



# Jungle Book

*Explore the wilderness within...*

January 2014

Batch 2012

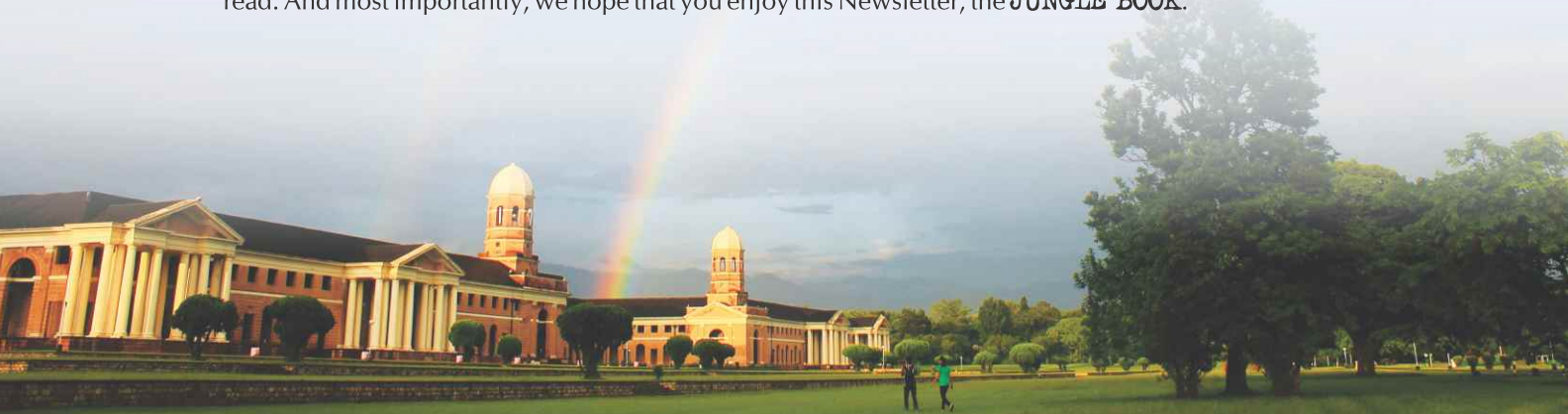


To try and document the everyday life of a Probationer is a mammoth task or maybe not. At the look of it, a Probationer in IGNTA has a set daily routine, sometimes even for the weekends. All he/she has to do is follow them religiously, in the proper notified attire. Now, stop awhile and put his/her daily life under a lens. That's when the complexities show up and of course, the fun begins. A Probationer has so much to tell!

It was with this thought in mind that the Editorial Team was constituted to try and document the best moments of our Training Period. Moments that has defined each of us in some way or the other, *idiotic* moments that has made us laugh to tears, *brave* moments that had made us hold on to the reins tighter when that IMA horse started cantering, *thrilling* moments when that first sighted Tiger in Ranthambhore did not seem to care that we were future IFS officers, *energized* moments when we applauded resoundingly at almost all the "Thank you" slides, *confused* moments when we trailed behind during *Botanisation*, *funny* moments when we become more interested in observing what the rest of the class is upto during lecture time, *stagnant* moments when that long *Symposium day* never seemed to end, *happy* moments when we smiled the widest for a camera shot in front of *The 3 Idiots Lake*, *awesome* moments when there was no faculty around, *personal* moments that'd be fondly remembered in the safest parts of our memories, moments that has made us courageous enough to take up our pen and write these lines. Moments that had to be recorded, that simply made us say, "Life is beautiful!".

Having said so, it was a challenging task to begin with. We are deeply indebted to **Mrs. Anu Nagar** who is the Pillar to our foundation. Without her support and encouragement, this Newsletter would not have been possible, at all. This is the first step but nonetheless, it is a step forward.

With these words, we are confident that this issue with the theme on "**Batch and Academy**" offers you a good read. And most importantly, we hope that you enjoy this Newsletter, the **JUNGLE BOOK**.



**The Editorial Team : Ajeeta, Dheeraj, Sajid & Ravikiran**

# From the Desk of ...



**Shri R. K. Goel**

Director  
IGNEA

## The Director

I am extremely happy to note that the Probationers of 2012-14 Course have come out with a captivating newsletter. In the era of “tweets” and internet downloads when the art of writing is becoming uncommon among the youth, it is commendable that this Batch has chosen to bring out this sparkling collection of musings.

Not only such newsletters provide the youngsters a platform to showcase their creativity and innocent fun; the articulation also provides the much needed space for innovation and imagination to take wings.

I am sure that you will bring out many more issues like this on a regular basis. There is, after all, so much to share! I congratulate the entire team involved in its preparation and wish the best of luck for the future sustenance of this newsletter.



**Dr. Alok Saxena**

Additional Director  
IGNEA

## The Additional Director

It gives me immense pleasure to know that the Probationers of the 2012 Batch are coming out with a Batch Magazine, the first issue of which has been themed on the “Batch and Academy”. At the outset, I send my greetings to the Editorial Team of the Batch Magazine, for working on a Magazine which aims to bring out the best aspects of the training period.

I believe this magazine will provide the benchmark for continued improvement. This magazine should be a good source of guidance for coming batches in choosing activities of their choice in their future for making their Probation years in the Academy enjoyable, happy and memorable.

With these words, I wish the very best to the Batch and the Editorial Team, 2012 Batch Magazine, for the success of their endeavor.



**Shri Alok Prem Nagar**

Course Director  
2012 Batch

## The Course Director

The coming out of this newsletter (after a palpable wait) is one of the best things that has happened in the new year. It is hoped that it provides the OTs with a forum for clean enjoyment and spectacular wit. Each one of us is made in a special way and a periodical such as this would perhaps endeavour to reveal that special part in each of the OTs and the batch as a whole. I must congratulate the core team involved in the preparation of this issue and expect that it's inclusivity will provide it with the energy to sustain-remember that we are in the business of sustainability.

Here's wishing you all the very best generally!



# Our batch as it goes ...

Some of us are Energetic, and Some of us are Poise;  
Some prefer to remain Silent, you'll never get to hear their voice ..!

Some ask Questions, the rest wonder why;  
Some seek Eternal Bliss, their aims pretty high..!

Some are Gleeful, always with a Smile;  
Some seem Peppery, well that's their own Style..!

Some look confused in Love, Some are quite steady;  
Some boast being Happily Single, Relationships make them crazy..!

Some are the proclaimed Genius, Medal is the Target to be Achieved;  
Some keep away from such worldly desires, they are not easily Deceived..!

Some Flock together in Herds, Social is their Existence;  
Some are the lone tuskers, so please keep your safe Distance..!

Some are the mobile geeks, loves to pop Bubble;  
Be it in class or in the Field, they don't smell a Trouble..!

An Amalgam of Ideas, with a spark of Creativity;  
Unique in our Thoughts, we stand together in Unanimity..!

Well that's the Solidity of 2012 Batch;  
Which I Vouch, Seldom anyone can Match.. !!

- Md. Sajid Sultan





# Know Your Faculty

- Q. Life as a forester has been...  
A. Life as a forester had been great as a field forester, researcher & trainer.
- Q. The best thing about the Indian Forest Service?  
A. Outdoor life, complex issues and challenges.
- Q. What single thing has improved the quality of your life?  
A. Marriage
- Q. One word that best describes the 2012 batch.  
A. Motivated
- Q. Your favourite movie and movie character  
A. Amar Akbar Anthony, Anthony played by Amitabh Bachhan
- Q. The magic mantra of keeping probationers awake in the class is...?  
A. Keep the sessions simple, interactive & applied. Always remember that the perception of a probationer is important.
- Q. A choice.. Probationers asking more questions or Probationers running long distances  
A. No choice please. I like both.
- Q. The one plant/animal/bird that has intrigued you throughout your career and how?  
A. Deodar, the handsome tree.
- Q. Your most memorable tour as a faculty? When and where?  
A. East India tour. Scuba during in Havelock with 2011-13 Course.
- Q. The best food you've tasted on tour and where?  
A. Ethnic lunch after trekking to Sinhagad Fort near Pune, during West India tour with 2011-13 Course
- Q. Today's Probationers and the Probationers of your times, your take?  
A. Today's probationers are more aware, focused and gender conscious.
- Q. I love the Academy because.....  
A. Love for teaching, outdoor activities, discipline, & grooming of future generations of foresters
- Q. The one thing you would like to change in the 2012 batch?  
A. To improve the toughness of body & mind
- Q. Answer in one sentence, If you are jogging on Trevor Road/Brandis road and you encounter a leopard, you would??  
A. Try to engage it with demonstration of 5 BX plan.
- Q. A hobby you are currently pursuing or planning to pursue in the future?  
A. I plan to take photography more seriously
- Q. A single line that best describes your motivation through all these years  
A. Count your blessings & work hard
- Q. Your advice for a young forester?  
A. Always keep things simple & easy to understand. Have long term perception of issues and work hard for solutions in different time scales.

Interview with  
**Dr. Mohit Gera**



# Knocking at the gates of IGNFA

Friends, I am sure the three and half months of Foundation Course was a once in a life time experience for all of us. The new friends we found in our Foundation Course are assets in our social life, but more “new” friends were in store. Bags got packed at Bhopal, Hyderabad and Nagpur to reach our own parent Academy, to be shaped as the budding forester in the most beautiful campus across India. The excitement was oozing out for being a part of a bigger herd of us and at a place which is for us as we had already missed out on interactions with our batch mates due to this fragmented foundation of our training. One of the big concerns in my mind was that we all will come out as three subspecies due to this geographic isolation. I was looking forward to meeting my new friends.

I boarded the Jansatabdi on 16th of December 2012 on my journey to Dehradun to join IGNFA. Aboard the train were my fellow batch mates but not from Bhopal (where I completed my Foundation Course) and I had one of the shortest conversation with them i.e. greetings!. I somehow felt bad and realized that it would take time to get at ease with the other two subspecies of my own genera. Anyways the chhuk-chhuk journey came to an end and to welcome us, we had one representative from IGNFA and the grand IGNFA bus waiting at Dehradun station. All of us stuffed our little luggage into the bus. The bus was driven through the curves of the Doon valley to the FRI campus (The Mecca of Forestry) and we entered through the grand Shtabdi Dwar, Trevor road. The very same day, one trend was established - that the bus will first go to the grand Old Hostel (a British legacy) first and then to the New Hostel (a more urbanized set up). People allotted to old hostel (including me) alighted but there was no one around. For a second, I felt what a haunted place this is! The sound of the bus made some early birds come out to see who all have just dropped in. By this time, it was high time for dinner but there was no guidance for that and perhaps we all quietly got into our respective rooms. All those living in Old Hostel got a roommate and my roommate was already there to open the door and welcome me to my own room. To my surprise all I found was a bed with an old mattress, an Almirah (all of this in duplicate at Old Hostel), a desktop system and a blower. Some of my friends carried their quilts and blanket with them (luckily I had carried one with me) or the early birds managed to fetch one from Panditwadi (the most common hangout of Probationers) but for some, it was chill out time in their respective rooms. The welcome message by our seniors was quite soothing.

For the first official morning in IGNFA, we dressed ourselves (perhaps the best). For breakfast in the grand Old Mess it was a ~400m track from the Old Hostel and it was a few meters more from New Hostel (first advantage of being in Old Hostel). We poured in to the Deodar Hall of the Academy. Most of us got to know the harsh fact that the grand FRI building has only background value in our training sessions, however the fact remains that we are in the most beautiful campus. The Course Director and the Professor-in-charge came in to welcome us and gave us our first set of instructions. More than 50 pages were given to fill in as part of the joining formalities and that way we finally joined this Academy as IFS probationers and this is how the journey of being a Forester started.



- Dheeraj





# The joy of sharing

Indian Forest Service, a prestigious All India Service. You're so happy to have been selected. As the training period begins in the Academy, so does one of the best phases of your life. You land up with your bags in this extraordinarily beautiful campus nestled in the lap of the mountains and let yourself be overwhelmed by the seriousness and grandeur of responsibilities and protocols that come with the job description. You seem to have everything that you wished for in life. Well, almost everything, till the moment you realize that you are to share your living quarters with someone else. Now now, how do you take that? Aren't you independent now? Why doesn't everyone have to share? How are you expected to share your intimate immediate living space with a complete stranger?

Well, thank God they made me. Or else, I would never have known the infinite joys this act of sharing had in store for me.

She was all that one could ask for from a companion. She respected the space between us and kept to herself when I needed to be alone, yet when, after a bad day, I needed some serious verbal catharsis, I could rely on her to understand and reflect my exact feelings even though I'm only blabbering out half-sentences in my violent rage against somebody. Her conversations are intelligent, thought-provoking and witty. We share similar tastes in books, music, clothes, people and events. In fact she is a much-reserved version of myself, and admit it friends, one always loves it when she sees herself in others.

But no, I'm not here to pride myself on my lucky choice of roommate. I wanted to share my views about the advantages of having one. For starters, room-mates come in most handy as the alternative alarm clock, especially during the time of morning PT. She helps you pleat your sari and saves you those few precious minutes of haste every morning. She tells you when your beige



peep toes are not going with your slate business suit. Between the two of you, your range of cosmetics is doubled. She might even lend you her white dupatta when yours has gone for a wash. One order of cream chicken is definitely too much for you alone. You can afford to take a shower peacefully, confident that the sweeper or the laundryman won't skip your room. Once in a while you might even get away with forgetting your room key!

And boy, during exam times, if not for her, you would never have known that the final version of the PowerPoint on Yield Regulation contained 115 slides instead of 46, and with the infernal internet connection strategically failing, you thank your stars that she had already downloaded it the previous night!

So friends, when you are getting really bored with non-happenings in your day, you can be rest assured that there is one person who's always ready for a pajama-dance party in your room, even at midnight, just so that you can share a laugh!

- Amrita Dutta



## Academy के होनहार Probationer

Academy के होनहार Probationer  
ऊँघते आनमने Probationer  
Academy के देवदार हॉल में  
कैसे बितायें समय Probationer  
प्रश्न बड़ा है  
कला खूब है  
स्रजन के उत्तम समय में  
creativity at its best in Probationer  
कोई नींद पूरी कर रहा है  
कोने में assignment लिख रहा है  
creativity के example अनेक  
peom फटाफट लिखे Probationer  
कार्टून, चिट, jokes सब घूम रहे हैं  
कक्षा के वातावरण में  
multitasking बना Probationer  
आँखें कैसे खुली रहें  
असमंजस में फँसा Probationer  
मोबाइल का सहारा है  
वरना कैसे जीते Probationer  
कुछ साथी हैं ज्यादा सक्षम  
पढ़े किताब और अखबार Probationer  
lecture तो आते और जाते  
गीता का जानी Probationer  
Academy के होनहार Probationer

- Dheeraj



## "तस्वीरें"

खुश हैं आज कंगाल सभ्यता के गुलाम  
झाँकते थे अंधेरी कोठरियों से मेरे  
कमरे के भीतर उस दीवार की तरफ  
जहाँ समाज द्वारा घोषित पागलों की  
तस्वीरें टँगी थी... और आकर मुझे  
समझाने का प्रयत्न करते कि  
तस्वीरें गलत दीवार पर लगी हैं  
गलत?... फिर सही क्या?  
थकहार कर इसी कशमकश में  
मैने तस्वीरों को चारपाई के नीचे  
पिछले कोने में छुपा दिया  
और अब  
बस उन तस्वीरों के अस्तित्व के  
निशान मात्र ही रह गये हैं उस दीवार पर !  
और फिर कल रात वो आए और  
उन तस्वीरों को ढूँढकर उनमें आग लगा दी  
और अब भ्रमित विचारों से ढके  
सड़ी गली लाठियों के सहारे चलती परछाईयाँ  
कुकुरमुत्तों की तरह  
एक साथ अलाव के चारों ओर बैठकर  
अपनी जीत का जश्न मनाते हैं...  
परंतु क्या तस्वीरें जला देने से  
मस्तिष्क पर गद्दी उन  
आक्रतियों को हटा सकते हैं?  
मैने सुना है पड़ोस के एक घर में  
कुछ ऐसी ही तस्वीरें  
दीवारों पर उभरने लगी हैं...

चमन



Paintings by Sumesh Soman

## Known Unknown

I cherish the unknown faces,  
those near the stations,  
roaming in the market  
And people who disappear  
after crossing over the busy roads.

As they don't  
compel me to carry  
any of their burden with me,  
timely or untimely,  
and to share their unhappiness  
intruding into my solitude.

But, as time passes by,  
these faces tiptoe into  
my already large number of known  
faces.

Once unknown, today we become  
friends forever  
and I become entangled once more.

Then, I again look out  
for the face of the person  
dozing near me in the bus

- Anonymous



It's a cold December morning in Dehradun, the first week of classes in IGNTA have begun. Prof. Jha, the faculty, is waiting inside 'Deodar hall', the assigned lecture hall, since 9:00 AM, the Probationers take their own sweet time and enter the hall, the clock reads 9:05.

"I will not repeat myself, you need to be here before 9".

"OK! Let's start, D. Brandis is considered as the Father of Indian Forestry...."

"Sir, Slides not visible Sir", says Akshay from the last bench.

"Dineshji, Dineshji.....", the last benchers pointing towards the lights.

"Why don't you occupy these empty rows in the front?", Mr. Jha in an irritated mood.

"Sir, we are seated according to Roll Nos., Sir", replies Akshay.

"Anyway, let's continue.. So, the Superior Forest Service was discontinued...."

CreeeeK!, the door opens slowly and 3 probationers, Vidyadhar, Tina and Mukul, enter the room giving a confused look to Mr. Jha "Are we the last ones to enter??".

Mr. Jha sarcastically welcomes them "Please, please.. couldn't have started without you".

The three of them settle down and the class resumes. They had been great friends since their FC days in Bengaluru. The whole batch had done their FC in 7 different centers. Vidyadhar Shastri a.k.a 'Vidya', a synonym for a KTP, held an M Sc in Botany and would read 'Ramjilal Fauna' during his free time. Rose Valentina a.k.a 'Tina' was a chemical engineer from Manipur and had recently mastered the art of differentiating between an animal and a plant. Mukul pandey a.k.a 'Chulbul pandey' had worked as an ACF in Jharkhand. He worked out in the gym daily for 3 hours and would take complete rest in the classroom.

They settle down and start discussing on how to go to Paltan bazaar to buy winter wear, when Tina's phone says "Fuu fuee fueee fueeeeee..", on Whatsapp! Meanwhile, Mr. Jha assuming it to be a Tree pie sound, asks the class,

"When did the FRI come into existence? Who can answer?".

"Brihaspati Sir.... Brihaspati Sir..",

This was always an unanimous and universal choice of the batch. When Mr. Jha was about to continue, he observes Amit, the DO slowly raising from his seat and marching towards the stairs.

"Sir, Time Up!!".

Mr. Jha smiles back thinking "Probationers today Eh!".

While signing the sheet, he is both amazed and confused as the attendance in his class is more than double the attendance in PT.

Suddenly Sakshi Chandra, the General Secretary, who was from Woolen College, Kolkata runs towards the podium

"I have a small announcement. The Field dresses have come back after the alteration, whoever still has a problem, please let me know".



The class scrambles out and everyone gathers around the notice board. Like swarming bees, they revise the same old notices put up for the past one week and proceed towards tea.

Jasbeer and Gopal, again friends from FC in Mumbai were discussing many things while having tea. Jasbeer a.k.a 'Jazz' could play the musical instruments with extraordinary ease, but had an extraordinary difficulty handling the mensuration instruments.

Gopalkrishna Iyer a.k.a Gopal on the other hand, was a genius in forestry and was considered as the "Father of Forestry" for the 2012 batch, but thought "Main Laapata Tum", was the same as "I am missing you!" They were discussing everything except forestry, starting from the movie they saw last night in the Movie club to the upcoming IMA attachment. About how amazing Mr. Sam Biswal, the Prof of Systematic Botany was to the cultural program they had planned to organize, when Tashi and Sunny joined the discussion, each with a huge pile of Onion Pakodas in their hands. Tashi Dorji, a foreign trainee from Bhutan, was a mathematical genius and a brown belt in Taekwondo. Sunny Verma, was nicknamed 'Avenger', for his adventurous outlook on the field and his ability to enjoy a cold water shower on a winter morning.

"Hey, how come you never come to PT at all, Gopal?", asks Sunny to know if he could replicate the same.

"Aren't you losing 1/2 day CL?". "Actually, I want all my CL's to be over, so that no more CL's can be cut", states Gopal confidently.

"Enough you, have you guys heard about the OJT and the foreign tour?", the excitement was oozing out of Jazz's voice." We will be the first ones to go and I have heard that it is 63% confirmed. I am soo excited!"

"Yaa, I am equally excited about the Introductory tour in Ranthambore and sleeping in my new sleeping bag in the Chowki", joins in Tashi.

"Guys, please hurry up, Prof. Raina has arrived", the DO calls out, trying to gather the Probationers as the class begins again.





# FRI campus: The Panther's model of urbanisation



While heading the emergency GBM of all residents of a jungle in the foot hills of the Himalayas, the King Tiger grew concerned on seeing the plight of his subjects caused by the unprecedented speed of urbanisation of the human race. The king immediately ordered his subordinate, the Panther, to conduct an enquiry into this grave threat to their adobe from the human race. He further asked him to suggest measures to counter this life threatening challenge.

The Panther took the order of his king very seriously and conducted a detailed survey of the whole of the area. But he was very much tensed on the debates which were undergoing amongst the humans on the issue of urbanisation models. The panther found that the only species with the power of thinking, the human race, was unable to decide on a suitable model for urbanising. He found that despite a lot of knowledge and understanding, there was a great degree of confusion and that there was also a lack of

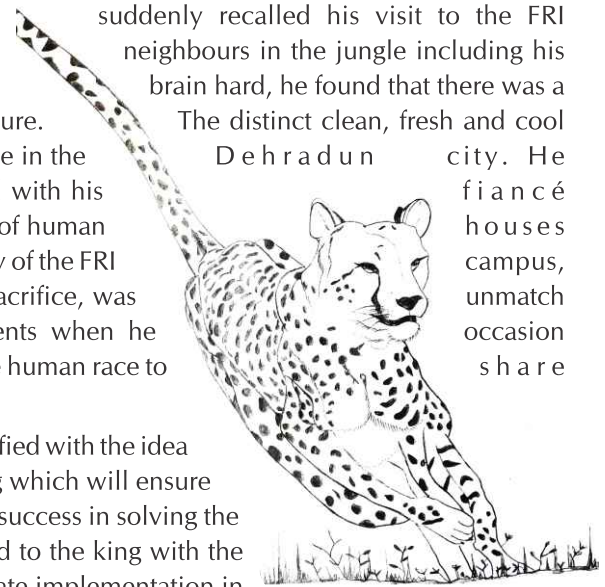
adequate planning and implementation.

Having realised the need for a suitable urbanisation model for mutual scanned through his memory for recalling places he had visited. He campus only the previous month, where he had seen many of his siblings live peacefully with the human race. When he further scratched his lot of biodiversity and even the place attracted humans from outside the enclosure. air which he had felt in FRI was remarkably not present when he went outside in the also recalled the frequent beautiful rains in FRI, in which he had romanced with his and noted the absence of such rains outside in the city. The beautiful layout of human in between the jungle was still fresh in his memory. The comfort and hospitality of the FRI where the dogs welcomed him sometimes by giving the ultimate supreme sacrifice, was ed and unheard of for him. He also recalled his sweet and sour moments when he ally encountered humans in the Campus but appreciated the willingness of the human race to the habitat with animals like him.

With all these good memories of FRI, the Panther, by now, was very much satisfied with the idea that the FRI campus could become the most suitable model of urban planning which will ensure mutual coexistence of human and animal races. Having smelled an inkling of success in solving the problem of both the races caused by human urbanisation, the panther rushed to the king with the hope that the FRI model of urban planning will be recommended for immediate implementation in the creation of new habitations.

existence, the smart Panther immediately suddenly recalled his visit to the FRI neighbours in the jungle including his brain hard, he found that there was a

The distinct clean, fresh and cool Dehradun city. He fiancé houses campus, unmatched occasion share



Story by **Kshitij Kumar**, Sketches by **Vidhya C**

## From Yesteryears...

Success depends upon knowledge and a disciplined approach for translating the knowledge into practice. Discipline is both mental and physical. Strong determination, commitment and a positive mindset needs a healthy body. "Mens sana in corpore sano".

It was my privilege to have been associated with imparting physical training, games and sports to IFS officers. I am sure the qualities of competitive spirit and Team Work learnt by them in the field has helped them excel in their area of work too.

**S.M.H Kazmi** Ex PT & Sports Officer, IGNSA





# *Impressions*

by *Rajendra Bharti*

## **Rohtang** 21-6-2013

I finally came to the place where clouds are rubbing shoulders with me, the roaring river is adding in the silence of life, clouds are playing with the sun, the air is the most noisy among all these... I go by the confluence of rivers and hot springs also...but still, I cannot find something which I am searching for...

## **Lal Tibba** 13-5-2013

Witnessed the most beautiful phenomenon of nature - sunset. The Red colored sun embracing the horizon and variously colored clouds hugging the mountain peak... an awesome view! The best thing about sunrise/sunset is that you forget everything. You become the very part of that moment... all your egos and internal turmoil do sink with the sun. I always wonder how nature assimilates you in itself. I felt how small I was. I don't have any existence and it was as if I was one of those trees. At that moment, I felt as though words polluted my feelings. It's like a highly addictive meditation.

## **Chakrata** 28-5-2013

Nights are very romantic and beautiful here...it's an interesting and beautiful coincidence that whenever I go on tour it is always a full moon night. It has happened in Panchmari, Bheraghat, Bandhavgarh, Ratapani, Ranthambhore and now here. I sit alone in the moon light and think about my childhood, my college days, my religion, love, my aim in life and countless so called intellectual issues...

## **Mussoorie** 14-5-2013

To sit in the shade and gaze across the Dehradun valley from the famous mall road is the most perfect refreshment. Sipping hot coffee and ghazals to sooth my soul... I can't really pen down the experience. As the sun becomes the angel, the cold breeze touching your feet, my body starts floating with the lively weather.. As the beautiful red sun turns darker, the valley starts to lighten with star like lights and the lights fill the valley slowly-and-slowly. Earlier, I used to think that happiness is a state of my mind but this state is dynamic, not static. If you are in search of calmness and peace, you first have to feel it into yourself, inside seated deeply.

## **Ladakh** 8-7-2013

Ladakh, a place where history and the present co-exists, in more ways than one. Silence and serene are the words which can define Ladakh in all fairness. Barrren mountains with absolutely no vegetation, a complete barren land...this is Ladakh! Mountains here have various colors which keeps on changing their colors as the sun and the clouds play hide and seek. The excitement reached it's pinnacle when I reached the Pangong Tso. Dark bluish and greenish crystal clear water of the lake, surrounded by colorful mountains took me to the highest degree of appreciation for nature. Nubra valley! Snow covered peaks, river, white sand dunes and Bactrian Camel, all at one place to simply astonish you. Sand dunes here are pure white in color. Standing at this place which is strategically so important and has heavy traffic of army trucks, heading towards Kargil base camp, leads you to the highest degree of honor for the Indian Army. Ladakh is a place with many ironies. Nature is here with its most hostile form, no source of water except melting glaciers, hypoxic atmosphere but a raw beauty. I can't put it in other words. How can 'death' be so beautiful?





# Moods of Probationers

To catch Probationers unawares, especially in one of their moods is as fascinating as it is almost amusing. Each has been a witness of the other, at one point or another, of incidents best swept under the carpet for the revelations may bring in many red-faces, so will it evoke endless laughter or may at times, even blows. But then again, moods define our daily lives and it is only fair that Probationers' moods are explored, in all its enormity. Only so that IGNSA days are remembered, with all the warmth, happiness, joy, thrill and excitement, that these days have been lived by. So also the morning 'blues', the classroom 'stagnation', the evening 'lethargy', and of course, those weekend 'breeziness' of having nothing to do - sometimes inviting boredom. This writer today may not be the person best placed to write about 'the moods of the probationers' but well, she is in one of her writing 'moods' and she may as well make the best use of it.

The Carpenters once sang, "Rainy days and Mondays always gets me down". How true they were! But they did not have PT to live by. So well, while Monday blues might be a very real situation, rainy days calms the nerves and of course, the senses of most of our Probationers; to dream more, to snooze more and well, who am I kidding, to obviously sleep more. On other not-so-cloudy days, our much disciplined PT faculty and staff makes sure we'll be 'fit' for this lifetime. So today, the Probationers have lifted up their moods every weekday, to get up and not put that alarm on 'snooze' mode anymore. And the only complaint they have - The tea just isn't enough. The quantity has just been suspiciously cut down. This defines one of those moody lines - if you can't win them, join them. Kudos to PT! The Probationers have come to love it and of course, the rejoinder helped. Love it! For missing it will dig deep into your CL. Still, fights at the borders are being reported.

Getting ready for the classes can be fun, especially if you are in old hostel and you've got a room-mate. You've just got to come to an understanding about your timings. If not, heaven help you. But most do anyway, because we've got some sensible folks around who understands when it will do them good from an argument and more importantly, when not. But New Hostellers don't have things any better. They have to walk on an endless

journey if they want themselves fed and of course, the socializing helps. When the situation reverses, many Old Hostellers prefer to sleep off and make 'noodles' in their rooms because the journey sometimes is just too much. But these are issues of days long gone by and you will find probationers in jolly mood these days- the Mess is right at the entrance and as humans may have it, the reason for class 'entries' being a tad little delayed.

Classes are even more fun especially the breaks. And the mood becomes resoundingly energetic when the Probationers take it upon themselves to remind the faculty of one. Happiness spreads like a wild fire when the tea break comes along - the expertise of how to transform a 15 minutes break into something more can be best observed during this time. Talented bunch we are, our Probationers!

The general mood in the classroom is generally non-committal. Hard as you may think, you really can't make anything out. Sometimes, you can find questions being shot down into the podium non-stop requiring the DO to intrude or at times, a very neutral silence of gratitude. But worth mentioning is the mood of the appointed DUTY OFFICER, the DO, the officially anointed representative for the week. A serious mood always has to loom over or else, the DO be gone!

And then ,the jubilant mood sets along as the classes end and you get those precious half an hour to catch up on your power nap or just enjoy the feeling of 'being free'. Here again, tea plays a major role. No wonder tea is taken with great relish in this Academy. It signifies something much more – maybe, just the feeling of being free! Well, at least until that cup of tea in your hand isn't over. The Probationers can become frantic when tea is not delivered on time or if any compromise is made with its quantity, God help the MDO. Ah! Tea, sweet tea.

Anyway, the mood on games are always divided but most are just happy to turn up. Some love it so much that they prolong their stay till dinner comes along. The mood to catch always is on full show at dinner time- laughter, chatter, jolliness, melody, hunger and what not. And it carries on, still lingers on long after dinner is over with.

Such ends the day of our Probationers. And life goes on and it is still going on.

- Ajeeta





## Jinesh Chand Singh

Having joined the academy in 1987, on a meagre salary of 11 rupees as a Laboratory Attendant, Jinesh is today a familiar face in the Deodar Hall and the 2012 Batch Office. On asking him about his family, he keenly tells us that he has two daughters adding "I wish to see my elder daughter become an officer someday". He further tells us his favourite hobby, "I love watching movies but the last movie I saw in a proper cinema hall must have been Raja Hindustani (a 1996 movie)." On being asked about the best part of his job, he lets us into his little secret, "I thoroughly enjoy my work though sometimes, the Guest Lectures make me nervous" He says with much fondness that Sh. Kishan Yadav is his closest friend in the Academy. He is a man who has seen the transformation of training and the classroom sessions from blackboards and overhead projectors to slides and PPTs. He lets out as giggle as he recalls Probationers using chalk sticks to hit others. He notes that Probationers before had a more personal touch in their approach further emphasizing on the need for interaction among the employees of the Academy and Probationers. When asked about the batch, he tells us with a smile that he will remember our batch as the second batch passed by Nagar Sir as Course Director.



## Hukum Singh Bisht

Bishtji joined the Academy in 1999. Ask him what his job description was before and you can actually sense the pride and fondness in his voice, "I served in the Army for close to 20 years but took premature retirement as a Havaldar". He can tell you stories, real stories of when he was posted in the states of J&K and Rajasthan, the toughest lot coming up in the insurgency hit areas of Mizoram and Nagaland. The star performer of our Academy in the All India Forest Games last year, Bishtji also holds the unbeaten record of having been a part of the IPKF in Srilanka and also serving as the President's Bodyguard during the tenure of Sh. Giani Jail Singh and Sh. Venkat Raman. He states with a tinge of disappointment that the new generation of Probationers seem to show very little interest in games and sports. When approached on the topic of rainy days, he half amusingly says, "I also want to sleep and relax but having the discipline and dedication of an armyman ingrained in me, my call of duty takes me to the ground." In the sports field, he is a man not happy with our dwindling attendance. Chaman, JD Pati, Mahender Singh and Anup of the 2012 batch have found a place in his memory for years to come. He lastly recommends a new badminton court, a hall for PT and exercise during rains, and more indoor facilities in the premises of the ground itself.



## Radheyshyam Thakur

Radhesyamji is the official barber in the Academy, at least for the Gentlemen. Every Saturday, you hear him in the corridor asking you for a "cutting". He has been here since 1955, that was way way before we were born. His contribution was duly recognized during the centenary celebrations of FRI. Telling us that the hair of Champion and Seth were styled by none other than him, he instantly says, "I'm just a phone call away!" His interest lies in bird watching (can amazingly identify a whole lot) his favorite being the "Paradise Flycatcher". Letting him cut your hair can be both fun and educational. After all, the man talks Silviculture non-stop. The famous and most popular cut he does is the C/D grade thinning. By the way, he can do hair cut for ladies as well! When asked about Probationers of today, he says, "I find that the new crop of Probationers are more cautious about their hair style while the earlier batch preferred the E grade thinning as it was very strict at that time." Seeking some Golden words from this living legend, we asked him for a few words for the foresters of tomorrow. He replies, "I feel a forester should have an approachable behavior which will help him earn the trust of the people".



## Dinesh Chandra

The approachable "Dineshji"! When you enter Old Mess, you actually end up feeling sorry for him because all the Probationers seem to call only his name. But then, he is also much loved. Dinesh Chandra joined the Old Mess in 2011. He has three daughters and two sons. Having worked in the Army as a tailor for close to 18 years, he also acts as the unofficial part-time tailor for the Probationers. He tells us that he loves his job and being a vegetarian, he loves to eat Dal Makhni, Aloo Parantha and Rice. He finds Anand Singh Chauhan as his best colleague in the mess. When asked about the difference between the Old and New Mess, he promptly states, "Availability of bicycle to New Mess." Highlighting on the issue of salary of the Mess workers, he also observes that the Probationers today are becoming more impersonal and distant. He fondly recalls Sushila cooking special Bhutanese dishes in the Old Mess.



# STARS of the issue

In our daily lives, we sometimes tend to take things for granted and often fail to appreciate the indispensable contribution of countless people. Keeping this in mind, we have made a sincere effort to dedicate this column to those silent heroes in the Academy whom we cannot do without. We have tried our best to keep the original spirit in which the replies were given to our queries.