

## **Punati Sridhar IFS**

Indian Forest Service 1984 batch, Karnataka Cadre.

(worked in Corpn Bank for one year as Tech Officer before joining IFS. Previously selected in Civil Services Exam twice with once allocation of IRS)

DOB 27-04-1960

Qualification: MSc Agriculture (Plant Breeding and Genetics).

Origin: Hyderabad,

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Present posting: Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife). , Karnataka

1984 Batch, Karnataka Cadre.

Known for my commitment to work

### **WORKED IN THE FOLLOWING POSTINGS:**

ACF Chikmagalur, DCF Social Forestry Training Center, Tattihalla, North Kanara dt; Project Director, Kalyana Kere- Mavathur Kere watershed Development programme, Nelamangala ; DCF Social Forestry , Bijapur; DCF Karwar Division, DCF Gulbarga Division; DCF and TA to CCF Development, Bangalore; DCF Koppa Division; DCF Social Forestry , Mangalore, CF Chikmagalur Circle (8 months) ; CF Shimoga Circle( 11 months) ; CF Gulbarga Circle; Senior Director Environment, FEE , Bangalore ; Executive Director, Jala Samvardhana Sangha, Bangalore; APCCF (FC), Executive Director, MGIRED, Bangalore, APCCF (Social Forestry); APCCF ( Development) ; **Presently PCCF ( Wildlife).**

### **SOME ACHIEVEMENTS:**

1. As Project Director, Kalyanakere Mavathur Kere watershed development Project ( 1990-91) we have put in relentless hard work and very successfully worked with farmers for Agriculture Development and developed excellent forest and horticulture

plantations which earned the National Productivity Award next year for the Kalyanakere- Mavathur Kere Watershed.

2. Revolutionised the system of arid zone plantation works by introducing tall seedlings planting of over 6 -10 feet height in the northern arid districts of Bijapur (1992-94), Gulbarga 1995-98), Bidar, Raichur (Gulbarga Circle 2003-2006) which has helped green the roads and block areas which was well acclaimed by one and all .
3. Unique achievement: As DCF Karwar, (1994-95) in collaboration with DCF Haliyal Was instrumental in successfully stopping the traditional illicit felling of 30,000-40,000 trees at the Anshi Sharana Basaveshwara Temple during Sankranthi time 1995 , which could not be stopped for decades by department despite attempts.
4. During 1995, developed the picturesque world famous Devbagh beach resort in Karwar, which is now with Jungle Lodges & Resorts Ltd.
5. VFC involvement in fire protection: For the first time successfully involved Sirivase VFC Karwar Range, to protect the forests from fire. Consequently zero fire incidence was recorded in 1995 summer. This was a grand success in people's involvement in forest protection. Repeated it in NR Pura, Koppa Division successfully during 1999 and 2000.
6. In Koppa Division the biggest challenge was to bring to a grinding halt the unabated smuggling of sandal wood. In a year during 1999-2000 an all time record 110 vehicles were seized and confiscated. Smuggling was brought under effective control. Booked forest offence cases against top 500 encroachers of forest lands in descending order of area of land encroached.
7. As Conservator of Forests, Chikmagalur Circle and Field Director, Bhadra Tiger Reserve during 2001-2002, successfully rehabilitated the inhabitants of muttodi, madla, hipla etc villages from within the reserve to MC Hally which is a very successful experiment model being emulated by all others.
8. **Remarkable achievement: Successfully stopped entry of thousands of cattle** into the Tiger Reserve from Lakkavalli side which is effective even today. Lakkavalli was a very difficult village to tackle.
9. As Conservator of Forests, Gulbarga Circle and Chairman Bidar Forest Development Agency, guided the DCF Bidar, in raising Excellent plantation, involving community of VFCs and in recognition the Bidar FDA was awarded the Indira Priyadarshini Vriksha Mitra Award by MoEF, Gol.

10. Got massive soil and moisture conservation works successfully done where ever I worked
11. As Senior Director Environment Department, Successfully stopped giving of Environment clearance for mining in the western ghats areas of baba budangiri hills in Hogrekan Giri, Kadur tq despite severe pressure. Won the case in High Court as well.
12. As Executive Director, Jala Samvardhana Yojana Sangha , successfully implemented the World Bank assisted community Based Tank Management Project in Karnataka by successfully rejuvenating to the satisfaction of the public over 1800 tanks and integrated development of irrigation tanks, Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, etc. with active and successful community participation. The Sangha had a whopping 11.60 lakh members for which district level and state level federations were formed to bargain better for purchase of Agri inputs and for sale of Agri produce produced by them and to enable them to maintain the tanks effectively. ₹500 crores were spent with zero tolerance towards corruption. World Bank has very well appreciated this work.
13. As APCCF Forest Conservation recomended for diversion of forest lands for major projects like the khanapur to Goa NH, Sakaleshpur-Mangalore NH etc which were being opposed by many NGOs and were pending for very long. However, did not encourage building projects which are not site specific within forest areas as they can be built in any other land. Made strong efforts to ensure wind mills and mines complied with the FC clearance stipulated conditions.
14. During my tenure of 2 years as Executive Director of MGIRED, have successfully implemented several useful programs and revived the institute. Transformed MGIRED into Zero Waste Campus, Provided lighting to hamlets located in deep interior forests by raising funds from friends and philanthropists , Involved schools / colleges in creating awareness on Renewable Energy / Energy Conservation through Energy Clubs and Initiated action towards involvement of community for adoption of Rachenahalli lake.
15. As APCCF (Social Forestry) : a. could make SF Divisions realize their role as most important for mitigation of climate Change and achieve the national goal of bringing 33% of land mass in plains under tree cover and could get excellent road side plantations developed. b. Insisted on early planting in May last week to ensure good crown growth of trees in first year itself leading to excellent success.
16. As APCCF (Development)

- a. Initiated the seedball program involving schools and public which has been done on a mass scale in the entire state which was a grand success. Neighbouring AP and Telangana States followed from our example.
- b. Insisted on early planting in May for roadside and urban plantations with watering which has helped raise good plantations with good crown formation in first year itself.
- c. Could get the incentive for three years old surviving plants enhanced from 45 to 100 for each surviving plant planted by farmers in his field to encourage farm forestry.
- d. Increased focus on developing Sandal estates in private lands by encouraging farmers of entire village to plant Sandalwood so that they can collectively protect the plantations and reap benefits. The program is picking up and this year we are raising 20 lakh seedlings as compared to last year.
- e. Facilitated sale of seedlings at nurseries and in Sasya Santhe where seedlings are made available for sale in local sante/ market so that seedlings are made available directly to people instead of making them go to Range office, get approval of RFO and then proceed to nursery to gat seedlings.

#### 17. As PCCF Wild Life

- a. Initiated move to encourage volunteers to approach the fringe villagers, befriend them and bridge the gap between the forest department and the people so that we can work for their welfare and they can help in protection of forests, especially from fire, hunting, encroachment, etc
- b. Commenced Working with stake holders on measures to mitigate man animal conflict which has become a critical issue.