

# Prayaas

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## Editorial

It took some time in bringing out the first issue 1/2019 of our in-house Prayaas, because we had to settle logistics and await contributions. It was gratifying for us to hear some colleagues appreciating the new look of the magazine. Any feedback from our members will help us improve upon the quality of the contents.



A precondition for making the magazine popular is the availability of articles from our members. This is a handicap as we are forced to tap other sources in order to make up the 32 pages. We hope for a better participation. Every serving or retired officer must have been privy to many an unforgettable experience of his own. The incorporation of snippets from the memoirs of the officers of the bygone era will also add lustre to Prayaas which will be published on bi-monthly basis from the next issue. I, therefore, repeat my request to all our members to spare some time from their busy schedule and send their contributions.

I shall be failing in my duty if I do not place on record the help extended by the Editorial Board and especially by Amit Kumar, IAS (2012) who helped me as Rajesh Meena, IAS (2012) got busy with the rigmarole of conducting elections as DM, Munger.

With my best wishes to one and all,

RU Singh, IAS-1961,

Principal Editor.

IAS Bhawan



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

**A Glimpse of the Holi Milan held on the 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 at IAS Bhawan**



The stage for the musical programme



Shri Deepak Kumar Chief Secretary with Shri Ravi Parmar Secretary tourism



(Sitting from left to right) Mrs Rashmi Kumar, Mrs Mridula Prakash, Mrs Ratna Amrit, Mrs Priti Shankar; (Standing) Mrs Tanmayi Laxmanan



*From Secretary Desk*



Dear colleagues,

Very few events affect the Indian masses, as much as its elections do. From the young to the old, the rich to the poor, the elected to the elector, the poll fever grips all. Amidst this electoral din, if there is one segment of the population, which has to keep its cool and deliver without fail, is the one that conducts them, i.e., us, the otherwise maligned civil servants of India. Woefully constrained by resources and frightfully scanned by the masses and media, it does so with aplomb - firmly, fairly and facelessly, across the length and breadth of the country, as per the provisions laid down in the Representation of People Act.

A thorough and thoughtful exercise in processes, logistics and sanitation, our polls demand time and skill, diligence and sincerity, which very few other demand. A system that brooks no complacency or error, the elections in India are chaperoned and choreographed by our own colleagues, from CEC to CEOs, from ROs to DEOs, from observers to the observed. Not many, however, have a ringside view of the intricate dynamics of the elections in India – for whom it remains just another mega event. The elections this year was also an experiential delight for the voters all over. Mere thanks to the Commissioner, DMs, SDMs and other in the field may perhaps not suffice in acknowledging their hard efforts. They deserve more - and much more. We must whole-heartedly compliment this excellent pan-India team, which has made India Polls 2019, a globally acknowledged success. Hats off!

In the coming months, we propose to hold the second edition of the Patna Mind Fest, a one-of-its-kind multi-literary open event for all categories of participants. We would expect colleagues, friends and their wards to participate in large numbers and showcase their talent to the public at large. With monsoons round the corner, we wish to have more bonhomie, brain-teasing and fun.

Looking upwards for the rainbows in the rains,

Not so secretly yours,

(Vivek Singh)



# Management of Strees and Strain in Crisis Situations



R. N. Das  
IAS-1962



Stress and strain have been a part of Life, perhaps since the advent of human consciousness. Although systematic and scientific research on the subject dates to the early thirties of the last century, under the pioneering work of Dr. Hans Selye, (known as the Father of Stress Research and founder of the International Institute of Stress in Montreal), the subject acquired academic importance during the last few decades only. Yet, even a satisfactory definition of the term “Stress” has baffled the research workers. The Oxford English Dictionary has devoted more than three pages in small letters, to the term. As St. Augustine commented while refusing to define “time”, it is a term we all understand, but cannot define. However, it is widely accepted that “Stress” denotes “Pressure” on mind and body, hindering best performances by a person, while “Strain” indicates the resultant symptoms, ranging from tensions, anxiety, irritation, depression and frustration, to insomnia, fatigue, hypertension, diabetics and the like, leading to further stress and chain reactions, seriously damaging the efficiency and wellbeing of a person often leading to a slow death.

“Can people really die of grief? Or become sick with worry? Can a high pressure job give you ulcers? Till recently, the answer was a cautious ‘may be’, but now it is a definite ‘yes’. (Kalpana Deuskar on the ‘biochemistry of stress’ in The times of India, 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 1996.)

Yet, it is believed that stress, in a mild form, is a necessary and desirable nutrient for progressive individuals. “Stress is the spice of Life” said Dr. Hans Selye. The following extracts from a magazine (“For Women First”, dated June 7, 1993) are worth quoting:-

“Stress – it is the ailment of the 90’s. It even has its own jargon, from Type A personality to post traumatic stress disorder. In some circles it’s acquired cachet, the more stress, the more important the person. But stars and super achievers don’t have a monopoly on stress. Despite all this, stress isn’t always a bad thing. When present in manageable doses, it can be a great motivator. Too little stress and life is uneventful: too much and it is overwhelming.”

The causes and cures of this “ailment” have engaged considerable attention and curiosity in the recent past, of Management specialists and Research workers including Medical Practitioners and psychologists. Volumes have been written all over the world, countless models have been attempted and experimented, numerous jargons coined, case studies conducted, statistics compiled and profuse guidelines have been formulated for prevention and management of Stress and Strain. The causative Factors (termed as “Stressors”) range from physical disability and ill health to domestic disharmony to intrigues at work place to financial problems to unforeseen emergencies and the like. The inventory of stressors is an unending list. But in most cases, stress and strain are caused by “unsolved problems”, and “unexpected irritants”.

The basic strategy to counter a stress situation is, obviously, to cure the causative stressor, which, in



most cases, remains only as a theoretical concept, since most of the stressors are elusive of immediate solutions. The various guidelines that have been formulated by stress specialists and research workers are mostly preventive measures, envisaging a threefold strategy, i.e., first, maintaining a physical fitness through dietary control, exercises, yoga, relaxation, etc: second, developing a serene mental attitude (“there isn’t a better definition for happiness” asserts Dr. John A. Schindler), and third, adopting an appropriate time management system. Even micro level research has been conducted on specialized subjects such as meditation practices, diet management, sleep management, priority management, etc. Unfortunately, most of these strategies are long term measures and unless being practiced from before may not produce instant results during crisis situations.

“Crisis” is also a term that is easy to understand, but difficult to define. In the Encyclopedia of social sciences, James A. Robinson faces a similar situation when he writes:-

“Crisis” is a lay term in search of a scholarly meaning. Some scholars treat it synonymously with stress, panic, catastrophe, disaster, violence, or potential violence. Others, adhering to the medical connotation, regard it as a ‘turning point’ between a fortunate and an unfortunate change in the state of an organism.

The shorter Oxford Dictionary defines “crisis” as “a critical point in the course of events” and “a state of affairs in which a decisive change for better or worse is imminent”. For the lay man, crisis is a situation that should be avoided. A crisis situation may develop gradually, such as Economic, Political or Environmental crisis, which are long terms in nature, or may develop suddenly, creating an emergency situation, ranging from catastrophes and disasters to man made turbulence such as riots and agitations. Whereas the former category allows a long term time frame to manage the situation, the later type, due to its sudden and unexpected nature, demands immediate action, to prevent large scale loss or destruction. The intensity of stress and strain gets accentuated under such emergency situations, compounding the problems multifold.

As many as 12 ‘generic dimensions’ of ‘Crisis’ were enumerated by A.J Wiener and H.Kahn (Crisis and Arms Control, 1962):-

1. Crisis is often a turning point in an unfolding sequence of events and actions.
2. Crisis is a situation in which the requirement for action is high among participants.
3. Crisis threatens the goals and objectives of those involved.
4. Crisis is followed by an important outcome whose consequences shape the future of the participants.
5. Crisis consists of a convergence of events that result in a new set of circumstances.
6. Crisis produces uncertainties in assessing a situation and in formulating alternatives for dealing with it.
7. Crisis reduces control over events and their effects.
8. Crisis heightens urgency, which often produces stress and anxiety among participants.
9. Crisis is a circumstance in which information available to participants is unusually inadequate.

10. Crisis increases time pressures for those involved.
11. Crisis is marked by changes in the relations amongst participants.
12. Crisis raises tensions among participants especially in political crises involving nations.

Some of the traits of crises as listed by Kent Miller and Ira Iscoe (The Concept of Crisis; Current Status and Mental Health Implications in Human Organisation, 1963) are as follows:-

1. A crisis situation is acute rather than chronic, although its length is usually unspecified.
2. Crisis results in behavior that is frequently ‘pathological’, such as inefficiency or scape-goating.
3. Crisis threatens the goals of persons involved.
4. Crisis is relative; what is a crisis for one party or participant may not be for another.
5. Crisis causes tension in the organism, including physical tension and anxiety.

Notwithstanding the strategies and guidelines formulated by management specialists and stress researchers, Executives accustomed to emergency situations have relied more upon experience and commonsense, and have developed practices that get constantly improved by mutual interactions and exchange of experiences of success and failures. These practices range from blatant escapism to nerve-wrecking actions. “Crisis? What Crisis?” retorted the then Prime minister of UK, Mr. James Callaghan on 1.11.1976 to queries of pressmen alleging total chaos consequent upon widespread strikes in the country. Raymond Williams announced: “The human crisis is always a crisis of understanding; what we genuinely understand, we can do.” —(Culture and Society). Henry Kissinger had once declared: “There cannot be a crisis next week. My schedule is already full”. There are wishful thinkers that if there will be a storm, it would pass over in due course, and hence, let us not worry. There are of course the prophets of doom, according to whom, the world is coming to an end, disasters are inevitable, nothing can be done to save mankind, and hence it is needless to worry. But the human world thrives by facing the challenges. In fact the most discerning feature in human history has been “Challenge and Response” according to Sir Arnold J. Toynbee (in Study of History). Hence the other extreme is illustrated by countless sacrifices of Captains of ships, Crew of aeroplanes, Army and Police personnel etc. in their efforts to save life and property. Unfortunately many of the options for control of stress and strain, (such as relaxation) are not available during a crisis situation. While there is no magic formula to manage and control crisis situations and the consequent stress and strain, experience has indicated that stress and strain during a crisis can be controlled by an efficient management of the crisis situation, and by preventive actions from beforehand.

A crisis situation, like any other event, has three phases to be managed, i.e. the prelude, the event itself, and the aftermath. The crisis situation itself has of course to be dealt in accordance with the nature of the crisis. But apart from dealing with the crisis itself, preventive actions in anticipation of a crisis, and foresight into the unforeseen problems during the aftermath, contributes substantially to control the concomitant stress and strain. Some of the time tested guidelines, bases on experience, to minimize the stress and strain associated with crisis management, are being discussed below:-

1. Anticipate possible problems, and expect the unexpected to happen, ranging from system failure to bizarre circumstances not even related to the organization. List out all kinds of possible problems, even it may not be possible to take preventive measures in all cases.
2. Collect and keep handy all possible information about similar problems that arose elsewhere, so that we can learn from the past, and brace ourselves for the future. I am often reminded of the couplet of Rudyard Kipling :
 

“I keep six honest serving men  
( they taught me all I knew)  
Their names are WHAT and WHY and WHEN  
And HOW and WHERE and WHO”.
3. Identify existing defects and rectify the same, however unimportant they may appear. Do not forget that the nuclear panic in the 3 miles island could have been avoided if the leaking faucet of the reactor would have been attended during the routine inspection, the Bhopal gas leak could have been avoided if the gas release valve system would have been serviced timely, and the Challenger Space Shuttle accident would not have occurred but for its defective ‘O’ Ring. Instances are countless. It is perhaps rightly said that accidents do not just happen; they are created by men, due to sheer negligence or over-confidence. Even political Crises have occurred due to minor issues such as tactless presence of a police constable and hasty suspension of a bus conductor.
4. Update the existing contingency plans, or prepare such plans if not prepared earlier, and keep them handy. It is worth spending money and manpower to conduct even a research into what may go wrong, and which unlikely events can lead to a crisis, and to plan in advance to deal with such situations.
5. Organise and identify helplines, i.e. institutions, personnel and equipment that may be required in emergency situations; prepare and display charts and posters to enable instant action in respect of anticipated circumstances.
6. Earmark personnel to deal with specified categories of emergencies. Keep their names, telephone nos. and addresses handy. Train them periodically in respect of the tasks assigned to them, such as security, firefighting and salvage operations, first aid, evacuation, disposal of bombs and explosives, maintaining alternate systems, etc.
7. Review the damage control system periodically, and modify them to changing circumstances. Maintain a check-list for periodical review of critical sectors.
8. Educate the concerned persons likely to be affected, including possible victims, make them aware of possible hazards, warn them about “dos” and “don’ts”, and keep a record of such warnings. This may be of immense help to counter allegations of negligence and carelessness.
9. Organise an amiable public Relations System. It must be remembered that any crisis that affect the public in general adorns banner headlines in newspapers and highlighted by the media, who are ever hungry for sensational information. While the crisis managers give topmost priority to damage control exercises and may not be readily available for the Press and the media, the main concern of the press and the media would be how to collect minute to minute information and in case they fail to collect the same from the right persons, they often base their news stories on rumors and speculations, which further aggravates the



situation, and often damages the reputation and good will of the organization. Hence methods must be kept handy to feed correct and up to date information to the Press, the media and the interested public.

10. A control centre must be planned, and made known to the damage control personnel, who can feed hourly information to the centre, and collect instructions. Needless to say that the control-centre must be manned by knowledgeable personnel, if not the decision-taking executives, and must be equipped with the Emergency plans, helpline information and necessary communication gadgets.

11. Onset of an unexpected crisis situation quite often leads to extraordinary tension in the minds of the concerned senior executives and the managers, and maintaining a mental cool happens to be the dire necessity during crisis management. This would not be the time for fault-finding exercise or for apportionment of blames or for taking punitive actions, except those that are necessary to ascertain the causative factors or to ameliorate the situation. Morale of the crisis managers and of the damage control personnel must be maintained at optimum level, during the entire crisis period.

12. Physical well being and health care of the workforce dealing with emergency situations have been often neglected in the past, seriously affecting their efficiency and morale. The sincere and the conscientious amongst such workers have a tendency to forgo even food and rest, leading to hunger, sleeplessness and fatigue, occasionally leading to sickness and disability. An alert management must provide facilities to pre-empt such situations, which would also boost the morale of the workforce. Physical strain of the crisis managers and also of the workers must be kept at the minimum.

13 The time frame available for controlling a crisis situation must be worked out carefully and time bound targets must be specified for the work-force, if and where possible.

14. The priorities and sequences of the various courses of action must be indicated by the Crisis managers, in accordance with the nature and circumstances of a crisis.

15. Keep in mind the problems that may arise during the aftermath, ie., after the crisis. There may be public inquiries and litigations, claims for compensation etc. apart from reconstruction and rehabilitation activities.

16. The possible legal repercussions of crisis situation must not be forgotten. Laws and Regulations in most countries envisage instant reporting to the authorities of certain categories of events and in many cases, statutory provisions require preventive measures, which, if not followed in time, may cost dearly to the organization during the aftermath.

17. Maintain continuous liaison with the authorities, not only those who are associated with the organization, but also those in the helpline and also those who would come into picture as and when certain types of crisis arise. They could be of immense assistance during critical situations.

18. The agony and anxiety of the victims and their worried relatives and friends quite often receive indifferent responses from the crisis managers, which have been persistently highlighted during human catastrophes. Surviving victims, their anxious relatives and friends, have been alleging apathy of authorities even to provide basic information about the injured, the dead, the survivors, the missing persons and about follow up actions proposed. Victims of financial crisis, such as investors in financial institutions that suddenly collapse or go bankrupt, express similar woes, alleging that nobody informs or guides them about

possible courses of action. It is essential that adequate response must be planned to deal with the emotional maelstrom that naturally erupts during such crisis situations. It will be useful to establish a public information centre on occasions of emergencies that affect the people.

19. The basic strategy to deal with a crisis situation is of course to list out actions that should be taken (which would depend upon the nature and circumstances of the problems), to eliminate such courses of actions that are not feasible, and to concentrate on actions that could be taken, without worrying in advance about success or failure. "Learn to be satisfied when the situation is such you can't easily change it", advises Dr. John A Schindler, "Learn to accept adversity. About the worst thing to do is have a problem and to mull it over and over in your mind. If you have a problem, decide what you are going to do about it and then quit thinking about".

20. Luck has no peer. In spite of best of efforts, the inevitable may have its way. We have to console ourselves and feel satisfied that we have tried our best:-

Do thy duty, that is best,  
Leave unto the Lord the rest.

\*

### In lighter vein

### Titbits

#### Stress relief

Doctor: What do you do when you feel stressed?

Patient: I go to the temple.

Doctor: Good. And you pray there?

Patient: No. I mix-up all shoes kept outside and watch people more stressed than me while searching their shoes and watching that my stress goes away. \*

#### Fairy Tale?

Question: Do all fairy tales begin with "Once upon a time ..."?

Answer: No. Many of them begin with "If you elect me, I promise..." \*

#### Beating about the Bush

Wife: I'm going to the store, do you want anything?

Husband: Yes. I want a sense of purpose of life and fulfillment in my soul. I want a union with God to seek the spiritual side of me.

Wife: Be specific. Beer or Vodka? \*

#### (On Board

Passenger: What's your name?

Air hostess: Angela Benz, sir.

Passenger: Lovely name. Do you have any relation with Mercedes Benz?

Air hostess: Yes Sir. Same Price.) \*

#### Grey Hair

Upset with his ageing and deteriorating looks, an old man walked into the best salon of the city. A smart looking guy welcomed him with a broad smile. With lots of hope, he asked, "Do you have something for grey hair?"

"Yes sir," he said, "a lot of respect." \*

○○○

## तीसरा विश्वयुद्ध

— राम उपदेश सिंह  
'विदेह'

हुआ यदि कभी तीसरा युद्ध,  
भयावह ही होंगे परिणाम;  
चलेगी जभी आणविक शक्ति,  
सकेंगे उसकी धार न थाम।  
कहीं पर होगा कायर एक,  
बटन भी होगा उसके पास;  
दबाकर ला देगा विध्वंश,  
स्वयं का भी कर देगा नाश।  
युद्ध की भूमि निकट या दूर,  
अस्थियों के होंगे अवशेष;

जब पहला महायुद्ध आया, आसमां जमीं, भड़के शोले;  
हथियार बने थे; उस रण के, बारूद और बम के गोले।  
जब महायुद्ध दूसरा हुआ, तो बदल गया उसका लेखा;  
अणुबम का जभी प्रहार हुआ, तो प्रलय-दृश्य सबने देखा।  
ईश्वर न करे, इस धरती पर, अब कोई महायुद्ध आये;  
कर दे अपंग जो धरती को, कोई आक्रांत क्रुद्ध आये।  
बहु धर्मों का मतभेद, धरा पर, विश्वयुद्ध ला सकता है;  
पीने के पानी का अभाव भी, जग को पगला सकता है।  
अणुशक्ति जगाकर मानव ने, विध्वंसक कुछ उपयोग किये;  
जिनमें कुछ रहे आत्मघाती, प्रतिघातक बहुत प्रयोग किये।  
प्राचीन काल के युद्धों में, था विजय साहसी वीरों का;  
अब तो अणुबम की महिमा से, रण पर अधिकार अधीरों का।  
मानव में बुद्धि विवेक भरा, शोधों में वह आकण्ठ लगा;  
मानव की अपनी शक्ति बढ़ी, विज्ञान मार्ग से ज्ञान जगा।  
युग चार सभ्यता के जीवन के क्रम में, बार-बार आते;  
सुर-असुर युद्ध चलता निरन्त, दानव पिफर हार-हार जाते।  
मानव के सतत् प्रयत्नों से, कुछ शक्ति जगी कुछ ज्ञान हुए;  
न्यूटन, आइंस्टाइन जैसे, वैज्ञानिक यहाँ महान् हुए।  
समुचित उपयोग शक्ति का तो मानव का मार्ग सरल करता;  
लेकिन विध्वंसक कार्य सदा, जीवन में तीक्ष्ण गरल भरता।

बचे यदि कुछ जीवित-से लोग,  
करुण ही, होंगे उनके भेष।  
आणविक शक्ति एक वरदान,  
अगर संयत होगा उपयोग;  
विश्व का होगा तीव्र विकास,  
सभी आनन्दित होंगे लोग।  
शक्ति के होते रूप अनेक,  
ताप ध्वनि विद्युत तथा प्रकाश;  
रहा यह तो मनुष्य के हाथ,  
ऊर्ध्व में हो, या करे विनाश।

प्रतिफल आगामी युद्धों का, होगा तत्क्षण विनाशकारी;  
जीतें, या हारें, दोनों ही, खो देंगे अपनी खुंखारी।  
यदि हुआ तीसरा युद्ध कभी, होगा न कहीं परास्त, अजयी;  
हाँ, अस्थिरूप होगा वह भी, जो बनने चला विश्व विजयी।  
जब विषम परिस्थिति, विश्वयुद्ध के निकट, हमें ले आयेगी;  
तब प्रलयकारी स्थिति की, संभावना तीव्र हो जायेगी।  
आणविक शक्ति, जो आज भिन्न देशों के पास थिरकती है;  
सम्पूर्ण विश्व को, वह एकाधिक बार, नष्ट कर सकती है।  
रणभूमि मध्य सर्वत्रा वहाँ, अवशेष अस्थियों के होंगे;  
यदि कुछ जीवित-से लोग बचे, हा, करुण भेष उनके होंगे।  
है नहीं रहा अब युद्ध एक, साधन कुछ भी पा जाने का;  
तो युद्ध स्वयं में साध्य एक बन गया प्रलय ले आने का।  
अणुबम प्रहार से बच जाना, है बुद्धिमता का बना कार्य;  
डरपोक एक ही कर सकता, जब सबका सत्यानाश, आर्य!  
अणुबम प्रयोग से बच पाना, है साहस का ही पाश वहाँ;  
मदहोश एक, जब कर सकता, पृथ्वी का सत्यानाश जहाँ।  
संवृद्ध ज्ञान का लक्ष्य आज समुचित है सदुपयोग करना;  
अन्यथा विकल्प एक बचता इस युग का बिना मौत मरना।  
सर्वोत्तम है, सन्मार्ग आज, बापू के सत्य-अहिंसा का;  
है यह 'विदेह' का अर्ज, न हो कोई शिकार अब हिंसा का।



# Naronha's Tips for Bureaucrats

R U Singh  
IAS (Retd.)



## On Tactfulness:

Mr RCVP Naronha of the ICS was the Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh during the tenures of Pt Dwarka Prasad Mishra and Dr Govind Narain Singh as Chief Minister. He wrote his very interesting memoirs in the form of a book under the title of A Tale Told by an Idiot. I could procure the transcripts of some portions of this book, and after going through this gripping account, discovered that Mr Naronha had extensively dwelt on the nuances of public administration.

It would be interesting to give a few snippets from his account. During his interview for the ICS, when asked what apart from the salary attracted him to the ICS, Naronha had answered by putting a counter question, "Apart from the salary, is there any attraction?"

Naronha described his Deputy Commissioner, under whom he took his district training, as "a fat man with a brain but no pressing desire to use it."

During his training from some experienced hands, Naronha got "an insight into all the tricks of a lazy officer." He also gave a clue of how "a Tehsildar on his visit to a village of defaulters for collection of rent and recovery of agriculture loans, would smilingly welcome the big defaulter and engage him in polite conversation. Then he would go into the adjoining room and enact a fake beating of his peon, who feigning as a debtor, screamed for mercy and promised to clear all dues forthwith. This would have the

desired effect on the visiting defaulter, who would escape surreptitiously but would shortly return with cash and pay all his dues!"

A similar story did the rounds in Bihar also, according to which a Dy Collector, Mr Thakur, was a voracious eater of mutton-fish-chicken-eggs. He would visit a village to resolve some land dispute. In a couple of days, the high expenses of feeding him would compel the parties to come to a truce, after which he would return joyfully to report to his boss on his successful tour.

Commenting on the efficacy and popularity of administration, Naronha expressed the view that, "howsoever efficient an officer may be, it does not appeal to the people if he is far too impersonal." He added that "if the administration was impersonal with the people, it was warm and humane with its members."

On CM and CS:

Mr Naronha has expressed his forthright views on the mutuality of the relationship between the CS and CM. He wrote, "The post of Chief Secretary is one that calls for, above all things, a personal equation with the Chief Minister. The two have to work as parts of one whole, like the upper and lower jaws, as it were. The Chief Secretary must be able to think with the Chief Minister's mind, so that he can act on his own, when the need arose, in the full assurance that he is acting in accord with the line of thought of his principal. The Chief Minister on his part has to have the most

complete confidence in the Chief Secretary. None of this is possible unless they are both on the same wavelength. It follows, therefore, that the Chief Minister must be

free to choose his Chief Secretary without the niggling questions of seniority vitiating the issue."

A snippet from the past:

R Venkataraman, as Industries Minister in pre-1967 Madras State, had suggested that IAS officers in the state be streamed into 3 or 5 categories, as follows:

1. Finance, Industries, Power, Labour
2. Agriculture, Irrigation, Cooperatives
3. Education, Health, Women & Children
4. Police, Prisons, Correctional administration
5. Personnel, Training, Pensioners

This was akin to the French administrative system. But, Bhakthavatsalam as CM was not in favour.



A rare photograph said to be of Gandhiji and Dalai Lama

## Bureaucracy

Avay Shukla  
IAS (Retd.)

When I joined the IAS in the 1970s, the service commanded genuine respect and admiration, and I remember proudly wearing my blazer with the IAS crest on social occasions. Today, things have come to such a pass that one goes to great lengths at dinners and parties to conceal the fact that one was in the IAS. The service is no longer respected (feared, yes, regrettably): it has become tainted with politicisation, self-serving opportunism, rent-seeking; it is reviled for having jumped into bed with the politician and is therefore held in the same contempt that Indians generally harbour for all politicians. After all, as the saying goes, if you lie down with dogs you will get up with fleas. Is this reputation deserved? I really can't tell, there are many fine, upright officers in the service.

We, as a service, have come a long way - and fallen a great distance - since the days of our ICS precursors. The IAS would have disappeared into the mists of time after 1947; such was the near unanimous demand then for abolishing this all-India service that had served the British so well. It was only the enlightened obstinacy of Sardar Patel that gave it a new lease of life. He had the prescience to realise that if the country was to exist as one entity in those turbulent times, an all-India service was essential - the common thread that tied the states to the union. And so the ICS survived as the IAS, the progeny of the former but with a DNA that has mutated beyond recognition.

The hankering for posts and re-employment has destroyed the moral fibre of the service, its independence of thought and action, its probity and sense of fairness. Worst of all, the esprit de corps that binds any organisation together has all but disappeared, as the ongoing backstabbing and leg-pulling in Shimla demonstrates. One can understand the politician trying to fracture the service into manageable parts, but our own acquiescence to this is less comprehensible. It's every officer for himself and the devil take the hindmost.

Looking back, one can see that the rot set in in Himachal in the mid 1990s. Before that, chief secretaries were appointed by seniority, not by today's norm of "acceptability and suitability." Those who support this concept argue that the CS must be "acceptable" to, and "suit", the Chief Minister's style and way of thinking. This is nonsense. The Chief Secretary is not a piece of footwear that must match the size and contours of the Chief Minister's feet: he is a government servant who has sworn his fealty to the Constitution and not to a party manifesto or an individual. Therefore, the only criterion for selection of a CS should be seniority, subject only to a vigilance clearance. Himachal was one of the few states to follow this rule, till the supersession of an outstanding officer, Mrs CP Sujaya in the 1990s, perhaps because she was nobody's fool. This has had two unfortunate effects:



one, the politician has realised that he can get away with this version of "cronyism", and the IAS fraternity has realised that there is now scope for jumping the queue.

This has opened the floodgates for all manner of unscrupulous manoeuvrings, scheming and propitiation of the politician. It has been downhill all the way for the service since then.

If you sup with the devil at his table, you can hardly criticise the food he dishes out: you must not only eat it, but must also praise it. An officer who is elevated before his turn on considerations other than merit is compromised for the rest of his career. He can never thereafter take a stand against a Chief Minister, no matter how wrong the latter may be. He loses the respect of both his peers and the politician, and becomes essentially ineffective. He can no longer provide the leadership required in any organisation. And yet, we continue to hanker after the post, unwilling to wait for our legitimate turn, using every means, fair or foul, to pull down our "competitors", kow-towing to politicians in order to curry favour for our cause.

According to all reports, this is what is happening in Shimla these days, notwithstanding that there should be no confusion about the matter at all.

I have always advised my younger colleagues to read one book, if they wish to

learn what the ethos of the IAS used to be - and should be. It is titled, "A tale told by an idiot," and is the autobiography of RP Noronha, an ICS officer who retired as the Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh in 1968. As a young Collector of a district, he was once struggling to control a major communal riot when the Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru himself, arrived at the spot to take stock of the situation. At one point, Nehru insisted, against Noronha's advice, that he wished to go into the mob to talk to them. He refused to heed the young Collector's pleas that it was too dangerous. Finally, Noronha drew a line on the road and told Nehru that if he stepped across that line, he would be arrested. Nehru did not cross that line: he went to the Circuit House, met the leaders of the communities there and the rioting subsided. An instance, according to me, where a decisive civil servant confronted a wise political leader and both emerged victorious! Noronha lived up to this promise. On his retirement as Chief Secretary, when he was leaving the Secretariat for the last time, the then Chief Minister met him and offered him an important post. Noronha got onto his motorcycle (he had already returned his official car), and said, "Thanks but no" to the Chief Minister, revved his bike and drove off.

It is this set of values, and a sense of pride, which made the steel frame.

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(The writer is a former Additional Chief Secretary to HP Government who retired in 2010. The views expressed are his personal)

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Musings

# Glorious BihaR

R. U. Singh  
IAS-1961



My batch of eight had come to Bihar in 1962, after undergoing one year's training at the National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, As such, I have been ipso facto a witness to the changing administrative, social and political scenario that, in the public psyche, has consistently gone on a downslide. And, as a small cog in the large machine, I cannot escape responsibility for it, in whatsoever small measure it may be.

There are reasons to mark the decade of 1950s as its golden era of the steel frame in Bihar. The Paul Appleby Committee which had visited India to have a look into the Public Administrative in India had found Bihar as the best administered State. The credit for this should be go to Dr SK Sinha as CM, Dr AN Sinha as Dy CM and FM, and to Shri LP Singh, ICS as CS.

In effect, the totality of the output expressed in form of the efficacy of System together with the efficiency of Administrator operating that system, determines the quality of administration. In such an interplay of factors, the System and its Operating hand complement each other. In this backdrop, the administrative scenario in the later decades may be marked successively as Silver, Bronze, Iron and Morass in relation to the quality of the system and procedure. In the golden decade, even a mediocre at the helm of the system could deliver. But now, with the rusted System, only an outstanding officer can make the worn-out steel-frame deliver. The emphasis has naturally shifted from the System to the Individual who has to make up for its deficiencies. If the system still delivers against odds, it is merely because of the presence of bureaucrats of extraordinary merit.

It is not without reason that Bihar Keshri Dr Shri Krishna Sinha and Bihar Vibhuti Dr Anugrah Narayan Sinha are remembered as visionaries and the makers of Modern Bihar. It was during that decade that installations like the Heavy Engineering Corporation at Ranchi, Bokaro Steel Plant at Bokaro, the Thermal Power Plants at Patratu and Barauni, the Fertiliser Factories at Sindri and Barauni, and BIT at Mesra were set up. Besides, the Tata industries at Jamshedpur, Rohtas Industries at Dalmianagar, Jute Mills at Katihar and the Sugar factories at various places in Bihar functioned well, employing a sizable workforce. As of now, most of the above, except the Tata Industries and the power plants, have either vanished or become sick.

Times have changed and so have the values and perceptions. Now, the challenges before the bureaucrats are greater than ever before, but ingrained as a part of them are also the opportunities. Indeed, it is now a challenge to the bureaucracy at all levels to gird up its loins and come equal to the demands of the people on the administration. The guiding light should be the Gandhian thought which stipulates that every action should weigh the extent to which it is going to wipe the tears of the last man. The bureaucrats are like the birds of passage in the lasting administrative structure. We cannot derive solace merely by claiming that our forefathers possessed Stallions, which have now vanished but, all the same, we are left with their Saddles and Reins.

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# Fight the Dreaded Migraine

Anshumala 

All my life, I have had severe migraine. I need not mention that I tried so many different types of medications but without any results. I had, therefore, to come to grips with my enemy in my own way.

1. **Acceptance** - Accept yourself with migraine. We are who we are with migraine.

I can score 90 in an event of exam or work or pleasure whatever counts, without migraine and 60 with migraine. I consider myself a 70 - something scorer. Make goals and plan of your life in accord with this.

2. **Ambition** - We need to lower our ambition. This does not mean having no ambition or no purpose in life, in fact, that will worsen the migraine attacks. Lower the level of ambitions and fuel it step by step.

3. **Face it with certainty** - There is no escape from situations where you have to perform with migraine. Migraine affects spontaneity. If you are well prepared and have practiced well, it will cover up the momentary, non-spontaneity. This means extra work, extra study during non-migraines days, and a day-off due in vacation plan.

4. **Alertness-level** - Make your alertness level to basics. If we are over cautious or over alert, it stiffens our muscles only to aggravate the migraine.

5. **Breathing** - Try breathing exercise and yoga. You will be surprised to know that many a times we do not breathe in a correct manner like when we breathe in our stomach should be filled out with air.

6. **Surrounding** - It is important to bring awareness of migraine to your surroundings. Share articles about migraine to your family, friends, colleagues and supervisors even at workplace. Your absence due to migraine will be questioned at workplace in one way or the other. The constructive response from the surrounding will help putting up a matching fight with migraine.

7. **Conditioning** - Be aware of change in the atmospheric temperature. Do not expose yourself frequently from air-conditioned place to outside weather. Your body is not able to condition itself in such circumstances and it aggravates the migraine.

8. **Follow** - Take all the precautions recommended by your doctor, positively.

9. **Diary** - Keep a diary with your minute daily details of time, type and duration for sleep, food, travel, stress or menstrual cycle for minimum six months to one year.. You will know what needs to be avoided and what to be accepted for what duration. This will be your own personal recommendation for yourself!

10. **Other body problems** - Frequency of migraine is increased when there is some other problem faced by the body. If there is no change otherwise and still, frequency of migraine has increased, we need to look for the real cause. My wisdom tooth was growing in reverse direction to the root of the adjacent tooth in one of the occasions.

Migraine may perhaps, rule our life but definitely cannot ruin it. It's better to bend than break or even better to blend than bend.

*[The author is the youngest daughter of GS Prasad, IAS (1986)]*



## This and That

A K Srivastava  
IAS (1966-MP)



A paunch has a life and personality of its own. It is a mistake to think that the paunch is subsumed in the owner. PG Wodehouse has put it in his inimitable manner. He describes a scene where a paunch comes round the corner and is followed, in due course, by its owner, Beach the butler.

John Dryden talks about a fellow who was poor but had a rich paunch.

With Wodehouse and Dryden on my side, I can make bold to say that Shakespeare missed a trick when he glossed over the distinction between the paunch and its owner. In Henry IV he says, "Zounds, ye fat paunch, and ye call me a coward, by the Lord, I'll stab thee."

The duality between the paunch and its owner can be experienced in the airport security queues. You are pushed from behind. You look back and find that the gentleman behind you is blissfully unaware of how much his paunch is ahead of him. He thought that he was maintaining a proper distance. You request him to kindly step back and he does so graciously, a bit abashed. You can see that he is deciding (perhaps for the nth time) to do something to tame his recalcitrant paunch.

The queues in government hospitals, though, are red in tooth and claw, with honest-to-goodness pushing and jostling.

From paunch to belly: I think it was Bennet Cerf who said that a belly laugh is one of the loveliest sounds in the world.

In the context of the government hospital queues, there was a study of the London Underground which found that if the crowding was beyond a point, all the good manners and courtesy, stiff lip et al, went out of the window.

This is the kind of double bind which Joseph Heller immortalised in his Catch 22. Good manners are absent where they are most needed. Hospital queues have many old, debilitated and sick people and should be the last place for rough work. Requirements for job demand experience, but how do you get experience unless you first get a job?

Of course the classic dilemma in Heller's novel is that an air force officer wants to leave, on the ground of insanity. The request is turned down on the basis that if he wants to leave, he cannot be insane. That he wants to leave is considered to be a sure sign of sanity.

Double binds can cause discomfiture. You think that someone you know is judgemental. But you hesitate a hundred times before you share this opinion with anyone. Because the moment you do so, you are yourself being judgemental.

Flattery throws up similar problems. Shakespeare has Brutus saying this of Caesar: "But when I tell him he hates flatterers, He says he does, being the most flattered."

Let us turn to a skill which does not involve any dilemma. One of the best ways to argue is to turn the opponent's argument on its head. You may not win the argument but you will at least get points for wit and presence of mind. There was a case where a man convicted of killing his parents pleaded for mercy on the ground that he was an orphan!

At one stage in my career I used to hear Sales Tax revisions. A penalty was slapped on a trader on the ground that he had filed a false return. In revision, his argument was that the return was so obviously and patently wrong that he could not have hoped to deceive anyone, and therefore there was no intent to defraud. I had to scratch my head before deciding this one.

The supreme example, not surprisingly, is from Wodehouse. In one of his novels there is an argument between a Russian and an Englishman about the respective merits of Shakespeare and Wodehouse. The Russian says dismissively of The Bard, "Bah, he is nothing but a string of quotations."

I have talked about good manners being thrown out of the window. Recently, I came across an ugly word, 'defenestration' which means throwing someone or something out of the window. It was used for the sacking of Director, FBI by Donald Trump. This reminded me of an old story. When Lyndon B Johnson became President,

he retained Hoover as FBI chief, although he (LBJ) used to be very critical of him. When asked why, he replied that it is better to have him inside the tent, peeing outside than having him outside, peeing in.

In fact, LBJ had a talent for turn of phrase, usually on the risqueier side. After his wedding, he announced that he and Lady Bird had committed matrimony.

Disclaimer: I do have a paunch and I am the only one who thinks it is small.

\*

#### Brain teasing Paraprosookians

- a. Where there is a will, I want to be in it.
- b. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright - until you hear them.
- c. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
- d. War does not determine who is right - only who is left.
- e. Knowledge is knowing, a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
- f. To steal ideas from one person is Plagiarism. To steal from many is Research.
- g. I put in "Doctor" where it asked "In case of emergency, notify."
- h. I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.
- i. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target,
- j. You're never too old to learn something stupid. \*

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## Books An Excerpt from 'The Caravan of My Life' The Autobiography of Chandrashekhar

R. U. Singh  
IAS-1961



Acharya Narendra Deo had said to me, "Chandrashekhar, give up research work and come out for nation-building tasks."

That one sentence of Acharyaji changed the course of my life for all times to come. I kept walking on and on in search of my elusive destination, with ambitions in my heart to build the country. In the process, I passed through many perilous times and faced many pitfalls; on some occasions, the destination appeared to be at hand, but I had again the same dilemma, the same jealousy and the same ill-will to confront! Efforts to avoid controversies brought me to a life full of complications.

I saw the country from close quarters and conceived its problems. I had chances to see and test people, perched on high pedestals. I also came in contact with the factotums in the corridors of power. Maybe even for a short time, I had also an experience at the pinnacle. I got acquainted with the feelings of the common man, and it enhanced my faith in the calibre of our country and the power of our people.

Endeavouring as an individual, I did whatever was possible for me to do. I forewarned in time the powers-that-be about the impending dangers staring at our countrymen but their responses were mostly contrary to my expectations. Many a time my voice of counsel was taken as a challenge and, instead of taking it in a good spirit, efforts were made to counter it by way of a sort of confrontation with me. But my attempt has always been to sound them in time about the possible imminent dangers.

In spite of all efforts, the phase through which we are passing, points to a dark future but the silver lining is that our people have displayed their collective power at every such crossroad in our history. The ray of light at the end of the tunnel, therefore, never goes off the sight. The people of India have had a vision of their own and keeping that in view, they have never hesitated in taking steps for the making of a better future. I derive strength from the memories of all such initiatives of our people.

Perhaps in 1955, I had noted in my diary: "I could not confine myself within the bounds of the family, nor could I make a new family. The traditional sources of love dried up, and I kept wandering in the search of new fountains."

Even today my mental chemistry remains the same. A pious wish lurks in my mind and heart that we could do something in the direction of keeping this great family of India in good order - ever pulsating and progressing!

Such has been the caravan of my life, which has been running incessantly, as a stream defying obstacles, in the pursuit of its ultimate destination.

- Chandrashekhar

[पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री, श्री चन्द्रशेखर की सन् 2002 में प्रकाशित आत्मकथा, 'जिन्दगी का कारवाँ' का मैंने उनके ही अनुरोध पर अंग्रेजी में अनुवाद किया था। उसी का एक मार्मिक सारांश ऊपर उद्धरित है - राम उपदेश सिंह]

**Book Review****THE STEEL FRAME: A HISTORY OF THE IAS**

Authored by Deepak Gupta, IAS (1974)

Published by: Roli Books, New Delhi (2019) [1 695, pages 354]

Anil K. Upadhyay  
IAS (Retd.)

When a retired IAS officer writes a book, we generally expect it to be an anecdotal memoir of his glorious professional career. Deepak Gupta, a retired IAS officer of the 1974 batch of Bihar/Jharkhand cadre who, after serving in the state government in key assignments, rose up to the highest level of secretary to the government of India, and post-retirement held the prestigious post of Chairman, Union Public Service Commission, has all the credentials to bestow upon us a 'When I was..' type of tome. Such books are viewed with a degree of scepticism whether the officer really had all the wisdom and courage while in service which he displayed in his post-retirement memoir. Deepak has avoided that temptation, and has instead written a well-researched, comprehensive history of the civil services, starting from the nascent days of the East India Company transitioning itself from trader to ruler, to the direct takeover by the British Crown in 1858, to the Independence in 1947 when there were conflicting views among the top leaders whether the Indian Civil Service (ICS), which was the administrative arm of the British empire, can serve the people of India under a nationalist government, to its retention, albeit under a different nomenclature - the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) - to its current image problem and challenges.

Is there is any relevance of a history of the IAS when there are questions about the relevance of the service itself? The criticisms are well known: The civil servants are risk averse to the extreme, reluctant to take

responsibility for a decision which may turn out to be controversial; they are arrogant, self-seekers, cosying up to the politicians for personal advancement; they lack the spirit of public service; they lack any domain expertise; they have iron-clad security of service and almost assured promotion based on number of years of service; and it is impossible to weed out the dead wood or the corrupt. Deepak does not shy away from addressing each of these issues. He also acknowledges that the default assumption of the ICS, and its successor IAS, being incorruptible, fair, just and upright has been dented a great deal in public perception. Yet he argues convincingly that the answer does not lie in throwing the baby with the bathwater; nay, you may throw 'a baby or two', but not the bathtub itself. The IAS is as relevant today as it was at the turn of Independence when Sardar Patel underlined the need for an efficient All India Service for the unity of the country.

It is true that a good number of corrupt civil servants are not punished, but even more disconcerting is its converse of some top civil servants of unimpeachable integrity getting entangled in criminal investigation and trial, in some cases well after their retirement for administrative decisions taken in good faith. Deepak is forthright in discussing the flaws in the conviction of HC Gupta, retired coal secretary, widely admired for his honesty and simple living. Even in the charge sheet or the conviction order there is no imputation of his having made any personal gain. Such aberrations cause a



great damage to the morale of the service. One reason for this distortion is the introduction of section 13(1)(d)(iii) in the Prevention of Corruption Act which widened the definition of 'Criminal misconduct' even when there was no mens rea or quid pro quo. Doing away with this provision would remedy it, but it is important that all the stakeholders - the Disciplinary Authority, investigating agencies and courts - work towards punishing the guilty expeditiously and protect the honest officers who acted in a bona fide manner.

Deepak is optimistic that the cracks in the Steel Frame are not beyond repair. While making a larger point that the kind of the civil service the country gets would depend a great deal upon the kind of political leadership, he gives many suggestions for improving the quality of initial recruits, their training, especially their district training, and their refresher trainings, inculcating right values, building esprit de corps, specialisation etc. He has devoted a whole chapter to the scheme of (recruitment) examination, informed by his stint as the Chairman UPSC. It is self-evident that increasing the age limit, number of attempts, and lowering the threshold for English comprehension and analytical skills, or dispensing with them altogether, in the name of democratisation and the presumed handicap of rural students, compromises with the quality of intake. Between a fresh recruit at the age of 23-24 and another in the mid-30s who is married with children, and who has come after repeated attempts and has held a variety of jobs, there is a vast difference in motivation and idealism. It is difficult to build a sense of camaraderie or belonging to a service with some common ethos in such a disparate group. There is no dearth of expert committees' reports, but all

proposals for reforms reach a dead-end at the political level. One hopes that some day an enlightened and bold political leadership would put a stop to politicisation of the recruitment for the top civil service and reverse the damage that pandering to the lowest common denominator has already done.

When Deepak talks about the role, life and experiences of a 'district officer', and character and traditions of the ICS and IAS, in two separate chapters, he is dispassionate and clinical, and avoids the kind of romanticising one sees in Philip Mason's 'The Men Who Ruled India'. But since he has been a part of it in the recent past, it is very credible and relatable. This would be a useful primer to the new entrants who should have some sense of the great tradition they belong to, the kind of opportunities they would get to serve the people and make a difference. It is such sense of expectations and belonging to a great tradition that gives nobility of character to a civil servant.

But the best part of the book are the first three chapters dealing with the historical evolution of the service starting from the East India Company days up to the Independence and the transition from the ICS to IAS. This evolution is parallel to and, to some extent, converges with the evolution of the legal-constitutional processes initiated by the British government for allowing more Indian representation in governance. By the Second World War there were inexorable historical processes leading up to the Independence. ICS was the backbone of the imperial government. This premier service (and its successor IAS) was the only institution the government had at its disposal to deal with the communal carnage, bloodshed and mass migrations across borders sweeping the country.

The role of the civil service has been recognised in the nation-building during integration of the princely states, and as the instrument to give effect to the dreams of the national leaders in planned economic development, and in policy formulation and implementation of important national programmes. The enormous administrative exercises carried by the civil services, such as in natural disasters, conduct of elections, decennial census, management of mass congregations such as Mahakumbh, evoke wonder in any outside observer. The massive evacuation of people by Odisha Government before Cyclone Fani, which resulted in negligible casualties, has earned universal praise. One can contrast this from the ghastly aftermath of the recent elections in Indonesia where more than 300 officials have died of fatigue-related illnesses after polls and counting of votes, and it would take more than a month after the counting to announce

the results. There is a need to mend the Steel Frame, make it stronger and effective, but not to scrap it for some imaginary alternative no one has clearly thought through.

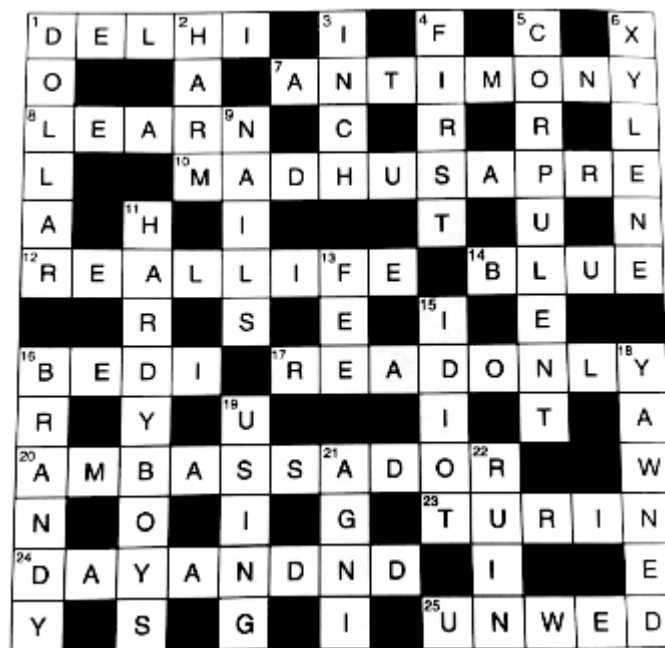
Deepak Gupta has written a scholarly book, which is divided into nine chapters and has 72 pages of Notes, Bibliography and Index, yet it is lucid and written with fluency. It is a timely book that should appeal to the academics, civil servants, lay readers and anyone interested in having some insight into an important institution of the country. The long bibliography will be useful for any person interested in delving deeper and researching further on the subject.

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(Anil K Upadhyay is a retired Bihar cadre IAS officer of 1975 batch, who retired as Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India and thereafter worked as a Membe of the Central Administrative Tribunal till April 2018.)



Answer to crossword puzzle published in January-March 2019 Issue of Prayaas



## Anecdotes

### Word Play

-Khushwant Singh

Once I was travelling from Mumbai to Singapore. A woman sitting in the next seat continued looking at me. I understand that the lady had never seen a Sardar before. Midway in the flight when tea and snacks were served, I struck a conversation with the lady. Her name was Margarita and she belonged to Spain.

During the conversation, she asked, "What are you?"

I replied, "I am Sikh."

The young lady said, "I am sorry. Hope you get well soon."

To this I replied, "No dear. I am not sick as that of the body. I am Sikh as of religion."

The lady was very pleased and shook hands with me and said, "It is nice meeting you. I am also sick of religion." \*



### Pearls of Wisdom

- Ratan Tata

Don't just have career or academic goals. Set goals to give you a balanced, successful life. Balanced means ensuring, your health, relationships, mental peace are all in good order. There is no point in getting a promotion on the day of your breakup. There is no point in driving a car if your back hurts. Shopping is not enjoyable if your mind is full of tensions. Don't take life seriously. Life is not meant to be taken seriously, as we are really temporary here. We are like a prepaid card with limited validity. If we are lucky, we may last another 50 years. And 50 years is just 2500 weekends. Do we really need to get so worked up? ... It's OK. Bunk few classes, score low in couple of papers, take leave from work, fall in love, fight a little with your spouse ... It's OK ... We are people, not programmed devices! "Don't be serious, enjoy Life as it comes." \*\*



### Efficiency in Office, Peace at Home

- RU Singh

This is based on a hearsay related to Shri Triveni Prasad Singh, ICS of 1941 batch, who was popularly known as junior TP. He served as a very efficient Chief Secretary of Bihar during the regime of the redoubtable KB Sahay as Chief Minister whose knowledge and insight could be matched with that of any ICS officer. In many cases, the CM disagreed with and overruled the CS, but noted in the confidential remarks that he was an asset of Bihar!

It is said that after office hours, some officers used to gather in the Chief Secretary's chamber just to review the works done during the day and to exchange views. In one such meeting, an officer said, "Sir, when we go to Delhi, we find that there are smart lady stenographers to take dictations from officers, As against that, there are old fogies put in place here in the secretariat to take notes."

At this, the Chief Secretary thought over the matter and then slowly said, "You see, you have to choose between efficiency in office and peace at home."

And the matter ended on this note. \*\*\*



## लोकतंत्र का पताका

Jiya Lal Arya

IAS-1969



चुरामनपुर ग्राम अमेठी क्षेत्र का बहुचर्चित ग्राम है। कहा जाता है कि चुड़ामणि तिवारी नाम के किसी व्यक्ति ने प्रथमवार यहां पर तालाब किनारे डेरा डाला था। उन्हीं के नाम पर यह अपभ्रंसित ग्राम अब चुरामनपुर कहलाता है। चुड़ामणि ने शनैः शनैः अपने गांव का विस्तार किया। उन दिनों जनसंख्या छितराई हुई थी। जमीन की भरमार थी। चुड़ामणि ने जिस जमीन पर मेड़ बंधवा दिया या हल चलवा दिया, वह उन्हीं की हो गई। अपना पैर जम गया तब अपने पैत्रिक गांव गोंडा से अपने सगे सम्बन्धियों को भी बुलाकर बसा दिया इस प्रकार जाति बल और बाहुबल बढ़ गया। परन्तु शिक्षा प्रसार नगण्य ही रहा। स्वाधीनता मिलने के पश्चात् चुरामनपुर ग्राम पंचायत बना दिया गया जिसमें आस-पास के दस छोटे टोलों-गावों को भी मिला दिया गया। इस पंचायत का प्रधान पद तिवारी परिवार के कब्जे में ही रहा। पंचायत के किसी व्यक्ति का साहस नहीं था जो उनके विरोध में चुनाव लड़े। एकछत्र राज्य चलता रहा तिवारी परिवार का।

समय ने करवट ली। गांव में पहले प्रायमरी पाठशाला खुली, फिर मिडिल स्कूल और अब तो वहाँ इन्टर कॉलेज भी फल-फूल रहा है। जनसंख्या बढ़ी। पढ़ने वाले विद्यार्थियों की संख्या बढ़ी। दिमागी कसरत शुरू हो गई। गत चुनाव में पिछड़े वर्ग के एक पढ़े-लिखे नवयुवक ने प्रधानी का पर्चा भर दिया। पूरी पंचायत में तहलका मच गया। चान्दो बाबू के विरुद्ध चुनाव, वह भी यादव के छोकड़े द्वारा। जल्द ही मारा जायगा या तो नाम वापस लेना पड़ेगा। थाना पुलिस सब चान्दो बाबू की ही तो है। चुड़ामणि के समय से ही 'चान्दो' टायटिल उस परिवार की बपौती बन गई। उस परिवार के वरिष्ठ सदस्य को लोग चान्दो बाबू ही कहते, जैसे अमेठी के राजा को राजा। गद्दी पर कोई हो वह राजा ही कहलाता है। चान्दो बाबू ने रामभरोसे यादव को कोठी पर बुलवाया और कहा, "भरोसे हमें खुशी है कि तुम हाई स्कूल पास हो गये हो। इससे गांव का नाम हुआ। अच्छा होगा कोई सरकारी नौकरी कर लो। गांव से बाहर रहोगे तो सुखी रहोगे। पंचायत चुनाव में नाहक नाम घुसेड़ दिये हो। मेरे सामने तुम्हारा प्रधानी पद के लिए खड़े होने की औकात नहीं है। चुनाव में जान की बाजी भी लगानी पड़ सकती है। नाम वापस लेकर गांव छोड़ दो। तुम्हारे लिए यही अच्छा होगा।"

"बाबू साहब, मेरा जन्म इसी गांव में हुआ। पले-बढे और आप की कृपा से हाई स्कूल पास कर लिए। अब हम अपना गांव घर छोड़ के कहां जायें। आप ही बता दें।" रामभरोसे यादव ने बिना किसी घबड़ाहट के विनय किया।

"साला, यादव का बच्चा मेरे सामने बोलता है, पूछता है कि कहां जाए, हमी बताएं। तेरे बाप-दादा की कभी हिम्मत नहीं हुई मेरे सामने खड़ा होने की और तुम..... ..। अच्छा होगा या तो चुनाव से नाम वापस ले लो या गांव छोड़कर भाग जाओ।" अपने आदमी की ओर इशारा करते हुए कहा, "भगाओ इसे यहां से ओर अधिक तीन-पांच करे तो चूतर पर लगाओ चार डंडा। दिमाग ठिकाने लग जाएगा।"

रामभरोसे के घर पहुंचने के पहले ही चान्दो बाबू की चेतावनी उसके घर पहुंच गई। उसके पिता ने कहा, "बेटा हमलोगों को इसी ग्राम में रहना है। चुनाव से हट जा। तुम्हे नहीं पता, ये जाति बड़ी जालिम होती है।"



“मैं आपलोगों को किसी परेशानी में नहीं डालना चाहता। पंचायत के चुनाव में कोई भी खड़ा हो सकता है। प्रजातंत्र है तो हम जैसे प्रजा तंत्र कैसे मिलेगा, जब चुनाव नहीं लड़ेंगे तो गांव वालों को एकता के सूत्र में बंधने का अवसर दिया है सरकार ने। पूरा गांव जिस दिन एक हो जायगा उस दिन से चान्दो बाबू का शोषण समाप्त हो जाएगा।” वह अपने परिवार वालों को समझा ही रहा था कि एक-एक करके गांव के नवयुवक, मजदुर, ओर स्कूली छात्र रामभरोसे के दरवाजे पर एकत्र हो गये। बुजुर्ग टाइप के लोग अपने घरों में दुबके रहे।

एक नवयुवक ने कहा, ‘रामभरोसे भइया, ठीक कह रहे। तिवारी लोगो की गाली, मारपीट सहते पीढ़िया बीत गई। हमारे मास्टर साहब भी कहते हैं कि संविधान में सबको समान अधिकार दिया गया है।’

“चुप रहो तुमलोग। दो अक्षर पढ़ लिए तो आ गये हमको पढ़ाने। बूढ़ा बैल क्या सीखेगा। जाओ तुम लोग अपने-अपने घर जाओ।” रामभरोसे के बाप ने कहा।

एक नवयुवक ने कहा, “जाते हैं बावा, परन्तु हमलोगों का ऐलान है कि भइया रामभरोसे, के साथ गांव के हम सभी नवजवान एकजुट हैं। महात्मा गांधी ने पूरे देश के लोगों को एक किया। नतीजा, अंग्रेजों को हमारा देश छोड़ना पड़ा। अब हमलोग स्वतंत्र हैं। रामभरोसे भइया ठीक कहते हैं कि चान्दो बाबू अंग्रेजों से अधिक सामर्थ्यावान नहीं हैं”

राम भरोसे के बूढ़े बाप ने समझाया, “बेटा, तुमको हमलोगों ने मजदूरी करके पढ़ाया लिखाया। यहां से बाहर जाकर कुछ काम करो। चार पैसा कमाओगे तो हमारा बुढ़ापा आराम से बीत जाएगा।”

रामभरोसे के घर की हर खबर चान्दो बाबू को मिलती रही। चान्दो बाबू ने रामभरोसे और गांव के नवजवानों के मन को पढ़ लिया ओर चुनाव जीतने की दूसरी तरकीब पर दिमाग लगाया। चुनाव अधिकारी के घर पर एक सेर घी और पांच सौ रूपया भेजवा दिया। दूसरे दिन पर्चा की जांच हुई और रामभरोसे का पर्चा त्रुटिपूर्ण कर दिया चुनाव अधिकारी ने। चान्दो बाबू बिना चुनाव लड़े ही जीत गये।

रामभरोसे ऐसी चाल से आहत और हतोत्साहित नहीं हुआ। उसने संकल्प लिया कि चाल का जवाब चाल से दिया जाय तभी कानून मदद कर सकेगा। कानून तो माध्यम है जो कर्ता की मदद करता है। चान्दो बाबू धनबल और छलबल से कानून बल खरीदते हैं। हमें ज्ञान बल का सहारा लेना होगा। शासन के निकट जाना होगा। धन की आत्मनिर्भरता प्राप्त करनी होगी क्योंकि स्कूल में पढ़ाया गया कि ‘सर्वे गुणाः कांचनमाश्रयंते।’ साथ ही ‘विद्या बिन्धुजनों विदेश गमने’ का मन्त्र पढ़ते हुए रामभरोसे लखनऊ चला गया। वहां पर साचिवालय में क्लर्क हो गया। रात्रि में पढ़ाई और, दिन में सरकार का काम। इन्टरमीडिएट किया और समय गुजरते बी०ए० की डिग्री प्राप्त कर ली। पंचायत के चुनाव का पांच साल बीत गया। चुनाव की घोषणा हुई चुरामनपुर पंचायत के प्रधान पद को महिला के लिए सुरक्षित कर दिया चुनाव आयोग ने। पंचायत चुनाव में सरकार ने महिलाओं के लिए पचास प्रतिशत पद आरक्षित कर दिए थे।

रामभरोसे हर माह दो-तीन बार गांव आता था। गांव के नवयुवकों को शिक्षार्जन के लिए प्रोत्साहित करता। गांव के बुजुर्गों को समझाता कि लड़कों के साथ लड़कियों को भी शिक्षा दिलाएं। वह अपना उदाहरण देता कि मेरे मां-बाप नहीं पढ़ाये होते तो इतना ज्ञान, ऐसा पद, और गरीबी से मुक्ति कैसे मिलती। वह गांव के लड़कों का रोल मॉडल बन गया।

राज्य चुनाव आयोग ने पंचायती पदों के चुनाव की घोषणा कर दी। चान्दो बाबू ने अपनी परदानसीन बहू के नाम मशविरा पर्चा भराया। घर में राय-मसबिरा किया कि सरकार गावों के विकास के नाम पर लाखों रूपये का आवंटन देती है। बहू प्रधान रहेगी तो विकास

निधि घर में ही रहेगी। गत पांच वर्षों में चान्दो ने कागजी कार्रवाई करके विकास निधि का बन्दरवाट कर लिया था। ग्राम प्रचायत सचिव, ग्राम विकास अधिकारी और ग्राम पंचायत प्रधान की जेबें गरम हुईं। पिछड़े और अनपढ़ गांव के लोग चान्दो बाबू के आतंक से मुंह खोलने का साहस कहाँ से लाते। परन्तु रामभरोसे को देखकर हर अनपढ़ परिवार के लोग नई पौध को स्कूल भेजने लगे थे। विद्या की लौ हर घर में टिमटिमाने लगी थी।

पंचम शुकुल की बहू ने अपने माइके में पढ़ना-लिखना सीख लिया था। यह बात रामभरोसे को ज्ञात थी। उसने पंचम शुकुल को तैयार किया और कहा कि अपनी बहू को प्रधानी का चुनाव लड़ाओ। जो भी खर्चा होगा उसका प्रबन्ध मेरे जिम्मे। बड़ी हीला-हवाला के बाद पंचम की बहू सुरसती ने प्रधानी का पर्चा भद दिया। इसकी जानकारी मिलते ही चान्दो बाबू का गुस्सा सातवें आसमान पर। “हमारी ही जाति की बहू अब हमारी बहू के विरुद्ध चुनाव में मुकाबला करेगी। यह सब उस रामभरोसे की करतूत है। साला लखनऊ में रहकर सारा खुराफात कर रहा है।”

चान्दो बाबू ने पंचम शुकुल को बुलवाया और कहा कि तुमने अपनी बहू को मेरी बहू के विरुद्ध चुनाव में खड़ा किया है। तुम्हारे परिवार को भुखमरी के गांव से लाकर यहां बसाया था इसीलिए। अपनी बहू का पर्चा वापस लो अन्यथा..।” “अन्यथा क्या? आप हमारे बुजुर्ग हैं। आपकी इज्जत करते हैं। हमारी बहू ने सब सोच समझकर पर्चा भरा है। इस बार मेरी बहू को प्रधान बना दीजिए। हुकुम तो आपका ही चलेगा। प्रधान का पद आप की कोठी में रहे। या हमारे घर में, आपके लिए तो सब बराबर है।” पंचम शुकुल ने विनीत भाव प्रदर्शित किया।

चान्दो बाबू ने आंख तरेरते हुए कहा, “पंचम, अब तुम मेरे सामने से ओझल हो जाओ, नहीं तो कुछ अनर्थ हो जाएगा। जाओ अब चुनाव लड़कर भी देख लो।”

“जैसा आपका आदेश। अब समय बदल रहा है। आपको भी चाहिए कि समय के मिजाज को समझें। आजकल के लड़के लड़कियाँ किसी का कहना नहीं मानते। मैंने अपनी बहू को समझाया था पर वह नहीं मानी। अब तो पर्चा भर दिया है। हमारी तो विनती है कि आप आपने परिवार से बाहर निकलकर हम लोगो को भी अपना परिवार मानें।” इतना कहकर पंचम जाने के लिए मुड़ा ही था कि फिर मुड़कर कहा, “जहां तक रामभरोसे की बात है वह हमारे घर आया था। उसी से ज्ञात हुआ कि उसने पूरी पंचायत के लड़कों और लड़कियों को संकल्प दिलाया है कि वे पढ़ाई करें और गांव के विकास में सहयोग दें। रामभरोसे को भी तो आपने ही अपने व्यवहार से ऐसा बनाया है। हम तो अभी भी आपकी कृपा चाहेंगे।

चान्दो बाबू ने अपना साम-दाम-दण्ड-भेद लगा दिया पर चुनाव अधिकारी ने साफ कह दिया कि “चुनाव आयोग का सख्त निर्देश है, इस चुनाव में किसी तरह की गड़बड़ी नहीं होगी। आप अपना दूध, घी, रूपया-पैसा अपने पास रखिये और आइन्दा मेरे सामने ऐसी-वैसी बात नहीं कीजियेगा। और आप के गांव के रामभरोसे यादव ने कमीशन में आपके विरुद्ध आवेदन दिला दिया है कि आप चुनाव में गड़बड़ी करनेवाले हैं।”

चान्दो बाबू बिना किसी प्रतिक्रिया के उल्टे पांच गांव वापस आ गये। उन्होंने अपनी बहू को साहस देते हुए कहा, “साला चुनाव अधिकारी जो मेरे आगे-पीछे दुम हिलाया करता था आज कानून की बात कर रहा है। तुम्हे घबड़ाने की बात नहीं। जीत तो होनी ही है परन्तु इस चुनाव अधिकारी को बदलवाना पड़ेगा।”

दूसरे दिन चान्दो बाबू लखनऊ की दारुल सफा पहुंच गये। अपने एम0एल0ए0 श्री ब्रजभूषण सिंह के मकान पर जाकर चपरासी से कहा, “एम0 एल0 ए0 साहब को सूचना दे दो कि चुरामनपुर के चान्दो बाबू आए हैं।”

एम0 एल0 ए0 साहब के बैठकखाने में कुछ और लोग बैठे थे। चान्दो बाबू ने सोचा कि वे लोग उन्हें जानते ही होंगे, पर किसी ने उनकी तरफ देखा तक नहीं। इन्हें पहली बार अनुभव हुआ कि लखनऊ उनकी पंचायत से बहुत बड़ा है। दुनिया का मतलब उनकी पंचायत ही नहीं है।

श्री ब्रजभूषण सिंह, सदस्य विधान सभा बाहर आए। बैठक में पूर्व से विराजमान लोगों से एक-एक कर मिले। उनकी समस्याओं को सुना और यथोचित आश्वासन दिया। चान्दो बाबू की बारी आई। उनके हाथ स्वतः अभिवादन में जुड़ गये। उन्होंने कहा, “पंचायत का चुनाव होने जा रहा है। हमारी पंचायत चुरामनपुर महिलाओं के लिए सुरक्षित कर दी गई है। मैंने अपनी बहू को, जो हाईस्कूल पास है, प्रधानी के लिए खड़ा किया है। आप तो जानते हैं कि जबसे पंचायत का गठन हुआ है, हम या हमारे बाप दादा प्रधान होते आ रहे हैं।”

सदस्य महोदय ने उनकी बात को रोककर कहा, “चान्दो बाबू अच्छी बात है कि आपकी बहू प्रधानी पद की प्रत्याशी है। अभी आप किस लिए आए हैं, बताइये।”

“यही तो बताने जा रहा था महोदय। हमारे गांव के पंचम शुकुल ने भी अपनी बहू को प्रत्याशी बना दिया है। वह मामूली पढ़ी-लिखी है।”

“तो फिर, चान्दो बाबू लोकतंत्र में सबको चुनाव लड़ने का हक है। हमारे विरुद्ध भी तो एक नही नौ प्रत्याशी थे लेकिन विजय मेरी हुई।” एम0एल0ए0 साहब ने कहा।

महोदय, आप ठीक कह रहे हैं। लेकिन चुनाव अधिकारी हमारी बात सुनने को तैयार नहीं है। यह सब हमारे गांव के रामभरोसे यादव के कारण है। सचिवालय में बाबू हैं। इन दोनों के विरुद्ध आपको कुछ करना होगा। आपके चुनाव में मैंने खुलकर मदद की थी।” चान्दो बाबू ने विनती की और अपने प्रभावी होने का अहसास दिलाने का प्रयास किया।

“देखिये चान्दो जी, आपने मेरी मदद की, इसीलिए तो आप पंचायत का विकास फण्ड और छात्रवृत्ति आदि में घपला कर पाये। रामभरोसे यहां बाबू है, उसके विरुद्ध हम क्या कर सकते हैं। कुछ नहीं। फिर यदि वह कोई गैरकानूनी काम करे तभी कुछ किया जा सकता है। रही बात चुनाव अधिकारी की। वह चुनाव आयोग के निर्देश पर काम करता है। चुनाव आयोग बहुत सख्त है। आप जान लीजिए, इस बार चुनाव में कोई गड़बड़ी नहीं होगी। उसमें मैं कुछ नहीं कर सकता।”

“तो इसका मतलब हम खाली हाथ लौट जायें? गांव में क्या मुंह दिखलायेगे, एम0एल0ए0 साहब?” चान्दो बाबू हताश-से विदा लिए और सोचा कि अब जो भी करना है, उन्हे स्वयं करना होगा।

गांव वापस आए चान्दो बाबू। अपने दो-तीन लठैतो को पंचम के घर भेजा और कहलवाया कि वह चुनाव से अपनी बहू को हटा ले, नहीं तो अंजाम अच्छा नहीं होगा।

पंचम ने चुप्पी साध रखी थी। रविवार को रामभरोसे गांव आया। उसे पूरा वाकया मालूम हुआ। पंचम की ओर से एक आवेदन जिलाधिकारी और आरक्षी अधीक्षक को दिया और

उसकी प्रतिलिपि स्वयं चुनाव आयुक्त को दिया। दूसरे दिन सुबह-सुबह दारोगा दो सिपाहियों के साथ चान्दो बाबू की कोठी पर आया। चान्दो बाबू को डांटते हुए कहा, “अपने दोनो लठैतों को बुलाओ। उन्हें थाने ले जाना है और आपने ज्यादा चुं-चपड़ की तो आपको भी थाने आना पड़ेगा।” चान्दो बाबू के दोनों लठैत बिना लाठी के दारोगा के साथ गये।

पंचम शुकुल और उनके परिवारजनों को और उनकी बहू जो प्रधान पद की प्रत्याशी थी को धमकाने के लिए दोनो लठैतों को जेल भेज दिया और चान्दो बाबू को अच्छी चाल-चलन की गारंटी के लिए प्रत्याभुत देनी पड़ी। उन्हें धारा 107 के अन्तर्गत बाउन डाऊन कर दिया गया।

चुनाव प्रचार समाप्त हुआ। चान्दो बाबू और उनके समर्थकों को मनोबल पहले ही गिर चुका था। चान्दो बाबू हारना नहीं जानते थे। हर वोटर के घर जाकर इस बार इज्जत बचाने की विनती करते और एक लिफाफा में सौ रूपये का नोट रख देते। रामभरोसे सचिवालय से अवकाश लेकर गांव आ गया था। पंचम शुकुल का मनोबल भी उंचा था। उनकी बहु स्वयं भी घर-घर जाकर वोट मांग रही थी। रामभरोसे ने जिलाधिकारी को शिकायत लिख कर दिया कि चान्दो बाबू धन बल से वोटों को खरीदने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं। रूपये बांट रहे हैं। जिलाधिकारी ने खुफिया पुलिस से जांच कराई। आरोप सही पाया गया। जिलाधिकारी ने चान्दो बाबू को पंचायत क्षेत्र से बाहर कर दिया, पंचायत बदर।

चुनाव शांतिपूर्ण सम्पन्न हुआ। मतगणना हुई। चान्दो बाबू की अनुपस्थिति में उनकी बहू को मतगणना पंडाल तक जाना पड़ा। आम लोगों ने उन्हें पहली बार घुंघट से बाहर आते देखा। चुनाव का परिणाम घोषित हुआ। सुकुल जिन्दाबाद, सुरसति देवी जिन्दाबाद की गूंज गूंजायमान हो गई। लोकतंत्र का पताका आकाश में लहराने लगा।

चान्दो बाबू को जीवन में पहली बार हार का धक्का लगा। उनकी बहू की हार से पूरी पंचायत के लोग खुश थे। आपस में बात मुखर होने लगी। अब चान्दो बाबू के शोषण से मुक्ति मिल जायगी। इस सब का श्रेय गांव वाले रामभरोसे को दे रहे थे। कुछ लोग शिक्षा की शक्ति की सराहना कर रहे थे कि रामभरोसे यदि शिक्षित न होते तो यह सब सम्भव नहीं होता। “विधा धनं सर्व धनं प्रधानम्।”

चान्दो बाबू अपनी कोठी पर आ गये। उनका मनोबल गिर गया था। उनके कुछ शुभचिन्तकों ने सलाह दिया कि वे रामभरोसे से मेल-मिलाप कर लें। आखिर है तो वह उनके मजदूर का बेटा। मान जायगा। अन्यथा लखनऊ में बैठकर उनके काले-कारनामों से पर्दा उठाकर उन्हें वेपरदा कर देगा और उन्हें जेल भी जाना पड़ सकता है।

आपलोग ठीक कह रहें हैं। अब और कोई रास्ता भी नहीं दिखाई देता। धन-दौलत, राजनैतिक सम्पर्क कुछ भी काम न आया। बनी बनाई इज्जत मिट्टी में मिल गई।

सरकार ने पंचायतों को आवंटित निधि के उपयोग का आडिट कराने का आदेश पारित किया। इसके अन्तर्गत चुरामनपुर पंचायत का नाम सबसे ऊपर था। पंचायत प्रधान श्रीमती सुरसती देवी ने चान्दो बाबू के कार्यकाल की सभी योजनाओं से सम्बन्धित अभिलेख आडिट कमिटी के समक्ष प्रस्तुत कर दिया।

कमिटी ने पूरी जांच रिपोर्ट सौंप दिया जिससे ज्ञात हुआ कि पंचायत के अधिकारियों से मिलकर चान्दो बाबू ने गरीब विद्यार्थियों के लिए आवंटित छात्रवृत्ति को आपस में बांट लिया। छात्रवृत्ति विद्यार्थियों को नहीं मिली। कई विद्यार्थियों ने पढ़ाई छोड़ दी। विकास निधि का फण्ड कागज पर खर्च कर दिया। न कोई सड़क बनी, न नाला और न ही तालाबों का पुर्नद्धार कराया गया। मनरेगा के नाम पर रजिस्टर में फर्जी मजदूरों का नाम लिख दिया। सरकार ने रिपोर्ट की एक प्रति जिलाधिकारी को भेजकर ताकीद किया कि पूर्व प्रधान के विरुद्ध मुकदमा करके आगे की कार्रवाई करें और सरकार को की गई कार्रवाई से अवगत कराएं। चान्दो बाबू के विरुद्ध गबन का केश दर्ज किया गया। पुलिस ने उन्हें गिरफ्तार के जेल भेज दिया।



## On Saying Sir

R. U. Singh

IAS-1961



This hearsay story dates back to the 1950s and relates to a young IAS officer then posted as an SDO in Bihar.

While sitting in his official chamber, the SDO was given by his peon a chit of paper, scribbled on which were the words: "JL Prasad, ICS."

The SDO literally jumped from his seat, thinking that the visitor was an ICS officer, maybe hailing from his sub-division.

The SDO scolded the peon for not immediately ushering in the visitor, asked him to fetch Tea on a tray and proceeded to receive the visitor himself.

"Good Morning, Sir" the visitor said, as the SDO opened the door.

"Good Morning, Sir" said the SDO, wondering at the simplicity of the august visitor.

When the visitor hesitated to sit on the royal chair, the SDO seated him respectfully in front of his own chair and an amusing conversation ensued.

"What brought you here, Sir?" the SDO enquired of the visitor, musing over how

could an ICS officer come to a god-forsaken place to meet him!

"I have a little problem at my present place, Sir" the visitor replied.

"What kind of problem do you have, Sir, that requires my intervention?" The SDO wanted to know.

"Sir, I have applied for my transfer from an interior Block to somewhere that is near the sub-divisional headquarters" the visitor clarified.

Now the SDO's head started reeling as he felt like falling from the sky to the ground.

"How is it that an ICS officer is posted in a Block?" the SDO asked, not knowing an anti-climax was in the offing.

"Sir, I am an Inspector of Co-operative Societies, Sir" the visitor mumbled before he was hounded out of the room by the SDO.

"Out you go!" thundered the SDO and the visitor who rushed out.

At that very time, the peon arrived with tea and biscuits in a tray. In order to relieve his tension, the SDO himself took all the tea, cup after cup.



### Unfit for Human Consumption

An Indian had abstained from getting into wedlock until he reached an advanced age. Prodded by his mentor, he finally decided to marry. In response to his advertisement on a website, he received from abroad a few offers along with photographs and bio-data of the brides-to-be. Picking on one of them who he fell for, he bought a two-way air ticket and went abroad to meet his dream-girl.

After about a week, his mentor received a cable from him, which read, "Sir, she wears a wig, applies very heavy cosmetics, uses a denture and puts on pads to shape her body. All in all, I feel that she is not fit for human consumption. So, I have managed to escape and am on the way-back. More, when we meet."



**An HR Quiz**

An HR Manager, his Assistant, an old woman and her young daughter are traveling in a train and during the course of time get themselves introduced to each other and become temporary friends.

When the train goes through a tunnel and it gets completely dark, suddenly there is a kissing sound and then a slap.

The train comes out of the tunnel. The woman and the Assistant are sitting there looking perplexed. The Manager is bending over holding his face, which is red from an apparent slap. All of them remain diplomatic and nobody says anything.

The Old woman is thinking: "These Managers are all crazy after girls. He must have kissed my daughter in the tunnel. It's proper that she slapped him."

The Young girl is thinking: "The Manager must have tried to kiss me but kissed my mother instead and got slapped."

The Manager is thinking: "Damn it. My Assistant must have kissed the young girl. She might have thought it was me and slapped me."

Now guess what the Assistant is thinking. Now hold your breath and read what the Assistant is thinking; "If this train again goes through a tunnel I will make a similar kissing sound and slap my Manager again. The Rascal keeps on harassing me in the Office."

**Puns on Et tu Brute!**

Julius and Brutus are at the Airport:-

Brutus: What date is it Julius?

Julius: It's the Ides of March. Why something you were set to, Brute?

Brutus: Not really. What gate do we have to go to?

Julius: A-2. Brute.

Brutus: Flight's on time?

Julius: Yes. 8:02 Brute.

Brutus: I'm hungry. I'll have a sandwich. Want some?

Julius: Well I am not hungry. Ate two, Brute.

Brutus (to himself): If he carries on like this, I am gonna ..."

**Nuances of English Language**

This is about a Professor of English who taught the nuances of the language to his wife who caught him red-handed holding the maid in in a warm embrace.

She immediately exclaimed, "John! I'm surprised."

"No, my darling, not you but I'm surprised, you're shocked." explained the Professor.

**A cute excuse**

Teacher: Why are you so late today?

Student: Mom and Dad were fighting.

Teacher: So what makes you late if they were fighting?

Student: One of my shoes was in Mom's hand and the other was in Dad's

**Beggar is a Chooser too**

Wife: I hate that beggar.

Husband: Why? What happened?

Wife: Yesterday I gave the rascal food to eat. Today he has given me a book on, "How to Cook."



## Potpourris-1



# Jokes

Doctor: Your Liver is enlarged

Patient: Does that mean it has space for more whisky?

(This is called "Positive Thinking") \*

Lady to her dietician: What I am worried about is my height and not my weight.

Doctor: How come?

Lady: According to my weight, my height should be 7.8 feet.

(This is called "Positive Attitude") \*

The bank returned a man's cheque with remark 'Insufficient funds'. He wrote back, "I want to know whether it refers to Mine or the Bank."

(This is Self-confidence at its peak.) \*

A cockroach's last words to a man who wanted to kill it : "Go ahead and kill me, you coward. You're just jealous because I can scare your wife and you cannot!"

Moral: Cockroach's Challenge. \*

A Biology teacher showed the legs of a bird and asked a students to name the bird.

Student: I don't know.

Teacher: You've failed. Tell me your name?

Student: You should see my legs to know my name. \*

A senior officer was reviewing the preparedness for holding the elections and the ways to deal with problems at the booths.

A junior officer asked as to how to deal

with the situation when the booth is attacked by a mob.

"Gentlemen, you should use your presence of mind to control the situation," the senior officer counselled.

"But sir, if the presence of mind does not work?" queried the junior.

"In that case, the absence of body will." was the reply to end the topic. \*

\*

## Rare Words



1. The space between the eyebrows is called a glabella.
2. The plastic or metallic coating at the end of your shoelaces is called an aglet.
3. The prongs on a fork are called tines.
4. The sheen or the light that someone sees when he closes his eyes and presses his hands on one or both of them is called phosphenes.
5. The 'na na na' and 'la la la', which don't really have any meaning in the lyrics of any song, are called vocables.
6. When you combine an exclamation mark with a question mark (like this ?!), it is referred to as an interrobang.
7. That utterly sick feeling one get after eating or drinking too much is called crapulence.
8. Self-possession or calmness, especially in a dangerous or stressful situation is called sang-froid.
9. A painful inflammation of the ear that can cause temporary hearing loss is called otitis media.



Potpourris-1

# Wonderful Definitions

- Atom Bomb: An invention to end all inventions  
 Boss: Someone who is early when you are late and late when you are early  
 Committee: Individuals who can do nothing individually and sit to decide that nothing can be done together.  
 Conference: The confusion of one man multiplied by the number present.  
 Criminal: A person no different from the rest, except that he/she got caught.  
 Divorce: Future tense of Marriage.  
 Doctor: A person who holds your ills by pills, and kills you by bills.  
 Etc.: A sign to make others believe that you know more than you actually do.  
 Father: A banker provided by nature  
 Lecture: An art of transferring information from the notes of the Lecturer to the notes of the students without passing through "the minds of either"  
 Life Insurance: A contract that keeps you poor all your life so that you can die Rich.  
 Marriage: It's an agreement in which a man loses his Bachelor degree and a woman gains her Masters.  
 Nurse: A person who wakes u up to give you sleeping pills.  
 Office: A place where you can relax after your strenuous home life.  
 Politician: One who shakes your hand before elections and your confidence after.  
 School: A place where Parents pay and children play.  
 Smile: A curve that can set a lot of things straight.  
 Tears: The hydraulic force by which masculine willpower is defeated by feminine waterpower.  
 Yawn: The only time some married men ever get to open their mouth.

\*

## Witty Sayings

Recession is when "Wine & Women"  
 Get replaced by "Water & Wife." \*  
 A drunk friend is Liability.  
 But, a drunk girlfriend is an Asset. \*  
 One wife, she fights with you!  
 If you have two wives, they will fight for you!!\*  
 Wonders happen, when you are in love,  
 Later, you Wonder what happened. \*  
 Secret formula for married couples...  
 "Love One Another"  
 And if it doesn't work,

"Love Another One" \*  
 Confession by a husband:  
 My wife is my strength.  
 All the others are my weakness!

\*

Julius Caesar: "Coward dies many times before their deaths, The valiant never taste of death but once; Of all the wonders that I yet have heard, It seems to me most strange that men should fear; Seeing that death, a necessary end, will come when it will come."

\*





## Waves & Ripples

सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग, बिहार सरकार द्वारा निर्गत, अधिसूचनाओं के अनुसार भारतीय प्रशासनिक सेवा के पदाधिकारियों के स्थानांतरण, पदस्थापन एवं प्रोन्नति।

क्र. सं.	अधिसूचना संख्या / तिथि	संबंधित अधिकारी का पदस्थापन
1.	6020 / 07.05.2019	1. श्री काथवते मयुर अशोक (2018) सहायक सहायक समाहर्ता एवं सहायक दंडाधिकारी, गया 2. श्री वैभव श्रीवास्तव (2018) सहायक समाहर्ता एवं सहायक दंडाधिकारी, किशनगंज 4. श्री निखिल धनराज निष्पणीकर (2018) सहायक समाहर्ता एवं सहायक दंडाधिकारी, बेगूसराय 5. श्री अंशुल सिंह (2018) सहायक समाहर्ता एवं सहायक दंडाधिकारी, रोहता 6. श्री नितिन कुमार सिंह (2018) सहायक समाहर्ता एवं सहायक दंडाधिकारी, नालन्दा, 7. सुश्री अविषा बैन्स (2018) सहायक समाहर्ता एवं सहायक दंडाधिकारी, वैशाली 8. श्री अभिषेक रंजन (2018) सहायक समाहर्ता एवं सहायक दंडाधिकारी, बांका के रूप में पदस्थापित।
2.	6019 07.05.19	श्री एस. शिवकुमार (बीएच 1987) अपर सदस्य, राजस्व पर्षद के पद पर पदस्थापित।
3.	4935 10.04.19	श्रीमती हरजोत कौरा बम्हरा (1992) प्रबंध निदेशक, बिहार राज्य खनन निगम लिमिटेड का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
4.	4923 09.04.19	डॉ० रणजीत कुमार सिंह (जीजे. 2008) अपर सचिव, आपदा प्रबंधन विभाग के पद पर पदस्थापित।
5.	4924 09.04.19	श्री एम. राचन्दुडु (2009) समाहर्ता एवं जिला पदाधिकारी, सीतामढ़ी के पद पर पदस्थापित।
6.	4818 08.04.19	श्री त्रिपुरारी शरण (1985) मुख्य कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी, बिहार फाउण्डेशन एवं एवं प्रबंध निदेशक, बिहार राज्य औद्योगिक विकास निगम, पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
7.	4816 08.04.19	श्री अरविन्द कुमार चौधरी (1995) परियोजना निदेशक, बिहार ग्रामीण जीवकोपाजन परियोजना एवं राज्य मिशन निदेशक, राज्य ग्रामीण जीवकोपार्जन मिशन-सह-आयुक्त स्वरोजगार, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
8.	4540 03.04.19	श्री चन्द्रशेखर सिंह (2006) संयुक्त सचिव, लोक स्वास्थ्य अभियंत्रण विभाग के पद पर पदस्थापित।
9.	4541 03.04.19	श्री दिवेश सेहरा (2005) समाहर्ता एवं जिला पदाधिकारी, समस्तीपुर के पद पर पदस्थापित।
10.	4542 03.04.19	श्री प्रेम सिंह मीणा (2000) प्रबंध निदेशक, बिहार राज्य अनुसूचित जाति सहाकारिता विकास निगम, पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
11.	4392 01.04.19	श्री उदय कुमार सिंह (बीएच. 2007) ईखायुक्त, गन्ना उद्योग विभाग का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
12.	3690 15.03.19	श्री बालामुरुगन डी.(बीएच. 2005) अपर मुख्य निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी, निर्वाचन विभाग के पद पर पदस्थापित।
13.	3050 09.03.19	श्री श्यामल किशोर पाठक के पद पर (बीएच 2005) संयुक्त सचिव, राजस्व एवं भूमि सुधार विभाग के पद पर पदस्थापित एवं निदेशक, चकबन्दी का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
14.	3251 09.03.19	श्री बी. कार्तिकेय धनजी (2008) उत्पाद आयुक्त-सह-निबंधन महानिरीक्षक, मद्य निषेध, उत्पाद एवं निबंधन विभाग के पद पदस्थापित।

15.	3252 09.03.19	श्री संजय कुमार पंसारी (नवनियुक्त) मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, बिहार विकास मिशन, मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय विभाग के पद पर पदस्थापित।
16.	3253 09.03.19	श्री श्रीकांत शास्त्री (नवनियुक्त) नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम, मुंगेर के पद पर पदस्थापित।
17.	2982 05.03.19	श्री त्रिपुरारी शरण (बीएच. 1985) अपर मुख्य सचिव, उद्योग विभाग के पद पर पदस्थापित।
18.	2983 05.03.19	श्री दीपक कुमार सिंह, (बीएच. 1992) प्रधान सचिव, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
19.	2275 18.02.19	श्रीमती बंदना किनी (1989) आयुक्त, भागलपुर प्रमंडल, भागलपुर के पद पर पदस्थापित।
20.	2276 18.02.19	श्रीमती सफीना ए.एन. (1997) आयुक्त, पूर्णिया प्रमण्डल, पूर्णिया के पद पर पदस्थापित।
21.	2277 18.02.19	श्री नर्मदेश्वर लाल (1998) आयुक्त, आयुक्त तिरहुत प्रमंडल, मुजफ्फरपुर के पद पर पदस्थापित।
22.	2278 18.02.19	श्री राजेश कुमार (2001) सचिव, बिहार मानवाधिकार आयोग, पटनाके पद पर पदस्थापित एवं जाँच आयुक्त, सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
23.	2279 18.02.19	श्री लोकेश कुमार सिंह (2003) आयुक्त, सारण प्रमंडल, छपरा के पद पर पदस्थापित।
24.	2280 18.02.19	श्री असंगवा चुबा आओ (2003) आयुक्त, कोषी प्रमंडल, सहरसा के पद पर पदस्थापित।

क्र.सं.	अधिसूचना संख्या / तिथि	संबंधित अधिकारी का प्रोन्नति
1.	3724 / 18.03.19	<p>1. श्री राजीव रौशन (2010)                      2. श्री कौशल किशोर (2010)</p> <p>3. श्री कंवल तनुज (2010)                      4. श्री चन्द्रशेखर सिंह (2010)</p> <p>5. श्रीमती रचना पाटिल (2010)                6. श्री अनिमेष कुमार पराशर (2010)</p> <p>7. श्री राज कुमार (2010)                      8. श्री हिमांशु कुमार राय (2010)</p> <p>को कनष्ठि प्रशासनिक ग्रेड (अपर सचिव स्तर) में 01.01.19 के प्रभाव से प्रोन्नति।</p>
2.	2985 / 05.03.19	श्रीमती अश्विनी दत्तात्रेय ठाकरे (2006) को सापेक्षता में 01.01.19 के प्रभाव से प्रोफार्मा प्रोन्नति।
3.	2984 / 05.03.19	<p>1. श्री आदेश तितरमारे (2006)                2. श्री दयानिधान पाण्डेय (2006)</p> <p>3. श्री धमेन्द्र सिंह (2006)                    4. श्री संदीप कुमार आर. पुडकलकट्टी (2006)</p> <p>को चयन ग्रेड (विशेष सचिव स्तर) में 01.01.19 के प्रभाव से प्रोन्नति।</p>

**A Scene of the Holi Milan held on the 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 at IAS Bhawan**



(From left to right) Shri Vijay Prakash, Shri Girish Shankar, Shri Ashok Kumar Chauhan and Shri Sunil Kumar Singh



Shri Vivek Kumar Singh, Secretary with the artistes of musical programme



Former Chief Secretary, Shri GS Kang with Smt Kang.



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