



Jungle Book

Explore the wilderness within...

January 2015

All of us were here a year ago after a great amount of strife, a lot of expectations, anxiety, anticipation and excitement. And that was definitely in order, considering that we were brand new here at IGNFA. We're sure that the 2014 batch is going through similar emotions now. Having said that, over a period of time the Academy has won us over and has become our second home!

In the time that we've been here, if we ask you now, the chances are that you may perhaps not remember the botanical names of a tree species or that elusive method to solve a math problem but we can tell you this, that you will remember the times spent here with friends, the tours to unbelievable places, the meetings with wonderful people and having experiences that you wouldn't get anywhere else. You will remember the little villages you trekked to in the cold for a cup of tea/maggi, the starry skies of Ranthambore and Kanasar, the time when you waded in knee deep waters at Marine National Park, the experiences in tents and the bonfires during the working plan exercise, the tribal dances, the hurly burly matches, the cultural nights, the equitation course where you climbed the horse for the first time or the time when you held an INSAS rifle in your hand with confidence!

We've been at the Academy for a year now and we can already say that we've cherished so many wonderful moments that are unforgettable.

We thank our Director, Shri Vinod Kumar and faculty for their support and guidance. We thank Shri Deepak Mishra, Course Director 2013 Batch for his encouragement. Our gratitude is in order for the seniors (Batch 2012) for everything that they've done. We're happy to see you guys making us proud everyday in your new stints!

Our warmest welcome to the next batch to the academy. Welcome aboard Batch 2014. You can put your apprehensions aside and enjoy the ride!

Lastly, this time around the theme of the edition has been 'Celebration' – so that we remind ourselves to celebrate every minute, to celebrate the differences, to celebrate our differences, to celebrate our cultures and to celebrate ourselves. So folks, we give to you, the fourth edition of the Jungle Book!

Read on. Take flight.



Editorial Team : **Suman, Chandu, Savita & Samuel**
Creative Team : **Jamyang & Nandani**

Cover Photograph by **Nandani Salaria**

Q. Introduction: Name, Native Place, Education, IFS batch

I'm from East Champaran District of Bihar, had my schooling at Dhanbad, Jharkhand and University education from the Banaras Hindu University with post graduation in Botany. I got selected to Indian Forest Service in the maiden competitive examination.

Q. What inspired you to join IFS?

As a school kid, I had visited Hazaribagh during one winter to attend the marriage of my cousin who was a Doctor there. The Divisional Forest Officer, Hazaribagh who happened to be his friend, took us to Hazaribagh National Park and his office in his office jeep. The thrilling experience of dense forests, travelling to the interior Forest Rest House with uniformed staff in the jeep with sharing of forest and poaching information and sighting of wildlife left an unforgettable impression of excitement & authority on both my father and me.

While in the University, I couldn't join medical course as per desire of my father even after selection for AFMC, Pune & IMS, BHU due to various reasons and I decided to complete BSc Honours for competitive examinations, including IFS. I completed MSc in Botany, did research on tissue culture & physiology of some plants. My appointment letter to join IFS came in 1978.

Q. What comes to your mind when you think of your training days?

Training at the Indian Forest Service was quite interesting and exciting. It was for the first time, we in our batch of 100 from background of varied educational qualifications, culture & languages, and some having previous work experience also were spending time together. With some ups and down, we jelled together in an accomplished group and contributed to different aspects of life and environment of this great FRI campus. One more important aspect that we realize whenever we meet is that of sincerity, commitment of our Dean and Faculty Members in instilling capacities of Forest Officers and officer like qualities through each program at the Academy and on tours. While looking back, training days as probationer have been the best part of the service.

Q. Most challenging task in the field?

Improving capacities of limited human resources for managing diminishing forest resources with increasing demand on forests with changing times from timber to NTFP production, from employment and production to livelihood and biodiversity, and from sustainability to ecological security with development & climate change.



Q. Favorites

Place: Rajhans location in the Chilika Lake

Holiday destination: Pahalgam, Manali and Chakrata

Movie: Madhumati and DDLJ

Actor / Actress: Dilip Kumar, Dharmendra, Nutan and Kajol

Book: Urmila

Author: Ramdhari Singh 'Dinkar'

Hobby: Photography

Personality: Amitabh Bachhan

Q. IGNFA - then and now.

The IGNFA has also evolved with lot of change management from my training years and even my earlier faculty years. With changing policy and programmes in forestry sector, background and average age of new recruits, and responsibilities being added and exercised by IFS Officers in forest governance and in various arms of Government, the IGNFA is handling increased absorption of new concepts & practices in Curriculum for training of Probationers, Middle level IFS officers, and officers of other services. I must say that IGNFA is more and better equipped now in all respect than then.

Q. We would like to know about your family and importance of family's support while serving?

A family is always a strength. My family consists of me, my wife, son and a daughter. My mother stays with me. My two brothers and my sister are with their families at various locations. Due to the nature of jobs in postings at a forest Division or Circle, your family sometime has to stay with you at places where fruits and facilities of progressive cities do not become available - especially with respect to healthcare and education. However, the experience now is far more satisfactory than in my young family days. Sometimes this coupled with transfers are occupational hazards that impact the family very much.

I have been indebted to my family for making the best of life available and in giving all strength to me in managing my service affairs. With family and children, I must say that contributions of wife and children for your well-being are unparalleled. Those who get the family support from parents and siblings as well as their wife and children, are really blessed to contribute in their services.

Q. What will be the first thing you will do if you happen to be the Minister, Environment, Forests and Climate Change?

This is an innocent question calling for an ambitious response. The grooming of a government servant and a politician is different, though one can say that very senior officers with their experience present themselves like politicians. After a long role of Forest Officer, changing

personality for delivering as a political executive would call on lot of difficult changes in me. However, without envisaging such possibility, I would like to introduce facilitative regulations wherever man interface is or will be there and strict enforcement wherever protection and conservation of forests & biodiversity is there. Therefore, first change would be for application of available knowledge of research, innovations and technological tools towards simplified organizational structures and regulations.

Q. What is craziest thing you have done / want to do?

Appearing in a pairing program on BBC during my Colombo Plan training and succeeding followed by withdrawal.

Q. If you are given a chance to live your probationary days once again, you would...

In my whole life, my wishes have not been realized, instead there has been always a turn in directions for me. Therefore, though I could wish for living probationer days with youthfulness of those days, that would be over-dreaming.

Q. Your experience as the Director so far...

This period so far from October has been of learning the expectations of young probationers and expectations from me by middle level/ senior level officers who have been Officer Trainees or working with me earlier, interactive exposures with other services & institutions as well as reflecting on myself and on the present strengths of IGNFA for bringing short-term and long-term programs of capacity building at this Academy. The experience has been satisfying and rejuvenating for youthful aptitude.

Q. Mantra for Probationers.

You are in your youth with immense energy for gaining knowledge and experience. My advice would be to keep this youthfulness with actual physical training/ sports continued and daily planned actions.


(Vinod Kumar)



It was a bright & sunny Saturday morning. It had been raining for quite a long time. Humid all around, blades of grass standing tall & sharp around my head, grassy aroma, bees buzzing by, warm sunrays falling on my face, grasshoppers hopping around, fluttering butterflies, serene blue sky studded with woolly clouds... yes, I was lying down on the grass in the middle of our IGNFA playground. What a moment it was! Saturday morning with no PT and a heavy dose of breakfast! While having a walk in the campus, I could not withhold my urge to lie down after seeing a beautiful lush green carpet of grass. I was lying dead lazy. It was amazing. I stretched my body, yawned a bit and twisted my spinal cord. The crackling sound of the bones infused in me a

pleasant feeling of being lazy. I wish I could freeze that lazy moment forever. Just lying down with nothing else to do...Nothing else I wanna do!

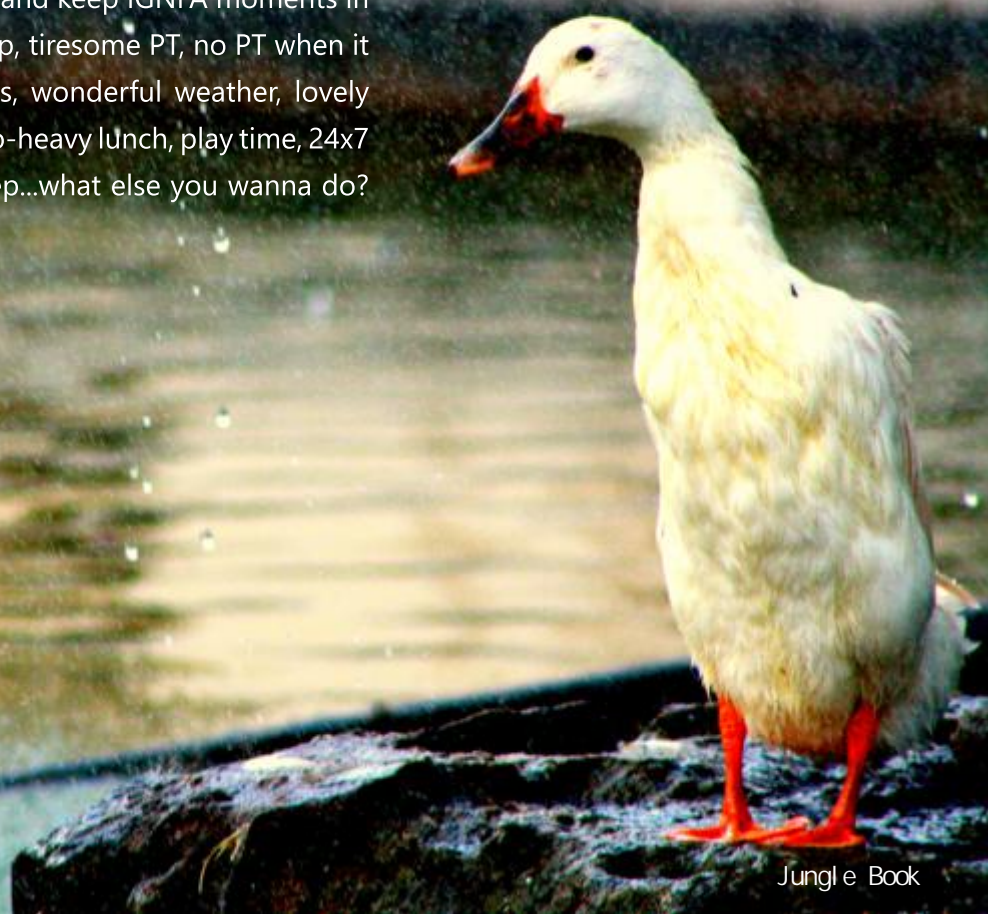
Something is seriously wrong with my spinal cord. The origin of laziness is right there! The feeling of 'doing nothing' and an entire realm of boredom resides there. I wish someone could squeeze it out. Lying down on that grass all-alone was not a bad idea though. Amidst interplay of warm sunshine and greyish-white clouds, I could sense nothing but air gushing in my lungs, lub-dub rhythm of my heartbeats and creaking of bones with slight movement. The inner world in my body is scarily noisy! It reminded me of my existence...lub-dub...lub-dub...lub-dub. Like an abrupt illumination, I realized that all these days I did not even spend a single moment with myself. I was feeling peaceful and relaxed. Just quit everything (both real & virtual) and travel throughout the globe all-alone or simply spend quality time with yourself for an entire day! Loneliness and laziness go hand-in-hand. Just like 'melancholy is the joy of being sad', there is a different kind of joy in being lonely and lazy.

I wish I could stop the ticking clock and keep IGNFA moments in deep freezer. Not feeling like waking up, tiresome PT, no PT when it rains, heavy breakfast, drowsy lectures, wonderful weather, lovely campus, tea time with gossiping, not-so-heavy lunch, play time, 24x7 internet, dinner time and a sound sleep...what else you wanna do? NOTHING ELSE!!

Corollary: Wake up!!

Sketch by Jamyang

Photo Credits: Anant





| Train | Trainee |
|--|--|
| People sleep on berths | Trainees sleep on chairs |
| Railway tracks are fixed | Course tracks are fixed |
| Bogies are laid back to back | Classes are conducted back to back |
| Trains have reservations | Trainees also have seat reservation |
| People de-board the train at their stop | Trainees de-board studies when they join the service |
| Inefficient waste management | Difficult ppt management |
| Without tickets, fear of TT | Without rain, fear of PT |
| Engine gets exhausted in long long journey | Trainees get exhausted in long long training |
| Station Master control the track | Course Director masters the training |
| Trains move from station to station | Trainees move from attachment to attachmentsss... |



"It is good to say goodbye sometimes, as new places and new people are waiting you to bring new experiences in your life..."

Life is a journey, which starts with birth and ends in death. In between, there are many halts; experiences, events, incidents and accidents. Here, I am not trying to be philosophical but my intention is to take you to those moments in which we have to say 'goodbye' to someone. It becomes more difficult when we have to leave people and the places with which we have thousands of memories attached. We know that we can come back to these places and people again but time once passed will never come back. It will remain in our memory to make us cry and smile all at one.

Down the memory lane, wonderful MOMENTS were lived. Moments turning into experiences, the very essence of life. They contain a whole world in them. These moments are the only ones that stay with us throughout our lives in the form of memories. The moment of meeting or separating from a loved one brings back the related memories all the way back to the present. Once again, life takes us back to that unforgettable time which we want to re-live but we cannot.

We conceal an ocean of emotion in ourselves and these are those rare moments in which all those emotions are at their high. The idea, that our life is going to be without the people around us, makes us uncomfortable and extremely emotional. The life, which is compatible with the present, suddenly starts its search for a reality. And then we try to hold on to those slipping moments, which passed us by.

Nothing is forever, as change is an inevitable part of life. It is hard to part away with the things that have become inseparable from our lives. But for letting new things to add themselves on the canvas of life, we have to bid farewell to the outgoing things by allowing them to be with us in our memories and, welcome the new things by making space for them in our present. Since it is comparatively easy to say hello than to say goodbye, a HELLO with a SMILE is the best thing to start a new beginning.



Let us go back to the five incredible untold stories of our working plan exercise held at Timli.

1. Stay hungry, stay foolish. Food was the best part, it always had its charm. I guess even the mess workers smiled incessantly the first few days when literally every single probationer would complement the kind of food they make and how tasty it was. I heard someone asked one of the mess worker, "Who's the new Chef?". The mess worker was puzzled, thought for a while and said, "Madam, same guy as of the new hostel". The probationer then quickly said, why don't you prepare such food in the hostel too! (Yes, you hit the nail!) Why can't food be this good even in the hostel?

2. It ain't a measure if you don't measure. I'm sure the guy who invented the vernier caliper had 'Us' in his mind. It was cruel to carry that huge instrument up and down the slopes, some were chanting verses while doing so too! What came to me as a surprise was the endless benefits one could make use of a caliper. For our group, it was predominantly used as a holding stick, a lantana cutter as well as shoulder to rests on.

3. Where's the KTPs? Yes, KTPs stole the show, obviously. From discussions to clarifications to endless questioning, midnight oil were burnt and some even dawn light! Yes, it was no surprise lazy souls like us had to rush at the end

4. It's all about the System. Never were silviculture text books opened more frequently than during our Timli stay. Every probationer had a different explanation to why Floating Periodic Blocks were 'floating' or to why Shelterwood Irregular System was so 'Irregular'. I remember sitting there in one of the chairs, overhead a group discussing why Sal wasn't regenerating in the area. Above everyone else, I was happy someone said, 'It just ain't'!

5. The rat on the bed. Yes, Wildlife was everywhere. Not to mention the enmity between probationers and the macaques or the fear of stray dogs (because of earlier caution), or the sighting of Nilgai in one of the compartments, or the sighting of leopards roaring at a distance, none can match the presence of a dead, thoroughly compressed rat (what's the young one of a rat called, by the way?) in the author's sleeping bag. Ratophobia? My roomie laughed at my fear and when I asked him to throw it away, he politely declined. Then I told myself, a Rat ain't a Tiger, and threw the dead animal on to the ground. My roomie couldn't stop laughing!

All in all, Timli exercise, apart from the learning experience, was a success in many ways. It made us appreciate the dynamics of forest ecosystem and question us to the intricacies of forests management, which is so very holistic in its paradigm. As to-be Managers, the exercise expanded our horizons and with the very abled guidance and learnings from the faculty/guests, I'm not wrong to say that Timli formally welcomed us to the shoes of a Forester!



'We walked into the arms of the forest...'
Ishmael Beah

Photo Credits Suman







ories...

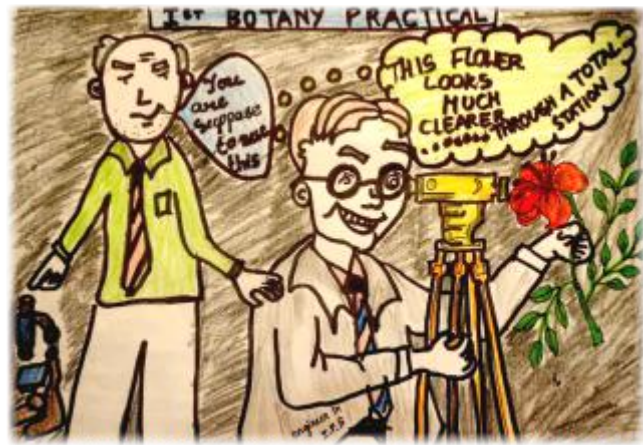
It is the First Anniversary of the IFS 2013 Batch in the Indra Gandhi National Forest Academy and most of us have started identifying ourselves with the nuances of Indian forestry! Words once sounding alien are now a pretty much an integral part of our training life.

Each batch of probationers boasts of fellows from different backgrounds - the foresters, botanists, veterinarians, agriculturists, pure sciences etc. but amongst all these, there is one lot, which absolutely feels out of place initially and struggles the most in coping with the academic life – the Engineers!

Most of the subjects were alien to us (Engineers) and it has taken plenty of excursions, a few tours and several core forestry courses (and of course, their exams- they're a big part of our learnings!) to aid us in understanding this world around us.

Taking a flashback to the days post selection in the IFS, with people around you congratulating as well as enquiring of how come you chose a field related to botany, thus taking a 180 degrees turn from engineering, and in justifying that you talk of hi-fi stuffs as GIS, RS, Climate Change, Forest Engineering, Renewable energy and blah blah. Well, can't it be that you're simply here for the love of nature, as a great career option or for doing your bit for the environment??? We, engineers are after all not geeks and mechanized (unlike what's generally perceived)! Adding salt to injury, some, out of their sheer ignorance, even doubt if engineers are at all eligible for this prestigious service! Leaving all this behind, through interactions with several senior IFS officers with engineering background and our very own faculty, we realized that it's all about applying science, the learning from our academy, tours and last but not the least, common sense.

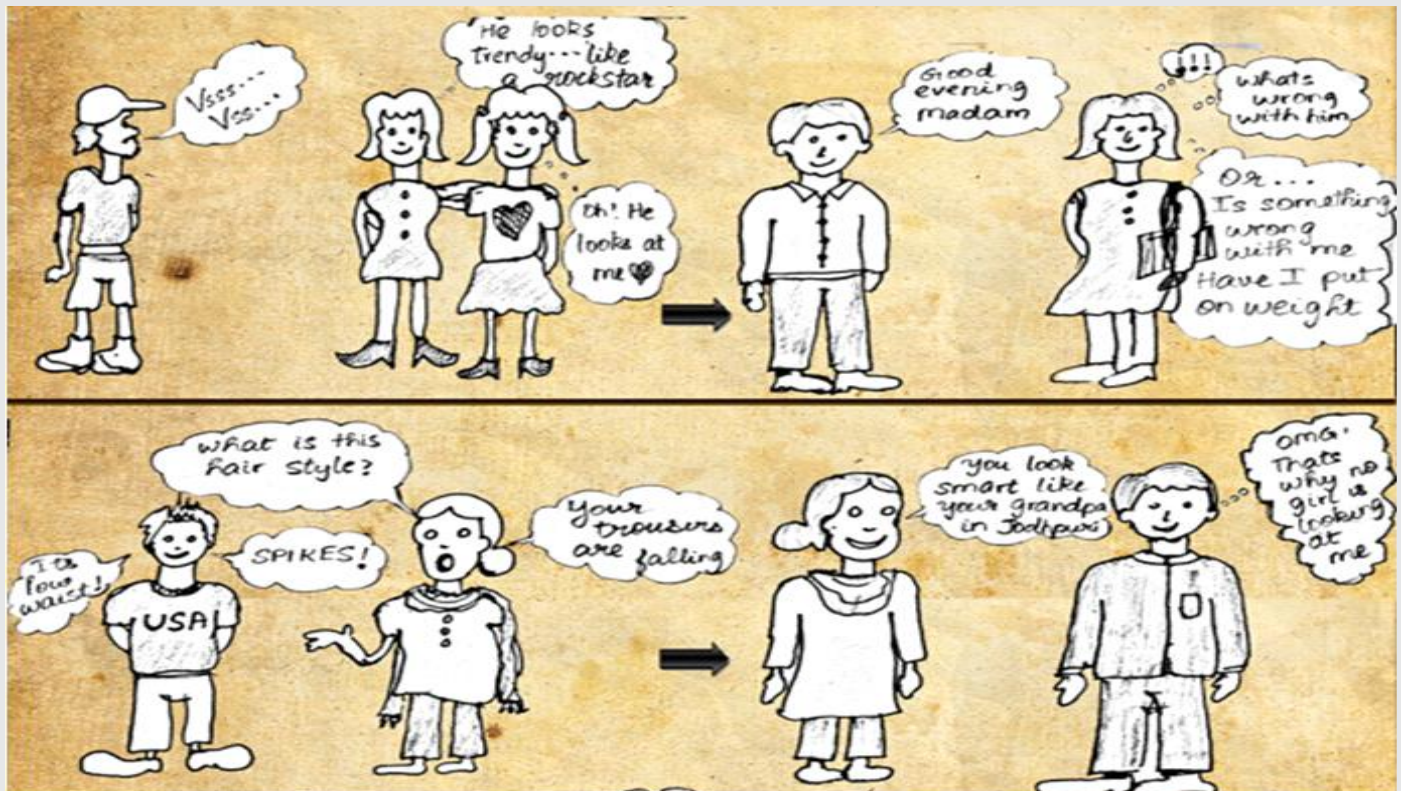
Coming back to the academy, it started with the introductory tour. While reading the mail from our CD sir regarding the checklist of things to bring, you come to know of few more items like the Kanjilal's Book of Flora,



Sketch by Jamyang

...Life then

Life now...



Prater's book of Fauna and something called "herbarium collection". The latter is the most tedious and difficult job for us during the tours- collecting the leaves, preserving and pasting them on the herbarium file and then identifying their taxonomy (special thanks to our saviors - botanists and foresters of our batch for identification)! We are now a year-old here and past two long tours, but majority of us still falter at identifying flora and fauna. I guess it's a long learning process and one would surely be home someday.

Systematic Botany is one course which we would not like to remember- it's a subject even pure botanists would sweat over. Taxonomy is something like an ocean for us, diving deep into which would reveal the complexities of the botanical world, but alas we are hydrophobic! :-P Those floral formulae and their associates are still a mystery!

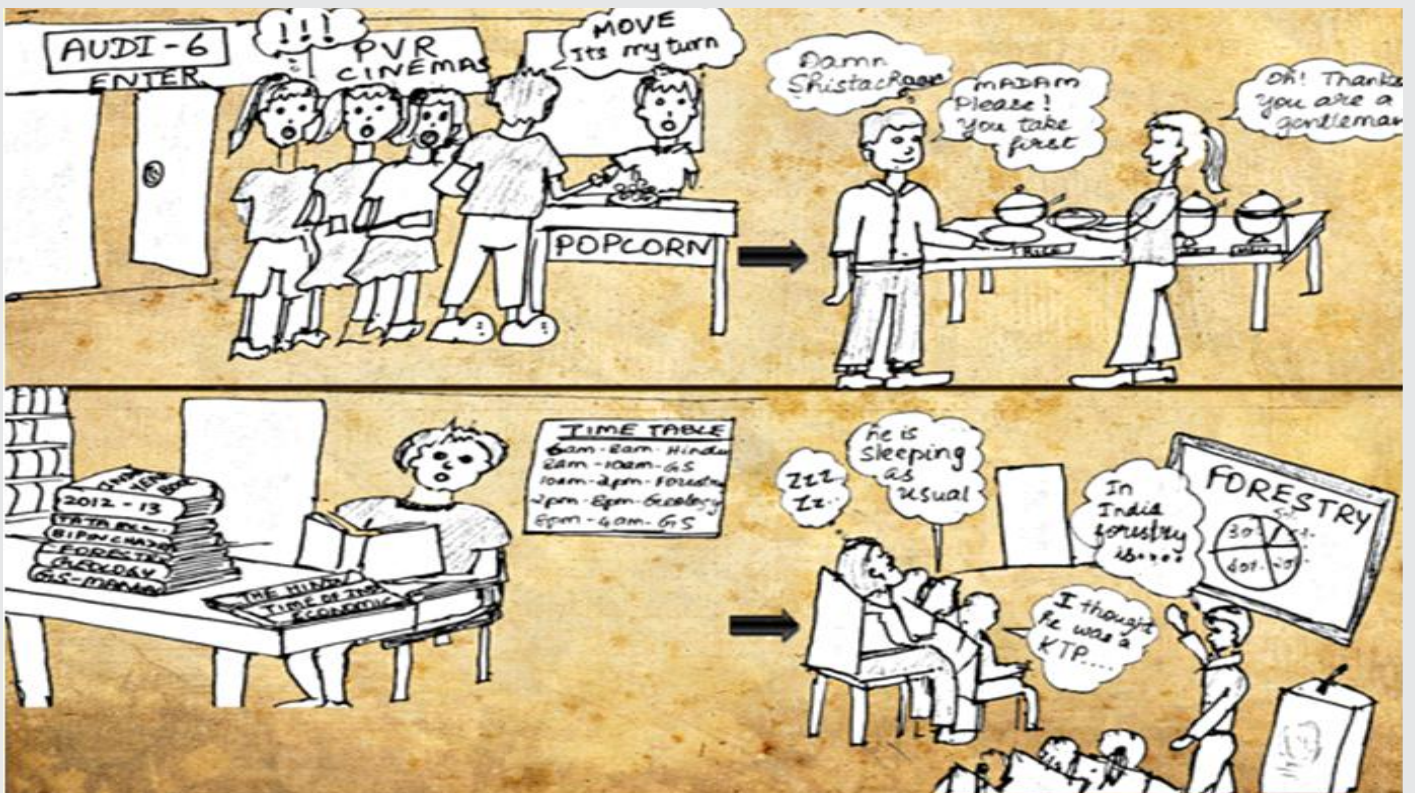
But as the flip sides of a coin, there is a brighter side for us- the courses like Forest Mensuration, Statistics, Biometry, and Engineering etc. where one feels right at home. You finally get a chance to keep your head high. You're deliberately made group leaders and even if you are not one, you are the one de-facto. All look to you for calculations part and yes, there you are - basking in the glory- clearing your concepts, arguing with fellow mates over some misunderstood ones, taking a hit at the age-old traditions of forestry and even finding a few devising their own silvicultural systems and practices! We got 'em all!

The Working Plan is the culmination stage where your mathematical skills coalesce with the half-baked forestry principles. You learn a great deal and start identifying yourself with the service in a better manner. Nothing is better than the fieldwork. Although, the viva afterwards certainly takes out a lot of fizz from you.

All in all, with one year of training period over and the fate of much-hyped OJT still hanging in balance, we can say for sure that there have been developments in the right direction to mold us as true foresters and yes, there are many things unlearnt and several new learnings. Still there is plenty to dwell upon and experience to be gained while walking through the woods of the country--- as the lines by Robert Frost go-

**"And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep."**

By Sudha



Reflections



Credits: Sudha, Shaveta & Nandani

Angel

- Suman W M Sivachar

Memories are difficult to forget, the helplessness difficult to explain. A loss is never justifiable.

*She rose above, with grace
She looked around with elegance;
I saw this beautiful face.*

*I caught just a glimpse, a glance,
my heart, but leaped in dance.
Was it her or was it chance?*

*The radiance beat the midnight moon,
A sting passed through, a harpoon
the moment, I felt, had come too soon.*

*No words said, but yet heard,
Serene and silent, the moment passed
A thousand questions my mind asked.*

*She vanished into a haze,
Like the morning mist at the harsh suns gaze
Memories of her I cannot erase*

*A drop rolled down my cheek
Am I human enough to cry, so meek?
Where can I find those answers I seek?*

*Through the hue, I tried to pursue
I called out - "My dear, where are you?"*

A lonely whisper, I heard - "in you..."

*In remembrance of a dear old lady
who lived down the lane.*



Photo Credits Chandu



TO THE PEOPLE OF "MY" INDIA

- Isha Tiwari

*Wide blue sky
Their dreams flying high
Eyes, shining with hopes
Streets of gold,
New wings, shaky ropes.*

*Self-belief, their armor
Will to survive
Something they nurture
Lying in arms of nature
These are special people
Part of human race
True, clean with no shiny lace*

*Being similar yet different
Among us but innocent
Carving their own niche
They smile, even with little bit.*

*They outshine
All worldly lies.
No fake life,
No pleasure ties
Life is to love,
Even black is white*

*Living in harmony
With land and ocean blue
They inspire me
Inspire to be me
Inspire to be true*

*Away from hollowness
Close to own self
Breathing pure and just
In soil, living free
They are real
They are....
Part of You and Me.*



Photo Credits Nandani



Moments

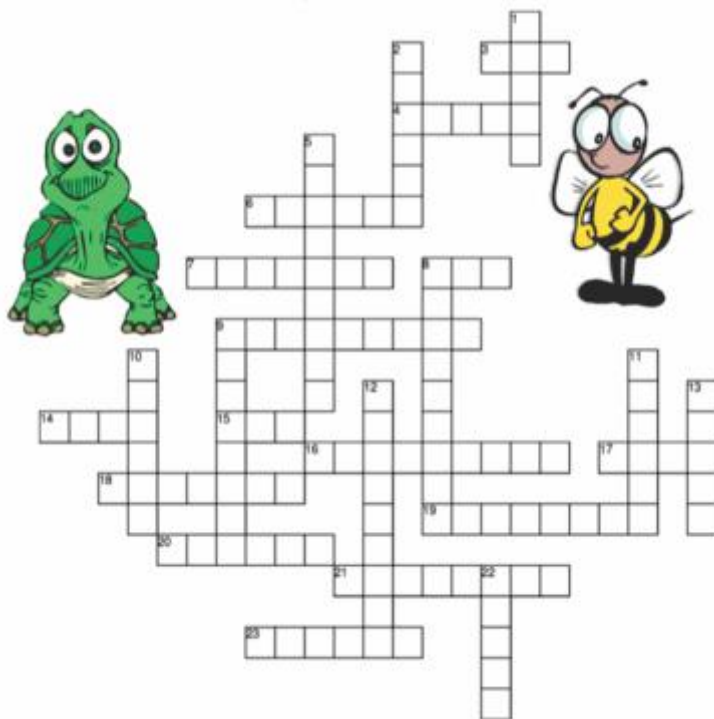
- Zupeni Tsanglai

Moving ahead of time
 Driven by purpose of life
 Answer many questions
 Yearning to know more
 Looking for moments,
 Moments to remember
 Seeking for fortune
 Success in everything
 Minding every step
 Mesmerized by richness
 Looking for moments
 Moments to remember
 Innocence on the face
 Listening to the heart
 Grabbing the opportunity
 Lest I forget the past
 Looking for moments
 Moments to remember
 Creating happy memories
 Every teardrop speaks
 Seeking the joy of living
 Appreciating the gift of life
 Looking for moments
 Moments to remember...

Photo Credits Nandani

Crossword

Chandu B Tashildar



Note : Answers will be mailed in a few days

Across

3. This tree rocked the working plan exercise
4. National animal
6. This animal is a pure nuisance
7. This guy is roaming around in the campus
8. A species of probationers
9. Unofficial name of the intersection connecting Brandis road and the road connecting IGNFA to CASFOS.
14. It breaks monotony of classroom lectures
15. Most discussed topic
16. This makes us official leaf collectors
17. Name of our lecture hall
18. It changes very often
19. An industrious insect
20. We won a gold medal in this game
21. A subject
23. Second word of the game that we all enjoyed playing

Down

1. This is where we will serve
2. Battle of Waterloo for Engineers
5. One word for our batch
8. All-day tea canteen
9. This is what we do to the graphical lines
10. First word of the game that we all enjoyed playing
11. We don't want to wake up for this
12. We did this in IMA
13. We won a gold medal in this game
22. This will remind us of life in the tents



Compiled by Savita

Dheeraj Kumar IT Administrator

Dheeraj is the humble guy we all look up to and contact whenever there is something troubling us related to our computers and Internet connectivity. He is 31 years old, hails from Dehradun and has recently married. He completed his M.Sc (IT) long ago and has worked with Wadia Institute for a long time. However, his learning hasn't stopped since, as he is a die-hard IT man and keeps on exploring more stuff about Internet and the latest emerging Internet technologies. One of the most laudable achievements, Dheeraj feels, has been to independently develop the website server for IGNA. Also, he was involved with development of cloud server for the academy. Having the freedom to work, explore and trying out new things is what he likes about his work place at academy.

Dheeraj confesses to be a hard-core tech-guy who is more active and comfortable in virtual world. His hobbies include travelling in hills, eco-camping, reading magazines & collecting CDs of games & magazines. Most of the interactions with probationer that he has had is with computer secretaries and has found them extremely friendly and supportive.

One of the dreams close to his heart is to open a food café (though he can only cook an omelette, as he jokes!) and to be continuously learning and growing in IT field, which is his first love!



Riyaz Ali

Gardener, Old Hostel

Riyaz is a lean young man who is 22 years old and works at Old Hostel for last 4 years. He enjoys gardening and has learnt everything regarding gardening after coming to IGNA, out of interest. One thing he likes best about gardening is that he never gets bored with it and loves to make his surroundings beautiful. He belongs to Dehradun and has finished high school. His father is a farmer and his 3 siblings are studying. His family also has 2 cows, 2 dogs and 1 parrot.

Riyaz is a man of few words. When asked about his hobbies, he tells with a shy smile that he loves to drive motor-bike, playing cricket, listening to old songs and roaming around with friends.

As a youngster, he dreams of owning a business and visiting Mecca with his family some day. Later, he adds, hesitatingly though, to his dream-list to get married and have a family.



Rajender Singh

Assistant Caretaker

Rajender Singh ji is the moustache-man we often see in New Hostel corridor. He is a resident of Dehradun and has 4 kids who are all married and working in manufacturing sector. He has been a part of IGNA fraternity since 1983 but has been on this post only since 2003. Prior to this, he has worked as class-attendant and also as watchman.

He describes himself as a very calm-headed person and is proud of his very honest and spotless service to the academy. He fondly remembers the period when Arun Prasad sir was the course-director as sir has been very punctual as well as cooperative and frank with his junior staff.

Rajinder Singh ji likes to travel and watches news and old Hindi movies. He is satisfied with his work but says that sometimes there is very high workload. But he appreciates the importance of his work for saving probationers time, he has been relentlessly active in making probationers stay comfortable.



Chandra Mohan

Cobbler

Every few days, we hear a voice in corridor to put our shoes outside for cleaning & polishing. It's Chandra Mohan ji, who takes care of probationer's shoe-business. He has been with academy since 1988. He is 40 years & his family includes his wife, 2 very young kids as he married late and a father who is very sick (which leads to high medical expenses). He has studied up to 6th grade and used to work with SFS College.

Chandra Mohan ji has a very strong work ethic and started working a week after he had a deep fracture taking help of a friend who would pick & drop him. He says that we have to work, no matter what, if we are alive. He likes working in the academy, as most of the people are nice to him and feels relaxed working here. Though worried about the uncertainties of work, his diabetes, his kids' future and the vagaries of life to the under-privileged, he likes to amuse himself in his free time by listening to old Hindi music.



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.