnolia champaca*)
 6. MORINGACEAE (*Moringa concanensis*)
 7. PANDANACEAE (*Pandanus odorifer*)
 8. PITTOSPORACEAE (*Pittosporum napaulense*)
 9. ROSACEAE (*Prunus ceylanica*)
 10. SABIACEAE (*Meliosma pinnata*)
 11. SALVADORACEAE (*Salvadora persica*)
 12. SANTALACEAE (*Santalum album*)
 13. SOLANACEAE (*Solanum erianthum*)
 14. ULMACEAE (*Holoptelea integrifolia*)
 15. URTICACEAE (*Debregeasia longifolia*)
 16. VITACEAE (*Leea indica*)
 17. XIMENIACEAE (*Ximenia americana*)
 18. ZYGOPHYLLACEAE (*Balanites aegyptiaca*)
- Out of the estimated 386 tree taxa, 50 are endemic to peninsular India occurring in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states.

1. *Actinodaphne madraspatana*
2. *Albizia thompsonii*
3. *Alphonsea madraspatana*
4. *Alphonsea sclerocarpa*
5. *Alstonia venenata*
6. *Atalantia racemosa*
7. *Benkara malabarica*
8. *Boswellia ovalifoliolata*
9. *Commiphora caudata*
10. *Cordia domestica*
11. *Croton scabiosus*
12. *Cycas beddomei*
13. *Cycas seshachalamensis*
14. *Cycas sphaerica*
15. *Deccania pubescens* var. *candolleana*
16. *Dillenia bracteata*
17. *Dimorphocalyx kurnoolensis*
18. *Dimorphocalyx glabellus*
19. *Diospyros ovalifolia*
20. *Dolichandrone atrovirens*
21. *Drypetes sepiaria*
22. *Epiprinus mallotiformis*
23. *Eriolaena hookeriana*
24. *Eriolaena lushingtonii*
25. *Eriolaena quinquelocularis*
26. *Euphorbia tortilis*
27. *Ficus dalhousiae*
28. *Gardenia gummifera*
29. *Glochidion talakonense*
30. *Hibiscus platanifolius*
31. *Hildegardia populifolia*
32. *Isonandra villosa*
33. *Lasiococca comberi*
34. *Maerua apetala*
35. *Manilkara roxburghiana*
36. *Memecylon grande*
37. *Memecylon lushingtonii*
38. *Neonauclea purpurea*
39. *Nothopegia heyneana*
40. *Ochna gamblei*
41. *Persea macrantha*

42. *Phoebe wightii*
43. *Phyllanthus indofischeri*
44. *Phyllanthus polyphyllus*
45. *Pterocarpus santalinus*
46. *Shorea tumbuggaia*
47. *Syzygium alternifolium*
48. *Terminalia pallida*
49. *Wendlandia thyrsoides*
50. *Wrightia indica*

- There are 23 Rare, Endangered and Threatened (RET) tree species as per the IUCN Red List.

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR)

1. *Hildegardia populifolia*

Endangered (EN)

1. *Cycas beddomei*
2. *Isonandra villosa*
3. *Prunus ceylanica*
4. *Pterocarpus santalinus*
5. *Shorea tumbuggaia*
6. *Syzygium alternifolium*

Near threatened (NT)

1. *Aegle marmelos*
2. *Albizia thompsonii*
3. *Ceriops decandra*
4. *Nothopegia heyneana*
5. *Pterocarpus marsupium*

Vulnerable (VU)

1. *Boswellia ovalifoliolata*
2. *Chloroxylon swietenia*
3. *Cleistanthus collinus*
4. *Dalbergia latifolia*
5. *Eriolaena lushingtonii*
6. *Memecylon grande*
7. *Phyllanthus indo-fischeri*
8. *Psydrax dicoccos*
9. *Santalum album*
10. *Shorea roxburghii*
11. *Terminalia pallida*

TAXONOMIC ANALYSIS

- All the tree species of the region are angiosperms excepting the three species of Gymnosperms (*Cycas* species) and one species of Pteridophyte (*Cyathea gigantea*).
- Out of the 66 families, four are monocot families viz. ARECACEAE, MUSACEAE, PANDANACEAE and POACEAE (with a total 9 monocot tree species)

GOODS AND SERVICES FROM FOREST TREES

Forest trees play a significant role in providing ecological functions in multiple ways and stabilise the ecosystems they exist in and play an integral part in the carbon cycle and climate regulation. Besides these intangible benefits the trees offer, there are various goods which include timber, fuel wood, fodder and non-wood forest products (such as fibres, gums, resins, edible products, oils, medicines, dyes, tannins and fodder) which are measurable and directly used by the people and cattle. Trees also provide cultural services – which satisfy human spiritual, religious and aesthetic requirements. Some of these categories with tree species are listed here.

Tree species used for timber value

1. *Albizia lebbbeck*
2. *Albizia odoratissima*
3. *Anogeissus latifolia*
4. *Azadirachta indica*
5. *Chloroxylon swietenia*
6. *Chukrasia tabularis*
7. *Dalbergia latifolia*
8. *Dalbergia sissooides*
9. *Desmodium oojainense*
10. *Dillenia indica*
11. *Diospyros ebenum*
12. *Diospyros malabarica*
13. *Gmelina arborea*

14. *Haldina cordifolia*
15. *Hardwickia binata*
16. *Lagerstroemia parviflora*
17. *Mangifera indica*
18. *Melia dubia*
19. *Mesua ferrea*
20. *Mitragyna parvifolia*
21. *Pterocarpus marsupium*
22. *Pterocarpus santalinus*
23. *Santalum album*
24. *Shorea robusta*
25. *Shorea roxburghii*
26. *Soymida febrifuga*
27. *Tectona grandis*
28. *Terminalia elliptica*
29. *Toona ciliata*
30. *Vachellia nilotica*
31. *Xylia xylocarpa*
32. *Zanthoxylum rhetsa*

Trees used in making toys and musical instruments

1. *Artocarpus heterophyllus*
2. *Bambusa bambos*
3. *Carallia brachiata*
4. *Dalbergia latifolia*
5. *Diospyros ebenum*
6. *Gardenia latifolia*
7. *Givotia moluccana*
8. *Gmelina arborea*
9. *Gyrocarpus americanus*
10. *Haldina cordifolia*
11. *Mallotus nudiflorus*
12. *Psydrax dicoccos*
13. *Pterocarpus santalinus*
14. *Schrebera swietenoides*
15. *Thespesia populnea*
16. *Wrightia tinctoria*

(To be Continued.)

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The “Downtrodden”

V.V. Hariprasad

*The Poverty- stricken masses,
Straining their every nerve to eke out their livelihood,
Day in and day out,
Provided with bare minimum even for sustenance,
Having been inflicted with penury,
With no other option except taking up the work of
drudgery,
Have been constituted by us the downtrodden,
Comprising all castes, sects and religions,
From a cross section of the society,
Whereas the unfortunate lots of us hail from
different countries,
Throughout the length and breadth of the world.*

*We are all pervasive in the world,
Right from Albania “Europe’s unpolished diamond”,
Up to Zimbabwe a country with dramatic landscape
and beyond,
And have been living hand to mouth ,
Not only for the last number of decades,
But for the last umpteen number of centuries,
Right from the days of Roman Republic,
Even up till now beyond the period of British Empire.*

*we have been left with the Hobson’s choice,
Of being at the forefront,
To become the victims or scapegoats,
To incur the wrath of the cloudburst,
To get drowned in water of submersible areas,
To forbear the onslaught of drought,
Or to be adversely affected with the dwindling
biodiversity,
The above being the outcomes of climate change,
Be it an anthropogenic disaster or a natural one.*

*(The writer of the free verse is a retired DYCF and an Advocate. He can be accessed on vvhp53@gmail.com
with mobile no 7893673767)*



*The rich, the aristocracy and above all,
The unscrupulous rulers,
Owe a great deal to us the clan of under privileged,
Forever and ever and ever,
As we shield them,
From disasters manmade or natural ones,
By putting up with the onslaughts ushered,
And becoming their victims or scapegoats.*

*We constitute the largest labour force and ,
We are part and parcel of the marginalized.
Though we are forced to call a spade a spade,
Our lives are of little consequence and,
We bear the brunt of any force or a calamity,
Thrust on us either by anti social elements,
Or by a natural havoc.
But alas for the last thousands of years,
we have been the neglected and ignored lot,
Having been looked down upon,
By countries throughout the world.
Undaunted We look forward,
For the arrival of a political colossus,
Being a force with indomitable spirit,
To come to our rescue,
One day or the other,
Behind whom we shall stand as solid as a rock,
Come what may.*

Real Life Experiences-1

Three IFS Officers and One Range Officer: Seeking Role Clarity

Dr. Kota Tirupataiah, IFS (R)



The year was 1988. I was in my on-Job Training (OJT) as in-charge Range Officer of Velugodu in Atmakur Forest Division. I thought I was learning the ropes alright until one mid-night when the DFO Atmakur dropped in and woke me up. He narrated that as per information given to him, a lorry went out of Velugode Range with a full load of Teak. He asked, "Do you know this?"

I explained the whole incident. Around lunch time on that day, FRO of FSP passed by the Range HQs with a lorry. He inquired about and took one Forest Guard of the Range with him in to the Forest. After 4-5 hours, just after sun set, the lorry loaded with rough sized Teak wood returned back on the same Central Nallamala Road (CN Road), dropped the Forest Guard at the Range complex entrance and sped away. I further explained that I called the Forest Guard and asked him to explain the whole issue. He narrated that the FSP FRO called for him and made him get in to the lorry and took him in to the forest. The Guard had no time to inform me. The lorry was taken straight to a pin-point place where rough-sized Teak wood was lying. Some sort of investigation seemed to have done and the labor that was brought with the lorry loaded the Teak wood. Then they returned back via the Range HQs. The Guard, when asked why the lorry wasn't brought in to the Range Office premises,

told that he suggested that to the FRO FSP and the latter didn't feel it necessary.

Together The DFO Atmakur and myself called for the Guard in the middle of the night and asked him about the direction in which the lorry went and details thereof. Based on those clues we followed the Atmakur-Nandyal Road right in to Nandyal town. Having lost track within the town, we went to the residence of DFO Nandyal, woke him up and explained the whole thing. The DFO Nandyal with the help of his staff helped in tracing the lorry to a timber depot opposite to a hotel. The material in the lorry was checked and confirmed as Teak wood and the wood had hammer marks. It was early morning already. Having traced the lorry with the Teak Wood and having ensured that the FRO FSP is sleeping in the hotel, the three officers retired for the day. The questions that arose in my mind through the incident were: a) whether the FRO FSP was right in doing what he did? b) Was the territorial Forest Guard guilty of not informing the Territorial Range Officer before going with the FRO FSP? C) Should I have posted a team on the vigil to stop the lorry once it comes out of forest? The points were placed before the CF the next morning and he promised to look into them.

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"I know all those words, but that sentence makes no sense to me."

- Matt Groening



Rescue and Rehabilitation of Alexandrine Parakeets

(A success story in Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam, AP.)

Dr G. Ramalingam, IFS.,

Since its inception, Indira Gandhi Zoological has played a significant role in rescuing and rehabilitating wild animals in north coastal Andhra Pradesh. In recent years many animals and birds were rescued and rehabilitated successfully by the IGZP staff. A very successful activity was rearing 214 Alexandrine Parakeets and rehabilitating them in their natural habitat.

RESCUE

In an attempt to smuggle more than 200 individuals of newborn Alexandrine Parakeets (*Psittacula eupatria*) by a gang of smugglers was foiled by the Police near the Palakonda area Srikakulam District and handed over them to the Forest Department (Forest Range Officer, Palakonda).

The forest officials registered a case against them under Sections 9, 51, and 58 of the Wild Life Protection Act. They produced them before the Judicial Magistrate's First Class Court at Amadalavalasa, which remanded them to a sub-jail. About six parakeets out of 232 died due to suffocation as they were packed in gunny bags. The Parakeets rescued from the clutches of smugglers were shifted and lodged at the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam, on the orders of the Judicial 1st Class Magistrate, Amadalavalasa, dt.31-01-2013, for veterinary care and better captive facility till they attain the age of self-feeding and ability to fly swiftly.

The birds present locally along the river basins of Vamsadhara, Nagavali, Bahuda etc., were illegally collected and packed in thatched baskets. These birds trampled and suffocated a lot were handed over to the zoo on 01-02-2013. They were counted

and made into five groups based on plumage, age and size.

Group	No of birds	Age of birds	Remarks
1	43 Nos	5-7 days	The age was estimated based on the size of the bird and plumage
2	58 Nos	7-14 days	
3	27 Nos	14-21 days	
4	43 Nos	21-28 days	
5	43 Nos	28-34 days	

The condition of chicks was very pathetic, and they were weak; most of them were exhausted as they were closed in small bamboo baskets.

The details of chicks are furnished below:

- One two-week-old chick was having fractured right hind leg.
- Most of the chicks were weak and exhausted, under severe stress.
- Majority of chicks were severely dehydrated.

All the birds were kept at Quarantine Centre in different groups as per age and health condition.

REARING

The chicks were reared very carefully by the advice and involvement of experts by the Zoo staff with utmost care. The following prophylactic and treatment measures and feeding schedule were followed: Disinfection by clearing the floor (housing room) with Khorsoline solution 1 ml/10 Litre water.

- Kept foot dipping baths (foot baths) at the entry of the chick-rearing room.
- Restriction of personnel inside the chick-rearing room to avoid contamination and also human



Alexandrine Parakeets rescued from smugglers

- Imprint on birds which will otherwise affect birds during the post release period.
- Parasitological examination of faecal droppings for parasites, if any, and future de-worming by the chicks.
- Temperature regulation by keeping Brooder lamps (2 Nos) & Room heater (2 Nos) as birds are warm-blooded and were more body temperature ranging from 40 – 42°C for normal chick development and regular functioning of the body. It was also helpful in reducing the cold stress of the winter season and shock due to trampling in small boxes and long transport.
- Humidity was kept in the ambient room, and the total room was kept dry and clean.
- The floor of the rearing room was covered with gunny bags to warm them and for easy cleaning.
- The entire room was sterilized before keeping chicks in it.
- Feeding schedule 3-5 times per day with syringes without needles (most of them are very young and unable to feed independently).

FEEDING

The young chicks were fed with Cerelac mixture



Different age group birds found when rescued

– Wheat & Milk powder (Semi liquid food). Later on, after 10-15 days, substituted by a combination of wheat, corn (maize), cereals (Jowar, Ragi and Sorghum), pulses-Green gram. Older birds were fed by fruits like Papaya, Guava, Grape, Pomegranate, etc. and groundnuts.

MEDICINES USED

- Enzyme preparation - Neopeptone, Digyton, B-Complex mixture, Vitamin and Minerals with amino acids.
- Shellcal for Calcium supplementation.
- Feed additives and Antibiotics like Oxytetracycline (chicks are easily susceptible to viral & bacterial infection).

FEEDING OF CHICKS AND SUB-ADULT BIRDS WITH SYRINGES (NEEDLELESS)

As the parakeets are highly vulnerable to viral and bacterial infections, they are given semi-liquid food with syringes minus the needles and vaccinated as per experts' suggestion. Protein substances are also given after quarantining them in the in-patient ward of the zoo.

The cute-looking parakeets, considered most sought after worldwide for being kept as pets, have a life expectancy of 15 to 30 years. They like to be

Very young chicks of 7 to 10 days old



touched and stroked and love to play with water. They eat fruits, nuts, vegetables and greens.

TALKING ABILITY

A pair of Alexandria Parakeets fetch somewhere Rs.20,000 to Rs.30,000 abroad, whereas it is available for a few hundred rupees in the local market. They are smuggled out of Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. They are highly sensitive and known for developing talking ability. They are the largest species among all parakeets.

BREEDING TIME

They breed from November- April. Generally,

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two to four eggs are laid, and the incubation period is 28 days. After meticulous care and feeding them protein substances through a syringe, the rescued parakeets kept at a quarantined zoo room here gained enough strength to feed on their own. Some of them can fly. The court in Srikakulam, which directed their nursing in the zoo, permits them to release into the wild.

REHABILITATION

Rehabilitation of birds in natural forest area- All birds (214 Nos.) were rehabilitated in Kambalakonda Reserve Forest and Wildlife Sanctuary in a span of 3-4 months.

Thadoba Andhari National Park / Tiger Reserve

V. Santhaseela Babu



During November 2021, the Forest Fraternity in India learnt with profound grief a tragic incident of killing a 46-year-old lady Forest Guard Mrs Swati N. Dhumane by a Tigress identified as "MAYA", aged about 1tenyears (T-12) on 20th November in the core zone of 'Thadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve' located in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State. Forest Guard Smt. Swati N Dhumane, of Kolara beat, along with three helpers, had started a sign survey at 7 AM as a part of the All India Tiger Estimation(AITE) 2022 exercise. Sign survey is a process of jotting down the records of signs that show the presence of a Tiger like pugmarks, scat and scratch marks on trees etc. It was the first day of the survey. After walking four km. from Kolara gate to compartment number 97, they noticed a Tigress 200 metres away. They tried to take a detour through the thick patch of forest to get past the Tigress. The Tigress, after noticing their movement, followed and attacked Swati, who was right behind her helpers. The Tigress dragged her inside the forest. The body was immediately located with the help of the forest staff and taken for post mortem to Chimur Government Hospital. Mrs Swati Dhumane hails from the adjoining Gadchiroli District and is survived by her husband and a four-year-old daughter; and she joined the Forest Department in 2011. The Government of Maharashtra has announced an ex-gratia of Rs.15.00 Lks to the bereaved family members, and the Forest Department had sanctioned an amount of Rs.5.00 Lks. The husband of the Forest Guard is provided with a private job tentatively and will be absorbed as a Forest Guard in the Department.

Against this backdrop, I thought of sharing the details of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve for our readers of Vana Premi. The Tigress' Maya' has a history of killing forest labour in 2017 and a woman in 2020.

The "Tadoba National Park" is Maharashtra's oldest and largest National Park, also known as the "Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve". It is one of the 47 Project Tiger Reserves existing in India. It lies in the Chandrapur district of Maharashtra state and is approximately 150 km. from Nagpur city. The total area of the Tiger Reserve is 1,727 Sq.km, which includes the Tadoba National Park, created in the year 1955. The Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary was formed in 1986 and was merged with the Park in 1995 to establish the present Tadoba Andheri Tiger Reserve. The word 'Tadoba' is derived from the name of local Diety "Tadoba" or "Taru," which is praised by local tribal people of this region. As per the local legend, Taru was a village chief killed in a mythological encounter with a Tiger. Taru was deified (Sanctified), and a shrine dedicated to Taru now exists beneath a large tree on the banks of Tadoba Lake. The temple is frequented by Adivasis, especially during a fair held annually in the Hindu month of Pausa (December-January). "Andhari" is derived from the name of the Andhari river that flows in this area. As of August 2016, there were 88 Tigers in the Reserve and 58 in the forests immediately outside the Reserve. As per a news item published in Times of India it. 19-05-2020, there were 115 Tigers and 151 Leopards as per the report on "Status of Tigers and Co-Predators and Prey in TATR" released jointly by Maharashtra Forest Department and Wildlife Institute of India (WII).

The Tadoba National Park is divided into three forest ranges, i.e. Tadoba north range, Kolsa south range, and Morhurli range. There are two lakes and one river in the Park, which gets filled every monsoon, the 'Tadoba Lake,' 'Kolsa Lake,' and 'Tadoba River.' These lakes and rivers provide vital ingredients needed to sustain the Park's life. On the Southwest lies the 120 ha. Tadoba Lake acts as a buffer between the Park's forest and the extensive farmland which extends up to the Irai water reservoir. This lake is a perennial water source that offers a suitable habitat for Muggler Crocodiles to thrive. Other wetland areas within the Reserve include Kolsa Lake and the Andhari River. Tadoba Reserve covers the Chimur Hills, and the Andhari Sanctuary covers the Moharli and Kolsa ranges. It is bounded on the northern and western sides by densely forested hills. Thick forests are relieved by smooth meadows and deep valleys as the terrain slopes north to south. Cliffs, Talus, and Caves provide refuge for several animals.

The winter season is from November to February, and the temperatures range between 25° to 30° C. The Park presents a lush green appearance during this period. Whereas summers are too hot with temperatures ranging up to 47° C., Summer is the best period to visit the Park as the vegetation does not obstruct the vision and the animals throng at the water points to quench their thirst. The rainy season starts during June, and this area receives heavy rainfall up to 1300mm. The climate also will be humid, with the humidity reaching around 70%. During the rainy season, the Tadoba Reserve is closed between July to September for the entry of visitors.

Tadoba Reserve is a predominantly southern tropical dry deciduous forest with dense woodlands comprising about eighty-seven percent of the protected area. Teak is the predominant tree species. Other deciduous trees found in this area include *Terminalia*

elliptica, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Adina cordifolia*, *Boswellia serrata*, *Bombax ceiba*, *Diospyros melanoxylon*. *Terminalia bellerica*, *Terminalia chebula*, *Sterculia urens*, *Madhuca latifolia*, *Butea monosperma*, *Lannea coromandalica*, *Syzigium cumini*, *Terminalia arjuna* etc. Grass patches are found throughout the Reserve. Bamboo thickets also grow throughout the Reserve in abundance. The climber *Mucuna puriens* (velvet bean) is a medicinal plant to treat Parkinson's disease. The leaves of *Chloroxylon sweitenia* are used as an insect repellent and *Pterocarpus marsupium* as a medicinal gum. *Terminalia bellerica* is also an important medicinal plant found here.

The list of animals includes Tigers, Indian leopards, Sloth bears, Gaur, Nilgai, Dhole, Striped Hyena, Small Indian Civet, Jungle Cats, Sambar, Spotted Deer, Barking Deer, Chital, Marsh Crocodile, Indian Python, Indian Cobra, Russel's Wiper, Common Indian Monitor, Terrapins, Indian Star Tortoises. The lake contains a wide variety of water birds and Raptors. 195 species of birds have been recorded, including three endangered species, The Grey-headed Fish Eagle, the Crested Serpent Eagle, and the Changeable Hawk-eagle. Other bird species found in the Reserve include the orange-headed thrush, Indian Pitta, Crested Treeswift, Stone Curlew, Crested honey Buzzard, Paradise Flycatcher, Bronze-winged Jacana, Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker, various Warblers, black-napped Blue Flycatcher and the Indian Peafowl.

74 species of Butterflies were recorded, including Pansies, Monarchs, M and Swordtails. Insect species include the endangered Danaid egg-fly and Great egg-fly. Dragonflies, Stick insects, jewel beetles and the praying mantis are other insects in the Reserve. The signature Spider, Giant Wood Spider and Redwood Spiders are often seen during the monsoon and soon after. Hunting

spiders like the Wolf Spiders, Crab Spiders and Lynx Spiders are common.

A black Panther was spotted in May 2018. The officials say it is rare since black Panthers usually live in evergreen forests and not in dry deciduous forests like Tadoba Tiger Reserve.

The Park is open for visitors from 15th October to 30th June every season and remains full-day closed every Tuesday.

Safari Information: The Safari in Tadoba Tiger Reserve will allow exploring the rich Wildlife of the Park and spot the animals like Tiger, Leopard, Wild dogs, Sloth bear, etc. Three zones in the Reserve give access to the Jeep Safari, namely Moharli (Mohurli) Zone, Tadoba Zone, and Kolsa Zone. The timings of the Jeep Safari for the winter and summer are as follows:

1st October to 30th November: In the morning, the entry time is 6 AM to 8 AM, and the exit time is 10 AM. In the afternoon, the entry time is 2-30 to 4 PM, and the exit time is 6-30PM.

1st December to 28th/29th February: In the morning, the entry time is 6-30AM to 8-30AM, and the exit time is 11 AM. In the afternoon, the entry time is 2 PM to 3-30PM, and the exit time is 6 PM.

1st March to 30th April: In the morning, the entry time is 5-30AM to 7-30AM, and the exit time is 10 AM. In the afternoon, the entry time is 3 PM to 4-30PM, and the exit time is 6-30PM.

1st May to 30th June: In the morning, the entry time is 5 AM to 7 AM, and the exit time is 9-30AM. In the afternoon, the entry time is 3-30PM to 5 PM, and the exit time is 7 PM.

Safari Zones in Tadoba: The Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve is one of India's finest places to see the Royal Bengal Tigers. It can be explored through

Jeep Safari, also known as "Tiger Safari", which offers a comprehensive view of the habitat and a chance to see Tigers and other animals in the wild. The Reserve is divided into three zones, each having different access gates:

Moharli (Mohurli) Zone: This zone is known for the best Tiger spotting and is famous for offering good accommodation facilities to tourists. The Moharli Gate is easily accessible from the other two zones of Tadoba, namely Tadoba Zone and Kolsa Zone.

Tadoba Zone: The Tadoba Zone is famous for offering diverse Wildlife and scenic locations to tourists. It is also accessible from four gates at Moharli, Navegaon, Kolara, and Khutwanda.

Kolsa Zone: The Kolsa Zone is much liked for its striking forest landscapes as the possibilities of spotting wild animals are relatively lower in this zone. Entry to this zone is possible through Moharli, Pangdi, and Zari gates.

Jeep Safari in Tadoba: The Jeep Safari is the best thing to experience in Tadoba National Park. The open Jeep ride, also known as Tiger Safari, is usually a few hours in the dense Reserve, where the chances of spotting a Tiger and other wild animals are relatively high. The tourists can explore Tadoba Park on open jeeps and view the habitat of wild animals like the Tiger, Leopard, Sloth bear, Wild dogs, Panther, Barking deer, Wolf, and many more.

The Tadoba Administration fixes the Jeep Safari timings in the morning and evening, where the jeeps are allowed for excursion only after the registration with the administration. The entry of the Jeep has to be registered at the Park gate itself, followed by a prescribed charge that has to be paid before making the entry. The Park authority has restricted the total number of jeeps to 36 for the morning and evening

drives, respectively. A Park guide has to accompany the Jeep for security purposes. Also, the tourists can enter the Park by presenting their personal information and identification papers at the gate and the foreigners by showing their passport in original.

The tourists are not allowed to get down the Jeep throughout the safari excursion, which might risk their lives. In addition, they need to follow a set of rules and regulations at the time of Tiger Safari, which the Park guide will explain.

Jeep Safari Booking: To book Jeep Safari in advance, one can visit the DFO Office at Chandrapur District near the Tiger reserve and try spot booking at the Navegoan Gate as no online booking facility is available at the moment. The jeeps can be hired from the local Taxi stands, providing trained drivers.

Entry Gates in Tadoba: There six gates for the Tadoba Tiger Reserve that give access to the wild world consisting of animals like Tigers, Leopards, Sloth bear, Hyena, Jackal, Wild dog, Sambar, Cheetal, Langoons, Nilgai, etc. The movement of tourists inside the Park is not restricted like in other reserves, therefore one can completely enjoy a Jeep Safari all over the Park. Some names of the gates at Tadoba National Park are Moharli Gate, Kuswanda Gate, Kolara Gate, NaveGaon Gate, Pangdi Gate, Zari Gate which are connected to accessed from different road routes.

REACHING TADOBA NATIONAL PARK:

By Air: Tadoba National Park is 140 Km away from Dr

Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport, Nagpur. Regular flights fly from Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai and Kolkata to Nagpur. Hire taxis or cabs from the airport to reach the Park.

By Train: Chandrapur Railway Station is the nearest railhead from the National Park as it is at a distance of 45 Km. Chandrapur railhead is well connected to other major cities like Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Jhansi. Taxis and Buses are available from the railway station to reach the Tadoba Tiger Reserve.

By Road: Tadoba National Park is at the distance of 45 Km from Chandrapur and 32 Km from Chimur. It is also well connected by road with all major cities.

Organized Tour Packages: The following Tour Packages are being organized by M/s Tour My India, C-81C, Sector-8, NOIDA-U.P. – 201301, (Tel: +91-120-4052601–99, Fax: +91-120–4052600) Email: info@indiawildliferesorts.com.

I immensely thank Dr Jitendra S. Ramgaonkar, IFS, Field Director, and Mr Shatanik Bhagwat, DFO, Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, for sharing the beautiful photographs (on page:) of the Wild Animals in TATR for utilization in my article.

My thanks also go to Mr. Vikas Kumar of Chennai (Vikasvics-Global Wildlife and Nature Lovers) for having permitted me to utilize his photographs (on page:) in my article.

(SOURCE: INTERNET &
www.tadobanationalpark.in)

[The Author is a Retired D.F.O. from Andhra Pradesh- Can be reached over Mobile No: 8019722292 and Mail ID; vssbabu@gmail.com]

Answers to the Green Quiz on Page No:

1. Euphorbia milii, 2. Myrr and Frankincense, 3. Invited for Youth Climate Conference 2021, 4. Western Disturbances, 5. Odisha, 6. Sites of Farmers' agitation, 7. Sentient Beings, 8. Eastern Himalayas, 9. Jawad, 10. 29th Jan, 11. National bird Day, 5th Jan, 12. Locusts, 13. Burning of crop stubble or stubble burning, 14. Tornado or Twister, 15. To shift all encroachers (except traditional tribals) from inside forest to fringes.

Rheumatoid Arthritis (R.A.) - II

Dr. N.V. Jayanth Babu



THE FOLLOWING PLANTS ARE BEING USED FOR ORAL ADMINISTRATION, ACT AS PURGATIVES AND ARE VERY MUCH EFFECTIVE IN CURING RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

STEP – I

(Any one of the below indicated formulae can be chosen as per convenience)

1. *Ricinus communis* -Euphorbiaceae- Amudamu (Seeds and roots): 1 kg of fresh and clean roots of castor plants to be collected pounded and to be placed in a stainless steel vessel containing 4 litres of water. To be boiled till to get finally 1 litre of decoction. This is to be filtered and to be transferred to another vessel containing 1 litre of pure castor oil and boiled till to get finally 1 litre of concentrated castor oil. This oil is given to arthritis patients @ 10 ml. mixed in milk or Luke warm water and administered orally in the night, before bed time daily or on alternate days for a period of 40 days. This acts as not only a purgative, but removes and drains out all the deposited salts as well as unwanted wastes from all the bone joints that are causing damage and inflammation. Dosage is to be adjusted depending on the condition of the patient.
2. *Anisomeles malabarica*. (Magabeera/ Magalinga) -JUICE OF LEAVES 5-10ML. : Juice obtained from leaves is to be mixed in boiled milk of she-buffalo, in Luke warm state and made into curds. (The milk of a buffalo given birth to male calf is preferred) The curds thus prepared, to be mixed with rice and eaten in the morning. The vitiated “vaatham” along with all the deposited salts as well as unwanted wastes that are piled up in the body including free radicals causing damage and inflammation of joints due to RA are drained out completely. This process is to be repeated periodically once in a week to achieve positive results.
3. *Moringa tomentosa* (Rubiaceae) Togaru: Strm Bark Powder 10 gms: Stem bark powder is to be mixed in 100 ml of water, boiled to get 60 ml. of decoction and is given orally for relieving vitiated “vaatam” also for draining out toxins from the body.
4. *Euphorbia antiquorum* (Euphorbiaceae) Bontha jemudu: Latex 2-5 drops: Latex is mixed in boiled and Luke warm milk, made into curds and eaten with rice. This act as purgative, acts very much effectively on “Aama-vaatham” (RA) and drains out all the unwanted salts, toxins, free radicals, waste materials deposited in joints and also from the body.
5. *Senna alexandrina* (Caesalpinioideae) Sunamukhi / senna: Leaf power 3-10 gms: Leaf powder is to be mixed in 50 ml of water and given orally at bed time every day or on alternate days for 20 days. This acts not only as a purgative but expels all types of toxins, free radicals, “vaatham” present in arthritis patients.

Plants that Strengthen Kidneys and help in excretion of nitrogenous waste materials, unwanted salts, and free radicals generated in R.A. patients –

STEP - II

1. Boerhavia diffusa (Nyctaginaceae) Punarnava / tella galijeru: Whole plant powder (2 gms)
2. Abutilanum indicum (Malvaceae) Tutturu benda: Root powder (2 gms)
3. Aervalanata (Amaranthaceae) -Kondapindi: Root Power 2 gms

The indicated powders of these 3 species are to be mixed in 100 ml of water and boiled to get 60 ml decoction and given orally every day, in 3 split doses for 40 days.

Plants used for boosting immunity, preventing and curing R. A. effectively in the early stages

STEP- III

1. Allium sativum (Liliaceae) Garlic / vellulli: Paste of 4 clefts bulbs.
2. Zinziber officinalis (Zinziberaceae) adrak / allam: 1 cm length of rhizome (skin peeled) paste
3. Citrus aurantifolia (Rutaceae) Acid lime / nimma: One fruit juice

These 3 ingredients are to be mixed in 100 ml of water, boiled for 10 minutes, cooled and filtered. This is to be taken early in the morning for 40 days

1. Terminalia chebula (Combretaceae) Karaka:

1gm of dry fruit pulp powder

2. Terminalia bellerica (Combretaceae) Taani: 1 gm of dry fruit pulp powder
3. Phyllanthus emblica (Euphorbiaceae) Usiri: 1 gm of dry fruit pulp powder
4. Tribulus terrestris (Zygophyllaceae) Palleru: 1 gm of dry fruit pulp powder
5. Pedalium murex (Pedaliaceae) Enugapalleru: 1 gm of dry fruit pulp powder
6. Hygrophylla auriculata (Acanthaceae) Neerugobbi: 1 gm of dry fruit pulp powder

The above six species are to be mixed together, made into decoction and taken orally every day for a period of 3 months.

- Green leaves of Nyctanthus (8 nos) are crushed and mixed in 100 ml water. Emblica fruit powder (5 gms) and soaked Trigonella seeds (2 gms seed soaked in water) are also to be added and boiled to get decoction. This is to be taken orally in 3 split doses in a day for 1 month
- Apium graveolens (Apiaceae) Ajamudh, Celery: Juice of leaves (10 ml) is taken orally in the morning and evening for 40 days. Celery Leaves are cooked / fried and eaten as curry.

(To be continued)

(The writer is Retd. Divisional Forest Officer and can be contacted over +91 94402 66618 and email: nagireddy.jayanthbabu@gmail.com)

“Laughter and tears are both responses to frustration and exhaustion. I myself prefer to laugh, since there is less cleaning do to do afterward.”

- Kurt Vonnegut



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.	S.No.	Name of Serving Officers	D.O.B.
Sarva Sri			Sarva Sri		
1.	D.V.Rao	09-01-1931	1.	B. Sundar	20-01-1970
2.	R.D. Reddy	14-01-1938	2.	S. Shantharam	20-01-1980
3.	P. Bhaskar Reddy	21-01-1953	3.	Sachin Gupta	22-01-1988
4.	R.,G. Kalaghatgi	20-01-1953	4.	Dr. P. Subbaraghavaiah	25-01-1961
5.	Dr. Manoranjan Bhanja	22-01-1958	5.	Ramesh Kumar Suman	03-02-1966
6.	H.K. Desai	23-01-1936	6.	I. Prakash	09-01-1977
7.	Dr. K. Tirupathaiah	23-01-1959	7.	C. Vajra Reddy	10-01-1967
8.	V.P. Adinarayana	28-01-1940	8.	V. Srihari Gopal	14-01-1966
9.	P. Gracious	24-01-1949	9.	R. Kondal Rao	15-01-1970
10.	Dr. C.N. Rao	26-01-1938	10.	Ms. D. Samhita	21-01-1988
11.	P. Upender Reddy	05-02-1942	11.	M. Nagarjuna Reddy	30-01-1965
			12.	B.Venkateswara Rao	31-01-1968
			13.	K. Mohan Rao	04-02-1963
			14.	Yalavala VK Shanmukh Kumar	14-01-1993
			15.	Pradeep Kumar Setty S.V.	08-01-1986
					- Secretary



LEGAL NOTES***Prabhagiya Van Adhikari Awadh Prabhag******Vs.******Arun Kumar Bharadwaj (Dead) Through LRs & ORs*****From K.B.R.**

The appellant herein before the Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 7017 of 2009 is The Divisional Forest Officer of Awadh division, in Uttar Pradesh. The disputed claim is with regard a land measuring 156 Acs of Khasra No. 1576 and 1738 of village Kasmandi Khurd in Lucknow Dist. The dispute arose because of proceedings taken under the Forest Act 1927, Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act 1950 and Land Revenue Regulations. The civil appeal is heard by the Hon'ble Justices Sri Hemant Gupta and Sri V. RamaSubramaniam.

In terms of Sec. 4 of the Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950, all rights, title and interest of all intermediaries including forest would vested in State of Uttar Pradesh free from encumbrances. A notification in October 1952 under Sec. 4 of the Abolition Act was issued stating that an area of 162 Acs. in village Kasmandi Khurd shall not vest with the Gaon Samaj.

The Government of U.P. proposed to constitute the land of Khasra No. 1576 and 1738 of Kasamand Khurd village of an extent of 162 Acs as Reserved Forest and issued a notification dated 23.11.1955 to that effect. The Sub-Divisional Officer is appointed as the Forest Settlement Officer and the Additional Commissioner, Lucknow division was empowered to receive claims and objections. A proclamation under Sec. 6 of the Forest Act was issued in respect of the land of 20.13.10 Bighas. There is a bar of accrual of rights after proclamation by the FSO. After enquiry by the FSO and settlement of rights, the Government may finally declare the area as reserved forest.

In May 1966, the Gram Sabha had put its lessees in possession of the land in question of Khasra No. 1576 in an area of 20.13.10 bighas. This was challenged by the Forest Department but was unsuccessful vide order dated 19.12.1969 of the Sub-Divisional Officer, Mohanlal Ganj, Lucknow. This order was set aside by the Additional Commissioner, Lucknow on 22.07.1970. The Board of Revenue dismissed a revision petition against the order of the Additional Commissioner. No information is available thereafter.

The land of Khasra No. 1576 and 1568 recorded as belonging to Gaon Sabha of Kasmmundi Khurd village was transferred to Forest Dept. and entries made in the village record from 1380 Fasli to 1385 Fasli (6 years) were corrected. Later, for the first time, the land of 12 Bighas in Khasra No. 1576 was shown as if it is in possession of lessees during the period 1394-1395 Fasli.

Proceedings were initiated under the U.P. Consolidation of Holdings and Land Reforms Act 1953 by the Forest Department to rectify the revenue record from the name of the lessees to that of the Forest Department. The application was dismissed on 22.07.1993. The appeal against the said order was dismissed. On revision

under Sec. 48 of the Consolidation Act, the Deputy Director, on 08.07.2004, set aside the order dated 22.07.1993 for the reason that the Bandobasth Officer has distorted the facts and had tried to cause loss to the Government and the Forest Department; and benefit to oppose parties, which is highly objectionable. The Bandobasth Officer ignored the claim of the Forest Department in the presence of notification. Plot No. 1576 of an extent of DO.113.10. and Plot No. 1378 of an extent of 2.4.0 is restored to Forest Department. It is that order which is annulled by the High Court at Allahabad.

It was argued on behalf of the Appellant that the High Court has committed grave error by setting aside the order of the Deputy Director.

According to notification dated 11.10.1952 under Sec. 4 of the Abolition Act, all estates shall vest in the State. By virtue of the notification the land of an extent of 162 would not vest to the Gaon Samaj. There is no order of the State transferring the land in favour of the Gaon Sabha or any other local authority

Consequently, the forest notifications were issued under Sec. 4 for 162 Acs. and under Sec. 6 for 20 bighas 13 biswas and 10 biswansi in respect of Khasra Nos. 1576 and 1738 of village Kasmundi Khurd.

On the other hand the counsel for the respondents argued that details of the land notified under Sec. 4 of the Forest Act are not furnished. The details are found Sec. 6 proclamation. Further, it is alleged that the notification is vague.

The court did not find any merit in the argument of the respondents. The learned counsel for the appellant cited the judgment of the Supreme Court in *State of Uttar Pradesh Vs. Deputy Director Consolidation - 5* (1996) 5 SCC 194. It was submitted that final notification under Se. 20 is not issued and yet no property rights accrued to the respondents.

According to another decision of the Supreme Court in *State of U.P. Vs. Kumaon Stone Crusher-6* (2018) 14 SCC 537- cited by the Learned Counsel for respondent, it was submitted that in the absence of Sec. 20 notification, it cannot be said that the land in question can be said to be forest. This argument was negated.

The court relied on the ruling in *Prahlad Pradhan Vs. Sonu Kumhar - 7* (2019) 10 SCC 259 - wherein the Supreme Court negated argument of ownership based upon entries in the revenue records.

Following the above judgment, it was held that the revenue record does not confer title to the property nor do they have any presumptive value on the title.

In the final analysis, Their Lordships found with utmost care and precision that the order of the High Court cannot be sustained in law. Therefore, the order of the High Court is set aside. The appeal is allowed on 05.10.2021. The order passed by the Deputy Director of Consolidation dated 08.07.2004 is restored.

Source: Internet

“I love mankind ... it's people I can't stand!!”

- Charles M. Schulz



IN A LIGHTER VEIN:

Why lend a book and then lament?

Dr. B. Raghotham Rao Desai, IFS (Retd.)

INTRODUCTION:

Let me commence this article by quoting from Shakespeare's Drama "Hamlet: Prince of Denmark":

Act I – Scene III. – A Room in Polonius' House.

....Enter Polonius (the Lord Chamberlain and father of Laertes)

....**Pol.** Yet here, Laertes? aboard, aboard, for shame!

The wind sits in the shoulder of your sail,

And you are stay'd for. There, -- my blessing with you; [Laying his hand on Laertes' head.] "And these few precepts in the memory

See thou character. Give thy thoughts no tongue,

Nor any unproportion'd thought his act.

Be thou familiar, but by no means vulgar:

The friends thou hast, and their adoption tried,

Grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel;

But do not dull thy palm with entertainment

Of each new-hatch'd, unfledg'd comrade. Beware

Of entrance to a quarrel; but, being in,

Bear't, that the opposed may beware of thee.

Give every man thine ear, but few thy voice;

Take each man's censure, but reserve thy judgment.

Costly thy habit as thy purse can buy,

But not express'd in fancy; rich, not gaudy:

For the apparel oft proclaims the man;

And they in France, of the best rank and station,

Are most select and generous, chief in that,

| Neither a borrower, nor a lender be;

| For loan oft loses both itself and friend,

And for borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry.

This above all, -- to thine own self be true;

***And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.”***

Farewell; my blessing season this in thee!

Laer. *Most humbly do I take my leave, my lord.*

Pol. *The time invites you: go, your servants tend.*

Laer. *Farewell, Ophelia; and remember well*

What I have said to you.

Ophelia *(daughter of Polonius). ‘T is in my memory lock’d,*

And you yourself shall keep the key of it.

Laer. *Farewell*

[Exit.

FACTS AND FIGURES:

You might come across a few critics who would say that the Bard of Avon had made the Polonius a windbag (i.e., a person who talks a lot but says little of any value), and a hypocrite (i.e., a person who indulges in hypocrisy ---- the practice of claiming to have more laudable beliefs than is the case) by putting the said words in his mouth while trying to give a bit of his mind to his son Laertes. But the words carry an undiluted truth ---- any book-lover who had ever lent & lost a book will vouch and he may even tell a story he had heard that a certain so-and-so had built a library on borrowed books, quoting Anatole France: **“Never lend books, for they are seldom returned ---- the only books that remain with me in my library are books that other folks had lent me:** my own books having disappeared after they had been lent”! [Trivia: Anatole France (1844 – 1924), a Parisian, ideal “French Man of letters” of his times who was poet, journalist and a novelist (who was ironic & skeptical), his full name being Francois-Anatole Thibault].

Even Charles Lamb (1775 – 1834) had really meant on the same lines when he asserted (in his “Essays of Elia”): **“I love to ‘lose myself’ in other people’s minds ---- Books think for me”.**

A “book curse” is stated to have been used widely in Medieval times, to deter the ‘thieves’ by invoking the wrath of the gods, something in this fashion inscribed on the 1st page of the book: **“May the person taking away this book fall sick, seized with fever!”** How about “asserting” by writing instead: **“The book cannot be lent since it had been borrowed”** to prevent a person even from requesting to lend the book?

CONCLUSION:

Perhaps no one needs the printed volume in this age of Kindle (the proprietary name of a type of e-reader) and e-books ---- though the fact remains that **no gadget can compare with the ‘feel’ and ‘heavenly smell’ of the original book which sits in the cupboard and easily accessible** and which can be read again and again: wholly or in parts!

A few ruses (i.e., stratagems or tricks) that are suggested to be employed (to keep at bay the unscrupulous borrowers of books) could be:

- (i) *to write the name on the front page, on buying a book and adding **“Do not steal. This is my book”!***
- (ii) ***to lend the book unhesitatingly, but asking for it the very next day on the pretext that the book is needed for an important work!***

(iii) to write on the book's last page before lending:
"Give it back Now!"

[P.S. – What if the borrower, being unscrupulous anyway, tears-off that front-page or last-page, to enable the book to still remain with himself!]

We have an equivalent expression on similar lines in our ancient texts: "Pusthakam, Vanithaa, Vittham: Para-hastha-gatham Gatham, Adhavaa Punaraayaathi: Jeernam, Bhrashtam-cha, Khandashaha!"

Trivia:

We have quoted **Shakespeare** (23.4.1564–23.4.1616) at the commencement of the article, who was a genius and was the master of metaphors ---- the figure of speech in which words or phrases are applied to 'some things' to which they are not literally applicable or things regarded as symbolic or 'some things else'. Having said so, let us now 'feast on the banquet' of a few metaphors he offers so richly, having 'served' several such of them lavishly all through his dramas and the sonnets/poems he had so masterfully penned:

- (a) "All the world's '**stage**', And all the men and women merely '**players**', They have their '**exits**' and their '**entrances**'!"
- (b) "They were picnicking at the '**mouth**' of a cave near the '**feet**' of the mountains".
- (c) "We are not sure whether he was '**chilled out**' or '**boiling mad**' meeting an '**old flame**'!"
- (d) "The '**sweet smell of success**' drowned his '**bitter-sweet memories**' and brought '**music**'

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to his ears' as he 'saw' where all of it was 'heading'!"

- (e) "The moon '**danced**' with the stars on the night a daughter was born to her"
- (f) "His teacher's advice was '**Follow your heart but take the brain along**' and '**Self-confidence is the best outfit you can wear**'!"
- (g) "All that glitters is not gold!"
- (h) "The lady doth protest too much, me thinks!"
- (i) "By the pricking of my thumbs, Something wicked this way comes. Open, locks, Whoever knocks!"

P.S. – Perhaps following in the footsteps of the Bard and believing that **verbal expressions can indeed be made elegant with appropriate metaphors**, the famous Russian playwright (of 4 classics), short-story writer-cum-doctor, **Anton Pavlovich Chekhov** (1860-1904) ---- considered to be among the greatest writers of short fiction in history ---- had to say thus:

- (a) "Don't tell me moon is shining, show me the glint of light on broken glass!"
- (b) "Love, friendship and respect do not unite people as much as common hatred for something!"
- (c) "Any idiot can 'face' a crisis ---- it's day-to-day living that 'wears' you out!"
- (d) "Medicine is my lawful wife and literature my mistress; when I tire of one, I spend the night with the other!"

*"Be careful about reading health books.
Some fine day you'll die of a misprint."*

- Markus Herz



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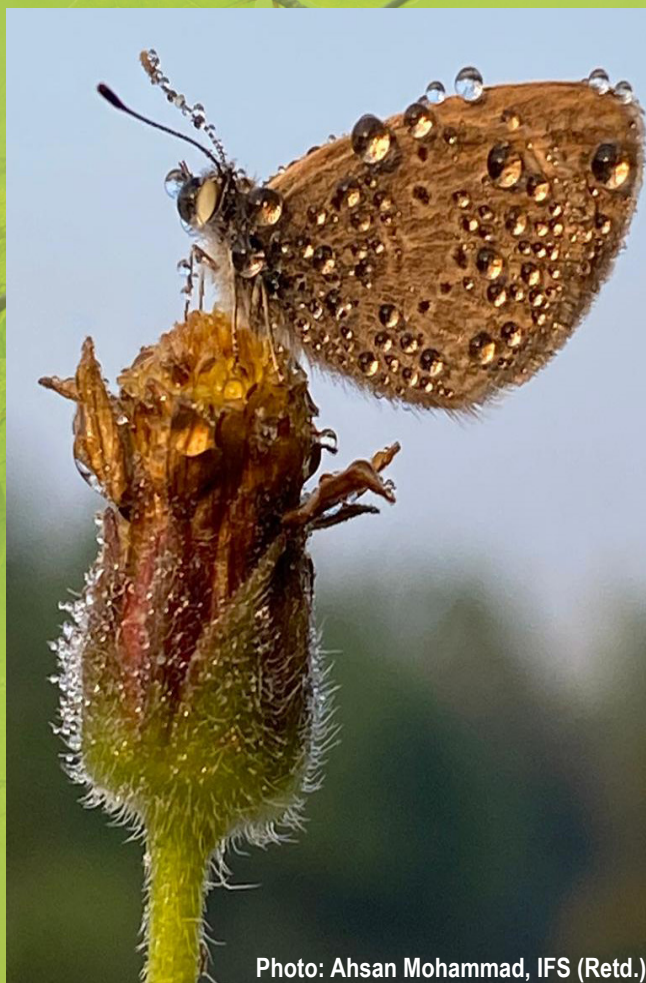


Photo: Ahsan Mohammad, IFS (Retd.)

A tiny dew drenched butterfly...

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