



Jungle Book

Explore the wilderness within...

May 2015

Issue -5

We've all heard from our elders about a story of where a kid was given a stick and was asked to break it. It easily split in half when he tried. The kid was then given a bundle of sticks and was asked to break them apart. He tried but in vain! Through our lifetimes there are always situations where in there is divisiveness and every time such a situation arises we believe that there is a choice.

As you would have already guessed, the theme this time is 'unity'. It is to remind each one of us that some times strength comes in numbers. The strength comes in acknowledging the differences and standing firm with each other. As officers, as humans and as conservationists, there are times where we have to stand beside each other and lend a hand. There is beauty when a team comes together – be it cricket, hockey or football OR be it the camaraderie with officers of different services OR be it working with local communities OR being a part of a group of friends OR be it simply being together as a family.

We express our gratitude to Shri Vinod Kumar, Director IGNFA for the continued faith in us. We thank the entire faculty for their support and guidance. We thank our fellow colleagues from sister academies who took out their time to contribute to our newsletter. We hope the trend continues and there are greater collaborations between our services.

Before we sign off, ever heard of a single polka dot? :)

Welcome to the 5th Edition of Jungle Book!



The preamble of Indian Constitution states that the republic will provide social, economic and political justice, the liberty of thought, expression, and equality of status and opportunity which requires that its functionaries, i.e., Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary will act with integrity, honesty & ethics. All executive powers rest with the President, which are exercised through 'Council of Ministers' collectively responsible to people of this country. The council takes policy decisions on the basis of their ideology and the promises made in the manifesto. Once, the

policy is made, it is the responsibility of civil servants to implement it with honesty, integrity and ethical behavior. However, recent years have witnessed a glaring conflict between the elected executives and the honest officers resulting in their frequent transfers, victimization, sidelining or they being encouraged to go on Central Deputation. A few of these cases got a lot of media attention highlighting the conflict. However, there are many civil servants in the system cutting across the services and the hierarchy, who, despite being honest, are able to serve the people and deliver in extremely challenging circumstances. Now the question is how these unknown honest officers are able to carry on with the core mandate of serving the people but few others end up getting into direct conflict with their political bosses?

As we understand that the key mandate of Civil servant is to serve the people as per the policy of the Govt. and to execute and implement schemes & projects with honesty and integrity. However, this is a hugely challenging task, more so for an entry level officer, in a diverse country like

India with extremes of social, economic and political circumstances, coalition governments, political churning, hyper media and confused voters. The job of an IFS officer is even more challenging as he has to also stand for the interests of forests and wildlife, which have no votes and their management requires vision contrary to the immediate interests of the elected executives. Therefore, the entry-level civil servant must understand the challenging circumstances of the state and must possess the basic qualities like ethical behavior, integrity, honesty and high moral values. These qualities must be intrinsic to the officer and exhibited automatically while executing the Govt. works. A civil servant also must always keep in mind that he has an independent existence under constitution, which provides almost absolute immunity against arbitrary directions of the political executive.

It may also be highlighted that an officer's reputation and credibility is built in initial years and first one or two years are most important. The officer must learn quickly the requirements of the job, maintain good relation with seniors, fellow colleagues and subordinates and heads of other line departments in the district. The officer must avoid petty favors and work with all humility and be available to people. Meeting elected executives and maintaining a good relation with them always helps, but one must stick to the rules and demonstrate that. Once the Minister knows about your credibility and good work, he may or may not like you, but will not pressurize. One must also understand that official commitments are huge and time is always short. Therefore, one needs to focus mainly on delivery rather than looking into the past irregularities and dabbling with "Can of Worms". Lastly, the real world is far more complex and difficult and the above suggestions may not always work, but a civil servant has to strive for serving the people with honesty and integrity without bothering for any recognition and draw happiness and satisfaction on seeing the people being served.

1. Introduction - native place, cadre, batch and educational qualification

Native Place: Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

Cadre: Kerala the God's own country

Batch: 1996

Educational Qualification: Integrated M. Sc Physics, IIT Kanpur

2. Favorites

Holiday destination: Himachal Pradesh

Dish: Rice and Dal

Actor/Actress: Amitabh Bachchan/ Madhuri Dixit

Movie: Godfather/ Sholay

Book: Ramayana/ Fountainhead by Any Rand

Cricket player: Sachin Tendulkar

Thought: They keep on changing



Photo Credits Raveena Tyagi, IPS 2014

3. What inspired you to join Indian Forest Service?

Three weeks spent in a tribal hamlet in Jhabua, where I experienced the serenity of forests and the exhilaration of Mahua brew for the first time. Sometime during this stay I fell in love with the forests and the love affair continues still.

4. Memorable experience(s) in cadre

There are many; such as raids in night, long treks to destroy ganja cultivation, epic court battles. However the most memorable ones involve my favorite, the elephant. These are driving herd of elephants back to forests, rescue and rearing of orphan elephant calves.

5. About family and its importance while serving

The family comprises my mother, my wife Arpana and two daughters Aditi and Apoorva. I am really blessed to have these wonderful ladies around me.

6. Experience as the course director so far

I regard this as one of the most challenging assignment in my career. I have enjoyed the moments spent with the batch during tours, field exercises and other outdoor activities. I will cherish these memories forever. I feel really proud to be associated with a very energetic and disciplined group of youngsters. I hope you will keep these values intact.

7. Cricket as a passion

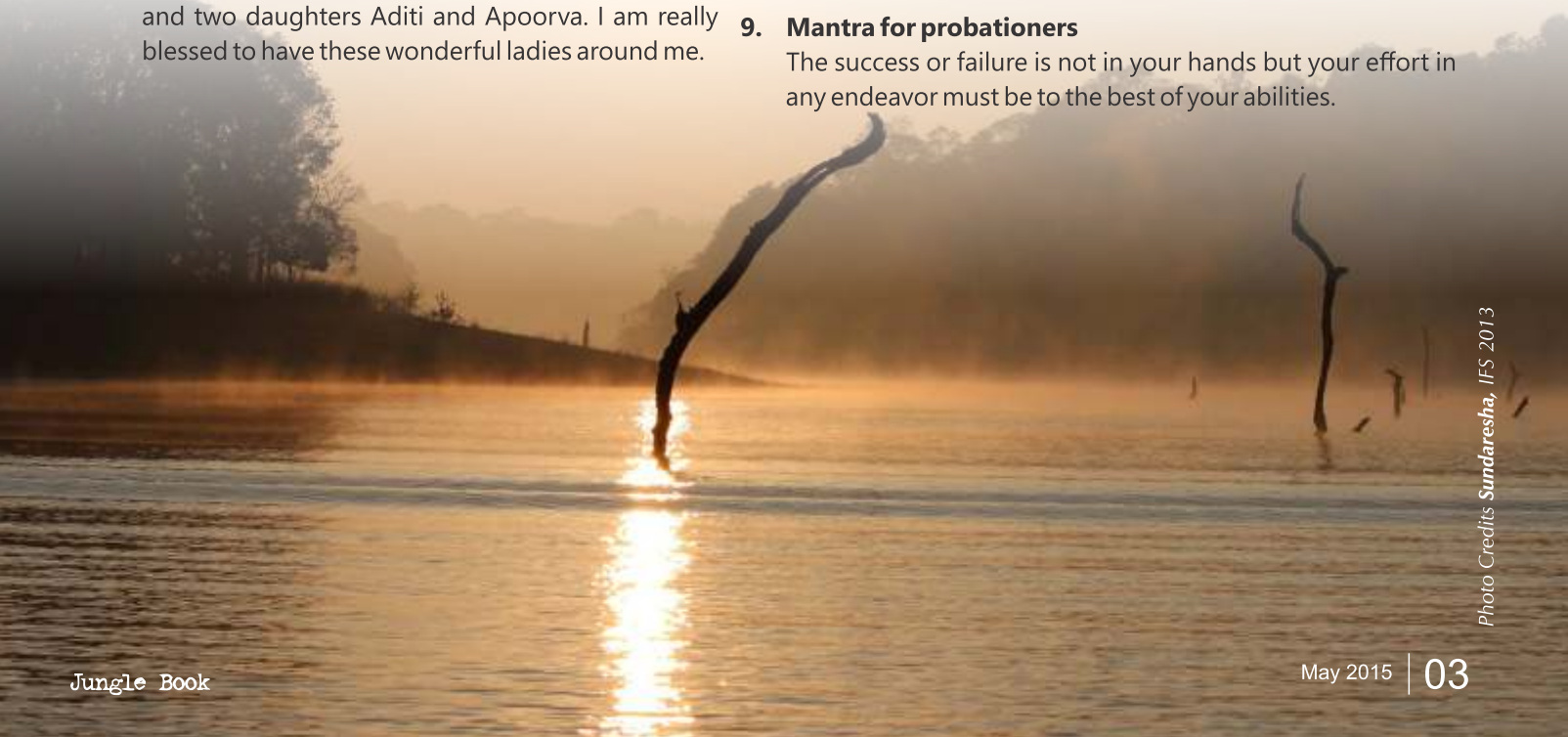
The feeling, when you send a bowler twenty years younger over the fence and for the next ball he actually tries hard to get you out, cannot be described in words.

8. If I were Minister, MoEF

Then I would have to contest an election and behave like a politician. Not my cup of tea.

9. Mantra for probationers

The success or failure is not in your hands but your effort in any endeavor must be to the best of your abilities.



The obsession of sighting a wild tiger!



Photo Credits **Agneeshwar Vyas**, IFS 2014

An obsession it has become to some of us. Every trip to a National Park is a ray of hope that this time we would definitely sight a wild tiger. In fact, some say our probation ends the day we sight a tiger in the wild!! This is how crazy tigers have made us. Yes, there are opponents to this view too - they wonder why one is so desperate for just a glimpse of a tiger; a tiger in a zoo is same as a tiger in wild for them. I don't disagree with them as they are logically right; but yet I had this desperation in me for wild tigers and I wondered why. For me sighting a tiger in the wild was not just a mere sighting but an answer to this desperation within me. It was an answer to the curious charisma that tigers carry around. What is this charisma?

Being in this prestigious service I was lucky to visit various tiger reserves across the country. Bandipur, Ranthambore, Periyar, Sunderbans, Kaziranga... I visited them all. Yet tigers evaded me. They say that a tiger sees us 100 times before we see one! So I wondered is it this elusiveness of the tiger what make us desperate to see it? So is it this human tendency that a man craves desperately for something that is made extremely difficult to attain, which is driving this desperation? On the same lines, when something is made easily available the craving will no longer sustain. During our visit to the Gir NP, the only home

of the Asiatic lions, in our first vehicle safari we sighted Lions within a matter of half an hour. We sighted a full pride with cubs as well. We, I mean most of us were satiated with lions; the charisma it carried was gone, at least reduced a great deal. Now I wonder, will this be the same case with tigers as well?

In March, 2015 we were sent to Sariska Tiger Reserve for Wild Life Technique Tour. It was a week long program. We were definite to see a tiger here. Yes at last, our luck shone on us. On the last day of the tour, on a drizzling early morning, we went tracking the beast. We roamed and roamed and finally he was there! It was T6, biggest tiger of Sariska Tiger Reserve.

Across an anicut, he was slowly but elegantly coming down the hill. He was big and looked majestic. He reached the anicut, gave a glance to us like a king, later he marked his territory and started moving in a small valley, we followed him. There was a nilgai across the road, as soon as it noticed the tiger, a shock ran through it and ran like nothing before!! But T6 moved calmly and elegantly. Finally it came to the road side, gave another glance at us... This time our excitement turned into fear! But he had no interest in us, he marked his territory again and moved away into the bushes. T6 was majestic, and walked like a real king of the Jungle, the stripes were beautiful. Indeed he had everyone in a grip of fear and excitement! For around 20 minutes we saw the tiger. I was looking at it all the while observing all its features, its behavior and movements. I was extremely excited. The more I saw it the more craving I got to stay with it. Its charisma has taken over me. When he moved into the bushes I prayed that he comes back. The moment he disappeared, my excitement turned into discontent. I felt there is more about the tiger I wanted to know; maybe I just wanted to keep looking at him. My desperation for tiger and love for tigers, instead of reducing, has grown manifold since then. Now I look forward to opportunities where I can see the king again.

Nature is an eternal storyteller. It has its own ways of telling stories. The most interesting aspect of this storytelling is that nature never uses words yet it is the most interactive of the storytellers. It has all the components to activate the imagination of an observer. It is better to call a person listening (observing) the story of nature as observer rather than a listener as nature stimulates each and every sense of human system, from auditory, visual, olfactory and gustatory to tactile sensation, in the process of storytelling. Only thing that is required to get pleasure from this eternal process is to observe the nature around you with a quest to learn and to interpret its cues.

One such beautiful story is that of convergent evolution. It is a process wherein two independent evolutionary processes in unrelated organisms result in similar features (structural or behavioral). This is also referred to as adaptive convergence. A common example is of wings of birds and wings of bats (mammal), which are structurally unrelated but perform similar function.

During our recent trek in Chakrata (from Kanasar to Deoban) as part of Forest Mensuration exercise I observed a story of convergent evolution in terms of behaviour. On the last day of exercise, we trekked in the beautiful landscape of middle Himalayas shifting our altitude from about 2200 meters to 2800 meters on about 9.5 Kms long trek. As we walked on the narrow trail trekking, we kept observing the surroundings for flora and faunal elements, especially birds and insects. Around 2.5 kms before reaching Deoban, I came across an interesting creature in the bushes around the path. It

was 2.5 -3 inches low flying organism, which was hovering on small flowers for nectar. The first visual impression of that creature on my mind was that of humming bird. But soon I realized that this organism had butterfly like antenna and had no beak. In fact it was feeding on nectar using a long proboscis with spoon like structure at the terminal. By this time I realized that it was a moth (insect). I tried to capture some shots of that moth with my camera and was able to manage one.

When we returned back to Dehradun from trek I tried to searching this humming bird like moth on Internet and interestingly found that the moth I observed is called as hummingbird moth belonging to family Sphingidae. According to available description the long proboscis and the hovering behaviour of this moth, accompanied by an audible humming noise, make it look remarkably like a hummingbird while feeding on flowers. This hovering capability is a result of convergent evolution in nectar feeders which has probably happened four times in nature - in hummingbirds, certain bats, hoverflies, and these sphingids (moths). A brief observation presented a story of long evolutionary process of convergence. This is the beauty of nature, it give you cues of protracted evolutionary processes in very ordinary looking structures or behaviours. We need to observe and interpret the story that nature is presenting to us. I wish for a vision to understand a fraction of it to make my life complete. This entire incident made me appreciate the art of storytelling by nature and motivated me to write the following verse about Mother Nature.

कुदरत खुद अपनी कहानी कहती है
नए किरसे तो कुछ
बातें पुरानी कहती है!

कभी फूलों में कलियों में,
कभी पर्वत की गलियों में
कभी झरनों के गिरने में
कभी पंछी के उड़ने में
ये अपनी दास्तां
इनकी जुबानी कहती है !

कभी दिखती है आँखों से
कभी महसूस होती है,
ये कुदरत बोलती है सब
के जब खामोश होती है ,
इसे समझो के ये
क्या क्या कहानी कहती है ?
कुदरत खुद अपनी कहानी कहती है !



Photo Credits Prabhat Kumar IFS 2013

Photo Credits Anant Shankar IFS 2013

Man is considered to be a social animal. Showing unity and living in groups is considered an important human trait for survival. But this need for unity is not universal in the case of animals. Some animals are social in nature and hunt together while some animals live and hunt alone. The best example of this distinction is a lion and a tiger. Lions live in groups, hunt and eat together and symbolize the strength of unity. Tigers on the other hand are individualistic in nature. They hunt and eat alone. However the success of living together or alone depends upon the environment and the type of animal involved. For example some animals live alone because it is easier to find food and shelter for themselves in harsh climate.



Photo Credits **Dr Sunil Berwal** IFS 2014

A comparison between lion and tiger and the result of a duel between them has been a topic of discussion for many hunters, naturalists and artists. Tiger has a general weight/height advantage over lion although tiger size varies across species. Also in case of one-on-one duel the tiger might have an advantage because tiger is a solitary hunter. However, lions living in coalition fight with each other over individual estrous females and this experience may be useful in one-on-one duel. Also a lion's mane may be useful in the battle as tiger's fighting style evolved in the absence of a mane. But there is no accurate answer to the debate as to which animal is stronger and whose style of living is more potent for survival.

In every human culture, supporting each other, showing unity, altruism, charity, is considered a virtue. But if evolutionary psychologists are to be believed, natural selection should make human nature fundamentally individualistic. So how do we address this collectivism vs. individualism contradiction? The answer lies in the monumental role played by the external environment, as in the case of animals. Unity has been a virtue throughout human history and is still considered one. However the human mind evolved over centuries for an environment completely different from the modern complex environment of today. In this changed environment unity, as we know it can become obsolete!



Soldier

– A poem to honour the IMA instructors

I marched my way into life
Destined to marry an idea
I might be a Sikh, Hindu, Christian or a Muslim
But my God lies in a nation called “India”

An epitome of heroism
I stand tall in the scorching sunlight
Breathing the chill of the mountains
To keep you all cozy at night

In ruins of war, I search for my friend
We shared our meals together, now that was to end
His heart was filled with pride, body coloured in red
I couldn't shed a tear; I had a mission to end

Kissed by death many a times, I stood my ground
The sweat of my valour, made my destiny turn around
Now the drums of victory were healing the battleground
And So I am born again, a “Soldier”
I shall never let you down.

- Kanwar Deep Singh, IFS 2014

बंदगला

(This I wrote after getting band gala, which signifies Indian bureaucracy)

लो हो गया बंद गला तैयार
हम भी बाबू बन गये यार !
पढ़कर के दो चार किताबें,
लिखकर कागज चार
हम भी बाबू बन गये यार !
अपना भी अब दफ्तर होगा
मिलेगी मोटर कार
हम भी बाबू बन गये यार !
हम को भी सलाम करेंगे
चीता, बाघ, सियार
हम भी बाबू बन गये यार !
पेड़, परिंदे और जानवर
करेंगे हम से प्यार
हम भी बाबू बन गये यार !
बस इन्सा के लिए नही
हम सबका करें विचार
हम भी बाबू बन गये यार !

- अग्नीश्वर व्यास, IFS 2014



ories...

“HAPPYLEY” ball

Two games had already elapsed to escalate the tension for the third & final game. As anticipated both teams had lost one game each. Here in this volleyball, there is nothing as such called “winning”, it is more appropriate to be called “Not losing before other team loses to you”! Stage was set & people occupied their respective positions as per strategic results & bio-physiological outcomes (Ahem! Finger joints, nose & lips & sometimes even tongue!) of earlier games. As a result R2 duo i.e., Captain 'Rinku' & Super commando 'Renu' were kept in opposite teams by mutual understanding, (the solution to most often talked “R2 - DILEMMA of HAPPYLEY BALL”). This was since it is extremely unlikely for any one team to keep both of them & return the ball to other side of the court simultaneously. I was directed to play centre as per Sudha's Master plan. Seriously, somewhere in the back of one's mind it feels secure to be in her team due to her educational background - a bio-medical engineer (they make prosthetic legs, hands, u know!). She took service & stood on one corner of court. Diksha Bhandari & Rinku ji were at net & Priyanka ji's power was active at the other corner of the court.

The other side of the court, centre was occupied by the living legend, the saviour of the lost, the one & only - “MDY” (don't tell me you don't know Monika ji's volley ball skills & yes, I warn you, dobaaraa mat puchchna!). She took additional responsibility of service. The mace hand of Nandini occupied one corner back & Neelima-Renu occupied the net positions. Not to forget, acrobatic Chanchal at other back corner manned this side.

My team has the intellectual edge of Sudha - Priyanka combo & a strange, hallucinating mix flashed by Ms. Bhandari (a hammer-hand & a lip-gloss simultaneously!). The other team bore one-hand-specialist-majesty of Salaria clan & the esteemed presence of ever-elusive Chanchal, whose presence only is a challenge to all, including his own team mates, to either concentrate towards the ball or to his “differently tempting” face expressions. The game was on its way; Monika precisely directed the service to Priyanka ji. Priyanka, a seasoned player, a senior member of volleyball squad, had well anticipated it. Her hands were mutually clasped tightly, making strong “Jodhpuri” fist. Her clinched jaw & bent knees with forward bent body reminding the “Dudki-Posture” of Horse riding exercise, was indicating that she

was ready. With perfect timing she swung her hands up with speed giving simultaneous upward thrust of her knees. Everyone was sure that the ball was in safe hands. The Ball got a decent contact. All looked towards sky anticipating the amount of power supplied to the ball. “Oh no! Not again.” - a shock to me. The ball was precisely perpendicular to her. I found Priyanka ji reduced to the shape of a helmet. She was squatting, just after hitting the ball, with ball exactly over her. Totally absent-minded, my fist reflexed & pushed in the vacuum above Mrs. Gahlot. A contact happened & the ball was out.

This time the service was beamed towards Rinku ji. “She was read...err... seems to be deciding...now ready... no, not ready... ready... not ready... never mind! Let's leave it!” Just fraction of a second before the ball land just before her, she decided to poke her hand below the ball in the air. Yes, it was bang on target. The ball was launched towards Neelima. Neelima seemed to be in some romantic thoughts of “someone”. Understanding the need of the hour, Chanchu gallantly dived towards the ball, though still looking towards Neelima's face in surprise. “Why didn't you take it???” The ball was out.

The service was from our side now & after a few boring points Sudha directed the service towards Nandu. Nandu seemed extremely happy; she was waiting for this, the time to use her ready made fist. BOOM... the ball was beamed towards Ms. Bhandari, a great net player... BANG...one hand punch from this side too... now ball was landing between Nandu & Chanchu. Nandu's fist still closed, Chanchu anticipated the consequences for any misadventure to come between ball & Nandu. He decided not to jump between poor ball & Nandu's seriously strong arm. I did have similar sentiments from Diksha's side. It was certainly safe to view “ball-exploitation” from outside. Boom... Bang... once, twice, & thrice... fully action packed one-handed duel between two players. It seemed both had decided to take out the day's demands on this poor ball. That's why probably they both are generally kept in different teams, & if they're in one team, not close to each other. People know that if by mistake they both strike the ball simultaneously, the ball “will” easily get the escape velocity & may damage any satellite hovering over Dehradun! As predestined the ball was out.

Now, the ball was served by Priyanka ji with usual “full might”. The ball just managed to cross net & was prepared to l & before Neelima at net. She was aware of the



surroundings this time. She came a step back with determination, conviction, & confidence. Determination that the ball should not hit any part of her face before her scheduled marriage. Conviction that she must not look any less than her "DFO personnel" at her marriage & confidence that she will hit the ball a safe distance. The ball got a hit & was now towards our court with speed towards Ms Bhandari. She screamed "YESSSSSS... MERI HAI... HAT JAAO!" with full volume & took the ball. I could sense the sudden abandoning of all nearby trees by birds & bats, disturbed by the war scream. The ball was out.

This time Monika beamed the ball towards the "weak spot", the place behind Ms Bhandari & me. It was a speedy service. "L...EEEEAAVVV...EEE..." I yelled. But as usual Ms Bhandari had pre-determined to touch the ball & she "touched" it. Before my mouth got shut completing the "leave" sound, I began to sense texture & taste of a low salt upma mixed with a few doses of polio drops. A bit filthier part of a moist volleyball had made contact, rather fully rubbed the tip of my tongue. "Pthoo... Pthoo..." I was seen by all trying to expel the organically rich material from my mouth. "Where was the ball you ask?" The ball was out.

All was going well, happy as always & suddenly something happened. This was not expected, not anticipated by anyone at least today. A big "?" on the entertainment quotient of our current game & our performance had been raised. Renu ji had "grasped the net!" hanging & clinging to it. Looking the other team across the net with pupils touching upper boundary of eye & a mysterious questioning smile, as if she was possessed by a "exorcist" type soul, questioning the existence of the court, the game of volleyball, IGNFA, existence of the forest service as a whole!! It was known through one-year-old historical folklore of volleyball court that if Renu ji is doing this pose, she is seriously bored. It means a bad omen for religious & regular players indicating proximity of doomsday of HAPPYLEY BALL@IGNFA. Monika ji tried to

lighten the atmosphere by saying - "Maine kaha thha na Renu ji net pakad legi..... usse khilate kyun nahi ho!?" Everyone had taken the silent oath to keep the ball in play.

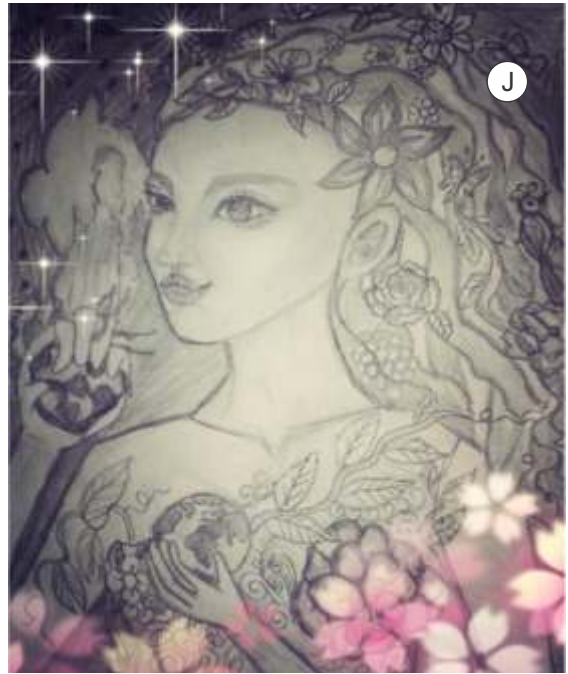
Nandu took service responsibility from Monika. A chill of unexpectedness passed through body of our team members. Apart from her one-handed power, she was also known for being equipped with a unique style of service. The "Angular-Revolver" service, also known as the "Chabi" "service in the darkest corners of mysterious subways of Kathua. She held the ball in both of her hands & started rotating the ball anticlockwise, simultaneously looking down seriously towards her left foot, thinking something disastrous, with right foot backwards with only tip of it in touch with the ground. Bending down she started swinging her right hand back & forth looking towards a special tangential surface of the ball held in left hand. Five seconds of such swinging reminded us of the mantra chanting before shooting Brahmastra in Indian mythology. "Oh god! She had done it". Ball was revolving in the air, pushed diagonally across the net towards Rinku. Any new player would have guessed the service to entangle in the net. Captain Rinku, who probably being the roommate of Nandu was strategically placed there, seemed to have the antidote of such venomous services of Salaris. She involuntarily punched the ball. Interestingly, instead of crossing the net the ball came towards Sudha on the same court towards my back." That's why... the service is dangerous!!" I thought.

I was more shifted towards net looking backwards towards Sudha. I saw her hitting the ball. Then I saw the ball increasing in size. The increase in size was quite fast. Trying to gather the reason of such increase, I found the ball was coming towards my nose, that too in full speed. That second was one of the slowest second of my life. In that second I could feel the adrenalin rush, the self-defense swing of my hand, the touch of my hand with the ball, the diversion of ball just a few inches before my nose & my Matrix style fall to the ground. "My nose is safe!" was the primary thought which came to my mind. Suddenly I realised that I got a cramp in my waist...ouch!!" "Leave it... GAME IS ON!!!"

"Events in our HAPPYLEY BALL have always dominated the score. Here people play not to make point, but to make the longest rally, to see other person play. It's not about volleys & smashes; it's about happiness & good laugh. It's impossible to keep ball inside the court all the time. When ball goes out, we bring it back & create a chance to be happy again. Since one & a half year we have found quite a few rules to play it... i.e., play your best, learn while playing, respect each other's capabilities, never mind, & most importantly laugh at every point, either mine or yours. Interestingly, all these rules apply to our lives too."



Reflections





It's been over 9 months in the academy and it feels like home. Last September we landed in the academy as the new entrants to The Indian Administrative Service with a lot of pride on our shoulders and new dreams in our eyes. The Academy has lived up to more than what we expected to see. A batch of 180 Officer Trainees from different parts of the country and going to a different part is an enriching learning experience itself.

The day begins with a rigorous Morning activity at 6:30 am for a little more than an hour. These activities include Yoga, PT and Sport of our choice. The activities are followed by sumptuous breakfast at the Officer's Mess and we reach our classes by 9:15 am sharp. Seven hours hence, there are classes taken by in house faculty, guest speakers, case studies, presentations, class discussions, language classes, extra curricular module and counsellor group meetings.

Evenings and weekends have fun filled activities like sports, cultural programs, quiz competitions and debates. More learning happens outside the class with our colleagues. Regular interactions with faculty in both formal and informal arrangements have imbibed in us values of discipline, esprit de corps, integrity, service and honesty. I hope that the bonds of friendship forged here stand the test of time and we hope to repay our service to the country.

It's almost time to leave the academy and embark on our duties on the field as administrators. We hope to carry all the experience from here and use it in our everyday lives, both official and personal. It will not be easy parting from here but life has to move on and dreams have to be made into reality.

We owe our gratitude to The Academy for an enlightening experience.



At the 89th FC Photo Credits Dr. Sunil Berwal IFS 2014

We are 113 of us are undergoing training in customs module in NACEN, Faridabad and the rest 96 are being trained in Excise and Service tax module in Hyderabad. We will be swapping locations in June.

When we first entered the gates of NACEN campus, there itself we were taught the first and foremost lesson- "This is a centre of learning. Leave your ego here". Thus started our transformation from students to Officers. It's been more than 4 months since we are here and NACEN has far exceeded the expectations, hopes and dreams of the officer trainees. There is vibrancy, enthusiasm, discipline, optimism and keenness for excellence in every area here.

Life at NACEN is filled with many activities. Typically our day starts with PT in the morning at 6 am for about an hour. OTs have the choice to do PT, gymming or swimming. Then OTs are served with fruits, sprouts, delicious breakfast in the mess. Classes start from 10am till 5pm on Monday to Thursday, which are taken by faculty members, visiting guests. Some modules are also outsourced to Universities, National institutes to provide the best possible training to us. On Fridays we have a special session called "Life beyond Office" where experts, passionate speakers from different fields such as golf, music, photography etc. share their experiences and open windows for OTs to look beyond the curriculum and office for better life in their career. We are also exposed to international programs and conferences conducted by NACEN in India from time to time.

Yoga, games and swimming are open in the evenings, along with music, debates and discussions in the lounges of mess and hostels. Weekends are usually spent in trips, sports activities organized by different committees.

Cultural programmes are regular events in the campus exposing many talents in the batch. DJ nights and parties display our policy of "study hard, party harder". All these



**National Academy of Customs,
Excise and Narcotics**



Photo Credits www.nacen.gov.in



66th Batch IRS(C&CE) Photo Credits NACEN Batch Magazine

events have built an unbreakable bond of friendship among the officers in various ways.

We hope to maintain and build on the camaraderie that is strongly founded in the Academy for the rest of our career and beyond. We owe and thank NACEN for putting in a strong foundation to our careers and also for our better lives.



Anil Pal Technical Assistant

He works in IST cell of IGnFA. Most conspicuous thing about him is his smile. He has been playing basketball for IGnFA and has been a constant source of inspiration and performance. He's a post graduate and has also completed MBA. Dehradun is his native place. Before joining IGnFA he worked as a tutor for students of class VI-XII and also worked as a basketball coach. Apart from playing basketball, he likes to read a lot. Revered Gurudev Shri Ashutosh Maharaj Ji is his motivational source. His teachings have infused positivity in Anil Ji's life. Under the guidance of Gurudev Ji, he is involved in several social activities like prisoner's reformation Programme (Antarkranti), Programme for Gender Equality (Santulan), programme for youth Awakening --SAM (Self Assessment & Management) etc. He indeed has a disciplined life. It is evident when he says, "Great minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, small minds discuss people". His selfless service to IGnFA will always be remembered.



Kanchan Pal Computer Operator

She works as Computer Operator & Personal Assistant to Shri Deepak Mishra IFS, Additional Professor, IGnFA. The IFS probationers of 2013 batch will remember her the most when they shall get into the vagaries of office work. She is a cool headed person, cordial and ever helpful for all those who simply barge-in into the CD's office. She resides in Dehradun and has completed her post graduation in Commerce. Before joining the academy she worked as a tutor. Her family consists of her mother, who is a homemaker, and a younger brother who is pursuing graduation. She likes to carry out her work with devotion. She says, assisting Deepak Sir has been an enriching experience. Sir has been a source of motivation and guidance for her. One can always find her busy with some work. In spite of the busy schedule, she likes to spare some time for herself. As a pastime, she likes to listen to music, read novels and play outdoor games. Given the hardworking person she is, it is not surprising when she says she draws inspiration from all those who enlighten her life with new learnings. She wants to be a successful person in life. The flame of fighting spirit is easily evident in her when she says, "There will come a time when you believe everything is finished. That will be the beginning".



Dev Prakash Arya Security Personnel

Fearless, Patriotic & Wise would be the three adjectives one could use to describe Arya ji. Not many of us know this part of his life – the fearless part. He served the Nation as part of the Garhwal Rifles as an NCO-Hawaldar for 24 long years. He fought hard against nature and adversity in the tough terrains of Siachen, Leh & Kashmir. He was also part of the IPKF sent to Sri Lanka for peace-keeping. He strode forward bravely while LTTE felled many of his comrades in front of his very own eyes. He survived 2 years in the troubled North Sri Lankan region and returned home a stronger man in 1990.



After a long innings in the Army, he joined IGnFA in 2006. He feels it is a 'good job' that keeps him busy. He spends his free time reading spiritual books. Being a man from the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand, he loves the quiet and serene atmosphere of our campus.

When asked about the lessons life has taught him, he replied– 'Treat your seniors as well as your juniors with respect'. Wise words indeed, and something which we as bureaucrats should keep in mind throughout our career. As a true patriot, He encourages us all to do our little bit for the country. He says that judicious use of energy and water, two of the most scarce resources of our nation could go a long way in serving our motherland.

Rajiv Kumar Repairman & Electrician

Rajiv is a 27 year old 'all-rounder' who is the go-to person for anything related to building repair, furniture & electric work in the Old Hostel Complex. After completing his XII standard from Muzaffarnagar, he worked at a private firm followed by a brief stint at IMA, Dehradun. Then began his search for 'greener pastures' which culminated in his current position at IGnFA, where he has been working for 7 years now.



To the question on why he preferred IGnFA over the private sector, his reply was very much like that of many a government servant – 'It's a safe and secure job. The money isn't much though!'

Over the years, he has fallen in love with the Doon Valley because of its relatively cooler climate and its peace loving people. In his free time, he enjoys reading GK books. For a while now, his parents have been on the lookout for the perfect bride for him. Rajivji hopes that a pay hike could help him meet this 'future expectations'!