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"Citius, Altius, Fortius."



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Literary Club Team , IFS 2019 Batch

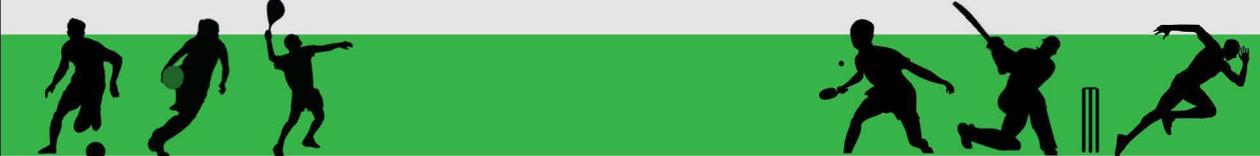
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ALL INDIA FOREST SPORTS MEET 2020

an Event Round-up -Abhimanyu, IFS(P) 2019 & Sports Secretary

25th All India Forest Sports Meet(AIFSM) was organised from 3rd March-7th March 2020 at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.AIFSM is aimed at promoting sports and games activities among the staffs and officers of Forest Department and allied Institutions of all states, UTs and Central Government. It is a mega-sports event where Foresters right from forest guard to PCCF level officers participate while representing their State or Institution contingent. A total of 2469 participants from 37 States/UTs & Forestry Institutions competed in 23 games and 289 sub-events held mostly at KIIT campus and Kalinga Stadium.

The AIFSM experience was enthralling , inspiring and forged strong bonding among the probationers. The exposure,competitive environment, the enduring support and encouragement determined each of the participants to give their best in their respective event. Recalling those days gives sweet memories to each participating probationer more so as we have been devoid of any sporting action ever since the COVID-19 lockdown.

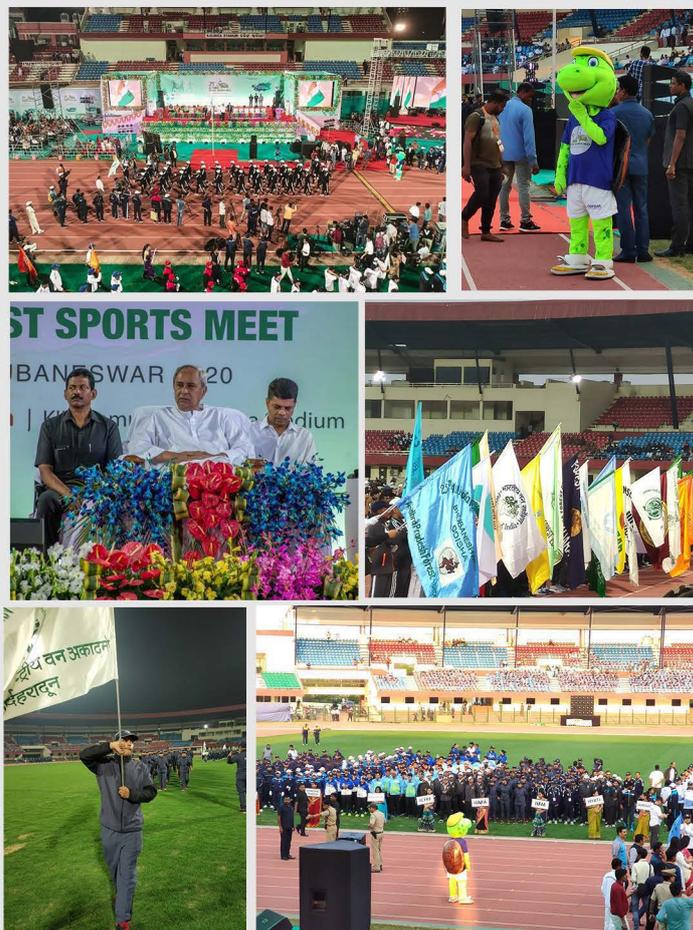
Here is a quick round up of events at AIFSM



Silver Jubilee AIFSM Logo with Mascot Olly(Pic:Odisha Forest Dept)

THE OPENING CEREMONY

The grandeur of this sporting gala was evident to us the moment we entered the iconic Kalinga Stadium. The contingent dressed in their respective team track-suits lined up in March Past formation eagerly waiting for the Chief Guest, the Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Naveen Patnaik to arrive. Chief Guest threw the event open and addressed the gathering.It was followed by Oath taking ceremony .



Opening Ceremony at Kalinga Stadium(Pic:Odisha Forest Dept)

The stadium was brimming with life with cheering and clapping by audience mostly school children.

The march past followed on the beats of drum with the team leader leading the contingent with their respective flags. The event concluded with Cultural and Dance performance epitomising the important role of Forest Department to protect and nurture nature.





CRICKET

Joining the event just after a long West India tour,IGNFA made their first outing against a strong Maharastra team. Maharashtra won the toss and elected to bat. Our team got a wonderful start with two quick wickets in initial overs. Ayush Jain, Prashant Tomar and Balaji sir bowled economical spells. But the 51-ball 88 run blast from Shihupal Panwar(MH) and large number of extras propelled Maharastra to a huge total of 189 for loss of 4 wickets in 20 overs.



Chasing a mammoth total,Captain Narendra Rawat provided a steady start with a flamboyant 27-ball 32 with Ayush Jain keeping the other end with his 33 run knock. However, with mounting required run rate and quick succession of wickets in middle order the team could manage 115 for loss of 8 wickets. With a full fledged team and regular practice, team hopes to give a splendid performance in future.

FOOTBALL



Our team started their outing against DFE team on wet field after heavy downpour. Despite the team missing its key players Sarvesh,Dwijaa,Dhiman,Ayush and lacked practice due to tour, it showed indomitable spirit and team play. After conceding an early goal our team ended up leading 3-1 at half-time.This was thanks to unstoppable counter-attacks by Rinchen, Darshan,Narendra and tight defence by Ankit,Chaitanya, Saureesh and Chander ji along with diving saves by Amit. However the chink in midfield and lack of practice and stamina owing to long weary West India tour showed up.Having consecutively conceded goals and missing several scoring opportunities, our team went down 5-3.



It was an exciting game of play with each player contributing their fullest. The team is eagerly waiting to hit the field and work hard to get the medal next time.

TABLE TENNIS

Table Tennis saw extensive participation from IGNFA with officers taking part in Women’s Singles, Women’s Doubles, Men’s Singles, and Men’s Doubles categories. We won comprehensively against WII, ICFRE and Lakshadweep in both singles and doubles events. Both the Double’s Teams reached Quarter Finals and in Men’s Singles we reached the Pre-Quarter Finals. It was heartening to see senior officers from different cadres cheering for their Academy’s team. The matches were closely fought and our participation was appreciated by senior officers.

The extensive participation signifies considerable interest of probationers in the sport. The nature of this sport is such that it requires minimal and inexpensive equipment. It is a wonderful tool for socialization too. All these positives make TT a highly popular sport among the probationers. All of us are eagerly waiting for Inter-House competitions to give us a platform to showcase our talent.



Team – Vipasha Parul, Kajol Ajit Patil, Kshitij Saxena, Jeevan Mohan Dagade

With availability of coaching sessions before competitions and after regular practice the skill levels and consistency can further be improved.

(input from Kshitij Saxena, IFS(P), 2019)



SQUASH

Narendra Rawat's splendid show in Squash almost brought a medal home. While we started as underdogs in the game, experienced hand of Rawat saw us winning the quarterfinal match against Chattisgarh in straight sets 11-8 and 11-9. Semifinal was lost in closely battled match against WII. The Bronze medal saw a remarkable turn of events as we lost subsequent sets after winning the first one. The performance was a bright spot and gives us hope as a medal winning prospect in future.

LAWN TENNIS

Team – Sh. Sushil Kumar Awasthi, Kshitij Saxena, N Jeykumaran

IGNFA participated in both Open and Veteran categories. We played closely fought matches against Punjab, Karnataka (singles), and Uttarakhand (doubles). Pairing up in the team with our Additional Director Sh. Sunil Kumar Awasthi gave the probationers a unique opportunity to learn from his vast experience of participating in earlier editions of AIFSM. The team also benefited from a week-long coaching session by Sh. Varun. As beginners in the sport, the coaching session gave probationers a chance to learn the fundamentals of the game and maintain their match fitness while high quality tennis racquets to the team further boosted their morale and performance. Coupled with the push by Academy, the growing interest of the probationers in the game can certainly be translated into improved skill levels . *(input from Kshitij Saxena, IFS(P), 2019)*

RIFLE SHOOTING

The rifle shooting event had two sub events. One was the 50m prone and the other was 50m 3Positions. The participation from IGNFA had total of 5 participants - 2 per sub event with 1 lady officer participation. It was a totally new aspect as shooting with the rifle at 50m was being done for the first time and a great learning experience.



Participants Shrikant Khandekar, Kasturi Sule, Chaitanya reddy and Akshay Borde for Prone and Prashant Patil and Prashant Tomar for 3P

ATHLETICS

The individual performance in Athletics was quite promising especially in long distance runs and walks. Pradeep Rana sir bagged the **Bronze medal** in 10000m Walk despite feeling unwell on that day. However a lot of consistent hardwork is needed to compete with the professional level athletes that participate at AIFSM.

Some Notable Performance:

Walks

10000m Jeevan Dagade & Pradeep Rana(Bronze)
800m walk Sr Veteran: Kem Prasad(staff)



Sprint:

100m Vikash Nayak and Abhijit Waykos
4x100m Relay: Rinchen Dorji, Vikas Nayak, Abhimanyu, Ankit Kumar
200m : Ankit Kumar(Staff)



Long Distance

5000m Race: Rahul Meena and Jey Kumaran
25 km Marathon: SP Anandh sir and B Balaji sir

Triple Jump: Dhananjay Waybhase
Shotput: Ganesh UR





SNOOKER

Prashant Patel represented IGNFA in Snooker. It was seasoned hand of Patel that led the team till the quarter finals. The exposure gave Prashant an opportunity to compete against some of the good players in the forest department throughout the nation. With further practice, he is sure to take the academy at higher levels of competitiveness in the upcoming AIFSM



INDOOR GAMES

While Anurag Tiwari led a strong campaign in Classic Chess, Prashant Patil gave lots of hope in Rapid Chess and Carrom. In Bridge team of Neeraj Tibrewal, Prashant Tomar and Chaitanya made their contribution. In Badminton, Prashant Tomar played a hard fought match. In Archery, Prashant Tomar and Chaitanya participated for IGNFA.

These are few sports which have strong medal winning prospects for IGNFA and the exposure this time will certainly boost the confidence of participants.

The lessons learnt for future from the enriching experience was necessity of 1 month dedicated practice before event, availability of regular coaches, selective targeting of indoor games and category of events with medal prospects and ensuring better participation from lady officers and staff.

SPORTSTARS OF OUR BATCH

SPORTS CLUB, IGNFA

RINCHEN DORJI

Our friend from Bhutan is a born athlete. Whether it is eloquent dribbling skills, electrifying speed or powerful kicks Richen stands out as a star striker of our football team. He is equally a good player in basketball and volleyball.



He gives everyone a tough competition in short sprint and medium range races. Truly a multi-talented sportsperson.

SARVESH SONWANI

Sarvesh has actively been involved in sports since childhood as a cadet in Sainik School Rewa and later as Central defender in IIT Roorkee Football team. He has led IIT Roorkee Football team to many medals in Inter IIT & Inter College Tournaments.

He loves playing Basketball, Cricket, Volleyball and has represented his school and college at various levels.



NARENDRA RAWAT

The "Virat Kohli" of our cricket team. He is known for his elegant stroke play and powerful hitting and is the most reliable batsman up the order. Rawat is also a very good Squash and Volleyball player.



He has vast experience of playing Cricket for Railways team and institute cricket team at IIT-BHU.

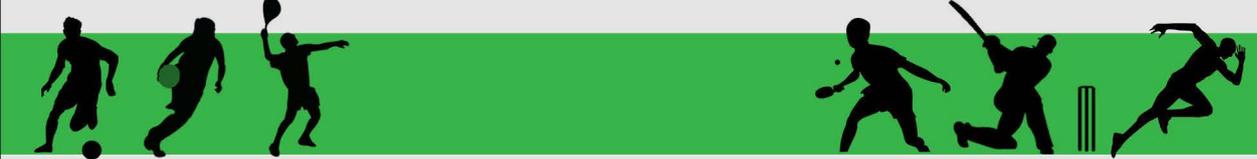
ADITYA

The muscular hunk of our batch. Bhati as we know him is a fitness freak and powerful weightlifter. Visit the gym and you will find him flexing his muscles and doing heavy liftings.



He has long been hitting the gym and has represented college and hostel in various weightlifting competitions at IIT Delhi.

Contd...



ABHIMANYU

He is a seasoned hockey player and loves playing cricket, squash and swimming. With his excellent ball control, eloquent dribbling and hard hitting shots you will find him dancing through the defence to score goals in hockey. He has led his IIT Delhi hockey team to great laurels at Inter-IIT and has experience of work as Sports Secretary at IIT Delhi.



VENKATESHWARAN M

Venky is an excellent athlete and good volleyball player. He also has a good hand at Hockey and Cricket too . He is an all round sports person.



He has won various medals in Athletics in MCHRD during foundation course.

VIPASHA PARUL

Vipasha is the go to person for any sport be it dunking a basketball, smashing with TT bat or sprinting. She has been learning hockey recently and doing exceptionally well there too. This sportswoman is gem of the batch.



RAHUL MEENA

Rahul is the tricky spin bowler of cricket team and trump card in the team for his googly. He also plays Hockey, Table Tennis and is a yoga enthusiast. He is an avid long distance walker.



Our Soty is truly a Jack of all trades and master of them too.

There is no dearth of sporting talent in our batch and here we could mentioned only a few, we will try to incorporate others in subsequent editions.

SPORTS@IGNFA portal: A PET PROJECT

Sports and PT are intrinsic part of IFS professional training. It is an important aspect of forging strong bonding among batch-mates, developing leadership and team spirit apart from keeping us fit and healthy. However, lockdown has deterred us this opportunity. Hence as a volunteer batch initiative, Sports Club wants to undertake this initiative to make best use of our time during lockdown to contribute toward sports at IGNFA and keep us engaged.

Development of dedicated SPORTS@IGNFA portal with the following features:

- a. Facilities** - Information of sports facilities at IGNFA with pictures
- b. People** - Listing of people responsible for sports in Academy including OIC , PTIs , groundsmen and respective sports captains to pay tribute to their hardwork and also act as directory for contact.
- c. Learn a Sport**- A well curated video repository sourced from high quality content already available on web for all major sports. It aims to promote self learning through segments like basics about the game, rules, right techniques to play, drills to upgrade skills.
- d. Tournaments**- It will provide updates, schedules, leader-board, achievements and brief results of matches played during Academy Games, All India Forest Sports meet and Invitation tournament like Inter-Service Meet etc.
- e. PT and Yoga**- Video or stills of morning PT drills and yoga postures for self-practice at home during lockdown and thereafter.
- f. Track your Fitness**- Academy already has Accuniq Body Composition Analyser. Aim is to allow members to track the time history of fitness level through data acquired from BMI machine at regular interval and display through portal.
- g. Gallery** - Photo and Video gallery of sports and games



Beta version of portal

Details of this initiative will be shared in a detailed communique later. Hope the love for sport translates in form of active involvement from all the batchmates in their respective sports.



AIFSM-NOT JUST A SPORTS MEET

"A trophy carries dust. Memories last forever"
- Mary Lou Retton

-Saureesh Sahai and Anurag Tiwari,
IFS(P), 2019

Although one may resonate more with the intensity, the excitement and the drama on the field, a sporting event is so much beyond that. And that's what the 25th All India Forest Sports Meet (AIFSM) was for us. Right from the moment we set our foot down on the Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar and reached our hotels, we knew that an exciting 4 day experience awaits us.

The water was wonderful and clear and the high standards of cleanliness maintained on the beach were truly impressive- a clear testament to how environmental awareness among local communities and active conservation practices can drive positive change.

We could tell you all about the gripping contests of our team in various events, but most probably, by now, you already know about it. What you might not be aware of is our mesmerizing experience as we took a sojourn to the marvels of the land of the sand and sun!

A cool, breezy drive from the beach brought us to our next destination-a 13th century UNESCO World Heritage site, the Konark Sun Temple.

As you arrive at the complex what first strikes you is the magnificent view of the 'Black Pagoda' through the innumerable shops lining the pathway towards it. As the main mandapa comes into focus, the intricate relief carvings and the architectural excellence of the structure really draw you in. A classic illustration of the Kalinga style of architecture, the temple is dedicated to the Hindu Sun God Surya and the remains of the temple complex have the appearance of the Sun God's chariot with massive wheels and chariots. Complete with intricate sculptures, the temple complex does a great job of reviving the past in the present times.



Odisha's tourism potential is well recognized across the country. The AIFSM gave us a chance to experience it in person on the sidelines of the event. There was just so much to see, so many places to visit, we were truly spoilt for choice. First up on the list was Chandrabhaga beach, India's first Blue Flag certified beach. The plastic waste that is such a common sight on any beach in the country was nowhere near visible on Chandrabhaga.



Jagannath Temple in Puri. The temple structure with the deulas/vimanas rising up to a height of 58 metres is a sight to behold. The visit to one of the Char Dhams added a nice spiritual touch to our tourist circuit.



KHANDEGIRI AND UDAIGIRI CAVES



JAGANNATH PURI



The Cultural Evening and Gala Dinner hosted by the IFS Association Odisha Unit was another highlight of the 25th AIFSM. The evening began with a mesmerizing musical performance by one of ghazal's most recognizable faces, Talat Aziz. The event was the perfect setting for an informal interaction with IFS officers from all over the country. The ubiquitous advice offered to the probationers to "Relax and have fun" took a definitive form when each and everyone present seemed to dance the night away to the DJ's tunes, old and new.

We were also hosted an outdoor dinner by Achyuta Samanta sir, honorable Member of Parliament, a renowned social entrepreneur and founder of Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), the host campus of the event. He was elaborate in explaining the philanthropic initiatives in by KISS(Kalinga Institute of Social Science) ,which is a residential home to 27000 poor tribal children .

The organisers of the events, PCCF Odisha elaborated the success story of hosting such a big event despite organisational challenges and complexities. Some knowledge sharing to learn and get inspired from.



Founders Dinner by Shri Achyuta Samanta

While a light drizzle gave us a much needed respite from the clammy weather, a bonfire lit dinner gave us an opportune moment to connect some of the senior-most officers from the service. All in all, these informal meet-ups provided a perfect cool down from the two days of intense competition on the field.

Above all, the Sports Meet was a proud opportunity for all of us to represent our beloved Academy at a national event for foresters. It was an opportunity to strengthen and form personal bonds as we strove together for success. It was a chance to cherish and become a part of the "One Big Forest Family". The 25th AIFSM was not only a celebration of sport but also a celebration of the indomitable spirit, tireless efforts and the exceptional vigour of foresters.

(with inputs and photographs from Abhimanyu, Kasturi, Ankit and Ganesh)



Gala Dinner and Performance by Talat Aziz



THE FINAL WHISTLE

-Ganesh U R, IFS(P), 2019

As we boarded the Air India flight from Delhi to Bhubaneswar, we very well knew what we had signed up for - the 25th All India Forest Sports Meet with 37 contingents from different States, Union Territories & Forestry institutions covering 2500 participants taking part in 23 events and 285 sub-events. We weren't oblivious to our standing as well: hardly three months into training, we were to compete against foresters from all over the country. While they've been training in dedicated camps for months, our bunch had just returned from the month long West India tour, educated but exhausted. 'We are here to learn and observe, to give our best and enjoy the game regardless of the outcome', we told ourselves. By the time we finally landed at the Biju Patnaik International Airport we were brimming with enthusiasm and excitement.

and Akshay were battling it out in cricket and shooting respectively. Yet ToW was an event we could ill afford to miss.

The reasons were two fold. One, IGNSA had a tradition of winning a medal in the event. It was our game and we as a batch couldn't possibly let it slip away. Second, it was not just us who were fighting it out in ToW. The team included both Probationers and IGNSA staff. So as a whole the team represented the institution and what it stood for. Not winning wasn't an option.

However we couldn't help but calculate the odds of us winning a medal. It wasn't going to be easy. Having locked horns in other events, we had a fair idea of the tough competition out there. We were concerned yet hopeful, realistic yet ambitious. We regrouped in the hotel, collected our kits and rushed to the venue.

It was drizzling outside. On our way, team captain Dhananjay briefed us on the rules and strategies of the game including my role as the anchor. We felt confident enough to bring out our best. We were ready.

However at the venue we were greeted by a soaking wet field. Our game stood postponed by a day. Lying drenched in the rain was not only the field, but also our morale. Or so we thought.

They say "out of an adversity comes opportunity". We benefited immensely from this new found extra time. It was a chance to patiently assess the hurdles, formulate a plan and persevere till the end.



The initial days proved to be quite challenging. We found ourselves hopping frantically from venue to venue, participating in our events and cheering our contingent. Decoding the lengthy fixtures itself proved to be a complicated task, second only to scouting for the right venue and reaching there on time.

However Abhimanyu (the sports secy) did this little exercise where he would sort out the fixtures on a daily basis. He then would share it with us in a much easier to understand format. This made our life at the meet a lot easier.

So on the fateful day of 4 March 2020 we received our Tug of War (ToW) fixtures. In the decisive Quarter finals we were supposed to take on Telengana! Given the packed schedule, the match timing was bound to overlap with other events. Amit Anand was guarding our nets in football, Prashant and Neeraj were shuffling cards in poker, I and Vikash were trying our luck in athletics, Dhananjay



5 March 2020

The all-important day was finally upon us. We were welcomed and encouraged by our OIC (Sports) Balaji sir. He made us feel at ease and relaxed.



The team was set. Vinod Kumar ji, Satnam Singh ji, Virendra Kumar ji , Ankit Kumar ji, Rajat Kumar ji and Narendra Singh ji joined us. We took our positions. As the anchor, I gave the team a firm footing at our end of the rope.



The game was on! In no time, we pulled Telengana to our side. Not once but twice. The referee sounded the whistle! We had won! IGNFA team qualified for the semi finals. We were elated. We were just another victory away from securing the first medal for our academy in the meet!



On our way back to our hotel, we were joyful but wary. We went through the fixtures . We would be playing FSI or Haryana next. The road to a medal wasn't easy. But it seemed achievable. We just had to replay the thought process and repeat the action. News of our triumph in the Quarter finals had travelled fast. On our arrival in the field for the next match , we were quickly identified as the black horses who defeated Telengana. We felt the burden of expectation stiffening our shoulders.

Our next contenders were Haryana. The team members reminded me of the Great Khali. Every single one of them! They looked well trained, quite seasoned and superbly rehearsed. We saw them trounce their opponents with superior techniques. "Worst case we lose but we still got a match for the bronze. So we don't actually lose anything. Let's eye for the gold" -our team captain's words made sense. We collected ourselves and lined up against

the mighty Haryana. We gave them a tough fight, winning the hearts and respect of the opponents and onlookers alike. But the match belonged to Haryana.

This one setback further strengthened our resolve to take home a medal. We sat down and analyzed the video recording of the game for tactical mistakes and possible improvements. Our batch-mates Abhimanyu and Rahul promptly gave us their inputs. We gathered ourselves and took our refreshments. We informed the referee that we are ready for the final match.

The sky was overcast . The FSI team in their deep blue jersey were ready for us at their end of the rope. We took our positions. Once again , at the back end of the rope , I leaned back and anchored my feet firmly. The fateful blow of the whistle was heard. We pulled the rope with all our might. In a few minutes, we pulled the FSI team over the white line. Round 1 was done. We weren't quick to celebrate. We moved over to the next side for the decisive 2nd round with much caution. Once again we took our positions. From the anchoring end , I could see how the whole team was feeling: firm, calculated and determined. Once again the referee gave the signal . Both teams could be seen putting in their best game. The match was getting tougher and tougher. Nevertheless we persevered. Moments later, as fate would have it, we happily found us tracing back our steps: slowly but steadily , one step at a time. We were winning ! Soon we heard the much awaited signal from the referee: the Final Whistle! Victory!



We hugged, clapped ,cheered and celebrated. We were riding on the inexplicable joy of being part of a successful team. More over, we had secured a much desired, much deserved bronze for our academy!





The next time the team gathered together was for the valedictory ceremony where our bronze medals were presented to us. Overnight we had become National level medalists courtesy well calibrated strategies and sheer perseverance.

Standing on the podium with the team, I realized that Tug of War is all about the art of possibilities. Its about dividing responsibilities and multiplying success. It teaches us that team work is the fuel that allows common people to produce uncommon results. It teaches us to never ever give up. As Robert G Allen rightly remarked,

“Creating success is a tug of war between your mind and your heart-between your fears and your dreams. If your fears win , you lose.”



Team IGNTA:

Akshay Bhorde, Ankit Kumar, Amit Anand, Dhananjay Waybhasse, Ganesh UR, Narendra Singh, Neeraj Tibrewal, Prashant Tomar, Rajat Kumar, Satnam Singh, Vinod Kumar Sodi, Virendra Kumar, Vikash Nayak

MANAGING THE BIG EVENT

The organisation of an event of such a scale requires serious organisation skills, role delegation, and resource mobilisation. The Odisha Forest Department did a splendid job in hospitality, publicity and arranging top notch sporting facilities for the event. Having witness such a event from close gives us lessons for future whereby we may be required to oversee or organise such large scale events.

Back home too at IGNTA sending a contingent of 59 to the event and managing it at AIFSM required lot of efforts-From finalising the teams, procurement of sports gear, the required paper work, logistics, travel arrangements and so on. As a sports secretary, with the probationers of West India tour, it was quite a task to coordinate with the nodal officers, organisers, support staffs to ensure all preparation for the event are smooth and fine.

At the event, the support provided provided by Additional Director Sushil Awasthi sir, faculty members Praveen Jha sir, SP Anandh sir, Balaji Sir and PTI Pradeep Rana sir and Ajay Gosain sir in terms of inspiration and motivation from vast experience of participating in Sports meet was invaluable. Also thanks to support staff Rehmat ji and others who ensured all sports supplies and refreshments reached the venue during the event and the groundsmen who ensure our playfields are in always in good shape.



Pic: Ajay Gosain, Abhimanyu



Cultural Performance by IGNFA at AIFSM

- Prashant Tomar, IFS(P), 2019

Knowing About the Competition

When we arrived at the venue of the 25th **All India Forest Sports Meet (AIFSM)** on 2nd March, a pleasant surprise was waiting for us. On our discussion with Poornima P madam (2014 Batch, Odisha Cadre), we came to know about the cultural competition scheduled on 6th March. We discussed the idea of a cultural performance with our OIC sports Dr. B Balaji and he motivated us to give our best in this. Having seen the brilliant performance of fellow batch mates in Sheeto Utsav, I was very sure that we can put a very good show here also. Only challenge lying ahead was the paucity of time. Three days were left before the final event and everybody was busy in their events in day time. So in reality we had only 3 nights to prepare.

Deciding the Performance

Given the time limit, first we discussed the idea to perform a mime on the theme of environment. But some batch mates gave the feedback that they wanted to perform something more challenging as it is an All India level competition and mime would be a very simple performance. After this feedback, we decided upon performing a full fledged 20 minutes play as no other team was performing a play. With my previous experiences of Theatre, I proposed the theme of Hunger & Poverty on which everyone agreed. **A story line was decided depicting death of a hungry person due to corruption in the system and Society.**



D Day (6th March, 2020)

We all started practicing dialogues of our roles after breakfast. Jeevan was having 10000 meter walk race in the morning. So he joined us after the race. After doing one round of practice, I and Neeraj Tibrewal went out to get our Costumes. After that within the remaining time, we were able to do 2 full rehearsal of the play. Finally at 7 pm we reached the stage and waited for our turn. Dr. B Balaji came to the venue to motivate us despite him having a 25km marathon race scheduled for next day early morning.

After a number of performances, finally our turn came. But there was some technical glitch. The sound operator was not able to play the music. So we stepped offstage and started trouble shooting. Till that time, other teams went ahead with their performances. After 5 minutes of tireless efforts, finally it worked and we went to stage and started our play. Play was a complete roller coaster ride. It had laughter, emotions, sarcasm, wit and message to the society. We all were so immersed in our roles that next 20 minutes passed in a flick. After the performance, we got a huge round of applause from the audience. Jeevan for his performance of alcoholic and kshitij for his powerful message in the end got many praises and congratulations from the audience. Bala ji sir also praised our performance. In his words "Our team made a splendid performance in cultural. I was awestruck by the performance, passion, initiative taken.

We all felt very happy and proud by keeping our academy flag high through cultural performance in the 25th All India Forest sports meet. Indeed that was a very special memory to us and it is permanently etched in our minds.

Play – बिकाऊ भूख

Written & Directed by – Prashant Tomar

CAST

Kshitij Saxena – Beggar

Prashant Tomar – Beggar

Vipahsa Parul – News Reporter

Jeevan Dagade – Alcoholic

Dhananjay Waybhave – Sweeper & servant

Vikash Nayak – Chairman of a big Media House

Neeraj Tibrewal – Chairman of other big Media House

LIGHTS & MUSIC

U R Ganesh, Parshant Patil, Jey Kumaran, Chaitanya Reddy



KEEPING FIT AMIDST LOCKDOWN

Guest Faculty Prashant Bajirao Patil Guest Faculty (host)

Amit Jain Ankit Kumar jamir shaikh

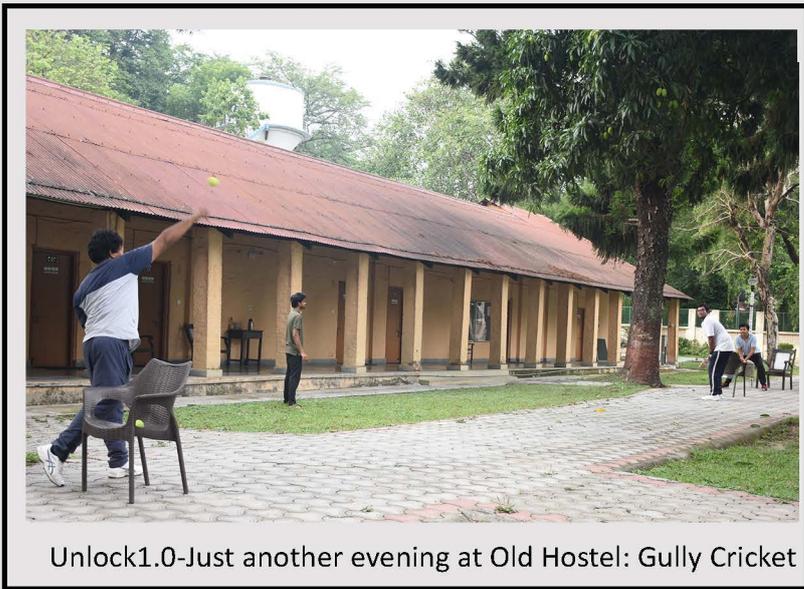
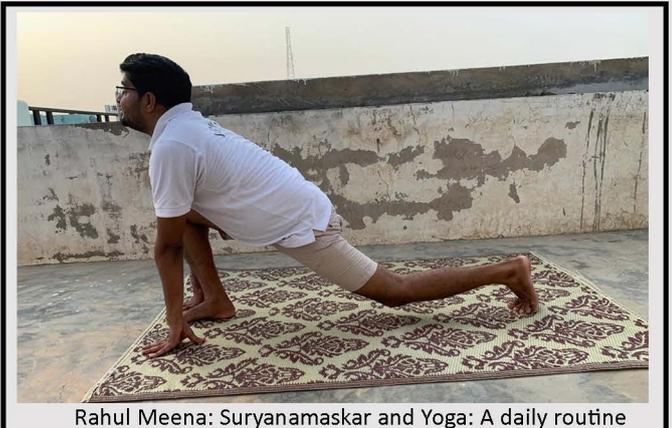
Morning online Yoga sessions by Shri SP Singh for IFS probationers

N Ravisankar Sarma Nado Kajol patil

NITHIYANANTHAM L prashant tomar Monica

Speaking: Guest Faculty

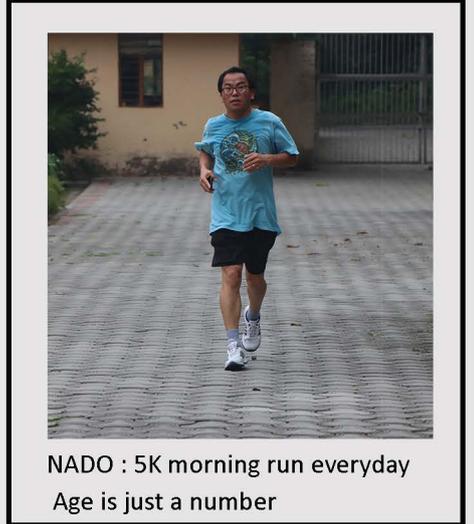
Morning online PT sessions by Pradeep Rana, Ajay Gosain, Negi sir



6,492	1.24
33.09	1,267

VARUN DALIA: Using technology for indoor walks

CHIRAG JAIN : Strength training is a great workout for fitness, especially for increasing lean body mass. This is stiff leg deadlift, a compound exercise that works out lower back , glutes, quads, hamstrings and calf muscles.” Also Knowledge sharing through youtube





COVID and Sports at IGNFA

-Dr. B. Balaji, OIC Sports

In view of the spread of COVID19, the training facilities were suspended in the entire country due to lockdown. Now slowly these Institutions are trying to restart in a new normal situation with altogether different strategies. The IGNFA is no exception to the situation. It is expected that atleast in the month of July 2020, IGNFA may restart the training programme for IFS probationers. The Physical Exercises in the morning and Games in the evening always remained part and parcel of the training programme which is being cherished by the senior officers. Moreover it helps in keeping the probationers physically fit and mentally active. WHO recommends 75 minutes/week of vigorous physical activity for adults or 150 min/wk of moderate aerobic intensity, with muscle and bone strengthening twice weekly. The Academy also believes in *Mens sana in corpore sano* meaning "a healthy mind in a healthy body". The Sports Authority of India has also developed detailed SOP and it is planning to open all its centres with strict adherence to the SOPs.

SOP in line with SAI will be prepared for IGNFA and will be strictly adhered. All probationers, faculty, PTIs, technical and non-technical support staff will be included in the plan. Prior sanitisation of arena, screening of all probationers and staff within the premises, compulsory wearing of mask at all time while present in common areas will be the new norm. While doing physical exercises it will be done in small groups. Non contact activities like cycling, running with a safe distance, Yoga with demonstration/instruction through online platform as it is already being in practice. audio-visual-directed gymnastics and bodyweight training, include push-ups, pull-ups, squats, lunges, box jumps etc., will be part of the physical exercises and it will be imparted through the online platform and can be performed in the individual room itself. Minimal contact/indirect contact sports like lawn tennis, table tennis, Badminton, Football, Hockey, Volleyball, Basketball, Handball etc., will only be permitted. Maintaining safe distance, non physical tackling will be practiced. Where ever equipments are to be shared, it will be thoroughly sanitised. The use of Aarogya Setu app shall be made mandatory and activities shall only be allowed if status on Aarogya Setu shows safe.



https://www.thompsoncoburn.com/images/default-source/blogs/coronavirus-sports-650x510.jpg?srsl=8685dea_2

In IGNFA also, once the training programme kick starts, the physical exercises, games and sports will also be resumed in a phased manner with an initial phase of activity in small groups of ten by following Government guidelines on health, social distancing and hygiene to ensure safety of all stakeholders and will be based on objective health information to ensure they are conducted

- Current plans for IGNFA:**
with inputs from SP Anandh and Sports Secretary
1. Swimming Pool may be operational within one year. Once it is ready, swimming will be one of the major component of Physical activity
 2. Expedite the procurement of Cycles, superior quality sports gear and refurbishment of sports facilities for probationers, upgradation of gym facilities particularly pavilion gym.
 4. Conduct of Half marathon regularly on important National and International Days with RFID based system.
 5. Institutionalise certain trophy tournament with fixed calender like Brandis Trophy for cricket and Directors' Trophys for other sports.
 6. Regular conduct of tournaments with matches/events scheduled in the week end for athletics, cricket, football, hockey, basketball, badminton etc.
 - 7.. A pool-table, TT table and Fussball table in Old Hostel. Separate TT room at Executive hostel and Earthen cricket pitch with nets and lights.
 8. Online competitions like Sports Quiz, Chess during lockdown.



LEARNING A NEW GAME

-Maria Shine, IFS(P),2019

As I entered through the gate, it was love at first sight. The lush green grass laden with dew droplets welcomed me to the sprawling ground. At the backdrop stood the majestic snowclad Himalayas overlooking the IGNFA pavilion. As I took a stroll around the ground, I noticed the Hockey field straddled at one corner of the ground.



Having closely watched **hockey** matches on TV, it was an instant decision to learn the game. With eagerness to step onto the field, I galloped like a horse towards the arena. With an expressive face and his characteristic "bahuth badiya" slogan, Shri Gyanendra sir welcomed us. He introduced us to the padding up process. I still vividly remember how many of us were struggling to pad up initially only to have ended up mastering the process in course of time. Most of us then chose the sticks of our preferences with the lady officers choosing the sturdier ones.



With the initial charm and aura yet to settle in, the coach introduced us to the rigours of learning the game. A hockey player needs a strong backbone and the stretching and strengthening exercises were initially a bit bitter. We would tend to do a full stretch only when the coach sees and were evasive during the rest of the times. As with every other sport, we started loving these back-breakers with time.

Then came learning the shots of the game. The coach would demonstrate the perfect dribble, long pass, short pass, hit, drag and flick. Each of us had our practice partner and would try to replicate the same. This was the most funniest part as most of our tries initially evoked a huge laughter amongst ourselves. Abhimanyu who is an already established hockey player was instrumental in finetuning our game. We also had a whatsapp group to share the hockey tutorials.

The most anticipated moment of the session would come when the faculties would step in for a friendly match. It was clearly a match of unequals – a fitter, experienced and seasoned faculty members against an enthusiastic bunch of probationers. While the faculties were clinical in their performance, the probationers relied more on counter attack to score some goals. Kudos to the lady officers who use to guard the goalpost with such finesse. In post match session, the workouts given by the faculties and competing with the probationers in doing the same were fun. As we wind up things and call it a day, the chitchats on the way back, the feeling of breathlessness, the urge to have a heavy supper, the occasional footpain and cramps were all those little niceties the mind looks for post an exhaustive academic session.



During these lockdown days, as I sit back on my couch and reminiscence those beautiful memories, few moments stand out. The one last farewell game with Gyanendra sir, competing with the seniors who had phenomenal athleticism, the freak injury to fellow probationer Saurabh will be etched in memory forever.



We have some consistent players like Abhimanyu, Belal, me, Dinesh, Agrim, Ravishankar and also lady officers Monica, Vipasha and Nisha who used put relentless effort in the game. There is general perception that hockey is a tiring and risky game.

However probationers like Manish Verma, Ram who had initial inhibitions towards the game is now thoroughly loving the game.

Hockey is a game which every fellow probationer should try atleast once before leaving the academy. It test all the 5 aspect of fitness namely, agility, flexibility, endurance, strength and skills. There is also a sense of pride in being associated with and having a a know-how of 'unofficially' the national sports of the country with a glorious past. Also a chance to play hockey may not come again.

With renewed vigour from the probationers, there isn't an iota of doubt that the hockey team would emerge stronger and would bring laurels to the academy. Once the sports and academy resumes, one of the most eager moment will be getting back to the hockey field with my team mates.

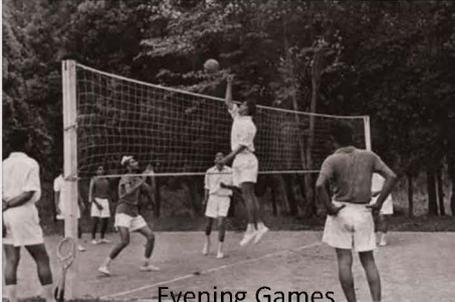
(with inputs and photographs from Abhimanyu, Saurabh and others)



PAST WAS NO DIFFERENT compiled by Abhimanyu, IFS(P) 2019



Morning PTs



Evening Games



Weapons Training at IMA

Few Snippets from the training of first batch of IFS trainees starting 1938 at the then Indian Forest College(IFC), Dehradun.

Extra emphasis of IFS training on fitness, sports and PTs hasn't altered, given the nature of job one is trained for.

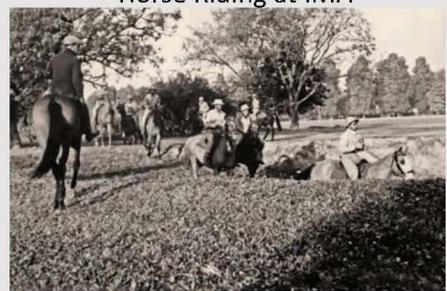
IFC(Indian Forest College) Pavilion



Trainees began their day with physical training (PT) before breakfast. After breakfast, at 8:30 am, classes would start. There were four classroom sessions of 55 minutes each before lunch, with a quick 5 minute break between each class. Lunch ran from 12:25 pm to 2:00 pm. The afternoon classes, which were practicals, would go from 2 pm to 4 pm. In the winter months, the afternoon schedule was shifted slightly, holding classes from 1:45 to 3:45 pm. The probationers would finish off their day with mandatory games in the evenings. The students enjoyed some great options for sports. There were three tennis courts and a huge playing field which had a cricket pitch, a football ground and a hockey field. At the hostel premises there were also badminton, tenniquoit and volleyball courts. And in the second year of operation (1939) a pavilion was built



Horse Riding at IMA



World Environment Day Celebrations at IGNFA

Literary Club Team, IFS 2019 Batch

On the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5th 2020, IFS probationers began their day by attending the virtual celebration held by the Ministry of Environment on the theme of **Nagar Van or 'Urban Forests'**. The event was presided by Honourable Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change **Shri. Prakash Javaedkar** and Minister of state for Environment, Forests and Climate Change **Shri. Babul Supriyo**.

In the afternoon, IGNFA officially celebrated the World Environment Day through an Online Event presided by **Director Shri. Omkar Singh, IFS** in the presence of Additional Director, faculty and 2019 Batch probationers. The event began with the opening address by Course Director of the 2019 Batch **S. Senthil Kumar, IFS** shedding light on the significance of World Environment Day and the 2020 theme: **'Time for Nature'**.

The Biodiversity Anthem, a song composed, written and sung by **Prashant Tomar** and a video conceptualized by **Harsh Raj** (both of them are IFS probationers of 2019 batch) on behalf of cultural and movie clubs of IGNFA was unveiled during the online meeting. The song is a clarion call for everyone to take up the cause of conservation, saluting the work of foresters across our country and depicting the humungous biodiversity our planet has to offer. (<https://youtu.be/Kmhp7NcBLDY>)

As a part of environment day celebrations, various clubs of IGNFA had conducted different competitions which saw active participation among the probationers of the 2019 IFS Batch. The Vice President of IGNFA Club **Nidhi Srivastava IFS** declared the winners of the **Quiz competition, Photography and Poster/Sketch competition** conducted by the Society of Contemporary Affairs, Nature and Wildlife Photography and Cultural clubs respectively. All the winners received warm appreciation for their innovative and thought provoking creative works.



Cover of WED Publication

The **IFS 2019 batch** as a joint effort by the Literary Club of IGNFA, The Society of Contemporary Affairs and the IT Club also brought about a **World Environment Day Special Publication** themed on the **Celebration of Biodiversity and Introspection during the Covid19 Pandemic Crisis** situation. The Director of IGNFA **Shri Omkar Singh IFS** released this publication and addressed the audience with his environment day message.

IT club had called for probationers to share social media posts on theme 'biodiversity' with hashtag **#IGNFA_EnvrDay** in their own social media accounts to spread awareness to public. Probationers have actively shared their thoughts with innovative posters, photo collage and videos. The selected posts were published in WED publication.

The active participation of the probationers and the enthusiasm and support shown by the faculty members, in such hard and testing times is a testament of how deeply we imbibe the importance of our beloved Mother nature. May we continuously endeavour to make our Environment proud.

Lohardaga Forest Division Success Story

Ahmed Belal Anwar, IFS 19



Lohardaga Forest Division in Jharkhand has a forest area spread over more than 5K Hectares. Once the area had pristine and contiguous forest. It is also endowed with a natural waterfall named Namodag on Magardaha stream, making it a **potential tourist hotspot**. But because of the increase in the **Left Wing Extremism activities**, the landscape started changing in an irreversible manner. The threat from Naxalites made the forest inaccessible, which resulted into **gradual loss of livelihood opportunities for the local population**. As the legal sources of income decreased, the illegal activities started thriving. **Illegal felling and timber theft** became rampant. This led to reduction in forest density, whereby **hardly any patch of forest remained with more than 30% density**.



Interventions by Forest Department

The story started with **bringing all the stakeholders on board** – Van Samiti, District Administration and Local Villagers were brought in to deal with the issue. Then with joint cooperation, **patrolling was increased** in the area to curb illegal timber trade.



To ensure livelihood of local people **Namodag Ecotourism initiative** was started by Van Suraksha Samiti under the guidance of the forest department. Apart from that **Beekeeping training and kit distribution, Bamboo craft training** to local Turi and Asar community was undertaken. Apart from this, soil moisture conservation and associated afforestation were also undertaken for the health of forest ecosystem.

Emergence of a Success Story

The pointed interventions by the department garnered a lot of attention from the media, which resulted in developing a good public image for the Lohardaga forest division. This in turn started **attracting a lot of tourists** and a sustainable eco-tourism model emerged.

With the steps taken by the department, more than **three dozen local villagers got employment**. This **generated a lot of goodwill** about the department among local population. Other tangible gains that emerged were surge in demand of Sal plates (because of ban on plastic), which in turn generated earning for locals, enough **money in the coffer** because of large tourist footfall, and finally the most important benefit- the **degraded forest patch got completely rejuvenated**.

Learnings for us Young Foresters



As budding Foresters there is a great learning for all of us from the above mentioned case study. We can see that how an officer with vision, commitment, ability to bring all stakeholders together and perseverance can change the face of a place. The efforts at Lohargada were made by **DFO Vikas Kumar Ujjwal, IFS(JH:2014)** under whose leadership the department transformed Lohargada reaping several benefits. The restoration of forest ecosystem, the employment opportunity to the local populace, the publicity and goodwill for the department are some of the benefits which the intervention gave.

A Feathery Soulmate

Kasturi Sule, IFS(P) 2019



*The White-Capped Red Start:
He who lives on the edge*

I see this guy on every trek. I always thought we had some similarities. Both of us loved the Himalayas and especially loved the beautiful mountain streams. Both of us loved the smoothed rocks and standing on them peacefully adoring the river. We both loved to ruffle through the grasses, and touch the tender flowers. We both enjoy singing songs in the hills.

But he has things which I lack. He fearlessly jumps near the trickiest of the streams. I keep each foot with care. He loves to stay on algaed stones and I strive for a firm path. He goes up and down the stream a hundred times and I take a 100 breaths taking 10 steps up the hill.

He dedicates his life to the lonely hills leading a solitary life, rarely amusing a mad traveller like me. Audienceless, Self-reliant.

And I return to my abode of comforts, in the social circles, and amuse my audience with his stories.

I feel belittled now.

A Tiny Being, its Complex Social Order and Ecological Craft

Neeraj Tibrewal, IFS(P) 2019

What are termites?

Termites are cellulose-eating insects that fall under the order Isoptera and showcase a tremendous social system, similar to ants and bees.

Termites include a large number of species, close to **2,750 species** that are prominently found in tropical rainforests across the world. Transportation for these insects was easy, as they were sometimes accidentally transported through wooden pieces like boat timbers, furniture and shipping crates. **Termites are surviving for more than 120 million years.**

Life Cycle of Termite

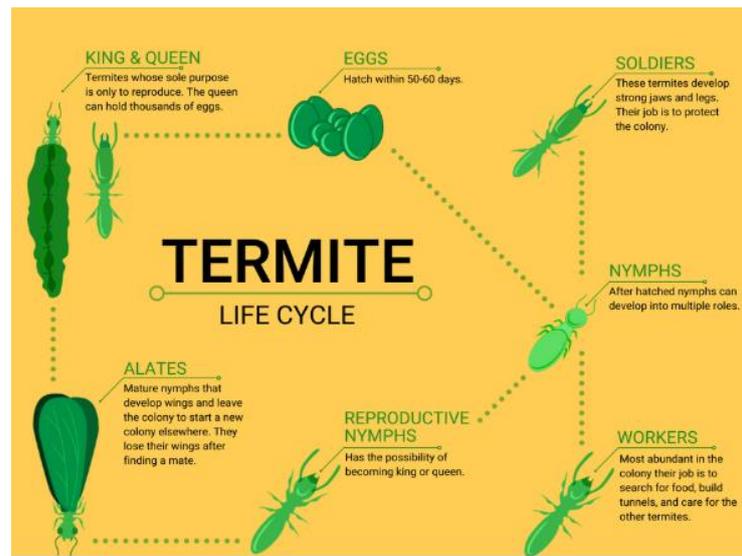
Mating Flight

The life cycle of termites starts when swarming winged reproductive males, and females make a mating flight. Female swarmers then release perfume like 'mating pheromone' chemicals. This lures the male swarmers, and once they find an attractive female, they shed their wings together. Shedding wings is an indication they are a couple now, and then they procreate.

They land in a new place to establish a new colony there. They finish mating there and then fertilize the female termite. The respective male and female termites becomes the king and queen of the newly established colony.

The Egg

Female termite lays her eggs in a jelly-like liquid that holds the eggs together. A female termite can lay around 30,000 eggs in one day. Termite eggs are small and white in colour and can be noticed through the naked eye.



Molting

Once the larvae hatch out of their eggs, they start molting. Molting is a growth process for termites in which **they shed their exoskeletons** to develop into worker and soldier termites. The termite which is going through the molting process is known as a **nymph**.

Initially, a soft exoskeleton is developed under the existing hard exoskeleton. Once they reach maturity, the outer skeleton splits, and the inner skeleton hardens.

Larvae

Eggs hatch into larvae after 30 days. The termite king is responsible for feeding the immature termites. Larvae will molt several times over time. The termites' castes which larvae can develop into include workers, soldiers, and alates (reproductive termites).

Castes

Molting is required to achieve maturity, and enter the caste system of the termites. Usually, larvae molt up to 3 times to reach full maturity. Afterward, larvae pick up castes and develop structures according to their caste.

There are three possible castes larvae can be placed in to. Each has specific functions to perform for the survival of the colony

- **Worker Termites:** Workers are an essential component of any termite colony. Their roles include:
 - ✓ repairing nests
 - ✓ feeding other castes
 - ✓ grooming other castes
 - ✓ maintaining the colony
 - ✓ constructing tunnels and chambers
 - ✓ forage food for other castes
 - ✓ They are sterile
- **Soldier Termites**
 - ✓ Their primary purpose is to defend the colonies from any intruders.
 - ✓ Soldiers are dependent on workers to feed them.
 - ✓ They are also sterile and don't live longer than 2 year
- **Reproductive Termites (alates)**
 - ✓ Reproductive termites are dark in color
 - ✓ Possess functioning eyes with two pairs of wings which aid them during their mating flight.
 - ✓ Those larvae who assume the role of reproductive alates (kings and queens) leave their colony during colonizing flight.
 - ✓ They search for a suitable site for nesting, mate there, reproduce, and then become the king and queen of their colonies.

In the life cycle of termites, there is no hard and fast rule for assuming the respective caste role. If the colony demands it, termites from one caste can develop into another caste. For example; a worker termite can become a soldier or alate if required.

Termites: Pests or Saviors of the Environment?



What are the first thoughts that come to your mind when you see termites? Is it pests or vermin? Well, think again. According to the researchers, termites are saviors as their role in the environment is quite significant.

- **Termites help prevent desertification of land**
 - ✓ Rain is able to seep through the holes dug into the ground by termites rather than just evaporate.
 - ✓ Termite mounds allow the plants around them to thrive on a small percentage of rain that would typically be needed for any vegetation to survive.
 - ✓ Even termite feces are good for the soil. Its stickiness helps prevent soil erosion.
- **Termites improve the quality of the soil**
 - ✓ They extract the cellulose present in the wood for food and provide a number of essential substances to improve the soil quality in the forest.
 - ✓ The tunnels created by them create waterways that help new plants to grow.
- **Nourishment for other animals**
 - ✓ Termites are also an essential part of the food chain.
 - ✓ Birds, chimpanzees and even ants are known to feed on termites.
 - ✓ Being high in protein and fats, they are a good source of nutrition

Interesting facts



1. Termites never sleep. They build their colonies 24 hours a day, every day, until they die.
2. Each year, termites inflict more than 5 bn dollars worth of property damage
3. Termites also use vibrations to communicate with one another. When soldier sense a threat, they tap or bang their heads against the colony's tunnel walls, creating vibrations to warn the rest of the colony.
4. Some termite species' queens can lay 15 to 25 eggs per minute--and over 40,000 per day.
5. It's been estimated that, if you put every termite on earth on a scale at once, their total combined weight would be 445 million tons. For reference, if you did the same thing with humans, we would weigh 350 million tons.
6. The mounds are designed in manner that the temperature inside it is well regulated

QUILLING ART

Kajol Patil, IFS(P) 2019

Paper quilling is an art form that involves the use of strips of paper that are rolled, shaped and glued together to create decorative designs.

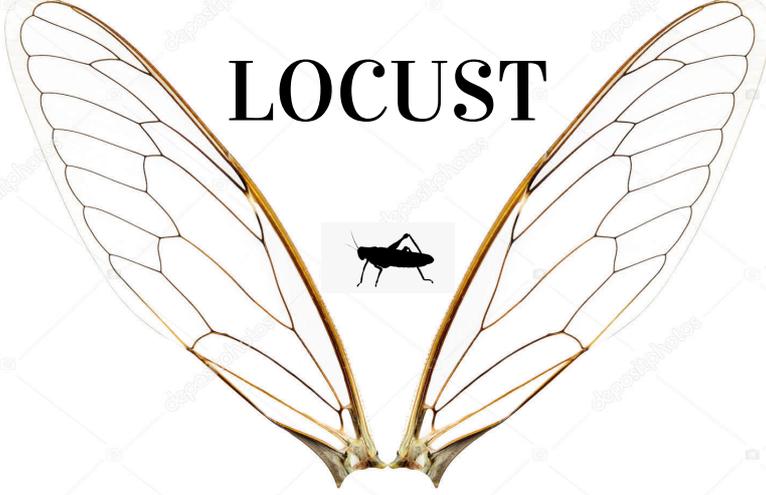
It can be used to decorate cards , boxes, bag or even be made into 3 D stand- alone art pieces.



An Eco-Friendly Ride



Missing me during the lockdown?



LOCUST

N JEYKUMARAN

IFS 2019

PROFILE

FAMILY	Acrididae
TYPE	Invertebrates
DIET	Herbivore

Locusts are part of a large group of insects commonly called grasshoppers

TAXA No taxonomic distinction exists between a locust and a grasshopper. A Locust is a grasshopper that changes morphology and behaviour when crowded.

**DENSITY
DEPENDENT
PHENOTYPIC
PLASTICITY**

Serotonin

NOT FOR HUMANS
ALONE



SOLITARY

Locusts are solitary by nature. But during dry weather they are forced together in areas with vegetation

This sudden crowding releases *serotonin* in their central nervous systems that makes locusts more sociable (swarm) and an appetite to devour anything. Thus they enter the 'Gregarious phase' changing their colour and body shape



GREGARIOUS

Travels
5000 km
in
10 days

(1988)

West Africa to
Caribbean

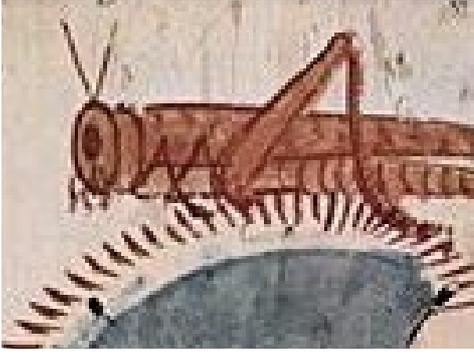


**GREGARIOUS
MODE**

A swarm
the size of
Paris
eats
half of a day's food
of People
of
France

TOMB MURAL

HOEMHAB
GRAVE
EGYPT



Ancient Egyptians carved locusts on tombs marking a 'locust plague' around 1446 BC

ARCHITECTURE

Apocalyptic quality of Locusts in human minds reflected in grotesque carvings in Churches



JERONIMOS
MONASTERY
LISBON

ENAMEL PLATE

SHARQUAT
IRAQ



Assyrian noble in a locust prayer before the God Ashur

In Assyrian mythology locusts appear as punishment for immoral behaviour

BIBLE

**“STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND
OVER THE LAND OF EGYPT
FOR THE LOCUSTS, THAT
THEY MAY COME UPON THE
LAND OF EGYPT, AND EAT
EVERY HERB OF THE LAND—
ALL THAT THE HAIL HAS
LEFT.”**

EXODUS 10:12
KING JAMES VERSION

CARTOON

Pokemon

Abdominion
(Novrai region)



Turns the ground
into Swarming
Terrain when the
Pokémon enters a
battle.

The Parting Words of the Final Innings at IGNFA

Uttam Kumar Sharma, IFS (MP:1999) and **K. Sasikumar, IFS (TR: 2003)** bow out of the academy at the end of this month after several years of service as Additional Professors of IGNFA. The faculty at IGNFA as well as probationers of 2019 batch lay down their memories and experiences of interaction with both officers wishing them farewell and all the best in their future endeavours.

Uttam – A dynamic person, holds ground and very firm in professional dealings, a passionate teacher and versatile personality

- **Dr. S Senthil Kumar IFS,
Additional Professor IGNFA**

Simple and systematic in blood, bold and loud in deeds & clean and clear in thoughts. A man who believes strongly that early morning sweat teaches a human being self-discipline. A real teacher.

- **Espee
Dr. S.P. Anand Kumar IFS,
Additional Professor, IGNFA**

An authority on forest law. I'm impressed by his passion for technical forestry too. I'll always cherish the time spent with Uttam sir, while conducting working plan exercise to 2016, 2017 & 2018 batches; and Mensuration exercise and VoF trek to 2017 batch.

- **K Sasikumar IFS,
Additional Professor,
IGNFA**

Uttam Sir - the fighter on the Hockey ground, the expert tutor in the law class and a charismatic personality in the field. Sir inspires us in whatever he does - from pushing us to perform better during the sports to clearing every single doubt during the lectures. Sir, we believe that your infectious energy would inspire us all to become better foresters. Sir, we are truly thankful to you.

- **Ahmed Belal Anwar,
IFS(P) 2019**

In his very first lecture of 'Overview of forestry', Uttam sir shook our foundation and understanding of the field of forestry introducing us to the concepts of scientific felling, role of a forest officer & 'Wood is good'. His words "we are not here to teach you but we are here to train you" still recoils in our mind. One of the best teacher and mentor that I have ever seen in my entire academic life, he has a unique ability to induce conceptual clarity as witnessed in law and mensuration classes.

Very helpful & friendly, one can easily approach him to clarify even the silliest of doubts. We remember that while performing a play at All India Forest Sports meet, we were caught in dilemma about the story line of the play. Then the very first name that came to our mind was of Uttam sir. We called him & he immediately resolved our doubt.

We are very lucky to have met him very early in our career as a role model officer. But at the same time, we are little unfortunate also as sir is leaving and will not be taking more classes. We wish him all the success in his future assignments.

- **Prashant Tomar, IFS(P) 2019**

"When it comes to Uttam sir, his ability to infect students with his contagious interests and passion is unparalleled. Be it hockey, law, or even the tedious mensuration, I have found myself dedicated to the subject without much efforts. Bold, intellectually honest and above all, a great mentor."

- **Rajkumar M, IFS(P) 2019**

Uttam sir is a really knowledgeable person and many things are there to learn from him. He is one of the ideal persons to follow in career. We didn't get much time with him but whatever time he interacted with us, it was a great time. Hope he will keep guiding us in future as well. Thank you Uttam Kumar sir!!

- **Jamir Shaikh, IFS(P) 2019**

Uttam sir, I had heard a lot about you from previous batches. I found it true with whatever limited interaction we had in west India tour. Your clarity of thought in matters of law is really fascinating. I wish you great successes in your upcoming endeavours sir. Thank you.

Thank you sir for the motivation, knowledge and insight that you have given to all of us. It was also great fun and learning experience playing in the cricket team under your guidance. I am sure whatever we have learned from you will be helpful for us in the field. Thank you sir!

- **Neeraj Tibrewal, IFS(P) 2019**

One among many things that I got to know in our Tours was "Uttam sir is a man of immense knowledge & his classes cannot be missed" & rightly so. Sir's meticulous details on Forest law, mensuration is beyond appreciation. I still remember the informal sessions Uttam sir and we 8-9 probationers had at the lobby of Gir National Park. The way Sir addressed each & every question with same passion, zeal is to be admired. Thank you sir for always addressing all doubts, listening to us & guiding us. We each are blessed to know and meet you as an individual. Life is a circle & I wish you health & happiness until we meet again. You will be dearly missed.

- **Sitanshu Pandey, IFS(P) 2019**

Sir moments spend with you are unforgettable, right from the Lion Safari in Gir to Cricket Match in AIFSM. Your ingenious way of teaching law subject made it much more interesting. Thank you Sir for your guidance & many best wishes for upcoming innings.

- **Dhananjay Waybhase, IFS(P) 2019**

जन्मदिया मात-पिता, जीवन का यह अभिमान।
उत्तम सर जैसे गुरु मिले, जिनको 'शत्-शत् प्रणाम।
बिन वायु एवं डोर के, उड न सके पतंग।
कक्षा आपकी ऐसी लगी, जैसे ईश्वर का सत्संग।
आपके चरणो को, मेरा कोटि-कोटि प्रणाम।
अंक, अक्ष एवं धुरि हिले, किन्तु डगमग न हो आपके प्रति सम्मान।

अलोक कुमार वर्मा

भारतीय वन सेवा 2019

Sasi - a good friend, poet, photographer and a good teacher. Known for his soft approach and firm decisions.

- **Dr. S Senthil Kumar IFS, Additional Professor, IGnFA**

Bamboo & butterfly man of Tripura. Beholder of beautiful eyes which can freeze the nature at his will. Man of few words.

- **Espee,**

Dr. S.P. Anand Kumar IFS, Additional Professor, IGnFA

Sasi sir, your passion towards work is astonishing, your knowledge about the subject unforeseen. We eagerly waited for your class in which you would take us on a new journey of opportunity, implementation and accomplishment. When you teach, you create a live environment where we feel we are on field- learning, experiencing, inspecting and enjoying things around us. Your experiences, where you start with a problem and end with not only a solution but an achievement, inspire us to excel in our future endeavours. Thank you very much sir for being our mentor, it is indeed a great pleasure for all of us. We hope for regular interaction with you in future too.

- **Vikas Yadav, IFS(P) 2019**

Sasikumar Sir was special. He made complicated academic subjects simple, practical and fun. Also he was quite friendly and approachable to us when we were just fledglings in the academy. He also ignited a new passion towards photography in many of us.

Most of all, he showed to us how to make it big in the field despite limited opportunities and umpteen challenges. We were quite lucky to have him as a guiding light at IGnFA. I wish Sir all the very best in all his future endeavours.

Despedida Sir! But We only part to meet again

- **Dhiman Chakma, IFS(P) 2019**

It's said that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel. I would like to convey my earnest thanks for your support when you were in-charge CD at the time of my surgery.

Further though our batch's interaction with you is quite limited, we are motivated by your passion for the service, positivity spread by you during the lectures. Wish you a great time at your upcoming stint Sasi sir.

- **Pothamsetti V Sandeep Reddy, IFS(P) 2019**

Sasi sir has always gone that extra mile to make the probationers feel at home in the academy. Be it during my one-on-one discussions during the initial days or during mentoring or during my optional paper discussions, he has been a great teacher and a good friend. His guidance in organising the 'Harvest Festival' was really helpful and supportive. His practical way of conveying concepts in class helps one understand the topic better. Sir you will be definitely missed at the academy

- **P Balamurugan, IFS (P) 2019**

The undersigned had the good fortune of interacting with, and learning from, Sasikumar Sir (he is our Faculty in-charge for the Officers' Mess). An officer and a gentleman. Tolstoy's idea of self-possession in a microcosm. The fact that he spoke fluent Bengali added the 'wow-factor'. He will be missed at the Academy and by the Officers' Mess Committee in particular. Thank you for everything Sir.

- **Dwijaa Pratim Sen, IFS(P) 2019**

স্যার, আপনি খুব দয়ালু ও মমতাময়ী ব্যক্তি। আপনার শিক্ষার পদ্ধতিটি সত্যিই দুর্দান্ত যা ব্যবহারিক অভিজ্ঞতার ভিত্তিতে। একাডেমিতে আমাদের সাথে থাকার জন্য ধন্যবাদ। আপনার পরবর্তী কার্যভারের জন্য আপনাকে সকলের শুভেচ্ছা।
ত্রিপুরায় শীঘ্রই দেখা হবে।

Akshay Bhorde, IFS (P) 2019

I really feel lucky to get in touch with Sasi Kumar sir. He has really a great personality. I always feel respect for him from bottom of my heart. Feeling bad that we didn't get much time with him. But I hope in future, he will keep us guiding with same zeal and smile. I really generated interest in photography after his beautiful sessions. Thank you Sasi Kumar sir.

- **Jamir Shaikh, IFS(P) 2019**

Sasi sir, "Your work speaks louder than your words" is what I can truly say about you sir. I see you as a hardcore researcher and passionate forester. Not to forget about your photography skill which is top class. Thank you sir and wish you the best for future assignments.

One in whose company the hierarchy felt many kilograms lighter, whose smile translated to 'one of us', whose lectures threw open the scope of our service and the ability to transform many lives with thought, passion and perseverance.

- **N Ravisankar Sarma, IFS(P) 2019**

Dear Sasi sir, you have lighted up our imaginations by giving practical examples from the field in your NTFP classes. Your session on photography where you also showed your photographs were amazing. Thank you sir and we wish you all the best.

- **Neeraj Tibrewal, IFS(P) 2019**

गुरु गोविन्द दौऊ खड़े, काके लागू पांय।
बलिहारी गुरु अपने गोविन्द दियो बताय।।

- Sant Kabir Das

Dedicated to Sasi Sir from
Alok Kumar Verma, IFS 2019

Sasi Sir, your presentation was a delight for all of us. The way you brought up real life stories during the lecture to convey the message across made it extremely captivating. To me the most inspiring thing about Sir is his modesty and approachability. Sir, you will be deeply missed. A sincere thanks to you

- **Ahmed Belal Anwar, IFS(P) 2019**

IT'S MOVIE TIME!

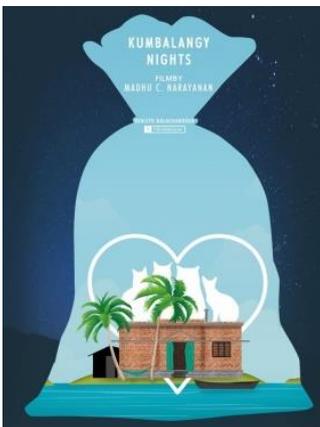
Vipasha Parul & N Ravisankar Sarma, IFS(P) 2019

We are not much of crazy movie buffs who rush to the cinema hall every Friday to catch the late night show. We are quite picky and what we are about to suggest might not come across as 100 cr, super blockbusters, superstar dominated kind of films. Movie goers have started looking for content and acting skills seasoned with good music and we quite like this gradual change of taste towards mature cinema. While looking for meaningful, soul stirring films we turn towards the WEST from time to time, as Bollywood often disappoints. Our only submission is, next time, **look down SOUTH!** You will be pleasantly surprised with all the great work **Malayalam cinema** has to offer you. Here are **4 of our current favourites**.

Kumbalangi Nights

Such is the magic of this movie that you instantly want to leave everything and pack your bags to Kumbalangi, a small fishing village situated in the backwaters of Kochi, humming the songs on the way (despite not knowing what the words really mean).

A story about four brothers forced to stay under the same roof of a dilapidated hutment due to dire circumstances, touches on the constant friction they feel against each other's presence and how all this metamorphoses towards a deep layered brotherhood and bonding when they are pitted against one common enemy. This enemy happens to be Shammi (brilliantly played by Fahadh Faasil) who is an excruciatingly overprotective brother-in-law of one of the brother's love interest. As simple as the plot sounds it has been shot with such delicacy with eerily soothing music that you come out super satisfied and satiated. Imagine relishing a craving of a big three scoop ice-cream sundae with chocolate syrup and tiny brownie pieces and nuts and all those beautiful things that you love with your ice cream. This movie is that ultimate ice cream sundae for you.



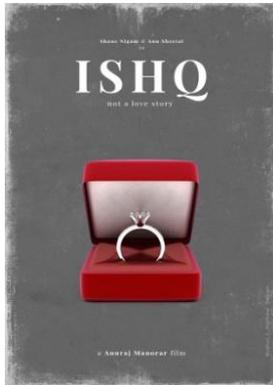
Ee.Ma.Yau (contraction for *Eesho Mariyam Yauseppu* or *Jesus Mary Joseph*)

How about an art film this weekend that picks on your brain cell and heart valves? This movie is the direction of **Lijo Joseph Pellissery** (he directed **Jalikattu**, which should have been India's entry to the Oscars according to every film critic and movie lover).

It is about a son who when faced with sudden death of his father is left with chasing a promise he made to his father moments before the latter breathed his last. This jocular promise was to give his father the most extravagant funeral the village had ever seen. Delve into this movie and experience how something as routine as planning a funeral can become a nightmarishly hopeless task for the son. The dark undertone laced with comical satires here and there get you super close to the emotions of the grieving family. It's like you are there with them, right there, watching this drama unfold minute after minute and there is nothing, absolutely nothing you can do to help them. Trust us, you will savour the essence.



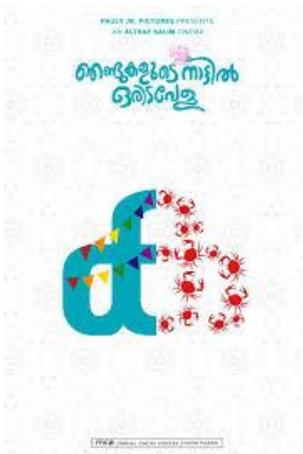
Ishq (2019)



Anuraj Manohar's debutant movie *Ishq* (2019) opens up as a quintessential romantic movie but quickly spirals into a dark drama that lays bare the sickening standards of morality and moral policing that dramatically change the life and relationship of the couple (Sachi and Vasudha) one fateful night.

The film thereon is an intense portrayal on the perceptions of manhood, masculinity and how the ownership of the female body often takes up the central position in that regard in the patriarchal male's mind. The perfection with which the director sketches the 3 main characters, their placement in a natural social setting and the resounding gender politics that plays out at the end makes this an intense social drama not to be missed.

Njandukalude Nattil Oridavela



Althaf Salim's debutant movie is unique for how he is able to lace humour into a topic as serious and often woefully depressing as a cancer patient's life. The film is about how **Kurien's** family braves through a journey in the times of the crab as they try to draw the mother of the household away from the crab's clutches.

The movie throws light on an ordinary middle class family in Kerala, how they react to the '**C-word**' and how normal life quite ironically still trickles on despite the uninvited guest threatening to wreck their boat and displace their chief member and the bravest of the lot. The biggest takeaway of the movie is the warmth, affection and togetherness the family displays in the crisis poignantly crafted in each relationship with a tear here and a smile there reaching its zenith in the climax boat ride scene.

Pop some popcorn and enjoy.

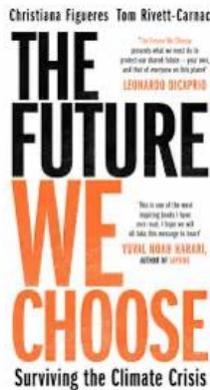
Happy binging folks!

Book Review: THE FUTURE WE CHOOSE- SURVIVING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

By Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac.

Manila press, 1st edition on 25th February, 2020, 240 pages ASIN B07Y7HZLX8

S. MOHAMMED YAKUB, IFS(P) 2019



The immediate thing to notice about the book are the reviews on the cover page by two very eminent persons from very different walks of life. One, an actor-par-excellence in **Leonardo DiCaprio** and another, an excellent historian and the author of an international best seller named *Sapiens* (a personal favourite too) i.e. **Yuvan Noah Harari**. Both find common ground in regarding this book as a timely literature on climate change due to their staunch belief in climate science and environmentalism.

So is the case with the authors of this book, due to their radically different backgrounds. **Christiana Figueres**, a diplomat from Costa Rica, a country that has initiated and sustained some of the most far reaching environmental policies in the world. She also served as the **executive secretary of the UNFCCC** and was also an important force behind the Paris climate change agreement in 2015.

Tom Rivett-Carnac, a direct descendant of the founding chairman of the East India company which fuelled and fanned the Industrial revolution in Britain and then across many continents. His diverse experience from being the president and CEO of **Carbon disclosure project, USA** and being an ex-Buddhist monk has enabled him to work together with Christiana as her chief political strategist in

building up the momentum and mobilizing support for a climate agreement in Paris.

May be there is a message conveyed here that no matter who we are or what roles we play in our respective lives, climate change is an existential threat and we need to immediately collaborate and work together for a better future.

We saw the very moving protest by **Greta Thunberg** in front of the Swedish parliament demanding more actions to secure a better quality of life for all future generations. Her angst at the UN against the past and present generations for the exploitative ethos that we have perpetuated, without heed to the inter-generational justice is morally right, to say the least. She is not alone. We are increasingly witnessing many such large scale protest by school children, teenagers and youth in many countries from the United Kingdom to South Korea to Thailand. All of them are terrified at the prospect of diminishing quality of life on the horizon. These set of events make this book a **timely read**.

The authors bring to our attention, the visible changes that are happening around us like the **increase in the frequency of ecological disasters** like the droughts, floods, cyclones, storm surges, heatwaves, epidemics etc. The rapid and large extinction of flora and fauna, death of coral reefs, accelerated melting of glaciers like the arctic summer sea ice or Greenland ice cover, destruction of primary forests like the tropical forest cover of amazon or the boreal forests of the Canada and Russia reflect '**the uncontrollable domino effect of devastation**', if we fail to act in a responsible way is the lament of the book.

The book provides us with two important deadlines, which are aligned well with the Paris climate deal i.e. **to limit warming to 'well under 2 degrees Celsius' and ideally no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius.** The authors says that **by 2030, we have to reduce our emissions by 50%** and **by 2050, we need to achieve net zero emissions or carbon neutrality** i.e. when we don't emit any more than what the earth can naturally absorb through its ecosystems. This makes the decade starting from 2020 a very critical one. Our actions in this period will determine not the just quality of life that humanity will experience beyond this, but also the question of survival in itself due to the exponential devastating impact, that even the slightest increase in the temperature beyond the limit agreed upon in the Paris deal would lead to.

The First part of the book in a thoroughly interesting manner visualizes two different scenarios. Reading this part is like a time travel to different futures that are possible from today and makes for an amazing read.

The first scenario is a world we are currently creating, where warming exceeds 3 degrees Celsius and possibly reaches 4.7 degrees Celsius above the average of pre-industrial revolution levels. To say it is an imagination of a dystopian future is an understatement. It is a world in which **sea level rise** has led to a situation in which, we witness **mothers with babies on their backs migrating to an upland**, people still stranded in their homes despite flooding up to their knee levels and children being victims of epidemics due to contaminated water and salt water intrusion in to aquifers. Coastal cities like Shanghai that have been major economic drivers are no more habitable. Coral reefs have vanished totally due to ocean acidification and Great Barrier Reef is the largest aquatic cemetery in the world. Air pollution is so threatening that one has to check his/her phone for the pollution level in the atmosphere before venturing

out. No one works outdoor anymore due to the acidic air. Food and water scarcity fueling sectarian violence, strife, civil unrest, mass migration and international conflicts. Armies becoming highly militarised border patrol and Governments resorting to lockdowns are the order of the day. No literature till date that I have read before has ever attempted to visualize a climate crisis scenario in such cold details. The thought one gets immediately after this part is how unjust we are and have been in spoiling the lives of future generation.

The second scenario talks about a world we must create, where we have managed to achieve the emission targets and hence warming has been controlled to 1.5 degrees Celsius. A benign world with moist and fresh air, where walking in cities is like walking in a forest thanks to the proliferation of trees by tree planting campaigns across the world funded by corporates and public. Every vacant plot and alleys have become shady groves and streets have been reclaimed for urban agriculture. Worldwide the forest cover has been increased to 50%. Monoculture has been replaced by tree based agriculture all over the world. Transportation has become much more fuel efficient with people resorting to shared electric rides than private vehicles. Renewables have completely replaced fossil fuels. Bio-fuels have replaced jet fuels and better internet connectivity has led to people working from homes and hence the less need for transport. Innovations like nanoparticle based solar paints, smart grids and artificial intelligence based appliances have enabled optimal utilization. Better access to electricity through decentralised renewable sources and mini grids has led to improved sanitation, education and healthcare. Community way of life has emerged with local food production through small scale farming, rain water harvesting, composting and horticulture. The author visualizes a more inhabitable heavenly abode in this case.

When confronted with these two scenarios, the choice becomes pretty clear. But how to go about the task is what is being addressed in the second part of the book. The book differentiates itself from the rest of the climate science literature that we normally come across these days through this part. Instead of suggesting the usual macro level approaches to be taken by governments and corporations, the book delves into a more granular level. It suggests a need for changing mindsets and transformational actions at the individual level. A casual glance at the index would suggest that these **3 Mindsets and 10 actions** are similar to the 3 noble truths and the 10-fold path (Dasasila philosophy in Buddhism, an extension of ashtangikamarga) which also talks more about individual enlightenment to attain anything substantial a curious linkage to the Buddhist connection of the co-author.

The 3 mindsets that the authors suggest are **Stubborn optimism, Endless abundance and Radical regeneration**. They talk about the need to be optimistic and focused on the future we intend to create, despite the uncertainty of success or the erratic climate change events that we witness as we move on. They talk about the need to eschew the ingrained competitive spirit and scarcity mindset in favour of a more collaborative approach. They also push for a more proactive human intended approach towards regeneration of the natural ecosystems rather than merely removing the already exerted anthropogenic pressure and wait for the ecosystems to self-renew. Elucidating each of them with examples, the book makes for an informative read. The suggestion to change mindsets or shift consciousness may seem to some readers as grandiose and not concrete steps that are needed to tackle the impending climate crisis. But, I believe that any divorce from the past to weave an alternate future requires a different idea to take root in the mind of the actors firstly. A change in the self which will ultimately change the world.

The authors also rightly observe that, considering the constraint in time that we are currently faced with, merely altering mindsets is not going to do the trick for us. We need transformational actions in the direction of the vision of a better future. Some of the actions are very straight forward inferences like the need to **move beyond fossil fuels and investing in a cleaner economy, reforesting the earth and the need to behave as a responsible citizen and consume based on our needs only**. Other actions like **defending the truth about climate science and being vigilant about and confronting head-on the pseudo-science** that distorts reality and spins false narratives to satisfy the short term vested interests, are very much the need of the hour and this action is still yet to take root in our psyche. **Using technology responsibly** to guide our goals of emission reduction also can't be emphasised more.

Building **gender equality and engaging in politics** are suggestions to put people who are better influencers to mobilize opinions and force actions in desired direction. Each of these actions are further dealt in detail with suggestive sub-actions and are substantiated with excellent examples, which keep the readers engaged. The book finally concludes with what each of us can do in different timelines say today, this week, this month, this year, by 2030 and finally by 2050. These are crisp and concrete actions if practiced over time would help us cruise through to our target.

The book is very optimistic about our potential to tackle the climate crisis despite all possible hurdles and uncertainty not just because it wants to inculcate the same frame of mind in us but also because failure in this task is unthinkable. **It wants us to imagine another future knowing fully well that such a future is simply possible and not promised.**

KNOW YOUR PRABATIONER SERIES

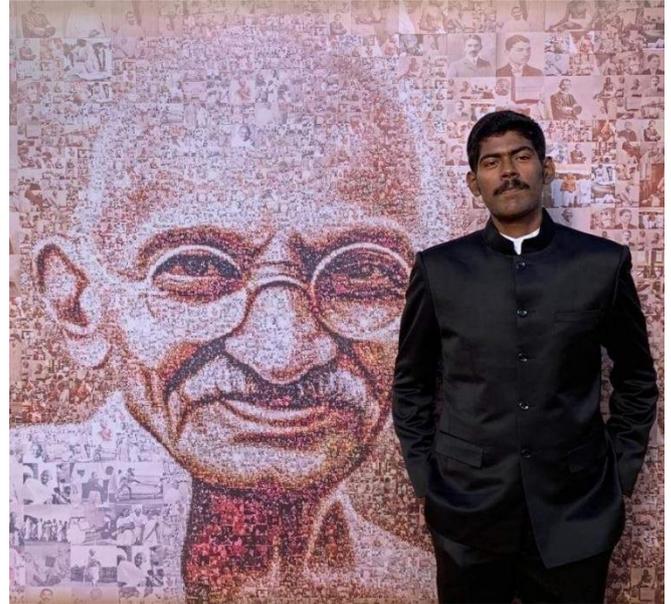
Nithyanantham L & Kasturi Sule, IFS(P) 2019

I believe self-determination and determination would be the two right words to characterize Jeykumaran and his beliefs. His values towards managing time to the fullest have been admired by me and I believe many of you might have felt the same. As for many of us, my curiosity to take a look at Jeykumaran started when I heard that one among our trainee IFS probationers had left Indian Administrative Service to join Indian Forest Service. After getting to know about our lovable JK, there is lot more to talk about him as well and this is the prime reason to pen down about him.

Earlier he used to be overweight and with his sheer determination he got into shape and form as he is now. He has passion towards jogging and he even completed a 25km jog during the lockdown period. His discipline towards diet is so much that he completely avoids junk food and never drinks even tea, and what is amazing is that he maintains this even during our tour programme.

His philosophy towards nature and human beings are unique and interesting that even I became interested to listen to it. He is so much positive that he looks for the best even in the worst of circumstances. His creative sketches have amazed me in recent past and though the sketches are in black and white, they give the observer colourful and meaningful thoughts. He has an eye to appreciate smallest beauty around him.

Our JK's poems reveal his way of seeing life and on reading these poems, I can see that he sees life in perspectives that are so minute and that too in different angles which shows his empathy. There is a saying that "Raise your words and not your voice, it is rain that grows flowers and not thunderstorms", I believe that his words will help grow many gardens.



He is so lively when he is around, such that he makes his presence felt at all times. Anyone who falls in his aura gets inspired and pumped up with his honesty and sheer positivity.

He has a strong will power to achieve his goals and at the same time his logical thinking helps him in choosing the right goals.

He looks for 'WHY SO'? In most things and this I believe motivates him to learn new things in life. JK is curious and innocent like a child. He is inquisitive about the smallest of things. His simple living and discipline reflects optimism.

For me, on getting to know Jeykumaran closely, my take away is, CURIOSITY is the ingress of knowing what we are good at and learning to master it. Yes, it requires dedication and self-determination. And that's how I would like to conclude this write up with these two words that I believe best characterize Jeykumaran.

BIRTHDAY BELLS

Compiled by P Balamurugan , IFS(P) 2019

The IFS(P) 2019 Batch wishes their batch mates celebrating their birthdays in the month of June the best of health and happiness. Enjoy your day! 😊



Rahul, June 6th



Chaitanya, June 15



Yakub, June 21



Vikas Nayak, June 9



Amandeep, June 10



Sitanshu, June 30