



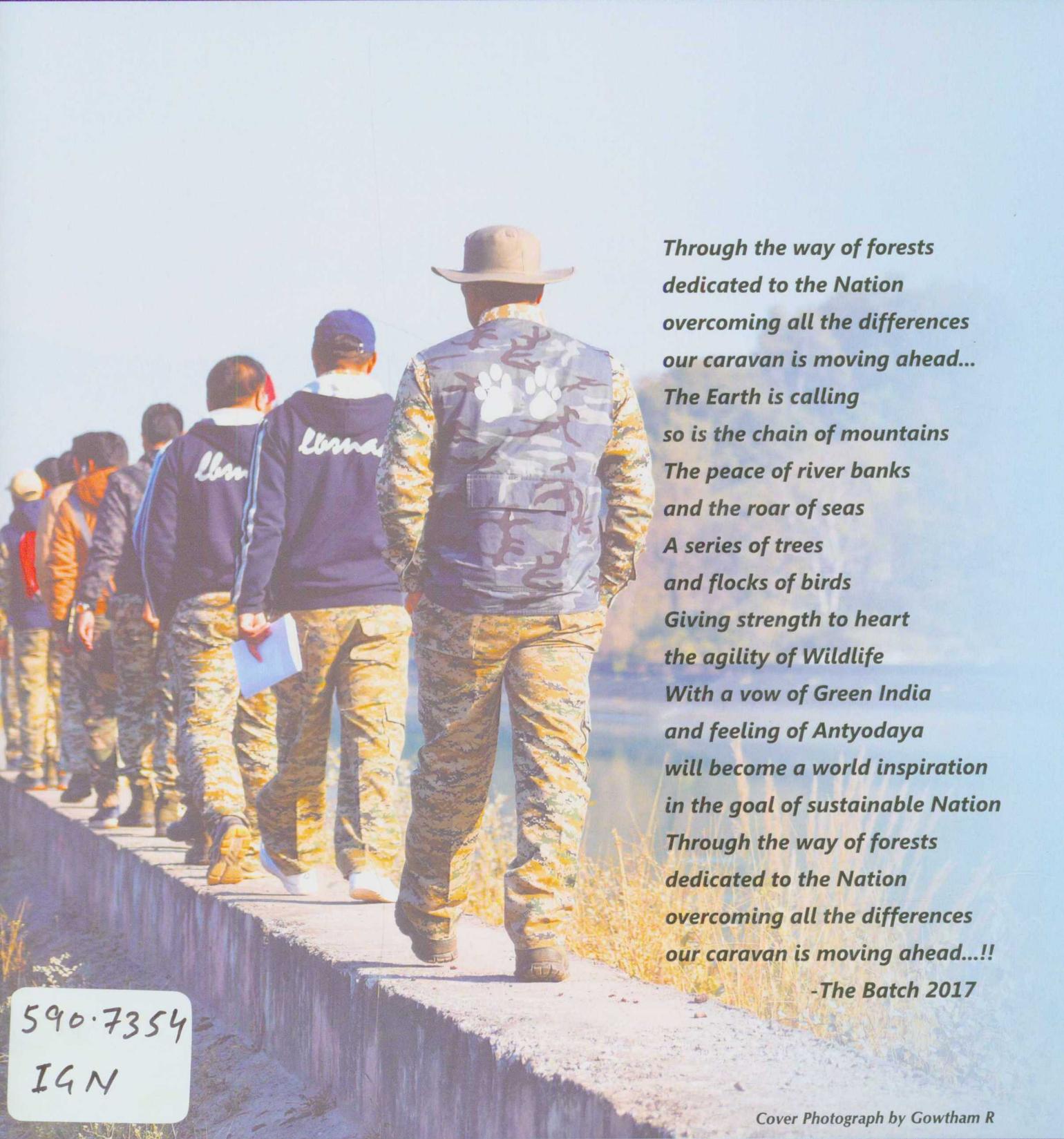
ST0582

Jungle Book

Explore the wilderness within...

January 2019

Issue 11



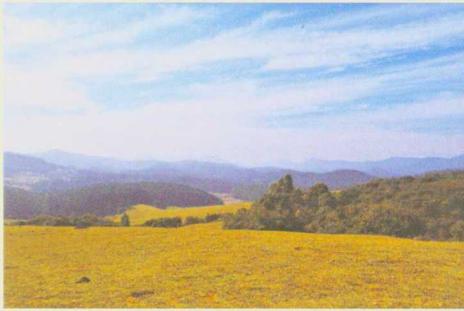
*Through the way of forests
dedicated to the Nation
overcoming all the differences
our caravan is moving ahead...
The Earth is calling
so is the chain of mountains
The peace of river banks
and the roar of seas
A series of trees
and flocks of birds
Giving strength to heart
the agility of Wildlife
With a vow of Green India
and feeling of Antyodaya
will become a world inspiration
in the goal of sustainable Nation
Through the way of forests
dedicated to the Nation
overcoming all the differences
our caravan is moving ahead...!!*

-The Batch 2017

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IGN

Cover Photograph by Gowtham R

Editorial Team : Abhishek, Ajinkya, Kiran, Nitish, Dhairyasheel, Navdeep, Aishwarya



Shola Forest, Ooty by Abhishek



Panna Tiger reserve by Dhairyasheel



Jhilmil Conservation Reserve by Kundan



Shot on OnePlus

Panna Landscape by Sangeeta



Shot on OnePlus

Bandipur Tiger Reserve by Shanmukh



Lake Periyar by Pankaj Garg



Valley of Flowers by Dhawan



An evening in Panna by Sai Kiran

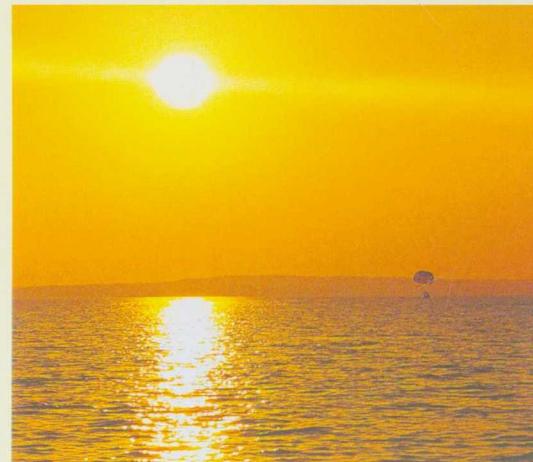


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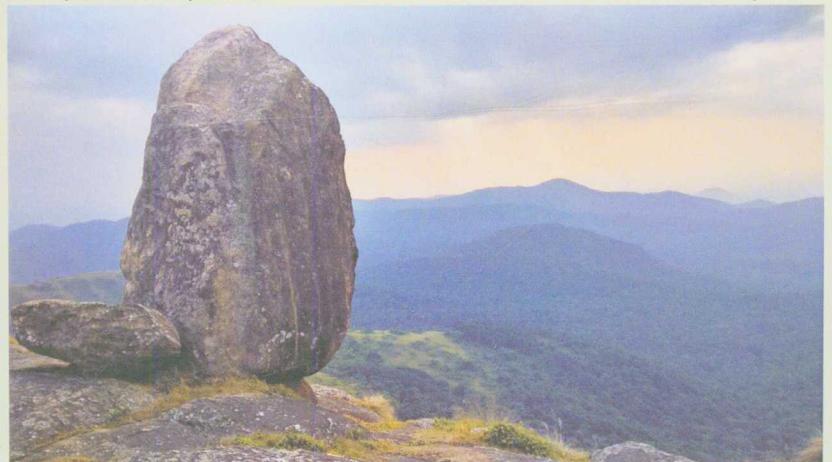
On the way to Coimbatore by Shanmukh



FRI by Dhawan



Gangrel Dam Lake by Nikitha



BRT Tiger Reserve by Ajinkya

Rendezvous with the Course Director 2017 Batch

Name : **K Sasikumar**
 Native Place : Thottiyavalasu Village,
 Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu
 Cadre : TRIPURA
 Batch : 2003
 Birth date : 11th January, 1977
 Educational : BSc, MSc & PhD in Forestry
 qualifications



Favorites-

Holiday : Any beach destination.
 destination
 Food : Curd Rice
 Actor : Vijay Sethupathi
 Movies : Forrest Gump
 Sport : Kabaddi
 Sport Player : M S Dhoni
 Favorite : "Your attitude decides your
 quote altitude"

bamboo and broom grass, pisciculture and agro-forestry at FRA land, to name a few.

How do you like to spend your free time?

With family, camera, movies, books, music, friends etc.

Being a CD is an uphill task, what were the major difficulties while handling this course?

To pull them all together and give a common consciousness was a challenge but enjoyed doing it. However, every single one of them has been good. Overall, I think I have learnt more from them than they have learnt from me.

What were your expectations from the batch and to what extent have they fulfilled them?

I want them to be the best.
 I don't give them any choice!

What is your advice to the probationers who will just be joining their respective cadres.

Never fear anything.
 Do your job in your own style.
 Love and live the service.
 May God Bless.

What inspired you to join this service?

I joined Forest college at Mettupalayam, TN on 21st January, 1994 and the rest happened.

What other dream one could have, who knows nothing but forestry?

What are the most memorable experiences of yours in your cadre from initial days of career?

There are many. Launching of my work on Butterflies of Tripura by the Hon'ble President of India, work on Dragonflies and damselflies by Hon'ble CM, Tripura, work on Bamboos by JICA-India Mission, establishment of Panchakarma Research & Training Centre, Agartala and all the success we achieved in generating alternative livelihood opportunities to forest dependent communities of Tripura through value addition of

Know Your Faculty

Name : **Nidhi Srivastava**
Native place : Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh
Cadre : Punjab
Batch : 2001
Birth Date : 18th August
Educational qualifications : M.SC in Botany

Favorites-

Holiday destination : My home
Food : Stuffed Paratha
Movies : Many.... Hindi Old classics
Sport : Chess
Favorite quote : " Nothing is impossible to willing mind"

What inspired you to join this service?

Joining the IFS provides an opportunity for All India Service with the best combination of working as administrator as well as technical expert from field. Also I developed a deep interest in Wildlife and nature in childhood.

What are the most memorable experiences from initial days of career?

Training period was most enjoyable part, as I am a keen learner and securing the top position and winning medals made it extra memorable.

How do you like to spend your free time?

Playing and doing handicrafts with my children.

What is your passion?

'To perform my best in whatever I do'.

If you were the Union minister of MoEF & CC?

I would lay emphasis on boundary consolidation, as I feel most of the problems will automatically taken care of by this.

What is importance of family in service?

Service is a part of life- family is Life. I believe that



a good balance of health, family and work is required to enjoy life.

Being a CD is an uphill task what are your expectations from the 2018 batch.

I don't think it's uphill but even if it is I am hopeful that my Batch will climb along with me to its top.

Tell us about the most significant achievement of yours in your cadre.

The cadre and service are too big and I feel my small contributions are not worthy enough to count any achievement as significant. I will continue putting all my efforts to make service and cadre proud.

What is your advice (guru mantra) to the probationers of 2018 batch?

1. "Hard work beats Talent when Talent doesn't work hard"
2. "Honesty is not the best policy- it is the only policy".

Officers' Club Activities

Cultural Club

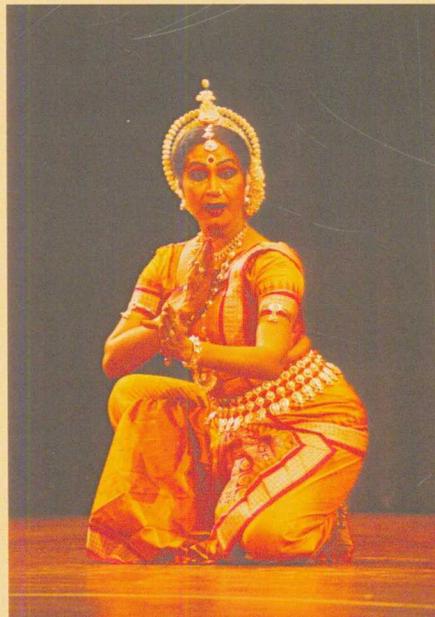
Cultural club has been highly instrumental in organising three major events since August 2018 in the Academy.

First came 'Meghotsav', the annual monsoon cultural extravaganza where probationers participated with a lot of enthusiasm and showcased the culture of India through dance, drama and music. Colourful folk dances of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Odisa and a mythological skit on history of Onam celebrations in Kerala were some of the mind-blowing performances of the eclectic evening, along with some entertaining compering.

Second, a spectacular show by acclaimed Odissi danseuse Sujata Mohapatra was organised. Odissi is traditionally a dance-drama genre of performance art, where the artists and musicians play out a mythical story, a spiritual message or

devotional poem from the Hindu texts, using symbolic costumes, body movements, abhinaya and mudras set out in ancient Sanskrit literature. It was a thoroughly a delightful experience.

Third, a five-day Ganesh Chaturthi festival was celebrated which saw participation from the entire Batch with full vigour and fervour. It started with Ganpati Sthapana on day one with dhol, music and an eco-friendly Ganesha murti, followed by Arti every morning and evening and ended with Ganpati Visarjan at Tapakeshwar Temple nearby. On the last day, a cultural programme and some games were organized for faculty members and their family followed by sumptuous Maharashtrian lunch, bringing festivities to a befitting climax. In all, probationers witnessed a lot of fun in the limited time they stayed in the Academy other than tours!



Literary Club

The 10th Edition of Jungle Book was formally launched by the Director, IGNFA in the presence of all the faculty members and probationers on the Teacher's day. Continuing the literary tradition of IGNFA the in-house newsletter showcased the literary taste and creativity of IGNFA folks. The issue included interaction with faculties, field experiences, tour learnings, comments on contemporary issues, book reviews, poems, paintings, photographs etc. For resurrecting the Jungle Book after the gap of two years the hard work of entire Jungle Book team (Abhishek Jogawat, Navdeep Aggrawal, Ajinkya Bankar, Dhairyasheel Patil, Kiran Jagtap, Nitish Kumar and Aishwarya Raj) paid off.



Sports Club

A sports quiz was organized by Sports Committee in collaboration with Society for Contemporary Affairs on 06 September, 2018. Five teams were shortlisted for the main round which also included a team of faculty members.

The quiz comprised of different rounds, like Jumble Rumble, Connecting the dots and Rapid fire. Most of the questions were in audio-visual format which had made the quiz very engaging. The questions ranged from India's first participation in Olympics to Deepa Karmakar's Produnova Vault in 2018 Olympic Games. There were questions on badminton, tennis, cricket, squash, basketball and even some from less known sports, like Sepak Takraw and Kurash.

There were some historic videos like 'Hand of God', Sachin's 'Desert Storm' and Nadia Comeneci scoring a perfect 10 on Uneven Bars. There were some lighter moments also like Steffi Graf getting proposed on court by someone in audience.

The winners of the quiz were Pankaj Suryavanshi, Saurabh Singh Thakur and Sanwarmal Swami. The team involved in conducting the event included- Aditi Bhardwaj, Ayush Jain, Puneet Sonkar, Nitish Kumar, Shashank Kashyap and Dhananjay Magar.



'राजभाषा पखवाड़ा-२०१८' : एक रिपोर्ट

'हिन्दी दिवस' के उपलक्ष्य में इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय वन अकादमी में ३१ अगस्त से १४ सितंबर २०१८ तक 'राजभाषा पखवाड़ा-२०१८' मनाया गया। इस दौरान विभिन्न वर्गों में कुल ०९ हिन्दी प्रतियोगिताएं आयोजित की गईं जिनमें ३ प्रतियोगिताएं केवल भा.व.से. परिवीक्षार्थियों के लिए थीं। १४ सितंबर २०१८ को आयोजित हिन्दी दिवस समारोह में इन प्रतियोगिताओं के विजेताओं को पुरस्कार एवं प्रमाणपत्र वितरित किए गए।

वर्ष २०१६-१७ के दौरान अकादमी का हिन्दी पत्राचार में अच्छा प्रदर्शन रहा है। इसके फलस्वरूप ९ फरवरी २०१८ को वाराणसी में आयोजित उत्तर क्षेत्रीय राजभाषा सम्मेलन में राजभाषा विभाग, गृह मंत्रालय द्वारा अकादमी को तृतीय पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया गया। यह अकादमी के अधिकारियों और कर्मचारियों तथा सबसे बढ़कर निदेशक महोदय के श्रेष्ठ निदेशन से ही सम्भव हो सका। इसके अतिरिक्त, अकादमी में प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त कर रहे परिवीक्षार्थियों को भी विभिन्न गतिविधियों के माध्यम से हिन्दी के प्रयोग के प्रति जागरूक किया जाता है। इसी क्रम में राजभाषा पखवाड़े के दौरान भी उनके लिए कुछ हिन्दी प्रतियोगिताएं आयोजित की गईं जिनमें २०१७-१९ पाठ्यक्रम के परिवीक्षार्थियों ने बढ़-चढ़कर भाग लिया और पुरस्कार प्राप्त किए। परिवीक्षार्थियों के लिए इस वर्ष एक 'हिन्दी प्रश्नोत्तरी प्रतियोगिता' भी आयोजित की गई जिसे सभी ने सराहा। परिवीक्षार्थियों ने निम्नलिखित प्रतियोगिताओं में पुरस्कार प्राप्त किए –

इस अवसर पर अकादमी के अपर निदेशक श्री गंगा सिंह ने विजेताओं को पुरस्कृत किया। उन्होंने अपने उद्बोधन में राजभाषा हिन्दी की सुगम्यता, सरलता और प्रवाह पर प्रकाश डालते हुए कहा कि आज भारत ही नहीं अपितु समस्त विश्व में हिन्दी को मान्यता मिल रही है। इलैक्ट्रॉनिक साधनों और इंटरनेट के माध्यम से हिन्दी विश्वभर के लोगों के बीच पहुंचने और अपनी पहचान बनाने में सफल हो रही है। इस प्रकार, 'वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्' की भारतीय भावना की वैश्विक वाहक के रूप में भी हिन्दी अपना वंदनीय योगदान कर रही है।

प्रभारी अधिकारी (राजभाषा) डॉ. प्रवीण झा ने माननीय गृह मंत्री महोदय का संदेश सभी के समक्ष रखा। अपने संबोधन में उन्होंने सभी पुरस्कार विजेताओं को बधाई दी तथा आह्वान किया कि वे अपने उत्साह को इसी प्रकार बनाए रखें और हिन्दी को और आगे बढ़ाने में अपना योगदान दें। उन्होंने कहा कि हिन्दी हमारी राजभाषा है और हमारे लिए गौरव का विषय है। हिन्दी में सभी को जोड़ने की शक्ति है और स्वतंत्रता संग्राम के समय से ही यह सभी भारतीयों के बीच एक कड़ी के रूप में कार्य कर रही है।



प्रतियोगिता का नाम	परिणाम	विजेता
'चित्र देखो-कहानी लिखो' प्रतियोगिता	प्रथम पुरस्कार	सुश्री रूवि सिंह
	द्वितीय पुरस्कार	श्री अभिषेक जोगावत
	तृतीय पुरस्कार	सुश्री अदिति भारद्वाज
	सांत्वना पुरस्कार	श्री सौरभ सिंह ठाकुर
हिन्दी प्रश्नोत्तरी प्रतियोगिता	प्रथम पुरस्कार	टीम - 'ग' (श्री सौरभ सिंह ठाकुर / श्री कुन्दन कुमार / श्री संजीव रंजन)
	द्वितीय पुरस्कार	टीम - 'क' (श्री अंकित कुमार सिंह / श्री सांवर मल स्वामी / श्री अनीश कुमार चौधरी)
	तृतीय पुरस्कार	टीम - 'च' (सुश्री रूवि सिंह / श्री धैर्यशील पाटिल / श्री रौशन कुमार)
	सांत्वना पुरस्कार	टीम - 'घ' (श्री सौमित्र शुक्ला / श्री अश्विनी कुमार / श्री सागर पवार)
हिन्दी टिप्पण एवं आलेखन प्रतियोगिता	प्रथम पुरस्कार	श्री पंकज सूर्यवंशी
	द्वितीय पुरस्कार	श्री सांवर मल स्वामी
	तृतीय पुरस्कार	श्री पाटील दीपक प्रभाकर
	सांत्वना पुरस्कार	श्री अंकित कुमार सिंह

From oblivion to stardom: The turnaround of VTR, Bihar

- Sanjeev Ranjan, IFS 2017

In 2017, Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) was awarded the prestigious 'Earth Guardian Award' conferred by Royal Bank of Scotland. Icing on the cake was the fact that it was competing with its more famous cousin, Jim Corbett National Park (home to 278 tigers) for the award but its turnaround scripted by better habitat management turned the scales in its favour. So what really happened in the last 10 year that VTR gained the status of Stardom from mere oblivion in the past? Let us explore...

Valmiki was declared a Tiger reserve in 1994, but by the turn of the century it was apparent that while the forest itself was healthy, the very thin herbivore population was affecting tiger density gravely. Management and protection strategies were also at their lowest ebb, for obvious reasons: acute shortage of staff and irregular payment of their salary, area affected by gang of armed bandits and to top it all, there was no full time field director for a huge 900sq.km Tiger reserve! Valmiki was derided as the 'tiger reserve without tigers'.

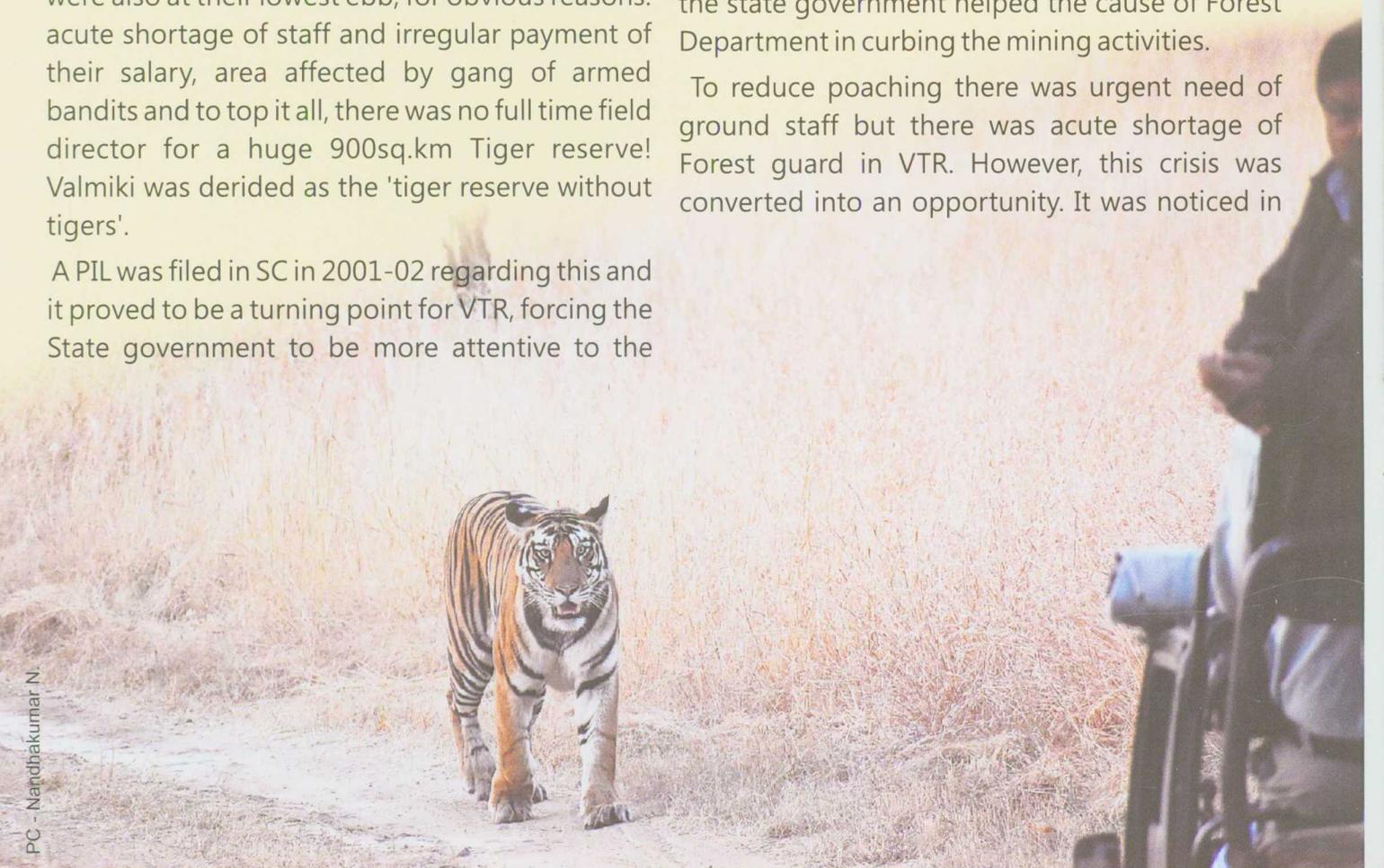
A PIL was filed in SC in 2001-02 regarding this and it proved to be a turning point for VTR, forcing the State government to be more attentive to the

needs of the Tiger reserve. Bihar Forest Department partnered with WTI and started a long term conservation project in 2003.

Before taking up any habitat management practises there were three challenges that needed to be addressed by VTR: Illegal mining, poaching of animals and dependence of locals (22,000 in number) on forests.

The first challenge of illegal mining was compounded by presence of LWE in the forest areas. Between 2004 and 2006 forest officials diligently worked to curtail the rampant illegal boulder mining. During a raid in a mining operation, one of the DFOs narrowly escaped a bullet targeting him, fired by a member of the mining mafia. However, the strong political will of the state government helped the cause of Forest Department in curbing the mining activities.

To reduce poaching there was urgent need of ground staff but there was acute shortage of Forest guard in VTR. However, this crisis was converted into an opportunity. It was noticed in



PC - Nandhakumar N.

the past that those involved in poaching and timber extraction were aided by the locals who had full knowledge of the area. Large-scale unemployment had forced the local residents to help criminals. The authorities then decided to employ the youth staying close to the reserve. Around 548 young people from the nearby villages have been deployed on casual basis as tiger trackers, members of anti-poaching team and patrolling team among other jobs inside the reserve. This has worked as VTR has now managed to virtually curb the poaching of animals and timber theft.

Addressing the third challenge was quite tough as villagers were having minimal facilities so it was difficult to convince them to stop going to forests. Forest Department along with WTI and help from TATA Trust took up number of community dependency reduction activities like formation of SHG's for alternative employment opportunities, fuelwood plantation, distribution of Solar lanterns, smokeless and biogas stoves, solar-powered irrigation pump etc. All these have reduced the biotic pressure on the forest. The attitude of the fringe villagers towards the reserve is also changing due to these activities.

Coming to habitat management, the major problem that VTR authorities faced was the shortage of grassland areas for the herbivore. First focus was on removal of weeds to make way for grasslands, this increased the prey population. Other management steps like barricading the entrances, regulating the tourists flow to ensure that the core area remained untouched, were taken up. These myriad efforts boosted the tiger population from a mere 10 in 2006-10 to 43 (33 adults and 10 cubs) in 2018 which is quite a remarkable feat.

There were many forces who worked relentlessly for this turnaround success and in this case, apart from Forest Department it has been the top political leadership, WTI and most importantly the locals who now take pride in associating themselves with VTR!

एक मन सौ कल्पनाएं

- निधि श्रीवास्तव

एडिशनल प्रोफेसर, आई.जी.एन.एफ.ए.

एक मन सौ कल्पनाएं

एक का ही ध्यान हो, सम्मान हो, हो पूर्ति उसकी
साथ ले कर ध्येय अगणित हो सकेगी कीर्ति किसकी
हो वही साक्षात् सम्मुख, है हृदय में मूर्ति जिसकी
क्या करूँ ले कर हृदय में सैकड़ों आकांक्षाएं
एक मन सौ कल्पनाएं...

स्वप्न का साम्राज्य फैला है घनी सुख-छांव में
सत्य पथ पर है बहुत कांटे, चुभें जो पांव में
भावना में निहित है ये वेदना किस अर्थ की
सत्य में है ऊर्जा और ऊष्मा सामर्थ्य की
सत्य की इस ऊष्णता में स्वप्न सारे बह न जाएँ
एक मन सौ कल्पनाएं...

इस क्षितिज की दूर जाती, क्षीण होती रश्मियों में
भोर की थकती बुझी, धुंधलाती लौ वाले दिनों में
पल रही प्रतिफल पुरातन की ढली श्वासों-हियों में
दूँढती आधार अपना कुछ अधूरी योजनाएं
एक मन सौ कल्पनाएं...



e-Eye

(Based on our visit to Bhopal during South & Central India tour)

- Saurabh Singh Thakur, IFS 2017

A new set of eyes is keeping watch over tiger reserves across India. Dubbed "e-Eye," it's a landscape-scale intelligent technology capable of 24/7 all-weather, live-feed wildlife surveillance in vulnerable areas and sanctuary perimeters, collecting and interpreting wildlife and human presence within to alert law enforcement before violations occur. It is the brainchild of two engineers and wildlife enthusiasts, Bhushan and Ravikant Singh, who co-founded Binomial Solutions Private Limited.

Inside the eye: e-Eye provides high-resolution monitoring by integrating short-range infrared (IR) cameras with long-range thermal and motion sensing ones atop solar-powered towers an average of 45m tall throughout a park. The system uses varifocal visible cameras and thermal cameras with a fixed zoom lens. The sensors function in the dark and foggy environmental conditions that can otherwise conceal poachers. Remotely connected to this imaging array via a network and technology, staff at the park's central server station and authorized users elsewhere can receive data. They can pan, tilt and zoom in on living objects using a web browser. Such objects prompt alerts if they cross into restricted territory;

the control room notifies authorities via text, call or email within 30 to 40 seconds of processing the information so they can check for human interference and decide whether to take action. This allows response teams to move swiftly to the scene to prevent poaching and other unlawful activities.

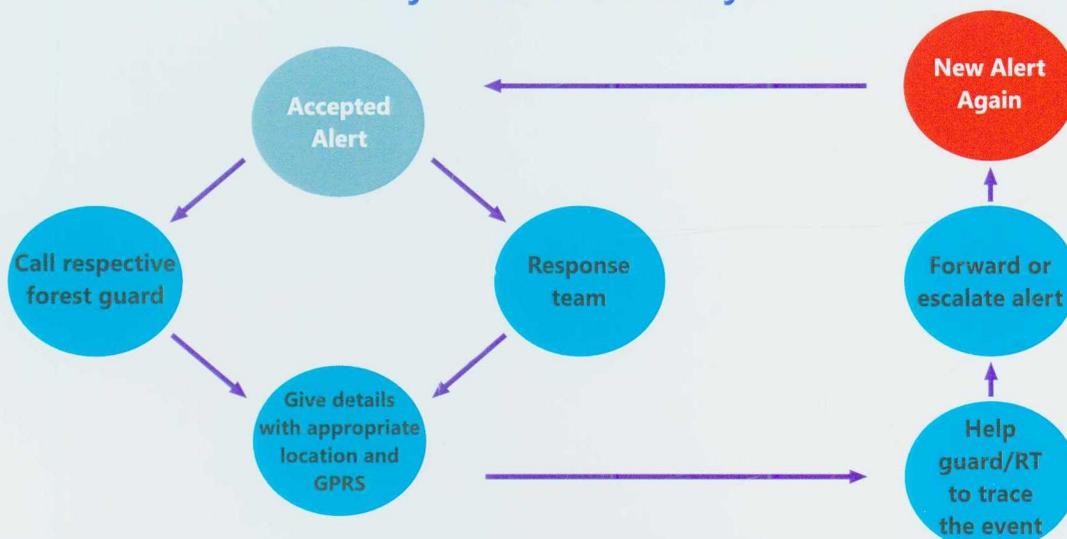
The system, which can issue monitoring commands to the cameras and scan all simultaneous live footage automatically, supplements limited on-the-ground patrols. Limitations:

- e-Eye might not be able to penetrate the hilly terrain & dense forest cover.
- It requires trained human eyes always be present to review the alerts and monitoring.

Experts see no disadvantages to it, although they acknowledge it can't replace foot patrols. Forest personnel can simply concentrate manual monitoring on areas e-Eye can't cover.

e-Eye is useful in the context of the many challenges facing Indian reserves, including insufficient front-line staff; aging of employees; need for constant surveillance; difficult, inaccessible terrain; rough climate; and natural disasters, such as fires and floods.

e-Eye - Alert Action Cycle



The saga of venerable bird from Bhutan

- Sapna Sunar, Foreign trainee 2017, Royal Government of Bhutan

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F.L



Black Necked Crane

Black-necked cranes (*Grus nigricollis*) are winter visitors during late October to mid February in the Phobjikha Valley, Khotokha and Bumdaling in Bhutan. Popularly known as 'dancing birds', they arrive from the Tibetan Plateau where they breed in summers. They visit the Phobjikha valley in large numbers compared to other two sites.

The Black-necked or Tibetan crane is categorized as Vulnerable (Vu) in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and mentioned in Appendix I of CITES. Black-necked crane, the last to be found among the 16 known species of cranes, were first identified by Nikolay Przhevsky of the Imperial Russian Army in 1876 in Tibet.

Apart from China and India, Bhutan has taken special care to protect this species and has established the Phobjikha Conservation Area covering 163 sq.km of the valley. Another important visited area Bumdaling is also under protected area as Wildlife Sanctuary

On arrival in Phobjikha they are seen to circle Gangteng Monastery three times as if practicing kora ("circumambulation"), and repeat this act as they begin



Phobjikha Valley

their return to the Tibet Autonomous Region in early spring.

The majestic bird feeds on the particular type of dwarf bamboos that grow in the wetlands of the valley. The thick grasslands of wetlands are also grazing grounds for a large number of cattle and horses during the summer months. This helps the growth of the tender bamboo shoots on which the cranes feed later during the winter season.

The annual Black-Necked Crane festival is celebrated at the courtyard of Gangtey Goenpa in Phobjikha valley. The festival is an occasion for the locals to rejoice and celebrate the arrival of this endangered and majestic bird which becomes an inseparable part in their daily lives during the winter months.



Children performing black-necked dance in front of Goenpa

The annual Black-necked crane festival is organized on 11th November every year which also coincides with Birth anniversary of the 4th king of Bhutan. The festival includes cultural programs such as folk songs and dances (some with black-necked crane themes) and mask dances performed by the local people, crane dances and environmental conservation-themed dramas and songs by school children. This propels awareness and understanding on the importance of conserving the endangered Black-Necked Cranes to mass people.

Another feature noted in Bhutan is the belief among the common people that they are blessed when cranes circle around their valleys. A particular practice observed is that they plant the winter wheat only after the cranes arrive in their valleys to roost. Bhutanese people sing folk songs as the cranes arrive in Bhutan and also dance in the autumn. They call it as **throng throng karmo**.

Motor Cycle Diaries

- *Anand S., IFS 2017*

The state of Uttarakhand offers everything for an hodophile; wildlife, trekking, pilgrimage, adventure and many more. Uttarakhand has an enviable variety of adventurous roads that make you feel numinous always. This is an exhilarating tale of a ride on one such road from IGNFA to Gangotri.

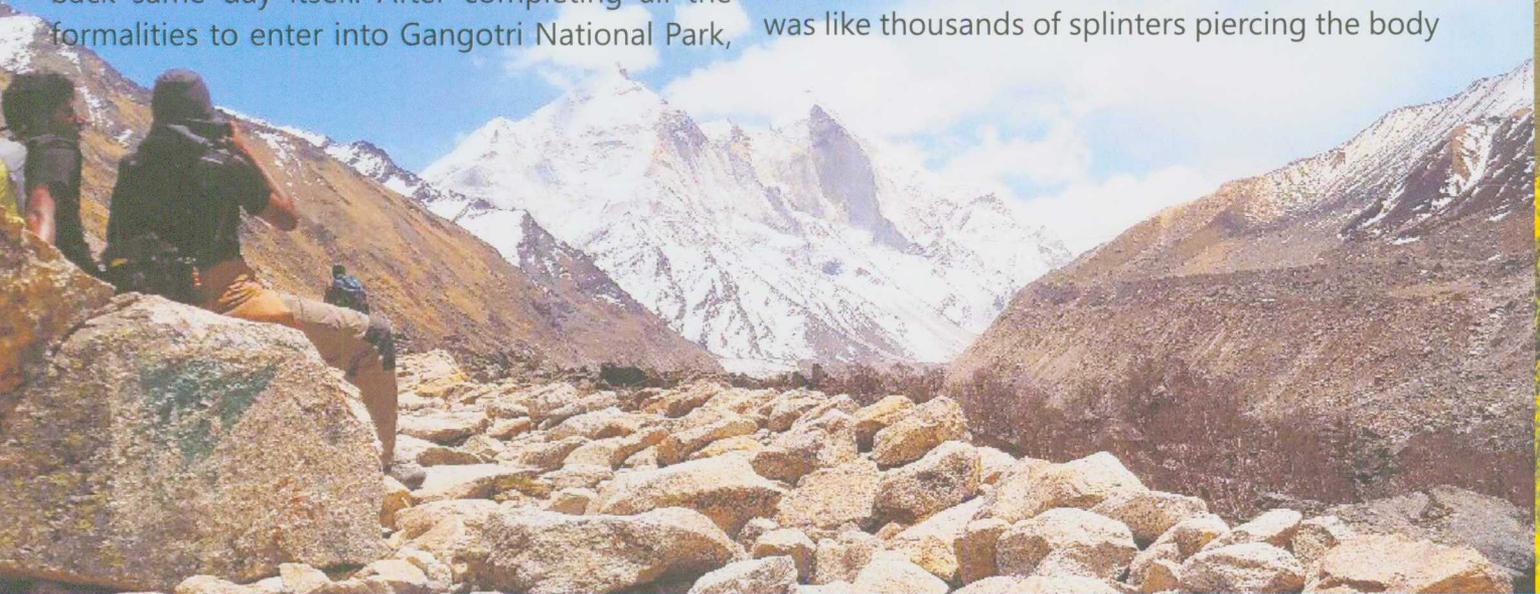
Spring is one of the best times to explore the exquisite beauty of Uttarakhand. Just after the onset of the spring, one can find the state in its best attire, the greenery. The colourful flowers en-route mesmerises you with every twist and turn.

On one fine spring morning in April eight people on bikes started to Gangotri, a 250 km ride. The road was grabbing our attention with all its captivating curves and luxuriant greenery. The serpentine road from Uttarkashi follows the ferocious Bhagirathi till Gangotri. The road has lot of jaw dropping views and every 20 seconds I kept on exclaiming and said "wwwwoooowww". After crossing many landslides and gravel laden pathways in the midst of torrential rain, we reached Gangotri by 5.30 pm in the evening. The day ended with visit to the famous Gangotri temple.

The next day four of us embarked on a trek to Gaumukh with the ambitious plan of returning back same day itself. After completing all the formalities to enter into Gangotri National Park,

we started our day briskly. Gaumukh is 18 kms from Gangotri and at an altitude of 4255 m. The difference of altitude is about 850m. There were only two places in between where one could find shops and some place to rest. The first was Chirbasa (got its name due to abundance of Chirpine trees) situated at 9 km from Gangotri. We had breakfast at Chirbasa and to my surprise it was nominally priced. The next was Bhojwasa situated at 14 km from Gangotri. Till Bhojwasa there were well laid trekking paths. After Bhojwasa one had to do boulder hopping (time to bring out the athlete in you!!) to reach Gaumukh. Dazzling, delicate ,divine and delightful views along the way kept us motivated and energised. Magnificent and marvellous views en route Gaumukh.

To reach Gaumukh a broad and rapid stream had to be crossed. After few unsuccessful attempts we crossed the seemingly easy to cross stream and reached the glacier at 2.00 pm. Arjun, Shashank and myself decided to have epiphany bathing (though we didn't take any vow like Ukrainians and no Baptist was there to purify the water) in Gaumukh glacier. The temperature there was cold enough to crack our bones; though not the cold the shooting stones near the glacier would certainly do that, so we decided to wrap up quickly. We had a freezing, shivering and numbing bath in water with floating ice. I could sense all the fluids in my body freezing. The bath was like thousands of splinters piercing the body



in all possible angles.

The dip in Gaumukh had exhausted us. With the setting sun, falling mercury and increasing wind we started back immediately but we missed the point where we crossed the stream and searched frantically for a place to cross the stream. We made 10-12 unsuccessful attempts in different places. Then we realised the flow in the stream had increased, this single thought was enough for us to break all the confidence and hope. I feared for the life (though not the first time)!

We crossed the stream finally at 4.15pm. We could not have even crossed 500 m. We heard alarm call for help. We asked Padmanabha to carry on slowly. Arjun, Shahshank and I went to see where call came from. We saw two people stranded in the middle of the stream and crying for help. After 20 minutes of struggle they came out safely. After ensuring their safety we moved faster but we could not trace Padma (He had chosen a wrong day to showcase his athletic skills to us). Once again fear started engulfing us as we couldn't know where Padma was. I had no control over my leg and had a very bad headache. We reached Bhojwasa, all exhausted, like a sugarcane coming out of the crushing machine. We direly needed a resting place. We searched for room in GMVN rest house in Bhojwasa but in vain.

It's difficult to predict in what way the saviour comes. For us the saviour came in the form of The Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand. He along with his family planned for a visit to Gaumukh and somehow his plan got cancelled. The District Magistrate of Uttarkashi was present in Bhojwasa for protocol duty. We at last found Forest Department's tents and stayed there. While going inside I noticed a young man staring at us. I thought he might be a tourist but turned out to be Mr. Ashish Chauhan, the DM of Uttarkashi. He offered us dinner; the tastiest meal I ever had. Before going to bed I was thinking how we narrowly escaped from the death and how we saved two people.

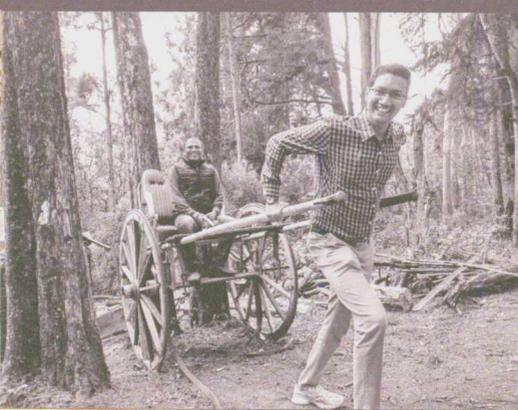


With the Unexpected host at the most wanted time.

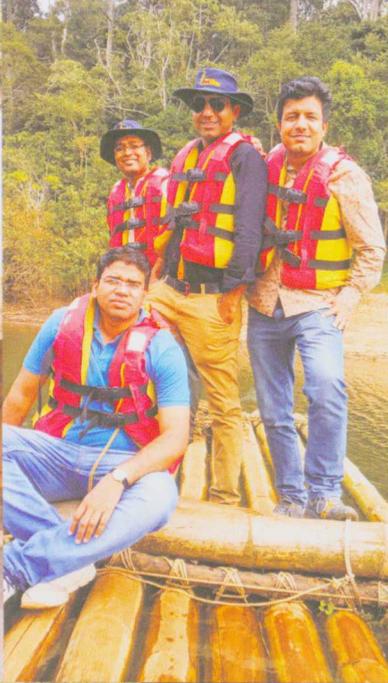
Next day we left from Bhojwasa and reached Gangotri by 10.30 am and from there commenced our return journey to Dehradun. With splitting headache I started riding. After Uttarkashi I hopped on RE, it responded well to the twists and turns of Uttarakhand roads and I started riding as if I am riding on Norton 500 (thinking as if I am CheGuevera).

We reached Almas by 4.30 pm and still there was 70kms left to reach the Academy but probably we haven't had enough of adventure yet. It started raining, with thundering and lightning and the road was slippery because of pine needles. We cautiously manoeuvred over those extremely dangerous wet needles and reached the academy by 8.15 pm. After three long days of incomplete food, I filled my plate and tummy with whatever I could.

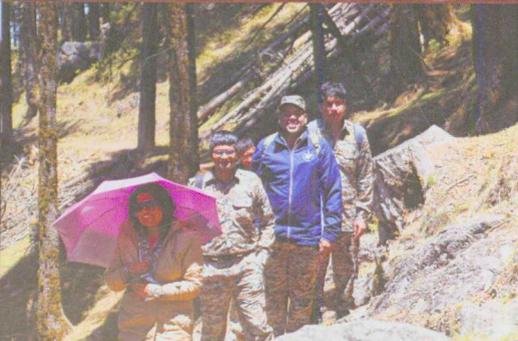
500 km bike ride in scenic and curvy Dehradun -Gangotri road, 36 km trek from Gangotri to Gaumukh , taking dip in sub zero degree water, having dinner with Uttarkashi District Magistrate at 4300m , bird watching, landscape photography, riding in mighty Himalayas at the night in pouring rain with lightning and strong winds. What else I can ask for a 3 day weekend. Gangotri trip was my first bike ride after joining the academy and my most favourite one was the solo trip to Kedarnath. We will meet in the next issue of the book with the memorable, exciting and eventful trip to Kedarnath.

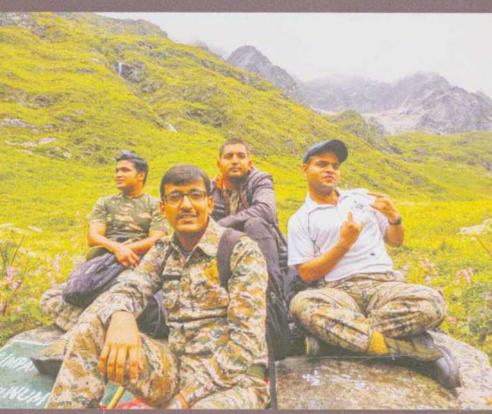


Fond Me

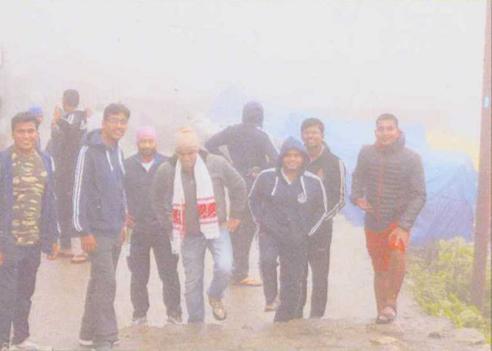
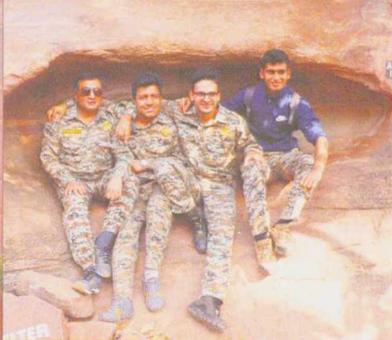


IFS Bata





mories...



Nostalgia - from Academy to the field

– Neha Srivastava, IFS 2016

After a rapid fire mode of training gets over where one does everything in auto-pilot mode whether it's 'sleep-jogging' during early morning PT, sleeping with open eyes in class, unconsciously becoming a trekker, a traveller, a bag-packer (literally, 180 days of touring in span of 16 months, phew!), but never failing to appreciate the beauty called FRI campus amidst this- I started a new journey from my home to my cadre.

At Delhi airport, eyes were searching for those familiar faces (a group of 85 to be exact), and I found none. Slowly the feeling began to sink in- this time I am travelling alone, in a first I had to actually look for 'Exit' sign rather than blindly following someone wearing IGNFA tracksuit and there would be no bus waiting at pillar number 18.

Before this feeling turned into nostalgia, I was in a typical 'Sarkari office' with no clue of what is exactly going on. The first question I asked a 'babu' was- '*Digital India mein projects nahi chal rahe hai kya yahan?*'. He looked up through his glasses, gave me a stern look and said- 'Nahi!'

I had always loved PCCF interaction during tours. Wearing formals, being strictly punctual about reaching the 'big' office, the feeling that I belong to this office, one day I will be working with/in it. Then sitting in the auditorium where 85 people giving their well-rehearsed 'introduction'- Good morning sir! My name- home state- cadre-degree. The ritual followed by snacks served with words of wisdom and the vote of thanks.

Just that, this time I was in real office as a real applicant, going from this desk to other submitting dozens of documents. After a struggle of 1.5 days I finally achieved the feat of doing the joining formalities successfully. I murmured "yeah! Welcome to the real world".

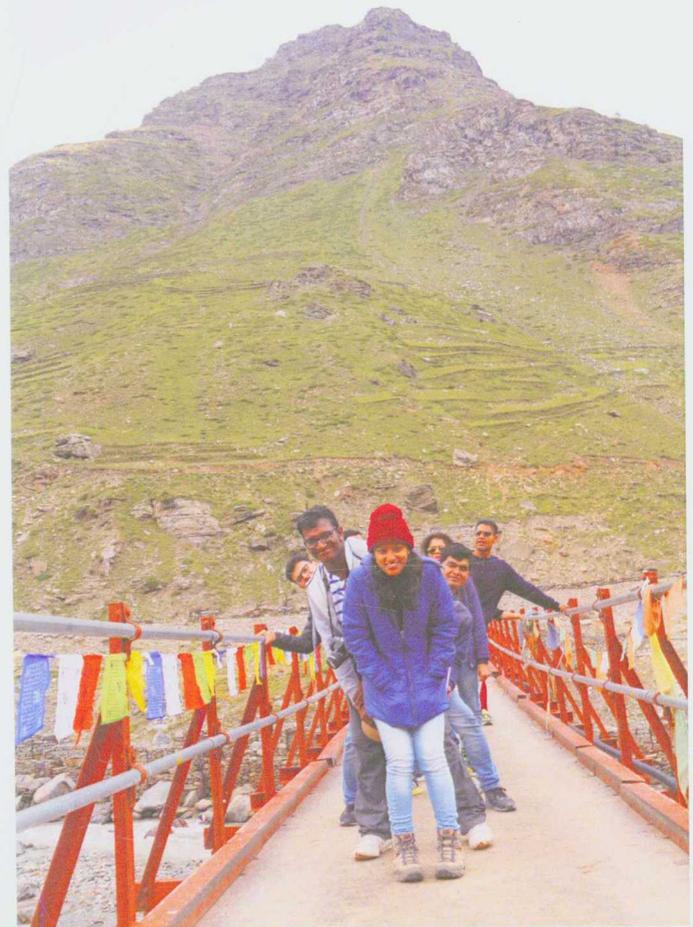
At night I landed in a big beautiful green colonial building called Forest Rest house- a place many

people only dream or plan to be in. It was so relaxed that I don't have to wake up early for next morning.

Damn! This biological clock, I woke up early without alarm since we were so used to this adrenaline rush.

Then in the bright daylight, my heart was wishing to see familiar faces but couldn't find any. Having breakfast all alone with so many people to serve you but no one to give company, I lost all the appetite for Lunch. After being addressed as 'Ma'am- Sir' for whole day, with 'no one' to spend this beautiful evening with, missing that incredible IGNFA ground, the day ended wondering what to find 'exciting in this routine!'

Soon I had my first hand experience with mob-management, and I realised it's not 'that' routine, dull or boring. There is a lot to do and a lot to learn- Field is fun!



PC- Shanmukh Kumar

"Towards the mountains"

-Abhishek Jogawat, IFS 2017

Arise, awake and move
towards the mountains
Breathe deep, raise sights
and stride towards the mountains..
Stones will treat your paths
Thorns may cross your ways
The darkness of jungle
may come to frighten you
The flow of river may turn violent
Dead trees may come to haunt you
Hillocks may turn to be slippery
The weather can be at its worst
No need to fear, No need to stop
If you fall, be careful
If you are careful then be attentive
Always remember one thing that
You are complete in yourself
From the peak of that mountain
the life has a different meaning
The joy of embracing the wind
after the tiresome journey is unparallel
Once you reach there
You will find yourself renewed
From this struggle of life
You will discover the pearls of hope
Don't be idle, it's time to move
This morning has come after a long wait
Arise, awake and move
towards the mountains...!!!

Revelations in the Lap of Nature

(The transformation of common man to a poet – the magic of Valley of Flowers)

-Narentheran GG. IFS 2016

Purple, yellow, orange, hues of pink and shades of white surround me,
Bees, bugs and butterflies clock around, inquisitive to this new presence,
Sounds of buzzing, cooing of birds, and perpetual sounds of crashing water fill my ears,
Sandwiched between snow clad peaks and down trotting glaciers,
The waterfall at all turns emerging magically from clouds and mist,
The endless slopes covered in all colours ever described, above a carpet of green,
On a closer look the flower do talk to you with subtle nods and wave of body,
There are no judgmental eyes, evaluating minds here,
Just nature in its naked form accepting you as you are and caressing your face with her soft blown wind,
I am lucky for I am in heaven and truly allow me peace as I want,
If tranquility was feasible on Earth it is here in Valley of flowers
watched over by the majestic peaks.

Need For Biodiversity Parks

– *Veni Prasad Doatania, IFS 2017*

Biodiversity is the variability among living organisms from all sources, including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems.

We have already lost many species that once flourished in this environment. If not properly conserved, the present biodiversity will be drastically reduced in the face of the rapid development that is taking place. We shall have to preserve whatever little greenery is there and we shall have to create more green spaces to improve the biodiversity.

Urbanization, habitat destruction, loss of native species and expansion of territories taken over by invasive species are some prominent environmental challenges countries are facing these days and these may drastically reduce biological diversity across the world.

We should be aware that all the environmental problems are closely interlinked. For future solutions to global environmental problems, successful conservation efforts have to be enforced. Current methods by which conservation is being

practiced today include biosphere reserves, national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, gene banks, germplasm conservation units, botanical gardens and zoological gardens.

Radical changes are required in policies and legislations that recognize biodiversity as a global public good. Biodiversity Park would serve the objectives of all the above issues in future. The main objective of such kind of park is to conserve the biodiversity of the specific area and to maintain the genetic stock available therein.

Biodiversity Parks are unique landscapes of wilderness where ecological assemblages of native species in the form of biological communities are recreated and maintained over few hundred hectares of degraded or marginal lands. In other words Biodiversity Parks are nature reserves that harbor natural heritage of the area and have conservation, educational and cultural values and enhance the quality of environment in urban centers.

The underlying principle of the Biodiversity Park is to recreate self-sustaining ecosystems with native flora and fauna characteristic of the area for enhancing the quality of urban environment.



Some of the important roles of Biodiversity Park areas:

1. It serves as nature reserve for the conservation of natural heritage of the city,
2. It enhances the quality of urban environment,
3. It serves as hub for education, cultural and conservation activities,
4. It connects biodiversity to the city and people,
5. It promotes eco-tourism,
6. It creates livelihood for local communities,
7. It serves as living laboratory for understanding the ecological processes and functions,
8. It buffers the local weather and serves as sink for Carbon dioxide and urban pollutants and serves as adaptation to climate change,
9. It preserves the rare endemic and threatened plants and animal species of the area.

Everything in the natural world is connected. Ecosystems have no particular size. An ecosystem can be as large as a desert or a lake or as small as a tree or a puddle. The water, water temperature, plants, animals, air, light and soil all work together. If there is not enough light or water or if the soil doesn't have the right nutrients, the plants will die. If the plants die, animals that depend on them will die. If the animals that depend on the plants die, any animal that depend on those animals will die. Ecosystems in nature work the same way. All the parts work together to make a balanced system. A healthy ecosystem has lots of species diversity and is less likely to be seriously damaged by human interaction, natural disasters and climate changes. Every species has a niche in its ecosystem that helps keep the system healthy.

Biodiversity parks have been the necessity and integral part of our environment for proper functioning and existence of ecological world. The establishment of Biodiversity Park is one of the innovative and positive approaches to promote conservation of natural resources in urban matrix. Due to increasing industrialization, human population, overgrazing and urbanization, the biological diversity needs strong management strategies and the establishment of Biodiversity Park is one of the strongest efforts in this field.

Valley of Flowers

– Arun Vignesh C.S., IFS 2016

How fortunate am I?

To walk along the path to Paradise.
Carpeted with gentle bark of Betula,
Greeted by the mellow music of Cicadas,
I conquer the mighty mountains,
With the pearly Pushpavati blessing my heart.

How fortunate am I?

To lay upon the tender bosom of Himalayas.
Walled with a myriad of colours,
Graced by the fragrance of flowers,
The soft breeze of the Valley cleared my
Remembrall,
With a faint glimpse of my genial past.

How fortunate am I?

To be immersed in the symphony of Nature.
Bees buzz and butterflies waltz,
Water chants in harmony, Birds sing in
ecstasy.
I swing along the gentle nods of blossom,
As Serenity invades my bemused soul.

A place where Gods dwell, a place where
peace prevails.

If there is heaven on earth,
It is here, in the Valley of Flowers.



AIFSM: more than just a Sports meet

- A fresher's view

– Suraj Singh, IFS 2017

The evening meeting in the lawns of old hostel after the long first day buzzed with many intriguing questions across subjects like tours, training, PT, faculty et al. But of all questions, the one which gained most momentum in terms of discussion was regarding "Games" that had become compulsory the first time after school days for us. Many wanted to know the need for it, some enthusiasts wanted to know how many games they could play. But the very fact that they were made mandatory made it clear for most that the games would be a very conspicuous and essential part of our training and probably life after that on field.

It was probably the second day when OIC Sports marched in with his contingent in track suits in the classroom full of gentlemen and ladies OTs in their sophisticated attire. The confluence of sports and work was very evident. They spoke all that was expected, about importance of fitness, games and their association with the IFS service. They also talked about various sports events in the academy and sports events where Academy participates. Of all the events mentioned, what appeared was that the AIFSM is the Magnus opus

of them all. This meeting had sown the seed of interest of participation in this grand event having participation of foresters across states and ranks at one place, rubbing shoulders with one other, competing as well as learning and excelling in their craft.

Days and weeks passed, our regular evening games became passion for many, a few of us picked up new sports while others honed their skills at games they played in the past. The sports taught things which no classrooms could have ever done so, be it about coordination by passing the ball at the right moment to the right person or tenacity while hitting the goal despite obstructions. This was in addition to the benefits of sports about which we wrote in our school essays. With so much energy and passion flowing everywhere, everything seemed to be on the right track.

Then alas, came the announcement for cancellation of the scheduled AIFSM last year and bringing disappointment to the new flock. The meet wasn't just a sports event but a platform to know people from the service fraternity, to compete at the national level, and to play with



their batchmates as a team alongside for probably the last time. With numerous rounds of talks and plans, finally it was decided to be conducted in December/January. Terse moments followed again with the already scheduled South India tour clashing the sports meet. To our joy, it was scheduled on 6-12 January evading the clash. But, soon the joy turned to sadness and sunshine to cloudiness again with news of clash between Sports meet with that of IIM attachment scheduled on the exact same dates. Many lost hope of showcasing their talent at the grand level, and of other things they that dreamt of.

Discussions, debates and deliberations were made in the conference rooms and offices of IGNFA, as also on WhatsApp groups and the lounge of New hostel. Petitions and prayers were sent to the highest authorities which fetched results sooner than we expected and the IIM attachment was postponed, of course with the untiring effort of faculties. Now began the preparation. With so many tours and courses aligned, to find time for selection and practice became a monumental task. But so strong was the dedication of probationers and faculty alike that the games were played even before exams and after that as well. On tours, we ensured maintaining the fitness levels, the least and the most we could do with the kind of schedule and infrastructure available.

I personally witnessed the importance the event had for all when I saw people enthusiastically preparing for the event in ministry with DGF himself keeping interest in sending a ministry team for the event. Also, the senior faculties in Academy working day in and day out is evidence enough that this meet is something more than just sports extravaganza. We would be witnessing this "Mahakumbh" for the first time. No matter what the result would be, the memories of playing shoulder to shoulder with our batch mates would be afresh for a long, long time to come. With this hope and confidence to bag medals and hearts we would fly off to Raipur on 9th January, 2019.

शैतान सिंह

- विपन कुमार सिंह

(परमवीर चक्र मेजर शैतान सिंह को एक विनम्र श्रद्धांजलि)



(1 दिसंबर 1924 - 18 नवम्बर 1962)

नवम्बर सन् 1962 की बात है
अक्साई में चीनियों ने मचा रखा उत्पात है
17000 फुट की ऊँचाई पर
रेजांगला की गहराई में
निड़ा रक्तरिंज सामरिक संघर्ष है

नेहरू के पंचशील से करके विश्वासघात
चीनी तोपचियों ने किया आघात
शत्रुओं को समुद्री लहरों जैसा प्रहार
और इधर मेजर शैतान सिंह ने करा
तेरहवी कुमाऊँ वाहिनी का मनोबल बरकरार
एकाकी ही रोक रखा शत्रुओं को सीमा के उस पार
कायरता को त्याग, किया मृत्यु को स्वीकार
मरणोपरान्त परमवीर से सम्मानित तो कर दिया
किन्तु क्या हमने अतीत समझ उन्हें भुला दिया ?

मैं आदर्शवादी नहीं....
मुझे स्वीकार है कि अतीत में जीया नहीं जाता
पर जिनके संघर्ष से हमारा जीवन उज्ज्वल है
उन्हें भुलाया नहीं जाता

उन्हें मैं प्रणाम करता हूँ
और यही आपसे अपेक्षा रखता हूँ
क्योंकि जीवन सभी के लिए प्रिय है
उसे राष्ट्र के लिए कुर्बान करना अतुलनीय है

परित्याग की अपेक्षा नहीं रखता
प्राणों की आहुति देने की इच्छाशक्ति सभी में नहीं
पर देश का पतन रोकना
क्या हमारा कर्तव्य नहीं ?

सिध्दार्थ और अक्षरा के बीच आज फिर कहा-सुनी हो रही थी। सिध्दार्थ ने सुबह की चाय के साथ अखबार पढ़ते हुए एक ऐसी बात कह दी, जिसने अक्षरा को अंदर तक झकझोर दिया था। यँ तो इन दोनों की शादी को 10 साल हो गए थे पर आज भी वो मासूम बच्चों की तरह ही थे। बच्चों की तरह ही बिना स्वार्थ प्यार करते थे, एक दूसरे पर हक जताते थे और फिर कभी-कभी बच्चों की ही तरह लड़ भी जाते थे। कभी सिध्दार्थ को अक्षरा पर इतना प्यार आता था कि वो घर की साफ-सफाई में अक्षरा का हाथ बंटाने के लिए राजी हो जाता था तो वहीं कभी अक्षरा को सिध्दार्थ की सुबह देरी से उठने की

आदत पर इतना गुस्सा आता था कि वो उस सुबह चाय ही नहीं बनाती थी। एक बात जो उन्हें बच्चों की तरह गलती करने से बचाती थी, वो थी उनकी आपसी समझ। दोनों के बीच कहीं भी अहंकार की कोई दीवार नहीं थी। गलती किसी की भी हो, लड़ाई का बुरा दोनों को लगता था और इसीलिए लड़ाइयाँ जल्द ही खत्म हो जाती थी। पर आज की लड़ाई किसी छोटी बात पर नहीं हुई थी। आज की लड़ाई का कारण था: अंकुर।

शादी के 6 साल बाद भी जब सिध्दार्थ-अक्षरा को बच्चा नहीं हुआ था तो वो अंकुर को अनाथालय से लाये थे। अब चूँकि सिध्दार्थ-अक्षरा को बच्चा पालने का को अनभुव तो था नहीं तो वो दोनों भी अंकुर के लिए कोई भी निर्णय लेने से पहले सहमे रहते थे। हर किसी से कुछ न कुछ पूछते रहते थे क्योंकि वो अंकुर के लिए सब कुछ सही करना चाहते थे। वो जो उनको बचपन में नहीं मिला, उसे वो सब देना चाहते थे। अक्षरा जितने भी लोगों से उनके बच्चों के बारे में पूछती थी उतना ही उसे अंकुर बाकी बच्चों से अलग लगता था। अंकुर न तो मिश्रा जी के बच्चों की तरह मेले में खिलौने देख कर जमीन पर लोट-पोट होता था और न ही वो अपने हम-उम्र दोस्त श्रीश की तरह हर दिन नए कपड़ों की मांग करता था। वो दोनों अंकुर को सब-कुछ देना चाहते थे पर समस्या बस ये थी कि वो अंकुर की जरूरतों का पता दूसरों के बच्चों की जरूरतों से लगाते थे।



अक्षरा को अंकुर का ऐसा बड़ो जैसा व्यवहार कभी अच्छा नहीं लगता था। वो हमेशा सिध्दार्थ से पूछती थी कि हमारा अंकुर इतना अलग क्यों है? क्या इसकी इच्छायें नहीं हैं? क्या कभी इसको उतना मिल सकता है कि जो इसके अंदर के खालीपन को भर दे? या फिर क्या इसकी इच्छायें पूरी हो गयी हैं? फिर खुद ही बोल पड़ती थी कि ये तो अनाथालय से आया है, वहाँ पर तो इसको इतना मिला ही नहीं होगा कि इसकी इच्छाएं पूरी हो गई हो। फिर कभी-कभी यही सब सोचते हुए चुप हो जाती थी।

आज सबुह का अखबार पढ़ते हुए जब सिध्दार्थ ने बोर्डिंग स्कूल का विज्ञापन देखा था और ऐसे ही अक्षरा से पूछा कि क्या हमें अंकुर को बोर्डिंग में भेज देना चाहिए? अक्षरा किचन में थी पर ये सवाल सुनते ही उसके पैरों के नीचे से जमीन खिसक गई थी। उसके माथे पा हल्का सा पसीना आ गया था अब वो किचन की गर्मी से था या इस सवाल से! इसका पता अक्षरा को भी नहीं था। उसके सामने उस घर की तस्वीर आ गयी जो दिन-भर सुनसान पड़ा रहता था क्योंकि सिध्दार्थ और अक्षरा दोनों ही काम पर चले जाते थे और शाम को सिर्फ किचन से बर्तनों के खटकने की आवाज आती थी। अक्षरा के दिमाग में चल रहे इस विचार-प्रवाह को कुकर की सीटी ने तोड़ा और उसके बाद अक्षरा किचन से निकल कर सिध्दार्थ के सामने आई। उसके मन में सिध्दार्थ के सवाल पर गुस्सा, अंकुर को खोने का डर और घर के फिर से अकेले होने का ख्याल आ चुका था।

अक्षरा ने लेकिन चेहरे पर कोई भी भाव न दिखाते हुए सिध्दार्थ से पूछा कि क्यों भेजना है उसे अभी? अभी वो 4 साल का बच्चा ही तो है। उसे मां-बाप के प्यार की जरूरत है या कि मास्टर साहब की डांट की? सिध्दार्थ जवाब देने ही वाला था कि तभी अक्षरा ने दूसरा सवाल पूछा कि तुम्हें नहीं लगता कि जिन्दगी ने उसे कैसे भी बहुतों से बहुत कम दिया है? उससे ये सब क्यों छीनना चाहते हो तुम? अपनी बात पूरी करते-करते अक्षरा का गला भर आया और आंखों में

नमी सी आ गयी पर वो रो कर अपनी बात का वजन नहीं घटाना चाहती थी। उसे मालूम था कि दुनिया अक्सर अपने मन की बात जुबान से कहने वाले और चेहरे से दिखाने वालों को कमजोर समझती है और इसीलिए उसने चेहरे से कुछ झलकने नहीं दिया।

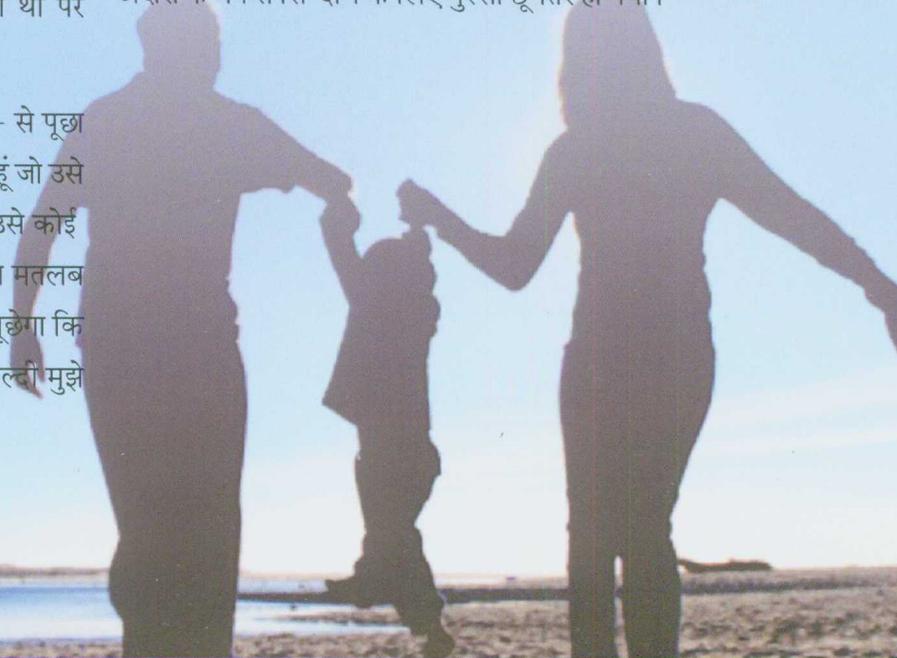
सिध्दार्थ उसके सवाल सुन रहा था और जवाब अपने अंदर ही कहीं ढूंढ रहा था। सिध्दार्थ अपने आपको बहुत समझदार समझता था और इसीलिए वो भावनाओं के ऊपर हमेशा हकीकत की जरूरतों को रखता था। वो अंकुर को बोर्डिंग इसलिए भेजना चाहता था ताकि वो अपने पैरो पर खड़ा हो सके और कल को अपने जैसे और लोगों की मदद कर सके। सिध्दार्थ, अंकुर को गुमनामी की ज़िंदगी से बचाना चाहता था। बहुत कुछ सोचने के बाद उसने अक्षरा को बस यही बोला कि मैं उससे कुछ छीनना नहीं चाहता पर उसे इस छोटे से शहर में रखकर हम उसे ज्यादा कुछ दे भी नहीं पायेंगे। यहां न अच्छे स्कूल हैं और न ही अच्छी नौकरी की सुविधाएं। उसे आज नहीं भेजेंगे तो वो कल को नौकरी के लिए तो खुद ही निकल जाएगा। और, जब वो दुनिया में निकलेगा तो पीछे मुड़ कर हमें ही जिम्मेदार ठहरायेगा। क्या तुम ऐसा चाहती हो ?

इस सवाल ने जैसे अक्षरा को कटघरे में खड़ा कर दिया था। अक्षरा के पैर थर-थर कांपने लगे पर चूंकि उसने साड़ी पहनी थी तो उसकी थरथराहट सिध्दार्थ को नहीं दिख रही थी। इंसान दूसरों की अदालत में दोषी होकर भी सुकून में रह सकता है पर वो हारता तब है जब वो अपनी अदालत में ही गुनहगार साबित हो जाता है। उसे सिध्दार्थ के लिए अचानक बहुत गुस्सा आया। उसके मन में आया कि इस इंसान के साथ में 10 साल रह चुकी हूँ फिर भी ये मुझे पहचान नहीं पाया। वो कितने दिनों बाद सिध्दार्थ पर चिल्लाना चाहती थी पर उसके होंठ हिल ही नहीं रहे थे।

कहीं से सारी हिम्मत बटोर कर उसने फिर सिध्दार्थ - से पूछा कि मैं उसका बुरा क्यों चाहूंगी ? मैं उसे वो प्यार देना चाहती हूँ जो उसे कोई और नहीं दे पाएगा। मैं उसे बचपन देना चाहती हूँ जो उसे कोई नौकरी, कोई पैसा नहीं दे पाएगा। उसे आज अनाथ होने का मतलब पता नहीं पर जब पता चलेगा तो वो पता है क्या पूछेगा ? वो पूछेगा कि अगर मैं आपकी अपनी औलाद होता तो भी क्या इतनी ही जल्दी मुझे

घर से निकाल देते ? क्या तब भी जिम्मेदारियों को निभाने की जल्दी में आप रिश्ते निभाना भूल जाते ? उसका बीता हुआ कल उसे पता नहीं है और तुम उससे आज इसलिए छीन लेना चाहते हो ताकि वो आने वाले कल में सुकून से रहे ! पर वो सुकून को पहचानेगा कैसे ? बोलो सिध्दार्थ ? उसने तो अभी सुकून देखा ही नहीं, जिया ही नहीं। अक्षरा को अचानक से अपनी बात में वजन दिखा तो उसके आँसू अपने आप कम हुए और अब वो सिध्दार्थ से चिल्ला के नहीं जीतना चाहती थी बल्कि उसे दिखाना चाहती थी कि वो भी सोच-समझ के उत्तर दे सकती है।

सिध्दार्थ सब-कुछ बहुत ध्यान से सुन रहा था। उसका दिमाग सब बातों का उत्तर देना चाहता था पर दिल अब चुप करने की बात कह रहा था। दिमाग और दिल की लड़ाई में अक्सर इंसान हार जाता है पर उस दिन सिध्दार्थ जीत गया। वो आगे आया और बिना कुछ बोले उसने अक्षरा को गले से लगा लिया। अक्षरा को कुछ समझ ही नहीं आया कि हुआ क्या ! कुछ पल के लिए वो पत्थर ही बनी रही और कुछ नहीं बोली। उसे लग रहा था कि ये सिध्दार्थ की कोई नई चाल है और इसीलिए उसने अपने भाव नहीं दिखाए पर सिध्दार्थ ने उसे नहीं छोड़ा। कुछ देर के लिए ऐसे लगा जैसे सब थम गया था, वो दोनों चुपचाप खड़े थे और आवाज थी तो सिर्फ दिल के धड़कनों की और दीवार पर टँगी घड़ी की। कुछ देर बाद अक्षरा ने भी दोनों हाथों से सिध्दार्थ को गले लगा लिया और देखते ही देखते दोनों रोने लगे। आंखों ने आंसू बहाने का काम तो किया पर इस बार हाथों ने उन्हें पोंछने की कोशिश भी नहीं की। जहाँ एक ओर आंसुओं के साथ सिध्दार्थ के दिमाग से इतनी छोटी उम्र में अंकुर को बाहर भेजने का ख्याल बह गया वहीं अक्षरा के मन से सिध्दार्थ के लिए गुस्सा छूमंतर हो गया।



Red Earth and Pouring Rain

Authored by Vikram Chandra

-*Nandhakumar N. IFS 2017*

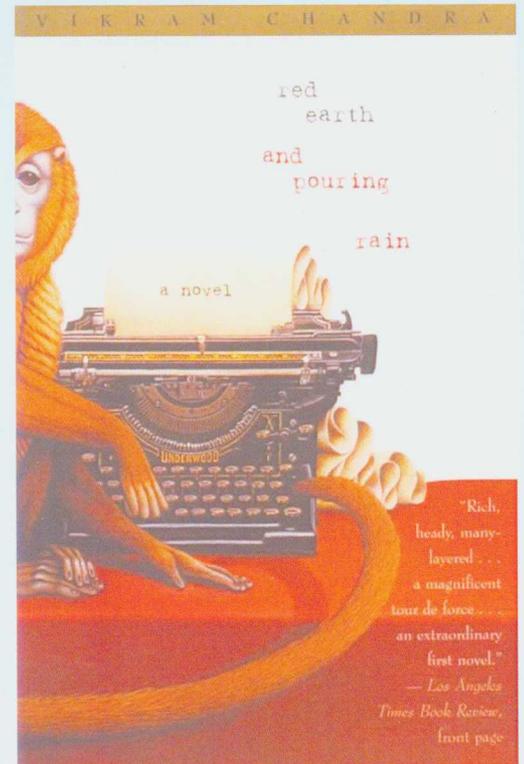
The main things this book had going for are its stories within stories. You might get lost like I did, but I found I didn't really care about what level I was in as long as the stories kept unrolling and enrapturing me. Another thing that kept the book going for is a typewriting monkey! I mean, a TYPEWRITING MONKEY!. And as an icing on the cake, the stories are beautiful, vivid, descriptive and sometimes philosophical.

A young man returns to India after going to college in Los Angeles. While tangled in a web of identity issues, the young man shoots a monkey that had been troubling his family for quite a long time and which had stolen his Levis pant. This is a big no-no in their traditionally cultured family and the young man's family rushes to save the monkey.

While nursing the monkey back to health, it becomes clear that the shooting had flipped a switch in the monkey that allows him to remember his past life as a poet. The monkey proceeds to climb up to the typewriter and begins telling his story. Yama, the god of death, comes down and tries to put an end to the monkey's life. While Yama is dragging him from this mortal coil, the monkey prays to Hanuman (god of monkeys and poets) to save him. Hanuman comes down and talks Yama into a bet. The deal is the monkey should be allowed to tell a story to a crowd. If the crowd becomes bored at any point during his story, Yama can take the monkey with him. But if the monkey tells a good story, he gets to live. Deal.

The monkey starts telling his story to both visiting gods and townspeople to save his own life. But because he is still recovering from being shot, he needs the young man to pick up the slack - after all, he's the one who got the monkey in this mess. So the young man sits down and begins telling his story about life in America. The rest of the book is occupied by the two stories revolving around one another in a fairly astounding fashion: tales of romance, adventure, war, family, love, birth, death, and growing up, the magical and the mundane, from 18th century India to 1980s California.

I'm not going to lie to you that I enjoyed each and every page of this book. Sometimes the epic battle scenes were too detailed and the play-by-play of a cricket match left me restless and skimming. However, most of it was delightful and this is an incredible book. The author, Vikram Chandra, has to be given due credit that in his debut novel he has won the greatest challenge every storyteller has: to keep the audience intrigued.



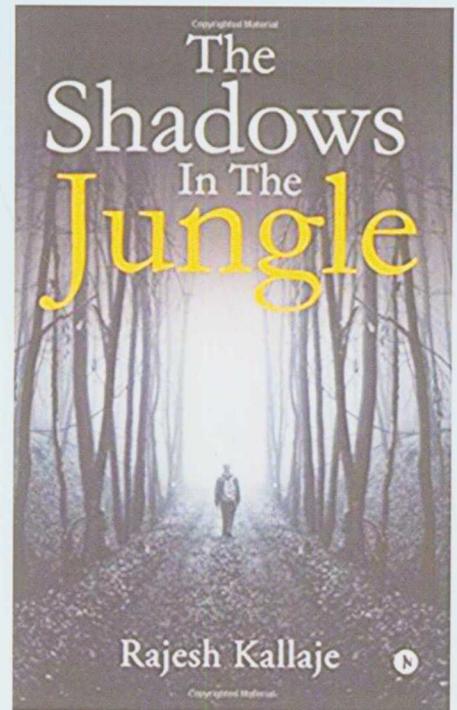
The Shadows in the Jungle

Authored by Rajesh Kallaje

-Anand S., IFS 2017

The book "Shadows in the Jungle" is written by Rajesh Kallaje an Indian Forest Service officer from Chhattisgarh. There are numerous literary works dealing with the life of IAS & IPS officers. This book is perhaps one of the first works dealing with the life of IFS. The book narrates the fictional story of Senthil, a young and idealistic IFS officer from Chennai. He gets posted to Chhattisgarh. He is soon exposed to the corruption in the government departments. When his honesty comes in direct confrontation with the politics of postings and transfers, Senthil is slowly and surely tested. Working in rural hinterlands, he is shocked to see the misery of the tribal, crushed between the naxal and the police. The book exposes the some of the modioperandorum of corruption .

Wherever he is posted, Senthil manages to rub the political leaders in the wrong way and is shunted out from one post to another. Senthil gets married to Manjula and eventually she is frustrated with his frequent transfers and leaves him to stay with her parents. The book narrates the ethical dilemma faced by honest and upright officer in the corrupt system. The conversation within himself and with his wife and with fellow honest officers throws light on his choices between honesty, ethicality, integrity and so called practicality. The book ends with the sarcastic note of how Senthil got absorbed into the "system".



Fascinating Engineer & Learning Human Kind

- G.Vignesh Appavu, IFS 2018

*Hello Beloved Mankind, I always near to U and my ideas are Reverse Engineered by U all,
But I am less recharged by U.*

My symbiosis thought U Fraternity and Mutual Relationship.

Even the basic science of Gravity was discovered with my help only.

You are always inspired by my Adaptations in extreme climate situations.

I even thought U the nuances of attracting the people (Marketing) through my mind blowing colourful flowers.

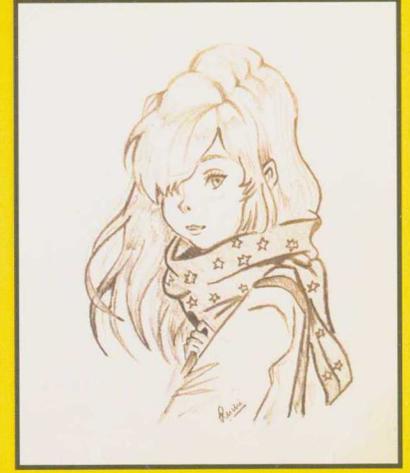
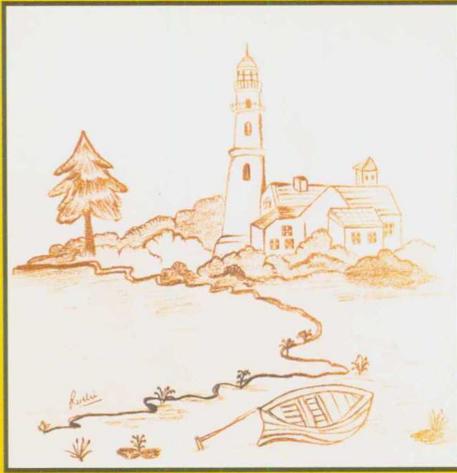
I can even become non-vegetarian (Insectivores) on demand to be the survival of the fittest, which will be a case study for U all in your life.

I sensitized you all the behavior of save for future through my food storage during boon period for my lean period.

At last, currently I am the treasure on demand to save the future world (Anti Climate Change). It means U shall emerge as eternal by supporting other creatures.

A lot more to be learnt from me, save me, observe me, U will be a real JUGAADISTS!!!!!!!

My World - Ruchi Singh, IFS 2017



Sangeeta Mahala, IFS 2017

Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy



Jungle Book Explore the Wilderness Within....

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Ayush Jain, IFS 2017



Crocodile by Chirag



Citrus Swallowtail by Nandhakumar



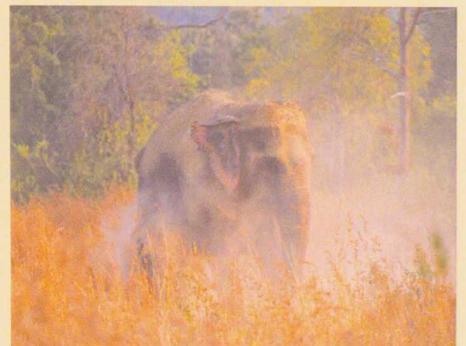
Bengal Tiger by Nikitha



Stick insect by Dhairyasheel



Nilgiri langur by Dhawan



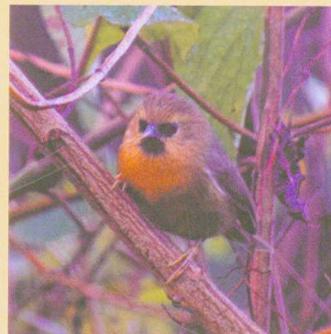
Elephant by Nandhakumar



Rufous-backed Shrike by Ajinkya



Green Bee-eater By Ajinkya



Black-chinned Babbler by Sagar Pawar



Pink Headed Vulture by Dhawan



Indian Spot-billed Duck by Pankaj Garg



Indian Roller by Dhairyasheel



Night Heron by Shanmukh



Water Strider by Pankaj Garg



Spot-billed pelican by Chirag



Stripe-necked Mongoose by Abhishek

Mahendra Singh Bisht

IFS 2017 Batch Course Clerk

Age-48, M.A. (Hindi)

Besides the Course Director, one more important functionary permanently attached to the 'Batch' is the Course Clerk. IFS-2017 is fortunate to have an experienced person like Mr. Bisht.

He joined IGnFA as a typist 30 years ago. He fondly remembers how he learnt every aspect of his job in IGnFA only. His help in taking 'difficult' official leaves is always appreciated.

He ensures that every paper is reused in the office to one or the other use (IGnFA Impact).

He enjoys helping and interacting with IFS officers coming from every part of our country. He is proud that one of lady probationers from previous batch ties him Rakhi every year. He nurtures his emotional attachments with probationers of old batches through regular phone calls and occasional meetings in the academy.

He enjoys reading Hindi literature, especially of Premchand. He also has a well kept and diverse garden at his home. Serving old people is his passion, which will be his 2nd innings post-retirement.

He urges probationers not to hesitate to interact with the lowest staff of their office, as they provide the actual facts for the success in the field.



Anand Kumar Thapa

Security personnel, Age 41

One of the simplest person in the academy is Thapaji. He served the nation for 15 years in the Gorkha Rifle. In his tenure, he rose from the rank of a Sipahi to the Lance Nayak.

He was posted in almost all the Himalayan states of India.

He also worked in International Peace keeping Force, stationed in Sudan.

There he observed people fighting for basic needs and even dying in such fighting. There, he says, he realized that the quality of life in our country is far better than these countries.

He joined IGnFA in 2015. He finds people here are very kind and polite. After witnessing some programmes in the campus he is very well inspired towards water conservation in his daily life.

Playing football is his hobby. He loves to be with his children and take care of them.

Like every youth of this part of our country, joining military and serving the nation was his dream. Now, providing the best to his children is his life goal.

Being conditioned in military discipline, he urges the probationers to respect seniors and not to support any unauthorised work.



Trilok Singh Negi,

Mess Supervisor, Age 54

One of several things in the academy which is highly appreciated not only by the probationers but also the visiting guests is the taste and quality of Officer's mess food. And the person behind this is Mr. Negiji.

After joining IGnFA in 1986 as a mess worker, Negiji rose to the supervisor level with his interest and constant efforts. He is the person who keeps working and managing the mess from 4:30 in the morning to 11:30 in the evening.

He pays personal attention in every small matter with respect to the delicacies of special occasions.

He appreciates and admires the cooperative and considerate mess committee of IFS2017 batch.

Though he loves listening songs of Kishor Kumar and Lata Mangeshkar, cooking is very much dear to his heart. He feels peaceful in the academy's atmosphere.

His message to the probationers is "Taking interest in what you do makes you a happy person."



Mr. Vijaysingh Negi

PT Instructor

A person, other than probationers, whom you will find regularly running on the PT ground is Mr. Negi Sir.

Negiji joined IGnFA in 2013 and is currently with Lion group. Besides regular PT and games, he provides special guidance on weight loss, weight gain and diet control.

An accident during district cricket team selection process, which he considers as the turning point of his life that made him shift his focus from team sports to athletics. He won the gold medal at Uttarakhand state level marathon in 2000. He always feels proud of himself for he is training the topmost officers of India.

His hobbies include playing football and athletic games. Being a running-enthusiast, he believes running is the way to physical and mental health as it keeps you stress free. "After fatigue, do the work" is what we always here from his mouth. And the same is his mantra for every walk of life.

