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PRAYAAS



Editorial

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Dear Colleagues,

What a whale of a time has been offered by a conglomeration of festivals, Janmasthan, the Id-ul-Fitre, Ganesh Chaturthi, Dussehra followed by Chhatha, the all important festival of Bihar.

However, there is a tinge of tragedy, too. The first article in this issue happens to be by one of our distinguished seniors, Sri Shree Shankar Sharan who passed away only a few days after he had spoken to our Principal Editor on telephone regarding this article itself. And as we move towards the final pages we have a son's moving tribute to his mother, late Sneh Kumar who, during her long and brave struggle against what has been called the Emperor of all Maladies, never compromised with the dignity and majesty of life and creativity.

These two leave large space for the music of life which an interview with another distinguished senior of ours, Shri L. Dayal appears to present. Sync with Life offers a package for a well-ordered work-style with its positive impact on professional efficiency and its concomitant— enhanced domestic bliss at home!. And many more surprises!

(Arvind Kumar Chaudhary)

Principal Editor : S. N. Sinha **Editor :** Arvind Kumar Chaudhary

Editorial Board : S. P. Sinha, Divesh Sehera, Masood Hasan, Rahul Singh.

All views and opinions expressed in the contributions are of their authors.



WELCOME, YONG FRINENDS



ANIMESH KUMAR PARASHAR : Hailing from Aurangabad (Bihar) and an alumnus of IIT Kharagpur is a strong willed person with a keen sense of observation. He is of a thinker and philosopher make and likes to sleep a lot. He has his own way of doing things with efficiency and effectiveness. He is a hard worker and loves facing challenges in life.

AVNEESH KUMAR SINGH : Recently married, this ex-cop from Allahabad is a tough taskmaster and a maths wizard. Punctual, disciplined and hardworking, his mantra in life is” your actions speak more than your words”. He maintains a perfect balance of professional and personal life and always excels in both fields.



DR. CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH : This 6’1”tall man coming from Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh is a PhD holder on Mahabharat in Sanskrit from Allahabad University. He is very happy to get opportunity to serve the people of Bihar and has desire to contribute in emergence of the state, which is looking committed to get-back its ancient pride and glory. He is a soft-spoken and humorous person, but at the same time strongly determined and dedicated. Puts his best in whatever he does. Recently got married and started his married and career life together from Bihar.

DR. KAUSHAL KISHORE : This doctor from Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) is a good listener and an avid reader with a will to succeed in any circumstance. He is a cricket enthusiast and likes to listen to ghazals in his spare time. He loves to travel a lot and explore different regions of the country simultaneously having a feel of the local cuisine and culture. Wants to change the tarnished image of Bihar and Biharis through sustained and focused hard work.





KANWAL TANUJ : This Nawab of Lucknow, is the He-man of the batch, an engineer by profession is an articulate speaker with only single interest i.e. bodybuilding. He loves to interact with people and wants to be a positive change agent to any place he goes. He wants to work for the downtrodden and is ready to go to any extent for that. He is a powerlifter and also loves to listen to soft music.

KRISHNA BAJPAI : This electrical engineer from Kanpur with a strong desire to work for the betterment of poor has a special liking for books. Driven by his conviction, he puts in his sincere efforts towards perfection in every walk of life. He is virtually an allrounder with interest in writing poems, compering and public speaking.



RACHNA PATIL : The only lady probationer of the batch hailing from Chhatisgarh is an electrical engineer by training. Recently blessed with a baby girl, she is a jovial and humorous person. Dedicated to the service, she is punctual and always eager to learn new skills. She has the desire to utilize her potential to the fullest and is the first to help a person in need.

RAJIV RAUSHAN : This tall man hailing from Begusarai (Bihar) has a background in History and is a keen listener who has an eye for the detail. Always ready to question things, is a very humble person and has an inner vigor to excel. It is always a pleasure to be with him and has all the qualities which would hold him in good stead in his future endeavors.



RAJKUMAR : Belonging to Chhapra (Bihar) is an economist by education and has served the Government of Bihar in several capacities for 12 years and keeps everyone around him laughing by his one-liners. Also a poet, he is a pleasant company to be with and likes to listen to Sufi music. Also a poet with romantic leanings, can enchant each and everyone with his poems. He wants to contribute to the positive change in Bihar and is willing to put in serious effort at that.

From Secretary's Desk

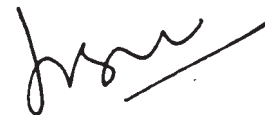
It is a season of multiple hues, of changing seasons, of religious celebrations and civil society jubilation, of mounting aspirations and spiraling demands. Amidst a welter of emotions, it is not difficult to feel lost and search for moorings. In such moments of yearning for clarity, now more than ever, the aptness and salience of the motto of our service comes across in all its simplicity and profundity. Excellence in whatever we do is the ultimate objective, a truly secular truth that speaks to all.

“Yoga Karma Sukausalam”.

The one thing that is available to all of us in the service, irrespective of all or any differences, is the opportunity to become a part of the change process. At every stage in our careers, from sub divisional halts to secretariat destinations, there are before us, numerous opportunities to make a mark and leave a stamp. The shape of the mark we want to leave and the type of impact we desire to have is a choice. A choice as simple as can be, notwithstanding the numerous options, of seizing the moment to fulfill goals that are timeless and universal, making a difference in lives of the downtrodden, the “daridra narayan”.

The wondrous thing about civil service is that our pursuit of excellence neatly meshes with the larger societal goals that present themselves. When we give our best, with that intense desire to give it our all, without holding back any of the zest that fires up the “I” in us, we aim for perfection.

Yours sincerely,



(E.L.S.N. Bala Prasad)

Saran Singh

I.A.S. (Retd.)

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22 July 2011

My dear Sinha,

I trust you are in good health and an optimistic mode.

Your FIRST issue of the “PRAYAAS” is a tribute to your dedication— as Hony. Secretary / Principal Editor. I wonder whether you have received any REACTIONS / FEEDBACK from distinguished members of IAS – past and present?

Besides, did you send copies to the LBS National Academy of Adm., Mussouri, for the information / amusement of the New Generation of IAS?

You have, by your activism and keen intellect, set new standards in keeping the IAS Assn. 'well-knit' and in a fraternal mode. Mr. PS Appu's thoughtful article shows you can't take out 'DEVOTION TO PROFESSIONALISM' from a RETIREE!

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,
Sd/-
(Saran Singh)

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[Shri Saran Singh (1948) had been kind enough to share an account of what he called his “Bihar Love affair”, (PRAYAAS, March, 2011). We have great pleasure in publishing the latest photograph of Shri Singh (end 2010) which could not be published along with his article since it had reached us late. We are very grateful to him for his continued interest in PRAYAAS.

The first copy of PRAYAAS, as some of us could recall and all of us may be interested in knowing, was published on 18th June, 1998, although it has been having a bumpy journey so far! — SNS]

ANNA'S SATYAGRAH FOR A JAN LOK PAL BILL AGAINST CORRUPTION

- Shree Shankar Sharan

(It was the evening of 10th of June'11 that Shri Shree Shankar Sharan spoke to me on telephone from Delhi. After his usual affectionate enquiries he was kind enough to mention that he had written an article on THE BABA RAMDEV FIASCO IN DELHI/AND ANNA'S MARCH OF GLORY. Which he has sent to a number of magazines, including PRAYAAS for publication. He had also prefaced this with his statement that usually his articles were 'hot' and I was free to exercise my discretion about the publication of the article in our in-house journal PRAYAAS. After going through the article on my laptop we discussed and as mutually agreed upon the second part of the article is being published. Tragically, Shree Shankar Sharan passed away on 17 June, 2011. The telephonic talk with me on 10th June'11 turned out to be my last talk with him. We all remember him for his intellectual brilliance with its imprint in assignments in Bihar or Delhi as on his teachers and colleagues during his period of study at London School of Economics. We all remember him for his candid expression of views and advice while in Govt. Service and similar honesty in his approach to crucial national issues which his numerous articles published in various journals have been testifying. PRAYAAS is proud to publish his article albeit with sadness that he could not be with us to read his article in its columns. — SNS)

Another satyagrah of long term significance which has strongly moved the public mind nationally is the one launched by Anna Hazare of proven reformist antecedents and patriotism. There could be honest differences on the details of the Jan lok pal bill which proposes to make the Lok Pal all powerful on both the Executive and the Judiciary whereas the government wish to make his powers more restrictive. But Anna has given the matter an urgency by his threat of going on

fast from the 15th August unless the bill is adopted by the Parliament. It should be enough if he demands the introduction of the bill and give the parliament time to deliberate it Anna as a true Gandhian should recall how after starting a movement on an issue of grave public import the Mahatma in the end would always be willing to compromise some way as he did in Champaran. Another Gandhian ethic to remember is that to Gandhi fasting was a sacred step to be taken as

a last resort when all else had failed not to coerce but for his own spiritual purification at the call of his inner voice. This ethic must be followed not to make it an indiscriminate popular tool.

One of the ways to look at Anna's demand to include the Prime minister and the Chief justice as also the armed forces under the Lok Pal can be met by vesting the President of the Country with the powers of the LOK PAL .The president is not free to act except under the advice of the Council of Ministers under the Constitution. As a lok pal this infirmity will have to be cured. It will have the advantage of the Lok Pal being an elected office.

The high office sought to be created of the Lok Pal will otherwise need to be filled by a former President or former Chief Justice of India or a person as eminent as justice Krishna Iyer or Rajendra Sachar to inspire confidence But the Lok Pal would have to send his findings against the PM to the President for a final decision on his own to square up with the scheme of the Constitution.

But this would still fail to solve the problem vis a vis the Chief Justice and the judges to uphold the sanctity of a separate and an independent judiciary The Lok Pal must submit his findings to the President for submitting it to the processes of the Constitution

Anna is fast emerging as a credible national leader and crusader for national causes and has won public credibility and stirred the national mind. Without the political and moral capital of previous national leaders and freedom fighters like Gandhi or JP he is only carrying forward some of some of the schemes of political reform voiced by many including JP. He has put satyagrah to the service of compelling attention to major omissions of the government in checking high level corruption, but he will have to bear responsibility to balance it with other major features of the constitution needed for effective democratic governance.

In his campaign he is tapping the moral reserves of the country which is the main and vital source of the country's democratic strength You cannot meet it with brute force but by reason, good faith and accommodation Because force costs power not gain in a democratic society a la 1977.

[Sri Shree Shankar Sharan (1955) had been for long a Convener of Lok Paksh, Patna / Delhi. Most of his articles, like the present one, were written and published in journals as Convener, Lok Paksh. In addition to other journals he had been a frequent contributor to Mainstream, New Delhi.]

Solution to INQUISITIVE

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Bal Thackeray</i> | 6. <i>Rhodium.</i> |
| 2. <i>Through the nursery rhyme "Baa Baa Black Sheep'</i> | 7. <i>Face the Music.</i> |
| 3. <i>It is available in 31 flavours.</i> | 8. <i>The Censor Board.</i> |
| 4. <i>Disney bought Pixar from Apple.</i> | 9. <i>Black Market.</i> |
| 5. <i>Vivek Razdan and Salil Ankola.</i> | 10. <i>Snakes and Ladders.</i> |

AN INTERVIEW WITH SRI L. DAYAL

- S. N. Sinha

[Sri Lakshmeshwar Dayal entered the Indian Administrative Service in 1951. After retirement on superannuation in 1984, he worked actively for 22 years with social and literary organizations. He moved to the U.S.A. a few years ago, where he lives permanently. However he misses his wide ranging, decades-long associations with Patna as much as the social and cultural life of Patna misses zhis creative contributions and his personal charm. His personal and professional life has been richly interesting, indeed unique in several respects. His perceptions and visions about civil service, civil society and administration call for our attention and reflection we are. So grateful to him for his response to a set of questions placed before him.—SNS]

SNS- I would like to take you back to your academic life, since even more than half a century has not dimmed our curiosity about it. You have been a role model for students with your consistent high scores at nearly all examinations. Could you, sir, kindly enlighten us on this?

L.D. Yes, I had the highest score at almost all my examinations. After entering school, I came out first in the class at all the 14 examinations, annual and half-yearly, from class IV to class X. At the Matriculation examination X, I was third in the State with only 5 marks lower than the highest. In the 3 hours Geography paper, I came out of the hall after 2 hours when a friend of mine was expelled for using unfair means, so as to give him emotional support. At Intermediate

examination, I was first in the state. At B.A. (Hons. in English) I had a First Class. I remember that since the foundation of Patna University, 27 years ago, only 5 students had been awarded First Class in English literature. At the IAS exam, my score at the written exam was very high, with the result that with very low marks in Viva Voce, 115 out of 300, I still had the 6th rank in the All India list.

As regards the “secret” of my so-called good record, I am myself confused how it was happening, because I was, by no means, a role model as a serious student. I would not study hard until the exam was near at home. A great deal of my time was devoted to seeing movies (my average was 3 in a month), music,

and books and magazines outside my syllabus. After Intermediate, I was also doing tuitions to meet my expenses, as my parents (in Gaya) were not in a position to meet these fully. At the college, I was a great one in skipping classes. There were two or three professors whose lectures I would not attend and spend time in the Pintu Hotel which was at that time right opposite Patna College. Unfortunately for me, one of these professors became an examiner at the M.A. exam and he took it out on me, and I missed First Class narrowly.

SNS- You were posted as Deputy Commissioner, Singhbhum early in your career. Sir, could you kindly share a couple of your experiences which tested all that was learnt as a probationer for upholding neutrality and fairness in administration?

L.D. - After I joined as Deputy Commissioner, Singhbhum (which included Jamshedpur) in 1956, the Labour Minister was displeased with me because I was not agreeable to bending the law in order to strengthen the Tisco labour union led by the Congress affiliated INTUC. To put it crudely, the Labour Department would have liked me to impose Section 144 Cr.Pc. when the CPI-affiliated union wanted to bring out a procession, even if there was no threat to law and order, or use 107

Cr.Pc. against their leaders for no good reason. The Tatas also were unhappy with me, because I had withdrawn the exemption they were illegally enjoying after the zamindari abolition law and recovering rent from tenants settled on huge area of land under the plough, treating these as their industrial area. I was transferred in one and half year's time, though district officers generally had three years tenure those days. What is painful is the submissive role of some of the senior ICS officers who were more royalist than the king. A complaint was made against me to the Labour Minister by J.R.D. Tata himself who said I was obstructive in their "industrial" activities. The Chief Secretary also got angry with me. The Special Branch (Intelligence) co-operated by casting suspicion on me for being "pro-communist" although I never had anything to do with communism.

SNS- Did the displeasure of the Tatas and Labour department, Govt. of Bihar take its toll in your career in any way?

L.D.- No, on the other hand I reaped enormous personal and professional benefits from my removal as District Officer in January, 1958. My 6 years old son had been admitted to St. Joseph's Convent and was living with my brother-in-law in Patna. I was posted as MD, Bihar State Cooperative Bank, with a highly respected personality, Shri Dip

Narayan Sinha, as Chairman. Very soon I was deputed to Reserve Bank of India for a 2-month training course. I stayed on in the field of rural credit for 9 years, 2 years as MD of the apex bank, 2 years as Registrar, Cooperative Societies, and 5 years as Secretary, Cooperation and Sugarcane. All this finally led to my selection to the fantastic 6-months World Bank Course in development economics in Washington. I stayed in Patna in my 'Sasural' most of the time with my in-laws as a pampered son-in-law.

SNS- Sir, you had a fairly long spell of posting in the rural credit area of Govt. of Bihar. Could you recall some episodes of interest and importance during this period?

L.D.- The answer to this may provide some humour. During the Emergency imposed after Chinese invasion of 1962 I was Secretary, Cooperation. My Minister thought this was the time when he could pack the Boards of all Co-operative institutions with his own men. He told me this opportunity should be used for turning out all these "ruffians" from co-operative bodies and put "good" men in their place. I told him no case could be made out for China invading India and the boards of co-operative bodies getting overhauled. He blew into temper, and said he would submit a memorandum to the Cabinet under his

own signature. And he did. And it was laughed out. Again, once he asked to postpone the election in the Ranchi Central Cooperative Bank, because one of his men, who was a candidate for its chairmanship, was not finding it convenient. He had sent a telegram to the Minister asking for postponement on the ground that the voters' list was not correct. The Minister called me, and asked me to do the needful. I told him I could not do it, because this would be a judicial decision, under the Cooperative Act, and I would have to give a hearing to all parties concerned. He was wild with rage, and I left. Next morning I read in the newspaper that the DC of Ranchi had banned the election under section 144 Cr. P.C. on the ground of "apprehension of breach of peace." In a petty election where only 25-30 people were involved, there could have been no breakdown of law and order. Failing to use me, the Minister spoke to the DC who obliged.

Here comes the biggest joke. This Minister was at logger-heads with the Chief Minister, and during a visit by the Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, he presented him with a memorandum narrating his grievances. One of these was that his department had been provided with a Secretary who would not "co-operate" with him. It was a great honour for me to be mentioned at such a high level.

SNS- You worked with Govt. of India for more than 7 years, from 1970 to 1977, as Joint Secretary and Addl. Secretary, about 5 years in Ministry of Defence and the rest in Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Could you kindly share with us some of your memorable experiences of the period?

L.D.- Very much so, I joined the Ministry of Defence at a historic time. Relationship with Pakistan was very tense, and war-like preparations were afoot, finally exploding in the Bangladesh war in December 1971 where India came out triumphant. The Ministry was working at high pressure. I was in office seven days a week. I had the honour, however, to make my little contribution to the effort, which led the nation to a magnificent victory. I worked for the Navy, which went to war for the first time in our history, as the operations covered both sides of the coast, the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. Later, I was assigned to the sensitive core of the defence establishment that is “operations” and “intelligence.” It was a great experience to work with a Minister like Shri Jagjivan Ram. No files stayed with him for more than 24 hours, and he hardly ever spoke to me to help or favour anybody.

During 1970-71 hectic purchases of defence equipments and weaponry were being made from different countries in Europe and from

U.S.A. worth crores, relaxing many rules of government purchases. The Minister never spoke to any of us to favour any of the suppliers, nor was ever an accusation made of my wrong doing.

After the Kargil war of 1998, there were allegations of corruption in several purchases, including the coffin boxes. And in recent times corruption has touched the sky during arrangements for the Commonwealth Games in 2010. That is the measure of decline in standards of public conduct over past four decades.

Box-1

When Mott asked Gandhi what gave him cause for the greatest hope, Gandhi unhesitatingly referred to the people's capacity for non-violent resistance despite the gravest provocation. And when Mott queried Gandhi on what filled him with the greatest despair, Gandhi said: “The hardheartedness of the educated is a matter of constant concern and sorrow to me.”

(India Today, Dec. 18, 2006, quoted in Tenth Report of Second A.R.C., Nov., 2008)

SNS- You have been one of those few officers who have engaged themselves so extensively in public activities outside government. Happily this space is now growing and drawing more of us towards itself. You were however associated with various organizations, each demanding a different kind of creative contribution. It would be interesting to hear from you on this score.

L.D.- I enjoyed working in administration, but it is my temperament to enjoy even more working with people of different classes and with a degree of social or literary commitment. In 1963 when I was Secretary, Cooperation and Sugarcane, I accepted, with Govt. permission, the Chairmanship of Hindi Sahitya Sangh, Patna, a very active literary organization run by Secretariat assistants. When I got posted in Govt. of India in 1970, I moved for government approval on my

Box- 2

With liberalisation of the economy and globalization, there has been a phenomenal growth in the number of non-governmental organizations across the world in the last few decades. Experts say that India has more than two million NGOs, Russia four lakhs and in Kenya some 240 NGOs are formed each year. The United States has an estimated two million non-profit organizations which employ more than eleven million workers – about eight per cent of the nation's total workforce. They are further supported by a large number of unpaid volunteers (about six millions) who have strong individual initiative and commitment to social responsibility. The presence of NGOs ensures depth and resilience in civil society. It gives expression to citizens' voices. It enables them to take responsibility for how their society is performing and allows them to talk to their government in organised ways. In India too, this sector is emerging at a fast pace.

Ninth Report of Second A.R.C.,
Aug., 2008

continuance as Chairman of the organization. What my boss, an old timer from Defence Accounts, wrote on my proposal was laughable. “Now that you have come away from Bihar, you should keep out of Bihar politics.” In his world-view, government offices were the only decent territory and whatever happened outside these offices was “politics”! Of course, when I returned to the state in December 1977, I resumed the “politics”.

In 1980, while still in service, I was taken as Chairman in Samaj Kalyan Samiti, a leading social service organization in Bihar and continued as such for about 18 years. I also got elected as Chairman, Bihar Productivity Council, for which I worked for 10 years. I was Secretary to Vice-Chairman of Rajendra Smriti in Bihar Vidyapeeth, which manages the Museum set in memory of Dr. Rajendra Prasad. During this period, Museum was re-built and re-organized.

I joined in 1993 in the setting up of a Trust for the publications of Acharya Shivpujan Sahay's writings, and assisted in its activities until 2008. It has carried out several literary programmes and publications, including publication of collected works of Acharya Shivpujan Sahay in 10 volumes.

I was named Patron for the Temple of Understanding, Patna Chapter for the world inter-faith organization. In 2002, I

helped in the creation of HUMLOG Trust for social harmony of which Smt. Parveen Amanullah (now Minister Social Welfare, Govt. of Bihar) has been the Chief Executive. Professor Wasi Ahmad is the Chairman and I am named Patron.

SNS- This service has had a glorious record of members with scholarly pursuits and creative contributions. Our cadre also has had its due share. You too have had a reputation for academic research reflected in contributions to various fields like literature and public administration. Could you dwell a little on this extra-curricular activity?

L.D. - I find great pleasure in writing than in reading; that is perhaps the reason why I did well at my examinations. In 1947-48 when I was in MA, I had a hard time meeting my expenses in Patna and I approached the Editor of Bihar, a Hindi magazine published by the Public Relations Department of State Government and asked if I would get any remuneration if I contributed articles to the journal. The redoubtable Pandit Nand Kishore Tiwary eminent Hindi writer, was the Editor. He said if the contribution met with his standards, I would be paid Rs.30 for one article. Since such a small amount could not be of much use to me, I offered to make a "bulk supply" of 6 articles which could bring me Rs.180. I sent him one, the

Box- 3

Another person who greatly influenced my boyhood was my first cousin, Samsuddin. He was the sole distributor for newspapers in Rameswaram. The Second World War broke out in 1939. The first casualty came in the form of the suspension of the train halt at Rameswaram station. The newspapers now had to be bundled and thrown out from the moving train on the Rameswaram Road between Rameswaram and Dhanuskodi. That forced Samsuddin to look for a helping hand to catch the bundles and, as if naturally, I filled the slot. Samsuddin helped me earn my first wages. Half a century later, I can still feel the surge of pride in earning my own money for the first time.

Wings of Fire: An autobiography
- A.P.J.Abdul Kalam

subject was "Europe's Debt to India". He liked it; I added another 5 articles on different subjects. I do not know if this magazine is still published. I wrote a weekly column in the Times of India (Patna) after my retirement titled "Candid Comments", which ran for a year and half and about 60 articles were published.

I undertook a study of performance of State Authority and Bureaucracy in relation to development, when I was awarded a Senior Fellowship by the Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi. The study was published in 1998 with the title "State and the People", a copy of which is available in the Secretariat Library.

I also got interested in Muslim history and the philosophy of Islam. In 2006, the Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna assigned to me a research project on the subject. This study was published last year with the title “The Truth About Islam”. The book is available in major libraries in Patna including the Secretariat Library.

SNS- People who know you closely speak of your passion for music. How and when did it draw an aspiring student like you? How did it flower into such a “passion”?

L.D.- First of all, I was anything but an “aspiring student”. I followed the dictates of my heart in doing what I enjoyed doing. Destiny was favourable to me and my exam results were good, and destiny was doubly favourable as my father was a liberal and affectionate guardian.

Box- 4

Chinese music, like the music of India, has traditionally been an adjunct to ceremony or narrative. Confucius (551-479 BC) assigned an important place to music in the service of a well-ordered moral universe. He saw music and government as reflecting one another and believed that only the superior man who can understand music is equipped to govern. Music, he thought, reveals character through the six emotions that it can portray: sorrow, satisfaction, joy, anger, piety, love.

The New Encyclopaedia Britannica,

When I was 12 years old he allowed me to buy a harmonium. The price in 1937 was only Rs.7.00 but it was not a small amount for his means. I kept brushing with classical music and was fully involved with film music. Music was offered in my school as one of the optional subjects required for Matriculation. My level was well ahead of the syllabus. I was present in the music classes to work as an assistant to Music Teacher. To sit at the intermediate examination those days, you had to clear a “Test” to be “sent up” for the University exam. When the Intermediate test (1944) was being held, an all India Music Conference was to be held in Gaya, my home town. I just left for Gaya to watch the programme. When my father questioned me about the test, I told him not to worry about it. He cheerfully gave me a complimentary “pass” which somebody had given him. The conference was a rare occasion when both Ustad Faiyaz Khan and Pandit Onkarnath Thakur appeared on the same platform. When I returned to Patna, I found my name did not figure in the “sent up” list. I met Principal Moinul Haque (I was in B.N.College). He was furious and said even if I had thrown in an application saying I was sick, he would have “sent me up” on that basis. Anyway, he declared me test-cleared. I came out first in the State at the University exam. When I was in the 5th year in 1947, I got into organizing an All India Music

Conference in Patna with a group of friends and I did not attend college for about three months. This conference was held opposite Rajasthan Hotel (the land was vacant) and was musically a success but financially a downright crash. Participants included Shambhu Maharaj (guru of Birju Maharaj) Hafiz Ali Khan (father of eminent sarod player Amjad Ali Khan), Pandit Vinayak Rao Patwardhan, and Roshanara Begum. The event was a financial disaster, as students like us were not able to sell high value tickets and the musicians could not be properly paid. I recently wrote a comprehensive essay on Indian Music which appears on the website www.classicalmusicofindia.com. In my young age, I had practiced vocal classical music systematically and I have played on harmonium fairly well. I could not, however, go far enough. My younger son, Hemant, is a proficient sitar player with a thorough understanding of both classical and light music. Companionship with him has kept my interest in music well alive. This is a great emotional sustenance in my life as of now.

SNS- You entered Service only four years after Independence. By the time you laid down your office, the concept and the philosophy of administration as well as the strategies adopted underwent great changes. Would you like to reflect on the course of changes and offer some suggestions?

L.D.- Administration in that era was much cleaner than now, and, therefore, conducive for officers to produce results. The integrity of the chief ministers and ministers, products of the freedom movement, was above reproach. Dr. Srikrishna Sinha, who remained Chief Minister for decades, Dr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha, Dr. Syed Mahamood, Shri Dip Narayan Sinha and Shri Harinath Misra were well-educated people who treated officers with respect. Corruption was limited to local offices, where the seeds of it had been planted during British times. Corruption in the Secretariat was unknown. Integrity of ICS and IAS officers was hundred percent. I will put it like this, in that period dishonest officers anywhere were known and well-identified, now it is the honest officers who are well-marked and known. Things started deteriorating – integrity as well as performance – after mid 60's.

SNS- Bihar has hit the headlines in respect of restoring law and order, upgrading of infrastructure, empowerment of women, and, in general, sharpening the focus on development. However, improvement in any field is a continuing process. Would you like to suggest some measures conducive to better delivery of goods and services by the administration?

L.D.- It is strange that government continues to be a sector where performance of every senior executive, that is the IAS, is

presumed to be guaranteed, and, even though there are specific goals, specially in respect of economic development, there is no system of evaluation of the results shown by the individual functionary. The system of "Annual Confidential Remarks" created by the British is an absurdity in the present day and should be abolished. Instead, there should be an arrangement for a "performance audit". Such evaluation is very necessary at the levels of the District Officer and above. The District Officer continues to be the "cutting edge" of the administration, and must be subjected to such an assessment.

My two other suggestions relate to conditions required for this system to work. First, the tenure of the District Officer should normally be 3 years. The 3-year rule was generally followed in Bihar up to the 60s. Why can't this be observed now? A mid-term performance audit should be undertaken during this period. The evaluation of Secretary level officers should be annual. Government should provide incentives to those who perform well. Secondly, it is important to conceive the roles of the Divisional Commissioners, the Secretaries to Government, the Chief Secretary and the Development Commissioner somewhat differently. These should be viewed as "overseeing" and

"coordinating" officers, and should not be made to do the huge lot of paperwork they are doing at present. This can, of course, be achieved only by substantial delegation of powers to the second rung. They should also be left with adequate time when other officers can freely meet them for guidance, when necessary.

The Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner should be "trouble shooters", intervening effectively wherever things had slid back or slowed down, requiring correction. I am aware that these suggestions amount to very fundamental change in the system, for which courageous decisions will be required to be taken at the highest level. This is easier said than done, but what I have suggested is the distilled experience of 33 years as an insider in administration and 27 years in public organizations.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to express myself so candidly.

[Sri S. N. Sinha (1963), creative & social activities apart, still pursuing his 1980 - born dream of developing Kosi region as the Kochi of North India.]

IMPROVE GOVERNANCE, ELIMINATE CORRUPTION

- R. Poornalingam

All Indian media is now engaged on a debate on corruption, and rightly so. No doubt corruption is a great evil holding back the progress of the country, and its eradication is vital to our well-being. The question is whether another law like the LokPal Act will really help. We are not short of legislations; the main hurdle lies in enforcing them. The primary duty of Government is to implement the laws of the land without any favor or discrimination. Is it happening in our country? All of us know that there is practically no rule of law; and the rich, powerful and mighty can evade and escape from many laws easily. We have strong Acts, but loose enforcement. Broadly speaking, laws are not strictly enforced, with implementation getting diluted at every level. Even for a serious crime like murder, investigations and trials drag on and it takes years to get a conviction - and then it takes much longer to enforce the conviction, especially if it is a death penalty. It is therefore doubtful whether one more Act will make a meaningful difference to the malice of corruption that is engulfing our country.

In his seminal book "The Challenge of World Poverty", Mr Gunnar Myrdal highlights corruption as one of the major causes for under-development. He observes that developing countries are "Soft States", characterized by too much of talk about corruption but precious little action to eradicate it. What he wrote 40 years back still seems true.

To root out corruption, we must first understand what leads to corruption. Based on my 40 years in

public administration, I believe that the foundation of corruption lies in our lack of governance or poor governance. Sadly, our country is not governed well at any level. The meaning of "good governance" is debatable, but we may safely focus on the desired outcome of good governance: **it should enable citizens to get their legitimate services without any delay or harassment.** What is happening today is that citizens are pushed to having to invariably bribe officials – well-paid officials – even for their basic rights, like getting a ration card, or a driving license, or registering a car, or filing an FIR, getting a patta, or registering a sale deed. While incidents of major political corruption are newsworthy and attract the attention of popular mass media, what irritates a common man is the day-to-day corruption he faces in his interactions with bureaucracy. There is very little media attention to - or concern about - this, probably because everyone has learnt to live with it. Elimination of this type of corruption is vital for enhancing the quality of life of our citizens and is also the first step towards a corruption-free administration. That is possible only by good governance, which will then act as a check on major political corruption. I was looking at the manifestos of various political parties. Most of them do not talk at all about good governance, or any measures to achieve it. If at all any mention is made, it is by way of a casual statement that if elected they would provide good governance - but the interpretation of "good governance" is left to them.

To illustrate my point about how good

governance is vital and how well-intentioned Acts end up becoming ineffective, I would like to narrate my recent personal experience with the Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India.

A friend of mine, an Indian living in the USA, has a pending issue with the Ministry of Law and Justice about service of summons in a civil dispute, which is routed through the Ministry. He found it extremely difficult to get any response from the Ministry, and approached me for help in the hope that I could resolve his problem. I also believed that this simple issue could be easily resolved, little realizing at the time the ordeal I would be put through.

Introducing myself as a retired Secretary to the Government of India, I requested the concerned officer in the Ministry to expedite service of the summons which was pending in the Ministry from November 2010. He explained that summons were never held up in the Ministry, but were immediately sent to the concerned District Courts. When the concerned District Court was approached, the officials denied having received the relevant papers, but were willing to expedite the same if the reference from the Ministry could be given. Hence, I again approached the officer at the Ministry for details. He asked me to contact him after three days, since the Section Officer was on leave. When I did, he wanted me to send a fax, which was sent on 18th February 2010. When I did not get any response to this, I tried to contact him again. This time, he refused to even take my call! I then sought the help of the Public Grievances Officer of the Ministry. Unfortunately, the person I reached was no longer in that position - but the website had not been updated with current information. He, however, helpfully suggested that I write to the

Secretary of the Ministry. Without much hope, I wrote to him. Not surprisingly, I did not receive a reply even after I followed up with a reminder.

I have now reached a dead end as far as the Ministry is concerned. Having heard that the Right to Information Act (RTI) was effective, I thought of trying my hand at it as a citizen. After going through the Act and rules thoroughly, I made an RTI application to the chief public information officer of the Ministry. The following were my specific questions:

When was this summons received by the Ministry?

When was this summons forwarded to the District Court?

What is the reference number in which it was forwarded?

Under citizens' charter how much time is the Ministry expected to take to forward the summons?

When will the information on service of summons be sent to the USA?

This time, to my great surprise and delight, I got a reply (albeit an inadequate one) that said:

“The document for service of summons is under process and after the receipt of the report of Distt. Court, a report on the same will be sent to USA authority”

A casual reading of the questions, and the reply, would expose the Ministry's unwillingness to part with the information. Even without this reply, we all know that the Government is continually "processing our cases". The question that needs

addressing is how long it would take to process this case. The Government has the time and leisure that are luxuries the affected party - a common citizen like you and me - can ill-afford. That is the reason why information was sought - to expedite the Government's disposal of the case. This request is for the most harmless information that will not embarrass anyone or reveal any State secrets, but even then the Government was reluctant to reveal it.

So I lodged an appeal pointing out that under Sec. 7(9) of the RTI Act, the information shall be provided in the form it is sought. The Ministry was swift in rejecting my appeal on the ground that the department has complied with Sec 2(f) of the Act, which is the definition of information. No mention has been made in the order about Sec 7(9). Having failed in the official path, and having tried out the RTI path, I now have no choice but to appeal against this order to the Chief Information Commissioner.

The Ministry of Law is duty-bound to serve the summons and send the served copy to the US court. In our interest, when I tried to expedite matters, the Ministry was unwilling to part with even routine information. I cannot think of any logical reason for this refusal. To me, it appears that the Ministry is simply unwilling to expedite the service of the summons, thus working against a citizen. Obviously, the Ministry does not gain anything by refusing to divulge this information, yet it is willing to waste considerable time and money on hearings, appeals, orders etc.

Only under such circumstances can corruption breed. Instead of wasting four months on getting this information, a citizen might be tempted to use an intermediary and acquire it - for a price. This is what goes on in almost every Government

department, leading to corruption. Inordinate delays breed corruption. The RTI Act was launched with great fanfare amidst claims of bringing about greater transparency in the working of the Government by empowering the citizen. But as my experience shows - and surely it is not unique or even rare - the implementation of the Act has failed even at the highest level in Government, viz. the Ministry of Law and Justice. It is easy to imagine the far greater trouble in getting information from lower levels in the bureaucracy. The shortcut of paying somebody becomes a more attractive option that many are driven to adopt.

In parallel, I lodged a complaint against the Ministry of Law and Justice with the Department of Public Grievances to see how the system works. It has an excellent web-enabled mechanism, and I was thrilled to register the complaint without having to prepare a letter or post it. Two months later, when I followed up on the complaint (the website has a provision for doing this), I found to my great surprise that it had been referred to the Tamil Nadu Government. I could not fathom the logic that led to the Department referring a complaint against a Central Ministry to the State Government - and to the Chief Minister's cell, at that! Through the Website, I have again sought clarification as to why my complaint had been sent to the State Government. I hope the Department will see my request and forward it (correctly this time) to the Ministry of Law and Justice. I have come across many well-meaning persons proudly claiming that technology will reduce corruption. Yes, it can - but only if it is governed well. Here is an excellent technology for lodging and tracking complaints, but managed unthinkingly by the bureaucracy. Without being accountable for actions, it could

send my complaint to anyone - even to the United Nations! But even if it had been sent to the right Ministry, there is no guarantee of relief – because that too requires effective governance. In contrast, I would like to highlight my pleasant experience with the Government of the UK, where serious debates on improving public service delivery are now going on. I lodged a complaint with the London police through email; I immediately got an acknowledgement and a proper reply within a week, even though I am not a UK citizen and therefore, not entitled to a reply.

Therefore, unless governance improves, corruption cannot be eliminated or brought under control. And the less effective is the governance, the more far-flung and deep-rooted corruption will get. Conversely, as governance becomes more effective, corruption will dwindle away and eventually die.

Everybody knows the difference between good governance and bad governance. Even an ordinary villager knows it. What can be done to improve governance is an entirely different subject and needs a separate discussion. However, the first step is clear: to make our Government employees realize that they are public servants and their main duty is to serve the public. Are they even making an attempt to do it? Members of the bureaucracy believe and act as if they are public "masters" instead, immune to citizens' needs and concerns because of lack of any kind of accountability. They are merely file pushers, and ineffective ones at that; they are generally not accountable for any omission and only when caught on corruption or defalcation, are they taken to task - even then only in a few cases. Better governance, with an aim to create a responsive and responsible administration, as is the case in many developed countries, is the

only way to effectively fight corruption.

Once this is achieved, the issue of corruption will be effectively tackled. Otherwise, any attempt at bringing corruption under control is like trying to eradicate mosquitoes with insecticides without bothering to control their breeding grounds. Not only will the mosquitoes survive the attempt, they will also grow stronger and insecticide-resistant. Without good governance, even if more and stricter laws are enacted, ways to circumvent them will easily be found, leading to multiplication of the breeding grounds of corruption. In the case I have narrated, a citizen was denied a legitimate service despite my effort in bringing it to the notice of the top bureaucrat. But can he be held accountable? Could he be made to apologize, and provide the service? In our system, no one thinks about it. Everyone will be after him if there is a mistake or an allegation. This creates an environment that encourages delaying decisions or dodging issues. Our public debate should therefore focus on improving governance in a fundamental way, making our system more responsive and responsible. This cannot be achieved through Acts and laws but only through better and effective management, and by making top management more accountable. Once this is achieved, administrators in top management positions will be more sensitive to the needs of the public, and are bound to resist corrupt practices of their political bosses. Political leaders too would then lead from the front to give good governance to the citizens with the citizens themselves demanding good governance, rather than freebees, after seeing its benefits.

[Sri R. Poornalingam (1970), retired as Secretary to Government of India. Also a well known author.]

KEEP YOUR LIFE IN SYNC

- Navin Kumar

While rushing for a meeting, I happened to meet the MD of an important PSU in the corridor of the Secretariat. He requested me for an appointment within the next 2-3 days to discuss some very urgent matter. He looked very anxious. I took out my Blackberry mobile and checked my calendar for the next day. I noticed that I had scheduled a review of office computerisation at 3 PM and the Financial Adviser was to make a presentation before me at 4 PM. Thus, I hoped to be free after 4.45 PM and could agree for an appointment at 5 PM. The time was convenient to the MD, so I entered his appointment in my Blackberry Calendar and his contact number in the Blackberry Contacts. I also told him that if by any chance the appointment had to be rescheduled, my office would get in touch with him.

Since I have configured my Blackberry to sync my Calendar and Contacts with Google calendar and Contacts automatically, the information entered by me on my mobile was instantly transferred to the Google to which my PA has access. When he noticed the appointment, he alerted the concerned officer in my office to put up a brief for the meeting with the MD. Thus, when the gentleman called on me the next day, I was fully prepared for discussion with him.

You too can improve your productivity by keeping your calendar and contacts on Google and syncing your mobile with Google. This is very convenient, safe, secure and simple. And the best part is that it is absolutely **FREE!**

This sync arrangement automatically keeps a back up of all your contacts and calendar entries on Google. Hence, if you happen to lose your mobile and have to use a new handset, you would

still have all your calendar entries and contacts on Google, which you can easily transfer to your new mobile. And, if you happen to use more than one mobile phone, you can sync all of them to your Google account so that all entries on these phones will always be in sync.

If you are impressed, follow the steps below to keep your life in sync.

Step-1: Set up a Gmail account for your office.

To do this, open your browser and type mail.google.com in the address bar. The Gmail page would open. Click 'Create an account' in the bottom right corner of the page. Fill up the form that comes up, specifying the desired login name and password, security question and its answer as well as the recovery mail. After typing the word verification, click the button at the bottom titled 'I accept. Create my account.' Your Gmail account is now created.

Step-2: Make entries in Google calendar and contacts.

You will find Contacts link in the left margin of the Gmail page. Click this and you will be taken to 'My Contacts' page. Click the 'New Contact' button in the left margin, fill up data in the form that opens, then click the button showing a left-pointing arrow to save the contact to 'My Contacts'. To go to the Google Calendar, click 'Calendar' link that appears at the top of all pages between links for 'Gmail' and 'Documents'. The Welcome page appears with information that you had given while setting up the account. Click the 'Continue' button to go to the 'Calendar' page. Click the red 'Create' button in left margin, fill the appointment information in the form that opens and finally click the red 'save' button at the top. This creates a calendar entry.

Step-3: Set up Google Sync. Most likely, you would already have contact and calendar entries on your mobile. There is no need to copy these entries manually to Google. They can be transferred to Google by syncing the mobile with Google. To do this, follow the sync settings explained below for smartphones of Blackberry, iPhone and Nokia depending on the kind of handset you own. *Before setting up Google Sync, however, I suggest that you back-up your calendar and contacts on your computer following the user manual of your handset.*

Sync Google With BlackBerryHandset

1. Open the web browser on your Blackberry phone and press the Option button (also called Blackberry button) and select 'Go To'.
2. In the address bar, type <http://m.google.com/sync>
3. Google Sync' page will come up. Click on 'Install Now' link. On the new page that opens, click 'Download'.
4. Download will begin in a few seconds. After download is complete, a page will open with 'Install now' link. Clicking it will install Google Sync on your Blackberry.
5. Go to the 'Downloads' folder where Google Sync would have downloaded (if you do not find it there, look in the Applications folder) and click the Google Sync application. A new page will show up with the heading 'Sign in to your Google account'. Enter your email and password here and click the 'Sign in' button. The phone will verify your email and then show the page at the bottom of which is the 'Configure Sync' button. Click this button.
6. On the next page check both 'Sync Calendar' and 'Sync Contacts' check-

boxes. Leave 'When to sync' to the default option 'Automatic'.

7. Press Option button on your phone and save the changes made. Select 'yes' in response to the question 'Do you want to sync now?'. Synchronisation will begin immediately.
8. First sync takes time, especially if you have a large number of contacts. However, subsequent synchronisations take only seconds.
9. The phone will keep synchronizing your calendar and contacts in the background and you do not need to synchronise manually. However, if you do wish to synchronise manually, open Contacts or Calendar on Blackberry, press the Option button and select 'Google Sync'.
10. Henceforth, your Blackberry and Google contacts and Calendar will always show the same entries.
11. You can see a video of the entire process at the following web address:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvXf6og_ZxQ

Sync Google With iPhone Handset

Please note that Google Sync is only supported on Apple iOS versions 3.0 and above. You can check your current version by going to **Settings > General > About > Version**. If you're running an iOS less than 3.0, upgrade to the latest iOS on Apple's site: <http://www.apple.com/ios/> before setting up Google Sync following the procedure outlined below:

1. Select 'Settings' from your iPhone home screen.
2. Select 'Mail, Contacts, Calendars.'
3. Select 'Add Account.'

4. Select 'Microsoft Exchange' as the account type.
5. Enter your full Gmail address (viz. youremail@gmail.com) in the 'Email' and 'Username' fields and your Gmail password in the 'Password' field, leaving 'Domain' field blank. You can also give a distinctive name to the account you are creating by entering it in the 'Description' field, but it is optional.
6. Tap 'Next' at the top of the screen. Choose 'Cancel' if 'Unable to Verify' pop-up appears.
7. Your email details are verified and if found correct, the next page opens showing a 'Server' field. Enter "m.google.com" (without quotations) into the "Server" field and then tap "Next."
8. The next page shows three fields – Mail, Contacts and Calendars. Turn the Contacts and Calendars fields on. If you also wish to have the emails on your mobile, turn this field on too, otherwise turn it off.
9. A pop-up screen will show three options – 'Keep on my iPhone', 'Delete' and 'Cancel'. Unless you want to delete all the existing Contacts and Calendars on your phone, select the 'Keep on my iPhone' option.
10. Tap 'Save' at the top of the screen. A new account is added.
11. Synchronization will begin automatically if you have Push enabled on your device. You can also open the Mail, Calendar, or Contacts application and wait a few seconds for synchronization to begin.
12. Henceforth, your iPhone and Google contacts and Calendar will always show the same entries.
13. You can also see a video of the entire process at the following web address:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dplySh_EsU8

Sync Google with Nokia S60 Handset

Google Sync uses 'Mail for Exchange' on Nokia Smartphones to sync Contacts and Calendar between the handset and Google. If your Nokia handset has 'Mail for Exchange' in its eMail folder, you can use the instructions below to sync Contacts and Calendar.

Google Sync is supported on all Nokia S60 3rd Edition phones, including most E-Series and N-Series phones. You can check whether your phone is supported by visiting the following web pages:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S60_%28software_platform%29

You can alternatively check whether your Nokia mobile is compatible with 'Mail for Exchange' by visiting this page:

<http://europe.nokia.com/find-products/nokia-for-business/email-and-messaging>

Click on 'Compatibility' link below 'Mail for Exchange' on this page and if your mobile is listed here, you can follow the instructions below for synchronization.

1. Open the 'MfE' folder from your Nokia S60 home screen. When you launch Mail for Exchange for the first time, a message appears saying 'You have no Mail for Exchange profile. Create profile?'
2. Select 'Yes'. The 'Connection' page opens showing a number of vacant fields. Fill these fields as shown below:
 - Server - **m.google.com**
 - Secure connection – Yes
 - Access point – Your Carrier's Internet access point. If you do not know this, check with your Carrier. Internet

access points of some carriers are as follows: Airtel – airtelgprs.com; Vodaphone - portalnmms; BSNL-celloneportal; Tata Indicom –TATA.DOCOMO.INTERNET; Idea Cellular – internet; Aircel - aircelgprs; Reliance – rcomwap.

- Sync while roaming –choose your preferred setting. If you choose to sync while roaming, higher data charges may be applicable
- Default port - Yes

3. Configure the account credentials as follows:

- User name –Your full email address e.g. youremail@gmail.com
- Password - Your Gmail password
- Domain – blank

4. **Sync schedule:** Decide when you want synchronization to happen. Leaving this **Always On** will ensure your data is always current, but will also consume more battery than other settings.

5. Calendar

- Synchronize Calendar: **Yes**
- Sync Calendar back: your preference
- Initial Sync: Decide if you want to keep existing Calendar events on your phone or replace them all with events synced from Google Calendar.

6. Tasks

- Synchronize Tasks: No (currently not supported by Google Sync)

7. Contacts

- Synchronize Contacts: **Yes**
- Initial Sync: Decide if you want to keep existing Contacts on your phone or replace them all with contacts synced from Google.

8. E-mail

- Synchronize Email: **Yes or No** according to your choice
- E-mail address (default based on profile)
- Show new mail popup (yes/no)
- Use signature (default to no)
- Signature
- When sending mail (default: send immediately; alternative is send at next sync only)
- Sync messages back (default: 3 days; alternatives are 1 day, 1 week, 2 weeks, 1 month, all messages)

9. Click 'Finish'.

After you have completed all the three steps mentioned above, your mobile phone(s) will remain synced with your Google account. Whenever your PA makes or modifies an entry on Google, it will show up on your mobile phone(s) and vice-versa when you make any entry in Calendar or Contacts of your mobile, it will be reflected in your Google account.

Happy syncing!

[Sri Navin Kumar (1975), is Chief Secretary, Bihar. This article he wrote when he was Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Government of India.]

GOD'S WILL

- Abhimanyu Singh

*Beyond the reach of time
Out of nothing
From nowhere
There is deafening roar
Blinding incandescence
Flying red hot embers
Gases gushing in unending stream
Dense clouds of billowing smoke, obscuring vision
Spreading in all directions beyond horizons
As if the heavens were being torn asunder.
It started like all thi
The spangled heavens and galaxies of today
So enchanting and majestic
Shrouded in mystery.*

*Death after birth is the divine law
A never-ending cycle
With no beginning or end.
The great universe is withered to die,
Slowly at first
Gathering pace with time.
Galaxies collapsing
Stars disappearing
Darkness, deadly silence all around
When the day of reckoning arrives,
As they get sucked into the unknown
From which it emerged,
As God's wish*

*Leaving questions unanswered,
Like an interrupted dream
An irrevocable logic
In which time, size and space
Have no significance.
It's God's magic wand.*

*Who are we then?
In this vast boundless expanse
And unfathomable depths of time.
The eternal question
Deliberated by our enlightened ones.
But why bother
When what is?
Will not be?
In this vortex of change
Churning of time
Nothing will be lost.*

*Are we not the chosen ones?
Favoured children of God.
God created humans in his image,*

*Endowed them especially with intellect
So that they can unravel the mysteries of the universe
And be one with God.*

*But it was observed
Have we not evolved from lesser creatures?
Apes being our closest grandparent.
Being genetically 99.9% similar?
Hindus believed it to be so for ages.
Life takes shape again and again,
Reborn as some living beings
Depending on their past deeds.
Are not all living beings God's creation,
To be cared and loved as our own?
The planet belongs to them
As much as to us.*

*Our ephemeral bodies,
Of which it is rightly said
Dust thou art to dust returns.
But 'atman', the soul, unidentifiable and unfelt
Imperishable and immortal.
Transmigrates after death,
Only to find another abode
In some other human just conceived.
Our soul is part of Parmatma,
The supreme immanent
All encompassing soul.
Formless and unseen
Yet the source of all energy
That keeps the universe going,
Sustaining and directing life.*

*The body is led astray
By fleeting pleasures
And earthly temptations.
When mind is disciplined and the soul is in command,
Cravings suppressed and distractions gone,
There is contentment and peace with oneself,
Bringing joy and happiness,
Which worldly pursuits seek in vain?*

*[Sri Abhimanyu Singh (1964) a gold medalist in
Economics from Patna University, M.Sc. in
Economics from London School of Economics, and
Ph.D. in Economics from Patna University. Also
served as Vice-Chancellor, Magadh University.
Author of four books and has now sprung a
welcome surprise on all of us with his new tryst with
poetry, both in Hindi and English.]*

SLOW LEARNERS - THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS OR SCHOOLS

- Mamta Mehrotra

We, sitting at the helm of affairs and claiming to be educationist, do not know the basic concept of education. We all claim to know but do we? All our lives, we play with little helpless creatures called students and try to put our thoughts and ideas into them thinking that we, grown ups, know all about educational etiquettes. Those little impressionable minds have nothing much to offer and simply should dance to our tune to produce good results.

We are the dictators of a play and they should be good actors. Their contribution and thought process goes to a waste.

In the name of education every year school produces more slow learners than geniuses. It could be argued that geniuses are born creations but here we are wrong. If all so called school geniuses are to be listed and their life achievements counted, most of them would turn out to be failure in the long race of life. Only a few would have left their mark on the face of society. Rest do fade into oblivion.

But most of back-benchers could be heading organizations and dictating terms. Why it happens? If a school, as a social institution, knows all about its academics then every student would have been successful. We never stop to ponder and think.

We seem to be busy in our mundane life and important matters, as such, do not require our attention. Or we, like babu's pass on the central subject to state list and vice versa and never arrive at a concurrent list.

These matters are important for any country to grow and its citizenry to give it a thought. Our country is a good example of human resource and if this human resource is channelized in a proper direction, our nation would achieve sky-rocketing success.

In the schools, we simply shelf our duties to imparting lessons based on syllabus and curricula. These lectures are mostly offered in the most inhumorous ways and only those children grasp them, who have a sound parental system to back them at home. Rest of the children fail to understand the concepts and grope in the dark for the passage of light.

These are the children, whom we claim to be slow learners and school shun them forever and absolves itself of them. They have to fend for themselves. Ask any good school what remedial measures it has taken to take care of such children and the answer mostly would be in the negative.

For, all children are born with different capacities,

potentialities, identities, personalities and it is high time we should treat and understand the purpose of education and educational institutes at length.

Changes are being made and experiments are being conducted at very high level and it is the right time to infuse the concept of capacity building of the children in all educational institutes.

Schools should treat every individual as an important entity of the society and deglamorize themselves from the very idea of portraying the success of few children in their schools as theirs. For a school, every child who has been able to successfully complete its education from that school, should be a winner.

If depressions and frustrations are made to set in the child at the very onset of his life he would not be able to do justice to his life, his dreams, his ideologies and his contributions to the society.

Our present day education scenario is being focussed at churning out youth who are so obsessed with their life, their money and their achievements. They are unable to think beyond money and the glamour it brings with it.

They hardly bother even if their contribution to society is insignificant and negligible.

During their formative years, the schools many a times fail to cultivate in them a sense of identity, a

pride for their individuality. They are taught to become too obsessed with career.

The school as an institution should learn not to mix studies with career. The school is a social institution, for any society its pillar or edifice. It is a 'नींव का पत्थर' the 1st stone laid in the building of an identity called youth. On good functioning of schools and the social and moral values, it imparts amongst its students, rests the future of any nation. So a school should not claim that any one of its students is the best. The school should bring out the best in all its students. The schools should feel duty-bound to bring out the best essence in each child. Let each child bloom and its fragrance spread in the society. A school should not boast of marks but the quality of its youth.

Youth is the future of any nation and on their shoulder lies an immense responsibility of carving a good shape to the nation's destiny. It would be achieved if every child who enters to learn in any educational institute is respected and admired for what he is and not for what he should be, the success of education as a concept would have been achieved. Then we (the learned ones) sitting at the helm of affairs could claim to know the meaning of education in its true sense.

[Smt. Mamta Mehrotra, Author of a Book 'शिक्षा का अधिकार' working on slow learner for the past eleven years and wife of Sri Brajesh Mehrotra (1989), Commissioner, Purnia Division.]

MY MOTHER, THE ARTIST OF LIFE

- Sumit Kumar

It is hard for a son to attempt a piece on his loving mother (Mrs. Sneh Kumar) who chose to bid us good bye on 17-09-2011 while still in the pink of her creativity and the crucial need of her ever-animating presence with us, presence which meant her love and guidance, inspiration and support. But I have been persuaded by one of my father's seniors to dwell a little on the artist in her as reflected in the visual objects filling our life with the beauty of life and art. Although we in the family— my father, my brother Amit, my sister-in-law Abha, have been always struck by her spiritual strength to us in those days when she struggled with a glorious confidence and faith in herself, her doting husband, her children and Ayush the darling grandchild and, of course, in God. I was therefore deeply touched by similar sentiments voiced by my father's colleagues and their spouses. Shy my mother was, but this was the shyness of hope, yes, hope which remains quiet and self-possessed even in the face of the marching inevitable. This was the artist in her daily life as well that never let her spirit down. She never compromised with the dignity of life as perhaps she was humbly cognizant of the dignity of Time. What a source of support she was thus not only to us, but to those who lived in our outhouses here or, as I recall my childhood days, elsewhere. The loss that they suffered, as some of the womenfolk were overheard sharing amongst themselves, almost in whispers, made me feel doubly proud of my darling mother. What a time to depart from the world she lived in and loved with élan and ebullience, and shared everything so magnanimously with the same world. So here follows a son's "account" of her artist-mother.

Very much a common denizen of this world but



simultaneously very much dweller of a world beyond it is an artist. More often than not, the artists commit themselves to a medium, a commitment that lasts a lifetime. Some prefer cloth, others choose wood, some choose stone while others paint. But then there are some artists who let art prevail, no matter what the medium. Sneh Kumar was one of them.

My mother had a keen eye for beauty. She had an ability to latch on to ideas and objects, in whatever shape or form, which the ordinary person would casually browse over. She dabbled with several mediums of expression - wood, metal, cloth, paint, glass amongst others. However, in the last few years, cloth was where she found herself. Her love affair with art started early in childhood. Her shyness was a perfect foil to her individualistic talents. Times were simpler then and hobbies/activities were not so common. She took up the tabla and shone in it quickly. Similarly, many a summer was spent with paint and brush as she progressively improved her skill in it. Even though Rampur was just a small township,

opportunities to experiment in arts and crafts were plenty of which my mother availed herself judiciously.

Her marriage only pushed her forward. Married into a family of 6 brothers, her talents were duly appreciated. However, it was when she joined her husband in his postings in Bihar (these areas now in Jharkhand), that her canvas of expression grew by leaps and bounds. The jungles in Jharkhand let her experiment with wildlife photography. But as she looked for wildlife driving through the jungles, she would keep a corner of her eye reserved for trees and shapes that could be cut, carved and polished into life. Those wood carvings still adorn our house and would always take us to those moments when the artists would remain quietly dedicated to the object. It is our recollection of those special occasions that would embellish our lives – an artist who was as perfect as an artist as she was with her family chores and in managing so beautifully the numerous demands that her two sons would keep on piling on her time and resources.

Painting was a strong underlying backbone behind her artistic experimentations with other media. A supportive husband and large government houses with large empty walls encouraged her to make several creations post marriage as well. Sometimes they were for competitions, sometimes as eulogies and sometimes just to create beauty as if for nature to imitate it.

Her experimentations were novel. She crafted 3D paintings using dryfruit. She made wall hangings using coconut shells. She embossed

metal sheets to make Ganesha. And outside the house, she pushed nature around with miniature banyan trees and lemon bushes (Japanese Bonsai). Beauty, she felt and displayed in her work, was not a prisoner of size or shape or rarity or commonness of raw materials; real beauty was a free bird which roamed from the coconut shells to the burning brightness of tigers she was restless to catch during her tours with my father to the forest areas.

Arguably though, her last few years were the most prolific. She slowly moved away from painting on canvas (all the walls were covered by now) to painting on saris and suits. Even in this medium, she kept exploring patterns and styles. Her work ranged from simple floral designs to intricate Madhubani artwork. Armed with all the skills of an accomplished homemaker, she stitched the suits herself to later adorn them with her art. In a manner of speaking this was art for the sake of life



Disease was an unfortunate companion of her from very early in life. However, after

each triumph over it, she used to come back with renewed vigor to her artistic pursuits. Though the diseases were debilitating, thankfully her vision, her keen intellect and her steady hands were hardly ever affected. In fact, she fondly hoped to share her gift by home-schooling art to little kids post retirement. Though that desire remained incomplete, may her countless works of art provide inspiration to us to support those who pursue it as passionately as she did.

[Sri Sumit Kumar, second son of Late Sneh Kumar and Sri Anil Kumar (1976) is working as Manager, International Business Development, Dr.Reddy's Lab., Hyderabad]

मिथिला चित्रकला और नारी शिक्षण

— मृदुला प्रकाश

मिथिला-चित्रकला में नारियों का विशिष्ट स्थान है। यह लोककला प्राचीनकला से ही नारियों के द्वारा पोषित एवं संरक्षित होती चली आई है। पुरुषों को सामान्यतया अरिपन बनाते हुए नहीं देखा गया है। स्पष्टतः अरिपन का प्रारम्भ भी किसी महिला कलाकार के द्वारा ही हुआ होगा। यह संयोग नहीं कि विद्या की देवी भी एक महिला सरस्वती को माना जाता है। उन्हें वैदिक ग्रन्थों में एक शिक्षक तथा ज्ञान प्रदायिनी के रूप में चित्रित किया गया है। ऐसा लगता है कि प्रारम्भिक काल में मिथिला चित्रकला का प्रयोग महिलाओं ने अपने शिक्षण-कार्य के लिए किया। महिलाओं के द्वारा विकसित होने के कारण ही संभवतः विद्या की अधिष्ठात्री एक महिला को माना गया।

आदिम काल में नारी ही सामाजिक एवं धार्मिक अनुष्ठानों को मूल स्रोत मानी जाती थी। उस समय महिलाएं पुजारिन का भी कार्य करती थीं। यह परम्परा इतनी सशक्त थी कि जब मानव ने घर बसाकर एक परिवार के रूप में रहना शुरू किया तो घर की आंतरिक धार्मिक व्यवस्था में भी उसने अपना प्रभुत्व बनाये रखा। घर के बाहर वैदिक पूजन में जहाँ पुरुषों की प्रधानता रही, वहीं घर के भीतर की पूजन-क्रियाओं यथा प्रातः पूजन, संध्या-पूजन व्रत-परम्पराओं आदि में महिलाओं की भूमिका प्रधान रही। आज भी महिलाएँ प्रत्येक घर में गोसाईं घर (सिरागु घर) में अरिपन लिखना से लेकर अन्य सफाई कार्य स्वयं करती हैं तथा विभिन्न पूजनोत्सव पर देवी देवताओं एवं पूर्वजों का आह्वान करने का दायित्व भी उन्हीं पर रहता है।

मिथिला-चित्रकला का प्रारम्भ गोसाईं घर में हस्तचिह्नों से ही हुआ है। इसी के माध्यम से विकसित होकर अरिपन के रूप में भूमि पूजन की परम्पराएँ विकसित हुईं। ऐसा लगता है कि अरिपन की परम्पराएँ मूलतः शक्ति पूजन की परम्पराओं के रूप में मातृ सत्तात्मक समाज में आदिम जनजातियों या आर्येतर जातियों में प्रारम्भ हुईं। इसलिए वैदिक ग्रन्थों में ग्राम्य देवता या देवी के पूजन को निषिद्ध बताया गया तथा उसकी पूजा को पतित कहा गया। पर मिथिला संस्कृति में ग्राम्य देवता या देवी की पूजा सभी संस्कारों एवं अन्य सामाजिक उत्सवों के अवसर पर होती है। इसी प्रकार नागपूजन, जो मिथिला चित्रकला का एक महत्वपूर्ण अंग है, वैदिक परम्परा से बिल्कुल भिन्न है। मिथिला चित्रों में सिन्दूर का प्रयोग वैदिक परम्परा से बिल्कुल भिन्न है। मिथिला चित्रों में सिन्दूर का प्रयोग वैदिक परम्पराओं से बिल्कुल मेल नहीं खाता है। सिन्दूर का न तो कोई वैदिक नाम है और सिन्दूर दान का कोई मंत्र। अतः अरिपन मूलतः एक आर्येतर परम्परा जान पड़ता है।

वैदिक साहित्यों के अनुशीलन से ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि नारियों को वेद पढ़ने एवं यज्ञोपवीत धारण करने का अधिकार दिया गया था, परन्तु उनके गुरु या अध्यापक केवल पिता, चाचा या बड़े भाई ही हुआ करते थे। मनुस्मृति में कहा गया है—

“पुराकल्पे कुमारीणां मौजीबन्धनमिष्यते।

अध्यापनं च वेदानां सावित्रीवचनं तथा।

पिता पितृव्य भ्राता वा नैनामध्यापयेत् परः॥”

बाद में आर्य एवं आर्येतर संस्कृतियों के

मिश्रण के बाद स्त्रियों की स्थिति में काफी हास हुआ। आर्यों में नारियों को वेदाध्ययन का अधिकार दिया गया था, परन्तु आर्यतर स्त्रियों ने अपनी पैतृक परम्पराओं में रुचि बनाये रखी। अतः जब आर्यों को यह खतरा होने लगा कि इन आर्यतर स्त्रियों के कारण शास्त्रीय पद्धतियाँ प्रदूषित हो जाएंगी तो स्त्रियों पर तरह-तरह के बन्धन लगाये गये। उन्हें वेदाध्ययन से वंचित कर दिया गया। मनुस्मृति में यहाँ तक कहा गया है कि—

“वैवाहिको विधि स्त्रीणां संस्कारो वैदिक स्मृत पतिसेवा गुरौवासो गृहार्थोऽग्निपरिक्रिया।”

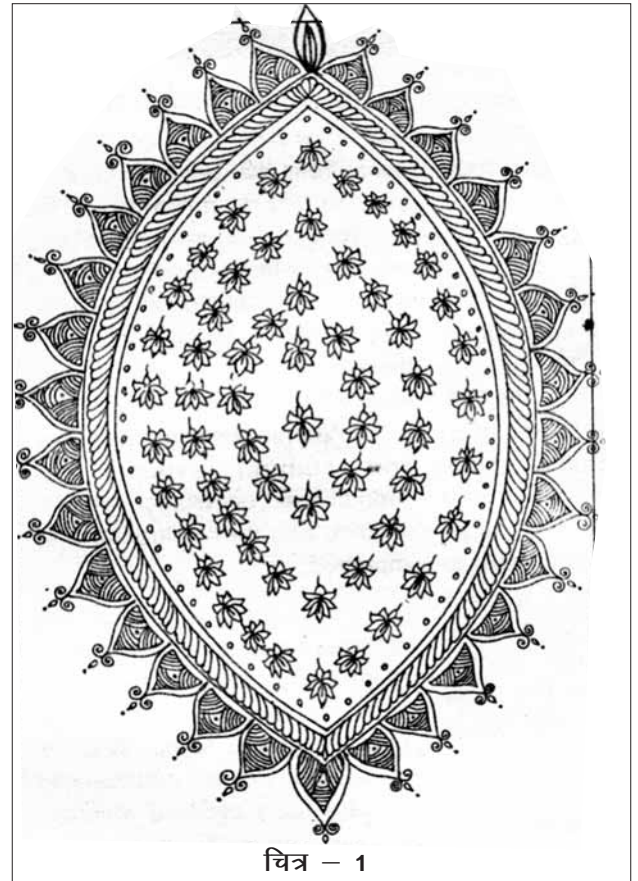
अर्थात् स्त्रियों का विवाह संस्कार ही वैदिक संस्कार (यज्ञोपवीतरूप), पति सेवा ही गुरुकुल निवास (वेदाध्ययनरूप), पतिसेवा और गृह कार्य ही अग्निहोत्र कर्म कहा गया है। अतएव उनके लिए यज्ञोपवीत, गुरुकुल निवास और अग्निहोत्र कर्म करने की शास्त्राज्ञा नहीं है।

ऐसे बन्धनों के बीच नारियों ने अपनी पारम्परिक रीतियों से ही मुख्यतः इन परम्पराओं को कायम रखा, जो पति, पुत्र या परिवारजनों के हित में था। उल्लेखनीय है कि यद्यपि यज्ञ सम्बन्धी क्रियाओं पर नारियों पर रोक थी, तथापि महिलाएँ व्रत के सम्पादन के लिए स्वतंत्र थीं। बाद में महिलाओं ने व्रतों को ही अपनी पूजन-परम्परा का अंग बना लिया।

महिलाओं को वैदिक शिक्षा उपलब्ध नहीं थी। अतः महिलाओं ने व्रत परम्परा को जोड़कर एक स्वतंत्र लोक शिक्षण पद्धति का विकास किया। मानव जीवन के विकास के लिए तथा उसकी शारीरिक, मानसिक एवं आध्यात्मिक उन्नति के लिए शास्त्रों में संस्कारों की व्यवस्था की गयी। इससे मानव शरीर को ब्रह्मप्राप्ति के योग्य बनाया जाना बताया जाता है। सभी संस्कारों पर अलग-अलग अरिपन लिखने की

व्यवस्था की गई। यह अरिपन मूलतः उन संस्कारों के उद्देश्यों को स्पष्ट करने के लिए निर्मित हुए। इसको स्पष्ट करने के लिए एक दो अरिपनों का उदाहरण लेना अधिक उचित होगा।

महिलाओं के जीवन में एक महत्वपूर्ण परिवर्तन तब आता है जब वे प्रथम बार ऋतुमती होती है। इससमय शारीरिक, मानसिक एवं मनोवैज्ञानिक रूप से इतने अधिक परिवर्तन होते हैं कि यदि नारी को उससे सही परिचय न कराया जाय, तो उसमें भावनात्मक कुंठा जन्म ले सकती है। मिथिला में नारियों को इस महत्वपूर्ण परिवर्तन को आत्मसात कराने के लिए कई परम्पराएँ विकसित हुईं। इसमें कई प्रकार के अरिपन भी बनाये जाते हैं। इस अवसर पर बनाये गये अरिपन (चित्र संख्या-1) में तीस कमल के दल बनाये जाते हैं। इसके भीतर वाले अंश में चारों



चित्र - 1

तरफ साठ बिन्दु अंकित किये जाते हैं। इसे समय की गणना का बोधक माना गया है क्योंकि साठ विपल का एक पल, साठ पल का एक दण्ड एवं साठ दण्ड का एक दिन और एक रात तथा तीस दिन रात का एक माह होता है। इस पूजा के समय साठ का महत्त्व इस बात से भी समझा जा सकता है कि इस पूजा के भोग में साठ कच्चे सरबों में खीर एवं अहिबक फर (एक मीठा पकवान) बनाकर सामने रखा जाता है। इस अवसर पर ऋतुमती बालिका के लिए समय एवं तिथि का ज्ञान अत्यावश्यक है। तभी वह नारियों के शरीर में मानसिक परिवर्तन को समझकर उससे मनोवैज्ञानिक रूप से आत्मसात् कर सकती है।

इसी प्रकार एक अन्य उदाहरण 'भतरासि' (मकन संक्रान्ति के अवसर पर किया जाने वाला एक व्रत) व्रत के अवसर पर लिखे गए अरिपन का लिया



चित्र - 2

जा सकता है (चित्र संख्या-2)। इस अरिपन में बारह-बारह पुष्पाकृतियाँ बनी होती हैं। इन्हें बारह महीनों का प्रतीक भी समझा जा सकता है। इस अरिपन के मध्य में एक उर्ध्व त्रिकोणाकार आकृति में पाँच चार तीन दो एवं एक बिन्दु सजाये जाते हैं। प्रत्येक बिन्दु पर दो अधोमुखी रेखाएँ अंकित की जाती हैं। इस प्रकार तीस रेखाएँ एक माह के तीस दिनों के प्रतीक मानी जा सकती हैं। प्रत्येक रेखा के नीचे एक उपरेखा भी अंकित रहती है। यदि ऊपरी रेखा को दिवस का प्रतीक माना जा सकता है तो निचली रेखा को रात्रि का प्रतीक माना जा सकता है। इस प्रकार यह अरिपन रात्रि दिन माह एवं वर्ष के ज्ञान के संचरण का माध्यम बन जाता है।

इसी प्रकार यदि अन्य अरिपनों की गहराई से अध्ययन किया जाय तो इससे कई प्रकार के खगोलीय ज्ञान, गणितीय ज्ञान ज्यामितीय ज्ञान आदि के संचरण की स्पष्ट जानकारी मिलती है। अरिपन के माध्यम से महिलाओं का एक मानसिक व्यायाम होता है, जिससे अन्य पैटर्न, डिजाइन आदि बनाने की क्षमता भी विकसित होती है। इस प्रकार मिथिला की नारियों में मिथिला चित्रकला ने मानसिक एवं बौद्धिक उन्नति में अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभायी है। इसके साथ-साथ अरिपन ने महिलाओं की सृजनात्मकता का भी काफी विकास किया। यही कारण है कि मिथिला में हस्तशिल्प आदि की परम्पराएँ भी काफी विकसित हुईं।

सिर्फ अरिपन, भित्ति चित्र या पट चित्रों के माध्यम से ही नहीं, वरन् शारीरिक चित्रों के द्वारा भी ज्ञान का संचरण होता था। विद्यापति के एक गीत में कहा गया है—

“सुरुज सिन्दुर विन्दु चांदने लिखए इन्दु तिथि कहि गेल तिलके।”

अर्थात् सिन्दुर बिन्दु के द्वारा सूर्य, चन्दन के कारण चन्द्रमा, तिलक (तिलकों की संख्या) के द्वारा तिथि बतलाई गई (मानो त्रयोदशी तिथि के अभिसार के संकेत के लिए तेरह तिलक बिन्दु धारण किया)। स्पष्टतः इस पअवाइस के द्वारा तिथि के ज्ञान के संचरण का ही प्रतीक समझा जा सकता है।

इस प्रकार यह निर्विवाद रूप से प्रमाणित होता है कि मिथिला चित्रकला महज सौन्दर्य बोध के लिए ही नहीं वरन् मौलिक रूप से नारी शिक्षण के माध्यम के रूप में व्यवहृत होता रहा है। अब प्रतीकों

के अर्थ गौण हो जाने के कारण इसके अर्थ संप्रेषण में कठिनाई हो रही है, पर यदि उन अर्थों को समझकर नवीन सामाजिक, आर्थिक, सांस्कृतिक एवं वैज्ञानिक चिंतन के अनुरूप अरिपनों का विकास हो तो ज्ञान के संचरण के रूप में आज भी इनकी महत्त्वपूर्ण भूमिका हो सकती है।

[श्रीमती मृदुला प्रकाश, श्री विजय प्रकाश (1981), प्रधान सचिव, योजना एवं विकास विभाग की धर्मपत्नी, डी०ए०वी० पब्लिक स्कूल, शास्त्रीनगर, पटना की प्राचार्या हैं।)

WAVES & RIPPLES

Sri Navin Kumar, 75
Chief Secretary,
Government of Bihar

Sri V. K. Verma, 76
Chairman-cum-Member,
Board of Revenue,
Government of Bihar

Sri Phool Singh, 77
Principal Secretary,
Parliamentary Works Department,
Government of Bihar

Md. Ashique Ibrahim, 78
Departmental Enquiry Commissioner,
General Administration Department,
Government of Bihar

Shri Shubha Kirti Majumdar, 78
Additional Charge: Principal Secretary,
Mines and Geology Department,
Government of Bihar

Sri Shishir Sinha, 82
Principal Secretary,
Food & Consumer Protection Department and
Managing Director, Bihar State Film
Development & Finance Corporation, Patna

Sri C. K. Mishra, 83
Principal Secretary, Industries Department,
Officer on Special Duty,
Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi.
Additional Charge: Chief Executive Officer,
Bihar Foundation

Smt. Vandana Kini, 89
Chairman-cum-Managing Director,
Woman Development Corporation

Sri Sunil Barthwal, 89
Additional Departmental Enquiry Commissioner,
General Administration Department, Bihar

Sri Hukum Singh Meena, 92
Director,
Land Records and Survey,
Revenue and Land Reforms Department, Bihar
Additional Charge: Director,
Land Acquisition

Sri Sandeep Poundrik, 93
Secretary,
Social Welfare Department,
Bihar

INQUISITIVE

- Palka Sahni

1. *In the film Mr. and Mrs. 55, Guru Dutt was a cartoonist. Who actually drew the cartoons?*

This practice resulted in a contemporary expression in the English language. Name it.
2. *In medieval times, in Europe, one third of the taxes went to the King; one third went to the nobility and one third to the common man. How is this immortalised?*
3. *What does the 31 in Baskin Robbins 31 signify?*
4. *Which famous acquisition deal made Steve Jobs the largest shareholder in the Walt Disney Co. in 2006?*
5. *When Sachin made his ODI debut against Pakistan, two other Indian players also made their debuts. Name them.*
6. *Which element, discovered in the year 1803 by William Hyde, gets its name from the Greek word for 'rose'?*
7. *If a soldier was dismissed from the British Army for dishonourable conduct, he would be "drummed out in a ceremony which included a description of his crime being read out and his insignia stripped from his uniform.*

8. Neel Darpan (Indigo Mirror) a play by Bengali writer Bandhu Mitra is widely acknowledged to be the first enacted political drama written in India. It is the story of the atrocities being heaped on indigo workers in Bengal.

It led to the British founding an institution which exists even today. Name it.
9. *Which term originated from the illegal sale of graphite, which was used for coating of moulds for cannon balls? This sold for upto 5000 pounds, a ton in 1830, but trading had stiff penalties, punishable upto seven years imprisonment.*
10. *This was supposedly created by the 13th century poet saint Gyandev. It was originally called "Mokshapat". Played with shells and dices, was a representation of virtues and vices. In time, it underwent several modifications, but its meaning remained the same ' Good deeds take people to heaven and evil to a cycle of re- births'. Name it.*

*[Smt. Palka Sahni, I.A.S (2004),
is Managing Director, BSEDC]*

[Solutions elsewhere in this issue]

सुधा

100% शुद्ध एवं ताजा



स्वस्थियों के रंग
सुधा के रंग।

भारत में सर्वाधिक सफल दूध सहकारी समितियों में एक
सर्वश्रेष्ठ कम्पेड HACCP, ISO प्रमाणित डेयरियों
वाली दूध उत्पादकों की सहकारी समिति

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नर हो न निराश करो मन को
कुछ काम करो कुछ काम करो
जग में रहके निज नाम करो
यह जन्म हुआ किस अर्थ अहो
समझो जिसमें यह व्यर्थ न हो
कुछ तो उपयुक्त करो तन को
नर हो न निराश करो मन को ।

संभलो कि सुयोग न जाए चला
कब व्यर्थ हुआ सदुपाय भला?
समझो जग को न निरा सपना
पथ आप प्रशस्त करो अपना
अखिलेश्वर हैं—अवलम्बन को
नर हो न निराश करो मन को ।

जब प्राप्त तुम्हें सब तत्व यहाँ
फिर जा सकता वह सत्व कहाँ?
तुम स्वत्व सुधा रस पान करो
उठके अमरत्व विधान करो
दवरूप रहो भव कानन को
नर हो न निराश करो मन को ।

निज गौरव का नित ज्ञान रहे
हम भी कुछ हैं यह ध्यान रहे
सब जाय अभी पर मान रहे
मरणोत्तर गुंजित गान रहे
कुछ हो न तजो निज साधन को
नर हो न निराश करो मन को ।

राष्ट्रकवि – मैथिली शरण गुप्त

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