



# Jungle Book



**Does India need  
regeneration felling?**

**Uttam K Sharma**

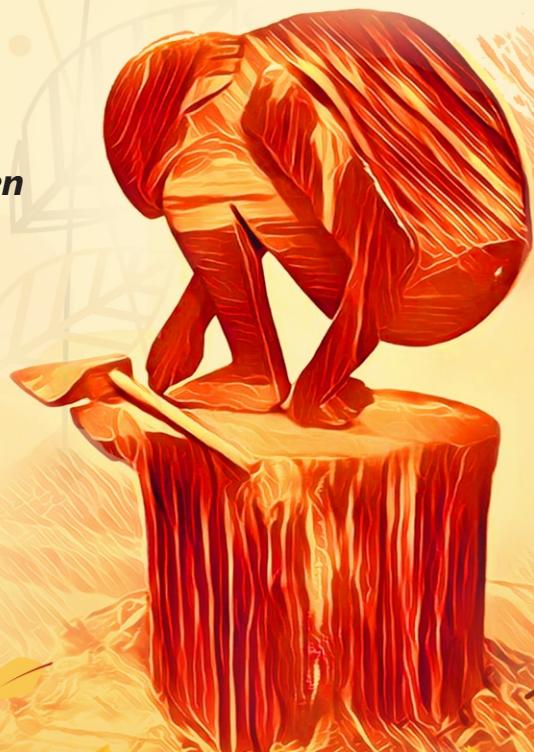
**Issue 14 | Summer Edition 2020**



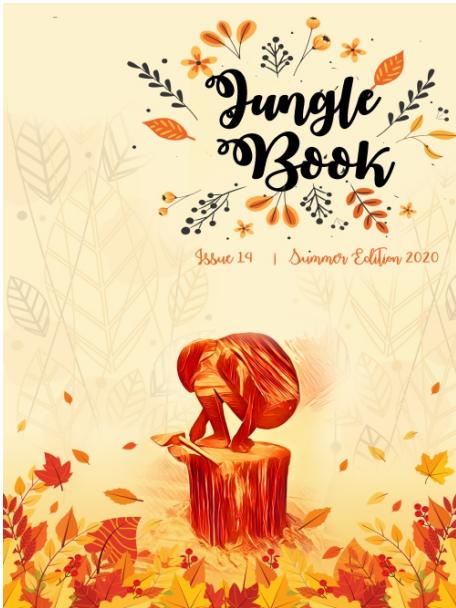
**Find out what's new  
in IGNFA in 2019**



**In conversation  
with Sudha Ramen**



# About Cover Picture



The central figure is inspired from a bamboo handicraft industry in Chandrapur. Here a wood sculpture is infact used to subtly depict a gloomy picture of a cut tree.

The design depicts this paradox to argue for scientific felling of trees for the protection of environment.

Cover page Design:

**Abhimanyu, IFS (P) 2019**

## Preface

Every magazine, in an attempt to sound self-important, tries to sell the idea that the world is at cross roads and that, it is the beacon for the reader to make sense of the turbulent times. But when the world actually finds itself in a cross road, what should a magazine do, if not be the beacon?

We have the younger voices like Greta Thurnberg asking the world leaders "How dare you continue to look away and come here saying that you're doing enough" In such times, mere acceptance of guilt only to appear noble isn't enough. The world needs actions and the cover picture is about that contemplation to find a way out. But will the solution be straightforward?

Remember, when Joaquin Phoenix in the flick 'Joker' asks "Is it just me or is it getting crazier out there" ? Inequality is really beginning to change the socio-political face of the world. Economics is gaining centre stage and it is becoming increasingly difficult to sell the idea of environment without actually telling the stakeholder what is in it for her.

This edition of the Jungle book attempts to give us some fresh perspectives on these aspects. Through articles and interviews, it awaits to challenge our ideas on Green felling, wetland rejuvenation and habitat conservation, which will be the larger questions we can never wish away ,if we have to earn back the lost trust of the millions of Greta Thurnbergs.

While trying to look forward, this edition also doesn't forget to look back at the heroes of the past-our foresters and our jawans and pays tributes to their invaluable sacrifices on whom our freedom, peace and our very life rests upon.

Further, the magazine opens up itself for the creative works of trainees and faculties ,celebrating their talents that breathe life through pencil, paints and their pen.

We sincerely wish you readers an engaging experience as you trail through the pages of this edition of Jungle Book. And as they say in our part of the world, don't forget to be awesome.



NICHE  
INNOVATION CLUB  
OF IGNFA



PLASTIC-FREE IGNFA  
*Planet over Plastic*



RENDEZVOUS WITH  
Prerna Bindra  
Wildlife Conservationist



BIRDERS OF IGNFA  
&  
BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY



# JUNGLE BOOK



Photo Credit : Abhimanyu IFS 2019

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**Birders of IGNFA** 34  
We proudly present  
Amateur - turned -  
Aficionados of  
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# JUNGLE BOOK

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# Why India needs regeneration felling in forest

**Uttam Kumar Sharma, IFS (MP:1999)**

Forest play an important role in the socio-economic development of a country like India. They are rich sources of energy, timber, fodder etc. and they provide employment to a large section of the rural population. Forest are renewable resources and contribute towards economic development.

India's recorded forests constitute 23.48 % of total geographic area of the country and have 4273 million cubic meter (cum) of Growing Stock (GS). But these play a limited role in meeting the growing demand of timber and biomass. Recorded forest of India contributes to around 2% (about 3 million cubic meters) of total demand of timber of around 150 million cum.

Most of the timber demand is thus inevitably met by Trees Outside Forests (TOF), including the agro-forestry than natural forests. Out of total TOF Growing stock of 1642 million cum, 44.34 million cum of timber is harvested annually.

Forest department attributes low production of timber to this low productivity and to the policy of "managing forests for ecological values and not for

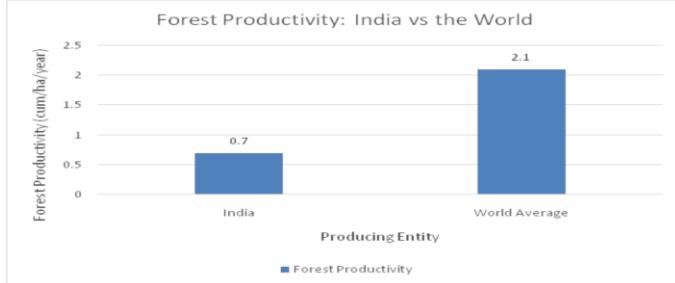


commercial gains". But the fact remains that timber harvest in government managed forest is nowhere close to the annual allowable cut. Timber Yield from forest has come down from nearly 4.5 million cum in 1990 to 3 million cum presently.

## There are two main reasons for this:

1. The approach of 'managing forests for ecological values and not for commercial gains'
2. Supreme Court decision in WP (Civil) no. 202/1995 Godavarman case

## Indian Forest's Current State of Low Productivity and Low Timber Production



## Lets discuss both in detail:

### 1. The approach of 'managing forests for ecological values and not for commercial gains':

After the National Forest Policy (NFP) 1988, there is a change in approach towards felling in natural forest. Objective of forest management as per policy direction was understood to be management of forest for ecological values only. This meant minimum or no utilization of forest for timber. Felling is being done presently in many States below 1000m MSL as per approved working plan by Central Government. However only a few States (mostly central Indian States) are doing felling in natural forest while others are doing it only in plantations. ANR Felling in natural forest is also being done in some States to assist natural regeneration without following any silvicultural system.

Working plan prepared after this policy put extra emphasis on not felling or reduced felling even though scientifically more yield could have been taken out of forest. Focus shifted on how to reduce felling intensity and magnitude. Even though scientific formula prescribed a higher yield, it was rejected and a lower yield was prescribed without giving any satisfactory reasons. This has led to a situation where silviculture systems of concentrated regeneration (and felling) have almost done away with and currently most of the tropical forest of Teak and Sal are being worked under Selection silviculture system. Also the prescribed yield is much lower than yield prescribed by Symithies safeguarding formula for yield calculation.

Due to less prescribed felling, production of timber dropped and sufficient openings were not created in forest for regeneration which affected regeneration adversely ultimately affecting the health of forest thus leading to the worst of ecological and commercial worlds.

## **2. Supreme Court decision in WP (Civil) no. 202/1995 Godavarman case :**

Supreme Court in its Judgment dated 12.12.1996 in Writ Petition (Civil) no. 202 of 1995 T.N. Godavarman Thirumulkpad vs UOI, with a view to protect the further degradation of forests had banned felling of trees above 1000m MSL. Few hilly States like Uttarakhand had put restriction on felling in natural forest specially above 1000m MSL during the 1980's even before SC put ban in 1996. Many State governments taking cue from the Godavarman judgment banned green felling even below 1000m MSL in all natural forest. As the most important silviculture operations i.e. felling / cleaning / thinning have not been done for last 22 years in these forest, not only the regeneration of forest has been adversely affected but also the growing stock, increment, climate change resilience and management implications have taken a hit.

Recent Supreme Court judgment dated 16/02/2018 on allowing Silviculture felling up to 1500 m MSL on experimental basis in three forest ranges of Kangra, Bilaspur and Sirmaur districts, in Himachal Pradesh affirms the harsh consequences

of such a blanket ban on felling.

Thus after NFP 1988 and SC Godavarman Judgment in 1996, presently, felling has come to a minimum level in areas below 1000m MSL (though potential based on scientific principle is quite high) and in areas above 1000 m MSL felling has been completely banned, deviating from targeted normal forest structure and severely affecting regeneration in forests. This has also led to loss of livelihoods and revenue loss to the government, an inevitable fallout of reduced timber production.

Should we continue with this strategy? Should we leave our forest without any silviculture management? And can we exclude regeneration felling from forest management? The most obvious challenge within forestry should be to regenerate the forest, improve productivity of forest, to meet growing demand for forest products, replace minerals/fuel which have large carbon footprint with wood and enhance the quality of environment. This cannot be done without having a relook of our strategy regarding regeneration felling.

### A Case for Regeneration Felling in Forest Irrespective of Altitude of the area

Regeneration felling are necessary in forest for following reasons:

- To encourage regeneration of the forests
- To improve growth rate and hence improve carbon sequestration rate of forest
- Achieving mixed species forests with multi layered canopy having more efficient carbon sequestration capability
- Increase timber production and hence generate employment to local people and revenue to government
- To maintain healthy, young and biodiversity rich forests, it is necessary to do silvicultural operations like cleaning, thinning and salvage of dead, dry trees as well as control burning for disposal of slash

Ecologically, wood is a fairly unproblematic timber and energy source, which in every way boosts sustainable development. Wood is a renewable natural resource, which when used leaves very minimal carbon footprint compare to any other mineral resource. Wood as fuel also helps us to

avoid fossil fuels. The ashes and its nutrients can be returned to the forest.

ISFR 2017 has calculated Annual Potential Production of timber from TOF at around 75 million cum (around 4.6% of total TOF Growing Stock). Production potential has been calculated applying Von Montel formula. The annual potential production of timber from recorded forest has not been calculated. The current production level of around 0.07% of GS (around 3 million cum) from recorded forest is too low compare to 4.6% from TOF or compare to other forest rich countries where harvest is more 3% of the GS.

### **Calculating the Annual Production Potential for the Main Timber Species**

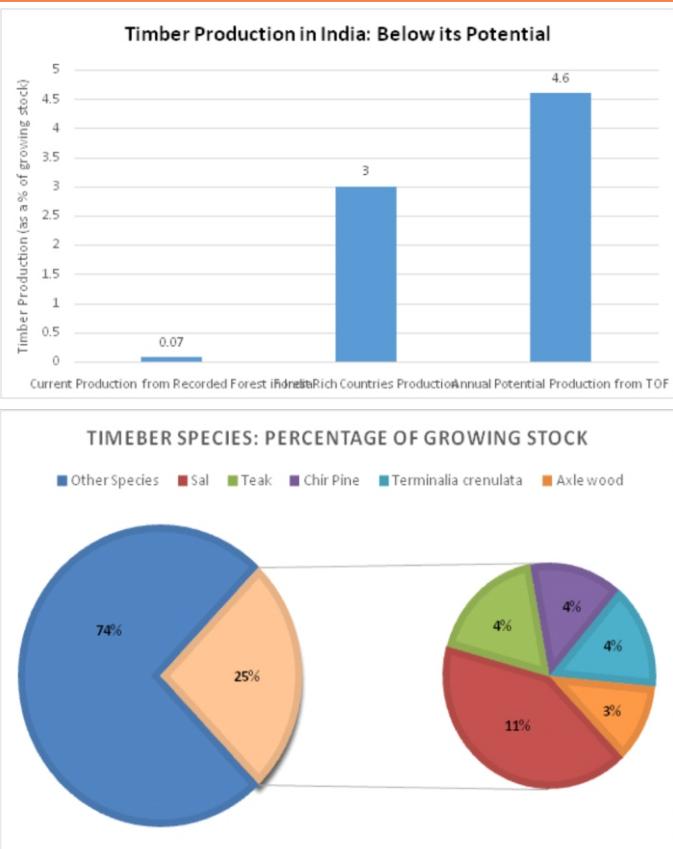
Note: As per ISFR 2019, these 5 main timber species form nearly 26% (1110 million cum) of the total growing stock of 4273 million cum of Indian recorded forest.

Considering the average rotation period for these species as 100 years, we can take annual harvest at 2% of GS of these 5 species (much below of 4.6% taken for TOF), then the annual timber production would be 23 million cum, nearly 8 times compare to present production. In terms of revenue, taking value of timber as Rs 40000/- per cum, a revenue of Rs 92000 Cr annually would be generated (Compare it with total annual budget of MoEF&CC of Rs 3111 Cr for the year 2019-20!). In addition to this, nearly 240 million additional man days of wages will be generated annually.

### **Assessing the Extent of Ecological Cost of Felling**

Next question is whether proposed felling, 2% of GS, is too huge and will degrade our natural forest? To answer this let's discuss the silviculture principles on which felling are based.

In States like MP, Chattisgarh, Odisha Maharashtra, Telangana, AP and Karnataka, felling is done in natural forest as per the approved working plan. All areas where felling is being done are presently worked under Selection Working Circle using Selection silviculture system and Smythies Safe-guarding Formula has been applied for yield regulation which gives yield in terms of a trees



entering into class I trees annually. To safeguard the yield as per available class I trees in the coupe, it limits yield as a percentage of available class I trees. This formula is based on scientific principle of sustainable harvesting where harvesting cannot exceed the increment put up by principal amount and limited by availability of class I trees. Principal amount is never touched so there will not be any dip in the current growing stock of the total forest under management.

### **Illustration of Benefits of Felling: Harda Forest Division, MP: Selection Silviculture System**

Total area of Selection working circle is 97000 ha with Selection girth for the teak as 120 cm and felling cycle of 20 years. Average number of teak trees available per ha is 232 taking all diameter class. Average volume per ha is nearly 70 cum. Calculated Yield is half tree per ha per year which as per Smythies' safe-guarding formula reduced to  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a tree per ha per year. This yield of  $\frac{1}{4}$  tree of selection girth per ha per year is taken out from the 4850 ha area of annual coupes. It translates to felling 5 trees per ha in annual coupes where the next felling will be done after 20 years. If we take average volume per selection tree as 1.5 cum, total

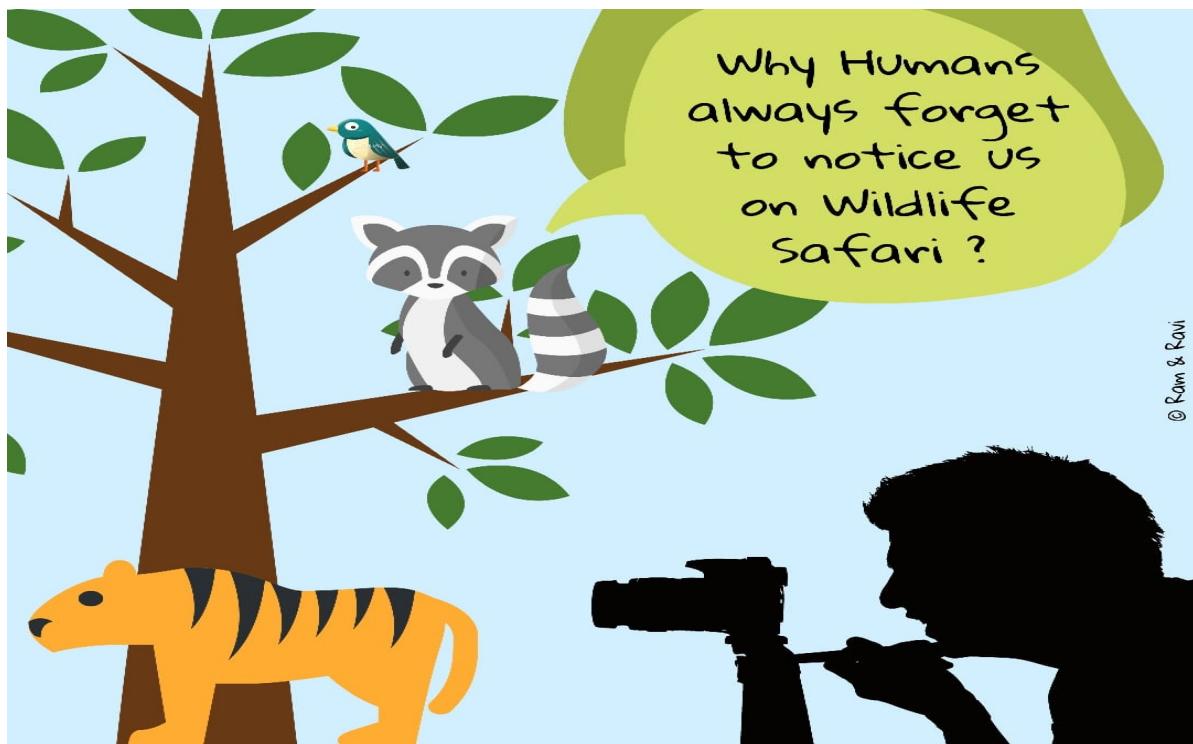
volume removal is 7.5 cum per ha per year from the coupe area of 4850 ha or 0.35 cum per ha per year from the whole Selection working circle. This is only 0.5% of available GS of 70 cum per ha but generates 36375 cum timber and a revenue of more than Rs 150 Cr every year for Harda district.

Now the question is whether 5 trees out of 232 teak trees or 7.5 cum out of 70 cum per ha is too much of felling when the next felling in the same area will be done after 20 years? Surely "NO". But the perception has been built as if this felling is going to degrade the forest. There is a need to change this perception, first within the forest department and then public at large.

Scientific silviculture felling are not going to harm the forest or ecosystem but are necessary to regenerate the forest, improve the productivity, increase carbon sequestration rate and generate employment and revenue to government.

Further, altitude should not be the criteria to put ban on silvicultural felling as regeneration of forest is essential irrespective of the altitude of the site. Areas which are above 1000 MSL also require opening of canopy for regeneration.

## CARTOON CORNER



## **Case Study of Pointa Sahib Forest division, Sirmaur district, HP and the Way Forward**

After recent Supreme Court judgment of 16/02/2018 of allowing silvicultural felling including thinning in HP in Sal forest of Sirmaur district, felling have been done in 4 coupes totaling 80 ha after a gap of 20 years in year 2018 under the Indian Irregular Shelterwood Silviculture system and 6366 cum timber have been harvested creating opening in canopy for regeneration to come. A revenue of more than Rs 20 Cr has been generated along with employment to locals from this felling. Status of Sal regeneration after felling is very encouraging and further felling on this basis have been permitted by SC.

It clearly shows that sustained efforts are required to get the SC order of ban on felling above 1000 MSL completely reviewed not only for the regeneration of forest but also for improving health of forest, making forest more climate change resilient and in turn generating revenue and employment by sustainable management. Lets make it work.

(Author is currently Additional Professor, IGNFA. He served as DFO Harda, Burhanpur and Dindori. He specializes in Forest Policy and Law, Forest Mensuration and Yield Management.)

# Making a Case for Regeneration Felling

**RAJEEV RANJAN, IFS (Bihar:2016)**

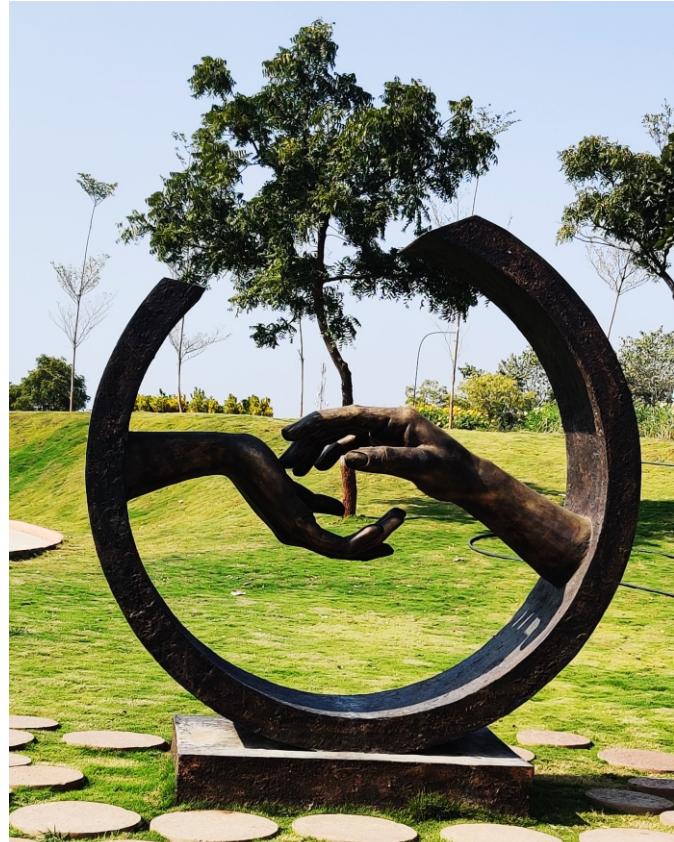
Two decades back due to concern about decline of forest cover hon'ble Supreme Court of India has put a break on green felling. Much water has flown through The Ganges since that ban came into effect and it will not be unwise for us to reconsider this ban on Green Felling (now onwards termed regeneration felling).

Carbon sequestration has been found as important instrument to fight against climate change. Carbon sequestration by trees depends on the rate at which they put biomass. There are increasing number of scientific evidences that have been coming up which suggests that rate of biomass formation reduces as trees grow older and in some circumstances mature trees occasionally become net Carbon dioxide emitter because of decay in biomass. Young regenerations on the other hand grow vigorously and form biomass at a higher rate thus helping in Carbon sequestration. But these young regenerations are at the receiving end of huge competition from Mature trees and thus gets suppressed. In such cases, removal of mature trees through regeneration felling will help in net Carbon sequestration at a much higher rate.

Regeneration felling is also needed for sustainable forest management. It is a very common occurrence that once the mature trees die after reaching their maximum life span, there will be very few younger trees to replace mature trees as mature trees would have suppressed the growth of younger trees. This results in sudden decline of carbon stocks in such forest areas.

Regular removal of mature tree stocks allows young tree to take their place and reduce chances of abrupt decline of carbon stock. The effect of climate change has causing many countries to move towards bio economy. If we as a country want to move towards bio economy, we have to raise productivity of Indian Forests which currently is very low. The productivity improvement will not happen without removing inferior quality stock from forests so new regeneration will take place from superior quality mother tree.

Further, it is no secret that Forest lands are competing with more lucrative use of land. Unless and until we ensure better economic returns from forests it will be



Protecting the Forests, Picture by Ankit Kumar IFS, 2019

very difficult to get public support for forest conservation. The Payment For Ecosystem Services is one such attempt to communicate economic returns from the forest and garner public support. But the concept is evolving and still has not been standardized. In such a situation, timber could give better economic returns from forests. Timber extraction not only provide resources, it kickstarts the economic activity in nearby region through associated activities and provides fillip to job creation.

The science of regeneration felling has been well established and its careful implementation will not only help improvement of forests but also create public support for conservation of forests. Forest departments across the country is moving towards revenue sharing model with local institutions. The Forest Development Corporations no longer remains the only beneficiary but the fringe villages are also getting equal benefits thus creating what we call Social Fencing.

# In Conversation with Sudha Ramen, IFS (TN:2013)

- Ramsundar, IFS 2019 and Chaitanya Kumar Reddy, IFS 2019

Currently serving as Deputy Director, Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Chennai, this officer caught the nation's attention with the revival of a lake in the zoo. She is known for bringing digital solutions to make the zoo more engaging and people-friendly.

**Treepedia app developed by you is an example of integrating IT in forestry. How do you perceive the future of IT in forest conservation, plantation and livelihood of forest dependent people?**

Recently the time has necessitated the integration of IT in forestry. With respect to forestry, nothing can be compensated with physical work, field monitoring, collecting data. The usage of ICT shouldn't be a diverting factor from our traditional forest management. Should only be supplementing and facilitating few of our operations. ICT integration should be to solve our problems. Forestry itself has got a very immense scope for integration of ICT, I have done only part of it in plantation forestry. I'm planning to develop the second phase to use lot of other tools to develop a standalone database.

**Some conservationists have view that ex-situ form of conservation constrain animals to an artificial fragmented habitat. As the deputy director of Zoo, what is your opinion upon it.**

I have worked in the zoo four and a half years, there is a perception that zoo is only a place for recreation. My primary view is that zoological parks are the interface between public and forest department. We make public feel the presence of department. There is a lot of challenges that forest department faces these days like habitat degradation, fragmentation, declining health of habitats and many other undocumented issues. Here, Zoos plays a major role in conservation of



Mann Ki Baat Updates ✅ @mannkibaat · Dec 13, 2019

"Water, birds are back": How forest officials revived a dried-up lake in Chennai zoo"

[thenewsminute.com/article/water-...](http://thenewsminute.com/article/water-...)

#WaterConservation

#MannKiBaat

@JalShaktiAbhyan @SudhaRamenIFS @thenewsminute



Lake before and after

gene pool. Across the world, there are many success stories of zoos about reintroduction of species to forests. I do agree to the fact that animals are confined, but looking at the greater role of conservation. Zoos also take a greater responsibility in rescue and rehabilitation, this is majorly ignored and not been spoken out widely. There are lot of rescue calls from urban and suburban and the anomaly are mainly treated in the zoos. Zoo has a transit facilities and also has veterinary doctors to attend. Chennai zoo is very active in social media also to sensitize people. We have separate education wing zoo school to sensitize people especially zoos. In that way zoos play an important role in various activities.

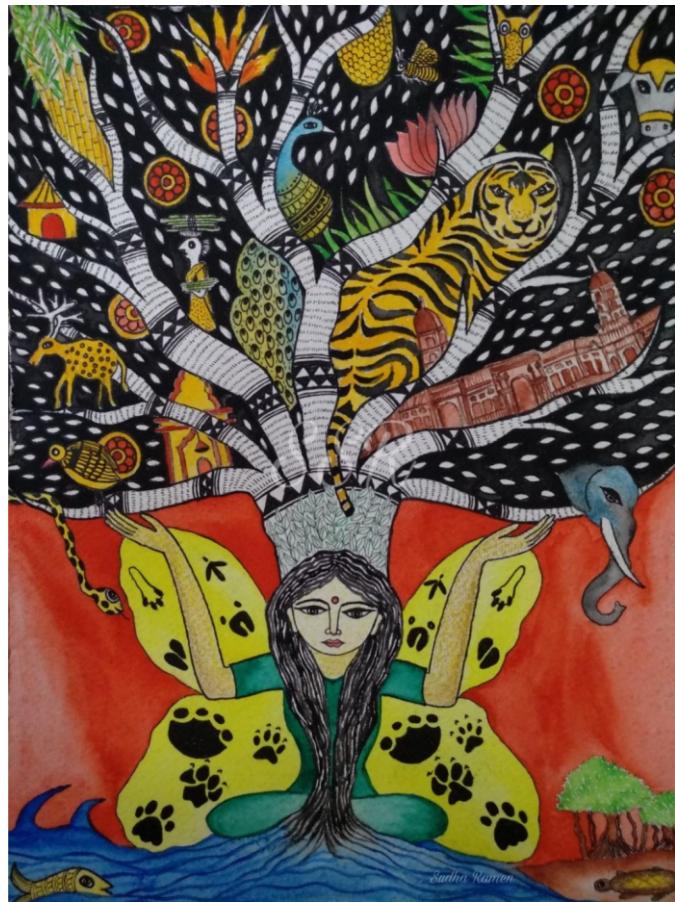
**As a deputy director, tell us 3 innovative ideas implemented in Vandalur zoo.**

First thing we did was that we created an interactive website with good traffic where people can book online tickets, register for workshops, adopting the animals in zoo by sitting at home from any part of the world. Second, the 24 \* 7 live webcasting of animals in the zoo that received international attention. It has started just 16 or 17 months before but it received 4 crore page views recorded

so far. Thirdly, the social media awareness creation about the zoo to reach out to the people. With respect to staff management, things were dealt out in faster manner. As we created transparency in the system the number of petitions and grievances has reduced drastically, even these days we don't even receive petitions also. It's not only my work, it was led by the then Director Yuvaraj IFS and now Yogesh Singh IFS. And Hon'ble Chief Minister is also the chairperson of Zoo Authority of Tamil Nadu is showing key interest in the development of the zoo. This has created the interest among the public with increased facilities and amenities, thereby creating the demand in public which is visible in the increasing trend of visitors count.

### **By continuing your passion in painting, how do you manage the work and your passion?**

Painting has been a stress buster for me since childhood, but that doesn't mean I'm stressed now.



**Madhubani painting by Sudha Ramen showing the multitude responsibilities borne by the green soldiers.**

Where ever I was posted or when I took up new responsibilities, I enjoy it. However, paintings bring fresh life into my everyday life. There are days when I make painting as a mandatory thing. I usually customize the New Year or other festival greetings with my painting. My day never completes without me either painting something or me watching videos of painting in YouTube.

### **There is a myth that lady officers face difficulty , what is your opinion on this?**

I totally don't agree there is difficulty for lady officers. Whatever challenges the lady officers face in field will be experienced by male counterparts also. I couldnt be able to comment on larger, I haven't seen the working conditions of different areas. But with respect to my cadre, Tamil Nadu, I can boldly comment that I have never faced any kind of insecurity. Because the staff has been so respectful and recognize us. Very few lady officers are there but they have shown their capabilities at work. That created respect for them in the system. I have never faced any challenges. Being a lady officer, I have equally taken care of lady subordinate officers feel secure in their work. Whether you're male or female officer, you should make sure that subordinate female officers feel enough security. This is what I would like to convey to my junior officers who are taking up responsibilities shortly.

### **You had tweeted about the conditions of grassroot level forest officers. We as a future DFOs how could we improve their conditions?**

We are working as a system, we will face lot of challenges as a system. When there are subordinates working for you believing that you're there to take care of them, you're responsible to take care of their wellbeing.

Practically it is difficult to establish infrastructure as there is no freedom for DFO alone but of the entire state machinery. It is that every time you look up government to do it. There are other windows to do it, there are a lot of people interested to sponsor to department, and there are people interested to contribute to their welfare. I think that is what

something that you can do. Apart from infrastructure staff has got some genuine grievances, like pensionary benefits, arrears in salary. These pending files could be fast tracked or cleared on time that is what huge benefits that staff would be getting. Your incentives need not be financial every time, appreciate their work, and recognise their works. We as department has got very few chances to get recognised, but you as a DFO has got many chances like Republic Day or Independence Day every year, where you can give them merit certificate or medals. It make them feel proud. I have been doing that and I will keep doing that and many of the other DFOs are also doing the same.

**Can you share with us ideas on how to improve recognition of our service as both pro-conversation and pro-people?**

First of all you should be aware of rules and regulations, only if you have thorough knowledge you could speak to people about it. Once you are out of academy, you will stop reading. Keep updated. If at all there is any competition or survival of the fittest, the officer who's is updated or with sufficient knowledge and well connected with people will survive for sure. So make yourself fittest not only physically but also intellectually. Only then whatever message you say will reach out to people. Never stay in cocoon or comfort zone when you get in district posting, come out of the cosy world. Interact with students, visit colleges, talk with people then people start looking up to you. They also learn from you and you can pass on



the authentication message to the people. In service also, the way you're well connected with the world outside will help you to grow. Never be in opinion that I belong to this cadre, it is enough to know about that particular cadre or state. You also need to be knowing Indian and world level. You need to be like 'Think globally, act locally'. Be loud, your actions should speak and words should speak. And by that way service will be uplifted.

## CARTOON CORNER

Meeting an OT from IGNFA before Corona outbreak



Seeing an OT from IGNFA now:



# Deforestation: A direct hindrance to 'Development'

Swetha Boddu, IFS 2018



'Happy World Environment Day', 'Save Wildlife', 'Protect nature' - we hear these occasionally and they pass us by as clichés or platitudes at best. Thinking about trees or forests is long considered only a moral obligation and a pious job following the infamous saying - "It's (always) the economy, stupid!" But now the real '*stupidity*' would lie in not recognizing **Environment and Economy are 'directly' linked.** COVID 19 is a case in point.

Corona virus might have just given us a trailer of Nature's revenge served cold. Trailer because fatality rates are hovering around 5% now. But imagine a Disease X that has the transmission rate of COVID and fatality rate of Ebola. And **Disease X** causing lethal viruses already exist in the very species of bats that are currently natural reservoirs of Rabies, Ebola, Nipah, SARS Corona. Following is a chain how it can happen -

Deforestation reduces habitat and food availability of bats, increases their hunger. This stress reduces bats' immunity causing more viral load in urine, saliva etc. With more deforestation, their habitats come closer to human settlements raising our exposure to those viruses. That's how Nipah spread, and likely Corona in Wuhan wet markets.

And the effect? Analysts are talking of Coronavirus Recession, China's economy contracted for the first time since financial crisis, global airline set to lose 29 billion USD, 300+ billion USD impact on global supply



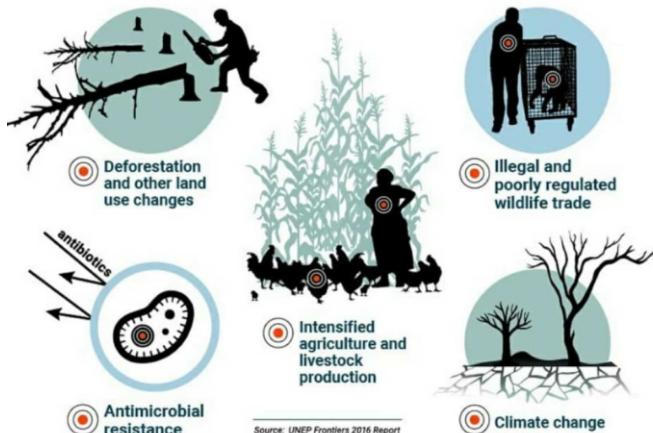
*Painting by Kajol Patil, IFS 2019*



unep

⋮

What factors are increasing zoonosis emergence?  
(Diseases transmitted from animals to humans)



Source: UNEP Frontiers 2016 Report

#COVID19



chain, unemployment rate in USA is likely closer to Great Depression's rate of 25%, Indian market investors lost 33 lakh crores in one March! We aren't even talking about social impact from those who live on daily wages, migrants left on roads and families that lost their breadwinners. Prime Minister of India himself said India could go back 21 years if we didn't lockdown the country. Do we truly want to build a house of cards only to be collapsed in one sweeping move? ***It is not called 'Sustainable Development' if a single virus can setback decades long progress.***

But what can we citizens do about what is merely an effect of governmental and intergovernmental policies? Answer is, **We can be Aware.** Aware that healthy forests are pivotal to our growth, to our very survival. Aware that core wildlife habitats are inviolable and rights under forest laws are inalienable. Aware that the fountainhead of Sustainable Development is in Conservation of Environment. As public policies are largely populist, strong public awareness shall force policy makers to toe the line and protect our forests and environment. World shall be a better place to live in.

# New India's leadership in Environment & Wildlife Conservation - Takeaway from CMS COP13

Ramsundar M, IFS(P) 2019

It was a great experience for me as a young man in his twenties to observe an international convention, a great dream for Indians that our homeland being the host of international events and great pride for us as an IFS probationers to witness the convention being organised through our Ministry MoEF&CC and Gujarat state forest department.

We were lucky to participate in the 13th conference of Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species at Gandhinagar as a part of our west India tour. The roads of Gandhinagar were put up with signboards and information boards about the convention. The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), also known as the Bonn Convention, aims to conserve terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range. The CoP 13 was organised in Gandhinagar, Gujarat between 15 - 22 February 2020. As we entered 'The Mahatma Mandir Convention and Exhibition centre', the flags of 130 member countries welcomed us, there were also displays of various migratory species of India.

## South Asian Leadership

The convention is special to southern Asia as well, as it is the second consecutive time the conference is held in the region after Philippines hosted it in 2017 at Manila. It is also the second International environment related conference held in India within

the period of 6 months. India hosted UNCCD CoP 14 in September 2019 and eventually IFS (P) of 2018 batch attended it. This showcases the environmental and wildlife conservation leadership of India and South Asia in the international arena.

As a host country, India doesn't forego a chance to portray its rich art and culture to the international guests. The logo of CMS CoP 13 was inspired from 'Kolam', a traditional art form of Southern India. It depicts the key migratory species of India - Amur falcon, Humpback whale and Marine turtles in circular fashion. The Great Indian Bustard, which was the official mascot of the conference, is also named as 'Gibi' adding a personal connection with the critically endangered bird. Similarly the conference theme "Migratory species connect the planet and together we welcome them home" resembles Indian tradition of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and 'Yaadhum oore'. In the opening speech of the convention Hon'ble Union minister of Environment Shri. Prakash Javadekar also reiterated in the same tone "Migratory birds, mammals and aquatic species are increasingly in danger on their migration routes and countries need to work together to protect them. For India, caring about these species is part of our ethos to protect all animals and natural life on earth. India is very happy to host CMS COP13."



IFS (P) 2019 batch with Hon'ble MoS for MoEF&CC

Besides these, India also made a remarkable contribution to the conservation of Migratory species. India is a temporary home to several migratory animals and birds. The important among these include Amur Falcons, Bar headed Geese, Black necked cranes, Marine turtles, Dugongs, Humpback Whales, etc. The Indian sub-continent is also part of the major bird flyway network, i.e, the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) that covers areas between the Arctic and Indian Oceans, and covers at least 279 populations of 182 migratory water bird species, including 29 globally threatened species. India has also launched the National Action Plan for conservation of migratory species under the Central Asian Flyway.

### A forum of Interaction

CoP 13 also provided us an opportunity to interact with Dr. D.K Sharma IFS, PCCF and HOFF of Gujarat in the conference arena. He explained to us how the conference is being organised by the Gujarat Forest Department and how species could be included in the appendix of CMS. "It is a two-step process, first we have to present our proposal of species to be included in Appendix to Committee of Whole (CoW), then it has to be accepted by the Main secretariat of CMS." explained Dr. Sharma. He also expressed his happiness over acceptance of India's proposal of including Great Indian Bustard, Asian Elephant and Bengal Florican in the appendix 1 of CMS by the 13th CoP. Wildlife species facing extinction threat are included in the appendix I. It leads to push for greater habitat protection, prohibition against

poaching and facilitation of their movement in the regions and countries that are part of these species ranges.

We also had a short interaction with the Hon'ble Minister of State for MoEF&CC Shri. Babul Supriyo in the event premises followed by lunch with him. It was a great learning experience for us - 3 months old probationers to meet and interact with bureaucrats and executive heads at the event.

The event premises also comprised of the pavillion with stalls of various states displaying their steps taken in conserving migratory species. We probationers were happy to visit the stalls of our cadre states and learn from it. There were also stalls from national conservation organisations like BNHS, NTCA, WII etc.

We also witnessed the stakeholders discuss and debate in the plenary hall, where the last leg of event outcomes were debated by member countries. As it was the final day of the event, we could see the swiftness in preparation for the final draft.

Thus, it was much more of a learning experience for a probationer in pursuing New India's leadership in environmental and wildlife conservation. The CMS CoP 13 in Gandhinagar was the first largest wildlife conservation gathering in 2020 that is expected to radiate on subsequent CoPs of the decade. It was also an important milestone in relation to post 2020 ecological and wildlife conservation framework through which every country is united to take urgent action to protect our biodiversity.



**2019 batch IFS (P) with Gujarat State Forest Minister and HOFF of Gujarat**

# Rendezvous with Prerna Bindra

- **Wildlife Conservationist, Writer, Naturalist**

**N Ravisankar Sarma, IFS(P) 2019**

Prerna Bindra is a former member of the National Board of Wildlife, a graduate in conservation studies from the Cambridge and the writer of the book 'Vanishing' that has been discussed and debated in literary and wildlife circles. We got chatting with her to understand her journey as a writer conservationist, her views on wildlife conservation today in India and her impressions regarding the Indian Forest Service.



## Understanding the Person behind

**Your twitter bio describes you as dog's best friend. Can you tell us more about your love for dogs and how they enrich your life?**

I always loved animals, and used to look after the injured dogs around our home, and finally got one dog—abused by his earlier family home. Not just dogs, I was utterly in love and protective of all that came to our home: Birds, langurs, mongoose, squirrels—and even the odd snake would worry me for their safety.

Dogs taught me that animals were not 'it' or things, they are individuals with distinct personalities and quirks. They feel. I know dogs make my life better by bringing innocence, joy, a bit of goofiness, love and loyalty into this increasingly stressed world we live in.

**What made you choose conservation as a career, any life changing moment or experience?**

In 'my day' we didn't do meticulous career planning, nor had any to guide us—else rest assured, I would have aimed for the Forest Service! The general idea was BA, MA and then marriage, though my mother nursed dreams of IAS for me!

Eventually, I post-graduated in labour welfare and personnel management. My career got a head start at IIM (Ahmedabad), but my heart was elsewhere.

I was increasingly disturbed by the rapid transformation of my immediate environment.

High-rise apartments and shopping complexes were coming up in open spaces and wetlands, the neighbourhood woods—and the city's lungs—were cleared to make way for an electric power station. I was confounded by the silence that surrounded this destruction of forests and a deteriorating environment, almost as if it wasn't occurring.

All this deeply disturbed, and influenced me, and I took a decision to shift from a potentially lucrative career to the newsroom, even as I had no supporting academic qualifications, only an idealistic notion and determination—to highlight and mainstream, ecological and wildlife issues. After a few years in journalism, I shifted to being a wildlife conservationist, though I continue to write in mainstream media on wildlife issues.

**You have completed a course from Cambridge on conservation. Any similar opportunities that you would like to share for young environmentalists or foresters**

Most of my learning has been on-the-job, I lacked an educational background in conservation, so I chose to go for Masters in Conservation Leadership, and I was fortunate to be selected and to get full funding support.

*It's a fantastic course: multi-disciplinary, recognizing that conservation is not only about science, but is cross-sectoral, needing an understanding of various disciplines--economics, politics, communications, culture, arts. We meet practitioners working in different geographies within your cohort, and the*

wider community at the David Attenborough Building where the course is housed. Definitely recommended at a mid-career level.

There are many opportunities -wildlife biology and conservation courses in the Wildlife Institute of India, National Centre for Biological Sciences which I would also recommend for those interested.

**You have recently written '*The Vanishing*'. Why did you take up writing? What books would you recommend for us young foresters? Curious to know your next book.**

I took up writing because I believe in the power of the written word. As a child, I devoured book after book, hunting libraries and pavement book vendors to search for treasures from **James Herriot** who wrote on his patients-dogs and cats and cattle to **Gerald Durrell's** hilarious adventures to **M Krishnan**, whose nature writing remains unparalleled. I was deeply influenced by **Rachel Carson's 'Silent Spring'** which showed for the first time the perils of chemical pesticides on the environment.

I was also deeply troubled by the seemingly deafening silence towards the 'vanishings' in cities,



With her favourite, Doginder

jungles or even our backyards-like the fireflies that we used to see at night. This inspired me to take up journalism then and later writing.

***The Vanishing takes an unflinching look at the unacknowledged crisis that India's wildlife faces and why it matters to us if the forest is bereft of tigers and elephants, if the bees vanish, if the gharial goes extinct from our rivers and if the skies are emptied of vultures. I have also woven in the 'nature of animals'- how leopards have a sense of kinship and how there's empathy among elephants."***

One must-read book is by Douglas Adams: A last Chance to See themed on animals at the brink of extinction. I wish I could write like him: using wit and humour in a subject so grim and bleak.

I have recently co-edited a book along with Dr Sonali Ghosh and Anuranjan Roy called the **Wild Treasures: Reflections on Natural World Heritage Sites in Asia**.

### Regarding the Indian Forest Service

**Your view on IFS. Any work of IFS officers that caught your eye?**

There are many officers who have made commendable contributions to forest and wildlife conservation. I also am touched by the dedication of frontline forest staff, who protect wildlife against all odds.

To the young people who seek me for guidance on careers related this field, I meet today, I urge them to apply for IFS as I believe you can contribute tremendously within the system. It's tough and admittedly, frustrating, but we need committed officers with a passion for forests! And it's such a privilege, to have the freedom of the forests. I yearn for it!

**Conservators are often branded as anti-development and often lead thankless careers as their clients are deaf and dumb. What do you say about keeping up the morale?**

Yes, there is a sentiment that those who protect

nature are 'anti-development', but can there be any development without nature? We are dependent on nature for everything- water, oxygen being the most important.

Zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19 are a result of destruction of natural habitat pushing wildlife closer to human habitats, and the illegal wildlife trade in unhygienic wet markets. As we are witnessing now, COVID-19 has brought the planet to its knees. Rabies, Nipah, HIV, SARS viruses too are zoonotic. So forest conservation directly impacts public health and economy. It is a powerful argument that busts the myth of anti-development.

**So forest conservation directly impacts public health and economy. It is a powerful argument that busts the myth of anti-development.**

Having said that I do despair at times, considering the pace of forest clearance, the apathy that surrounds the plight of wildlife, but there is no giving up. Ever. And there is always hope till the last tiger roars and elephant herds roams the jungles and dolphins swim in our waters. That is what energises me.

**Any message or piece of advice to young foresters in our academy**

I am no one to advise but all I can say is to enjoy your service, and give back. I believe it is one of the best services in the country, you have the important task of safeguarding the country's natural heritage and its ecological security and this requires an extra commitment than merely considering it a job. Be sincere in your task. Utilize this position of power to do good to the most marginalized beings on the planet. You have been an active user of media in print and digital form to promote conservation. How can we foresters use media for the same?

One needs to use media cautiously, write with sensitivity especially on sensitive issues like human-wildlife conflict. Forest officers have a privileged peep into the natural world, in parts of India very few are aware of, and they can utilize social media for opening wonders of nature to civil society and kindle curiosity in people. Equally, also highlight

important issues in conservation for informed journalism and reporting. I use social media to build public opinion for policies that strengthen conservation, to build pressure against ecologically undesirable projects.

**On Wildlife Conservation**

**In your book, you refer to the 6th mass extinction of wildlife in India. What has brought India's rich biodiversity system to such a crisis point?**

As I say in the book, India is a global leader in conservation, it ensured the coexistence of tigers, leopards, elephants and bears with 1.3 billion citizens in contrast to European nations like Britain, where the wolf and lynx are extinct.

Nevertheless, India's wildlife is in a crisis today- ruthless poaching to feed the illegal wildlife trade, alarming rate of habitat destruction etc. More worrying is an absence of political will to conserve wildlife, dilution or circumventing of laws and weakened institutions.

Some examples - wolf populations are on the decline rapidly, as their habitat-grasslands are being destroyed. Aquatic species like the gharial are threatened by a multitude of dams and barrages, polluted rivers, sand mining that is destroying their nesting sites. Even tiger reserves are not being spared with highways threatening parks like Corbett and Pakke Tiger Reserve and dams planned in Panna and Palamu Tiger Reserve.

**You have been a member of the NBWL in the past and are now a vocal critic of the body with reference to repeated clearances for projects in wildlife habitats. What do you think has changed?**

At the outset, I must say that I was an equally powerful critic of the NBWL even when I was a part of it. Read about it in my book! The task of the NBWL is to regulate diversion of land from our sanctuaries and parks for projects mostly tagged as 'development' and to take proactive measures and advise on policies to conserve wildlife; not be a

clearing house in the name of development. Yet, an analysis of the clearances in and around Protected Areas shows that the **NBWL's Standing Committee has rejected fewer than 1% of the proposals in the last 2 years causing irrevocable destruction to wildlife habitat** contrary to its mandate of conservation.

Besides it is also the way it functions - decisions are taken in haste, there are few, if any site visits (sometimes after the decision is taken) and no sound, scientific reasons are cited for the decision taken. This has to change with decision making needing to be informed and NBWL needs to stick to its mandate of conservation as per the Wildlife Protection Act.

### **How can one explain the dichotomy of increase of protected area, forest cover, tiger population on one hand along with the vanishing wildlife crisis that you point out?**

It is a remarkable achievement of government, officers, frontline staff, and local communities, that we have stable, growing tiger populations but we cannot afford complacency.

Tiger reserves, corridors and habitats outside of Protected Areas (where about a third of our population is) is threatened by infrastructure, mining, industry and encroachments. And there are habitats where tigers have gone locally extinct like in Hazaribagh and Saranda in Jharkhand, regions of South Gujarat and Central India. In many tiger reserves the populations are not optimum capacity and we need to focus on these reserves like



Palamu, Satkosia, Simlipal and Buxa. Our focus should be to improve these areas with vigilance, strict protection and sound management.

**As far as forest cover is concerned, our first priority should be to conserve existing, natural forests and other ecosystems, rather than on plantations and green drives** that affect biodiversity adversely. The truth is we are losing natural forest covers that house our rich biodiversity and are irreplaceable in terms of ecosystem services in contrast to plantations. Our focus now should primarily be to conserve our existing natural habitats and forests prioritizing it over afforestation activities.

### **The boundaries of wildlife and humans are blurring today. Any suggestion for the forest department in adopting a wildlife sensitive solution to the same**

A human-wildlife conflict is a challenging situation for foresters. In India, we have a culture that respects life, reveres nature and animals. Local communities are remarkably accepting of wild animals as neighbours, many times at great cost. We should have sensitive mechanisms to ease their losses by way of compensation, ensure they benefit from parks in terms of tourism, and other areas. Also, **voluntary, fair and informed relocation** needs to be prioritized as people who live in great hardship facing huge human-wildlife conflict want to move out of remote parks and sanctuaries.

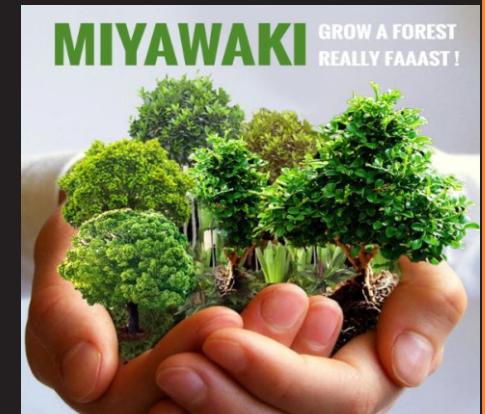
Constant dialogue and awareness among people plays a pivotal role in avoiding mob like situations that many time occur during conflict situations. The local administration and police need to be working with the forest department for crowd control and mob management to allow safe passage for the animal. Understanding the animal's ecology is important in strategizing for human-wildlife conflict. Fencing forests is not the answer as animals like tigers, elephants, bears are wide ranging, they need to move and providing safe corridors for movement will help ease conflict.



IGNFA & NICHE website inauguration by Sh CK Mishra, IAS, Secretary, MoEFCC

## **WHAT'S NEW FROM THE CURRENT CROP OF PROBATIONERS**

**Course Director IFS 2018 – Nidhi Srivastava, IFS(PB:2001)**  
**Course Director IFS 2019 – Dr Senthil Kumar, IFS(AGMUT:1998)**



The image shows the official Instagram profile of the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA). The profile picture features a circular logo with a golden crown at the top, a stylized tree in the center, and the text "INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL FOREST ACADEMY" around the border. Below the profile picture, the handle "ifs\_ignfa" is displayed, followed by a "Message" button and a user icon. The bio section includes the text "IFS At IGNFA", "Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA) to train IFS(All India Service) officers of India.", and the hashtags "#IFS #IFSdiaries". The profile also shows "53 posts", "1,579 followers", and "52 following". A blue banner at the bottom left corner contains the text "Social Media Cell".



# NICHE - Innovation Club of IGNFA

**Tejas Jaiswal, IFS(P), 2018 & Swetha Boddu, IFS(P), 2018**



## About the logo:

NICHE is an acronym that stands for **Network of Innovators for Change**. Niche, in ecology, means a match of a species to its ideal environment where it can prosper. Similarly, NICHE in our context represents a sustainable environment where environmental problems are matched with ecological solutions through the network created by this online platform. The logo represents a **positive and green change** through interconnections of (three) Innovators and their mutual cooperation.

## Team Members

Tejas Jaiswal, along with  
Anand Reddy  
Anupam Sharma  
Satwik Vyas  
Siddharth Vikram Singh  
Swetha Boddu

Indian Forest Service(IFS)  
Officers across the country do remarkable work in forest management, environment conservation, welfare of forest dependent

communities and many other domains. The work done by these officers motivate the entire fraternity especially the young probationers at Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA). Every success story requires vision, immense hard-work, strategic thinking as well as support from all stakeholders. Thus,

there is a huge opportunity to learn through knowledge and experience sharing by creating a repository of such innovations at the ground.

At the same time, forest officers face a number of challenges of diverse nature. They look for cost-effective innovative solutions. It might happen that forest officers and innovators across institutions might have the solutions or ideas they are looking for. By establishing a network, such challenges can be converted into opportunities, ultimately leading to solutions.

NICHE aims to achieve these two objectives. It is an online platform hosted on IGNFA official website and is designed and developed by 2018 batch IFS officers. The main aim of NICHE is to bridge the gap that exists between the stakeholders by building a network for communication and mutual learning. Ultimately it will develop a network of experts, forest officers and problem solvers.

There are two main sections in the online portal. The first one is Success Stories. It is an online repository of extraordinary work done by IFS officers.

Publishing success stories has 3 objectives -

- To **recognize** your success



**NICHE**

Network of Innovators for Changé



## SHARE YOUR SUCCESS STORY

**NICHE** is an online platform hosted on IGNFA website, designed and developed by IFS 2018 batch

### OBJECTIVES:

1. Building a network for communication and mutual learning
2. Share the success stories of forest officers at field as well as elicit solutions and ideas for challenges

### Why NICHE?

Because incredible ground work is being done by field Foresters which must be recognized and replicated across the country

### How to contribute?

Visit <https://niche.ignfa.gov.in/> to submit your case study or pose a challenge

SUCCESS IS TO BE SHARED AND EMULATED

### SUCCESS STORIES

- » Rescuing Elephant using Archimedes' Law of Flotation
- » Tree Banks – An Innovative Technique for Quick Generation of Green Belts at significantly lesser Costs (one fourth the cost in this project)
- » Reviving a dead lake inside Chennai Zoo
- » eForestFire - Himalayan Forest Fire Prediction

LET'S CONTRIBUTE TO MOTIVATE

NICHE provides a platform for the following:

1. Publicising success stories/innovations of IFS Officers to a larger audience.
2. Eliciting solutions/ideas for challenges faced by IFS officers on the ground.

## IGNFA's Innovation Cell

Search



[Submit a Challenge](#)

[Submit a Success Story](#)

- To **analyze** the reasons for success
- To provide set of guidelines to **replicate** that success

The case studies are put in the following format for ease of understanding - Describe the Situation, elaborate on the Response and showcase the Results achieved.

**SITUATION:** To make the case for why the project was initiated and who the key stakeholders are.

**RESPONSE:** Inputs like staff, funding, research and outputs like teaching, product development, facilitation, partnerships, people reached

**RESULTS:** Quantitative and qualitative data that describe important outcomes. Includes beneficiaries, policies, social action, behavior change, growth etc.

The aim as stated earlier is to bring the success stories and innovations of IFS Officers to a wider audience so that they can be emulated and scaled up wherever there is an opportunity. There is a choice to communicate or ask the implementing officers by commenting on the respective success story.

## SUCCESS STORIES

» Rescuing Elephant using Archimedes' Law of Floatation

» Tree Banks – An Innovative Technique for Quick Generation of Green Belts at significantly lesser Costs (one fourth the cost in this project)

» Reviving a dead lake inside Chennai Zoo

» eForestFire - Himalayan Forest Fire Prediction

The second section is Challenges. Here, an officer can seek innovative solutions or ideas for challenges faced on ground. Forest officers, domain experts, scientists or other stakeholders can then attempt to provide the required solution. Through the option of comment and replies, NICHE fosters dialogue between the solution seekers and providers.

Technology is the most potent tool in current times for all, especially officers on ground. The potency of this tool will only increase in the future with large distances reduced to a click and creation of virtual networks in all fields. This is a small attempt from the probationers to reduce the gap between all stakeholders.

At a deeper level, we intend to give something back to the academy and contribute to the growth of our service. At the same time, it's only when we all become a part of NICHE, it will achieve its intended objective. So, let us all maximize the use this platform to truly create a network of innovators and bring positive change.

# Plastic-Free IGNFA Initiative

## Choosing Planet Over Plastic

Anand Reddy, IFS(P), 2018



### Core Team:

Anand Reddy Yellu  
Jones Justin  
Karthikeyani K  
Swetha Boddu  
Thejhas Sekhar  
Vignesh Appavu G

### Members:

Rohith Gopidi  
Rishibha Singh Netam  
Himanshu Prajapati  
Bharat Chintapalli  
Tejas Jaiswal  
Abhinav Gopal  
Tejaswini Pusuluri  
Vejayanantham T R  
Jyoti Kotal  
Madhumitha S  
Prajesh Kanta Jena

The use and abuse of plastic is well-documented. We, a group of IFS 2018 Batch trainees, launched Plastic-Free IGNFA Initiative to **prevent the abuse of plastic in IGNFA and transform the Academy into a plastic-free zone.**

Preliminary survey and initial observations in the Academy revealed that the misuse of single-use-plastic is ubiquitous and widespread, ranging from plastic-cutlery in Officers' Mess to PVC flex banners at various events. Usage of polythene carry bags for grocery procurement was a common sighting. Also, the waste management was at rudimentary stage where there was no segregation of wastes leading to zero recycling potential, opening burning was a common practice, and poor storage capacity of wastes often led to human-animal conflict. This clearly caused the abuse of plastic. **Our mantra against this disorder was simple: To put into practice the principles of Refuse-Replace-Reduce-Reuse-Recycle.**

As part of the Initiative, **each location and event of the Academy was individually made plastic-free** by identifying the usage of single-use-plastic and making efforts to either reduce or replace them with bio-degradable alternatives. For example, a single step of procuring milk for Officers' Mess in 6-litre packets instead of ½-litre packets reduced the generation of plastic waste by 19 gm daily or about 7 kgs of plastic (or 40,150 packets) per annum. Efforts are being made to directly procure from the dairy outlet to completely eliminate the generation of plastic wastes. Replacement with bio-degradable alternatives such as wooden spoons, sal/palm leaf plates and bowls, paper cups, etc. **reduced the annual plastic footprint of the Mess by 409 kgs.**





Wooden Signboard



Dual Dustbin System in all rooms



Similar measures are undertaken at various events in the Academy such as annual sports meet, convocation, cultural events, etc. For instance, a new beginning was made in Convocation 2019 by doing away with the usage of plastic wrapped bouquets. Instead wooden basket and jute wrappings are used. As an example of Reuse principle, the flex banners of Convocation 2019 are reused in preparing Table-tennis barricades.

The **waste management system of the Academy is revamped** by providing a separate dustbin for collection of plastic wastes, renovating and extending the waste storage capacity, and most importantly partnering with NGO Waste Warriors to periodically collect and recycle the segregated plastic wastes. At the NGO, the plastic wastes are furthered segregated and then transformed into useful products. For example, the milk packets from the Mess are used for generating petroleum. According to Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP), 1 kg of plastic can be converted into 750 ml of automotive grade gasoline.

**Attitudinal and behavioral change** is an integral part of the Initiative. Measures taken in this regard include: cleanliness drives, awareness drives, awareness generation sessions for ground level staff, and collection drives. Such outdoor activities often involved local residents as well as officer trainees. Display of posters, distribution of t-shirts and caps, stickers, awarding cloth bags as prizes, etc. were some of the means adapted to cause the attitudinal change towards an eco-friendly lifestyle.

Various external stakeholders such as Dehradun District Administration, Dehradun Municipal Corporation, NGO Waste Warriors, FRI students and FRI faculty, were associated with the Initiative through logistic, technical or motivational support.

**Institutionalization of an Initiative is essential for its long-term survival. We endeavored to achieve this by two means: one, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) listing out the roles and responsibilities of Secretaries of various Clubs and Societies, making them accountable for maintaining the plastic-free status of the Academy, was formulated and circulated. Second, wooden signages reading "PLASTIC-FREE ZONE", are being established at six different locations of the Academy to remind the future generations of their responsibility. Usage of wood, instead of steel, led to storage of 297 kgs of CO<sub>2</sub> and prevented 227 kgs of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.**

**The Initiative is still a work in progress with a lot of scope to build upon and improvise.** The Plastic-free IGNFA Team looks upon the future batches of the Academy with great hope to carry forward the legacy.

*(Methodology, Action Plan, Plastic and Carbon assessment and case studies are available in the detailed report to be released soon)*

# Social Media Cell

## Mouthpiece of IGNFA activities

### Team, Social Media Cell, 2018 Batch

Vejayanantham TR, along with  
 Anand Reddy  
 Prasanth E  
 Swetha Boddu  
 Tejas Jaiswal  
 Thejhas Sekhar

### And baton is carried onto 2019 batch -

Abhimanyu  
 Harshraj Wathore  
 Ramsundar M

#### Current Status:

**Instagram** Over 1.6K followers  
**Twitter** Over 1.2K followers  
**Facebook** Over 5K likes

**facebook**



Indira Gandhi  
 National Forest  
 Academy  
 @IGNFA.GOI

Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy  
 Campus building in Dehra Dun, India

4.9 ★★★★★  
[Open now](#)

**Community** See all  
 4,797 people like this  
 4,893 people follow this  
 3,293 check-ins

Unless we live under a rock, we agree there is no staying away from social media in these times. It is a double edged sword, but it is important to recognize that the benefits of being active far outweigh those of staying away. It is evident from how the academy was misrepresented in various newspapers during the COVID-19 panic centering around IGNFA in March. Being silent was taken for granted, information gaps were filled by misinformation and false news. Therefore, it is the need of the hour to have a voice to ensure transparency and authenticity of information.



**IGNFA**  
 @IGNFA\_GoI

The official page of Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA)  
 Dehradun, India Joined July 2015  
 23 Following 1,184 Followers

Being an academy of national importance, IGNFA recognized this significance. For the first time, a social media cell is established by IFS 2018 batch, to have a dedicated team update the happenings in IGNFA across multiple social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Twitter. Probationers from different areas of expertise come together and add value in terms of IT, photography, social media marketing, content creation and proofreading etc. Both Instagram and Twitter accounts were created new and maintenance of other existing accounts is being done regularly.

The Cell aims to create awareness about academy activities, act as a platform for senior officers and alumni of IGNFA to interact, share and cherish their memories from the academy and guide the young probationers. It also gives IFS aspirants a sneak peek into the training course of this prestigious civil service and adds to their motivation.



ifs\_ignfa [Follow](#)

50 posts 1,481 followers 52 following

IFS At IGNFA

Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA) is an organisation under the MoEFCC,

to train IFS(All India Service) officers of India.

#IFS #IFSdiaries

[www.ignfa.gov.in](http://www.ignfa.gov.in)

# Souvenir Shop of IGNFA

## Housing your memorabilia

Vejayanantham TR, IFS 2018



### Members, Souvenir Committee

Vejayanantham, along with

Hari Om

Jyoti Kotal

Madhumitha

Praveen A

Shashi Kumar

### And from IFS 2019 -

Chaitanya Kumar Reddy

Nithyanantham

Vivek P

The IGNFA souvenir shop was formed to preserve and promote the unique identity of the Indian Forest Service(IFS) and to promote camaraderie among the officers. It makes available elegantly designed and relevant commemorative items that fits the status and interests of IFS officers.

IGNFA Souvenir Shop was officially inaugurated by erstwhile Director, Dr.Shashi Kumar IFS on 25th April 2017. It was the brain child of IFS 2016 batch to establish great set of souvenirs for officers.

IFS officers to wear it with pride on service and academy. Then IFS 2017 batch continued the tradition and made pamphlets, expanded the products line up. Souvenir Committee was established with IFS probationers as its members. This committee under the able guidance of then Director and Faculties ,worked towards improvement of quality and uniqueness of products.

On May 2018, few probationers from IFS 2018 batch took in charge of IGNFA Souvenir shop. After various rounds of meetings and discussions. Following decisions were made:

1. Expanding the product line ups
2. Starting Packaging and Door step Delivery Service in tie up with Speed Post
3. Establishing Inventory management and billing system
4. Feedback mechanism
5. Displaying all souvenir products in major places of the academy and hostel
6. Dedicated WhatsApp number and Mail Id for Souvenir shop
7. Stalls during Mid-Career Training
8. Thoughtfully designed mementos for Senior officers as a token of gratitude from IGNFA
9. Designing Welcome Kit for IFS 2019 batch.
10. Creation of Webpage with in IGNFA website for ensuring ease of access and visibility

After 3 months of brain and ground work by Souvenir Committee, We have accomplished almost all targets listed above. Diversity of products were expanded from 18 to 45 which ranges from Vibrant Thermo bottles to Wall clocks. Packaging and Courier service is a huge success through which IGNFA Souvenir products decorating Tables and attires of IFS officers all over India. Inventory and Billing

*My father passed away since gathered trails back in '68. I grew up listening to tales of his adventurous life with fellow batchmates. It is such an immense form of memory our parents sleep with us. So, I hope and take out bark in stone for remembrance and celebration of our dear dad. It takes a lot to sustain our effort such as last summer camp, and so, for our own glorification.*

*Such fellow and staff here is very helpful now take the pain and make our applicable effort to keep the legacy alive for the past, present and the progeny to come.*

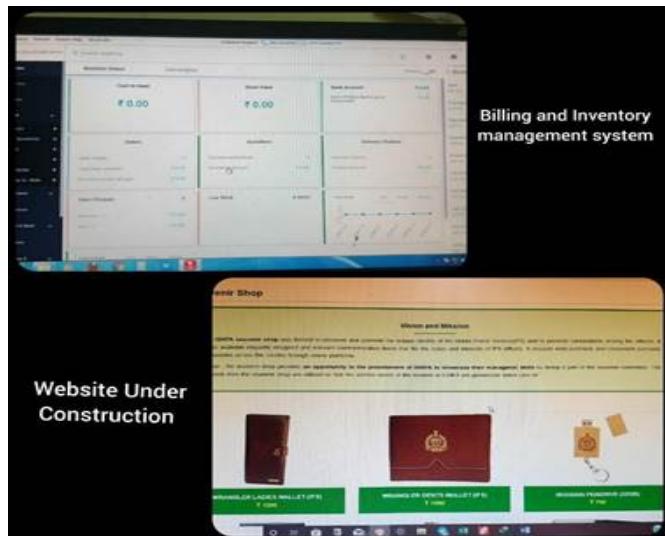
*Please keep it up! I hope my father would rejoice in his memories. I gather, for some time sincere thanks*

*Shashank  
No. 2 Banarsi Dass (PGC F) Mangalore, 575003*

system has been established to enable transparency in billing and accounting. Feedback note has been kept In Souvenir shop to improve upon the suggestions by officers. Souvenir products are now being displayed at three different places : IGNFA, New hostel and Executive hostel. Dedicated WhatsApp number and Mail ID for Souvenir shop with approval from Director IGNFA has been created. Stalls during MCT courses were huge success as Senior officers took the products with pride along with them. One of the well acclaimed initiative of Souvenir shop was to give IGNFA Souvenirs as mementos for Senior officers during tours. From Goa PCCF to Gir Director, Souvenir committee has been receiving appreciation for thoughtfully designed mementos. Souvenir Committee under the able guidance of Course Director ,IFS 2019 batch ,took in charge of designing, procuring and delivering welcome kit for

IFS 2019 batch . IFS tie ,tie pin for Gentleman officers and Lapel pin ,Wallet for Lady officers were given as welcome kit during the batch inauguration. Above all, to make the IGNFA Souvenirs visible and more accessible to all IFS officers of India, IGNFA Souvenir webpage is being updated with virtual display of souvenir products.

To expand the products line up of Souvenir shop like T shirts, Track suits , capital support from the Academy is need of the hour. An expanded, modern, well equipped Souvenir shop infront of new hostel will be more accessible and attractive. With its uniqueness and improved service, souvenir shop helps IFS officers and probationers to take the pride of service and academy along with them. Souvenir committee thanks the Director, Additional Director, faculties and all support staffs of IGNFA who were guiding us throughout this journey.



# Organic Garden in New Hostel

*Living organic is the new luxury*

Hari Krishna PJ, IFS, 2018

An organic vegetable garden was established by probationers of IFS 2018 batch in the premises of New hostel in an area of around 20 cents. The idea bloomed in the minds of few probationers in the initial days for creating a small scale organic garden on trial basis adjacent to old hostel in January 2019. The success of this model motivated us to further scale up the process. The course director of our batch, Smt. Nidhi Srivastava was very enthusiastic about it and gave us full support. She talked to the Director, IGNFA who took keen interest in the initiative and allotted us space in between the E and F blocks of New hostel to establish the garden.

The land preparation was carried out by properly tilling the area and basal application of farm yard manure was done to enrich the soil fertility. Good quality seeds of summer crops., Ladys finger, French beans, Chilly, Pumpkin, Snake gourd and Bitter gourd were procured from authorized sources and sown in the field. Chilly was separately sown in a soft bed nursery and later on transplanted to the main field after 25 days. Timely intercultural operations were done. Biofertilizers from reputed firms were used to correct macro and micronutrient deficiencies. Biopesticides were used to fight pest infestation, mainly of Shoot and fruit borers, Aphids, thrips and mealy bugs. No chemicals in any form were used in the process. We also had to deal with frequent raids by Rhesus macaque. Old football nets from IGNFA pavilion did the trick.

The organic garden yielded very good harvest of Ladys finger and French bean which were used to prepare tasty Bhindi kurkure and vegetable maggi in officers mess. The chilly harvest produced the spicy chilly pickle which was relished by all probationers.

The great success of summer crop paved the way for Winter/Rabi crop. Lettuce, Methi, Rai, Palak and Spinach were sown. The winter crop, currently in the field is registering good yields.



Organic Garden in New Hostel

Methi Parathas and Palak and Rai dishes are trending in Officers mess nowadays.

Special thanks to the gardeners of New hostel, Sri. Teekaram and Sri. Narendra who made all this possible. We also acknowledge the contributions of hostel care takers, Sri. Ashish Nautiyal and Sri. Ranjender.

As foresters, we need to promote such environment friendly initiatives in our respective divisions to ensure healthy, safe and chemical free food production in a sustainable manner.

# Miyawaki Forestry Technique for creating Biofence

**Jones Justin, IFS 2018**



The MFT technique has recently been a watchword in the field of forestry and the Greening movement all over the world for its ability to bring a huge swathe of land under green cover in a relatively short period of time. Using that in the field of forestry for the ecological balancing of a monoculture plantation, sprouted as an idea and so it was taken up as a part of our optional in the academy. After proper study of the technique, the same has now been experimented in a sample plot to ascertain the viability in achieving the set objectives like bio fencing and various other parameters which include soil water conservation, providing a suitable habitat for the birds, insects and small animals of the region so that biodiversity aspect of the region is taken care of.

The sample plot was so designed such that two varieties of distributional patterns (Zig zag and Wedge pattern) are studied along with a controlled sample plot of sufficient normal spacing. The academy, the faculty and its staff members were

really supportive and helpful in setting up every aspect of the plantation. And as you can see in the picture, the batchmates' efforts cannot be discounted in the establishment of the plantation. Special Thanks to karthikeyani and Sumit for their time and efforts.

It has been 5 months since the plantation was established i.e. October, 2019. The initial results are encouraging and the saplings have established themselves. The survival percentage of the plantation has been nearly 98 percent and the readings for various parameters like Height, girth, nodal length leaf surface area, soil organic carbon content and Bio diversity increase are being taken at regular intervals. There's considerable improvement in the biodiversity of the region already. The trial plot for the MFT and the whole plantation will be tested for the next 3 years and the results obtained can be used for testing the viability of the technique in the field conditions for the said objectives.



# Soil and Water conservation work in a village

**Sandip H Suryawanshi, IFS 2018**



## Benefits

The water table in nearby areas has increased significantly. We also diverted some streams from watershed to the village lake which was otherwise going to the river. This has helped to increase the water level of the lake. The plantation work around the project has increased the green cover. The project also promoted harmony in otherwise divided society. Couple of years back there was caste based violence which had resulted in strong polarization. But during our work, people forgot their caste identities and participated enthusiastically. There was an instance where two staunch caste rivals were working at the same CCT and helping each other.

Our village, Manpadale is located in eastern part of the western Ghats. It is surrounded by hills from 3 sides. The average rainfall is very good but due to mismanagement of the water, village faces drought like situation in every summer. Water scarcity in summers had become an annual affair. I wanted to do something to address this problem. After getting selected into IFS in 2018, I got this opportunity to initiate community mobilization to conserve water.

Jakhale, the nearby village having same geographical factors was also facing the problem of water scarcity. They were doing soil and water conservation work since last 3 years and were getting good result. I visited that village, saw their work, talked with the sarpanch who led that work. Further we invited sarpanch and his team to our village to guide the villagers. He gave an excellent presentation about SWC work. He also showed us photos of how the village was before starting SWC work and what it became once they finished the work. Then we organized the transect walk in our village and the watershed area. During the transect walk, we demarcated different watersheds. We took help of the people who regularly visits such areas for grazing the animals and other activities. They knew the direction and the volume of run off in different watersheds. This traditional knowledge was crucial for our work. Moreover, I had studied Agricultural Engineering as an optional subject while preparing for Indian Forest Service Examination. That knowledge also helped us in determining and designing the watershed structures. Different structures were decided according to slopes, soil conditions and terrain. On lesser slopes, CCT and staggered trenches, and on medium slopes small earthen dams were decided. On steep slopes reducing runoff velocity was priority and hence small check dams and loose boulder structures(LBS) were preferred. We discussed this plan with the team and created proper strategy.



## Learnings

- Community and especially youth have immense energy. There is need to channelize it.
- We, being foresters have larger scope of working in soil and water conservation projects.
- Innovative use of media including social media can be done in community mobilisation.
- When you have good intentions, funding is not an issue. People from society are ready to contribute for honest and selfless work.
- We should not get demoralized by lesser participation at initial stages.
- We can get good support from the local politicians as well.
- Water management is essential everywhere, be it water surplus or water deficit area.



Same evening we organized a meeting with other villagers to discuss the strategy and the scope of the work. However, participation was very low and only 30 people turned up. We explained the plan and strategy and finally decided to start the work from the next morning. However on the next day only 5-7 people turned up for the work. We used to work from 5:30 am to 8:30 am daily. We constructed all the structures manually through Shramdan.

Then we approached youth groups in the village which were formed for the celebration of Ganeshji Festival. We had meeting with them and convinced them about the importance of water conservation for overall development of the village. This helped to increase youth participation. Further we talked with women SHGs (there are 12 such SHGs in the village). They also participated in the work. Surprisingly women and girls were more active and sincere in their participation as against their male counterparts. However, the participation from villagers was not sufficient yet so we planned to involve people from outside also.

We talked with the youth groups from neighbouring villages (yoga groups, cycling groups, doctor groups, gym members) and asked them to participate in Shramdan once a week. We took help of social media and created group called Paani Foundation, Manpadale and posted daily updates in the group. Thus daily 15 to 20 people started coming from the outside. These regular updates motivated many people and the participation started increasing. With increase in response, local politicians like ZP members took notice of the work and started donating equipment required for the work. They also provided JCB machine for 10 days to construct deep CCT of 1m depth.

One day we organized Mahashramdan for mass scale participation. We announced our programme through print media, social media and local TV channels and appealed to the people from outside and cities to participate. I also approached competitive exam centres and invited aspirants to spend one day at our work. We also invited district officials on this day.

Mahashramdan was a mega program where most of the people from village participated along with the outsiders. Total participation was around 700 people. Villagers had organized breakfast and refreshments for outsiders. The media also took notice of this mega event and ongoing movement. This further motivated villagers to participate in the work. After few days, DM also visited our work and praised the efforts put in. He announced funding of 25 lakhs through Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan of Government of Maharashtra. One businessman from the city got to know about our work and pledged to plant 500 trees at our site. Then we appealed to village youth to celebrate their birthdays by planting at least 10 trees at our site. This has now become a new trend in our village to plant trees on the birthdays.

At the end we could create around 470 CCTs, 50 deep CCTs, 80 LBS and 20 to 30 small earthen dams. One CCT can store water equivalent to one tanker capacity.

# IFS training 2019 - First quarter rundown of one of the most diverse training programmes in India

Compiled by Ramsundar M, Harshraj, Abhimanyu

## Inauguration of IFS 2019 Batch

Inaugural function of the IFS (P) Professional Course 2019-21 was held at IGNFA. Shri C. K. Mishra, IAS, Secretary, MoEF&CC was the Chief Guest of the event. Shri Praveen Garg, Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor, MoEF&CC graced the event as Guest of honour.



## Weapon training at IMA

IFS probationers (2019) underwent weapon training in Indian Military Academy, Dehradun. Hands on experience with major platoon weapons including 5.56 mm INSAS rifle, Carbine Machine Gun and 9mm pistol was provided. Also had an unique opportunity of firing INSAS rifle. The valedictory function was addressed by Major Paramveer, Assistant Weapon training officer and Subedar Sanjay Kumar, Param veer chakra awardee shared his experiences of Kargil war with the probationers.



## Leadership Module: Dale Carnegie

The IFS probationers underwent a 3 day workshop on leadership module 'Develop Your Leadership Potential' by Dale Carnegie institution between December 26-28, 2019 as a part of Indo-German Cooperation Project. The session in the early days of the 2019 batch was crucial in building bridges of friendship and shedding light on the person within each of participants beyond the identity of officers.

## Harvest Utsav 2020

Following the tradition of celebrating Unity in diversity, this year too IFS probationers of the 2019 batch celebrated the harvest festivals - Pongal, Makar Sankranti and Lohri on (date). Traditional games like Kite flying, Uriyadi (Dahi Handi), Tug of war were conducted with enthusiastic participation from the probationers, faculty members and their family. Following the event, traditional Lunch was organised. A special mention has to be made about the contribution of our senior batch of 2018 probationers without whom this event would have been impossible.



## Introductory Tour - Chandrapur

A week long introductory tour for IFS2019 batch at Chandrapur division, Maharashtra opened up visual stream of knowledge which so far was restricted to forestry books. For probationers it was more productive in the sense of knowledge, reality check, networking and camaraderie in the service.

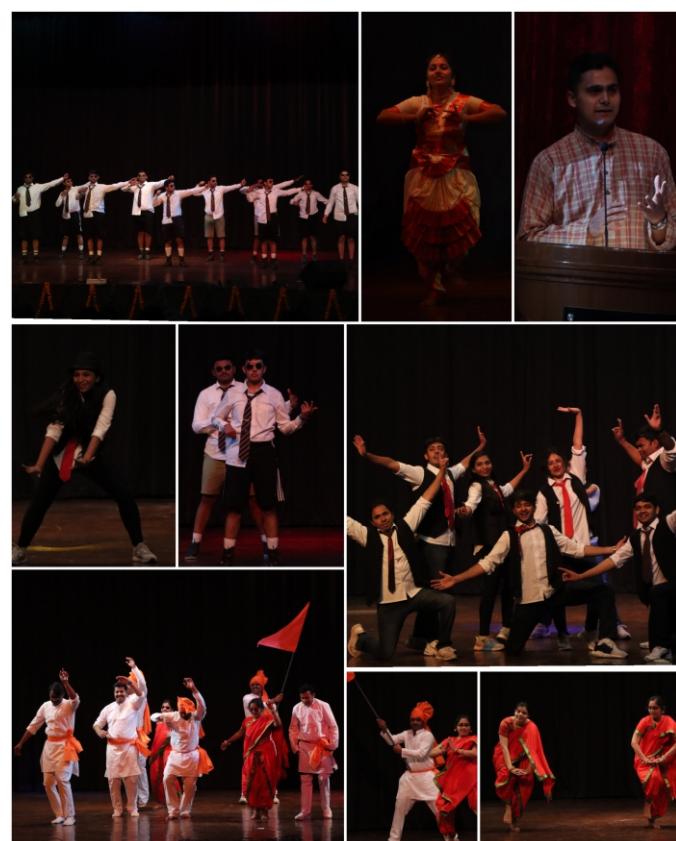
During the visit probationers met Forest officers of all level and observed their experiences in the service. This was also first-hand attempt to observe Forest administration, Wildlife conservation, Human Animal interface, Special projects undertaken by forest department, Production forestry and digital technologies utilized in wildlife and forest resource management. Visits were not restricted to Forest areas and Protected areas of Tadoba reserve but also to Bamboo Research and Training Center, Chandrapur Forest Academy, Timber e-auction center, etc.,

Overall the trip was successful, productive and full of learning from hands on experiences. Thanks to #CCF Chandrapur, IGNFA professors, forest staff and other ground staff for remain patient throughout the tour. They provided probationers with immense knowledge which will be useful in their respective cadres.



## Sheetotsav - Winter Carnival

Day 1 of Sheetotsav - Winter Carnival was celebrated in IGNFA with great ardour and enthusiasm. The dance performances of IFS probationers 2019 was a potpourri of Indian languages and cultures. The insightful yet entertaining drama "Clash of civilization" deciphered the Human-animal interface. Expressionless dance and Shayari (Urdu Poetry) stole the show.



In the Day 2 of Sheetotsav - Winter Carnival at IGNFA, play "ANDHA YUG" was performed. It was written by renowned novelist, poet, and playwright Dharamvir Bharati and Directed by Joy Masinam.

The play was performed by professional artists from Treasure Art Association, Manipur. The play was set on the events of Mahabharata war expressing how war could dehumanize individuals and society.

Director & Faculties of IGNFA, Faculties & Members from other institutions including CASFOS, FRI and IFS probationers of 2018 and 2019 batch enjoyed the rich theatrical performance.

## World Wetland Day Celebrations

World Wetland Day was celebrated in IGNFA yesterday (2nd Feb). Quiz competition and drawing competition on the theme "Wetlands" were organised for IFS (P) 2019 batch. It was followed by Guest lecture on 'Wetland conservation' by Dr. S. A. Hussain, Scientist, WII. The winners of the competition were awarded with cash prizes.



## Observers in Convention on Migratory Species, CoP13

Group of IFS probationers of 2019 batch attended Convention on Migratory Species, CoP13 summit at Mahatma Mandi, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. They participated in stakeholder Dialogue for CMS-NGO Coordination. And also had session with State Environment Minister and PCCF & HOFF of Gujarat.

Other Group of IFS (P) 2019 visited the concluding session of Convention on Migratory Species, CoP13 summit at Gandhinagar. They interacted with Shri. Babul Supriyo, Hon'ble Minister of State for MoEF&CC.

Dr. DK Sharma, PCCF & HOFF of Gujarat enlightened the probationers on various aspects of event organisation and proceedings of CoP13 on behalf of Gujarat Forest Department. The IFS probationers also received a unique opportunity to observe negotiation proceedings of the CoP as observers of the GoI.



## West India Tour

IFS (P) of 2019 batch successfully completed their West India tour. In the entire tour Probationers visited various cities in UP, Rajasthan and Gujarat where they learned different management aspects of wildlife, desert ecosystem, eco-tourism, urban pollution, wetlands, etc. The major visits of study included Itawah lion safari, Keoladeo NP, Ranthambore NP, Desert NP, Wild Ass sanctuary, Marine NP and Gir NP.

The tour also covered different research institutions like AFRI, GEER. IFS Probationers also got a unique opportunity to attend COP13 of CMS. Ultimately the tour was a mixture of exposure to different landscapes that helped in understanding the diverse role of the IFS.



# Birds and Birders of IGNFA

## What is bird watching?

It's an art of observing birds and their behaviors. From their habitat to migration, avid bird watchers go in depth about the bird behaviour and document the same.

## Why bird watching?

It's like hunting. Previously, hunters used to hunt the birds and animals. They got a sense of satisfaction. Now bird watchers and wildlife enthusiasts spot them and catch them in their cameras and get sense of satisfaction.

## Benefits of bird watching:

1. It's in a way high value and low volume tourism for those who want to capture birds and their behaviors (like flying shot, fishing shot etc). They need to buy huge lenses to get those shots as birds are small and u can't get near birds too much to get that shot.
2. It can be established anywhere. Any state in India has minimum of 100 plus birds diversity. Promoting them is very easy. Make a garden, pond, perches, one can attract many birds to that area.

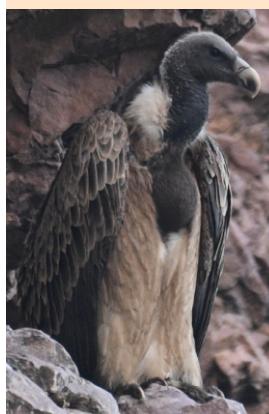
## Bharat Chintapalli, IFS(P), 2018

Bharat started birding after coming to IGNFA and his Instagram page now proudly boasts of 300+ birds, taken in their natural habitats. Diversity of birds ranges from common mynah, peacock to critically endangered Red Headed Vulture. He is now the (official) bird aficionado of IGNFA. :)

Interest : Raptors

Camera specs - Nikon D500 camera with Nikkor 200-500mm VR lens

Follow him at [https://www.instagram.com/bharat\\_ifs/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/bharat_ifs/?hl=en)



Indian Vulture, Bayana Cliff, Rajasthan  
Critically Endangered



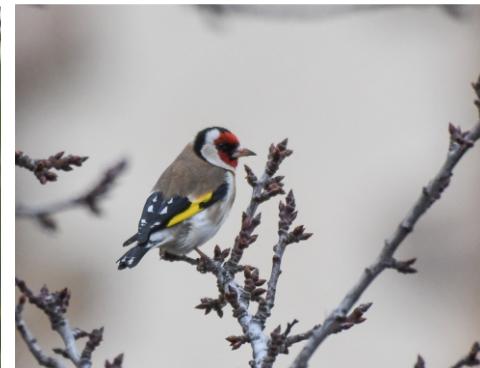
Red Headed Vulture, Panna  
Critically Endangered



Dusky Eagle-Owl, Panna



Common Iora in Sacon, Bangalore



Gold Finch, Spain

## Anand Reddy, IFS(P), 2018

Anand belongs to the new batch of birding enthusiasts, with his hobby being only 3 month old. He could still manage to photograph over a hundred birds, thanks largely to IFS training tours and the mighty FRI campus. Apart from being fun, he believes birding opens up new vistas of experiencing the natural world.

Camera Specs : Nikon D7500 with 70-300 mm VR lens

You can follow him at

[https://www.instagram.com/anandreddy\\_ifs/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/anandreddy_ifs/?hl=en)

Especially if it is migratory route of birds. Just a binoculars to your child is enough to satisfy him or her. Take them to bird watching to near by garden, ask them to observe the bird behaviour, it's as thrilling as seeing tigers in wild.

3. USA bird watching is already a 10 billion dollar industry. Dedicated gear, books, bird watching groups, academies are already on it. Birds are already providing livelihood opportunities for atleast thousands of people in places like Bharathpur, Vedanthangal, Eagle nest, Pulicat, Koringa which solely depend on bird watching related tourism or "bird tourism".

4. Unlike mammals, birds won't betray you. Wake up at 6, and go for bird watching, it's almost 100% sure that you can have a fishing shot of Pelican in Bharatpur and many shot of flamingoes at Pulicat warming themselves in the morning sun.

5. It gives you more sensitivity to ecological issues. If you start observing bird behaviour, you can understand how a single tree is home for hundreds of birds. You will think twice before doing any damage to ecosystem.

- Vejayanantham TR, IFS 2019



Spot - Billed Pelican  
Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary



Blue- Capped Redstart  
FRI Campus



Himalayan bulbul  
FRI Campus



Coppersmith Barbet  
Coimbatore



Baya Weaver, FRI



Brahminy Kite,  
Dhanushkodi

### Vejayanantham TR, IFS(P), 2018

Vejay too was a novice in birding when he came to the academy. He took up the hobby as observing their behaviour helped him appreciate small things in life, and now makes him be more responsible and sensitive to the environment.

Interest : Water birds

Camera Specs : Nikon D5600, Nikkor 200-500mm-lens



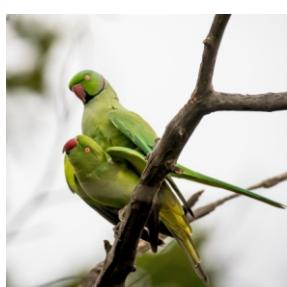
Common Kingfisher



Darter, Bharatpur



White Throated Kingfisher



Parrots Mating, Keoladeo



(Camouflaged) Owl, Bharatpur



A pair of Sarus Cranes, Keoladeo  
They pair for life, stand as a symbol of love.

**Harikrishnan PJ, IFS(P), 2018**

Hari too bought his first camera after coming to IGNFA. Watching birds with 83X zoom in their natural habitat, in close quarters piqued his interest and led to this hobby.

Interest : Raptors and wildlife in general.

Camera : Nikon P900

Follow him at

[https://www.instagram.com/harikrishnan\\_ifs/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/harikrishnan_ifs/?hl=en)



Indian Spot-Billed Duck,  
Okhla Bird Sanctuary

Mute Swans,  
Estonian Country side



Eurasian Teals,  
Okhla Bird Sanctuary



Great Cormorant,  
Keoladeo NP, Rajasthan



Great White Pelican,  
Okhla Bird Sanctuary, Noida

**Shashi, IFS 2018**

Birds are Colorful. This is the simple reason that drew Shashi into bird photography. He shoots with Nikon D750 200-500 mm/f5.6 and is a proud owner of Mavic2Pro drone.



European Herring Gull, Estonia



Mallard Duck, Tallinn

**Dhananjay Waybhase, IFS 2019**

Looking at his batchmates' awe-inspiring pics inspired Dhananjay to take up birding. Now he is one of the core members of IGNFA photographers & has ample of unique wildlife pics in his collection.

Interest : Critically Endangered Birds.

Camera used - Nikon D100

Lens - Tamron 18-400



**The Great Indian Bustard** - Now critically endangered - looks at the windmills - wondering about its survival

**Kasturi Sule, IFS 2019**

Kasturi has been into birding since her childhood and cultivating the hobby by visiting birding hot spots in India. In recent years, her interests include bird identification and Nature Photography.

Camera - Nikon D100

Lens - Tamron 18-400



The long billed Vulture (Indian Vulture) -  
Ambassador of the Swacch Jungle Mission  
It is critically endangered.



Black Necked Stork  
Kaziranga National Park, Assam



Grey Headed Fish Eagle

**Abhimanyu, IFS 2019**

Snake Bird / Darter

**Chirag Jain, IFS 2019**

Chirag interest in nature photography and particularly in birds is quite recent, perhaps thanks to his visits to Gir, Ranthambore and Keoladeo during West India Tour.

Camera specs- canon eos 200d

Lens- 55 to 250 mm



Grey Heron

# The Sunrise of Togetherness at IGNFA

**N Ravisankar Sarma, IFS(P) 2019**

The very afternoon a bus full of probationers with their heavier luggage swept through the gates of FRI campus into the Old Hostel, we could feel the blossoming of a bond of togetherness between us young aspiring foresters staring at the foothills of a steep climb. It is this feeling of oneness, my heart espouses, that will be the hallmark of these 16 months, that will be the stepping stone of our careers and that which will grow into a tree that shades each of us from anything untoward.

The chilliest of misty mornings here have been endured by this bonding and positive pressure between us peers. How else could one explain the icy walk to the ground for the morning PT our ears tuned to the calls of "Dodke Ayiye", the 2.5km run or the strenuous exercises. It is surely not the triumph of the self alone, but for equal measure the effort of other on your left, right, forward and behind that light the fire banishing the ice of mother nature and our own thoughts of idle comfort.

Our classrooms named after trees are a metaphor to the get-togethers around the big tree in village circles or junctions. This togetherness brings a diversity of perspectives and knowledge each complementing the other and in effect completing us as a group. Whether learning the language of the other, cracking a joke to entertain us or dozing off defeatedly, the chain of 73 keeps us alive.

Our days at IGNFA are punctuated by the many meals we share across the dinner table discussing sports, politics, movies and literature. It is here that we as an All India Service Probationers feel and learn the rich diversity and culture of each other whether it be the Pongal of Tamil Nadu, Bengali movies, Hindi songs or the



Picture Credit : Manas Singh, IFS(P) 2019

languages of North-East.

The evenings here in the backdrop of setting sun and lush green ground witnesses this bond of togetherness as we take to the field for various Games. With many looking to pick up a new game and many guiding them through the baby steps, this becomes very evident. Games becomes an avenue of cultivating the team spirit, of belief in the other, coordination, selflessness and trust binding our spirit of togetherness.

The leadership module further lowered the curtains between us and each of us stood further moved, inspired and desiring the friendship of our counterparts understanding in the process the personality, the values and the commonalities that unite us as human beings more than officers.

Yet winter is yet to bide goodbye and the sun has just risen on our days here and beyond in different parts of India. Here is wishing that this spirit of togetherness and friendship beyond boundaries of race, caste, religion, gender, language or state prospers further as we journey in life and in different parts of our country drawing in the Spring and Summer of our academy life sketching the very idea of India within and among us.

# Estonia, Finland and Russia, through my Eyes

**Ayush Verma, IFS 2018**



Foreign tour is a much awaited stint for any probationer. I feel blithe and buoyant as I pen down my experience of the visit to three nations viz. Estonia, Finland and Russia. Not only was it a joyous learning experience to witness the forestry practices of these nations, but also, this tour etched, life-long memories in my grey matter and over a thousand snapshots in my smart-phone's memory!

Estonia-a nation popular for its e-governance, women empowerment and image of it being hi-tech as it is the progenitor of Skype and dons an Online Voting System since 2005, also houses awe-striking pristine forests.

Lahemaa National Park visit was memorable for as we strolled through it, we witnessed the snow-clad landscape of bogs, meadows and a plethora of coniferous trees. Lectures on E-governance and Overview of Forestry in Estonia helped us appreciate the high degree of freedom that its citizens enjoy both in information utility and in ownership and management of private forests.

Finland, dubbed as one of the most advanced nations, with an almost permanent position in the top spots on all indices of development, is not without good reasons.

Having stayed here for over a week, I was impressed by the law abiding citizens, impeccable traffic systems with compulsory rest, regular breaks and drunk-test for the public transport bus driver before he commences the ride, emphasis on an egalitarian society with high dignity of labour, outlook of work-life balance and a near-cipher



gender gap in empowerment!

On technical front, Finnish Bio-economy is emphasized through Luke, high professionalism of Metsahallitus – state forest department, data intensive resource mapping using LIDAR by Arbonaut, belief in 'Wood Is Good' by utilizing it as a construction material by WoodJoensuu, high-efficiency forest machinery and Safety PPE adopted by Forest Owners Association.

Zoo outreach and Education by Korkeasaari Zoo and a prompt forest-fire management – to list a few – were the key takeaways.

While Private forests are dominant in Finland and Estonia, support and technical assistance by the state governments through online platforms like metsaan.fi and provisioning of considerable freedom to individual owners like promotion of Rural Eco-tourism, as witnessed in Naaranlahti, speaks volumes as to how Sustainable Forest Management is the mainstay for these nations.

Russia, back home, popular as India's trusted

friend, bears much semblance to India, as we witnessed hierarchy-based institutions, state-owned forests and yes, on a lighter note, multiple layers of checks and procedures as we witnessed in Visa-on-arrival!!

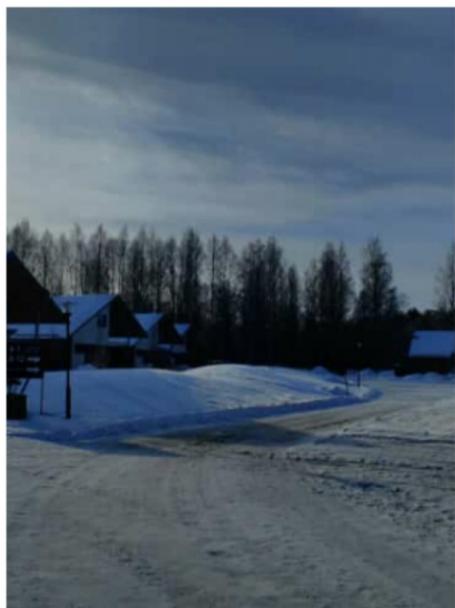
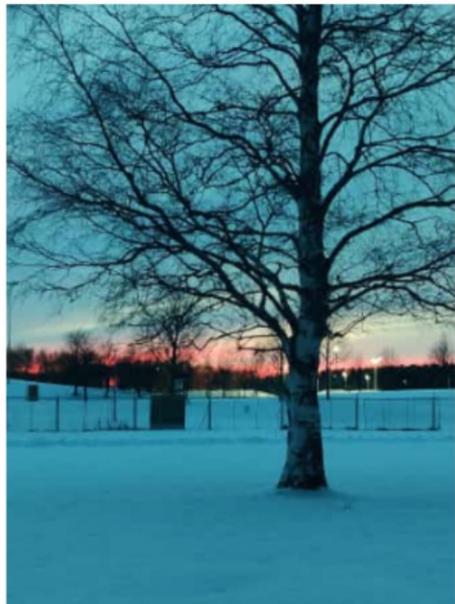
While we relished with great fervor the culture of St. Petersburg and Moscow, trying to cover the major tourist hot-spots, we could unmistakably notice the medley of high degree of state-control on institutions yet the lively ambience of buzzing bazaars, as if they were freely expressing the vibes of their long history and vibrant culture!

Leasing of forests to private entities with clear definition of its allowed usage and no ambiguity in

its forest laws, along with high degree of monitoring to prevent and fight forest fires are some of the lessons learnt from Russia.

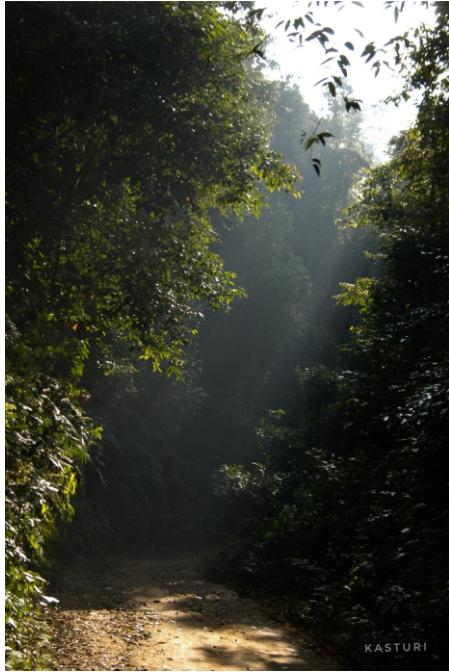
Thus concluded our three-legged foreign tour, with a perfect balance of learning and cultural exposure.

From the stay at Forest Capital of Europe- Joensuu to the guided city tour of Moscow, from the drop-by at Swedish airport to the halt at Vyborg, Russia and from the glimpses of Medieval Europe at Old Town, Estonia to the jazzy street music and adroit street arts of St. Petersburg, Russia – this foreign tour is bound to make me misty-eyed, down the life's lane!

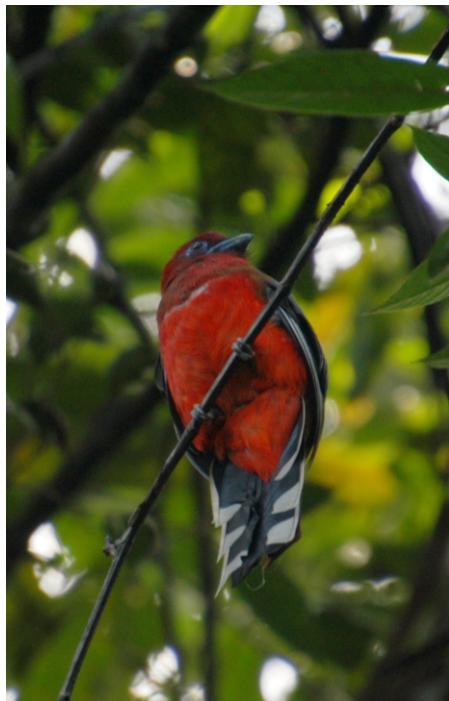


# Jeypore - One of Assam's Best Kept Secret

**Kasturi Sule, IFS 2019**



The thick forest with few sun rays penetrating inside



Red Headed Trogon

Getting into the vehicle and I was immediately asked by our driver at Jorhat "Madam, why are we going to that remote place? There is no "spot" there. There is only forest everywhere and nothing to see. Nobody goes there". I realized that it was going to be more an exploration than anything else. I must admit I was a little nervous of going into unexplored territories of Assam but when I reached there I simply fell in love with nature all over again.

This unique place was Joypur or Jeypore. It is a quiet village surrounded by the tea gardens of towns like Naharkatia and bordered by the oil well of India, Digboi. Jeypore boasts to have the only rainforests of Assam. The protected area of Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary is nestled between this tea and oil hub.

Once we entered the DPWS through the Joypur range, the tea gardens were left behind. It was early in the morning and the mist was still lingering cozy around the trees. There were thick and tall forests all around. There was dense and diverse undergrowth alongside the tall trees. The canopy levels were very well defined with fern and like undergrowth at the bottom with no visible ground as such. A middle level growing tree with some large umbrella canopies caught our eye and so did the tallest ones whose tops broke our necks when attempting to look at for a long time. The forest was so dense that even if an entire elephant herd would have been standing at a distance of 5 feet , it would have been impossible to spot it. Birding I thought was just impossible in this setting.

As we walked down the muddy path, all ears and eyes were determined to catch even the slightest sound or movement in the thick foliage. Just then a few birds flew by. White throated bulbul ! The birdman of Maguri, Mr. Jibon Datta, accompanying us, identified them instantly. Oh ! They were gone before I could even spot them. Now I knew that I had to be more alert and receptive.

The forest grew denser and darker as we penetrated further inside. At a place there was a tree with a variety of bird calls. We waited there and Mr.Jibon identified at least six different species of birds on the same tree. And these six were all very rare birds. There was this superb blue winged leaf bird. Its majestic blue colour shining in the early sun rays. The black patch on its throat adorned it with a vibrant contrast. Just then another one – a velvet fronted nuthatch. What on earth were these creatures? A whole new world of birds !! Simply an untouched



Leech



The quiet lake where white winged wood ducks are sighted

paradise . So many rare species at a single place! While I was struggling to spot these in my binoculars and camera, there came the black throated sunbird . What a magnificent shiny maroon colour it had. A group of flower peckers were also fluttering around. In the meanwhile, some spangled drongos came in. Finally I gave up my lame attempts of trying to capture them and simply enjoyed their sight. It was mesmerizing.

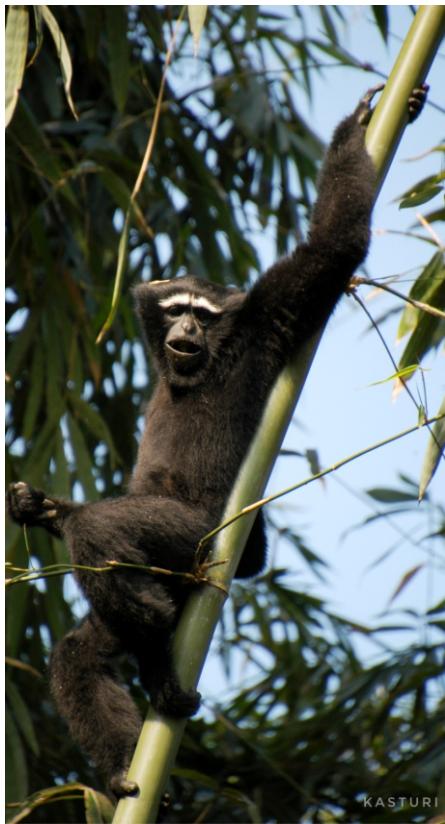
Then came a very special bird. We all have this one favourite corner in our mind for something which we believe is just a masterpiece of the creator. For me, this bird was like a dream bird. It would be the first one I turn to ever since childhood every time I browsed Salim Ali's book. It was bright red and crow sized, sitting majestically in a small opening of the foliage. It was a Red Headed Trogan ! I couldn't believe that it was real. Such a beautiful bright colored bird really existed ? And what great luck I had ...I was seeing it before my eyes ! Blessed.

The path was getting wetter and stickier. These forests host numerous insects all through the year. The forests have such beautiful treasures hidden in them and also have their own defenses to preserve that treasure. Big fat leeches were continuously attempting to ambush us. As we would stand to sight a bird, a dozen leeches had to be removed from over our shoes and pants.

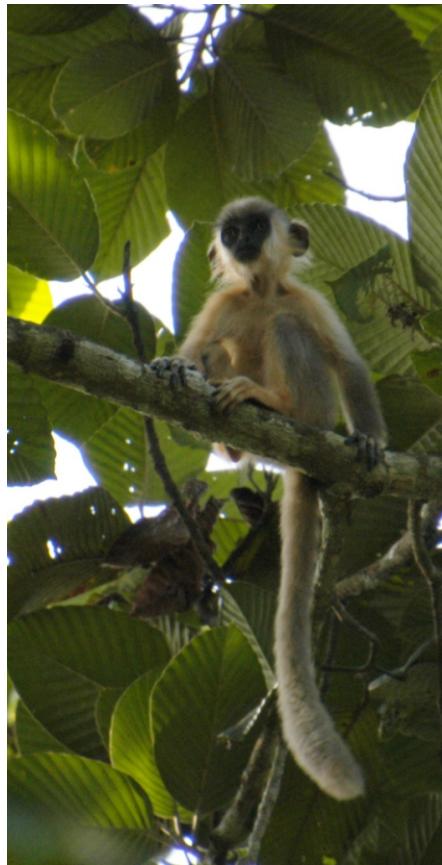
Just when I was struggling with the leech attack, something just left me overwhelmed. It was a sultan tit. A bulbul sized bird with bright yellow underparts and a black back. But the highlight was its royal yellow crest . The crest explained and justified its name – the Sultan Tit.

The bird, butterfly, insect and plant feast just made us forget about having lunch altogether.

Mr. Jibon knew about a spot where the critically endangered white winged wood duck was seen. So we went to the other side of the Dehing Patkai range. This was very close to the Digboi oil well. We walked into a damp dense forest through overgrown lianas, marshy sinking mud, swampy trees and innumerable leeches. "Do you want to keep going or shall we go back?" Mr. Jibon enquired seeing us struggling to make way in the forest. The drive to see the duck kept us going. We reached a lake which was just serene. It was calm, and surrounded by the thickest possible vegetation. The lake was as scary as it was serene. I had never seen such untouched virginity , something that was just fascinatingly wild !! We did not have the luck to see the duck, but the whole effort gave me a glimpse of the insignificance of my existence in this world. As we stepped out of the muddy path, a huge truck passed us. I learnt that one of the oil wells was very close by and the truck movement here was very heavy. My



Male Hoolock Gibbon



Capped Langur young one

head started spinning. Oil - the most precious resource and the critically endangered bird - another precious thing, just neighboring each other....what was going to be their future ?

It was afternoon, and we were sipping tea at a small shack outside the forest when we heard maddening shouts. It was like some crazy school kids were yelling and hooting. Mr. Jibon jumped and said "Leave the tea, let's go".

What was the urgency about, I wondered. Was it some kind of ambush or what was happening. We rushed into our cars and he drove us out of the village and back to forest. The shouts were getting louder. Why was he taking us closer to the hooters ? He got down and asked us to follow him. We walked a little inside the forest and he started smiling. "Look up", he said softly. Oh Wow!! I could not believe my eyes, it was a troupe of the Hoolock Gibbons. Such flexibility and agility they had, they performed acrobatics on the lianas up there. Hooting and yelling like crazy kids, these apes were a treat to watch.

In the evening just before sunset we decided to turn back. On the way back, the forests were getting dark. The thick forests made it difficult for light to penetrate. Thus the ambience of the forest had now begun to change. The bird activity had a different pattern. Everyone seemed to be in a hurry to wind up the days business. The insects had begun to set the tempo for the night by kirrring. The jungle that was in the morning delightfully waking up now seemed to be preparing for the dark. Elephants were out, we were told by passersby. We were on foot. We had to be extra cautious. Sunset was also leopard time. The cold and dampness were slowly taking over . Nature is as powerful as beautiful it is. You may love it, but it may not love you back. The night forest can be merciless. A single move of carelessness or overconfidence can cost you a lot. Once again I realized, how powerless and insignificant I was before the infinite possibilities and strengths of nature.

I had entered this forest in the morning with great hope and delight. The day went beyond my expectation. It had enriched me. I learnt to appreciate nature better. I also learnt to keep distance at the right time. I learnt that survival instinct is God for every creature -small or big- plant, insect, animal or man. As the sun set, I was walking out, a little reluctant to leave this heaven, but with a heart filled with gratitude, respect, peace and satisfaction.

# Encountering Aditi

Ramsundar M, IFS 2019

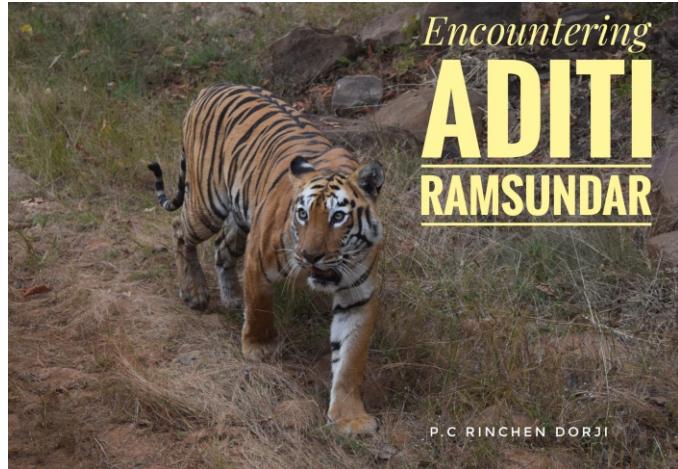


We the humans fought up ourselves. Only to get in the window seat of wildlife safari bus to get a closer encounter of tigers. The shops, resorts and homestay boards were evanescing in the road as the bus passes through. The bamboos and bushes emerges in that red rugged road. The excitement grips when the first spotted deer was spotted by us. My binocular visualised it's exquisitely movement of grazing down the grasses, gentle look at us, then again keep on grazing. Spotted deers were in groups, some standing, some were sitting down to chew and glancing us and some glistening male antlers walks with their big antlers.

Then our Safari stopped near the wintry stream. We could see the number of spotted deers in green islands of that stream. There were sambhars distributed individually here and there, wild boars were also present in the scattered islands of streams. One unique opportunity to notice through my binocular was a male deer completely immersed in stream with only its head and antlers outside. I didn't move my binoculars away from it, it was hard for me to realise whether it was a deer or just a rock. It was a deer standing in the moving stream like a rock. The reflection of antlers in water made it even more adorable. Single trees of the green islands acted as bird perchers.

"We miss most of the beauty of forest, only because we run behind tigers." said a senior forest officer to us before leaving for safari. So true. The forest is not only a top carnivores but also a smallest butterfly that crosses you elegantly shattering its wings. The eyes of dragonfly is even more dreadful than eyes of Gir lion, if you note it. But I couldn't settle myself with all this beauty. Yeah, Hero is missing. It is my first opportunity to get into a tiger reserve. It would be really sad if we didn't see a tiger.

Another Safari jeep was approaching our Safari bus with an information that they spotted Aditi. Aditi is the female adult of the tiger reserve and it is



marking its territorial boundary. We were rushing to the spot to get a glimpse of her. Everyone was ready with their cameras, handy video recorder and myself with my binoculars. The bus was jumping over the undulated road of jungle creating red dust. I could feel the smell of jungle. There was silence everywhere except the moving bus. All our senses were directed to a single question, "Will Aditi be seen ?".

Bus stopped suddenly well behind a curved road. There was a hissing sounds from all among us 'tiger' 'tiger'. Yeah it was a tiger approaching us slowly. Guide whispered 'It is Aditi'. I was watching her through my binoculars, not her exactly, her eyes, her claws and understandable stripes. She was stepping towards us without any hesitation or shy. It was silence in the bus and only clicking and shuttering sounds of cameras only occupied the jungle. Yes Aditi is well deserved for that, Aditi here doesn't mean she alone but her entire family and her entire species. It was as if a royal queen was walking amidst the flashing photos. Word 'Royal' in the Royal Bengal Tiger was aptly proved by Aditi.

As I was watching, Aditi was near the bus front. I removed my eye from the binoculars to watch her with my naked eye. She was just five feet away from me, just walking elegantly. Step after step with her flawless paws. She never mind about us or other

tourists. She totally ignored every one of us. She walked as if reminding us, the forest service officers "I'm the King of the forest, not you guys. Keep it in mind, you guys are going to serve me never think to control me". She is used to people unlike other forest tigers. She walked as if wondering tourists, "When I was pregnant and finding shelter in the abandoned land of yours, you pelted upon me stones, burst crackers to chase me up. Now you're here to watch me, this is my hospitality dear Homo sapiens". She also looked to our guide who was also a forest Officer and might have questioned "Why do you bring other humans again here ? Once we were displayed in circus, then zoos and now safari. Doesn't Privacy apply to us". Her each step was a question to every individual there, our silence was a surrender to her questions.

She suddenly turned to her left and looked at a family sitting at Safari jeep. There was a family of four with an adult male. She might have thought, 'I teach my cubs hunting and chase them away to live their own life. You humans, neither allow your children to pursue their dream nor the child will

shed the name tag that parents earned.' She was now at the distant back of bus, I turned to my binoculars for a closer view of her movements. Our guide told us that Aditi is marking her territory. "Each tiger has a territory and it will not allow other tigers to allow it, they are territorial animals," he said. Finally, I found a similarity between Aditi and us. Humans created a social animals like elephants, ants and apes. But now he behaves like a tiger, making his own territory in the name of religion, culture, caste and language.

Aditi passed us, we saw her, an adult female tiger just next to us. She was moving slowly besides me igniting me millions of questions. But in her courageous walk, she spoke everything that forest would like to express.

### **Story by Ramsundar M**

*(Aditi is the imaginary name given to that tiger by me, to get the readers connected with the tiger. It doesn't reflect any other tigers or any humans. All opinions expressed are personal. The place, visit and tigers are imaginary. Pictures are representational, Picture credits: Rinchen Dorji)*



# A Walk of Joy at Bharatpur

**N Ravisankar Sarma, IFS(P) 2019**



The sun had just risen and the air around us so cold when we hustled along to the entrance to the Birders paradise binoculars and cameras wrapped around our necks as we baby step in to this hobby of birding as foresters. As soon as the DFO in charge briefed us about the park vouching for enjoyment as the preface to learning, we set out on the heavenly walk cradled between wetland that was paradise for birds from here and beyond.

Marching along with us was Bhupendra ji our guide for the day, a walking encyclopedia of birds of Keoladeo with an eye as sharp as the birds themselves.

We kept walking along the path listening to his calls and command amazed by the view of birds he would ready for us in his periscope. He amazed us with his knowledge so much that it became taken for granted that he knew every bird regardless of its habitat, shape, colour or place of origin. One could feel his heart leap with joy as he guided us around and our hearts resonated with the love for birds and nature. He seemed at exactly the right place in this large world enamoured by the green of the trees, the waters and the rainbow of colours of birds.

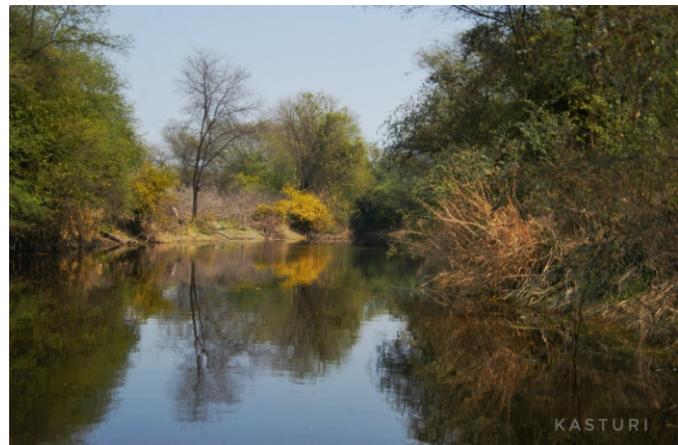
As we were reaching the end point our walk, our hearts now content and happy, he casually asked my friend, " Ma'am, You are from Maharashtra. Do you know your state bird? ". " Green pigeon", pat came the reply, she being an avid birder herself.

The sooner he heard the answer he readied his periscope turning to his right and exclaimed with joy, "Here it is ma'am, in the periscope, Green pigeon. Your state bird". I saw him smile and we couldn't but reciprocate it, such was his joy, pure, infectious and multiplying.

As we prodded to the climax of our morning walk, he further opened his heart to the joy of being in



The Magic Walk, Photo Credit : Abhimanyu



KASTURI

lap of nature all his life, ears strained to the sounds of leaves rustling, birds calling, rivers flowing, seeing the green every day and the rays of the sun through the canopy. 'What more can I ask for madam? I am happy in my life serving the nature and being surrounded by nature'.

As we returned from Bharatpur, my mind kept going back to the image of this man, his innocent smile, his joy, his love and passion for his job as a naturist and guide; that he is one among many of the guardians and compatriots of forest and nature whose sacrifice and passion reverberates across the forests and beyond is the greatest blessing for our motherland and for mother nature.

# पितृतुल्य पहाड़ पर्वत

Prashant Tomar

रविवार की सुस्त सुबह । चाय की चुस्की लेते-लेते अपने एक घनिष्ठ मित्र से बातों का दौर शुरू हो गया । अच्छा मौसम था । धूप खिली थी तो बात पर्यावरण की तरफ मुड़ गयी । जंगल, नदी, नाले के बारे में चर्चा करते-करते बात पहाड़-पर्वत पर आ रुकी ।

बातों-बातों में मित्र ने कहा कि पहाड़ कितना निर्जीव होता है । बस खड़ा है, पता नहीं किस बात की अकड़ है ? वहीं नदी को देखो, कितनी सजीव है, चंचल है और जीवन से भरी है ।

पर मेरे विचार कुछ अलग थे । मुझे पहाड़-पर्वत हमेशा से अपने पिता समान लगे हैं और जब यह बात मैंने अपने मित्र को बताई तो उसने हँसकर मेरा मजाक उड़ाया और फिर बहुत विस्मय भरे स्वरों में मुझसे पूछा, " पहाड़ और पिता ? "

अब आप मेरा उत्तर सुनिए और मुझे बताइये कि आप क्या सोचते हैं ? हम सभी जानते हैं कि पिता जीवन का सूत्रधार है । जिस तरह जीवन का उद्गम पिता से होता है ठीक उसी तरह नदी रूपी जीवन का उद्गम पहाड़ से होता है । अगर परिवार एक वृक्ष है जिसकी शाखायें परिवार के सभी सदस्य हैं तो उस वृक्ष की जड़ें पिता को दर्शाती हैं । ठीक इसी तरह एक पहाड़ जड़ों की तरह न जाने कितनी जिंदगियों को सहारा देता है । अनगिनत पेड़ - पौधे, पशु-पक्षी अपने जीवन के अस्तित्व के लिए पहाड़-पर्वत पर निर्भर हैं । याद है जब मुसीबत आती है तो कैसे पिता ढाल बनकर खड़ा हो जाता है । क्या हिमालय ऐसे ही ढाल बनकर नहीं खड़ा ? हिमालय न होता तो अब तक हम बर्फ की चद्दर में सिमट गए होते ।

त्योहारों पर कैसे पिता अपने हिस्से की इच्छाएं काटकर परिवार के लिए खुशियों की बारिश करता है । क्या पहाड़ भी वही नहीं करते ? समुद्र से उठने वाली नम हवाओं को रोककर बारिश कराते हैं । सांचो पश्चिमी और पूर्वी घाट, हिमालय और विंध्यांचल न होते तो भारत में बारिश कैसे होती ? सारी समुद्री नम हवा भारत के ऊपर से ऐसे ही बिना बारिश किये निकल जाती ॥

मेरा मित्र तो मेरी बात से सहमत हो चुका है और आशा है कि मेरे विचार आप तक भी पहुँच चुके होंगे । अपनी बात ओम व्यास ओम जी की कविता से खत्म करना चाहूँगा । बस आपसे यह निवेदन है कि इस कविता में पिता शब्द में पहाड़-पर्वत को



महसूस करना मत भूलियेगा ।

पिता जीवन है, संबल है, शक्ति है,

पिता सृष्टि के निर्माण की अभिव्यक्ति है ।

पिता अपनी इच्छाओं का हनन और परिवार की पूर्ति है,

पिता रक्त में दिये हुए संस्कारों की मूर्ति है ।

पिता एक जीवन को जीवन का दान है,

पिता दुनिया दिखाने का एहसान है ।

# Roses in December

**Ayush Verma, IFS 2018**



As a child, the bearer learned that roses just don't bloom in December because that's not their season; still those roses were precious for him, for he had nourished them long back, felt its aroma, the bearer thus had a romanticized vision.

The bearer liked the roses not because he loved the color of its petals but because he adored and appreciated them for they remained delicate, dainty and fresh even when their very support- the stem had throns and needles.

But the roses, arrogant not merely proud, mistook the bearers' purity of heart as a byproduct of its own glamour, Roses bloomed out of delight but alas not with joy but vanity

An independent life comes as a euphemism for the inconsideration to those who care and self-esteem, a softer word for self-centeredness.

Yet the roses, unaware of its vices thought that it wasn't its fault rather its very nature: Just like any other ordinary rose.

In true sense, the bar of the ethics was not high or may be just that no serious thought was put into it.

The bearer was noble, blue-blooded, beautiful, craved by all, classy yet humble, proud yet decent, clever but not wicked, adored, hallowed and a revered man. Yet he fell for those roses as he somehow wished to soften in the hard, apathetic world.

He had believed in the beauty of his dreams and won laurels and bagged accolades for his virtues of discipline, industriousness and sacrifices over the years. A sunflower is what he had reared in his mind as his goal and the marigold he had already achieved but alas the gods were deceptive, treacherous for they didn't let him have the prized sunflower...all that was awarded to him were delays.

Heavy-hearted as he was, the bearer looked at the



roses for a temporary refuge but the roses blind in their gleam, shrugged it's shoulders sort of saying "what can be done? "... Indeed what can be done when the roses just can't understand, when they continue to be so self-indulgent that they will neither see nor hear or understand the empty tears of the bearer.

The bearer's true allies scowled at his choice and screamed blue murder for the treatment meted out to their dear friend by the roses, calling the latter wicked, cheap, deceptive, insensitive, stupid, unattractive, attention-seeker and a blind fool to have tacitly rejected a man so precious as the bearer was.

And the bearer even though well aware of the realities, deeply pained with a shattered heart still respected, honoured and alas! felt deeply for those roses...

Anathema: not the bearer but the gods themselves deserved it.... for having cheated and, making a man, so noble and pious as the bearer was, bereaved and beguiled....

When realities sans expectations:

Pensive, befuddled and wreaked, the bearer pondered over his life...

But the bearer stands tall and erect for he is aseity....unblemished, unparalleled, he displays the resilience, determination and the quest to live a life of his dreams... But even more importantly the bearer learned through the journeys of his struggles and the pains of his life that the marigold he already achieved is no less prized than the sunflower he seeks....

Thus, simplistically putting that roses in December is impossible, as has been said by our forefathers aeons back, may hold much water even today.

Well... What about the roses?

When the veil of arrogance shall shoo, the dark realities of what their life amiss, shall unfold and those roses will wither...

Albeit, the truth remains that they do blossom

somewhere in the acclivities of the eccentricities of heart of the bearer for he still respects them and holds no grudges rather somewhere at the back of the mind and bottom of the heart he feels that roses will still bloom.. when they understand the nourishment, feel and the touch of care by the bearer, perhaps not in December but when they come in their true season...

Meanwhile, the gods whom the bearer had cursed for long, smiled at the ignorance of the bearer for they knew that those roses were full of chicanery and just never deserved him.

The bearer continued to hope for a bouquet of roses that were true to their name and countenance...free of avarice and blemish.

As the Gods saw him, they rather guffawed for they had a plan rolled up their sleeves....

## CARTOON CORNER



# Roars & Beats'

Ankit Kumar, IFS 2019

Sitting at the last row of my Safari Jeep braving the gush of cold winds, I experienced the 'Roar' of the king of the jungle while moving on the serpentine roads of Gir landscape. Yes, I 'experienced' the roar and not just 'heard' it. Forest is a very curious place and when it is the abode of the Asiatic Lions, this curioseness has no limits. Until you see 'The King' in his own territory, free from the shackles and boundaries of zoos; it is difficult to make out correctly as to why he is considered the 'King'.

The thundering Roar, the majestic Walk and the king like attitude make Asiatic Lions the true king of the jungles in India. The Lion marks his territory by roaring to an extent upto 45 times in a row or by 'Scent Marking' or leaving the scratch marks on the trees. However, what I am going to share is the experience of the roar from a mere distance of a stone throw.

The entrance of the Gir National Park gives you a hint of what to expect inside the Park. But as one step inside from concretised roads to serpentine kutcha roads one is filled with a sense of awe looking at the pristine forests, climbers, epiphytes, diversity of wildlife and listening to bird's contact calls.

While such a feeling was captivating my attention and creating new thoughts suddenly I felt the 'roar' from a distance on my left. 'The Jeep stopped and we started looking deep inside



the jungle. It was silent all around except some remote panic calls made by monkeys.

As I fixed my video camera towards the source of the 'Roar', I could sense that the roar is becoming louder and clearer. It was the time for the Lion to come out from the green curtain. He came near us to about 30 feets and roared at his highest pitch. The reverberations of the roar were so bone chilling that for a moment it created a pin-drop silence in the forest. All that we could hear after the 'Roar' were our heart 'Beats'. He 'roared' again and kept roaring just to tell everyone that we are here at his mercy.

Lion is a social animal unlike his distant cousin - Tiger who is relatively shy and often remains hidden within tall grasses or bushes. Lion often moves in a 'Pride' and this time we were seeing two brothers walking side by side, not concerned about the cavalcade of Jeeps lined up to take just one view of these carnivores.

Lions there were not shying from tourists, probably their behavior and acceptance towards humans have changed over the years. But when the king is walking you must stop and when he wants to rest in front of your Jeep you must wait. Indeed, he is the 'King of the Jungle' and you must abide by the rules made by him in his kingdom.

To experience the roar, kindly click on this link  
[https://twitter.com/AnkitKumar\\_IFS/status/1226855202461974529](https://twitter.com/AnkitKumar_IFS/status/1226855202461974529)

# 'IMA Days'

**By N Jeykumaran, IFS(P) 2019**

What are we doing here?  
Weight of a bullet-  
How does that even matter?  
Why are we even wearing  
These tailored gunny bags?

Complaints of all colours and shades,  
Were the only ammunition  
With which we began our IMA days.

They say uniforms have a life-  
And yes,  
They do;  
Slowly yet strangely-  
Inside that 'Gunny bag',  
Even discipline began  
To feel like breathing;

And It is fair to say, I guess ,  
That we were beginning to belong in there.

Out In the civilian world,  
When Ifs and Buts were  
The language we have heard,  
Selflessness, sacrifice  
Brotherhood and loyalty  
Were too strange for us  
To be a word.

**When we asked them about  
The badges on their chest-**  
**2 years in Sudan,**  
**1 year in J&K,**  
**1 year in Sri Lanka,**  
**Were all that they said.**  
**Not any grand standings;**  
**Nor any mega farewells;**  
**Only a small square piece to say**  
**They lived through that.**

**For every shot that we fired there,**  
**Fear was all that we managed to wear;**  
**And As our eyes began to grey,**  
**We remembered what Kyle carpenter used**  
**to say-**  
**"When pains of war is high and**  
**When scars of death is deep,**  
**All that you ever can ,**  
**Is Tune yourself out**  
**Of an AK 47"**

95 decibel of INSAS rifle fire  
Left us all in a state of dire,  
And here they were;  
Leading a life  
In the middle of all,  
Choosing to wear their smile  
Having seen the Evil of all.

When our time to leave did come,  
There was that strange feeling of missing  
them-  
As if IMA 'attachment',  
Was not merely a curricular term.

As we were leaving  
The IMA building,  
There were a few lines  
Written on a remnant wall-

"Now I'm a warrior  
I've got thicker skin;  
I'm a warrior  
I'm stronger than I've ever been"

Living through all-  
The deaths and partings  
The Fears and friendships,  
I will never know  
What it takes  
To be a soldier-  
To be that soldier  
Who walks out of his peace  
With his heart uttering  
"Now i am a warrior..."

And for that one moment  
I wished,  
And I just wished,  
That I were a soldier.  
The lines went on:  
"I've got shame, I've got scars  
That I will never show;  
I'm a survivor  
In more ways than you know"

Dailies did never carry their name;  
Neither did they run behind any fame;  
In this trivial world of  
'I did this and I did that'  
They smiled and passed and learnt to grow,  
Beyond all that.

I do not know but  
It felt happy  
Just to stand amidst them,  
And to remember,  
That the freedom we breathe,  
Have their last breaths in them...

We foresters  
Tell ourselves that  
We are the Voice for the Voiceless.

But here are these smiling few,  
Who chose for themselves a voiceless hue;  
So that-  
Way beyond all the borders of noise,  
The rest of us  
Can have our voice



# Ode to a Forester

By N Jeykumaran, IFS(P) 2019

Edelweiss -The Alpine white!  
Emerging at scary heights,  
Enveloping places that none can find,  
Edelweiss blooms.

When we landed here,  
We were a lot of dejected souls-  
Journeying for something  
Returning with something.

"Choices never brought us here;  
A lottery of chance is all that we are"  
They said.

"You have no Power;  
You have no Iota of Influence;  
You are not even the  
Three letter name that you claim"  
They said.

Some of us did believe it;  
Resigning to our fates,  
And whispering to ourselves  
That wretched phrase  
"This is life".

**But there were those proverbial few-**  
**Who are the permanent shadows of**  
**Positive rays of hope;**  
**Who will see broken glasses**  
**Through a band-aided kaleidoscope.**

**One of them was**  
**A bubbling dreamer-**  
**Believing that his 'Gift of Gab',**  
**Was a means for him**  
**To be a seasoned diplomat.**  
**But life took a turn**  
**To a lane of no return.**

**He could have said:**  
**Life had treasoned him deep,**  
**And He had reasons to weep;**  
**But he did none.**

Sporting the badge of a Forester,  
And Standing before,  
The Silence of his trees and tribes,  
He smiled-  
"May be my voice is for the voiceless"  
His smile said.

May be he was right-  
May be We didn't have to fight for our  
place;  
May be We didn't have to fight for our  
name.

Weren't we the invisible tribe-  
Who fights for the faces unborn?  
Who fights for the voices unheard?

Edelweiss -The Alpine white  
Emerging at scary heights,  
Enveloping places that none can find,  
Edelweiss blooms.

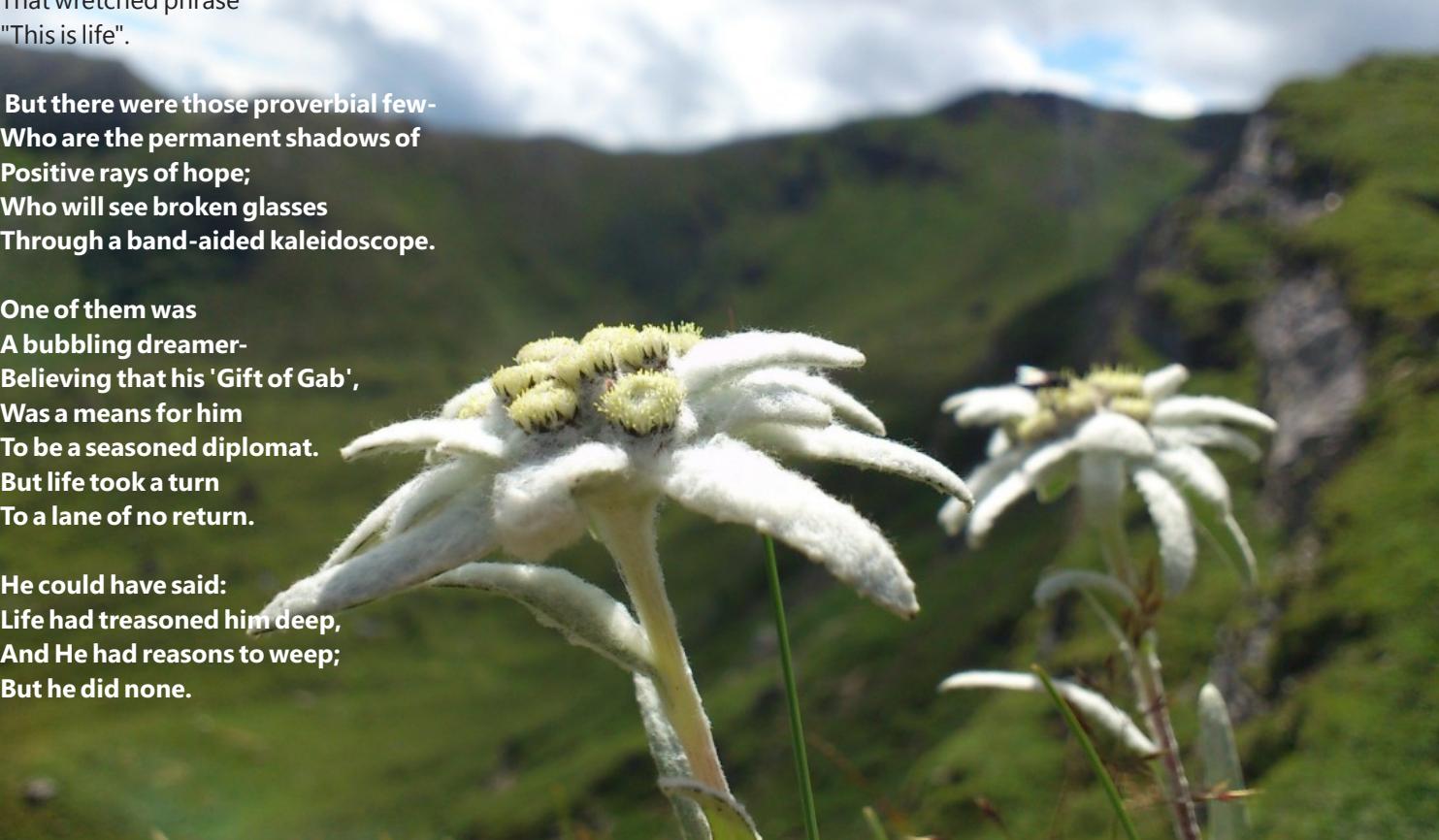
Edelweiss blooms-  
For a lover to share,  
For a soldier to care.

Edelweiss is the love that never  
weeps,  
Edelweiss is the sacrifice that never  
speaks.

May be We are that Edelweiss.  
Standing alone,  
Walking alone,  
Voicing alone.

Like a bamboo we flower,  
Like a bamboo we die.  
We are that intangibles,  
We are that nameless tribe,  
We are the ones who believe-

"That which is Invisible  
Is all that is Important"



# The Calm River

Kasturi Sule, IFS(P) 2019

Dear calm river,  
what have you been through?  
Was your youth resisted by elderly stones  
Or the tiny sands tried to scar your banks

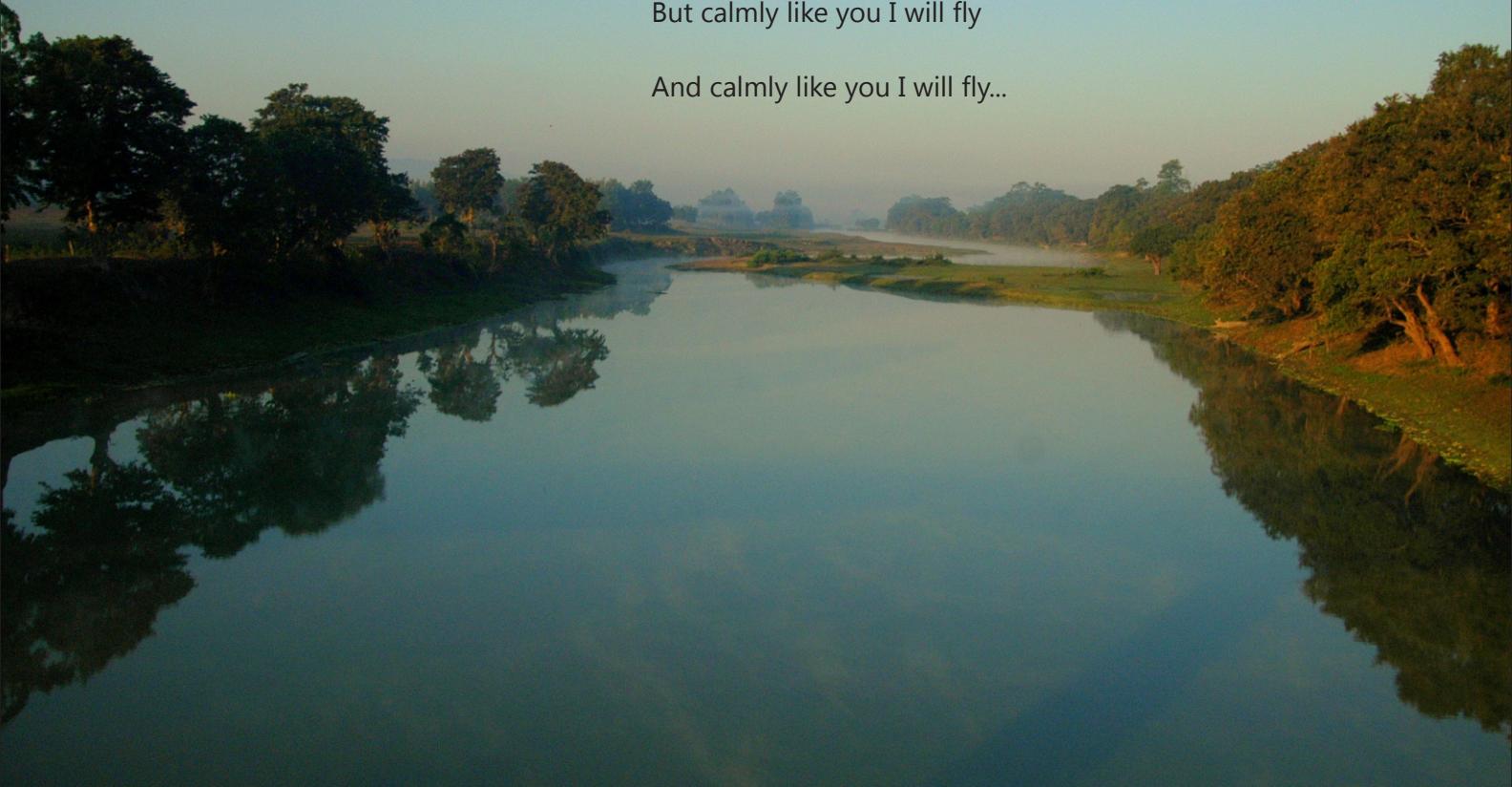
Have those inhuman humans built bunds to  
stop your bloom  
And cut loving roots that opened arms to you

Calm are you after intense struggle and  
relentless effort  
Or calm comes with tired hands and  
helplessness

Or is this calm out of peace and acceptance,  
Forgiveness and tranquility ?  
Knowing that the world is unfair  
And the best you can do is stay calm

Dear calm river you are an inspiration..  
Dirt they will throw to us  
And to stop us they will try  
But calmly like you I will fly

And calmly like you I will fly...



# Let there be faith

**Kasturi Sule, IFS (P) 2019-21**

Let there be faith  
 Let there be positivity...  
 The photo depicts the harmony of two forces of nature..

Fire.. With its vigour to burn all disease and evil to ash, to spread optimism and light even in darkest of times..

Water.. With its purity and flow washes away all negativity and dirt, says that tough times will also pass and positivity and life will be carried along..

Times are tough and hopes dwindling,  
 But let's stay put and keep fighting..  
 Let nature be the inspirer

Let's burn all that's evil  
 The divides of caste and color  
 Let's spread the light  
 Of harmony and scientific temper

Like water let's clean  
 The dirt in our minds  
 Let open the stagnant thoughts  
 And flow calmly with positivity

Let there be faith,  
 Let's not lose hope..  
 When humanity unites  
 These times too will pass..

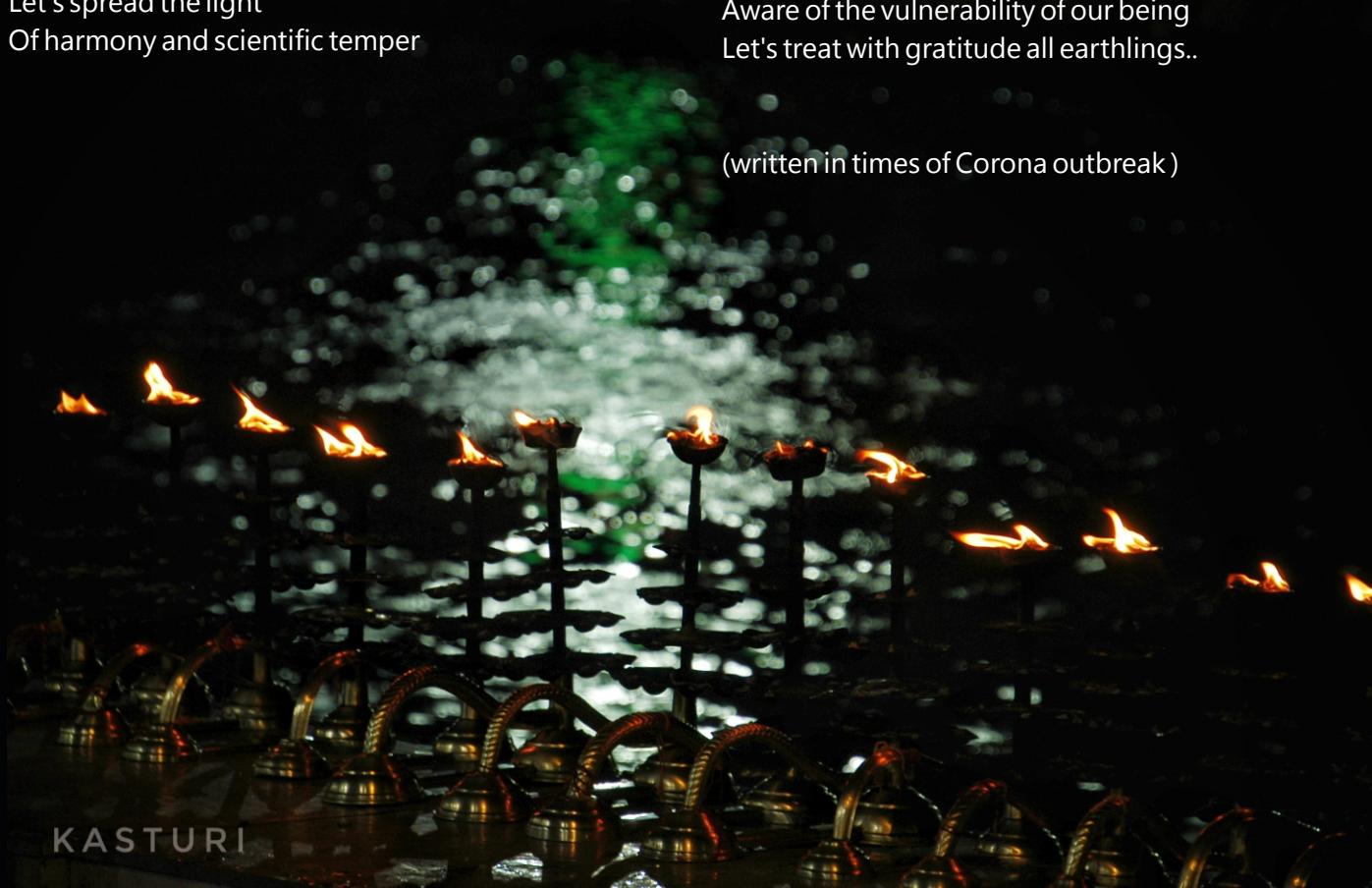
But let us not forget,  
 The lessons learnt today  
 That rivers got cleaned and air purer  
 While we were on break today

Let the new age begin  
 With lesser ego and utmost gratitude  
 To do what's sustainable  
 And restraint that's not

Let there be a smile  
 Not only on humans  
 But on ants, trees, fishes and birds..

Aware of the vulnerability of our being  
 Let's treat with gratitude all earthlings..

(written in times of Corona outbreak)



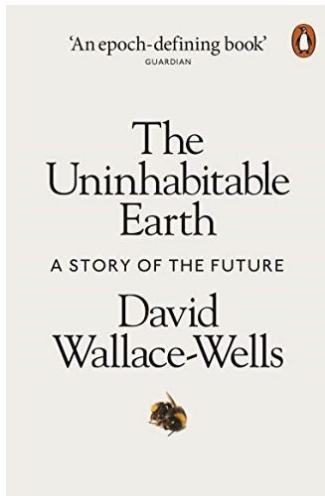
## Book Review

# The Uninhabitable Earth : A story of the future

By David Wallace-Wells

Penguin Publishers, 1st edition, 19th February, 2019 303 pages ASIN : B07H7Y6JX4

Thirukural R, IFS(P) 2019



book's cover page : A white background containing a helpless, dead bumble bee, lying twirled representing what would happen to all of us in the near future.

Written by David Wallace-Wells, a journalist and columnist for the New York magazine, the book covers a wide range of effects of climate change such as agriculture, water, heat stress, hunger, environment and so on. Most of us already have a rough idea about what would happen to the planet if we fail to address climate change but what the book does best is, it expands on that existing knowledge with facts. With the reference list running for a hundred pages, the book is extremely well researched.

The book paints a picture of our worst nightmares and successfully substantiates it with facts; For example, we all know that as the earth becomes warmer the sea level would rise

The uninhabitable earth - a self explanatory title foreshadowing the 300 plus pages explaining how the earth would become unfit for habitation if we fail to address the impending climate change. The warning starts right from the

and the coastal regions would get submerged leaving people as climate refugees. But to what extent?

The number is projected to be 200 million by the UN. The author puts this into perspective by likening this to the entire human population at the peak of the Roman Empire, all persons alive and living dispossessed of their homes and wandering in hostile territories in search of a new one.

While talking about the extent of human suffering, the author takes the support of climate scientists who predict that additional 150 million people will die from air pollution alone in a 2 degree warmer world than in a 1.5 degree one. Again he puts it into perspective - 150 million is equivalent to 25 holocausts. A suffering of such great magnitude that puts a chill in one's spine.

Thus the brilliance of the author lies not in bringing about new facts or ideas but in making the reader realises what are we in store for and making the common man understand without much of technical Jargon.

The author rightly points out that we trivialise the importance of global warming just because the numbers are small - one, two or three degrees warmer earth. But the impact of such small numbers would be in millions. "Is it moral to reproduce?", asks the author. Is it fair to the planet which has reached the brink of its



carrying capacity? More importantly, is it fair on the children to force them to live in a world which might be well on its way to being uninhabitable?

The author takes the example of his own young daughter who will hit child rearing age around 2050 and old age at the close of the century - the end stage of all our climate predictions. How would such a world be? Everything we ever cherished and everyone we ever loved, will have passed into oblivion, never to return; the legacy that we painstakingly built over the years swiftly undone. It is almost a given that our grandchildren will live in the ruins of the world we leave behind. What have they done to deserve this?

It is important to realise that no intelligent life as we know it, has ever evolved outside this narrow Goldilocks range of conditions that we call earth. There is no other planet that we can call home. If we do not take action, the planet will survive; it's humans that may not.

Looking at the way the book describes the future scenario of our home planet, it is very easy to characterise the tone as alarmist. But when the points put forth are supported by facts, it is clear that the author is just trying to establish a narrative and bring the attention of the world leaders to this existential threat. Thus it is clear that the author is not alarmist; just a realist. Having breathed the air of New Delhi recently, I can only gladly agree to this narrative on climate change. The doom is not expected to come; it has already arrived.

Inspite of more than half of the worlds vertebrates dying in the last forty years, inspite of humungous portions of the oceans turning into 'dead zones' and inspite of the impending collapse predicted to occur in 2100, the author

says that he is optimistic. He believes that growth and the technology it produces alone will not be merely enough to engineer our way out of this environmental disaster.

The concept of Negative emissions - building machines that capture and sequester carbon is merely theoretical, argues the author. Though these machines are easy to build and cost only as much as car - roughly \$30,000 each, we would require 100 million of such machines costing 40 percent of the global GDP to capture the carbon that we are currently releasing into the atmosphere.

The author's optimism stems from renewable energy. That is where he believes that our solutions lie. The cost of producing renewable energy has reduced so much over twenty five years that it is almost impossible to calculate it using the same scales. But the proportion of renewable energy in our energy mix has remained the same. In fact we are now burning 80% more coal than we did in the year 2000. Thus we already have the solutions but lack the political will to implement them, laments the author.

Thus the book serves as a call to action to prevent the impending crisis of climate change and paints a grotesque but near true picture of what would happen if we do not. Though it is not recommended for using as manual or course book on environment and climate change, it is useful as a book that creates awareness about climate change in a logical manner to a common reader without much scientific knowledge. The entire message is in fact conveyed in the opening lines of the book, "It's worse, much worse, than you think".

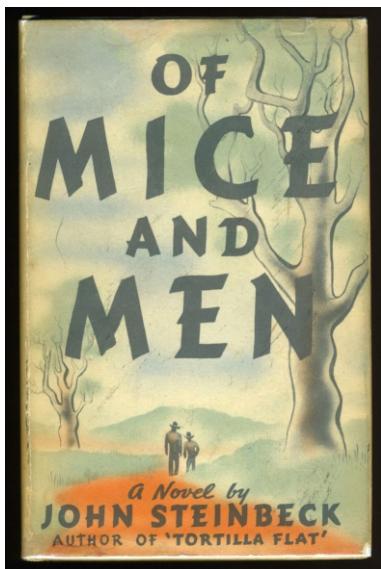
## Book Review

# Of Mice and Men

By John Steinbeck

Published in 1937

Agrim Saini, IFS(P) 2019



I personally believe that any work that we classify fiction is heavily inspired by real events and real characters witnessed by the respective author. Ernest Hemingway participated in World War One and hence we have a novel written by him called 'A

'farewell to arms' set in the backdrop of World War One. There are many more such examples.

Same thing is true in case of John Steinbeck. This is the first novel of Steinbeck that I read and I found him as a quintessential American author. This is further proved by the fact that 'Of Mice and Men' is taught in many schools in the USA. Of Mice and men is a novella of around 90 pages published in 1937 and regarded as one of the finest works of John Steinbeck.

It is a story of two close friends George Milton and Lennie Small who are migrant ranch workers constantly moving in search of job opportunities in the state of California during the period of The Great Depression. Both of them share a dream that one day they will own a small piece of land and their own homestead. This shared dream drives them to work hard and save money in the present. This shared dream and their similar conditions is also the

cement behind their strong friendship and the author makes this evidently clear at the start of the novel. Thus, what the reader explores as he reads is their journey as they work in a ranch, the different characters they meet, the struggles they face and the question of whether they succeed in achieving their shared dream or not.

The novel touches upon several themes, some American and some universal. Steinbeck realistically portrays the lives of ranch workers by showing their aspirations, life conditions, mannerisms, etc. Several supporting characters are introduced by Steinbeck that allows the reader to appreciate what the author is trying to portray. Steinbeck infuses further realism into the novel by also showing the strict and often condescending attitude of ranch owners towards the workers. Here I would like to mention that Steinbeck had himself worked alongside migrant farm workers during his teenage years. Thus, a lot of the ranch life described perhaps comes from his own experiences, another example of the thesis that works of fiction are often inspired by real life experiences. The theme of racism which was (and perhaps is) a strong reality of the American society has also been explored by Steinbeck through an African-American ranch worker and the racist behaviour of others towards him.

Another major theme of the novel is the dreams, aspirations, and general hope that drives these ranch workers and the motivation

behind their hard work despite the fact that they lead a mediocre life at present. The novel beautifully captures the sentiments of the working class through its main protagonists George and Lennie and their actions weaved around a shared dream. It provides an opportunity to the reader to feel connected with the labour class and empathize with their aspirations. This assumes significant importance in the current age of growing inequality and distance between bourgeoisie and the working class (COVID-19 pandemic being the latest example)

Friendship is also a theme that runs through the entire novella. Both George and Lennie are dependent on each other and share strong friendship with each other. This frequently comes out in their conversations with each other and with other characters. It is this bonding they share that makes their lives slightly better than the otherwise lonely life of a ranch worker. This is epitomized by the line "I got you to look after me, and you got me to look after you, and that's why." which both Lennie and George keep saying to motivate each other.

One more theme to note is the powerlessness of the characters. This is natural as the characters of this novel are poor migrant workers and are hence always subservient to the circumstances.

The physical setting of the novel is Salinas valley in California which is one of the most productive agricultural regions of California. Steinbeck was born in this area and spent substantial amount of his life here. Thus, it is natural that the novel is set in this location and portrays the ranch life. Moreover, the novel starts by Steinbeck vividly describing the Salinas valley.

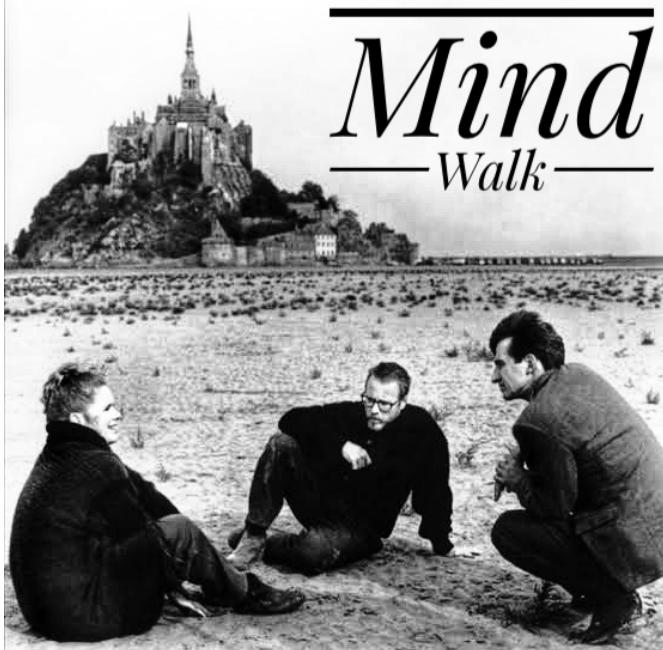
Coming to the language used in this novel, it is vernacular. The novel rightly captures the dialect used by the migrant workers. This beautifully comes out in the conversations between different characters. Steinbeck has deliberately used incorrect grammar, wrong spellings and pronunciation to deliver justice to working class characters who are mostly uneducated. This makes the novel true to the setting and characters it wishes to explore. I regard this the best achievement of this novel as the usage of vernacular language is one of the most defining features of novels. We all know this theoretically but while reading 'Of Mice and Men' we can feel it. Another good thing that comes out due to usage of vernacular is the simple language making the novel easy to comprehend. Apart from the themes explored and language used this novel is also good in terms of characters shown. All the characters are well defined and the novel is both about the story and the journey of different characters. Certain characters that appear something in the beginning turn out to be clearly different towards the end. Overall Steinbeck succeeds in giving readers memorable characters especially Lennie.

Overall, this novel is a short simple read that can be easily finished in a day or two. It will surely leave a lasting impression on the reader due to themes it explores and the characters it portrays. I am deliberately not expounding on the significance of the title of this novel as it has the potential to act as a spoiler.

If anybody wants to taste American literature of the 20th century, Steinbeck and 'Of Mice and Men' can provide a good start in this direction. After reading this novel, I will surely check out other works by John Steinbeck especially his most famous work, The Grapes of Wrath.

## Movie Review

# Mindwalk (1990)

**N Jeykumaran, IFS(P) 2019**

**"You the woman, I the man, this the world and each is the work of all"- Kenneth Patchen**

Bernt Capra's Mindwalk(1990) opens and ends with a musical score. There is a sadness to it; A certain silence. And between them, we are nestled, in a conversation.

Jack (played by Sam Waterson) is a US Presidential candidate, just defeated and disillusioned. He seeks the help of his friend Thomas in France. Thomas (played by John Heard) is going through a midlife crisis himself. He is the man who wants to stand and stare at every color that captures him. Yes. He is the poet with a license to be moody ,so he flees to Paris, unable to bear the sterility of a Metropolitan existence in Manhattan. Both find themselves in Mont Saint Michel, a monastery in Normandy(France) which appears like a 'medieval age left behind on a rock' . The monastery used to be a prison during French Revolution and there they find Sonia. A pensive women Sonia(played by Liv Ullman) has imprisoned herself in books and thoughts. 'She is the women who could be anywhere and it would make no difference'- her daughter Kit (played by Ione Skye) feels about her. They all meet, they speak.

What follows is a walk with the innocents- People wishing to change the world into something; People discussing Descartes and Bacon without misspelling them. People

who think matter is not made of atoms but relationships. People who see life as Shakespeare and Pythagoras did- as chords of music. It might sound that the movie is all about square root of hypotenuse divided by a pinch of magnesium that we slept through in high school. But it is not. Mind walk is about a conversation each of us wish to have. Strangers come from nowhere , we get the fever to talk, and a magic happens.

The movie works at different levels. For one the screen play is clean in establishing the characters and these characters also have an emotional honesty- One is never reluctant to admit that he is a failed husband. The background score by Phillip Glass also brings in the much needed sereness to the atmosphere. The cinematography majorly revolves around the three ,with nameless humans and long distant mountains occasionally passing by, but it never dares to imagine a world beyond them.

The emotions the movie invokes in us are moist. We get to see through these characters beyond the words behind which they hide. We realize we have all been Thomas, Jack and Sonia at some point in our lives. We see us -in them. They are real people broken by life; Sonia fumes in anger when her world is reduced to logic. Her values are so colorful that she is able to recognize a poet but not a presidential candidate. But she is unable to love, to feel connected. Jack can intellectualize the world from an ivory tower, if he chose to; Only, he cannot. He wants to do something . But he is smart. Too smart that he could never become a president. We feel for him when he says-'I think and think, for days and nights, and that is why i always lose'. Thomas wants to romanticize life; He wants to believe in poetry; So he is unable to understand politics; He is unable to be a good husband for a woman in a real world. He is broken. They all are broken.

The American led Allied landing in Normandy ,would go on to turn the tide in World War II. Now it is 1990 and we have come full circle. Mind walk is about three Americans landing in the tidal islands of Normandy, only not knowing where to turn. In one of the earliest scenes, Jack dials Tom and asks, 'I need help'. Tom doesn't give a fix. The movie doesn't give a fix, either. All we are left with is a conversation. What do we do with it? We don't do anything with it. We just think about it.

# Sketching : A Visual Meditation



Kavya Chaturvedi IFS 2019



N Jeykumaran, IFS(P), 2019



Akhil Thampi, IFS, 2018



The Eternal Love, Abhimanyu IFS 2019



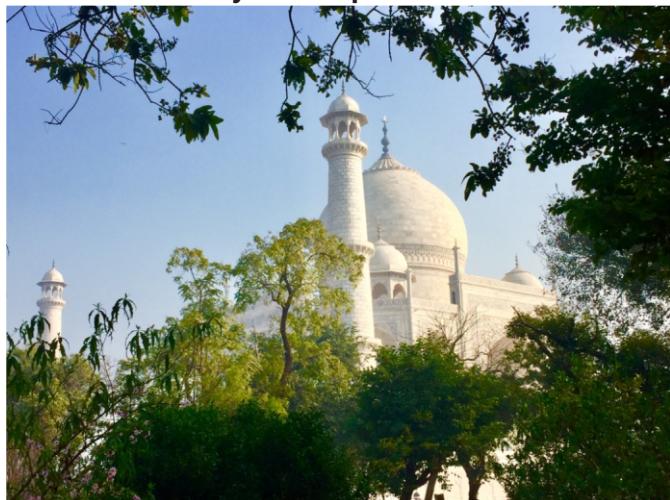
The Bohemian Rhapsody, Abhimanyu IFS 2019



Abhimanyu IFS 2019

## Photography is the grammer of Vision

Taj in the lap of nature



Vikas Yadav, IFS (P) 2019-21

## Art and Culture



Vivek, IFS (P) 2019-21

**Architectural wonder - Sun Temple Konark.**  
**One of the wheels of the Sun's Chariot**



Kasturi Sule IFS (P) 2019-21

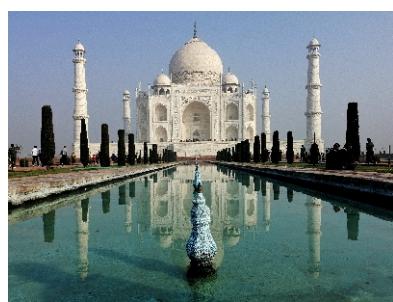
**Illuminated Royalty - Jaisalmer Fort**



Abhimanyu, IFS (P) 2019-21



Jamir Shaikh IFS (P) 2019-21



Kasturi Sule IFS (P) 2019-21



Vivek, IFS (P) 2019-21

## Photography is the grammer of Vision

Reflections...

Location - Keoladeo NP, Bharatpur



Vikas Yadav IFS (P) 2019-21

### City Palace, Udaipur



© Chirag

Chirag Jain IFS (P) 2019-21

Flying into a new day with new hope.. The wave like dance of Rosy Starlings at Khijadia Bird sanctuary, Jamnagar

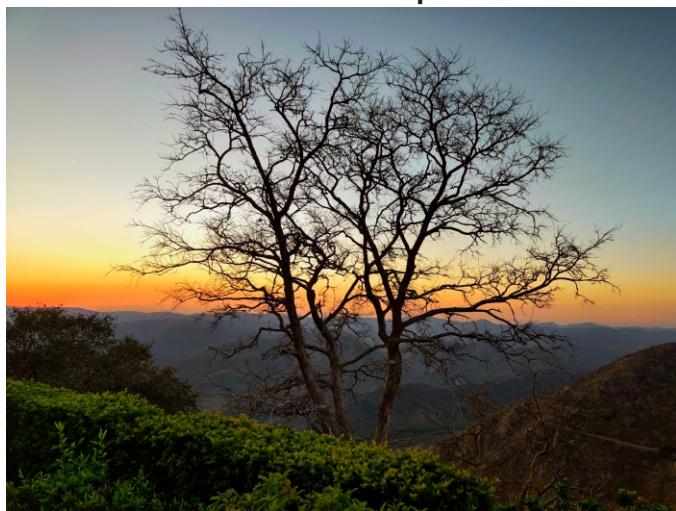


Kasturi Sule IFS (P) 2019-21

## Landscapes

In all shades and seasons... Standing tall.

Location - Udaipur



Jamir Shaikh IFS (P) 2019-21

### The lakes of Ranthambore



AGRIM SAINI,2020

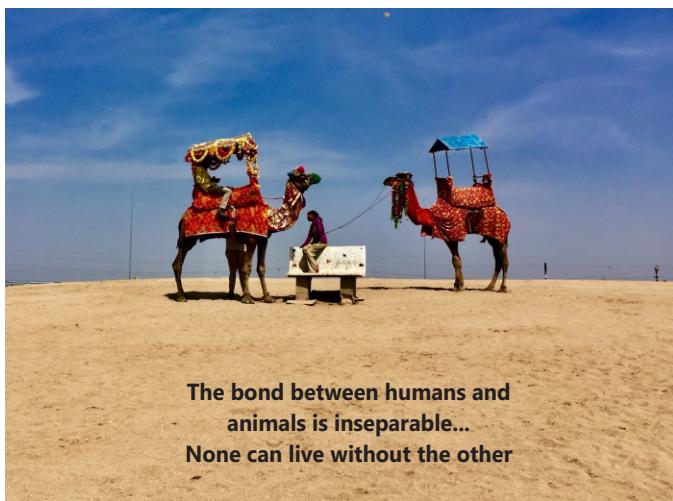
Agrim Saini IFS (P) 2019-21



Jamir Shaikh IFS (P) 2019-21

Photography is the grammer of Vision

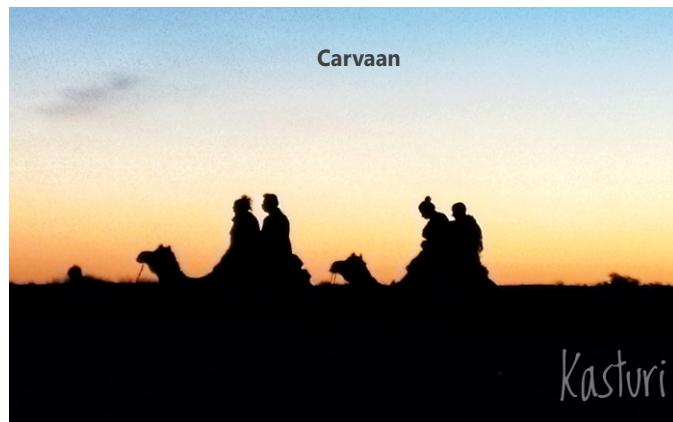
# People and Perspectives



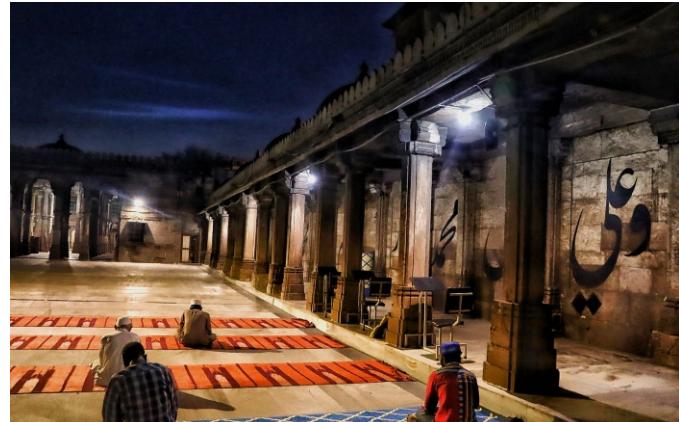
Vikas Yadav IFS (P) 2019-21



Abhimanyu IFS (P) 2019-21



Kasturi Sule IFS (P) 2019-21



Siddhi Heroics



Kshitij Saxena IFS (P) 2019-21



Jamir Shaikh IFS (P) 2019-21



Kasturi Sule IFS (P) 2019-21

## Photography is the grammer of Vision

Turtle coming to lay eggs at Porbandar coast



Ankit Kumar IFS (P) 2019-21

Sahyadri Commander



Kasturi Sule IFS (P) 2019-21

Octopus - Marine National Park, Jamnagar



Dhananjay Waybhase IFS (P) 2019-21

## Wildlife

Antlers and the rest...



Jeevan Dagade IFS (P) 2019-21

Duel- Nilgai



Monica kishore IFS (P) 2019-21

Wild Ass - Little Rann of Kutchh

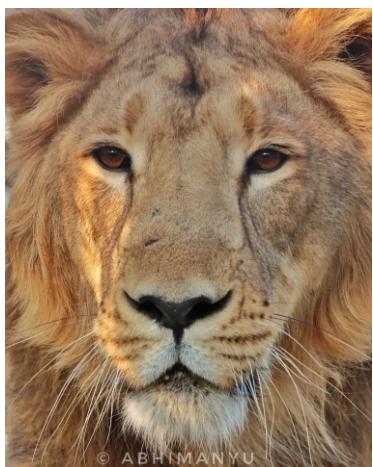


Abhimanyu IFS (P) 2019-21

## Photography is the grammer of Vision

# Big Cats

**The Pride of Gir - Asiatic Lion**



Abhimanyu IFS (P) 2019-21

**Tale of two brothers**



Agrim Saini IFS (P) 2019-21

**Mother Daughter Bond**



Agrim Saini IFS (P) 2019-21



Balamurugan IFS (P) 2019-21

**The taste of Freedom - leopard release at Gir National park**



Prashant Tomar IFS (P) 2019-21



Kasturi Sule IFS (P) 2019-21

# General Secretary, Officers' Club, signing off...

**Tejas Jaiswal**



## My experience as General Secretary

It has been a roller coaster ride for sure. Many satisfying moments and few disappointing ones. Most importantly, I got the opportunity to interact with a lot of my batchmates, faculty, as well as the staff members, which made the overall journey a great learning experience.

## Most satisfying things during the tenure

The best accomplishment is the friendship with all my batchmates which was forged during training. It is an important part of my job to have a good bonding with everyone; and at the end of our training, I am extremely happy and proud of the friends I have found. Despite missing family and holidays, I can surely say that these have been the best years of my life.

Apart from that, the change of field dress and facilitating the lecture of Forest Man of India, **Shri Jadhav Payeng**, were very satisfying. The change of field dress was a significant act of consensus and unity of our batch and self-designing made us happy. In case of Jadhav Payeng, we all have read so much about him that it was inspiring to hear and interact with him.

In addition, the **creation of NICHE** web portal is a long-term achievement for the members of the Innovation Club. It has the potential to connect a large number of IFS officers. To be true, I had not much hope of creating it but with **Shri Uttam Kumar Sharma** as OIC, IT, things moved very fast. Due to NICHE, the interactions which happened with him were very enriching in itself. It is now up and running and hopefully, in whatever little time we have, this will be popularised.

Lastly, something which is not my accomplishment, but I am really proud to be a part

of 2018 IFS batch. This batch has executed initiatives and performed in every domain. There is Plastic Free **IGNFA, Organic Garden, NICHE, transformation of Souvenir Shop, Miyawaki plantation, record enthusiasm in Birdwatching, Social media wing, amazing cultural events and sports** performances. We secured second spot in Inter-Services meet, medals in AIFSM and our football team is undefeated till now. In infrastructural sense, we were lucky to be the first users of AC's and new desktops.

There is no doubt about the talent and energy of the batch, but the Academy deserves the credit for supporting all of these, especially **Ms Nidhi Srivastava and Dr SP Anandh**. They invested a lot in all of us, accepted our ideas and supported us. Nidhi ma'am's unending support for new initiatives, trust and the freedom she gave to grow and express our creativity is something I will forever be grateful for.

## Ideas that couldn't cross the finish line

Sandip Suryawanshi had done incredible work in soil and moisture conservation work in Maharashtra. We wanted to emulate that here in Dehradun. We had even decided the village and had discussion with village officials about future action. However, then, monsoon had almost arrived and our tours started, so it didn't move ahead.

Secondly, Innovation club had come up with an idea to improve the livelihood of mess workers by efficient waste management practices starting with commercializing egg shell powder. It is ongoing and next batch should take it further. We conducted door-to-door surveys and personally witnessed how vulnerable they are. It is our duty to take care of the hands that feed us.

## Suggestions for the coming Batch

The main motive should be to **give something back** to the academy. At the end of the training, I can surely say that academy does far more than we perceive and we must appreciate that. The best way is to take up a project or initiative, create something new which benefits academy as well as probationers.

The other way is to push for positive changes. Since probationers experience everything first-hand, they are in the best position to suggest changes. And this necessarily requires questioning things which don't serve desired purpose or are detrimental. Accepting things as they are causes stagnation of both subordinates as well as superiors. There will be resistance but there should be sustained effort. This is how it works. The courage which we develop here will help us in the job ahead and this must be done with a sense of gratitude and appreciation of what academy does.

## Few words for my successor

There is a huge scope to define the role. More than the General Secretary of Officers Club, you should see yourself as the representative of the batch. So, the role includes helping everyone, bringing a consensus on issues, resolving conflicts and many such things. Also, it's important to realize what puts you there. It's because your batchmates voted for you. So, you owe them and must be responsible. First to take the bullet and last to leave the sinking ship. Rest everything one learns over time.

## Prasanth, IFS 2018, Secretary IT Club

### My experience as IT Secretary

It both overwhelming and challenging as on one side we had to deal with overloaded Infrastructure and on the other with pressed demand for internet speed without any hitch. The expectation was to fix the system but we had other plans i.e. to overhaul the entire system of network infrastructure. With a management which was happy and ready to help the Probationers we could do what it seemed impossible.

### Most satisfying things during the tenure

- Convincing the academy the need to overhaul the current network and Planning the network as we plan for our home with minute details.
- Extending the plan across other buildings which did not have our immediate interest i.e. executive hostel.
- Positive response from the Director Sh Omkar Singh, Additional Director Sh SK Awasti and OIC - IT, Sh Uttam Kumar Sharma to extend to other buildings.
- Updating and restructuring the App of IGNFA forest laws and supporting the Social Media team with responsibility as the IT secretary has to own up to every word published on behalf of the academy on Social Media . It was quite an experience
- The final happiness of Probationers with less stress during the Quarantine period which Internet helped them overcome with high speed data to keep themselves occupied without any glitch.

### Ideas that couldn't cross the finish line

- Extend the network to Old hostel and Main buildings
- Conduct basic computer lessons and Cyber security sessions.
- A hackathon for common problems in IT in academy.
- A blue tick for the social media accounts

## Few words for my successor

When a position has nothing to offer you have very little expectations and you got lot of scope to innovate. Secretary, IT Club, in once such without any explicit mandate, yet has lot of potential which can make it the face of the Academy.

# Yours Truly..

**Team, Summer Edition**

Swetha Boddu (Secretary) and Ravisankar Sarma (Joint Secretary),  
Along with  
Jeykumaran, Kasturi Sule , Ramsundar M & Sumit Patil

*Swetha**Ravi**Sumit**Ramsundar**Jeykumaran**Kasturi*



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