

VANA PREMI

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Vol .16

NOVEMBER - 2015

No.11

Vana Premi Wishes Happy Deepavali



**Banting house where insulin was discovered in the year 1922,
lit blue on every World Diabetes Day**



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VANA PREMI

Vol : 16

November - 2015

No.11

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Date of Publication: 24-10-2015

Total pages 56

EDITORIAL

World Diabetes Day: - World Diabetes Day is observed throughout the world on November 14 each year. It is a global awareness campaign, a truly global event observed every year for the better health of mankind. It was introduced in 1991 by the International Diabetes Federation and the World Health Organization in response to the alarming rise of diabetes around the world. World Diabetes Day is a campaign that features a new theme chosen by the International Diabetes Federation each year to address issues facing the global diabetes community. November 14th is observed as World Diabetes Day because it is the birthday, of Dr. Frederick Banting an army doctor, who co-discovered insulin, along with John James Rickard Macleod, C.H. Best, and Dr. J.B. Collip. Frederick Banting was born on November 14, 1891, in Allistone, Ontario. He developed an interest in Diabetes at a young age after witnessing a friend's death from the disease. The first successful test, on a human patient, with diabetes, occurred on January 23, 1922. A 14 year old boy Leonard Thompson was successfully treated, close to death before treatment, Leonard's life was saved with the insulin invented by Banting and his colleagues. In 1923 the Nobel Committee decided to award Dr. Frederick Banting and Macleod the Nobel Prize in Medicine. Although insulin doesn't cure diabetes, it's one of the

biggest discoveries in medicine. Nowhere is the diabetes epidemic more pronounced than in India and in India the united Andhra Pradesh has the largest number of patients when compared to any other state. Hyderabad is considered as the capital city of Diabetes.

The World Diabetes Day logo is a blue circle. The logo was adopted in 2007 to mark the passage of the United Nations World Diabetes Day Resolution. The color blue reflects the sky that unites all nations and is the color of the United Nations flag. The blue circle signifies the unity of the global diabetes community in response to the diabetes pandemic. On World Diabetes Day famous buildings and monuments all over the world are lit up in blue. This powerful and striking image helps to spread the message about World Diabetes Day to diabetics and non-diabetics alike

Diabetes is a condition where the amount of glucose in our blood rises high because the body cannot use it properly. This is because our pancreas doesn't produce any insulin, or not enough insulin, to help glucose enter our body's cells – or the insulin that is produced does not work properly and known as insulin resistance. Insulin is a hormone secreted by the pancreas that allows our body to use sugar (glucose) from

carbohydrates in the food that we eat for energy or to store glucose for future use. Insulin helps keeps our blood sugar level from getting too high (hyperglycemia) or too low (hypoglycemia). If we have more sugar in our body than, insulin helps to store the sugar in our liver and releases it when our blood sugar level is low or if we need more sugar, such as in between meals or during physical activity. Therefore, insulin helps balance out blood sugar levels and keeps them in a normal range. As blood sugar levels rise, the pancreas secretes more insulin. If our body does not produce enough insulin or our cells are resistant to the effects of insulin, we may develop hyperglycemia (high blood sugar), which can cause long-term complications if the blood sugar levels stay elevated for long periods of time.

When undiagnosed or uncontrolled, the effects of diabetes on the body can be noticed by the classic symptoms of diabetes, namely: Increased thirst, frequent need to urinate, fatigue, blurred vision and tingling or pain in the hands, feet and legs. In addition to the symptoms, diabetes can cause long term damage to our body. The long term damage is commonly referred to as diabetic complications. Diabetes affects our blood vessels and nerves and therefore can affect any part of the body. However, certain parts of our body are affected more than other parts. Diabetic complications will usually take a

number of years of poorly controlled diabetes to develop. Complications are not a certainty and can be kept at bay and prevented by maintaining a strong level of control on our diabetes, our blood pressure and cholesterol. These can all be helped by adhering to a healthy diet, avoiding cigarettes and alcohol, and incorporating regular activity into our daily regime in order to keep blood sugar levels within recommended blood glucose level guidelines.

The prevalence of diabetes is rapidly rising all over the globe at an alarming rate. Over the past 30 years, the status of diabetes has changed from being considered as a mild disorder of the elderly to one of the major causes of morbidity and mortality affecting the youth and middle aged people.

India, the second most populous country of the world, has been severely affected by the diabetes epidemic. There is clear evidence to show that diabetes prevalence is rapidly increasing, especially in urban India. The conventional risk factors of urbanization, unhealthy eating habits and physical inactivity, coupled with inherent genetic attributes and differences in body composition are propelling the increase in cases of diabetes. The low levels of education and poor awareness of the disease in the country are enhancing its impact on health of the population. Indians develop

diabetes at a very young age, at least 10 to 15 years earlier than the western population. An early occurrence of diabetes gives ample time for development of the chronic complications of diabetes. The incidence of diabetes increases with age. In India, the life span has increased; hence more number of people with diabetes is being detected.

The theme of World Diabetes Day is different every year, and regularly changes. The theme of this year is "Act today to change tomorrow" focusing on the importance of starting the day with a healthy breakfast to help prevent the onset of diabetes and effectively manage all types of diabetes to avoid complications, Diabetes develops most often in middle-aged and older people who are also overweight or obese. The disease, once rare in youth, is becoming more common in overweight and obese children and adolescents. Scientists think genetic susceptibility and environmental factors are the most likely triggers of diabetes. The other reasons of diabetes are living a sedentary lifestyle, increasing age, and 'Fast food culture'. Over the past few decades, a huge number of the working population has shifted from manual labor associated with the agriculture sector to physically less demanding office jobs. With the advent of highly addictive computer and video games, sedentariness is now affecting the children and youth as they tend to spend more

time in front of television and computers than playing outdoors.

While communicable diseases are slowly getting controlled in our country there is a significant increase in non-communicable diseases, like Diabetes. Indians seem to be at higher risk for diabetes. Apart from the conventional risk factors propelled by urbanization, industrialization, globalization and aging, other factors may also contribute. I personally feel Electricity is responsible to some extent for increased occurrence of diabetes throughout the globe. Before the electricity was invented everybody used to go to the bed before 8 p.m., and used to sleep for about 8 to 9 hours. But today we never sleep before 11 p.m. and generally get up around 6 a.m. to attend to our works. In this way today we are sleeping only for 6 to 7 hours, which is not sufficient. Lack of sleep is the cause of major diseases like hypertension and diabetes.

Vana Premi wishes that this year's World Diabetes Day is observed by all with serious intentions to protect all of us from this deadly disease and to maintain blood levels of those who are already victims of this disease by controlling blood sugar and by adopting a lifestyle that will control the disease as well as bless those suffering from it with long and blissful sweet life. **QMK**

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Dear editor,

Congratulations for a well brought out issue for the wildlife week; I suggest you please give the designation /state / and email of the contributors at the end of the article. The articles by Chinmay Mishra, on Cecil, and on elephants, by Bahaduria are informative. I fully agree with the views expressed by Rajeev on climax vegetation. Good forest management is good wildlife management. If the protected areas are kept un-worked, the vegetation closes up and density increases and edge effect decreases driving wildlife to the forest edge or into surrounding cultivated lands leading to man-animal conflict. One of the best management plans was that of Mudumalai by John Joseph where selection felling at one tree per acre was prescribed. It provides much needed opening of the canopy -good for wildlife-on one hand ,timber on the other hand + makes the staff visit the area !keeping bamboo clumps un-worked leads to congestion and only creates fire hazard. I suggest you make a special issue on revision of National Forest Policy and invite views; you should give two months advance notice.

With best wishes

RKRAO

Dear Editor,

Received and gone through both soft and hard copies of Oct 15 issue of VP. However it is the printed copy of VP that gives the great feeling of intimacy with this cherished journal as one could feel its soft touch, inhale its freshness, behold its crisp presentation and absorb its rewarding contents fully. The article 'Nandini, Tigress of Nallamalai' most ably penned by M Kamal Naidu is simply awesome as it recreates the splendor of enchanting beauty of early morning forest so vividly in front of your eyes as if you are in his shoes and viewing it admiringly. I am attaching herewith my article titled 'Lord Shiva's wisdom' for inclusion in any future issue of VP if found suitable. I shall be very much thankful to you if you can kindly arrange to send me a copy of M Kamal Naidu's book referred to by him if the same has already been published by postpaid VPP. With regards,

V. S. Joshi

Dear Sir

Very interestingly I have read October 2015 issue of "Vana Premi". Nicely brought out, covering many wildlife and forest memoirs and issues. The article "Management of Elephants, wild and domesticated" by Sri R. S. Bhadauria was interesting.

I somehow beg to differ with the over population of elephants mentioned with reference to the concept of Carrying Capacity. Since 1900 onwards, their numbers are going down, if anything is overcrowding, it is human being that too in the Elephant's habitats, causing fragmentation, isolation and shrinkage of corridors, either by railway lines, roads and mining or irrigation projects.

We have reduced Elephant's landscape, whatever increase in green cover is claimed, most of this increase is outside of forest land and there elephants do not live. There shall be no permission to further acquire/ purchase the elephants neither for commercial nor for private. Even in some reported cases, old *Mahawats* were also killed by the elephants in their change of behavior due to aggression. Elephant is not meant to move on black coal tarred road, head and body parts decorated, to carry people into the saddled *howdah* in marriage or religious ceremonies.

Further suggestion of culling of parent elephants and trans-locating the younger one probably will make them psychopaths, megalomaniacs and paranoids in their behavior. They are also animal-being and intelligent too.

It is known facts that animals in wild environment are reactive to changes, finds opposite sex to breed with, in the domestic environment, the successful animal tolerates humans, breeds willingly with whatever members of the opposite sex (if) provided, tolerates confinement, torture, bright lights, poor hiding places, a simple environment. I am not sure whether wild animals have more emotional quotient, even if not, the domesticated are certainly doomed. Freedom is something different. Probably with this animal cruelty, Hon'ble Courts have ordered not to allow such animals in Circus etc. In the present scenario when high powered machines are available to do the transport of material, using the elephant may be an archaic art. It is not the question of wild or domesticated animal, it is matter of animal safety in their home environment, towns & cities are not the natural habitats, the separated animals even from domesticated origin remain a dissolute in spite of whatever best food or shelter provided, moreover, where this trend of removing wild animals from the schedule list under wildlife Act will stop.

Surendra Pandey

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOGNITION OF FOREST RIGHTS ACT IN THE STATE OF TELANGANA

By
S. D. MUKHERJI

The enactment of "The Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and the Rules, 2008 have added a new dimension to the forest management. While the government and civil society claim that injustice done to the tribals and other forest dwellers have been corrected with the enactment of this Act, the foresters view this development as threat to the forests that are already under pressure from various sources. The foresters feel that recognition of 'Forest Rights' from the cut-off date of 13th December 2005 by itself is against the interest of the forests when traditional rights presupposes three generation of occupation. Those who encroached on the forest lands prior to 13th December 2005 and against whom cases were booked for encroachment into the forests were declared as owner of the forest land under their illegal possession by taking an arbitrary cut-off date and without resorting to use the scientific tools available for finding the truth. Many states have moved the Supreme Court against the Act but there is abnormal delay in dealing with the matter even when the forests are considered a very important component to check global warming and maintain ecological balance.

Whatever may be the views of the foresters, the government is keen to implement the Act with a sense of urgency. Tribal Welfare Department has been entrusted with the responsibility of implementation of the Act, keeping the Forest Department out with the fear of their biased opinion on the rights of the tribals and other forest dwellers. It may be of some interest to the participants to this workshop to know how the State of Telangana is implementing the Act and dealing with the degradation of forests, highest in the country.

The State of Andhra Pradesh, before it was divided into two States, was proactive from the beginning in implementation of Forest Rights Act. Tremendous pressure was put on the forest officers to give 'Forest Rights' without even proper scrutiny of the claims received and time needed to follow the prescribed processes. This resulted in giving rights even to some undeserving beneficiaries and acted as incentive to the forest dwellers to go for fresh encroachments with the hope of managing their rights over the forest lands. Government did not bother about its impact on the forests that was already showing high rate of degradation due to biotic pressure and poor

law and order situation.

Fortunately, the government of Telangana has taken a principled stand on the improvement of forests and tree cover in the State. The Chief Minister has assured the forest department that no more encroachment in the forests will be tolerated. He has given instruction to the Police Department to come to the rescue of the forest officers if there is any threat to forest protection. He has launched Telangana ku Haritha Haram (TkHH) scheme with the promise to bring back the greenery in the forests and add trees outside the forests to reach the target of thirty three per cent of tree cover in the State in a period of four years. Sufficient funds have been provided under the scheme. It has decided to plant 230 crores of seedlings over the four year period, starting with forty crore seedling for plantations in barren forests and outside the forests during 2014-15. Targets have been fixed for villages, municipalities, metros, constituencies, and districts to achieve the objective. There is a close monitoring of the work done, including survival of the plantations. The Chief Minister is himself reviewing the progress periodically. The department has taken advantage of the strong will of the government to protect the forests and done some excellent work. The forestry situation and effort of Telagana State, including dealing with the implementation of Forest Rights Act, is dealt in the following paragraphs.

Forests in Telangana presents a very poor picture with acute degradation of forest cover, highest in the country, as could be seen in the following table:

District	Area in km ²			Based on Satellite data 2012			
	VDF	MDF	OF	Scrub	NF	WB	TOTAL
Adilabad	482.93	3617.42	1443.02	810.28	712.82	34.83	7101.30
Karim Nagar	0.00	1159.19	740.74	377.90	75.41	8.04	2361.28
Khammam	19.09	1427.50	2279.16	1511.00	732.24	26.27	5995.26
Mahaboob Nagar	0.33	495.31	1323.23	1090.61	73.25	60.12	3042.85
Medak	0.00	113.20	510.46	280.21	56.55	2.70	963.12
Nalgonda	0.00	9.85	188.88	501.23	180.65	8.54	889.15
Nizamabad	0.00	634.95	797.63	165.28	161.24	9.32	1768.42
Rangareddy & Hyd	0.00	121.95	211.38	382.59	40.20	2.75	758.87
Warangal	0.00	1473.04	1715.41	186.78	617.43	30.79	4023.45
Total	502.35	9052.41	9209.91	5305.88	2649.79	183.36	26903.70

In addition to the degradation of forest density due to illicit fellings and excessive biotic interference, there are large scale encroachments on the forest lands, one of the major causes for degradation of forests and shrinking of forest cover. The forest areas adjacent to the villages, towns and even cities are being encroached upon by local inhabitants and land grabbers. These encroachments, at times, were taking place with the active support of local leaders, anti-social elements and land grabbers. At present an area of 2.94 lakh hectares is under encroachment in the entire State, much more than the land to be given under RoFR Act, as detailed below:

Area in Ha.

Sl.No.	District Name	Total Geographical Area	Total Forest Area	Forest area under encroachment	% of encroachment to forest area
1	Adilabad	1612750	710130	85523	12.04
2	Khammam	1318017	599526	108194	18.05
3	Warangal	1283192	402345	57883	14.39
4	Mahbubnagar	1847413	304285	1383	0.45
5	Karimnagar	1185511	236128	9878	4.18
6	Nizamabad	796835	176842	10751	6.08
7	Medak	971056	96312	8845	9.18
8	Nalgonda	1423602	88915	4087	4.60
9 & 10	Hyd & Rangareddy	771852	75887	8059	10.62
	Total	11210228	2690370	294603	10.95

Implementation of RoFR Act 2006:

As already stated, the erstwhile government of Andhra Pradesh implemented the Recognition of Forest Rights (RoFR) Act with gusto and accordingly large scale claims were made by the forest dwellers. Title certificates have been given in favor of 96,238 beneficiaries over an area of 3, 13,982 acres (1, 25,592 Ha) of occupied forest land. Similarly, under community claims, rights have been given on 5, 03,082 acres (2, 01,233 Ha) of forest land to (744) Vana Samrakshana Samithis (VSS). Moreover, there has been spurt in encroachments after the enactment of RoFR Act and so far 23,107 Ha additional forest area has been encroached in the State. Maximum encroachments have taken place in the districts of Khammam, Adilabad and Warangal.

However, due to the principled stand taken by the Telangana government there is some progress in containing this trend of forest degradation and encroachment on forest land. The action to protect the forests under TkHH scheme of the government started by commencing formation of peripheral trenches along the border of the blocks and compartments to prevent biotic interference into the forests. So far 1841.99 km of trenches, with dimension of 2MX2MX1.5M, have been dug along the periphery of the forest lands by selecting the forests on priority with greatest risk of encroachment and degradation. The work was started late in 2014-15 and continued in 2015-16 till the rain commenced. The circle wise break up of trench work is given below:

Peripheral trench work completed up to 29.08.2015; (In Km)

S.No.	Circle	2014-15	2015-16	TOTAL
1	Adilabad	283.38	316.64	600.02
2	Hyderabad	0.00	94.49	94.49
3	Khammam	129.58	150.89	280.47
4	Nizamabad	20.60	584.42	605.02
5	Warangal	22.00	179.09	201.09
6	FDPT Amrabad	18.90	42.00	60.90
	TOTAL	474.46	1367.53	1841.99

Further trenching work, carried out by engaging heavy machinery, would commence soon as rains have subsided. The plan is to cover as much area as possible in the shortest possible time to protect and regenerate the degraded forest lands while providing relief to the right holders. The work done in this regard in one of the compartments of Adilabad forests, having the distinction of maximum degradation, is highlighted as illustration of the action started for the regeneration of degraded forests:

To start with, a file has been created for each forest beat giving the details of compartments with area. 'Google Imageries' of the beat area, showing the condition of the forests at different times, have been put in the file. This gives an idea of the extent of degradation and its origin. Compartment history, obtained from the working plan, is appended to know the details about the compartment's location, boundaries, terrain, gradient, soil type, type of vegetation at different levels, encroachments and host of other information available under compartment history. This information is comprehensive to give an idea of the condition of forests in each compartment.

To begin with a few compartments in Adilabad district have been chosen for its rehabilitation and rejuvenation during 2014-15. It starts with a detailed land use survey of the compartment through

the Geographical Positioning System (GPS). It includes, marking the land given under RoFR with details of each individual, land under encroachment by individuals and putting all the information on the compartment map to understand the nature and its spread over the geographical area of the compartment.

With the help of this map the extent of the peripheral trench is so designed as to ensure keeping the RoFR area out of the proposed trench as far as possible. However, if some lands under RoFR are falling in the interior areas of the compartment, away from its boundary, the title holders are persuaded by showing alternative lands outside the proposed trenched area that is better suited for agriculture and giving proximity to their village and existing roads. Simultaneously, the encroachments are removed from the trenched area of the compartment by regular counseling and emphasizing the government policy. Generally, it takes one to two months to complete the process while pressure is kept by regular reviews by senior officers till this is achieved. Fortunately, with the government declaration of freeing the forests from encroachments and support of the police department in forest protection, neither the local politician nor the local leaders are able to raise their voice against the removal of encroachments. After the title holders are shifted outside the trenched periphery of the compartment, a treatment map is prepared to rejuvenate the forest through tending the root stock, plantation with suitable species for the area, and dibbling/

broadcasting the seeds of desired species based on the condition of the soil and existing vegetation.

For illustration, compartment number 1039 of Koutala beat of Adilabad district, Nirmal division, Nirmal range was taken up during this year (2014-15) for rehabilitation and rejuvenation of degraded forests on the above lines. Compartment 1039 with an area of 296 hectare is located in the junction of three villages, namely-Karji, Koutala, and Ponkur. It is surrounded on three sides with agriculture fields with fertile black cotton soil and fourth side (north) is forest area of compartment 1038. As per the detailed survey, it was found there are eleven tribal beneficiaries under RoFR in the compartment. While eight beneficiaries had their lands close to the compartment boundary the three had land inside the compartment. Peripheral trench was planned to keep the lands belonging to the eight beneficiaries outside the trench. The remaining three beneficiaries were persuaded to exchange their lands on fertile peripheral forest area that was close to their villages and the existing road so that it is better suited to them. Peripheral trench of 2MX2MX1.5M was dug to cover the length of 9.532 km and 0.75 km with trench size of 1.5MX1MX1M, keeping the condition of terrain along the boundary, to complete encircling the entire compartment with a continuous trench. The survey of encroached land revealed there were 224 members of all casts-SC, ST, BC, and OC communities- cultivating on 150 hectares of

forest land, many folds than their entitlement under RoFR. They were informed about the government decision on making the forest lands free from all encroachments while giving land to the RoFR beneficiaries as well as three acres of land to the land less. They were told that they will lose both the benefits declared by the government if they fail to vacate the encroachments inside the forests, compartment 1039. Moreover, they will be forced to vacate the encroachments subsequently taking legal recourse under the Forest Act as per the decision of the government. After initial hesitation, the encroachers could appreciate the disadvantage of staying on the encroached forest land and no political support forthcoming they all vacated the encroached land.

A detailed treatment map was prepared for the regeneration of forests in compartment 1039- demarcating the areas fit for plantations, areas fit for tending the existing root stocks, area not suitable for plantations but where seeds can be dibbled or broadcasted and the area not fit for any treatment due to rocky outcrops. Based on this treatment map, 45 hectare was planted in 7 patches during the planting season of 2015-16. Another 15 hectare suitable for planting is proposed to be planted during the next planting season, making the total plantation area to 60 hectare as per the treatment map. Another 120 hectares was found suitable for tending the existing root stock and 56 hectare for dibbling/ broadcasting seeds of local species. Work on this will be completed with weather permitting. In all, 236 hectare has been earmarked for

treatment for better forest regeneration. Balance area of 60 hectare was found rocky and unsuitable for any treatment but it is expected to benefit from protection from biotic interference by peripheral trenches. The trenched area was protected by sowing seeds of local thorny species and bamboo on outer slopes of the dugout soil mound deposited on outer periphery. Eucalyptus was planted on the top of the mound. Babul seeds were broadcasted in the trenches. The seeds have regenerated profusely and there is every possibility of its establishment in due course. The plan is to cover the dugout soil heap and trenches with thorny and other suitable species to make a dense vegetative barrier all around the periphery of the trench at the earliest to make it impenetrable to biotic interference before the trenches are filled up by siltation. It is hoped that by next year all the planned treatment will be completed and the compartment 1039 will soon achieve its pristine status of healthy and dense forests. The different works take up in the compartment is providing gainful employment to the local people. Once the forests are regenerated the local villagers will be able to get plenty of non-timber forest products for self-consumption and even marketing the forest produce. Protected forests will also recharge the ground water and improve the agricultural yields in the adjoining lands of the villagers. The maps showing the compartment 1039 with the details given above is shown below for the sake of clarity of the work done.

**FOREST SCENARIO VIS-À-VIS
THE SCHEDULED TRIBES AND OTHER TRADITIONAL FOREST
DWELLERS (RECOGNITION OF FOREST RIGHTS) ACT, 2006
(FOREST RIGHTS ACT, 2006)**

Key Note Address

**By
J. V. Sharma**

Good Morning to you all,

At the outset, I may inform you that I had the privilege of delivering the Key Note Address at the last year's Workshop held at this very venue and a copy of the address is annexed to my present address to save repetition. I thank the Organisers for providing me one more opportunity this time to share my views with serving fraternity. I must make it clear that I am no good speaker and the age-related infirmities can only make it worse.

Of all the assaults on forests, FRA can be rated as the most devastating, not merely for the loss of forest area, but for the damage it caused to the environment at large and the scientific temper associated with forests. In a way the forests were insulated during colonial rule and forest sector did not realise for long that there would be change in the rules of the game with the change in dispensation. There was no internal debate worth the name over the vicissitudes in forest sector. In fact the political class should have raised people-centric issues soon after Independence but for strange reasons, it did not happen. All that mattered was the Forest law and the Manual. Honestly speaking, what we missed and how valuable it was, started registering on us quite late in life. It is not clear whether the fraternity lacked the intellectual edge to their capabilities or the system itself discouraged innovative thinking but the fact was things continued to move on the old lines.

If only the issues pertaining to forests in a democratic society were foreseen and debated, much of the damage and consequent embarrassment could have been averted. The Department could have convinced then governments of the need to make suitable laws and prepared the personnel to face the imminent challenges. This I say because, it is not possible for the present day governments to enact the same laws which they made in the past. Inaction proved too costly and in the bargain the forests suffered incalculable loss. But this is in hindsight.

*“Key Note Address delivered at National Workshop of IFS Officers on Forest Rights Act held
at Telangana State Forest Academy, Dulapally, Hyderabad,
on 14th October 2015”*

When Constitution came into force, forests were on State List. A holistic approach in forest sector was missing. This position unwittingly gave rise to arbitrary decisions in respect of forests and seeds of populism were sown. Protection problems were becoming increasingly acute and forest encroachments became common. There was no political will to arrest the trend and the regulatory mechanism lost its sting and effectiveness. Reluctance and indifference shown in those days were to prove very costly in years to come. It does not sound amusing to hear some old foresters articulating livelihood concerns of forest dependent population now when there is nothing a forester can do nor can the forests offer.

Opposition to the legislation does not mean to be against the tribes. It is an accepted fact that STs are the most backward section of the society and they need all help and support to bring them on par with their brethren in civilized society. There are Special Provisions in the Constitution to take care of this aspect. Opposing the FRA does not mean opposing Special Provisions either. But the Forest Departments and Forest Personnel took the statement that 'the forests and tribes are inseparable and one cannot live without the other', on its face value without ever going into its practical dynamics. Equally unconvincing is the argument of historical injustice meted out to tribes. Both the Statements need to be taken with a pinch of salt because the truth is otherwise. The Forest-Tribal equation may have been cordial several decades ago when the tribal population was small and they were extremely backward sustaining on roots, fruits and tubers, being unfamiliar with food production. It was stark poverty which forced them to sustain on forest products. Once, they started evolving from food gatherer to food producers, however primitive the farming methods were, the man-forest conflict started. The tribal population of the country which was 30.1 Million in 1961 had increased to 104.3 M by 2011. It had more than trebled. With increase in numbers, there is consequential demand on land for farming. It is a simple case of demand and supply problem. The charm of inseparability between the forests and forest living tribes started losing its sheen as the tribes started moving out from their primitive life style towards civilization. Increase in their population and their urge for agrarian activity needed more and more land and the forests were at the receiving end. Much touted inseparability is a thing of the past and now the forests are in peril from their erstwhile inseparable twin. Thus the basis for FRA as recorded in the Statement of Objects and Reasons accompanying the Bill is debatable.

Though the foresters did not have any significant role in the process of verification of claims and the entire show was run by the bureaucrats, the social activists are not tired of blaming the foresters for the rejections. Even the Saxena Committee obliquely hinted of decisive role by foresters, though as a person on the other side of the fence, I strongly feel that the department remained a

mute spectator and did not do what they could have done. If more than half of the 80% disposed claims are rejected, that too when the foresters have no big say in the process, it only conveys that false claims are too many and it warrants a stringent scrutiny.

Status of cases pending against the Act:

After I filed the case in A P High Court, PILs came to be filed in the States of Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh. Besides these cases, two petitions were filed in Civil Original Jurisdiction of Supreme Court of India. In both the cases the emphasis was on wildlife. Restrictive Orders against the implementation were passed by High Courts of Madras and Andhra Pradesh but the Andhra Pradesh High Court modified its Order permitting the State Government to issue title deeds subject to final outcome of the WP & some other conditions. Madras High Court did not vacate its Order and Tamilnadu is the only State in the Country where the Act could not be implemented because of legal hurdle. The litigation had since grown in size with more than 35 parties joining the fray through Implead Petitions. Union of India filed Transfer Petitions (Civil) 414-417 of 2008 (Union of India Vs J. V. Sharma & Ors) seeking transfer of cases to Supreme Court to avoid inconsistent verdicts in various High Courts. Matter came up before the Supreme Court on 6th January 2015 and the Court ordered the cases to be transferred to Apex Court for combined hearing along with cases filed in the Court. Thus the entire case relating to FRA is now before the Supreme Court.

Constitutional position:

A very common refrain consistently cited by the votaries of the legislation is that the Parliament of India has made this law in its wisdom and it is the law of the land. It is true that the legislative competency and powers of Parliament are unquestionable. Parliament is the Supreme legislating organ created by the Constitution. All said and done, the Parliament by itself is not sovereign and it draws its existence and powers from the Constitution which is Sovereign. Clear cut contours are laid in the Constitution in respect of the issues to be legislated upon and checks and balances are put in place to ensure that there is no breach of the principles enshrined therein. Thus, a judicial review is always permissible, not against the powers to legislate but about what is legislated to see whether it is in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution and that there is justifiable rationale and that it is not arbitrary. So, legislation, needs to derive its life from the Constitution; should be confined to its limits and cannot go beyond; and certainly not go against the other constitutional provisions. Task before the Court now is to take a close look at the legislation in the light of this constitutional requirement.

Good environment is a must for healthy life of mankind. In other words the human life is inextricably linked to the need to preserve and maintain proper environment. When protection to life is a Fundamental Right under Part III of the Constitution, creation and maintenance of proper environment to ensure such protection, becomes essential under law. Article 21 of the Constitution says that “No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.” Though unrestricted and absolute guarantee of protection to life is not available, the rider provides abundant caution imposing restriction on the power of Executive. It is open to the judiciary to see whether the procedural requirements of the law are followed or not. The expression of ‘except according to procedure established by law’ or ‘due process of law’ as is more commonly said, was admirably explained by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in the words “The due process clause in my judgment would give the judiciary the power to question the law made by the legislature on the ground whether that law is in keeping with certain fundamental principles relating to the rights of the individual. In other words the judiciary would be endowed with the authority to question the law not merely on the ground whether it was in excess of authority of the legislature, but also on the ground whether the law is a good law apart from the question of the powers of the legislature making the law. The law may be perfectly good and valid so far as the authority of legislature is concerned. But it may not be a good law, that is to say, it violates certain fundamental principles, and the judiciary would have that additional power of declaring the law invalid.”

The position is well explained by the Supreme Court as “The Indian Parliament is the creature of the Constitution of India and its powers, rights, privileges and obligations have to be found in the relevant articles of the Constitution of India. It is not a sovereign body, uncontrolled, with unlimited powers. The Constitution of India has conferred on the Indian Parliament powers to make laws in respect of matters specified in appropriate place and the Schedule and curtailed its rights and powers under certain other articles and in particular by the articles found in Chapter III dealing with Fundamental Rights..... There can be no doubt that subject to all these limitations and controls, within the scope of its powers and on the subject which it is empowered to make laws, the Legislature is Supreme and its powers are plenary”.

There is a tendency on the part of the legislative authority to absorb every other aspect. Famous jurist, Mr. Hamilton said: “In Government purely republican, this tendency is almost irresistible. The representatives of the people in popular assembly seem some time to fancy that they are the people themselves and betray strong symptoms of impatience and disgust at the least sign of opposition from any other quarter, as if the exercise of its right by either the executive or the

judiciary were a breach of their privilege and an outrage on their dignity.....The power of judicial review enables the judiciary to maintain balance particularly during the periods of strong passions and feelings thus avoiding serious damage to fundamental human values.”

This is how the populist and self-centred people’s representatives can normally be. In a democratic country like India, the political party in power has the dual advantage of controlling the executive as well as legislature. It is a lethal combination which makes the matters much worse in the absence of any in-built mechanism to place restraints. Under such conditions, the power the executive and the legislature exercise in tandem, is absolute and may tend to be despotic. Keeping only such situations in mind, Thomas Jefferson wrote: “the concentration of these (i.e. legislative, executive and judicial powers) in the same hands is precisely the definition of despotic government. It will be no alleviation that these powers will be exercised by plurality of hands, and not by a single one.An elective despotism was not the government we fought for, but one which should only be founded on free principles, but in which the powers of government should be so divided and balanced among several bodies of magistracy, as that no one could transcend their legal limits, without being actually checked and restrained by others.” So, there will be no comfort of ensuring good law even if more than 750 peoples’ representatives are involved in the legislative process unless they have no despotic tendencies. Case in point is enactment of FRA by Indian Parliament.

Though the Statement of Objects and Reasons do not actually form part of the legislation, it is of great importance and one is required to fall back to it for clarity whenever there is any doubt in the interpretation of any provision in the Act. It otherwise means that the intent and purpose should be genuine, practical, transparent, legal, fair and consistent with other laws of the land. In the instant case, the Statement of Objects and Reasons begins with the premise that tribal people and forests are inseparable and one cannot survive without the other. The other assertions are; “ignored bonafide interests of the tribal community”, “Insecurity of tenure and fear of eviction from these lands and thrived for generations”, “historical injustice” etc are subjective conclusions based on assumptions and premises. Laws should be made on the basis of incontrovertible facts and not on imagined facts. Should the occupation of the land be so old, there is no need to fix the cut-off date to as recent as 13.12.2005.

According to section 6 of the Act, Gram Sabha shall be the authority to initiate the process of determination of rights by inviting and recommending the claims for further processing by SDLC and DLC, the latter being the final authority to decide. Gram Sabha appoints, from among

themselves, a Forest Rights Committee which will consider the claims received. The entire scheme of things looks like a colourable exercise in as much as the capacity of the persons drafted is not put to any acceptable standard.

In this connection I request you to permit me relate an experience. When the draft Rules were notified by MoTA inviting comments, objections and suggestions, I had sent a detailed representation. One of the objections raised was that in a situation of an illegal settlement where all members were encroachers, what would be the legality of the action taken by the GS and FRC? I pointed out that it will be a situation where the judge, jury and the accused, all rolled in one sit on judgment. When the Rules were finally notified, I was stunned to see sub-rule (3) added under Rule 3 saying “When a member of the Forest Rights Committee is also a claimant of individual forest right, he shall inform the Committee and shall not participate in the verification proceedings when his claim is considered”. An ingenious way of circumventing the principles of jurisprudence! The intent and purpose of the entire legislation can be sensed with this one example.

Details of implementation:

Though the legislation was operationalised in early 2008, the interest of individual States varied from total indifference to active participation. Of the 29 States (including newly formed Telangana) and 7 Union Territories, J & K was excluded from its purview. It leaves 35 States for implementation. But all the seven UTs have shown their persistent disinclination to implement for one reason or the other. Haryana & Punjab said they do not have ST population while (5) States of North-East viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Manipur & Meghalaya said they are better off with their existing arrangement. While Sikkim and Goa cited strange reasons for non-implementation, Uttarakhand and Bihar marked their token presence but followed by palpable inaction. Thus, 17 States are left in field willing to take the legislation seriously. There is a restrictive order against implementation in Tamilnadu and actual implementation has been possible in 16 out of 35 States for which the legislation was enacted. Prima facie, it sends out a message that there is serious flaw in the Objects & Reasons which formed the basis for the legislation.

Another significant fact that gets established in this context is, the five N-E States which saw no worth in the Act, are all States of high concentration of tribal population. For that matter, the States with largest concentration of tribal population are totally indifferent to the legislation. The Act found takers mostly in Schedule V areas. That the Act became irrelevant in majority of States is indicative of the fact that there are serious deficiencies in assessment of the ground situation. It

would be pertinent to mention that the average landholding held by STs was about 2 hectares compared to 1.5 ha held by other communities. So, the problem is that of backwardness and not of land.

According to information mostly gathered from government website, the abstract of implementation of the Act in the 16 States so far is:

Total claims received	41,24,883
Total Claims admitted	15,58,787
Total claims rejected	17,75,324
Total claims disposed	33,34,111 (80.83%)
% of titles admitted over claims received	37.79
% of claims admitted over claims disposed	46.75
Total extent of forest land given	78,57,509 Ac
Total forest area of the States concerned	19,01,50,566 Ac
% of forest area lost	4.13

Note: Statement showing the status of implementation in the 16 States is appended.

There appears to be no ‘full stop’ to this process. Such open-ended process in serious matters of creation of rights and vesting of the same, as is the case now, often lead to undesirable practices rendering the objective a mockery. Having gone through the first round of implementation ceding nearly 10% of its forests, the erstwhile AP State ordered for a second phase. To justify their action, the number of forest fringe villages had been increased. This is indicative of the State’s designs to exploit the law rather than respecting it. There is a clamour in some States to review all the rejected cases. If the Government feels that the process of implementation had deficiencies, it is only proper that that the entire exercise is reviewed instead of taking up selective review of only rejected cases. If process of implementation could go wrong by rejecting claims unfairly, those entrusted with the task failed in their duty and this failure could as well have resulted in accepting some claims unfairly. Saxena Committee went into the working of the Act and it was critical of the process.

Public perception:

Despite the fact the Act seeks to hurt the forests & environment in a big way, dissent has only been feeble barring cases filed against the Act. Given the backwardness of tribal community in general and the sympathies that go with it, there was no big public debate worth the name. If

there are any sounds heard in respect of the Act, they were heavily loaded in favour of the Act highlighting its value of populism and the benefits that would accrue to the deprived tribal society than the damage the forests suffer. Instances are there where social activists were vocal saying that not much is being done though statute ordained it. As 8 years of implementation must have made the foresters wiser about the strengths and weaknesses of the Act, I do not propose to discuss those points in detail here. I commend the foresters to go through the Saxena Committee Report together with my two articles on it (being supplied as explanatory material).

Crucial issues of grave importance:

My opposition to FRA was not merely on its provisions that hurt the forests and environment but also extend to its potential to destroy the cardinal principles of social amity, rule of law, equality before law and primacy of national interests. I have been of the view that this legislation, besides causing irreversible loss to forests and environment, is striking at the very roots of fundamental values of democratic governance and I wish to present a few of them before you:

- a) Natural resources are national assets. They belong to the entire nation. Even future generations have rights over these assets. The Apex Court ruled that the Public Trust Doctrine is applicable to forests. The Government, as trustee, should only manage the trust in a manner that does not infringe upon the rights of the coming generations to maintain intergenerational equity. In the instant case, the Government vests permanent ownership rights upon chosen sections of the society which amounts to breach of the doctrine.
- b) Similarly, environment is a holistic concept. It is not confined to any specific section of the society. Forest is an important environmental asset and its destruction or depletion has injurious effect on all in the region. A sensitive resource so crucial for life of the entire society cannot be used up for a section of the society. The adverse effects of environmental degradation will consume all, irrespective of the fact whether he or she is a ST or not.
- c) The Central Government vests forest rights on specified communities under Section 4 “notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force and subject to the provisions of this Act”. It means the provisions of this Act will prevail over any other existing law. Section 13 of the Act emphatically clarifies that “the provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other law for the time being in force”. (Emphasis added). It is a position where the two provisions of the Act are mutually contradictory rendering the most crucial provision of the Act, i.e. Section 4 unenforceable as it is. As the other laws

are on statute without attracting disability, they become enforceable and the provisions of this Act can only be subject to the jurisdiction of the other existing laws. As a consequence, all the forest laws related to forests and wildlife including the Environment Protection Act and the law laid down by the Supreme Court become automatically enforceable. The entire process gone through till now needs to be authenticated in the light of the said laws.

- d) Evidence for recognition and vesting of forest rights has been detailed in sub-rules (1) and (2) of Rule 13 which include documentary as well as oral evidences. Sub-Rule (3) makes it obligatory for the GS as well as SDLC & DLC to consider more than one of given evidences in determining the forest rights. India has Evidence Act on Statute and it is a tried and tested legislation of more than 100 years. Here a right is to be determined on the basis of evidence. The Evidence Act is clear about what 'evidence' is and what ingredients are essential to treat it as an acceptable evidence. FRA ignores the principles of evidence and the Act. It manufactures the evidence to suit its own convenience. It is a breach of Evidence Act and the relevant provisions of FRA are illegal and untenable.
- e) Once the FCA and EPA become applicable, the guidelines made there-under and the rulings of the Supreme Court given from time to time become operable. Forest Clearance and Environmental Clearance become mandatory for diversion of all forest lands for non-forest purposes.
- f) Should it be the case of (e), the User Agency, in this case the Ministry of Tribal Affairs as Nodal Agency, will have not only to find a minimum of equal extent of land and hand it over to Forest Department for Compensatory Afforestation but also will be required to deposit Net Present Value (NPV) at the rate of Rs. 9.20 lakhs per hectare for 32 lakh hectares of forest land diverted which will be close to Rs. 296 lakh crores. The Supreme Court did not agree to exempt the Governments from the payment in earlier cases.
- g) The Supreme Court in its Orders dated 6th July 2011 and 6th January 2014 in Lafarge Muminium Mining Private Ltd. Case, ruled that the MoEF exercising powers of granting Forest Clearance and Environmental Clearance has an element of conflict of interest and the purpose envisaged in Forest Policy is not achieved. They further commented that the existing procedure for Environmental Clearance is beset with deficiencies which need immediate rectification. The Apex Court ordered that while MoEF could exercise powers to grant Forest Clearances under FC Act, the Environmental Clearances should be granted by an independent Regulator.

It is a significant change in perception and procedures and the FRA diversions may have to be subjected to them.

- h) The occupations of forest lands, which are sought to be treated as 'Rights' under FRA, are actually encroachments punishable under forest law. That the encroachers were not evicted promptly is a different story of lack of political will and populism. Inability to bring the offenders to book cannot validate the wrong doing. But that is precisely what the FRA is doing. It does not only condone the offence but also rewards the offender with the booty. It is an affront to the principle of rule of law.
- i) While the law breaker is so rewarded under the FRA, there are several landless people of the same community who did not resort to encroachment due to their respect for law and they remain landless. It is an incurable flaw in the legislation as the law-abiding citizen is discriminated against. The principle of equality before law and equal protection of the laws (Art. 14) is violated.
- j) Need based eligibility criteria have not been evolved and incorporated reducing the process to a land distribution programme.
- k) It is seen on govt. website that the FRA implementation is giving rise to new problems with portends of developing into serious issues. Assam says that disputes in settling claims are getting converted into law & order problems. Goa reports that there are serious objections from the OBC population. Maharashtra & Assam are worried of large number of false claims. And strangely, Gujarat decided to review all the rejected cases.
- l) By far the most crucial is the fact that India is a populous country with increasing population while the land is a fixed resource. Poverty and backwardness are certainly worrying issues which should find effective solutions. But land cannot be the right solution because of its limited extent and the other uncertainties that go with farm sector. Poverty and backwardness are transient manifestations which can be cured in many different ways. It is only a question of time. As against this, the land resource now used up is no longer available to meet growing future demands. We need to draw lessons from West Bengal example where the land reforms benefited the landless initially who voted the CPM to power in election after election. Consequent to generational change, the landholdings got severely fragmented and unrest had returned to new generations. Results are there to see for everybody.

m) Land and land management are the subjects on State List of Schedule VII. Each State has its own law of settlement and land rights. Certificates of title now issued under FRA need to be merged with revenue records. Till then, the titles given can only be temporary.

Impact of FRA on forests:

The importance of the forests to mankind and the consequences of loss/depletion thereof are too well-known to need repetition and emphasis. Only legislation specific impact is discussed hereunder:

1. Most readily visible impact is the loss of 78.58 lakh acres of forest land in the 16 States accounting for 4.13% of the forests of the said States. The Country is poorer by that much of environmental asset.
2. Section 4(3) of the Act vests the ownership rights over the forest land in the occupation of the persons of beneficiary communities as on 13th December 2005. This blanket provision does not consider whether the occupied land is deep in the forests or on boundaries and the Act is bereft of any provision to address the management concerns. Forests are honeycombed with occupations scattered all over forest blocks.
3. At several places the occupations are not contiguous and are interspersed with patches of unoccupied forest land posing serious problems of protection and management.
4. Absence of provisions to guard against misuse of the legislation gave rise blatant fresh encroachment of forest lands. There are instances where the recent encroachers obtained stay orders from Courts against eviction citing section 4 (5) of the Act pleading their claims are not disposed and the implementation of the Act is still in progress.
5. Instances galore where the people migrated to forest fringe villages to occupy and claim forest lands, keeping their holdings intact at their original abode.
6. There is a ceiling of 4 hectares only for the land to be vested under the Act. There are many claimants who have other large landholdings of their own placing unjustifiable and avoidable pressure on the forests.
7. With the implementation of FRA, large chunks of forests will go under the control of GS as Community Rights, for enjoyment and management. At many places these areas are inextricably linked to the forests which are to be managed by the FD. At some other places Community Rights areas granted to different villages may consume the bulk of forest blocks

leaving unmanageable strips for FD to manage. I am not sure whether a clear picture had emerged but theoretically it is going to be a challenge to foresters.

8. FRA, thus, gives rise to changes of far reaching consequences, and in all likelihood, a day may come when the very concept of the forest management may come into question.
9. FRA gave rise to inter-State and intra-State migration of population. Migration of Guttikoyas from Bastar to adjoining areas of Telangana and AP are the case in point leading to fresh encroachments.

Left wing Extremism (LWE):

Left Wing Extremism is one of the most serious threats the Government and the right thinking people of the country are concerned about. Constitution, law or rule of law do not mean anything to them. Theirs is the law of convenience. They do not believe in the democratic process to get into power and their chosen route is through the barrel of the gun. The Governments at the Centre and States ignored it in initial stages as non-issue and by the time they realized it had snowballed into a huge intractable problem. Armed confrontation has been going on for at least four decades with no end in sight. Foresters are unwittingly caught in this conflict on account of their vocational exigency which they can ignore only at the cost of job. The Maoists see the forests as a safe shelter to hide and operate in their fight with security forces which makes it necessary to gain sympathy from forest dwelling tribes. If only they have genuine commitment to fight for the deprived and exploited people, they are any number of deserving sections of society in the plains. So the choice of tribal cause for them is a strategic necessity than political philosophy. Surprisingly, the Governments are not inclined to accept this fact and tend to believe that tribals are sympathetic to Maoists and they should be weaned away at whatever be the cost. Former PM, Dr. Singh was on record that the *Patwari, the Forest Guard and the Constable* are the people who matter in these areas. Even a casual visit to Naxal-affected areas will reveal that the days of Dr. Singh's description were long over. The issue came for mention here because, the Government feels that it could lure the tribals away from the extremists by giving land to them without even a semblance of study whether they needed any land, if needed how much? Expectedly, the States saw great populist potential in land distribution and bent over backwards to win over them by liberal implementation of the FRA. The States lost huge chunks of forest land for sure but without gaining anything in return.

Conclusion:

As I have been repeatedly saying, the last word is yet to be said on FRA though most of the people in the Establishment and many even from the fraternity strongly feel that the operational mandate of the legislation has been complied and the forest land had truly and conclusively gone into the hands of claimants. Supporters of the Act say that a lot of labour, money and time had gone into implementation. They argue that even if the forest lands in contention were essentially encroachments, inarguably an offence under law, the distance covered in implementation cannot be reversed. They pin hopes on the Supreme Court and say that socio-economic programmes, even if untenable under law, will not be struck down in toto and the worst that can happen is to halt further implementation. Though it is difficult to hazard any guess at the moment, I continue to bet on striking down the legislation just for the simple reason the Court which is expected to protect the Constitution and values enshrined therein will not hesitate to call a spade a spade more so when the fundamental doctrines of law are abused.

I perceive that the euphoria on the FRA is on the wane in areas it is zealously implemented. As custodians of forests, the foresters have a duty cast on them to ensure that the damage done is contained to the minimum. Barring some exemplary instances where the foresters put up stiff resistance, their impact & presence is largely muted, as the legislation desired. But there is one area which remained unexplored. The Forest Department can still undertake a detailed internal study of the FRA process completed and document the facts with reference to the law implemented. Forest Department has its men at grass-root level who have access to ground truth about the claims, claimants, origin, family composition, socio-economic particulars, details of the process of verification etc. A Gram Sabha area can be taken as a unit for the study and a team of Section Officer and Beat Officers can be entrusted with the task. The Department as custodian of the forests is within its powers to make an inventory of its assets. The results may in all probability show them the way to arrest the trend of fresh occupations if not identifying the false claims.

First priority however is to safeguard the forests in hand. It is time the foresters start debating seriously of the likely challenges and be prepared to meet them effectively.

Till the cases are heard and decided by the Apex Court, we stay with our fingers crossed.

Thank You

ote: Statement “Status of Implementation.... as on 31.05.2015 follows

THE SCHEDULED TRIBES AND OTHER TRADITIONAL FOREST DWELLERS (RECOGNITION OF FOREST RIGHTS) ACT, 2006

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION AS ON 31.05.2015

No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Claims received			Claims Admitted	Claims rejected	Claims disposed	%age of claims disposed	%age of titles Adm. over claims received	%age of titles Adm. over claims Disposed	Extent of Forest land given (Ac)	State Forest Area (Acres)	%age of Forest Area lost	Tribal population	Tribal HH	%age of tribal house holds benefited
		Individual	Community	Total												
1	Andhra Pradesh	189869	7528	197397	77477	82482	159959	81.03	39.25	48.44	654,155	8,639,670	7.57	2274398	505422	15.33
2	Assam	126718	5193	131911	36267	37669	73936	56.04	27.49	49.05	77,609	6,630,332	1.17	3308670	736238	4.93
3	Chattisgarh			860064	345279	487081	833160	96.87	40.15	41.44	736,091	14,769,983	4.98	6616596	1470355	23.48
4	Gujarat	190097	7228	190097	74720	3556	78276	41.18	39.31	95.46	1,292,053	4,676,964	27.63	7481160	1662480	4.49
5	Himachal Pradesh	5409	283	5692	346	2162	2508	44.06	6.08	13.80		9,151,054	-	244587	54363	0.64
6	Jharkhand	50360	864	51224	22913	15530	38443	75.05	44.73	59.60	57,129	5,832,923	0.98	7087068	1574904	1.45
7	Karnataka	359252	6135	365387	7709	174519	182228	49.87	2.11	4.23	36,547	9,460,182	0.39	3463986	769775	1.00
8	Kerala	36140	1395	37535	24599	7089	32488	86.55	65.54	75.72	33,018	2,785,642	1.19	364189	80931	30.40
9	Madhya Pradesh	558336	40669	599005	206342	352009	558351	93.21	34.45	36.96	1,761,238	23,398,161	7.53	12233474	2718550	7.59
10	Maharashtra	344891	7062	351953	108992	229730	338722	96.24	30.97	32.18	1,048,140	15,305,460	6.65	8577276	1906061	5.72
11	Odisha	598179	12502	610681	349541	157094	506635	82.96	57.24	69.99	726,494	14,365,718	5.06	8145081	1810018	19.31
12	Rajasthan	69125	650	69775	34254	32260	66574	95.33	49.09	51.50	52,023	8,065,273	0.65	7097706	1577668	2.17
13	Telangana	231368	4184	235552	95022	95681	190703	80.96	40.34	49.83	809,058	7,129,769	11.19	2749906	611090	15.55
14	Tripura	182617	277	182894	120473	21384	141857	77.36	65.87	84.93	416,556	1,555,281	26.78	993426	220761	54.57
15	Uttar Pradesh	92520	1115	93635	18546	74768	93374	99.66	19.81	19.87	139,000	4,097,749	3.39	256129	56918	32.56
16	West Bengal	131962	10119	142081	36307	710	37017	26.05	25.55	98.08	18,398	2,935,365	0.63	4406794	979288	3.71
	TOTAL	3,166,843	105,204	4,124,883	1,558,787	1,775,324	3,334,111	80.83	37.79	46.75	7,857,509	190,150,556	4.13	75300346	18739164	8.32

“ESTABLISH A BRAND OF INTEGRITY” (ADDRESS TO THE OFFICER TRAINEES OF 86TH FOUNDATION COURSE)

By
A.P.J Abdul Kalam

Introduction:

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, former president of India, addressed the officer trainees of 86th foundation course during valedictory function on 9th December, 2011. He has inspired the young India and is a great mentor of this nation. The Indian Forest Service Officer's Foundation course was held for the first time outside LBSNAA Mussoorie at Dr. MCR HRD Institute, Hyderabad.

The 86th foundation course comprised of 102 Civil Services Officer trainees representing 13 Central services like IRS, IC&CES, IRTS, IA&AS and other services, 26 Indian Forest Service officer trainees, 29 Indian Statistical Service officer trainees and 22 Indian Economic Service officer trainees and 1 officer trainee from **Bhutan Forest Service**. Together the total batch strength was 180 including 51 women officer trainees. The officer trainees represented 26 states of India.

The officer trainees are grouped into 4 sections, 18 counsellor groups, 8 trek groups, 18 book review groups, 36 village visit groups and 12 AK Sinha one act play groups. 18 Public Policy review groups. The service, gender random mixed groups are made such that maximum interaction is possible among the members of the batch. Nine clubs and societies are

constituted with the elected members.

About 240 class room sessions are planned for the academic inputs. The Eminent Speakers from ISB, IIM, IIT, Universities, present and former Governors of RBI, former chief election commissioners and Raman Magsaysay awardees, Dronacharya awardees, Padma awardees Spic Macay founder, Central Ministers, Senior bureaucrats have addressed the officer trainees. The Director General of Forest Survey of India gave the keerthi chakra awardee Sri. P. Srinivas Memorial lecture. This rich experience culminated with inspirational address by Sri A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on the theme of “Establish a brand of Integrity”

Integrity

I am delighted to address and interact with the participants of the 86th Foundation course at the Dr. MCR Human Resource Development Institute in Hyderabad. My greetings to Shri Shafiqz Zaman, the Director General and Sri G. Chandrashekar Reddy, IFS the Course Director and all of you I am happy that MCR HRD Institute has developed core-competence in conducting courses for international, national and state government officers primarily from the public and government sector. I congratulate the pioneers both present and

past who have laid a robust system of training for the probationary officers coming from different streams. Today I would like to discuss on the topic ***“Establish a brand of integrity”***.

Friends, on 22nd November 2011, I went to Jorhat for addressing the World Tea Science Congress. There I addressed the Administrative and Police officers of Jorhat and Dibrugarh district which was organized by Mr. R. C. Jain, DM Jorhat on 21st November evening. After my talk I administered an oath to the participants:

“I will work with integrity and succeed with integrity” and decibel level went down when they were repeating ***“succeed with integrity”***...

It will enable you to evolve yourself and shape your life in whatever task you will be doing. What you will be remembered for? You should write it on a page. That page may be very important page in the book of human history. And you will be remembered for creating that one page in the history of the nation – whether that page is the page of invention, the page of innovation or the page of discovery or the page of creating societal change or a page of removing the poverty or the page of fighting injustice or a page of enhancing the biodiversity, or a page in designing a foolproof system of railway safety or innovations in personnel, financial and trade management. (Dr. Kalam wanted this page to be mailed to him to his mail ID: apj@abdukkalam.com).

Now let me discuss an important aspect of human behavior which is conscience that is the foundation for all our behavior and action in our

family life, social life and professional life.

Conscience

Conscience is the light of the Soul that burns within the chambers of our psychological heart. It is as real as life is. It raises the voice in protest whenever anything is thought of or done contrary to the righteousness. Conscience is a form of truth that has been transferred through our genetic stock in the form of the knowledge of our own acts and feelings as right or wrong. Now let us look at, how important the righteousness in the heart. I have heard a hymn in spiritual centers in our country. Let me share with you.

Righteousness in the heart

Where there is righteousness in the heart

There is beauty in the character.

Where there is beauty in the character,

There is harmony in the home.

When there is harmony in the home.

There is an order in the nation.

When there is order in the nation,

There is peace in the world.

For achieving a good governance and great society, the starting point is righteousness in the heart. I am happy that the important aspect of righteousness, honesty, selflessness and integrity are embedded in the curriculum of this foundation course. Since all of you will be taking of responsible assignments in Government, I would like to present two role models whom you can follow for developing the characteristics of passion to realize vision and a leader who has courage to take a decision.

Passion to realize the vision

First let me describe to you an example of how passion to realize the vision has facilitated the successful and on-time implementation of a three billion dollar metro-rail project by the Managing Director of a public sector organization. The Delhi Metro Rail Project has given to the nation the potential of executing a fast transportation system using high technology with reliability through a time bound mission mode operation. Delhi, the Capital of the country with over 20 million populations, has the distinction of having a world class metro rail with frontline technologies. The work on the metro rail commenced on 1st October 1998 and the first phase with three lines covering 66 kms. has been completed by December, 2005. Today over all route length created by Delhi Metro is around 190 kms. Every day, Metro handles average movement of 2 million passengers. Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has brought to the country, the most advanced rail technologies for the first time. Here is a leader who has passion and passion for excellence. The notable gains to the country are, light weight stainless steel, sleek, modern trains with pneumatic springs, regenerative braking, public information display, wide vestibules and automatic doors. The sophisticated coach technology which was not available in the country so far has been transferred to M/s. Bharat Earth Movers Ltd., Bangalore, which is now assembling these trains with progressive indigenization. BEML is now in a position to supply train sets needed for Phase-II of Delhi

Metro Rail Project and meet the requirement for Metros coming up in other cities of the country.

Mr. E. Sreedharan, the Managing Director of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has ensured that, all the scheduled sections were completed by their target date or before and within their respective budgets through his, programme management skills. The dedicated and transparent leadership backed up with professional competence of Mr. Sreedharan has given to the nation, one of the best transportation systems of the world at the most economic cost. He is a recipient of many national and international awards. Also, he is in demand for undertaking the development of metro system in different countries of the world which he has politely declined due to pre-occupation with committed Indian programmes.

Leader has the courage to take decision (Nation is bigger than any individual society or political party)

Friends, I still remember a scene during May 1996. It was 9 O'clock at night. I got a call from the then Prime Minister House that I should meet the Prime Minister Shri P.V.Narasimha Rao immediately. I met him just 2 days before the announcement of General Election results. He told me "Kalam, be ready with your team for the N-Test and I am going to Tirupati. You wait for my authorization to go ahead with the test. DRDO-DAE teams must be ready for action. Of

course the election result was quite different from what he anticipated. I was busy in Chandipur missile range. I got a call saying that I must meet immediately the Prime Minister designate Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji with Shri Narasimha Rao ji. I witnessed a unique situation. Shri Narasimha Rao ji the outgoing Prime Minister – asked me to brief the details of N-programme to Shri Vajpayee ji, so that a smooth takeover of such a very important programme can take place. This incident reveals the maturity and professional excellence of a patriotic statesman who believed that the nation is bigger than the political system. Of-course after taking over as Prime Minister in 1998, the first task given by Shri Vajpayee ji to me was to conduct the nuclear test at the earliest. Both these leaders had the courage to take difficult decisions boldly, even though the consequences of such a decision have great national and international significance.

My interaction with the civil services officers' trainee at Mussoorie:

I talked to the Civil Service officers about creative and innovative leadership and evolution of a better world. After the session, some unique questions were raised by the participants which highlight the opportunities and challenges in governance faced by the nation's highest level of bureaucracy. I thought of sharing them with you and get your views on them.

I asked the young officers to find how they can

be creative leaders who can pioneer great mission in life. After the lecture, one young lady officer got up and asked, *"Dr. Kalam, the bureaucracy is trained and known for maintaining status quo".* In this context, how can I be creative and innovative? Another young officer said, *"dear Sir, right now, at the start of our service, we are all ethically upright and resolute for integrity. We all want to work upright and resolute for integrity. We all want to work hard and make a change. But in a decade's time, in spite of our surroundings, how do I still maintain the same values with enthusiasm?"*

To these questions, I replied that the young officers entering into the governance have to determine a long term goal for which they will be remembered. This goal will inspire them at all times during their career and help them overcome all problems. I told them that the young bureaucrats of the nation have to remember that when they take difficult missions, there will be problem. Problem should not become our captain, we have to defeat the problem and succeed.

Another young officer asked me, *"Dr. Kalam, just now you administered an oath "I work with integrity and succeed with integrity". But the political system and seniors who are corrupt, would definitely put pressure on the young bureaucrats to compromise on their ethical standards, how can we tackle this problem?"* I thought about this problem which is very

pertinent and practical. I responded recalling my own experience where I worked very closely with politicians and administrators including positions like Secretary – in Defense Research and Development Organization and Scientific Advisor to the *Raksha Mantri*, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India. In all these positions, I was in charge of large missions with huge capital investments. I recall that at no point did any leader or administrator approached me for favors. Then I told the young officers that they can definitely establish a brand of integrity for themselves which will be called circle of your brand to keep away all those who want make them compromise ethically. Of course, this may mean facing some problems as an individual growth. Finally the best in human will succeed in life.

Conclusion; Working with integrity leads to sustainable growth of the nation. How is it possible? We need to have National ethics for sustainable growth and peace. Where from it starts?

- a) Our Nation has to have ethics in all its tasks, for our sustainable economic growth prosperity and peace.
- b) If nation is to have ethics; society has to promote ethics and value system among all its constituents.
- c) If society is to have ethics and value system, families should adhere to ethics and value system;

d) If families have to get evolved with ethics and value system, parenthood should have inbuilt ethics.

e) Parental ethics come from great learning, value based education and creation of clean environment that leads to righteousness in the heart.

I am sure the training and education system at Dr. MCR HRD Institute nurtures ethics and value system among all the trainees particularly the members of foundation course who are commencing their professional career today. At this stage let me recall Maharishi Patanjali, 2500 years ago, said:

“When you are inspired by some great purpose, some extraordinary project, all your thoughts break their bounds. Your mind transcends limitations, your consciousness expands in every direction, and you find yourself in a new, great and wonderful world. Dormant forces, faculties and talents come alive, and you discover yourself to be a greater person by far than you ever dreamt yourself to be”

Let me once again congratulate all the participants of 86th foundation course. My best wishes to all the members of Dr. MCR HRD Institute Andhra Pradesh success in their mission of developing quality resource for public service and governance.

May God bless you all. (Courtesy: Dr. G. Chandrashekhar Reddy)

LORD SHIVA'S WISDOM

By
V. S. Joshi

About three years ago I was having my usual leisurely evening stroll on a lane in front of my residence as this lane is devoid of any traffic congestion due to being closed on one end by a river canal. As I was about to end my strolling and return home I observed that a well-built elderly sadhu like person wearing only a knee length saffron colored loin cloth around his waist and having long beard and matted hairs bundled together in a cotton sack dandling on his bare back, whom I had noticed many times earlier emerging from an ancient Shiva temple known as Pimpaleshwar Mahadev Mandir situated behind a huge *Ficus religiosa* tree by the side of the canal and passing through this lane, was having an animated conversation with a person from my neighborhood. I out of sheer curiosity stopped for a while to know the topic that they were engaged in such serious discussion. To my surprise this sadhu was speaking in fluent English with my neighbor. It turned out that he had taken shelter a year ago in the premises of this Shiva temple which is said to have been established by the famous sage Gorakshnath belonging to the Nath tradition way back during eleventh century. The premises of temple about one acre in extent was obscured from general view and was occupied by a so called follower of Nath tradition posing as the caretaker of this temple, who was actually a habituated cannabis smoker

and indulging in clandestine business of its sale to the addicted users aided by his accomplices by operating from the illegal tin shed erected within temple premises. He also indulged in extracting money from the local priests who used to conduct the religious rituals for sake of the intending devotees of Lord Shiva. It appeared that this sadhu was complaining that these rowdy elements were trying to oust him out as they suspected that his presence would be detrimental to their shady activities. I advised the sadhu that he along with the local priests should lodge a complaint against these elements in the nearby police station as this was a law and order problem. However as he appeared to be reluctant to lodge such complaint with the police, I and my neighbor retreated to our residences.

Later on, whenever I and this sadhu crossed our paths during my morning or evening strolls, he used to greet me with a chant of 'Hari Om' and engage me in some talk regarding the undesirable activities going on inside temple premises and how they aren't conducive for welfare people in the locality and used to appeal to me to do something to put a stop to such activities. It was transpired during my discussions with him that this sadhu with assumed name of Shivanand was a formally educated person and had been initiated in this

life of austerity by his revered Guru. He was an ardent Shiva devotee, a voracious reader of philosophical literature and had a sizable collection of various books on philosophy which he had preserved in an antique wooden box inside the temple. He was also an enthusiast of yoga and attended yoga classes conducted by Yogacharya Ayyangar, art of living sessions conducted by Sri Sri Shankar and spiritual association sessions conducted by Sri M. He used to walk down to these and many such places on foot. At first I ignored his appeals, but on a second thought, I decided that I should do something as my social obligation in this regards as Shivanand appeared to be sincere in his efforts to weed out the undesirable elements from Shiva temple and convert the premises into a serene place for Shiva devotees as well as occasional visitors from nearby localities.

To start with, I embarked upon a drive of collecting signatures from residents of housing societies and bungalows in the vicinity on a joint application to be addressed to Garden Division of Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) for development of a garden in temple premises for benefit of local citizens on eviction of the undesired elements occupying the same. I approached with this joint application the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Garden Division, which had successfully created over 100 beautiful gardens in Pune city. He to my great dismay expressed his inability to help me in this respect as he was already short of staff for maintaining the existing gardens and eviction

of the encroachers in temple premises was not his job. But he asked me to approach the Assistant commissioner (AC) in charge of concerned PMC ward for necessary action. Thereupon, first I secured an authentic copy of the map from Public Works Division of PMC showing the status of area as being reserved for recreational purposes and armed with this map I approached the AC of concerned ward, who was a lady officer known for her stern actions against the law breakers. However, she politely asked me approach the Encroachment Division of PMC whose active involvement was essential in evicting the encroachers. When I approached the DC, Encroachment, he gave necessary directions in writing to the AC to initiate the action against the encroachers with the help of Police Department if necessary in view of tackling the law and order problem. However, no actual action was taking place on the ground zero by the ward level officials for the reasons best known to them. In the meantime, there was appointment of Mr. Zurmure, an IFS Officer famous for capturing a notorious gang of tiger poachers using a torturous method of catching tigers by the lying paw-traps in forest during his tenure as DCF, Tadoba National Park in Maharashtra; on deputation to PMC as Additional Commissioner, General Administration. As he happened to be occupying the bungalow on the same lane of my residence, I intuitively approached him though I wasn't personally acquainted with him for helping me out of this impasse. He patiently

listened to my plea and personally gave instructions to the DC, Encroachment on phone to act quickly and decisively in the matter and requested me to check next day if the action has been taken.

When I enquired with the Encroachment Division the next day, to my surprise I was informed that the action has already been started and as I returned home, I noticed the flurry of activity taking place around temple premises with police and PMC vehicles in attendance. That evening Shivanand came to my residence to inform me that not only the illegal shed dismantled, but all bad characters have also been evicted from the premises and he profusely thanked me for my consistent yearlong efforts in the matter which born these desired results. Now the next step was to develop serenity of this place, so as not to allow it to fall back into its present state again. As by now I had developed a good rapport with Dr. Vijay Bhatkar, a renowned computer scientist known for his interest in the philosophical field, I decided to contact him for lending a helping hand through his India International Multiversity for development of serene environment around this temple premises. Dr. Bhatkar not only paid a visit to this area to assess the situation on spot, but also addressed a letter to the Municipal Commissioner, Pune stating that his organization will be happy to be associated with any development plan of this area that PMC may be undertaking in future, which may include converting this premises into a serene enclave

with facilities for research on ancient Nath tradition to which this temple belonged. The DC, Estate Division of PMC to whom this letter was forwarded for necessary action invited the opinion of the Water Supply Division, which was in charge the area, in this matter. The Executive Engineer, Water Supply reported that as his division has no use of the said area for any of their future activity, he has no objection for undertaking other suitable development in this area. Then the AC of concerned ward was directed to initiate action of formulating the development proposal in this regards for consideration of the General Body of PMC. However, as the action at the level of AC was progressing at snail's pace and also as the undesired elements were trying to rehabilitate themselves afresh in temple premises, I sought the information from the Commissioner, PMC under provision of the RTI Act regarding the progress made in respect of sanctioning the development proposal. On this query the DC, Estates replied that the action will be taken on receipt of the proposal from AC of concerned ward who is being expedited in the matter. When I pursued the matter with AC with the detailed list of desired developmental works to be included for fast tracking the proposal, she replied that the proposal will be submitted in the due course to the Commissioner, PMC for his approval, but nothing can be done for its actual implementation unless the General Body of PMC allots funds for the same. In the meantime, Corporator of municipal ward was

also pursuing his agenda of constructing a free marriage hall in this area from the funds allotted to him for developmental works from his ward in order to nurture his vote bank. All these developments had resulted into a long drawn stalemate in the matter.

I had by now almost given up the hope that any tangible results would ever emerge from this sort of dilly dallying on part of the concerned PMC Divisions. As if to add salt to injury, the bad elements had successfully erected the shed from dismantled material still lying on the spot as informed by Shivanand. Thus, the whole matter was hanging on fire like famous Birbal's Khichari during emperor Akbar's reign. After a long gap of non-action on all fronts of PMC of about two years since then; on one fine morning I was pleasantly surprised to note the activity of construction of retaining wall by the side of canal was going on. When I enquired about this development with Shivanand, he informed me that this activity is part of Heritage Division of PMC as Shiva temple has been treated as the state level heritage site. I was glad that at least something is coming out than absolute nothing during past two years. As days passed by, it was revealed by that only the area around the temple will be renovated under the heritage preservation plan, leaving untouched the area where undesired elements have rehabilitated themselves. This was something extremely absurd and very hard to digest as these notorious elements were bound to pose constant threat

to serenity of this place in future. When I enquired about this absurdity in the development plan with the Executive Engineer, Heritage, who happened to be on site one day; he informed me that this is the task assigned to him, which he cannot overstep without sanction from his superior authority. He further coolly advised me to approach Encroachment Division of PMC for eviction of the undesired elements from the premises if I so desire. It was clearly evident that the tossing game between the shirking municipal authorities was once again back to square one. Naturally I became quite disheartened due to this development.

Later on, when Shivanand sincerely appealed to me to kindly pursue the matter again with the concerned municipal authorities for getting the unauthorized encroachment permanently evicted from temple premises, I having already been through quite frustrating and tiring experience of the delaying tactics of PMC authorities, finally decided to call it day and advised Shivanand too to stoically resign to the fate that probably Lord Shiva in his profound wisdom must be in a mood to patronize both of his virtuous as well as pseudo devotees as he was known in mythological stories to patronize the demigods whenever they prayed him while in danger from a demon and also the same demon whenever he had undergone a protracted severe penance for seeking Lord's blessings in pursuance of his evil agenda.

WINTER'S SOLSTICE @ HYDERABAD: A RENDEZVOUS FOR WHATEVER IT'S WORTH!

By
Dr. B Raghotham Rao Desai

Sometime during a winter some years back I happened to be in Hyderabad when my colleague Narayan Swamy invited me one day to join him for a luncheon-meeting. I availed the opportunity to pay a visit to the renowned Indira Park nearby his residence in Gaganmahal-area by leaving the camp-site a bit early.

It is a funny thing about visiting parks and tree – groves — just you are there and time seemingly comes to standstill and your world gets encapsulated into that spot. Myriad people fill in your vision: Some so well-defined that you begin to think as if they are characters scripted for a movie! Fortunately life does not always mirror fiction. If there is one thing you learn by such visits, it is that life can be full of surprises and in the most mundane of places you may get more entertainment from interesting people than you expect!

As I entered the park to savor its beauty, I became conscious of the surroundings and the ambience which I had been oblivious thitherto. Mother Nature had decked herself up in breathtakingly beautiful shades of green and yellow, other colors too having speckled over her contours. I for one could not take my eyes off the picturesque scenery as I clucked & twitched at the same time. Not everyone visiting the park

perhaps enjoy the scenic beauty necessarily that envelops, unless they possess an eye for it. A gentle breeze that whiffed past sent a tingling sensation to the foliage and the leaves began to quiver tantalizingly, like shy maidens tickled at the slightest touch, and the twittering of birds rose with it like excited bridesmaids! Withdrawing me to a bench strategically located beneath a tree I flopped down to relish the nature: and with it the morning walkers & the goings-on.

Sporting a complete athlete's attire was a young man jogging at a steady pace. Behind him were two middle aged women who ambled their way along. The man who came not far behind had all the markings of the forces as he walked briskly, head held high in true army style. Following him closely was a couple who seemed in a hurry to finish their walk before submitting to the day's demands. A young boy, apparently their son, waddled along grudgingly — disgruntled perhaps at being dragged out on an empty stomach.

Next came the all too familiar gentlemen — past their sixties — who sauntered, seriously discussing matters of the State. A pair of lovers strode leisurely, being happy to have snatched a few delightful moments together. A young girl

— earphones plugged in and a mobile held firmly in hand — strutted by prettily. A man — pushing fast forty — lumbered, appearing determined to shed the mounds of flesh piled around his midriff.

Quite at ease in the nine yards that covered her slender form, an elderly woman shuffled along at her own pace. Moving flatteringly — stopping now and then to pluck the yellow flowers and ferns that dotted the pathway — was an old man, his face a picture of peace.

At this juncture a warm sensation was felt making me aware that the sun has passed the

Meridian and it was indeed the hour of winter solstice. And my mobile rings to announce that the other participants — representing other All India Services, Narayan Swamy being an important office-bearer of the Association of Combined AIS — for the said meet are arriving one by one and I should come soon. I was thus driven out of the reverie and from the stupor I was slowly slipping in to. I had perforce leaved the beautiful park but not without a tinge of regret, reminding me that a single biggest problem in communication is perhaps an illusion that it has taken place!

APPEAL

Readers, writers, Forest Officers (in service & retired) and Contributors are requested to send articles photographs and any other material for publishing in Vana Premi on the subjects of Forestry, Wild life, Environment, Climate change, Tourism and Current affairs by 18th of every month. Please leave it to the Editor to select and publish the best articles. It is the prerogative of the Editor to select the best out of all the articles received by him and choose timing of publication to improve the standard of the magazine. They may send their suggestions if any through the "Letters to the Editor" Column.

- Editor

ERRATA

1. On page no.30- 1st para of VP, Oct, 2015- A plan borrowed from Africa costing nearly Rs 750 million per Km- may be read as Rs 7.50 million per km.
2. On page no.53 name of the author is omitted, Author's name is D.N.K Prasad

NEWS AND NOTES

In small-town of India, a monument to love: -

Light pours in when the retired postman opens the window to his bedroom. A withered old poster filled with flowers appears out of the shadows. "Love is enough," the poster says. Faizul Hasan Qadri is 79 now. He and his wife, Tajammuli, were married when they were teenagers, and were together for 58 years. Three years ago, she died.

Now, he can look out that window and see the monument he is building in Tajammuli's memory. The central building has a rounded ceiling and archways, echoing the architecture of the long-gone Mughal kings who once ruled India. Four towers are on the building's perimeter. It is Tajammuli's tomb.

"We were just a normal couple," says Qadri. It was an arranged marriage, a practice that remains widespread across India, and was near-universal when he was a young man. "Whenever we had a fight and I was angry, she would keep quiet and vice versa."

They never had any children. One day, Tajammuli asked who would remember them once they were gone. "I will build a tomb that everybody will remember," he told her. It was for her, he says, though one day he will also be laid inside it.

After she died, he sold her small pieces of jewelry and some family farmland. He added everything he'd saved over the years and started building. Tajammuli lies inside the main building in a small tomb, but almost three years later the project still unfinished. He doesn't have much money, and only hires workers when he can afford it.

People have offered to help, but he says no.

"It is a proof of love. I have to do it on my own," Qadri says.

Qadri designed the building himself, clearly inspired by India's ancient monuments. But he laughed when villagers started calling it the Taj Mahal, after the mausoleum famously built by a Mughal king for his favorite wife. He'd only visited the Taj Mahal once. It is 140 kilometers away from here, and they had little money for traveling. Tajammuli only saw it in pictures.

In the bedroom, a clock ticks next a picture of the couple in their older years, and Qadri reads aloud from love poems he wrote for her after she died. Beside him sits a marble plaque engraved with Tajammuli's name. He will install it, he says, only once the mausoleum is completed.

If he has to, he will keep working on it until he dies.

When that happens, his younger brother Mehzul Hasan, 70, will bury him next to his wife, and finish the job.

(Pls see last cover page for photo)

Zimbabwe hunter says ruined by Cecil's death, wants charges dropped: -

HWANGE, Zimbabwe (Reuters) - A Zimbabwean hunter accused of failing to stop the killing of Cecil the lion said on Thursday his family and business had been destroyed amid the outcry that followed the lion's death and that charges against him should be dropped.

The Zimbabwean government said on Monday it would not charge American dentist Walter

Palmer, who killed its most prized lion with a bow and arrow in July, because he had obtained legal authority to conduct the hunt. Theo Bronkhorst is accused of failing to stop an illegal hunt when he helped Palmer kill Cecil, a rare black-maned lion, in a case that caused international outrage and put the spotlight on big game hunting in Africa.

The national parks agency said in July that Bronkhorst could not work as a professional hunter, after cancelling his license.

"It's destroyed us, it has destroyed the family, our business," Bronkhorst told journalists, holding back tears outside the Hwange magistrates court in western Zimbabwe.

Asked whether he believed he was innocent, Bronkhorst said: "Absolutely. I believe our permits were in order ... and I still think we are gonna be vindicated."

Bronkhorst's lawyer Givemore Muvhiringi told Reuters that the state decides whom it wants to prosecute, but that it did not make sense not to charge Palmer but continue to pursue Bronkhorst. He said Bronkhorst's charges should be dropped.

"It's a contradiction. Now they have gone on to say Palmer's hunt was lawful after all, so it means that there was nothing that Bronkhorst was supposed to stop and failed to stop," Muvhiringi told Reuters.

On Thursday, the magistrates court in Hwange postponed Bronkhorst's case for the third time, to Oct. 20, to allow it time to study submissions by the prosecution and defence regarding Bronkhorst's application to quash his indictment.

The park's agency has said prosecutors plan to present 13-year-old Cecil's head in court as evidence.

The head was discovered by the police in the city of Bulawayo where it was undergoing preservation before being shipped to Palmer in the United States.

Bronkhorst denied that the hunting party had used bait to lure Cecil, who was fitted with a GPS collar for a research project by scientists from Oxford University, outside the Hwange National Park before shooting him.

"Absolute nonsense, the animal was already on an elephant carcass. We didn't even have to lure him, he was there. He was already on an elephant carcass that was lying there," he said. Bronkhorst said collared lions were shot in Zimbabwe every year, adding that five such big cats had been killed in 2015.

Oxford study casts doubt on India's tiger

success story: - Flaws in a method commonly used in censuses of tigers and other rare wildlife put the accuracy of such surveys in doubt, a new study by a team of scientists from the University of Oxford, Indian Statistical Institute, and Wildlife Conservation Society suggests. The study claims to expose shortcomings in the 'index-calibration' method that means it can produce inaccurate results.

A release from the University of Oxford said on Monday that amongst recent studies thought to be based on this method is India's national tiger survey (January 2015) which claimed a surprising but welcome 30 percent rise in tiger numbers in just four years.

The team urges conservation practitioners to guard against these sources of error, which could mislead even the best conservation efforts, and suggests a constructive way forward using alternative methods of counting rare animals that avoid the pitfalls of the index-calibration approach.

Arjun Gopaldaswamy, lead author of the report from the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit at Oxford University's Department of Zoology, said: "Our study shows that index-calibration models are so fragile that even a 10 percent uncertainty in detection rates severely compromises what we can reliably infer from them."

"Our empirical test with data from Indian tiger survey efforts proved that such calibrations yield irreproducible and inaccurate results," he added. A report of the research is published this week in the journal 'Methods in Ecology and Evolution'. Index-calibration often relies on measuring animal numbers accurately in a relatively small region using reliable, intensive and expensive methods (such as camera trapping) and then relating this measure to a more easily obtained, inexpensive indicator (such as animal track counts) by means of calibration. The calibrated-index is then used to extrapolate actual animal numbers over larger regions.

The release said that this approach has been popular among wildlife conservation agencies to generate animal numbers at a regional and national level. These numbers are then used to inform conservation efforts and direct resources worth millions of pounds.

To investigate index-calibration the team

created a mathematical model describing the approach and then tested its efficiency when different values, representing variations in data, were inputted.

Under most conditions the model was shown to lose its efficiency and power to predict. The team then tested this mathematical model on a real world example: attempting to derive tiger numbers from fieldwork data. The index-calibration model was shown to be unreliable again, with any high degree of success shown to be down to chance, rather like being dealt a single incredibly 'high value' poker hand, that could not be replicated, the release said.

Ullas Karanth, a co-author from the Wildlife Conservation Society, and a member of India's National Tiger Conservation Authority, said: "This study exposes fundamental statistical weaknesses in the sampling, calibration and extrapolations that are at the core of methodology used by the Government to estimate India's numbers, thus undermining their reliability. We are not at all disputing that tigers numbers have increased in many locations in India in last 8 years, but the method employed to measure this increase is not sufficiently robust or accurate to measure changes at regional and country wide levels."

Mohan Delampady, a co-author from the Indian Statistical Institute, said: "The findings have wider consequences for several applied sciences where sampling and direct extrapolation is involved, especially when sampling errors are influenced by unknown detection probabilities."

LEGAL NOTES

Yatindra Kumar Das and other vs the State of Jharkhand and Ors

DFO, East Forest Division, Ranchi, Yatindra Kumar Das and CF, Ranchi circle Fateh Bahadur Singh, had to face accusation of committing grave offences on 03.06.2009 under the following sections of IPC and other Act:

Wrongfully restraining a person (S.341): Voluntarily causing hurt (S. 323): Assault or use of criminal force to a woman with intent to outrage her modesty (S. 354); Criminal trespass with common intention (S. 448/34) of IPC and S. 3 (1) (x) of the Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. FIR was registered on 06.06.2009 in the SC/ST P.S. Ranchi in Cr. No. 30/09 on the complaint of one Ranjit Paswan a guard on the common campus of Sarita Vanier Industries and Anil Chemicals at a place called Mahilong.

The Dy. S. P took up investigation and requested Chief Judicial Magistrate, Ranchi for issuing arrest warrant against the DFO and the CF. The arrest warrant was in fact issued on 23.01.2010. The matter was widely reported in the newspapers. The officers came to know only then that they have been implicated in the alleged crime.

The officers filed WP. (CrI) No.126 of 2010 in the High Court of Jharkhand. It is stated in the petition that they have been implicated in the present case by the proprietor of Sarita Vanier Industries because they raided the premises for recovery of stolen timber.

On credible information that one Nagendra Yadav and others are illegally carrying logs of timber in a truck on 03.06.2009 at about 1.30 a.m., a forest officers team chased and seized the truck. The truck loaded with logs of wood was being taken to forest office at Ormanjhi, when the forest team was attacked by Nagendra Yadav, Raju and 10 others. Forest Officer Rakesh Kumar Singh was badly assaulted and his vehicle (Gipsy) was damaged. The matter was reported to Sikidari P.S. where Cr. No. 11/09 was booked against the culprits under the following sections of IPC and other Acts:

Rioting (S. 147): Rioting, armed with deadly weapon (S. 148); Offence by any member of unlawful assembly in prosecution of a common object; Voluntarily causing hurt (S. 323); Attempt to murder (S.307); Assault or use of criminal force to deter a public servant from discharge of his duty (S. 353); Theft (S.379); Mischief and thereby causing damage to property of the amount of Rs. 50 or upwards of IPC and S. 27 of the Arms Act and S. 33 of Forest Act.

Having come to know that the stolen timber was unloaded in the premises of Sarita Vanier Industries at Mahilong, the DFO and the CF with a party raided the premises on 03.06.2009 at

about 8.30 a.m. and seized the logs after conducting search duly following the procedure as per law. The seizure was also reported to the Chief Judicial Magistrate at Ranchi. Rajendra deo Yadav, Dilip Kumar Agarwal, Raj Krishna Yadav and Nagendra Yadav have been made the accused. In the meantime, the Investigating Police Officer sought the permission of the Government under S. 197 Cr. P.C. to prosecute the DFO and the CF. The permission as requested by the Investigating Officer was refused by the Government. Charge Sheet was laid on 13.04.2014 and the Judicial Magistrate First Class, Ranchi took cognizance of the case vide Memo dated 17.06.2014 even in the absence of sanction of the Government. The government order refusing permission to prosecute the DFO and the CF was issued on 20.06.2014. The petitioners requested for amendment of the WP for quashing the order of the Magistrate dated 17.06.2014.

During the hearing of the case, the following submissions are made on behalf of the petitioners.

1. The entire criminal proceeding against the senior officers of the Forest Department are mala fide and initiated with an ulterior motive of wreaking vengeance because they booked a forest offence case.
2. An employee of the forest offenders, Ranjit Paswan, is set up to falsely implicate the forest officers.
3. The officers had no grudge against Ranjit

Paswan and in fact he was a stranger to the officers.

4. The allegation made in the FIR is absurd and improbable that no prudent person can say that the officers have travelled from Ranchi to Mahilong to commit the crime.

5. There is no sanction from Government to prosecute the officers and therefore the Magistrate's order of taking cognizance and consequent criminal proceeding is bad in law and liable to be quashed.

On behalf of Ranjit Paswan (R.4), the following points were urged during the arguments of the case:

1. Criminal proceedings cannot be quashed taking recourse of S. 482, Cr. P.C. or Art. 226 and 227 of the Constitution of India.
2. Since all the offences as alleged are made out in the FIR, the court has no occasion to interfere with the criminal proceeding.
3. Ranjit Paswan (R.4) and his wife are not accused in Sikidiri P.S. case and in the present forest case when the timber is seized. Therefore there is no reason to believe that R.4 has falsely implicated the petitioners.
4. The crime alleged is not committed while discharging the official duty; the crime of abusing, assaulting and outraging the modesty of a woman does not come under the purview of official duty. Therefore sanction of Government is not required.
5. Judicial order of a criminal court cannot be

quashed by a writ certiorari. The plea of amendment petition for quashing the criminal court order is liable to be rejected.

The government Pleader, who appeared for R.1, the State of Jharkhand, R.2, the Supdt of Police, Hatia, Ranchi and R.3 the Dy.S.P Hatia, Ranchi has adopted the arguments of R.4 and submitted that the WP is liable to be dismissed.

The arguments were heard by His Lordship Shri Justice Prashanth Kumar. The I.A. requesting to amend the W.P for quashing the criminal court order dated 17.06.2014 was allowed. This application is treated as part of the W.P.

The court recounted the facts alleged in the FIR (Cr. No. 30/09) and the events that proceeded during the early hours of the day i.e. 03.06.2009. When the forest staff intercepted the truck carrying the logs of wood, it was unlawfully rescued after criminally assaulting a forest officer and damaging the vehicle (Gipsy). Consequently FIR was lodged in P.S. Sikidiri where Cr. No. 11/09 was registered. This information was passed on to the higher officials of the Forest Department at Ranchi. The DFO and CF organized quickly, a raid on Sarita Vanier Industries and seized the timber and a forest offence case was registered against Ranjit Yadav and Dilip Kumar Agarwal.

In *State of Haryana Vs. Bhajan Lal* (1992 (1) Suppl. SCC 325), the Supreme Court held inter alia that, where a criminal proceeding is manifestly attended with mala fide and/or where the proceeding is maliciously instituted with an ulterior motive for wreaking vengeance on the

accused and with a view to spite him due to private and personal grudge, such criminal proceeding can be quashed in exercise power under Article 226 of the Constitution of India or Section 482, Cr. P.C.

His Lordship observed that, after institution of case in Sikidari P.S. in Cr. No. 11/09 and seizure of timber from common premises of Sunita Vanier Industries Ltd. and Anil Chemicals, their servant Ranjit Paswan is set up for lodging the present criminal case against the senior forest officers with the sole motive of wreaking vengeance against them. His Lordship carefully examined the material papers filed by the petitioners and adverted to the case law cited by both the parties. His Lordship however followed Haryana case of Bhajan Lal (cited supra) and concluded that the order of taking cognizance of the alleged crime is illegal being violative of S. 197, Cr. P.C. It is further held that the entire criminal proceeding in connection with SC/ST Ranchi case is illegal and is in abuse of the process of court. In the circumstances, the WP is allowed on 09.09.2014 and criminal proceeding of SC/ST Ranchi P.S. in Cr. No. 30/09 is quashed.

Source:

Internet

K.B.R.

N.B. Readers, after carefully going through the Legal Notes, may feel that there is much to be read in between lines. Ed.

Birth Day Greetings

We wish the following born on the dates mentioned
“ A very Happy Birth Day ”

S.No.	Name of the member	D.O.B.			
	Sarva Sri		13.	P. Ram Mohan Rao	15-11-1962
			14.	D.Bheema	15-11-1967
1.	P.S.Sankar Reddy	09-11-1936	15.	D.V.Reddy	15-11-1964
2.	C.Sivasankara Reddy	10-11-1951	16.	K.Kamalakar	22-11-1958
3.	G.K.Reddy	12-11-1931	17.	V.Prabhakar Rao	26-11-1964
4.	C.Madukar Raj	19-11-1951	18.	K.Damodar Reddy	28-11-1967
5.	D.Nagagopala Rao	23-11-1952	19.	Alan Chong Teron	8-11-1976
6.	K.Venkat Ramudu	23-11-1948			
7.	K.Murali Krishna Rao	29-11-1940			
8.	A.H.Moosvi	05-12-1936			

Secretary

S.No.	Name of Serving Officers	D.O.B.
	Sarva Sri	
1.	T.P.Thimma Reddy	06-11-1956
2.	Pushkar Srivatsava	07-11-1957
3.	Elusing Meru	11-11-1957
4.	A.K.Srivatsava	13-11-1957
5.	P.Ram Mohan Rao	15-11-1962
6.	P.A.V.Udaya Bhaskar	21-11-1956
7.	Anand Kumar Jha	25-11-1969
8.	Kanwar Jeet Singh	25-11-1959
9.	Sanjeev Kumar Gupta	26-11-1970
10.	Raghuveer.P	30-11-1960
11.	Anoop Singh	01-12-1965
12.	K.Lohitasyudu	01-12-1957



ఉరినాటు

- వి.వి.హరిప్రసాద్

ఏలికలకు వినబడటలేదా?

రైతన్నల చావు డప్పులు

కనబడటలేదా ?

వాళ్ళు కూరుకుపోతున్న

ఊబుల్లాంటి అప్పులు

ఋణ మాఫీల నినాదాల హోరులో

తీరుతాయా వారు పడే తిప్పలు

శుష్క వాగ్దానాల వాచాలతతో

ఉడుకుతాయా రాజకీయ పార్టీల పప్పులు

రాబోయే ఎన్నికల్లో

విసరరా నేతలపై చెప్పులు

ఎల్లప్పుడూ కారుకదా

జనం బావిలో కప్పలు

విప్లవాలన నేత్రాలతో

నగ్న సత్యాన్ని చూడాలంటే

ఏ సర్కారుకైనా భయం !

పట్టి పట్టనట్టు చూసీ చూడనట్టు

ఉంటేనా కదా వారికి ఎంతో నయం !!

కృషి వలులు పిట్టల్లా రాలిపోతుంటే

కొనసాగుతోంది రాజకీయ రణం

ఏ మాత్రం సంకోచం లేదు

అది దేశానికి పట్టిన రాచవ్రణం

కిసాన్ల చావుల్లో మహారాష్ట్ర

వేస్తుంటే ముందంజ

రైతు చావులకు పరాకాష్ఠ

నిప్పుల్లో దూకిన కన్నడిగుడు గౌడనంజ

మేం తక్కువ తిన్నామా అంటూ

తెలుగు రాష్ట్రాల్లో పోటీ

నిర్భాగ్య దేశపు వెన్నెముకల చావుల్లో

ఎవరికి వారే సాటి

సర్కార్ల పాలసీలతో

దేశంలో ఉరినాటు

ఎప్పుడు తీరుతాయో కదా!

ఆకసం వైపు చూస్తూ

నీటి చుక్క కై వెంపర్లాడే

కన్నీరు ఇంకిన రైతన్నల పాటు ?

అటవీ అమరవీరుల తల్లిదండ్రుల ఆవేదన (సింగిల్ సాంగ్)

(నవంబరు 10 అటవీ అమరవీరుల దినోత్సవం సందర్భంగా వారి ఆత్మశాంతికి నివాళులర్పిస్తూ వ్రాసినపాట)

(రచన: చింతమళ్ళ ప్రకాశరావు, డి.యఫ్.ఓ., ఖమ్మం, సెల్: 9440810083)

- పల్లవి: కొడుక కొడుక కొడుకా...
మా చిన్నారి ముద్దుల కొడుకా...
కంటికి కనిపించకుండా కనుమరుగై పోతివా...
శోక సంద్రంలో వదిలి మాకు దూరమైపోతివా... "2 సార్లు"
- చరణం1: కంటికి రెప్పవలె కాపాడుకొంటిమీ...
గోరు ముద్దులు పెట్టి నిన్నూ గారాబంగ పెంచుకొంటిమీ...
శ్రమించి చమటోడ్డి సంపాదించి ...
పెద్ద చదువులు చదివించుకొంటిమీ ...
కష్టపడి చదివి నీవూ ...
అటవీశాఖలో ఆఫీసరైయ్యావా ...
వీరులవలె పోరాడి నీవూ...
అడవి తల్లిని రక్షించి అమరుడవైనావా ... ||కొడుక కొడుక కొడుకా...||
- చరణం2: చెట్టుచేమల్లోనూ... గుబురు పొదల్లోనూ...
కొండకోనల్లోనూ... వాగు వంకల్లోనూ...
ఉడుకు రక్తంతో ఉరకలు వేస్తూ ...
అడవిలోన వంటరిగ తిరుగుతుంటేనూ ...
మాటుగాచిన దుండగులు నిన్ను
కత్తులతోను, గొడ్డళ్ళతోను దాడులు చేసిన్నారా...
సైనికుడవలె పోరాడి నీవూ ...
అడవి తల్లిని రక్షించి అమరుడవైనావా... ||కొడుక కొడుక కొడుకా...||
- చరణం3: అటవీశాఖ అధికారులందరు
నీ అంత్యక్రియలకు హాజరై...
అమరవీరుల ఆశయాలను
సాధిస్తామని శపథం చేసిరీ...
అమర వీరుల తల్లిదండ్రులను
భార్య పిల్లలను ఎళ్ళవేళల ఆదుకుంటామన్నారు
అమరవీరుల ఆత్మశాంతికి
నిండుమనస్సుతో నివాళులర్పించిరీ. ||కొడుక కొడుక కొడుకా...||

తెలంగాణలో జంగ్లాత్

(అప్పుడు - గిప్పుడు)

రచన : కీసర బుచ్చి రామయ్య

అది అడవి రామారం ఊరు, మాఘమాసం చలి, గంటా శివయ్య 80 ఏండ్ల ముసలాయన. ఇంటి ముందు అరుగు మీద ఎండ పొడకు దుప్పటి కప్పుకొని కూకున్నడు. మనుమడు పట్నం ల 10 వ కిలాసు చదువుతున్నడు. శివరాత్రి బడికి తాతీళ్ళంట, తల్లి దండ్రులను చూచి పోదామని పట్నం కేలి ఊరికొచ్చిండు పొద్దున్నే లేచొచ్చి నా పక్కన కూకొని “తాతా! ఏదైనా ముచ్చట చెప్పు” అని అడిగిండు. “ఏమి చెప్పాలా” అంటే, “ఏమైనా చెప్పు” అన్నడు. గట్ల మాట్లాడితే ఎట్లరా? ఏదైనా యిషయం. అడుగు! ఏదైనా అడిగితే దాని సంగతి చెప్త”. అన్నాను. “అయితే నీ వైనప్పుడు కాలం ఎట్లుండేది? ఇప్పుడు ఎట్లుంది? చెప్పు తాతా” అన్నడు. “గట్లడిగినవు మంచి మాట”అన్న. ఇగ చెప్పడం మొదలు బెడితి.

అప్పుడు వానలు సరిగ్గా కాలానికి కురిసేవి. పంటలు బాగా పండేది. పసులకు మేత మస్తుగ దొరికేది. మాకు అప్పుడు కరువంటే ఏండ్లో ఎరుక లేదు. వాన కాలంలో చెర్లు, కుంటలు ఆబాద్ - వాగులు వొర్రెలు పొంగి పొల్లేది. ఇప్పుడు వానలు ఎప్పుడు బడేది తెలువదు. మోసం ఎత్తి పోయినంక వాన బడితే ఏం లాభం? దుక్కి దున్ని యేసుకున్న యితనాలు మొలువవు. వొచ్చిన మొలకలు ఎండిపోతై.

వాన కాలం పంట, యాసంగి పంట, యెడగారు పంట పేర్లు బొత్తిగ మర్చి పోతున్నం. ఇప్పుట్లోలకు ఖరీపు అంటే తెలువదు. రబ్బీ అంటే తెలువదు. పట్నం ల చదువుకున్న పిల్లలకు ఖుష్కీ అంటే ఏండ్లో, తరీ అంటే ఏండ్లో తెలువదు. బాగాత్ అంటే అసలే తెలువదు. యిగో ఓ పట్నం పిల్లగాడు బియ్యం ఏ చెట్టుకు కాస్తవి అని అడిగిండట.

యిదంత యిన్నంక మనుమడు మల్లి అడిగిండు. గిట్ల ఎందుకైతున్నది, తాతా? అని. బాతాఖానీ మల్లి మొదలు బెడ్డి “ఏం జెప్పమంటవురా? నా చిన్నపుడు ఎటు జూస్తే, అటు పచ్చని చెట్టు చేమ వుండేది ఇప్పుడు, కనిపిస్తున్నాయా ఏమన్న? అడవులు కాంచి నాశన మైతుంటే కాలం ఎట్ల బాగుపడ్డది, చెప్పు అడవులు అనగానే మావోని కండ్లు మెరిసిన్నై, మరో సవాల్ యిసిరిండు. “అడవుల నిగ్రాని కోసం జంగ్లాతోల్లు వుంటరు గద, తాతా “అప్పుడు అడవులెట్ల పాడైతై”. అని అడిగిండు మల్ల.

దీనికి తిరిగి ఏం జవాబు చెప్పాలో కొంచెం సోచాయించుకున్నా. చూడు, బాబూ! జంగ్లాత్లో మనకు కనపడేది, మనతో మాట్లాడేది సిరఫ్ వొక్క చొకిదారే. మా అయ్య చెప్పేది. జంగ్లాత్ చొకి దారంటే ఎనుకట ఎంత భయం. ఎంత భక్తి వుండేది, అని. శివునాజ్జ లేంది చీమ కూడా కుట్టదు అన్నట్టు చొకిదారు ఆజ్జలేంది ఒక పుల్ల కూడా అడవిలోంచి బయటకు రాకుండేదట. ఇప్పుడు చెప్పక చెయ్యక చెట్లు నరికి

తీసుకపోతున్నారు. ఇదేం పనిరా అని అడిగితే ఎగబడి చావ బాదుతరాయె. ఆ కాలంలో సర్కారంటే ఎంతో భయముండేది. గిప్పుడు పెద్ద హోదెదార్లను కూడా లెక్క జేయటం లేదు.

ఒక్క చౌకిదారుకు 5-6 వేల ఎకరాల జంగల్ అప్పజెప్పి, దీన్ని నిగ్రాని జెయ్యి అంటె, ఒక్కనితో అయ్యేపనేనా? పాపం. ఊరోల్లు సాయం జేయకపోతే అంతపెద్ద అడవిని కాపాడటం కష్టం గదా? సాయం గనుక లేకపోతే జంగ్లతోల్లను కొట్టి సంపుతరు.

సారెదార్ సాబు యిక్కడికి దౌరా వొచ్చినప్పుడు వొక కథ చెప్పిండు అది కథ కాదు. నిజం. కన్నడ దేశంలో ఒక గజ దొంగ వుండెటోడు. గజదొంగ అంటె నిజంగ గజ దొంగే. వాని పేర్లు ఏదో వుండె. ఆ యాదికొచ్చింది. యారప్పన్. లెక్కలేనన్ని ఏనుగులను జంపి వాటి దంతాలతో దొంగ బ్యారం జేసేదంట. అటెంక గందపు చెక్కలను అమ్ముకునేదంట ఎదురు మాట్లాడితే ఎంతో మందిని తుపాకి తో కాల్చి చంపిండంట. ఒక పెద్ద హోదెదార్ను కూడా పొట్టన బెట్టుకున్న డంట. గిప్పుడు అడవుల్ని కాపాడటం కష్టమైంది. మన తెలంగాన లోనే దగ్గర దగ్గర 15-20 మంది నౌకరుదార్లను కలప దొంగలు చంపిండంట.

దీనికి తిరుగులేదా? అన్న అనుమానమొచ్చింది. నా మనుమనికి. దానికి సమాధానం యిట్ల జిప్పితి.

1. జంగ్లతోల్లకు అవసరమైపుడు సాయం జేయాలి.
2. అడివి అందరి ఆస్తి అని తెలుసుకుంటే మంచిది.
3. చెట్ల పండుగలప్పుడు చెట్లు నాటి కాపాడుకోవాలి.

యిదంతా యిన్న నా మనుమడు “నేను జంగ్లత్లో చేరాలనిపిస్తుంది, తాతా అన్నడు.

“ముందు, చదువు పూర్తి చేసుకోరా” అని నేను సంజాయిస్తినీ”, అడవి తల్లికి జేజేలు. జంగ్లత్ జిందాబాద్ అని నవ్వుకుంటూ యెల్లి పోయిండు నా మనుమడు.

VAN SHAHEED DIVAS

As per an order of the Union government, September 11 will be observed

As the Forest Martyrs' Day (Van Shaheed Divas) every year from the year 2013

It was on that day in 1730 that over 360 people of Bishnoi tribe were

Killed in Khejarli, now in Rajasthan, when they had objected to the

Felling of Khejri trees by, the king of Jodhpur. Vana Premi will observe

Forest Martyres day in the month of September every year

అటవీ అమరవీరుల యాదిలో...

రచన : నాగభూషణం దాసరి

అటవీ రక్షణ సమరంలో
 శివమెత్తి పోరాడి అమరులైన
 అటవీ వీరుల స్వర పేటికల్లోంచి
 తరంగాల్లా విస్తరిస్తున్న
 అటవీ రక్షణ స్ఫూర్తి శంఖారావాలు
 బలిబగుసుకుపోయిన పిడికిల్లలో
 మిగిలిన మట్టి రేణువుల్లో
 సాక్షాత్కరిస్తున్న
 హరితాక్షర బీజాల ఓంకార నాదాలు
 చెక్కిలి దవడ పళ్ళ బగువులో
 అక్రమార్కుల్ని మసి చేయాలన్నంత కసి
 రెప్పలు మూయని కళ్ళ రెటీనాలపై నిలచిపోయిన
 అటవీ దగాకోరులు చివరి క్షణంలో పెట్టిన
 చిత్రహింసల చిత్ర ప్రతిబింబాలు
 దేహం అణువణువూ చిద్రమై
 నెత్తురు చిందిన గాయాలు
 వనచోరుల ఆగడాల్ని
 మట్టుపెట్టాలన్న కోపాగ్ని జ్వాలలు
 అడవి తల్లి రక్షణకై ఆఖరి క్షణం వరకు
 తల్లడిల్లిన వారి తపనల హోరు ప్రకంపనలు
 హరిత రక్షణ క్రతువులో వారి సాహస పోరాటం
 నిస్తేజంగా చప్పున చల్లారి పోవద్దు
 కాల ప్రవాహంలో కాగితప్పడవల్లా కొట్టుకొని పోవద్దు
 ఉప్పెనలా ఉప్పాంగి ఉదృతంగా విజృంభించాలి
 కన్నీటి మయమైన వారి కుటింబీకుల్ని అసలే మరిచిపోవద్దు
 కనుమరుగైన వారి కలల వెలుగుల్ని సాకారం చేద్దాం
 పర్యావరణ సమతుల్యతకై వారి ఆదర్శాల ఉత్తేజాన్ని
 అగ్గిలా రాజేసుకుందాం
 అడవి తల్లి రక్షణకు అందరమొకటై ఉద్యమంలా కదులుదాం
 అటవీ అమర వీరులకు నిండుగుండెతో నివాళులర్పిద్దాం.

عبدالکلام کو ایمانداری اور خود نظمی والد سے ورثے میں ملی جب کہ والدہ نے نیکی اور انتہائی رحم دلی میں ان کا یقین پیدا کیا۔ انہوں نے تسلیم کیا ہے کہ ان کی زندگی سنوارنے میں ان کے والدین، دوستوں اور ہم کاروں نے اہم کردار ادا کیا ہے۔ یوں تو ان کے گھر کا ماحول دیندار تھا تاہم ان کے والد و تالیق و دوستوں نے خاص کر انہیں ایک مذہبی انسان بنایا اور یہ باور کرایا کہ منزل کو پانے کیلئے صحیح نیچ پر مسلسل کوشش کرتے رہنا ضروری ہے۔ نتائج کو مالک کل پر چھوڑ دینا چاہئے انجام باعث اطمینان و امانت ہوگا۔ ان کے اساتذہ نے زندگی کو مفید و بامعنی بنانے میں سچی رہنمائی کی۔ ان کے ہم کار سائنسدانوں بالخصوص وکرم سارا بھائی، برہم پرکاش اور ستیش دھون نے قدم قدم پر ان کی حوصلہ افزائی کی۔ پروفیسر وکرم سارا بھائی نے انہیں قیادت کے رموز سے آگاہ کیا تو ڈاکٹر برہم پرکاش نے انہیں صبر و تحمل کی تلقین کی اور پروفیسر ستیش دھون نے مفید مشوروں سے نوازا۔

عبدالکلام کہتے ہیں کہ ”یہ کہانی میرے ساتھ ختم ہو جائے گی کیونکہ دنیاوی اعتبار سے میرے پاس کوئی میراث نہیں ہے۔ میں نے کچھ بھی حاصل نہیں کیا۔ نہ مکان بنایا نہ کچھ جمع کیا، میرا کوئی گھر بار ہے نہ بیٹے بیٹیاں۔۔۔ میرے پڑدادا آؤل (ابول) میرے دادا پاپھر (فاخر) اور میرے باپ جین العابدین (زین العابدین) کا سلسلہ نسب تو عبدالکلام پر ختم ہوتا ہے۔ مگر پروردگار کی رحمت کبھی ختم نہیں ہونے والی، کیوں کہ وہ لازوال ہے۔

یقیناً ایک غریب لڑکے کی یہ داستان کبھی ختم نہیں ہوگی۔ جس نے زمانے کے سرد و گرم سہے، جس نے آسمان سے تارے توڑنے کے خواب دیکھے اور انہیں پورا کرنے کیلئے ہر کام کیا اور آگے بڑھتا ہی رہا، یہاں تک کہ ایک دن ہندوستان کے بلند ترین مرتبے پر فائز ہوا۔ ان کی زندگی ہمیشہ ناداروں اور مجبوروں کیلئے مشعل راہ ثابت ہوگی۔ ان کی زندگی اس شعر کی تفسیر تھی۔

چلا جاتا ہوں ہنستا کھیلتا موج حوادث سے
اگر آسانیاں ہوں زندگی دشوار ہو جائے

میری قسمت میں غم گر اتنا تھا
دل بھی یارب سخی دیے ہوتے
آبی جاتا وہ راہ پر غالب
کوئی دن اور بھی جیسے ہوتے
اسد اللہ خان غالب

عبدالکلام کی کہانی۔ کچھ ان کی زبانی اور کچھ میری زبانی

ڈاکٹر گھوتم راؤ دیسائی

موت اس کی ہے کرے زمانہ جس کا افسوس

یوں تو دنیا میں سبھی آئے ہیں مرنے کیلئے

دوسروں میں جیون جوت جگانے والے عبدالکلام کی شیلانگ میں MIT طلبہ سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے، یوں اچانک شمع زندگی ۲۷ جولائی ۲۰۱۵ء کی شام بجھ جائے گی کبھی کسی نے سوچا بھی نہ تھا!

سادگی پسند ڈاکٹر کلام بے مثال سائنسدان ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ ”عوام کے صدر جمہوریہ“ بھی کہلائے۔ غربت اور تنگ دستی کے ماحول میں آنکھ کھولنے والے ابوالفاخر (اول پاکر) زین العابدین (جین العابدین) عبدالکلام کامیابیوں کی نئی نئی عبارتیں رقم کئے جانے کے باوجود آخری دم تک سادگی کے ساتھ زندگی گزارتے رہے۔ یہ ان ہندوستانیوں کی آنکھ کھولنے کیلئے کافی ہے جو چمک دک کی ظاہری زندگی کی طرف دوڑتے رہتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے مشترکہ تہذیب کے درمیان بچپن گزارا اور اس کے نقش ان کی زندگی پر قائم رہے۔ ڈاکٹر کلام ایک سائنسدان ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ انتہائی منکسر المزاج شخصیت تھے۔ انہوں نے اپنی تمام کامیابیوں کو اپنے اتالیقوں، اساتذہ اور روحانی کرداروں کے اثر و رسوخ سے منسوب کیا ہے۔ وہ بنا تفریق مذہب و ملت روحانی کردار کی یادیں تازہ کرتے رہے جنہوں نے ان کی ہر قدم پر رہنمائی کی۔ وہ سچے محبت وطن تھے، انہوں نے ہندوستان کو ٹکنالوجی کے محاذ پر مستحکم کرنے کی جدوجہد کی۔ وکس آف فائر "Wings of Fire" کو تحریر کئے جانے کے مقصد کو واضح کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے لکھا ہے۔

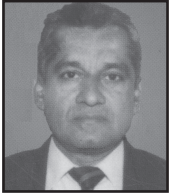
”یہ کہانی صرف میری کامیابیوں اور آزمائشوں کی ہی روداد نہیں ہے بلکہ جدید ہندوستان میں سائنس کے قیام کی کامیابیوں اور ناکامیوں کی تفصیل بھی ہے جو خود کو ٹکنالوجی محاذ پر مستحکم کرنے کیلئے کوشاں تھا۔ یہ داستاں ہے قومی فیضان اور مشترکہ کوششوں کی۔ میں اسے اپنے وقتوں کی ایک حکایت سمجھتا ہوں جو سائنسی خود کفالت اور ٹکنالوجیائی استعداد کیلئے ہندوستان کے کارناموں پر مبنی ہے۔“

ڈاکٹر کلام کو بھارت رتن اور دیگر اعزازات سے نوازا گیا۔ وہ زندگی کی جنگ میں مسلسل کامیاب ہونے کے باوجود اپنے ماضی کی یادیں تازہ کرتے رہتے تھے۔ کیونکہ ان سے انہیں نیا عزم و حوصلہ ملتا تھا۔ جس لگن اور جذبے کی شدت کے ساتھ اپنے کام میں لگتے تھے اس پر ان کے کئی ساتھی ناخوش ہوتے۔ انہیں سنی اور ان کی ٹیم کو سنی موجودوں کا گروہ کہا جاتا ہے۔

ڈاکٹر کلام NASA میں تھے تو انہیں خوشگوار حیرت ہوئی کہ وہاں تنگی تصویر میں ٹیپو سلطان جیسے وطن پرست ہندوستانی کورا کٹ کی جنگ کا ہیرو تسلیم کیا گیا تھا۔ واضح رہے کہ ۱۹۹۹ء میں سرنگاپٹم میں ان کی شہادت کے بعد انگریزوں نے کئی سو راکٹ اور ان کے ڈھانچے برآمد کئے تھے۔ جنہیں ولیم کانگریو اپنے تجربہ باب میں استعمال کر کے ”ریپورس انجینئرنگ“ ایجاد کی۔ تقریباً ۵۰ سال کے بعد ڈاکٹر کلام نے ٹیپو گے راکٹ نظام کی تجدید شروع کی!

OBITUARY

Dr. K. Kesava Reddy, 01.08.1937 – 04.10.2015



Dr. Kalikiri Kesava Reddy, Retired PCCF of composite State of Andhra Pradesh, passed away on October 4, 2015 at Bengaluru. He was 80. He was ailing for the past few days due to meningitis.

Mr. Reddy was born on August 1, 1937, in Manchoor village under Vayalpad taluk in Chittoor district to Dr. Chinnappa Reddy and Smt. Lakshamma. His father was an agriculturist and also a medical practitioner.

Kesava Reddy had his early education in Board High School in Madanapally. After B.Sc. from Andhra University, he did M.A. in zoology with genetics as special subject from S.V. University. Soon after, he was selected for appointment to the State Forest Service and was deputed to the Indian Forest College, Dehra Dun, for training in forestry during 1957 – '60, where he earned the diploma AIFC. He was appointed to the Indian Forest Service in 1966 under the Initial Recruitment Regulations. During service in the A.P. Forest Department, Kesava Reddy devoted time for research and he got Ph.D. degree from S.V. University, Tirupathi in June 1989 in Forestry Biology on the subject: Biotic and Abiotic factors influencing the status and distribution of flora and fauna in the Seshachalam catchment. He was awarded "Schlich Memorial Prize" by the Council of Forest Research & Education, Government of India in 1990 for the best research paper. He is responsible for the establishment of the Bio -Technology Centre for Tree Improvement (BIOTRIM), one of the well-known research Centre.

Mr. Reddy worked as DFO for 18 years in four districts including a stint as Silviculturist. During early sixties he worked in the pre-investment survey in forest resources. He worked as DFO Anti-Smuggling Squad at Kadapa during 1966 – '68. His performance during the period in checking the smuggling of red sanders timber was very effective and outstanding. As DFO Chittoor East division during 1968 –'72, he did admirably a good job. As

Asst. CCF in charge of budget and establishment, Mr. Reddy performed his duties creditably. On promotion to super time scale as Conservator of Forests, he worked as CF (Estt) in the Head Office. He worked as CF Telugu Ganga Project at Kadapa between 1985 &'88. When promoted as Adl. CCF in 1988, he looked after DPAP works. On further promotion as CCF he was in charge of Development. In the last phase of his career in the Forest Department, he was elevated to the post of the Principal CCF. In this post as the Head of the Department as also the Managing Director of the Forest Development Corporation, he worked for two years before retirement on superannuation on July 31, 1993.

Kesava Reddy was married to Smt. Rajeswari on June 30, 1961. They have two daughters; Meera (married to Subhakar Reddy Kayam, an IFS officer borne on the cadre of Madhya Pradesh) and Jahnvi (married to Anur Reddy Pamudurthy, an IFS officer borne on the cadre of Karnataka state). Mr. Reddy was an adept in research; he has published many research papers and authored two books, viz. Vegetative Propagation and Bio-Technology for Tree Improvement; and The Wild in Wilderness. He was known for his indomitable spirit and undaunted courage.

He was always amiable towards friends and colleagues. He was actively associated with works like evaluation of projects and consultancy in environment, Forestry and wildlife matters for many years after retirement.

Kesava Reddy will be fondly remembered by his wife, daughters, sons-in-law, four grandchildren, namely Sowmya, Dinesh, Meghna, and Sunaina and one great grand-daughter Diya. Many of his colleagues, friends, relatives, and subordinates who worked with him, or associated with him will mourn the loss.

May His Soul Rest In Peace!

C.R.K. Reddy



For details please see page no. 40



Dr. Kalam Presenting the Best All Rounder award to Shwetha IES

For details please see page no. 29



"Mr. J. V. Sharma, IFS (Retd.) delivering Key Note Address at National Workshop of IFS Officers on FRA held at Forest Academy, Dulapally, Hyderabad."

For details please see page no. 15

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Date of Publication: 24-09-2015 Total pages 56 Date of Dispatch : 4th or 5th of every month