



# *IMPRESSIONS*

*Magazine by 54th RR Batch  
August 2023*





## *The Iconic FRI Tree*



*Literary Club*

*Edited by- Abhinav Raj (Secretary, Literary Club)*



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## Messages



**Bharat Jyoti**

Director IGNFA &  
President, IGNFA Club

This journal of the IFS Officers of the 54th RR Probationers Course, recording their journey thus far in the IGNFA (9 of 16 months), is an interesting literary expression. An impressive blend of sharing outstanding experiences in prose and poetry -directly plain learnings and also nuanced with feelings and emotions -this chronicle will surely be a cherished memorable record of the times spent by the batch in the Academy for them and also for the institution. My best compliments to the contributors, editors, and layout designer for their creative efforts in bringing out this beautiful publication.



**Raj Kumar Bajpai**

Vice President,  
IGNFA Club

It is delightful indeed to see the participants of 2022-24 IFS (Probationers) Professional Training Course participating with enthusiasm and imagination in such diverse activities despite their busy schedule, and bring out this volume summarizing them. That not only helps in their all-round growth but also keeps the Academy ambience vibrant.

My best wishes to all the Probationers of Indian Forest Service and the Officer Trainees of Bhutan.



**Dr. Sivabala S.**

Course Director,  
54<sup>th</sup> RR Batch

Firstly, I compliment the Literary Club Secretary and his team for bringing out the Magazine which is filled with interesting and enjoyable moments of the journey at IGNFA which was long overdue!

Secondly, as a Course Director it is always a delight to know the trainees are using their time at Academy for such commendable efforts in order to present the various facets of the Professional training imparted at the Academy.

Thirdly, the hidden talent of many writers among the batch of 102 have been brought out through this platform wherein the experiences, thoughts, photographic skills and creative expressions have found a place, which will encourage the probationers as well as the faculties to share their thoughts with a larger audience in the upcoming editions.

I am sure that this magazine will go a long way in engaging the Probationers in contributing consistently in future as well as serve as a repository for the Academy as well as for the future trainees to continue with such writing for an interesting read.

Lastly, the effort by 54 RR Probationers to bring out this magazine is a great step and is indeed praiseworthy. I also congratulate other contributors of the magazine and wish that the magazine would definitely be a very useful one for the readers.



## PARLIAMENTARY ATTACHMENT

The Parliamentary attachment was a one-week programme in Delhi from 24-28<sup>th</sup> July, 2023. It was one of the most memorable weeks where we got the opportunity to meet and interact with the highest ranking dignitaries in the Government of India. The week started with the formal session- 'Calling on the President of India'. The session was held in the Godavari Hall of the magnificent Rashtrapati Bhavan. Our batchmate Neethu George Thoppan introduced our batch to the President. Madam President Smt. Droupadi Murmu, through her short speech, emphasised the importance of forests and our role in protecting them. She encouraged us to work with dedication and sincerity, upholding ethical principles. Then we had a group photograph with Madam President in the magnificent Ashoka Hall. This was followed by a visit to the major halls of Rashtrapati Bhavan and Amrit Udyan.

In evening, we had a session with Vice President of India Shri Jagdeep Dhankar. Our batchmates Kaaviya and Vinod Jakhar introduced our batch. Sir encouraged us to develop innovative solutions to challenging problems facing our forests and environment. He said that in the on-going phase

of 'Amrit Kaal', we have to fulfil the vision of the founding fathers of our nation and the aspirations of citizens of India. On the second day, we went to Indira Paryavaran Bhavan and got the opportunity to meet the Minister of Environment and Forests Shri Bhupendra Yadav. Apart from imparting the mantra for forest protection, Sir said that we must imbibe humility and empathy in our character to be effective officials.

On the next three days, we visited the 'Temple of Democracy'- the Parliament of India. We were fortunate to meet the Speaker of Lok Sabha Shri Om Birla. We visited the Rajya Sabha Hall and also witnessed a short session of the House. We had several classes on Parliamentary procedures, which were taken by sitting legislators and officials of the Parliament.

The attachment provided us the opportunity to meet the President, Vice-President, Lok Sabha Speaker and Minister of MoEFCC. We aim to inculcate the values and ideas given by them and play our part in working for the protection of forests and wildlife and working for the sustainable development of our nation.







Calling on Honourable Vice President of India



Group Photograph with Honourable Minister of MoEFCC



# BATCH PERSPECTIVE ON TRAINING AND SERVICE

-Abhinav Raj

A survey was conducted in which probationers of 54<sup>th</sup> RR batch were asked 3 questions-

- (1) their motivation to join IFS
- (2) how they would apply their knowledge of educational background in forestry
- (3) targets they have set to achieve by the end of training

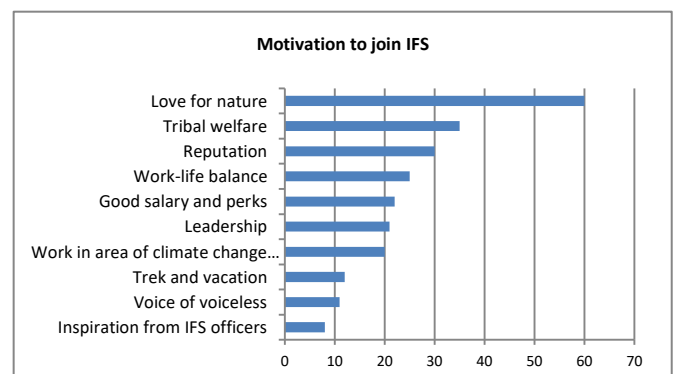
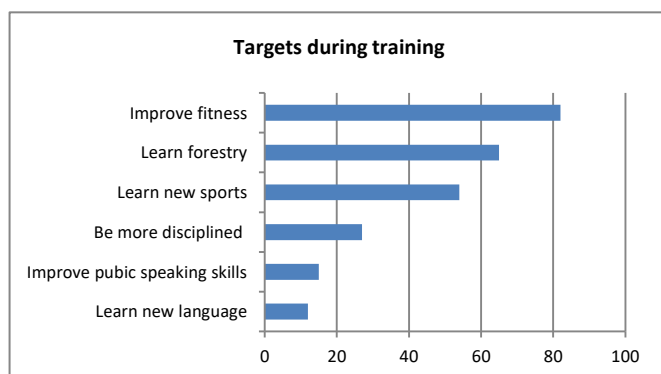
Most probationers expressed their love for nature as the primary motivation to join IFS. Many come from remote rural background where the accessibility to government service is poor. By joining IFS, one can contribute to development of the most remote areas and the poorest and most neglected sections of society. Many probationers selected IFS as it provides a great avenue to work in this field. Also, many feel that this service provides good work-life balance and opportunity to live close to nature and to go on treks and vacations. Finally, good salary and perks, societal recognition and leadership opportunities at young age provide motivation to join this service.

Around 75% have engineering background and aim to increase use of technology for more scientific and efficient forest management. Probationers gave ideas such using GIS to digitise forest maps, designing engineering solutions to old forestry practices, mathematical modelling of forest resources, using AI in analysis, etc. Civil engineering graduates aim to utilise their

knowledge in forest surveys, construction of good quality forest roads and buildings. A common thing which engineering graduates express is that they are trained to be problem solvers and will try to give innovative solutions to problems. There are also many graduates in forestry agriculture and fisheries. IFS was an obvious choice for them and they can directly use their learning in this job.

A very interesting result was that most probationers target improving fitness during training period. Many target completing full marathon by the end of the training. Our academy's aim to train us to be more disciplined, be fitter (have strong legs) and take keen interest in sports have been assimilated well by us. Majority also want to learn a new sport. Through this hectic training schedule, most feel that we would become more disciplined and capable for the rigours of this job. Few want to improve their public speaking skills through academy presentations and participation in club activities.

This survey provided an insight into the aspirations of probationers. Overall, the batch seems very enthusiastic about working for environment protection, improving physical fitness and acquiring skills during training period to become efficient forest officers.



## Interview

**Shri Hemant Kamdi** is an IFS officer of 2009 batch belonging to Nagaland cadre. He has been working passionately for wildlife conservation. He has previously served as Deputy Commissioner of Forests and as Wildlife Warden in Forest department of Nagaland. Presently he is working in National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). We got an opportunity to interact him while we were on our introductory tour at Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra. He explained us MSTrIPES system developed by NTCA. Tarun S., probationer of 54<sup>th</sup> batch of IFS took an interview where he gave valuable insights into work of NTCA for tiger conservation. Here are excerpts from the interview.

- **How is MSTrIPES used in areas outside tiger reserves?**

MSTrIPES was implemented initially in tiger reserves as NTCA has mandate over them. Later, progressive states like Maharashtra extended its use to areas outside tiger reserves. NTCA regularly sends its representatives for training of forest staff and capacity building of the department for this purpose.

- **When we talk about tiger conservation, we only discuss the increasing tiger population in our country. Are there other parameters to evaluate how well the tiger habitat is performing as a whole?**

All components of the ecosystem- the abiotic environment, herbivores and carnivores are interdependent. Since tiger is the apex carnivore, its population is the most representative parameter of habitat conservation status. In addition, it is objective and easily interpretable by all.

- **What are your views on relocation of tiger from conflict areas where they face conflicts?**



Tigers can be shifted from high tiger density and conflict areas to other areas which were once inhabited by them. But we do not want to practice it in a systematic way as it would mean shifting conflict to other places. Also, we do not shift lactating mothers for the safety and health of cubs.

- **Are there any success stories of rewilding of sub-adult tigers?**

Rewilding of tigers was considered almost impossible 15-20 years ago, but now there have been successful cases of tiger rewilding in Kanha and Pench. Many tigers in Nauradehi and Sanjay Dubri are from the rewilded stock.

- **Tourism is one of the non-intrusive forest activities and is a source of livelihood for forest communities. In several judgements, Honourable Supreme Court has recommended phasing out tourism activities especially from non-core areas of tiger reserves. What are your views on this?**

Wildlife Protection Act gives the mandate to forest department for education and recreation, which is happening through eco-tourism. It also provides employment to local people, moving them away from exploitative use of forests. NTCA aims that the core areas should be as inviolate as possible. Through intervention of the Honourable Supreme Court, NTCA published new guidelines



in 2012. These guidelines recommend restricting tourism to 20% of core area, if it exceeds at present and restriction on expansion of tourism activities in core area. NTCA is also working to shift tourism from core area to buffer area.

- **Is it feasible to relocate large number of villages from core areas to outside forest?**

The aim of village relocation is not only to create inviolate area but also to improve standard of living of people living in remote forest areas. Though this entails huge cost on exchequer, it must be a priority of the government as it brings the most marginalised sections of the country into mainstream. In Satpura tiger reserve, villages are being relocated from buffer areas also.

- **What parameters are considered by NTCA in funding tiger reserves?**

NTCA considers indicators such as tiger population, area of reserve, effectiveness of management and past track record to determine the amount of funding to tiger reserves.

- **There have been numerous incidents where frontline staff were killed by wildlife. How do we use technology to make patrolling safer?**

Threat is equal for all forest staff including senior officers. We should consider patrolling as professional hazard the way police and paramilitary forces do. We are increasing use of drones and motor vehicles but foot patrolling has to continue as it is the best strategy for protection. Stray examples of forest staff being killed by wildlife should not be used as justification for doing away with foot patrolling.

Despite population pressure and developmental goals, we have performed exceptionally well.

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- **Where do you see conservation in India going over the next 10 years?**

Being in NTCA provides me opportunity to interact with international delegates and to participate in international conferences. I can proudly state that despite population pressure, huge cattle numbers and developmental goals, we have performed exceptionally well in the area of conservation. We are on the right track. 10 years down the line, I believe that left wing extremism will decrease, new areas like degraded lands and naxal-affected areas will get opened up for wild animals. I aim to see preponderance of wildlife in north east and east central India which have less wildlife at present.

(edited by Abhinav Raj)

## GLIMPSES FROM INTRODUCTORY TOUR



# Tour Experiences

## YE HAI MAYA

-Yash kale

During our Introductory Tour, we had a chance to visit the Heartland of Tiger Country - Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve. Famous for its 'Striped Monks', it is home to over 120 tigers.

Being split into two smaller groups of 50 each, we were the second one to go. Much to our envy, the first group had a gala time in the safari - spotting a spectacular 4-5 tigers in just one afternoon. In one remarkable moment, one of the tigers decided to walk very close to the convoy and then take a rest between two gypsies. Being the 'Lords of the Land', they could do as they pleased while we were happy bystanders.

Now on our turn, we already had expectations (and pressures) of getting sightings as good as the first group. The previous day, the dynamic Deputy Director Kushagra Pathak sir (IFS) had remarked that one needs to have special bad luck to not spot tigers when in Tadoba.

We began in peak afternoon at around 2. Despite being February, the sun was merciless and relentless. Our dark field dress did not help either. We set out, equipped with hats, sunglasses, masks, layers of sunscreen and a borrowed camera. The convoy of jeeps was led by ACF Mahesh Khore. In our jeep we were me, Sumit, Valli, Azad and Kiruba. We were lucky to have an experienced guide and driver with us. Thus began our search for the big cat! For me, it would be the first tryst with the big cat in the wild. In fact it was my first safari ever.

As our jeep trodded along the dusty roads of TATR, our eyes were constantly scanning the foliage at the sides to get a glimpse of the stripes. Meanwhile, other friends of forest showed up. A Sambhar mother and her fawn graced us with their presence. One doesn't realise how large it is

from the pictures. It is a majestic creature. We also saw herds of chital, a sight to behold. Passing by lakes we saw a bunch of crocodiles lounging in the sun.

By 5 o'clock, my hopes of sighting had reached nadir! I was resigning myself to the fact that I did really have some special bad luck! The sun was going down and the clock was ticking. Our guide was upbeat though, cheering us on. He explained that there is still ample chance to spot the tiger.

Suddenly the radio buzzed. Frantic commands were heard. Our convoy zoomed past a lake! In Marathi the guide exclaimed "'Jodi Disli Ahe" (A pair has been spotted). We turned from the main road onto a narrower path. In few minutes the convoy came to a halt. Even before we could reach, we were signalled to stay silent. I smiled gleefully- this is it.

Past a thin line of bushes, I first saw a dash of Saffron - bright and large! A moment later I spotted another. Behold the couple- Maya and Rudra. Maya is famous as the Queen of Tadoba-large and majestic. She has a large list of progeny. The park owes a lot of its striped treasures to Maya's vitality.

Both of them were lazing in a clearance surrounded by a ring of bushes - perfect for a mating ritual. Rudra was trying to woo her, with Maya appearing to play hard ball. On the other side, we were watching intently. The jeeps had huddled up in a chaotic manner. Thankfully, we were not too close to disturb their courtship, but close enough to get a good view. Maya let out a yawn, giving me a 'Kodak moment'! Her canines were visible in an intimidating manner while the rest of her face resembled a big cute cat. I was really happy to capture this on camera.

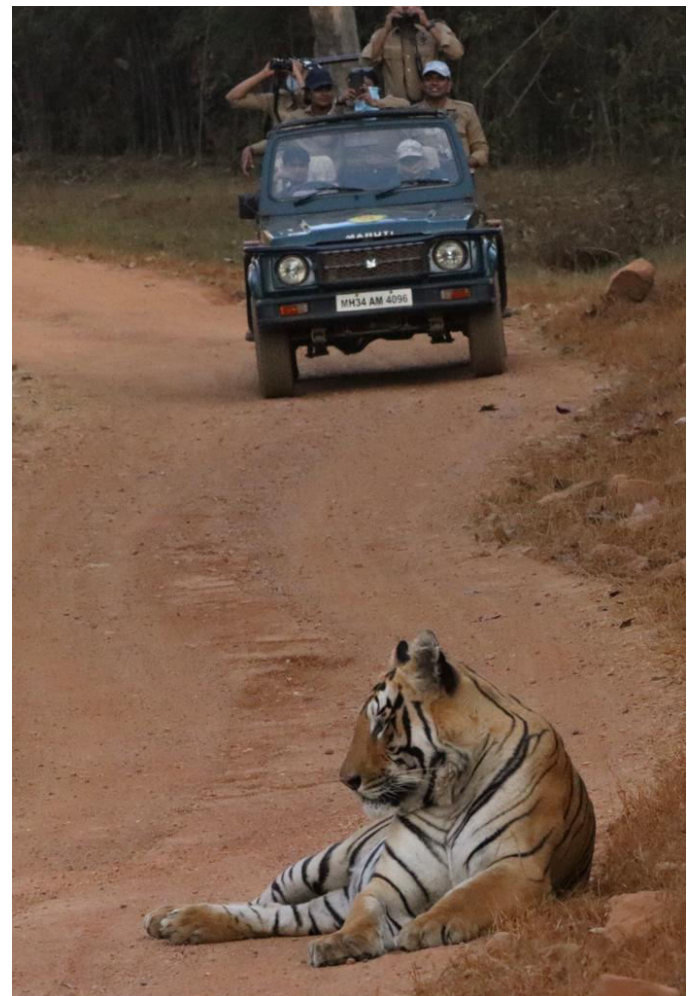
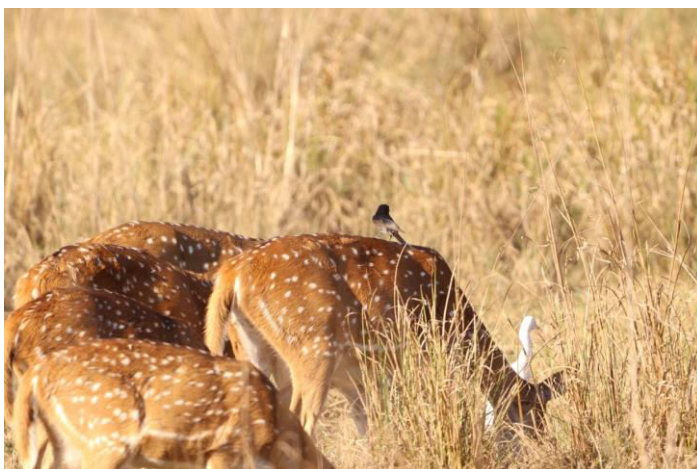
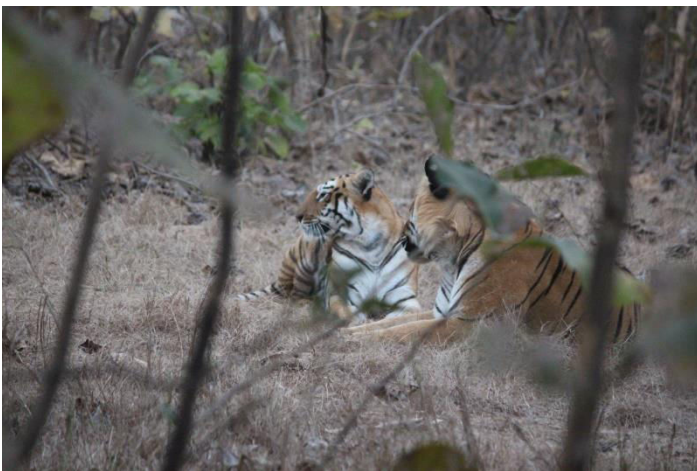


We were waiting for some action, some movement, anything! Rudra rose to the moment! Getting up, he first shook the leaves off him vigorously. He looked around for a bit and then began walking in circles around her. Maya, initially unfazed, began paying attention. Slowly Rudra zeroed in on her. Slowly approaching her, they caressed each other and rubbed their cheeks against each other.

The intimate side of these ferocious animals is a sight worth watching. Rudra then mounted Maya. A few beastly grunts were heard and in a few moments the union had been consummated. That's when we learnt about the interesting nature of tiger mating. One bout is surprisingly short - 15 seconds only. But here's the catch- they

can go at it up to 50 times a day. And a typical mating ritual lasts for 4-5 days. Having seen the 'Dance of the Tigers', our safari was coming to an end. It was already late and the light had almost faded. Our convoy set back on the way. We stopped at a forest rest house by the lake a beautiful monument in itself - for pleasantries with the Park officials.

The ride back to the Moharli gate was a serene experience. In the open-air jeep traversing through deep forests of Tadoba in the chill winter nights, the stars put on a show for us. The ride was long and tiring but the stellar beauty made up for it. We then left TATR, with lifelong memories- of forests, dusty roads, and constellations and above all of Maya and Rudra.



# EXPLORING THE ENCHANTING WESTERN HIMALAYAS

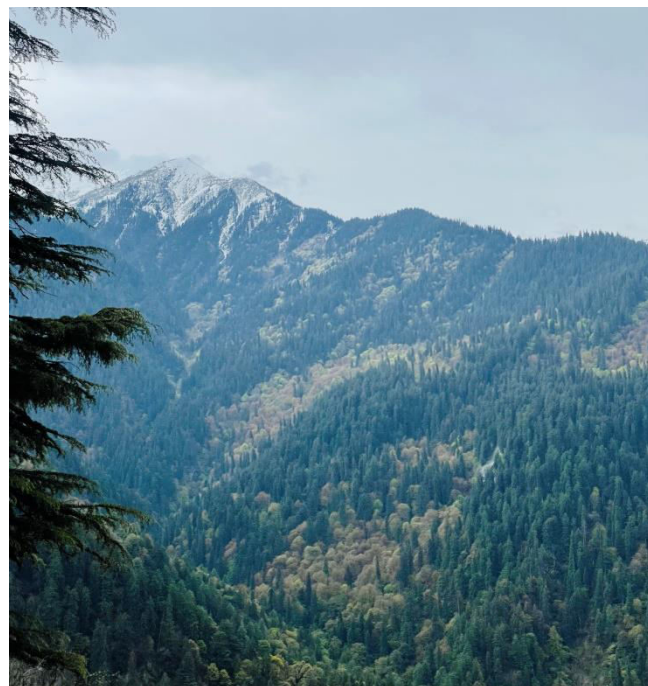
**-Mohammed Abdul Rawoof Shaik**

*"In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks." - John Muir*

An aura of excitement and vitality was evident around the 50 IFS probationers of 54th RR as they embarked on an educational journey to the captivating landscapes of the Western Himalayas. This being the first of our thematic tours, we were eagerly looking forward to the thrilling visits in our itinerary as we departed from the Old Hostel on the 29th of April 2023. Over the next three weeks, we immersed ourselves into the magnificence of the mighty Himalayas and its rich biodiversity in Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh and Kashmir. This tour created lifetime memories and deepened our understanding of the fragile and pristine ecosystems that our future conservation efforts shall protect. Our Course Director Dr. Sivabala sir accompanied us on the tour. He ensured that we learn forestry as well as culture of the places we visit while having lot of fun.

## Himachal Pradesh: Where Nature Paints its Masterpieces

One week spent in the beautiful state of Himachal Pradesh was an incredible combination of natural, cultural and social experiences. From trekking through the dense forests and the verdant valleys of the Great Himalayan National Park, to nature walk on the mist-kissed mountain



trails of the Shimla Water Catchment Wildlife Sanctuary, we embraced and appreciated the untouched ecosystems of the vibrant flora and the elusive fauna. We had insightful firsthand learning at our visits to successful ex-situ conservation works including the Chir Pheasant Breeding Centre at Chail and the Himalayan Nature Park at Kufri, which is the highest altitude zoo in India at 2700 m above mean sea level. We met many high ranking officials from the forest department and received valuable technical and managerial inputs. The most notable officials whom we met were Shri V.K. Tiwari, PCCF (HoFF) of Himachal Pradesh and Shri (Dr.) G.S. Goraya, retired PCCF (HoFF) of the state, who is a renowned taxonomist and after whom multiple plant species have been named. Finally, exploring the city of Shimla, its monuments with neo-gothic architecture, and visiting SHE HAAT - a wayside amenity run by 25 SHG women in a very professional manner, provided a comprehensive understanding of the state.



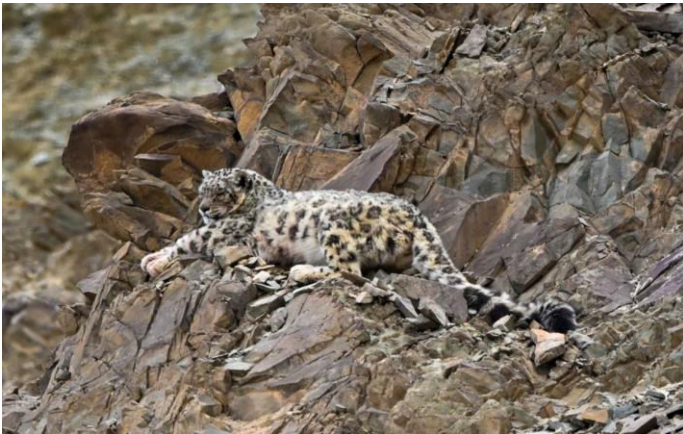


## Ladakh: The Desert in the Skies

*"Only the best of friends and worst of enemies visit us" - Ladakhi proverb*

Leaving behind the lush greenery of the vast Deodar forests, we headed to the stunning sceneries of Ladakh, where the high-altitude cold desert captivated our minds and hearts. The day-long travel by road from Jispa to Leh took us through snowy mountains and some of the highest passes in the world. In the midst of the arid terrain, we were fascinated by the sighting of the "ghost of the mountains" - the elusive snow leopard in Stok. We got the golden opportunity to ride the double-humped Bactrian camels and to witness the sand dunes in the deep Nubra valley

surrounded by high rugged mountains. The picturesque Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary and the surreal Pangong Tso are places where one feels that he is in a different world. The homestay at the Saspotse village provided an immersive experience into the local culture, cuisine, lifestyle and hospitality of the Ladakhi people. It also gave insights into conservation-based tourism. Finally, interactions with eminent persons like Padma Shree awardee Shri Sonam Wangchuk at his Himalayan Institute of Alternatives Ladakh (HIAL) and Shri Jigmet Takpa, PCCF Ladakh prompted us to contemplate on the importance of alternative education models, water conservation, and the fragile nature of the Ladakhi ecosystem.





## Kashmir: Where Heaven Touches Earth

On the final leg of our tour, we began our journey from Leh to Srinagar driving through the ice walls of the Zoji la pass and the coniferous tracts of the enchanting Kashmir, often referred to as the “Paradise on Earth”. On our way, we were mesmerised by the beauty and tranquility in the landscapes of Drass, Kargil and Sonmarg. At Dachigam National Park in Srinagar, the only habitat of the Kashmiri Stag in the world and the area of highest black bear density in Asia, we learnt about the history and origin of the protected area, and various in-situ conservation measures being adopted using the state-of-art technologies. As we cruised along the serene Dal Lake and Wular Lake in the traditional shikaras, we understood the various conservation and

management efforts being undertaken by the Lake Authorities to balance tourism promotion with environment protection. Finally, we fell in love with the green pastures and meadows of the spectacular Gulmarg, where we also got to know about the grazing rights system of the nomadic people, and the operations and functioning of the J&K Forest Development Corporation.

As we returned from this transformative expedition, we carry with us a renewed sense of purpose and responsibility. Our tour experience in the Western Himalayas has deepened our commitment to protect these fragile ecosystems. The lessons we have learned and the memories we have made shall guide us throughout our life as the conservators of nature and environment.





# PASSING THROUGH THE EASTERN HIMALAYAS

-Adarsh Sharan

Before I begin the article, let me throw a disclaimer that this article is not a report on the Eastern Himalayan Tour. That is for the GL and the AGLs and other office bearers to write upon. Rather this is a satirical anecdote of the inner machinations of half of the 54<sup>th</sup> RR batch that went to the Eastern Himalayas. But then you may ask why am I writing about the tour or rather what is my locus standi in all of this? To this I'll say that my role in assisting the tour planners presented me a front row seat in the planning process (so much so that some gave me the moniker of "Honorary AGL") on the basis of which I feel qualified in writing this article. Now that the disclaimer is out, let me begin.

The Eastern Himalayan tour, once announced, was being touted as an unexplored area among the IFS community, owing to it being included as part of the Hill Tour for the very first time. I must present my gratitude to our Course Director (C.D.) Dr. Sivabala sir for coming up with the idea. While many batches had previously visited the North-eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh as part of the Eastern Tour over the years, the areas of Sikkim and Darjeeling Himalayas would be toured for the first time ever. Such novel changes by the C.D. did bring with it an element of excitement; however, the fact that the tour schedule along with the GL & AGLs were announced with about only a month to go, and given that planning would have to be done from scratch, it added to the worries of the planners that planning would have to be done hurriedly.

Add to that, the tour was to be held in April-May, which is peak tourist season in these areas, meaning that booking hotels, flights, transport etc would become even more difficult given the cost limitations that we as Level-10 government officers face. Atleast the C.D. gave the planners a free hand in planning the tour as per their liking,

which proved to be a major confidence booster for the planning team. Anyways, I am not here to talk about all this or I would be reneging on the disclaimer that I put up right at the beginning of this article. Rather let me talk about some of the humorous incidents which may have happened behind-the-scenes which many of you may not be aware of.

## Strong Legs – The Foundation of a Forester



This anecdote is about the time when we were planning the Himalayan trek. Sandakphu was the obvious choice as the other famous treks in the area would take more time than the allotted three days. The trek route, however, was up for debate. From what we could make out from the conversation between our C.D. and the CCF, North Bengal on phone loudspeaker, it seemed that we would be trekking 26 km on day 1 and 25 km on day 2! We were taken aback. Our proposed route was one which I had completed as a Class 10 school kid and was of easy to moderate intensity. But the recommended route was one which would be very testing and seemed impossible to complete for most.

Add to that, our C.D. being adamant on taking the recommended route resulted in a deadlock. It was insisted that since we are foresters, we were a class apart from common trekkers and should

undertake the recommended route. Fortunately for us, the deadlock seemed to be a case of misunderstanding and we were relieved to learn that the recommended route involved travelling some distance by car and trekking just 26 km in total over two days. It seemed certainly doable. Little did we know then that it wouldn't matter in the end as the inclement weather in Sandakphu meant that only about ten of us even attempted to complete the trek, with just one completing it on foot!

## East v/s West & the Ghost of the Himalayas

As soon as the tour planning had started, comparisons were galore between the Eastern Himalayas and Western Himalayas. And these comparisons were not just about geography. Topics ranging from what places would be covered, trek location and level of toughness, hotels, buses v/s Innovas etc. etc. were being compared with both group members believing that their respective locations would be better than the other. And once the tour actually began, the comparisons only got more vigorous. For example, while we were visiting pristine areas of Assam and Arunachal in the initial days, the Western group were all cosily held up at Shimla



for three days. Yes, three days! We all were wondering what good would happen by stopping at Shimla for so long. We even met the then Union Law Minister vis-à-vis the “Westerners”. While such comparisons added to the fun element, the “battle of the better tour” was simultaneously ongoing on social media as well with banter from both sides. Barrage of pictures were being posted on the WhatsApp group. No points for guessing which of the two groups had the time to actively access social media. Hint: They were holed up in Shimla for three days.

We, the “Easterners”, all chuckled at posts like “Hot food in cold weather” and “Mornings at Kufri” as we noticed the same pictures being posted by multiple individuals. The jury was out – we “Easterners” were clearly winning the “battle of the better tour”. But then came the news that the “Westerners” had seen a snow leopard, that too in the wild. That changed everything. Seeing the Ghost of the Himalayas devouring its kill (a poor urial in this case) is every wildlife enthusiast's dream. Personally, I refused to believe at first that it was a chance sighting, knowing very well that even the most zealous enthusiasts rarely manage to witness a snow leopard in the wild. I assumed that the sighting was somehow staged, but then I realised my assumption was wrong. The sighting definitely tipped the “battle” in the “Westerners'” favour. Add to that, the banter by the “Westerners” on WhatsApp added salt to injury. We desperately hoped to miraculously see a wild snow leopard in North Sikkim when we would be visiting there.





Although we did not encounter a wild one, we finally did see snow leopards in captivity and other cold desert wildlife. At the end, I guess the collective experiences of both the groups were unique and the “battle” ended in a stalemate.

### WiFi and Chapatti – Where art thou?

One of the symptoms of visiting pristine areas such as the Northeast is that we wouldn't have internet access too often. Personally, I find it useful to take a break from technology from time to time to self-reflect and ponder. However, during the tour, I learnt that many did not share this line of thought. For instance, while we were staying at Lachen village in North Sikkim, the entire group was divided into three hotels owing to the non-availability of a big enough hotel to accommodate all of us. There was anguish among some of the OTs regarding availability of WiFi, for such facilities were luxury for such a place. This led to allegations and counter-allegations by some that OTs in other hotels were enjoying WiFi and they weren't, while being oblivious of the fact that WiFi wasn't available in any of the hotels. At the end, friendly persuasion by the GL/AGLs prevailed and all the anguish was addressed.

Another peculiarity was the non-availability of chapati wherever we went. The Northeastern people are predominantly rice-eaters, given that wheat was never grown there and did not form a part of the food palate. This added to the woes of some of the OTs, who were habituated to eating chapati and equated meals with “roti”. All of us had to endure eating rice atleast twice a day



(even thrice as in Tawang). I can still remember the faces and expressions of some when they realised that only rice and no chapatti was in the menu. The continuous “over-consumption” of rice even affected me as I realised that I had gained 3 kgs by the end of the tour!

Finally, all I can say is that the Eastern Himalayan tour was an astounding success. I'm sure all of us would agree to that. It was a fun-filled learning experience which would never have been possible if our C.D. hadn't given the liberty to design the tour as per our choice. The enthusiasm was on full display – right from swimming in the Teesta as we rafted through it to posing topless on reaching Tinjurey peak in Fombonglho Sanctuary and getting front row seats to see the

Rafale aircraft. We also faced disappointments such as getting a reality check that we couldn't visit Bhutan without the government's permission, despite being as close as 15 km from the border.

Anyways, the success of the tour was evident when all of us shouted ‘Hip Hip Hurray’ for the GL/AGLs on our way back from the Dehradun Airport. This tour has definitely set the bar high for all the tours that follow and all I can wish for is that our experiences only get better as we explore newer places. “Three cheers for the upcoming tours. Hip Hip Hurray!”

*All views expressed in this article are personal. This article is meant to be a humorous account and does not intend to hurt anyone's sentiments.*



## Fond Memories



Thrilling volleyball match with Senior IFS officers. 🏐









# Major Events

## SPORTS WEEK

-Abhinav Raj

The much awaited Sports Week was held from 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2023. The participants- probationers from 53<sup>rd</sup> and 54<sup>th</sup> RR and all faculty members were divided into 4 houses- Tigers, Rhinos, Tuskers and Lions. Teams were formed by observing performance of probationers in all sports such that all teams were balanced overall and had good chance of winning the overall championship. The week-long event provided a break from the hectic class schedule. Our academy has good sporting culture and this event raised the sporting spirits to highest levels. Players had started preparations from two weeks before the event. There was enthusiastic participation from both batches as well as faculty members.

Numerous sporting events ranging from athletics, swimming, cricket, football, volleyball, basketball, kabaddi, kho kho, badminton, lawn tennis and indoor games such as billiards, snooker, carrom, foosball and table tennis were organised. Many of these sports- kabaddi, foosball and kho kho were held for the first time.

Rhinos were the winners in the last edition of the games and they were determined to guard their glory. However, each House was equally resolved to win the event. Each house performed extraordinarily well in certain sports. In men's athletics, Tuskers led by Rahul Jhaharia, won gold in most long distance races. On women's side, Valli of Rhinos won in sprints and Vandana Phogat of Lions won in longer events. In swimming, Shreyas Srivastava of Tigers and Urvashi Jain of Tuskers won almost all events of their category. In billiards and snooker, Pema and Tshering showcased their invincibility. Among team sports, Lions won cricket and basketball, Rhinos won volleyball, kho kho and basketball,

Tigers won football and Tuskers were the winners in kabaddi. There was tough competition between Tuskers and Rhinos for the first place and between Tigers and Lions for the third place, which remained undecided till the last leg of events. By winning men's relay race, Tuskers sealed the top spot. In the last event of the week- Tug of War, Lions defeated Tigers in finals and bagged the third spot. Rahul Jhaharia and Vandana Phogat, both from 53<sup>rd</sup> RR batch won the awards for Best Male and Female Athletes respectively.

The participation of faculty of our academy in sports events was an inspiration for us. Their energy, enthusiasm and passion for sports increased the zeal of the probationers. Our Course Director Dr. Sivabala sir participated in all swimming events, in athletics and football. Additional Director Shri Sushil Awasthi sir participated in Lawn Tennis, Shri Sudhakar sir in Badminton and Shri Rajkumar Bajpai sir in chess. Apart from winning medals for their teams, they highlighted the importance of sports and fitness and leaving behind the considerations of service rank and profile in sports. Director Shri Bharat Jyoti sir gave special appreciation to Sports Secretaries- Pavan Jong of our senior batch and Shivkumar Gangal of our own batch for conducting the week-long event in such an organised manner.

This week provided the participants an opportunity to show their athletic prowess and sports talents and a platform for both batches and faculty members to play together, interact and make good bonds. The week would be etched in our memory for a long time to come.







# VARSHOTSAVA - THE ANNUAL CULTURAL FESTIVAL

## -Padmabhushan Rajguru

The Varshotsava, inspired by the fascinating allure of rain and its significance in our lives, aimed to bring together the 53<sup>rd</sup> and 54<sup>th</sup> RR in a celebration of unity, joy, and the rich tapestry of cultures that our batchmates and seniors represent. As the Joint Cultural Secretary, I was humbled to witness the dedication and enthusiasm displayed by my fellow batchmates and seniors as they collaborated to bring this event to life.

The classical and semi-classical Bharatnatyam performances by Kaaviya and Valli were a graceful ode to our cultural heritage. The dancers' precise movements, intricate hand gestures and expressions conveyed tales of tradition and spirituality, leaving the audience mesmerized by their artistry.

The rhythmic and energetic Bhangra performance choreographed by Gurleen Kaur set the tone for the evening's festivities. Anshul Tiwari gave an excellent standup comedy performance. The stage then transformed into a mini Bollywood extravaganza, with batchmates delivering impeccable performances on popular Bollywood numbers. Seniors also joined the foray and Cultural Secretary Sooraj Ben, Swati and their team showcased beautiful nostalgia that we share about the Bollywood songs through a series of dances. Abdul Rawoof and Rahul Mishra led the charge with their passion for this art with Prabhu Deva-like grace in hip-hop.

Now, was the time for regional language dances, starting with the Tamil and Telugu, engaging beats of Maari and Arabic Kuthu certainly made the audience to jump from the seats. Urvashi and Chandani draped in beautiful Nav-vari Saree with traditional Marathi look performed 'Pinga' followed by the Marathi dance anthem of 'Zingaat'.

There was a little turn to this program as Prof. M. Sudhagar (IFS) also shared the enthusiasm of the participants and truly reminded us of the music maestro S. P. Balasubrahmanyam. So was Ganesan Sir who sung in a melodious voice. Also the little family members of faculties got the chance to showcase their talents.

However, it was the singing choir that stole the show and became the highlight of the evening. The choir's performance not only showcased our batch's musical talent but also underlined the power of unity and collective effort. Rahul Mishra, Niranjana and Neethu worked really hard for this new experiment and lived up to the expectation and went beyond.

What made Varshotsava even more special was witnessing few of our batchmates stepping onto the stage for the first time. Their debut performances were a reminder that stepping out of one's comfort zone can lead to the most rewarding experiences.

We are also thankful to Shri Bharat Jyoti (Director, IGNFA), Shri S.K. Awasthi (Additional Director, IGNFA), Prof. R.K. Bajpai (Vice President, Officers Club), Shri M. Sudhagar (Course Director, 53<sup>rd</sup> RR) and Dr. S. Sivabala (Course Director, 54<sup>th</sup> RR) and all the faculty members of IGNFA who constantly supported probationers for the participation.

In conclusion, Varshotsava was more than just a cultural event; a testimony to the power of art, unity, and the joy of embracing new beginnings. The memories created on that stage will forever resonate in our hearts, reminding us of the power of culture to bring people together.





# THE CONFUSION ON DATE OF SANKRANTI

-Abhinav Raj

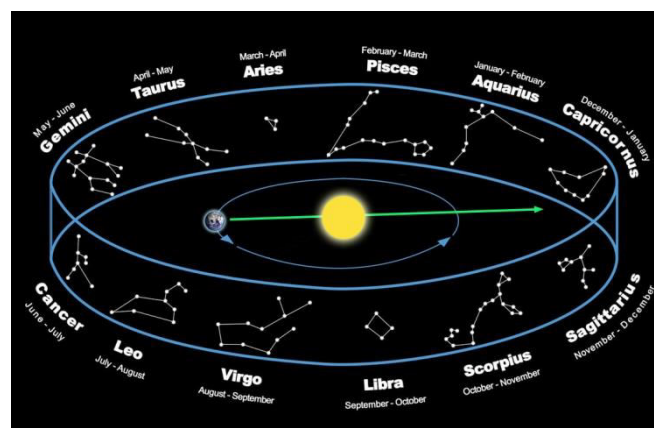
Makar Sankranti is the celebration of the transition of sun from zodiac of Sagittarius (dhanu) to zodiac of Capricorn (makara). This vaguely coincides with the transition of sun from south to north, marking the end of harsh winter. The festival is dedicated to Sun God and marks a new beginning. It is celebrated in different forms in all parts of India- Pongal in Tamil Nadu, Magh Bihu in Assam, Lohri in Punjab, Uttarayan in Gujarat, Dahi Chura in Bihar and so on. The day is associated with festivities such as flying kites, bathing in sacred lakes and rivers, melas and dances.

This is one of the few festivals which is celebrated according to Gregorian calendar year. This is because the Indian calendar- Vikram Samvat is luni-solar and Gregorian calendar is solar. Makar Sankranti goes entirely by solar calendar and hence follows Gregorian calendar date. In Vikram Samvat, months are determined by phases of moon, the lunar month being about 29.5 days in length. This adds up to 354 days in a calendar year. This discrepancy of 11.25 days compared to length of solar year in Gregorian calendar is corrected by addition of Adhik Maas (extra month) about every 2.5 years when one month repeats ( like Adhik Shravan after Shravan month this year). This correction makes the two calendar systems coincident in long run. Thus, our calendar is a mix of solar and lunar observations.

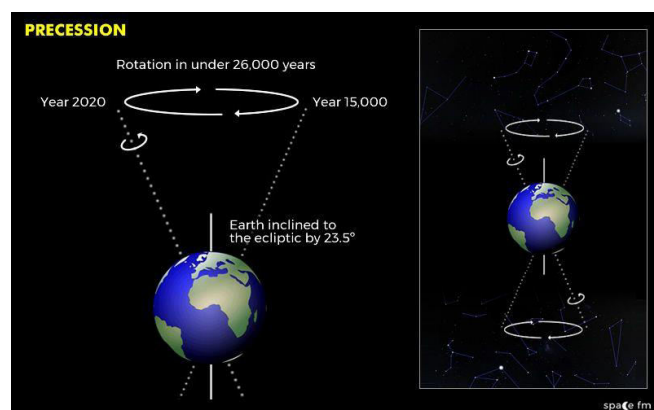
During past few years, a common point of discussion is the date of Sankranti- whether it is 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> of January. Sankranti is related to position of sun with respect to stars. It is different from solstice which is related to position of sun with respect to the equator. The date when sun crosses tropic of Capricorn is 22<sup>nd</sup> December. This date will also change every 3200 years because the tropical year is about 27 seconds shorter than the accepted year length of 365.2425 days.

However, due to precession of earth about its axis due to gravity of sun and moon, the position of earth's axis with respect to fixed stars varies by about 15 minutes every year, thus changing date of Sankranti by a day approximately every 100 years. Hence the date of Sankranti is now 15<sup>th</sup> January and will change to 16<sup>th</sup> January in 2101. It is interesting to note that during Aryabhata's time, Sankranti was celebrated on 21<sup>st</sup> December.

It is astonishing that the ancient Indian scientists had created such an elaborate and scientific calendar. The field was called astrology which is now associated with predictions of future but it is science, though future predictions are not



**Position of sun against the backdrop stars as the earth revolves round the sun**



**Precession of earth's axis over a cycle of 26,000 years, caused due to gravitational effects of moon, sun and planets**



correct. Astrology gave birth to present astronomy. The data collected by our astrologers was used Kepler to propound his planetary laws, which in turn was the foundation of Newton's law of gravitation. This discussion on the correct date of Sankranti is a reminder of the knowledge and scientific culture of our ancestors which we must try to revive and make our nation the leader in science and technology.

Year	Date of celebration	Time of Sun's entry into Capricornus
2001	14 Jan	5:10 am, 14th Jan
2002	14 Jan	11:19 am, 14th Jan
2003	14 Jan	5:30 pm, 14th Jan
2004	15 Jan	11:43 pm, 14th Jan
2005	14 Jan	5:41 am, 14th Jan
2006	14 Jan	11:54 am, 14th Jan
2007	14 Jan	6:07 pm, 14th Jan
2008	15 Jan	12:07 am, 15th Jan

Source: The Weather Channel

## GLIMPSES FROM EASTERN HIMALAYAN TOUR



# सकारात्मक निराशावाद

-शैलेश माचरा

**निराशावाद:** चीजों के सबसे बुरे पहलुओं को देखने की प्रवृत्ति! विश्वास करें कि सबसे बुरा होगा।

एक किशोर जिसने अभी-अभी 10वीं का परीक्षा दी है और आईआईटीजेई के लिए कोचिंग संस्थान में बैठा है। अन्य सभी बच्चों की तरह उसका भी एक सपना(कागजी तौर पर)था कि किसी प्रतिष्ठित आईआईटी (आईआईटी दिल्ली या आईआईटी मुंबई) में अपने दाखिला करवा सकें। अगर हम ऐसे ही एक किशोर जिसने अभी-अभी 10वीं का परीक्षा दी है और आईआईटीजेई के लिए कोचिंग संस्थान में बैठा है। अन्य सभी बच्चों की तरह उसका भी एक सपना(कागजी तौर पर)था कि किसी प्रतिष्ठित आईआईटी (आईआईटी दिल्ली या आईआईटी मुंबई) में अपने दाखिला करवा सकें। अगर हम ऐसे ही एक छात्र के पिछले आंकड़ों को देखे, कक्षा 9वीं में उसके सेक्शन के 45 छात्रों में से 25वां स्थान और बमुश्किल 60% पार कर पाया (10वीं का परिणाम घोषित नहीं किया गया), मुझे लगता है कि कोई भी पैसा इस पर नहीं लगाएगा की ये बच्चा ये परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण कर लेगा। 99.99% से अधिक निश्चितता के साथ भी, मैं कह सकता हूँ कि उसके लिए इस परीक्षा को पास करना असंभव है।

लेकिन उम्मीद पर ही दुनिया कायम है। मैं उस .01% अनिश्चितता का हिस्सा हूँ। हालाँकि पेपर मेरी उम्मीद के अनुरूप नहीं गया था लेकिन IIT दिल्ली में दाखिला दिलाने के लिए काफी था।

मुझे यकीन है कि मेरे तत्कालीन सहपाठियों [उन लोगों को छोड़कर जो मेरे साथ गणित और विज्ञान की ट्यूशन में थे - 9वीं 10वीं के दौरान] के लिए यह विश्वास करना बहुत कठिन था कि इस अतिप्रचारित आईआईटी जेई परीक्षा को पास करना कठिन था। कुछ कॉमर्स के छात्र नाराज थे क्योंकि किसी ने उनका पथभ्रष्ट किया था कि विज्ञान विषय कठिन है और उनसे शहर में होर्डिंग्स और अखबारों के पहले पन्ने पर आने का मौका छीन लिया और उन्होंने यश का एक अत्यंत आसान मौका खो दिए।

जैसा कि किसी ने कहा है "इतिहास खुद को दोहराता है"। एक लड़का मुश्किल से इंजीनियरिंग के अपने 4 साल जीवित रहा, जो मैकेनिकल विभाग के छात्रों की अंतिम चौथी तिमाही (अधिकतम से अधिकतम तीसरे के आखिर) में से होगा।

एक बार जब वह उत्तीर्ण हो जाए, तो कैट(CAT) के उम्मीदवारों को गुस्सा आ जाएगा कि किसी ने उन्हें गुमराह किया कि यूपीएससी सीएसई एक कठिन परीक्षा है और इत्यादि;

99.99% यकीन के साथ आप कह सकते हैं कि इस छात्र का यह परीक्षा को पास करना नामुमकिन है। लेकिन दुनिया आशा पर चलती है। यह समय और था। मैं 99.99% निश्चिता का हिस्सा था।

मैं हमेशा आशावादी रहा था, हमेशा साहसी विकल्पों का चयन करता था (मैकेनिकल विभाग चुनना सबसे साहसी था) एक असफलता आशावाद में मेरे विश्वास को नष्ट नहीं कर सकती थी।

मैंने एक और बार और अतिरिक्त प्रयासों के साथ तैयारी की। लेकिन फिर भी मैं 99.99% निश्चितता के दायरे में था। इस बार यह सिर्फ एक विफलता नहीं थी। यह मेरे आत्मसम्मान, मेरे अहंकार पर संध थी। यह उम्मीदों का टूटना था।

मैं वह नहीं था जो सुखियों में रहना पसंद करता था। लेकिन कुछ कारणों से सुखियों में रहा है, कम से कम जेई उत्तीर्ण करने के बाद से ( इससे पहले भी था लेकिन फिर तीव्रता बढ़ गई)।

इस बार वे बहुत कम लोग बहुत कम नहीं थे। वे पिछली बार की तुलना में बहुत अधिक थे। शायद अब मैं उनकी उम्मीदों का बोझ ढो रहा था। लेकिन इन असफलताओं ने उनका बोझ खत्म कर दिया।



फिर ऐसे 3 अनुभव थे (जिनकी चर्चा अलग-अलग लेखों में की गई है) जिन्होंने जीवन के प्रति मेरे रवैए को बदल दिया...

कुल मिलाकर इन 3 अनुभवों + 2 असफलताओं के बाद, मैं लगभग टूट चुका था। चीजें इतनी नीचे पहुंच गई थीं जिसकी मैंने कभी कल्पना भी नहीं की थी और कौन जानता है कि और भी अधिक खराब समय आने वाला है।

मुझे पूरा यकीन था कि मुझे सबसे खराब तैयारी करने की जरूरत है, मैंने चीजों को सबसे खराब स्तर से लेना शुरू किया और उन्हें उठाने के लिए उसी के अनुसार काम किया। इसके 2 फायदे हुए:

1: आप हमेशा उस स्थिति में रहेंगे जिस पर आपको गर्व/खुशी होगी।

2: आप उम्मीदों का सामना नहीं करेंगे। एक निराशावादी के रूप में, मैंने उम्मीदों के अतिरिक्त भार के साथ अपनी यात्रा शुरू की, मुझे पता है कि मैं अपने

लक्ष्य तक पहुँचने के लिए न्यूनतम संभव भार वहन कर रहा हूँ, लेकिन यह मुझे डराता नहीं है...  
**क्या मेरा निराशावाद मुझे अपना लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने से रोकता है?**

"नहीं, यह मेरे लक्ष्य के प्रति मेरी प्यास को अधिक तेज करता है.. यह मुझे प्रेरित करता है और मुझे कुछ हासिल करने की याद दिलाता है। यह अवसाद को दूर रखता है जो अन्यथा मुझे बहुत मुश्किल में डाल देता। इसने अपने आप में एक जानवर को सक्रिय कर दिया, मुझे और अधिक विनम्र और आसान बना दिया।

कुल मिलाकर, इसने मुझे मेरे जीवन में कठिनाइयों की सुनामी से बचाने के लिए एक गद्दी का काम किया। वैसे भी अगर मैं किसी भी दिन कालीफाई नहीं करता हूँ। (99.99% निश्चित) मैं वहाँ से बहुत दूर हो जाऊँगा जहाँ मैं कुछ महीने पहले था।

लेकिन सिर्फ मैं ही जानता हूँ, मैं हमेशा उस 0.01% का हिस्सा हूँ।

## अंतरद्वन्द्व -विकास शर्मा

टूटे टुकड़े, बिखरे कपड़े,  
भिनभिनाती मखियाँ, काष्ठ से पतले मियाँ,  
महीनों से हाल पर रोना,  
दीवार के पार झाँकने को आतुर मियाँ ...

पिछली दफा निकले थे गत महीने की अठारह को,  
जूते-चप्पल मिले थे खाने को,  
भूख थी लालसा लार टपकाए,  
फिर दखेल आ गई...  
इसी चारदीवारी में जिधर सुनाई देती हैं केवल,  
एक बालक की चीत्कारें...

वो रो रहा है सुबक-सुबक कर,  
झेल रहा पाप को अपने बाप के,  
हर रात एक निशान बढ़ जाता,  
देख पाते दीवार के उस पार नहीं मियाँ...

त्योरियां खिंच रही दिन-प्रतिदिन,  
झूलते तारों के बीच एक ट्रांजिस्टर-सी  
आशा मियाँ की...  
हथौड़े से भीतरी दीवारें तोड़ डाली!!  
लगे महीनों लेकिन...

एक दिन गली के पार पहुंचें मियाँ,  
किंतु...  
क्या??

अंधेरी गलियों में भीतरी द्वंद्व का  
नहीं होता साक्षात्कार...

पैर रख अपने ही पदचाप से  
थर्रा जाते मियाँ...  
भाग कर पहुंचे फिर वहीं  
चारदीवारी में मियाँ ...

# Short Story

## JUGAAD

-Neeraj Nischal

'Commute'- the one word that gives me nightmares. After returning from Gulf, I was afraid of starting a job due to the fear of daily Delhi commute. So, I was happily unemployed or as they say I was doing 'Work from Home'.

I met him in the lounge of the tower B of some fancy named boulevard/park that came up in NOIDA some time back where all fancy named MNCs have offices. I was interviewing for a job after mustering up courage and with a little 'encouragement' from my wife. Anyway, the guy was hard not to notice. He was practicing his salutations. Moving around the lounge he would go to each and every empty seat and say 'Good morning, nice to meet you sir!' in such a sincere voice that one would assume that there is an actual person sitting over there. I said hello and he responded guardedly with a polite smile. Once he was done with his practice, we talked a little bit. He told me how desperately he was seeking that job. I wished him well and went for my interview. And as usual I forgot to ask him his name. Let's call him Mr. M.

Days passed and I was well-settled at my job. I had returned to my normal routine- 1 lunch break, 4 smoke breaks and some work in between to tide over the day. I saw him a few times in the lift or in the lounge. We exchanged glances and that was it. One day when I was waiting for my share auto I saw him again. We were both going to catch the metro, so I decided to tag along. The auto that came had only one empty seat. Since we both were waiting together, there was an awkwardness of leaving the other behind. While we both kept on contemplating the best course of action, the auto driver got up from



his seat, unfolded it and to our surprise, there was an extra seat beside him. He went straight to that seat, sat down and kept quiet for the whole journey. In the end we paid the fare and headed towards the metro station.

Over the course of the month it had become a ritual. After punching out I would leisurely stroll to the gate, light up a cigarette and involuntarily wait for Mr. M. He would show up as soon as I would finish my cigarette. We would exchange glances; he would sit on his designated seat next to the auto driver and would not utter a word the whole trip. On few occasions I saw him in the same coach as mine, tried to strike a conversation but he remained guarded. Although he would mostly answer in yes or no but those eyes, my goodness, those eyes had a whole lot to tell. Mr.



M, I realised, came from a middle class family. I could glean this much from his clothes, phone, shoes and his general mannerism. Perhaps he was married, as he never looked at the girls in the metro or perhaps he was gay, who knows. I never asked him his marital status. I would only ask him how his day was. This question perhaps made his day as I could notice a faint smile between those lips which usually remained serious and contemplating. It was very difficult to get any info out of him. He spoke in a way that seemed distant as if his mind is somewhere else. He didn't seem happy but was neither sad. Perhaps he kept thinking about a life that is different from this and was content living in that world, who wouldn't? One thing though was clear. He had no friends except mine. He never told me where he lived but would get down one stop before mine. So he must be living somewhere nearby.

Four months had passed and my courage was giving up on me. I couldn't bear the job anymore. I had utilised my reserve strength and excess motivation and was finding it difficult to continue. It would be wrong to say that the thought did not cross my mind. I was thinking of leaving the job and wandering alone for a while; not necessarily in the Himalayas. I was looking for a purpose, some goal, something that I could call my own. From the time I started to understand life, I had been doing everything for others. Maybe that was supposed to benefit me, but shouldn't it be decided by me. What if I didn't want to settle down? What if I wanted to become a monk? What if? There were many.

I didn't know why but I couldn't resist myself from sharing these thoughts with M. First he laughed, which was not expected from him. He then told me that the reason for my anxiety was fear. I was afraid about my future and the future of my family without me. And without getting rid

of my fears I would continue to suffer. The guy had some valid points. His stop had come; so he left. I didn't see him for next 2 weeks.

Meanwhile I had decided to quit my job. Not sure what I would do next but the job had to go. Notice period of one month passed quickly. I saw M few times but we didn't talk much.

On my last day of office, when I was going to return access key and other office property to the admin department I met him in the lift. I told him to wait for me in the evening so that we could go together. I wanted to thank him for giving me courage to quit the job. He nodded positively.

In the evening at exactly 5:30 I had finished my cigarette and I saw him coming through the gate. Quietly he went and sat on the seat next to the driver. As usual he didn't say a word throughout the journey but there was a sort of melancholy on his face. I wanted to ask him if he was sad on me leaving the job. Within 15 minutes we reached the metro. I pulled out my wallet and gave a 50 rupee note to the driver asked him to take money for both of us. He seemed surprised. I asked him again *"Bhaiya hum dono ka katna"*. (Take money for both of us.)

*"Dono ka kiska, aap toh akele aaye ho"*  
(Both? But you have come alone.)

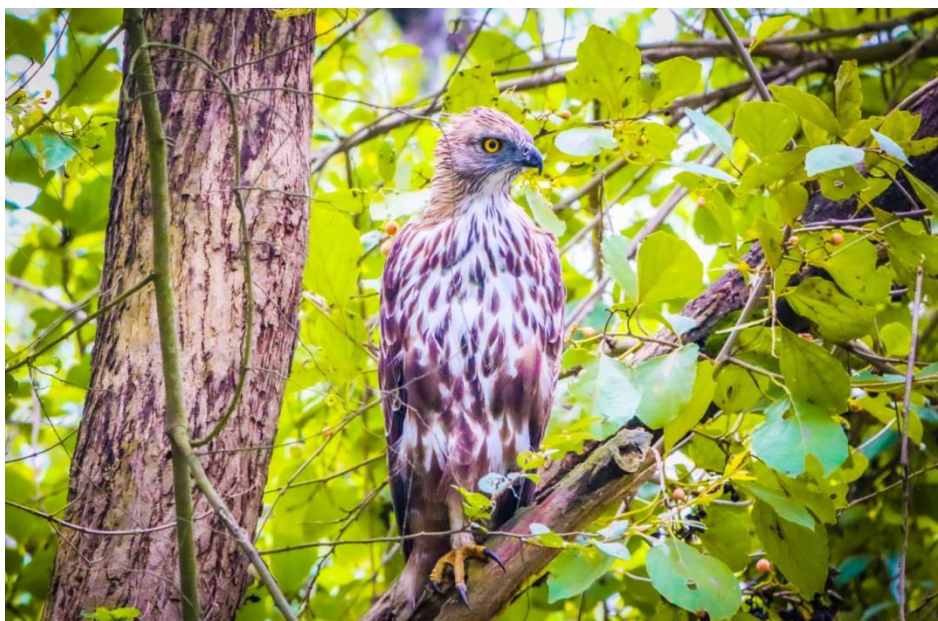
*"Are wahi jo aapki jugaad seat pe baitha hai"*  
(That person who is sitting on your Jugaad seat)

*"Kya mazak kar rahe ho sir, yeh seat toh kabki ban ho chuki hai."* (You are joking. That seat has been banned long back.)

I was standing there dumbstruck. He was smiling at me satisfactorily. I understood. I didn't wait for the change and left for the metro station, following the crowd that was moving with a single purpose- to catch a train.

# PICTURE PERFECT WILDLIFE

-Prashant Baviskar



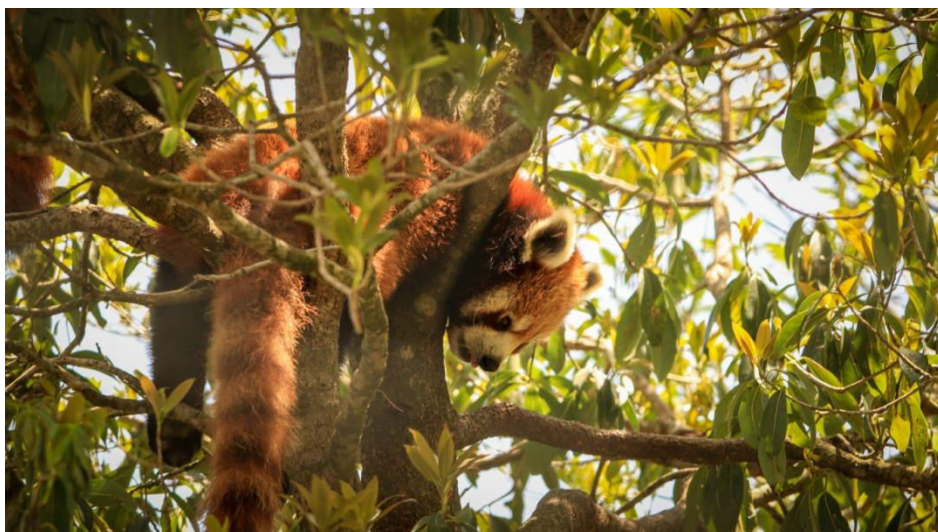
**Changeable Hawk Eagle**, who shares physical traits and hunting behaviour of both, hawk and eagle and with ability to change its plumage as it matures and that's why the name

**Clicked @** Rajaji Tiger Reserve



A male **Chital** also known as spotted deer, grazing on the pristine grasslands, live in matriarchal herd consisting of upto 100 individuals

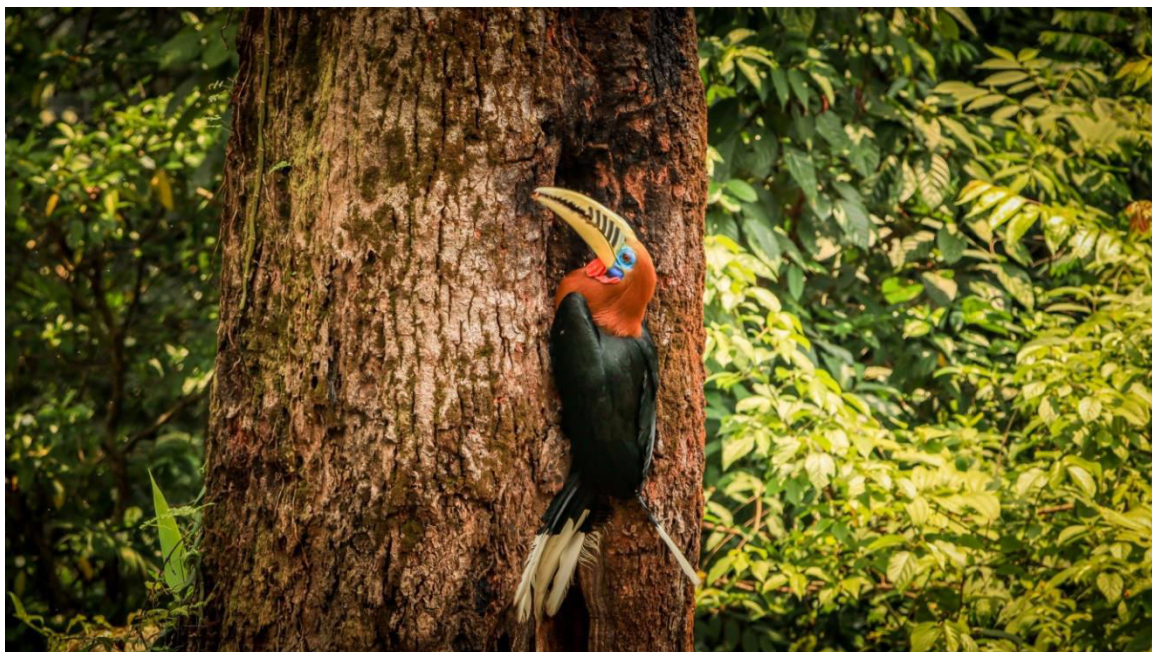
**Clicked @** Rajaji tiger reserve.



**Red panda** also known as lesser panda

**Clicked @** Red panda and snow leopard conservation and breeding centre, Darjeeling





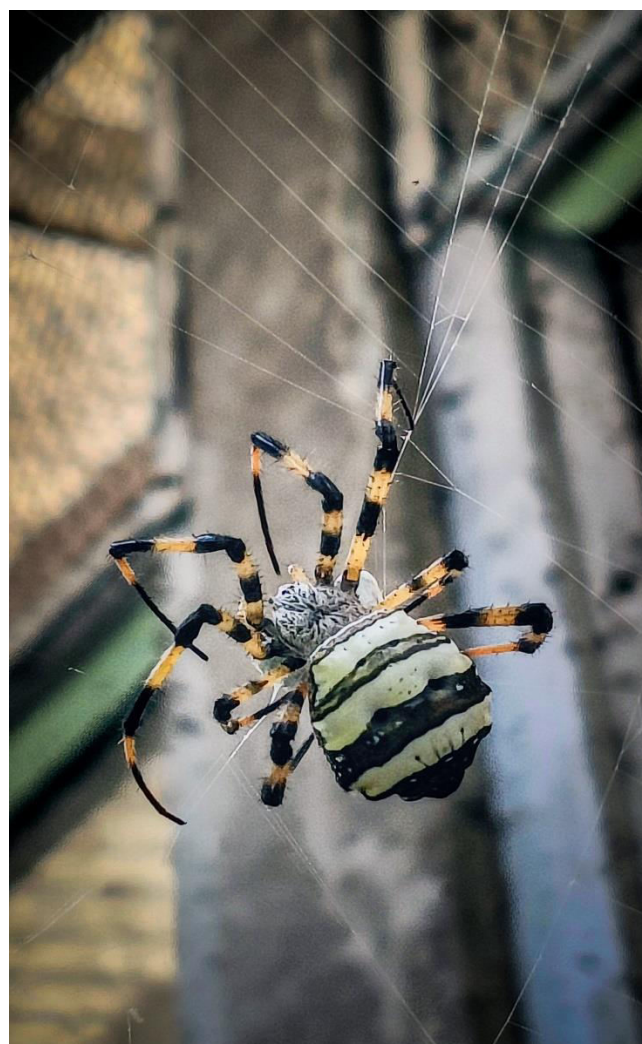
**Rufous-necked Hornbill**, feeding the female and taking care of his family, until they are on their own.

**Clicked @**  
Kurseong



It's time to have some lunch.....**Indian palm squirrel**, solitary animals and very protective of their food sources

**Clicked @** Old Hostel, IGNFA



**Argiope spider** busy in doing renovation of web and hunting ritual.

**Clicked @** Orchid Research Centre, Tippi, Arunachal Pradesh

# OUR STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM

-Rajiv Shankar

Struggle the peasants did, at the burden of English Mill.  
Starved the nation was, depriving the fruit of farmer's till.

Broken was the artisan's weave, but not the Nation's soul.  
The patriots suffered without a heave, yet clear was their goal.

Glory of the British Empire rode on India's Plunder.  
Why the Indians suffered with poverty and pestilence is no wonder.

English Education was introduced to make Indians slaves.  
Enlightened Indians used it dig the British Empire's grave.

'Lokmanya' inspired Bharat to break the chains of servitude.  
'Mahatma' showed that the way to freedom lies in Service.

Women led the way with Swadeshi.  
Tagore's ideas paved the way for Swashakti.

Unique is our struggle because our creed is Non-Violence.  
Confused was the oppressor, because of its brilliance.

The Revolutionaries martyred for our nation.  
They were visionaries proclaiming against subjugation.

The British Army vanquished at the resonance of Jana Gana Mana.  
Like a Phoenix, India's birth reflects Sarva Dharma Sambhava.

What is this Nation's soul but the yearning of a billion voiceless lives?  
What is this Nation's goal but to deliver them liberty, justice and life!

At the stroke of midnight, India woke to life and freedom.  
With a stroke of a pen, the Constitution freed millions from serfdom.

The story of India inspired decolonization of the world.  
The journey of India drives the spirit of One World.

Through their sacrifice, freedom fighters built a Nation of Ideals.  
Through our resolve, we need to build a Nation of Institutions.



# RESULT OF POLLS

## (with inputs from Shailesh Machra)

### 1. Bodybuilder of the batch- Shivakumar

"From stretching limits to stretching muscles:  
Meet the batch's bodybuilder with a heart of gold."

### 2. Who can survive in most adverse conditions- Subburaj

"Ultimate Survival Sage: Thriving through  
Toughest Times"

### 3. Most elite probationer- Yash Kale

"Redefining probation with unparalleled  
elegance"

### 4. Resident Playboy of the batch- Kirubananthan

"Juggling hearts and assignments"

### 5. Strict Course Director in future-Tarun

"Guarding academic standards like a relentless  
leopard"

### 6. Club member who goes beyond line of duty- Chethan

"Nature club's unstoppable force of dedication"

### 7. Probationer least interested in the course- Pushpendra

"Disinterest in things that don't interest him"

### 8. Politician of batch- Sameer Mishra

"Speeches so electrifying, they could power  
whole IGNFA"

### 9. Laziest Officer in class- Revanth

"Master of Rest and Recline"

### 10. Best dancer- Valli

"Shaking and Stirring Hearts on the Dance floor"

### 11. Rowdy Officer- Ravi Kant

"Rebel in Uniform: The Law Enforcer and the  
controller of rowdy elements"

### 12. Complaining Officer- Deependra Jewaria

"Our resident Grievance Guru"

### 13. KTP- Vikas Sharma

"Studies with passion- the future forestry  
researcher"

## ज़िंदगी पवन खाड़े

ज़िंदगी तू एक पहेली है क्या ?  
गमों उलझनों की सहेली है क्या ?  
नायाब रंग तुझ में हैं समाये  
दिवाली की तू एक रंगोली है क्या ?  
हवाओं में बस खुशबू है तेरी  
गाँवों की चम्पा चमेली है क्या ?  
लिबासों तुम्हारी क्यूँ बदलतीं हमेशा  
दौलत नई नवेली है क्या ?  
हमेशा रहते हो खयालों में उसके  
पवन कुछ कहनी अधूरी है क्या ?

## कृष्णामाई सचिन लांडे

पुण्यस्थळ ते महाबळेश्वर, उगम तुझा त्या ठायी ।  
पुण्यजल अर्पिते प्रसाद, लेकरांस तू आई ।  
पंचगंगा म्हणून ज्ञात, तुजसव तुज भगिनी ।  
शमविती तृष्णा तीरांवरली, धन्य त्या अमृतवाहिनी ।  
देऊनी निरोप माहेराला, वरले तुम्ही त्या सागराला ।  
अविरत आतुर प्रवाह वाही, भुईला या समृद्ध करायी  
दक्षिण काशी असे हे वाई, वसले तुझ्याच ठायी ।  
सुपुत्र या पुण्यस्थळाचा, तुज नमन करतो  
कृष्णामाई ।

# EVENTS ORGANISED BY LITERARY CLUB

## QUIZZES

### 1. Wildlife Quiz (held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2023)

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Sandeep Shinde, Rahul Mishra, Niranjan Surve, Padmabhushan  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Urvashi Jain, Akshay Prakashkar, Prashant Baviskar  
3<sup>rd</sup>: Yash Kale, Akshat Jain, Akshay Meena

### 2. Nature and Environment Quiz (held on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2023)

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Chirag Chandgude, Ramesh Bishnoi, Ravikant  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Yash Kale, Akshat Jain, Akshay Meena  
3<sup>rd</sup>: Vikas Yadav, Adarsh Sharan, Akash Gangwar

### 3. India Quiz (held on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2023)

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Chirag Chandgude, Vinod Jakhar, Ravikant  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Dhruva Shrivastava, Varadaraj Gaonkar, Karthikeyan V  
3<sup>rd</sup>: Tejas Patil, Pratyush Katiyar, Sandeep Shinde

### 4. Yoga Quiz (held on 20<sup>th</sup> June as part of Yoga Day Celebrations)

## DEBATE

Held on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Pavan Khade  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Abhishek Agrawal  
3<sup>rd</sup>: Ayush Krishna

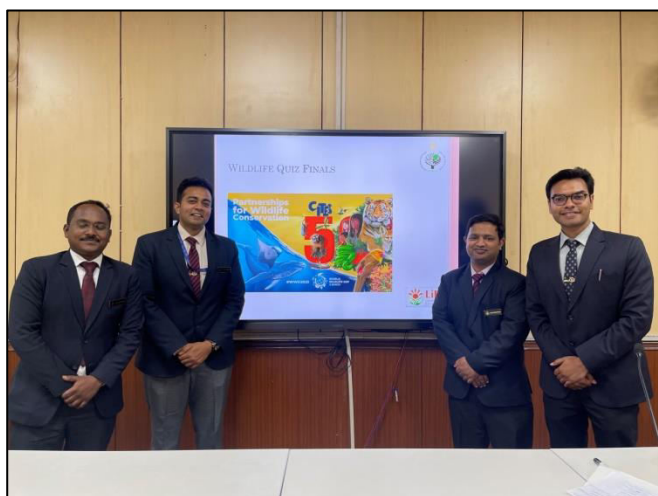
**VISION GREEN INDIA @2047** (held on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 as part of World Environment Day Celebrations)

Presentation of innovative ideas, designs and solutions to environmental issues by probationers

## ALL INDIA ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION

Held from 24<sup>th</sup> March- 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 under the aegis of World Environment Day) on the theme 'Sustainable Solutions for Plastic Pollution' with participation open for probationers of all civil services

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Twinkle Jain, IPS  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Anand Malhotra, IAS  
3<sup>rd</sup>: Sanket Garud, IFS; Arpit Chauhan, IAS





# तुम्हारी ज़रूरत आयी है

(Dedicated to all IFS officers)

आज प्रकृति पर घटा जटिल छाई है,  
जागो वन प्यारे, तुम्हारी ज़रूरत आयी है!

जर जर सूर्य की ज्वाला, बदलता हुआ मेघ,  
तुम इन्हे संभालो, रहना हमेशा तेज़!

धरती और जलवायु की, यह मुश्किल घड़ी है,  
इन्हे बचाने, तुम्हारी ज़रूरत आन पड़ी है!

पशु, पक्षी और पेड़ों का, आज कोई न देता साथ,  
तुम बढ़ो आगे छोड़ो ना, कभी इनका हाथ!

कोयल की कुहु कुहु बंदर की हूं हूं, यही है इनकी आवाज,  
बोलने दो इन्हें खेलने दो इन्हें, न होय ये बर्बाद!

देश बदल रहा है परंतु, ना होगा इसका विकास,  
अगर तुम ना रहे और न बचाया इनका निवास!

फेसबुक ट्विटर पर, नहीं हो तुम मशहूर,  
परंतु हो प्रकृति के करीब, नहीं किसी से दूर!

तुम ना हो तो इस दुनिया के आगे खाई है  
जागो जागो वन प्यारे ,तुम्हारी ज़रूरत आयी है!

-अक्षय प्रकाशकर (एक वन प्यारा)

(Photos on inside of Cover pages by Prashant Baviskar  
and on Cover Pages by Bharath Kumar D.K.)

