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Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Directorate of Forest Education

**Central Academy for State Forest Service
Coimbatore**

SANTAROMA



2020 - 22 State Forest Service Batch Officer Trainees

On Forest Minister's Visit



Faculty & Dignitaries : (Sitting Line from left to Right)

Shri M. Anisha Kalkoor, IFS | Shri Dr. C. Vidhya Sagar, IFS | Shri V. Karthick, IFS | Dr. V.S. Senthil Kumar, IFS | Dr. K. Anand, IFS |
Shri V. Thirunavukarasu, IFS, Principal | Shri Arun Singh Rawat, IFS, DG, ICFRE | Hon'ble Min. Shri Bhupender Yadav |
Shri Bharat Jyoti, IFS, Director, IGNFA | Shri Suneesh Bakshi, IFS, AIG (RT) | Smt. Suveena Thakur, IFS, AIGF |
Dr. C. Kunhi Kannan, Director, IFGTB | Shri K. Muniyasamy, PT&G

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Dr. C. Kunhi Kannan, Director, IFGTB | Shri K. Muniyasamy, PT&GI

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Santaroma 2022



Sandal...

The scented woods of South !

Surely mints dollars and pounds !

Aromatically enchants the whole World !

Religiously intends to arise us all !

Cosmetically suits all of us well !

Sincerely values to Government Exchequer !

Preciously perfect like the CASFOS, Coimbatore !

*Central Academy for State Forest Service
Trainees Association, Coimbatore
admires the smoothness of Santalum
appreciates the fragrance of Santalum
adopts the name for its annual magazine
after merging Santalum and aroma into
SANJAROMA*

*Just as the aroma of Santalum album
spreads all over its surroundings,
Let the annual album of our association
spread the memories all over our country.*



CASFOS Officer Trainees Association
2020 - 2022 SFS, 2021-22 FRO & 2022 - 24 SFS Batches

Central Academy for State Forest Service, Coimbatore



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The Editorial



Shri V. Karthick, IFS
Lecturer, CASFOS, Coimbatore
Vice President, Officer Trainees Association

It is indeed a delight to see the 29th edition of Santaroma. Santaroma portrays the talent of SFS trainees in different forms and it provides platform for publishing their creative works. It is imperative for forest officers to express their thoughts in different forms and this book gives an ample opportunity for officer trainees to express their thoughts. This book will be one of the beautiful memoirs of their training period. I congratulate all the officer trainees, editorial group and Mr. K. Muniasamy PT & GI for bringing this publication in a great shape, without their support the book would not have been brought to this level. I wish officer trainees all the best in their future endeavours.

V. Karthick
Honorary Editor



The views expressed in this magazine (Santaroma 2022 - Vol. XXIX) are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Editorial Board or any other concerned organizations.
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Message from DFE



भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
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29th Edition of Santaroma 2022, CASFOS, Coimbatore

I am happy to know that the Central Academy for State Forest Service, Coimbatore is releasing 29th edition of the Academy Magazine 'Santaroma'.

The magazine provides suitable platform for the Officer Trainees to exhibit their thoughts, in various forms like essays, poems and sketches. This magazine also gives an account of various activities during the training period of SFS Batch. This magazine clearly demonstrates the efforts being made by the academy towards overall development of the trainees by engaging them in extra curricular activities.

I congratulate, Principal, all faculties and the SFS Officer Trainees of Central Academy for State Forest Service, Coimbatore for bringing out this magazine.

(Anurag Bhardwaj, IFS)
 Director Forest Education
 Dehradun

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Message from Principal



Shri V. Thirunavukarasu, IFS
 Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &
 Principal, Central Academy for State Forest Service,
 Coimbatore

It gives me immense pleasure to see the 29th edition of Santaroma magazine. The magazine is place for expression of creativity and skills of officer trainees. It is very important for an officer to be good in expressing his thoughts for all round development. This book covers the details of trainees, and their beautiful memories of training. The efforts made by the trainees are commendable and sure it will be a great piece of creative work.

I whole heartedly appreciate the entire editorial team and all those who are involved in preparation of this magnificent magazine. I wish them brilliant success in all their future endeavours.

(Signature)
 Principal
 CASFOS, Coimbatore



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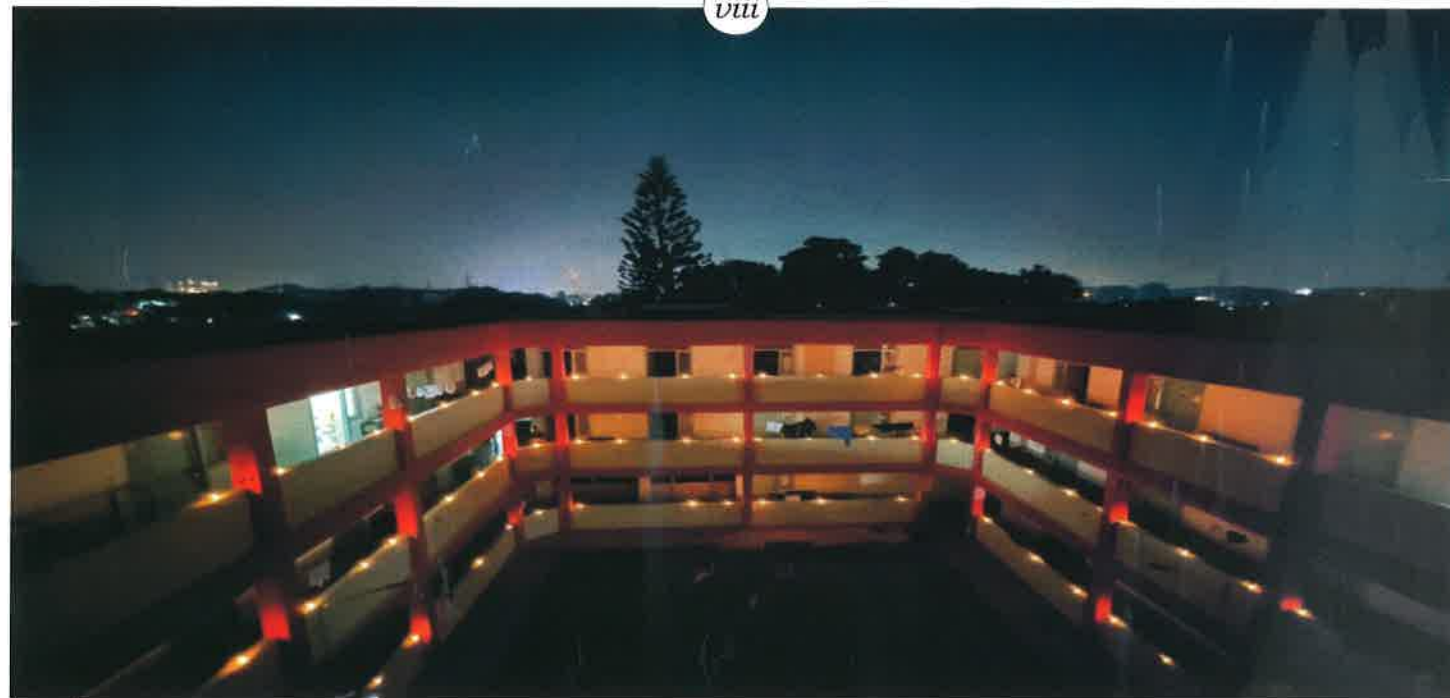


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Santaroma 2022

A Critical Study on Draft Environment Impact Assessment of India 2020

Ms. Lucky Dutta
2021 - 22 FRO Batch



Environmental degradation has become one of the burning issues faced by the global community. Hence with changing circumstances various measures have taken to combat environmental related issue. Environment impact assessment (EIA) is one such measure which deals with analysis and evaluation of environmental impact of a particular project. It is a systematic process to predict environmental impact at an early stage or identifying future consequences of project planning and design, find ways and means to reduce adverse impact. For the first time in 1969, EIA obtained a formal status in the United States of America with enactment of national environment policy act.²

EIA is one of the major measures of environment protection so it has its significance. EIA links environment with development for environmentally safe and sustainable development. It provides a cost-effective method to eliminate or minimize the adverse impact of developmental projects. Other hand the decision makers require to analyse the effect of developmental activities on the environment prior to the developmental project is implemented. EIA again encourages the adaptation of mitigation tactics in the developmental plan, which also ensures that the developmental plan is environment friendly and within the limits of the capacity of assimilation and regeneration of the ecosystem.³

NEW EIA DRAFT 2020

The new EIA draft which has published on 12th March 2020 contains different provisions. Out of which some important provisions are mentioned below (Garg, Nidhi, blogpleaders).⁴

1. Replacement of the existing 4-Stage Process by a 6-Stage process - The EIA framework of 2006 includes four stages in the EIA process, i.e. (i) Screening (ii) Scoping (iii) Public Consultation and (iv) Appraisal. Other hand the draft EIA Notification, 2020 proposes a 6-stage process i.e. (i) Scoping, (ii) Preparation of Draft EIA, (iii) Public Consultation, (iv) Final EIA, (v) Appraisal and (vi) Grant or Rejection of EC.

The only difference between the 2006 EIA and draft EIA is the "Screening" stage which exists under the 2006 notification is removed from the draft notification. This is a stage where Category B projects are scrutinized by the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) to determine if the project requires further environmental studies for preparation of its EIA report.

2. Effective Increase in the Number of Categories of Projects- The draft EIA Notification proposes an increase in the number of categories of projects to 5, whereas the current framework under the 2006 notification consists only 3 categories of projects, i.e. A, B1 and B2.

3. Environment Permission(EP)-Under the existing framework, Category B projects do not require a prior Environmental Clearance(EC). However, the draft notification of 2020, proposes that Category B2 projects which are not required to be placed before the Appraisal Committee, although do not need a prior EC, however, they do need a prior Environment Permission, a concept which isn't mentioned in the existing framework. But, the draft notification does not illustrate on how an EP will be different from an EC and therefore, clarification should be provided on an EP before the final notification is released. (theprint).¹

From the various provisions of the draft EIA notifications, it's clear that the draft notifications differ from 2006 notifications which is executing now. In the new notifications several activities have removed from the purview of public consultations. A list of projects has been incorporated under category B2 which are exempted from the requirement of an EIA. Again the two most significant changes in the new draft are the provisions for post facto project clearance and abolishing the public trust doctrine. Projects operating in violation of the environment act will now be able to apply for clearance (Indian express, 10 Aug 19). Other hand the draft EIA will have potential impact on North-East region of the country. Due to the fragile environmental condition of the North-East region the changes brought in the draft EIA can usher irreparable damage to the region. Considering the drawbacks of the draft EIA 2020 the people of the country including environmental expert, social activist, and other common people have expressed their concern overwhelmingly and criticized the government for the draft notification, they also urged the MoEFCC to modify the draft which would affect the environment of the country before publishing final EIA.

According to the draft notification public and the interested stakeholders must submit their comments within 60 days of the publication of the notification. However, considering that during the entire time that was given to stakeholders for their suggestions, the country was under a very strict nationwide lockdown, it would have been very difficult for the public to send in their comments as most of the postal services were suspended during these unprecedented circumstances. The circulation of the draft therefore seems to be on the face of it, merely a formality as no effective review and representation can be made done by stakeholders in these circumstances of lockdown. Therefore, it is suggested that either the time limit for submitting comments be extended or the draft be circulated, more widely this time, so that effective public consultation can take place.

Under Rule 3.1 of the notification determines a period of twenty days to public of submitting their written response to the public hearing against the existing time period of thirty days under the 2006 notification.

Again Rule 22 of the draft EIA Notification, 2020 provides for post-facto approvals which are against of an EIA framework.

Another drawback of the draft is, Rule 20 (4) of the draft EIA Notification, 2020 states that yearly compliance report shall be submitted in each year, to the Regulatory Authority concerned. Whereas according to the existing framework a compliance report needs to be submitted after every six months.

Conclusion

From the above discussion it has cleared that those certain provisions of the draft EIA should be look into by the MoEFCC, before its final implementation. India already has participated in the several international environment summits and expressing its concern over global climate change and environmental degradation. Hence some provisions which are against of the environmental conservation and anti-people and anti-environment shouldn't be included in the final notification.

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My Besties at CASFOS



Ms. G. K. Chaitra
2021 - 22 FRO Batch

We all know "friendship" is one of the greatest bonds anyone can wish for. Friends are like the best assets of our life because they share sorrow, sooth our pain and make us feel happy. I am so fortunate that I got so many besties in CASFOS.

Here I am sharing my beautiful journey with my friends. When I joined CASFOS we were only two people from Karnataka, myself and Priyanka. Since it was covid time we did not have much interaction with anyone in the beginning. This time helped us to develop our emotional empathy and understand each other better. Priyanka became my first and best friend in CASFOS.

Later I became a member of purchase committee from there mine and Sagar Srivastava's friendship started. I always felt very comfortable when Sagar was around and we became close friend in a short span of time. This bonding added up Vikas and Nitesh to our group, then we became 5 stars. We spent a lot of time together both in academy as well as in Chandan hostel.

First floor terrace of Block A in Chandan hostel became our meeting point. Everyday evening, we used to have coffee along with cracking jokes, laughing and sharing our experiences. Those days were very memorable ones.

Then came Rakshabandan which added a different meaning to our friendship. It took our relationship to even greater level i.e., brother and sister relationship. That day I had tears of happiness in my eyes.

Later two more members joined our group i.e. Geetashree and Anjita. Then we all were for each other in everything like having food, group study, chit-chat etc. Only during our sleeping time we used to go to our respective rooms otherwise we used to be in one room.

We got decent marks, only because of our group study that too one day before the exam, either in Anjita's room or in my room. The bench which is there in-front of Vanvatika was our favorite spot. We were so much attached to this place that whenever we came back from tour the first thing we did was having coffee there. It was such a relaxing place and we will definitely miss this place.

Here I am introducing my Besties one by one:

SAGAR SRIVASTAVA: The one word I can say about him is "all rounder". He is good at Singing, Studies, cooking, cricket, public speaking and list goes on. Everyone called him Master Chef of CASFOS because of his cooking skills. He is the most trustworthy person. Only one thing he does not like is morning PT. I think he will never do PT again once he goes back from the academy. He has written 3 books for MPSC aspirants. I hope he will have a very successful life ahead.

PRIYANKA TARALE: She is a cute and very intelligent girl. She is extremely dedicated and hardworking person. She has the ability to compromise even her favourite things for the sake of achieving her goals in life. I think this quality will take her a long way in her life. One thing she does not like is time pass. She always wants to engage her life in studies. I strictly told her not to study after her marriage. I hope she will follow my order.

NITESH DEHARIYA: He is the most courageous, calm and dynamic person. He is trying to lose his weight from the day one, unfortunately he is not able to. I wish he will achieve his target after going from here.

VIKAS JAMRE: He is a very silent and soft spoken person. Even though he speaks less but he is very kind hearted person. He cares for everyone. In a day almost 4 hours he talks to his wife. Let No evil eye spoil their relationship.

ANJITA HAPILA: She is a very neat and tidy girl. She is also very disciplined. She can leave without food but not without her clothes. One day she came back from the academy to hostel only to dry her clothes. I think you got what I am saying....

GEETASHREE DOLEY: She is the most beautiful and bold girl of our batch. She has many fan followers inside as well as outside the CASFOS. She likes to take photos to such an extent that, just ask her what you will do tomorrow, immediately she will say I will get ready and take photos even if there is no such occasion. Everywhere photos, photos and only photos. That's why everybody calls her Photoshree. We both used to do crazy things. One day Muniaswamy sir gave his vehicle to keep something in the store room but instead of that, we took a ride around the campus and still sir does not know about it.

We always focus on how many friends we have rather than the quality of our relationships. In any relationship, quality is utmost important if the relationship is to have a positive impact on our life.

I am very grateful to everyone as they were always there in my ups and down. Whenever I was in depression or not in a good mood they stood by me and consoled me in all my difficult phases. We might not be together always but I am sure you all will always be in my heart.

Finally I want to end with a quote, "Good company in a journey makes the way seem shorter".



Bon Bibi: The guardian of the Sundarbans

Azharul Alam
2021 - 22 FRO Batch



It was a pleasant April morning in the Sundarbans. The Sun just started changing its colour from soothing orange to golden yellow. Large groups of people with their boats have assembled near the river mouth. They are honey collectors of Sundarbans. With their boats packed with water and foods, they are ready to enter the jungle of Sundarbans. But suddenly a remarkable scene appears. All the honey collectors started praying in front of a temple. Both Hindu and Muslim were seeking blessings from a deity. It is really an unusual scene as Muslims don't go to Temples. An amalgamated chanting of "Joy Bon Bibi" has taken the air. This made me more curious about Bon Bibi. I took a closer look inside the temple. The deity was not familiar with other Hindu gods that was known to me. There was a large eyed female figure in a sari and beside it a slightly smaller figure of a man. Crouching between them was a tiger, recognizable because of its painted stripes.

Bon Bibi, which literally means 'the lady of the forests' is the guardian spirit of Sundarbans. People believe that, Bon Bibi with her brother Shah Jangali, protects her believers from the blitz of the demon called Dakkhin Rai, who appears in the form of a tiger. Sundarbans is largely inhabited by people from both Muslim and Hindu communities. Since ages they went inside the tidal swamps of Sundarbans to collect honey, fishing as well as crab hunting -the only source of their livelihood. But with grave misfortune, some of them never returned back from these tidal lands as they were taken away by tigers. Thus these poor and helpless people always confide in the blessings of Bon Bibi. With passing time, humans are encroaching into the habitat of tigers, and this has made Dakkhin Rai, the demon angry, by taking the form of tigers it is taking its revenge- as echoed in local folklore. However Mother Bon Bibi never left her followers who enter the jungle with a pure heart, doesn't destroy the jungle and take only that minimum resource from the jungle which is needed for their survival. Bon Bibi is protecting her children in this harsh salty lands, ravaged by annual cyclones, floods and drought.



The legend of Bon Bibi:

According to mythology, Bon Bibi is believed to be the daughter of Ibrahim, a fakir from Mecca. But she was raised along with her brother Shah Jangali by a deer. She soon realised that she was bestowed with a duty to protect the people of Sundarbans from a demon called Dakkhin Rai and this is how she ended up in the lands of Sundarbans. She defeated Dakkhin Rai, who appears in the form of a tiger but showing her generosity, she decided that she will only rule half of the jungle leaving the rest half in the hands of Dakkhin Rai. But whenever people do some misfortune to the jungle by hunting tigers and cutting trees, Bon Bibi becomes distressed. She doesn't want her children to destroy this remarkable landscape of swamp forests. This also makes Dakkhin Rai angry and he comes to charge human.

Tigers are essential for the survival of Sundarbans. It maintains the balance of this ecosystem. Whenever people possessed by greed and lust hunt a tiger, deer or cut trees, it destroys the natural balance of ecosystem and the nature in form of Dakkhin Rai claims its revenge. People now started realising the importance of mangroves forest, how it protects human habitation from the strike of cyclones. If people hold to the preaching of Bon Bibi- protecting forests, not hurting wildlife, providing safe shelter to tigers then Bon Bibi will always come to their rescue. As the people of this mangrove land commonly says "You can enter the forest anytime you like. Whether you will leave it depends on Bon Bibi".



Shenbagavalli **"An abandoned Estate & its untold story"**

Ms. Banupriya P.
2020 - 22 SF5 Batch



Sankarankovil range is the largest range in Tirunelveli forest division of Tamil Nadu. It is situated in the beautiful district of Tenkasi which is famous for its scenic beauty and biodiversity. The district shares common border with Kerala. Tenkasi district is bounded by Srivilliputhur Meghamalai tiger reserve (SMTR), Periyar tiger reserve (PTR) and Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) and it is home to many endemic species.

Tenkasi district is located at the foothills of Western Ghats and receives cool breeze at twilight. It is known as "SPA of south India". The maximum elevation in the mountain range is around 1700MSL. Periyar river originates in the remote forests of PTR. It is major life line of riparian states of Tamilnadu and Kerala catering the water necessity. "Shenbagavalli" is located in the western ghats of Tamilnadu and Kerala. During Early days, estate people were using the forest coupe road for transportation of timber and spices when the coupe plantations were existing in our department.

We started trekking to Shenbagavalli with frontline staffs of Tamilnadu and Kerala forest department as a part of joint patrolling. All the way to Theerthaparai saragam in Thalayanai north beat, we had to spare our legs to ticks whose proliferation is at peak during this season. Upto 350MSL we could notice the deciduous tree species such as *Tectona grandis*, *Gmelina arborea*, *Gyrocarpus americanus* species and the stream banks had abundance of butterfly species like Blue mormon, Painted lady, Danaid eggfly, Common mormon, Common gull etc. It was delightful to see.

We halted near a stream at 450MSL for breakfast and installed camera traps to monitor carnivore movement in that area. After that, the terrain was undulating and no distinct path was found. We could hear sounds of many birds like brain-fever, sunbird, woodpeckers and jungle fowl. Thereafter we could observe grassland for 60 m stretch between the two patches of forest which is prone to frequent forest fire.

Shenbagavalli estate was active before thirty years which is having the history of plantation of Pepper, Cardamom, Arecanut and few timber spp felled under coupe system. Traces of habitations and plantations could be noticed around the abandoned estate areas. Above 1000MSL, we had to spare our legs to leeches since the floor is very moist due to more carbon stock accumulated from leaf litters.



Christisonia tubulosa

On the way to AP shed from abandoned estate, we could see many spices and at 1200 MSL, a very big and old cinnamon tree was found, which was major NTFP before declaration of sanctuary More no. of *Musa acuminta* spp were found in many patches above the estate.

The final stretch of trekking path was the most toughest one and challenging since the terrain was too steep and we had to reach the camp only with the help of roots, rocks and climbers. Finally we reached the camp by 4. 40PM after travelling 13kms.



Musa acuminta

The Anti-poaching shed of PTR is located at the strategic point near inter-state border having a picturesque look of both Vasudevanllur RF and Vasudevanallur town. It was built with materials like aluminium sheets and iron scaffoldings. The infrastructure is quite well enough with Bunker cots, cupboards. All construction materials were carried by the local tribes as head load to the camp. They maintained section map, Combing/Patrolling Registers, Duty roster, Inspection register etc in the camp. Entire AP shed is protected from wild animals by EPT of 3m depth was excavated manually. Apart from all these, this shed depends on renewable resources by 'Hybrid technology: i.e., simultaneous use of wind and solar energy' for power source. They also maintained a small rain gauge station to calculate the amount of precipitation. Water has been made available to the shed for different purposes from the natural stream which ensures continuous supply of water by gravity. A few meters away from the shed, Shenbagavalli anicut is located. On the evening we had sightings of flagship species of PTR such as Nilgiri langur, a pair of hornbills and Malabar giant squirrel.

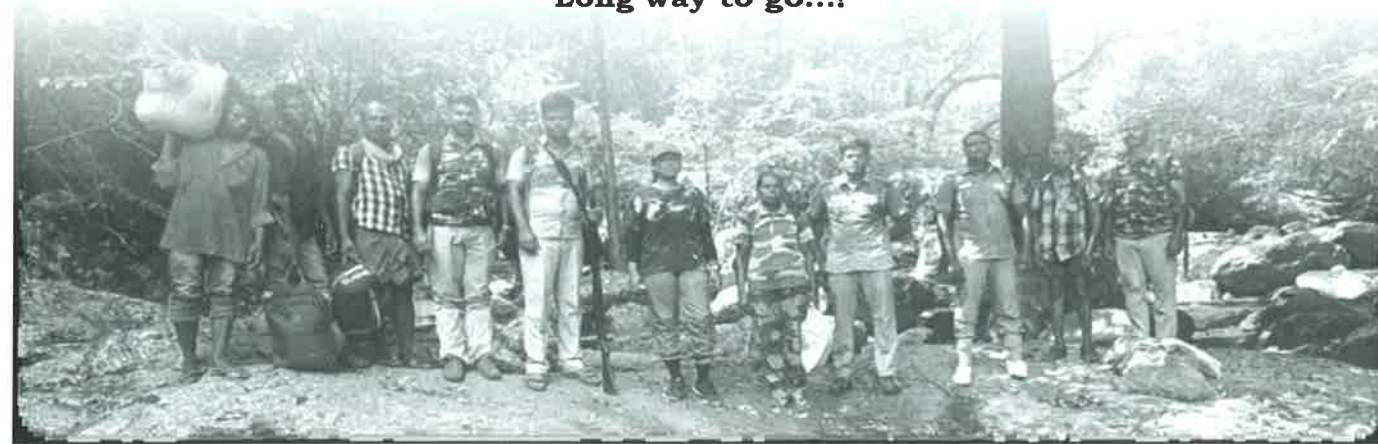
Nilgiri langur

Two jungle streams originate from the peak of Sivagiri hill range in Periyar river basin lying in the Kerala State limit very near to Kerala - Tamilnadu State border. Shenbagavalli anicut is a small diversion anicut constructed more than two centuries before by some enterprising chieftains in Sivagiri Zamin of Tamil Nadu. Now, the Anaicut had been damaged in 1980's and measures were taken by Tamilnadu Government roughly in the past thirty years to repair it.

If this dyke/anicut gets renovated, it will serve round the year for water necessity and satisfy the irrigation needs of 4,423ha in Tamil Nadu and the perennial river flow inside Nellai wildlife sanctuary will flourish the flora and fauna over the entire areas of western ghats.



Long way to go...!



We... The Friends...



Danish Khan
2020 - 22 SFS Batch

ہم
(We)

سر پہ دھواں کی لہر ہے اور ہم ہیں دوستو
آلودگی کا ذہر ہے اور ہم ہیں دوستو!

There is shroud of smoke and We are, my friends!
Poison of pollution and We are, my Friends!

اک دوسرے کو کوئی پہچنتا نہیں
گرو-غبار شہر ہیں اور ہم ہیں دوستو!
People are unable to recognize one another
So dusty are cities and We are, my Friends!

ہم سے ہوائے شہر کی بہت نہ پوچھئے
رگ رگ میں اک ذہر ہے اور ہم ہیں دوستو!
Don't ask me about the health of air in Metros
Venom is running through veins and We are, my Friends!

ہر وقت دجال کی نظر ہے جنگلات سے نکلی
اور اس سہڑ سونے کے پیریدار ہیں اور ہم ہیں دوستو!
Forests are the target of all Pilferers
And Guardians of this Green Gold We are, my Friends!

اک طرف لوٹ ہے اور دوسری جانب پکتے ہیں فیصلے
اور بیج کے محافظ ہیں اور ہم ہیں دوستو!
At one side there is plundering, at the other end decrees are sold
The only firewall in-between We are, my Friends!

سب سو رہیں ہیں گہری نیند میں آنکھیں موندیں ہوئے
رہنا چاہیں ہے بھار وہ ہم ہیں دوستو!
Everyone is in deep slumber and blindfolded
The ones who have to remain wakeful We are, my Friends!

ظالم ہے سیاست ہے ایمان ہے تجارت
ہے جن سے امید بدل کی وہ ہم ہیں دوستو!
Tyrant is the politics, Trade is swindled
The only Pin of hope & justice We are, my Friends!

ہے جنگ چھڑی ہوئی ہر اک جاندار سے
ان ہے زمینوں کی زہاں ہیں ہم ہیں دوستو!
The war has been waged against all living creatures
The voice of these voiceless We are, my Friends!

نہ ہونا کبھی غم زندہ اپنی تقدیر ہے
قدرت نے چنا جنہیں سہ سالار وہ ہم ہیں دوستو!
Don't despair on your destiny my dear comrades
Nature has chosen whom as her protectors We are, my Friends!



Ms. Suchita Sharma
2020 - 22 SFS Batch

Random Thoughts

"If you need yourself
to get reminded of how merciful
the God is to you;
get up in the morning and
just watch the sunrise".

"Over thinking alienates happiness from you.
It makes you stay in your own illusional space.
Accept that past was something
you can't do anything with and
future is out of your ambit.
Embrace the things whole-heartedly as,
when, where and how they approach.
Expect less and accept more".

"Each and every uttered word of yours
can bloom the flowers around or make them wither.
Such is their strength.
Let the blossom and fragrance of those flowers
spread and influence the positivity around.
Let us make this world a little more beautiful
by our small yet vital deeds".

"You are truly unaware of your innate strength
until an adversity sticks around and
shatters you to the core.
Endure that storm with utmost calm and
get ready for the next storm in store.
Because life is all about storms and calms".



Random Thoughts



Vishwa Guru India and climate change



Vishal Choudhary
2020-22 SFS Batch

Over 75% of districts in India are Hotspots of extreme climate events such as cyclones, floods, droughts, heat wave etc. As frequency, intensity and unpredictability of these extreme events are rising, it becomes critical to take necessary steps for combating climate change. While addressing the UN Conference on climate change recently held in Glasgow, PM Modi reiterated increasing ambitions of India in combating climate action and sent a powerful message that the ambitions and promises made by countries over climate change cannot remain the same as were made during the Paris agreement in 2015.

During this global summit, PM Modi presented a vision called 'Panchamrita' meaning the 'five ambrosia'. Firstly, India will increase its non-fossil energy capacity 500 GW by 2030. Secondly, India will fulfil 50% of its energy requirements from renewable energy sources by 2030. Thirdly, India will reduce its total projected carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes between now and 2030. Fourth, India will reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by 45% by 2030. As a result of all these, India will achieve the target of net zero by 2070, which is the fifth elixir. These five elixirs will be an unprecedented contribution of India towards climate action.

As lifestyle plays a very important role in climate change, India has suggested one word movement called, "LIFE- lifestyle for environment." This movement can bring about a revolutionary change in diverse areas like fishing, agriculture, dietary choices, packaging, tourism, clothing, water management and energy. The number of passengers travelling in Indian Railways annually outnumbers the entire population of the world. This huge railway system has committed to attain net zero emission by 2030, which will alone reduce carbon emissions by 60 million annually.

India, along with France, launched International Solar Alliance in 2015 on the sidelines of COP-21. The ISA strives to develop and deploy cost-effective and transformational energy solutions powered by the sun to help member countries develop low-carbon growth trajectories, with particular focus on delivering impact in counties categorised as least developed counties (LDC) and the Small Island developing states (SIDS). The ISA is guided by its 'Towards 1000 Strategy' which aims to mobilise USD 1000 billion of investments in solar energy solutions by 2030, while delivering energy access to 1000 million people using clean energy solutions and resulting in installation of 1000 GW of solar energy capacity. In addition, Government of India has also launched National Action Plan on Climate Change which includes many sub-missions like national solar mission; national mission on sustainable habitat; national mission for green India; National mission for sustainable agriculture.

Also, there has been up scaling of various schemes such as FAME with an aim to boost sales of eco-friendly vehicles in the country; Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) aiming at making the urban cities climate resilient; Ujjwala yojana which aims to provide LPG connections to five crore below poverty line beneficiaries. Schemes such as Ujjwala will reduce dependence on fossil fuels and conventional fuel like cow dung for cooking food, thus reducing air pollution.

The real challenge is to get other developed countries on board. Developed nations like the US and those of the European Union repeatedly do finger pointing towards the developing countries such as India and China. Cooperative actions with the involvement of funding agencies like GCF, GEF rather than blame game are the way forward.

At COP 26 World Leaders' summit, PM said, "When I came to Paris for the first time for the climate summit, I had no intention to add my own promise to other promises across the world. I had come with the concern for humanity, as a representative of culture which gave the message, "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah." It stands for, "May everyone be happy." This is India's message as a Vishwa Guru to the world.



Mayank Agrawal
2020 - 22 SFS Batch

Few lines on the Mother Earth

The Earth: A Mother's Agony

I, Earth, want to say something;
Listen, else I want nothing.
Once, (I was) satisfied to see my children,
With happy faces;
Now in grief for neglecting me,
Due to life chases.

Once, woke up with birds' chirping sound;
Now this sky is an empty blue mound.
Once, proud to be the Trees' Guardian;
Now filled with massive concrete,
By Homo sapiens.

Once, cycle of seasons going on
Systematically;
Now shivering with unusual heat and frost
Continuously.

As per various reports,
Alone unable to fulfill your desire;
It's in your hand otherwise,
Consequences would be dire.

Now it's enough,
Suffocating with war, disease and pollution;
As early as possible,
Beg you to find a sustainable solution.

Once again, want to be like before;
Humanity, work together is the only way.
Sure, soon will come that day;
That's all; I want to say.....

Thank You



Mother Nature

The calmness in the morning light,
The chirping of birds at first sight;
The blowing of air in the empty space,
The rising of sun with smiling face,
This beauty of nature, I want to embrace.

The soothing drops of rain flows,
The roaring of river grows;
And the waves formed due to water's grace,
This beauty of nature, I want to embrace.

How gentle are, these snow claded mountains;
Amazing to see, these pleasant fountains;
And the moving of clouds with a cautious pace,
This beauty of nature, I want to embrace.

The silence of tree rows,
The sound of animals echoes;
Appealing scenery of forest,
That's impossible to replace;
This beauty of nature, I want to embrace.

How fantastically
Mother takes care of her wards,
It is not for any rewards.
That's for all bitterness to erase,
Due to life chase;
This beauty of nature, I want to embrace.

Forests and One health approach



Faisal Farooq
2020 - 22 SFS Batch

FOREST & HEALTH

Historically, hominids, the nearest ancestors of the modern day humans are believed to have dwelled in forests and grasslands ecosystems. The earliest Homo sapiens sapiens too have predominantly lived in forests and coastal lands in complete harmony with the nature. Forests act as the treasure trove of resources and provide the plethora of ecosystem services broadly categorized as provisioning services (e.g., food, fibre and pharmaceutical products); regulating services (e.g., water-flow, climate regulation and infectious disease mediation); and cultural services (e.g., the aesthetic, psychological and spiritual benefits that accrue to some people who dwell in forests). Besides this, forests are the repository of genetic diversity (flora and fauna) and are regarded as the natural pharmacy on the earth given the abundance of the medicinal plant species they harbor. On the flip side, forest dwelling wild animals are the reservoir of large number of the disease causing agents (ranging from bacterial, viral, fungal, rickettsial, protozoan and parasitic). For ages, a fine balance was maintained between the nature and human needs.

Cometh the era of industrialization, technological supremacy, and the population explosion, the picture has drastically changed. The wanton clearance of forests for the agricultural purposes and developmental projects, the changing land use pattern, rapid urbanization, international trade and travel especially related to animals, changing eating habits and fancy for the wild animal delicacies, bush meat and wild animal articles, human induced climate change, the forest fires etc have unleashed what Eugene Stomer calls as an epoch of Anthropocene. This Eugenean epoch has led to the tremendous loss of biodiversity and opened the Pandora's box of disease spillover to humans, e.g, in Indonesia an area roughly the size of Pennsylvania was burned to make way for agriculture, the habitat destruction left the resident fruit bats homeless and they had to fly elsewhere in search of food, carrying with them a deadly disease. These bats settled on trees in Malaysian orchards, pigs and humans had eaten the bat nibbled fruits. The humans developed severe brain inflammation and 105 had died. It was the first known emergence of Nipah virus in people which has since caused a string of recurrent outbreaks across Southeast Asia. This is a classic example of anthropogenic induced disease epidemic.

The increasing human-forest-wild animal interface and negative interactions due to anthropogenic activities have led to the cascade of events and thus opened the floodgates for the spillover of dangerous emerging and re-emerging diseases (including zoonotic) into human habitations. About 75% of all emerging diseases originate from the forest dwelling wild animals. The diseases like Nipah, Kyasanur forest disease (KFD), HIV AIDS, avian influenza, swine influenza, Rabies, Zika, Ebola, Lyme disease and SARS CoV 2 are some of the examples of the disease spillover to the humans. The pandemic potential of some of these diseases can prove an existential threat to the entire human race. The urge to prevent such catastrophic events from happening and to bring back the balance has led to the emergence of the concept of One Health.

One Health approach is an integrated, unifying approach to balance and optimize the health of people, animals and the environment. One Health is a collaborative, multisectoral, and trans-disciplinary approach — working at the local, regional, national, and global levels — with the goal of achieving optimal health outcomes recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment.

We as foresters have a big role to play to collaborate with the public health experts and veterinarians and to prevent the diseases spillover from forests to the humans through adopting the novel **One Health concept**. The focus on the protection activities (preventing encroachment, forest fires, poaching) and conservation efforts (protecting wild life) must be re vitalized. In every management plan/ tiger conservation plan, a dedicated chapter should be placed for the wild life research and monitoring and well documented strategies for the prevention of the diseases spillover to the humans must be incorporated. In the working plans Conservation biology, Biodiversity conservation and ecosystem dynamics related prescriptions should be incorporated to give a push to the wild animal conservation and reduced human animal interface. The foresters should also invest in the understanding of the landscape epidemiology by hiring the personnel's with domain expertise to understand the disease pattern.

The one health approach is the way to go to prevent the future pandemics due to the emerging zoonotic diseases and the foresters should now take the lead and usher in a revolution in both wild animal conservation and better global public health.



Tigress - Queen of Tadoba

Ms. Pratiksha Kale
2020 - 22 SFS Batch



Tiger... top predator in the forest ecosystem! Majestic and ferocious animal. The national animal of India. With 53 tiger reserves, India is the leader in the world for the number of tigers. And thus to witness the tiger in its natural habitat, tiger safaris are preferred. Tadoba- andhari tiger reserve in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra is one-famous for sightings. This article is about one such evening safari on 29th April 2022, that will be in our minds for quite a good time - an unforgettable experience.

We were returning back from our safari with no tiger sighting. A TERI researcher accompanying us said 'It's been 9 years and still I have not sighted the tiger. And this safari is another addition to it.' Spontaneously I said, 'We are in tiger territory. We can see one till we reach the exit.' And the next minute... A tiger was spotted and all of us became excited. By gathering all the energy, everyone tried to get the best possible view. Now it was clear that there are not one but two! Our canter was moving slowly in congruence with the movement of the tigers. As they were walking towards the road, we were sure of getting a nice view and our eyes were wide open to capture it. One tiger came in the open and was crossing the road, by that time the second followed after a few seconds. Just imagine what might have happened now...

Hurray! Third tiger entered on the road from behind and it was followed by a fourth and then a fifth. Five tigers in a row in front of our eyes !! They crossed the road and entered the forests on the other side. It was unbelievable. Our happiness knew no bounds. Eureka moment it was for us! All were giving a broad smile with a feeling of being lucky. People were content. But the sexagenarian guide was ready for another surprise. He asked us to be patient and told us that the group of tigers will come on the road out of the forest on the other side. Without wasting time he moved the vehicle forward.

Now the vehicle was stopped at a point and we were silently looking for our host family, Lara - the tigress and her 4 cubs... Excellent!! The family of five, came on the road, around 500 m away from our vehicle. And they started walking on the road, in the direction of our vehicle. As they were coming towards us, excitement was taken over by the slightly growing fear in the heart. That royal walk, those shining amber colored eyes, stern looks and their intermittent stops; filled the environment with wonderful energy. It was scary, too.

Eventually the walking family came at a distance of just 5 meters from the vehicle; I could feel the dominance of this megafauna in front of humans. What a beauty of nature - the unique black stripes on the orange fur, seriousness of eyes and the magnificent structure. They came, they gave a warning look and they went on their way. As if they were saying... This is our territory!

Lara was leading her cubs while walking gracefully, flicking her tail. A thought came to my mind... What must she be telling her cubs about us? At the same time I saw the

Generally, kids are taught about the tiger as a dangerous animal which will catch and kill. Don't know what Lara tells her cubs but what do we want to tell our kids? Can we reshape the narrative for our kids... 'Tiger is a wonderful animal and forests are its home. Like tigers, many other animals, birds, butterflies reside in forests. If you want to see them with their awesome families, we have to save the forest.'

I was brought back to the moment by the guide who was now telling us about TIGER SISTERS OF TELIA and Lara is one among the four. When we were listening, Lara's family was going away from our vision but the recalling of an excellent sighting was fixing its impression to depth in our minds. Occasionally, the driver took the vehicle in reverse to let the tigress move undisturbed on her way. Isn't this an analogy for us... We have come too forward by disturbing the forests for our benefits. We should be aware of reversing the trend and maintain a balance in favour of all life on earth. We should take the right steps in the right direction and remember that forward is not always right!!!

May Lara's family thrive and continue to enchant us. Queens will change but let's hope for a flourishing kingdom in the form of the natural habitat of the Tadoba tiger reserve.

धन्यवाध!!



Wildlife: an Important link in a healthy Ecosystem

Anjani Kumar Srivastav
2020 - 22 SFS Batch



Wildlife is a term that refers to animals that are not normally domesticated and are found in their natural habitat. They are living creatures that will die and be replaced by others of their kind. Wildlife flora and fauna play a vital role in balancing the environmental ecosystem and provide stable platform to different natural processes of nature. It can be found in all ecosystems, desert, rainforests, plains and other areas. India is one of the 12 mega biodiversity hotspots in the world as it harbors various endemic animals and plants in its natural habitat.

Wildlife is important for the context of its beauty, wilderness, scientific and survival value in wild habitat. It helps to maintain the ecological balance among biotic beings of nature and maintains the food chain and biodiversity in an ecosystem. Wild life provides recreational and mesmerizing view in their natural home. Besides being a country's cultural asset, it also provides aesthetic value to human beings. We largely depend on wildlife especially the medicinal plants for various life saving drugs and medicines.

Wildlife conservation encompasses all human activities like protection, conservation, propagation and scientific management and all the efforts directed to preserve wild animal from extinction from their natural home. Wildlife and nature have largely being associated with humans for numerous emotional, sentimental and socio-cultural reasons. Wildlife plays an essential role in the ecological and biological processes that are extremely powerful tool and medium without which this magnificent world with full of biological diversity can never be examined. A normal and balanced functioning and co interaction among the wild organisms in a community leads to a healthy and wealthy biosphere.





Arun Kumar
2022 - 24 SFS Batch

Forester Friend



Shh.. said the tigress to her cub,
Don't get scared just give me a hug.
Aloof, they saw a simmering light,
Which seemed like a lightening bug.

Hearing the footsteps nearing by,
The shivering cub wanted to fly.
The mother patted on his back,
Thinking of escape routes she could try.

A humanly figure appeared ahead,
Having a torch and a gun in hand.
The tigress thought this was the end,
But she suddenly spotted a green shoulder

Relieved, she whispered in the cub's ear,

Relax my boy!! He is our Forester Friend...
Relax My boy!! He is our Forester Friend...

बस लक्ष्य की ओर टिकाये नज़र
सब छोड़ तू अंधी दौड़ न कर
जरा थम भी जा थोड़ी सांस तो भर
खुद को ज़िंदा महसूस तो कर

क्यूँ खोया अपने सपनों में
जरा प्रेम समझ जो है अपनों में
कुछ नींद ले कभी कुछ भी न कर
खुद को ज़िंदा महसूस तो कर

कितनों को पीछे छोड़ेगा
कब राह तू अपनी मोड़ेगा
जरा साथ तो चल जरा हाथ पकड़
खुद को ज़िंदा महसूस तो कर।।



Ms. Suman
2022 - 24 SFS Batch

The Mosaic of Trees and Grasses

The day started with lots of excitement. We were going to Grass Hill also known as Grass Hill National Park, which is a typical montane shola grassland. We were told by the previous batch of our training institute that Grass Hill Trek was one of the most favourite and memorable treks of almost every trainee.

Accompanied by the respected Principal Sir & Faculty Member of our Academy i.e., CASFoS, we, the group of around 28 Trainees were keenly listening and observing to each and every details. Almost everyone had a small shoulder bag with water bottle, raincoat and lunch pack inside it. Everyone had a pocket diary in which each of us was noting down.

The trek started information about expected behaviours from the trekkers during passage from the forest. We were told about the good number of leeches present on the way. We were told not to worry from the otherwise harmless bites of leeches. Still leeches were taking more than half of our attention. On the way, we were also told about various floral species, civil structures and forest road structures.

As we started ascending the tree started becoming less and lesser and various types of grasses were visible. We saw the trees of Pinus Patula (Mexican Weeping Pine), Wattle and Eucalyptus. These trees were introduced by the British, but could not survive here.

The soil was shallow on the hilltops and at valleys it was deeper. A tree on hilltop has less chances of surviving due to shallow depth of soil. Therefore, it was valley portions which were occupied by the endemic trees. Firstly, because of plenty of moisture due to river flowing there. Secondly, because of deep soil. We were surprised to know that these two different kinds of ecosystem are highly stable and in the climax stage and they never encroach each other.

Further, we found a place where elephants and other go to lick essential minerals, it is called salt lick. Such an arrangement to fulfil the mineral deficiency was a surprise for most of us. An elephant foot mark was nearby, we learnt calculating the height of elephant from its footprint.

As we moved ahead, struggling to avoid the leeches, we saw an animal at top of the hills. After observing from our binoculars, we found that as famous Nilgiri Tahr. It is state animal of Tamilnadu and found only in Weternghat. Due to its special Hooves, it was able to climb steepest of the slopes.

The path ahead was quite narrow with width of around 2 feet. We were surprised to learn that giant Elephants can also cross this narrow path which was evident from elephant dung found there.

Slowly, the landscape was changing into a grass dominated land. Tiger scat was also found. It was indirect evidence of presence of tiger.

Soon after crossing a small hillock, the mesmerizing view of vast grass land suddenly popped up before us. As far as one could see, there was undulating landscape covered by the green blanket of the grasses. At few places there were dark green patches of shola trees, creating a beautiful mosaic. The blue sky was also looking like another mosaic created by white patches of clouds. Between these two mosaics were our hearts, which were spellbound.

A mild fog was slowly running over these green panoramic landscapes and few birds were also enjoying their undisturbed flight. The view was simply breath taking and divine. Every one of us could feel the ecstatic vibes generated by the pristine beauty of the landscape.

We further trekked for 2 to 3 km. After crossing an old and small wooden bridge situated over small rivulet, we reached the Forest Camp. There we had lunch, of course after removing our shoes and socks so that we can ensure ourselves about presence or absence of leeches. Eating food after such a long trek was so appetizing. While coming downhill, we clicked photographs and a short burst of rainfall made our return journey even more delightful. We reached the base camp by evening but our hearts were still at the hill top. The kind of fulfilment our hearts were experiencing were beyond words.



Puzzles - Find the Common Word

Arvind Singh Molfa
2022 - 24 SFS Batch



1. False Fruit, American Multinational Technology Company (5)
2. Group of Wolves, Stack of Cards (4)
3. Fragrant Tree, Type of Footwear (6)
4. Colourless Liquid, Deepa Mehta's Movie (5)
5. Large Cat Species, Luxury Vehicle Brand (6)
6. Flying Mammal, Baseball Equipment (3)
7. Sound made by Elephant, Ancient Musical Instrument (7)
8. Terminellia Specie, A character in Mahabharata (6)
9. Indian Arid Region, Mahindra's Car (4)
10. Cluster of Cells, A Thin Piece of Paper (6)
11. Waterbird, Cricket Terminology (4)
12. Built by spider, Invented by Tim Berners Lee (3)
13. Aquatic Flightless Bird, British Publishing House (7)
14. State Flower of Odisha, A Mauryan emperor (6)
15. Tallest Flying Bird, Construction Machine (5)
16. Dependent on Host, Academy Award Winning South Korean Movie (8)
17. Member of Horse Family, Pedestrian Crossing (5)
18. A Fish, Weapon of Submarine (7)
19. Flame of the Forest, Founder of 'Euphoria' music band (6)
20. A Butterfly, A sovereign ruler (7)
21. Flightless Bird, Berry Fruit, National icon of New Zealand (4)
22. Large Semi Aquatic Reptile, Textile Company (9)
23. Orthopteran Insect, A Sport (7)
24. Columbidae Family, Personal Care Brand (4)
25. Genus of constricting snakes, High level programming language (6)
26. Birds of prey in the family Accipitridae, Quadrilateral with reflection symmetry across one of its diagonals (4)
27. A Frog, Any of the billions of systems of stars and interstellar matter that make up the universe. (6)
28. Group of Rhinoceroses, Paul Haggis directed Academy Award winning Movie (5)



ANSWER

- | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| 1. Apple | 2. Pack | 3. Sandal | 4. Water | 5. Jaguar |
| 6. Bat | 7. Trumpet | 8. Arjuna | 9. Thar | 10. Tissue |
| 11. Duck | 12. Web | 13. Penguin | 14. Ashoka | 15. Crane |
| 16. Parasite | 17. Zebra | 18. Torpedo | 19. Palash | 20. Monarch |
| 21. Kiwi | 22. Crocodile | 23. Cricket | 24. Dove | 25. Python |
| 26. Kite | 27. Galaxy | 28. Crash | | |

A LETTER TO MY HUMANS...

Gaurav Kumar Pant
2022 - 24 SFS Batch



Helloo .. hmm.. Where do I start? Ok, so let me first congratulate you on completing 6 months at this place. I see you hustle day in and day out through that big brown door of Chandan Hostel. I often get amazed seeing the sheer number of outfits you change through the course of the day. I used to assume all of you work for the fashion industry. But then your camouflage dress with SFS logo changed the narrative for me and my friends.

Wait wait wait..., I almost forgot to introduce myself. I usually sit around Van Vatika and you refer to me by many names like Tommy, Candy, Sheroo etc. I like them all but my real name is Mr. Stevens. I really like your white morning dress and the fact that you all are morning people. I also come along with you to the ground sometimes but I feel your sports are too intense for me; for instance the one where you hurl stones at me. It seems fun but I got injured from that sport on many occasions. I don't have any complaints because I see you all getting injured all the time from the games you play. I have seen numerous humans play that stone hurling game with me or my friends. I wonder if any of you could teach me that game, it would be more fun.

I seldom cross that brown door of Chandan Hostel. However, on one rainy night I tried to look for some shelter. Even in such weather one fine gentleman was kind enough to play a game involving a stick with me. But I couldn't comprehend the rules as it was raining heavily. I guess it involves preventing my body from touching the stick. In that case, I must have lost and that is why the fine gentleman accidentally closed the hostel door.

I am somewhat worried about the food situation these days. Earlier I used to relish plenty of good food from some of you. Me and my friends feel there must be some famine-like situation among humans. Some of you have lost an intense amount of weight compared to when you first came here. I sleep on an empty stomach many nights in a row and therefore I can fully empathize with you on the shortage of food.

I would also like to express my sincere apologies for the screaming sounds I made at night on a couple of occasions. Actually some of you play that game where you touch that white round creature with your legs and it jumps here and there covering long distances. You all seem so thrilled during the game. I guess I am not so strong and agile. When a few of you tried to play that game with me by touching me with the feet, instead of taking a flight, I broke into pain. Sometimes that pain resurfaces at night and all those screams involuntarily follow. I'm sorry again but at least one thing is sure, I am not cut out for this foot game.

So, I overheard a few of you expressing displeasure at times. I wonder how life must be beyond that big brown door of the hostel. I constantly see some humans with red shirts keeping food packets beyond that door. I am sure it must be part of some humanitarian relief to meet the shortage of food. I have also seen you carry those big red and white rods with pointed ends along with you sometimes. I request whatever games you play with them, please play them safely.

At times you board a vehicle right in front of the hostel and are gone for days altogether. I see you have also been abandoned by your parents just like me. Life must be hard but then you constantly get help in the form of those big brown boxes always kept at the entrance which you are so excited to receive. To add, you have so many friends with you all the time. Some of you even click pictures with me and greet me while passing by. I must say, it really makes my day.

I also wish to be born as a human in my next birth. I want to play all the games just like you, wear all those pretty looking clothes especially the camouflage one, savor the food packets, dance & sing just like you intermittently do at Van Vatika, witness the outside world and for once sleep peacefully with a roof over my head. I know it is too much to hope but hope is a good thing, as I heard some humans say, perhaps the best of things and no good thing ever dies.

With lots of love and gratitude,

Yours,
Mr Stevens



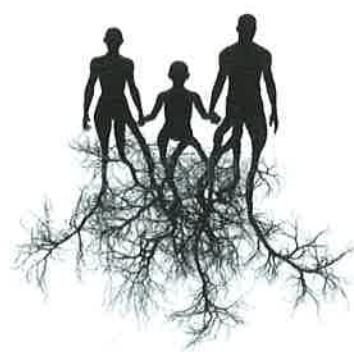


Arvind Singh Molfa
2022 - 24 SFS Batch

Find me... Butterflies...!

Find out the name of butterflies

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. CRIMSON SUNBIRD | 26. SOUTHERN BIRD WING |
| 2. HIMALAYAN QUAIL | 27. WIZARD |
| 3. COMMON IORA | 28. CLIPPER |
| 4. RED-BILLED HORNBILL | 29. COMMON BROWNIE |
| 5. WHITE IBIS | 30. CRIMSON TIP |
| 6. COMMON PEACOCK | 31. CRIMSON ROSE |
| 7. SWALLOW TAIL | 32. SILVER ROYAL |
| 8. KAISER-I-HIND | 33. SPOTTED ZEBRA |
| 9. BLUE MORMON | 34. BLUE OAKLEAF |
| 10. JOKER | 35. HIMALAYAN JESTER |
| 11. BLACK PRINCE | 36. CASPIAN TERN |
| 12. COMMANDER | 37. LESSER FLAMINGO |
| 13. CONSTABLE | 38. PURPLE HERON |
| 14. FORGET-ME-NOT | 39. GREEN SANDPIPER |
| 15. NILGIRI TIGER | 40. INDIAN GAZELLE |
| 16. MALABAR BANDED PEACOCK | 41. MONAL |
| 17. SILVER ROYAL | 42. HIMALAYAN BROWN GORAL |
| 18. RUSTIC | 43. HIMALAYAN SEROW |
| 19. TWO-TAILED PASHA | 44. TROUT |
| 20. PURPLE SWIFT | 45. GOLDEN MAHSEER |
| 21. PAINT BRUSH SWIFT | 46. SILVER OAK |
| 22. GOLDEN BIRDWING | 47. FLAME LILY |
| 23. MALAYAN | 48. SANGAI |
| 24. TAMIL YEOMAN | 49. HANGUL |
| 25. WHITE EMPEROR | 50. BUTTERFLY FISH |



Answer

From 6 - 35,
all are the names of butterflies.



Sakshi Rawat
2020 - 22 SFS Batch

Jungle Survival and Combat Training

Jungle survival and combat training at Special Task Force, Sathyamangalam from 17 September to 26th September, 2022.

After having heard so much about STF training from our seniors as well as juniors, we finally got to live the much-hyped experience in September, 2022. We arrived having heard it would be the best time of our training, still we were skeptical. After living the experience first hand, majority of us would concur with the sentiment.

Most of us had barely adjusted to life at Chandan Hostel when STF happened. Sharing 3 washrooms with 10 girls, lining up in front of washing machine for our turn, grudgingly getting out of bed at 5 am everyday for morning PT... we already were hardened enough. Weren't we? We got the answer on the first day itself. The rooms we were allotted had no mattresses. I thought it would be impossible to sleep on such a bed but in the following days, we were so tired at the end of the day that we slept as soon as our heads hit the cold steel.

The very first day we arrived, we were put to task immediately. Slithering was the first activity we did. I had mentally prepared myself for such tasks but once I looked down from the fourth floor, all preparedness flew out the window. Quitting was not an option. Rajasekaran Sir had to convince me three times to do it. But once I finally overcame my fear, all other tasks like rappelling, river crossing, rock climbing, etc. kept getting easier.

Morning PT made us do the unthinkable, yearn for Muniasamy Sir's PT. The after dinner classes made us miss the CASFOS guest lectures. In the core forest camp, when we had to answer nature's call out in the open, suddenly waiting in lines outside washrooms in Chandan Hostel seemed not that bad.

Weapon training was my favourite part about STF, maybe because it was the only thing I discovered I was actually good at. The first couple of days were spent on teaching us how to handle, aim, put bullets in and how to clean a weapon. All of us were given a weapon each for the entire duration of STF. For me, it was a Glock-17 pistol. Going to an actual firing range and hearing the gunshots of AK-47 for the first time in my life was a surreal experience. The adrenaline rush it gave was unprecedented. Handling a gun seemed so intimidating at the beginning but when time came for us to hand over our weapons back to the armory, we were reluctant to give it up. It almost felt like we were parting with a friend. When we formed such a bond with a piece of metal, then you can only imagine our admiration and respect for the STF instructors.

From the first day itself, they were there for us for every single thing. Whenever we felt we couldn't do something, they were there to encourage us without berating. Through them, we learnt the true meaning of jungle survival. From being unable to sleep on a bed without a mattress, to sleeping soundly even on the ground in the middle of a forest while it was raining, we had come a long way. Many of us overcame our fear of height, sound and water while others discovered their adventurous side. We couldn't have done it without the motivation and encouragement of our brilliant instructors. They filled us with so much confidence and belief that we trusted them and were able to do things we never thought we could ever do.

Their dedication in teaching us, their methodology of teaching and most of all their passion for their job shone in the way they conducted themselves. Sleeping without a proper bed, surviving on less food, trekking for hours in the hot sun made us realise how tough the life of a commando is. In only 10 days, many of us got tired but doing this every day for 365 days a year for the safety of the country and the forest is something which deserves the highest respect. They truly are the unsung heroes.

The one take away from this experience is that nothing is tough, it is challenging.

Not only will I fondly remember navigating through these unfamiliar challenges, but also Rajasekaran Sir's diligence, Thiyagarajan Sir's ear to ear smile, Servalingam Sir's poor jokes and Suresh Sir's go-to catchphrase "Arre listen!"

STF truly is an elite jungle force. I'm eternally grateful for the memories.



One for the Mouse

Sarthak Parashar
2022 - 24 SFS Batch



The summers at our grandparents' house were often not as exciting as Amma exaggerates them to be. The days were mostly dull and dragged too long. Bobby was young then, barely five. He found little things to catch his intrigue, but that was not the case for me, being his elder sister. So, it was a little unusual on one of those hot afternoons that I, Bobby and Grandmother found ourselves eagerly standing by the main door, waiting for Grandpa to step out of that shiny car one last time.

"Is Grandpa going to die?" Bobby asked. Grandma gasped, and I smacked him on his head.

"No dear! Good lord, no! Why would you say such a thing?" It was hard enough explaining to Bobby the literal meaning of 'retirement'. Though he had nodded his head earnestly then, I knew what went into his head would be altogether different.

"My sweet boy, it only means that he won't be going to work like every other morning. It's just like your summer vacations, but one that's going to last forever." It was Bobby's first vacation, and he hadn't really come to loathe his school and studies, yet. So, he just stood there carrying a dumb look on his face and rubbed his head where I hit him.

All those years, the sight of Grandpa walking through that door, in his full grandeur, was, for me, one of great fascination. It always made me dash to him, arms spread out, waiting to be swung in the air, leaving me all beaming and giggles.

But times were changing now. I was growing up, his arms were going weak and thus the privilege had passed on to the much lighter Bobby. Today though, even Bobby was in just for a cursory hug and a pat on his head.

With slow steps and a slight stoop, he entered. "I think I'll go for a short nap, Ana. Wake me up in the evening, will you?" Just then, perhaps noticing the sullen look on my face, he added "And then in the evening, we might go for a little trip to the stream." And my face lit up just like that. "Of course, dear. I'll make you a lemonade before you go to bed." Grandma said and she resumed her daily chores. She'll never retire.

Evening came and went, but Grandpa's snores continued. "Oh, let the poor man sleep, dear. He's had a hard day. You can go to the lake tomorrow morning." I took solace from Grandma's words, thinking today would just be an exception in the long adventurous holidays with Grandpa to come.

Next morning I woke up to a light tickle on my neck. "Grandma.. ten more minutes, please..." I reached for her hand. But Grandma didn't have hairy hands and nor did she wear any bracelet which twitched on its own.

"EEEEK!!" I leapt off the bed, but so did the mouse, and scurrying it vanished out of sight.

"Forty years I've resided here, never had a thief, a stray dog or any undesired guest dared sneak in. This mouse has some guts I tell you, too bad they'll soon be lying squashed in a rat trap!" Grandpa had brought in a single snapping device, put a bread crumb on it, and placed it near my bed.

"What if I step on it?"

"No, you won't, boy." That was one thing Grandpa always did when completely engrossed in something, call me a boy accidentally. "You see, we humans are intelligent creatures, created superior to every other living being. Whereas these filthy rats are just stupid, plain stupid. And you know why?" We shook our heads, knowing well enough that an answer contrary to anything we said was on the way. "Because of all the lab experiments they took part in!" So the cartoons were right about white mice, I wondered. "Wait till tomorrow morn' and you'll find a volunteer in this special 'Experiment' of ours." Grandpa laughed off. The next day the rattrap was intact in its place, only the crumb was gone.

It was another morning when I found Bobby lying on the ground, on his back, with his head tilted at an awkward angle, drool hanging from the corner of his mouth, eyes transfixed at the curtains. The mouse was nibbling at something, eyes scrutinizing its surrounding methodically, taking in all the pieces of information, when finally its eyes met mine. I don't know how to term it, mesmerizing maybe. It felt like the tiny eyes had grown larger than they were supposed to be, and the longer I looked, the larger they grew. And then- WACK! Exactly when Grandpa entered, picked up the broom, slowly crouched to the end of the curtains, licked his upper lip in concentration and raised the broom for maximum impact, I could never tell, but the mouse did. In one leap it was off the curtain, landing on the couch and in the next he was out of the room with my poor Grandpa tailing its twitching tail.

I had always known my grandfather to be the more socially amiable one in the family. Yet now a days I was seeing a rather reclusive side of him. Not many came to visit him any longer, but the ones who did would not receive the heartiest of welcomes that was associated with Grandpa. Soon the visits also ceased. He became more and more dependent on Grandma as the vacations rolled by, sleeping away better parts of the days. The only thing that kept his presence felt was the mouse.

"It mocks me, Ana. I swear it! The way it stands on its legs and murmurs to the air, I just know it. It MOCKS me!"

It had become rather difficult for me to walk around the house, with all the traps occupying almost every corner. But Grandpa was convinced in his own theory.

"They just aren't working, Grandpa, the mouse is still at large."

"Hush now, boy! They're not to catch it. The traps are giving me an insight into the mouse's trails, the path it follows, the ones it avoids. Soon I'll know exactly where it's hiding and then I'll catch it!" He clasped his hands shut. And true to his words, two days later he was rummaging through an old cupboard in mom's old room, when suddenly the rummaging stopped. Grandpa had a disgruntled yet firm look on his face.

"Well I guess now we at least know that it's a 'she'." What he did to the litter, I never asked.

Bobby had become pretty much oblivious to Grandpa's attention. He would follow me around the house, but I would be tailing Grandpa, who in turn was always trying to sneak up on the mouse and the mouse was invisible.

The vacations were coming to an end now. Grandma had started soaking the rice for the Unniyappam she'd be packing for Bobby. I knew that Bobby would be crying his eyes out for her when we would be back home. But I worried if he would also think of the old man. Someday, when we'd have left, Grandpa might have complained to Grandma that he could not find me and when she would have told him of our departure the day before. He would have only sat back, his eyes misty and gloomy, but the next instant he'd have forgotten what he was thinking of previously.

But our departure had not come yet. There were still a couple of days to go. I was already burdened with the worldly worries of all the homework not finished, while Bobby was beaming brightly, the prospect of seeing his friends again and telling them the tale about the big black Grandpa eating mouse was all too exciting. So when I heard the 'click' and the 'shut' that followed, I didn't really associate it with anything. It was Grandma who first rung the bells.

"Oh, my goodness!! It's finally in! You did it, Mathew. You finally caught that thing."

But surprisingly Grandpa didn't join in any of our jubilations. He was just looking solemnly at the mouse, moving to and fro inside the miniature cage. Now that I look back, I think I understand the reason behind that demeanor. That mouse in that cage symbolized a finality to him. An end of a saga. And like a child was clueless about what to do when a game was over, he too had reached an uncertain climax. And perhaps that is why he did what he did next.

"I'll take the cage and release it across the stream." he said with a certain composure. He came back far sooner though, yelling and cursing incomprehensibly. The cage in his hand was swaying open and his eyes were gleaming brightly.

"That thing bit me. Can you imagine? It almost bit my thumb right off! Right at the doorstep. I'll catch that wretched thing again, I swear, and this time It won't dare get away."

On the morning of our departure, Grandpa was snoring away gently in his bedroom. We thought it was better that way. Bobby was already carrying a sullen face, the reality of the separation dawning on him slowly. I was fondly hugging Grandma goodbye, promising her of my return the next vacation, but my eyes were still sneaking looks towards that room I dearly hoped not to find vacant when I return. From one of the crevices, the mouse was staring intently at me though, it would make sure my fear was unfounded.





Shipra Verma
2022 - 24 SFS Batch

Reflections...

Gazing at the moon
For some answers
A storm brewing within
Will you answer dear silver ball?

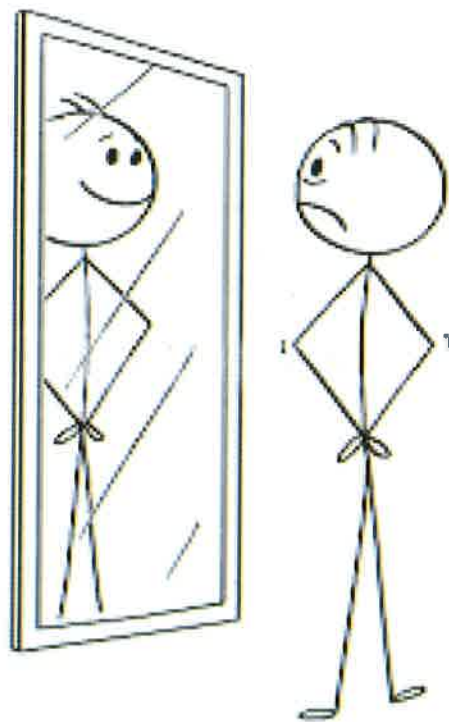
Oh no! another one
Here I am
Staying at the horizon
As a keen observer
A witness
A chilled beauty
Knowing everything!

People want me to be
All in one! Everything...
Like a wonderful news anchor
Knowing news, before it happens!
Sitting with super self esteem
Failing tons of self-help guides
Shouting war cry to explode screen

And the other side
Audience! Great audience
Will listen all till eternity
The truth of universe
Above food, above sleep
Leaving everything behind

Me as an observer
Is very happy to watch this
No content, no speech,
No brainstorming guests
Still my TRP never fades
Cause here I am
Standing on my own
Not knowing everything
Just doing my job
Rotation, revolution
And most important
The Reflection

Reflecting the mighty light
Like news anchors
Reflecting back
You can get your answers too
The key is reflecting back
The art is how to reflect back.



Suraj Tiwari
2022 - 24 SFS Batch

Hope is a Good thing...!

A part of me is already departed,
Remaining one is still trying to cope.

Like a oasis in the desert of life,
I have a treasure, I call her Hope.

A hope, which says things will be fine
A hope, which says the world is mine.

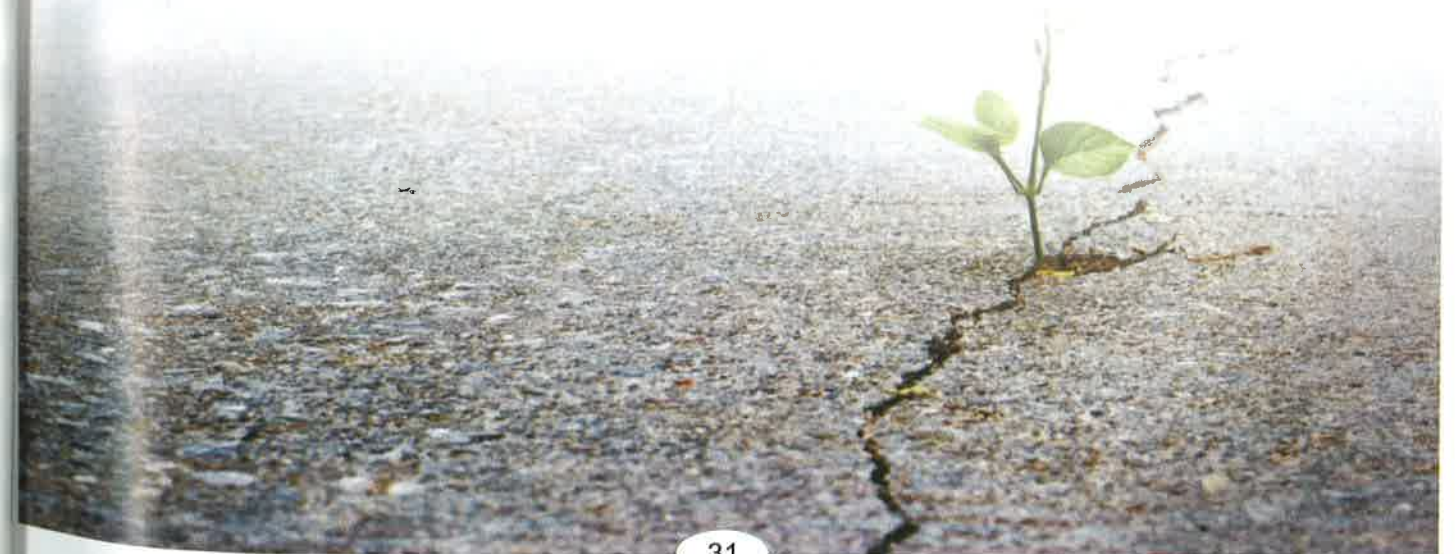
A hope, imprisoned in the cage of my heart,
Stays with me and never departs.

With the river of life, in a boat of hope
I am sailing merrily, down the slope.

Life is uncertain, flaw some and sweet.
I keep rowing forward, I seldom retreat.

If hope departs, to whom I will talk?
In the storms of time, how would I walk?

How would I ask others, to smile?
How would I tell, it's a beautiful life?



Though strictly speaking, humans are animals, there are traits that make them stand apart. One in particular of these traits is their ability to inflict pain upon others for their mere recreation. For all the years worth of wisdom she carried, the most important lesson, she was yet to learn and it would be a painful one.

To her delight, her pup was right there, yapping excitedly upon seeing her but something prevented her from uniting with him. Her pup was in the balcony of the first floor of that red house and she was down below on the street. An alien dimension had been introduced to her view of the world and this dimension was an impenetrable wall between her and her pup. He yelped from up there and she barked back from down here. Looking at them, the curly haired boy snickered at the stupidity of the dogs. The boy's snickering ceased in a day, the pup's yelping died down in another four days but the mother's barking never stopped.

For the next two years, every afternoon, she would come to the red house, stand out on the street with her neck craning high and start calling out for her lost child. Irritated by her crying, they would throw stones at her, she ducked some while some hit their mark but she did not budge. Eventually she grew tired of the dodging game and just let them hit her until they grew tired of the hitting game and let her mourn her son in solace. She was too old to have another litter, only the memories of previous ones accompanied her in her last days.

There were a few who felt pity for the withering dog. The old woman from J-33 kept a bowl of water on her front porch every morning and refilled it each evening. There was a boy from Phase I who showed up from time to time. He didn't have anything to feed her, he just gave her some company and it was always welcome. Recently, a new family had shifted to N-42, a burly, turbaned man and his lanky daughter would serve her some bread and milk at night. While she lapped at her milk, the daughter would timidly run her fingers down her fur.

She was grateful for all the hospitality but it could not deter her from going back to the red house every time. Then a day came when the front door opened and the curly haired boy stepped out. There were other boys with him too, all roughly of the same size. She wagged her tail excitedly, in hope that she'd be allowed to go inside and search for her missing pup. The boys however, surrounded her for some reason. While one caressed her back, another brought his arm around her head and tightened his grip, preventing her from moving her head. Next, she felt someone yank her tail, followed by the feeling of a string digging inside its skin, they were tying something around her tail. And then, whatever it was, was over. The boys dispersed, the gate was still closed. She knew that someone was standing behind her but before she could turn to face him, he kicked her hard in her rear. She bolted, wanting to get as much distance as possible from the beater. But no matter how far or how fast she ran, the kicks continued, it felt sharp, like needles piercing her rear, each more painful from the last one. The ordeal only ended when the watchman found her running wildly in the neighbourhood. He stopped her and untied the ball of stones. As he freed her tail, his eyes were sad. He knew she would go back to the red house still. But the watchman didn't know something about her, she saw the world in black and white. To her, there was no red house, no brown shed, no green grass, there were only shades of gray and the house with her pup was the purest form of white.

She died on a summer morning. The watchman sat by her side the entire night. He knew the wound had festered beyond cure and anyways, there was no one who would take the effort for a street dog. And so, the queen in white left behind the billions of colours that inhabit this world and took with her just one, the colour of her fur.

Life goes on...!



Ms. Vandana Singh
2022 - 24 SFS Batch

Life goes on...!

What to gain what to lose,
It makes you confuse...?

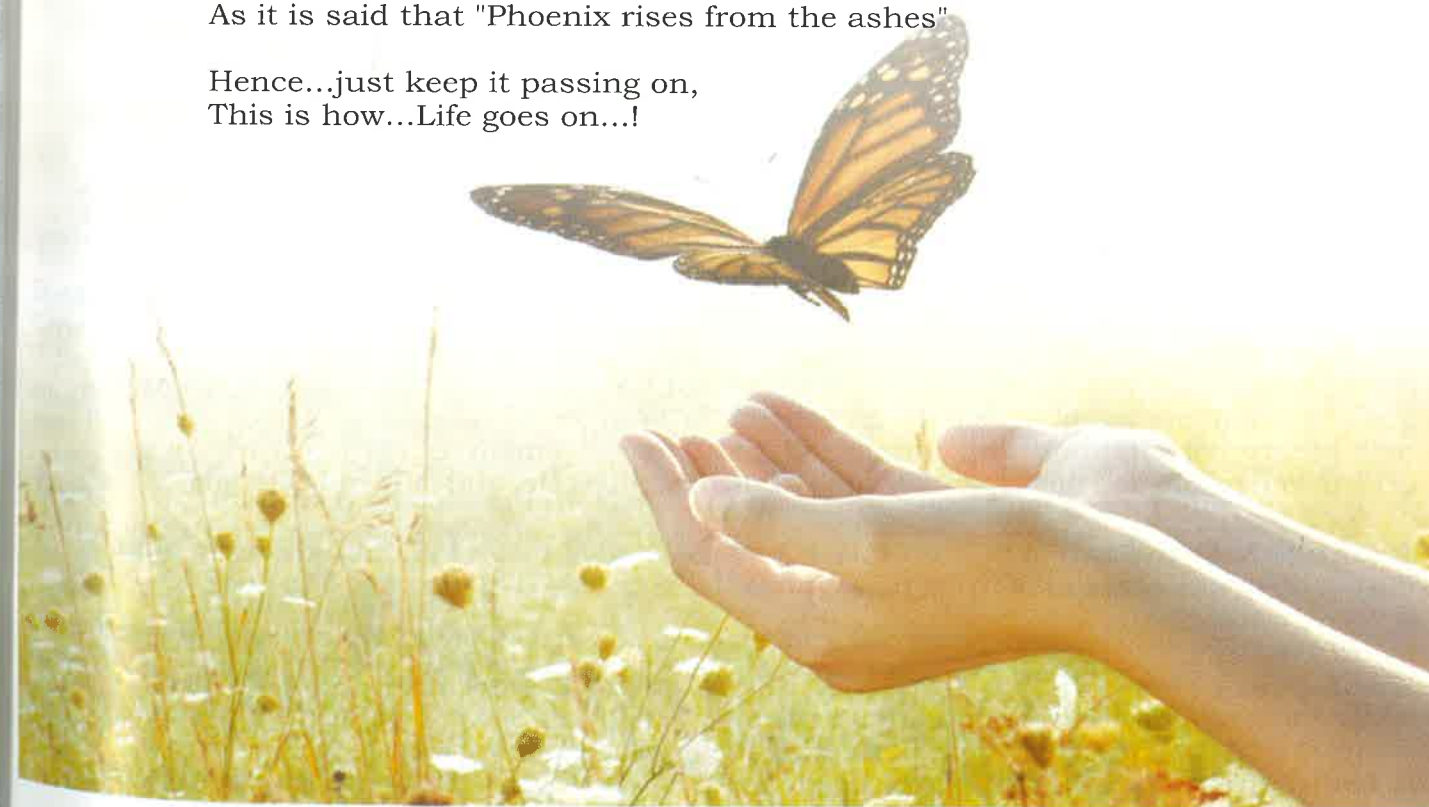
Let it be,
Sometimes...Some things are not in your control,
As it have to be,
Then why are there so many questions within the soul...?

See...just keep moving on,
There is no meaning to hold on,
Just listen the voice of life,
It keeps you away from your own internal strife...!

Whatever is happening it is because of some reason,
and fulfilment of the reason,
give rise to a new season...!

Always keep fighting with your own internal clashes,
As it is said that "Phoenix rises from the ashes"

Hence...just keep it passing on,
This is how...Life goes on...!



Role of Women in Environment Conservation in India

Ms, Veena Tiwari
2022 - 24 SFS Batch



Advancing gender equality through reversing the various social and economic handicaps that make women voiceless and powerless may also be one of the best ways of saving the environment.

-Amartya Sen

Environmental movements are organized from time to time in various part of the World for protection and conservation of environment. Women have been playing a vital role in conservation of environment since ancient time. Women in India are largely involved in movement against deforestation and in water conservation.

Bishnoi movement- In 1730, Amrita Devi Bishnoi sacrificed her life along with 363 people for the protection of khejri tress in the village of Rajasthan. Amrita Devi is considered as first women environmentalist in world.

Chipko movement- Bachni devi, Gaura devi led the protest in Chipko movement. This movement began in Chamoli district in 1973 and spread throughout Uttarakhand by the end of decades. Rural women came together to save their forest by hugging the trees when contractors came to fell them. In this movement, voluntary mass participation of female villages took place.

Narmada Bachao movement- Led by one of the prominent leader Medha Patekar. It is India's largest mass protest against the construction of huge dams on Narmada River. Protest is mainly for displacement risks, resettlement provision, environmental impact, and sustainability issue.

Silent valley movement- Malayali poet and activist Sugatha Kumari played important role in this movement. She dedicated most of her writing to mother Earth. During silent valley movement, she realized the urgency of creative writers and poets to be a communication bridge for common people. She appealed through a letter to scholars and intellectual to join her small group of activists, who had concern for environment.

Vandana Shiva, renowned environmental philosopher and green activist played a major role in ecofeminist movement in India. She is mostly known for national and international green movements against genetic crops. She is founder of Navdanya, a movement for biodiversity conservation and farmer's right. This movement is earth centric, women centric and farmer led movement for protection of biodiversity and cultural diversity.

Radha bhatt played an important role in Nadi Bachao Abhiyan in Uttarakhand to oppose the construction of series of hydel power projects. She led 2000 km march to raise voice for people's water rights.

Women have always played significant role in environmental protection. Furthermore women can help to control population explosion which has been one of the major factor in environment dreadful condition. Practically being close to nature, women are always able to realize environmental issues better so it is necessary to consider their views in planning to save the environment and implement projects for the same.

Managing the unmanageable...

Satendra Singh Tomar
2022 - 24 SFS Batch



When something is unmanageable, then how can we possibly manage it? Sometimes there are incidents, tasks and situations which are very difficult to manage but a good leader and administrator can manage them effectively. Management is one of the most important traits of any administrator. It is everyone's aspiration but not everyone's cup of tea.

Training Academy is a place where administration and management skills are inculcated among probationers during training phase. The following commentary is the compilation of some enriching experiences and incidents which I, along with some of my fellow colleagues, have come across during training at CASFOS, CBE, till date.

Hard to override negativity:

Constructive criticism is very good to improve an individual or an institution or a society. Academy is a place where its segments (faculty, system, process, etc.) are highly criticized, sometimes constructively and sometimes not. But when it is done by some individuals rather too frequently, unconstructiveness becomes a short-term pleasure for them. At the same time, their character, conduct and wisdom is flooded with negativity without them realizing its fallout in the long term. It not only harms them but also the institution and the department. Optimism is the solution for all unmanageable tasks and some of us possess this trait. Such individuals should be revered by us and we must get inspired by them and believe that:

- Scrupulous PT is good for my health; I will be spending less on health issues in the future.
- Sometimes hectic schedule is good as it makes me a good leader and helps me manage and behave systematically and in a controlled way under pressure.
- Faculty's guidance and experience-sharing is good for my career and will help me handle and manage similar affairs in the future.

Real and pseudo character:

Once said by one of the senior faculties at CASFOS, the real character of a person comes out when he/she is under pressure. There are some personalities who retaliate with very high aggression and sometimes with unparliamentary language, even on some humorous acts by fellow trainees but at the same time, some fellow officers show calmness and composedness under high pressure situations like STF activities, rigorous schedule, etc. This is what moulds their real conduct over due course of time and it's desirable from a good administrator to manage day to day affairs effectively without losing her cool.

'Never say die' attitude:

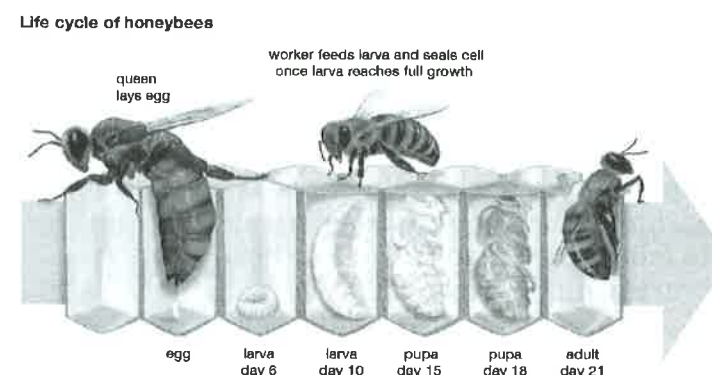
One person was asked why he didn't give excuses or take breaks from PT and exercises like others, he replied, "Excuse is the trait of cowards and I am not among them. I can do any activity, any exercise, it's my will, it's my attitude". For me, such a person is a great motivator, not only for the entire batch, but also for the whole department. Never say die attitude is indeed a trait of a good leader and officer.

So from the above it is clear that there are two honeybee sexes, male and female, and two female castes. The two female castes are known as workers, which are females that do not attain sexual maturity, and queens, females that are larger than the workers. The males, or drones, are larger than the workers and are present only in early summer. The workers and queens have stingers, whereas the drones are stingless.

The most unique quality about the queen is that it can control the sex of the egg which she is laying. Actually Queen honeybees store sperm in a structure known as the spermatheca, which allows them to control the fertilization of their eggs. Thus queens can lay eggs that are either unfertilized or fertilized. Unfertilized eggs develop into drones, whereas fertilized eggs develop into females, which may be either workers or virgin queens.

Life Cycle of a Honey Bee

For all three forms of honeybees, eggs hatch in three days and then develop into larvae that are known as grubs. All grubs are fed royal jelly at first, but only the future queens are continued on the diet. When fully grown, the grubs transform into pupae. Queens emerge in 16 days, workers in about 21 days (on average), and drones in 24 days. After emerging, the queens fight among themselves until only one remains in the hive. The old queen and the majority of her workers typically have left the hive by the time the new queens emerge.



Another unique feature seen in Honey bees is Polyandry. A queen will often mate with many drones, and this mating behaviour is known as polyandry. Polyandry increases genetic diversity within a colony and thereby improves colony fitness and survival. Genetically diverse colonies have characteristics—such as increased population size, foraging activity, and food supplies—all this favours the production of new queens and the formation of new colonies.

The Bee Hive

The hive is a series of combs composed of two layers of six-sided cells made of wax produced and secreted by the workers. Food in the form of honey, plant nectar, and so-called bee bread, made from pollen, is stored in the cells.

Honey: An Elixir

Honey, which the bees produce from the nectar of flowers, was virtually the only form of sugar readily available to humans until modern times. In addition to sugar it also contains a mix of amino acids, vitamins, minerals, iron, zinc and antioxidants which makes it suitable to use as a natural sweetener, and an anti-inflammatory, antioxidant and antibacterial agent.

For this reason, honeybees have been domesticated by humans for centuries. This is known as Beekeeping, or Apiculture. Although this practice dates back to almost 9,000 years ago but the modern beekeepers use human-made bee hives that are typically boxes with rows of wooden frames that bees fill with wax honeycomb. The hives are designed to give beekeepers access to collect honey and help maintain the nest.

Process of Honey Making

- Some worker bees specialize as foragers, and they travel relatively far distances (around 4 miles, or 6.5 kilometers) for their tiny body size in search of good food sources.
- Once a honeybee finds a patch of flowers or fruit orchard, the bee returns to the colony to recruit other workers to visit the site by performing a "waggle dance." The bee's waggle dance is "a symbolic language giving a distance and direction." It provides all the information the other bees need to find the location.
- Honeybees gather nectar in their mouths, which collects in a honey crop, an internal organ also known as a honey stomach. Pollen accumulates on the bee's hind legs in the pollen basket, an indented area surrounded by hair.
- Back at the hive, workers regurgitate the nectar and pass it among themselves in a chain of regurgitated nectar-honey, until enzymes in their stomach have broken down the nectar into simple sugars.
- The nectar then gets dehydrated to contain only 18 to 20% water, a process aided by the rapid wing flapping of the honeybees.
- Once the nectar has turned into honey and sufficiently dehydrated, the bees seal it in honeycomb chambers with a thin layer of beeswax, which the bees produce themselves.
- The honey can remain edible for hundreds of years because of its low moisture content and natural antibacterial properties.

Importance of Honey Bees

The importance of Honey bees can be understood by the quote of Albert Einstein which stated that "If the bee disappears from the surface of the Earth, man would have no more than four years left to live".

Some important roles played by Honey bees are as follows:

- Honeybees produce several products that are useful to people, notably honey and beeswax.
- Honeybees also provide a valuable service by pollinating flowers as they forage, thus helping wildflowers reproduce and helping farms yield more and better produce. The bee's unusually long tongue has made it the most important pollinator species for many flowers.
- According to the National Honey Board, honeybees have become an important supplement to native bee pollinators for many crops, and essential to production of some, such as almonds and avocados.

Threats to honeybees

Honeybee colonies are susceptible to a variety of diseases and parasites. Examples of agents that have been particularly devastating for colonies in Europe and North America include the non native parasites Varroa destructor and Tropilaelaps clareae. Another disease that is characterized by sudden colony death, with a lack of healthy adult bees inside the hive is Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Apart from different diseases, the biggest problems facing honeybees are climate change and urbanization.

On the whole it can be said that the great scientist Albert Einstein was not wrong in his assumption when he compared survival of human beings to the population of honey bees. We need to understand that Honey bees are creatures that are one of the greatest blessings and wonders of the nature. Hence we need to pay utmost attention towards their conservation and protection so that they are able to spread their sweetness in the nature in the same way as they have always done.

The name "cheetah" comes from the Sanskrit word chitraka that means "spotted". The earliest historical references of cheetahs are in classical Greek records of India from the geographer Strabo, about 200 years before the Common Era. During the Mughal Period, the cheetahs were used extensively for hunting. Mughal Emperor Akbar had 1,000 cheetahs in his menagerie. People in Central India, particularly Gwalior State and Jaipur State, used to hunt with cheetahs. The Britishers too acquired the taste of the Maharajas and engaged in rampant hunting of the tigers and cheetahs. A few cheetahs were tamed and used to assist them during the hunting of other animals.

With its glorious history in the Indian subcontinent, it's time that cheetahs are brought back to the place which was once its home. The idea of reintroducing cheetahs was first mooted at a meeting of the Indian Board for Wildlife, the highest advisory body of the government, as early as 1952, five years after India's independence. There were talks of obtaining cheetah from Iran in exchange for Asiatic Lion from India, whereby both countries could reintroduce their lost felines. While this would have ensured that the reintroduced cheetahs resembled closely (morphologically and genetically) with the extinct cheetahs of India but there are only 15 of them left in Iran today and discussions have not yielded much result.

After long negotiations with Namibia, eight big cats made a long trek in a chartered cargo flight to the northern Indian city of Gwalior, part of an ambitious and hotly contested plan to reintroduce cheetahs to the South Asian country. Then on 17 Sep 2022, they were moved to their new home: Kuno National Park, a sprawling national park in the heart of India where scientists hope the world's fastest land animal will roam again.

Again, Kuno National Park is already home to some 30 leopards and the area being close to Ranthambore, tigers from here also migrate to Kuno. The coexistence of three feline species may result in tough competition.

Still, experts in this field are optimistic and one can't help but hope that these majestic cats are seen once again in the jungles of India. The trail is lost but has not ended in the Indian subcontinent and therein lies our hope for the future.

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एक मीठा पान

Ajay Lingwal
2022 - 24 SFS Batch



अच्छे दिन ! आएंगे ! आने वाले हैं !! आ चुके !! नहीं? अच्छा पांच साल बाद आएंगे। कब, जब अगले चुनाव आएंगे तब ?

मुझे गले में अक्सर छालों की शिकायत रहती है। मेडिकली इसे 'स्ट्रेस अलसर' कहा जाता है। वाह! अंग्रेजी में तो बीमारी भी जबरदस्त लगती है, कुछ अमीरों वाली। खैर बहरहाल, मेरे छालों के लिए मेरी हकीम माता जी ने बड़ा मजेदार नुस्खा बताया मुझे फ़ोन पे। मीठा पान। बिना सुपारी और चुने के और मुलेठी शहद के साथ। कोई बेस्वाद काढ़ा या कोई कड़वी दवाई बताई होती तो मैं तुरंत टाल देता। मम्मी को फालतू टी. वी. पे ध्यान न देने को कहता या फिर हाँ हाँ कह के अनसुना कर देता।

पर मम्मी ने इस बार 'मीठे पान' वाला ब्रह्मास्त्र उपाय जो बताया था। भई अब तो रोज शाम अमिताभ के जैसे मुंह में पान दबा के मैडम को फ़ोन किया जायेगा। आखिर किसी न किसी को तो पता चलना चाहिए न। आईडिया एक दम फ़र्स्ट क्लास था कड़वा काढ़ा भी नहीं पीना पड़ेगा और भले ही बनारसी न सही, पान के नाम पे हम भी अमिताभ बन लेंगे दो मिनट को।

पंद्रह सेक्टर मार्किट में सुलभ शौचालय के बगल में एक पान वाले भाई साहब का स्टाल है। शाम को दूध- दही वगैरह के साथ - साथ पान भी ले लिया जायेगा। मैं मार्किट से हमेशा कुछ न कुछ लाना भूल जाता हूँ। दूध दही.... अण्डा ... पान। दूध दही.... अण्डा ... पान। नहीं। पान... दूध दही.... अण्डा। अब नहीं भूलेगा, चलो।

बाकी सामान ले के, आखिर में पनवाड़ी की दूकान पे पहुंचा। शौचालय की गंध से मेरे जोश में कुछ कमी जरूर आई पर पान- सुपारी की महक से सब बैलेंस हो गया। "भाईसाहब मीठा पान लगा दीजिये।" "कितने?" " एक... नहीं। ... दो। हाँ ! दोनों पैक कर दीजिये।" पनवाड़ी अंकल ने इल्मीनान से पहले दो पत्ते निकाले। फिर मेरी झूठी तसल्ली के लिए उनमे से एक पत्ते को वैसे ही एक दूसरे पत्ते से बदल दिया। फिर दोनों पत्ते साइड में सजा कर दूसरे कस्टमर सब को देखने लगे। लड़के सब ऐसे ऐसे सिगरेट के ब्रांड का नाम ले रहे थे की हवा ही नहीं लग रही थी इन्हे चाहिए क्या ? मुझे लगता था की पूरी दुनिया बस गोल्ड फ्लैक ही पीती है.. जो मेरे पिता जी पीते हैं। बीच-बीच में एकाध रिक्शे वाले भैय्या चकने या गुटखे के लिए आता। पनवाड़ी अंकल एक तरफ सिगरेट गुटखा सप्लाई कर रहे थे, दूसरी तरफ एक-एक कर के मेरे पान पे सामग्री छिड़क रहे थे। दस मिनट में पहला पान रेडी था और कागज़ में लपेटा जा रहा था। "मुलेठी डाली है न? नहीं?" मैंने पूछा। "अरे मेरे बाप अगर ये सोंफ या मिस्सी ही खानी थी तो ऐसे ही घर पे

मतलब टोटल पैसा वसूल।

आज करीब -करीब डेढ़ हफ्ता भर हो गया है मुझे इस मीठे पान के रोमांच का आनंद लेते हुए। असल में छाले-वाले तो बहाना ही रह गए हैं। हालत वैसे की वैसे ही है। न कुछ सुधार है न कुछ गिरावट। मम्मी भी रोज फोन पे पूछती है तो मैं गंभीरता से कह देता हूँ, "हाँ जी हाँ..... रोज खाता हूँ मम्मी। हाँ, छाले ठीक हैं अब। पहली बार कुछ काम की तरकीब बताई है आपने।" अब मेरे ना कहने से कौन से मेरे छालों में कुछ फर्क पड़ जायेगा। झूठ बोलने से कम से कम माता जी के मन की शांति तो रहेगी।

मोदी जी के अच्छे दिन भी कुछ-कुछ इस मीठे पान की तरह लगते हैं। अब देश की जनता के छाले भले ही अच्छे दिनों के मीठे पान से ठीक हो न हो, हमारी जनता माता को संतुष्टि तो है की भई कुछ अच्छा होगा। मेरे जैसे कुछ शरारती बालकों को जरूर पता है की कुछ लाभ नहीं होने वाला। फिर भी एक बात की खुशी है चलो लोग तो कम से कम आशावान हैं। और शायद लोगों का खुद पे और व्यवस्था पे विश्वास ही एक देश की सबसे बड़ी पूंजी होती है। और फिर पंद्रह रुपये के पान से कौन सा बैंक में आग लग जाएगी।

और किसी के नहीं तो कम से कम हमारे पनवाड़ी अंकल के अच्छे दिन तो आ ही जायेंगे।



वापसी जड़ों की ओर

Dr. Diwakar Pant
2022 - 24 SFS Batch



टूट रहें हम अपनी जड़ों से,
शाखाओं के विस्तार में,
लड़ रहें स्वयं से हम,
स्वार्थ के संसार में।
छूट रहा आँचल सतह का,
उड़ने के अनुराग में,
छूट रहें हैं अपने सारे,
झुठे हास परिहास में।
सिमट रही हैं धरती सारी,
सिमट रहा घर आँगन भी,
सिमट रही हैं सोच हमारी,
सिमट रहा अस्तित्व भी।



लेकिन ऐ उन्मुक्त परिंदों,
तुमको इतना बतला दूँ मैं,
आना ही पड़ेगा सतह की ओर,
जब थक जायेंगे पंख तुम्हारे।
करनी ही पड़ेगी वापसी,
जड़ों की ओर,
होगा जब संघर्ष हवा से,
इस विराट आसमान में ।।



Ajay Lingwal
2022 - 24 SFS Batch

इक हर, इक जीत

मेरी कविताएं

अब हार के भी हार नहीं,
अब मझधार भी मझधार नहीं,
अब क्रोध में ललकार नहीं,
अब प्रेम में पुचकार नहीं,
अब सत्य में संसार सभी,
अब ढोंग का व्यवहार नहीं,
अब व्यंग्य में वो धार नहीं,
अब ग्लानि का विचार नहीं,
अब रक्त का संचार नहीं,
अब श्वास में खनकार नहीं,
अब राह नयी मोड़ूंगा,
अब तिनके तिनके को जोड़ूंगा,
अब हर लम्हे में बीतूंगा,
अब हर रण में मैं जीतूंगा,
क्योंकि
अब हार के भी हार नहीं.....।



Govind Prasad
2020 - 22 SFS Batch

वृक्ष की व्यथा

कभी

मेरी साखाओं पर भी हरे पत्ते थे।

घोंसले थे नन्हे परिंदों के

करतब थे नटखट गिलहरियों के।

थके-हारे मुसाफिर

मेरी घनी छाँव में सो जाते थे।

देखकर फस मेरे

कुछ बच्चे भी सहलाते थे।

सावन आते ही मैं

कुछ और जवां हो जाता था।

जब एक सतरंगी झूला

मुझ पर झाला जाता था।

गांव की अलख बालाएं

सावन के गीत गाती थीं।

सिर झुका के मेरे आँगन में

झूले को हाथ लगाती थीं।

विकास की दौड़ में

मेरा अस्तित्व छतरे में है।

अब मेरे पास

साखाएं हैं न पत्ते और फल हैं।

परिंदे आते हैं न मुसाफिर

न ही बच्चे चहकते हैं।

दूध के पास कुछ तजुर्बे हैं, कुछ मोठी बाँटे हैं

पथराई ओँछें हैं जिनमें कुछ ख़ाब झलकते हैं।

पथिक

या जंगल की मनुहार लिखूँ।

मिलन - प्रतीक्षा, पर लेख लिखूँ

या विरह भरा वियोग लिखूँ

सूरज सा अंगार लिखूँ

या स्नेहसिक्त संयोग लिखूँ।

बहते लोह का ज्वार लिखूँ

या मलय सुखद बपार लिखूँ,

मैं अपना निश्छल प्यार लिखूँ

या जंगल की मनुहार लिखूँ।

सावन की रिम-झिम में भीगूँ

या आँखों से बरसात करूँ,

अपने गीले एहसास लिखूँ

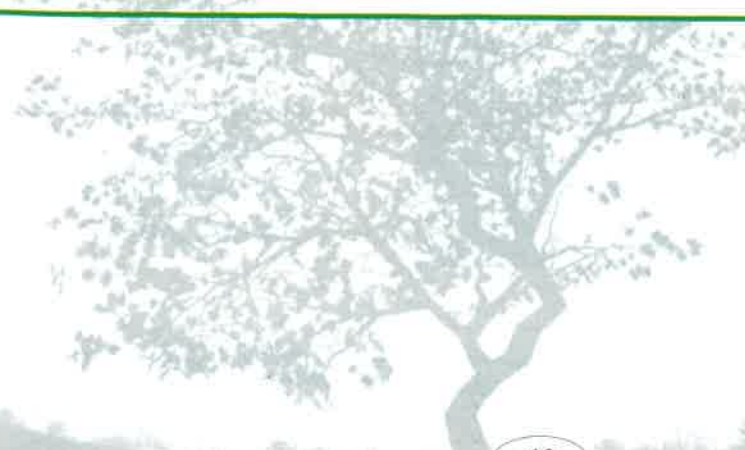
या ओस के बूँद की बात करूँ।

"पथिक" के नेह का सार लिखूँ

या मन पर छाया भार लिखूँ,

मैं अपना निश्छल प्यार लिखूँ

या जंगल की मनुहार लिखूँ।



प्रदूषण

Jitendra Kumar
2020 - 22 SFS Batch



कहर जहर का, शहर में,
अब आने लगा है।
गुबार काले धुएं का,
अब छाने लगा है।।

बनाया खूबसूरत घर,
मगर, ना पेड़ लगाया।
रोशन किया जहां को,
जंगल को मिटाया।।
लोहे के परिंदों पर,
होकर सवार आदमी।
बेसुध हुआ बस भागता,
न तालीब बचाया।।
असर धुआं, गांवों में भी,
अब दिखाने लगा है।।
गुबार काले धुएं का,
अब छाने लगा है।।

न तालीब बचाया।।
असर धुआं, गांवों में भी,
अब दिखाने लगा है।।
गुबार काले धुएं का,
अब छाने लगा है।।

हवाएं तब भी चलती थी,
मगर पत्तों के पंखों से।
फसलें तब भी उगती थी,
मगर गोबर के कंडों से।।
अमृत जल भरी सरिता,
जीवन का सहारा थी।
सृष्टि, सभ्यता की मां,
संस्कृति संग धारा थी।।
सूखे देखकर, सर, कूप,
मन पछताने लगा है।।
गुबार काले धुएं का,
अब छाने लगा है।।

फैलती जहरीली हवाएं,
लू की उठती ज्वालाएं।
खोजती छाया को छाया,
बाग का दुख किसे सुनाएं।।
दरख्तों पर नकली फूल,
प्लास्टिक के पेड़,
कब तक सजाएं।
कंकरीटों के गुलिस्तां में,
नकली घास के आंगन,
कब तक लगाएं।।
सूरज भी अंगार अब,
बरसाने लगा है।
गुबार काले धुएं का,
अब छाने लगा है।।

अमृत सरोवर से लबालब,
नीर करना है हमें।
पेड़ों को काटे बिना,
नींव भरना है हमें।।
दस पेड़, हर इंसान को,
रोपकर, है संभालना।
रसायनों से दूर रहकर,
मिट्टी को है सवारना।।
मौसम भी अपने रुख,
अब बताने लगा है।
गुबार काले धुएं का,
अब छाने लगा है।।

प्रकृति का श्रृंगार फिर से,
अब हमें करना पड़ेगा।
हैं वृक्ष पुत्र के समान,
अब हमें कहना पड़ेगा।।
जंग ये अस्तित्व की है,
अब हमें लड़ना पड़ेगा।
त्याग कर निज स्वार्थ को,
अब हमें चलना पड़ेगा।।
आने वालों की खुशी में,
दर्द कुछ सहना पड़ेगा।।
हो गई मनमानी बहुत है,
अब हमें तपना पड़ेगा।।
नव सृजन का नव गीत,
मन हर्षाने लगा है।
गुबार काले धुएं का,
अब छाने लगा है।।

मासूम शिकारी

Ms. Sarita Bhatt
2022 - 24 SFS Batch



मासूम शिकारी

सुबह की ठंडी हवा और हल्की सी धूप में वो घर से निकल पड़ा, अपनी ही उम्र के नन्हें दोस्तों के साथ, कन्हैया की तरह अपने पशुओं को चराने। छुट्टी के दिन की ये सबसे खूबसूरत सौगात लगती है।

घने जंगल का कोना कोना छान मारना और नए नए फलों की, जानवरों की पहचान लेना इस सौगात का बहुमुल्य उपहार है।

जंगली मुर्गी! अरे वाह ये देखने में कितनी सुंदर है उसने तो आज तक खाने में ही इसका स्वाद चखा है। उसने आज तक कभी किसी जानवर को नहीं मारा है लेकिन आज शायद ये दिन भी आ गया। दोस्तों ने कुछ अनाज के दाने फैलाये, फन्दा डाला और सभी दोस्त पेड़ों के पीछे छिपकर अपने शिकार का इंतज़ार करने लगे।



प्रतिमानों का द्वन्द्व

Sushil Kumar Mishra
2022 - 24 SFS Batch



साधारण होना अजीब नहीं होता
न अजीब होता है असाधारण होना
अजीब होता है ऐसे प्रतिमानों का चुना जाना।।

इन गुम्फित प्रतिमानों के बीच कितना मुश्किल है तय कर पाना
और बता पाना कि क्या बेहतर है?
साधारण होना या असाधारण होना?

कुछ होने से बेहतर है मनुष्य हो जाना,
सबका हो जाना सबको अपना लेना,
खो देना अपना अहं
शून्य से जोड़ लेना खुद को
कभी प्रकृति हो जाना पहाड़ और जंगल हो जाना
कभी सन्यासी हो जाना कभी कवि हो जाना।।

जोड़ लेना स्वयं को वास्तविकता से
कूपमंडूकता से ऊपर उठना
तथागत हो जाना और जान लेना वे सारे रहस्य
जो ज़िंदगी को बनाते हैं कठिन
उन्हें खोजकर सात संदूकों में दफ़न कर देना।।

देना समाज को एक नया नज़रिया
जो मुक्त हो पूवार्ग्रहों, मतभेदों, असमानताओं से
जो फिर से प्रकृति का मानवीकरण कर सके
और मनुष्य को धरतीपुत्र बनाकर प्रकृति की गोद में ले जा सके।।

तभी सम्भव है गांधी या अम्बेडकर हो जाना या हो जाना ज्योतिबा फुले,
और पैदा होना एक और मलाला का या ग्रेटा थुनबर्ग का।।

सबसे बेहतर है जीवन जीने की कला सीखना और सिखाना
इतर साधारण या असाधारण होने के।।



Veena's Poems

Ms. Veena Tiwari
2022 - 24 SFS Batch



तुम्ही से है जग सा

सुरमित है

आज भी

बन और निकुंज तुमसे

कहां हो तुम

प्राण दाता नीरव के

स्वामी हरित वन के

दूँटती डोल रही

गाँये तुम्हे

कुंज कुंज

झूलती - दूँटती बालियाँ

कदम्ब की

आह भर रही हैं,

तुम्हारी याद में

देखो मिट रहे निशान

वन कुंजों के

बजाओ फिर से

बांसुरी मधुर,

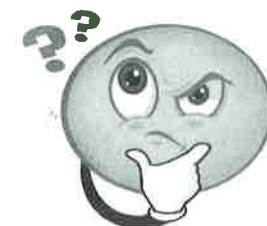
जगा दो चेतना

सोयी स्मृतियों की

बचा लो हरियाली

अपनी माटी की

हैं कसम तुम्हे।



कुछ अनकही बातें

लड़कियों की भी क्या ज़िंदगी होती है,

कभी खुशियाँ कभी आँखों में नमी होती है

जहां रही बचपन से कल वही के लिए अजनबी होती है,

बातें तो सब कह दी मैंने, मगर कुछ बातें अनकही होती हैं

माँ का घर छोड़ पराए घर जाने के लिए एक दिन सजी होती हैं,

लड़कियाँ दो घरों के बीच मजबूत कड़ी होती हैं

जाने किस मिट्टी से गढ़ी होती हैं,

हर खूबी से वे बखूबी गढ़ी होती हैं

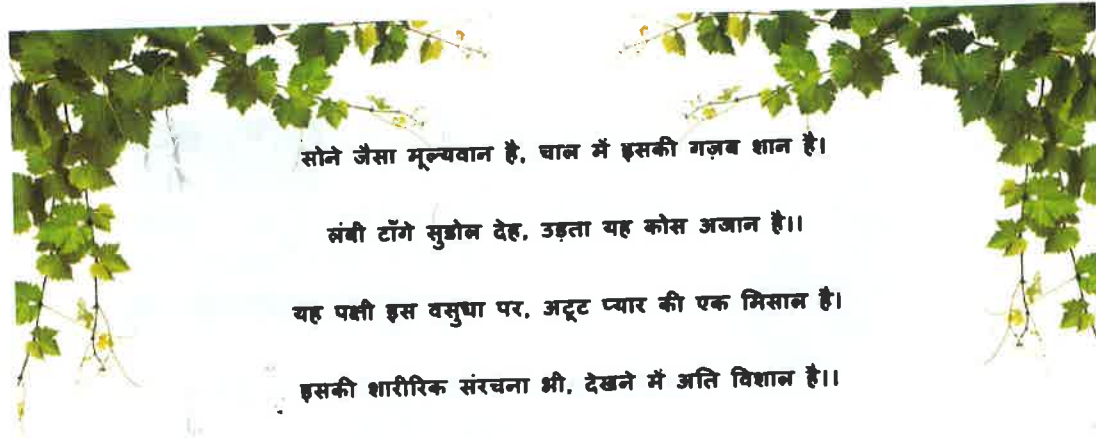
दिल में बहुत सा दर्द, चेहरे पे मुस्कुराहट बनी होती है

लड़कियाँ विधाता द्वारा दी गई नेअमती में सबसे सुंदर नेअमत होती हैं

बातें तो सब कह दी मैंने कुछ बातें मगर अनकही होती हैं

सोने सा सारस

Vineet Kumar Singh
2020 - 22 SFS Batch



सोने जैसा मूल्यवान है, चाल में इसकी गज़ब शान है।

लंबी टांगें सुझोले देह, उड़ता यह कोस अजान है॥

यह पक्षी इस वसुधा पर, अटूट प्यार की एक मिसाल है।

इसकी शारीरिक संरचना भी, देखने में अति विशाल है॥

यह प्रेम दूत वेदों से उपनिषदों तक में चर्चित है।

ऐसे अमर प्रेम का सूचक अब अपने ही अस्तित्व के लिए चिंतित है॥

जैसे- जैसे नमभूमि का घटता जा रहा दायरा है।

वैसे- वैसे इनकी संख्या पर छा रहा घना अंधेरा कोहरा है॥

भारत ही नहीं अपितु विश्व में इसके वजूद की मुहिम छिड़ चुकी है।

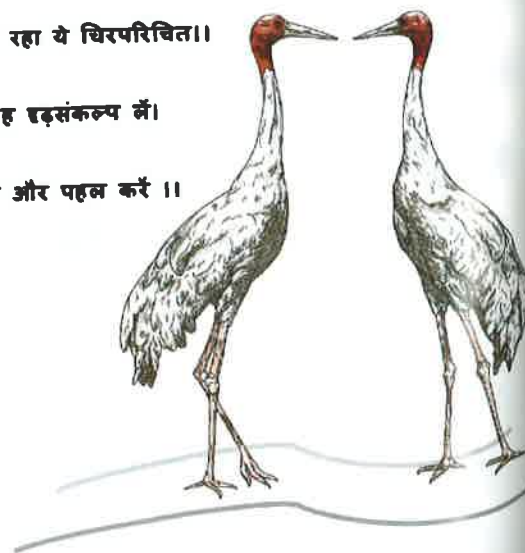
आइ. यू. सी. एन. के संकटावस्त सूची में होना इसी की एक कड़ी है॥

वो बचपन में तालाबों, झीलों में इनकी मनुहार, नृत्य देख मन होता था अति हर्षित।

लेकिन अब सूखे पड़े सिवानों, जल स्रोतों से गुम हो रहा ये घिरपरिचित॥

तो क्यों न हम सब आज जगें, अपने मन में यह हृदयकल्प में।

ऐसे अद्भुत, आलीकिक पक्षी को बचाने की एक और पहल करें ॥



The Grey Ghost

Shakeel Ahmad
2020 - 22 SFS Batch



Amidst the sprawling rugged and treacherous cliffs of the Trans-Himalayas of Ladakh, lie one apex predator that is mired in mystery. A majestic animal so elusive that little is known about its habitat, population size and distribution. There is an old adage in Ladakhi culture that if you lay your eyes on the grey ghost, as the snow leopard is known, then you are the luckiest person alive!

The snow leopards (*Panthera uncia*) live in one of the world's highest mountain ranges and are the least understood of all the big cats. Their habitat includes high altitude rocky areas above the treeline at elevations of 2700-5000m. Snow leopards have adapted to thrive in these extremely high elevations where the air is thin. They have developed wide nasal passages and large chest cavities that increase the volume of air breathed in. They have smaller and more numerous Red Blood Cells than typical cats maximising the amount of oxygen absorbed by the body. Snow leopards can endure temperatures as low as -40 degree Celsius. To keep warm in this inhospitable climate, snow leopards have the densest fur of all cats with nearly 26000 hairs per square inch. A human only has about 1300 hairs per square inch. Snow leopards also have giant paws that act as snow shoes distributing their weight so that they can walk on snow instead of sinking in. To keep warm as they rest, they wrap their furry tails around their bodies like a blanket. Their tails are balancing tools and are the longest tails of all the big cats. It can grow upto 90% as long as their bodies. The long tail acts as a counterweight similar to a tightrope walker balancing bar. This helps snow leopard to hunt agile in steep and rugged environments. It has black spots on its limbs and face, and its pale smoky grey coat, with ghostly, dark grey rosettes, allows for excellent camouflage. The centre of the rosettes are darker and the pattern of rosettes of each individual is different.

Their front legs are shorter than hind legs, helpful for quick starts and rapid speeds. The broad muscular chests are like shock absorbers dampening the impact of nearly vertical hunts.

DISTRIBUTION

In India, their geographical range encompasses a large part of western Himalayas in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh in the eastern Himalayas. In Ladakh, they are mainly distributed in the alpine and sub-alpine regions of Markha, Sumdah and Rumbak valleys and parts of the Zaskar range.



DENSITY AND PREY NEEDS

Densities of snow leopard ranges from 0.1 to 10 or more individual per 100 sq. km. Snow leopard's main prey includes blue sheep (*Pseudois nayaur*), asiatic ibex (*Capra ibex*), Ladakh urial (*Ovis vignei*) and argali (*Ovis ammon*) in which blue sheep and ibex are mostly preferred. The natural distribution of snow leopard is closely related with that of its prey. Snow leopards hunt a large animal every 8-10 days on average. One snow leopard needs about 20 to 30 adult blue sheep annually. Snow leopards are opportunistic predators and livestock predation is a potential threat.

BEHAVIOR

Snow leopard are shy, elusive cats known for their solitary nature. These cats are most active at dawn and dusk, which is called a "crepuscular activity pattern" by scientists. Snow leopards regularly patrol home ranges that can cover hundreds of square kilometres. Sometimes a male and female might be seen together during mating season, or we might see a mother with her young cubs. Once the cubs are 2 years old, they begin to disperse from their mother and set out on their own.



In order to communicate, snow leopards leave markings on the landscape that other cats will find. They scrape the ground with their hind legs and spray urine against rocks to mark their territory or locate mates. Snow leopards make sounds similar to those made by other large cats, including a purr, mew, hiss, growl, moan and yowl. However, snow leopards cannot roar due to the physiology of their throat, and instead make a non-aggressive puffing sound called a 'chuff'.

LIFE CYCLE

Mating season for wild snow leopards is between January and mid-March. During this time, a male and a female will travel together for a few days and copulate. The female is typically pregnant for 93-110 days before retiring to a sheltered den site and giving birth to her cubs in June or July. The mother raises her offspring alone, providing food and shelter. Based on the limited data available from the wild, it appears that female snow leopards are ready to have their own cubs by age 3. Male snow leopards become sexually mature by age 4. In captivity, snow leopards have been known to live for as long as 22 years.

THREATS TO SNOW LEOPARD

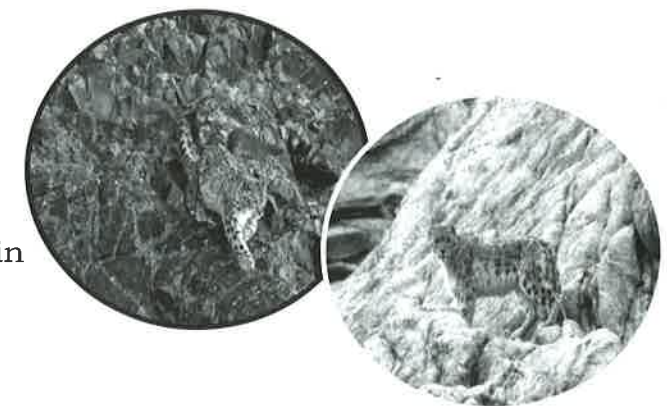
The main threats to snow leopards include illegal trade, depletion of natural prey base, conflict with locals (retributive killings), lack of conservation, awareness and policy, and climate change. Illegal trade in snow leopards poses a major threat to its conservation. Snow leopards are killed for their body parts and there is a great demand for snow leopard pelts, followed by their claws, meat and bones as a substitute for tiger bones in Chinese medicine. Snow leopard range has been remote and inaccessible high mountain areas of Ladakh, interspersed with small hamlets where the locals had agro-pastoralism as the main economy. The locals graze their livestock in the sub alpine steppes of Ladakh sharing in part territories that sometimes overlap with that of the snow leopard. However, with the advent of increasing connectivity, opening up of previously inaccessible areas and increase in the number of livestock population, there has been an ever-increasing competition between the livestock and the natural prey population of snow leopard (mountain ungulates).

for the limited pasture resource. This has led to the decline in the population of blue sheep and asiatic ibex, forcing the snow leopard to resort to livestock depredation. This leads to Human Snow Leopard Conflict (HSLC), where snow leopard ventures into human habitation and breaks into livestock pens killing scores of livestock in a single go. Most of the livestock depredation happen during night in livestock sheds followed by livestock kills during daytime in open pasture grounds. The loss of livestock has engendered a negative sentiment among the local population and there are many instances of revenge killings of snow leopards by the locals. Such retributive killings had happened in part due to the lack of awareness among the local population regarding the ecological and economic values of snow leopards. Climate change is a serious threat to biodiversity. Most areas in snow leopard home ranges, such as high altitudes and cold deserts in the Trans-Himalayan region, are among the most vulnerable ecosystems in terms of the effects of climate change. The proclivity of snow leopards to descend to lower altitudes will increase due to the movement of their prey, such as blue sheep in the Trans-Himalayas, due to substantial changes in vegetation communities. It has been observed that grasses and many shrub species are no longer found in sufficient quantities at higher altitudes, forcing blue sheep to move down for foraging which in turn attracts the snow leopard with it thereby increasing the chances of livestock depredation and hence HSLC.

CAUSES OF HSLC

livestock pressure.

- Lacks livestock grazing supervision.
- Poor animal husbandry practices.
- Lack of awareness and education about the importance of snow leopard in mountain ecosystem and the need to conserve it.



CONSERVATION OF SNOW LEOPARD

The Trans-Himalayan region covering the Union Territory of Ladakh has been bestowed with rich biodiversity. Of late, the entire conservation narrative has been centred around tigers and elephants. There has been relatively less attention on the biodiversity present in the region from the view point of conservation. Very few know about the existence of species like kinag (*Equus kiang*) and the snow leopard in India. Against this backdrop the Government of India launched the Project Snow Leopard in 2009 with the goal: "to safeguard and conserve India's unique natural heritage of high-altitude wildlife populations and their habitats by promoting conservation through participatory policies and actions". One of the important management approaches of this project is the involvement of communities in conservation efforts.

With the notification of Hemis National Park in 1981 and constant vigil by the wildlife department, the snow leopard retaliatory killings have significantly reduced. The local Wildlife Department and NGO Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust (SLC-IT) has since then taken steps to conserve snow leopard. The measures include corral improvement, livestock insurance and compensation, eco-tourism, education and awareness and capacity building.

CORRAL IMPROVEMENT

Construction of predator proof corral pens and night shelters has significantly reduced the livestock depredation by snow leopards. The wildlife department and SLC-IT also provides assistance for improving the existing livestock corrals to make them predator proof. Villagers provide the labour while SLC-IT provides wire-mesh, doorframes, beams and wooden poles, especially in villages with a limited number of trees or no trees at all.

LIVESTOCK INSURANCE

Predator proof corrals are effective or night time raids by snow leopard. However, depredation during day time persisted. This was mainly due to lax herding practices. To counter these losses, SLC-IT started a community-controlled livestock insurance program. Under this interested households insure their livestock by paying an annual premium. SLC-IT provides a matching fund to create a corpus. This community owned insurance program also ensures that there are no false claims, as villagers know whose animal died and in what way. Similarly, the wildlife department also gives compensation to the villagers for the livestock losses.

ECOTOURISM

The livestock depredation cannot be reduced completely and in order to generate and muster support among the local population for the conservation of snow leopards, various eco-tourism initiatives have been started. One such initiative is the SLC-IT's Himalayan Homestay Program. Apart from generating additional income, homestays also help in protecting the mountain environment. For instance, 10% of the proceeds from the program are put into a 'village conservation fund', which is used by the villagers for various activities such as tree plantation, garbage cleaning and maintenance of natural and cultural sites. Other initiatives include Himalayan eco-cafes, solar sowers, snow leopard treks and bird watching tours.

WAY FORWARD

According to the research paper titled "Modelling potential habitat for snow leopards in Ladakh, India" by Sophie May Watts, Thomas M. McCarthy and Tsewang Namgial, over half of the constructed corrals (56.4%) occur in highly suitable snow leopard habitat. Over 20% of corrals occur in areas of low habitat suitability for snow leopards, where no depredation events have been recorded in that study. Therefore, there is a scope for better targeting of conservation investment by prioritising the construction of corrals in villages within highly suitable snow leopard habitat. In addition, just over half of the homestays are located in highly suitable snow leopard habitat. Snow leopard tourism in Ladakh has been growing haphazardly without any prior visioning. The habitat suitability model in the study mentioned above can be used to better locate the position of homestays. There is a need to accurately estimate the snow leopard population and density. Population estimation techniques like sign survey, camera trap, etc have their own pros and cons in the rugged and hostile topography of Ladakh. Camera trapping is not much successful due to the logistic issues that arises due to the remote and tough terrain snow leopards inhabit. Genetic analysis of faecal DNA provides a reliable method of estimating snow leopard population, given a standard protocol is developed for collection, handling and transport of the faecal matter.

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My visions...

Ms. Vandana Singh
2022 - 24 SFS Batch



!!.....मां.....!!

कितना सुकून मिलता है इन बाहों में,
ना जाने कितना प्यार भरा है इन निगाहों में

कोई दर्द छू भी नहीं पाता है,
जिंदगी की राहों में
जब आ जाते हैं तेरी पनाहों में....!

बस तुझे देखकर ही मिट जाती हैं,
ना जाने कितनी उलझनें,
क्योंकि

"मां" तेरी मुस्कान से ही चलती हैं...
मेरे दिल की धड़कनें.....!!



.....Silence (khamoshiyan....).
Sapno ke jahaan mai,
Dur kahi Aasman mai,
Hawaa ke jharokhon mai,
To kahi kisi biyabaan mai,
Gungunaati hui kuch khamoshiyan....!!

!!.....मोर.....!!

आज देखा उसको फिर एक दफा,
मुस्कुरा रहा था वो,
गुनगुना रहा था वो,
रिमझिम बरसात में खुद को भिगा रहा था वो...!

जा रहा था वो इस ओर से उस छोर,
कितना सुंदर लग रहा था वो मोर!!

अपने पंखों को ओढ़कर,
नांच रहा था वो दिल खोलकर,
लहरा रहे थे पत्ते भी उसकी ही थिरकन में,
झूम रही थी ये प्रकृति भी उसकी ही धुन में...!

ऐसा लगा मानो है कोई डोर,
जो खींच रही थी अपनी ओर...
क्या कहूं ...वो कितना खूबसूरत सा नज़ारा था,
जैसे थम सा गया हो.....

उस एक पल में दिल ये बेचारा था.....!!!



Though this effort of creating a forest in middle of city is like a drop in an ocean when it comes to the extent of proactive steps required to conserve our environment and arrest the scale of deforestation. But its a start. Its unique example of destroying buildings especially unused ones or those that have outlived their utility needs to be replicated more and more. Afforestation is not enough. Moreover in urban regions where concrete jungle is sprawling everywhere, there is no easy land availability to undertake plantation. In this backdrop Oxyzone model needs to be followed and promoted. Apart from these small efforts of creating city forests do help us in realizing

the objective of our directive principles (Article 48A) of providing clean environment to our citizens. The current pandemic has also exposed as to how a rapidly deteriorating environment can accentuate the problems for common folk (for example Delhi's smog along with Covid- 19 had compounded health problems of several patients).

We need a paradigm shift to save our sinking planet. Moving away from deforestation to afforestation is not enough. We need to move towards deconcretization where ever possible. We need to more "green lungs" like Oxyzone in cities so that they can have green lungs for all.



Anand Kumar Pushker
2020 - 22 SFS Batch

Covid-19: From a Catastrophe to an End Meant to Reset Humanity

As seen in the movie Avengers: Endgame wherein after half of the population dies, the rest of the population portrayed the socio-economic changes of human priorities. Though it's a fictional story, it elucidated the need for resetting humanity and its priorities in the event of a catastrophe threatening our existence. In case of suffered pandemics like Typhus, Spanish Flu or enduring pandemics like Malaria, Covid-19 it is evident that they forces us to change human priorities like economic wellbeing to social wellbeing around the globe.

Before exploring more into changes of human priorities, we should understand from history, major pandemics suffered by humans originated from wild animals such as HIV from Chimpanzees, Ebola and SARS from Bats, Influenza from Pigs, Zika from Apes and Monkeys. Covid-19 is also believed to have originated from wild animals. Human priority of economic expansion owing to burgeoning population has inadvertently led to depletion of nature and its resources by deforesting, defragmenting and extending urban clusters into forested areas. Are not these the root cause for initiating and instigating such pandemics?

In third Anglo Maratha War, East India Company also suffered with pandemic Cholera and it led to high of mortality rates until the end of 19th century. Consequently, it shifted the focus of company to prevention instead of treatment as its happening in the contemporary case of COVID-19. East India company efforts to improve sanitation and hygienic conditions of the masses resulted in containment of Cholera. In those times there were no global organizations like World Health Organization to alert the remaining parts of the world, thus without aid from any global forum, the pandemic was controlled.

To decide on resetting humanity, we must understand the importance of the term pandemic on the sidelines of other terms outbreak, epidemic.

An outbreak is "spreading a disease in a particular area", epidemic is "spreading on large scale in a country" and pandemic is "a global scale event of spreading the disease". The Covid-19 started as outbreak in Huanan Seafood and Animal Market in Wuhan city of Hubei province and turned as epidemic when complete China was effected and finally WHO announced it as a Pandemic when rest of the world like Spain, USA, India, Korea were effected.

Do pandemics always reset humanity and priorities in the end?

After the Spanish flu in 1918, with colossal loss of population, the renewed interest was given to health sector with increased research and development for vaccines, and monitoring of the infected. But it didn't stop the increased industrialization with poor sanitation and hygiene in India's so-called "modern" urban clusters.

In contemporary world, the countries like India which are endemic with recurrent pandemics such as Malaria and Dengue, suffer severe socio-economic consequences due to them. And the Covid-19 pandemic, has amplified the risks to national security, loss of livelihoods, day pay loss for average workers, increased out-of-pocket medical expenses, lockdown of public places and international response of protectionism by banning air travel to and from certain countries.

Environmental Impacts of Covid-19

With Covid-19 pandemic reducing carbon dioxide emissions into atmosphere due to low transportation, decline in industry supply chains and reducing demand for commercial activities that exploit natural resources in many parts of the world, is nothing but resetting priorities of humans. The pandemic situation has significantly improved air quality in different cities across the world; it lessens water pollution and noise, and reduces the pressure on the tourist destinations,

*Out of suffering have emerged the strongest souls;
the most massive characters are seared with scars.*

which may assist the restoration of the ecological system. However, it is assumed that, all of these environmental consequences are short-term. So, it is high time to make a proper strategy for long-term benefit as well as sustainable environmental management. To protect this only home of human beings, united effort from all the countries is prerequisite. Some possible strategies for resetting humanity include:

1. Sustainable industrialization: Industrialization is crucial for economic growth; however, it's time to think about sustainability. For sustainable industrialization, it is essential to shift to less energy-intensive industries, use of cleaner fuels and technologies, and strong energy efficient policies. Moreover, industries should be built in some specific zones, keeping in mind that waste from one industry can be used as raw materials of the other. After a certain period, industrial zones should have been shut down in a circular way to reduce emission without hampering the national economy.

2. Use of green and public transport: To reduce emissions, it is necessary to encourage people to use public transport, rather private vehicles. Besides, people should encourage to use bicycle in a short distance, and public bike sharing (PBS) system, like promoted by Delhi Metro at several stations, should be made available for mass usage, which is not only environment friendly but also beneficial for health.

3. Use of renewable energy: Use of renewable energy can lower the demand of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas, which can play an important role in reducing the GHGs emissions. To maintain the daily needs and global economic growth, it is not possible to cut-off energy demand like a pandemic situation. Hence, use of renewable energy sources like solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal heat and biomass can meet the energy demand and reduces the GHGs emission.

4. Wastewater treatment and reuse: To control the challenges of water pollution, both industrial and municipal wastewater should be properly treated before discharge. Besides, reuse of treated wastewater in non-production processes like toilet flushing and road cleaning can reduce the burden of excess water withdrawal.

5. Waste recycling and reuse: To reduce the burden of wastes and environmental pollution, both industrial and municipal wastes should be recycled and reused. Circularity economic systems, aimed at eliminating waste and the continual use of resources, should be implement in the production processes to minimize the use of raw material and waste generation. It is apparent that majority of the people (especially in developing countries like India) have a lack of knowledge regarding waste segregation and disposal. Thus, government should implement extensive awareness campaign through different mass media, regarding the proper waste segregation, handling and disposal methods.

6. Ecological restoration and ecotourism: For ecological restoration, tourist spots should periodically shutdown after a certain period. Moreover, ecotourism practice should be strengthened to promote sustainable livelihoods, cultural preservation, and biodiversity conservation.

7. Behavioral change in daily life: To reduce the carbon footprint and global carbon emission, it is necessary to change the behavior in our daily life and optimum consumption of resources like; avoid processed and take locally grown food (i.e. Be Vocal for Local), make compost from food waste, switch off or unplug electronic devices when not used, and use a bicycle instead of a car for shorter distances.

8. International cooperation: To meet the sustainable environmental goals and protection of global environmental resources, such as the global climate and biological diversity, combined international effort is essential. Hence, national and international authorities should take responsible and effective role to prepare time-oriented policies, arrange international conventions, and coordination of global leaders for proper implementation.

Directly or indirectly, the pandemic is affecting human life and the global economy, which is ultimately affecting the environment and climate. It reminds us how we have neglected the environmental components and enforced human induced environmental depletion.

Combating and Adapting to Climate Change in India



Mayank Pandey
2020 - 22 SFS Batch

While Climate Change is global, changes in climate are not expected to be uniform across the planet. For instance, Arctic temperatures are rising much faster than the global average and rates of sea-level rise vary significantly across the world, making it important for us to examine the regional trend in our country.

India is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to projected climate change and regularly experiences some of the world's highest maximum temperatures, with an average monthly maximum of around 30°C and an average May maximum of 36°C. The country is already experiencing changes in climate and the impacts of climate change, including water stress, heat waves and drought, severe storms, flooding and associated negative consequences on health and livelihoods. With a 1.3 billion but growing population, largely dependent on agriculture, India is among severely impacted countries by ongoing climate change. Global climate projections, given inherent uncertainties, indicate several changes in India's future climate

Implications of Climate change:

In Himalayan region, the problem of rising temperatures is three-fold:

- It leads to the melting of mountain glaciers, which can spark floods and associated devastation.
- It also decreases glacial coverage, which leads to a reduction in the long-term availability of water for people, agriculture, and hydropower.
- Finally, as glacier cover diminishes and the area is replaced by water or land, the albedo – the amount of light that is reflected without being absorbed on a surface – also decreases. This could increase solar energy absorbed, leading to more warming.

Almost all climate change models show a trend of general warming in mean annual temperature as well as decreased range of diurnal temperature and enhanced precipitation over the Indian subcontinent. A warming of 0.5°C is likely over all India by the year 2030 (approximately equal to the warming over the 20th century) and a warming of 2 to 4°C by the end of this century, with the maximum increase over northern India. Increased warming is likely to lead to higher levels of tropospheric ozone pollution and other air pollution in the major cities.

Increased precipitation including monsoonal rains is likely to come in the form of fewer rainy days but more days of extreme rainfall events, with increasing amounts of rain in each event, leading to significant flooding. Drizzle-type precipitation that replenishes soil moisture is likely to decrease. Most global models suggest that the Indian summer monsoons will intensify. The timing may also shift, causing a drying during the late summer growing season.

Climate models also predict an earlier snowmelt, which could have a significant adverse effect on agricultural production. Growing emissions of aerosols from energy production and other sources may suppress rainfall, leading to drier conditions with more dust and smoke from the burning of drier vegetation, affecting both regional and global hydrological cycles and agricultural production.

Uncertainties about monsoonal changes will affect farmers' choices about which crops to plant and the timing of planting, reducing productivities. In addition, earlier seasonal snowmelt and depleting glaciers will reduce river flow needed for irrigation. The large segment of poor people (including smallholder farmers and landless agricultural workers) may be hardest hit, requiring government relief programs on a massive scale.

Implications of changing climate on various aspects of Indian region:

1. **Agriculture:** High-input, high-output agriculture will be negatively affected even as demands for food and other agricultural products rise because of an increasing population and expectations for an improved standard of living. Millions of subsistence and farmers will experience hardship and hunger through being less able to predict climate conditions. To a certain extent, trade may compensate for these deficits but maintaining the agricultural surplus in the country would become challenging.
2. **Water:** Melting of glacier may yield more runoff in the short term but less in the medium and long terms. More severe storms (especially cyclones) will cause more damage to infrastructure and livelihoods and exacerbate salt water intrusion in storm surges. Changes in the timing and amount of monsoon rains will make the production of food and other agricultural products more uncertain, so that, even in good-weather years, farmers will be more likely to make decisions leading to lower-productivity. Riverine flooding and inland flooding are expected to become more severe in the future with climate change, especially in the Godavari and Mahanadi river basins along the eastern coast of India.
3. **Exacerbation of Inequality:** The welfare of those who are affected by climate change and who have limited means to adapt may act as a force that can change governments, strain public budgets, and foster unrest. About one-third of Indians are extremely poor, and around 60 percent depend upon agriculture for their livelihoods.
4. **Energy:** As India searches for additional sources of energy to meet rising demand, climate change mitigation efforts may constrain its use of indigenous and imported coal, oil, and gas, while development of nuclear energy will be slow at best and likely to encounter opposition. Other non-emitting technologies will require technology transfer and capacity-building from the developed countries, which has its own challenges.
5. **Climate Migration:** The human migration from the times of Indus Valley Civilisation is very similar to the one that would take place - or is already been happening - from regions impacted

by human-induced climate change, especially in low-lying coastal regions and islands that often bear the brunt of extreme weather events and sea level rise. Back in 1990, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) noted that the single greatest impact of climate change will be on human migration. India receives immigrants from a number of countries. Under climate change conditions, it may be flooded with many more, particularly from Bangladesh. Such migration may exacerbate tension between the two countries as well as putting a strain on Indian central and state governments. Even within the country, the gradual southward shift of Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) over the last century forces people to migrate for greener pastures. The shifting of ITCZ led to decreased monsoon rains, drying up of rivers which made agriculture difficult.

6. **Adaptation across States:** Adaptive capacity in India varies by state, geographical region, and socioeconomic status. Studies point to influential factors such as water availability, food security, human and social capital, and the ability of government (at state and national levels) to buffer its people during tough times. Where adaptive capacity is low, the potential is greater for impacts to result in displaced people; deaths and damage from heat, floods, and storms; and conflicts over natural resources and assets.

In April, 2021 the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has released a report titled 'Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Adaptation Planning in India Using a Common Framework' which identified eight Indian states as highly vulnerable to climate change. These states are Jharkhand, Mizoram, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh and West Bengal. These states, mostly in the eastern part of the country, require prioritization of adaptation interventions.

Measure taken to combat climate change in India:

1. **India's Nationally Determined Contributions:**
Though COVID-19 Pandemic has made it challenging, India is well on track to meet its Paris Agreement commitments. While speaking at the World Sustainable

Development Summit 2021, organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Prime Minister Narendra Modi said - "We committed to reduce emissions intensity of GDP by 33 to 35% from 2005 levels. You will be happy to know that that drop off 24% in the emission intensity has already been achieved."

India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) includes:

- a) Reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 per cent by 2030 from 2005 level
- b) 40% of cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030 with financial and technical help from other countries and GCF
- c) Additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tons of CO₂ equivalent by 2030 o Enhancing investments in development programs in sectors vulnerable to climate change, particularly agriculture, water resources etc.
- d) Joint collaborative R&D for such future technologies.

2. **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC):** The Action plan covers eight major missions on Solar, Enhanced Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Habitat, Water, Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem, Green India, Sustainable Agriculture and Strategic Knowledge on Climate Change.

3. **International Solar Alliance (ISA):** ISA was jointly launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the then President of France, Francois Hollande in Paris on the side-lines of CoP 21 in 2015. The vision and mission of the alliance is to provide a dedicated platform for cooperation among solar resource rich countries that lie completely or partial between the Tropics of Capricorn & Cancer.

4. **State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC):** State governments have drafted climate strategies aligned with the eight National Missions under the NAPCC. The strategies focus on issues ranging from climate mitigation, energy efficiency, and resource conservation to climate adaptation.

5. **FAME Scheme for E-mobility:** Union Government in April 2015 launched Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric vehicles (FAME) - India Scheme with an aim to boost sales of eco-friendly vehicles in the country. It is a part of the National Mission for Electric Mobility.

6. **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation & Urban Transformation (AMRUT) for Smart Cities:** To make cities sustainable and increasing the green spaces in cities.

7. **Environment Impact Assessment:** A Management tool to regulate the impact of industries on the environment for ensuring optimal use of natural resources for sustainable development.

a) Applicable for major projects like infrastructure, thermal and nuclear power, industries, mining etc.

b) Industrial categorization (Red, Orange, Green and White) according to their impact to maintain balance between regulation and ease of doing business.

c) White industries (non-polluting industries) do not require EIA approval

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) released a new draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) - 2020 on March 12, 2020. As and when the EIA is finalised, it is expected to incorporate the perspectives of multiple stakeholders in a balanced manner.

8. **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana:** The scheme provides LPG connections to five crore below poverty-line beneficiaries. The connections are given in the name of women beneficiaries to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels and conventional fuel like cow dung for cooking food, thus reducing air pollution. The scheme envisages of smoke free Rural India.

9. **UJALA scheme:** The scheme was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2015 with a target of replacing 77 crore incandescent lamps with LED bulbs. The usage of LED bulbs will not only result in reducing electricity bills but also help in environment protection.

10. **Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC), 2017:** Developed by Ministry of Power and Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), ECBC seeks to promote low carbon growth by integrating the renewable energy sources in the design of the buildings.

- For a building to be ECBC compliant it has to show at least 25% savings in the energy consumption.
- It is estimated that adoption of ECBC throughout the country would reduce at least 50% of the energy use by 2030.

Conclusion: The NDCs submitted by the countries under Paris agreement are grossly inadequate to contain the temperature rise within the desirable limit. The world can no longer ignore the problems arising due to Climate Change because a pathway to development independent of Climate Change is no longer available.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a warning from Nature that we must act on climate change, pollution and loss of nature and its resources. A green sustainable pandemic recovery would enable India to exceed its NDC obligations. Green recovery encompasses measures which include direct support for zero-emission technologies and infrastructure, reducing fossil fuel subsidies, no new coal plants and promoting Nature-based innovative solutions.

In India, rising threats of climate change aggravated by increasing inequality requires a proactive policy that factors in the unique threats to different regions (e.g. floods in the Ganga basing and drought in Vidarbha region) in the development programs. The strategy to adapt to this crisis needs to protect the worst affected victims — the poor and the marginalized along with the environment.



Forest and Biodiversity Conservation in Ancient India



Vimal Kishore Bhardwaj
2020 - 22 SFS Batch

In ancient India the people were very close to and dependent on forest and natural resources. Ancient Indian texts like Arthashastra, Sathapatha Brahmanas, Vedas, Manusmriti, Brahatsamhita, Ramayana, Mahabharata, Rajtarangini, Abhigyan Shakuntalam etc depicted the picture of forest ecology and conservation in sustainable manner. The presence of leaves, wild animals like peacocks, one-horned deer, tiger, elephants, bulls etc on seals and mud pots indicates the presence of biodiversity during Indus valley Civilization. The sacred groves (Tapovana) mentioned in various texts like Abhigyan Shakuntalam by Kalidas were rich in biodiversity and ecological wealth.

In Bhagavada Gita, Lord Krishna compares the world to a single banyan tree with unlimited branches in which all species of animals, humans and demigods wander, which reflects the concept of community ecology.

श्रीभगवानुवाच ।

ऊर्ध्वमूलमधथत्वश्मखाशः प्राहुरव्ययम् ।

छन्दांसि यस्य पर्णानि यस्तं वेद स वेदवित् ॥

The relationship between culture and ecology was the integral part of ancient Indian societies.

Concept of Forest and Biodiversity in Ancient Indian Texts

Kautilya's Arthashastra divided the country between the Himalayas and the oceans into various kind of regions aranya (forests) , gramya (village areas) , parvata (mountains) , audaka (wet lands), bhauma (dry lands), sama (plains) and Vishwa (uneven lands).

The rain fall was measured in dronas (1 drona = 1.5 to 2 inches). List of protected animals, birds and fish is found in the text.

In 1972, the conference on human environment in Stockholm mentioned about some principles very similar to the edicts of Arthashastra. In India water (Prevention and control of pollution) Act 1974, The Forest Conservation Act 1980 and The wildlife Protection Act 1972 show amazing similarity with the contents of Arthashastra.

In Manusmriti we observe:

- Biodiversity means all living forms chara (movable living world i.e. animals) and achara (immovable ; plants).
- Pollution refers to spoilage of the five gross elements by unethical activities.
- Contamination means any action against wholesomeness (Shoucha).
- Storage means storage of forest products.
- Importance was given to conserving and domestication of animals, biodiversity protection and vegetarian food habits.
- Manu stated that killing of khara (ass), ashwa (horse), ustra (camel), mraga (deer), ibha (elephant), aja (goat), abhi (snake) and ahisa (buffalo) was a sin for the sake conservation.

Charaka and Sushrut Samhitas categorise the land into three categories :

- jangala the region of open spaces where a steady dry wind blowed.
- anupa the marshy tract bordered by seas where cold wind blowed.
- sadharna intermediate regions which have some common features of other two.

The Vedas specified four types of living beings, viz. andaja (born of eggs), jivaja (born of womb), svedaja (born of moisture) and udbhija (born of earth) and declared that these are impelled by prajnaman (consciousness).

The Vedas described a diversified range of flora and fauna and urge the human beings to protect, preserve, nurture and nourish the environment and natural world. Atharva Veda portrays bhumi or Prithvi as mother, it says "O mother, with you oceans, rivers and other bodies of water, you give us land to grow grains, on which our survival depends. Please give us as much milk, fruits, water and cereals as we need to eat and drink."

In Chhandogya Upnishad first time the concept of hydrological cycle appears while in Ishopnishad the concepts of sustainable development and conservation were established. Later the Ayurveda section of Vedas demonstrates the profound knowledge of biodiversity.

In Mahabharata, Hastinapura the capital of Kurus was situated in forests Kuru jungle, Nimisha and Utpalranya in upper Gangetic plains. While division of kingdom between Kauravas and Pandavas latter were given Khandava vana where Arjuna cleared the forest with help of Agni (controlled forest fire) to establish their capital Indraprastha. In Ramayana there is a description of different species of flora and fauna. The Swarna mriga was the blackbuck an endangered species now a day.

Lord Krishna praised the trees of Brindavan "they have dedicated their lives to welfare of others". In Sangam texts the concept of Tinnai is a fascinating example of detailed and early perception of the significance of the eco-zones.

So it is obvious that ancient Indians were not ignorant of the importance and conservation of forests. They had profound knowledge of bio-diversity. The worship of nature and natural resources is an integral part of Indian culture even now. Let us continue this legacy with more wisdom.



Stop Taking - It's time to give back

Vishal Choudhary
2020 - 22 SF5 Batch



Forests are part of our lives in more ways than we realize.

When we drink a glass of water, write in a notebook, take medicine for a fever or build a house, we do not always make the connection with forests. And yet, these and many other aspects of our lives are linked to forests in one way or another. Forests provide environmental stability and are key to combating climate change; they contribute to the prosperity and well-being of current and future generations. Forests also play a crucial role in poverty alleviation and in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in several ways.

Forests, which constitute nature, are essential for survival and sustenance of life. Trees provide us the clean air that we breathe, filter the water we drink, and provide habitat to over 80% of the world's bio-diversity. Forests absorb harmful carbon from the atmosphere, and provide fresh healthy air. Trees not only hold the top soil firmly, preventing soil erosion, but they also are responsible for maintaining the eco-diversity.

This encompassing sphere of influence of forests gave birth to Biological Diversity. The present status of Biodiversity rests on the survival of forests. It has been realized time and again that forests and Biodiversity are too precious to lose. There is an important connect between Forests and Biodiversity at all levels, which is critical in achieving sustainable management and biodiversity conservation. Healthy forests means healthy, resilient communities and prosperous economies.

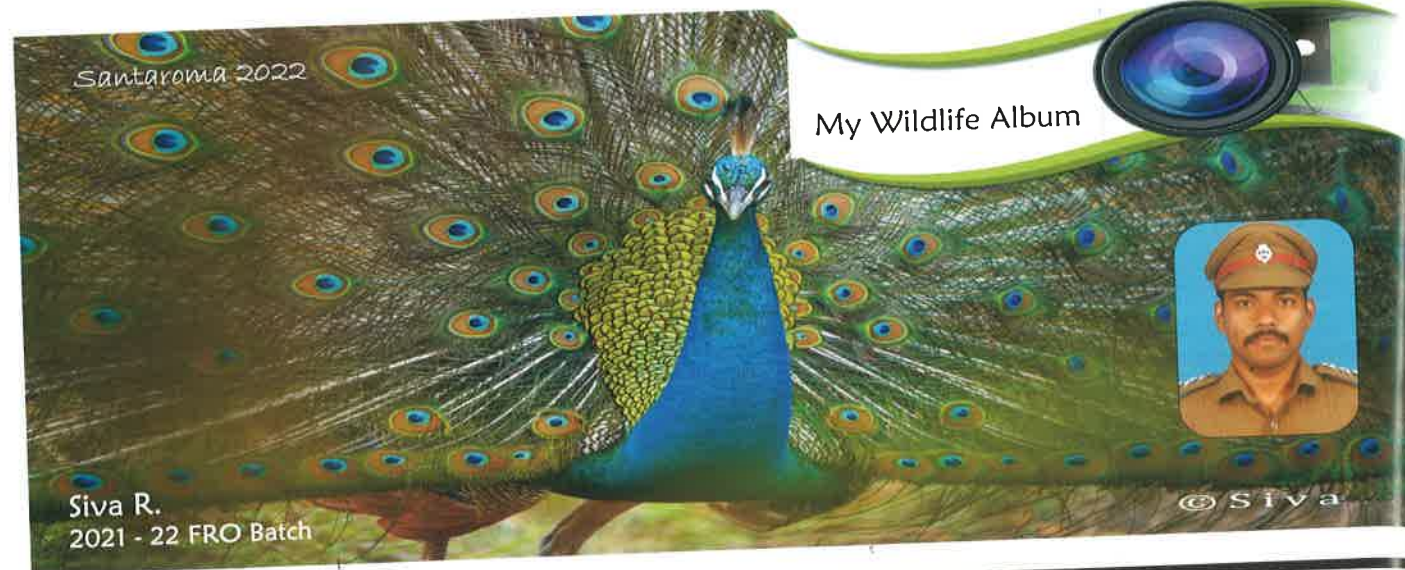
Indian philosophy of conservation is inspired by the Atharva Veda, which says –

*"Whatever I dig out from you, O Earth!
May that have quick regeneration again;
May we not damage thy vital habitat and heart"*

This is the philosophy on which the concept of Sustainable Development is based. Sustainable management of all types of forests is at the heart of unlocking challenges of changing for the benefit of current and future generations. The lines of Atharva Veda shows that the connect between people and forests in India is millennia old where our ancestors used to derive all its needs from forests. Forests showered human, like a loving son/daughter, with everything we ever wished for. We too did our part in deriving those benefits and yet keeping forests healthy and resilient. But as Mahatma Gandhi has said, "There is enough for everyone's need and not for everybody's greed." Soon, this greed took over needs and results have been drastic and alarming with macro effects like climate change as well as micro effects such as frequent floods, tsunamis, earthquakes etc. And as if it was not sufficient, a single virus has brought whole world to a standstill. Can you sense the message? The message is loud and clear:

To care for ourselves,
we must care for nature.
It's time to wake up.
To take notice. To raise our voices.
It's time to build back better
for People and Planet.

Let's not TAKE from forests.
It's time to GIVE something back...!

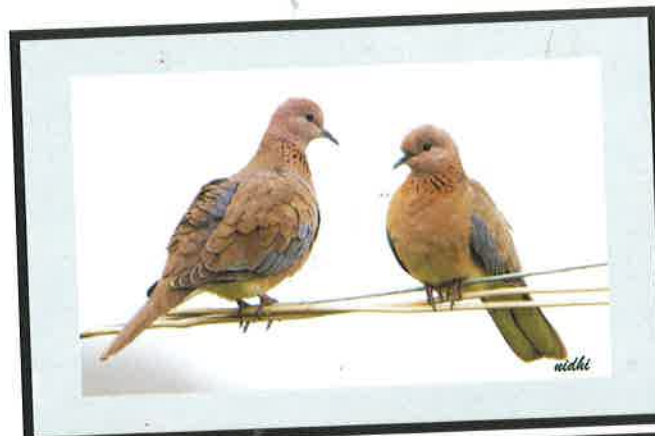


My Snapshots...

Ms. Nidhi Semwal
2022 - 24 SFS Batch

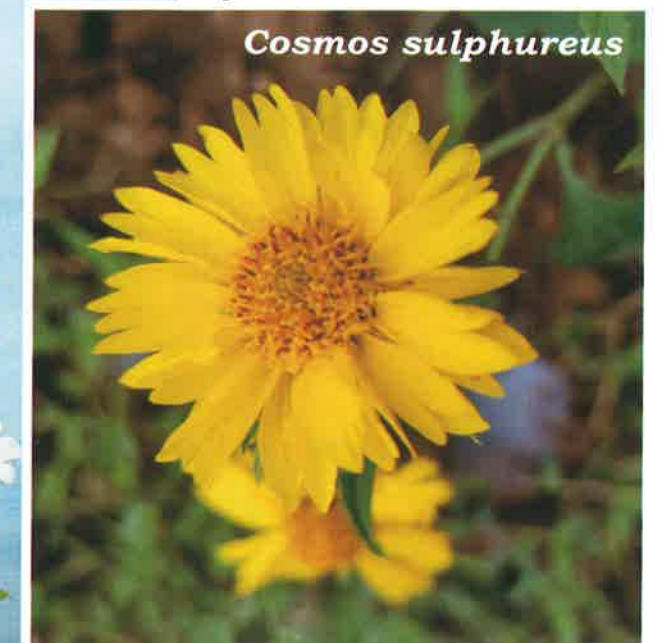


In the world of photography, you get to share a captured moment with other people."
"The camera is an instrument that teaches people how to see without a camera."



My clicks & Drawing

Aisha Bisht
2022 - 24 SFS Batch





Suchita Sharma
2020 - 22 SFS Batch

Take memories...leave footprints

I like to photograph others
before they know what their best angles are.

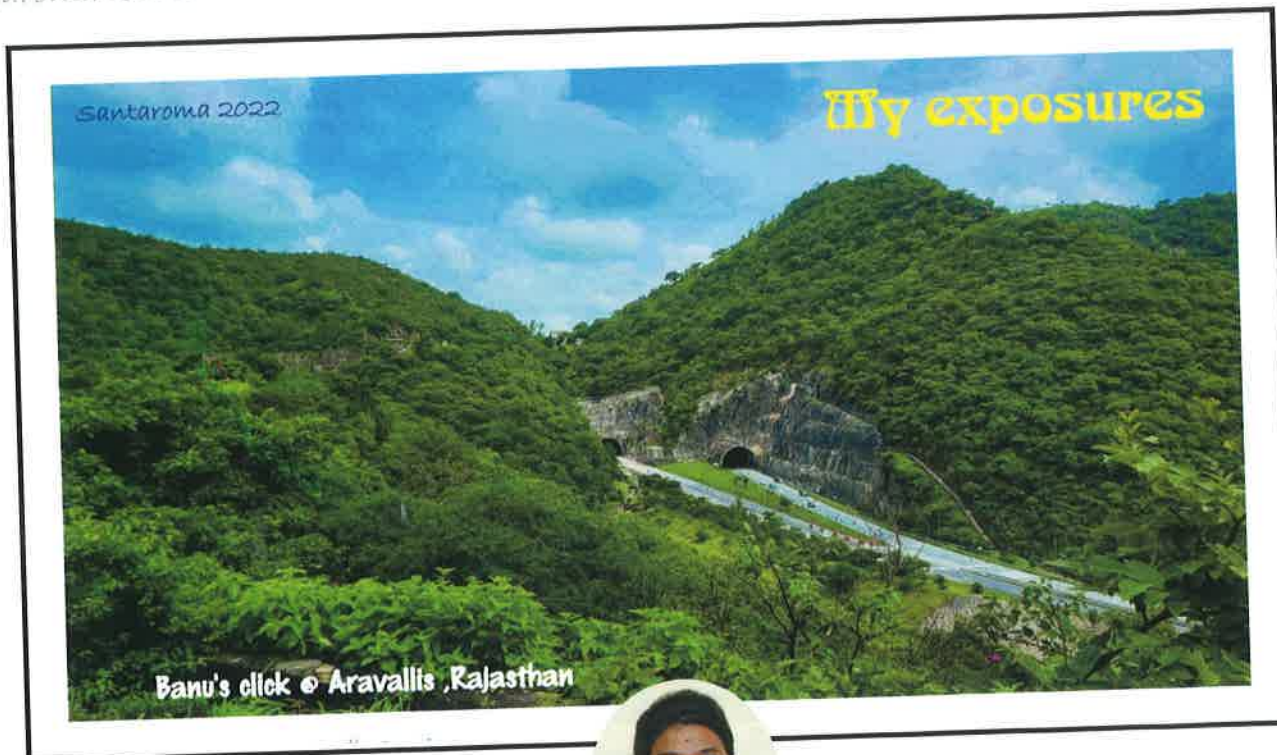


Maneesh Joshi
2022 - 24 SFS Batch

My pencil scratches...

Tip of my pencil
takes me for a long trail.
Such moments are
turned into few wildlife.
I get lost by the flow
of my pencil go slow.
Though I love it,
I hope you too like it...!





Banu Priya P.
2020 - 22 SFS Batch



Suresh Kumar N.
2020 - 22 SFS Batch



Shekh Muazzam
2020 - 22 SFS Batch



Tausif Sheikh
2020 - 22 SFS Batch

My art of capturing...

Aadesh Kumar Shendge
2020 - 22 SFS Batch



My art of drawing...

Sandip Bharti
2020 - 22 SFS Batch



I sometimes think there is nothing so delightful as drawing.



Our Painting & Pictures



Kumari Urvashi
2022 - 24 SFS Batch



Mohan Singh
2022 - 24 SFS Batch



Shivi Joshi
2022 - 24 SFS Batch

My Cam shots...

Santaroma 2022



Shivani Gahlot
2022 - 24 SFS Batch



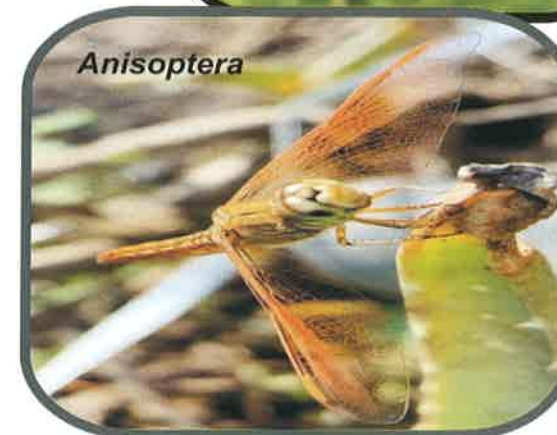
Blister Beetle



Common Pierrot



Hycleus polymorphus



Anisoptera



Gram Blue





2020 - 22 SFS Batch

Kovai Days

Name Abhishek Kumar Rai
State Uttar Pradesh
Highest qualification B.Tech (ECE)
Blood group B +ve
Date of birth 05.03.1987
Mobile No 8299847680
Email id abhishek.ra153@gmail.com
Home Address Vill-Post - Sherpur Kalan, Dist. Ghazipur, U.P.
My hobbies Listening songs, Reading literature
Favorite Quotation What a man can be, He must be.
Favorite color Blue
Friend's portrayal of mine Kya Chahte Ho...?
Unforgettable moments Fun with friends during volleyball games.



Name Abid Ali Lone
State Jammu and Kashmir
Highest qualification Masters in Agriculture
Blood group B +ve
Date of birth 4/4/1984
Mobile No 9906662234
Email id abid.lone@live.com
Home Address Seer Sopore, Dist. Baramulla, J & K - 193201
My hobbies Outdoor sports, Singing
Favorite Quotation None
Favorite color Black
Friend's portrayal of mine Aggressive Soportian
Unforgettable moments The volleyball evenings



Name Angkon Chakma
State Mizoram
Highest qualification M.sc Environmental Science
Blood group O +ve
Date of birth 10/14/1987
Mobile No 9560964553
Email id Angkonchakma928@gmail.com
Home Address Chawngte, lawngtlai District, Mizoram - 796730
My hobbies Travelling, playing football, drawing
Favorite Quotation When you are called to lead, you are called to serve.
Favorite color Black, yellow
Friend's portrayal of mine The Supreme Leader...!
Unforgettable moments Jungle survival



Name Aniket Bhagwan Patil
State Maharashtra
Highest qualification B. Tech (Civil Engineering)
Blood group O +ve
Date of birth 6/1/1989
Mobile No 9518759498
Email id patil1689@gmail.com
Home Address At Post Yelavi, Taluka -Tasgaon, District-Sangli
My hobbies Running, Reading biography
Favorite Quotation Karma never loses an address
Favorite color Blue
Friend's portrayal of mine Thinker 'n' occupied
Unforgettable moments Grass hill trekking, STF training



Name Animesh goverdhan
State chhattisgarh
Highest qualification BE
Blood group A +ve
Date of birth 2111990
Mobile No 9131282993
Email id na
Home Address raipur, chhattisgarh
My hobbies carrom, badminton, squash, swimming
Favorite Quotation Trees are poems that earth writes upon the sky.
Favorite color red
Friend's portrayal of mine Out of context
Unforgettable moments playing badminton



Name Anjani Kumar Srivastav
State Uttar Pradesh
Highest qualification M.Sc. (Microbiology)
Blood group B +ve
Date of birth 3/9/1983
Mobile No 9235707045
Email id srivastavaanjani086@gmail.com
Home Address Khargupur Purani Bazar Mahalia, Dist. Gonda. UP
My hobbies Cricket, Old Hindi songs, movies on social issues
Favorite Quotation Forget the past, don't think future & just enjoy present
Favorite color Blue and white
Friend's portrayal of mine Chief Advisor
Unforgettable moments Pandarwarai peak trek during Introductory tour



Name Anshuman Mittal
State Uttar Pradesh
Highest qualification B. E.
Blood group B +ve
Date of birth 9/3/1988
Mobile No 7060928042
Email id anshu.nsit06@gmail.com
Home Address Distt: Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh
My hobbies Reading Hindi literature, listening music, kite flying
Favorite Quotation Man is fully responsible for his nature and his choices.
Favorite color Blue
Friend's portrayal of mine Ragda Seth...!
Unforgettable moments Grass hills trek, Fun with friends in tours



Name Arvind Kumar
State Uttar Pradesh
Highest qualification M.Sc. (Mathematics)
Blood group O +ve
Date of birth 10/20/1973
Mobile No 9839948608
Email id tanyaarvind2004@gmail.com
Home Address V & P - Murali Chhapra, Distt-Ballia, U. P.
Favorite Quotation Never change your originality because original copy has more value than photocopy
Favorite color White
Friend's portrayal of mine Abhi to mein jawan hu...
Unforgettable moments STF Training



Name Danish Khan
State Jammu And Kashmir
Highest qualification Post Graduate in Chemistry
Blood group B +ve
Date of birth 3/5/1990
Mobile No 7006439690
Email id danishkhan.sfs@gmail.com
Home Address V. Ladu, Ladoora Rafiabab, Baramulla, J&K
My hobbies Calligraphy/Drawing/Gardening/Learning/Star-Gazing
Favorite Quotation The cure for ignorance is inquiry
Favorite color Dark Green
Friend's portrayal of mine Googly woogly woosh...
Unforgettable moments Time spent with friends especially Ramzaan days.



Name Devender Kumar
State Jammu & Kashmir
Highest qualification M. Sc., Geology
Blood group A +ve
Date of birth 4/2/1991
Mobile No 9419123063
Email id devenderkumar796@gmail.com
Home Address Nagbani Flora, Domana
My hobbies Playing games, Swimming, bike riding, long drive
Favorite Quotation Tough times never last forever but tough people do ...
Favorite color Blue
Friend's portrayal of mine Laughter Factory...
Unforgettable moments STF, Tours, sports week and time spent with bhaskar anna



Name Dharmendra Dwivedi
State Uttar Pradesh
Highest qualification M.Sc., (Bio Technology)
Blood group B +ve
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Home Address 3b/1 Beli Avenue Kutcheri Allahabad, U. P.
My hobbies Sports
Favorite Quotation Try is not become man of success but it's man of value
Favorite color Blue
Friend's portrayal of mine Run...on ka bhukha
Unforgettable moments No words



Name Faisal Farooq
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My hobbies Sports, hiking, farming
Favorite Quotation Being alone for a while is dangerous. It's addicting. Once you see how peaceful it is, you don't want to deal with people anymore. - Tom Hardy
Favorite color Olive green
Friend's portrayal of mine Doctor in the ground
Unforgettable moments Trek to Grass hills national park



Name Misal Ganesh Popat
State Maharashtra
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Home Address At/p-Wagholi, Tal-Malshiras, Dist-Solapur Maharashtra
My hobbies Reading Novels, Travelling, Trekking
Favorite Quotation The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.
Favorite color Pink
Friend's portrayal of mine Masti ram masti mein..., aag lagi basti mein.
Unforgettable moments Andaman and Nicobar tour, Grass Hill national park.



Name Mohd iftikhar ul zaman
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Blood group B+
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Email id iftikharulzaman@gmail.com
Home Address Poonch
My hobbies Singing
Favorite Quotation This too shall pass
Favorite color Blue
Friend's portrayal of mine Poonch wala, mooch mama
Unforgettable moments STF and all the tours



Name Namrata Pandey
State Uttar Pradesh
Highest qualification B. Tech (Hons), Mining Engg., IIT Kharagpur
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My hobbies Gardening
Favorite Quotation Forgive but do not forget
Favorite color Baby pink
Friend's portrayal of mine Laughing jiji
Unforgettable moments Tours and field exercises especially Working Plan exercise at Chakrata Forest Division and watershed exercise at Ooty



Name P. Banupriya
State Tamilnadu
Highest qualification M. E. (Electronics and communication)
Blood group A +ve
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My hobbies Painting|Stitching dress|Crafts making| Interior design | Driving | Exploring places
Favorite Quotation I don't follow trends or try to compete with anyone. Everything I do stems from following my passion and my love for design
Favorite color Blue and peach colour
Friend's portrayal of mine Big Shopper...
Unforgettable moments All tours especially North india tour and Andaman



Name Pooja Shyam Limbgaonkar
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Home Address Pune, Maharashtra
My hobbies Painting, reading books, writing journals
Favorite Quotation Be yourself, but always your better self
Favorite color Purple and pink
Friend's portrayal of mine My way... Hi way...
Unforgettable moments STF, All the study tours.



Name Pratiksha Nanasaheb Kale
State Maharashtra
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My hobbies Reading books, Writing, Learning new things
Favorite Quotation Keep your values intact...What you stand for is more important than who you are. (Written by myself)
Favorite color Shades of violet and green
Friend's portrayal of mine By default... Lady Tremor
Unforgettable moments Raising Nursery, Celebration of Festivals, Tours



Name Qamar Rashid Khan
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My hobbies Listening to music, outdoor sports
Favorite Quotation What comes around, goes around.
Favorite color Black
Friend's portrayal of mine I'm sorry... To theek to hai...
Unforgettable moments Badminton evenings and running all the time



Name Ramanuj Bangad
State Maharashtra
Highest qualification Bachelors
Blood group A+ve
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Home Address Opp. Bank of Baroda, Ichalkaranji
My hobbies Trekking
Favorite Quotation -
Favorite color Blue
Friend's portrayal of mine Self styled young man
Unforgettable moments STF



Name Ramesh Chauhan
State Uttar Pradesh
Highest qualification M.Sc. Zoology
Blood group B+ve
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Home Address Village and Post Kanso District Mau
My hobbies Jogging and Basketball
Favorite Quotation Fruit intelligence
Favorite color Blue
Friend's portrayal of mine Apple defoliator
Unforgettable moments STF training at Satyamangalam Tiger Reserve



Name Ravikant Shivajirao Dengare
State Maharashtra
Highest qualification M. Sc. Agriculture
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My hobbies Literature/poetry (Marathi, English,Urdu), singing, badminton, bollywood gossips, star gazing...
Favorite Quotation Listen, smile, agree and then do whatever you gonna do anyway. - Robert Downey Jr.
Favorite color Black
Friend's portrayal of mine Serious Gentleman
Unforgettable moments STF training, Festivals at CASFOS and tours...



Name Sandip Dattaprasad Bharti
State Maharashtra
Highest qualification B Tech(EnTC)
Blood group B +ve
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My Hobbies Sketching
Favorite Quotation "Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans"
Favorite color Violet, Saffron
Friend's portrayal of mine Humorous with wisdom
Unforgettable moments Basketball matches, Grass Hill Trek



Name Sanket Wathore
State Maharashtra
Highest qualification Bachelor of Engineering (E&TC)
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My hobbies Playing Chess
Favorite Quotation Work hard and party harder..
Favorite color Black & Blue
Friend's portrayal of mine Rokda seth
Unforgettable moments STF Training, Andaman and Nicobar Tour



Name Santosh Kumar Verma
State Uttar Pradesh
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My hobbies Played football & Cricket
Favorite Quotation Man ke jite jite hai, Man ke hare har.
Favorite color Sky Blue
Friend's portrayal of mine Jolly Guy
Unforgettable moments STF Training Period



Name Shaikh Tausif
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My hobbies Playing Cricket, Travelling
Favorite Quotation Life is a balance of holding on and letting go.
Favorite color Black
Friend's portrayal of mine Well dressed and ready for hunt
Unforgettable moments STF training, Grass hills trek



Name Shakeel Ahmad
State UT Ladakh
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My hobbies Writing
Favorite Quotation What gets measured gets accomplished.
Favorite color Black
Friend's portrayal of mine Aamchi hippophae
Unforgettable moments STF



Name Shekh muazzam
State Uttar Pradesh
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Home Address H. No. - 1/605, Ramanagar, Varanasi
My hobbies Chat with friends and discuss
Favorite Quotation Honest is best policy
Favorite color Green
Friend's portrayal of mine Apna sapna money... money...
Unforgettable moments Coming to CASFOS



Name Shendge Aadeshkumar Suresh
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My hobbies Photography, walking in forest
Favorite Quotation I cant allow my self to be ordinary
Favorite color Blue
Friend's portrayal of mine Prestigious...Hawkins
Unforgettable moments Trekking through wilderness,
Weekend escapes during Covid



Name Suchita Sharma
State Jammu And Kashmir
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My hobbies Reading, Gardening, Spending time with kids.
Favorite Quotation "To live is to suffer, to survive is to find some meaning in the suffering."
Favorite color Grey, Blue.
Friend's portrayal of mine Rajouri express...
Unforgettable moments Every moment except Watershed Exercise at Ooty



Name Sudershan Singh Bali
State Jammu and Kashmir
Highest qualification M.Sc. B.Ed.
Blood group A +ve
Date of birth 1/1/1990
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Home Address Vill-Muthalal, Omnagar, Teh. Pongal-Paristan
My hobbies Gardening, visiting Pristine place, studying natural history.
Favorite Quotation Yatha Dhrishti tatha Shrishti
Favorite color Orange-Red
Friend's portrayal of mine Voice of voiceless
Unforgettable moments Games, PT and Tours



Name Suresh Kumar. N
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Blood group B +ve
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My hobbies Playing games, Reading books
Favorite Quotation I am not the handsome guy, but i can give my hand to someone who needs help. Beauty is in the heart not in the face.
Favorite color Black and blue
Friend's portrayal of mine Chupa-rustam
Unforgettable moments Tours, Playing times and roaming times with friends.



Name Sushil Kumar Singh
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My hobbies Playing volleyball, Listening old hindi songs
Favorite Quotation Aatmanah pratikoolani yeshaam pareshaam na samaacharet
Favorite color Light blue and grey
Friend's portrayal of mine Most eligible setter
Unforgettable moments STF training, trekking to Grass hills, celebrating festivals at Chandan Hostel



Name Varun Singh
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My hobbies Reading, Programming, Wandering
Favorite Quotation The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.
Favorite color Sky Blue
Friend's portrayal of mine Strategic questioner
Unforgettable moments Working Plan Exercise Chakrata



Name Vimal Kishore Bhardwaj
State Uttar Pradesh
Highest qualification M.Sc. Physics
Blood group O +ve
Date of birth 3/15/1974
Mobile No 9212142271
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Home Address E-1/37 Ph.-1 Budh Vihar New Delhi-110086
My hobbies Reading literature
Favorite Quotation Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere
Favorite color Royal blue
Friend's portrayal of mine Angry young man and Story teller
Unforgettable moments Farewell party time by RFO



Name Vineet Kumar Singh
State Uttar Pradesh
Highest qualification M.Sc.- Botany
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Home Address Narayanpur (V), Parasrampur (P.O), Dist-Basti, U.P.
My hobbies Poem writing & recitation/Badminton/Exploring nature
Favorite Quotation Life is a journey not a destination
Favorite color Blue
Friend's portrayal of mine Danda Guru... D. G.
Unforgettable moments Grass hill National Park trek, STF training & Plantation raised by our batch

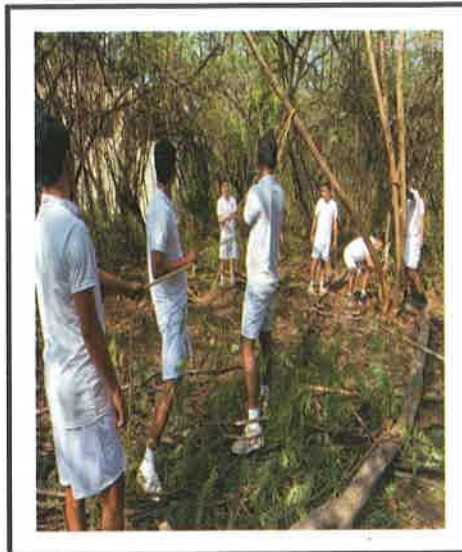


Name **Vishal Choudhary**
 State Jammu and Kashmir
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 My hobbies Dancing, playing and listening Punjabi rock songs.
 Favorite Quotation God helps those who help themselves.
 Favorite color All shades of grey.
 Friend's portrayal of mine Prince Rahul...
 Unforgettable moments STF, Games at Van Shakti and Kanasar working plan.



Name **Anand Kumar Pushker**
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 Blood group B +ve
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 Email id anandpushker@gmail.com
 Home Address D. A. Block, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi
 My hobbies Gardening, Technology know-how
 Favorite Quotation "Live and Let live"
 Favorite color All Shades of Blue
 Friend's portrayal of mine PPT Template
 Unforgettable moments *****





2022 - 24 State Forest Service Batch Officer Trainees

On Forest Minister's Visit



Faculty & Dignitaries : (Sitting Line from left to Right)

Shri M. Anisha Kalkoor, IFS | Shri Dr. C. Vidhya Sagar, IFS | Shri V. Karthick, IFS | Dr. V.S. Senthil Kumar, IFS | Dr. K. Anand, IFS | Shri V. Thirunavukarasu, IFS, Principal | Shri Arun Singh Rawat, IFS, DG, ICFRE | Hon'ble Min. Shri Bhupender Yadav | Shri Bharat Jyoti, IFS, Director, IGNFA | Shri Suneesh Bakshi, IFS, AIG (RT) | Smt. Suveena Thakur, IFS, AIGF | Dr. C. Kunhi Kannan, Director, IFGTB | Shri K. Muniyasamy, PT&GI



Editorial Team at Work...



**“And into the forest I go,
to loose my mind and find my soul.”
- John Muir**



Chandan



Van Vatika



Van Shakti



Executive Hostel