

# KYC - 25

*Robert Frost's woods are lovely, dark and deep. These Indian Forest Service officers who had laid down their lives to keep their promises to protect mother nature, by giving their heart and soul to this service, and worked tirelessly*

## TILL THE END

*All these Indian Forest Service(IFS) officers had obtained training at the IGNFA and we wish to inherit their traits while pursuing our duty.*



# P. SRINIVAS

Indian Forest Service, 1979,  
Karnataka Cadre

Mr. P. Srinivas was not seen as a mere government functionary but a social reformer. First and only person to arrest sandalwood smuggler Veerapan in 1986 as DCF of Chamarajnagar.

He Invoked the concept of "Satyanveshan" from the ideas of JP Narayan and Vinobha Bhave using non violent methods of persuasion to change the heart of criminals and reintegrating them with society.

His philosophy was "Forest can never be protected without the help of local communities". He did many philanthropic works to local tribals and villagers breaking the invisible barriers.



*Pic: Mr. P. Srinivas at IGNFA*



**Photo of P. Srinivas inside the temple**

He was very friendly to the locals and involved them in his mission and villagers still say that he used to help them by saying "Don't hesitate to ask me anything. I am your brother".

Because of his Satyanveshan approach, several associates of Veerapan surrendered before him in 1990 and they were rehabilitated. He followed the Ideology of "Birth for Forest, Life for Forest, Death for forest". He is famously called as "Abhimanyu of Karnataka Forest Department".

Beheaded from behind by Veerapan in 1991 in Gopinatham village of Karnataka at the age of 37. Mr. P. Srinivas was Awarded KIRTI CHAKRA in 1992.

His legacy lives on not only among us and also among the villagers served by him, making him immortal.





# SANJAY KUMAR SINGH

Indian Forest Service, 1992,  
Bihar Cadre

Mr. Sanjay Kumar Singh's first posting was as DFO in the Garhawa Forest Division. Among his first tasks was ensuring strict checks on illegal mining and the collection of Tendu leaves used to roll beedis. Despite increasing pressure from vested interests, particularly the powerful mining mafia and their political patrons, he filed a series of FIRs against both offenders and corrupt administrative officials.



*Pic: Mr. Sanjay Kumar*

As a DFO, Mr. Sanjay had set up a committee of villagers from 14 villages under a Joint Forest Management (JFM) initiative and granted them a lease for stone quarrying to a degree that it doesn't cause undue harm to the environment. Through government-mandated construction of Primary Health Centres (PHC), roads and school buildings, Mr. Sanjay had given livelihood opportunities to the residents of Parchha village.



*Pic: Mr. Sanjay Kumar's Family*

On 15 February, 2002, during his inspection, he encountered armed members of a mining mafia. When the assailants tried to harm his bodyguard, Mr. Sanjay asked them to spare him because he was only doing his duty. Efforts of the residents of Parchha village to rescue him leave failed, the armed assailants took him to the forest where assailants pumped nine bullets into his body. Mr. Sanjay died on the spot.

On that day there was a bandh in Sasaram with locals blocking the roads and railway lines. Later students from different schools and colleges in Sasaram conducted a march paying their tribute to the fallen hero. 15 years later a special court in Sasaram convicted four of the assailants to life imprisonment.

His family donated all the medals he had earned during his stint in school, college and IGNFA to the IGNFA, Dehradun for posterity, which is there for all young trainee IFS officers to witness. In Bihar, the government had renamed a government college after him, which is today called the Shaheed Sanjay Singh College.

The IGNFA have started an annual lecture in his name. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Singh was a man of exceptional courage and his spirit lives in each and every **green warrior** of this nation.



*Pic: 18th Sanjay Kumar Singh Memorial Lecture at IGNFA*



# S. MANIKANDAN

Indian Forest Service, 2001,  
Karnataka Cadre

Mr. Manikandan was a favourite among villagers from the surrounding areas for his efforts to conserve nature and in the process reducing incidents of man-animal conflicts. He had worked extensively to limit instances of cattle smuggling and elephant killing. It was not only locals who took a liking to Mr. Manikandan, also to his colleagues he was an inspiration.



*Pic: Mr. S. Manikandan, IFS*



*Pic: Mr. S. Manikandan with an Elephant*

Bridged the gap between the locals and the forest department. He was extremely humble, a down to earth and simple man who believed in leading from the front. He was also very attentive to the welfare of the forest staff. His efforts to get water to the forest's tanks and lakes during the dry season through solar-energy-fuelled pumpsets was a first for any forest reserve. He is remembered by colleagues as an officer who revelled in being on the field, in the wild, and was often spotted with a camera in his hand.

On March 3, 2018, when he was briefing his colleagues inside the forest about the inspection of a minor forest fire, a lone tuskler charged at the group and he was trampled by the jumbo. He was the Conservator of Forests and Director, Nagarhole Tiger Reserve at that time. Manikandan had previously served in the mining regions of Ballari, Bidar, Raichur.



**President of India**   
@rashtrapatibhvn



Sad to learn of the very unfortunate death of Shri S. Manikandan, a dedicated Indian Forest Service officer who lost his life in a freak incident while on duty in Nagarhole Tiger Reserve. The nation salutes him. Thoughts with his family, friends and colleagues [#PresidentKovind](#)

♡ 4,383 11:05 AM - Mar 4, 2018



*Pic: Tweet on the sad demise from the Hon'ble President of India*

Thus in a cruel irony, a man credited with reducing incidents of man-animal conflicts, among many other achievements, suffered a tragic death on World Wildlife Day.

Four days after his death, it was decided to rename the Aranya Bhavan road in Malleswaram, Bengaluru as **Manikandan IFS Road** in his remembrance

\*\*\* Shri S. Manikandan was awarded **Elephant Warrior** award posthumously \*\*\*



# HUGO WOOD

Imperial Forest Service, 1893

On 12 June 1870, Wood was born at Byculla in Bombay Presidency. Mr. Hugo Francis Andrew Wood after joining the Imperial Forest Service in 1890, received his professional training at Royal Indian Engineering College at Cooper's Hill, came to India during 1893 and worked in Madras Presidency up to his retirement in 1926. He worked in various capacities, as Assistant Conservator of Forests, Deputy Conservator of Forests and rose to the rank of Conservator of Forests in 1918 and retired in 1926



Ever since he was posted as the in-charge of the Anaimalai forest range in 1915, 45-year-old Hugo Francis Andrew Wood never missed out on a daily ritual. During his routine visit to the reserve forest in Topslip, he would fish out a fistful of teakwood seeds from his shirt pocket, poke a hole with his walking stick in the ground and plant a seed there. He would repeat the process till his pockets were empty.

During 1916-17, he experimented near his Mount Stuart residence and in the Ulandy valley and proved that teak plantations could be raised successfully from seed source at a reasonable cost. He was the Working Plan Officer and advocated 'concentrated artificial regeneration' method of teak.



*Pic: Mount Stuart Bungalow*

The early teak plantations raised by him near the Mount Stuart forest bungalow encircle his grave even today. The Green Living memorial (1916 Teak Plantation) has completed 100 years of establishment in 2016 and it speaks for his professional commitments and Competence.

Wood never married. He dedicated his life to conservation and didn't care about race, religion, ethnicity, language or nationality. Mr. Wood retired in the grade of Conservator of Forests, in 1925 and settled in Ootacamund. He died in Ootacamund on 12.12.1933. At his own request Mr. Wood was laid to rest among the Teak Plantations he raised in Anamalais. Inscription on his tomb reads,

**"Si monumentum requiris circumspice",** Latin for **"If you are looking for my monuments, look around"**.



*Pic: Hugo Wood's Tomb*



# ARUL KUMAR AGRAWAL

Indian Forest Service, 1987  
Uttar Pradesh Cadre



*Pic: Uttarakhand Floods, 2013*

Two days into the Uttarakhand floods of 2013, Mr. Arul Kumar Agarwal and his family were cut off from food supply in the hills of Rambara, with the absence of blood pressure medications and medical assistance, he succumbed to heart attack.

His wife and children sat with his body for three days after which they were rescued by a team of rescuers. Rescuers preferred to take those alive and so the family members were forced to leave him there.

As they *Rest in Peace*, the achievements and accomplishments of these selfless human beings has to be heard and cherished. We feel immensely proud in adding the honoured three letters-**IFS** to our name, for which they sacrificed their own lives.

***Woods are Lovely Dark and Deep, but  
We Have Promises to Keep.***



Many of the forest officials, from Forest guard to senior forest officers, are working in remote and hostile areas across the country under challenging circumstances. We would like to dedicate this edition to all those who are working tirelessly in curbing the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. We salute the selfless souls for their efforts.



# KYC-25

## Know Your Campus

### About the Initiative

The New Forest - the IFS training campus - an area which houses the FRI and its sister institutions including the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA) is also home to a rich biodiversity. These flora and fauna become a part of our neighbourhood while we are at the campus. The campus is also adorned with heritage buildings, museums, nurseries and a beautiful landscape. This initiative is aimed at making us more familiar with our neighbourhood.

The KYC (Know your Campus) initiative started by the IFS 2019 batch in this lockdown period shall come out with a campus related topic each day.

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