



Central Academy For State Forest Services
Burnihat, Assam

ARANYAM

Volume XXV,2023



Shri Anurag Bhardwaj, IFS
Director of Forest Education



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

MESSAGE

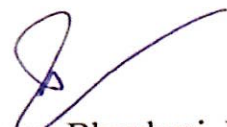
It is a matter of great pleasure to introduce ARANYAM volume XXV 2023 to esteemed readers. CASFOS, Burnihat has a long history of shaping personalities of innumerable Forest Range Officers of the country and their alumni have been serving the forest departments proficiently.

Inspite of prevailing COVID pandemic, CASFOS, Burnihat has successfully trained Forest Range Officer Batch 2021-23 and have also come up with this magazine. The efforts of officer trainees in bringing out this publication are highly appreciated and I am glad to know that the magazine covers wide range of essential subjects related to forest management.

I am positive that this magazine will inspire upcoming officer trainees to read and write more on nature and forest related topics that help in spreading the message of forest conservation and initiates sensitisation towards environment.

I congratulate the Principal, Faculty members and Officer Trainees of CASFOS, Burnihat in bringing out this magazine and wish success in their endeavour.

Date: 02 March, 2023
Place: Dehradun


(Anurag Bhardwaj, IFS)



Kerala Forests & Wildlife Department, Forest
Headquarters, "Vanalekshmi",
Vazhuthacud, Thiruvananthapuram - 695014



Bennichan Thomas IFS
PCCF & HoFF

MESSAGE

It's a matter of pride that CASFOS, Burnihat is bringing out an annual magazine ARANYAM Volume XXV 2023. Forest Department plays an important role conserving the forest which provides innumerable ecological services. Being part of such department which has puts multiverse subjects for efficient management of forest; these articles in the magazine cover versatile concepts which are useful for future Foresters. It is learnt that magazine has thrown light on technology used in forest and wildlife management which is essential for arresting crimes in inaccessible zones in deep forests. Emulating the budding and novel technologies for efficient and effective implementation of forest laws and policies will give a better shape to the Forest Services in Country.

I appreciate the Officer Trainees for publishing the magazine amidst their busy schedule and training modules and lower a special thanks to Academy for transforming the trainees into well versed proficient Range Forest Officers.

02.03.2023

Thiruvananthapuram

Bennichan Thomas, IFS
Head of Forest Force, Kerala



Mamata Sanjeev Dubey, IFS
PCCF & HoFF



Government of Uttar Pradesh,
Ministry Of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
Uttar Pradesh Forest Department,
17, Rana Pratap Marg, Lucknow - 226 001

MESSAGE

I am happy to learn that CASFOS, Burnihat has published its annual ARANYAM volume XXV 2023. The magazine covers wide range of concepts which improves skills and adds to existing level of knowledge of officer trainees for performing efficiently on field.

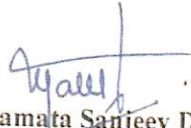
Forest Department has key role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of attaining green cover of one-third of total geographical area. Inclusion of technology and better research in forestry will aid the department to sustainably achieve targets and reduce carbon emissions.

It is a matter of fact that, the growing concrete jungles has raised demand for eco-tourism which must be handled in most possible way of eco-friendliness. I am glad to know that such models of eco-tourism are well discussed in the magazine which can be put to application after tailored approach based on suitability to local conditions.

I wish the FRO Batch 2021-23 a great success in life and I take this opportunity to convey my wishes to the Principal and Faculty of CASFOS, Burnihat.

Date: 01, March, 2023

Place: Lucknow


(Mamata Sanjeev Dubey, IFS)



Dr. C RAMESH IFS
PRINCIPAL
CASFOS, BURNIHAT



Central Academy For State Forest Services
Burnihat, Assam

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

It gives me immense pleasure to see the 25th issue of the magazine "ARANYAM" getting published in association with the 2021-2023 FRO Batch.

The world of the 21st century is changing at an accelerated scale along with the alarming situation of climate change. We, as Foresters thus need to brace ourselves to face this ever-emerging challenge. Forest education is the major panacea in this regard. It also helps to build better prospective Foresters of the Country. The Central Academy for State Forest Services, Burnihat is one of the oldest forest institutes in the country, has always strived to build dedicated and meticulous forest officers

This magazine gives space to imagination and unfolds a wide spectrum of creative talents. I wish all the passing-out officer trainees a very illustrious career. I aspire that they serve their states with dedication, integrity, and utmost efficacy.

Date: 09 March,2023


(Dr. C. Ramesh IFS)



Dr. Ramkrishnan R
Course Director (2021-23 FRO
Batch Induction Course)
CASFOS, Burnihat



Central Academy For State Forest Services
Burnihat, Assam

MESSAGE

It is a moment of pride and pleasure to see the 25th issue of the magazine "ARANYAM" getting published. The magazine deals not only with the vital and interesting topics of Nature and Forests but also provides space to cater to the creative literary skills of the trainees. I wish that this will inspire upcoming batches to work zealously in the similar direction.

I appreciate the efforts of the 2021-2023 FRO trainee batch in shaping the current form of the magazine and congratulate them for this. I wish all the passing-out officer trainees a bright and prosperous future ahead.

Date: 09 March, 2023

(Dr. Ramkrishnan R)



From Editor's Corner...

TEJASWI PERUSOMULA
Magazine Secretary
FRO Trainee, 2021-23 Batch

It is our privilege to acknowledge with profound gratitude to Directorate of Forest Education, Dehradun for providing us an opportunity of publishing 'ARANYAM' XXV Edition which provided us with excellent platform to express our opinions, experiences, learnings in the form of articles, poems and sketching.

We express our deep sense of gratitude to Principal Dr. C Ramesh IFS for encouraging us with positive words and meticulous suggestions while drafting this Magazine.

We thank our Course Director Dr Ramkrishnan for his cooperation in bringing out the collection of articles. We are indebted to our beloved faculty C A Rahman IFS for his patience in correcting the magazine and for the words of encouragement.

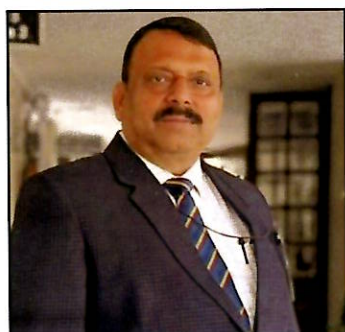
My sincere thanks to the Magazine Editor Board for their efforts in shaping the Magazine and thanks for the creative ideas.

Last to thank but definitely the essence makers of this magazine, the 2021-23 FRO Batch for their collective cooperation in publishing ARANYAM XXV.

CASFOS, BURNIHAT ASSOCIATION



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Lecturer



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P.T. & Games Instructor



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Annual Report (2021-23)

Aranyam

Central Academy For State Forest Service, Burnihat, Assam

Sachin Kumar
General Secretary

On the occasion of releasing the Annual Magazine, I feel privileged to put forward the Annual Report for the year 2021-23 about the activities and achievements of the association. The CASFOS Association is to maintain discipline and healthy environment in the Hostel and Academy as well as to look into all the needs of the trainees, motivate them to inculcate managerial and officer like qualities. I feel privileged to be a part of the Association and to work for it which gives platform to each and every trainee to express themselves regarding any issue whether it is related to the Academy or outside world. I feel privileged to put forward the achievements and duties of the Association.

Objectives of the Association:

1. To maintain healthy environment in Academy and Hostel.
2. To maintain discipline among trainees.
3. To control and manage Mess and Hostel.
4. To control, encourage and promote all games and sports, literary and cultural activities in CASFOS and thereby to infuse a sense of creativity and empowerment amongst the trainees.
5. To look after matters relating to study and health of the trainees.
6. Publication of Annual Magazine "ARANYAM".
7. To make, alter, amend, maintain and enforce rules and regulations for the control and governance of sports, cultural and academic activities.
8. To do all such other acts as may be conducive to carrying out the aims and objectives of CASFOS Association Burnihat, Assam.
9. To select different committee on need basis if necessary.

CASFOS Association

The Principal CASFOS Burnihat is the President of the Association, who is over all in-charge for day to day activities of the association. President gives directions to General Secretary for organizing desired activities or functions. General Secretary follows the guideline of President and organizes the functions and activities with the help of concerned office bearers.

General Body: All the officer trainees are the members of the Association. Executive body is elected /selected among all trainees in general body meeting.

Executive Body: Executive body consists of eight office bearer which a selection /voting. For each portfolio, the following as follows:

Sr. No.	NAME	DESIGNATION
1	SACHIN KUMAR	General Secretary
2	MANU M S	Assistant General Secretary
3	TEJASWI PERUSOMULA	Magazine Secretary
4	SHAHNAS K F	Treasurer
5	HEMANJALI M	Mess Secretary
6	AMRITHA CHAND	Hostel Secretary
7	PRANITHA B	Cultural Secretary
8	DHEERAJ P	Sports Secretary

Activities during 2021-23:

Range Forest Officer trainees of 2021-23 batch, commenced on 26th September 2021 and passing will take place on 24 March, 2023. The issue of Magazine is being brought out at the time of convocation of FRO batch 2021-23. The present office bearers of the Association took charge in October 2021. There has been celebrated the different activities and functions during this tenure in CASFOS Burnihat Assam, like Cultural Night, Holi, Diwali, Christmas, Eid, Fresher's Night, New Year Celebration, Sports Week, Interaction with Director, DFE, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Marathon, International Women's Day, World Environment Day, National Day On Energy Conservation, and International Yoga day. In this short span of eighteen months, the Association had many achievements.

Ms. Pranitha B, Cultural Secretary

During the training period the Academy has adored cherish able and memorable cultural events. A grand Freshers Party and Cultural Night was conducted. In these events the trainees participated and gave good performances. Beside these we have organised cultural events at significant dates of calendar like International Women's Day, National Endangered Species Day, International Day For Biological Diversity. Conducted quiz competitions on different themes during wildlife week celebrations, National Energy Conservation Day. Conducted Photography contest. Other than this we have celebrated many festivals here like Makara Sankranti, Christmas, Ugadi (Vedic Calender New Year), Dusshera, Diwali, Maha Shivarathri etc and Celebrated our faculty and trainee birthdays.

Ms. Hemanjali M, Mess Secretary

"A good and balanced diet is the foundation for healthy body and mind"

To maintain the overall healthy condition a balanced diet has been provided and a mess menu was decided on the consensus of all trainees and the Mess Committee.

During my tenure purchase of new utensils, mixer and grinder was done for smooth running of the mess.

In addition to this renovation of the mess and fixing the air conditioner was taken up. I personally thank Principal sir Dr C Ramesh, IFS for providing a very good ambience in the mess.

In order to cater the needs of the new batch one more daily worker was appointed. In addition to this financial assistance was provided for festivals.

Segregation at Source: A special attention was given for segregation of waste and utilizing the organic waste in a better manner as suggested by our Principal sir.

I would also like to thank principal sir for giving me the opportunity to serve as mess secretary and for all the support sir has given throughout the tenure.

Mr. Dheeraj P, Sports Secretary

Duties

- Procurement of sports equipment.
- Issuing sports equipment.
- Maintenance of sports equipment.
- Conducting sports events.
- Assisting PTI in any such activity as directed by him.

Sports related activities carried out so far.

- Marathons – 2 in number
- Sports coaching
 - Lawn Tennis
 - Basketball
 - Gym
 - Aerobics
- Cricket matches on weekends
- Internal sports meet.

SAFAR

TIMELINES OF OUR JOURNEY IN CASFoS

- Started from 26th September 2021
- 7 days quarantined and admission formalities
- Online introduction and introductory classes for a week



October 2021

- Second October - Gandhi jayanti
- Participated in Swachh Bharat Mission on Gandhi jayanti
- The daily dose of PT and Yoga started..
- First Class was on 4th October, ohhh!!! Computers and GIS were taught
- Bit according to the Seating Plan..Trainees in the first row...
- Celebrated the first Birthday of our Batch...that was of Tejaswi and the row started



- Welcome party - came to know who all are good singers and heard a song from our CD sir for the first time



SIR,

- Bird watching first time and Sunday volleyball matches



- Soon kaki uniforms were given...Green Warriors in full dressup...



How beautiful is casfos DIWALI !!



- Group Distribution notice came out, soon we searched for our group mates which is your group? wahh!!! we are in the same group. Sal, Teak, Gamar, Sissoo (Which later dismantled and amalgamated into others)

November 2021

- Planning of first Introductory Tour of Northeast India
- Visited Tripura, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.
- Sighted Rhino and Hoolock Gibbon for the first time, Elephant Safaris & Jeep safaris started.



- Came back from tour and started tedious task of symposium, tour journal, tour exam, and De-briefing ...The leaders of NE tour, Om Prakash and VeenaTiwari You made this tour successful...
- **PREPARATION OF HERBARIUM**



- Oh My God Maths started...its almost a decade we touched it..... and for others it was Botany...though mam was beautiful...subject was little tough
- Now comes the heart of Forestry subjects... Silviculture started....

December 2021

Hapa sir is coming ...drill time...dhaye mud..bhaye mud...thinothinomeyaagebadegatezchel...became more disciplined.



- New faculty Thiru Selvan sir came to teach us Forest Utilisation ...very strict ...don't sleep in the class..full of learning.
- Congratulating Party to respected Principal Sir for completion of one year ..
- Wow christmas is coming ...we have to prepare ...lets do this...holy speech ...cake cutting ...carol nights with jingle bells...



New year party ...bone fire...New Year Resolutions started.



January 2022

- First term break has been announced, smiles on all faces... great we have to book tickets



- Please pay attention COVID is spreading again and strict prohibition on going outside.
- Aksharankranti ... Rangoli, Telugu dishes with Uttar Pradesh touch and Kerala side dishes and Lakshmi Pooja celebrations done on grand manner.



- Silviculture -II ...online classes ..Karthick Sir, rain of questions made us to learn the subject clearly.
- Forest Resource Assignment Exercise done in Rani Range under guidance of Rahman sir, Green warriors are ready for measurements.



- Managing Human Resource is important task of Ranger, HRM subject started
- **12th February**, Completed our First Marathon of 5 Km together.
- Survey classes by Kotteswaran Sir...setting Compass, Survey Chain measurements practicals on field were interesting.



- Exam notice any time it may comedon't be relaxed ...
- Planning for second tour, North India tour
- 19th february participation in asian water bird census 2022 at Umiam lake Meghalaya

16th february trekking in Amchang wildlife sanctuary



March 2022

- Celebration of women day...tell about one female trainee



- End of survey class, Thanks giving Ceremony to Kotteswaran Sir



"I have never seen such a nice batch" as said by Kotteswaran Sir.

- **12th march** Now it,s time to go home and for our Range Attachment.



April 2022

- Presentation of our Range Attachment work ...
- Briefing Of North India Tour covering Uttarpradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh and Delhi.
- Dudhwa, Rajaji, Pilibhit Tiger Reserve Safaris are unforgettable but couldn't sight the Tiger.



- Celebrated Birthday of our resourceful faculty Rahman sir CASFOS Dehradun and thanks to Group Leaders Sunendra and Rose Mary Jose.



Visiting FRI, FSI and interacting with respected DFE Director Anurag Bhardwaj was inspiring and motivating.

May 2022

- The pleasant climate of Burnihat welcomed us back to Academy.
- This time tour Synposiums, exams were of an expert mode as each trainee got enriched in their presentation skills.
- Soon in no time, we packed our bags for East India Tour covering Odisha, West Bengal and Sikkim.
- It was soaring summer but boat ride of Sunderbans calmed us and studying North River Terrapin conservation and tigers was enriching.
- Learning the propagation of Great Banyan Tree in Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata is a view fulfilling experience.
- Hospitality of Alumni of CASFoS was heart warming and helpful in completing the tour successfully as said by Group Leaders Rahul K and Tejaswi P.
- Visited Rahman sir's Home and had delicious lunch while returning to Academy.



June 2022

- Forest Law and Policy subject started on serious note.
- Meanwhile started Checkdam and building Estimation Exercise works.
- Academy observed International Yoga Day on 22nd June.

July 2022

- Conducted Cultural Night where mimes on Environment Protection and song on forest were impressive and thought provoking.
- West India Tour started covering Rajasthan, Gujarat, Daman Diu and Maharashtra.



August 2022

- The efforts of Rajasthan Forest Dept. to arrest desertification by Sand Dune Statbilisation were insprational
- Forest admist of Metropolitan city Sanjay Gadhi National Park,Management of man-animal conflict, the conservation model of the Asian Lions of using technology in Gir were note worthy.
- Thanks to Group Leaders Amrita Chand and Shiv kumar Gupta for the arrangements.
- Working Plan and Range Attachment were given as we took the second term break.



September 2022

- Presentation on Working Plan from three states were informative
- No Plastic in campus campaign was done by Cleaning the Campus Event and Demo on

October 2022

- On 12th october UMANG , the cultural night celebrated on completion of one yaer.
- Mulching with Mr Sri Nivasan was conducted, Trainees learnt on how to convert garbage in gold.

- Diwali celebrated by Trainees.
South India tour started covering Andhra pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala



November 2022

Periyar tiger reserve trek was memorable for us and leeches over there

- Back to academy ...two days long journey by train
- This time presentations took absolute perfect shape and the mode of presentation by trainees were on next level. Thanks to Academy for making us good in giving presentation.

December 2022

- Campus got new Batch of SFS trainees 2022-24 Batch from Rajastahn and UttarPradesh
- Welcome Party was given to Juniors.
- Blood donation camp on 10th December was successful conducted



- Saha Sir taught us new subject NRM ...learn about watershed management and heard tales of Madagascar.
- Christmas and New Year celebrated with New Junior Batch.

January 2023

1. Makar sankranti celebrated. Games and Sports Events started that altogether filled new level of energy in trainees
2. The vibrational encouragemnets of...Hornbill ..hornbill..bluejay..bluejay..tiger-tiger...rhino-rhino..
Hii hiffainkooofun run kheencooo



February 2023

1. SFS Batch tour started and the campus became silent again
2. Working plan exercises and Ecological census Exercise started...



1. Instrument Collection, Form Preparation and Sample collection.
2. 17th february 2023 Now final viva was completed.
3. Five Trainees Dheeraj P, Rose Mary Jose, manu MS, Shahnas KF and Harilal K went to participate in selection for All India forest sport meet 2023 at Dehradun.
4. ABC accelerator, Break and Clutch- Driving Classes started
5. Weapon Training was one of the Challenging and Interesting Exercise we learnt.
6. And finally Happiness of passing out and all we can say is

"Thank You CASFOS for Shaping us into Good Officers"

FACULTY VIEWS ON OUR BATCH...



Imparting training to batches with mixed graduation backgrounds was always been a challenge for me and that was true with FRO batch of 2021-23. I tried my level best to enrich their knowledge in Forestry and allied subjects not only in theory but also in practice. The current batch has also put their best effort to become competent in both practical and theoretical areas of Forestry, Wildlife & Environment. I am sure that they will be perform to the maximum to conserve and protect forest and wildlife. I wish them every success in all their future endeavors.

C A Rahman IFS (Rtd.)



This batch is special to me as these trainees were both sincere and energetic to play games, do yoga, gym and exercises. The journeys that we did together and support given to them in trekking is still one of my favourite moments. I am happy to be their Physical Trainer and I wish them a very good career ahead.

Ajay Rajak



The outgoing RFO batch officer trainees are very sincere and hard working and showed ardent interest in learning new things and updated information. I enjoyed in taking classes to them. I wish all of you to attain zenith in your career.

Dr. V.S. Senthilkumar IFS



It was truly a pleasure teaching you all. I, as a mentor, feel proud to help you all in every difficult step. Your dedications and passion for learning, motivates me to teach you better. Wishing you all a successful career ahead.

T. P. Sharma, Director, Advance Institute of Computer Science



I feel privilege to teach Remote Sensing and GIS classes for induction courses of trainee forest officers at CASFoS, Byrnihat from last five years. I have met trainee officers from various states over the course of the time. I feel good when trainees contact me for further help while working in field. I am thankful to the principal Sir, Rahman Sir, faculties and official staff of the academy for giving me the platform to impart knowledge in GIS application as tool.

Arup Das, Aaranyak



I had a great time teaching Ecology and Environment course at CASFOS. I also learned a great deal from the officer trainees who had already served in the Forest Department for more than a decade, as well as from freshers with varied backgrounds. It was delightful to see the enthusiasm among the trainees to learn and understand about the natural world and its functioning and most of all, an openness to know more and discussion about some of the difficult and conflicting concepts and ideas in current ecological and environmental scenario.

Barkha Subba



It was a wonderful opportunity to interact and share my knowledge and experiences related to 'Biodiversity Conservation and Management' within the beautiful and serene campus. It was my first opportunity to take classes for officers from the State Forest Departments from different states across the country. Initially, I was apprehensive if I would be able to sustain their interest in the subject matter, considering their diverse backgrounds and range of courses they were taking. However, after the first guest lecture on 'Wastelands' I was encouraged by their positive response and inquisitiveness I am very happy to have met the wonderful and intelligent batch of forest officers who I am sure will be doing an exemplary job in their respective states and look forward to meeting them again.

Anirban Dutta Roy



I was little sceptical about online classes taken for this batch but to my surprise the batch was very curious to learn and the way they responded to questions and enthusiasm showed to clear their doubts in subject of Silviculture is most impressive. As a faculty I feel good to groom these young minds and put seeds of forestry in their minds. I thoroughly enjoyed teaching these trainees and I wish that they would apply these learnings in field and get success in their endeavour.
All the Best.

Karthick V, IFS



Glad to pen down few profound memories with the FRO batch 2021-23 who are graduating from CASFOS. It was indeed a positive learning impact that this batch of young, energetic FROs have had on my perception. May all shine and contribute towards attaining the greater mandate of conserving mother nature. All the best.

Dr. Amit Choudhary



Forest Managers are seeing the use of Digital Technologies and Real time Monitoring in Landscape Management connecting Carbon Markets. Transformation and adaptation for Socioeconomic & ecological Sustainability are being practiced and will lead Forest Management to the next generation. I see that this batch of RFO's are better equipped to cater to the new era of Forest Management by integrating smarter technologies.

*Dr. Thiru Selvan, Department of Forestry and Biodiversity,
Tripura University*



The experience of teaching a batch of future rangers was very much thrilling for me. I have definitely gave hundreds of lectures during my very brief academic career but these few lectures with the RFOs will always be very memorable. This mixed batch consisted of RFO from different age groups and thus the task was though not very simple but was very fun and full of excitement for me. I will always cherish the moments of critical practical discussions with the trainees. Thanks to CASFOS administration for giving me the opportunity.

Dr. Nilutpal Mahanta



Teaching them NRLM subject is one of the memorable moment in my teaching career and the way they keep on asking doubts provided me a chance to explain the topics in more elaborate way. The Exercise part which was conducted is remembered for their enthusiastic field learning attitude. I wish them success.

Saha N C



Amrita Chand, B.Sc. Zoology
Gorakhpur District, Uttar Pradesh
Ammu

About yourself :

I come from state of Uttar Pradesh. I studied Zoology in my graduation. I am fond of travelling new places and having new experiences

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for

Enriching tours

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

Each moment spent with my friends here

Things you have did in the Academy for the first time :

Road alignment. ■ I got opportunity to visit the extraordinary North-East for the very first time

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

None

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS :

Travelling to Andaman

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would :

First of all congratulate myself... as this is HUGE ■ And secondly would try to follow the footprints of our current Principal (though it would mean relentless business)

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the course :

For me it was hell lot of experiences. From being always on your own and living independent to having fixed schedules for everything, it taught me adapting to situations in a better way. These 1.5 years taught me how to act when you are out of your comfort zone.

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches :

Don't focus on petty things. There is a lot to experience here so live and learn to the most. And when it becomes harder, focus on one day at a time.



Aneesh G R, B.sc. Physics Kollam District, Kerala

About yourself :

I am a simple man

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for :

Sports events

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

Practical events of Kotteswaran sir

Things you have did in the Academy :

Playing lawn tennis

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

I have not met such regretful incident

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS :

Visiting Tawang

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would:

I will inculcate personality development classes.

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the course :

Energy to face the challenges

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches:

Whenever you are in the nature, the nature will teach you everything



9496566816



aneeshrajamala@gmail.com



Arun P.A, B.Sc. Mathematics
Ernakulam District, Kerala
Director, Artist

About yourself :

I am self motivating, Hardworking, Sincere and lovable person

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for :

Tours, Practical sessions, Friendships

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

My birthday celebration

Things you have did in the Academy for the first time :

Played Lawn Tennis

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

Nil

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS :

Making a Documentary Film

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would :

Conduct RFOs passing out parade

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the course :

Developed communication skills

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches :

Enjoy each and every days without ego



B PRANITHA, M.Sc. Zoology
Ananthapuram District, Andhra Pradesh
Chingi...

About yourself :

Cheerful, Foodie, Outgoing

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for :

All India tour

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

Christmas Carol, River Rafting, Bonfire

Things you have did in the Academy for the first time :

Organizing cultural events, important days. Car driving, Room cleaning, Mulching, Christmas carol, learning about forestry, Marathon, Gym etc.

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

Viva

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS :

Andaman tour and getting single room

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would :

Single room for every trainee

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the course :

Growing in confidence

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches :

Instead of one day reading it's better to start early for exams



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B KALAVATHI, M.Tech
Ananthapuram District, Andhra Pradesh
Kala

About yourself :

Interested in nature especially butterfly watching

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for :

Tour days

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

Dance for advertisement song on the occasion of cultural day

Things you have did in the Academy for the first time :

I clicked almost all types of flowers bloomed in the campus on first Saturday of training.

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

Literally i cried in Periyar Tiger Reserve trekking because of leaches phobia

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS :

I am not able to speak Hindi fluently even after 18 months

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would :

I will plan to raise theme based parks like RashiVan, Nakshatra Van, Herbal garden

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the course:

I can say FRO training is precious god's gift to me. My observation skills , listening skills - and patience got improved.

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches :

Be open minded to learn and just enjoy each and every moment



**DHARMENDRA PRATAP
KANNAUJIA, B.Tech**
Chandauli District, Uttar Pradesh
DP, Monu

About yourself :

Optimistic, well wishing, Quick learner, positive thinker and hard working

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for :

Physical training in morning

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

Sang a song in cultural event in CASFoS

Things you have did in the Academy for the first time :

Online PT exercise

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

Visiting Shillong

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS:

Sound system in auditorium

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would

Promoting vegetation and plantations around the campus

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the course :

Rules and Regulation

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches :

Enjoy the training



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DHEERAJ PERUMALLA,
B.E E.C.E, MS VLSI Design Engineering
Kadapa District, Andhra Pradesh
Bobby, Dude

About yourself :

Calm, Easy going, Hardworking, Dedicated

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for:

Touring days

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

Mulching

Things you have did in the Academy for the first time :

Blood donation, Anchoring, Working as Sports secretary

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

My weight when I came to academy

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS :

Passing out parade, Star revealing ceremony, Andaman tour

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would :

Conduct Passing out parade

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the course :

Growing in confidence, learning forestry, Got interested in bird watching, program organising skills

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches :

Take interest in cultural activities, sports events, apart from academic activities



HARILAL K, M.Sc. Forestry
Thrissur District, Kerala
Camera man, Kodi, Pulihora raja

About yourself :

I am very friendly and optimistic

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for :

Provided me the best opportunity to know the various cultures of India

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

Sports meet

Things you have did in the Academy for the first time :

There is nothing like the first time I did it here

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

Nil

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS :

Andaman trip with fellow OTs

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would :

Pollution-free campus and infrastructures for various activities

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the course :

It is an overall expansion program such as personality development and mastering forestry

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches :

Enjoy each moment throughout the course. Use all opportunities to develop your skill and be friendly to everyone



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JYOTIRMAI SHUKLA, B.Tech
Ayodhya District, Uttar Pradesh
Shukla, Jyotish

About yourself :

Best is yet to come...

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for :

Sports meet, tour

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

Tug of war event

Things you have did in the Academy for the first time :

Studied forestry ,driving classes, woke up before 6 am

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

Lost in basketball match against team Tiger

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS :

Gold in cricket, visit to Sikkim (was on leave due to exams) and Arunachal Pradesh

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would :

More focus on sports, communication skills and practical approach towards the field work

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the

course :

I am more disciplined now and also gained some aptitude reg. Forestry..

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches :

Just focus on present day...this journey is too long...



LAV SINGH, Doctorate in Botany
Indrapura Village, Baburi P.O,
Chandauli Dist., UP
Botaanist, Lavsi, Pedon k Dr.

About yourself :

Doctorate by degree.. Forester by profession.. writer by choice...!

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for :

Sports meet and tours.

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

“Rhino”/Our house as champion of sports meet..!

Things you have did in the Academy for the first time :

Trekking inside mangrove forest..!

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

Nothing as such.. every incident was either an experience or a learning.

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS :

Andaman and Nicobar tour

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would :

Give more emphasis on games and other Co-curriculum activities..!

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the course :

It was a nice journey..full of roller coaster ride. Learned new subjects, visited so many new places

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches :

World is big and beautiful. Most of us live and die in the same corner where we were born and never get to see any of it. Try not to be like most of us..!



M HEMANJALI, B. Tech.(E.C.E)
Tirupati District, Andhra Pradesh
Thakkudu

About yourself :

Self motivated, easy to adapt

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for :

The interest towards forestry, The discipline of waking up early in the morning and the gossip.

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

Bonfire and river rafting

Things you have did in the Academy for the first time :

Driving, basket ball, Marathon,Lawn tennis,gym,Zumba dance,Travelling all around the India

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

The mess fights

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS :

Visit to Central India and some beautiful places in North East India

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would :

Not allow online classes and exams at a single go and

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the course :

I was always worried about how would i manage in this field being an engineer.. And when I stepped into the academy and listening to all the scientific names and tree recognition I thought I got into the wrong path.. But as the time passed on,the course and faculty nurtured us in such a way that my interest towards forestry subjects increased a lot...

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches :

Learn the utmost but enjoy to the fullest



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MANU M S, B.Sc. Chemistry /MCA
Ernakulam District, Kerala
Bullet Bamboo, Onte

About yourself :

Fun loving easy going confidant person

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for :

Getting some good friends like Rahul, Shiv Kumar, Dheeraj

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

Visiting konoma village and kaziranga national park

Things you have did in the Academy for the first time :

Representing casfos burnihat in chess

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

Loosing the first match in internal chess competition, fighting with fellow OTs

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS :

Participating in National Forest Sports Meet

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would :

Try to make a swimming pool with in the campus

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the course :

Became capable in handling difficult situations.

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches :

Try to enjoy the training and participate in every event possible, fight with none and take things easy



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NIMI KUCHIYA, B.Tech.

Jhansi District, Uttar Pradesh.

The inquisitive, Jhansi ki Rani, Dude....

About yourself :

I love travelling, food&world Cinema. Blessed with the most supportive and loving family.

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for :

Tours all over the length and breadth of the country and relishing the beauty of the Mother Nature.

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

1. Beauty of the Khonoma village and meeting warmest and loveliest people during the travelling time.
2. Standing for the right cause and giving the same dose to the bullies which is quite unlikely of my nature

Things you have did in the Academy for the first time :

Basket ball and Lawn Tennis

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

I regret nothing over here. In the beginning I used to get embarrassed about my inability to play any sports But gradually it stopped bothering me because what matters is that you never give up trying

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS :

Expected to be more fit and healthier

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would :

I feel fortunate enough to have such faculties working with integrity and passion. Nothing important as such. Gender sensitization course for all the stakeholders.

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the course :

This is the best decision of my life where Nature is the driving force which allows you to shed all your inhibitions, be more introspective and fills you with gratitude and self love

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches :

And Don't stress about any anything eg Exams, Tours, uncouth fellow trainees etc.

Don't be finicky over trivial matters like food, travelling mode, etc.

Just embrace the opportunity, Celebrate the Diversity and Enjoy the Nature



RAGHAVENDRA KUMAR,

B.Tech.

Azamgarh District, Uttar Pradesh

Raghu, Adhyaksh jee

About yourself :

I leave it to people

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for :

Tours and Games period

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

Nothing

Things you have did in the Academy for the first time :

No study

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

No time to regret, I never regret on my past actions it is always a learnings, concentrate on future....

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS :

Andaman tour

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would :

I would like to follow the footprint of our respected Principal, Dr. C Ramesh sir, a man with vision.....

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the course :

From nothing in forestry and wildlife I become something in these fields.....

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches :

Respect the faculty and enjoy the training



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RAHUL K,
M.Sc. Wood Science & Technology
Kasaragod District, Kerala

About yourself :

I am a forestry graduate. I am from Kerala. I am an optimistic person. Try to find happiness in small things. My Hobbies are bird watching, Butterfly identification etc.

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for :

According to me the tours were the best remembered. Because it helped me to travel areas were i wished like Sunderbans and desert national park etc. Each tour helped me to understand about different vegetation, challenges and how the department try to solve those problems.

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

Camp fire in hostel and group dance around the fire with fellow trainees.

Things you have did in the Academy for the first time :

Dance in fresher's day was done by me for the first time in my life in stage.

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

Nil

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS :

Visit to andaman nicobar

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would :

Try to allot more time in local practical field visits(other than tour) rather than class room studies.

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the course :

Gained more practical knowledge from tours. Improved leadership qualities. Improved communication skills.

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches :

Enjoy every moment in Academy. Be friendly and respect everyone. Learn from everything.



RAJESH T N,
B.Sc. Zoology
Thrissur District, Kerala

About yourself :

My strength is discipline and easy to adapt any situation.

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for :

Got an opportunity to visit the wonder places of India as part of study tours

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

Bonfire and dance

Things you have did in the Academy for the first time :

Practicing basketball and tennis.

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

Leg injury occurred during games

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS :

Did not utilize time to learn Hindi properly

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would :

Maintain the standards as now and will work for the quality will not go down

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the course :

Increased self confidence to face the masses, critical situations and time bound completion of works

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches :

A positive mind is stronger than a negative thought



RAMACHANDRAN A K,
M.Sc. Zoology, B.Ed. Natural Science,
SET Thrissur District, Kerala State
Rama, Ramettan, Chandu

About yourself :

A Post graduate ,Handsome, Admirable, Studious guy from Kerala, God's own Country. My weakness is that I am Sensitive. Smallest things hurt me. But my Strength is that Little things make me Happy too...

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for :

Morning PT, yoga, Tour days, Symposium, Cultural Programs, Games, Sports Meet, IB(my room mate always share his experience in IB Kashmir), above all dashing and Charismatic giant in forestry C. A.Rahman, IFS (Rtd)

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

For joining the Birthday Party of My Lovable room mate, Jyotirmai Shukla I had to give him 10 Marks from my own conduct mark as a Birthday Gift... But I am so magnanimous

Things you have did in the Academy for the first time :

Played Vollyball, Performed Dance on Stage...

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

I have no regrets as of now

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS :

Just Missed Gold Medal for Topper by 1000 Marks

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would :

First I will throw away the present Sound system from Auditorium..... As an academician will just follow Dr. C. Ramesh IFS, Principal, Casfos, Burnihat.

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the course :

It filled me with hub of Knowledge in forestry. Had a chance to feel different Cultures and practices across the Country during Tour

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches :

Don't be Studious, But try to be a learner always



ROSE MARY JOSE,
M.Sc.Forestry
Kannur District, Kerala
Rose

About yourself :

RFO trainee hail from Kerala, Western Ghats!! Little things makes me happy and smile!

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for :

Friends and fun, festival celebrations and academic tours

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

The first day in Khaki uniform is the most memorable day, one of the happiest moment in academy.

Things you have did in the Academy for the first time :

Lawn tennis game, gym and zumba class, drawing rangoli designs.

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

Nothing so to mention.

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS :

Andaman tour

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would :

Whatever possible to uplift the weak.

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the course :

Though the course turned hectic at times, it made me to do things faster and bit more punctual than usual. Regarding academic part, am sure i gained more practical aspects and in life i turned more responsible.

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches :

Understand the basics in every subjects, do not forget to enjoy training time!



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SACHIN KUMAR,

B.Tech (Electronics & Telecommunication Engineering)
M.S. (Electrical & Computer Science Engineering)
Roorkee (Haridwar), Uttarakhand

Bookworm

About yourself :

Engineer by education, trying to experience various aspects of life while working in different fields, love humour, nature, wildlife, mysticism, occult, exploring Himalayas.

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for :

Tours (especially Bhitarkanika trekking, Manali mountains and Sundarbans experience), Learning different dimensions of forest service during training (it's a bundle of jobs.. forest management, nursery mgmt, human animal conflict, afforestation, use of technology, JFMCs, forest law), Byrnihat rains, Principal sir's interactive class sessions and motivational messages(reminder for us to get out of comfort zone and grow every day), Rahman sir's field exercises (He had worked so hard in field and had made sure that each one of us should learn and knew about these exercises), Rajak sir's PT sessions, Time management (day before exam we were doing pt, classes, games 5am -5pm and again toiling hard in night to get passing marks somehow), cricket matches.

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

First week of our training in which we were quarantined, we were doing online PT, interacting with officials in online sessions, getting to know fellow OTs having diverse backgrounds.

Things you have did in the Academy for the first time :

Started shaving daily, waking up at 5 am, played cricket and basketball after a gap of 10 years, did trekking in jungle full of leaches.

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

No regrets.

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS :

Learning how to play a musical instrument, swimming, snake catching.

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would :

Jungle Survival Training

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the course :

Became more patient, resilient, humble, remain calm (most of the times) in adverse conditions, time management.

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches :

Explore, adapt, learn and get out of your comfort zone.



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SANOOP K C, B.Sc. Mathematics Thrissur District, Kerala

About yourself :

I am a self motivated person. My long term goal is to achieve a good position and help the organization too. My weakness is quickly trusting every person and I am trying to overcome my weakness

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for :

Christmas celebration

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

Tours

Things you have did in the Academy for the first time :

Self Quarantine

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

PT time in winter season

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS :

Missing a chance to get Gold Medal

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would :

Introducing new sound system in our auditorium and make it has hi-tech manner. Providing bicycle for all ots

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the course :

Introducing new sound system in our auditorium and make it has hi-tech manner. Providing bicycle for all ots

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches :

Enjoy training at maximum, learn from Surroundings. Be happy with who you are.



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SHAHNAS K F,

M.Sc.Environmental Science and Management
Ernakulam District, Kerala

Chakkoo

About yourself :

A jovial person who likes to live in peace and harmony.

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for :

Tours and Sports

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

Trying a new sports Tennis item in life and getting opportunity to represent DFE. Thirupati visit.

Things you have did in the Academy for the first time :

Touching cow dung for making basket and mulching

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

Many occasions wherein self respect have been given up for OTs who actually don't deserve it.

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS :

To develop my skills and trained in self defence

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would :

Give more priority to field works and practicals than theory classes. Develop a good contingent for all sports events and will arrange inter CASFOS meet annually. Self defence classes will be added to HRM.

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the course :

Exposure during the field visits was worthy. 1.5 years have moulded myself to adjust with the difficult situations that is waiting ahead in departmental life.

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches :

Push yourself for the exposures and don't wait for someone to push you.



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SHIBUKUTTAN A T,

B.Sc, Zoology
Alappuzha District, Kerala

Shibu sir, Shibu

About yourself :

I take pride in my work I am always willing to put in the time and effort to ensure high quality results

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for :

My days in Manali during our study tour

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

The moment i saw Hills of Manali covered with snow

Things you have did in the Academy for the first time :

Lawn tennis

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

I could have serve every body more than this

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS :

Exploring Tawng

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would :

Including self awareness classes. Presentation of different subjects without PPTs. Debates on different subjects

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the course :

Take the decision at right time,at right place. Understood my weakness and capabilities

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches :

Look in to yourself and try to see who you are. Study your weakness and capacities



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SHIV KUMAR GUPTA,

M.Sc. Agri.

Kushinagar District, Uttar Pradesh

Shiv

About yourself :

I am a agricultural Post graduate from Bararas Hindu University (BHU) .I am belonging from rural area so i know the all problems of local people how the face the all problems related to infrastructure health etc. I like reading current issue related to our country and all over world like political geographical and cultural

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for :

We spend our maximum time in field area (study tour, Practical) with colleagues so that day was very special and rememberable in side the nature

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

Cultural festival dance and memes

Things you have did in the Academy for the first time :

Dance, Participate in marthon

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

When first time latebin classroom and Rahman sir shouted on us

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS :

Nothing

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would :

First I started planting Seasonal flower minimum closed area

Game period and PTs rule strictly followed

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the course :

I feel very lucky that I got the opportunity of joining this job because i like so much with nature so i enjoyed fully this course.

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches :

Enjoyed this job u can not got this type of opportunity in any other job. So enjoy your course as much as possible



SUNENDRA SINGH,

B.Sc. Zoology

Aligarh District, Uttar Pradesh

Raftaar

About yourself :

I like singing and drawing

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for :

When I made 50 rounds in football ground.

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

Weapon Training

Things you have did in the Academy for the first time :

I played Tennis for the first time.

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

Nothing

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS :

Participation in All India Forest Sports Meet

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would :

I will introduce open Gym

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the course :

I enjoyed every moment during training

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches :

Enjoy this training. Improve your observation. Gain more knowledge



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TEJASWI P,

B.Tech (ECE)

Kurnool District, Andhra Pradesh

Teju

About yourself :

I am a simple thinker with creative crew in my mind who can smile and laugh for small reasons. Graduated in Engineering but sailing in forestry sciences to make a change in duo

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for :

Tours, Journey times, Celebrations of Christmas and Sankranti, trekkings, Morning chai in new places, Night walks

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

Getting ready to morning PT in jus 2 minutes

Things you have did in the Academy for the first time :

Playing football, observing trees, Bird Watching...

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

Using GPS to reach a restaurant which was just beside @Tezpur and leg injury in football..

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS :

Grand food festival

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would :

I would introduce unanimous but genuine feedback system

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the course :

Learnt to be patient and got to know that learning consistently will be key to make personal and professional life fruitful

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches :

Stay enthusiastic on every day to learn more, help one another to get good knowledge and be kind



VISHNU V S,
MCA
Palakkad District, Kerala
Vishnu, GPS Guru

About yourself :

Simple, Humble, & A+ blood

According to you, academy days would be best remembered for :

Last night studies before exam & pollution and Tours

Most memorable / craziest moment in Academy :

Playing volleyball with more than 10 players in a team...

Things you have did in the Academy for the first time :

Wake up in the early morning regularly....

Incident that I regret the most / embarrassing :

Can't tell

Wishes which remained unfulfilled at CASFoS :

Tawag visit & Assam language

If I were Principal, CASFoS, I would :

Follow Dr. C. Ramesh IFS ..

How did you feel while walking through the Course / Changes you experienced during the course :

Comfortable

Words of wisdom for the upcoming batches :

Less study Experience more.... Observe more...



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TAWANG – A BIKER'S DREAM!

Dr. Ramakrishnan R
Course Director, CASFOS Burnihat

My first tryst with Tawang

It was the winter of 2018. I rode to the North East of India with a backpack full of dreams and courage to conquer the deadly roads of Tawang. It was a far-fetched dream for a South Indian to travel all the way to Arunachal just to get a taste of riding through those ice-capped roads in the harsh winter. Soon after a few hair-pin bends near Sela Pass, I realized that neither the altitude nor the slippery roads were in our favour. It was -5 degrees up there; our two wheelers were failing to get a grip on the black ice and the steep cliffs didn't make it any easier for us to focus on the ride. We were a group of six people on four bikes, who tried our best to traverse across the most unfriendly roads we've ever seen, only to return home disappointed. When I unpacked my bag, I left behind my wish to get back to the roads that challenged me, and frightened me like never before.

The second chance

It was 2022, and my new job brought me to the North East of India. Besides the excitement of the new job, there was something else that I carried along with me – the dream to stare right back at the roads that challenged me, the dream to cruise through the roads of Tawang.

A month in after joining at CASFOS Burnihat, I got 4 days off in April. No second thought, the ride was on! Long rides were always a part of my life, but getting sleep the night before is always the toughest part as the excitement keeps me up. The thrill of a solo ride this time was a notch higher.

The bike was loaded, riding gear worn and helmet on – I started my journey to the Land 'Chosen by the Horse' (Ta – Horse, Wang – Chosen) at 0500 hrs. The distance from Burnihat to Tawang is just around

500kms, but it takes over 13 hours of a gruesome ride through rough terrains to reach there. The plan was to reach Dirang on Day 1, stay, and ride to Tawang on Day 2, giving enough time to acclimatize. The road to Dirang is pretty flat till Bhalukpong, after which the ghats start, with a sudden change in topography. Google maps as expected took me through the 'shortest route', diverting me off the highway at times through some remote villages, breaking the monotony of staring at unending highways. Thanks to Google maps, they made me explorer (sometimes unintentionally)!

The road through Nameri National Park was beautiful, with Sal forests on both sides and naughty monkeys jaywalking the roads. After a few minutes' halt at Bhalukpong state border for document verification, I entered Arunachal, determined to scale Sela Pass this time.

I rode on towards my destination for the day. The Kameng River was my silent companion, flowing beside me till Sessa. Along with the steep climb, my excitement and the weather kept getting better.

I reached Dirang at around 1400 hrs and went straight to visit the Dirang monastery. It was a magnificent sight! Perfectly placed amidst the mountains, it is huge and colourful, with luxe golden accents. The giant Buddha statues evoked a sense of peace and harmony in me. Countless wooden prayer wheels adorned the place. It is believed that every turn of the wheel represents a recitation of the prayer written inside, sending it to the heaven. I had spent a good 2 hours there before sunset and



called it a day.

I started my second day with a quick breakfast in Dirang and started to Tawang. I could see the ice-capped mountains now, and could not wait to reach them. But, the more you rush on this road, lesser are the chances you are going to make it! Snow started showing on the road sides. Slow and steady, turn by turn, I rode on till I reached the Baisakhi Army Camp cafeteria. From my last experience, I knew that the road is going to get tough from there. I took a break, had a coffee and on high spirits continued the ride. The snow on the roadsides kept bulking up, and it started getting colder and frigid. Eventually, I reached Senge, the place from where we dropped the plan and returned last time. Crossing that point was a moment of fulfilment for me. The terrain started showing small patches of molten snow, but due to weather of April, the villain from the last ride, black ice on the road was a no show; what a relief! Finally, I was approaching one of the most photographed locations in Tawang – the Welcome Gate. There was heavy snow on both sides of the approach road - remnants from the harsh winter. Who doesn't like to walk around in a bit of snow? I did too. After a few minutes of riding, I was finally there – the Sela top, standing mighty at 13,700 ft. What a dreamy moment it was. A dream I couldn't accomplish 4 years back. I smirked in triumph, yes! it was big for me. Just ahead was the beautiful Sela Lake too, all frozen, awaiting the summer sun to soften it again.

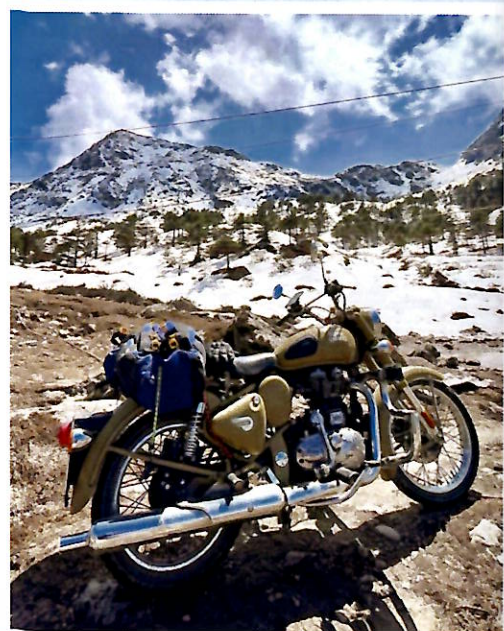


I never knew such a calm and serene place could bring in such an adrenaline rush. I was on cloud nine! My final destination for the day was still around 70 kms and 2 hours away – the Tawang town. The road further was a descent towards the valley, covered in snow and lined with pine trees. The poor condition of the road and the bumpy ride was bothering my bike, not me. The combination of bright blue skies, green pine trees and the white snow was nothing less than magnificent. I reached Tawang by sunset, and whoa, it stays true to its Tibetan name: 'Galden Namgye Lhatse', which means 'a celestial paradise in a clear night'. Clear starry skies and the giant Buddha statue overlooking the Tawang town – it's a treat for the eyes! I went

straight to the Tawang Monastery, which is the largest monastery in our country. It was founded in the 1680s, and still stands tall and strong. One of the monks narrated stories of their age-old history and architecture. The night got colder, the wind stronger and piercing. I bid adieu to him and called it a day. The plan for the next day was to visit the Indo-China border at Bum La and the famous Madhuri Lake, but, the real task was to scale Sela pass and reach Tawang safely, which I did!

The triumph

Day 3, the day I thought I am literally going to freeze to death. I started the ride to Bum La Pass at 0630 hrs in the morning. I thought I had sufficiently layered my clothing to escape the harsh climate, but you have to compromise on something here: either you wear thick clothing and find it extremely difficult to manoeuvre your bike due to reduced mobility, or you wear your riding gear and compromise





slightly on your comfort. I never compromised on riding gear, so riding jacket was a must. No matter how well you layer your clothing, the cold wind on your fingers and body while riding is going to make you shiver. But I did not expect it would be this bad! I was the first tourist to enter the Bum La route that day, and God, it was freezing. 30 minutes into the ride, my helmet fogged up, forcing me to keep the visor open. My fingers, though inside the woollen gloves, started to freeze and became numb, making it tricky to hold the brake or the clutch. Stopping was not an option either, as there was nothing to keep me warm out there, and I might go into hypothermia.

I stopped for a moment, got off the bike and held on to the bike's silencer in search of something hot. To my surprise, it was colder than a freezer! I revved the bike, but it was not getting any warmer! The fingers were blue and I could not feel them anymore. The exhaust was slightly warm, so I revved the bike with one hand and heated the other hand at the exhaust. I was sitting there

alone, cursing my decision to go up there this early. As soon as I could feel my fingers, I wore the gloves and started riding slowly towards my destination. Another 30 minutes of life or death ride and I reached the Y junction army cafeteria. Some signs of life at last! I jumped off the bike and ran into the cafeteria, asked them for some hot water and ran straight to their kitchen in search of some fire. The

men stared at me and told "You are crazy! Even if someone pays me a lakh and ask me to ride here in the early morning, I would not!" At that point, I didn't know whether to take it as a compliment or to pity my poor decision to go there in that weather. I came to know that it was around -8 degrees there at that time, and I heard it is even colder further up. I realized that waiting until sunrise would be the best thing to do. I enjoyed some hot Maggi and I stayed there till 0900 hrs, but the sun was a no show in the heavy fog. However, few cars on the way to Bum La had started coming and now I was sure that I won't be helpless on the way now. The road to Bum La was way more challenging than what I experienced back in 2018 at Sela, but this time, I was determined to go forward.

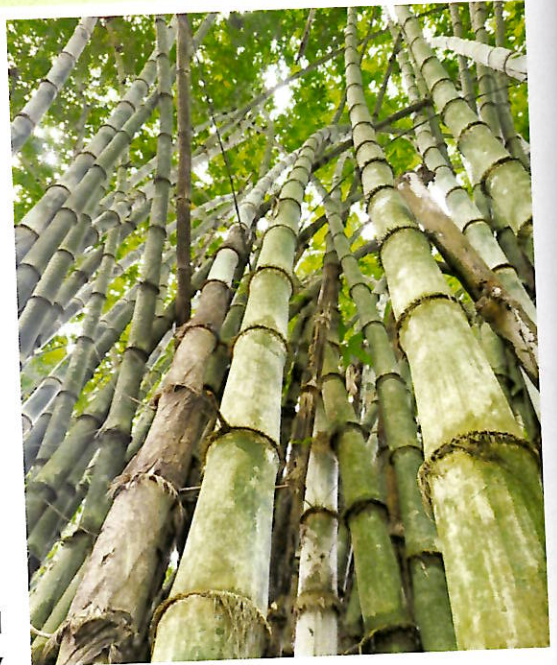
I finally reached Bum La – the historic Indo-China Border at 15200 ft. It was all white – a wonderland with miles and miles of pure snow, and a few army outposts of both the countries on either side of the border. Never seen anything like this before! It was a proud moment to hear the stories about the victories of our brave soldiers. I sipped on some hot tea and bid adieu to Bum La. After reaching the Y junction again, I contemplated. "Should I go back to Tawang, or visit the famous Madhuri Lake?" I thought I will keep that for the next ride, the next adventure, and rode down to Tawang. On my ride back, I thought "what better metaphor to life than such a journey? After all, this life is just another place we are travelling for a short while, isn't it?"



BAMBOO FOR '4 PER 1000' INITIATIVES IN INDIA

Dr. Thiru Selvan
Guest Faculty, Casfos Burnnihat

Bamboos are wonder plants that are distributed almost throughout the world in the natural and under cultivation, in all climatic and edaphic conditions except for the cold and the hot deserts. They belong to family Poaceae (Graminae) and sub-family tribe Bambuseae, and there are about 1600 bamboo species in 91 genera. There are two types of bamboo based on their clumping nature viz. Sympodial/ (Pachymorph) and Running/ Non-clumping (Leptomorph). Bamboos are distinguished from other plants in having well-defined and well-ordered nodes and internodes, which are usually, hollow, while a few of them have constricted internodes such as *Dendrocalamus strictus*. Bamboos are among the best plants showing high mean annual increment-which is the value obtained by division of total volume of the plant by their age. Sympodial bamboo exhibits higher mean annual increment as compared to running or non-sympodial species. India is just second to China in bamboo diversity and distribution, boasting over 125 indigenous and 11 exotic species from 23 genera growing naturally throughout the country except Kashmir. As per ISFR 2021, total bamboo bearing area in India is over 16 million hectares, of which the North-East holds about 5.5 million hectares.



The world today is suffering from darts of climate change combined with pollution especially release of green-house gases. Modern lifestyle being heavily dependent on fossil fuel for industrial operations, electricity production, transportation, combustion of agriculture residues, poorly managed agricultural lands, etc. releases above 40 Gt of GHGs per year into the atmosphere which causes global warming, along with several environmental implications. Climate change associated hydro-meteorological uncertainties such as erroneous rainfall patterns and increasing temperature poses an unsympathetic peril on the farmers. As a consequence of which many farmers are abandoning their farmlands and has ventured into other livelihood options leaving their lands barren. While a limited lot of the farmers who are the better informed or prudent has adopted inclusion of bamboo or other fast growing species which can serve as insurance against crop failures. Cultivation of bamboo has become a lucrative business options for such farmers as they are fast growing and brings feasible returns in three or four years as compared to other silviculture species. Reclamation/ restoration of deforested lands or abandoned industrial/farmlands by bamboo suited to local conditions are being taken up since the last few decades especially by the inflow of capital and designs from INBAR, FAO and the like.

Barren lands releases soil carbon to the atmosphere and reclamation with fast growing woody perennials having brisk growth imbibed the carbon into their biomass as well as enabling them to recapture the carbon from the atmosphere and turn them to soil organic carbon. The French government launched the '4 per 1000' initiatives at the COP21 Paris Climate Summit in 2015 with an aim to boost carbon storage in agricultural soils by 0.4% each year to help mitigate climate change and increase food productivity. Despite belonging to the grasses family bamboo follow similar photosynthetic pathway (C4 Pathway) with the other woody plant/tree species and manifests higher net primary productivity and relatively low photorespiration and low methane release. The main criterion for rating effectiveness of climate change mitigation is the carbon sequestration potential of plant species or ecosystem and the above description of the physiology of bamboo shows that they

are conducive to high productivity and substantial and expeditious removal of carbon from the atmosphere. Bamboo poles can be harvested and processed into durable products that can store carbon for a very long period.

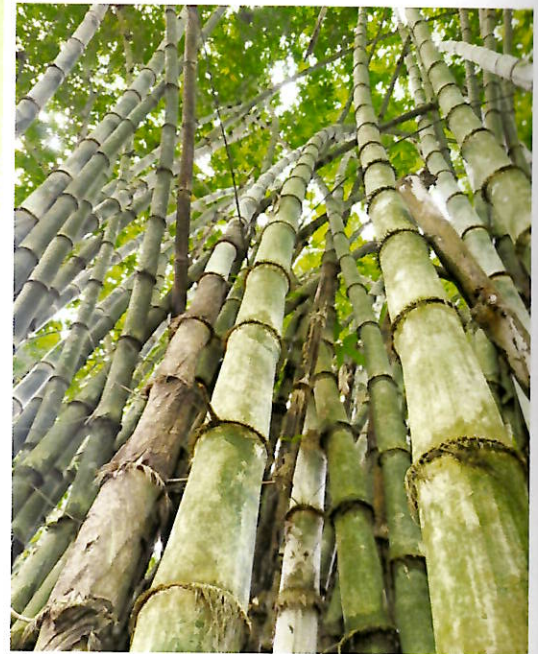
Meanwhile, Jhum Cultivation is the most common land-use/land cover in the highlands of North-East India, and this has caused tremendous loss of forest land and as in this practice every year after the end of cultivation most of the farmers are reluctant to continue cultivation in the tillage and abandon them putting aside as barren lands until they are fit for the next cycle. Also, ageing and old rubber plantations, coffee plantations, tea plantations, eucalyptus plantations, etc. have been reported to cause negative impact on the water table and the environment while also generating marginal revenues over the year. Besides, vast tracts of lands have been abandoned by fossil fuels/natural gas exploration after cease of operation period.

The Forestry Division of the FAO (in collaboration with the INBAR) and NBM has released lists of 'Priority Species of Bamboo' that can be incorporated into carbon sequestration projects such as *Arundinaria* spp., *Bambusa balcooa*, *B. bambos*, *B. blumeana*, *B. tulda*, *B. vulgaris*, *B. nutans*, *Cephalostachyum pergracile*, *Dendrocalamus asper*, *D. hamiltonii*, *D. hookeri*, *D. strictus*, *Gigantochloa* spp., *Melocannabaccifera*, *Schizostachyum* sp., *Thyrostachys* spp., *Oxytenanthera* spp., etc. which grows abundantly throughout the country. Most of the species in this list are edible and well timed harvesting of shoots and tending of stands to allow self-regeneration as well as produce merchantable volume of poles. To the already vast land coverage of bamboo forests in the country, if concerned authorities, enthusiasts and forest officials can encourage the farmers or land owners to include priority bamboo species mentioned above, in their land-use or restoration of land-cover, or incorporate them in local JFM, the respective states would not only gain green coverage but also spearhead the '4 per 1000' initiatives while also qualifying for various CDM (Clean Development Projects) and makes the states align with the several SDGs and other Climate Action programmes. Moreover, such species may be incorporated as understory in sparsely vegetated forests areas, and also for swift restoration of degenerating bamboo plantations and natural groves or for urban forestry to enlarge areas under existing notified forest areas and TOF. This will empower the farmers and the people socio-economically, enhancing landscape aesthetics and also providing relief from climate emergencies at the local, regional and ultimately national level through carbon neutrality and food security.

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AREY ! IT IS SAL...!

**Karthick Vedamoorthy, I/s
Faculty, Casfos Coimabtire**

After completing two years of training at IGNFA, I have joined in Odisha . After two years of training and attachments I was posted as DFO in Balliguda Forest Division. I was not much familiar with identification of trees although the Academy has put efforts to make us well versed with botanical terms. Balliguda Forest Division has one of the rich Sal forest of the state.

When I was going through marking list of coupe working for that year, I found local names of the trees like sal, mundi, asan etc. Each tree is marked as Normal or Defective and diameter of the trees are also mentioned. Now as a DFO, I have to do coupe inspection to find whether the right trees are marked, with proper diameter measurements. Wrong mention of diameter of species will lead to erroneous unit calculation and there by resulting in wrong volume calculation which would result in incorrect volume calculation paving to loss of Royalty to the Government. So I have decided to carry out inspection in the coupes to check markings.

It was winter morning , I had reached regulation prescribes one Sal tree and hecatre as per the Smithies silviculture system followed is coupe and started observation. "what is this tree ?". He was foggy and mist conditions the poor for sir to identify the sal". After walking few steps, I a huge tree of more than 25 forest guard "what is this tree and hesitation he replied " sir, it surprised and was loading the memory categorized for Sal file. stream , I saw a huge tree standing firm and in grim voice told him, "hey see this head in denial and he said "Sir , it is would have been clear to him that saab doesn't know about trees. After moving for a while I saw a huge tree with forking then I turned to him and exclaimed that, "it is sal right!!!" and Guard was soo happy this time that he smiled in yes expression and we both laughed. I took a moment and told him, "see I don't know about trees, kindly help me in identifying them". He was so much happy and told "sir , anytime at your service".



Kurtamgarh Timber Coupe. The yield seven non Sal trees to be felled in each safeguarding formula. The selection system. We reached the Then I asked my forest guard stunned and he felt due to visibility would be have been tree. He answered in "sir it is stopped near the slope to see metres. Again I asked the same ?", this time with lot of surprise is sal". This is I was little differences in same slot of Moving ahead we reached a small on banks of the stream. With great "it's a huge sal". Forest Guard nodded Asan (*Terminalia tomentosa*). By this it would have been clear to him that saab doesn't know about trees. After moving for a while I saw a huge tree with forking then I turned to him and exclaimed that, "it is sal right!!!" and Guard was soo happy this time that he smiled in yes expression and we both laughed. I took a moment and told him, "see I don't know about trees, kindly help me in identifying them". He was so much happy and told "sir , anytime at your service".

The issue in identification of trees is, my forest guard knows only local name. Then I came to know about a book written by Pradip Kishan, "Jungle Trees of Central India". This book is a field guide which helps in identification of trees with photographs. With the help of this book and ACF I started to identify local trees five in number per day and Guard tried hard to learn scientific names. Then with keen observation I learnt to differentiate and identify tree species accurately. Within six months time I became familiar with sal (*Shorea robusta*), Asan (*Terminalia tomentosa*), Gambari (*Gmelina arborea*), Jamun (*Syzigium cumini*), Mundi (*Mitragyna parvifolia*), Kumbi (*Careya arborea*), Kamalakundi (*Mallotus philipensis*) etc.

Later I realized if I would have learnt this in academy I would have concentrated in other new learnings and got better observations while drafting Working Plan, conducting Postmortem of elephant, Bird watching, Butterfly census and revising Management Plan. And felt that these realizations would have saved time in my training and would have helped in better connection to technical field level aspects of training. I won't blame my Academy for this but I could say is I was much relaxed and stayed with little observation. Mangers like us should be well versed to avoid situation of outsourcing forest works. If we want to run the system probably this training has much relevance and to be a good forest officer the training is the basic of everything. That's why I took another term in Central Academy for State Forest Service, Coimbatore to learn the left out and gaps which I felt during my field days.

" I accepted my ignorance and asked him. Probably if I had not asked then, even after retirement I will stand before sal tree and ask what it is.....?"



THE ENIGMA OF SUNDARBANS

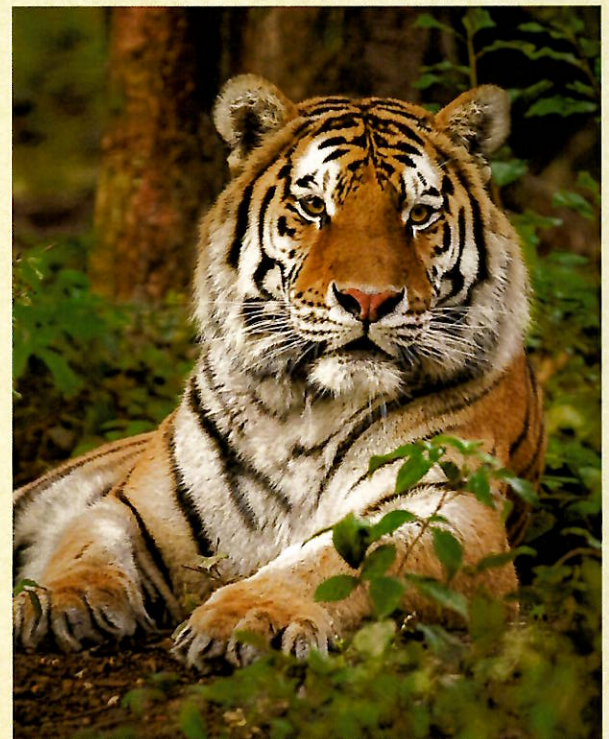
NIMI KUCHIYA

"[In Sundarbans] Nature does not obey the rules: fish climb trees, the animals drink salt water; the roots of the trees grow up towards the sky instead of down to earth- And here, the Tiger do not obey the same rules by which the Tigers elsewhere govern their lives."
-Sy. Montgomer

The mighty Royal Bengal Tigers of Sundarbans are one of the few enigmatic species in the world which attracts the interest of all Wildlife enthusiasts.

The Sundarbans tiger is unlike its counterpart on the mainland as they exhibit certain distinctive morphological, physiological, & behavioural adaptation as follows:

- The average size of the adult tigers is much smaller (around 100 kg). The leaner and lesser body makes it easier to move around in the muddy terrain and to feed on prey with lower body mass.
- They are strong and skilful swimmers (up to 13 km/hr) and adapt at hunting within the harsh, muddy terrain and has the ability to climb smaller trees.
- They have more ferocious and aggressive temperament. (Probably because of drinking of the saline water!)
- They hunt in daylight and augment their diet with fish and crabs.
- Their territorial ranges are small. The Sundarbans have diurnal tidal regimes where the mangrove forested islands are washed by tidal waters at least twice a day. This makes marking of territories difficult.



Probable reasons for the above adaptations :

1. Unique Mangrove type habitat
2. Saline water
3. Small Size of prey
4. They don't share their habitat with Leopard
5. Geographically isolated
6. Island Dwarfism

REVOLUTIONIZING WILDLIFE CONSERVATION: HARNESSING THE POWER OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY

Hemanjali M
Kalavathi B

*"As technology advances, we have the opportunity to use it to better understand and protect wildlife, and to work towards a more sustainable future for our planet."
- Dr. Gretchen Daily*

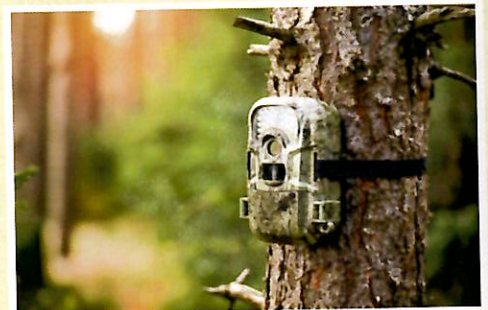
The recent Living Planet Report 2022 by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) suggests that since 1970, more than 20,000 populations of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and fish have decreased on average by 69% in the last 50 years. Given the rate of wildlife population decline, its conservation is of pivotal importance. Several of these creatures are essential to the functioning of entire ecosystems. Given the rate of wildlife population decline, its conservation is of pivotal importance.

In the recent years, modern technology has been increasingly used in wildlife conservation efforts to improve monitoring, research, and conservation strategies and develop more effective conservation strategies and management plans.

Advances in technology give the advantage to understand the animals, their habitats, and the potential threats. Modern technologies such as drones, GPS, data analysis, and artificial intelligence (AI) — are effectively used to revolutionize wildlife conservation efforts are as follows:

1. Camera Trapping

- An ordinary digital camera connected to an infrared sensor which can "see" warm objects that are moving, like animals.
- When an animal moves past the sensor it causes the camera to record an image or video to the memory card which can be retrieved later.
- This technique helps in recording the rarest events which occur in nature including the movements of shy and elusive animals
- "wildlife friendly", in that they cause little or no disturbance to wildlife.
- It can include everything from a big cat patrolling its territory, to the raiding of a bird's nest by a predator.



2. Radio-Telemetry Monitoring System and Radio collaring

- Radio-collars are GPS-enabled collars that can be fitted around the animal's neck.
- It will help in better understanding the animal's ecology with scientific facts about spatial distribution, corridor uses, mapping and movement
- Distribution of satellite population, seasonal movement patterns, activity patterns, land use patterns, habitat preferences are stored in collar and later can be collected for research which helps in addressing the management challenges, mitigate human wildlife conflict.



3. Avian Radio Telemetry

- It will provide scientific information about the migration and movement patterns, habitat preferences, breeding & roosting sites and safe zones.
- Such scientific information will play a significant role to plan the future conservation work and aid to plan bird flyway devoid of any obstructions.



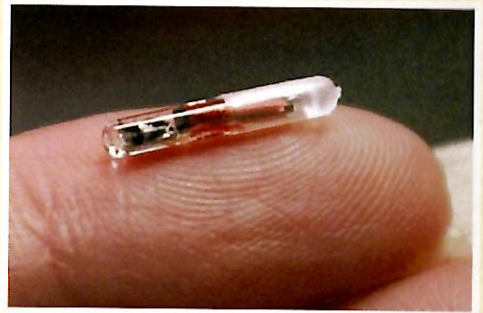
4. Drones -Third eye in the sky

- Simply means Unmanned Aircraft (UA) which can be remotely controlled via a laptop or even the satellite. They can be pre-programmed to take off and land at the same position but also to follow a preset flight path.
- Can be used to track the movements of wildlife, monitor poaching, useful in enumeration, human-wildlife conflict search and rescue operations.
- It can be used for night surveillance and tracking of many elusive and shy animals like the red panda and snow leopard.
- Drone surveillance includes thermal imaging systems that detect the forest fires in early stage with GPS location.
- This technique is being used in Kaziranga national park to have a strict vigil against poaching.



5. Microchip Database

- Microchip: Bar-coded optical character recognition technology with unique number series to each which is used for identification of individuals.
- These are Bio-Compatible & Non-Pathogenic.
- It provides valuable insights about their capture, recapture, case histories, progenies and individual identification which are effectively put to use in handling Leopard conflict in surrounding regions of Gir National Park and database is maintained on rescued leopards in Gir Veterinary Hospital.



6. M-STrIPES (Monitoring System for Tigers: Intensive Protection and Ecological Status)

- A platform where modern technology is used to assist effective patrolling, assess ecological status and mitigate human-wildlife conflict in and around tiger reserves.
- The MStrIPES program uses Global Positioning System (GPS), General Packet Radio Services (GPRS), and remote sensing, to collect information from the field, create a database using modern Information Technology (IT) based tools, analyzes the information using GIS and statistical tools to provide inferences that allow tiger reserve managers to better manage their wildlife resources.

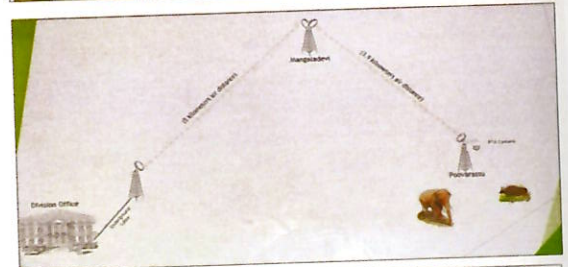
7. Automatic Sensor Based Vehicle Speed Regulatory System

- Cameras are equipped with Automatic Number Plate Recognizing (ANPR) systems with radar in order to detect vehicular speed
- The devices record the registration number of vehicles that ply beyond the set speed limit.
- This will allow officials to halt vehicles while animals are passing through the corridors.
- This technology is like a boon to stop the road kills and successful results in Kaziranga National Park, Assam.
- This unique technique of Kaziranga National park is being used to monitor vehicle movement and avoid road kills when the animals are moving to flood free zone in upland areas.



8. Real-time monitoring of forest and wildlife in inaccessible areas through smartphones.

- Using a cost-effective 'video surveillance-cum-communication enhancer intranet network,' which can monitor animal movements designed by Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala.
- Microwave antennas and towers are used to set up the network at accessible areas.
- The system allows the designated officers to watch animal movements in inaccessible terrains through real time using their smart phones from headquarters.
- The camera can be remotely panned 360 degrees and tilted to cover a wide range of field.
- The network is powered by solar panels and the antenna, camera and solar panels are set up at a height inaccessible to animals to avert elephant attacks.
- The system can be used for anti-poaching operations, behaviour studies of animals in their natural habitats and videoconferencing with the field staff out in the forest.
- This technique is currently used by periyar tiger reserve to have real time monitoring of animals.



Visuals from Poovarashu routed to tower at Mangaladevi Hills, rerouted to Divisional Forest Office of the Periyar Tiger Reserve at Thekkady.

9. GIS

- GIS technology is an effective tool for managing, analyzing, and visualizing wildlife data of target areas where interventional management practices are needed and to monitor their effectiveness.
- It can be used in monitoring Forest Fires and to determine which locations are best suited for establishing species or animal corridors.
- The data collected from GIS system is used in preparation of State of India Forest Report by Forest Survey of India.

10. Global Positioning System

- It is a satellite based navigation system that provides continuous, real-time, 3-dimensional positioning, navigation and timing worldwide.
- It can be used in vehicle tracking in safaris, environmental protection, tracking the animal patterns, search and rescue operations.
- Tracking the safari vehicles movement is put to application in Jhalana Leopard Sanctuary, Rajasthan.



11. Incubators

- The incubator works by having a balloon filled with warm air pushing gently down on the eggs, so only the top half of the egg receives the heat – much like a natural bird sitting on eggs.
- On a programmed timer – with times of our choice, the balloon lifts off the eggs, the eggs are turned on a roller and the balloon returns down on the eggs, thus warming the other side of the eggs.
- This technique is being used in almost all the conservation breeding programmes

Ex : In sunderbans for conservation of

Batakur baska and in Velavadar National

park for conservation of Lesser florican.

The advancement in software development, satellite deployment has been utilized for developing software like SIMBA for lion identification and Fire alert system by Forest survey of India(FSI) and many more. Additionally, social media and crowd sourcing platforms have been increasingly used to raise awareness and engage the public in wildlife conservation efforts. Through these platforms, conservationists can share information and images of endangered species, gather data from citizen scientists, and solicit support for conservation initiatives.

There is still a lot of scope to apply the latest technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Data science and many emerging technologies in wildlife conservation. Deployment of the modern technology as well as training the lower staff for using these technologies will yield tremendous results.

***"Wildlife is something which man cannot construct.
Once it is gone, it is gone forever." -Joy Adamson.***

So, it is required to take every possible effort to conserve and safeguard the wildlife. Each step taken by us in this direction will have a lasting impact.

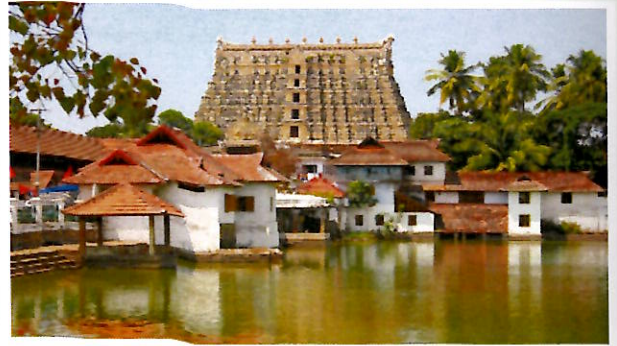
KERALA – THE BLESSED LAND

RAJESH T N

A Look Back

When you say Kerala, the word of 'God's Own Country' comes to mind. When Malayalees go to other places and introduce themselves by saying that they are from Kerala, others are surprised and ask back 'Oh God's on country'. As a Keralite just listening to it gives a feeling of excitement. Why Kerala is called 'God's Own Country'?

When India got independence on August 15, 1947, only the Travancore region was not interested in joining the Centre. In June 1947, Travancore was declared a separate country by the then King Sri. Chithira Thirunal Balaramavarma. The king had developed Travancore better with public transport, telephone network and various engineering industries. He bore all the expenses himself. Above all, all Hindus were allowed to enter all temples.



He implemented this historic decision at a time when there were problems, protests and segregation all over India related to religion, caste, colour etc. All this was discussed by the Indian government representatives and they visited the King with the demand that Travancore country should be part of the Indian Union. King's reply was, 'This land is not mine, it belongs to Padmanabha Swami (God Vishnu). I am just an administrator. If Lord Vishnu asks me, I will do it'.

The authorities scoffed at it as an excuse to walk away from the discussion. The Travancore authorities, who understood this, showed them the writing on January 20, 1750 by Anizham Thirunal Marthanda Varma in the palm-leaf manuscript (Thaliyola). He wrote in this that the Travancore part including today's Kanyakumari and Paravoor belonged to Lord Vishnu. This may be the reason why Kerala is called God's own country.



THE IMPORTANCE OF PHYSICAL FITNESS IN DAY-TO-DAY LIFE

PRANITHA B
- Nelson Mandela

“Exercise is the key not only to physical health but to peace of mind”

Physical fitness is an essential aspect of our day-to-day lives that plays a significant role in maintaining good health and well-being. The importance of physical fitness cannot be overstated, as it helps to prevent diseases, improves health, and enhances overall quality of life. In this article, we will discuss the role of physical fitness in day-to-day life.

1. Prevents Lifestyle Diseases

- Physical fitness can help prevent lifestyle diseases such as heart disease, diabetes and obesity.
- Regular exercise improves cardiovascular health, reduces blood pressure and cholesterol levels, and lowers the risk of heart disease.
- It also helps to regulate blood sugar levels.
- Additionally, physical fitness helps to maintain a healthy weight, which is crucial for preventing obesity.



2. Improves Mental Health

- Exercise is not only good for physical health but also mental health. Regular exercise can help to reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, and improve mood.
- Exercise releases endorphins, which are natural feel-good hormones that help to boost mood and energy levels. It also improves cognitive function, memory, and concentration, which is beneficial for mental health.



3. Enhances Physical Appearance

- Physical fitness helps to enhance physical appearance, which can boost self-esteem and confidence.
- Exercise helps to tone muscles, reduce body fat, and improve posture.
- A well-toned body can also help to prevent injuries and improve balance and flexibility.



4. Increases Energy Levels

- Regular exercise can boost energy levels and reduce fatigue.
- It helps to improve the oxygen supply to the muscles, which increases stamina and endurance.
- Exercise also helps to improve sleep quality, which is essential for maintaining energy levels throughout the day.



5. Improves Immune System

- Physical fitness helps to boost the immune system, which is essential for preventing infections and diseases.
- Exercise increases the production of white blood cells, which are responsible for fighting infections.
- Regular exercise also helps to reduce inflammation, which is beneficial for the immune system.

6. Improves Quality of Life:

Physical fitness can significantly improve the quality of life.

- It helps to prevent diseases, reduces stress and anxiety, improves mental health, enhances physical appearance, increases energy levels, and improves immune function. All of these factors combined can lead to a better quality of life.

In conclusion, physical fitness is a crucial aspect of our day-to-day lives that has numerous benefits for our health and well-being. It helps to prevent chronic diseases, improves mental health, enhances physical appearance, increases energy levels, improves immune function, and improves overall quality of life. By incorporating regular physical activity into our daily routine, we can maintain good health and lead a fulfilling life. Remember, it is never too late to start prioritizing physical fitness, so start today and enjoy the many benefits it has to offer.



ECO TOURISM- ITS PROS AND CONS

DHEERAJ P

Ecotourism is a type of tourism that is focused on sustainable and responsible travel to natural areas that conserve the environment and sustains the well-being of local communities. It aims to provide a unique travel experience while minimizing the negative impact on the environment and promoting the social and economic development of local communities.

Here are some Eco-tourism models from our All India Tour :

Periyar Eco-Tourism Model:

The Periyar eco-tourism model is an innovative approach to sustainable tourism in India.

The model focuses on promoting ecologically responsible tourism by providing visitors with a range of activities that do not disturb the natural ecosystem. These activities include guided nature walks, bamboo rafting, and wildlife safaris, all of which are designed to provide visitors with a deep understanding of the local ecology and the importance of conservation.

Inclusion of Locals is key factor:

The Periyar eco-tourism model is based on the principles of community involvement and sustainable development. Local communities are actively involved in managing the tourism activities, which helps to ensure that the benefits of tourism are shared equitably among all stakeholders. Additionally, a portion of the revenue generated through tourism is used for conservation and community development initiatives.

The Sundarbans, a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in India's eastern state of West Bengal, is one of the largest mangrove forests in the world and is home to a diverse range of flora and fauna, including the endangered Bengal tiger. The Sundarbans eco-tourism model on the Indian side is a community-based tourism initiative aimed at promoting sustainable tourism in the region while also supporting local communities and conserving the natural environment.

The eco-tourism model involves a range of activities, including guided nature walks, bird watching, village visits, and boat safaris. Visitors are encouraged to explore the natural beauty of the Sundarbans while also learning about the local culture and way of life. The model also provides opportunities for visitors to interact with local communities, which helps to create a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by people living in the region.

Earned revenue is shared within locals:

The forest department works along with locals to ensure that the carrying capacity of the region doesn't exceed the limit. In addition , a portion of the revenue generated is used for the conservation of critically endangered species such as Batagur baska commonly known as Northern river terrapin.

The success of the Sundarbans eco-tourism model has contributed to the economic development of the region while also promoting conservation and preserving the natural environment. It has inspired other destinations in India and around the world to adopt similar approaches to sustainable tourism.

Pros of Ecotourism :

1. **Environmental Conservation:** Ecotourism promotes the conservation of natural resources, as it encourages tourists to visit protected areas, such as national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. This provides funding for the preservation of these areas, which might not be possible otherwise.
2. **Economic Benefits:** Ecotourism can be a significant source of income for local communities. It provides jobs and business opportunities, such as local guides, accommodation, food, and souvenirs, which can help to alleviate poverty and improve the economic status of the local population.
3. **Cultural Preservation:** Ecotourism can promote the preservation of traditional cultures and practices, as it encourages tourists to interact with local communities, learn about their customs and traditions, and appreciate their way of life.
4. **Education and Awareness:** Ecotourism can be an educational experience for tourists, as it provides an opportunity to learn about environmental issues, conservation efforts, and the importance of sustainable development.

Cons of Ecotourism:

1. **Environmental Degradation:** While ecotourism aims to minimize the negative impact on the environment, it can still have a detrimental effect if not managed properly. Ecotourism can lead to the overuse of natural resources, habitat degradation, and disturbance to wildlife.
2. **Cultural Degradation:** Ecotourism can also have a negative impact on local cultures if not managed properly. It can lead to the exploitation of traditional practices and the commercialization of cultural heritage.
3. **Economic Leakage:** The economic benefits of ecotourism may not always stay within the local community. Foreign investors may take a significant share of the profits, which may not benefit the local population.
4. **Inadequate Infrastructure:** Ecotourism can put a strain on local infrastructure, such as water supply, waste disposal, and transportation. If not properly managed, it can lead to environmental pollution and health hazards.

Way Forward :

Ecotourism can be a valuable tool for promoting sustainable development and environmental conservation. However, to maximize its benefits, we need to address the drawbacks and develop a comprehensive strategy for managing ecotourism. Here are some steps that can be taken to ensure the success of ecotourism:

1. **Community Participation:** Local communities should be involved in the planning and management of ecotourism. They should be empowered to make decisions and have a stake in the benefits of ecotourism.
2. **Sustainable Infrastructure:** Infrastructure should be developed in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner. Renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, should be used to reduce the carbon footprint of ecotourism.
3. **Education and Awareness:** Tourists should be educated about the principles of ecotourism, such as responsible travel, environmental conservation, and community development. This can be done through informational brochures, guided tours, and interactive exhibits.
4. **Regulations and Enforcement:** Regulations should be put in place to ensure that ecotourism activities are conducted in a responsible and sustainable manner. The authorities should enforce these regulations to prevent illegal and harmful activities.

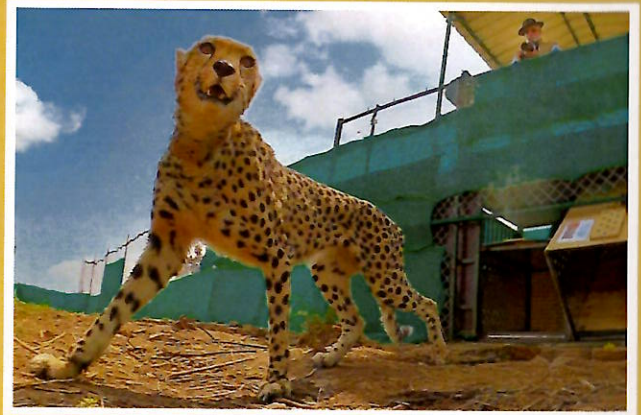
Conclusion :

Ecotourism can be a valuable tool for promoting sustainable development and environmental conservation. However, we need to ensure that its benefits are maximized while minimizing the negative impact.

CHEETAH REINTRODUCTION IN INDIA

ANEESH G R

Eight Namibian wild cheetahs were reintroduced in Kuno National Park (Madhya Pradesh) after 70 years of extinction. The Asiatic cheetah was the native species of cheetah in India until it became extinct in 1952. Exclusively about 8 Asiatic cheetahs remain in the wild today, and they are found only in Iran. The majority of the surviving 7000 big cats in the world are African cheetahs, including the ones that have recently arrived in India.



Cheetah Re-Introduction Project

In 2009, India's then-environment minister approved a plan to reintroduce cheetahs, but the Supreme Court rejected it in 2013. The government revived the concept in 2017, and the SC approved the action in 2020 on "an experimental basis" and after this judgement the plans for reintroduction were sketched.

Why is cheetah reintroduction important?

Big carnivores play a regulatory function. They prey on the young, the old, the weak and the diseased and act as an evolutionary force in shaping the entire ecosystem. They keep the genetics of a prey population extremely fit. The cheetah did that for several of our grassland habitats before being killed. Bringing the cheetah back has the potential to fill this ecological niche and restore these ecosystems. Introducing a large predator maintains the diversity of its prey base and other species in the ecosystem.

This will be the first time a huge carnivore has ever been moved from one continent to another. The goal of the transfer is to create a cheetah meta population that will aid in the animal's global conservation as well as restore India's historical evolutionary balance. The conservation of the cheetah will revive grassland forests and their biome and habitat, much like Project Tiger have done for forests and all the species found in them.

Why was Kuno National Park chosen for Cheetah Reintroduction?

Both Cheetah and Asiatic Lions share the same habitats semi-arid grasslands and forests that stretch across Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh. The rainfall, temperature, and altitude in the Bhopal district, where Kuno is situated, are equivalent to those of South Africa and Namibia. In addition, Kuno contains a diverse population of prey species, including peafowl, wild pigs, gazelle, sambar, chital, sambhar, and nilgai.

Associated Risks of translocation

Lack of Genetic Diversity: Difficult to find genetically suitable animals, particularly to build a new population. This can lead to inbreeding and depression in the new population of Cheetahs.

Habitat adaptability and Prey Base: Before translocation, the factor responsible for the extinction of the species must be dealt with to secure the habitat in the wild. As per the experts, physical security, enough space, and ample food must be the priorities.

Landscape Viability: Animals (in this case, Cheetahs, as they are relocated) will remain susceptible to demographic and environmental events in such a broken landscape as it can lead to habitat fragmentation.

Way Forward

An appropriate strategy for monitoring with veterinary oversight and a scientific assessment of the degree of adaptation is required. Along with that, various outreach and awareness events should be run to familiarize the locals with the reintroduction strategy in order to sensitize the youth.

The protection of native species and their habitat should get equal consideration and to maintain the safety and satisfaction of the locals, it is important to develop a proper rehabilitation policy that includes proper communication between administrative officers and the residents.

This cheetah population is going to be a “managed meta population”. (Managed meta populations are human-mediated translocations to replace the natural movement of animals in areas where their habitat is fragmented, and no natural movement occurs due to a lack of safe corridors between populations.) No single area in India can have enough cheetahs to sustain themselves as a long-term viable population. We must create cheetah habitats and physically move animals between these sites.



ORCHIDS OF INDIA

RAHUL K

Orchids are one of the most prized ornamental plants traded as flowers and potted plants globally. The term "orchid" has been derived from the Greek word "orchis," and taxonomically, placed in the order Asparagales under Orchidaceae family. Orchids belong to the second largest family of flowering plants, and there are more than 29,500 orchid species worldwide.

IUCN Global Red List has assessed about 1641 orchid species (July 2020) of which 747 are categorised as 'Threatened' with 197 listed as 'Critically Endangered'. India is home to 1,256 species belonging to 155 genera. Of these, 307 species are endemic to the country.

Orchids are hypo allergenic as their pollen is not airborne; instead, it is stored in a waxy substance, pollen packets called pollinia. Fossil evidence suggests that orchids emerged over 80 – 100 million years ago. Orchids have the smallest seeds amongst the flowering plants in the world and they are very difficult to grow requiring unique micro-habitats. About 8% of all flowering plants are orchids. Orchid species have been recognised for their medicinal properties in the ancient Indian therapeutic system of Ayurveda. In India, Arunachal Pradesh is home to about 40% of orchid species in the country and is often referred to as the 'Orchid Paradise of India'.

Since orchids are highly sensitive to the climatic changes in their habitat and have extensive, interconnected symbiotic relationships with organisms like insects, plants, and fungi, their presence is a positive indicator of the healthy ecosystem and the biodiversity of their habitat. Orchids play a vital ecological role by constituting a crucial element of any forest ecosystem through a highly complex mutual relation with other organisms.

Orchid size can range from a pencil head to a vigorous two tonne shrub. In India, *Oberonia recurva* is the smallest orchid while the Falconer's Galeola (*Galeola falconeri*) is the largest orchid species. Mainly found in Tropic to the alpine zone in forests, river banks, bamboo and palm thickets, grass slopes, and rocky areas. In India distributed in The Himalayan Region, the Peninsular Region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

One of the most pertinent threats to orchids today is habitat destruction and degradation. Climate change too, is harming the species as it has a significant impact on pollination services and affects the plant communities where orchids exist.

In order to conserve and protect the orchids International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List included some of the orchid species in the list. They are Drury's Paphiopedilum (*Paphiopedilum druryi*) (Critically Endangered), Fairrie's Paphiopedilum (*Paphiopedilum fairrieanum*) (Critically Endangered), Charlesworth Paphiopedilum (*Paphiopedilum charlesworthi*) (Endangered), Laddy's Slipper Orchid (*Paphiopedilum venustum*) (Endangered), Spicer's Paphiopedilum (*Paphiopedilum spicerianum*) (Endangered), Splendid Paphiopedilum (*Paphiopedilum insigne*) (Endangered), Ward's Paphiopedilum (*Paphiopedilum wardii*) (Endangered), Villose Paphiopedilum (*Paphiopedilum villosum*) (Vulnerable), Shaggy Paphiopedilum (*Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum*) (Vulnerable). Besides the above-mentioned genera, the orchid species listed in the other 154 genera are also listed under various threatened categories of the IUCN.

In Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 under Schedule VI the following species included Blue Vanda (*Vanda coerulea*), Red Vanda (*Renanthera imschootiana*), Ladies' slipper orchids *Paphiopedilum* spp. (all 9 species) 1.) *Paphiopedilum charlesworthii*, 2.) *P. druryi* 3.) *P. fairrieanum* 4.) *P. insigne*, 5.) *P.*

spicerianum, 6.) P. venustum, 7.) P. villosum, 8.) P. wardii, 9.) P. hirsutissimum

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) included orchid species in Appendix I and Appendix II. Appendix I includes Pigeon orchid (*Dendrobium cruentum*), Ladies slipper orchids (*Paphiopedilum* spp.), Red Vanda (*Renanthera imschootiana*) and Appendix II includes Orchidaceae spp. i.e., all species excluding the species included in Appendix I.

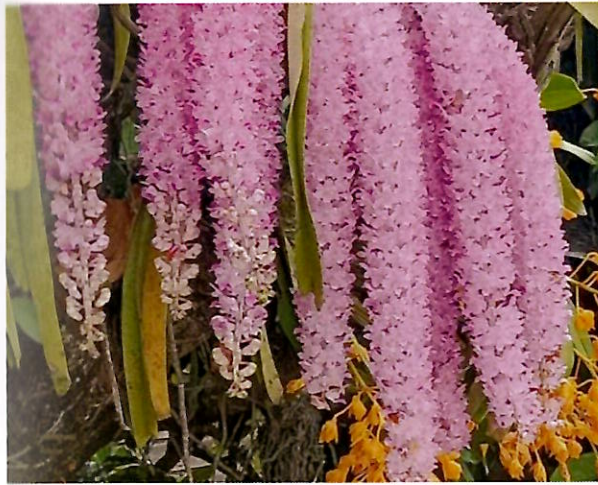
Export Import (Exim) Policy also had orchid species they are Blue vanda (*Vanda coerulea*), *Dactylorhiza hatagirea*, Ladies slipper orchid (*Paphiopedilum* species), Red vanda (*Renanthera imschootiana*), Orchids Orchidaceae species Exports of plants and plant portions of wild origin, of species specified in the Export Licensing Note 1 is prohibited. A special exemption can be granted for research, education, and lifesaving drugs on a case-by-case basis by DGFT, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

Orchids are one of the most threatened flowering plants in the world. Illegal harvesting and overexploitation pose a severe threat with species like *Renanthera* spp and a few slipper orchids such as *Cypripedium*, *Paphiopedilum*, showing significant impact from the practice. Orchids are illegally collected and traded for ornamental plants, traditional medicine, and food. The increasing demand for it is leading to unsustainable harvesting practices. Orchids like *Eulophia dabia* and *Dactylorhiza hatagirea* populations are succumbing to overharvesting. *Crepidium acuminatum*, *Habenaria edgeworthii* and *Habenaria intermedia* are collected from the wild for their medicinal use. They are used in making Chyawanprash, a popular dietary supplement in India. Protected species of orchids such as Blue Vanda, Ladies Slipper have been seized in India with seizures reported in West Bengal and Assam and by Department of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).

Sessa Orchid Sanctuary, in West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh, has been established to conserve the orchid species of the region along with an Orchid Research and Development Centre to study and preserve the species. In 2020, IUCN, in collaboration with the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, launched the "IUCN Red Listing Process of Orchids species assessment in Arunachal Pradesh" as a short-term objective towards evaluating the more than 600 unique and diverse Orchid species of the state.

In order to secure future of orchids it is essential to raise awareness among local people to encourage them to preserve the wild orchid species in their area. Promote sustainable and traceable use of threatened orchids in legally permitted areas through village level Biodiversity Management Committees as an additional source of livelihood. Include medicinally and ornamentally valuable orchids such as *Renanthera*, *Cypripedium*, *Paphiopedilum*, *Habenaria intermedia*, *H. pubescens*, *Eulophia dabia*, *Dactylorhiza hatagirea*, threatened by illegal trade and overexploitation the various Schedules of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 of India for protection and to restrain their overharvesting from the wild.

SOME IMPORTANT ORCHID SPECIES OF INDIA



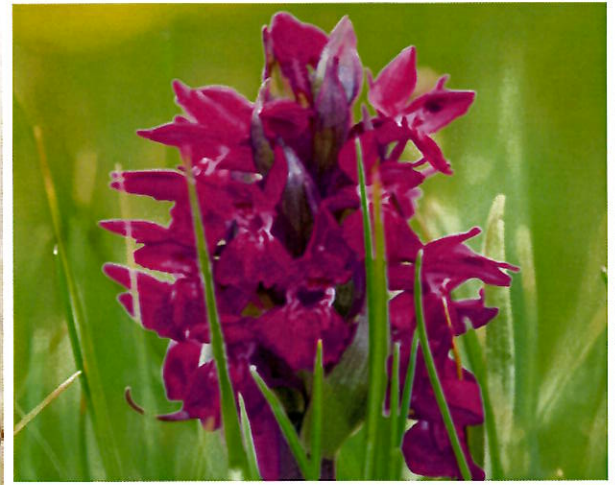
Rhynchostylis retusa



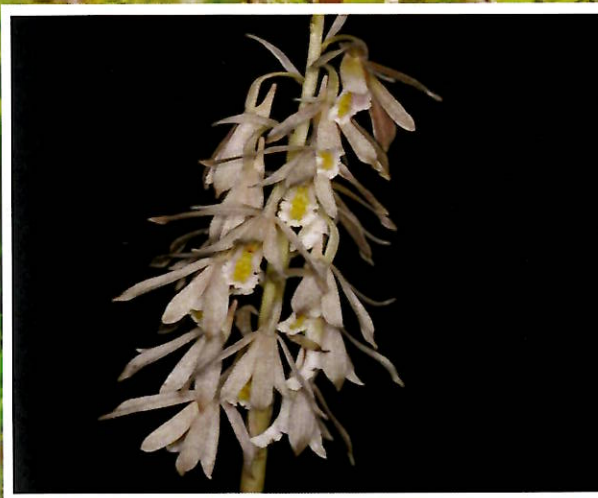
Paphiopedilum (Lady Slipper Orchid)



Habenaria intermedia



Dactylorhiza hatagirea



Eulophia dabia



Renanthera Spp.

HOW TO RECOGNIZE DIFFERENT WILD ANIMALS AND BIRDS

HARILAL K
TEJASWI P



PRIMATES Front-facing eyes; soft-skinned, contoured palm of hands and soles of feet; opposable thumbs on the forelimbs or all limbs (Example: Monkey)



ELEPHANTS Large body size; long trunk fused digits on limbs with visible toe nails; rough thick skin with spiky hair



ODD-TOED UNGULATES Hoofed herbivorous with a unique digestive system and an odd number of toes (Example: Donkey)



EVEN-TOED UNGULATES Mostly horned or antlered hoofed herbivores with a unique digestive system and an even number of toes (Example: Antelopes)



CARNIVORES Primarily meat eaters; enlarged canines and claws (Example: Lion, Tiger, Wolf, Hyena)



LAGOMORPHS Strictly herbivorous animals with four incisors in the upper jaw (not two as in rodents) (Example: Wild Hare)



PHOLIDOTES Scaly, insectivorous animals with long tails, tubular snouts and strong claws (Example: Pangolin)



TREE SHREWS Small, slender, omnivores, with long tails, poorly developed canines and unspecialized molars; territorial; nocturnal (Example: Mountain treeshrew)



INSECTIVORES Small insectivores with sharp teeth and long pointed snouts; simple molars, simplified gut lacking caecum and small pinnae and eyes; pentadactyl and plantigrade (Example: Anteaters)



HEDGEHOGS Spiny, nocturnal, insect-eating mammals with the ability to roll into a tight ball (Example: European hedgehog)



RODENTS Mammals which are characterized by a single pair of continuously growing incisors in each of the upper and lower jaws. (Example: Rats)



BATS Mammals with their forelimbs adapted as wings, capable of true and sustained flight (Example: Fruitbat)

SIMPLE WAYS TO OF IDENTIFYING BIRDS

RAHUL K

Birds also known as Aves, are a group of Endothermic Vertebrates, characterized by feathers, toothless beaked jaws, laying of hard-shelled eggs, high metabolic rate, four chambered heart and hallow bones for flight.

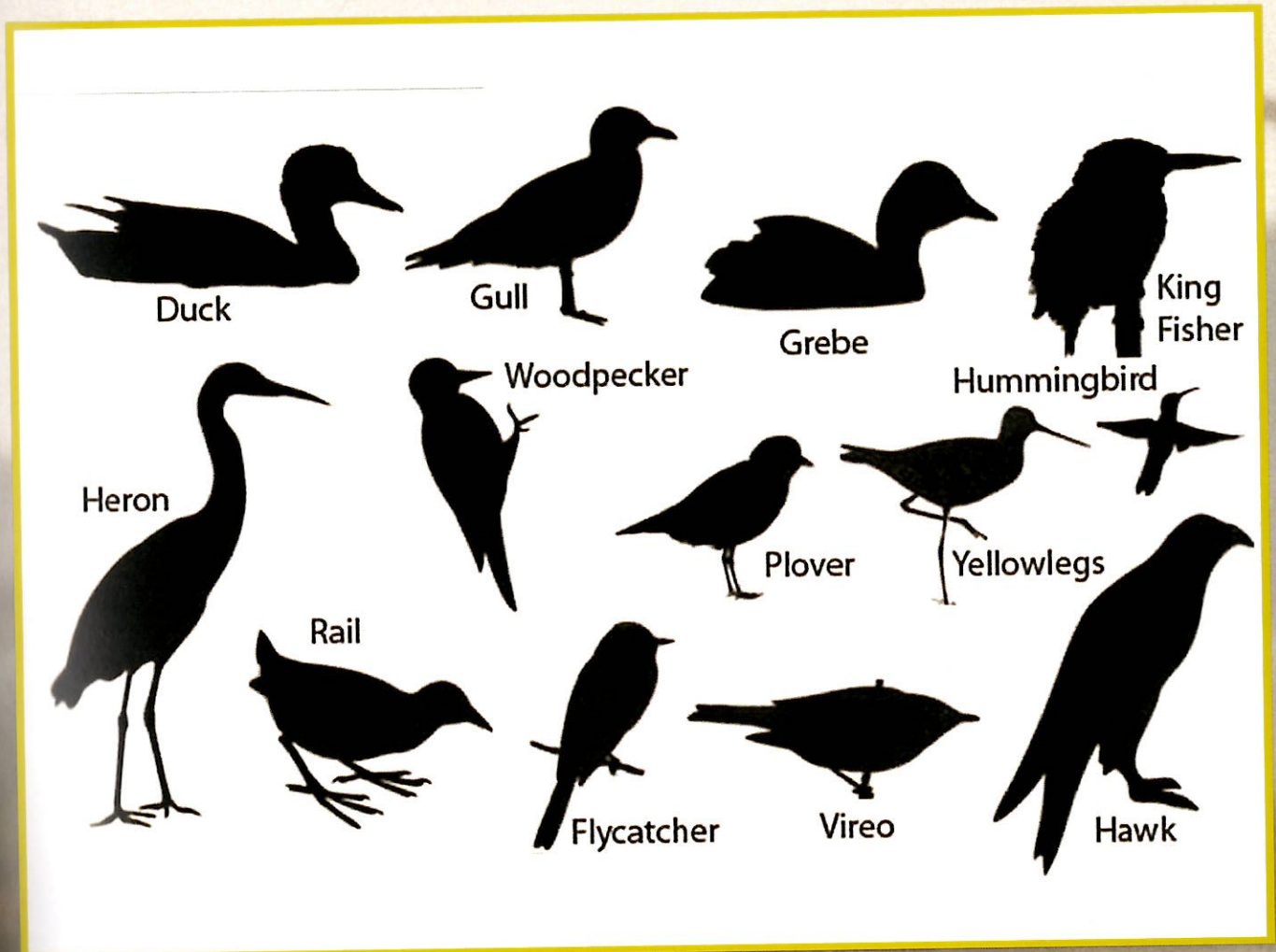
There are around 10,000 species of birds around the world, of which about 1270 species are found in India.

Birds can be identified easily if one gets familiarized with these things.








1. Beaks
2. Claws/Feet








A basic knowledge of these shall aid in Bird watching and Identification

Normal shapes of birds

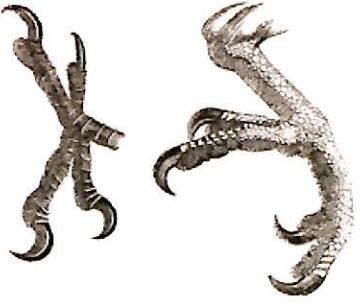
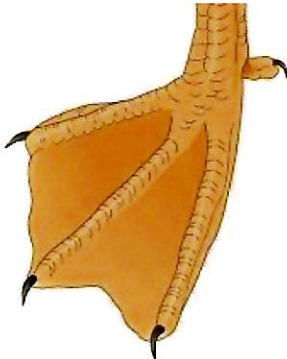





USING BEAK AS THE IDENTIFYING FEATURE

	<p align="center">GENERALIST</p>	<p>Birds that do not have specially adapted beaks. They can feed on many kinds of food—from insects to seeds and fruits to leftovers Ex: House crow</p>
	<p align="center">FRUIT EATING</p>	<p>Birds with thick and sharp beak, so they can 'dig' deeper in the fruits. Ex:Toucan</p>
	<p align="center">RAPTORIAL</p>	<p>Sharply hooked to pierce prey and hold onto it once caught and then is used to tear off pieces for easier feeding. Ex: Hawks</p>
	<p align="center">INSECT EATING</p>	<p>Pointed, thin beaks usually eat insects or worms, though they may also consume fruits. Ex: Flycatcher</p>
	<p align="center">CHISELING</p>	<p>Chisel-shaped beak to cut holes in trees or to dig out insects from a tree's bark Ex: Woodpecker</p>
	<p align="center">FILTER FEEDING</p>	<p>It helps to separate food material from water by filtering, mainly flat and wide Ex: Flamingo</p>
	<p align="center">GRAIN EATING</p>	<p>Strong cone-shaped beak to grinding and breaking seeds and grains. Ex: Sparrow</p>

	<p>AERIAL FISHING</p>	<p>Long, strong, sharply pointed, and daggerlike in shape. Some fish-eating birds also have serrated beak edges. Ex: Kingfisher</p>
	<p>CONFEROUS- SEED EATING</p>	<p>Crossbills appear with similarly-sized upper and lower mandibles which helps to open pine cones to get the seeds inside. Ex: Crossbill</p>
	<p>SURFACE SKIMMING</p>	<p>Long, thick, and longer lower mandible. Ex: Skimmer</p>
	<p>SCYTHING</p>	<p>Bills are used by wading birds in mudflats and other wetlands to catch small insects by sweeping the long thin, upturned bill through the surface waters or mud. Ex: Avocet</p>
	<p>NECTAR FEEDING</p>	<p>Long slender and pointed. This helps in sucking nectar and also feeding insects and food to the young ones. Ex: Sunbirds</p>
	<p>PERSUIT FISHING</p>	<p>Chase fish by diving from the surface of a pond, lake, river or sea and catching them in this relatively flat splayed bill Ex: Petrel</p>
	<p>SCAVENGING</p>	<p>Quite large with a pronounced hooked end helping to tear flesh from the body. Often have no head feathers around the base of the bill or even on the entire head. Ex: Vulture</p>

USING FEET/ CLAWS AS AN IDENTIFICATION FEATURE

	<p style="text-align: center;">CLIMBING</p>	<p>Sharp nails for digging into woods, and the back toes so as to avoid toppling backward. Ex: Woodpecker</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">SWIMMING</p>	<p>Webbed feet to paddle through the water. Ex: Geese</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">GRASPING</p>	<p>Claw like feet for grabbing the prey. Ex: Eagle</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">PERCHING</p>	<p>With four toes, one which is in the back are useful for perching. Ex: Babbler</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">SCRATCHING</p>	<p>Always have four toes with strong nails for digging into the ground. Ex: Pheasants</p>

POEMS AND PROSES

THE BEAUTY OF NATURE

DHEERAJ P

In the heart of India, where the wild things roam,
There lies a land that's rich in forest and home.

From the towering trees that pierce the sky,
To the tigers that stealthily prowl by,
The Indian wilderness is a place of wonder,
With a beauty that leaves one spellbound in wonder.

The songbirds in the canopy above,
The chattering monkeys that play and love,
The gentle elephants that move with grace,
The regal lions that rule with fierce pace.

All these creatures call this land their own,
With a majesty that leaves one overthrown.
The rustling leaves, the buzzing bees,
The howling wolves, and the gentle breeze.

There's a magic here that's hard to describe,
A feeling that makes one truly alive.
It's the spirit of the forest that fills the air,
A spirit of life that's beyond compare.

But the forest and wildlife are under threat,
From humans who are blind to their own effect.
We must protect them, preserve their home,
And cherish the wildness that's ours to own.

For if we do not, we stand to lose,
A world that's wild, a world we must choose.
So let us raise our voices, speak out loud,
And vow to protect this land of which we're proud.

In the heart of India, where the wild things roam,
There lies a land that's worth calling home.

THE ELIXIR OF LOVE

SHIBUKUTTAN

To have been deeply loved gives you the complete protection for ever. Victor Frankl, a Jewish psychiatrist who was jailed by Hitler in to the concentration camp where people were counting their life by minutes..He and his wife entered the concentration camp together. His wife died on the first day and he survived. After coming out of the camp, he became a world renowned psychiatrist . Once a lady phoned him on a distant call. She wanted to commit suicide. Victor counseled her for hours and listened her patiently. He tried his best to persuade her not to commit suicide and make her understand the worth of a life. This conversation encompassing trials & tribulation, persuasion lasted for almost four hours before the lady gave up the disastrous idea of ending her life. With due course of time, that lady became a very successful entrepreneur in Europe. Once during interview, she was asked how Victor able to convince her not to give up her life. she said she talked for four hours. During the entire conversation, she could not find the single arguments plausible enough which makes her to relinquish the idea of the suicide But yet she relented the idea because there was someone in the world who was willing to listen to her for hours which makes her believe that the life was too precious to squander it away..

If you are a good listener, you are a good lover and a good person. According to Khalil Gibran, "life without love is like a tree without blossoms or fruits". Oscar Wilde says, "**Life without love is a garden of dead flowers**". Bible says "**If i speaks in the tongues of men or of angels but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.**"

Love creates magic where ever you are. Human race began to loose their smile because they are devoid of love. Human race differs from other races because they have the capacity to smile . Can you smile like a child? Can you smile while looking at a flower? Can you smile while looking at a stranger? Have you ever been smiled with an open heart while giving something to a beggar? Without love, Our home is a guest house and our family is an inn . Without love, Husband & wife are mere living partners, brothers & sisters are mere colleagues sharing the similar ecosystem. Without love, our leaders are just dictators. Without love, religion is a barren land. Love is the essence of the life and driving force to bring the positive changes in the life.

Einstein said love is the greatest teacher. "I understand because I love" said by Tolstoy. Love is the medium of creating understanding, harmony and compassion. Darkness can never drive out darkness. Only light can drive out darkness. Hate can never drive out hate, only love can drive out hate .

Love gives naught but itself and takes naught but from itself love possess not nor would it be possessed. For love is sufficient unto love. **When you love, you should not say God is in my heart but rather I am in the heart of God.**

वृक्षकामहत्व

SUNENDRA SINGH

सोचिये इस धरा पर क्या धरा रह जायेगा ,
एक भी वृक्ष जब न हरा रह जायेगा,
साँस इस धरा की खुद रुकने लगेगी जब ,
जीव का जीवन यहाँ बस मरा रह जायेगा ।

मृत्यु शैय्या पर पड़े हैं
यदि इतना ज्ञान हो,
देखना समय का ये पहिया ठहरा रह जायेगा ।
त्रस्त बिष से है हवा

कुछ तो पहचान लो,
ये नहो प्रयत्न खुद का व्यर्थ करा रह जायेगा ।
सोचिये जन्म है जहाँ पर उम्र जहाँ गुजर है,
उस मातृ की रक्त नसों मे क्या बिष भरा रह जायेगा ।

सूखती नदियों सूखते झरनों को देख ,
सूर्य की आग में तप मन डरा रह जायेगा ।
जाग लो रहने से पहले वक्त है कुछ आज भी ,
जो धरा है इस धरा पर व्यर्थ धरा रह जायेगा ।

RETURN JOURNEY TO HOME

RAJESH T N

When I walked back home,
I was alone
When I entered my room,
We were two

Was it night,
Or the moon that shadowed
When I entered my room
I am sure, we were two

The asleep road,
Drowsed, with none
In the lonely night,
And took me home

But there was one,
Apart from me
I could feel that
With the lights out.

WE DON'T VALUE....

TEJASWI P

The River, The Sun, The Air, The Soil is a solid cluster,
Are they making our lives better....

The River be an Elixir quenching thirst,
But we dont value its serenity making it worst...

The Sun shines bright bringing in a ray of light,
But We dont value its Eternity creating a bigger Fight.....

The Air brings freshness with its flow,
But We dont value its Purity giving it a tight blow....

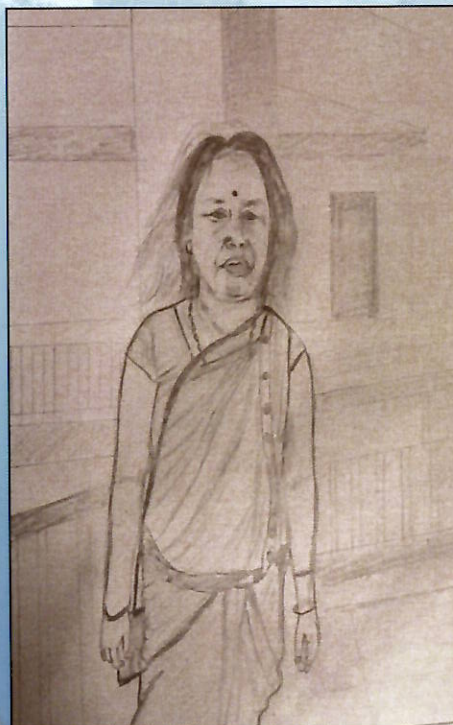
The Soil brings life making us remember our roots,
But We dont value its Chastity departing our Routes...

All we need is to realise the Magic of Nature
For it to enable human life Nurture.....

ELDER SISTER (Poem on Damayanti Didi)

ARUN P A

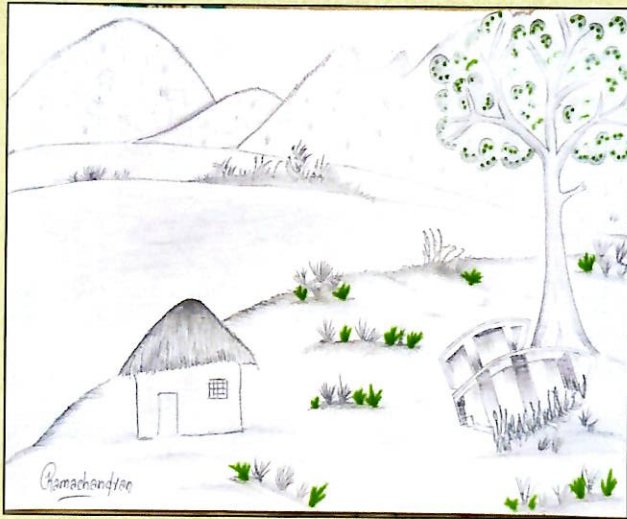
മുറുക്കിച്ചുവെച്ചുണ്ടിപ്പുഞ്ചിരിയായ്
മൊഴികളിൽസ്നേഹംനിറച്ച്
പരിഭവങ്ങൾഏതുമില്ലാതെ
പതിവായി
സമയനിഷേധംസെവകർമ്മത്തിൽ
വ്യാപരിക്കുന്നൊരീമുൻപിറന്നസോദരി
ബാക്കിയാകുന്ന
ആഹാരശകലങ്ങളൊട്ടിയതളികയത്രയും
വെറുപ്പേതുമില്ലാതെ
അമ്മത്തൻവാത്സല്യത്തോടെമിനുക്കി
കണ്ണാടിപോൽതിളങ്ങുന്നതളികയിൽ
നിൻമുഖംകൊണ്ടുനുത്തങ്ങൾ
നന്മകൾനേരുന്നൂ
നന്ദിമുൻപിറന്നസോദരി



The Translation :

Smile,
Eminating from the red lips
With love filled words
Without complaints of any .
Always
Working punctually
My erst born sister
I can see your radiant face
Reflecting in the mirror like plate.
Without any grudge
Washed off the food particles
My left overs
Cleansed you my mother
Wish you the best
Bowing in gratitude

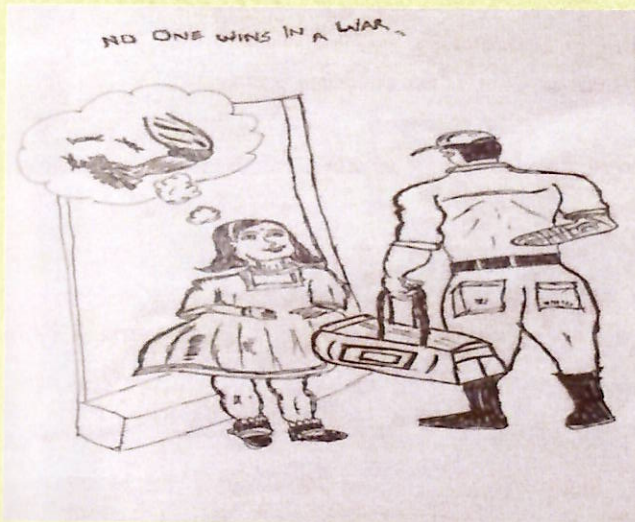
SKETCHES



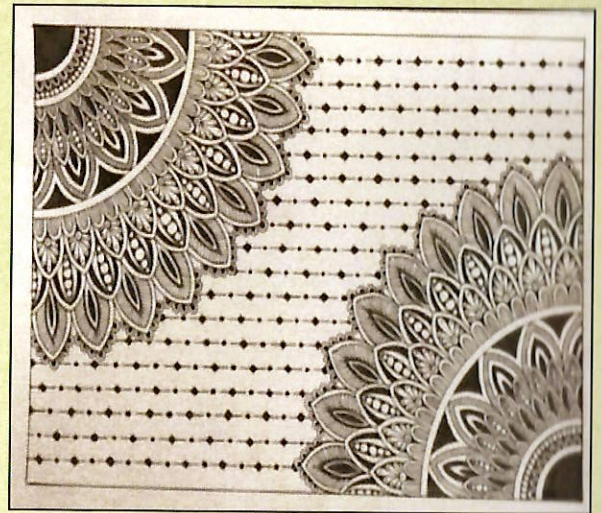
Ramachandran A K



Rahul K



Sunendra Singh



Tejaswi P

Posters Drawn on National Energy Conservation Day



MEMORIES OF OUR WONDERFUL JOURNEY...







