



IAS OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION, BIHAR BRANCH

# prayaas

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## Editorial



One year has passed since I took up the task of editing this in-house magazine, Prayaas, of course, with the help and support of the Secretary of the Association, the Editor, Amit Kumar and the members of the Editorial Board.

Apart from my engagement with literary pursuits, I have thoroughly enjoyed myself with this absorbing task, handicapped though by the lack of contributions from our own members, which could have made this magazine much more inclusive and readable.

There is no doubt that, during these days, the administration is more complex than it was in the past. All the same, every member of the IAS must have been privy to emotive reminiscences flowing from their interactions and interventions, which would have brought forth success-stories, fit to be shared with their colleagues. I, therefore, still appeal to all of them to spare some time to come out with and send in their responses for this magazine of theirs.

In the recent past, we have been saddened by the passing away of two of our members, namely Shri SV Sharan (1959) and Shri BK Sinha (1975). RIP.

RU Singh, IAS-1961,  
Principal Editor.

IAS Bhawan



Editorial Board :

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Amit Kumar (2012) Member  
Editor

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Vivek Kr. Singh, IAS-1989  
Gopal S. Prasad, IAS (Retd.)

Sanjeev Kr. Sinha, IAS 1986  
Smt. Harjot Kaur, IAS 1992  
Satish S. Thakar, IAS (Retd.)

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

# prayaas

Launch of Prayaas-4/2019



The 4<sup>th</sup> Issue of Prayaas-2019 was launched on November 27 at IAS Bhawan jointly by (L-R) Messrs Amit Kumar, G S Prasad, R U Singh, A K Choudhary and Sanjeev Kumar Sinha

## From Secretary's Desk



Dear Friends,

Wish you a very happy new year, rather a new decade. The year started with a continuation of hectic touring of the field by our honourable Chief Minister to get a feel of work being done under the Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali Campaign. Consequently, most of our members were under tremendous work pressure since last December.

After the end of that phase, we all are taking account of the last year, rather the years spent in the service of the State, and deciding on the new pledges, new commitments for the current year, working and reworking our goals and priorities in life.

It is heartening to see our younger colleagues taking new initiatives in development works. In the current era of social media, many of our colleagues publish their initiatives through social media. However, it would be appreciated if our members send short write-ups on their initiatives to our principal editor regularly, so that they are published in our in-house magazine for the benefit of the entire fraternity.

In the new decade, let us take the pledge afresh that we will jointly endeavour to uphold the dignity of the Service and keep the flag flying by maintaining our impartiality, rationality and integrity in public delivery.

With best wishes.

Yours as always,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dipak Singh'.

(Dipak Kumar Singh)





From the **Editor's** Desk:



Dear Colleagues,

Here we are with the first quarter issue of PRAYAAS in this calendar year and it gives me immense pleasure to send the issue well within time this time.

The first month of the year witnessed the successful completion of an event that disseminated a positive message regarding importance and vital need of environment protection and water conservation initiatives far and wide. We are talking about the formation of a human chain in which millions participated and scored a record of sorts yet again. In this mammoth exercise people of all rank and files stood together, hand-in-hand, and expressed their solidarity for this noble cause. It is also worth mentioning that Bihar would be the first State to present a “Green Budget” in the upcoming budget session. It shows that we are in sync with the burning issues and working for the solutions to the problems which are grappling the mankind everywhere in the globe.

Also, wider and meaningful participation augurs well for the Good Governancce. We, as a Service, would deliver from it in better ways if we tread a path well-lit with values and ethics that would in turn strengthen the steel frame.

Further, we are sincerely trying to make the issues of PRAYAAS more comprehensive, meaningful and stimulating. Officers have complemented the editorial team for the form and content of the past issues but they largely remain content with just that! We all need to contribute in the form of articles, stories, poetry or memoirs. To this end support of each one of you is solicited.

Let's Connect.

Amit Kumar,  
Editor of Prayaas.

## When We Became Surveyors!



S.P. Jakhanwal, IAS (Retd) 

### Controversy on Sitab Diara

Escape of Jai Prakash Narain (JP) from Hazaribagh central jail is well known in the history of Indian Independence; but how he landed up in that *particular* jail is not so well known! JP undertook fast in support of the demands of Deoli detainees in 1941. He was arrested from his native village Sitab Diara. Authorities who arrested him were in a quandary - which state prison he should be lodged - Bihar or United Provinces. Clarifications were sought from the Land Records Departments of Bihar and the United Provinces. *As the course of the river 'that year' had placed JP's house in Bihar, he was sent to Hazaribagh Jail.* On the implementation of Trivedi Award on UP-Bihar Boundary, JP's ancestral house permanently became a part of Uttar Pradesh where as a few other *tolas* of that village remained in Bihar.

### Trivedi Award

Fixation of Uttar Pradesh (UP)-Bihar boundary has a long history. In 1867 J. Brown, a British, propounded a theory of fixing the boundaries of Indian provinces by course of rivers. He would have thought, I guess, that natural features offered stable and unambiguous boundary between provinces. He was right but only partially in the Indian context. He did not quite realize the ferocity of rivers during the monsoon. Each year, some rivers would change course, new land would emerge and there would be violence during harvesting of crops. During my tenure as Collector of undivided Shahabad, a local legislator showed me a few frightening and awful photographs of beheaded farmers in

*diara areas.* Deep stream of river Ganga formed the inter-State boundary between the Shahabad district of Bihar and Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh. Similarly, the deep stream of the river Ghaghra was the inter-state boundary between the Saran district of Bihar and Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh. The two rivers changed their course almost every year; the deep streams did not remain constant with the result that the inter-state boundary fluctuated. Thousands of *bighas* would be usurped by these rivers in one year. Conversely, new alluvial land would crop up on the other side of the river. Enriched by fresh silt brought and spread by rivers, there would be great rush of farmers to occupy and cultivate such lands soon after water receded. Newly cropped land will have no plot boundaries. Disputes would be frequent and violent. This was the story behind the photographs of beheaded *diara* farmers pointing to difficult administrative and policing problems

From time to time efforts were made by the two State Governments to find a satisfactory solution to this vexed problem but they could not agree on the points whether the fluctuating boundary should be replaced by a fixed boundary and, if so, what should be that boundary. In 1961, the Chief Ministers of the two States agreed that the matter be referred to an Arbitrator appointed by the Prime Minister, and to abide by the decision given by the Prime Minister on a consideration of the recommendations of the Arbitrator. Tall stature of Pandit Nehru would explain the trust reposed by both states. C.M. Trivedi, ICS, former Governor was appointed

Arbitrator in this case and he submitted his report to the Prime Minister (Lal Bahadur Shastri) on 28th August, 1964, recommending a fixed boundary in both the Ganga and Ghaghra sectors. These recommendations were accepted by the Prime Minister and conveyed to the two State Governments. Trivedi Award observed that on the basis of the 1963-64 deep stream position, the fixed boundary would involve the transfer of an area of about 45 square miles from Uttar Pradesh to Bihar and about 64 square miles from Bihar to Uttar Pradesh: Also, about 85 per cent. of the fixed boundary will be on land in the Ganga sector and 75 per cent of it will be on land in the Ghaghra sector, whereas the entire boundary, pre-award, lay in water. However, because of the fluctuating nature of the present boundary, the actual extent of the transferred territories may not be clear to the authorities who have to implement the laws. Hence, provision was made for the demarcation of the fixed boundary on land, determination of the deep streams of the two rivers and preparation and publication of a map of the transferred territories before the actual transfer was effected.

Deep stream, in relation to the river Ganga or the river Ghaghra, meant the deep stream thereof as verified and agreed upon by the State Governments of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh after the 30th day of September of the year preceding the year in which the appointed day falls and before the 1st day of January of the year in which the appointed day falls and in default of agreement between the State Governments, as determined by such authority as may be specified by the Central Government;

#### **Verification Operation in 1971-72**

Deep Stream Verification of Ganga in

1971-72 (near Buxur) was undertaken when I was collector of Shahabad and Shri Mahesh Prasad (1957) was my counterpart in Varanasi. I cruised on the river with the Collector of Varanasi and physically determined deep streams. Each of us was accompanied by experienced teams of *kanoongos*, surveyors, circle inspectors. In their zeal to flaunt their loyalty, and knowledge and experience they would raise objections. Boats would be filled up with eatables. No bottled water or *bisleri* then. But enough drinking water in jars and jugs.

If disputes arose, as was common, we would use long bamboos to fathom and re-fathom the depth of various streams to establish as to which one of them was deepest and thereby qualified to become the boundary. Each one of us would try to be serious in our jobs pretending to safeguard the interests of the farmers on each side. The villagers would await with baited breath the outcome of deep stream verification. Most of the occasions, differences were settled on the spot at the level of collectors. Remaining were referred to the two divisional commissioners who met at Patna and Varanasi by rotation.

Shri Sirohi and Shri BS Mukherjee were Divisional Commissioners of Varanasi and Patna divisions respectively. Final round of meeting for exchange of verified maps was held at Varanasi, with Shri Sirohi acting as a great host. All of us stayed in Varanasi Circuit House. Dinner hosted by Shri Sirohi at the Circuit House rings in old memories. Decades later, I met Shri Mahesh Prasad when both of us were posted in New Delhi- in different ministries. I recalled (nostalgically) how we had virtually become surveyors for a few days! We had a hearty laugh.

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[The writer is a Bihar Cadre IAS officer of 1963 batch, who has served in Bihar as also at the Centre. He retired as Secretary to GOI and stays in Delhi ]

## Late BK Sinha Sir as I knew Him

Satish Singh Thakur, IAS (Retd.)



That was a wintry morning of December, 1986 when I got down from the bus and settled in the IB at Khunti to join as SDO. I informed the then SDO about my arrival and met him at his residence. He told me that he needed a week's time to hand over the charge. I had no problem and expressed my desire to meet the Dy. Commissioner, Ranchi.

I then went to Ranchi to meet the Dy. Commissioner, BK Sinha Sir (TAS 1975). First I met his PA, Ms. Sheela who told me to wait as Saheb was holding court. Without telling her that I was to join as SDO of Khunti, I straightaway went into DC's chamber and waited. After 15- 20 minutes a man in very simple clothes walked in from a side door. A look at him could not give an impression that he was DC of Ranchi.

When he sat down at the chair of DC, I got up and greeted him. He asked me who I was and what had brought me there. I told him that I was SDO-designate for Khunti and had come to take over. He looked at me for a few minutes and asked me, "Are you from BAS?" I just nodded. He expected that an officer from BAS became SDO after putting in nearly 25 years of service, while I had put in only over 11 years before being posted as SDO. I was lean and thin and looked much younger. He said that he was happy to see that a very young officer from BAS was posted as SDO. He talked to me for about three hours and gave an over view of Khunti Sub Division, its problems, strong and weak points, tribals' attitude considering that Khunti had 80 percent Munda tribe population. He introduced me to DDC and Additional Collector. He told me to take over the next day as my predecessor has been transferred on the basis of his report to the government. I informed him that the present SDO wants to take a week's time to make over. He telephoned the then SDO and asked him to hand over charge to me the next day. After that he took me to the Divisional Commissioner, Ms. Radha Singh and introduced me to her. Later, he very affectionately took me to his residence for lunch and there I met Madam Sinha. From that day, till his stay at Ranchi, he always took me to inside his home for lunch, whenever I visited Ranchi for meetings.

Late Sinha Sir had total dedication to his duties. He did not like any slackness from his office as well. He was very concerned about the upliftment of the Tribals and for that he gave top priority to rural development programmes. Shri Sudhir Kumar, IAS (1982) was posted as ADM (Special) at that time. He got him posted as DDC Ranchi to lead the team of dedicated officers. He very carefully built a team to transform the economy of rural Ranchi. At that time government of India had announced "Million Well Programme". He took up the challenge and started implementing this programme on a mission mode through a team of dedicated officers. Check Dams were also a part of this programme, so that surface water could be used for irrigation purpose.

Late Sinha Sir and other dedicated officers of his team used to travel through rural areas from morning to evening for completion of these programmes. That was not an easy task. But by dint of his gigantic efforts, he succeeded in convincing the rural tribals that their economic emancipation was possible only through such programmes.

Late Sinha Sir also planned marketing of agriculture products. He built a cold storage at Bero Block headquarters. A number of cluster centres were built to function as centre for marketing of agriculture produces. As a result, vegetable cultivation increased manifold. Initially about 50 trucks of vegetable loaded trucks started to reach Kolkota markets. Later it increased to 100 trucks. This initiative of late Sinha Sir entirely changed the economic scenario of rural Ranchi. Sir never took credit for the works done in the district. He gave the credit to his team for development and other works.

This programme got so much popularity and publicity that Ms. Nalini Singh, the famous TV journalist came to Ranchi to shoot a documentary film on this subject. This documentary: "Jai Hai Jan Hai" drew the attention of government of India and many senior officers visited Ranchi to see for themselves the transformation of rural Ranchi under the leadership of Late Sinha Sir. When I was promoted as ADM, he brought me to Ranchi as MD, DRDA as all those programmes were implemented through DRDA.

Late Sinha Sir had very sound knowledge of revenue laws, especially Chotanagpur Tenancy Act (CNTA) and Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act (SPTA). He gave me the task of disposal of 400 cases under CNT Act. One of my predecessors had disposed the cases just writing the words on order sheet, "Perused, Heard, Dismiss." "देखा, सुना, खारिज" in camp courts. So, nearly four hundred tribals have lost the cases for restoration of land. All these cases were reopened by the order of the competent authority and after hearing in camp court, most of the cases went in favour of tribals and their land was restored.

Late Sinha Sir was a compendium of various laws and rules. I had the opportunity to learn many things from him. In fact, he was the mentor of my career. He had complete trust in me and that is why he subsequently sent two IAS probationers of 1985 and 1986 batches for training to interior areas of Khunti Sub Division.

He was also very efficient and tough in maintaining law and order. When a serious law and order problem arose at a very interior area of Arki Block of Khunti Sub Division, he called me and gave specific task to tackle the problem. I visited that interior village Birbanki several times. After constant visits and talks with them, the villagers agreed to call off the agitation and meet DC. Finally, I requested DC to come to that village as problem was nearing to its solution. He along with SSP came to that village where nearly ten thousand tribals of different villages had gathered. The tribals had serious and genuine problems with local police. He directed the SSP to personally look into it. He thanked me for solving such a serious and critical problem amicably. But he also clearly told the assembled tribals that those who were involved in breaking law and order and committing murders must surrender. I assured him that culprits will definitely surrender soon. He returned very happy with a pat on my back.



After two days, a few people from that village came to my residence in the evening with a proposal that culprits of crime are ready to surrender to the police in my presence, as they do not have faith in the police. I assured them that I will be there in the police station on the appointed date and time of Surrender. All 18 named accused persons had surrendered to the police in my presence on the date fixed. I straightaway drove to Ranchi and met Sinha Sir in his office and informed him that all 18 accused persons had surrendered. He rose from his chair and embraced me. I can never forget that moment in my life. He immediately took me to the Commissioner's residence and informed Madam Radha Singh that Arki P.S. problem had been solved as all the accused had surrendered, Madam congratulated me and said, "BK, Thakur deserves appreciation." Sir replied to Madam that he had already planned one week special holiday with family for me. So I made my trip to Puri with family.

My association with BK Sinha Sir has been for the last 33 years. He has always been in touch with me. When he was DG, NIRD, Hyderabad, he rang up and asked me to attend the golden jubilee celebration of NIRD to be inaugurated by the President of India. He sent air ticket for my journey. I attended the function. He took personal care for my stay. Madam Sinha told me that she had clearly told BK that he would not take anymore transfers and would retire from NIRD.. But Madam's BK could not keep his promises, as soon he was posted as Secretary, Rural Development, GOI.

Late Sinha Sir was a simple man at par. While I was posted as DM, Aurangabad, he telephoned me that he along with his family planned to come to Aurangabad to perform Chhath. I was very happy and said to him, "Sir you are most welcome to your old district." He had been the longest serving DM at Aurangabad. He along with Madam and his in-laws came for Chhath. He told me to remove all furniture from the rooms of circuit house and spread paddy straw and place blankets over it. Everything was done accordingly. I was moved by his devotion. He along with family performed Chhath with total devotion at Dco. He along with all his guests came to my residence on breakfast on the day of his return. I asked Madam that she would have faced great difficulties in offering Argh at Deo as there was massive rush of devotees. Madam replied that they did not face any difficulties as girl guides had covered an area with clothes for them. BK could not have planned in a better way. "You have helped us fulfill our 23 years' Mannat." She had said to me.

Almost a month before Sir had a brain hemorrhage, he had rang me that he will soon come to Patna in connection with fixation of the marriage of his daughter. He was planning the engagement ceremony at Patna. I was extremely happy to hear it and told him, "Sir, I will be there with you all the time. But it's truly said that man proposes and God disposes. My Sir will never come to Patna and I will never see him

While late Rajiv Gandhi was Prime Minister, he started meeting District Magistrates in different zones. For one such conference BK Sir went to Jaipur. During the course of the conference Sir had asked the PM, "Sir we've heard that you are planning a visit to Ranchi." The PM had replied, "Yes, I am shortly planning to pay a visit to Khunti." On return from Jaipur Sinha Sir came to Khunti and informed me about the possible visit of the PM. After a fortnight, PM's official program came. He was supposed to reach Khunti at 9 in the morning and after garlanding Bhagvan Birsa Munda's Statue in front of the SDO's office, he was to address a public meeting in Khunti. Sir planned everything meticulously and gave me necessary directions. I followed the directions in letter and spirit. The PM's program was very successful. PM thanked DC, Ranchi for such a wonderful arrangement and big turn out of tribals ( over 2 lac ) so early in the morning and at such a small remote place. Sir called me near the PM and respectfully told the PM that the entire credit for such meticulous arrangements were due to SDO, Khunti. The PM looked at me with appreciation. That was very embarrassing for me as Sir had given entire credit to me though the entire planning had been done by him. Such a wonderful man as BK Sinha Sir was a role model for me.

When he retired as Member of the Central Administrative Tribunal, he rang me up to inform me that he has decided to start practicing in Supreme Court because lawyers in SC charged huge fee and it had become impossible for the common man to fight the legal battle in SC. He had taken this decision to provide legal help to needy and poor on minimum fee. I have no words to explain the greatness of this great man. He was one of the noblest man with malice towards none, not even those who had hurt or harmed him.

Sinha Sir had been a great devotee of Shri Sai. I pray to Shri Sai to give strength to his family to bear this tragedy. RIP.


\*

[The writer, Satish Singh Thakur is a suave retired IAS officer of 1988 Batch, at present working as Officer on Special Duty to Chief Secretary, Bihar. Satishji had worked with me as Additional Secretary when I was the Vigilance Commissioner in mid-1990s. He made a speech charged with emotion at the meeting organized on the 6<sup>th</sup> December at IAS Bhwan by the IAS Officers' Association to condole the sad demise of late BK Sinha (IAS-1975) who had passed away at Delhi on December 3, 2019. Moved by his emotional speech, I had requested Satishji to write a piece by way of homage to the memory of the Late BK Sinha. I too have sweet memories of my interactions with the Late BK Sinha, in whose name House No 22 stands in our IAS Colony in Kidwaipuri, Patna - RUS]

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# मोटन की भीड़

(कृण्डलियां)

राम उपदेश सिंह 'विदेह' 

गृह-स्वामी के द्वार पर, भड़ मोटन की भीर,  
कोई मिडियम बिल्ड का, कोई भैंस शरीर;  
कोई भैंस शरीर, सुनो अब ध्यान लगाकर,  
हुआ हादसा एक, कहूँ शरमा शरमा कर।

पहला था दीवान पर, दूजा बैठा बेंच,  
बाकी सोफा-सेट पर, खिसकाये सब पेंच;  
खिसकाये सब पेंच, घटी तब इक दुर्घटना,  
हिले सभीदीवार, हिला फिर सारा पटना।

बात-बात की बात में, चौंके सारे गेस्ट,  
लचक गया इकबारगी, मोटू जी का वेस्ट;  
मोटू जी का वेस्ट, कमर कहते हैं जिसको,  
गुस्ताखी हो माफ़, तोंद कहते हैं उसको।

मोटन जी तो बच गये, टूटा सोफा-सेट,  
अब तो भरना पड़ गया, कारपेन्टर का पेट;  
कारपेन्टर का पेट, कर रहा धधे छोटे,  
प्रभु को किया प्रणाम, बनाए जिसने मोटे।


सोफा-सेट स्वरूप में, यदि होते खुद आप,  
करुणा रस में चीख कर, करते यही विलाप;  
करते यही विलाप, 'बता क्या दोष हमारा?  
हर सीमा को लाँघ, मुझे मोटों ने मारा।'

नीचे सोफा-सेट के, था स्वामी का श्वान,  
पहले से ही था जिसे, अनहोनी का भान;  
अनहोनी का भान, भगा वह पूँछ दबाकर,  
ज्यों ही मोटे गेस्ट, जमे सोफे पर आकर।

देख-भाल उस श्वान की, सेवक करता एक,  
स्नेह बहुत करता उसे, नहलाता मन टेक;  
नहलाता मन टेक, श्वान को जाड़े में सम्मान,  
पूछा, 'हाथ-गोड़ धोयेंगे, या कि करेंगे स्नान?'

गृह-स्वामी खर्चा करें, गृहिणी करे गुहार,  
कवि विदेह ने रच दिया, दोहा सोच विचार;  
दोहा सोच विचार, कसम खायी दोनों ने,  
जब मोटे आ जाँय, बिठाएँ उनको कोने।

# माँ

आभा सहाय 

माँ...तुम्हारी अंश हूँ...तुमसे ही हूँ...

पहली धाड़कन, पहली सासों तुम्हारे अंदर लिया,  
पहली बार तुम्हारा ही चेहरा देखा,  
चलना सिखाया दौड़ना सिखाया  
दुनिया की हर तहजीब से वाकिल कराया  
हर परेशानी में साथ खड़ी रही,  
उससे जूझना सिखाया...

अपना शौक किनारे करके,  
मेरी हर फरमाइश को पूरा करती  
रातों को जब मैं सो जाती,  
तुम मुझे सोते में भी खिलाना ना भूलती,

एक तुम ही थी जो मेरी हर बात  
बिना बोले समझ जाती थी,  
मेरी एक छींक पर पूरे घर को उठा लेती थी,  
बहुत प्यार किया बहुत मान दिया,  
अपनी बेटी को बेटों से बढ़कर दुलार किया

उस वक्त तेरी आवाज  
तेरी डाँट अच्छी नहीं लगती थी,  
आज उसी आवाज,  
उस डाँट के लिए तरस जाती हूँ,

जाना चाहती हूँ उसी बचपन में,  
फिर वैसे ही तुमसे खूब बातें करूँ,  
तेरी गोदी में सर रख कर सुकून से सोना चाहती हूँ  
काश तुम आज भी मेरे पास होते...

तुम्हारी छवि हूँ माँ, जो भी सीखा तुमसे ही सीखा  
आज भी सीखती हूँ, तुम्हें याद करती हूँ  
मेरी ताकत हो तुम, मेरी प्रेरणा का श्रोत हो तुम  
माँ दुर्गा का रूप हो तुम  
जिन्हें मैं तहे दिल से नमन करती हूँ

तुम्हारी अंश हूँ मैं... तुमसे ही हूँ... माँ...

## **Mahatma Gandhi and Millie Polak : A study of unique association**

Dr. Prabha Ravi Shankar



Amongst a few Europeans who admired Gandhi and helped him in his struggle against racialism in South Africa, the Polaks played a significant role. Henry Leon Solomon Polak, an English-born Jew, shared most of Gandhi's ideas and was his close political aide and fellow-seeker. Millie Polak, his wife, was a companion and one of the earliest western female associates of Gandhi. The Polaks shared Gandhi's joint family home for two years from 1904 to 1906. In 1906 when Gandhi moved to the Phoenix Ashram for an experiment in community living, the Polaks also shifted along with Gandhi. Millie expressed her opinion on almost all subjects on which she spoke to Gandhi. At the time of passive resistance movement when Gandhi and other leaders were arrested, Millie played an important role in organizing women together under the banner of 'Transvaal Indian Women's Association'. In 1914 when Gandhi decided to leave for India for his larger mission, he wanted the Polaks to stay back in South Africa to ensure that the agreement with the South African Government was implemented. The Polaks had already decided to return to England, but when the matter was referred to Millie Polak, she displayed supreme spirit of sacrifice by agreeing to the request of Gandhi. The Polaks returned to England only in 1916 via India where Millie stayed for some time before embarking on her journey back to England. In England, the Polaks continued to take interest in Indian affairs not only in South Africa but also in India and overseas. In 1931 Millie wrote a book entitled *Mr. Gandhi, The Man*, in which she gave valuable insights into Gandhi's personality and her own independent character. This paper seeks to study the unique association between Gandhi and Millie Polak.

Millie Graham Downs, as she was called, was

born in London and since the age of eighteen, began to work in connection with the Christian Socialist Movement. Young and vivacious Millie Downs was a Christian Scot woman and a fiancée of Henry Polak. They met at the London Ethical Society. Gandhi came to know her soon after his first meeting with Henry Polak in March 1904 in South Africa where Polak worked as a journalist. Though Millie was engaged to Polak, the senior Polak had discouraged their marriage citing her physical weakness as unsuitable to the strenuous life of the Colonies and had pleaded with Gandhi to use his influence to postpone the marriage. Gandhi disagreed and wrote a persuasive letter to the elder Polak: *'If the young lady in question was not at that time in robust health in London, all the more reason for her to hasten her departure from it, so that in South Africa, amidst loving care, a beautiful climate and a simple life, she could gain the physical strength she evidently needed'*.

In his letter to Millie, dated 3rd July 1905, Gandhi advised her to pay respects to Dadabhai Naoroji, who 'represents the highest ideal of an Indian patriot'; to visit the Lady Margaret Hospital in Kent managed by Dr. Josiah Oldfield under hygienic principles, and learn everything about it; to make acquaintance with Miss Nicholson of the Vegetarian Society and study the working of Tolstoy farm somewhere in London. Gandhi also hinted to Millie that she would get valuable experience to take up service activities in South Africa. He assured Millie that she would be welcomed into the family where Polak was already a family member. Millie recollected later that the letter 'set the tone to the whole of my relationship with him, establishing him in my life as 'a loving and understanding elder brother' and showed human tenderness of the man. She anxiously

awaited meeting with Gandhi after the exchange of three or four letters with him. Millie arrived in Johannesburg in the end of December 1905 and found Gandhi and Polak waiting for her at the station. This was her first impression of Gandhi: 'Medium-sized man, rather slenderly built, skin not very dark, mouth rather heavy lipped, a small dark moustache, and the kindest eyes in the world, that seemed to light up from within when he spoke. His eyes were always his most remarkable feature and were in reality the lamps of the soul; one could read so much from them. His voice was soft, rather musical, and almost boyish fresh'.

At the end of December 1905 Polak married Millie in a simple civil marriage (their common religion being the religion of ethics) and in the court Gandhi was their special guest and a witness. The newly-married couple moved into a joint family house where Gandhi had introduced as much simplicity as possible. Between 1904 and 1906 the Polaks shared a home in which they lived apart from Gandhi, his wife, three children, a houseboy and a cook. Millie Polak was unprepared for the stark and Spartan conditions of life but soon settled down. Millie found that Gandhi's three sons were not attending regular school. Though not a professional teacher, she voluntarily began to give lessons to them for three hours every morning in simple English, reading and writing, arithmetic, composition and elementary grammar. She also taught Kasturba Gandhi a few words of English. Like her husband Polak, Millie began to admire Gandhi for his simplicity, courtesy and kindness.

Initially, Millie found community living at Phoenix an ill-equipped place. She gives a graphic picture of the miserable little house where they were put up:

'The little house to which I was taken was devoid of any pretence of beauty or of the things that I had been accustomed to look upon as necessities. There were no carpets or rugs to cover the bare deal boards of the floor, no curtains to the

windows, only some ugly yellow blinds to keep some suggestion of privacy. Of course, there was not a picture on the yellow-washed walls, and only furniture of the simplest was installed in the house... I said to Mr. Gandhi that I wanted some curtains, some floor-covering and a few other things to make the little house 'home'.

For about a month and a half Millie left the settlement for Durban before the Polaks returned to Johannesburg in August with Gandhi. Millie gives a detailed account of the pattern of life at Phoenix where an experimental community living in a simplified and frugal life of public service had been set up based on equality. It took some time for Millie to adjust to the new surroundings. The newspaper *Indian Opinion* that Gandhi began in 1903 was also moved to Phoenix and everyone was expected to work for the paper in his or her spare time. Slowly she began to admire Gandhi's first experiment in community living where people belonging to different races and religions lived together and in mutual support that broke the racial barriers to some extent. Millie noted in her book that they all had a busy household where often guests joined them and a dozen sat down to dinner every night. She found that the entire household had been experimenting with Gandhi's dietary restrictions and novelty. Gandhi continued to make laws for the Phoenix settlement. Millie questioned him on his several health experiments such as earth poultices, cabinet steam bath, cold tub water bath, diet of acid fruits and the need for fasting. She found it amusing that all were busy since early morning grinding wheat for baking bread. When Gandhi prohibited tea because he considered it as a stimulant and also milk for the same reason, Millie challenged him, especially, when she became a young mother, and argued that in which case all children would be brutes. In fact, there were hardly any issues on which Millie and Gandhi did not debate or disagree.

As regards religious beliefs, Millie informs that there were many Europeans who thought that

Gandhi had converted himself to Christianity. This was because he often quoted from the Christian scriptures and had a beautiful picture of Jesus in his office. To her question to Gandhi as to why he did not embrace Christianity, Gandhi answered: "to be a good Hindu also meant I would be a good Christian. There was no need for me to join your creed". Gandhi was keenly aware of the social evils such the caste system, child marriage and enforced widowhood that had turned the life of women into a misery in India. For instance, when a middle-aged follower of Gandhi returned to the settlement with a child-wife, Millie was aghast and questioned Gandhi on this disgraceful social custom. The latter accepted the charge but felt that women must rouse themselves to do their share in the work of reform, that they must set the standard of life, it is their privilege and their duty, that they can refuse to be a part of this evil practice. She argued that in India the so-called glorification of women was only in theory and not in practice, and that Indian women had always been subordinate. As Gandhi developed his non-violent philosophy of life, he found Millie constantly questioning his inconsistencies. Such contrary opinions did not affect their relationship. Millie felt that Gandhi appreciated her independent views voiced without fear. Recalling the events in Johannesburg, she pointed out how Gandhi, at times, proved to be a bundle of inconsistencies but would never waver in his belief and 'would only smile or shrug his shoulders if she argued that such and such a situation might become unjust or absurd'.

In 1909 at the request of Gandhi, Polak visited India as a representative of the Transvaal Indian Association to conduct propaganda on behalf of the suffering Indians and to secure moral and material support from India. When Millie terribly missed Polak who was away on duty, Gandhi soothed her with comforting words through letters and signed himself as 'brother': he wrote, "You are Henry's better half. No path can be

considered right for him along which that he cannot carry you. Will you not have sufficient faith in him for certain that he is incapable of creating a gulf between you and himself? I ask you to trust me: A gift given or a sacrifice made grudgingly and not cheerfully is no gift or sacrifice." In 1911 Polak again conducted propaganda in India as well as in England where he made full use of his contact with eminent liberals. He was accompanied by Millie. Gandhi wrote in praise of their work in *the Indian Opinion*: "Mr. Polak could have done little but for the zealous support ungrudgingly given to him by Mrs. Polak. Nor has Mrs. Polak's work has been of a neutral character. She herself moved freely among our womenfolk and enlightened them on our position...she lost no opportunity, whether, by speech or writing, or helping her husband in his work".

From Millie's book we understand that her husband Polak was not a mere devoted follower of Gandhi. He disagreed with Gandhi on some issues and brought it to his notice. For example, Polak did not agree with Gandhi who insisted on imparting non-formal education to his children and felt that he was not doing the right thing in neglecting English. Once Gandhi and Polak, Millie informs, did not speak to each other for nearly four days. This was because of a distorted version of the Indian problem that had been published in a newspaper article and Gandhi did not bother to send a rejoinder. The matter ended only when Gandhi suggested to Polak that he himself can write the rejoinder.

During her close association with Gandhi in South Africa, Millie found Gandhi to be very kind and considerate. She found motherly qualities in Gandhi and made a very pertinent remark: "*Most women love men for such attributes as are usually considered masculine. Yet Mahatma Gandhi has been given the love of many women for his womanliness, for all those qualities that are associated with women - great faith, great fortitude, great devotion, great patience, great*

tenderness, and great sympathy. Women could sense that in him they found a fellow traveller, one who had passed ahead along the road they too were travelling, and could give him affection, deep, pure, and untouched by any play of sex-emotion. Gandhi was himself rather womanly having the qualities of loyalty, trust, devotion, faith and purity”.

During the 'Great March' into Transvaal in 1913 when almost all the male leaders were arrested, Millie played an important role in organizing the Transvaal Women's Association. Initially, about forty women joined to whom Millie gave lessons on Indian struggle in South Africa. They met every fifteen days to discuss and plan their role in the struggle. From this small beginning grew the Transvaal Women's Association that played a big part in the last phase of the passive resistance movement. Many women from Natal who travelled up to Volksrust, were arrested and sentenced to three months imprisonment, and were the first of the hundreds to go to prison. They endured physical hardship and suffering but kept their spirits high. Millie Polak wrote that “India has many things to be proud of, but of none more than the part of the Indian women of South Africa took in the uplifting and recognition of a people here despised”. She observes that Gandhi was happy with the role of women and said: “*I have learned more of passive resistance, as a weapon of power, from Indian women than anyone else. Even Ba [Mrs. Gandhi] has taught me that I cannot compel her to do anything she absolutely and resolutely refuses to do. She just passively resists me and I am helpless*”

In 1914 when the struggle seemed to have ended, the Polaks were planning to return to their home in England for two reasons - first, to enable Henry Polak to practise law and second was to provide better education for their children. Gandhi had already decided to leave for India in June 1914 and wanted Polak to succeed him to

ensure that agreement with the South African authorities were carried out properly. The matter was referred to Mrs. Polak, who had already sacrificed much in the early years of her married life. Millie recalled in her book that when the matter was brought to her, she told, “in all the circumstances, though it was a terrible disappointment, she felt that he must be free for his great mission”. “Who can say” she wrote “what might have been the course of political events in India had the decision been otherwise and he [Gandhi], had been obliged to remain in South Africa?” She felt a sense of deep sorrow when Gandhi left South Africa for India. She wrote: “As I watched the boat steam out I felt an intolerable sense of blankness came into my life. A chapter filled with movement and intensity of thought and emotion had definitely closed”. During a period of eleven years in South Africa Millie Polak completely identified herself with the Indian cause. She displayed a gallant and sacrificing spirit when both her children confronted numerous difficulties and overcame them.

Gandhi approved of their return to England in 1916. Before Millie and her two children could go to England, Polak had already left for India to help Gandhi. Millie arrived in India in 1917 along with her children and stayed in Bombay. Millie was surprised to see Gandhi even after three years, 'the same; kind, gently, and sympathetic to all the little things of my life, as well as the bigger problems'. She noted that he had become more saint-like and his dress was simple like a peasant. She argued with Gandhi on his decision to act as the recruiting agent to the British during the First World War, his dietary experiments, on reincarnation and such other matters. She went to Champaran where Polak was helping Gandhi. Her sisters were in Conoor, a peaceful hill town in Southern India and Gandhi advised the Polaks to go there. Along with her two children, she left for Conoor. The influenza epidemic had broken out and Millie wrote how difficult it was to live in the

hill town where many fell seriously sick or died, and when most Europeans ostracized her family because of their association with Gandhi. Nevertheless, Gandhi kept in touch with her regularly and as soon as the war was over, he advised her to go over to Bombay. Meanwhile, Polak had already left for England where he was editing journal *India*, an organ of the British Committee of the Indian National Congress. When Millie returned to Bombay, however, cholera epidemic had already ravaged the city. Gandhi persuaded her to go to Matheran, a cooler and comfortable place at his own expense, where she stayed for six weeks. From Matheran Millie used to visit Bombay every weekend to meet Gandhi. At last when the war ended, Gandhi arranged for their passage back to England. At the time of parting Millie wrote with much sadness that they both knew that they would not meet again. In another letter dated 16 January 1918 Gandhi who wished Millie, a foreign woman with spiritual zeal to work in India, wrote: *“I have four women working with me. They are doing good work. They go about among the village women, teach them the laws of cleanliness and get hold of their girls. We have opened one girls' school... I know you would love this kind of work. But your time is not yet. I have my eyes upon you. When Waldo and Leon [her children] are able to take care of themselves and after you have had a few*

*years of peaceful life together, I should not wonder if you do not feel the call to work among the villagers here”.*

When Gandhi had become world renowned as a Mahatma, many in England requested Millie to write on her close association with Gandhi. But she did not take up the task and humble enough to admit that the “sacredness of the intimate talk of friendship would, it seemed to me, have been violated by publication”. But when Gandhi wrote his *Autobiography* in 1927, recalling his association with the Polaks, Millie decided to put on record her relationship with Gandhi in the form of a book in 1931. Even after three decades later, an elderly Millie, lovingly recapitulated her early association with Gandhi when she was interviewed in the year 1960. The findings of this inquiry leads us to the conclusion that Millie Polak was the earliest of the western women to be closely associated with Gandhi at a time when he had been experimenting with his philosophy of life. He helped to wean away the child and had a special place of affection for her eldest son Waldo. Gandhi addressed most of his letters to her as 'My dear Millie', and ended up signing as 'brother'. According to Millie when Kasturba desired something for her children, she would often tell her to plead with Gandhi on her behalf. She was independent in her opinion and judgement and Gandhi appreciated the same

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[What triggered the idea of publishing in this issue of **Prayaas** the above article, downloaded from Google, was the printout of the following piece (captioned, **Does Gandhi have a Caste?**) received from dear SS Thakur:

*In a vivid (but sadly unpublished) account of the passive resistance movement in South Africa, Polak writes of the leader that, while 'a Vaishnav Bania by birth, he is by nature a Brahmin, the teacher of his fellow-men, not by the preaching of virtue, but by its practices, by impulse a Kshatriya, in his chivalrous defence of those who had placed their trust in him and look to him for protection, by choice a Shudra, servant of the humblest and most despised by his fellow-men.*

After going through this interesting piece with a reference to Polak, I searched for Polak in the Google and was face-to-face with the above article by some Dr Prabha Ravi Shankar, which allowed me to peep into the past and publish it in Prayaas in this phase of 150 Years of Mahatma Gandhi. I hope, our readers would find this historical account of interest. -R. U. Singh

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## Tidbits

### **Pithy Sayings:**

1. **George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill:** "I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; Bring a friend, if you have one."  
**Winston Churchill**, in response, "Cannot possibly attend first night, I will attend the second, if there is one."
2. **George Bernard Shaw** (to a man who claimed to be a self-made man): "So, you've relieved the God Almighty of a very great responsibility!"
3. **Winston Churchill:** "He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire."
4. A Member of Parliament to **Disraeli**, "Sir, you will either die on the gallows, or of some unspeakable disease."  
"That depends, Sir," said **Disraeli**, "whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."
5. **Clarence Darrow** (American Lawyer): "I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure."
6. **William Faulkner** (American writer, about **Ernest Hemingway**): "He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary."  
"Don't bother just to be better than your contemporaries or predecessors. Try to be better than yourself."
7. **Moses Hadas:** "Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it."
8. **Mark Twain:** "I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it."  
"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?"
9. **Oscar Wilde:** "He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends."  
"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go."
10. **Stephen Bishop:** "I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here."
11. **John Bright:** "He is a self-made man and worships his creator."
12. **Irvin S. Cobb** "I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial."
13. **Samuel Johnson:** "He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others."
14. **Paul Keating:** "He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up."
15. **Charles Maurice de Talleyrand** (1754-1838): "I am more afraid of an army of 100 sheep led by a lion than an army of 100 lions led by a sheep."  
"Love of glory can only create a great hero; contempt of glory creates a great man."  
"In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily."
16. **Forrest Tucker:** "He loves nature in spite of what it did to him."
17. **Mae West:** "His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork."
18. **Andrew Lang** (1844-1912): "He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts for support rather than illumination."
19. **Billy Wilder:** "He has Van Gogh's ear for music."
20. **Groucho Marx:** "I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it."

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# टीसाट घड़ी

देवेन्द्र नाथ



यह एक साधारण टीसाट घड़ी तब बड़े इश्तियाक की हो जाती है जब लोगों को यह मालूम हो कि यह बंगला कथाकार शरच्चन्द्र की घड़ी है।

पार्वती कविराज, कविराज पंचानन भट्टाचार्य, श्रीमंत शरच्चन्द्र चटर्जी और मेरे दादा अनुगृहीत शाह की चौकड़ी जमती थीय कभी पार्वती कविराज ढाका औषधालय में, कभी बावन बीघा या कभी गुरुदास चट्टोपाध्याय के मालंच में।

एक बार उनकी घड़ी खराब हो गयी और मरम्मत का जिम्मा मेरे दादा जी को दिया गया। स्टेशन के निकट फोटो स्टोर के मालिक पिंटो घोष को दिया गया लेकिन बहुत कोशिश करने के बाद भी वह इसे ठीक नहीं करा पाये और तब शरच्चन्द्र ने विरक्त होकर दादा जी को इसे देकर इससे छुट्टी पाली। उस समय देवघर में घड़ी नहीं मिलती थी और टीसाट घड़ी बड़े नामदार कंपनी की घड़ी मानी जाती थी। उसके उपर रालेक्स और सायमा कंपनी की घड़ियां। उस वक्त देवघर में और कोई घड़ीसाज नहीं था। बाजार में काली बाबु घड़ीसाज सिर्फ दीवाल घड़ी ठीक करते थे।

बहुत बाद में जब मेरी दादी से यह मुझे हासिल हुई तो इस घड़ी की अहमियत समझ कर इसे मैंने बहुत प्रयास से कोलकाता के लाल बाजार स्थित फेब्र लुबा कंपनी से डायल और कांटे ठीक करवाये हैंय सेंटर का कांटा भी बाद में लगाया हुआ है जो सोने का नहीं है। घड़ी कम लोग पहनते थे और बहुत लोग समय घड़ी वाले से पूछते थे। समय की ठीक ठीक तस्दीक के लिए मेरे दादा जी ने घर से एक फेब्र लुबा की एलार्म घड़ी शरच्चन्द्र को पंहुचाई।

शरच्चन्द्र बहुत मुख्तसर किरम के इंसान थे और किसी बात पर आपनी राय का इजहार करने में भारी गुरेज रखते थे। वे कभी हिंदी नहीं बोलते थे और जरूरत पड़ने पर आपने सेवक हरिबोधन से हिंदी के दो चार शब्द

बोलते वह भी बंगला के लहजे में। हरिबोधन उनके लिए रोज बाजार जाता और उनके मनमुताबिक चीजें लाताय जिनमें रूई माछ और चिंगड़ी जरूर होता। उन्हें हुरो साह का गुड़ का बना लकठो बहुत पसंद था। वे दोनों समय भात ही खाते जिनमें देवघर के सुविख्यात द्वारिक घोष दुकान का चमचम जरूर होता।

मालंच में बिजली आ गयी थीय भागलपुर के किसी बंगाली कंपनी के सत्प्रयास से पहली बार वहां के लोगों ने बिजली के दर्शन किये। लेकिन पंखा नहीं था और उसकी जगह कपड़े का झालर एक आदमी रात भर डुलाता रहता कि उनकी नींद में खलल न पड़े।

शरत बाबु के पांव में कोई दोष नहीं था फिर भी वह छड़ी का इश्तेमाल करते थेय संभवतः उन दिनों छड़ी रखना शायद बंगाली अभिजातों का शगल रहा हो।

वे मंदिर भले नहीं गये पर नंदन पहाड़, बालानंद ब्रह्मचारी आश्रम और जालान पार्क स्थित माया पहाड़ी जाते रहते थे और यहीं उन्होंने अतिथि, बैकुंठेर बिल, निष्कृति और पथेर दावी का कुछ अंश भी लिखा था।

उनके निवास में उनका बिनबुलाया मेहमान एक लावारिस कुत्ता भी था जो अनयास कथाकार के उच्छिष्ट की अपेक्षा में वहां टकटकी लगाये बैठा रहता और कहीं बाहर जाने पर उनके पीछे हो लेता। अतिथि उपन्यास का कथानक इसी कुत्ते पर आधारित है जिसका अंत बड़ा ही करुणामय है।

टावर निकट ढाका औषधालय में अक्सर शाम पांच बजे आ जाते और उनके लिए गुडगुड़ी खास मुकरर रहती जिसका वह इत्मीनान से कश लगाते और किसी के तहरीर सुनकर माथा हिला कर सहमति बताते। वह कमानादार सिंगल लेंस का ऐनक लगाते चूंकि उनकी दाहिनी आंख कुछ कमजोर हो चली थी।

मेरे दादा जी ने कई बार उनसे मंदिर जाने का आग्रह किया लेकिन दूसरे दिन जाने की बात कहकर टाल

देते। पूजा पाठ के प्रति उनका कभी कोई आग्रह नहीं दीखा जबकि उनके उपन्यासों में उनके किरदारों को ईश्वर भक्ति के अधीन दिखाया है।

हमारी दुकान वैद्यनाथ पुस्तकालय के शुरुआती पूजा पर मंदिर जाने के क्रम में आये पर वहीं रोड से ही पांच मिनट खड़े रहकर वापिस हो गये।

वह अपने पब्लिशर गुरुदास चट्टोपाध्याय के देवघर आवास मालांच (शरफ स्कूल के पीछे, आज जहाँ एक्सिस बैंक है) में अक्सर रुकते और तांगा से ढाका औषधालय आते थे। उस समय हाथ के रिक्शे का चलन हो गया था पर वह उसके इस्तेमाल से परहेज करते थे।

कविराज महाशय के औषधालय में बंगला खबर कागज जुगांतर खास उनके लिए मुकम्मिल रहता।

दादा जी शरच्चन्द्र से खालिस नवद्वीपी बंगला में बोलते ही नहीं थे वरन लिखते भी थे। उस समय हिंदी लिखने का चलन नहीं था, हिंदी हरफ में अपनी बात कैथी या लल्लूलाल (तोता मैना फेम) के लहजे में लिखने का

चलन था। लेकिन बहुतों जैसा दादाजी भी उर्दू में ही खत खिताबत करते।

शरत बाबु आमतौर पर किसी से मिलते जुलते नहीं थे। उनको जानने वाले देवघर कम ही लोग थे। लेकिन कलकत्ता से अनेक मित्र उनसे मिलने आते थे उनमें जमींदार बाबु श्यामा चरण मित्र थे जो भवानीपुर, कलकत्ता के बहुत धनाढ्य परिवार के थे।

हां में घड़ी की बावत कह रहा था। आज टीसाट कंपनी बंद हो जाने से इसके पुर्जे दुष्प्राप्य हैं और यह घड़ी बंद पड़ी है। इसका लेदर चौन एकदम खराब हो जाने से मैंने चौन बदल कर स्टील का लगवा दिया है। इसके डायल और कांटे सोने के हैं। यह अपने मूल अवस्था में नहीं है इसकी सर्विसिंग की गयी है। उस समय इसकी कीमत बीस पच्चीस रुपये होगी जो बहुत थी। इसे मैं निकाल कर चमकाता रहता हूँ। कभी कभी इसे मैं पहन कर उस महान कथाकार के स्पर्श को महसूस कर लेता हूँ।




[About the writer] अति साधारण परिवार में जन्म, ११ सितंबर १९५४। शुरु की तालीम रामकृष्ण मिशन विद्यापीठ, देवघर में पटना युनिवर्सिटी से स्नातकय बीएचयू से पीजीय कुछ दिन कालेज में पढायाय बिहार सरकार की सहायक निबंधक पदाधिकारी की नौकरीय युएनआई में दक्षिण बिहार का ब्यूरो चीफय गुवाहाटी रेडिओ स्टेशन में प्रोग्राम आफिसर, रविवार साप्ताहिक में डिपुटि चीफ एडिटरय एक हिंदी दैनिक रांची में प्रधान संपादकय श्री वैद्यनाथ मंदिर प्रबंधन बोर्ड का सदस्यय सिनेमा के लिए लिखने की बेकार की नाकामयाब कोशिश। अपने अवगुणों की वजह से कहीं टिक नहीं पाया। अब मुफलिसी और अभाव में जीना सीख रहा हूँ। देवघर में निवास—देवेन्द्र नाथ,

[I was attracted to this for two reasons: first that it concerned Sharat Chandra and second that my uncle had sent to me a similas looking Tissot wrist watch, costing Rs 400 when I was a probationer in the NAA, Mussoorie in 1961 – RUS]

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## TO BE A SOLDIER OR A CRICKETER?

Col P S Sangha, VrC (Retd.) 

I have a course-mate from the Army days who gave me some surprising news. In his younger days he had played cricket for the Services at the Ranji Trophy level. His younger brother, a civilian, was also a cricketer and played one Test match for India. The news was that both these guys were on the pension payroll of the BCCI. My friend, who had played more than 25 Ranji Trophy matches, was getting Rs 15,000 per month as pension and his brother with his single Test match was getting Rs 3,75,000 per month. In addition the BCCI has given a lump sum going up to Rs 1 crore to ex-Test cricketers to help them in their sunset years. Well, I thought that this was indeed a grand gesture of the BCCI to recognise their effort.

It got me thinking on the value system that prevails in our country. I was a soldier in the Army for close to 29 years before I called it quits. During this period I fought in the 1971 Indo-Pak war and was awarded the Vir Chakra for gallantry. This is the third highest gallantry award after the Param Vir Chakra (PVC) and the Maha Vir Chakra (MVC). The government gives a decoration pay while in service and later as part of the service pension. It started at a low amount which increased with each pay commission. At present, I get Rs 3,500 per month as the decoration pay. For a MVC it is Rs 5,000 and for a PVC it is Rs 10,000. What set me thinking is the value put on a soldier's life.

Most of the gallantry awards are given posthumously. So the awardee is already in the happy hunting grounds and his heirs are left to

handle the situation. The dead soldier's family gets a lump sum amount of a few lakhs from the group insurance fund and the pay/ pension. All this is a pittance compared to the BCCI dole to ex-cricketers.

I remember getting Rs 25,000 in lieu of 5 acres of land from the Punjab Government for my gallantry award. Compare that with the lakhs and crores you can make for getting medals in Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. The conclusion is that a soldier's life is cheap.

This brings me to a comparison between a soldier in the battlefield and a cricketer on the pitch. Both face projectiles of differing variety. For the cricketer it is a red/white ball which could be coming at you at a speed close to 150 km/h. For the soldier it can be a bullet, a bomb or a missile travelling at speeds beyond the speed of sound. The cricketer can hit that ball for a six or just duck under it, or at worst, get hit on the well-protected body. The soldier can just pray that the bullet, splinter or missile misses him.

Both the soldier and the cricketer are doing something for the nation. The cricketer on losing a match just says "It is only a game". The soldier just cannot think or afford to lose in the battlefield. Also consider that as a cricketer you can get a 'Bharat Ratna' for your outstanding achievement. But Field Marshall Sam Manekshaw has not been given that honour despite leading the Army to its greatest military accomplishments.

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## How to survive a Heart Attack when alone?

From Whatsapp

1. Let's say it's 7:45pm and you're going home (alone of course) after an unusually hard day on the job.
2. You're really tired, upset and frustrated.
3. Suddenly you start experiencing severe pain in your chest that starts to drag out into your arm and up in to your jaw. You are only about five km from the hospital nearest your home.
4. Unfortunately you don't know if you'll be able to make it that far.
5. You have been trained in Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), but the guy who taught the course did not tell you how to perform it on yourself.
6. How to survive a Heart Attack when alone? Since many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack without help, the person whose heart is beating improperly and who begins to feel faint, has only about 10 seconds left before losing consciousness.
7. However, these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest. A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let-up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again.
8. Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm. In this way, heart attack victims can get to a hospital.

[Circulated by Dr.N Siva (Senior Cardiologist)]

### Alzheimer's disease

In the United States, an estimated 5.4 million people have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. This figure is growing rapidly with the ageing population. One of them was Steve Newport. His wife, Mary Newport, was a doctor. Dr. Mary learned that her husband had severe Alzheimer's disease. When the doctor examined her husband at the hospital, he asked Steve to paint a clock. Instead, he drew a few circles and then drew a few figures without any logic. It was not like a clock at all! The doctor pulled her aside and said: "Your husband is already on the verge of severe Alzheimer's disease!"

It turned out that it was a test of whether a person had Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Mary was very upset at that time, but as a doctor, she

would not just give up. She began to study the disease. She found out Alzheimers disease was associated to glucose deficiency to the brain. Her research says: "The dementia of the elderly is like having diabetes in the head! Before one has the symptoms of Diabetes or Alzheimer's disease, the body has already had problems for 10 to 20 years." According to Dr. Mary's study, Alzheimer's disease is very similar to Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes. The cause is also insulin imbalance. Because insulin has a problem, it prevents the brain cells from absorbing glucose. Glucose is the nutrition of brain cells. Without glucose, brain cells die. As it turns out, these high-quality proteins are the cells that feed our body. But nutrition for our brain cell is glucose. As long as we have mastered the

source of these two kinds of food, we are the masters of our own health!

The next question is, where to find glucose? It cannot be the ready-made glucose that we buy from the store. It is not from fruits such as grapes. She started looking for alternatives. The alternative nutrients for brain cells are ketones. Ketones are necessary in brain cells. Ketones cannot be found in vitamins. Coconut oil contains triglycerides. After the triglycerides in coconut oil are consumed, it is metabolised into ketones in the liver. This is the alternative nutrient for brain cells! After this scientific verification, Dr. Mary added coconut oil to her husband's food.

After only two weeks, when he went to the hospital again to do painting and clock tests, the progress was amazing. Dr. Mary said: "At that time, I thought, has God heard my prayers? Wouldn't it be coconut oil that worked? But there is no other way. Anyway, it's better to continue taking the coconut oil\*." Dr. Mary was now part of the traditional medical practice base. She clearly knew the capabilities of traditional medicine. Three weeks later, the third time she took him to do a smart clock test, the performance was better than the last time. This progress was not only intellectual, but also emotional and physical. Dr. Mary said: "He could not do his running but now he can run. He could not read for a year and a half, but he can read again now after taking coconut oil for three months." Her husband's actions had already

begun to change. He did not speak in the mornings. Now she noticed a lot of changes: "Now after he gets up, he is spirited, talking and laughing. He drinks water himself and take utensils for himself on his own."

On the surface, these are very simple daily tasks, but only those who have come to the clinic or have demented relatives at home can experience the joy: It is not easy to see such progress! After frying the greens & onions in coconut oil, making cakes with coconut, after taking 3 to 4 tablespoons of coconut oil per meal, 2-3 months later, the eyes too can now focus normally.

Her studies proved that coconut oil can really improve the problem of dementia in the elderly. Apply coconut oil to bread. When coconut cream is used, the taste is unexpectedly good.

Young people can also use it for maintenance of health and prevention, and can improve if they have symptoms of dementia. Dementia is caused because nutrients cannot be transported to brain cells, and nutrients must be passed from the body to the brain by insulin. Especially for diabetic patients it's not easy to get insulin secretion. "Nutrition cannot get to the brain. When brain cells are starved to death, they are deprived of intelligence." Coconut oil contains medium-chain triglyceride, which can supply nutrients to the brain without using insulin.

So, it can improve Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease.

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## **In lighter vein:**

### **Exploration**

A would-be father-in-law (FiL) was trying to impress the soon-to-be son-in-law (SiL) by showing him the family album. He stopped at the photo of a jewel-bedecked ancestor with white moustaches and exclaimed, "Aha, he is the Adam of my family."

"I see." The SiL said and asked, "What was he?"

On this, the FiL felt agitated and said curtly, "Didn't I tell you that, as Adam, he laid the foundation of my family?"

The SiL persistently said "I could guess that but I just wanted to know what he did apart from laying the foundation of the family."

### **An Illusory Affair**

A husband stood in his balcony, watching the scenery outside and his wife attended to household chores inside. Surveying the opposite buildings he noticed that a lady from the opposite building appeared to him to be waving her hands at him from the glass pane of a window, for a few minutes continuously. Thrilled, he waved back, beaming and smiling, in response to this beautiful woman in the opposite building

At that very juncture his curious wife came to the balcony, took one look at the lady, hit him hard on his head and said "You idiot, she's cleaning the glass window; stop waving and come in and help me in the Diwali cleaning."

### **Nomenclature**

The Ugandan supremo, Idi Amin once wanted to change the name of Uganda to Idi because he thought he could do anything with Uganda. Everybody was afraid to challenge that concept except for one man called Maliamulungu who was close to him.

He said, "Your Excellency Sir, do you know Cyprus?"

Idi Amin with a surprised look asked, "What has Cyprus got to do with my decision to change our name to Idi?"

Maliamulungu said, "the people of Cyprus are called Cypriots, so if you change Uganda to Idi, we will be called Idiots, including your goodself Sir. So please let's maintain Uganda as our name.

Idi Amin then said, "Aah Maliamulungu! You are very intelligent. In fact, more intelligent than everyone in Uganda except me."

### **Habitual Response**

With so many Greetings on WhatsApp, most people reply even without reading.

On the Diwali eve, a doctor received a message: "My daughter suffers from vomiting and loose motions, what should I give?"

The Doctor replied: "Wishing the same to you and your entire family. Enjoy the memorable times this Diwali festival and have fun."

ऑपरेशन थियेटर में-

सर्जन: ( बुदबुदाते हुए ) घबराना मत पाण्डेय, यह बहुत छोटा-सा ऑपरेशन है।

मरीज: धान्यवाद सर, यह सुनकर तसल्ली हुई। लेकिन मेरा नाम पाण्डेय नहीं है।

सर्जन: ( मुस्कराते हुए ) मुझे मालूम है। पाण्डेय मेरा नाम है और यह मेरा पहला ऑपरेशन है।

ट्रेन में दो यात्री-

पहला: यह ह्वाटसैप इनसान को बहुत आगे ले जायेगा।

दूसरा: सो कैसे?

पहला: देखिए ना, मुझे दो स्टेशन पहले ही उतरना था।

नामकरण-

एक मुर्गी के बच्चे ने अपनी माँ से पूछा, “माँ, इन्सान पैदा होते ही अपना नाम रख लेते हैं, हमलोग अपना नाम क्यों नहीं रखते?”

मुर्गी ने कहा, “बेटा, अपनी गिरादरी में नाम मरने के बाद रखा जाता है। जैसे, चिकेन टिक्का, चिकेन चिली, चिकेन तंदूरी, चिकेन मलाई, चिकेन कढ़ाई, इत्यादि।

हाथ-गोड़ धोना-

मेरे एक मित्र ने भूटानी ब्रीड का एक कुत्ता पाल रखा था। नाम था टॉमी, जिसकी देख-भाल विशेष रूप से एक नौकर करता था, जो उसे नहला धुलाता भी था।

पटना में शीतलहरी चल रही थी। एक सुबह नौकर मेम साहब के पास आया और पूछा, “मेम साहबजी, आज बहुत ठंड है। टामीजी नहायेंगे कि खाली हाथ-गोड़ धोयेंगे?”

चश्मे का पावर-

दादाजी को बाँख के डॉक्टर ने +2.5 पावर का लेंस लगाकर सामने लिखे वाक्य को दिखाकर कहा, “दादाजी, पढ़िये तो क्या लिखा है?”

दादाली ने पढ़ते हुए कहा, “पत्नी फेंको, लैला ले जाओ।”

उसके बाद डॉक्टर ने +3.0 पावर का लेंस लगाकर पढ़ने को कहा।

अब दादाजी ने पढ़ते हुए कहा, “पत्नी फेंको, थैला ले जाओ।”

डॉक्टर ने पूछा, “दादाजी, दोनों में कौन अच्छा है?”

छादाजी ने झट से कहा, “निस्सन्देह पहले वाला।”

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## What Ails Bihar

LP Singh, ICS



I deem it a great honour to be invited to deliver this year's Founder's Day Memorial Lecture. My reasons are both personal and public. Not only I but also my wife, as the daughter of the editor of the Leader newspaper of Allahabad and a friend of Dr Sachchidananda Sinha, had the privilege of enjoying the affection and personalized hospitality of Dr. Sinha and I have welcomed this opportunity to pay a respectful tribute to his memory.

The British Government had their own reasons for annulling the partition of Bengal and creating the province of Bihar and Orissa. The main objective was to meet the political and linguistic opposition to the partition. But it would appear from the Governor General's letter of 25 August 1911 to the Secretary of State that it was also the intention (by the exclusion of the Biharis and Oriyas from the post annulment Bengal) to enable the Bengali Hindus to exercise "that influence to which they consider themselves entitled by their numbers, wealth and culture". The Bihari intelligentsia, led by Sachchidananda Sinha, had their own reasons for demanding a separate province. They were inspired by a hope in its great future, based on its exceptionally rich natural endowments—fertile agricultural land, vast mineral resources, and millions of hardworking and virile people—and by the evocative power of Bihar's glorious past.

There are usually diverse factors and complex motivations leading to historical developments. But the role of Sachchidananda Sinha in the creation of Bihar undoubtedly entitles him to be considered a founding father. And a founding father who worked assiduously throughout his life for the political education and advancement of the State. He was the founder or promoter of practically every newspaper in Bihar, and of the Leader Daily published from Allahabad, which for decades was the political hub of the country and a major intellectual and

cultural centre. His membership of a legislature started in 1910 and ended with his death in 1950. In the executive branch of government too he had the rare distinction of being the first Indian to hold the Finance portfolio as an Executive Councilor in a Province. His versatile scholarship and deep interest in education were recognized by his appointment as vice chancellor of the Patna University; his fine Library is a permanent legacy to the people of the State.

I must resist the temptation to go on recounting his achievements, accomplishments and personal qualities, and proceed to speak about the subject of my lecture. But before I do so I must refer to Dr. Sinha's election as the temporary Chairman of the Constituent Assembly and the memorable speech he made in that capacity. He was elected, as J B Kripalani proposing his name said, because he was not only the oldest member of the Constituent Assembly and its oldest Congressman, but also the oldest parliamentarian in the country. Dr. Sinha's speech was an illuminating discourse on Constitutions, constituent laws, and Federations, and their historical and political background. It contains insights and cautions, which continue to be valid, and have great relevance to the subject of my lecture. His prayer, he said, was that the Constitution that the "Assembly was going to plan would be reared for immortality, if the work of man may justly aspire to such a title, and it may be a structure of strength, which will outlast and overcome all present and future destructive forces". He drew attention to the striking observations of the great American jurist. Joseph Story, that "Republics are created by the virtue, public spirit, and intelligence of the citizens. They fall when the wise are banished from the public councils, because they dare to be honest, and the profligate are rewarded because they

flatter the people in order to betray them". He concluded by quoting Iqbal's lines about India having survived the ravages of time and cataclysms of ages, indicating that there was some eternal element in India which ensured its durability. His last sentence, however, exhorted the members to bring to their task a broad catholic vision, for as the Bible says, "where there is no vision, the people perish. It is the eternal element in India – the capacity to regenerate itself from time to time – on which we can base our faith in the future, provided our leaders show some vision and breadth of outlook, and willingness to work our fine Constitution with wisdom and integrity.

One may allow a moment's speculation about what agonized feelings Sachchidananda Sinha, and the galaxy of men, Mazharul Haq ((a political leader who was host of Gandhi Ji in 1917). Syed Ali Imam (who became Law Member in the Governor General's Council), Syed Hasan Imam (who became president of the Congress), Rajendra Prasad and Braj Kishore Prasad, who were associated with Bihar at its birth or in early years, would have had if they were alive today. They would have been appalled by the poverty, illiteracy, narrowness, venality and criminality which they would have seen in Bihar, whose political rebirth had opened up such fine vistas of material prosperity and cultural regeneration – once it was able to shape its destiny according to its own genius and judgment. With all their natural warmth and goodness they were men of great intellectual abilities and vision. They earned by their intrinsic worth exceptional professional and political distinction. They would not have reckoned with the poverty of intellect and vision which has afflicted Bihar in recent decades. Gandhi Ji being impressed by the "humility, simplicity, goodness and faith" of Braj Kishore Prasad had described these as being characteristic of Biharis. This description may

be still applicable to the common people of Bihar. But among some sections of the political and professional elite humility has given place to brazenness; and simplicity has not been replaced by urbanity or refinement, but by ostentation and crudity. Coming to more recent decades, one's thoughts go to Jayaprakash Nayayan's crusade against corruption, abuse of power and social inequities, and one hopes that some of the idealism and creative urges still exist among those who, inspired by his mission and vision, had flocked to him.

When the State Reorganization Commission's recommendations were being considered in 1956, there was, as is well known, a proposal that West Bengal and Bihar should be reunited. It is perhaps not so widely known that the proposal was made on the advice of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, who was then the President of India. He told me in 1956-57 that while in 1911-12 he had considered it necessary for the development of the Biharis that they should be unyoked from the far more advanced Bengalis, a stage had been reached in 1955-56 when the Biharis needed the stimulus of association with Bengalis with the latter's modern outlook and metropolitan culture, to grow out of their social and relative cultural backwardness. He had also thought that competition with the more advanced Bengalis would make the Biharis shake off their complacency and spur them to greater effort. The Bihar Ministry of the day was willing to go along, but for their own, presumably good reasons, the West Bengal Ministry was not. Apparently, Dr. Rajendra Prasad's judgment about the growing malaise of Bihar by the mid-fifties was that the State was becoming too tightly tethered to its rural moorings, and was likely to lag behind further in the modernization of its social and economic life, notwithstanding some islands of modernity in a part of Chhota Nagpur.

That Bihar ails- in fact suffers from very serious ailments – is indisputable. I may mention just a few indices of social and economic backwardness. Bihar which had the highest

density of population among the States even earlier being lower only than that of Kerala and West Bengal continued to have a high growth rate of 23.5% in the decade 1981-91. But along with the high growth rate of the total population there was a marked decline in the sex ratio of females per thousand of males, the ratio falling to 912 from 946 in 1981. It is a disturbing demographic and social fact which can be explained only by the inhuman practice of female infanticide, directly or, more commonly, through utter neglect of the girl child. Added to this is the dismal figure of female literacy, being only about 23% -- the lowest among the States with only one exception. Even the total literacy rate in Bihar, 38.54%, is the lowest in the country, being well below the all-India rate of 52.11%.

The increase in the State's population is not reflected in the growth of urbanization. The growth of urban population to about 13% of the total in 1991 was virtually the lowest among the States, excepting only the smaller ones. It is estimated that by 2001 the urban population of India, which was about 26% of the total population in 1991, may increase to over 30%. If the urbanization in Bihar proceeds at the past rate the ratio in Bihar may not even reach 15% of the total.

One may not subscribe fully to the highly critical views about villages expressed by Karl Marx, among others. But there is the undeniable historical fact that cities have been the matrix of civilization and centre of development of science and technology. It is in the cities that social change and modernization of an economy takes place. My reasons for dwelling so long on Bihar's demography is my belief that the continuing growth of total population, with very low urbanization have been among the major factors in the backwardness of the State, both economic and cultural. The pressure of rising population has led to fragmentation of land holdings, low investment in agriculture, and low productivity.

Because of excessive dependence on agriculture the percentage of agricultural workers to total workers has been the highest among the major States; the percentage of people below the poverty line has been higher than that of all the States but one; and the per capita income the lowest. These dismal facts speak for themselves.

I am afraid my speech has already got cluttered with statistics, and I will now just mention the result of a study of comparative human development of the States, done by a social demographer. The study has adopted broadly the approach of the Human Development Report issued by the United Nations Development Programme in 1994, and has worked out for our States and index based on data relating to six areas, viz demography, health, education, social, economic and women. The study places the composite ranking of Bihar at the very bottom among the fourteen major States for which up-to-date statistics were available. Is it at all surprising that Bihar is generally described as the sick State of the Indian Union – a heartland State which with all its potentials has become a drag on the progress of the country?

The causes of Bihar's undoubtedly unhealthy state are diverse and they have been analyzed by scholars of different disciplines and others with experience of government and public administration. There is a study done by the Centre for Policy Research, at the instance of the Planning Commission. Experts in different fields in Bihar and Delhi had contributed to the study, which was led and coordinated by Dr Ajit Mozoomdar who, with his background of Bihar administration, followed by national and international experience, has provided an excellent overview. It sets out the material facts and contains a number of practical recommendations for the State's future planned development. I do not propose to traverse ground which has, already been so ably covered, or speak more about the demographic, social and economic data reflecting Bihar's unhealthy condition.

What I wish to mention now are the basic causes, historical, attitudinal and sociological – as I see them – of Bihar's backwardness. Even about 1870s Ashley Eden, then, then Lt Governor of the composite Bengal, could say about the agrarian system in Bihar that the “tenants of the richest province in Bengal were yet the poorest and most wretched class ..... in the country”. There have been substantial changes in the agrarian system, particularly since Independence, which should have resulted by now in substantial reduction of rural poverty. As it is, lakhs of people still go out from Bihar to work as agricultural laborers in Punjab, and as construction workers in Delhi and other parts of the country, employment for them not being available in Bihar itself. With the continuous growth of population, fragmentation of holdings and inadequate growth of the non-agricultural sectors, the pressure on land has continued to increase. It is certainly necessary to increase investment in agriculture and improve its productivity. But there is no possibility of increasing the growth of the rural economy to such an extent that it can provide anything approaching full employment. There has to be diversion of a substantial part of the work force to the industrial and services sectors. Even after all the attainable development in the agricultural sector, Bihar would not be in a position to free itself from dependence on the rural economy. I have no doubt this is recognized by the Bihar administration and the intelligentsia generally. But it has economic and social implications which need to be fully realized.

It is noteworthy that first two plan periods (1950-51 to 1960-61) Bihar was making progress in all spheres, registering a growth of 3.95% (p.a.) of State Domestic Product compared to the all-India figure of 3.30%; the rate of growth was, in fact, higher than that of all but two States. There was a recognition then that Bihar had started with several handicaps. It did not have the advantages

of the coastal cities which had developed into industrial as well as commercial and financial centers; they had become the ports of entry of industrial products from overseas and exit of agricultural produce of the country to markets overseas. The commercial and professional classes that grow at these centers had access to western ideas, and scientific and technological outlook, which Bihar had lacked. It was therefore, imperative for Bihar to continue an all-round effort in order to get over the disadvantages of its late start. Judged from the decline in the growth of the State's Domestic Product in the succeeding plan periods, there was, it seems, slackening of effort, instead of keeping up the tempo of the 1950s. There was, on the contrary, a decline in the succeeding plan periods.

Have we in Bihar closely inquired into the causes of our failure to maintain the rate of progress, or the causes of our falling behind the rest of the country as the years passed? The Patna University had, in spite of a late start, acquired a reputation for high academic standards. We have added a number of universities during the last decades, But a substantial proportion of our talented youth have felt compelled to move to Delhi for better education; and apparently as products of Delhi's institutions they take their place with the best in the country. Have we cared to investigate the factors which have led to this state of affairs? I have been told by doctors at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences that very large number of patients come from Bihar and are to a degree responsible for the over-crowding at the Institute. There was a time when the Patna Medical Collage was deservedly renowned for the quality of the services and education provided by it, and the professional accomplishments of its products. Have we looked for the causes of the precipitous decline in our medical services? This has happened while the number of our medical

colleges has increased, and we have probably a particularly large number of medical personnel with specialized qualifications acquired mostly at reputable centers in foreign countries. The Bihar Government often complains of unfair treatment by the Central Government, and it may well be that Bihar has not been getting a fair deal in the matter of royalty on some of its mineral products and in certain other matters. Bihar should certainly demand and secure by all constitutional means whatever is its due. But has Bihar been making full use of the funds available to it? Judging from reports in the press and the Comptroller and Auditor General's reports it appears to be among the conspicuous defaulters. A State has to utilize fully and properly what it gets, and manage its finances with at least a modicum of prudence, if its demands for larger financial allocations from Central funds are likely to be entertained. This is evident enough, and I can support it from all my knowledge and experience of Centre-State dealings. There is little practical sympathy for the inefficient and the improvident.

Have we put to ourselves the question why, particularly after the adoption of the new economic policy, Bihar has not attracted new enterprises, as for instance west Bengal under a Left Front government, and Orissa with a later start than Bihar, have done? Have we offered the facilities and the environment of peace and order which would attract investors and entrepreneurs, Indian and foreign? Bihar was doing well enough during the nineteen fifties and sixties when the location of industries was decided by the Government of India on broad national as well as economic considerations. For reasons of which I am not aware Bihar failed to keep up the pace of industrialization during the next two decades. But now, new investment in industries, infrastructure and services will be determined more than ever in the past on a comparison of advantages, including a generally congenial climate for investment, available in different States. Loud complaints of

unfair treatment and political lobbying will not now influence choice of location. If we fail we will have ourselves to blame.

It seems to me that we in Bihar have to do a great deal of introspection and self-criticism. We need a spirit of inquiry, capacity for rational self-assessment, and it it comes to it, be ready to lift ourselves by our shoe-strings. This is the way of self-respect, and of true advancement.

During the 1950s those of us who were then working here were dreaming of Bihar making a contribution to the strength and prosperity of the whole country. It is not a matter of pleasure for the survivors from the workers of that period, like myself, to be frequently reminded that we come from the State which was keeping down the progress of the country – being the sick State of the Union. Reflecting on Bihar's backwardness I have the feeling that the root of many of our problems lies in our inability to get out of our essentially rural outlook. Even our reported major scam relating to cattle fodder is symbolic of our conspicuous rurality; it does not relate to any institution of a modern economy, such as major banking, Stock Market, or foreign exchange transactions. Excessive caste feeling, neglect and illiteracy of women, obscurantist beliefs and practices, and social inequities will continue so long as Bihar society continues to be predominantly rural. Villages have been through the ages, and all over the world, citadels of conservatism. Impulse for social or technological change does not come from villages. There is no developed or rapidly developing country which continues to be predominantly rural. Our own more urbanized States are far more advanced not only economically, but also socially and culturally. These are the States that have taken to science, and modern technology indispensable in all spheres of activity – whether it is agriculture, industry, health or population.

An objective, rational approach to our shortcomings and problems would lead us to the realization that without promotion of science and

technology Bihar will continue to be backward. Science and new technology developed in the urban centers will no doubt have to be carried to the villages that will continue to exist; their progress will be both an economic and social necessity. But it has to be remembered that, for instance, the new agricultural technology which has led in other parts of the country to what is called the green revolution was developed at advanced national and international centers, not in the villages. The Bihari's mind needs to be modernized, and this can occur only in urban centers. As agricultural laborers become workers in factories, or in the modern service sector, their social outlook changes, and the traditional mould of custom is broken with far fewer customary

social distinctions and far wider opportunities for interaction. I believe that it is only with industrialization and urbanization that the caste system will be undermined, leading eventually to its extinction; and women will get the education and social position which they deserve, and which is essential for the all-round advancement of a people.

Belonging to Bihar and having served here as a public servant for nearly a score of years, I have felt free to speak frankly, hoping that my criticism will not be taken amiss, and my concern for Bihar's advancement will be recognized to be the motive for my criticisms.

I thank you for the patience with which you have listened to my long lecture.\*

[Shri LP Singh, ICS (1936) is remembered as a legendary Chief Secretary of Bihar. He rose to be the Union Home Secretary, Governor of Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura, and Indian Ambassador to Nepal. He was conferred Padma Vibhushan Award in 1999. He authored three books. In the early 1950s Appleby Committee had adjudged Bihar as one of the best administered States of India. The above speech was delivered way back, perhaps in 1996, in the Sinha Library on the subject, 'What Ails Bihar?'. Its photocopy was received by me from SS Thakur and this had been preserved all these years by Surendra Prasad Sinha. I too had attended the Lecture. Shri LP Singh spoke in a very feeble voice, almost inaudible, as he had throat cancer. He was born in village Gaighat of Shahabad (now Buxar) district in 1912. After an illustrious life, he passed away on 27 October 1998 at New Delhi. – RU Singh]

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Cartoons

**Cartoon by RK Laxman**



*What, are we citizens of India? Of course, we are! Don't we look it?*

**You Said It**

By LAXMAN



Don't be so critical actually it's a good budget if you don't view it from the economic angle! \*

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, 1980

**Technosavvy Child**



"No joystick? No mouse? No keyboard?  
How do you turn the pages?"

*Tech-Kid*




NO, GRANDPA  
NOT RAINBOW  
IT'S WIFI.

DIGITALISATION

*Yashraj*

## A Gem plucked away by God

NK Sinha, IAS (Retd.) 

It is heart rending to come to terms with the news of passing away of Shri Birendra Kumar Sinha, IAS (Retd), Bihar Cadre 1975 batch at AIIMS, New Delhi on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2019 at 1.00 AM after a brief illness. For those who knew him, the loss is sudden, shocking and unbelievable. As for the Service, a precious Gem has been plucked away by the cruel hands God. It is an irreparable loss to the people and administration Bihar and Jharkhand.

With his demise, a redoubtable crusader for the upliftment of the underprivileged and a relentless fighter against social evils has left us with a void that can hardly be filled up. He knew how to motivate his colleagues to deliver the best results. An interaction with him always left one with the feeling of elation with energy to do more public good with renewed vigour. His indelible imprint on the delivery of public service is unmistakably present not only in the districts where he served as DM or DC, but also at the State level where he held numerous assignments as well as at the Centre where he served as DG, CAPART and later as Secretary to Government of India in the Ministry of Rural Development. With his zeal and passion for work, he made a mark everywhere and persevered against odds to convince the political bosses of the merit in his proposals.

An ideal example of simple living and high thinking, he was an enlightened soul. An ardent devotee of Sai Baba, he imbibed the virtues of a down to earth personality and frugal lifestyle. Chhath pooja at his residence in Delhi was an annual feature that was eagerly awaited by all his friends and cadre-mates.

His untimely demise has left all his near and dear ones in deep grief. The void created by his departure would be very difficult to fill even with the passage of time. Rarely do such gems of humanity get born on Earth. May God keep him by His side and grant him eternal peace.

[The writer, Shri Narendra Kumar Sinha, IAS (1980) is a former Secretary to Government of India in the Ministries of Culture, Tourism and Information & Broadcasting. He is presently an Information Commissioner of Bihar -RUS]

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### Condolences

Extraordinary general meetings of the IAS Officers' Association, Bihar Chapter were held in the IAS Bhawan on the 5-12-2019 and 28-12-2019 to pass Resolutions to condole respectively the passing away of our colleagues, Shri Birendra Kumar Sinha, IAS (1975) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2019 in AIIMS, New Delhi and of Shri Shrivallabh Sharan, IAS (1959) on the 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 at Delhi.

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## Waves & Ripples:

सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग, बिहार सरकार द्वारा निर्गत अधिसूचनाओं के अनुसार

भारतीय प्रशासनिक सेवा के पदाधिकारियों के स्थानान्तरण, पदस्थापन एवं प्रोन्नति

क्र.	अधिसूचना संख्या / तिथि	संबंधित अधिकारी का पदस्थापन/अतिरिक्त प्रभार
1	16730 / 16.12.19	(1) श्रीमती हरजोत कौर बम्हरा, भाप्रसे (92) को प्रधान सचिव, विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग, बिहार, पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार एवं (2) डॉ. दीपक प्रसाद, भाप्रसे (89) को प्रधान सचिव, संसदीय कार्य विभाग, बिहार, पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
2	17091 / 16.12.19	श्री रवि भाई परमार, भाप्रसे (92), को प्रधान सचिव, कला, संस्कृति एवं युवा विभाग, बिहार, पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
3	17120 / 16.12.19	श्री अभय राज, भाप्रसे (2005), अपर सचिव, मद्य निषेध, उत्पाद एवं निबंधन विभाग, बिहार, पटना का अपर सचिव, नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
4	17121 / 16.12.19	श्री केशवेन्द्र कुमार, भाप्रसे (केएस 2005), का अपर सचिव, पशु एवं मत्स्य संसाधन विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
5	17122 / 16.12.19	श्री मणीष कुमार, आईटीएस (2000), का विशेष सचिव, भवन निर्माण विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
6	17624 / 27.12.19	श्री दीपक कुमार, भाप्रसे (1984), मुख्य सचिव, बिहार, पटना की सेवावधि का दि. 1.3.2020 से 31.8.2020 तक के लिए विस्तार।
7	17707 / 30.12.19	श्री आमिर सुबहानी, भाप्रसे (89), अपर मुख्य सचिव, गृह विभाग को अपर मुख्य सचिव के रूप में मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय विभाग, बिहार, पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
8	88 / 03.01.20	श्री आमिर सुबहानी, भाप्रसे (89), अपर मुख्य सचिव, गृह विभाग को को अपर मुख्य सचिव के रूप में संसदीय कार्य विभाग, बिहार, पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
9	1633 / 31.01.20	श्री प्रभाकर भाप्रसे (एस के 2007), का प्रबंध निदेशक, बिहार राज्य पर्यटन विकास निगम, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
10	1634 / 31.01.20	श्री विजय कुमार भाप्रसे (2007), पदस्थापन हेतु प्रतीक्षारत, का अपर सचिव, कृषि विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
11	1635 / 31.01.20	श्री कंवल अनुज भाप्रसे (2010), अपर सचिव, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग, बिहार, पटना को निदेशक, सांस्कृतिक कार्य निदेशालय के पद का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
12	1635 / 31.01.20	श्री हिमांशु कुमार राय भाप्रसे (2010), अपर सचिव, मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय विभाग, बिहार, पटना का अपर सचिव, सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
13	1907 / 06.02.20	श्री तनय सुल्तानिया भाप्रसे (2017), अनुमंडल पदाधिकारी दाउदनगर, औरंगाबाद का अनुमंडल पदाधिकारी, पटना सदर के पद पर पदस्थापन।

क्र.	अधिसूचना संख्या / तिथि	संबंधित अधिकारी का प्रोन्नति
1	16002 / 25.11.19	स्वर्ग दुर्गेश नन्दन (2005), तदेन सचिव, राज्य निर्वाचन आयोग, बिहार, पटना को दिनांक 01.10.2018 के प्रभाव से विशेष सचिव के स्तर में प्रोन्नति ।
2	16002 / 25.11.19	स्वानिवृत्त श्री शिव शंकर मिश्र (2005), तदेन अपर सचिव, वित्त विभाग, बिहार, पटना को दिनांक 01.01.2019 के प्रभाव से विशेष सचिव के स्तर में प्रोन्नति ।
3	16003 / 25.11.19	श्री सावर भारती (2005), अपर सचिव सांस्थिक वित्त शाखा, वित्त विभाग, बिहार, पटना को दिनांक 01.01.2018 के प्रभाव से विशेष सचिव के स्तर में प्रोन्नति ।
4	16003 / 25.11.19	श्री मो. मन्जूर अली (2005), अपर सचिव, अनुसूचित जाति एवं अनुसूचित जनजाति कल्याण विभाग, बिहार, पटना को दिनांक 01.01.2018 के प्रभाव से विशेष सचिव के स्तर में प्रोन्नति ।
5	16003 / 25.11.19	श्री राधा किशोर झा (2005), अपर सचिव ग्रामीण विकास विभाग, बिहार, पटना को दिनांक 01.10.2018 के प्रभाव से विशेष सचिव के स्तर में प्रोन्नति ।
6	16003 / 25.11.19	श्री श्यामल किशोर पाठक (2005), अपर सचिव, राजस्व एवं भूमि सुधार विभाग, बिहार, पटना को दिनांक 01.12.2018 के प्रभाव से विशेष सचिव के स्तर में प्रोन्नति ।
7	16003 / 25.11.19	श्री अरुण प्रकाश (2005), अपर सचिव, खान एवं भूतत्व विभाग, बिहार, पटना को दिनांक 01.01.2019 के प्रभाव से विशेष सचिव के स्तर में प्रोन्नति ।
8	16003 / 25.11.19	श्री कुमार अरुण प्रकाश (2005), अपर सचिव, लघु जल संसाधन विभाग, बिहार, पटना को दिनांक 01.01.2019 के प्रभाव से विशेष सचिव के स्तर में प्रोन्नति ।
9	16003 / 25.11.19	श्री भरत कुमार दूबे (2005), अपर सचिव, खाद्य एवं उपभोक्ता संरक्षण विभाग, बिहार, पटना को दिनांक 01.01.2019 के प्रभाव से विशेष सचिव के स्तर में प्रोन्नति ।
10	16004 / 25.11.19	श्रीमती सुजाता चतुर्वेदी (1989), अपर सचिव कार्मिक एवं प्रशिक्षण विभाग, भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली को श्री ब्रजेश मेहरोत्रा की सापेक्षता में दिनांक 05.10.2019 के प्रभाव से शीर्ष वेतनमान में प्रोफॉर्मा प्रोन्नति ।
11	16005 / 25.11.19	श्री आदेश तितिरमारे (2006), निदेशक, कृषि, बिहार, पटना को पुनरीक्षित तिथि दिनांक 01.02.2019 के प्रभाव से विशेष सचिव के स्तर में प्रोन्नति ।
12	16005 / 25.11.19	श्री दयानिधान पाण्डेय (2006), विशेष सचिव, समाज कल्याण विभाग, बिहार, पटना को पुनरीक्षित तिथि दिनांक 01.02.2019 के प्रभाव से विशेष सचिव के स्तर में प्रोन्नति ।
13	16005 / 25.11.19	श्री संदीप कुमार आर. पुडकलकट्टी (2006), प्रबंध निदेशक, नॉर्थ बिहार पावर डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन कंपनी लिमिटेड, पटना को पुनरीक्षित तिथि दिनांक 01.02.2019 के प्रभाव से विशेष सचिव के स्तर में प्रोन्नति ।
14	16005 / 25.11.19	श्री धर्मेन्द्र सिंह (2006), निदेशक, नियोजन एवं प्रशिक्षण, श्रम संसाधन विभाग, बिहार, पटना को पुनरीक्षित तिथि दिनांक 01.02.2019 के प्रभाव से विशेष सचिव के स्तर में प्रोन्नति ।
15	17595 / 26.12.19	श्री अरविन्द कुमार चौधरी (1995), सचिव, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग, बिहार, पटना को उसी विभाग में प्रधान सचिव के रूप में प्रोन्नति ।
16	17595 / 26.12.19	श्रीमती एन विजयलक्ष्मी (1995), सचिव, पशु एवं मत्स्य संसाधन विभाग, बिहार, पटना को उसी विभाग में प्रधान सचिव के रूप में प्रोन्नति ।
17	759 / 13.01.20	श्री बी राजेन्द्र (1995), को उच्च प्रशासनिक ग्रेड में प्रोफॉर्मा प्रोन्नति ।
18	1402 / 27.01.20	भा.प्र.से. (2006) बैच के पदाधिकारी (1) श्री प्रदीप कुमार, (2) श्री अभय राज, (3) श्री मिथिलेश कुमार एवं (4) श्री विवेकानन्द झा को दि. 1.1.20 के प्रभाव से तथा (5) श्री अरशद अजीज, (6) श्री सोमेन्द्र कुमार एवं (7) श्री हरेन्द्र नाथ दूबे को दि. 1.2.20 के प्रभाव से विशेष सचिव के स्तर में प्रोन्नति ।
19	1403 / 27.01.20	श्री श्याम बिहारी मीणा भा.प्र.से. (2014), उप सचिव, आपदा प्रबंधन विभाग, बिहार, पटना को संयुक्त सचिव के स्तर में प्रोन्नति ।
18	1774 / 04.02.20	भा.प्र.से. (2011) बैच के पदाधिकारी (1) श्री आलोक रंजन घोष, (2) श्री महेन्द्र कुमार, (3) श्री हिमाशु शर्मा, (4) श्री त्यागराजन एसएम (5) श्री शीर्षत कपिल अशोक, (6) श्री राहुल कुमार, (7) श्री मिथिलेश मिश्र एवं (8) श्री देओर नीलेश रामचन्द्र को दि. 1.1.20 के प्रभाव से कनिष्ठ प्रशासनिक ग्रेड में प्रोन्नति ।



Lord Ganesh on Indonesian Currency Note



Multi-interpretation of the Word, MENU



जो जागत है सो पावत है, जो सोवत है वो खोवत है।

## An Anachronistic Scene in Modern India



बालक जब हो गया अधीर, भर लाया बोतल में नीर; आया तुरत रेल के पास, बना लिया शौचालय खास। लाइन भी शौचालय एक, ट्रेन गुज़रती जहां अनेक; यह विकास की है पहचान, लगा रहे मोबाइल कान। ट्रेन अगर सहसा आ जाये, दूर रेल से उसे भगाये; चली गयी जब उसे भगाकर, बैठ गया फिर से वह आकर। भूत भविष्यत वर्तमान है, समय-चक्र का यह निशान है भारतीय है रेल जहां पर, तीन काल का मेल वहां पर। भारत के भविष्य हैं बालक, कल वे ही होंगे संचालक; सरल चित्त है उनकी पूंजी, यह आवाज़ देश में गूंजी। प्रौढ़ मार्ग जो दिखलायेंगे, बच्चे उसको अपनायेंगे, हम नज़ीर जो अपनायेंगे, कल सस्वीर नज़र आयेंगे। भारत का भविष्य उनमें है, सरल चित्त स्थापित जिनमें है, रहे स्वच्छ भारत का ध्यान, भव्य देश की यह पहचान।

– 'विदेह'

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