



Jungle Book

Explore the wilderness within...

August 2015

Issue 6

Nostalgia



Know Your Faculty

Introduction

Native Place : Trichy, Tamil Nadu
 Cadre : AGMUT
 Batch : 1998
 Educational : BSc (Forestry),
 Qualification : Msc (Environmental Forestry),
 Dottore Magistrlae (Forestry
 and Environmental Science)

Favorites

- ❖ **Holiday destination:** Cinque Island, Andaman
- ❖ **Dish:** Ghee Rice
- ❖ **Actor/Actress:** Tom Hanks, Kamal Hassan / Angelina Jolie, Aishwarya Rai
- ❖ **Movie:** Life is beautiful, Forrest Gump, Saving Private Ryan, Lage Raho Munna Bhai, Mullum Malarum (Tamil)
- ❖ **Book:** Who Moved My Cheese, Day of the Jackal, Pride and Prejudice, Fountainhead,
- ❖ **Cricket player:** Ricky Ponting, Dhoni

What inspired you to join Indian Forest Service?

The joy of being with nature

Memorable experience(s) in cadre

- First time when I saw tears rolling from the eyes of an 56 year old Range Officer for flashing his name in newspaper and TV after successful seizure of a huge cache of illegally sawn timber...
- The party hosted by the villagers in Baratang on my departure for being a vehicle of their livelihood change and their warm handshakes.
- Happiness I witnessed in the face of Havelock islanders after capture and translocation of a salt water crocodile which kept everyone away from water for 2 months

4. About family and its importance while serving

My wife Bridha is a homemaker. My daughter "Thejah" is studying in 7th standard and Son "Roshan" is in LKG. Family plays a vital role in success of an officer. I am lucky to have a spouse who understands me, my job requirements and respects my wishes.

Family plays a major role in success of an officer. I firmly believe that those officers whose family members are ready to sacrifice "their time with you" for the betterment of others make successful officers.



5. Experience in the academy so far...

I joined academy in October 2014. Academy has been always my dream place of posting for few reasons – Firstly, you meet young people with vibrant brains and try to match them.

Secondly, it is a place to get inspired and to inspire.

Lastly, Academy is perhaps the only platform in the country where one can get firsthand information on developments in the forestry sector either by tours or by meeting best minds coming to share their experience. My experience in Academy on these counts is good.

6. My passion is...

I love challenges. Anything that involves issues related to people, action, and delivery; fires me up.

My passion is to taste life outside its comfort zone. I love to survive in alien environment where only your skill matters and nothing else.

7. If I were Minister, MoEF...

I am a strong critic of bureaucratic inertia and believe that it exist more for its own sake than its purpose. I would like to change this nature.

8. Mantra for probationers

Life is too small an issue to worry about and took big an entity to master. Be good to you and others and play life as it comes.

It is now a year that has gone by when we brothers – myself and Sandeep, set out for Mussoorie to join the 89th Foundation Course leaving behind our family at Jaipur. For me, the parting from my son, Keshav, was something that I had been most worried about. Keshav had spent most of his time with me during his infant years and I was not sure how he would react after I leave him. My instinct indicated that he would be just fine, as kids adapt fast; but I was not sure of it. Maybe it was I who was going to miss him more and therefore unwilling to accept the truth. There was a lot of unease in my heart as I bade farewell to Keshav and Adrija (my niece).

Before I succeeded at the Indian Forest Service Examination 2013, I was going through a phase that tested me like nothing I had been through. Much of the support I got during those times was from my wife and if there is one person I could credit the larger part of my success to, then it would be her.

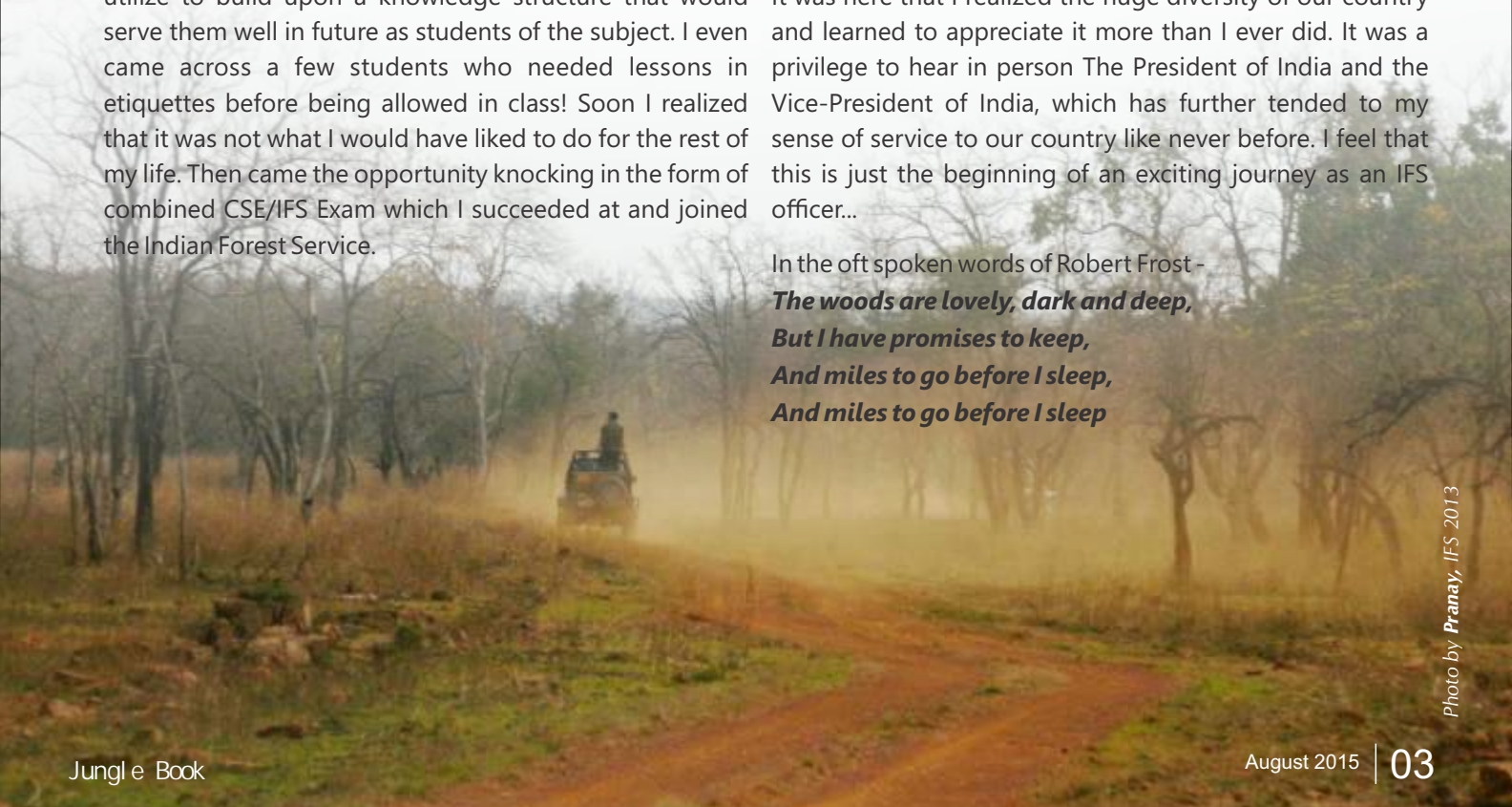
For me success came late; but nevertheless it did. It is for this reason that I have been most grateful for the circumstances that led me to it. In the year before the exam I tried to gather all my experience and knowledge to channelize it towards something meaningful. Simultaneously, I had taken up teaching assignments at the University of Rajasthan and realized that most of the students there were more interested in just attendance, not knowledge! For a majority, the lecture slides were the means to pass the exams; not something which they could utilize to build upon a knowledge structure that would serve them well in future as students of the subject. I even came across a few students who needed lessons in etiquettes before being allowed in class! Soon I realized that it was not what I would have liked to do for the rest of my life. Then came the opportunity knocking in the form of combined CSE/IFS Exam which I succeeded at and joined the Indian Forest Service.

I had been a bit active in the '89th Foundation Course' group on 'facebook' as I was not appearing for the CSE 2014 and used to have time at hand. I did not know this would make me known among the rest of my batchmates to the extent that nearly everyone who met me on Day 1 at LBSNAA recognized me even before I could introduce myself. I took that as a starting point to know as many people as I could in the 100 Days we were going to be together. By the end of the week I had met most of the fellow Officer Trainees (OTs), few of whom I made good friends with in the ensuing weeks.

I had been in inertia as far as physical activity was concerned during my years in PhD and this changed when I started preparing for 'The Walking Test' for which I was not sure if I could overcome it. Once done, I was in a learning mode at that front too. The LBSNAA mornings always started in dark due to the early hours we woke up to walk down to the Polo Ground. But it was during the PT that the Sun would sneak through the hills to mesmerize us while our bodies were tired with effort. The day ahead would always be packed with classes and other activities. The cultural evenings were organized frequently and many of the OTs enthralled the audience in the Sampooranad Auditorium. The high point of the FC was the Himalayan Trek to Roopkund, which had many lessons in store. I was glad I could do something of this kind that I had never even imagined before, which required strong will and stamina to complete every stretch during the course of one week.

I left LBSNAA with lots of good memories and friends for life. It was here that I realized the huge diversity of our country and learned to appreciate it more than I ever did. It was a privilege to hear in person The President of India and the Vice-President of India, which has further tended to my sense of service to our country like never before. I feel that this is just the beginning of an exciting journey as an IFS officer...

In the oft spoken words of Robert Frost -
***The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep***



Tribute to the Bhutan King - His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyelpo Jigme Singye Wangchuk

Sketch by : Abir, IFS 2014



This year is marked as an important year in history of Bhutan as it celebrates the 60th birth anniversary of one of its most beloved king. The entire country is commemorating his majesty's birthday for t h e s e l f l e s s

dedication in promoting happiness and prosperity to the people of Bhutan under his rule. His Majesty's enlightened and energetic leadership has won him the affection and respect of the people of Bhutan, as well as the admiration of the world. While, Bhutan is perhaps no different from other kingdoms in celebrating a beloved monarch, the reverence and loyalty that the Bhutanese people have for their King is rare, if not unique, in the world. I am privileged to take the opportunity to share about His Majesty and his leadership.

Father of all times

Bhutan is blessed to have His Majesty the fourth King Jigme Singye Wangchuk as the father of all time for the nation. It is perhaps divine intervention to have his majesty of wisdom, benevolence and vision. His Majesty has been a source of happiness, hope and

prosperity for the people of Bhutan He has devoted his entire life to serving the nation selflessly with dedication for the happiness and well being of the people.

World youngest Monarch

His Majesty was world youngest monarch when he was crowned as fourth Dragon King of Bhutan at the age of 17 in 1974. He has continued the modern approach of development including happiness and welfare of people, which was at the bequest of his father - His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuk, the third king of Bhutan. Modern development is often juxtaposed with challenges, which bring out social, economical and political ramifications. Nevertheless, Bhutan never feels these during his reign with the development vision of Gross National Happiness (GNH). GNH is a holistic approach to development inclusive of the environmental conservation along with happiness and prosperity of the country.

Conservation Leadership

In present era world witness rapid degradation of forest and biodiversity, according to FAO current global forest degradation rate is 100,000 Km², which is an alarming rate for sustaining current natural resources for generations to come. Bhutan could still have its vast forests untouched even though surrounding world are facing rapid degradation. Such a position is maintained with the farsighted

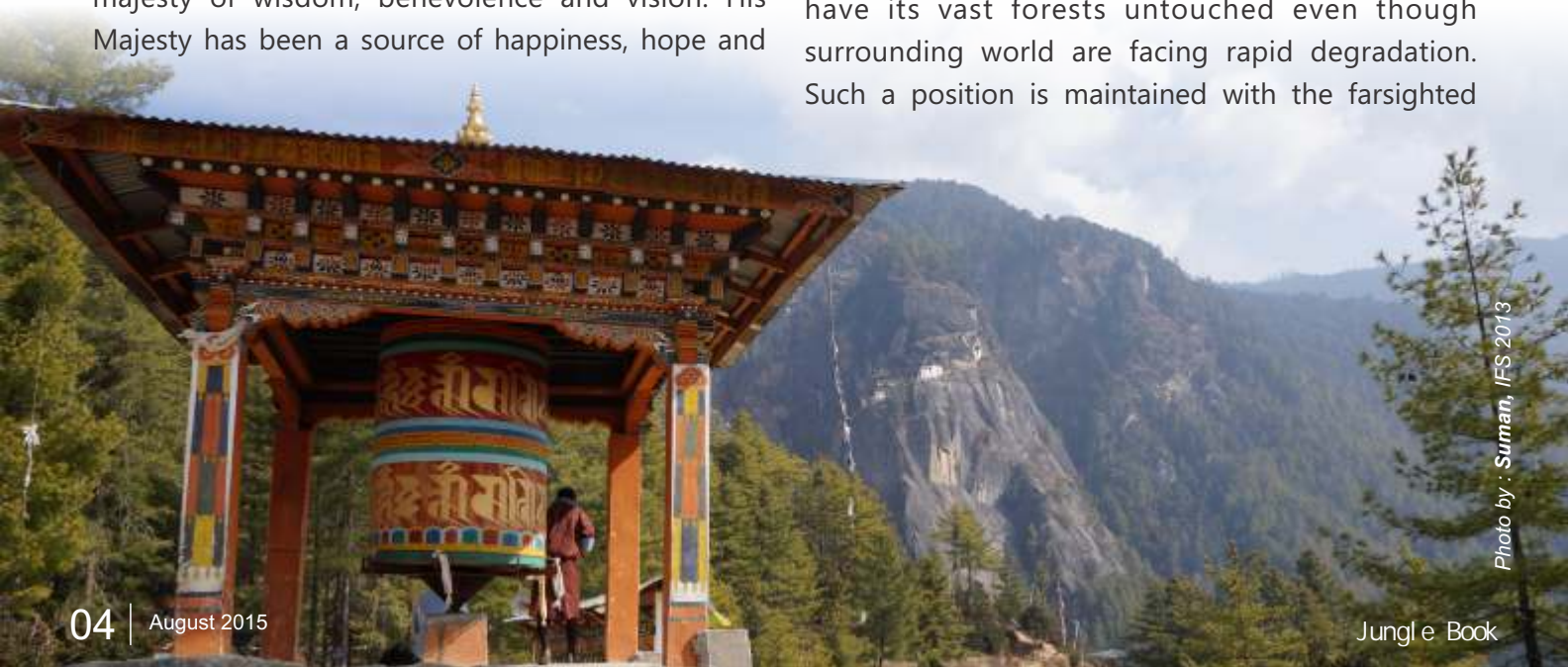


Photo by : Suman, IFS 2013

environmental leadership by inventing a series of strong environmental laws and policies, notably the constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan which ensures sixty percent forest cover for all times.

His Majesty's vision on sustainable socio-economic development along with conservation of pristine Himalayan ecology enshrined in the developmental goal of GNH helps in providing enormous support from the forest to nations growth without disturbing the conservation. Notably hydropower sector, that gain maximum benefit from conservation of Himalayan watershed have formed the main origin of revenue for the state. Forest in Bhutan is also the master source of livelihood of more than half a population who dwells in rural areas, so the principle of GNH ensures the balance of conservation along with the sustainable usage of natural resources, the fruit of which we enjoy today and commit to pass on to generations to come.

International recognition

Bhutan is identified by the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as the global Biodiversity Hotspot this receives international acclaim for successful conservation of natural diversity. This role in building a global image of Bhutan is often testified by conservation awards bestowed upon His Majesty. His Majesty and the people of Bhutan was awarded first ever United Nation's 'Champion of Earth' award along with the six other environmental leaders in the year 2005 for placing the environment at the center of the constitution and its development plans. In 2006 His Majesty was awarded the J. Paul Getty award administered by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) for conservation leadership for three decades works on conserving Himalayan ecology, which has global significant animals like tigers, snow leopards and red pandas. In his acceptance letter on behalf of the government and the people of Bhutan, His Majesty stated: "This award belongs to the Government and People of Bhutan and not to any one individual for we

all worked together to conserve our environment. Bhutan's environmental ethics stem from the dedication of our people maintaining harmony with our natural environment and diligently following and implementing the sound policies of Royal Government on environmental protection and conservation. We have sacrificed present gains of harvesting the country's natural resources for future sustainability of the environment and have enshrined our laws that sixty percent of the land area shall always maintain under forest cover." Subsequently, in the year 2011 The Earth Hall of Fame Kyoto was awarded to His Majesty for his greatest contribution in the protection of the global environment.



Continuity of the legacy

In 2008 His Majesty crowned crown prince, His Royal Highness JigmeKhesarNamgyalWangchuk as fifth dragon king of Bhutan and is the time when Bhutan transitioned from absolute monarchy to democratic form of government. It was the new chapter in the history of Bhutan and time to rejoice under the leadership of the people's king of Bhutan, His Majesty JigmeKhesarNamgyalWanchuk. The greatest legacy of His Majesty the fourth DrukGyelpo is still perpetuated under the leadership of the new king and the elected government leaders.

Sketch by : Jamyang IFS 2013

On the 8th of August 2015, IAS Officer trainees of the 2013 batch visited the IGNFA, Dehradun for a one-day Inter Services Meet, hosted by the IFS officers of the 2013 & 2014 batch.

Among the sports played by teams on both sides were football, volley ball and badminton- which included singles, doubles and mixed doubles. Team IFS displayed their prowess by a comfortable win on the football field and also swept the volley ball match. In badminton, Team IAS won the women's doubles and also shuttled a win in the mixed doubles. The other games were won by team IFS.

The Sunday was marked by heavy rain but that never lowered the spirit of the teams that played and their friends who cheered them along. The informal interaction between the officers, the adrenalin-packed matches and exploring the lovely IGNFA campus ensured that the visiting officers had a memorable trip.

On the 15th of August, on a crisp independence day morning, it was the turn of LBSNAA to host the IGNFA officers for a round of friendly games and sports. An exciting game of cricket in which the IAS team prevailed was one of the highlights of the day. The hosts also won basketball and table tennis, while Team IFS carried home the trophies for tennis and squash. The weather being cooperative, the games were well-attended and the office trainees mingled and got to know each other over tea and lunch.

All in all, the two meets, one in the grand precincts of IGNFA and the other under the misty skies in Mussoorie afforded a wonderful opportunity for the trainees to meet and to participate in various sporting events in the true spirit of service camaraderie and bonhomie. Inter-service friendship and collaboration is set to go a long way.

House Journal Society
IAS Phase II (2013 Batch)
LBSNAA, Mussoorie



My journey into Indian Forest Service started after a lot of deliberation as I was facing the dilemma of having to choose between conservation and development. Well, I know this analogy might be an exaggeration and these two concepts aren't necessarily antithetical to each other, but I was not aware of the complementary nature of the two at that time. The choice I had to make was between IFS and IRS (C & CE). After a lot of interactions, brainstorming and some crazy sessions, I opted for I.F.S. The reason being that IFS, being an AIS, provides greater field level exposure. But being very frank, little did I know what constituted the field job and what I am stepping into.

However, the training period was an eye opener for me, or should I say it opened a Pandora's box for me. To start with, let me tell about what difference the service brought about within me (Do not worry, not going to embark on a spiritual journey). I, right from my childhood, have always been afraid of animals. Even the tiniest of the creatures used to trouble me. One might ask, "Why IFS then?" But interestingly this fear started going down once I got to know more about them and see more of them. I was able to appreciate the diversity they presented; the richness they brought to nature. It started to dawn on me what one meant when he/she said that they are in awe with these beautiful creatures.

As per protocol and procedures, while telling about the service, I should have started with a formal note on officer like quality. Please don't curse me for the long statement I made, because that is learning from

the service. Having stepped into the government service for the first time I had a lot of exposure to how the system works, or rather how you are supposed to fit into the system. I was introduced to a term called OLQ (and I'm not going to take pains to expand that). And that is just the tip of the iceberg, for there are many more etiquettes to learn and also unlearn. But as days passed, things started to fall into place as I started to realize the need for such qualities once I had some exposure to the field conditions through tours.

Moving on to some insights on the professional part, I realized that there is more to forest service than what meets the eye. Be it in the form of specializing in some field, or learning the nitty-gritty of forestry, there is lot of scope in terms of upgrading one's knowledge. Though primarily the service's mandate is to manage forests scientifically, this task cannot be done in isolation without taking people along. Hence, people management and administration is another side of forest service that I had no clue about before. So the field job that I opted for had myriad of tasks associated with it. (This paragraph was on a little serious note).

One would usually hear people saying training is the best part of one's service. Now I know what they meant. Having relished every moment of my training days, I have fond memories to carry forever.

Now that I embark on a different journey, I hope I can make best use of all the learning and experiences that I gained during my training days. I was once told, "Once a forester, always a forester". I will try my best to keep that saying true.



Photo Credits Suman



Mem



ories...

What goes in and what comes out are very different

It was morning of 27th August; I woke up at 5 am as my alarm went off. Time was still there for morning Yoga session, but I woke up to complete the script for FTV which was barely 20% complete. We had only one day before we could write, shoot, edit and prepare the final video for screening. One may think how hard it is to make a 10 minutes video, but what goes in and what comes out are entirely different. Around 8:30 am I finished writing the News script and then went to wake up Nitish who was supposed to write his part and dialogues of our stars Shakya and Rajnishji. After the script was ready we wanted to start shooting as soon as possible so that we have time for editing, but our director cum cameraman, Kiran G was not available due to some unavoidable circumstances.

We decided to go for outdoor shoot without him and decide to catch hold of him by afternoon. We were able to manage the shoot, although with very much difficulty. It was possible only due to the cooperation of Suman, Babu, Vidya and Shakya. However the major part i.e.the indoor shoot on the green screen was left. We were little confident this time as compared to first video of FTV as we had purchased lights for the shoot. Last time when we did the video shoot it was with the help of about 8-9 table lamps gathered from old hostel. Our green screen is also an innovation as it is made up of cloth meant for ladies garments that we got stitched per our requirement from a local tailor.

But as we started shooting, our worst nightmare came to reality. The lights that we were using were yellow, which distorted the colour of green screen making it impossible to edit our videos as per our requirements. It was already 6:00 pm in the evening. Entire indoor shooting was yet to be done and we had no proper lights for the shooting. We were in a difficult situation as people we expecting something even better from our previous FTV video. At 6:30 pm we decided to go in search for a white diffused light which was required for shooting. After putting lots of efforts we realized, lights suitable to our requirement are not available at affordable price in market. We decided to



Photo Credits Sushil, IFS 2014

rely on ancient Indian system of informal engineering called 'Jugaad'. We purchased two soft boxes (they can diffuse the light so that it becomes soft and does not create shadow) and then we went to a local electrician. We asked him to provide us with two CFL lamps attached to a wire and holder. We devised a method to attach them to the light stand through jugaad of plywood, wire and a nut bolt.

It was already 10:30 pm when we came back from market with our 'Jugaad' lights. Our director, Kiran was eagerly waiting for us but the new challenge was rain, which was creating noise in the audio. Another issue was to catch hold of our star probationers who were just about to sleep. We called Abhinav and Rajnish and finished their shoot first. Nitish was next in line, who got ready with his Baba dress and gave his take in one go. At last, shooting of news anchor was started and it got finished at 1:30am in the night, with few interruptions in between due to rain. But the job was only half done. We had to prepare the exact timeline

second to second for editing of video i.e. what we want where, what do we want to remove etc. This job was done till 6:30 am without any sleep in between and finally videos files with proper numbers and sequence were uploaded for editing. Our editor, Ranjan Nag, who is in Bangalore, downloaded and edited the videos based on a three page document that we provided to him. After few hiccups, finally we got the final draft at 5:30 pm in the evening of 28th August and it was screened at around 8pm.

Sometimes I wonder how we managed it. In fact I remember early morning at around 5:00 am when 24 hours of continuous sleepless work were over I asked Nitish, why we are doing all this. He gave a simple reply that this is for our own satisfaction and not for anything else. This way we kept our motivation high

and were able to put a 12 minutes video after working for 24 hours. I was the most visible face on the screen but I must thank those who had put up great effort for the success of this project. The first to be thanked is our editor Ranjan, to whom I have never met, but who has made me look like a professional anchor, second in Kiran who has always backed our funny ideas, provided technical inputs and worked tirelessly without any expectation. Nitish aka Baba ji need to be thanked for coming up with the concept of FTV and his tireless efforts for making up of the videos. At last I thank all who were involved in it directly or indirectly and also the audience for appreciating it. I am sure our FTV will give break to many more stars from Indian Forest Service.

Crocodile

*Lonely in the world of water
I swim in the muddy roads
Blessed with a big mouth
I have few to share my load*

*To escape the cold of my world
I come to meet you on your warm land
They mistake me for a cold heart
I feel even colder in the end*

*In the fury of your welcome
I rest back in the cold
Now the water is even more muddy
Its color I feel has turned red*

*This is what I learned I learned from land
for whom I once fell*

- Kanwar Deep Singh

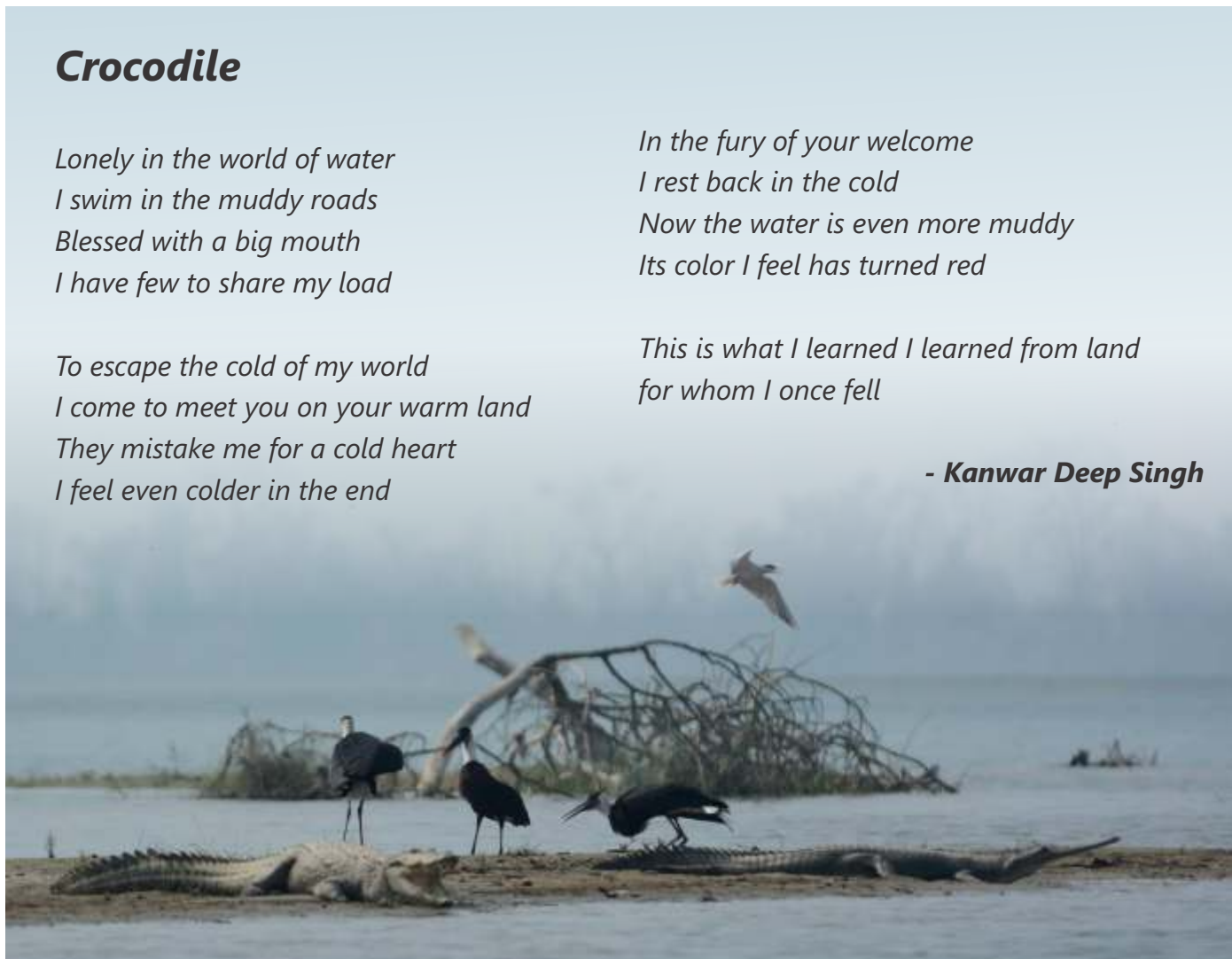


Photo Credits **Amlendu**, IFS 2013

I ASKED LIFE

*I asked life,
Why are you like this,
Confusing and mysterious,
always cruel and tedious,
all efforts going in vain,
bringing only sorrow and pain,
making oneself destitute and lonely,
deeply I wonder
how life can be so unfair,
to people innocent like me,*

*Life says smilingly, dear,
It is not to test,
but to bring in you the best
you have to go one more mile,
for, it is not the purpose of life,
in whispers says the heart,
you have become strong,
there is no suffering for long...*

ONE LAST TIME

*I woke up
And I knew
This morning is mine
For one last time*

*I look out
And I knew
This life is mine
For one last time*

*Laughs, life, lights
Many of what I define
Shadow of pain and next sunshine
I saw all slip away
What I thought was mine
For one last time*

*Broken, shattered, torn apart
Stood up with a new start
Lost so much lost myself
But found what was mine
For one last time*

*There are memories
Some I wanted some chose me
Some I cherish some haunt me
Memories what I made
Memories what I take*

*So here I leave
With bag of memories
It's a goodbye from me
For one last time.*



Jungle Book – The Way Ahead

It has been a year since the current team of editors took over from the 2012 senior batch editors. For the most part our job was to carry on the good work on the foundation laid by them. While PT was the main form of fitness for most of the probationers, for the Jungle Book team, it was to run behind people to give us content!

We started off on this endeavor with the 3rd edition of the Jungle Book along with the 2012 Batch. Later on others joined in and the team strengthened. While Savita helped in the initial phase with the brainstorming of ideas for our versions of the Jungle Book, Samuel helped with the editorial, Nandani would help collect the pictures, Chandu with the memories page (collage of pictures and with the interviews) and Jamyang with funny & cool sketches. There was always a frenzy to select the best picture that would be suitable as the cover page. We also were fortunate since there were many others who came forward to be a part of the team. There would be hectic days of formatting in between exams, sports events, cultural events & presentations. There would be long discussions on which picture would feature on the cover page.



Editorial Team - Batch 2012

One of the satisfying achievements was to collaborate with other services to contribute to our newsletter. Not only did it help in knowing the other services better, it also made Jungle Book an icebreaker in conversations!

I hope that we did justice to the people who gave us content in the form of poetry, prose, sketches and photos. Now as we now hand over the editorial baton to the 2014 Batch, we hope they will continue to forge ahead and reach more interesting destinations with our beloved Jungle Book.



Editorial Team - Batch 2012



Kalpana



Kalpana



Kalpana



Shaveta



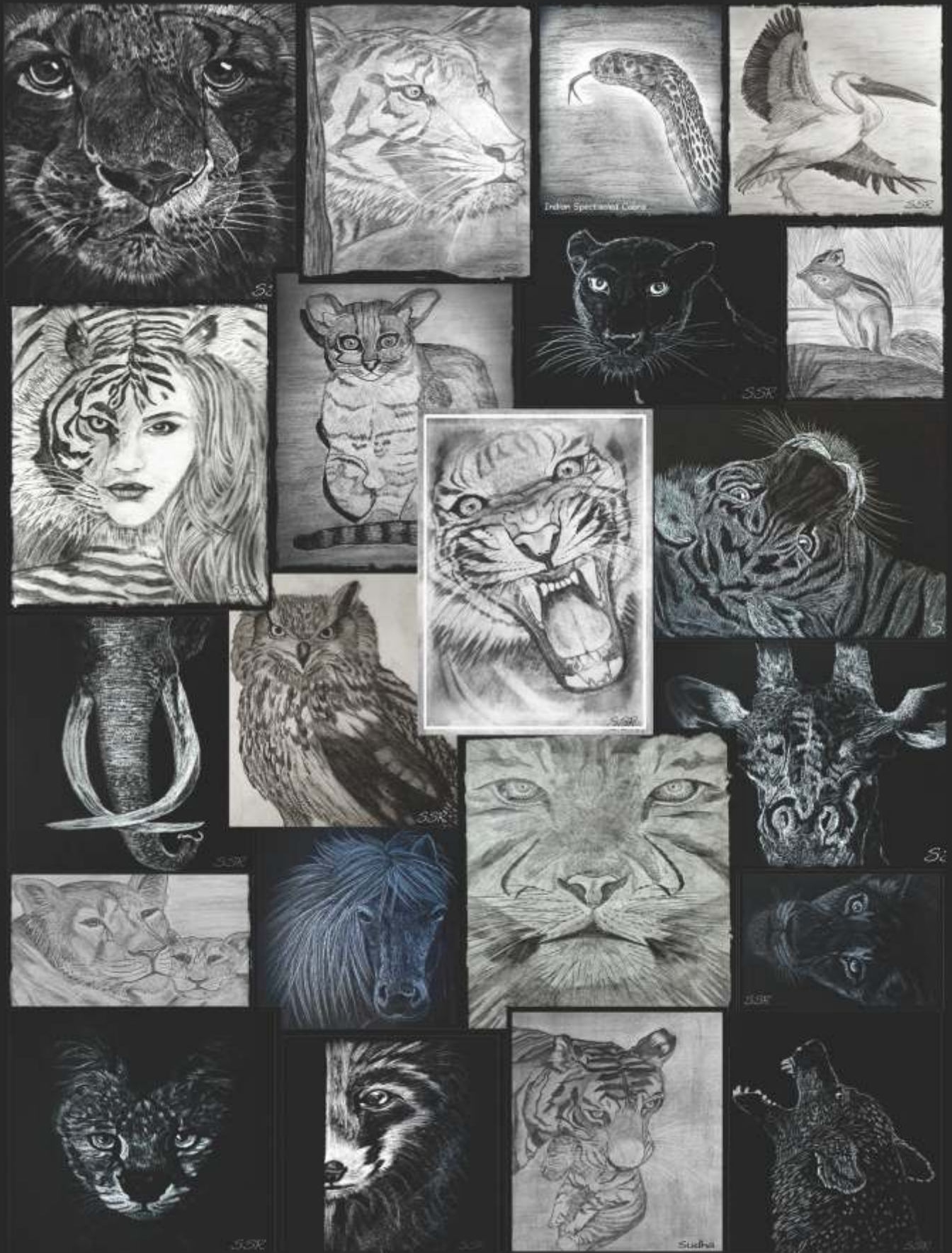
Shaveta



Kalpana



Kalpana



"a wild dedication of yourselves, To undiscovered waters, undreamed shores." - William Shakespeare



Anil Kumar Gaur



Gaurji is one of the senior members of the staff at IGNFA, tasked with the overall management of office matters of the probationers. Having joined the academy in 1985, he is a veteran who fondly recalls almost all the deeds/misdeeds of all our faculty members as probationers! For him, the most interesting part of his job is interaction with the young & energetic probationers. Their exuberance, attitude and discipline is something he claims to enjoy year after year. He also relishes the memories of his tours from the academy to Kanasar, Thada & Thanot. Gaurji is the man who makes our stay comfortable & memorable in these difficult terrains and climes that we often venture into.

A native of Moradabad (U.P.), he was brought up in Dehradun which he loves for its pleasant climate and good natured people. His post-retirement plan is to chill out with his children and grandchildren here in the Valley. As a senior staff member who has understood the system thoroughly over the years, he advises us to work diligently within its boundaries. He also asks us to take care of our subordinates, understand their problems and most importantly keep in touch with them in the future. Wise words indeed!

Vinod Kumar Sodi



Vinod ji, is a familiar face for IGNFA since the year 1985. A native of Bijnor (U.P.), he was born and brought up in Dehradun, which he loves for its amazing climate. He fondly recalls how it used to rain endlessly in the Doon Valley. He claims to have witnessed times when sunshine eluded the valley for upto 15 days at a stretch.

However, there is a tinge of sadness when he talks about the present condition of Dehradun. The city has become crowded and congested. The once silent Ballupur is choc-a-bloc with traffic and there isn't an inch of space to walk in the Paltan Bazar nowadays. The Valley used to produce high-quality Basmati in the days of yore. But change in land-use pattern has made this a thing of the past.

However, he says there is only one thing that doesn't change – the annual influx of a new batch of IFS probationers. He relishes this fact about IGNFA. The activity and buzz each batch brings with them makes his job lively. Vinodji hopes that he continues to stay lively and happy post-retirement, which he plans to spend with his grand-children in his beloved Doon.

Anchal Bhardwaj



Having joined IGNFA in 2010, Anchal ji is a relatively younger face of the academy. A highly qualified professional with a wide variety of degrees under her belt such as M.A. Literature, PGDBM & DOEACC, she is in charge of assisting Kannan Sir in the efficient planning & performance of his duties as a faculty and course director for the 2014 batch and acts as a communicator-in-chief between the course director and the probationers. A truly dedicated professional at work, she believes that IGNFA gives her the opportunity to enhance her knowledge and hone her skills to work efficiently. She believes in the dictum of smart work, not hard work. If given a chance, she would love to go on tours with the academy as well, a practice that has been discontinued recently. In her free time, she enjoys listening to music, reading novels, cooking, gardening & outings with friends & colleagues. She has great plans for future as well. She wants to pursue further studies and open a school in her father's name. When asked about her gyaan to probationers, she jokingly replied, "Please don't miss morning PT, because issuing Memoes is the toughest job for me."

Vinod Kumar, Electrician



ShriVinod Kumar who is from Ramgarh village in Dehradun works as an electrician at IGNFA and can be seen walking with a smiling face and a pleasant demeanor in New Hostel corridors. He joined IGNFA in 2013. He works along with other members of the department to ensure that the Academy gets uninterrupted power supply and all things electrical are working as per requirements. The major challenge of his job is to convince people that sometimes they do not have any immediate solution to their problems due to paucity of means. He tries his best to make them understand the situation. He ensures that all the problems assigned to him are fixed as soon as possible. Since he works on contract and is not covered under any social security, he believes that if this changes in the future his job could become more satisfying. His wife Mrs Poonam Singh is a housewife and his daughter Ridhima who is 5 years old is in 1st Standard at BalSukhSagar Academy in Prem Nagar. His hobbies include driving, watching WWE and spending time with family. He wants to build a home for himself and also ensure quality education to his daughter. He gives his best wishes to the outgoing batch and he says that he has had a good time with all the probationers here.