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Vice Chairman & Managing Director

Telangana State Forest Development Corporation Ltd.,
3rd Floor, UNI Building, A.C. Guards, Hyderabad - 500004.
Telephone Nos. 040-23395750/23392652
Email: vcmd.tsfcdcl@gmail.com
www.tsfcd.telangana.gov.in

Editor : Qamar Mohd. Khan

The Association of Retired Forest Officers,

Telangana & Andhra Pradesh

(Regd. No.557/1990)

President : Sri S.K. Das, I.F.S.
Cell: 95506 81964, 2311 5085

Vice President :

Secretary : Sri A.V. Govindarajulu,
Cell: 94407 64611

Jt. Secretary : Sri A. Shankaran, 94940 19595

Treasurer : Sri Sardar Iqbal Singh
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2. Editor: Qamar Mohd. Khan
3. Maecenas Editor: Mohammad Thayyab
Tel: 040-3592445, 99890 95939
e-mail: thayyab@gmail.com
4. Associate Editor: D.Nagabhushanam,I.F.S.(Retd.)
Cell: 80965 11200

Members

5. Sri V.V. Hari Prasad, 78936 73767
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Editorial:**ECOCIDE - A WAR CRIME FOR SURE!**

Russia's armed invasion of Ukraine starting February 24 again raised growing concern about ecocide that happens in every war apart from hostilities on land, water, plant and animal life, civilian casualties, infrastructure, and human rights violations. When people are dying from war, we tend to forget about the environment and its totally understandable. It is deplorable that the environment has often remained the unpublicized victim of war. Suppose there is a compelling case for prosecuting the combatants for war crimes – crimes against humanity, genocide and crime of aggression. In that case, evidence could be collected for an investigation and trial at the ICC (International Criminal Court). Four Geneva Convention treaties formalized from 1864 till 1949 had been ratified by 196 states, including all UN member states and the three protocols by 174, 169 and 79 states, respectively. Going by the present trends of devastating modern warfare, it is felt that we need a fifth convention that protects not only us but also the environment and the generations who will be living in it for years to come. The term ecocide is put forward by the activists world over to punish the culprits on par with other war crimes.

The simple definition of the term ecocide is 'mass destruction of flora and fauna, poisoning of air or water resources, and any other actions that may cause an environmental disaster.' A small number of states have already criminalized 'ecocide' through domestic legislation. Should domestic prosecutions ever become feasible, it is certainly possible to see this code being applied to acts of the aggressor's armed force. Mr Karim Khan, the ICC's prosecutor, has recently announced that ICC will open an investigation into crimes perpetrated in Ukraine, as "there is a reasonable basis to believe that both alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity have been committed." In theory, Mr Karim Khan could choose to investigate the ICC's eco-centric war crime. Under Article 8(b)(iv) of the ICC Rome Statute, the Court has jurisdiction over the crime of 'intentionally launching an attack in the knowledge that such attack will cause widespread, long-term and

severe damage to the natural environment.' However, to prove this crime in any subsequent trial, the prosecutor would need to demonstrate that the damage to the natural environment was 'excessive about the concrete and direct overall military advantage anticipated.'

Article 8(b)(iv) is currently the only explicit reference to environmental damage found in the ICC's Rome Statute. Despite growing international support for the campaign to introduce 'ecocide' as the new 'crime against peace', its inclusion in the Rome Statute remains largely a matter of academic debate. The need of the hour is to include ecocide on the list of war crimes for taking stringent action against the perpetrator.

Any modern warfare is bound to have a severe impact on the natural environments among the countries involved, but it will have immediate global ramifications. Oil and various explosives are the primary sources of damage to the environment. It is a known fact that the world's single largest institutional oil consumer is the country's military only and hence one of the world's top greenhouse gas emitters. (It is alarming to note that 1.2 billion metric tons of Greenhouse Gases are estimated to be emitted from the US alone since its war on terrorism from 2001 alone. More than 400 million metric tons of emission are directly related to war-related fuel consumption!!) Military vehicles consume petroleum-based fuels at an extremely high rate. The vehicles used in the war zones have produced many hundreds of thousands of tons of carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons, and sulfur dioxide, in addition to CO2 contributing to climate change. Large scale vehicle movements can lead to widespread physical damage to sensitive landscapes and geodiversity. Air pollution from military vehicles and weaponry will adversely affect public health among civilians in and outside the war zones. The present Gas Transmission Systems across the countries influence the socio-economic and ecological factors in wartime as heavy fighting will end up widespread damage to gas pipelines leaving thousands in cities without gas. In some cases,

these incidents will lead to large blazes, again an environmental threat!

In case of Chemical warfare, the less said the better it will be. The various agents which are developed for the purpose fall into four major classes: nerve, blister, choking, and blood agents. Among these, VX is the most potent of all nerve agents. Compared with the nerve agent sarin (also known as GB), VX is much more toxic by entry through the skin and somewhat more toxic by inhalation. It is possible that any visible VX liquid contact on the skin, unless washed off immediately, would be lethal. The effects of various agents on the ecology are simply devastating. Added to this, the refugees affected by war will have a direct bearing on the ecosystem. The insecurity that refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) face extend far beyond the guns and blasts of the war. It includes lack of access to food, health care, housing, employment, and clean water and sanitation, as well as loss of community and homes and imbalance in ecosystem will be palpable.

Human displacement is a common phenomenon during intensive warfare conflicts. Camps for refugees and internally displaced peoples can have significant environmental footprints, mainly where they are unplanned or lack essential services, like water, sanitation and waste management. The camp residents are bound to use local resources thus can place local resources under pressure. People displaced by conflict move internally to urban areas, swelling the population and putting local environmental services under strain. Large refugee movements create transboundary ecological impacts with the influx of people as they struggle to meet their basic needs like waste management. Systems often break down during conflict, increasing waste dumping and burning rates, improper managing, and less waste segregation. Waste management systems are just one element of environmental governance that may collapse during conflicts. Local environmental laws and regulations are bound to be ignored, and local and national administrations may lose their capacity to monitor, assess or respond to such environmental problems.

War-related environmental pollution is seen as a potential contributor to the country's poor health conditions and high rates of infections and diseases. Exposure to inhaled toxins from the dust has correlated with respiratory disorders that often prevent people from performing everyday activities. The water supply in the war zones will be contaminated by oil from military vehicles and depleted uranium from ammunition. The degradation of the natural resources in the combatant countries and radical destruction of forest cover adversely affecting the animal and bird populations have also been recorded. Destruction of military base garbage in burn pits and other military operations will expose soldiers and civilians to dangerous levels of pollutants. It is a documented fact that deforestation in Afghanistan because of illegal logging, particularly by warlords, has destroyed wildlife habitats. If the fighting spreads in urban areas, one can see the environmental health risks emerge from indiscriminate explosive weapons. These result in inhalational and ecological dangers from pulverized building materials, emissions from environmentally hazardous sites and infrastructure, as well as the longer-term problems associated with debris management. In Iraq, an increase in cancer, congenital disabilities, and other conditions are related to war-related environmental damage and toxins.

The unintended or deliberate destruction of agricultural infrastructure, including canals, wells and pumps and the burning of crops, results in threatened food security and livelihoods, thus increasing the vulnerability of rural communities. These large-scale pollution incidents can lead to transboundary impacts from air pollution or through the contamination of rivers, aquifers or the sea. In some instances, these even have the potential to affect weather or the global climate.

The UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) has conducted over twenty post-conflict assessments to determine the environmental impacts of war since 1999 and identify gaps and weaknesses in international laws that protect the environment during the war and armed conflict. Resolutions were passed at UN Environment Assemblies in 2016 and 2017. The member states demonstrated their recognition of the need to improve

the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict. At the UN Environmental Assembly meeting in Nairobi, 108 NGOs highlighted the severe risks the invasion poses to ecosystems and expressed concerns over shelling releasing nuclear and toxic waste into the environment. The largely unprecedented nuclear dimension at the recent attack on Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant has brought the role of the IAEA into sharp focus. Though its members adopted a resolution deploring the attack, Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi has expressed his inability to influence the situation as it remains more technical than political; for example, when asked if it could enforce a 30km exclusion zone around the nuclear facilities, the agency said that was not within its mandate.

Suppose we ignore the environment before, during and after conflicts. In that case, we will not only miss out on opportunities to encourage sustainable recovery, but we may also be setting states up for future resource conflicts. For preventing the exploitation of the environment in war and armed conflict, we have only one way forward: to up our ambition to protect our planet, even in the most complex and challenging scenarios. All the crucial things must be roped while dealing with the ecocide mandates. The time has come for all the world organizations to stand united for the inclusion of ecocide as a war crime on par with other crimes as per Geneva conventions and protocols for prosecuting the culprits in ICC.

- Mohd. Thayyab

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EDITOR, Vana Premi.
(Email: thayyab@gmail.com)

Electric Vehicles to Achieve Carbon Neutrality

B.K. Singh, IFS (Retd.)



With so frequent and destructive climatic disasters, countries are expected to move towards transition to renewable energy and achieve net zero climate goals to stabilize global temperature rise below 1.5^o Celsius. Moving towards de-carbonization, 20 countries have announced target of 100% zero emission vehicles and phasing out internal combustion engine vehicles by 2040 to 2050.

International Energy Agency has assessed that if countries are to fulfill their NDCs, electric vehicles on roads have to jump from about 5% of global sale in 2020 to more than 60% in 2030. This would require annual battery production for electric vehicles to jump from 160 Giga watt hours to 6,600 Giga watt hours in this period. Public charging stations have to be ramped from around 1 million today to 40 million by 2030. Global companies are committing to produce 100% electric vehicles by 2040.

India's nationally determined contribution (NDC) in Paris Climate Accord is to cut one third emissions of 2010 level by 2030. Government of India has announced from time to time that 30% of total new vehicles produced in the country should be electric vehicles. However, for 2030 NITI Aayog has set an ambitious target of electrifying 80% of two wheelers & three wheelers, 40% buses, 70% commercial cars and 30% private cars.

Several policy interventions of state and central Government are on course to incentivize electric vehicles to make it affordable and to stimulate demand. In addition it is also necessary to augment raw materials for battery cells and provide production linked incentive to encourage local manufacturing. But what is more important is scale and speed of transition.

Nickel and Lithium are two important resources used in Lithium ion batteries for electric vehicles. There is an

alternate option to substitute iron phosphate for nickel in these batteries. Nickel is mined from two types of deposits; sulphide and laterite. The sulphide nickel can be mined, smelted and refined with less environmental damage as compared to laterite. Other source of nickel is sulphide (hard rock nickel), which is relatively of high purity, and preferable for batteries. However natural deposits of sulphide nickel are limited and may not suffice its requirement for batteries to be manufactured worldwide to cut carbon emissions.

Cliff Rice, an affiliate Assistant Professor, School of Environmental and Forest Sciences, University of Washington in his study on the subject has found that laterite nickel ore has lower and variable concentration of nickel and requires lot of energy for smelting. 25 to 30 tons of coal is required to produce one ton nickel. That means 90 tons of CO₂ is emitted to produce one ton of nickel. Cliff Rice has further added that the car has to run for four years to break even carbon footprint based on battery alone. Alternate method of nickel extraction is through a process called high pressure acid leaching where carbon foot print would be one third but hazardous substances, acid slurry and magnesium sulphate effluents are produced which are recommended to be discharged in deep sea, making the process undesirable. 75% of laterite nickel comes from Indonesia and Philippines, the countries with tropical forests and many a times mining is carried out after sacrificing the vegetation, which are crucial for absorption and storage of carbon.

Availability of lithium is equally crucial for speed and scale of manufacturing batteries for electric vehicles. Defense department of US once described Afghanistan as "Saudi Arabia of lithium", which is crucial for global supply of battery metal as Middle Eastern countries is for crude oil. Lithium was already used in batteries for electronic devices before it is apparent how much of it

is needed for electric vehicles' batteries for low carbon transition.

Taliban, having taken over the reins in Afghanistan, controls lithium deposits. As developed nations have pledged for cutting emissions, Taliban is in a position to negotiate for its legitimacy and recognition with them. Taliban Government has announced strongest economic ties with China, who has already promised aid worth \$31 million to meet the crisis situation in war torn Afghanistan. The humanitarian crisis in the country where people are facing hunger and consequent migration is quite grave. This may require assistance from not only countries like China, Russia, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and Qatar but many more. China has shown economic interest in Afghanistan and is too happy to expand its social and political influence through 'Belt Road Initiative' (BRI). Of course, G7 nations had pledged to counter China's BRI with its 'Build Back and Better for the World' (B3W) aiming to fund the needy countries for resilient infrastructure, health, education, and gender equality, but it appears to be a distant possibility in this case.

In such a scenario, China's special interest in deposits of lithium, copper, gemstones, rare earth, and oil & natural gas reported in Afghanistan is quite natural. In forthcoming climate summit in Glasgow from 1st to 12th November, countries contributing emissions (G20 countries) should recalibrate the commitments made in Paris accord to move forward towards the goal of carbon neutrality. The issues relating to transfer of technology and climate funds of one billion dollar per year from rich nations to developing countries, availability of raw materials at affordable prices, choice of nickel/ iron phosphate for electric vehicle battery are likely to be in the agenda.

India has rolled out the policy of transition to electric vehicles. National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage, 2019 is to promote local manufacturing of entire value chain related raw materials, electrochemistry and end of life treatment of cells. National budget has earmarked Rs 18,000 Crores for battery production units of more than 5 Giga Watt hours. However a time frame of five years period linked may be a concern for manufacturers

to take off. Roadmap beyond five years should also be specific owing to uncertain scale economies and evolving battery chemistry. A regulatory mandate may be required for recycling the batteries, once its capacity is reduced. Proper protocol to harvest the expensive metals like nickel, lithium and cobalt from retired batteries and the recycling would be necessary.

In a boost to encourage people to go for electric vehicles, Government of India on 15th January has permitted individuals and entities to set up public charging stations (PCS) without any license. Government has also made way for Electric vehicle owners to charge their vehicles at home or at their work places from the existing connections at domestic tariff rates. We committed our plan to cut carbon footprints recently in Glasgow meeting of COP 26.

India's climate campaign in COP 26 was initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's five-point agenda or 'panchamirt'. The country announced increased ambitions on climate actions and first four targets to be met by 2030. These include an installed renewable energy capacity of 500 GW (up from 450 GW target), meeting 50% of electricity requirement from renewable sources, reducing total projected cumulative carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes annually from now till 2030, reducing carbon intensity of GDP (CO₂ equivalent emitted per unit of GDP) by 45% from 2005 level (up from 33 to 35% target) and to achieve net zero Carbon emission by 2070. Prime Minister also called for the need of generating carbon finance by developed countries to the tune of \$one trillion for adaptation and transition to green technologies by developing countries. These proclamations are appreciated by climate experts, as our targets can deliver on economic development as well as climate mitigation and also show a path to world to restrict global warming to 1.5 degree Celsius above preindustrial era.

NEW ELECTRIC VEHICLE POLICY TO CREATE JOB OPPORTUNITY

Just like large number of vehicle repair shops, a number of PCS would be installed taking advantage of the liberalized policy of Government of India. Individuals and start ups would be attracted in the sector to remove

all hurdles in rapid adoption of electric vehicles. It is also expected to through up additional job opportunities in the market.

The guidelines of Government of India further lay down to install one PCS for every three sq km grid, in mega cities and also one such facility every 25 kms on Highways. State capitals and connecting Highways are expected to be covered in 3 to 5 years.

Even Government land is being offered to private and Government agencies as well as private entities to set up PCS on a revenue sharing basis. The terms for offer of Government lands to public agencies is only on fixed payment of Re 1 per unit of electricity used for charging. Another condition for the partnership between government and public agency is 10 year's revenue share agreement. The user of the land by private agencies will be decided by bidding in public with the floor price as Re 1 per unit of electricity.

The guidelines have also indicated that the ceiling for service charge will be capped and will not be more than the average cost of power supply. PCS operator will also be free to buy power from any desired source/supplier.

Further there is no requirement of license, but PCS has to be technology agnostic and will meet global and Indian Standards as notified by Central Electricity Authority.

Karnataka has 2.7 crores vehicles, which includes 81,193 EVs. Numbers of EVs are increasing over the years and records show that the increase was

from 6454 in 2019 to 9731 in 2020 to 33,302 in 2021. Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) has announced Electric Vehicle (EV) policy which envisages making the city of Bengaluru as EV capital of India, which should attract investment of Rs 31,000 crores and create 55,000 new employments. During the state budget of 2021-22, it was proposed to set up 1000 EV charging stations across Karnataka on PPP model and the selected firms would establish, operate and maintain the stations for 126 months. They firms are also authorized to install more charging units wherever the space is available and there are demands for the facility.

In the Union budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Seetaraman, battery swap plan to charge up Electric vehicles (EV) have been announced. To speed up adoption of green vehicles and decarbonise India's economy, a battery swapping policy with inter operability at its core. Finance Minister said 'battery as a service' will be developed as a new business model as drive to increase fast charging networks speeds up, especially in urban areas. "Private sector will be encouraged to develop business models for 'battery or energy as service'. This will improve efficiency in EV ecosystem", Minister added. The swapping facility will allow riders to exchange a worn-out battery with a fully charged one for a fee. The announcement of the policy will encourage investments from companies like Reliance BP mobility and hero Motor Corp.

We can hope for early transition to EVs and cut fossil fuel-based emissions.

(The author is former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) Karnataka and can be reached over Mobile:9449863501 and Email: bksinghretiredpccf@gmail.com).

"If you would not be forgotten, as soon as you are dead or rotten, either write things worth reading, or do something worth writing"

-Benjamin Franklin.



Retirement Age and the Retirees

Mohammad Ahsan, IFS (Retd.)

When, ten years back, they retired me at the age of sixty, the retirement age fixed by government for certain class of employees –also known as, by way of euphemism, age of superannuation -, I was little flabbergasted despite my advance knowledge of impending retirement for years. Reason was very simple. All my teeth were intact, both incisors and molars; none of my bones was broken, all my joints were well hinged, I did not limp while walking, my hands did not shake while writing, my skull was not cracked, my eyesight so perfect I could count a bird's feathers in its flight, my ears so good as to listen to any meaningful whisper on either side of the wall, my vocal chords were shrill and perfect, my hairline was quite respectable, I had no memory lapses – I never forgot the insults and gratitude howsoever old they might have been-, my mental faculties were in perfect order as I could dictate to my steno in office a charge sheet against some subordinate or a piece of poetry with equal ease; even my days and nights were clean - not smeared with any scandal, graft or scam. Speaking in nutshell I was perfectly fit and fine both physically and mentally, and I thought I did not deserve to be retired in such an exalted state of mind and body.

But sadly government, for the purpose of retirement, does not go by physical or mental fitness of its employees or their ethical and moral virtues. It goes by sheer statistics and rulebook. Not only it retires you at 60 but to put some salt on your bruising wounds it gives you an advance notice of retirement about nine months before the impending eventuality. This notice is served in such an open manner that whole of your office and all your subordinates come to know this painful secret within no time. From this day onward you are to them what a sinking ship is to its rats. Another pinch of salt comes to your wounds six months before this storm staring at your face when your controlling officer is asked to stop your contribution to your GPF. But the final insult to injury comes about three months after this

pinch when your controlling office is asked to prepare your pension papers. Now the rats on the ship jolly well know no one can stop sinking of this ship.

Had the government been going by only physical and mental fitness of its employees I might not have seen in all these years so many physically and mentally crippled creatures in government services, almost on the verge of imbecility. The government carries them on despite them being a liability on its tight financial resources. Government does carry them. And why not! It is a welfare state and government has to look after its citizens.

Anyways, once your pension papers start getting processed, howsoever brave a façade you try to put on your face, you are not able to stare straight on the faces of these aforesaid rats – your colleagues and subordinates. You feel like a snuffed-out lamp with only a faded glow on its wick. Your position is like a sacrificial lamb being taken to altar reluctantly, yet gradually, with entire world as spectator. The time passes by, and finally the day comes at the end of which is your retirement party, arranged by the office staff. You are very nervous.

The procedure of a retirement party is generally well laid out. It is held in office hall or in some open space half an hour before the closure of the office. The idea of this timing is retiree's working colleagues might go home directly after the party. Party is presided over by Head of the Office. The retiree is made to sit on a dais – sometimes a few tables are joined together to make it – along with Head of the Office and few others who matter in the hierarchy. Ceremony begins with presenting of bouquet to retiree, the size of the bouquet depending upon the official position of the retiree and his social standing. This is followed by speeches by few colleagues of the retiree. All the speakers, depending upon their oratory skills, tell in short or long how Mr.

so and so with all his hard-work and integrity, his conduct and behavior, his sweet nature and benign attitude to one and all, in his long career of thirty- six years (add or subtract a few) served the department in a way which is rare in these days, and delivered tons of goods to department and country. During all these speeches Head of the Office keeps looking at his watch, sometimes with little deliberate impatience. Then Head of the Office is requested to make a speech. Head of the Office in his short and crisp speech tells his audience Mr. Retiree was a man of hard- work and confidence whom higher-ups could always depend upon, and he wishes him all the good time ahead in his life. All the speakers have wished retiree a long, healthy, and happy life and requested the retiree to visit this very office anytime he wishes after his retirement. So does the Head of the Office.

And now this is the time for retiree to make a speech. In his short sentimental speech, he describes how in his long career of thirty-six years he always got the blessings, guidance and confidence of his superiors and active cooperation of his colleagues without which it would not have been possible for him to serve so long, and for which he is thankful to everyone. In the last he expresses his despondency at leaving this office and assures he would remain available to his colleagues even after retirement for whatever services he is worth to render.

The speech ceremony is followed by the ceremony of presenting mementos to retiree. He is presented a white shawl generally purchased from the local Gandhi Ashram. The shawl is wrapped around his shoulders by the Head of the Office. Then few artifacts like a wall clock and Statue of Dancing Natraj are presented to him. And that is end of it. Retiree is asked to come up for a cup of tea and few snacks. This 'tea party' is generally skipped by Head of the Office, the boss, who has to 'attend' an urgent meeting in Sachivalaya and he has to rush to it – the important meetings in Sachivalaya are always held in evening after 5 p.m. He offers his apologies and regrets to retiree and his colleagues for this unfortunate development. The retiree generously and profusely thanks him for his time and conveys his appreciation for giving so much time from his busy schedule.

The end of the party is marked by mutual assurances from retiree and his colleagues to keep in touch with each other in future. The colleagues assure the retiree they would be too happy to be of any use to him hence forward and that he is always welcome in the office. And that is the final exit from the system. The retiree knows this pretty well.

However, if the retiree is somewhat a bigwig in official hierarchy, he gets another farewell party besides this one in the office hall. This farewell party is organized in some other place like a hotel, a community center, or some guesthouse. Procedure, pace and tone of the party remains the same as described above except that the Head of the Office is often replaced by Head of the Department (HOD) and party culminates into a wet or dry dinner which HOD relishes.

If HOD is himself a retiree, the speakers describe at length how he, the HOD, with his courage, fortitude, grit and perseverance changed the face of the department. HOD in his valedictory speech not only endorses what has been said about him by the earlier speakers but rather elaborates it all for the benefit of everyone.

Howsoever stereotyped, dull, drab or repetitive these farewell parties might look no retiree ever refuses to take one. They are index of honor. The best way to insult a retiree by his colleagues or to settle some old scores with him is denying the retiree a farewell party. That would be the insult he will never forget, ultimate of it. And people often do it.

For many people retirement at superannuation is a painful affair although government tries to compensate against this pain by way of pension. Recognizing this in best of spirits government has introduced a voluntary retirement scheme under which employees after completing twenty years of service can volunteer for retirement and can make early exit without a shadow of this pain. A friend of mine joined civil services in his early 20s and exited out of it in his early 40s making use of this voluntary scheme. He has been drawing pension for the last thirty years and intends to keep doing that for another twenty-five years. However, sometimes government forcibly retires some of its employees if they are too nonconformist, recalcitrant, rebel or not found towing the government line.

Only a naïve or gullible can believe retirement age has something to do with mental or physical fitness of a government employee, or national average life expectancy or longevity. Retirement age too is a matter of political deliberations, calculation of political loss or gain, and the lobbying power of the group of retirees. Employees in certain government Corporations or Trusts in UP still retire at the age of 58. They have very little lobbying power. Most government employees retire at sixty but teachers or those associated with teaching retire at 62 for obvious reasons they have better lobbying power. Many of these teachers have not seen their school or college or a classroom for many years. 'Me Lords' retire at 65 as they are real lords – they decide the destinies of people. The politicians, on the other hand, never retire unless they wish to. After all they are masters of the country.

Those bureaucrats that have served their political masters well too don't retire irrespective of their mental or physical health. They get long extension in their service. Some of them do retire at sixty but rewarded hefty for their services by getting appointments at constitutional posts where they can serve interests of ruling clan up to the age of seventy, or even afterward. On constitutional posts, with unlimited paraphernalia at their beck and call, they roar, growl and bite with a vigor they had not known when they were in regular service. Some bureaucrats become top consultants in many semi governmental or private organizations. These consultants often serve their masters through their PR skills and their ability to maneuver. To this class of consultants their masters know no retirement age. In short, they are indispensable to their masters.

Coming back to the poor retirees who have really been retired at 60 as they had no godfathers, the mai –baap, there is no fixed pattern as to how they pass their time after retirement. Many of them find it difficult to come out of the hangover of routine of their erstwhile job and office for a long time to come. They dress up every morning with great gusto only to discover they have nowhere to go. Then they sink into long hours of depression.

Many retirees turn extra religious and pass most of their time in the precincts of some temple or mosque or church. Their most time is spent in listening to

religious sermons either directly from a qualified person or through some audio or audio-visual means. When they are not taking sermons, they are delivering one to others, or forwarding videos of religious nature to other retirees. Mythology and scriptures become their lifeline.

Some of the retirees take up journey to spirituality and patronize bunch of gurus and spiritual teachers. Most of these retirees' time is spent in understanding the complex relationship between the real and surreal, the aatma and parmaatma, the material and abstract, the crude and sublime, the metaphysical and transcendental etc. Among different circles of retirees this is supposed to be the best means of time pass.

Some retirees go very humanitarian in approach to all creatures including human beings. Every morning you can see them assiduously putting a pinch of flour in every ant's hole or feeding some stale chapattis to stray cows or some leftover morsels to pariah dogs. Once in a while they feed bunch of poor too – known as beggars- on some special religious occasions.

Going on monthly, quarterly or yearly trips to pilgrimage, both near and far off places of religious importance, even abroad, is also a popular pass-time for many retirees.

There is large number of retirees who believe in stretching their life span to at least hundred years. These are health freaks. Most of their time goes in yoga, doing both solo and group yogic exercises, long morning walks, still longer evening walks, polishing, massaging, and tending of joints, bending different body parts at impossible angles, watching health related videos or listening to such audios, or reading health related literature. They believe in potency of desi herbal medicinal plants that keep human nerves cool and calm and provide longevity to human life. That is one reason they are too often seen eating, mincing, or chewing root, stem, leaves, bark, or some other part of these herbs slowly but steadily. They are obsessed with abstemiousness and frugality of food.

Some well off retirees have their sons and daughters in foreign lands like US and Australia etc. You might find them missing too often from your surroundings as

many of them are in those foreign lands baby-sitting their grand children. They have lots of sightseeing too in their luck. You often feel envy with them.

Some of the retirees find refuge in such sports like golf where time flows seamlessly swiftly in lush green surroundings without much actual shaking off the muscles. Such retirees often increase their evening alcoholic intake to have prolonged sessions with their old chummies.

There is certain class of retirees the august members of which believe that everything in government has gone haywire since they retired from government job. They think whole system is going to dogs, and to them future of the country looks bleak. As a result, these retirees find themselves charged with activism. Most of their time is spent in writing demi official letters to government functionaries, drafting representations for submissions to public figures, exploring legal ramifications of government's day-today decisions, surmising short- and long-term social consequences of many developmental programs, drafting and submission of PILs in courts where necessary etc. They are one-man army.

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

Certain retirees take to ultra nationalism and vent out their feelings through social media - few hundred Whatsapp groups to whom they have subscribed. They have no problem of time pass. Such retirees are seen going through tremendous mood swings and fluctuation in temper. But they have a guaranteed time-pass.

There is yet another crazy bunch of retirees that believes in fulfilling all the ungratified desires remaining unfulfilled during the course of government job. These retirees believe if these desires are not gratified to their best satisfaction, they might, after their death, turn into ghosts and spirits. To avoid this calamity, they can go to any extent as long as there is life and hope. You can watch many members of this clan actively engaged in variety of hazardous activities like photographing birds and beasts in jungle, visiting the remote and far off places of wilderness, trekking on mountains, paragliding, yatching on high seas, reading books of their favorite authors, writing some trash called memoirs, the publication of which, they think, would create some big bang in bureaucratic circles. Actually, this is a long list the reproduction of which might not be appealing to many readers.

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Each month, VanaPremi strives to share with our readers the happenings, information, Knowledge, and experience from the doyens of forestry and all general contributors of the magazine. Our writers try to address different environmental issues connected with clarity and detail with physical, social, mental, emotional, and spiritual realms. As the tagline suggests, Vana Premi Magazine is for all ages - beginners, seekers, aspiring individuals and in-service employees of public and private enterprises- anyone concerned about society's environmental well-being.

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-EDITOR.



The Ladder

V. V. Hariprasad

*The other day
I visited the birth place of my late father
Dear son! How is your health? Take care
The lucid whisperings touched my heart I
could visualize his persona
The great soul that left us long back
was visible as if he were in front of my eyes.*

*The number of rungs that I climbed up
Taking his support as a ladder
In an effort for achieving new heights
Is beyond my imagination.*

*The umpteen numbers of parents who
became ladders
Having poured their blood, sweat and tears
To facilitate the climbing up of their children
To make them reach top notch positions
Are beyond anybody's guess.*

*The offsprings who kick the parents
When they are down having become ladders
And even before some day they pass away
Are seemingly ubiquitous
And all pervasive
Alas! contrary to our Indian values.*

*Today's son
May be a father of tomorrow
Having been entangled in a vicious circle
And having become a ladder to his
children Will be waiting looking forward
eagerly Unmindful of the days
That will be in store for him
During the evening of his life
May be to be taken aback
By being kicked when he is down
Before the day he is destined to breathe
his last.*

*Parent of today!
Be down to earth before it is too late
Being neither too much optimistic nor
pessimistic While having the guts to call
a spade a spade Unmindful of the
consequences
Omnipotent, the almighty shall bless you !!*

(The writer is retired Deputy Conservator of Forests, an Advocate and a Guest Faculty in the Central University of Hyderabad)

Conservator's Maiden Visit & Birth of A Star

Paresh Kumar Sharma, IFS., (Retd.)



I had returned to Kothagudem from my native place in the first week of June 1986 after performing the twelfth day ceremony of my father and my own head gear ceremony (Pagdi ka dastur). In the later, after the twelfth day ceremony the eldest son is formally anointed as the Head of the family. In Rajasthan during this ritual, Head gear (A Safa or Pagdi) is ceremoniously put on the head of the eldest son, in the presence of elders of the Society and extended family members. This is the formal recognition of the eldest son as the new Head of the family with established responsibilities and rights.

I was away from Kothagudem for almost a fortnight. During this period Sri M. Narayan Rao, DFO Paloncha was again kept in the Full Additional Charge of the Division. He had not only taken care of the affairs of the Division but also my wife. I shall always be grateful to him for this kind gesture.

By the time I returned to the Kothagudem, the Beedi Leaf season was over. This turned out to be the last season of the "Advance Sale of Beedi Leaf". The planting season had begun. I convened a meeting of all the FROs to apprise myself about all the activities in the Division. The "Leaving Note" given by my predecessor has also helped me to quickly grasp the intricacies of the Division administration. Accordingly, I had started moving into the Division to gain first-hand knowledge of the works, protection problems and also to acquaint myself with the field Officers and staff.

However, the things at the HQ vis a vis campus and DFO's residence were pathetic and needed urgent attention. The DFO's residence was in a very bad shape. By second week of June 86 rains had commenced. All the buildings and the DFO's Residence (actually a Foresters Quarter) started leaking very badly. All my personal belongings kept in the Kitchen had got drenched and many were damaged in the absence of safe rain proof place in the campus.

In the meantime, I had established good rapport with the local Officers (Sub-Collector Smt. R.R. Acharya, IAS & Sri T.P. Das, IPS, Asst. SP) and the Chairman & MD of the Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL) Sri G.P. Rao, IAS and a few Medical Officers of SCCL's Super Specialty Hospital as well as private practitioners. Therefore, my wife's routine pre-natal check-ups and treatment had re-commenced and her care was in good hands. I was fully relaxed on this count.

Now my focus turned on the Forest Complex, which was open from 2 sides, front as well as the side abutting Railway Colony. The Office Complex had two approaches; one from in between the Sub-Collector's Office and Sub-Collector's Residence leading to FRH & Office with plenty of open space and second between Sub-Collector's Residence & one of the SCCL's Residential quarter leading to DFO's Residence. There was imminent need for securing the 2 sides of the Forest Complex with at least a barbed wire fence. However, there was hardly any budget allocated for this type of activity. All the buildings in the complex were crying for help.

I approached the Conservator of Forest for additional budget for the maintenance of buildings, but he had also expressed his inability to provide additional funds. By this time monsoon was in full swing. Buildings were getting from bad to worse. I did explore the other possibilities of improving the Forest Complex. I gave topmost priority to elimination of open defecation in and in front of the Office Complex. I deployed the Staff early in the mornings to persuade the local people not to relieve themselves in front of the office as well in the office premises; behind Sub-Collector's Residence & in front of the FRH. But, met with limited success, as many of them including ladies forced themselves for relieving there only. Staff was helpless. It was really becoming a daily nuisance. I could not venture out for morning walks also.

I found some unused bundles of barbed wire and stone monoliths in the Govt. Timber Depot, Kothagudem. I thought of using these for securing the entrances to the Forest Complex. But there was a catch; the open spaces between the Bungalows leading to the Complex belonged to SCCL. I approached the Chairman & MD of the SCCL Sri G.P. Rao, IAS with the proposal of planting the open spaces and protecting it with barbed wire fence on stone monoliths. He readily agreed to it. I then requested him to be the Chief Guest for this Van Mahotsav programme. To this he gave his consent. Having done it, I geared up the local FRO and staff to jump into action. The required material was moved from GTD to the Forest Complex including tall seedlings of Ashoka, flowering species, Teak & Eucalyptus. Digging of pits in an aesthetic manner and planting of Stone monoliths was completed in advance. Planting was done in the first week of July 1986 in ceremonial manner with the Chairman & MD of the SCCL as the Chief Guest. The very next day fencing with barbed wire was finished, thus effectively securing the Forest Complex, and doing away with the open defecation.

That year the Southwest monsoon appeared to be aggressive in form and force. It had brought rains on time and in plenty. The planting activity was going on in full swing; at times posing problem in the transport of planting material as well as inundation of the planting sites, delaying the planting operations. During the middle of this month Sri C. Madhukar Raj, IFS an RR of 1975 batch was promoted to the post of Conservator of Forests along with others and posted as Conservator of Forests, Khammam. He took over the charge on 16th of July 1986 relieving Sri R.D. Reddy, IFS of the full additional charge.

Sri Madhukar Raj had earned the reputation of a straightforward, no non-sense, highly professional and strict disciplinarian Officer. He was probably chosen for this coveted post by the PCCF to restore discipline in the Circle, especially after the infamous episode of Teak timber smuggling (The KS Vyas case).

Till then I with family was putting up in the FRH only. The Conservator of Forest decided to move into the field, having quickly settled in the residence. He

decided to start his field inspections with Kothagudem Division on 21st of July 1986. I received the intimation about his programme the previous evening. My wife complained of slight pain in the morning. I took her to SCCL Hospital immediately. After check-up Dr. Vijaya, the Gynecologist, informed us that everything was normal. As the EDD (expected date of delivery) was 5th of August; the stomachache did not appear to be labour pain. However, to be on the safer side, she advised to admit her in the hospital for keeping her under observation. As the Conservator of Forest was to arrive on his maiden visit, with the above suggestion I was panicked as there would not have been any attendant with her in my absence. The Doctor was a nice lady, she told me that I need not worry about my wife as she would take care of her. I was assured. However, I remembered that one of my acquaintances Sri L.N. Tiwari, the Asst. Director (Agri.), who had met me in Karim Nagar once when he was posted at Chalgal Agriculture Farm; had also been transferred to Kothagudem and was staying in Patha (Old) Kothagudem, very close to SCCL Hospital. I approached him and apprised him of my delicacy. Mrs. Tiwari readily agreed to come over to the Hospital and stay with my wife. I picked her up and dropped in the Hospital to be with my wife and returned to Forest Complex.

I was in time in the complex, as soon after the Conservator of Forest Khammam had arrived. I received him. He was rested in the 2nd suite of the FRH. I narrated about the condition of the DFO's residence & the need for sufficient funds to take up the repairs. I had also informed that I was in occupation of the one suite of the Rest House till DFO's Quarter was repaired. I took him around the Complex to see for himself the bad condition of the premise and the buildings. I requested him to arrange to provide necessary funds for the uplift of the Complex including buildings. He promised to provide funds to the extent possible.

Then we left for the maiden field inspection by the new CF. We went to Ramavaram Range and inspected few plantations and nurseries. By afternoon it had started raining, hence there was no possibility of further inspections. Therefore, we returned to Kothagudem. The moment we reached FRH, my Head Clerk came

running and congratulated & informed me that I had been blessed with a son at about 3.45 pm. The CF congratulated me profusely and lovingly directed me to rush to the Hospital at once. He told me that he was also going back to Khammam, his HQ. I saw the CF off and proceeded to SCCL Hospital.

The news was a matter of real joy. I was handed over the bundle of joy by the nurse; real cute boy. I greeted my wife. The boy had arrived 2 weeks in advance from the EDD. The Doctor and Mrs. Tiwari greeted me profusely. I thanked both of them wholeheartedly.

(The author is former PCCF & HOFF, Telangana and can be reached over mobile at +916300030519 and e-mail at pareshvyas22@gmail.com)

The Doctor also informed me that the delivery was perfectly normal. I was greatly relieved. My parents and parents in law were anxiously waiting for this moment. My father was no more to see the face of his grandson, who had left for heavenly abode about two months back. My mother and In-laws had planned to reach Kothagudem by the end of July 86, keeping the EDD of 5th Aug in view. Hence, they were also not there on the most momentous time of my life. I broke this news over phone (Trunk call) to in-laws and by letter to my mother and other relations. Though the Sun of the family had set in; a new Star was born!

Special Appeal To All The Retired Forest Officers

I convey my best wishes to all those Forest Officers who have retired on attaining the age of superannuation. It is a well-known fact that the Retired Forest officers right from the cadre of ACF to PCCF took a decision very long back and started this association for retired forest officers and the association has been functioning quite actively while involving itself in discussing on issues related to retired forest officers thread bare and taking necessary steps in a democratic process by putting all the heads together as and when required.

In the Executive Body meeting Presided by Sri S.K. Das, IFS (Retd.) held on 6th March 2022, it was observed to the disappointment of the members, that some of the retired forest officers were yet to become members of the association - may be because of Covid pandemic or due to other preoccupations they have been busy with.

Now, VANAPREMI feels it to be a privilege to invite all the retired forest officers to become members of the Association by paying a one-time fee and try to attend the Association meetings and strengthen its hands in functioning in the best possible way with your valuable inputs and active participation.

The Details:

Membership fee: Rs. 5000.

Name of the A/c holder: Association of Retired Forest Officers T & AP

Account numbers: 75450100011453 & 75450100003125

Name of the Bank & Br: Bank of Baroda, Nallakunta Branch, Hyderabad -500044

IFSC Code: BARB0VJNAKU ('0' in the middle is number '0' and not the alphabet 'O')

- Editor, VanaPremi.



Jungle Parks in Tirupati Circle Abodes of conservation education

P. Mallikharjuna Rao, IFS (Retd.)

Children and Forest Education (CAFÉ), a small initiative launched in Andhra Pradesh Forest Academy, Dulapally in 2003 (I was Director from 2002 to 2006) to sensitise and educate school children on forest and environment was further strengthened and improved by my successors and their teams. As part of the programme, a circuitous trail path was laid out in the academy forest with the help of FSO trainees so as to take children inside the natural forest and explain about the forest ecosystem and need for its protection and conservation. This trail path became popular among the children, trainees and visitors. This experience made me to think that, a portion of forest near urban areas/ pilgrim centres with just laying trial paths can be developed as good eco-parks which would act as conservation education centres besides providing recreation to the visitors. When I was working as CCF, Tirupati WLM circle, my colleagues / team members took this idea forward and put their sincere efforts and developed four Jungle parks in Tirupati circle during 2007-08.

1. Jungle Book, Tirupati:

Responding to my request, the members of Seshachalam eco-friends came forward to associate in developing a Jungle park at Tirupati. Seshachalam eco-friends was an informal group formed with the members consisting of nature lovers representing various walks of life who were willing to contribute to the forest protection and wildlife conservation through their suggestions, inputs and voluntary work. Though there were no specific funds allocated, Sri Krishnah, the then DFO, Tirupati and his team Srinivasulu, Ramana took my suggestion positively and proposed to develop such park in the forest adjoining Kapilathirthm. The joint team of forest field functionaries and Seshachalam eco friends had perambulated the forest and proposed a patch of nearly 40 hectares area for developing the park. They also identified different zones for effective

nature education on various themes viz., flora, insects, birds, rocks and minerals, children play activities and visitor recreation.

The field staff took up the work of forming a trial path without felling a single tree with bare minimum cost by adjusting funds from savings from different schemes. As the work was in progress, the Chief Wildlife warden (Sri Hitesh Malhotra, IFS) agreed to sanction Rs 10 lakhs budget for environment education which was proposed to be utilised for developing this park. Sri Balu (Trekking) who suggested naming the park as Jungle Book involved in designing the nature interpretation boards. Sri Ramana (Trekking) associated in naming of the visiting zones as Prakrutiramam, Keetka dhamam (Insectarium), Silavinyasm (Rock thrills), Khanija samrajyam (Mineral kingdom), Pakshula Parnasala (Birds paradise), Vihanga vikshanam and other. Sri Sai Prasad (Geologist) designed display arrangement of some important rocks and minerals. Sri Dr Sridevi (Associate Professor, Agri entomology) involved in developing Keetaka dhamam area with display arrangement of different insect specimens and interpretation board for a naturally existing termite mound. Wildlife enthusiast, Sri Prasad constructed a jungle bridge. The forest field functionaries developed Tree top walk, Watch tower, Bamboo tunnel, Kids corner (Chanda mama), boating facility etc., Other members of Seshachalam eco friends Sri Sankarreddy (retd IFS officer), Prof Nandakumar, Dr Bharati, Sri Sethumohan, Dr Nagaraju and Sri Balakrishna actively participated in developing this park.

The Park was finally opened to the people on 12th July 2008. It became a good nature education centre and a popular park in Tirupati city. During that period, the park was visited by Sri Jayaram Ramesh, the then Union Minister for MoEF, Sri Peddi Reddy Ramachandra Reddy, Forest Minister, AP, Chinta Mohan, MP, Sri Fatehbadur Singh, Forest

Minister of UP and various other dignitaries who were appreciative of the concept. Sri Anjappa, retired Forest Section Officer under the guidance of the DFO (First Mr Sri Krishnaiah and then Sri Ramalingam) and team took good interest in facilitating execution of various works through Srinivasa Managapuram VSS and also operationalising the activity. All the structures taken up were cost effective and eco-friendly. The ingenuity of the field staff in accommodating a watch tower, forest products sale counter and tree top walk (ramp to watch tower passing through the canopy of the trees) in the overhead tank constructed in the park for supply of water to the entire forest complex deserve special mention. The VSS is managing the park on sustainable basis by collecting gate fee and recycling it for maintenance and improvement under the guidance of the Forest Department. This park is continuing to be one of the popular visiting places in Tirupati city and contributing considerably to conservation education.

2. Kailasa Vanam:

Sri GV Subbareddy, the then DFO, Chittoor East and his team consisting of Sri Devaraju, Forest Range Officer, Puttur and other field staff developed a park in the Narayana vanam forest block at pilgrim centre and waterfall at Kailasalkona. Sri SK Das, IFS the then PCCF laid foundation stone for the park in December, 2007. The park was inaugurated by Sri R. Chenga Reddy the then Minister for Panchayat Raj in 2008. This park was developed on the theme of linking spiritualism with forest conservation and accordingly nature interpretation boards were placed at different locations. The various visting Zones namely Navagraha vanam, Vinayaka vanam, Parimala soyagam (aromatic plants), Charaka vanam (medicinal plants garden), Rasula thota (rasi vanam), Veduru theram (bamboo bund), Jalapatha darshini (waterfall view) and other were created by keeping the natural vegetation intact. The visitor facilities were Vihanga veekhsnanam (observation tower), Prakruthi bata (Trail path), Palahara sala (cafeteria), Vahana vedika (parking space), Bujjayi (kids' corner) and other. Sri Devaraju designed and executed a unique low cost round structure to accommodate cafeteria, forest products sale counter and watch tower in it. Field staff showed their innovativeness in developing a low cost

gravity based water supply from a perennial water source located on the adjoining hillock to cover the entire park.

3. Redwood Park, Koduru:

Sri Srinivas Reddy, the then DFO, Rajampet and his team consisting of Mr Ramlanai and other forest field functionaries developed Redwood Park in an old red sanders plantation of about 30 acres located in Settigunta Reseve forest adjoining Gunjana river near Koduru town. This plantation was originally taken up in 1865 by the Forest Department under British regime. Subsequently it was clear felled and replanted during 1934 to 1957. The plantation had around 6900 Red sanders and about 1000 trees of various other species. The total plantation was got fenced and erosion control measures were taken up to safeguard and protect the trees from adjoining river. A trail path (Prakruthi bata) was made to take the visitors to different parts of the park while facilitating nature interpretation though labelling of trees and appropriate information boards on forest, trees and their ecological importance. Visitor facilities included Prakruti (Forest products and crafts sale counter), Vana chetana (nature education hall), and tree top machan. Sit outs, pedal boating and machan (tree top platform). The forest and wild life films and environment related cultural events were organised in Vana chetana every day evening. As there was no any park at Koduru town and by being accessible to high way it was attracting good number of visitors every day.

4. Jungle World, Chittoor:

Forest near Chittoor town had trees of red sanders planted during British period. A walking track and deer crawl was already existing in this forest. A small patch of this forest was developed as eco-park by the then DFO, Chittoor, East, Sri GV Subbareddy and later by Mr Bharath Kumar, IFS. The natural attractions of the park were named as Mahamarri (Big banyan tree), Mosali gundu (crocodile shaped rock), Nakkala banda (Rock crevices), Chittor darshini (panoramic view from hill) etc., the facilities developed were Prakruthi bata (Nature trail path), Vana kuteeram, Vana darshini (nature interpretation centre with Audio Visual facilities) and Chinnari (Kids corner).

On a final note:

The jungle parks in Tirupati circle are acting as windows to the forest and contributing substantially towards conservation education. These parks were created when there was no any formal scheme or programme to develop such parks available. Unlike the conventional parks and gardens like municipal parks, the jungle parks do not require much effort and finances to create attractions and greenery artificially. The natural features of the forest such as multi layered flora (herbs, shrubs, trees, climbers), diverse fauna (birds, insects etc.,) and associated unique natural features of beauty such as escarpments, waterfalls, water ponds, termite mounds, rocky beds, `streams etc., become the natural attractions which are to be show cased properly. It will be useful to project the jungle in true form and facilitate unique experience of nature to the visitors while designing these parks. Creative ideas with appropriate and site specific interventions such as trail paths, thematic zoning of the area, nature interpretation planning and eco-friendly visitor facilities play a significant role in developing and maintaining these parks in successful manner. Through community based management, the parks can be

maintained sustainably by recycling the funds collected through gate fee, vehicle parking and other charges while providing local employment. It is very happy to note that several Nagara Vanams (City Forests) in forest blocks have come up in both the Telugu states after launch of Nagar Vana Udyan Yojana scheme in 2014-15 by Government of India. Before launch of the scheme, there were good efforts to develop eco-parks in forests at Kothaguda, Medipally, Kotappakonda and a few other places in combined Andhra Pradesh with the initiative of committed forest officers and their teams. It is interesting to know that the Telangana Government has taken up a prestigious programme to develop maximum number of urban eco-parks in the state. It is informed that works were started for 109 parks (highest number in the country) of which 37 were completed and put into operation already. These urban forest eco-parks are attracting good number of visitors, raising their consciousness on environment and forest protection and also improving overall image of the Forest Service.

(Please note: The views expressed here are purely my personal).

(The author is former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) Andhra Pradesh and can be reached over mobile: +919989171958 and by email: pmkrao72@gmail.com)

“I ask people why they have deer heads on their walls. They always say because it’s such a beautiful animal. There you go. I think my mother is attractive, but I have photographs of her.”

- Ellen DeGeneres

Equations With Environment



Nagabhushanam Dasari, IFS., (Retd)

Tree

Devours contaminants, controls sounds
and provides breath
An energy incarnation, the form of the goddess
protects the entire world
and gives invaluable assistance

The Voice of Tree

Never give even a little scope of rust to your ideas
If you forget thinking, you will be treated as dead
Learn by looking at the fig trees
sprouted from rocky crevices
See how these trees stand in front of you
with cool shade wings duly protecting
from scorching sun rays
Similarly avoid wisdom acquired from rotting
It's enough if you help few needy people before exit

Green Signature

Everybody has to put green signature
by planting one sapling in the lap of mother land
Let us leave our landmarks in the form of
flowers, fruits and shadows
Secure the future by keeping
the environment sacred

Music of Nature

Heart is filled with green thoughts
Blossomed rainbow 'Batukammalu'
with coloured 'Gunuka' flowers
Amazing dances of beautiful peacocks
Soothing picturesque scenes of green forests
Drowsily Swinging nectar filled hibiscus flowers
Enchanting sweet words of parrots
Bloomed gardens with colourful butterflies
and oozing honey taste songs of kukoos

(Batukammalu: Different flowers were decorated artistically in conical shape at the time of flower festival in Telangana State; Gunuka flower: Celosia argentea flower)



A Case of False Claim of Kaan Forest for Timber

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

Introduction: In the Malnad region of the central Western Ghats, Karnataka - in the Districts of Shivamogga and Uttara Kannada, ethnic people conserved village forests called Kaan forests as the abode of sylvan deities. Ethnic taboos have kept the Kaan forests in a virgin state for centuries. The lifestyles were relevant for the conservation and sustainable harvest of resources such as wild nutmeg, pepper, gums/ resins, honey, and tapping toddy to trade in the prehistoric period. The kaan forest system or concept was the tradition of the inhabitants of ethnic Ediga community, formerly toddy tappers and hunter-gatherers who were dependent on the biodiversity of these forests which were home for toddy palms (*Caryota urens*).

The Kaans were least disturbed forests of the region harbouring many the threatened, endemic and relic tree species like *Dipterocarpus indicus*, *Madhuca bourdillonii*, *Syzygium travancoricum*, *Dysoxylum malabaricum*, *Artocarpus hirsuta*, *Mangifera indica* and other lofty trees which were also supporting the arboreal fauna like Lion Tailed Macaque (*Macaca lupus*), Slender Loris (*Loris tardigradus*), Giant squirrel (*Ratufa indica*); besides serving as a repository of biodiversity and assured ecosystem services like underground water table/ springs and perennial streams. The Unique traditional systems developed by indigenous people to conserve forest patches have been passed on to them by preceding generations in this part of the region.

However, in the recent times there have been negative changes in the strict taboos practiced by the natives due to the influence of modern lifestyles. The increases in human population and decline in the agricultural productions have increased the dependency pressure on the Kaan forests as a source of income and resulted in non-sustainable harvest of resources in Kaans causing depletion of their biodiversity. (Source-Internet)

The withdrawal of management of Kaans from the village community in favour of the Karnataka Forest Department in 1960s made Kaans as 'Districts Forests' under Sec.33 which opened an era for over exploitation of the Kaans for timber and encroachment for housing /cultivation by locals since village community washed off their hands by looking at the forest department for protection. Still there are good patches of Kaans in some villages which are protected by the village community.

The government declared them as "Deemed Forests" as per the direction of the Supreme Court under the WP No. 202/1995 of T.N. Godavarman in Y2Ks. But Karnataka FD is still in dilemma in declaring them as Reserve Forests and taking action to maintain them by fixing their boundaries with initiation for conservation programmer as on today (2002).

In reality Kaan forests are the wet evergreen/semi-evergreen forests with a sort of microclimatic conditions close to the villages compared to the surrounding forests with rich edaphic conditions; and they need to be protected as heritage sites since it is very difficult to create such of these Kaan forests if once-they are lost.

A Case of false claim in Kaan forest:

I was in Charge of the Sorab Range in Sagar Division in Shivamogga district from 1981- 84. In May 1981, a file came from the DCF to me to issue form no. 28 transit passes from Bhadrapura near Ulavi. It was followed by a lengthy telegram pleading not to issue permits with details that the malki- trees felled were in Kaan- forest and not in Khanesumari nos/Sites as projected in the file due to the negligence/ connivance of concerned forest/ revenue officers. The release was delayed for a week to take up spot verification as I had some fever. The contractor employed a yellow journalist from Sagar town to pressurize me. The journalist-

Pandit telephoned me and accused me of ulterior motives for the delay in process and issue of transit permit to timber of his party... for which I replied, I can have my time for inspection, and it cannot be forced unless it is a wanton delay beyond reasonable time for process..... and he published the same reply in his paper. I took up inspection leisurely, and found the sketch was not tallying with the ground reality-where the trees have been felled and converted. I returned the file to the DCF quoting the allegation to refer it for joint survey as there is an allegation about the credibility of the survey sketch. The file was referred for the joint survey by the RFO (survey) & the ACF by the DCF to verify the correctness. They too erred in finding the mistake and certified the original sketch as correct and recommended for release.

Again, a telegram came to me with warning not to get involved in the case by releasing the malki. Even though the sketch was certified by the DDLR, and ownership was given by the DC Shimoga and counter signed by my staff / RFO-my predecessor/ ACF/ RFO-PT and then by the officers of the joint re-survey team. I wrote it back to the new DCF- CS Vedant, a young and energetic officer about the problem; he returned the file with the order to conduct my own survey and finalize at my end. The burden of taking decision about the allegation about the survey was shifted on me.

I took up the survey with the assistance of my forester-Marigulappaanavar- a young and trained Forester as I am a civil engineer by qualification and was confident of my skill in land survey. It caused a problem in searching out any one of the original cornerstones of the village limits which was within a kaan since the file has covered all the Kh.nos of all the houses in the village-Bhadrapur... Finally, a corner stone was successfully located with the help of a FG on long leave in the same village-Rao. We started the survey from the original corner stone found embedded under a bush and completed the survey of the village limit with reference to the certified sketch (the village map-in reality). In fact, the contractor had purchased all the malki of all the sites (houses) in the village; but managed to fell 3-4 times more trees in the Kan surrounding the village-actually encroached by the villagers.

(The small village was surrounded by a Kaan- semi-evergreen forest with lofty trees mostly softwood trees and only Eugenia jambulena and Vitex altissima were the hard woods and it was encroached for extension of the backyard of the houses for cultivation and house construction with projection that the occupied land belongs to them and sold the trees to the contractor. The sketch was as per the village map- but certificate that all the malki standing in the encroached lands as in the limit of the village was wrong- the crux of the case and a complete connivance or negligence by all concerned).

We seized all logs/fuel wood lots outside the village boundary limit and booked an offence, arrested the contractor, and decided to take the case to the court under Sec.33 of KFA 1963. As a practice, the seized property was given to the safe custody of the contractor as he was present to watch and ward on the spot of his property left over.

In the meanwhile, the contractor- managed to see that all the timber merchants gather in Sagar and meet the DCF, Sagar and plead for him "to not to produce the contractor to court and to deal the case departmentally and save the prestige of the contractors with the promise that they will avoid such incidents in future". The DCF considered their persuasion and plea... and advised me to do so...and it was obliged.

We were in shortage of firewood for sale in the retail fuel wood depot for bonafide consumption at Shiralkoppa-Shikaripura taluk. Since the material seized at Bhadrappura FOC was in the Kaan- government land, I permitted the Forester to transport the FOC firewood of Bhadrappura for sale at Shiralakoppa to the public.

In the meanwhile, some conspiracy was hatched against me, and the contractor was influenced to lodge a case against me in the court at Sagar (As there was no court in Sorab then) with the plea that the RFO, Sorab who has seized the property and filed the FIR to the court has disposed of the property without the permission of the Hon'ble Court and has committed a criminal offence punishable under CrPC..... The case was accepted by the JMFC and forwarded to the Police Sub Inspector, Sorab for investigation and

report. The news spread like a wildfire and public who were in support of the actions for saving forests came to me and told me.... that the PSI was telling about the Bhadrapura FOC..... that you have committed a grave crime and the PSI is lobbying to proceed with the case against you..... It perturbed me, even though I was confident that the perishable property seized belonged to the KFD can be disposed of by the officer by keeping samples. I went through the amendments to KFA 1963 in 1976 and sent a copy to the PSI to see the relevant amendment and not to indulge in anti-propaganda etc against the actions of the forest officer. The case was buried, and the timber seized was transported and sold as it was soft wood subject to deterioration. The case was kept alive. The permits granted for the firewood and timber to the party was with-held pending disposal of the case...

The DCF, Sagar wrote to the CCF-HOD to initiate disciplinary action against the officers hoodwinked in this case.....which involved DDLR and his staff and all the forest officers who had visited and certified the malki felled etc and caused sensation/ought to have been a loss to the govt...but nothing happen. The problem here too was the same- connivance of the DDLR and complacency of the forest officers in relying on ADLR Or DDLR certificate.

NB: Even without the amendment, the Police Case filed by the Contractor against me would not have been clicked since the contractor had given an apology for the guilt with a plea for compounding the case by dropping the proposed move of it in the court against him.

(The author is Retired Deputy Conservator of Forests, Karnataka and a lance writer on wildlife, forestry, and environment. Mob: 9632781811 and Email: bmt.rajeev.ifs@gmail.com)

*“If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind,
of what, then, is an empty desk a sign?”*

☆☆☆

- Laurence J. Peter

*“I like work; it fascinates me.
I can sit and look at it for hours.”*

☆☆☆

- Jerome K. Jerome

*“There are two motives for reading a book; one, that you
enjoy it; the other, that you can boast about it.”*

☆☆☆

- Bertrand Russell

*“If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. Then quit.
No use being a damn fool about it.”*

- W.C. Fields

Green Quiz - April 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)

(Focus of This month's Quiz is Migratory Wildlife in Africa)

1. Between which two countries does the largest land migration of wild animals take place?
2. In which month does the annual migration start?
3. Which is the dominant species of wild life migration ?
4. Which is the common companion animal species in the migration?
5. How many days can the dominant species keep walking without even stopping for water?
6. Which are the two National parks that host the world's largest land migration?
7. What is the difference in eating habit of Dominant species and accompanying species?
8. Why do a large number of dominant migrating species drown while crossing Rivers?
9. The plaid cloth worn by Masai tribe as a cloak to ward-off chill is called?
10. Why do the dominant species give birth to young ones in broad day light?
11. When calves get lost from their mothers, where in the long line do they gather?
12. Which disease transmitted from domestic cattle cause maximum deaths to the dominant species?
13. Females of dominant species are both nursing young ones and are pregnant at the same time for four months. Which period?
14. What term is used to arrangements where homesteads of dwellings and corrals are enclosed with fencing made from tangled thorny acacia branches to keep livestock in and predators out?
15. What is the term used to identify warriors/adults who are ready to be responsible for the whole herd comprising sheep/goats, and cows?

(Answers on page:36)

Note: Contributions are invited from member/readers. Select questions (with answers) would be published in the next quiz along with those from Quiz Master. Questions with answers may be mailed to kota_86@rediffmail.com.

"When you're in jail, a good friend will be trying to bail you out.

A best friend will be in the cell next to you saying,

Damn, that was fun'."

- Groucho Marx



Intimidation of a Mischievous Tusker in Musth

Dr Thulsi Rao

In the 1980's I was working as Assistant Curator of 'Indira Gandhi Zoological Park' (IGZP) at Visakapatnam, A.P. India. This zoo owned three elephants: one adult tusker (Ramu), an adult female (Shanthi) and a sub-adult male (Krishna). The tusker Ramu was acquired from the Bhadrachalam temple. Regardless whether the animal was mischievous or it's mahout was unable to control it, the elephant was gifted to the IGZP. After observing it's incompatibility with other members, this animal was separated and moved into a newly constructed thatched pandal made of casuarina poles on a concrete platform with special provision for anchoring it's four legs with chains.

All three elephants were temporarily housed outside and open to the sky under the shade of large and lofty eucalyptus trees. Construction of a large and open enclosure was under consideration, adjacent to the 'Shanthi Sarovar,' a man-made lake at a vantage junction, so that visitors on foot could see and enjoy the behaviour of elephants while they were bathing and drinking in the lake.

Since captive elephants need constant care - day and night; temporary thatched hutments for the mahouts were constructed opposite the elephants just a few meters away from the electric transformer. All the mahouts with families shifted from Topslip, Tamilnadu along with the elephants. Most of the time the elephants love and trust their human boss who cares for them right from its infant stage. That is the reason mahouts are also adopted along with the animal.

It was on a morning that tusker Ramu, with it's mahout was proceeding on a clay-laden area to remove and transport a heavy wind-fallen log in the zoo. The animal was normal, though there was a tar-like secretion on either side of his head that his mahout was managing. Suddenly the elephant started showing

signs of restlessness, aggression and was reluctant to obey the mahout. The elephant started running in every direction with it's mahout on its back trying to control the animal with oral commands. But all his efforts were in vain. Meanwhile, on seeing the incident, myself along with another mahout, Kanakaraju moved to the spot and mounted Shanthi, the cow elephant who was carrying the bundle of sugar cane sticks with her trunk. When Shanthi was feeding while walking, tusker Ramu, followed her until he reached his pandal. After about an hour the mahout managed to cool down Ramu and chained all four legs with the help of Shanthi, the cow-elephant and other two mahouts. Ramu was well fed from a distance and drank profusely with the help of a long garden hose. But Ramu was not allowing anyone near him.

Ramu continued to be restless and broke the pandal by pulling the wooden poles down. The thatch material was strewn all over. Casuarina poles were broken into pieces using his trunk and front right limb. The elephant kept charging at those who attempted to go near it. Ramu hurled pieces of poles and a few people got hurt including the mahout, Narayanan. Two months later the secretion from the temporal gland ceased.

This adult male, 'Ramu' got into 'musth' (heat) almost every year. During musth he becomes aggressive, restless and unreliable to work with. A dark secretion (ichors) was observed oozing from the temporal gland (on either side of the elephant's head) and a steady trickle of urine came down the back legs of the elephant. Musth is a completely natural phenomenon seen in healthy adult bull elephants, both tuskers and makhnas (tuskless bulls). For four years, we studied the musth behavioural pattern. Musth typically for this animal lasted between 3-4 months and occurred in three stages: a 3-4 week

pre-musth condition, a 5-4 week peak musth, and a 4-5 week post-musth condition.

During the musth period this animal was found to be more energetic, aggressive, and at times unpredictable and oversensitive to sounds and movements. During the musth, it was strictly isolated under a specially constructed pandal (shade) until the elephant emerged from musth on its own. All four legs were chained and tied to iron rails that anchored into the concrete platform. The iron chain of the left forelimb had a knife that pinched the foot muscle of the animal, whenever it tried to break open the links by thrashing and beating using its trunk. Ramu managed to break weak chain links and freed two legs.

That year he had pulled down the pandal made of casuarina and thatched material. Long casuarinas poles of the pandal were broken into pieces and the animal used to hurl them at the mahout who was feeding him. Since then, no one had gone nearer to feed, water or clean. Medication was provided to reduce the swelling and pain on the foot. Tranquilizers mixed into the elephant's favourite food (ragi bolus with jaggery) were often thrown nearer to it to cool down the animal. Every day we had to purchase a 30 foot (10 m) long hose to provide water, as Ramu cut the hose in pieces after drinking and wetting the body. As time passed, Ramu remained mischievous and did not allow anyone - even after the end of the post-musth period - to care for him.

Sudden Fire Accident:

It was noon- the sun was right overhead, bright and burning on one of the hottest days of the summer. The weather was sultry and scorching. I was full of sweat. I wished for a cold bath again and again. But there was no respite. The atmosphere was sticky and stuffy. The earth was dry and parched. Hot winds were blowing day and night. I felt so thirsty that I drank water repeatedly, but still I could not quench my thirst. Ice and cold water were in much demand but did not provide much comfort. Fans and coolers were of little help as they were only stirring hot air. The air proved stifling in my office accommodations in a hexagonal 'Gazebo'. Intolerable heat inside pushed me out under

the cannon ball tree (*Couroupita guianensis*) that stood in front of it.

Suddenly I heard a loud boom of sound from the western corner of the Gazebo, where the elephants were housed in the open area under the huge eucalyptus trees. I suspected a big accident or collision of big trucks on the road just outside, parallel to the zoo compound wall. Immediately I went inside to pick up my walkie-talkie and first-aid kit. I saw one of the mahouts running towards me with gasping jaws, fast breathing, sweating and unable to speak. I told my attendant to take care of him and moved to the spot where I found the transformer's power out due to a short circuit. A fireball created a large plume of smoke and ejected non-stop sparks which might have exploded the transformer at any time and caught fire of the thatched hutments and the strewn material of the pandal. Already Ramu the elephant was in a panic and trying to get free by pulling the chains frenetically. It was really a very dangerous situation if something was not done immediately. Either the elephant might be burnt alive or it might free itself and kill many on its way to escape. I alerted the fire station and the police over the phone, and then without wasting any time, I summoned all the available staff to come to the spot. As part of crisis and disaster management, I knew the visitors had to be immediately vacated from the area, and we had to get ready to tackle and meet the emergency at hand. While doing so, my brain was hard put to think sharply and find a way out of the situation. Suddenly it struck me. Ramu was not really in musth and we could start an operation to intimidate him.

Operation Intimidation:

Immediately I organized the staff on hand to cut a clump of bamboo on the opposite side of the elephant and take out the individual culms and sharpen them while the elephant was watching us. Others began to practice the intimidation operation. I instructed the staff to stand in a semi-circle at a distance of forty feet from the animal and run fast towards the animal with the sharpened bamboo sticks in their hands in hunters masquerade. I kept Ramu's mahout in the centre of the operation by my side a little ahead of the team, holding a knife and 'Ankush' (spear), and we ran fast making a

big synchronized loud noise. Another line was drawn in front about fifteen feet away from the animal. The loud shrieks terrified the animal and the shouting team only stopped screaming when the mahout in the centre would caution the animal to sit on the ground. Our strategy worked out well. The frightened animal obeyed its master's command and surrendered by sitting on his hind legs. Mahout put the knife at the sensitive junction point of trunk and lower jaw and the ear. Immediately three other mahouts plunged into action by tying all four legs and brought it out safely from the raging fire.

The cause of fire was investigated and it was found that the combustion of the liquid caused increased pressure in the transformer. The high pressure forced

the transformer to rupture, and the result was an explosion, which released high levels of energy and strong thermal radiation, and flaming oil. By the time the fire vehicle reached the spot, our ground staff had put out the fire. The police who reached the incident were authorized to kill the animal should it be dangerous to the people in the operation. However, thankfully this time a certain gumption and quick decisions backed by experience, proved to deliver the desired results.

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. My sincere thanks are due to Dr Al and Davy Davidson (Shakthi) for their comments and editing of the of the draft.

(The writer is Retd. DyCF, A.P., and presently working as a Wildlife and Biodiversity Consultant with many organizations. He can be reached over mobile: 8500782528; and Email: drkthulsirao@gmail.com)





Smt R. Shobha IFS adviser (forests), Govt of Telangana paying respects to the Hon'ble CM after assuming charge as Hon'ble Forest Minister looks on.



Sri R.M. Dobriyal, IFS., PCCF & HOFF, Telangana paying respects to the Hon'ble CM after assuming charge. Seen in the picture Sri A. Indrakiran Reddy, Hon'ble Forest Minister.

CONVOCAION OF 30th BATCH FBO TRAINEES T.S. FOREST ACADEMY

(Details on page:54)



Chief Guest Sri. Swargam Srinivas, IFS, Prl.CCF(Admn., V&A) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Telangana Forest Dept., inspecting the parade and March Past of the trainees





Photo: S. Venugopal

Eurasian spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)



Photo: G. Ramakrishna Rao

Black stork (*Ciconia nigra*)

RK Rao Gubbala



Photo: Rajesh Kanni

Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*)



Photo: Rajesh Kanni

Bar-headed goose (*Anser indicus*)



Photo: T.S.Prasanna Kumar

Yellow-billed tern (*Sternula superciliaris*)



Photo: S. Venugopal

Grey wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

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)

Taj Mahal The Living Edifice of Human Passion

Photos: K. Praveen Rao, IFS (Rtd.)

(Article on the Opposite page)



Taj Mahal -in Fairy Tales



Taj Mahal -in Fairy Tales



Taj – Moon Trail



Sri S.K. Das, IFS, (Retd.) addressing the Executive body of the Association of Retired Forest Officers, Telangana & AP on 6th March, 2022. (Right: Some members pose for a photo)



My Taj Mahal Diaries

K. Praveen Rao, IFS (Retd.)



That was 2019 transfer season. I was holding the post of Chief Conservator of Forests, Awadh Circle, Lucknow. We were promoted as Addl PCCF and as there were no posts vacant. We were asked to work in the same positions. One of my senior colleagues, Mr Abhay Kr Singh, Addl PCCF, Agra Zone, who was trained with our batch 1987 took voluntary retirement for his personal reasons. Finally, Government took a call to post me as Addl PCCF on the post which fell vacant and wanted an officer to handle some turbulence in one of the circles. I joined Agra Zone in the first week of July 2019. Agra zone at present has two circles Agra and Aligarh which at one point of time were Brij Bhoomi Circle, when I was probationer here in 1990. So, it was a home coming for me after three decades.

The forest colony in Agra is one of the prestigious colonies as it is adjoining the world heritage site, The Taj Mahal. Taj Mahal is within 500 mts from the Chief Conservator's official residence situated in Taj Forest Block. Hon'ble Supreme court of India keeping in view the heavy pollution in Agra and its aftereffects on the marble structure has taken many steps to reduce the pollution levels in Agra and around. It ordered to create a Taj trapezium zone of 10000 sq kms around the Taj, greening of East and west side of Taj, relocating the polluting industries, total ban on felling of trees without the permission of Hon'ble apex court and so on. These steps helped in intense greening of Taj Forest Block.

I am a bird enthusiast and always concentrated in photographing birds. Photographing birds require big tele photo and zoom lenses. Hence a 500 mm lens was attached to my camera all time. I never concentrated on landscape images. After joining Agra and seen the Taj from such close quarters, I was fascinated by the marble architectural marvel and the dancing of light in the morning and the silhouette in the evening. Without going deep into how, why, who and when it was constructed have decided to capture its beauty from all

angles and in all the seasons, as this posting was the God given opportunity for me. I had one 50 mm lens, though it is not a well preferred lens for landscapes I decided to go ahead with what I have. Over the time I started loving my lens as the photographs of dawn, dusk, night were appreciated by my friends.

In this article I am giving some of the photographs which I took around Taj and what fascinated me. Hope you all would like it. (Turn to the center page of this issue to appreciate the beauty of the photographs).

TAJ MAHAL IN FULL MOON: The day was a full moon day, to be precise it was waxing gibbous moon and 98 percent illuminated. We were in the mid of October and was pleasantly cool. Me and Mr. Maneesh Mittal, DFO Agra decided to photograph on full moon day. Mr. Maneesh has good astral knowledge. That was right day for us and went on to the top of Forest Rest House, which is also located in the Taj Forest block and nearer to the Taj. Setup the tripod and 50 mm lens. Waited for the right time, till the moon was sufficiently high in the sky and illuminating the marble architecture. The photograph was captured at 12.30 in the midnight. Took several shots at different intervals of exposure. This one I liked the most. Which gave full details of Taj and the forest around is dark. The Exif (Exchangeable image file format) for the shot are ISO – 1600, Focal length – 50 mm, Aperture – 5.6, Shutter speed – 10 secs.

MOON TRAIL – On the same night, our enthusiasm was high and went for a night out. Moved from the rest house to the banks of Yamuna River. Took our position on the South bank which is adjoining the Taj Forest Block and gives a view of Taj from East side. It was around 4.00 am in the morning. We positioned ourselves in such a way that Taj and the Yamuna bank are on the left side of the frame and Moon with different

Contd.. on page No.44



Forest Land Records – The Most Neglected

Dr Akula Kishan I.F.S.(Rtd)

According to 'State of Forest report 2021' the Forest Cover assessment for the year 2021 is as follows:

Forest Cover of India (in sq.Kms)		
Class	Area	% of geographical area
Very Dense Forest	99,779	3.04
Moderately Dense Forests	3,06,890	9.33
Open Forest	3,07,120	6.34
Total Forest Cover	7,13,789	21.71
Scrub	46,539	1.42
Non-Forest	25,27,141	76.87
Total Geographical Area	32,87,469	100.00

As can be seen from the above 21.71 % of total geographical area is under control of Forest Department, and hence the maintenance of land records in Forest Departments is very important but it is most neglected due to various reasons.

The evolution of forest land records, in general is as follows:

1. The land is allocated or transferred to Forest Department, from Estate Abolition, Jagir Abolition, Inam Abolition, Mutta and Mahals Abolition, Land ceilings etc. or from the general lands/Porambokes available with Revenue Department.
2. The proposals to reserve the lands given into custody of Forest Department as per provisions of Forest Act is initiated by Forest Department. The Forest Block is surveyed and the Area Statement is taken from Revenue Department, indicating the

extent of land included in the Forest Block from the total available land in the village and whether full survey number or part survey number is included, wherever survey numbers are available.

3. The proposals are approved by the concerned District Collector, and sent to Forest Department for transmission to Government, and the notifications as per Forest Act are issued.
4. The notifications are to be entered in the Revenue records, especially in Prohibitory Order Book (POB), so that the lands included in the Forest Block are kept out of allotment or assignment.
5. In most of the Forest Blocks in Telangana, the Forest Blocks are given Survey numbers, whereas in most of the cases it is not so in Andhra Pradesh. About 900 forest block notifications were sent about 30 years ago to Commissioner, Land Revenue, for assigning Survey numbers to Forest Blocks in Andhra Pradesh. But there is no progress. As the Survey numbers end at the Forest Boundary, it is easy for Revenue or Survey Departments to allocate Survey sub-division numbers and issue pattas. The fact of issue of pattas is not known to Forest Department, till the so called pattadars enter the Forest Block, and the dispute arises.
6. The pattadars who enter the Forest Block immediately approach the Courts of law and seek directions for issuing restraining orders to Forest Department, not to interfere with their peaceful possession of land, And the interim orders are generally issued restraining the Forest Department not to disturb the possession of such pattadars, as they are having documents issued by Revenue Department, and they can be evicted by getting the pattas canceled and following due process of

law. And for pursuing each such case it is a herculean task as the lower forest officers are not well versed in the procedures and legal intricacies and the cases are kept pending and during this period, the agriculture is established and hamlets or villages are established in Forest Blocks. And due to political and other local factors the occupied forest land is almost lost forever.

The Forest Records:

1. The Forest Block files are to be maintained in Range Office and Division offices and the notifications on forest blocks are kept in Circle offices and Head offices. The forest notifications along with maps are pasted in the "Register of Reserved Forests".
2. The notifications are issued for notifying the Forest Blocks as 'Protected Forests' under Section 24 of State Forest Act and in such Forest Blocks the Rights and claims are not settled. The Protected Forests, though recorded as 'forest' in Government Records, no further action is generally taken for initiating process to notify the area as Reserved Forest. As the claims are not enquired into, the Revenue Department treats the same as Porambokes etc, and gives pattas. And the tussle starts between forests, Revenue departments and the occupier of the land.
3. Notification under section 4 of the Forest Act is issued , and a Forest Settlement Officer is appointed to enquire and settle claims. Due to various reasons the settlement process is kept pending for decades and the land included in the Forest Block is encroached, assigned etc. Though Section 7 of the Forest Act prohibits the grant of patta in a Forest Block notified under Section 4, the provision is hardly implemented.
4. The status of Forest Blocks notified long ago by the British Government is also very embarrassing as the Blocks are given description of boundaries with physical features available at that time and it is difficult to trace the boundaries. In many cases the original notifications and Block maps are missing.

5. According to the last Facts & Figures published by Andhra Pradesh Forest Department in the year 2013, the legal status of forest areas under control of Forest Department:

(area in sq.kms)

Year	Reserved Forest	Protect-ed Forest	Un-classed	Total
1956-57	40001.06	16728.89	2513.25	59243.20
2012-13	50479.00	12365.00	970.00	63814.00

The area under Protected Forest as well as un-classed forest is remaining to be resolved, and some major and Old Forest Blocks like Kollapur Forest Block in Telangana and some Forest Blocks in Vishakhapatnam zone extending to about 8000 acres are without any forest legal status.

Maintenance of Forest Land Records.

1. The maintenance of Forest Records is not given importance due to lack of staff or Technical officers etc. The available staff are also not trained in maintenance of the land Records. The production of original notifications in Court cases is not done in most of the cases and the cases are lost in Courts.
2. The lands given in RoFR pattas are not noted in Forest Block maps or in the Forest Block files.

According a report as on 31.03.2020 published by Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, the claims received and area involved is as follows:

State	Number of Individual and Com-munity claims	No.of titles distributed upto 31. 03. 2020	Extent of For-est land for which titles are distri but-ed (in acres)
Andhra Pradesh	1,81,508	98,049	6,92,938
Telanga-na	1,86,679	94,360	7,54,339
All States total	42,51,545	19,83,504	1,29,74,388.58

The land so identified is to be recorded in the concerned Forest Block files, which is generally not done.

3. Similarly the forest land diverted is not recorded properly.

According to a report in the year 2020, about 4.238 million hectares of land was diverted for developmental projects between 1951-1980. In 1980, the central government enacted the Forest Conservation Act 1980 which made forest diversion difficult. Since then, 1.5 million hectares of the forest area has been diverted for such projects.

The diversion of land is to be noted in each Block file.

4. The Compensatory Areas (CA areas) given by user agency under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are also not documented, and in most of the cases, the land remains with original owners or encroached upon as the small chunks are difficult to be monitored by field staff.

Future ahead for Forest Land Records.

1. It is desirable to salvage as many forest land records as possible and protect them from further damage.
2. Where certain notifications or maps are not available, efforts must be made to retrieve the same from records of District Collector concerned or from other Forest offices etc.

3. The 'Land Loss Register' as prescribed in the Forest Code should be maintained so that a consolidated record is available in the Forest Division Office or Range Offices apart from maintaining the same in Circle or Head Office.

4. The Court cases should be properly dealt with by engaging advocates well versed in Forest laws as well as the maintenance of Revenue Records. The documents produced in the lower court should clearly establish the ownership of Forest land.

5. The pending cases of Forest Settlement should be expedited.

6. In Andhra Pradesh, the Forest Blocks should be assigned Survey numbers at the earliest before the completion of the survey and updating of land records is done.

7. It is desirable that before the Survey and Revenue Departments take up the updating of land records, the Forest land records should be reconciled and later take up other cases.

8. It is desirable to implement Section 68A which states that 'Production of a copy of notification issued under the Forest Act as authenticated by the Divisional Forest Officer shall be conclusive proof of existence of such notification.' The amendment was to Andhra Pradesh Forest Act in the year 2016, and similar amendment to be made in Telangana Forest Act, 1967.

(The author is Retired Conservator of Forests, Telangana State, authored many books on Forest and allied Acts, Forest Code and drafted various amendments. Currently he is working as Legal consultant to the AP Forest Department and a practicing Advocate in the AP High Court.)

Answers to Green Quiz on page : 25

1. Kenya & Tanzania, 2. Feb, 3. Wildebeest, 4. Zebra, 5. Five, 6. Serengeti and Masai Mara, 7. Zebra eats tall grass and Wildebeest short grass, 8. They are poor swimmers, 9. Olkarasha, 10. Toward off predators, 11. At the back of the column, 12. Rinderpest, 13. Jun-Sep, 14. Bomas, 15. Ilmurran

On ‘Compassion and Love for Wild Animals’

Vidhay K. Reddy



I am writing this as my elaboration after reading the article: “Compassion and Love for Wild Animals,” in January 2022’s issue of *Vana Premi*.

Upon discovery of Ms. Anna Rajam Malhotra and her career’s work, I learned about her stoic opinion of the misogynistic, professional environment within which she prospered, against all odds. Ms. Anna Rajam Malhotra does not hold this against the men but says it was a conservative mindset that made them react that way. (The Hindu, Priyadershini S., “Anna Rajam Malhotra, the first women IAS officer...,” 11 March 2012), referencing the prejudice of the male-dominated administration during her attempts to secure a berth in the IAS (Indian Administrative Service). This single notion represents obstacles that the society faces, eternally, contesting traditional values for a progressive, reformed, improved variation of the paradigm that we know today. Consistent, constant adjustments must be made in life, society, government, etc., and Ms. Malhotra’s quote encompasses the rationale for a lack of change, an adherence to traditional values based on history and experience, what is comfortable for the existing power dynamic, the male-dominated institution, imperial rule over British Raj, whatever the structure of control may be... It is the responsibility of the population to discuss these progressive topics, such as, in the 1950s, admitting women into the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), thanks to Ms. Malhotra.

This reformist movement, to allow women into the IAS (Indian Administrative Service), led to saving of six elephant lives in Hosur, a single example of her testament to defend the exposed vulnerabilities in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) operations. The administration hastily resorted to killing, “murder,” as some animal rights activists may say, instead of attempting a less invasive approach, simply driving the pachyderms back into the forest (vide *Vana Premi*, K.B.R. Reddy, “Compassion and Love for Wild Animals,” p. 21, January 2022). There is a common theme in your work, and of many professionals in Forestry Services, “to preserve the vulnerable,” for if you have the ability, you must. The intrinsic motivation to aid those in need is perpetual, and the message continues on through the generations, communicated through anecdotal accounts like these, stories of Ms. Anna Rajam Malhotraji, my Thatha, K. Buchiram Reddy, and the like.

“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.” (*Vana Premi*, K.B.R. Reddy, “Compassion and Love for Wild Animals,” p. 21, January 2022)

Thank you for your work, Thatha. I will continue to explore this article, *Vana Premi*, and natural conservation forever.-

(The author is an American citizen living in Michigan state. His email id: redhy.vidhay@gmail.com)

*“Two wrongs don’t make a right,
but they make a good excuse.”* - Thomas Szasz



Rheumatoid Arthritis (R. A.) - V (Continued from the previous issue)

Dr N.V. Jayanth Babu

Powders of the species (Continued..)

35. *Merremia tridanta* (Convolvulaceae) Seethamma savaramu: 2 gms whole plant powder

36. *Veronia anthelementica* (Asteraceae) Adavi jeelakarra: 2 gms roots/fruit

Powders of the species mentioned herein against sl. nos. 33 to 36 are to be mixed in 100 ml. of water and boiled by adding a pinch of turmeric powder, 3 peppers powder, paste of 1 garlic cleft, to get 60 ml of decoction and given to R A patients every day in the morning and in the evening in two split doses for 15 days

37. *Toddalia asiatica* (Rutaceae) Mirapagandra: 2 gms leaf powder

38. *Euphorbia nivula* (Euphorbiaceae) Aakujemudu: 2 gms stem bark powder

39. *Sesbania grandiflora* (Fabaceae) Avisachettu: 2 gms stem bark powder

Powders of the species mentioned herein against sl. nos. 37 to 39 are to be mixed in 100 ml. of water and boiled by adding a pinch of turmeric powder, 3 peppers powder, paste of 1 garlic cleft, to get 60 ml of decoction and given to R A patients every day in the morning and in the evening in two split doses for 15 days.

40. *Asystasia gangetica* (Acanthaceae) koramandalam: 10 ml whole plant juice

41. *Lawsonia inermis* (Lythraceae) Gorinta : 15 ml leaf juice

42. *Ruta chalepensis* (Rutaceae) Sadaapaku: 5 ml whole plant juice

43. *Leucas aspera* (Lamiaceae) Tummi: 10 ml whole plant juice

44. *Cardiospermum helicacabum* (Sapindaceae) Buddabusara: 5 ml whole plant juice

Any Leaf juice of plants 40 to 44 is diluted in 30 ml of water and given orally in the morning for 15 days.

PLANTS USED FOR EXTERNAL APPLICATIONS FOR PAIN RELIEF IN R.A PATIENTS. (Any one of the below indicated formulae can be chosen as per convenience)

1. *Ricinus communis* (Euphorbiaceae) Castor, Aamudam: Pure seed oil + Root extract (1 kg-1lt) As explained in this document under Arthritis, castor oil + root extract is to be boiled to get 1 lit. of concentrate, and applied every day on the painful joints.

2. *Vitex negundo* (Verbinaceae) Vaavili: 1 kg. of *Vitex negundo* leaves are to be pounded, mixed in 4 lits.of water in a earthen vessel. Boiled till 4 lits.of water become to 1 lit. and filtered. This solution is to be mixed in 1 lit. of gingelly oil in another vessel and boiled to get finally one lit of the concentrated oil. 10 to 15 grams of pepper powder is added to this. This is applied every day on painful joints of Arthritis.

3. *Dodonea viscosa* (Sapindaceae): 1 kg. of *Dodonea* leaves are to be pounded, mixed in 4 lit.of water in an earthen vessel. Boil till 4 lits. of water become to 1 lit.and filtered. This solution is to be mixed in 1 lit. of gingili oil in another vessel and boiled to get finally one lit. of the concentrated oil. This is applied every day on painful joints of Arthritis. *Dodonea* leaves can also be pounded and tied around painful joints with a thin cloth.

4. *Celastrus paniculata* (Celastraceae) Jyothishmathi: Oil extracted from the seed is applied on painful joints of arthritis.

5. *Litsia glutinosa* (Linaceae) Naramamidi: Oil extracted from the seed is applied on painful joints of arthritis.

6. *Simarouba glauca* (Simaroubaceae): Oil extracted from the seed is applied on painful joints of arthritis.
7. *Barlaria montana* (Acanthaceae) Mulugorinta: Leaves juice is applied gently on painful joints of arthritis.
8. *Calophyllum inophyllum* (Clusiaceae) Ponnachettu: Oil extracted from seed is applied gently on painful joints of Arthritis.
9. *Allium sativum* (Liliaceae) Garlic/ vellulli: 400 gm. Of garlic bulbs paste is mixed in 1 lit of boiling gingili oil stirred thoroughly on the fire for 5 minutes put off fire, allowed to be cooled and applied daily on painful joints of arthritis.
10. *Ruta chalepensis* (Rutaceae) Sadapaku: Oil extracted from whole plant is applied on the painful joints.
11. *Pinus sps.* (Pinaceae): Resin obtained from stem bark is applied on the painful joints.
12. *Brassica napus* (Brassicaceae) Canola/Avalu: Add Yellow Camphor with Crystals of Mentha species (pudinapuvvu), Vaamu puvvu crystals, crystals of the extract of *Trachyspermum ammi* together. A chemical reaction takes place and within 10 minutes these three solids will become liquid. This oil can be applied to the affected parts to get desired relief. (Alternately, Canola oil can also be added to this liquid and this resultant mixture is applied externally for the relief of all the rheumatic pains).
13. *Cissus pallida* (Vitaceae) Adavi gummadi: Bruised roots are applied on swellings of arthritic joints
14. *Cleome viscosa* (Cleomaceae) Vaaminta: Leaves along with fruits (25 gms) are to be made into paste and applied on the painful joints.
15. *Cleome gynandra* (Cleomaceae) Tella vaaminta: Leaves along with fruits (25 gms) are to be made into paste and applied on the painful joints.
16. *Cuscuta reflexa* (Convolvulaceae) Bangaaruteega: Whole plant's paste (50 gms) is applied and bandaged on painful joint
17. *Vanda cristata* (Orchidaceae) Badanika, kodikallachettu: Whole plant's paste (50 gms) is applied and bandaged on painful joint.
18. *Argyreia nervosa* (Convolvulaceae) Samudrapaala: Leaves are made into paste (100 gms) and bandaged on the painful joints.
19. *Merrima tridanta* (Convolvulaceae) Seethammavaari jada: Whole plant is made into paste (100 gms) and applied on painful joints.
20. *Achyranthus aspera* (Amaranthaceae) Vuttareni: Whole plant is made into paste (100 ghms) and applied on painful joints.
21. *Cardiospermum helicacabum* (Sapindaceae) vekkuduteega: Whole plant is made into paste (100 ghms) and applied on painful joints.
22. *Delonix alata* (Caesalpinaceae) Sunkesula: Leaves paste (100 gms) is applied on the painful joints.
23. *Crateva roxburghii* (Capparidaceae) Isukaraasi: Leaves paste (100 gms) is applied on the painful joints.
24. *Euphorbia tirucalli* (Euphorbiaceae) kaada jemudu, sanna jemudu: Latex of the plant is applied externally.
25. *Abutilon indicum* (Malvaceae) Tutturubenda: Leaves paste (100 gms) is applied externally.
26. *Codenia procumbens* (Boraginaceae) Chepputattaku: Leaves paste (100 gms) is applied externally.
27. *Commifera mukul* (Burseraceae) Guggulu: Gum resin (5 gms) mixed with Zingiber officianalis rhizome paste is applied externally on the painful joints.
28. *Pergularia daemia* (Asclepiadiaceae) Dustapaaku: Whole plant's paste (25 gms) is mixed with turmeric powder and applied externally on painful joints of arthritis
29. *Nerium oleander* (Apocynaceae) Tellaganneru: Leaves paste is applied externally on painful joints.

30. *Plumbago zeylanicum* (Plumbaginaceae) Tella chitramulam: This plant is a Vesicant and applied only in acute conditions.
31. *Plumbago rosea* (Plumbaginaceae) Yerra chitramulam: This plant is a Vesicant and applied in severe/acute conditions.
32. *Holoptelia integrifolia* (Ulmaceae) Nemalinaara: Leaves are vesicant. Leaf is dipped in water for a while and placed on knee/ painful joint and bandaged in severe and acute condition.
33. *Sansevieria roxburghii* (Agavaceae): Leaves are gently heated on fire and squeezed to get juice and applied on painful joints.
34. *Pueraria tuberosa* (Fabaceae) Nelagummudu: 50 gms
35. *Brassica juncea* (Brassicaceae) Mustard: 5 gms
- The plant parts shown against sl. nos 34 and 35 are made into a paste and applied externally on painful joints of Arthritis.
36. *Capparis zeylanica*-Are donda: Leaves paste (15 gms) is mixed with egg white yolk, poultice is prepared and applied on painful joints of Arthritis.
37. *Phyllanthus nodiflora* (Verbinaceae) Jalapippali/ Neetipippali: Whole plants paste (50 gms) is applied on painful joints of Arthritis.

Note: For the list of plants used for relieving pain through hot water herbal bath and Special diet being prescribed by the local village 'vidyas' for Strong & Healthy Bones, Development of Synovial fluid and cartilage in the Bone joints -kindly go through the article published in the previous issues of VANAPREMI under Arthritis and Osteoarthritis.

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

Research conducted earlier revealed that, the chemical compounds like glucosamine sulphate and chondroitin sulphate are helpful in preventing further loss of cartilage and to ease pain. Plants containing benzoic acid, cyanogenic glucoside, gamma linolic acid, repair cartilage, strengthen bones, helpful in bone formation, reduces inflammation and pain. Example: *Bamboosa arundanaceae* , *Dendrocalamus strictus*, *Glycine max* (soya bean), *Terminalia chebula*, *Terminalia bellarica*, *Embellica officinalis*, *Basella alba* and collagen containing all plant species harvests.

About 25 % of Allopathic drugs being prescribed by the Doctors in U.S.A. that are being used for different ailments are originated from plants only. It is estimated that about 80% of their populations rely on traditional medicines originated from plants. In Ayurveda, Homeo, Siddha and Unani methods of treatments, almost all the medicines are prepared from plants only.

In view of the well-being of RA affected patients and for relieving them from their sufferings, extensive researches and scientific studies are to be conducted on the medicinal plants indicated in this article. Pharmacognostic studies, Phytochemical screenings are to be performed using Plant powders for determining the ash values, water and acid soluble extract values, UV fluorescence studies, as well for ascertaining active ingredients like alkaloids, flavonoids, saponins, anthocyanins, phenolic compounds, phyto-sterols, terpenoids, glycosides that are present in the above medicinal plant species for selecting the drug. Pharmacological studies are to be conducted using such isolated active ingredients for ascertaining the performance and response, for curing Rheumatoid arthritis and such drugs are to be made available to the easy reach of the public.

(Concluded.)

*“There’s a fine line between genius and insanity.
I have erased this line.”*

- Oscar Levant

Real Life Experiences - 4**First Taste of What it Takes to be Host! Ideal Field Forester and Where is the Tiger?****Dr K. Tirupataiah, IFS (Rtd.)****First taste of what it takes to be host to a VIP**

Those were still range training days with Atmakur Forest Division in late 80s. One fine day we came to know that the Hon'ble Minister for Forests would be on an official visit to Srisailam and all officers serving in the adjoining Divisions and Circles were asked to be present at Srisailam. Due to its location in the midst of hills, it gets dark quite early there.

Information given was that the Hon'ble Minister and his entourage would reach Srisailam by about sun set. The CCF (WL), (The post wasn't upgraded to that of PCCF then) and everyone was ready and anxiously waiting for the VIP. Those days, communication was only through the landline and if they are in the zone, through the newly set up VHF sets. On the other hand, the Police had their own robust communication and kept updating. It was 7, then 8, 9, 10 and still there was no sign of the VIP. At last, the guests arrived pretty late into the night. It was not the time at which they arrived but who all arrived. There was a bus load of people who accompanied the VIP. There was no prior communication about the size of the party. Being new to all this, I was just watching, in wonder, how this gentle CCF (WL) kept his cool, didn't react to the barrage of demands, just went about getting things arranged for dinner at that ghostly hour. After everything was done and everyone left, the thoughts that got stuck in my mind were: a. Why should such a senior officer wait at such an odd hour? b. what protocol would have been more dignified?

I was damn pleased when in 90s the then Head of AP Forest Department issued clear guidelines on protocol that addressed both my queries. Hats off to him.

The Ideal Field Forester

Though the Range training was not too long, I was very fortunate to have known a great field forester in the CF of the Circle. He always had his Khaki dress in the vehicle along with the Hunter shoe. He would never enter a field without that dress and shoe, even if the Divisional Officers and others were in civil dress.

One day, the CF came to visit a fuelwood felling coupe where work was still going on. He asked for the Range, Section, Beat and coupe maps and asked the officers accompanying to show him the coupe boundaries. When he realized that demonstration was the best way forward, he took the map (paper map), looked at the surroundings, and in a measured way took a pre-calculated number of steps and stopped at a place. He then asked all of us to come there and look around for a stone. Lo, the coupe boundary stone was there. In the same manner he showed us the other three stones that were either buried in soil or were lying under bushes.

That field experience got imprinted in my mind and I thought that that's an ideal field forester. What would be a forester worth if he/she doesn't know these basics? It would be like a revenue officer who cannot find the survey number stones. I think this field survey skill would be all the more important for field foresters given the fact that pressure on forest land is increasing manifold every year. Only a sound knowledge of forest (as well as internal boundaries) boundaries would keep a forester in good stead.

Where is the Tiger?

While we were still in the Range training, one day a forester brought news that a Tiger made a kill of a deer and it would be around its prey in a coupe where

Contd.. on page No.44



In commemoration of World Health Day (7th of April):
**Was the scourge of Diabetes diagnosed
 as such during Shakespeare's times?**

("When diet is wrong, medicine is of no use and when diet is right, medicine is of no need" -An old Ayurvedic proverb)

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

Preamble:

Throughout the play (**King Richard III**), it is interesting to note that Shakespeare uses the imagery of birds and animals to describe Richard (who is Duke of Gloucester or Gloster, brother of King Edward, and the future King Richard III). He is depicted as the one who "could not prove a lover" and hence decided to spend his time as a villain ---- to become a king and get the crown, never hesitating to do anything, even prepared to scheme & plot against everyone at court (including his own family members). On every page of the play, there have been clues to his and his elder brother Edward's character.

A major feature of Richard's language, if a keen observation is made, has double-meanings quite too often ---- listeners hear one thing but he means something else! For example at one stage he says "Brother, farewell", we hear it as a friendly voice in all probability but he means "Goodbye forever because you'll soon be dead!" He makes some of the curses and several prophecies (made during the course of the play) come true in bitterly ironic ways, and the soliloquy he delivers towards the end of a scene offers many opportunities to explore his wicked revelations through a range of dramatic choices. Richard could only see through his lens his own desires!

Reference to a scourge:

We all know every Shakespeare's play will be having several quotable quotes. Similarly we come across in the very **1st Scene of Act-1** of this drama '**O! he hath kept an evil diet long**', suggesting that for a long time someone had lived wildly ----

[Enter Lord Hastings.

Gloster: *What news abroad?*

Hastings: *No news so bad abroad as this at home:-*

*The king is sickly, weak, and melancholy,
 And his physicians fear him mightily.*

Gloster: *Now, by St. Paul, that news is bad indeed.*

O! he hath kept an evil diet long,

And over much consum'd his royal person:

'T is very grievous to be thought upon.

What, is he in his bed?

Hastings: *He is*

Gloster: *Go you before, and I will follow you*] **Exit:
 Hastings.**

Diabetes, as understood today, may have been unknown in William Shakespeare's time, but the disease did exist in '16th & 17th century England' ---- afflicting the wealthy and mighty, who ate sumptuously (or long or over much) rich food and wallowed in idle luxury, as had been observed by the Bard of Avon (and made one of his main characters clearly speak as above). Today (in the 21st century) the said 'so-called rich man's disease afflicts the poorest of the poor population too, partly because of ignorance (to prevent it) and partly due to poverty (which causes consumption of cheap, unhealthy food, devoid of any nutritious values), when they ignore eating as much vegetables that grow above the ground (such as cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage, brussels, sprouts, asparagus, zucchini, eggplant, olives, spinach, mushrooms, lettuce, avocado, onions, peppers and tomatoes).

Fact file:

Gravitation to cities from villages has obviously led to lifestyles promoting diabetes (and several other

diseases) as the habit of eating wholesome unpolished grains (at one time) has been switched over to highly refined cereals, accentuated by the temptations to buy 'fast foods/packed foods & fancy beverages'. As a result, it has taken heavy toll of a vast population across length and breadth of the country. Further, sedentary-lifestyles, highly processed foods, deplorable snacking habits and lack of exercise contributed in no small measure and made everyone (in urban communities in particular) more susceptible to such life-threatening & cruel diseases.

Diabetes being a disease that occurs when blood sugar or blood glucose, which is the main source of energy coming from food one eats, **becomes too high** ---- it is no doubt preventable by a well formulated low carbohydrate and undergoing affordable, needy treatment'. **It is a disease of the pancreas, which produce a substance called insulin ---- a magic ingredient that balances the sugar, in one's blood-stream.** The three macronutrients in our diet are proteins, carbohydrates, and fats, with the latter two being primarily used as fuel. Whether we use fat or carbohydrates for fuel depends on insulin. When someone eats pure carbohydrates, there is a substantial increase in insulin – as it is elevated, the body starts to use or get more of its energy from carbohydrates, constant high blood sugars making the cells in our body resistant to the regulatory action of insulin. As long as the body has high insulin, there is no way for it to retrieve the fat and use it for energy. One should eat healthy fats from avocado and nuts (such as almonds, walnuts, Brazil nuts, hazel nuts and macadamia nuts). Cook with healthy oils and fats (like butter, olive oil, and coconut oil). Berries such as strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, and blueberries are the most suitable fruit. One can also have dairy products. And when it is insufficiently produced in the body, the blood-sugar-level rises ---- such elevated-levels gradually destroying vital organs like the kidneys, and heart, in addition to damaging entire nervous system. In turn, the blood vessels too get damaged, resulting in loss of vision, loss of sensation, and God forbid, even worse ---- a cruel disease, which slowly destroys the body and mind of the victim. Even when hereditary issues threaten

its occurrence, it could be prevented by leading a disciplined-life of good & healthy (fat diet) eating-habits, proper exercises, and other preventive measures. The worst victims are children, who are fed on harmful fare, in their growing years ---- their working-parents finding it easier to feed them on 'trashy fast foods', are in effect: preparing fertile-ground for serious health problems in later life, like diabetes. Cheap, greasy fare, combined with sugary-drinks, having become the staple food, (when time, effort and money are scarce commodities).

In India alone, nearly a crore adults (i.e, around 10% of the adult populace) are said to have been affected, out of 7.5 crore totally affected, many more being not diagnosed ---- people migrating in drones to cities being potential victims to their lifestyle changes abruptly, be it their eating habits and be it their modes of travel. **When natural nourishment is replaced by refined foods, when hand labour (in fields) is replaced by sedentary office-work, or when healthy walking is replaced by automation, it is an open invitation to diseases like diabetes ----** a disease that robs the country of its human as well as financial resource. It has necessarily to be fought on war footing, and rescue our country which has dubious distinction of being the diabetic capital of the world.

Conclusion:

I feel truly that diet must be the 'first line of treatment' for diabetes, and it is so simple to follow. When the body does not make insulin, the immune system attacks and destroys the cells in pancreas that make insulin, and people have to take insulin on daily basis to stay alive. **In addition to the health problems as cited above (viz., heart disease, kidney disease, eye problems & nerve damage), other ailments also may be possible such as strokes, dental disease and foot problems** ---- depending on the types of diabetes one may be afflicted (such as type1, type2, gestational, monogenic and cystic fibrosis). Hence one should be extremely cautious, as it can literally affect every single vital organ of the body. An infusion of Vit. C (like taking 500mg oral vit. C tablets twice a day for, say, six months) in the diet helps diabetics control blood sugar levels which can be got confirmed from HbA1C test (an accurate measurement).

Having commenced the article with a quote from Shakespeare, it won't perhaps be inappropriate to finally conclude by telling a thing or two in a para what a wondrous companion he is through his effervescent writing, establishing the endless possibility of intellectual discourse ---- as initiator of discursive practices, whereby his unique relevance still endures! His influence across cultures being prodigious, he portrayed fundamental human themes such as honesty, greed, jealousy, guilt, grief, betrayal, joy ---- that change

little over the ages and there being no human emotion that he hadn't brought alive. If Romeo was a relentless romancer rather than a lover faithful unto death, Hamlet was indecisive rather than humanity in general (played with contradictions in life), while Lady Macbeth was an ambitious woman who would not stop at any rather than representing the relationship between generated power. His universality is born of his remarkable perspicacity in laying bare human nature at its best and its worst!

(The author belongs to Karnataka Cadre, who happens to be the Chief Editor of 'Vana Vikas', a Quarterly)

Continuation from page No. 33

positions with its reflection in Yamuna River on the right side of the frame. The exposures were bracketed. Took several shots between 4.0 am till the moon set. When overlapped in the photoshop it shows an interesting movement of the moon and its reflections. The camera settings were ISO – 400, Focal length – 50 mm, Aperture – 7.1 and Shutter speed – 15 secs.

TAJ MAHAL IN FAIRYLAND – This picture of Taj Mahal is very close to my heart. Taj Mahal is situated on the southern boundary of Yamuna River. As is in every city, the river is polluted with single use polythene and pet bottles. Being a tourist place most of them consume water packed in pet bottles and is disposed

(The writer is former PCCF of UP cadre and an ardent wildlife photographer. He can be contacted over mobile: +91 9411052235 and email: praveenraokoli@gmail.com)

of at their convenience. Result is the river with floating polythene all over. I have decided to bring out its beauty hiding the ugly part. One fine morning in the month of December when it is totally foggy, and the entire marble structure was not visible to naked eyes. Generally, it is foggier near water surface. I waited for the sun rise and clicked the photos at regular intervals. This particular photograph brought out all the beauty of Taj at the same time the water surface of the river was totally covered with fog, hence the floating polythene is not visible. This is the best part of photographs which can bring out best in you. The photograph was clicked with the following settings: ISO – 64, Focal length – 50 mm, Aperture – 8.0, Shutter speed – 1/320 secs.

Continuation from page No. 41

fuelwood extraction work was going on. I accompanied the DFO and other senior officers to the spot. After looking around for a while for pug marks, evidence of struggle by the deer, etc nothing could be found.

We were all standing in a group in an open spot and to our side was a fuelwood lot laid as per norms. It was quite high and all this while we didn't pay any attention to it or behind it. While we were all loudly discussing the whereabouts of the Tiger, suddenly a well grown Tiger

jumped up from behind the fuelwood lot almost over the group to the other side and disappeared from sight. Everyone was simply petrified that it did not bother to attack.

That sighting of Tiger was probably one of the convincing factors for senior officers to work for inclusion of the area up to Gundla Brahmeshwaram into the Tiger Reserve.

(The writer is retired PCCF, Telangana and currently working as Chief Consultant (Training) at Dr Marri Channa Reddy HRD Institute of Telangana, Hyderabad. Feedback: Mobile: +91 8885532021 and Email: kota_86@rediffmail.com)

Air Pollution - A Global Health Hazard

V.V. Hariprasad



The Supreme court of India said on Monday dated 15.11.2021 "Cat is out of the bag " to prove that urban factors such as construction activities ,industry, vehicular exhaust and road dust were actually the major causes of pollution in Delhi and not farmers' stubble burning. The court directed the center to call an urgent meeting in 24 hours on that date with Punjab Delhi Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to introduce work from home for all the employees.

The air quality in Delhi, the capital territory of India, according to a WHO survey of 1,650 world cities, is the worst of any major city in the world. It also affects the districts around Delhi. Air pollution in India is estimated to kill about 2 million people every year and it is the fifth largest killer in India. India has the world's highest death rate from chronic respiratory diseases and asthma, according to the WHO. In Delhi, poor quality air irreversibly damages the lungs of 2.2 million or 50 percent of all children.

What is air pollution?

Air pollution is a mix of particles and gases that can reach harmful concentrations both outside and indoors. Its effects can range from higher disease risks to rising temperatures. Soot, smoke, mold, pollen, methane, and carbon dioxide are a just few examples of common pollutants.

In the U.S., one measure of outdoor air pollution is the Air Quality Index, or AQI which rates air conditions across the country based on concentrations of five major pollutants: ground-level ozone, particle pollution (or particulate matter), carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. Some of those also contribute to indoor air pollution, along with radon, cigarette smoke, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), formaldehyde, asbestos, and other substances.

Poor air quality kills people. Worldwide, bad outdoor air caused an estimated 4.2 million premature deaths in 2016, about 90 percent of them in low- and middle-income countries, according to the World Health Organization. Indoor smoke is an ongoing health threat to the 3 billion people who cook and heat their homes by burning biomass, kerosene, and coal. Air pollution has been linked to higher rates of cancer, heart disease, stroke, and respiratory diseases such as asthma. In the U.S. nearly 134 million people—over 40 percent of the population—are at risk of disease and premature death because of air pollution, according to American Lung Association estimates.

While those effects emerge from long-term exposure, air pollution can also cause short-term problems such as sneezing and coughing, eye irritation, headaches, and dizziness. Particulate matter smaller than 10 micrometers (classified as PM10 and the even smaller PM2.5) pose higher health risks because they can be breathed deeply into the lungs and may cross into the bloodstream.

Environmental impacts

Though many living things emit carbon dioxide when they breathe, the gas is widely considered to be a pollutant when associated with cars, planes, power plants, and other human activities that involve the burning of fossil fuels such as gasoline and natural gas. That's because carbon dioxide is the most common of the greenhouse gases, which trap heat in the atmosphere and contribute to climate change. Humans have pumped enough carbon dioxide into the atmosphere over the past 150 years to raise its levels higher than they have been for hundreds of thousands of years.

Other greenhouse gases include methane—which comes from such sources as landfills, the natural gas industry, and gas emitted by livestock—and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which were used in refrigerants and aerosol propellants until they were banned in the late 1980s because of their deteriorating effect on Earth's ozone layer.

Another pollutant associated with climate change is sulfur dioxide, a component of smog. Sulfur dioxide and closely related chemicals are known primarily as a cause of acid rain. But they also reflect light when released in the atmosphere, which keeps sunlight out and creates a cooling effect. Volcanic eruptions can spew massive amounts of sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere, sometimes causing cooling that lasts for years. In fact, volcanoes used to be the main source of atmospheric sulfur dioxide; whereas today, people are.

Airborne particles, depending on their chemical makeup, can also have direct effects separate from climate change. They can change or deplete nutrients in soil and waterways, harm forests and crops, and damage cultural icons such as monuments and statues.

What can be done?

Countries around the world are tackling various forms of air pollution. China, for example, is making strides in cleaning up smog-choked skies from years of rapid industrial expansion, partly by closing or canceling coal-fired power plants. In the U.S., California has been a leader in setting emissions standards aimed at improving air quality, especially in places like famously

hazy Los Angeles. And a variety of efforts aim to bring cleaner cooking options to places where hazardous cook stoves are prevalent.

In any home, people can safeguard against indoor air pollution by increasing ventilation, testing for radon gas, using air purifiers, running kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans, and avoiding smoking. To curb global warming, a variety of measures need to be taken, such as adding more renewable energy and replacing gasoline-fueled cars with zero-emissions vehicles such as electric ones. On a larger scale, governments at all levels are making commitments to limit emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. The Paris Agreement, ratified on November 4, 2016, is one effort to combat climate change on a global scale. And the Kigali Amendment seeks to further the progress made by the Montreal Protocol, banning heat-trapping hydro fluorocarbons (HFCs) in addition to CFCs. The most polluted cities and involved health risks are furnished below. *(See Table next Page 47)*

Sources of air pollution

These are mostly related to the burning of fuel.

Stationary sources include:

- Smoke stacks of fossil fuel power stations (see for example environmental impact of the coal industry)
- Manufacturing facilities (factories)[
- A 2014 study found that in China equipment-, machinery-, and devices-manufacturing and construction sectors contributed more than 50% of air pollutant emissions
- Waste incineration (incinerators as well as open and uncontrolled fires of mismanaged waste, making up about a fourth of municipal solid terrestrial waste)
- Furnaces and other types of fuel-burning heating devices
- In developing and poor countries, traditional biomass burning is the major source of air pollutants; traditional biomass includes wood, crop waste and dung.
- Mobile sources include motor vehicles, trains (particularly diesel locomotives and DMUs), marine vessels and aircraft.

Most polluted cities by PM ^[198]		Health risk	Air Quality Health Index	Health messages	
Particulate matter, µg(micrograms) / m ³ (2016)	City			At risk population	General population
173	Kanpur, India	Low	1–3	Enjoy your usual outdoor activities.	Ideal air quality for outdoor activities
172_	Faridabad, India	Moderate	4–6	Consider reducing or rescheduling strenuous activities outdoors if you are experiencing symptoms.	No need to modify your usual outdoor activities unless you experience symptoms such as coughing and throat irritation.
149	Gaya, India				
146	Varanasi, India	High	7–10	Reduce or reschedule strenuous activities outdoors. Children and the elderly should also take it easy.	Consider reducing or rescheduling strenuous activities outdoors if you experience symptoms such as coughing and throat irritation.
144	Patna, India				
143	Dehli, India				
138	Lucknow, India				
132	Ø Bamenda, Cameroon	Very high	Above 10	Avoid strenuous activities outdoors. Children and the elderly should also avoid outdoor physical exertion and should stay indoors.	Reduce or reschedule strenuous activities outdoors, especially if you experience symptoms such as coughing and throat irritation.
131	Agra, India				

Controlled burning practices in agriculture and forest management.

:Controlled or prescribed burning is a technique sometimes used in forest management, farming, prairie restoration or greenhouse gas abatement. Fire is a natural part of both forest and grassland ecology and controlled fire can be a tool for foresters. Controlled burning stimulates the germination of some desirable forest trees, thus renewing the forest. There are also sources from processes other than combustion: Fumes from paint, hair spray, varnish, aerosol sprays and other solvents. These can be substantial; emissions from these sources were estimated to account for almost half of pollution from volatile organic compounds in the Los Angeles basin in the 2010s.

Waste deposition in landfills, which generate methane. Methane is highly flammable and may form explosive mixtures with air. Methane is also an asphyxiate and

may displace oxygen in an enclosed space. Asphyxia or suffocation may result if the oxygen concentration is reduced to below 19.5% by displacement.

Military resources, such as nuclear weapons, toxic gases, germ warfare and rocketry.

Agricultural emissions contribute substantially to air pollution. Fertilized farmland may be a major source of nitrogen oxides.

Natural sources

Dust from natural sources, usually large areas of land with little vegetation or no vegetation

Methane, emitted by the digestion of food by animals, for example cattle

Radon gas from radioactive decay within the Earth's crust. Radon is a colorless, odorless, naturally

occurring, radioactive noble gas that is formed from the decay of radium. It is considered to be a health hazard. Radon gas from natural sources can accumulate in buildings, especially in confined areas such as the basement and it is the second most frequent cause of lung cancer, after cigarette smoking.

Smoke and carbon monoxide from wild fires.:

During periods of active wildfires, smoke from uncontrolled biomass combustion can make up almost 75% of all air pollution by concentration.

Vegetation, in some regions, emits environmentally significant amounts of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) on warmer days. These VOCs react with primary anthropogenic pollutants – specifically, NO_x, SO₂, and anthropogenic organic carbon compounds – to produce a seasonal haze of secondary pollutants. Black gum, poplar, oak and willow are some examples of vegetation that can produce abundant VOCs. The VOC production from these species result in ozone levels up to eight times higher than the low-impact tree species.

Health effects

Neuroplastic effects of pollution

Even at levels lower than those considered safe by United States regulators, exposure to three components of air pollution, fine particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide and ozone, correlates with cardiac and respiratory illness. In 2020, air pollution caused one in eight deaths in Europe, and was a significant risk factor for a number of pollution-related diseases, including respiratory infections, heart disease, COPD, stroke and lung cancer. The health effects caused by air pollution may include difficulty in breathing, wheezing, coughing, asthma and worsening of existing respiratory and cardiac conditions. These effects can result in increased medication use, increased doctor or emergency department visits, more hospital admissions and premature death. The human health effects of poor air quality are far reaching, but principally affect the body's respiratory system and the cardiovascular system. Individual reactions to air pollutants depend on the type of pollutant a person is exposed to, the degree

of exposure, and the individual's health status and genetics. The most common sources of air pollution include particulates, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide. Children aged less than five years who live in developing countries are the most vulnerable population in terms of total deaths attributable to indoor and outdoor air pollution.

Mortality

The World Health Organization estimated in 2014 that every year air pollution causes the premature death of some 7 million people worldwide. Studies published in March 2019 indicated that the number may be around 8.8 million. Causes of deaths include strokes, heart disease, COPD, lung cancer, and lung infections.

Urban outdoor air pollution is estimated to cause 1.3 million deaths worldwide per year. Children are particularly at risk due to the immaturity of their respiratory organ systems. In 2015, outdoor air pollution, mostly by PM_{2.5}, was estimated to lead to 3.3 (95% CI 1.61–4.81) million premature deaths per year worldwide, predominantly in Asia. In 2021, the WHO reported that outdoor air pollution was estimated to cause 4.2 million premature deaths worldwide in 2016. A 2020 study indicates that the global mean loss of life expectancy (LLE) from air pollution in 2015 was 2.9 years, substantially more than, for example, 0.3 years from all forms of direct violence, albeit a significant fraction of the LLE is unavoidable. Moreover, communities with the most exceptional aging have low ambient air pollution, suggesting a link between air pollution levels and longevity

Glasgow Climate Pact outcomes

On 13 November 2021, the participating 197 countries agreed a new deal, known as the Glasgow Climate Pact, aimed at staving off dangerous climate change.

The pact "Reaffirms the Paris Agreement temperature goal of holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels" and "Recognizes that limiting global warming to 1.5 °C requires rapid, deep and sustained reductions in global

greenhouse gas emissions, including reducing global carbon dioxide emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 relative to the 2010 level and to net zero around mid century, as well as deep reductions in other greenhouse gases.” However, achieving the target is not ensured, as with existing pledges the emissions in the year 2030 will be 14% higher than in 2010.

The final agreement explicitly mentions coal, which is the single biggest contributor to climate change. Previous COP agreements have not mentioned coal, oil or gas, or even fossil fuels in general, as a driver, or major cause of climate change, making the Glasgow Climate Pact the first ever climate deal to explicitly plan to reduce unabated coal power. The wording in the agreement refers to an intention to “phase down” use of unabated coal power, rather than to phase it out. From this wording it implicitly follows that utilizing coal power with “abatement” (net-zero emission), e.g. by neutralizing the resulting carbon dioxide via the CO₂-to-stone process, need not be reduced. However this carbon capture and storage is too expensive for most coal fired power stations. Over 140 countries pledged to reach net-zero emissions. This includes 90% of global GDP.



Indonesian President Joko Widodo promised to end and reverse deforestation in Indonesia by 2030

More than 100 countries, including Brazil, pledged to reverse deforestation by 2030.

The final text of the Glasgow Climate Pact includes a call to: “accelerating efforts towards phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies”. 34 countries with

(The author of this article a retired Dy.CF is an Advocate working as Guest Faculty in the Central University of Hyderabad, and a former consultant IFB Govt. of India who can be accessed on vvhp53@gmail.com and mobile No.7893673767)

several banks and financial agencies pledged to stop international funding for “unabated fossil fuel energy sector by the end of 2022, except in limited and clearly defined circumstances that are consistent with a 1.5°C warming limit and the goals of the Paris Agreement” and increase financing of more sustainable projects, including Canada – the main provider of such finances, France, Germany, Italy and Spain – the biggest financiers in European Union.

More than 40 countries pledged to move away from coal.

The United States and China reached an agreement about cooperation on measures to stop climate change, including lowering methane emissions, phasing out the use of coal and forest conservation.

India promised to draw half of its energy requirement from renewable sources by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2070.

Governments of 24 developed countries and a group of major car manufacturers such as GM, Ford, Volvo, BYD Auto, Jaguar Land Rover, and Mercedes-Benz have committed to “work towards all sales of new cars and vans being zero emission globally by 2040, and by no later than 2035 in leading markets”. Major car manufacturing nations like China, the US, Japan, Germany, and South Korea, as well as Toyota, Volkswagen, Nissan-Renault-Mitsubishi, Stellantis, Honda, and Hyundai had not signed up to the pledge.

Conclusion:

New pledges for financial help for climate change mitigation and adaptation were announced.

Climate Action Tracker on 9 November 2021, described the results as follows:

The global temperature will rise by 2.7 °C by the end of the century with current policies. The temperature will rise by 2.4 °C if only the pledges for 2030 are implemented, by 2.1 °C if the long-term targets are also achieved and by 1.8 °C if all the announced targets are fully achieved.



Forest Certification

Dr G. Ramalingam, IFS.,

Forest Certification is a market-driven institutional system that promotes environmentally conscious, socially acceptable and economically sustainable forestry management by evaluation and certification of such practices under a third party certifier's valid criteria. It is the process of evaluating forests or woodlands to determine if they are being managed according to an agreed set of standards with the objective of identifying ecosystem values/services from forests or timber/wood produced from responsibly managed forests.

Backgrounds are:

- Emergence of environmentally conscious consumers - A tool against boycotts
- Old, large high-quality logs are relatively rare - Value-addition by labelling to plantation logs

Emergence of Forest Certification:

- Forest certification found roots in concern over rapid tropical deforestation in 1980s & 1990s.
- Earth summit at Rio de Janeiro in 1992: The Agenda-21 set out an action plan to delve into sustainable forestry issues.
- Parallel NGO Rio meetings resulted in the concept to develop a system for certifying forests and forest products.
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) - a voluntary organization launched in 1993 with the coalition of WWF and other leading environmental organizations.

Forest Certification

Forest Certification is an instrument to give due recognition and incentive for **Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)**. It is a formal and voluntary procedure and a market based mechanism in support of SFM. Rely on consumers exercising choice in favour of products labelled as originating from forests certified as being sustainably managed. Gives consumers a credible

guarantee that the Product comes from environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable sustainably managed forest.

Sustainable Forest Management

A forest managed to meet all existing regulations such that environmental, social and economic factors are balanced to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Traits of Sustainable Forest Management

Consideration of key values:

- biodiversity
- habitat protection and enhancement
- riparian/wet land protection
- protection of productive capacity
- protection of endangered plants and animals
- protection of cultural, spiritual, and historical sites

Why Forest Certification:

The certification process offers a way to measure efficiency and identify opportunities for improvement in managing forests in sustainable way. Certification may prove as a means to enter timber markets that are regulated by the various acts like Lacey Act, FLEGT, Australian Legality Act, LEED/Green buildings etc.

- To avail market for certified products abroad.
- Heavy shortage of certified raw material in India.
- Industry willing to pay premium of 8-15% for local procurement of certified raw material.

Who does it?

More than 50 forest certification programs are present worldwide.

- The two largest international forest certification programs are the 'Forest Stewardship Council' (FSC) and the 'Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification' (PEFC).

- The FSC program is the fastest growing and considered as gold standard in the International Forestry sector.
- PEFC works by endorsing National Forest Certification Systems developed through multi-stakeholder processes and tailored to local priorities and conditions

WHO SETS THE GUIDELINES?

Government

- **United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development - UNCSD** (Intergovernmental Panel on Forests - IPF, IFF, Helsinki and Montreal Processes, Santiago Declaration) - Help establish criteria and indicators.

Private

- AF & PA (Sustainable Forestry Initiative - SFI, 1994), PEFC (Europe, 1999)
- American Tree Farm System - ATFS (1945), Green Tag (NFA, 1998)

NGO

- 'Forest Stewardship Council -FSC (1993)
- ISO 14001 (1996), CSA (1995)

Certification a TBT - Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement

WTO accepts TBTs if they protect Consumers, Environment & Plant health.

WTO considers TBTs such as standards & conformity assessment procedures (certification) to be acceptable as long as they are voluntary and run by the private sector.

Essentials of FC

Non-discriminatory (against county and forest type) - avoid unnecessary obstacles to trade, (i.e. should meet environmental objectives and go no further) encourage harmonization or acceptance of equivalence amongst similar approaches to standards/conformity assessment to be verifiable and transparent.

TYPES OF CERTIFICATION

First party certification:

- Internal assessment process

- Organization sets up its own standards
- Evaluates its management systems and practices

Second party certification:

- Assessment done by the consumer or an outside trade organization

Third party certification:

- Standards are pre-defined and accepted
- Performance of the applicant is evaluated by an independent third party.

❖ *Forest certification is third party certification type*

Forest Certification Schemes:

- CSA (Canadian Standards Association)
- FSC (Forest Stewardship Council)
- SFI (Sustainable Forestry Initiative)
- PEFC (Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification)
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) –USA
- CERTFLOR - BRAZIL
- CERTFOR - CHILE
- Canadian Standards Association (CSA)
- Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC)



Requirements of certification mechanism

- standards which form basis of assessment
- adequate institutional arrangements
- qualified human resource
- clearly defined procedure & rules regulating the use of certificates

Forest Certification Types

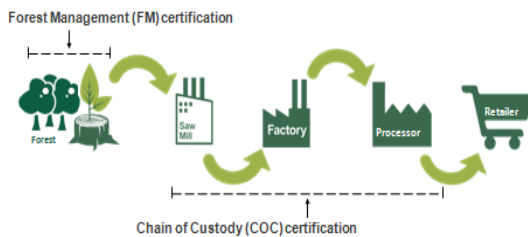
Refers to two separate processes:

1. Forest management certification is a process that leads to the issuing of a certificate by an independent party, which verifies that an area of forest is managed to a defined standard.
2. Chain of custody certification is a process of tracking wood products from the certified forest to the point of sale to ensure that product originated from a certified forest.

Costs of certification:

- Direct cost of initial forest assessment plus required annual audit and re-assessment
- Indirect cost of improved forest management practices (i.e., reduced harvest or increased expenditures).
- Cost of chain-of-custody audit
- Economies of scale indicate that some small land owners will be hit harder (percentage-wise) than large owners.
- Assessment costs vary widely but may not be high --from a minimum of \$.50 -\$1.50/acre for small properties to \$.10 -.25/acre for larger properties.

From Forests to Stores – FSC way:



1. FSC Trademark License Code

The symbol, © or TM, refers to the registration status of FSC trademark in the product distribution region

Randomly generated six digits code, specific to each Certificate Holder, different from the FSC COC Certificate Number

FSC® C000000

*"C" refers to "Certificate Holder"

FSC Product label
Affix on end-products to show the FSC status. It contains the FSC status, 100%, MIX, or Recycled

Promotional Panel
Used in promoting FSC as a system of the FSC status of products (e.g. on promotional materials / websites / reports)

Benefits of Forest Certification:

Management Benefits

- Exposure to best practices
- Image building as a Sustainable Forest Management.
- Constant monitoring and reporting – increased efficiency, reduced leakage.
- Efficiency in operations, emphasis on value addition, improved marketing.
- Increased productivity-better management practices.

Economic Benefits

- A prospect of increased revenue-due to better management practices.
- Foreign market penetration
- In certain species revenue may increase from 8% to 15% of present sale of timber.
- More buyers' attraction.
- Consumers pay more price premiums for “environmentally preferable” products.

Environmental Benefits

- High conservation value Forests – containing regions of ecological, environmental, social conservation values.
- Conservation of Rare, Threatened and Endangered species.
- Conserve biological diversity and its values.
- Maintain the Ecological functions and integrity of the Forest.
- Environmental impact assessment before commencement of any operations

Social Benefits

- U.N. summit-2005 recognises indigenous people's right for health, safety and local employment.
- Certification will help in employment in silvicultural and harvesting operations for local people.
- Respect for rights of communities and forest workers.
- Emphasis on development of local business.

- Social equity maintained in terms of wages, equal remuneration non-discrimination, benefits, compensation etc

Other Benefits

- International recognition, higher demand in the export market.
- Higher earning potential for the Forest department –standard average increase in market value -10-15% minimum. Industry standard –min.20% in-

crease for pulp able materials, 10-15% increase in wood for handicrafts, furniture etc.

- Third party verification that ecological forestry principles are being implemented.
- Increased public confidence in management of State Lands.
- Base line for Carbon offset verifications, REDD+, GIM.

(To be Continued)

(The author is Chief Conservator of Forests, Adilabad Circle, Telangana State and can be reached over mobile: and email: gamineniramalingam66@gmail.com).



Before It's Too Late!

A. Percy Rebekah

It's a pleasant morning on the 27th of January 2022. My sister and I are usually enjoying the holidays extended by the Government. As I was about to complete my breakfast, I got interrupted by the Weather Forecast from my mobile, informing me about the rains. We cracked jokes about Forecast being so stupid and also added that it's the ending of January & rains at this point is extremely hilarious. Meanwhile, my Mom finished washing her clothes. As she was tired, my sister and I helped her dry the clothes. Then we started a conversation when my Dad entered the room. As we talked, all our attention was distracted to a sudden Thunder. We were amazed as it was about to rain. My Mom got frustration, looking at the clothes not been dried. As my Dad tried to calm her, it started to rain. Hence we all rushed to bring the wet clothes back BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE. As it was raining outside, we decided to dry the clothes inside our house, which obviously made our house messy. My Mom's anger

went into peaks and shouted at us for being Lazy and not bringing the clothes BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE. Meanwhile, my Dad switched on the TV, but Mom was still cursing at the rain. As we watch the news on TV, we know that it is all because of CLIMATE CHANGE.

I wondered how my Mom reacted when rain damaged the clothes, but we still harmed Nature, not thinking how Mother Earth would respond. It is so easy to destroy something but very hard to restore them. We, the Humans, are just Destroying Nature, deforesting the Earth, Polluting the Air but forgetting the consequences of our foolish deeds. We, who caused the CLIMATE CHANGE, definitely we, who should bear the CONSEQUENCES. To overcome these most dreadful events in our future, let's Plant Saplings, start Afforestation and save Nature BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

(The writer is pursuing her B.Sc.(Hons) Forestry in Forest College and Research Institute. Feedback- Email: percy.a.rebekah2002@gmail.com).

Convocation of 30th Batch FBO Trainees T.S. Forest Academy

Convocation of 30th batch Forest Beat Officer Trainees of Telangana State Forest Academy was held on 14.03.2022 in the Academy at Dulapally, Hyderabad. Trainees, consisting of (50) people, successfully completed their (6) month Induction Training Program comprising of two trimesters which includes (2) Study Tours, braving the Covid-19 pandemic period. Sri. Swargam Srinivas, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Admn., V&A) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Telangana Forest Department, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Sri. P.V. RajaRao, IFS, Director of TS Forest Academy, Sri. S. Ramesh, IFS, Additional Director, participated in the occasion. Deputy Directors, Forest Range Officers and other staff, relatives and friends of the trainees also participated in the event.

The event started with the Guard of Honour, a ceremonial parade after receiving the Chief Guest, followed by a Convocation ceremony. Smt. J. Vasantha, Dy. Director, who compered the event, welcomed the Chief Guest and the other dignitaries. During the welcome address, the Director, Forest Academy stressed the need and significance of imparting training to the forest field staff to become professionals in the field of forestry and desired the outgoing trainee officers to implement the learnings and skills that have been acquired during the training period, in the field. Smt. S.A. Naginibanu, Dy. Director and Course Director for Induction Training Course for the 30th Batch Forest Beat Officer trainees presented the Course Report. The (50) member, FBO batch, consisted of (20) Post Graduates, (26) Graduates, including (17) women officers. Of all the (50) members, (48) officer trainees passed the training with flying colours, with (35) trainees getting Honors and (13) Higher Standard.

The trainees were given away the certificates, and the Chief Guest awarded the toppers in various subjects, the Gold Medals. Smt. A. Ramya of Medak Division stood as Topper and the All-Rounder of the Batch, accounting for (4) gold medals to her credit. Sharing their training experiences, the Trainee Officers said that they felt the change in the enhancement of knowledge, updating skills and attitudinal shift in their perception of duty after undergoing Induction Training in Forest Academy and exuded the confidence that the training would help them immensely while discharging duties and pledged to keep the TSFA flag high during their service in the field.

Addressing the Officer Trainees, the Chief Guest said that the learning shall not cease after completion of training, but it is to be continued. Training is just the beginning of learning, and one should keep on learning and update oneself to become professionally sound. One should strive hard with zeal for the acquisition of knowledge and skills. There shall be no inhibition to learn new things even from a commoner. The PCCF further said that the Beat Officer would play a key role in Forest Department and act as a bridge between the people and the officers and shall have the fortitude while dealing with the issues in the field and shall not lose the poise. He also said that three things, two strong legs, two intense eyes and ears, are essential for a successful forester to excel and emphasized the importance of foot patrolling by the field Officers for forest protection and self-health. The PCCF congratulated the trainees on coming out of the Pandemic period unscathed and successfully completing the training program. The ceremony was concluded by extending a vote of thanks to the dignitaries.

M. Ram Mohan,
Asst. Director, TSFA, Hyderabad.

LEGAL NOTES

C.B. Muthamma Vs. Union of India and Others

(The Landmark Judgment on Gender Discrimination)

From K.B.R



Chonira Belliappa Muthamma, daughter of a forest officer, was born on 24.01.1924 in Virajpet (Coorg) presently in Karnataka. After school education at Medikeri, she graduated from Women's Christian College, Chennai. She then did M.A. (Literature) from Presidency College. She was the only woman qualified at the Union Public Service Exam in 1948 to join the The Indian Foreign Service. She is remembered for her successful crusade for gender equality. She died on 14.10.2009 at Bangalore.

While in service, she attained senior position in the Indian Foreign Service. But at one stage, she was denied promotion on the ground of being a woman and some juniors were given preference over her. She therefore filed Writ Petition No. 743 of 1979 in the Supreme Court of India under Art. 32 of the Constitution of India against Government of India on the grounds that she has been overlooked for promotion because she was a woman and because some rules governing the employment of women are discriminatory in nature and therefore contrary to Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution. The matter was heard by a Bench comprising The Hon'ble Justice Sri J.V. Krishna Iyer and The Hon'ble Justice Sri P.N. Shingal. The petitioner argued that she had been denied promotion to Grade-I of the Indian Foreign Service on the following grounds:

1. There was a long standing practice of hostile discrimination against women;
2. She had to undertake on joining the Foreign Service that if she got married she would resign from the post;
3. She had to face the consequence of being a woman and thus suffered discrimination;
4. The members of the Appointment Committee of the Union Cabinet (R-2) were basically prejudiced as a group.

The petitioner has further challenged two rules Viz. Rule 8 (2) of the IFS (Conduct & Discipline)

Rules of 1961 and Rule 18 (4) of the IFS (Recruitment, Cadre Seniority & Promotion) Rules of 1961, requiring - women shall obtain permission in writing of the Government, before marriage and the woman member may be required to resign any time after the marriage if the Government is satisfied that her family and domestic commitments will hamper her duties as a member of service and that no married woman shall be entitled as of right to be appointed to the service.

The Bench presented unanimous findings. Hon'ble Justice Krishna Iyer delivered the judgment, first commenting that:

"Sex prejudice against Indian womanhood pervades the service rules even a third of a century after freedom. There is some basis for the charge of bias in the rules and this makes the ominous indifference of the executive to bring about banishment of discrimination in the heritage of service rules. If high officials lose hopes equal justice under the rules, the legal lot of little Indian already priced out of the expansive judicial market, is left to guess. This disturbing thought induces the making of a few observations about the two impugned rules which prima facie, discriminatory against the female of the species in public service and have surprisingly survived so long, presumably because, servants of Government are afraid to challenge unconstitutional rule- making by the administration."

The court then analysed the individual rules finding that:

"If a woman shall obtain the permission of the Government before the marriage, the same risk is run by Government if a male member contracts a marriage. If the family and domestic commitments of a woman member of the service is likely to come in the way of efficient discharge of duties, a similar situation may well arise in the case of a male

Contd.. on page No.58



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 the Serving Officers	D.O.B.
Sarva Sri			Sarva Sri		
1.	Iqbal Singh	09-04-1953	1.	Ms. Nandani Saleria	06-04-1988
2.	S. Mahadev	10-04-1951	2.	Dr. Shanthi Priya Pandey	08-04-1972
3.	S. Krishnaiah	15-04-1952	3.	G. Kista Goud	08-04-1974
4.	J.V.K.T. Prabhakar Rao	15-04-1953	4.	R.M. Dobriyal	10-04-1965
5.	S. Veerabhadram	17-04-1950	5.	Md. Khader Moinuddin	12-04-1962
6.	S.V.Kumar	21-04-1953	6.	Bora Raja Rao	12-04-1965
7.	C. Sammi Reddy	01-05-1951	7.	Leli Bheemaiah	17-04-1963
8.	K. Prabhu Prasad	02-05-1946	8.	R. Jagannath Singh	18-04-1985
9.	G. Prabhakar Reddy	02-05-1952	9.	B.N.N. Murthy	19-04-1979
10.	P. Kanaka Ratnam	05-05-1949	10.	M. Siva Prasad	20-04-1981
11.	G. Satya Narayana	05-05-1950	11.	B. Sunil Kumar Reddy	22-04-1989
			12.	K. Rajasekhara Rao	20-04-1968
			13.	C. Sridhara Rao	24-04-1965
			14.	Bolleddu Vijay Kumar	24-04-1968
			15.	C. Selvam	24-04-1986
			16.	M.J. Akbar	26-04-1962
			17.	N. Sangeetha	28-04-1977
			18.	Ravuri Hanumantha Rao	01-05-1961
			19.	B. Nagaraju	01-05-1963
			20.	Padal Sagar	03-05-1964
			21.	Kallol Biswas	04-05-1964
			21.	Maddela Joji	04-05-1967
			22.	Tadepalli Sreenivasa Rao	04-05-1969

- Secretary



OBITUARY

K. A. BHOJA SHETTY

04.09.1922 – 06.03.2022



Sri K.A. Bhoja Shetty, IFS (Rtd), expired at 10.00 a.m. on March 6, 2022 at Alva Hospital (at a place called Poduru between Pollachi and Topslip in Tamil Nadu), due to age related ailments and serious lung infection. His brother-in-law Dr.Subbaiah Alva was attending on him until he breathed his last. He was 99 and would have attained 100 years in September 2022. His son Ravi was at his bedside while his daughter Asha arrived from USA two days after his death. His wife predeceased him 20 years earlier. His mortal remains were consigned to flames by dusk at

Pollachi on the very same day of his demise.

Sri Bhoja Shetty was a Kannadiga by birth born in Mangalore, in the then Madras Presidency. After B.Sc. (Hons) from Presidency College Madras, he was selected by the Government of Madras for appointment as ACF in 1944 and was immediately deputed to Indian Forest College at Dehra Dun. He was awarded the diploma of AIFC after completing the course during 1944 – '46 and joined the Madras Forest Service. He was privileged to be the Chief Forest Officer of Coorg State. After completing his term, he was repatriated to Madras Forest Service. He was appointed by promotion to the IFS in 1966. Starting his career as DFO in Madras Presidency, he rose to the rank of CCF and Head of the Forest Department. He retired as CCF Tamil Nadu on 30.09.1980 and settled in Bengaluru.

Sri Bhoja Shetty was active even after retirement and participated in every meeting of the Retired Forest Officers Association of Karnataka. One momentous event that took place during his lifetime was when he was invited as special guest to the centenary celebrations of the Forest College at Coimbatore (renamed as the Tamil Nadu Forest Academy). He was felicitated by the Government of Tamil Nadu and the State Forest Department in the presence of many V.I.Ps. of the State. The most memorable part of his career was when he worked as the Principal of the SFRC Coimbatore during the period from 28.10.1959 to 27.04.1962 His students adored him with deep reverence while he loved them all immensely. On hearing the news of his death, many messages of condolences from his students have poured in from many parts of the country.

May the Lord rest his noble soul to peace!

(Thanks to Dr BRR Desai for his input)

(K.B.R)

OBITUARY

T. SANKARAI AH

(16-12-1931 – 09-02-2022)



This is to inform the readers of Vana Premi with profound grief about the passing away of Sri. T. Sankarai ah Retired DFO on 09-02-2022 at Nellore. He was 90 years old, and he died due to old age-related problems. Sri Tirumalasetty Sankarai ah was born to Sri. T. Narasaiah and Smt Pichamma at Nellore on 16-12-1931. He has one elder sister and 4 brothers and was the second among the brothers.

He had completed his schooling and college studies at Nellore Town and was graduated with B.A. Degree. He joined the Department on 15-04-1953 as Forester in Nellore South Division. He was married to Mrs. Venkata Lakshamma on 02-02-1955. He was subsequently promoted temporarily as Forest Range Officer during 1957 and worked as Range Officer, Road Works in Visakahapatnam South Division. Later he was selected as direct recruit

Forest Range Officer and was deputed to undergo Range Officers Training at SFRC, Coimbatore in 1958-60 Rangers Course. After passing out from the college, he worked as Range Officer in Nellore, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari Districts, Pre-Investment Survey of Forest Resources, Tirupati and Sri Kalahasthi in Chittoor District. He was promoted as Asst. Conservator of Forests during 1975 and worked in Adilabad, Anantapur, Guntur, Prakasam and Chittoor Districts and in Proddatur Division of Cuddapah District. In the last leg of his service during 1989, he was deputed to Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams and worked as DFO, TTD, Tirupati and subsequently posted as State Silviculturist, Rajahmundry where he retired on superannuation on 31-12-1989. After retirement he settled at Nellore. He has been suffering from Alzheimer's disease since past some time

His wife Smt. Venkata Lakshamma predeceased him on 27-01-2022 just 10 days before his passing away. He is blessed with two sons Late Sri Chandrasekhara Babu and Sri Umamahaswara Babu both retired as Bank Officers and 3 Daughters who were employees in different Departments. He was a very friendly and affectionate person who earned laurels from his superior officers, colleagues, and his subordinates wherever he performed his duties. He was a simple and soft officer loved by everybody who came in contact with him. He is blessed with 12 grandchildren. His death is a great loss not only to his family but also to all his friends and well-wishers.

Vana Premi conveys heartfelt condolences and deep sympathy to the bereaved family and pray for attaining 'Sadgathi' for his noble soul. His death is mourned by his son, 3 daughters, 12 grandchildren and a host of his relatives and friends.

(V. Santhaseela Babu)

Continuation from page No. 55

member...if a married man has a right, a married woman, other things being equal, on no worse footing. Freedom is indivisible, so is justice".

The court found that, since the rules in question had been or where in the process of deletion, there was no need to address or attack them, in addition, the petitioner had been promoted subsequent to the complaint, so further examination of it was pointless. The court also noted that when justice has been done, further probe is otiose.

The Court also noted that:

"The Central Government states that although the petitioner was not found meritorious enough for promotion some months ago, she has been good now has been upgraded and appointed as Ambassador to the Hague for what that is worth".

"Post hoc ergo propter hoc (After this, because of this).

The court thought that it is not necessary to examine the averments of mala fides made in the petition. The Hon'ble Court hoped that what it wished to impress upon the Government is the need to overhaul all service rules to remove the stain of sex discrimination, without waiting for ad hoc inspiration from writ petition or gender charity.

Their Lordships at the end said: "We dismiss the petition but not the problem."

The court while dismissing the petition on 19.09.1979 emphasized the need to overhaul service rules to remove discrimination.

Source: AIR 1979 SC 1868

Note: Probably, treating this judgment as Ratio decidendi (the principle that the case establishes) all the AIS rules have been rationalized. First time women recruitment to IAS, IPS & IFS took place in 1951, 1972 and 1980 respectively.



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Photo: K. Praveen Rao, IFS (Retd.)

Spot-billed pelicans (*Pelicanus philippensis*)

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