



Jungle Book

Explore the wilderness within...

September 2018

Issue 10

'Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you'- Frank Lloyd Wright

We are glad that foresters are fortunate enough to be able to follow this quote and work for the ever nurturing Mother Nature. Having completed around 9 months in probation we are able to appreciate why the entire IFS fraternity reminisces about the training period. It prepares us to become guardians of nature amidst such a beautiful sprawling campus. It includes travelling across the country and abroad in the quest of protecting the

nature in a scientific way. While studying and observing the forests one can't help but retrospect about oneself and what one believes in.

This issue attempts to capture such reflections by probationers, seniors, faculty members and the director. The contributors have put in a lot of effort in making this possible amidst their busy schedule for which the editors are grateful.

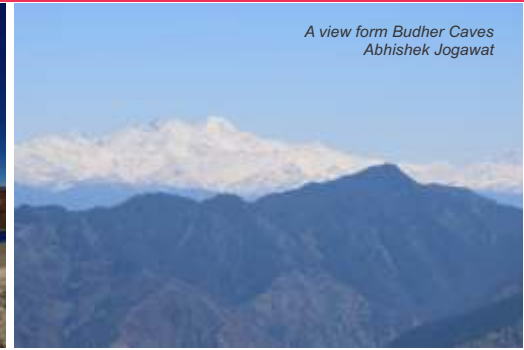
Let us all pledge to continue the good work we are mandated to do in a proactive, cheerful and responsible manner. Cheers!



Kanasar,
Ajinkya Bankar



Pangong Tso,
Dhawan Kumar



A view form Budher Caves
Abhishek Jogawat



Prayag Ravi, Oct, 2016, 10:10 AM, 22.25 N



Flag footstep through mighty desert!
Dhawan K. Bhatti, IFS



2016-09-19 11:12 AM



Explosive in Angkor Wat, Cambodia, 10:17, 2016



Lotus, Bangalore: Kambhajar Chibumb Chibumbhuj Banaraj
PC: Chirag Anil, IFS 17, 2017



Zaskar, Ladakh, 2016, 10:17, 2017



2016-09-19 11:12 AM



2016-09-19 11:12 AM

2016-09-19 11:12 AM



2016-09-19 11:12 AM



Ghangariya,
Abhishek Jogawat



2016-09-19 11:12 AM



Ranathambore NP,
Ajinkya Bankar

Shri Omkar Singh, Director, IGNFA



I am extremely delighted to know that IFS batch 2017-19 has revived the Newsletter "Junglebook". In the today's era of "good governance", presentation and communication skills are equally important as that of performance. This newsletter provides platform for probationers to showcase their skills, creativity, innovation and imagination.

I congratulate the entire team involved in bringing out this wonderful issue of the Newsletter and all those who have contributed creatively. I hope this literary tradition of the Academy grows further and I wish best for future sustenance of the newsletter.

(Omkar Singh)

Shri Ganga Singh, Additional Director



It gives me immense pleasure to know that the IFS Officers of 2017-19 batch are coming out with the next issue of the batch Newsletter. The "Jungle book" aptly reflects the important happenings in the Academy and the batch. It also shows the literary and creative talent in the batch.

I believe that the newsletter will provide a good source of guidance for future batches as well for designing various club activities and making the Probation period memorable and joyful also.

With these words, I congratulate each of them for their efforts and wish the best luck to the entire editorial team as well as IFS Officers 2017-19 batch, for the endeavour.

(Ganga Singh)

Dr. K. Sasikumar, Course Director, IFS 2017 Batch



Like the mountains and trees, we also grow everyday and in the process shed rocks and leaves. The rocks and leaves are our thoughts and ideas. The impressions that we leave while growing professionally and intellectually, are invaluable contributions towards the evolution of art, science and literature in the realm of our activity. Such contributions of our predecessors help us to see the world standing on their shoulders.

Jungle book is an intellectual platform wherein young brains get an opportunity to leave their imprints. As always, I'm proud of the officer trainees of IFS (P) 2017-19 course and the IGNFA Literary club for resurrecting the Jungle Book. My best wishes.

(Dr. K. Sasikumar)

Rendezvous with the Director, IGNFA



Name : Sh. Omkar Singh
Native place : Hoshiarpur
Cadre : AGMUT
Batch : 1982
Birth Date: 27th June 1960
Educational Qualification : M.Sc. Chemistry

What inspired you to join this service?

Initially I appeared for both the civils and forest services and subsequently joined the forest service after quitting my job at ONGC. As I progressed in my career, service to the nature and spending time with it kept me going. Protection of mother nature has now become a passion.

What do you do in your free time ?

I like playing badminton, walking and spending time with nature rejuvenates me.

Could you please share some memorable moments from initial days of your career?

After joining in IFS, I used to get very less salary as compared to that in ONGC and the training was also very hectic, so I was in a dilemma weather I made a right choice by choosing IFS.

Training days were the most memorable ones. Our director used to be very strict and training was quite rigorous. As compared to training that you have these days ,ours was quite hectic.

Now that I reflect upon my past, I feel that the training period was the best part of my career, and I am glad that I chose this wonderful service

Can you please share some experiences of working as an IFS officer ?

Initially I had apprehensions about working in Arunachal Pradesh but to my surprise people were quite pro-active in engaging with the forest department.

I have had an excellent relationship with public which has helped me a lot in career.

I have spent a considerable part of my career in

various capacities at the centre. My stint with Ministry of Home Affairs was a great learning experience. The working style at centre is quite different from that at field. The working is quite systematic with little discretion left for the officers, I still remember the time when I was in the Home ministry and was handling the cases regarding pardoning of death penalty. Once, I had to submit the original case file of death penalty in the Supreme Court. I was so conscious of the critical nature of the job that I skipped my dinner as I was not ready to leave the file out of my sight.

You have just entered the academy , how are you feeling now and what are your impressions?

It's a great feeling that in the final phase of my service, I am back at the academy where it all started. It's like a homecoming experience. The emphasis on discipline is however, not as much as it used to be. High level of discipline should be maintained at all costs.

What advice will you give to the probationers?

First and foremost, honesty and discipline are the most essential attributes everyone should have. Secondly, field expertise is must in today's era of professionalism. One always looks up to the officer for his core competence in his domain of work. Then, dealing with public is an art. You should be sensitive towards public and always try to establish a dialogue with them. My best wishes are always with you.

Know Your Faculty

Name : **Shri K. Kannan**
Native place : Salem, Tamilnadu
Cadre : Punjab
Batch : 2004
Education : M.Sc. Agriculture



FAVOURITES

Holiday : Andaman destination
Food : Non vegetarian
Actor : Kamal Hasan
Movies : I watch all genres of movies.
Sport : Cricket & Chess
Sport player : M S Dhoni

Questionnaire-

Q. What inspired you to join IFS?

A. I was trying any government service & there was not a special inspiration to join IFS. I joined as it is one of the good services in the country,

Q. What are the most awaiting changes at IFS?

A. 1. All IFS should act together as a fraternity to improve our service.
2. Probationer training should be of 1 year
3. Proper cadre management as all IFS across the country have the uniform pattern of

promotion.

Q. What is your passion?

A. Indian Forest Service is my passion.

Q. If you were Union minister of MoEFCC, then?

A. I have made the academy really world class not in words, but in reality.

Q. Is there any GURUMANTRA for probationary officers?

A. 1st - "When you are probationer think like a probationer"
2nd - "Service is superior than system, System is superior than institute, Institute is superior than individual". Try to keep this order in life.

Q. What is your memorable experience in cadre?

A. Night patrolling in Punjab & dealing with politician, press, labour.

Q. What is importance of family in serving?

A. "Support from family members is more important for proving you as a good officer & set a great start for your career & I am lucky in this case.

Q. Sir, share your experience in academy so far....

A. I am satisfied, feels great, 75% mission is accomplished already.

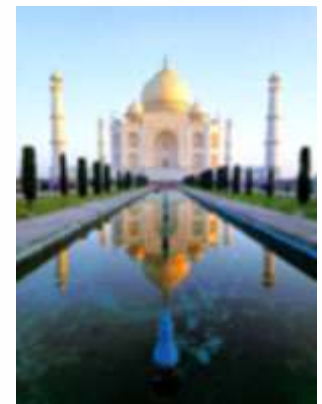
Winners of West India Tour Photography Competition



Best Wildlife: Sai Kiran



Best Landscape: Dhawan Kr. Rawat



Best General : Sagar Powar

Officers' Club Activities

Nature and Photography Club

Under the able leadership of Sh. Nitish Kumar the Nature and Photography Club has proven to be very pro-active Club. In the initial days of training the Club has organized an interactive nature walk and bird spotting for fellow probationers. The Club also organized a similar program for Nature Club of LBSNAA in FRI Campus which was much appreciated by IAS Batch mates. The club also entertained the Nikon Professionals to organize a Photography workshop for the trainees and students of FRI Deemed University. To promote the photography as a hobby among fellow probationers the Club arranges to exhibit the best pictures clicked by probationers while on tours on the Notice board of Administrative Block. The Club also held a photography competition on West India tour.



Literary Club

The literary club plays an instrumental role in promoting the reading, writing and knowledge enrichment of the batch. The club had organized a Biodiversity Quiz on World Biodiversity Day (On 22 May). The quiz comprised of preliminary round of written format and final round of audio- visuals, written, fastest finger first and rapid fire questions on biodiversity and related issues. The event saw active participation of probationers and the faculty with full enthusiasm. The faculty team of Shri Uttam Kumar Sharma, Smt. Nidhi Srivastava and Dr. K. Sasi kumar won in the Final round and the team of Ashutosh Singh, Devendra kumar Meena and Rahul kumar stood second in final round. Recently the club along with its editorial team has revived the "Jungle Book", the inhouse magazine publication at IGNEA.



Movie Club

The club has been quite active in screening movies and sports tournaments for the IFS probationers, faculty and other guests. Apart from the recreational purpose the club also aims to bring to fore the burning issues through cinema. Till date the club has screened several movies like Talvar, T33n, Zootopia, The Man From U.N.C.L.E, etc. In addition it has also screened the IPL 2018 finals and the FIFA World Cup 2018 finals. In future, it also plans to screen regional cinema and documentaries covering a wide range of genres. The entertainment quotient of probationers remains high thanks to the interesting interventions of the movie club!



Cultural Club

"A nation's culture resides in the hearts and in the soul of its people." – Mahatma Gandhi

Celebrating unity in diversity is the true essence of our cultures. To promote this idea, the Cultural club has successfully conducted various cultural programmes like-Sheetotsava, Basantotsava, heart winning performances in Inter Service Meet at LBSNAA and recently the Meghotsava. The club also organized various festivities like Pongal, Lohri, Holi etc. to celebrate the rich cultural diversity of our nation. Probationers' enthusiasm is gauged by their active participation in all the celebrations. The club is ensuring that all cultural facets of India are showcased by probationers.



Society of Contemporary Affairs

Mandated to promote the selfless service to the society and developing interpersonal skills in probationers, the club organises various activities of common concerns in this regard. Recently SoCA club, IGNFA in collaboration with IMA Blood bank organized a blood donation camp. In total 70 people participated in the blood donation camp. Out of which 45 were IFS probationers 15 people were from CASFoS and 10 from FRI and ICFRE. The club also plans to organize more events that incorporate the spirit of service and compassion.



Being a Course Director

- *Uttam Kumar Sharma, CD 2015 Batch*

Being Course Director of an IFS probationer batch is a job to do in Academy. Emotions flow from one extreme to another extreme. At times you are the 'Sanrakshak' (preserver) of probationers and at other times, you want to disown everything. If you are not a CD, you have one opinion about probationers and if you are a CD, you have a second opinion over every opinion of others about probationers, I can vouch for that. My batch has also gone through these tides of emotions. A CD can never be objective about his batch and neither do I. Surely IFS 2015 batch was the best batch I have seen in last 5 years (I expect the same rating of CD from the batch!!).

I am not very sure when a faculty is appointed as CD of a batch, whether he sets up goal for his performance or for the performance of the batch. Every probationer should complete his or her probation in academy successfully, or whether they should be better trained in terms of knowledge, skills, discipline and values, CD remains in dilemma always during the CDship. IFS 2015 batch has performed tremendously in terms of leaving an impression of a sincere batch. No arrogance of being a member of elite service, humble and at the same time aspirational batch. One thing they excel in was coming forward to take responsibility whenever there was a challenge. I fondly remember

all lady officers taking challenge of 'Bungee Jumping' at Rishikesh and doing the jump so comfortably that nearly half of the batch jump after them. Be it preparing technical academic reports like Valley of flowers report or doing automation of forestry applications, batch has always shown its skills and competency in different fields.

Wonderful sport persons these officers are. No game was missed. I can never forget Ms Thenmozhi running with the Hockey ball with her stick and opponent jostling her on the hockey field. For once I am very sure that no foreign trainee was ever better than Ugyen I & II, officers from Royal Government of Bhutan. And it will be injustice to them if I compare them only with Foreign trainees. They showed what it means to be an officer. Dedication, discipline, always eager to learn, courage, fitness and always ready for any kind of responsibility without even a single murmur are some of the qualities they epitomized and whole batch benefitted from their presence.

In the end, only future will tell how much Academy has succeeded in providing them the training necessary for discharging their duties and making them the 'Public Servant' which society needs. I for myself will always miss my days as CD of IFS 2015 batch and guiding them through the maze of complexities of initial service life in government.



Notes from Course Director 2016 Batch:

- **Dr. P. Viswakannan**

It has been a very interesting journey of sixteen months with the officers of 2016 batch. The entire journey was smooth sailing with lot of pleasant memories... I feel proud, the way every officer of the batch conducted, be it in the IGNFA Campus or while on tours/exercises. When I look back.. a great sense of satisfaction pervades me. Thanks to the entire team for making this possible!!!!

Let me share some of new initiatives (though not very big) that were implemented with 2016 batch:

(i) Cadre – Based Interaction: When senior officers visit IGNFA for various in-service courses, they invariably interact with IFS Probationers. Earlier, all probationers sit together one side and the senior officers sit on the opposite side and general introduction and interaction takes place.

In order to have a more intimate, personal and meaningful interaction, this cadre based interaction was introduced in which senior officer and probationers of a cadre sit around a table closely and interact cordially.

(ii) Guest Lecture Series: With a view to broaden the outlook/horizon of probationers, we had invited many prominent personalities from various fields for a lecture cum interaction with IFS probationers. I believe this need to be institutionalized and should

be spread over the entire training period. Though we tried to invite some celebrities, somehow that didn't materialize!!!

(iii) Tour- Documentaries: Many probationers were instrumental in making documentaries all most all tours/exercises they undertook while in training at IGNFA. Special credits to those who had really worked hard for these documentaries.. especially Aditya and his team... All these are now available @ youtube...

(iv) IFS Professional Course Inauguration and Final Valedictory Function: The Academy had organized both these functions in a grand manner at Hari Singh Auditorium, a befitting way of welcoming and seeing off the young entrants into the service. Hopefully, this will continue in future..

(v) Walk through Memory Lane: During Convocation Ceremony every year before the Chief Guest arrives, all the invitees, dignitaries, parents/guests of probationers reach the Convocation Hall & remain seated awaiting for the Chief Guest. This time gap was thought as the apt time to tell all our guests the entire story of the training at IGNFA. A slideshow of the entire training programme right from joining till the pass out was screened....

Let's all innovate...in our own ways..and contribute our bit..in improving the system..wherever we are!!!!



Gir – the Last home of Asiatic Lions

- Arun Vignesh C S, IFS 2016

Beauty of the forest is revealed by the fauna it hosts. When we started to Gir from Ahmadabad as part of our West India Tour, only one animal came to our mind - the Asiatic Lion. It is justifiable too. But as we crossed Junagarh, the birds of Gir were the first to welcome us. The birdman of India, Salim Ali once said that if not for Lions, Gir would have a Birds' sanctuary. It is a paradise for birdwatchers.

Gir is the last natural haven for the majestic Asiatic Lions. An early morning jungle safari is a must to appreciate the beauty and understand the importance of these big cats to the Gir ecosystem. In our trip, we made three sightings - a lioness crossing the forest road, a couple of lions resting near a waterhole and a pride feasting on their overnight kill. The magnanimity of the Lions was realised by the way they ignored the visitors. In a sense the giants knew that with a flick of their toes or a tiny growl, they can make us disappear into the forest. Puny humans..!

The other big cats living in the jungle are the leopards. They are unpredictable, agile, lonely and often shy. Perfectly camouflaged in the savannas of Gir, they are the most dangerous. Along with lions, they play the most important role of creating a sustainable equilibrium with the herbivores like Sambar, Nilgai and Spotted deer.

Gir is blessed with wonderful society which worships the nature. It is with their participation, we have a trifold increase in the Lion population. With the support from Gujarat Forest Department, their Eco Development Committees have reduced the biotic pressure and established a mutual dependence with lions. They understand the Lions as much as the lions understand them.

The final breathtaking experience we had in Gir was the night walk into the jungle. It made me



realise the importance of conquering fears to enjoy the nature. Today, I had the company of my friends and guards while venturing inside the forest, but it may not be the case always. So courage is the basic minimum required to experience the beauty of forest. In our battle against fear, darkness of night is the true ally. In dark, our instincts are sharpened and the journey is focused. With our mobiles turned off, we could listen to the silence of the forest, call of owls and sounds of crickets. The star filled sky was another wonderful sight we miss in cities. In front of the beauty of nature, everything else looks insignificant, and wilderness is the true nature of our beloved Earth.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY- Man-animal Conflict, the two-legged animal, the 'lady' officer in field and more... -Neha shrivastava, IFS 2016

This not a post, but a story that left a deep imprint on me. A sub-adult panther was stuck in the bushes. I was taken by my seniors to the site the observe the rescue. It was a remote village on border of Khandwa and Burhanpur ('infamously' called as Kashmir of Madhya Pradesh- now I know why!)

A TOTALLY UNEXPECTED BEGINNING: We reached there at around 9AM. When the driver took a turn to leave the roads and started entering the field, I was thinking whether he has taken the wrong path. What would you expect at a site where a wild animal is stuck- DESERTED!!! (until absolutely necessary) Especially no children!

I was too ASTONISHED at the site. Because the place was looking like a fair with almost 10000 of people, water tankers giving water to public for relief from scorching heat (temperature was 42 degrees at 9AM), 1000s of bikes, cars etc, tempos playing loud music, people merrily hanging around with their children on their shoulders.

THERE WAS MORE TO COME: On going closer, my mind went totally blank! While Our staffs were already there making strategy for rescue, People were hooting, whistling and above all almost 20 people on a thin tree right above those bushes throwing stone on the panther and our staffs.

THE WILD TWO-LEGGED ANIMAL: We had to call team of police for the management of mob. Despite repeated attempt even using water canons, we were not able to make the panther make a single move and we concluded that he is seriously injured/weak/dehydrated only to find after 11 hrs he was just in the state of shock seeing so many 'TWO-LEGGED animals' around him behaving so wildly.

MEN ON MISSION: While our staff and police team struggled whole day, mercury was rising higher and higher. People also didn't leave the place- they were also on the mission mode. Rescue team came, we had experts from staffs, NGO, Veterinarians etc risking their lives (not only

from panther but the stone pelting too), we tranquilized the panther and tried to get it in cage.

GUESS WHAT HAPPENED NEXT! A mob of 10000 people came from all the directions, (it was like a swarm of insects) creating stampede. I was the "ONLY LADY IN THE MEN'S WORLD"- "Lesson Learnt- Mob has no face".

A police man had to rescue me safely to the vehicle. People were flocking around my vehicle too, taking advantage of the ruckus tried to open the doors of my vehicle too, and first time in so many years I had to SHOUT to disperse them.

Only to find 100s of them following us to chowki with even 4-5 people in one bike covering over 5-7km (burning their own fuel and then they say Govt has increased the fuel price!) and taking selfies with the panther who had just gained the consciousness and also kicking his cage.

I left the spot thinking: How man seizes to be 'social animal' when he gets benefit of anonymity like in mob relieving him from social pressure. And the second thought- there was not a single women in the mob. Found them totally occupied in fetching water, handling kids or collecting fuelwood on the way back.

Only in morning to find news article saying that- a panther attacked the people and forest department had to rescue it.

Sigh!! THERE IS ALWAYS THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY.





Fond Me





memories...



Natural Learnings @ Bandipur

(The following incident is part of south and central India tour of IFS probationers- 2016-18 batch)

– Narentheran Gunasekar, IFS 2016

A refreshing morning trek and learning experience with Dr. A.J.T. Johnsingh (Former Dean WII, Former Member NBWL) was full of snippets and behavioral insights into wild animals of Bandipur, then we returned back to our accommodation at Jungle lodges Bandipur for a sumptuous lunch which included kazhi (ball of boiled ragi), fish curry, appalams and banana. We then started for the afternoon segment of the field visit. We were scheduled to visit the Gopal Rangaswamy temple, which incidentally also is the highest point of the Bandipur tiger reserve.

Our entire group was seated in open buses, and modified boleros designed for safaris in the wild. We started the journey around 3.00PM. From the main road we turned onto a side road/ dirt track abound with Eucalyptus and Chloroxylon trees. A few km in this route, to our left was a small pond – 5 - 10ha a majority portion of it had dried up and some water pockets remained along the Southeastern corner. The dirt track running along its eastern bank in a north – south direction had thick shrubs along the pond bunds to our left but with gaps sufficient for viewing the wildlife hidden in the pond. Along the northern borders just as our vehicles entered pond boundary, we saw herds of deer running away in the opposite direction and as we got a better view of the full pond, we saw more deer along the forest boundary looking skeptically at the open grounds for any predators, they all turned their heads to look at the caravan of vehicles that were creating a dust trail like a herd of buffaloes running along the dirt track. The part of pond with water had plenty of waterfowls such as egrets, species of ducks and even bar headed geese which had come here on its annual migration. Everyone of us were angling for good pics and views, that created disturbing noise for the birds that then flew in one single swarm further away from us. As we continued on our journey, some distance from the pond we reached a main road again and turned left towards the rolling hills. At the base of the hillock the Forest department

had created a check post beyond which private vehicles are not allowed, the department had arranged for buses to transport the people from base to top of the hillock. On seeing our vehicle the Forest Guards saluted promptly and opened the gates. After few twists and turns the lead vehicle in the convoy braked suddenly and so did ours. I edged out through the vehicle to get a better view and along the corner turn of the road, I saw a flicker of a long black snake in the air(may be), then on closer look I recognized a majestic elephant with a metre long tusks emerge out of the corner. It was black and covered brown with the mud bath it had been taking. It moved menacingly towards us, our Professor instructed us all to remain silent while clicking photos. Some 30mts from us the giant stopped and walked back onto the road, along a small opening in the side concrete barriers he tried to get down but then changed his mind and came back on to the road, after 5 minutes of pacing to and fro, he finally stepped down the same opening and disappeared into the vegetation.

We resumed our journey and few kms ahead the thick vegetation was giving way to wood lots with grasslands. Like the forests of movie Avatar the entire vegetation had few giant towering trees, so huge that they stand above all others. Along the route we caught the first view of the temple to our west on an adjacent hillock, as we went ahead I caught a fleeting glimpse of a huge tusker walking right adjacent to the temple compound. I immediately told this to my companions who just said I had imagined it or hallucinated it. I asked the driver whether the temple had any captive elephants for which his reply was negative.

Finally we reached the temple and my batchmates were excited and promptly left to offer prayers to the deity. From the parking it was a short climb on steps to the temple which was at a higher elevation. Just then Dr A.J.T told us that he wanted to photograph a tree along the same route in which we had come. Fellow officer Arun vignesh and

myself immediately volunteered to accompany him. We started walking downhill along the road, now the parking was behind us, the temple on our right against a steep slope of 30m covered only with grasses. The temple was on a plateaued out top and to our left was slope filled with thick vegetation. I was still skeptical and edgy, as I was sure I had seen the elephant from the adjacent hill and was looking out for it in the thickets. We walked forward discussing with AJT sir. And out of the corner of my eye I thought I saw some movement to my left on top of the slope. I turned around to see - emerging majestically from behind a lone tree was the tusker - black with 1.5 metres long tusks, torn ears a sign of the numerous battles it had fought. He looked at us, and all three of us stood rooted to our spot just gazing into the eyes of the giant who had survived the forest against all odds of poachers, tigers and venomous snakes.

Just by looking at the Tusker (a male tusker with tusks) I was sure he was a dominant male of the region and was extremely dangerous if he decides to charge at us. Slowly both Arun and myself lifted our cameras and started clicking pictures madly as though if we lose this moment we would never get another chance in our life (crazily because the entire day we had been inside Bandipur and not sighted a single wild - tusker/tiger except chital and sambhar.) I saw the Tusker stepping down the slope in our direction through my cam eye piece and immediately asked sir "shall we run or hold ground?" he replied, "As we are in an advantageous position presently, lets slowly move in direction of our vehicles as we won't be able to outrun the tusker if he climbs down to the road." So slowly we started walking back along the road towards our vehicles. The tusker maintained pace with us on the top of the slope partly sometimes coming on to the slope and then again backing up.

All of a sudden we saw a group of tourists, comprising college boys, a family with a hand held kid, all seated and standing on the compound wall of the temple which is about 5 feet in height, the tusker(14ft in height) was moving towards them and they were all clicking selfies. I was flabbergasted

at their reactions as I was 100% sure they did not realize the danger they were in. The Most stupid action was the mother carrying the kid asking her husband to click a picture with the tusker in their background. The tusker was less than 20 metres from them. Fortunately the tusker was very calm, and observed them mildly and stopped in its tracks.

The tusker then looked at us as though he was saying "what the hell is wrong with you people, you come to my place and start screaming and shouting at me?" Due to the huge ruckus these people were creating, a bigger crowd gathered there. For first time I saw AJT sir raised his voice and shouted at the people to keep quiet, simultaneously few forest guards started throwing crackers towards the tusker from the confines of the temple. The tusker swiftly moved to the back of the temple well beyond our visible range.

Herein, we three wildlife lovers got furious observing the irony of an tusker being chased away in its own natural habitat by ruckus of tourists and unethical use of crackers. We came back to the parking, and I went to the other side of the temple along the west. The west side had sprawling grasslands, a little down slope was a small water hole and deer grazing along its banks, A fellow officer and myself went along the direction of the temple's far side, again in search of the tusker. Herein we were down slope again and the ridge was blocking our view of the top of the hillock, as we slowly negotiated the terrain of grasses a metre high, we observed tusker dung all along the way. At



a particular point we were sure we would become visible to the tusker present on higher ground and hence started crawling up. As soon as we were level we spotted the tusker again, this time just 15 metres from us standing along the back boundary of the temple. We both froze in our bellies and just observed the scene. A light breeze was blowing and unfortunately we were upwind and the tusker downwind. Within few seconds the tusker caught our smell and turned around. He spotted us and walked slowly to inspect the ridge boundary, we both turned around and ran down slope not wanting to be trampled. Thanking or lucky stars, we returned back towards the parking and boarded our vehicles. The Forest Guard posted there told us that the wild tusker was a regular visitor at the temple to feed on the jaggery thrown from the temple at end

of the day.

En route I reflected back, on the encounter with the tuskers. I realized in a human dominated world there is hardly any peace for these gentle giants even in their own habitat. The tourists were unruly and badly behaved but the crackers were still burst to chase the tusker. Human life, rights and values hold primacy over animal rights but it should not pave way for our stupidity to affect wildlife. Unfortunately we as a species are now ignorant than ever in our history of the behavior and life of wild animals. This ignorance has made us insensitive to the disturbance and destruction of wildlife habitat in the name of economic development (unplanned/ill planned) or religion. Its high time "WE LIVE & LET LIVE."

पथरीला जीवन

छिटक कर आ गिरा हूँ
कभी चट्टानों का अंग था
अब मात्र एक पत्थर हूँ, मैं
पड़ा रहता हूँ शिथिल यूँ ही ॥
देखो एक चींटी के नज़रिए से
तो हूँ कोई चट्टान बड़ी,
पर इंसानों के लिए हूँ अजीवित, मैं
पड़ा रहता हूँ शिथिल यूँ ही ॥
ग्रीष्म ऋतू में सूर्य की किरणों को झेल कर
एक लघु पर्यावरण को छाओं देता हूँ
पर कहने को तो
पड़ा रहता हूँ शिथिल यूँ ही ॥
वर्षा में एक ओर जल की बूँदें
चादर की तरह लपेट लेती हैं
वहीं दूसरी ओर लघु धाराएं
अग्रसर होने को कहती हैं
पर डर लगता है कहीं जल के वेग से टूट न जाऊं
या हवा के झोंखों से

बिखर कर मिट्टी में न मिल जाऊं
सो पड़ा रहता हूँ शिथिल यूँ ही ॥
सोचता हूँ की हवा के थपेड़ों से
या ऋतुओं की गतिशीलता से
कमज़ोर तो होना ही है
एक दिन धरती में मिल कर
फसलों को अपना कण - कण तो देना ही है

तो क्यूँ न बह चलूँ इन धाराओं में?
क्यूँ पड़ा रहूँ मैं शिथिल यूँ ही?
थकूँगा तो विश्राम करूँगा किसी तट पर,
पर चलना है अब जीवन पर्यंत
पत्थर हूँ, मृत नहीं
इच्छा है अब बस मेरी भी यही
कि सागर में जा मिलूँ मैं कहीं
न पड़ा रहूँगा अब मैं शिथिल यूँ ही ॥

-विपिन कुमार सिंह,
IFS 2017

From Officers to Sportsperson

-Puneet Sonkar, Sports Secretary, 2017 Batch

It's a privilege for me to be the Sports Secretary of my batch. It gives me an immense pleasure to see that everyone is trying to learn one or two games. And to pick up any game you don't need to have a good game IQ, rather you need a good sportsmanship and love towards field.

The Sports club under the guidance of OIC sports makes every player play under proper match conditions to provide them hands on experience of every rule. So far with the help of batch mates the club has organised many tournaments in last 8 months. Following is a brief list of them.

- Inter-house matches of football, cricket, volleyball and basketball.
- Inter-zonal cricket match- North zone won the match.
- LBSNAA Vs IGNSA Cricket match- IGNSA defeated them with 3 wickets in hand.
- NPA Vs IGNSA Volleyball match- IGNSA defeated them hands down. We won by 3-1 in game of 5 sets.
- WII Vs IGNSA Cricket match- Unfortunately IGNSA lost the match.

Out of these tournaments some officers with immense potential has came to be known.

- Abhimanyu Sharan: Mr. Dependable of the batch. If he stands on Volleyball court, and you are

opponent then you must fear him. His smashes go like a bullet with dead accuracy. He also plays Volleyball, basketball, football, hockey and squash.

- Kencho Rigzin: One of the two trainees from Royal government of Bhutan. My god!!! What a runner he is. Nobody can catch him in our batch. He is excellent in whatever game he picks.
- Kushagra Pathak: A true all rounder of the batch. Any team in Academy is incomplete without him. His body might seem to be huge for many but not for him. He learns games in minutes. He is proficient in whatever game he picks.
- Sasiganandan: Furious during the game and humble outside the field. You don't want to be against him in any game if he is in his form. He excels in all the games. A true sportsperson.

Apart from these excellent all rounders the batch is filled with gems like Rajat Narang, Shashank Kashyap, Ravi Meena, Pankaj Suryavanshi, Vikalp Yadav, Aditi Bhardwaj, Sapna Sunar and Puneet Tomar who profess in Table tennis, Badminton, Squash, chess, running, Squash, running and Cricket respectively.

I'm lucky to have Shashank, Ayush and Aditi as my companions in Sports Committee who work day and night to make everything possible. I am sure that this work will continue till the end of April 2019.



North zone after wining the inter-zonal cricket match

Draft National Policy: A Probationer's View

-Nitish Kumar, IFS 2017

Draft National Forest Policy 2018 was put in public domain for comments on 14th March, 2018. This was a step towards finalizing a new National Forest Policy after the last one took shape in 1988. Certainly, the changes in national and global scenario have necessitated a relook at the forest policy, especially when the time when policy starts showing its effect on ground takes time in case of forestry.

One thing which has raised the alarm bell is the climate change and thus forestry occupied central role in ways to mitigate climate change as discussed in Paris conference. Some of the innovative elements of draft policy are highlighted as follows, starting with the goal:

Goal: To safeguard the ecological and livelihood security of people, of the present and future generations, based on sustainable management of the forests for the flow of ecosystem services.

Objectives:

1. Contribute towards achieving forestry related Nationally Determined Contribution Targets (NDC's) of the country. (which is to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030)
2. Checking denudation and soil erosion in the catchments of rivers and the wetlands through integrated watershed management techniques and practices.

3. Increasing substantially the forest/tree cover in the country through Afforestation & reforestation programmes, especially on all denuded and degraded forest lands and area outside forests
4. Factor green accounting, valuation of ecosystem services and climate change concerns adequately into the planning and management of all forests, protected areas and other ecosystems.

Few strategies which are commendable are:

1. Increasing the productivity of plantations
2. Protecting and enriching the catchments
3. Strengthen participatory forest management - India has rich and varied experience in participatory forest management. There is a need to further strengthen this participatory approach, for which a National Community Forest Management (CFM) Mission will be launched. This mission will have a legal basis and an enabling operational framework.. The national, state and local level development programmes shall be converged in these villages. All efforts to ensure synergy between Gram Sabha & JFMC will be taken for ensuring successful community participation in forest management.
4. Develop a national forest ecosystems management information system
5. Management of North-Eastern Forests
6. Legal and institutional frameworks: Appropriate laws, rules and regulations, as per requirement, will be put in place and existing ones suitably amended for effective implementation of this policy.



Institutionalized legal support will form an integral part of the forest administration and management. A National Board of Forestry headed by the central minister in-charge of forests and State Boards of Forestry headed by state minister in-charge of forests will be established for ensuring inter-sectoral convergence, simplification of procedures, conflict resolution and periodic review.

7. Financial support: Legal and institutional frameworks: The budget of the forestry sector of the states will be enhanced proportionately to the allocation of central resources devolved, based on the finance commission weightage on forest resources of the States. Allocations for community development programmes especially those of agricultural and rural development in the states will also be utilised in forest areas in proportion of the population linked to the forests for life support.

Critical Analysis:

1. The path to additional 3 billion tones of CO₂ equivalent of additional forest cover does not seem to be clearly spelled out. State of Forest Report 2017 (Chapter: Carbon Stock in India's Forest) reports that the annual increase in carbon stock of India was 20 million tonnes. Accordingly, achieving target of 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent seems a far fetched

dream.

The government has announced Green India Mission. This mission targets to increase forest/tree cover to the extent of 5 million hectares (mha) and improve quality of forest/tree cover on another 5 mha of forest/non-forest lands.

Given that the total present carbon stock in India is 7 billion tonnes (source: IFSR 2017) corresponding to 70 million hectares, which is equivalent to 20 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent. Calculations suggest there would still be a shortfall of 0.7-0.9 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent. This clearly suggest that more needs to be done regarding increasing forest productivity in upcoming decade to fill the gap.

2. Recommendations of other committees seems to have been ignored like TSR Subramanian Committee's Report

3. The stress on Wildlife management is missing and the policy is mostly generalist in its approach. There is no mention about how to deal with situations such as Ken Betwa Link Projects and Eco Sensitive Zones and legalization of wildlife corridors.

Thus though a step in right direction and many initiatives of the new draft policy is welcome, there still remains some grey area in the draft policy.

Report on Inter Service Meet 2017

- Maun Prakash Choudhary, IFS 2017

In Inter service meet (ISM) at LBSNAA from 29th March to 31st April, 40 probationers from IGNTA participated in various cultural and sports events. IGNTA was overall winner in cultural and quiz. In sports IGNTA won Gold in Chess, Carom singles and carom doubles and Tug of war. IGNTA also won Silver in football. IGNTA reached semi finals in Badminton, Lawn Tennis, Squash. IGNTA lost by very close margin in third set of Volleyball. Despite the limitation that one player can play only in two events, IGNTA performed really well in almost all the competitive events.

In cultural performances which included solo songs, dance on patriotic theme, antyaksris and a



mime on climate change, the academy performed brilliantly. Overall the ISM performance was satisfactory as the IGNTA stood first in overall performances. Which event filled the probationers with new enthusiasm and team work.

Founding an Empire on India's North-Eastern Frontiers 1790-1840: Climate, Commerce, Polity by Gunnel Cederlöf.

New Delhi: Oxford University Press 2014.

-Aditi Bhardwaj, IFS 2017

Temporal context of the book

The central theme of the book revolves around colonialism and its geopolitical project that created narratives of frontiers, redefining customs and directed perceptions about space and cartography. The book is set in the aftermath of the American and French revolution. Most importantly, the industrial revolution in Britain cemented the extraction economies of the Third World. Undoubtedly, the theoretical underpinnings of justice, land ownership and laissez faire were beginning to transform colonial practices.

Problematizing understanding of space and frontier

The feudal understanding of the frontier land is attached to autonomy largely prevalent in medieval Europe while that of the state is related to sovereignty in the modern times. Scholars such as Curzon and Holdich are attentive to the distribution of ethnic groups and the difficult topography of the region.

Climate

Cederlöf frames her study in such a way that she discusses the encounters of imperial personalities with the natives placing them in a broader lens of the Anglo-Burmese war and the micro lens of turbulent climate and peculiar challenges presented by the forests and the river systems. A major threat to any movement of EIC troops into Cachar and the hills on North Eastern Frontier was the jungle fever that could severely reduce a contingent in a very short space of time (p-180).

Commerce

Cederlöf brings our attention to lands occupied for cultivation outside the settlement. Decennial settlement prohibited the government from assessing anything but land classified as cultivated. From 1830 onwards, all lands outside the Decennial Settlement were declared government property and put under revenue. British agents were more loyal to local elites rather than the government.

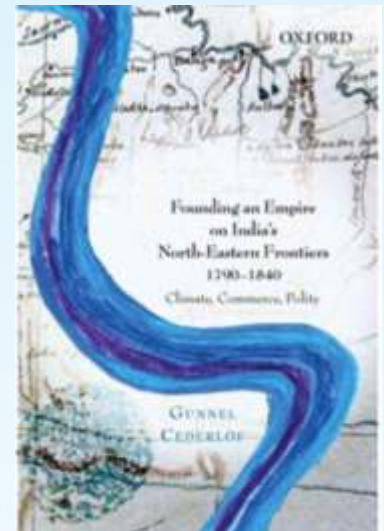
The strength of Cederlöf's work is in going beyond the binaries of state and non-state; the working of the merchant corporation in contradiction with state building exercises of creating standardized administration and classifications. The residues of the Mughal administration restrict the percolation of British administration into the network of local elites.

Polity

Cederlöf provides detailed accounts of the antagonism and the resistance by the native ethnic groups against the British administration (both the Crown and the merchant corporation).

A valuable work

In her book Cederlöf has eloquently refined the politics of the commodity frontier by juxtaposing the expansionist policies of the Empire against the competing imaginative projects of sovereignty as upheld by the Orient and that of the metropolitan state. The glossary provides a reader friendly section of the book as local terminologies are explained precisely. The book is an interesting read for those interested in the inter-state and intra-state conflicts of the present day in many parts of the world; often translating into not only borderland disputes but also riverine conflicts. The agenda of sustainable development goals in a post-Westphalian world system requires studies such as this book that look into the eco-politics at the local area level in the larger project of nation building.



Elon Musk

- *Arya shree T, IFS 2017*

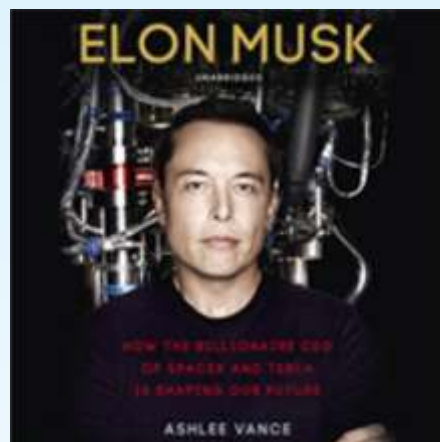
“**Elon Musk** – Tesla, SpaceX and the quest for a fantastic future” is a book written by Mr. Ashlee Vance who is known for his articles and coverages on technology. This book is a biography of Musk till late 2015 and covers the details of his accomplishments till then. It is published by HarperCollins and is priced at Rs. 699.

The book starts off with a note by the author briefly describing the difficulties he faced in obtaining Musk's cooperation when Vance decided to pen his life story. Vance, after many requests, obtained Musk's approval and was thus given access to Musk's company along with permission to interview his employees, family members, close friends and Musk himself.

The chapters are organized chronologically, starting with Musk's childhood in South Africa and his upbringing there. It also covers many personal details which might have shaped Musk's character. The later chapters mention about Musk's emigration to Canada for education and then to the United States. There are dedicated sections each on his ventures like Zip2, Tesla, SpaceX, etc. which narrates the story behind their birth and how they passed their testing times. It also covers in detail, the technological aspects as well as the political incidents that had happened at each of these.

This book showcases Musk's evolution into the man that he is and sheds light into the reason behind his successes. The author gives glimpses of Musk's character through various anecdotes relating to his personal and professional life. It also mentions about the perceived ruthless character of Musk at work and his justifications for being so. This book but does not cover in detail the criticisms about Musk or his companies. Hence, this book is slightly biased towards Musk, which is expected, as it being his biography.

The writing style is lucid, written in simple English and the author has made sure that even those who do not have a technical background could understand the technological discussions in the book. This book is highly inspirational and is a must read for those who would want an enjoyable, interesting and thought provoking read.



It's the sand, sand and sand...

- *Abhishek Jogawat, IFS 2017*

In the land of mirage

We wander like a stag

From the end to end

It's the Sand, sand and sand...

It's pure, it's life

And free like anything

I can't hold in my hand

It's the Sand, sand and sand...

We come, we live, we perish

In the end

It's the Sand, sand and sand...

You were here, I am here,

Someone else will be here

It's everyone's land

It's the Sand, sand and sand...

It's rough, it's smooth

It smells till the end

It's the Sand, sand and sand...

Rejoiced, revived and awakened,

I got the strength to amend

It's the sand, sand and sand...



My loved ones in the reflections of nature

- Padmanabha H S, IFS 2017

*My Father is like this audacious mountain
No storm or hurricane can kill his die- hard spirit of life
Stood like a backbone in my failures and successes
My mother is as clear as this pellucid Blue sky
And the sky is also the limit for her unconditional love
Like sky pouring water to a seedling she has been nourishing my dreams
My better half is like this hard-bitten Glacier
As lucid as this white colour
She melts down to my call of love and flow's to my heart of ocean
My relatives and friends are like these roads
Who make my life journey smooth, safe, beautiful and enriching.
I'm this beauteous collage of all these pixels.*



Paintings



Sai Kiran D N, IFS 2017



Ms. Nidhi Srivastava, Faculty, IGNFA



Ayush Jain, IFS 2017



White Zosterops Kingfisher (Alcyon leucorhynchus), PC: PVK Sarmaiah, IIS 2017



Magpie robins, Abhishek Jogawat



Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos), PC: DR Rawat, IIS 2017



Indian Wolf (Canis lupus pallipes)

By: Dhawan Kr Rawat, 2017 Batch



Sleeping Beauty !!

By: Sai Kiran, 2017 Batch



PC: Sai Kiran, 2017 Batch



PC: Nandhakumar, 2017 Batch



Himalayan Brown Bear, By: Chirag Anba, 2017 Batch

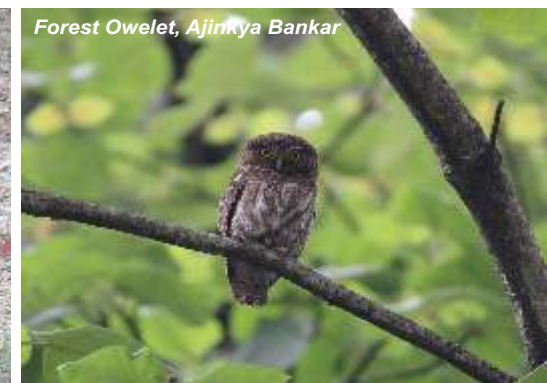


Forest Owlet (Ninox forbesi), By: PVK Sarmaiah Kumar, 2017 Batch



Himalayan Black Bear (Ursus thibetanus)

By: PVK Sarmaiah Kumar, 2017 Batch



Forest Owlet, Ajinkya Bankar



Cheetah (Axis axis), Ajinkya Bankar



Yellow Billed Blue Magpie (Cyanops cyaneus)

By: Dhawan Kr Rawat, IIS 2017



Asiatic Lion, Ajinkya Bankar

Mr. Pradeep Kumar Rana PT Instructor



A person easily mixing among probationers and always seen playing a sport or another is Mr. Pradeep Kumar Rana. With his service spanning over 20 years, he has served as PT instructor in armed forces in many states of India. Sport has become his lifestyle. He has special interests in Gymnastics and Volleyball. He believes it has given him positive attitude towards life.

He also reads spiritual books in free time and loves to discuss on the spiritual subjects. In fact, in the pursuit of finding the meaning of life, he has also read Geeta, Kuraan, Bible, etc.

It has been more than 8 years, he is working for the IGnFA. He takes a great pride in dealing with probationers as he observes the probationers of 2017 batch as more active, honest and sincere. He is also very particular about saving electricity and water wherever possible.

When asked about the lessons life has taught him, he replied- '*Jindagi me kuch purpose hona chahiye aur Kaam aisa karo ke aap ke kaam se dusron ko khushi mile!*' Wise words indeed and something which we as bureaucrats should keep in mind throughout our career.

Mr. Rajeev Rawat Security Personnel



A person proactively helping anyone in need in IGnFA hostel is Rawatji, who is always smiling and attentive. He served the nation as part of the Garhwal Rifles at various posts such as Rifleman upto NCO-Hawaldar for 24 long years. He served almost all of the parts of our country-from Kargil to Hyderabad and from Western UP to Assam. After a long inning in the army, he joined IGnFA in 2017.

Not many of us know this part of his life- his most loved hobby-actually, the story goes back to his school-days when to the then Prime Minister of India- Rajeev Gandhi, being his name-buddy, he got attracted towards Nehru-Gandhi family. He even rechristened her wife as Soniya. Today, he has a collection of about 23000 different photographs of Nehru-Gandhi family. His 7-year long ordeal to meet Soniya Gandhi and launch his 'A Rajeev Album' is also an exciting story in itself. He hopes to launch the next edition of 'A Rajeev Album' at the hand of Rahul Gandhi.

He treats IFS probationers as his own children. He believes- helping others has helped him sail successfully through difficult times in life and the same is his message to the probationers.

Mrs. Neha Verma Assistant Staff to The CD IFS-2017 Batch



Always busy kind of personality in the CD sir's staff section it is Mrs. Neha Verma. She is a diploma engineer in electronics. Her Husband runs a BPO firm. One is always surprised by her ability to remember the status of the various documents of the probationers. She loves to teach children on good behaviour and about respecting elders. Before joining IGnFA, she used to take tuition classes for school children in her locality.

She tells about her earthquake- experience in Dehradun last year and how she got sensitized in IGnFA about the role of trees in land-soil stabilization, especially in the hilly state like Uttarakhand. In fact, thereafter only she began planting trees every year.

To join a government job, especially in the IGnFA, is a dream comes true for her to help her parents in better ways. She believes in being honest and down to earth.

Mr. Ghananad Pant Mess Worker



If you need anything in the Officer's mess, the name which comes immediately to every probationers mind is Pantji. He is one of the most humble and attentive person in the mess. He hails from Pauri-Garhwal. His family includes his wife, a daughter and two sons. Educated up to 12th std., he has worked as helper, peon, mess worker in many cities of India like Mumbai, Delhi, Darbhanga, Akhnoor to name a few for various private companies. He likes to do 'Panditai'-his family profession, whenever possible.

He has been working in IGnFA since 2008. He tells about his every year 'Family-wala emotional feel moment' while giving send-off to the probationers.

His experience at his village in Pauri-Garhwal, he urges probationer officers to treat every person approaching them equally. He adds, it helps you acquire people's trust.