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Editorial

Dear Colleagues,

I feel privileged to lay before you this issue of our in-house magazine for the 4th Quarter of 2023. Although I have been engaged in literary pursuits after retirement, the engaging task of editing this magazine is like the *piece de resistance* that is, the dessert after a meal.

While I write this, I cannot undervalue your whatever contributions along with the cooperation of the Association and the Editorial Board. As I myself format the pieces on my computer, I cannot but put a word of praise for the printer, Abhishek Kumar who dutifully and promptly complies with instructions.

It is heartening to find that many of our members posted in the secretariat or in the field are decorating their caps with feathers one after another by way of by showing streaks of development like some stars scintillating with light of greater intensity.

The preceding few weeks saddened as we came across the news the passing away of Pranab Shankar Mukhopadhyay (1964) and Anil Mahajan (1977) of our cadre besides Mrs Saroja Vaidyanathan, Mrs Parveen Amanulla and Dr Bindeswar Pathak who made a mark in their lives. Their obituaries are included in this issue.



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 [Mob: 91133-04025]

Areus 17-10-23

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



IAS BHAWAN

Photo Gallery

Proud Moment



Sandeep Poudrik receiving "Outstanding Performance Award" for performance in PMFME from Hon'ble President of India.



Dr Saroja Vaidyanathan receiving Sangeet Natak Academy Award from the then Hon'ble President of India in presence of her husband Mr CR Vaidyanathan, (BH-IAS 1953) on the right.

From Secretary's Desk



Dear Colleagues,

First recall: We all have witnessed, since our childhood, the vigorous clapping and enthusiastic cheers by the audience at the climax of Bollywood films when the hero finally scores his victory after severe bashing of villain(s). Second: now-a-days, we hear increasingly about mob violence during riots, mob lynching on frivolous religious provocations, mob lynching of thieves/ criminals, if they are apprehended on the spot and so on. Now come to a third type of events: Thirty-one people died by self-immolation when fans displayed their grief at the passing away of film star-cum-chief minister of Tamil Nadu, Mr M G Ramachandran. Likewise, after the death of South Superstar, Puneeth Rajkumar, 10 fans died in Karnataka, 7 due to suicide and 3 due to cardiac arrest after hearing the shocking news. There are many such instances.

Do we find a common thread in the above mentioned seemingly unconnected series of events? At first instance, their contexts seem to be entirely different and it seems that there is no correlation amongst all these. But on deeper probe, we would find that all these emanate from a common factor - the feeling of oppression and helplessness and the resultant frustration among the overwhelming majority of population. This frustration finds vent in various ways. All the above illustrations are either expressions of the display of frustrations or an effort to soothe their frustration.

Hero worship, as illustrated in the first and third series of events in the first paragraph, is the method through which the masses soothe their feelings hurt by the humiliation and oppression, which they face every day in the social, political and economic system. The second one is the expression of the suppressed feelings which comes out in the garb of anonymity in a mob.

You might be wondering as to why I am writing this in our quarterly newsletter? How are they connected to us? In fact, they are very much connected. As bureaucrats, we are the community towards which the common masses look forward to alleviate their grievances. We are not God, nor are we at the apex of politico-economic systems, but on our part, it just needs a little empathy, a smiling face, attentive listening to them when they come to meet us and give our best and make honest effort for redress of their grievances. It is not the resolution of their grievances but what matters is their faith in the honest effort of the system which we create through these tiny steps.

Finally, as I always say, for spreading love, there is nothing called appropriate time or a deserving person. If all of us spread the message of love through our words and deeds, the world would be a much better place to live.



Nov. 26, 2023

Yours sincerely

(Dipak Kumar Singh)

Secretary, IAS Officers' Association, Bihar.



सम्पादक की कलम से...

प्रिय साथियों, नमस्कार!

बिहार न्याय के साथ विकास के पथ पर तेजी से बढ़ता जा रहा है। भारत की माननीय राष्ट्रपति श्रीमती द्रौपदी मुर्मू द्वारा बिहार के चतुर्थ कृषि रोड मैप (2023-28) का शुभारंभ हाल ही में बापू सभागार पटना में किया गया। हमसब यह देखकर गौरवान्वित हुए कि नई दिल्ली के प्रगति मैदान के भारत मंडपम में आयोजित जी-20 सम्मेलन में भारत के माननीय प्रधानमंत्री ने बिहार का गौरव विश्व धरोहर नालंदा विश्वविद्यालय के अवशेष की प्रतिकृति के समक्ष ही विश्व के कई राष्ट्रध्यक्षों का स्वागत किया था।

'प्रयास' के प्रस्तुत अंक में श्री जी.आर.पटवर्धन (1968) के संस्मरण का अगला भाग पढ़कर आप स्मृति के लोक में एक बार फिर से खो जाएँगे। श्री आर.एन.दास (1962) ने इंडिया तथा भारत के संबंधों तथा विभिन्न आयामों पर प्रकाश डाला है। श्री एस.पी. जखनवाल (1963) ने बिहार में प्रशासन में नवाचार के पहलुओं को दिखाया है। श्री दीपक कुमार सिंह (1992) ने प्रातः ज्ञान, दिवाज्ञान एवं रात्रि ज्ञान के संबंध में बताकर हम सब के ज्ञान चक्षु खोलने का गंभीर एवं सार्थक प्रयास किया है।

डॉ० अशोक कुमार ने 'गोधूलि बेला में जीवन' के माध्यम से वृद्धावस्था की त्रासदी का वर्णन किया है जिसे पढ़कर आपको भीष्म सहनी की प्रसिद्ध कहानी 'चीफ की दावत' की याद आ जाएगी। श्री अभिलाष खंडेकर ने 'स्टीलप्रेम' की विडम्बनाओं तथा इसके बदलते स्वरूप को साझा किया है। 'प्रयास' के प्रधान सम्पादक श्री रामउपदेश सिंह 'विदेह' (1961) की कविता 'अखंडित संपूर्णता' साहित्यिक प्रतिमानों में श्रेष्ठतम श्रेणी की है, जो आपको रोमांचित करेगी।

आप सभी लेखकों का आभार प्रकट करता हूँ। साथ ही, 'प्रयास' के गत अंक के संबंध में आप में से कई ने जो प्रशंसा/सुझाव मुझे भेजे हैं, उसके लिए भी आपको धन्यवाद ज्ञापित करता हूँ।

विभिन्न अवसरों पर पुरस्कृत/सम्मानित साथियों को बधाई देते हुए मेरे गुरु श्रद्धेय श्री के एन सिंह की कविता की इन पंक्तियों के साथ, शुभकामनाओं सहित, आपके आलेख की प्रतीक्षा में,

"The only Remedy"

No Land is all waste

Trust the part that is ever chaste

Among the thorny Throns, roses grow

In the morning cocks always crow

Loll not in lethargy and join hands

End all squalor and soul less bands

Globalism and Humanism is the only Remedy

Seek through Sincere prayer, proper work and Holy company

For today and tomorrow and next tomorrow

Be yourself and do not borrow ..".

आपका ही,

(दीपक आनन्द)

संपादक

नवम्बर 16, 2023

दूरभाष : 7764000000



DOWN THE MEMORY LANE (Part 5)

Continued from the previous Issue...

The SP received information about the damage to telephone exchange from the DSP after I had left. When he learnt that I was at the College, he took the CRPF platoon he had brought along in truck and proceeded towards the market. Midway he found my station wagon parked outside the college and the police patrolling party outside the locked gate. He scolded them for the damage to the exchange and asked them to climb the gate and open it. Within a minute the gate was opened and the SP entered with the force following him. Raghuvansh Babu had been on the radar of SP for quite some time but not mine. As addl SP, he had better source of intelligence, and perhaps had identified the professor as a ring leader. I wanted to keep him free and instead round up his prominent followers among the students thinking it would reduce the potentially mischievous influence on other students. But the SP felt that the ring leader should be arrested first. So his views prevailed and, along with some thirty students, Raghuvansh Babu was rounded up. The SP asked me to accompany him to the Collectotate to arrange for a transport to take them to the sub-jail as the newly acquired Prison Vanwas too small to carry them all! Sensing that it might lead to problems, the leader and some of them were taken in van and others in truck with escort to the court compound. The truck was emptied and its occupants pushed into van and locked. The formalities of remand took

more than three hours. The students made a lot of noise, kept kicking the sides of the van and kept on shouting epithets and abusing the district administration. As it was quite hot in March, their throats dried up soon and after an hour it was all quiet. Around eleven in the night, they were taken to the already crowded sub-jail, and locked up in the open without food and were asked to spend the night there. The fervor to score points on the first day of agitation itself was over. Next day they were given the breakfast and necessary formalities were gone through. Many of them had already been there earlier also, as revealed by the Jail Superintendent but they intentionally gave different names and addresses! This was soon discovered. Thereafter, they started asking for various facilities. Fed up with their behavior, it was decided to shift them to Chandwara jail near Tilaiya in Hazaribagh district. It was kept a secret and at midnight, a state transport bus with CRPF escort was sent to the jail. When called up and asked to board the bus, they refused. The jailor apprehending commotion requested me, my quarter being the closest, to come as no other officer could be contacted. On reaching there, I found that they were all crowding at the inner gate. Inspector rank officer in charge of the escort, one Bisht, was asked to go in and ask them to come out. He refused saying unless a Magistrate gives the order to enter the jail he won't! When the jailor whispered that the DM himself

was there, the Inspector saluted and with his baton struck the inner gate yelling Nikal Bahar! In no time the group was in the bus and followed by the escort in their van the party left for Chandwara.

Elsewhere, especially in the outlying areas of two Blocks, Sonbarsa and Bairgania, difficult to access, sporadic incidents continued. In important markets, traders complained of harassment by anti-social elements and collections in the name of JP. A lecturer of Bihar University, masquerading as a worker of the movement, got receipts printed with photograph of JP to resemble one rupee currency note and gave it to students for collection. It naturally fell into undesirable hands and extortion on large scale started not even sparing some revenue offices of registration, sales tax and supply. No one was prepared to give the complaint in writing! Even the traders felt that way, but kept complaining.

Around this time, the CRPF platoon was recalled and replaced with a platoon of the Rajasthan Armed Constabulary of Jodhpur which happened to be my home district. Their vehicles boldly displayed their registration number beginning with RJQ- meaning Jodhpur district. Their headgear was typical, Jungle Hat with a sign of camel on their shoulder badge. People were aware of my roots in Rajasthan, all my steel boxes were painted with home address and at home we often conversed in local dialect. It was, therefore, seen as an attempt by me to call them up to help me deal with the disturbance. As if that was not enough, they were accommodated in the partially constructed new hutment near my office. Very soon, their commandant, one Doolhe Singh, visited me. All this convinced people that I knew someone

influential in Patna and could get things done my way. The DSP felt uneasy and in one meeting said that Bihar police was more flexible and could be trusted in all situations! The observation was not lost on me and I replied that they had come more for show and that the real work had to be done by us as we knew the district better. Soon, this detachment went back to Patna where there was real necessity and was replaced by a platoon of CRPF.

Three incidents thereafter, two of firing and one of attempted arson of a petroleum rail tanker need mention. Bairgania, a border block, approachable in fair weather by a fordable River Baghamati and otherwise by only by train, witnessed demonstration by students and other elements sometime after Holi festival. The crowd first gathered in the market, went round the town forcing traders to shut shops and thereafter was proceeding towards railway station where a goods special carrying sugar bags destined for Parbatipur in Bangladesh was approaching. The station master, sensing trouble did not allow it to enter the main line and kept it waiting at outer signal and informed the BDO, one Badhan Ram, a very sensible and quiet officer. He was already there accompanying the crowd with his 1-4 Anchal Guard, the standard complement. It seems he expected them to reach station, do some sloganeering, stone throwing and return to the bazaar. It was not to be and they soon dispersed only to outflank him and reach the entrance to the station. Some signboards were damaged, waiting cycle rickshaws turned upside down, stalls selling refreshments looted and brickbats thrown at cabin, water facility and ticket counter. When Badhan Ram lost his nerve, he rang me up,

described the moving crowd as dangerous and not obeying his advice to move no further. I asked him about the size of the crowd and if he had used Lathi force to disperse them. He replied that he only had an armed party and that they were already with him and of little use. He appeared frightened and asked for 'calling of army' as the crowd was going to enter the station master's cabin. Asking him to hold his breath, I asked him what was the force doing to which he replied that they were with him and getting restless. I exhorted him to take courage and fire well in time to ensure they are deterred from proceeding further. In no time he ordered firing. Next I heard him say that two persons appeared to have been killed and the phone went dead. The SP, Mishra also got the news around the same time. He came to my residence. It was about 4 PM. We first thought of taking the force by road via village Akhta on banks of River Baghmata and cross it with our trucks. But he felt it would expose us to an unfriendly countryside. So we decided to take the next train. We reached the station with a platoon of CRPF in tow and found a train on platform going towards Bairgania. A coach was got vacated and the station master contacted. He was perhaps aware of the happenings at Bairgania, consulted higher ups and allowed us to take the passenger coach with engine to reach fast. It appealed to us as the train would have definitely stopped at few stations and given some opportunity to chain pullers to stop it further and create ugly situations needing use of force. So in about fifteen minutes, with an engine and coach without guard, we were heading towards Bairgania non-stop and by about 5.30 PM, we were there. The engine and

the passenger coach returned. The goods train that was waiting at the outer signal was taken in and parked on main platform. We entered the town, bazaar deserted and streets empty. The force was sent on a flag march and we two sat to understand the sequence of events, take statements, ascertain about the main leaders in the crowd that were involved in the disturbance and help prepare the report. Some persons were identified and were found to have escaped to Nepal. So we decided to call on the Anchaladhish at Gour of adjoining district of Nepal for help. It was around 9 PM and the official had retired for the day. We requested for an audience, went in and were welcomed by him. Introduction over, he enquired about the purpose and was given the names of the two wanted persons. He smiled, called his wife by name, Sarita (pronounced by him as Sorita) and requested her to prepare tea for us! He said that he had heard something about the disturbance. We tried to describe the genesis of the movement under JP's leadership at which he appeared enigmatic and did not seem to take it seriously. Thereafter, he looked at us and said, "Do you know why these things happen on your side? Because you people do politics, not administration! That is the reason. OK, you will get your men tomorrow, they will report by noon." Hearing this blunt observation we both were speechless. The SP was a close relation of JP and Anchaladhish was not a politician from India! So, after finishing the tea, so lovingly offered, we profusely thanked him for his gesture and returned. The platoon of force was left there to bolster the local police and help the SHO to nab suspects. We took dinner in Thana and returned by the same sugar special

goods train to Sitamarhi around midnight.

I remembered that JP had led a movement against monarchy in Nepal sometime after we became independent, that Anchaladhish was a representative of SHRI PANCH KO SARKAR meaning the King, was only echoing the views of his master and so could not have any other opinion about the prevailing situation in Bihar or its leader.

After two days, JP decided to visit Bairgania and address a meeting. I asked the SP about the timing of his visit and if we should be there with force. He did not feel it necessary and we stayed put. Later, we learnt that some local functionaries of the movement had requested JP to come and see by himself the treatment meted out by the district administration to the peaceful demonstrators. JP criticized both us, the collector and the SP by name and lamented that even women were not safe in their rule! Though the meeting passed off peacefully I was alarmed and asked the central intelligence officer to ascertain facts. He reported that after we both had left, Daroga ji took some CRPF jawans for raiding certain dwellings to nab suspects. During this process at night, some of them misbehaved with women folk there and the menfolk were thrashed. Some were taken to the police station and detained. No complaint was received nor the home department asked for any report. In the tense situation prevailing in districts like Patna, Gaya, Monghyr and Arrah experiencing much bigger problem this incident did not perhaps even register as 'cognisable'!

The commissioner was naturally worried and rang up to find our version. I

repeated what I saw and did. He wondered how no one from the sub-division had gone and the BDO was left to manage all alone. He perhaps knew about the telephonic conversation that preceded the firing. As our telephone exchange was manual, as also of Bairgania, there was no point in discussing the matter. I said that the joint report was detailed and, if required, we could elaborate it further. He did not press the issue any further but decided to visit us. A week later, his secretary, Yadu Nandan Sahay, a very respectable and senior ADM rank officer informed me about his visit and made it clear that he would not stay for the night.

On the appointed day myself and the SP. received him in the local PWD IB, a 1937 structure, which apparently had a high plinth then but in course of time, repeated black topping of the road around it, made it look like the whole structure had sunk; only six inches of the original plinth remained. The drawing room was separated by an arch from the diningroom and a wash basin was placed in a corner. Two rooms each opened on both sides of these two big service rooms, typical of those days, like Circuit Houses in Bhagalpur, Gaya and Muzaffarpur. After the sub-division was upgraded as district, we started calling it the circuit house. Nothing else changed, the handloom curtains, the trade mark of state government; the chowkidar-cum-khansama in his lungi and some peon of the department whose guest was to come became a permanent feature. I sent my Nazir, Aniruddh Babu and a liveried peon to attend to necessary things. Some newspapers and magazines were kept to help the commissioner relax.

... To be continued in the next issue





INDIA vs BHARAT

This Article is addressed to the unnecessary controversy that has arisen recently, whether INDIA should be renamed as BHARAT. With apologies to all concerned, I submit that the controversy is completely unnecessary, and may have been created with a political purpose to divert the attention of our people away from major problems of our country.

Our Constitution names both terms as it starts with the sentence, **INDIA that is BHARAT shall be a Union of States.** Why should the name INDIA be deleted?

Our country was and is known all over the world as INDIA since it was so named by Greek Historians who were the earliest historians of the world. When *Alexandar* invaded our country in 327 BC, he and his Army, on reaching the west bank of river *Sindhu* [now known as Indus], they found the river invincible to cross and had to camp there for several months while their patrols explored the northern bank of the river to find a suitable place to cross the river to attack the kingdom of *Puru* [whom they called Porus]. The camping Greek soldiers were unable to understand the local language. When they asked the locals about the name of the mighty river, they told its name as SINDHU, but the Greeks understood and pronounced it as INDU. The reafter the Greek Historians described the river as INDUS, and named the *Aryans* living across the river as

INDIANS. Thereafter the Greek Historians described our country as INDIA. The name INDU was also mispronounced by many Greeks as HINDU. Since then the *Aryans* were known as HINDUs and our *Sanatan Dharma* was known as HINDUism in the Western World. [But I do not understand how and why the Greeks pronounced river *Jhelum* as *Hydaspes*.]

When the Greek Diplomat and Historian *Megasthenes* visited *Pataliputra* as Ambassador of Greek King *Seleucus I Nicotar* to the Court of Emperor *Chandragupta Maurya* [during around 302–288 BC] and recorded his travelogue, he named it as INDIKA [for which he is regarded as the first Historian of our country]. About two centuries earlier, *Herodotus*, the earliest historian of the world [and therefor known as the Father of History] had perhaps also visited our country about a Century earlier before arrival of *Alexander*, and had mentioned about our country in Chapter 3 of his book, which was named by him as HISTORIES [known to be the first-ever History book of the world. This name had been derived from the Greek word *Historia*, meaning *to know*]. This book mostly contained details of important wars, and has also been condemned by contemporary Greeks as a compilation of lies. [Unfortunately the originals of both the books do not exist, but partly reconstructed by Research scholars].

Yet, the name of our country as BHARAT or BHARATVARSHA has never been questioned or challenged anywhere. There are multiple theories about the source of this name. Some Researchers claim that the name originates from our *Vedas*; it is derived from the root '*bhru*', which means to provide for, to be maintained or the one who protects; others claim that the word *Bharata* has evolved from the root *bhrata* [brother] and it means the same as '*Bhrata*'; the word *Bharata* has evolved from this root and the word '*Bharata*' (*Bharada*, *Bharha*) meant the land which cherishes and provides.

The *Rigveda* mentions a mighty tribe *Bharat*, which was ruled by King *Sudasa*. The scripture mentions a war known as '*Dasharajnya*' or the war of ten kings which was fought between the ten powerful tribes to overthrow King *Sudasa* of the *Bharata* tribe. The mighty battle took place on the banks of the river *Ravi* in Punjab. Though the *Bharata* tribe were in much larger, King *Sudasa* won the battle due to his highly advanced military skill and established his power throughout the subcontinent. King *Sudasa* became very popular and people started identifying themselves as members of the *Bharata*. The name '*Bharata*' remained in history and the country began to be referred to as the land of *Bharata*.

But most believe that the name is after the mythical King *Bharat*, son of *Dushyanta*, a descendant of the Lunar Dynasty of the *Kshatriya Varna*, and *Shakuntala*, daughter of *Vishwamitra* and the *Apsara Menaka* [as narrated in the

Vishnu Purana]. King *Bharata* has also been described as the ancestor of the *Kauravas* and *Pandavas* of the epic *Mahabharata*. But in the *Mahabharata*, *Arjuna* has been addressed by Lord *Krishna* as *Bharata* [*Yada yada hi dharmasya glanirbhawati bharat,*] in Chapter IV Shloka 7 of Gita. The *Geeta* has been proved as one of the many intelligent interpolations, which have caused the epic *Mahabharata* to swell from the original 9 *parvas* to the present 18 *parvas*.

The word *Bharat* also has references in *Jainism* and according to the *Jain* theory, the country was named after *Bharat Chakravarti*, the eldest son of the first *Jain Tirthankar* and the *Jains* claim that the name has originated from *Jainism*.

However, in spite of all these different theories, the name of our country as **India that is Bharat** has never been questioned or challenged anywhere any time. Our country is known in almost all countries of the World as INDIA. There is no dearth of countries, areas, mountains, rivers etc in our world having multiple names. Our great leaders in the Constituent Assembly have taken a very wise decision that both names of our country should co-exist. This has never caused any problem so far. So why should anybody think to erase the name INDIA contrary to the wish of our Constituent Assembly? All of us should agree that both names should be allowed to continue as is today, and concentrate on much more important problems that are ailing our country.[23 September 2023]





Innovation in Administration: First Four Sixers

Looking for initiatives, taking challenges in their strides, emphasising development administration are recent phenomena. Observance of Civil Services Day annually, with the Prime Minister distributing awards for big initiatives in administration, is to be hailed in this perspective.

This change in ethos has prompted me to recollect some off-the-beaten track initiatives in the first half of my service period. I call them Sixers in cricket terminology. Never a keen cricket player myself, but like most of my countrymen, I enjoyed balls being sent out of boundary. Sixers are different from Ones; creating and crafting something novel and useful with long lasting outcome. An administrator hits a Sixer when he or she is able to strike an innovative change in the outlook, performance, procedure or outcome. Here are the First Four Sixers:

1. Bihar State Housing Cooperative Federation:

Even a casual traveller on Nehru Marg (old Bailey Road) of Patna, flanked by row of big bungalows with vast open lawns on its south, is immediately struck by a well maintained, new, small, pink coloured, two-storey building near New Secretariat on the northern side. Other buildings are typically cream-coloured either used for residential or office purposes. This unusually smart building

is the head office of Bihar State Cooperative Housing Federation. Here is the story of its birth.

On promotion to senior scale of the IAS toward the end of 1967, I was posted as Joint Registrar, Co-operative Societies. Mr S.N. Sharma, an experienced and elderly IAS officer was Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Bihar. This was the time when the Congress government headed by Mr KB Sahay lost the people's mandate and the first non-congress government headed by Mr Mahamaya Prasad Sinha took over the reins. This was also the time when the *Hathia* rains had failed and the state faced a serious drought. Mr Sharma called a meeting of all Joint Registrars and senior officers and wanted a list of new initiatives to be prepared which he could share with the new Cooperation Minister. During the meeting, attendees promptly listed ongoing activities of their divisions with incremental improvements in performance. A conspicuous absence of new initiatives, innovative ideas! When my turn came, I said that my first priority would be to set up a (new) state level apex body of Cooperative Housing Societies with a charter to borrow from the LIC and RBI and lend to primary housing cooperative societies and their members. "The beneficiary PHC members will get advantage of borrowed funds with lower

rate of interest; PHCs will become financially stronger by earning margin of interest.” I cited examples of Gujarat and Maharashtra where cooperative housing societies (PHCs) were actively involved in pooling land and in lending loan to members at lower than market rates. My colleagues looked at me with jealous appreciation. My senior colleague Mr S.K. Chaturvedi IAS, another Joint Registrar, patted me at the end of the meeting.

On return from briefing of Co-operation Minister, Registrar called me and shared that my proposal was appreciated at the highest levels. The Byelaws of the proposed apex body, known as Bihar State Housing Cooperative Federation, were drafted by me with active and professional assistance of the then Joint Registrar (Audit). I got the Apex body registered under the Bihar Cooperative Societies Act, 1935 before I left the department in late 1968. Mr Vijay Kumar Mishra, son of the late famous Mr Lalit Narain Mishra, former Union Minister and a tall Congress leader, became its first elected Chairman. The Federation started working with gusto under the young chairman. Mr Mishra was the youngest amongst all chairpersons of Apex Cooperative Bodies in Bihar. I know of one of the first beneficiary PHCs in Ranchi which got funded by the Apex body: Ashok Viharnow a small but an attractive plotted residential complex on Kadru road on the other side of Government Servants CGHS in Ashok Nagar.

2. BHALCO (Bihar Hill Area Lift Irrigation Corporation):

In 1973, I joined as Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture and AH in Bihar. I looked after minor irrigation as well. Earlier I had served as Collector and District Magistrate of (old) Shahabad which is criss-crossed by Sone canal system. Shahabad, called the granary of Bihar, owed its agricultural prosperity to a century old Sone canal system. In contrast, the plateau region of old Bihar was deficient in irrigated land. In spite of reasonable rain fall, rainwater quickly drained out leaving the plateau high and dry. Conventional dug wells dried up in summer. Only one crop (kharif paddy) was grown in rain-fed (unirrigated) land. If agriculture in the plateau region was to improve, small and minor irrigation schemes were the solution. Till then, the transformation resulting 'Large Diameter Wells' in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra had not attracted the attention of Bihar planners.

This was the time when demand for a separate Jharkhand state was growing, slowly but steadily. A mini secretariat started functioning at Ranchi. I started working on making institutional arrangements for lift irrigation: small and medium size command areas irrigated by water lifted from streams, rivulets and large diameter wells. Chief Minister Dr Jagannath Mishra was appreciative of the idea and gave encouragement. A state level public sector corporation was set up under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture (Minor Irrigation). It started

working with nuclear staff earlier deployed in Minor Irrigation Divisions. Later, my senior colleague Mr M.C. Subarna, IAS became Chairman-cum-Managing Director. He also served as Regional Development Commissioner heading the Mini secretariat.

In subsequent years, I visited a number of lift irrigation schemes executed by BHALCO while travelling from Ranchi to Jamshedpur.

3. Encouraging Rational Decision Making:

One of many schemes in the Five-Year Plan of Animal Husbandry (AH) Department was to start 25 New Primary AH Centres each year for improving geographical coverage of animal health care in villages. It was a well thought of scheme in as much as Bihar had the misfortune of suffering from epidemics in bovine cattle soon after frequent floods and droughts. This was a 'continuing scheme' and most of the CD blocks were covered. It was a popular scheme and public representatives used to approach the government for sanctioning new centres in their areas. The Directorate of AH, on the basis of various inputs, mostly on demand from elected representatives, framed a list of 25 blocks, where they would like to have such centres in a particular financial year. I was supposed to obtain Minister's approval.

Being new to the department and being fresh from finishing my thesis on Quantitative Decision Making in the Netherlands, I decided to have a critical look at the recommended list. I felt that new AH centres should *preferably* be

located in blocks which had comparatively larger bovine population. *Second*, blocks which are endemic (because of floods) would have a bigger claim. *Third*, blocks with limited accessibility (mountainous terrain or rivulets), posing problems to cattle farmers in taking advantage of AH centres should also be better claimants. *Last*, blocks, which so far had been denied a single centre, would obviously merit top priority. But problem was to allot weight to these considerations and work out a composite 'Qualifying Index'.

The officers of Planning wing of AH Department reluctantly provided block-wise statistics of bovine population in categories of CD blocks with "easy" and "difficult" accessibility. Based on the aforesaid priorities and qualifying index', I prepared a revised list. I feared that the revised list would be thrown out: 'an academic exercise by a young officer without understanding of ground realities in a working democracy.' Anticipating this backlash, I suggested a middle path: to begin with, twenty blocks should be selected strictly 'on merit' from the revised list, and five could be left to the Minister's discretion.

A meeting was convened in the chamber of Minister (AH) Mr Daroga Prasad Rai in which APC, Addl. APC, Director (AH) and I participated. A practice in use for many years was under attack. Minister (AH), decided in favour of Blocks thrown up by quantitative analysis and using his discretion only in respect of 2-3 blocks.

4. Taramandal: First Planetarium in Bihar:

I have a physics background. During one of the zonal meetings at Calcutta (now Kolkata) I visited Birla Planetarium and watched an impressive show on solar system. As I came out of the darkened dome, an idea flashed across my mind: Bihar with a predominant rural background (urbanization level in Bihar was one of the lowest in India) requires such ventures. Soon after I joined as the first Secretary in the newly created department of Science and Technology I broached the subject in an informal meeting with Mr B.L. Das, IAS, who had also studied physics. He sent me a paper clipping on how a Central Engineering Corporation was engaged in setting up a planetarium in another country. This renewed my zeal. Around 1977, I wrote to Patna Regional Development Authority to earmark a suitable piece of land (probably, Chairperson Mrs Sumitra

Devi and Managing Director Mr Bhasker Bannerji, IAS. Bhasker, my classmate, visited me in New Secretariat and shared PRDA's willingness to provide land for the planetarium. He was probably advised by the Chairperson, PRDA to pursue the matter with me.

The Department of Science and Technology could get a token amount in the annual plan. It took almost ten years (1977-87) for the proposal to be sanctioned. Mr S.N. Sinha, then CM, laid foundation of the Planetarium building in 1989 and Mr Lalu Prasad Yadav, CM inaugurated it in 1993. The second Planetarium is coming up at Darbhanga. Now, whenever I pass through its side on a working day, I find scores of men, women and children, with inquisitiveness in their eyes, waiting for purchasing entry tickets. The planetarium has replaced Golgharas an attraction, a 'must to be visited'. Being a player in starting the first Planetarium gives me immense satisfaction.

*

[I envy my good friend, Suraj for hitting Sixers after Sixers while in service. A Sixer means six runs from one ball. As for me, I could not have scored on my own even one run from six balls. With regard to his great achievements, it is relevant to point out that, out of humility, the great English polymath, Sir Isaac Newton is reported to have said, "I could see farther by standing on the shoulders of giants." The Godfather, in Mario Pujó's novel, had said, "Revenge, like a dessert, tastes best when taken cold." In the same way, praise tastes best when it comes from other sources. But 'blowing one's own trumpet' is its antithesis. The word 'Sixers' used in the above article are indeed landmarks of historic importance but the word 'Innovations' would have sounded better. I have penned these words with due apologies to my friend SP Jakhanwal. It cannot, however, be denied that novel ideas did strike him. — RU Singh]





Weekday Gyan

Everyday we should ask ourselves what we really want. Why are we focusing so much of our attention on running after the things of this world for transient gratifications that inevitably result in suffering and which steal away our inherent peace and love? Haven't we spent enough time seeking satisfaction but trying to get, keep and fix things outside of us? Haven't we realised that this is like rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic - the sinking ship?

Saints teach that there is a sacred, divine essence underline everything. Our true self is already one with divine love, but our mental habits prevent us from realising this truth. Some of the obstructions originating in the mind are: remorse about the past, fear of the future, dissatisfaction with the present, grasping to hold on to what we have and get more and resisting what threatens us.

We spend our entire lives struggling to make something happen, get to somewhere, accomplish something, fix things, and become someone special, often at a great cost. Usually it's only after repeated losses, traumas, and difficulties that we realise that we have actually created a prison of misery for ourselves and that we are disconnected from the very love and peace we so badly crave.

Our dilemma is that from birth we use our sense of perceptions to focus on things outside of ourselves to build our identity. This leads us to spend our whole life trying to be somebody. However, when we awaken spiritually, we discover that this "I" is an obstacle to complete awareness and is just an illusionary self, built by our mind so we can function on this material plane. If we really want lasting happiness, love, and joy we have to change the direction of our attention.

Saints teach us to direct our attention inward, through meditation, so that we can start to abide in our own stillness. We need to learn to let everything be as it is, allowing everything to unfold in its own time without trying to make things happen according to our will. It brings about a freedom to remain in His will to just do our meditation, without judgment.

*

Ratri kal Gyan

To mull while you go to sleep on four Stages of Elimination in Life:

At 60, the workplace eliminates you. No matter how successful or powerful you were during your career, you'll return to being an ordinary person. So, don't cling to the mindset and sense of superiority from your past job, let go of your ego, or you might lose your sense of ease!

At 70, society gradually eliminates you. The friends and colleagues you used to meet and socialize with become fewer, and hardly anyone recognizes you at your former workplace. Don't say, "I used to be..." or "I was once..." because the younger generation won't know you, and you mustn't feel uncomfortable about it!

At 80, family slowly eliminates you. Even if you have many children and grandchildren, most of the time you'll be living with your spouse or by yourself. When your children visit occasionally, it's an expression of affection, so don't blame them for not coming more often, as they're busy with their own lives!

At 90, the Earth wants to eliminate you. Some of the people you knew have already departed forever. At this point, don't be sad or mournful, because this is the way of life, and everyone will eventually follow this path!

Therefore, while our bodies are still capable, live life to the fullest!

*

Morning Gyan

God has planned happiness for each one of us at the right time in our life. The only thing is that he does not share his calendar with us.

*

To make the discussion turn to a lighter note, a heavily mentally tortured Bihari (after implementation of Prohibition), composed another sentence containing all the 26 letters of the English Alphabet, instead of the traditional sentence : A quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog (The letters e, o, r, u occur more than once).

The new sentence is : Pack my box with five dozen liquor jugs (The letters e, i, o, u occur more than once).





अखण्डित संपूर्णता



सृष्टि का था जब शैशव काल, बनी थी नयी-नयी यह सृष्टि,
सितारे चमक उठे अनिमेष, कर रहे नव वैभव की वृष्टि;
गगन में जुटकर तारक देव, सुनाने लगे यही नव गान,
'अहा, क्या चित्र बना आदर्श, अहा, क्या हर्ष मिला अम्लान;
अचानक उनमें से पर एक, लगा चिल्लाकर करने बात,
'अरे! सब सुनो लगाकर ध्यान, हुआ है अभी अभी आघात।'
'मुझे, हो रहा यही आभास, सितारा एक गया है छूट,
कि निश्चय हुई कहीं कुछ बात, प्रभा की कड़ी गयी जो टूट;'
तभी वीणा का स्वर्णिम तार, चटककर टूट गया वह, हाय!
रुका देवों का गायन-वाद्य, लगे कहने, होकर निरुपाय;
'सत्य है, हुआ सितारा लुप्त, रहा जो सब तारों में श्रेष्ठ,
सभी स्वर्गों का गौरव मात्र, वही, सुख देता रहा यथेष्ट।'
तभी से उस तारक की खोज, निरन्तर चलती रही अबाध,
चली चलती यह तीव्र पुकार, 'जगत् ने खोया हर्ष, अगाध;'
रात्रि की नीरवता में मात्र, गहनतम हो जब मौन अमोल,
फुसफुसाते अपने ही बीच, सितारे स्मितमय, देते बोल;
'व्यर्थ ही है करना यह खोज, व्यर्थ चिन्ता एवं अवसाद,
देख, जो विस्तृत है सर्वत्र, अखण्डित सम्पूर्णता अगाध।'



[विश्वकवि रवीन्द्रनाथ ठाकुर विरचित अंग्रेजी गीतांजलि (जिस पर उन्हें 1913 में साहित्य में नोबेल पुरस्कार से नवाजा गया था) की निम्नांकित पद्य सं. 78 से अभिप्रेरित 'विदेह' द्वारा किया गया काव्यान्तरण।]

The Unalloyed Joy

When the creation was new and all the stars shone in their first splendor, the gods held their assembly in the sky and sang, 'Oh, the picture of perfection! the joy unalloyed!'

But one cried of a sudden, 'It seems that somewhere there is a break in the chain of light and one of the stars has been lost.'

The golden string of their harp snapped, their song stopped, and they cried in dismay, 'Yes, that lost star was the best, she was the glory of all heavens!'

From that day the search is unceasing for her, and the cry goes on from one to the other that in her the world has lost its one joy!

Only in the deepest silence of night the stars smile and whisper among themselves, 'Vain is this seeking! Unbroken perfection is over all!'





Tripurari Sharan, IAS (1985)

There are a few outstanding officers who have interests beyond the ambit of serving in the IAS, the ace Service in India. Tripurari Sharan, Trips to his friends, has been one such IAS officer who is gifted with a pleasant personality and has built up an enviable reputation in respect of integrity, efficiency, popularity and accessibility.

Trips was born and brought up in Kurhani Block of Muzaffarpur district of Bihar on the last day of June 1961, on the first day of which I had joined the IAS. On the results of the CSE Exams conducted by the UPSC in 1984, he entered the 1985 batch of IAS and was allotted to the Bihar cadre. He served on many posts in the Government of Bihar and Government of India. He had a laudable stint in GOI as Director General of Doordarshan. He was second in order of seniority in his batch in Bihar, the first being Arun Kumar Singh who fell prey to Covid-19 and sadly passed away on 30 April 2021. I have no words to applaud the sagacity of Bihar Government in appointing Tripurari Sharan, who was then posted as Chairman-cum-Member of the Board of Revenue, to the coveted post of Chief Secretary on 1 May 2021 and granting him extensions in service up to 31 December 2021 when he finally retired and was succeeded by another gem of the Service, Aamir Subahani of



1987 batch. Another laudable decision of Bihar Government was to appoint Tripurari Sharan as an Information Commissioner in April for a term of 3 years or up to the age of 65, whichever is earlier. Accordingly, Trips will be with us in Bihar till April 2025. As he leaves the system with a flourish and with such variegated interests, time will never hang long on him, in the years to come.

I may borrow his batch-mate, JRK Rao's words to say that on his retirement, Trips took leave of the hallow precincts of the Main Secretariat building with a great sense of satisfaction. When he joined, the society had been in the grip of the pandemic and when he left, the worst had been left behind. To continue, 'Life is a journey not the destination' and we embark on this journey as bright youngsters and disembark as mature adults, respected for our vintage much after all the youthful exuberance is transmuted into stoical acceptance of reality. Tripurari is a large-hearted person with interests in Books, Music and Films, in that order. He has had enormous zest for life. He cultivated a variety of interests and has an enviable range of friends. His persona is devoid of two traits, "envy and jealousy." Trips never bemoaned but he took things in his stride. He unwinds himself reading books, listening to music and playing with his

dogs. Winston Churchill had said, 'Success is not final, failure is not fatal, and it is courage to continue that counts' and Trips has justified every word of this.

In early days of his career, he took part in Himalayan Car rally, in his Fiat Premier Padmini. A patron of classical music; he used to entertain artists at his residence in Chhajjubagh. In later years his interest in Media and film making, got wings when he headed the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune.

Trips and Sujata, his eminently suitable wife, is a couple made for each other. Sujata a career bureaucrat has co-authored a book on late Jaya Prakash Narayan titled: *The Dream of Revolution*. An engaging conversationalist, she received Trips' friends with friendly warmth of a gracious hostess. She is a patron of arts and handicrafts.

Trips' son Vivan has shown great promise. Vivan has his own firm Koan consulting, has sharp insights in the convergence of 'Economics, IT and Regulatory' issues and contributes numerous articles in this field. Vivan is also a Guitarist. Trips and Vivan share interest in Music and swimming. As a family 'Trips, Sujata and Vivan' are torch bearers of Liberal Thought and are dog lovers.

I have fond memories of my association with the lovable Trips. He acquired a celebrity status after his stint as Director in the FTII, Pune during 2003-2008 and later as DG of Doordarshan. If I remember correctly, I had my first interaction with him in 1989 when I was principal secretary to CM and he had met me to facilitate his plan to go

abroad on training or something. I do not know if he remembers this meeting and whether I had been of any help to him. But, right since then my heart always oozed out love (*Vatsalya*) for him and blessings for his spouse, the erudite Sujata. Her father, Prof Bimal Prasad and uncle, Mr Kamala Prasad always showered abundant affection on me as long as they lived.

Years later, when I was translating Tagore's English Gitanjali into Hindi poetry, I had the good fortune of meeting Trips in his office when he was the Director General of Doordarshan. He overwhelmed me by the courtesy he extended to me. He shared with me the homemade tasty lunch. His trophy, which is now in my proud possession, came to me in the form of a facsimile of the English Gitanjali written in longhand by Kaviguru Tagore himself.

Years later, when he rang me up after taking over as CS, my voice choked with emotion and my eyes welled up and I could hardly utter a few words, before saying 'We would talk later.' I was overjoyed simply because he got at the end of his career what he had richly deserved. The emotional surge came because the post of CS that had eluded him till then was put into his lap by a sort of conspiracy of the stars. It is rightly said that 'when you deserve something, your destiny help you to achieve it.

I conclude by saying that with the completion of his tenure, Trips has left behind an enviable reputation as an emulative example of what a civil servant should be like. I am sure, that Trips shall continue to remain as prolific as ever before.





LIFE AND SPEECHES OF GANDHI

It appears to me unnecessary for any prefatory note to be written to the Life and Speeches of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi; they live and speak for themselves. Personally, I have had such a great shrinking from writing anything, during his life-time, about one whom I reverence so deeply, that I have many times refused to do so. But promise given in an unguarded moment now claims fulfilment, and I will write vary briefly

To Mr Gandhi, any swerving from the truth, even in casual utterance, is intolerable; his speeches must be read as stating uncompromisingly what he feels to be true. They are in no sense diplomatic, or opportunist, or merely 'political, using the word in its narrower sense. He never pays empty compliments: he never pays empty compliments; he never hesitates to say, for the truth's sake, what may be unpalatable to his audience.

I shrink, as I have said, out of the very reverence that I have for him, from writing for the cold printed page about his character; but I many perhaps not offend by setting down something, however inadequate, concerning his intellectual convictions. It is of the utmost importance to understand these; because, in his case, they are held so strongly, as to bind fast his whole life and to stamp it with an originality, all its own.

The greatest of all these is his

conviction of the eternal and fundamental efficacy of ahimsa. What this means to him, will be explained a hundred times over in the writings which follow. To Mr Gandhi, it would not be too much to say, ahimsa, is the key to all higher existence. It is the divine life itself. I have never yet been able to reconcile this with his own recruiting campaign, for war purposes, during the year 1918. But he was, himself, able to reconcile it; and some day, no doubt, he will give to the world the logical background of that reconciliation. Leaving aside the question of this exceptional case, I do not think that there has been any more vital and inspiring contribution to ethical truth, in our own generation, than Mr Gandhi's fearless logic in the practice of ahimsa. Sir Gilbert Murray's article in the Hibbert Journal has made this fact known to the larger world of humanity outside India.

A second intellectual conviction is the paramount use of, religions vows in the building up of the spiritual life. Personally, I find it far more difficult to follow Mr Gandhi here. Especially, I dread the vow of celibacy which, he, not infrequently recommends. It appears to me unnatural and abnormal, But here, again, he has often told me, I do not understand his position.

The further convictions, which are expressed in his writing, concerning the dignity and necessity for manual labour, -

the simplification of society, - the healing powers of nature as a remedy for all disease, - the Swadeshi spirit- the false basis of modern civilisation- all these will be studied with the deepest interest. They will be seen, through Mr Gandhi's speeches, in a perspective which has not been made evident in any other writer. For, whatever may be our previous opinion, whether we agree or disagree

with Mr Gandhi's position, he compels us to think anew and to discard conventional opinion,

I am painfully conscious of the inadequacy, and perhaps the inconsequence, of these alight notes, as an introduction to the great subject which follows, and I can only plead, in excuse, the strain of work from which I have been unable to get free.

*

[Charles Freer Andrews (1871-1940) was an Anglican priest and Christian missionary, educator and social reformer. He came to India in 1904 and taught philosophy in the St Stephen's college where he grew close to many of his Indian colleagues and students. His students named him Deenabandhu, or "Friend of the Poor". Increasingly dismayed by the racist behaviour and treatment of Indians by some British officials and civilians, he supported Indian political aspirations. He was known as an activist for Indian independence and for friendship with the Gandhiji. Andrews soon became involved in the activities of the Indian National Congress, and he helped to resolve the 1913 cotton workers' strike in Madras.

At Gokhale's instance, he visited South Africa in 1914, where he served as an aide to Gandhiji who was fighting non-violently against the government's racial discrimination of the Indian community whose civil liberties were being thus infringed. He came to India with Gandhiji in 1915.

He remained in constant touch with Mahatma Gandhi during the Champaran Satyagrah of 1917. Out of love, Mahatma Gandhi equated CF Andrews, in short to CFA, as Christ's Faithful Apostle. He accompanied Gandhi to the second Round Table Conference in London, helping him to negotiate with the British government on matters of Indian autonomy and devolution.

In 1918, Andrews disagreed with Gandhi's attempts to recruit combatants for World War I, believing that this was inconsistent with their views on nonviolence. Andrews wrote about Gandhi's recruitment campaign: "Personally I have never been able to reconcile this with his own conduct in other respects, and it is one of the points where I have found myself in painful disagreement."

Andrews developed a dialogue between Christians and Hindus. He spent a lot of time at Santiniketan in conversation with the poet and philosopher Rabindranath Tagore. He also supported the movement to ban the 'untouchability of outcasts'. In 1933 assisted Dr BR Ambedkar in formulating the demands of the Dalits.]





गोधूलि बेला में जीवन

जीवन अपनी यात्रा के कई पड़ाव होते हुए जब गोधूलि बेला में अपने कदम रखता है तो उस पल में जीने वाले को हम बुजुर्ग कहते हैं जिन्हें सम्मान करना हमारी विशिष्ट विरासतीय परंपरा रही है। वृद्धजनों से हम सदैव प्रत्यक्ष या अप्रत्यक्ष तौर पर उनके अनुभव भंडार से जीवन जीने की शैली सीखते हैं। कुछ लोग हमेशा यह कहकर कि "आप बूढ़े हो चुके हैं, आपकी अवस्था ढल चुकी है, इसलिए आप अब भगवान का नाम जपें और घर के किसी कोने में पड़े रहें।" ऐसा कहकर हम अपने बुजुर्गों को यह अहसास दिलाने में तल्लीन हो जाते हैं कि आपने अपनी जिंदगी जी ली है और अब दूसरों की जिंदगी में हस्तक्षेप न करें। वर्तमान पीढ़ी के एक कोने से स्वर मुखर हो रहे हैं कि हमारे बुजुर्ग हमारी जिंदगी में दखलंदाजी करते हैं और वे अपने अभिभावकत्व की कठोर चादर उतार नहीं पाते। हालांकि ऐसे दृष्टांत इक्के-दुक्के हैं। वास्तव में हम उनके प्रति उपेक्षा भाव प्रदर्शन करके उन्हें मौन रहने को बाध्य करते हैं ताकि वे अपने अनुभव का पिटारा हम सब के सामने न खोलें। वे हम सब से उम्र में बड़े हैं, इसका अर्थ यह नहीं कि उनका शेष जीवन हमारे लिए भार बन जाय। यह कदापि सही नहीं है कि उन्हें सिर्फ पेट भरने की जरूरत पर ही हम केंद्रित रहें।

बुजुर्गों की पहचान मानवीय दृष्टिकोण से होनी चाहिए। उनकी भी इच्छा रहती कि वे अपने समकक्ष मित्रों से बोलें, गप्पियाएं, मन की बात करके हल्कापन महसूस करें। उनका भीतरी मन कभी नए कपड़े पहनने, कोई गीत गुनगुनाने, टीवी पर कुछ देखने सुनने, घूमने का

अवश्य करता होगा लेकिन जब घर आंगन की बंदिशे उन्हें ये सब करने से रोकती हैं तो एक प्रकार से हमारे बुजुर्गों की इच्छा दमन का वह दर्द भरा पल हुआ करता है। जब तक बुजुर्ग के जीवन साथी जीवित हैं, उनके साथ परस्पर भरोसे और समन्वय का तारतम्य बना रहता है। एक के गुजर जाने के बाद उनके एकाकीपन जीवन में रिक्ति की स्थिति हुआ करती है। इस अवस्था में परिवारजन का आत्मीय सहारा और सानिध्य उनके शेष जीवन अवधि के लिए संजीवनी सी है। हमें उन्हें बात-बात में चोट पहुंचाने की कोशिश नहीं करनी चाहिए कि आपकी आयु अब कुछ दिनों की रह गई है या आपकी पारी समाप्त हो चुकी है। इससे उनमें दुख, अवसाद, नीरसता, पीड़ा का भाव प्रवेश कर जाता है। सच है कि हमारे बुजुर्ग बेचारे और लाचार नहीं हुआ करते बल्कि पूरे सम्मान से उन्हें जीने का अधिकार रहता है। अपने जीवन का अधिकांश समय वे परिवार का देखभाल करते हुए पूरी मेहनत से सींचते हैं। वे घर परिवार रूपी वाटिका को बूंद-बूंद सींचकर सुंदर बनाते हैं और अनुभवों की भट्टी में तपे हुए होते हैं। इतने सालों तक वे परिवार को आकार ही देते रहे, संतान को समय के सांचे में ढालकर समाज के लिए उपयोगी बनाते रहे, उनके पैर मजबूत करते रहे, तमाम मारा-मारी और व्यस्तता में लगे रहे। इन चीजों से उबरने के बाद उन्हें शांति और अपने तरीके से जीने का अधिकार तो होना ही चाहिए। अतः यह आभास करना बंद कर देना चाहिए कि वे अनुपयोगी हो चुके हैं।

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[लेखक, बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग एवं बिहार राज्य विश्वविद्यालय सेवा आयोग के पूर्व सदस्य हैं- प्रधान संपादक]

Response of on Prayaas-2 of 2023

“Your sketch of Afzal's persona is very good. I have worked with him at many places. I cannot forget his large heartedness - whenever he used to go on leave he would request me to dispose of his files. Normally when an officer goes on earned leave and some other officer is notified he or she does only routine work. But Afzal had so much trust that he would request me to dispose of all types of files. This is not a solitary example. I have come across many examples of his large heartedness. The qualities you have mentioned, he really lived them. I can vouchsafe for that.

Thank you, Sir for bringing these qualities of this outstanding officer to the notice of all colleagues.”

— Ashok K Choudhary, IAS-1972

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Response on Prayaas-2 of 2023

Today, I got, by post, the Prayaas Apr-Jun 2023 edition. Grateful to RU Singh sir and members of the Association.

— JRK Rao, IAS-1985

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Response on Prayaas-3 of 2023

“प्रयास के नूतन अंक में भवदीय कविता ‘आजादी की चंद यादें’ तीन बार पढ़ा। लेखांश ने रोम-रोम को एक ओर जहां पुलकित किया वहीं दंगों के दर्द के दारुण चित्रण ने मन को मलिन भी कर दिया। कविता के शब्द संयोजन साहित्य सेतू पर हम जैसों के लिए प्रेरक पुष्प हैं, श्रीमान। कोटि-कोटि नमन सह वंदना।”

— Dr Ashok Kumar, ex-BAS, Author

*

Response on the issues of Prayaas in 2023

“I find 'Prayaas' a holistic magazine of IAS Officers' fraternity, comprising informative items on contemporary issues, social welfare schemes carried out and showcasing literary talent of IAS Officers, both in English and Hindi. The article entitled 'For freedom sake' on Maharana Pratap by Firaq Gorakhpuri is its rare treasure. Your editorial note as well as achiever's essay on Deepak Gupta and the poem, 'Sarita Ki Dhara' are inspiring. My heartfelt appreciation and kudos to entire editorial team. May this magazine be a torchbearer for the Administrative Services in future.”

— Dr SB Singh, (ex-Army), Author





The Rusted 'Steel Frame'

Two bizarre incidents - one each in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh - drew national attention towards how the Indian bureaucracy functions. While bureaucracy, in popular understanding, relates to the elite Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officers, actually it pertains to the entire officialdom - the Cabinet secretary in New Delhi or chief secretary/DGP (in states) at the top, down to the lowest rung of any government functionary. It includes a Patwari or an SHO/police inspector, an SDM or a head clerk or an engineer, a doctor at a primary health centre or a food inspector with whom the common man has to ideal for his works.

So, a food inspector, pretty low in the hierarchy, showed his 'power' by draining a complete reservoir in backward Kanker district of Chhattisgarh to retrieve his iPhone costing around 1.15 lakh. It took four days for and his friends to install pumps and empty the water body of its 42 lakh litres of precious water that belonged to people, before he found his cell phone. Did he have powers to do that under any extant rules? What was the price of water that he released for personal gain? Is a food inspector 'rich enough' to own an iPhone? Did he and his friends not understand the importance of water conservation in months like May when the incident happened? While he was appreciably suspended immediately by the Chhattisgarh government and a fine of 53,000 was slapped on him, the actions of the officer left aforesaid questions unanswered. The issue involves the

arrogance of power and misuse of official position, if not prime facie corruption.

In another incident, a contractual employee in MP Police Housing Corporation where she was working as a sub-engineer, turned out to be so corrupt that land and properties worth 100 crore and more were recovered from her family's premises by the Lokayukta sleuths in Bhopal. She could be immediately sacked from the corporation because she was not a permanent public servant. But it is not known what punishment has been pronounced so far!

In Maharashtra, the education commissioner has sought an 'open probe' against 40 'corrupt officials' of his department. In Jharkhand, an IAS officer was raided last year by the Enforcement Directorate and cash worth about 19 crore was found at her aides' places. It was believed to be MGNREGA fraud committed by the IAS officer.

But then this is not confined to a BJP state or Congress ruled region. The bureaucracy's attitude towards common man, its inefficiency, the scale of corruption, the unending greed of higher officials, including those belonging to the all-India services - the IAS, IPS, IFS and IRS - as also the state services, is a burning national issue directly affecting 140 crore Indians. It is no less than a fast-spreading cancer that is eating into the nation, daily.

Unfortunately, not many politicians, or those who appear concerned for Indian society, speak about it and try to curb it. Is it so difficult?

Many sociologists and economists have, from time to time, hinted that ending corruption in society, politics or bureaucracy is almost impossible, not with standing the plethora of rules and institutions. One, of course, expects the government to effectively tame the tendency of ever-growing greed of the bureaucracy - once termed as 'steel frame' by Sardar Patel. People expected corruption to have declined. But no, it has grown. A few years back, a husband-wife couple, both IAS officers, had been terminated in MP after the Income Tax department had recovered huge cash from their residence. Rooting out corruption from the system remains a mirage. I must add that all government officials at all levels are not corrupt. However, for an honest officer a near-extinct species to survive in a corrupt system is a tall order.

India is celebrating 'Amrit Mahotsav' of 75 years of independence. Britishers and colonialism have gone but some of their good administrative trails are seen behind. A few legislations drafted by the British continue even today. Their system of a district officer, in some form or the other still prevails today.

India's polity and its bureaucratic set-up have grown hand in hand. Both have got

enough time to transform suitably from their colonial past. Seven-and-a-half decades may be a short time in a country's life but for any political system and administrative machinery to become mature and start delivering in a democracy, I suppose this is a long time. Have they achieved it? Throw a cursory glance around and you will find good governance is more of rhetoric than a practice strictly followed to benefit 'we the people'.

The political masters, rightly or wrongly, get a certificate of their good or bad work every five years. The results of the recent Assembly election in Karnataka do bear testimony to the fact that the people did feel concerned about the 40% commission! It looks like a ray of light at the end of the tunnel.

But what about the bureaucracy? How to change them if found corrupt, arrogant or inefficient, or all? Everyone knows how some bureaucrats amass illicit wealth at the cost of the people. The politicians-bureaucrats-businessmen nexus continues to thrive with innovative ideas to benefit themselves. The steel frame, which bureaucracy was once called, appears to be totally rusted. 'New India' expects that before it crumbles completely, something is done from the top.

*

[The author says that he is a professional journalist who has been a witness to the steady decline in services. The views expressed are his personal. The idea behind publishing this article in issue is to show the Achilles' heel though it cannot be denied that majority of the members of our Service in Bihar and elsewhere are still examples of probity and efficiency in public service. A couplet of Kabir says: "*Nindak nearey rakhiye, aangan kuti chhaway; Bin pani, sabun bina, nirmal karey subhay.*" The couplet's import is that you should keep the sycophants away but keep your critics around you and give them due respect because they expose your weaknesses which you can do away with — Principal Editor.]



In a Lighter Vein

A Research scholar used to get his provisions on credit from a grocery shop. When he received his PhD, he straightway went to shop and asked the grocer to open his ledger. The grocer was pleasantly surprised and he opened the ledger hoping that the overdues would be cleared. But the grocer got the shock of his life when the research scholar asked him to add PhD after his name in the ledger, and left the shop!

*

A senior officer was addressing a meeting of officers empowered as magistrate and explaining to them the ways and means to control a law and order situation at the polling booths during elections.

A magistrate asked, “Sir, if a violent armed mob appears at a booth, what should I do to control the situation?”

The senior officer said, “You should make use of your armed force and your presence of mind.”

A magistrate asked, “Sir, what if the presence of mind does not work?”

“In that case my dear, the absence of body will do,” the senior officer concluded.

*

An experienced pilot took off a small aircraft with three passengers aboard and four parachutes. In the last moment a school boy also boarded the plane with his school bag. When in the midair, the plane developed a snag in its engine and was about to crash-land within the next few minutes, all the three passengers hurriedly jumped off, each picking a parachute.

Now, the pilot who didn't lose his cool, said, “My dear boy! I have already lived a long life and you have a long life before you. So, you take the remaining parachute and jump. I shall try to crash land safely.”

The boy said, “No problem sir, two parachutes are still here because one of the uncles jumped in a hurry with my school bag.”

So, both of them jumped each with a parachute and what happened to the 'uncle' who jumped with the school bag is a matter of anybody's guess.

*

I had heard in my childhood that a prosperous primitive family of my village bought a lantern, some kerosene oil and a matchbox from the market. They poured the oil into the lantern but did not know how to light it up. So they got the lantern lit up in the evening at the *darwaja* of an advanced *Lala* family and brought it home. When in the late night they failed to put it off by fanning it with a *Gamchha*, they went again to the *darwaja* of the *Lalato* put it off. Such was the innocence and naivety of the village folk in old times. The next generations are now adept at use of mobiles.

□□



PS Mukhopadhyay IAS-1964

The sad news of the passing away on 8-9-23 in Kolkata of Pranab Shankar Mukhopadhyay (b. 3-3-1940) was first broken by **AnupMukherji** saying, “He was a gem of a person.”

Afzal Amanullah said, “Knew him very well. Was ever so sweet and affectionate. Had lost touch for a long time. Very sad to learn of his passing away. Our heartfelt condolences to the family. I can see his smiling face even now. Rest in peace my dear Sir. You are in a better place. RIP.”

I, RU Singh said, “Shocked to learn about the passing away of Pranab. Indeed he was an ideal example of what an IAS officer should be like. RIP.”



VS Dubey said, “Yes, I totally agree. Mukhopadhyay was indeed a gem of a person, very intelligent, very helpful and affectionate, ever smiling. May his soul rest in peace and may his family develop the strength to bear this huge loss. Again, we have become less by one more. It is a huge loss to our fraternity.”

Jayant Dasgupta said, “Deeply saddened to hear of PS Mukhopadhyay Sir's passing. He was erudite, a thorough gentleman, never used to pull rank on anyone and a fine example for juniors to follow. May God grant his soul eternal peace and strength to his family to bear this terrible loss.”

JRK Rao said, “He was one person who *suo moto* got in touch to know about the case filed by Mrs. Krishnaiah and contributed for the same. Shows how

spirited a person he was, and how much he kept in touch with the happenings in Bihar, besides his value system and sense of right and wrong. May his soul rest in peace.”

BB Lal said, “Deeply grieved to learn of P.S. Mukhopadhyay's passing away. It is a personal loss to me. Our friendship dates back to 1964 when I was in the IPS and we both were at the Academy at Mussoorie. We used to coax him into singing which he did quite well. We revived things in 1968 when I joined the Appointment Department as an under-secretary and he was already there as deputy-secretary(Police). We sat in opposite rooms in the Main Secretariat. Tea together at 11.00 am and 4.00 pm was the daily routine. Lunch together in either's room was also almost a daily feature. He used to enliven the recess with his jokes and anecdotes. The friendship continued even after retirement. A few years back we met at dinner at my place. As usual he enlivened the evening with his jokes and anecdotes. To have lost him so suddenly is stunning. My thoughts are with his family. May the Almighty give them the strength to bear this loss. We all are poorer without you dear Pranab. Rest in peace!”

Vyasji said, “Deep condolences to the bereaved family. Pray for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family and friends to bear this unbearable loss and pain! RIP. Om Shanti.”

PK Basu IAS-1976 communicated through Jayant Dasgupta IAS, “Pranab Shankar Mukhopadhyay IAS-1964 passed away in Kolkata yesterday (08.09.23) evening. Makhonda had rung me up

yesterday morning at Portland, where I am currently with my younger son, and informed me that Pranabda is on ventilator after a head injury from a fall. In fact, he told me that Pranabda had just returned from hospital. Today I got Joyonto's message that he is no more.

"I had known Pranabda from day one in Bihar. In fact, before my marriage, Pranabda was contacted by my in-laws to find out about me. Pranabda's father, a respected teacher, was known to them. And Pranabda asked Rahul Sarin about me and Rahul gave me clearance and I got married. There is no doubt that apart from being an ornament of our service and cadre, he was a perfect human being. Always smiling, never a harsh word, extremely kind hearted. Very well read.

"Governments did not treat him well. No *Neta* likes an honest IAS officer. At one point, when he was very senior, they posted him to an organisation which place was full of crooks, just to harass him. Luckily, I am not polite, I am nasty and I can teach crooks a few lessons, and I was the HOD of the concerned department. So, no one even tried to harass him. If need be I even attended his meetings as his body guard. Both his sons have done well in life and lived close to him in Kolkata. I have no doubt that this venerated man would straight go to Vaikuntha and reside with the Lord. Om Shanti!

"At this age a lot of time goes in reminiscing. And the news of Pranabda's death made me quite sad. More so because we lost so many of my seniors - Mr Arun Pathak, Mr Abhash Chatterjee, AK Sarkar, Nishikant Sinha, now Pranabda, and many others, who had guided me, nurtured me, treated me like a family member, helped me in crisis. So many of my peers like KK Pandey, MM Jha, Subhokirti Mazumdar have also left. But the worst part is losing my juniors like Manoj Srivastava, Arun K Singh. That is more painful.

"When I joined the cadre, it was a big family. There were no corrupt IAS officers. There were crazy ones, strict ones, kind ones, harsh taskmasters, uncommunicative ones, talkative ones. But if you had a problem you could go to any of them for help. One could argue with seniors without fear. If a senior was harsh it was to train you up. There was never any malice. I have been the harshest perhaps with Joyonto, Bhanu, Ajit, whom I love the most I guess. I did that to anneal raw iron into perfect steel and a Samurai sword. Corruption in the cadre crept in around the 90's I feel. Then it grew quite fast and many people even faced criminal prosecution. Relationships also deteriorated with caste equations entering the equation. But still I find the response I get from junior batch officers of the cadre, whom I have not even worked with or met in my life, is always very positive and warm. Even after some deterioration it remains the best cadre in which the IAS and IPS get along so well."

GR Patwardhan IAS-1968 said, "Sorry to learn about Shri PS Mukhopadhyay. He was a very affectionate person and maintained high standards in his dealings. May the Lord rest his soul in peace."

A stream of condolence messages were posted on the IAS Bihar portal also by members of the Association including Surendra Pd Sinha, Rashmi Verma, Sunil K Singh, Arunish Chawla, Anil Kumar, Alok Ghosh, Arvind K Singh, Sanjeev K Sinha from US, CM Jha, RN Dash and others.

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Dr Saroja Vaidyanathan



Her husband having predeceased her, Dr Saroja Vaidyanathan (b. 19 September 1937), a notable exponent of Bharatanatyam, breathed her

last on 21 September 2023 battling against cancer. Just two days earlier she had celebrated her birthday. She was recipient of Padma Shri Award in 2002 and Padma Bhushan Award in 2013.

She established Ganesha Natyalaya in Delhi in 1974 and its building was constructed in the Qutab Institutional Area in 1988. She was a prolific choreographer and had to her credit ten full-length Ballets, besides nearly two thousand individual Bharatnatyam items. She had published her renditions of Subrimania Bharati's poems and songs, some of which have been set to dance by her.

Her husband was Mr CR Vaidyanathan (IAS-1953) who had been the Development Commissioner of Bihar before joining as Union Health Secretary in 1972. He was my boss as Commissioner of Bhagalpur division when I was deputy commissioner of Santhal Pargana district. He was a thorough gentleman with a distinguished career. The couple have a son, Kamesh whose wife Rama is a well-known Bharatnatyam artiste. Their granddaughter, Dakshina is also a sought-after Indian classical dancer.

Mr Vaidyanathan's younger brother, CR Venkataraman of 1960 batch was my predecessor as trainee in Gaya district and like him I too chose not to go on central deputation.

I pay my homage to the departed soul.

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Dr Bindeshwar Pathak



The Founder of the Sulabh International, Dr Bindeshwar Pathak (1943-2023) suddenly passed away at 80 on 15 August 2023 when the Independence Day celebrations were going on in the head office of the organization in Delhi. Dr Pathak had a humble beginning from a village in Vaishali

district. On the footsteps of Gandhi as in South Africa, the dirtiest works done by the scavengers carrying human excreta on their heads became the focus of his activities, leading to innovation of Sulabh Sauchalayas. He had set up his Sulabh organization in 1969 and gradually rose to be an international figure. He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1991 and won countless national and international trophies. JRK Rao IAS-1985 forwarded a message from his batch-mate and former Fertilizer Secretary, Chhabildendra Roul saying that Mr Pathak laid the foundation of an idea for removal of a social scourge, and adding, "It is he who deserves a Bharat Ratna."

His Memorial Prayer Meeting at Chinmaya Mission, Lodhi Road, New Delhi on the 3rd September, 2023. As I could not attend personally I sent my emissary with my condolence message which was duly acknowledged Kumar Dilip, his son.

I had my initial contact with Pathakji in 1975 when I was secretary of the Urban Development department, which turned into a close friendship with the passage of time. I can never forget that after receiving the St Francis award conferred on him by the Pope in Rome, when he came to Patna he came straight from the airport to my official residence at 7 Baily Road to show me the Award. Indeed I felt proud of him. A lot more can be said about him but the limitation of space prevent me from doing so.

I pay my condolences to his wife Smt Anmola Pathakji, his son, Kumar Dilip and thousands of associates of the Sulabh organization at this terrible loss and pray that God may grant Sadgati to his pious soul.

*

Mrs Parveen Amanullah



Our RC in Delhi, Kundan Kumar IAS-2004 in a Whatsapp message on the IAS Bihar portal said, "Sad to Share the sad news

that Parveen Amanullah ma'am after battling with Cancer has passed away on 1-10-23. My deepest condolences. May the departed soul rest in peace." This was followed by a few condolence messages from our members.

Ashok K Choudhary IAS-1972 said, "Our deepest and heartfelt condolences. May God grant her eternal peace and strength to the bereaved family to bear this terrible loss. It is a great loss to the society as she was bold enough to fight with anyone for a rightful cause. She always championed the cause of the deprived and fought for their rights. A great activist and social reformer. We will all miss her. Her void cannot be filled. Om Shanti."

Tripurari Sharan IAS-1985 said, "Just learnt of the passing on of Mrs Parveen Amanullah. This is indeed sad. My deepest condolences to Afzal sir. My heart goes out to the children, Rahmat and Azmat, for whom Ma'am was the North Star. We, as a family, had a close association of decades with Ma'am. The void will be difficult to fill."

JRK Rao IAS-1985 said, "A Nobel Soul is not amidst us anymore. Late Mrs Parveen Amanullah was a graceful lady: an eminently suitable wife of Afzal sir, a hands-on home maker, a doting mother and in later years an adorable public persona. Being a career diplomats' daughter, she was bequeathed with social graces. She was a well-informed person and an engaging conversationalist. With her genteelness and *savoir-faire* she made visitors to the Amanullah's house comfortable. A mother who patiently helped children with their homework, she loved stitching clothes for the kids, the dresses she used to stitch for Rehmat will make any couturière envy. Her culinary skills and the epicure in Afzal sir, were made for each other. The annual Eid do at their household, was something many of us at Patna looked forward to. She anchored the event with aplomb.



Long ago, the Peshkar in Settlement office at Dumka, where Afzal sir was the SO, told me that she would take a bus to travel to Patna. When she took to public life, first as a votary for Transparency in public life (pre RTI days), and later as a minister, her values and commitment came to fore. She was, eager to usher in change at a faster clip, but was disappointed, and found it's not easy to engage with an enlightened bureaucracy.

Afzal sir, as expansive and large hearted as ever, proved to be a dedicated husband. In the evening of her life, he along with Rehmat and Azmat provided utmost emotional support and physical comfort. One only regrets that such a fine person in God's creation should suffer at all. Many leave this world; unheard, unsung and unwept. The true lady Praveen Amanullah travels to the nether world, fondly remembered by those who were blessed to have met her, in the journey of her life, who can recollect with relish her 'hospitality and warmth' which they received and needless to say leaving many of us teary eyed.

I join Afzal sir, Rehmat and Azmat in their hour of grief. God bless them."

Anil Mahajan, IAS-1977

On being informed by PK Basu that Anil Mahajan had passed away (predeceased by his batch-mates KK Pandey, MM Jha, Sanjay Srivastava, JN Tripathi and Vijay Kapoor), many members of our Association posted their condolence messages wishing Sadgati to the departed Soul and strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss. They included, GR Patwardhan, Rabindra Panwar, Vyasji, Sanjeev K Sinha, JRK Rao, Arvind K Singh, Ashok Chauhan, Naveen Verma, Vijoy Prakash, Rashmi Verma, BB Lal, VK Verma, Sunil K Singh, Ashok K Choudhary, AL Meena, GS Prasad and RK Khandelwal.

Activities

Activities of IAS Officers' Association (Bihar Chapter)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15th of September, 2023 at 7:30 PM in the IAS Association Bhawan, Near Patna Airport, Patna.

- Agenda No. 1 The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23'd September 2022 and circulated vide Secretary's letter no. IAS/AGM/2022-23 101 dt. 27th September 2022, were confirmed.
- Agenda No. 2 The Secretary presented the audited Annual Accounts and Balance sheet of the Association for the year 31.03-2023 and were adopted unanimously.
- Agenda No. 3 The Secretary presented the Annual Budget for the year 2023-24 and it was approved unanimously.
- Agenda No. 4 All the Capital Expenditure incurred by the Association for maintenance of the Building of the Association since the last Meeting was approved.
- Agenda No. 5 It was decided to appoint R.N Mishra & Co. as statutory auditors and Dokania & Co. as concurrent auditors for the financial year 2023-24. The statutory auditor had been paid Rs. 10,000/- plus service charges and concurrent auditor had been paid Rs 12,000/- plus service charges during the financial year 2022-23. The same charges shall be payable for the current financial year also.
- Agenda No. 6 The following office bearers were elected unanimously for the term 2023-24

1. Shri Vivek Kumar Singh	1989	President
2. Shri Mihir Kumar Singh	1993	Vice President
3. Shri Dipak Kumar Singh	1992	Secretary
4. Shri Mithilesh Mishra	2011	Treasurer
5. Shri M. Ramachandrudu	2009	Joint Secretary
6. Shri S.P. Sinha	IAS Retd	Joint Secretary
7. Shri Abhay Jha	2017	Asstt. Treasurer

The following eight members were elected unanimously to the Managing Committee.-

1. Shri A.K. Chauhan	IAS Retd
2. Shri Naveen Verma	IAS Retd
3. Shri RBP Yadav	IAS Retd
4. Shri Upendar Sharma	IAS Retd

5 Shri Rajesh Meena	2012
6 Smt. Abhilasha Kumari Sharma	2014
7 Shri Anil Jha	2017

Agenda No. 7 Shri RU Singh (IAS Retd.), Shri Deepak Anand (2007) and Shri Sanjay Kumar (2017) were unanimously elected as Principal Editor, Editor and Associate Editor of PRAYAAS magazine respectively.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks of the Chair.

Sd/- 15/9/23
(Dipak Kumar Singh)
Secretary

Sd/- 15/9/23
Vivek Kumar Singh
President

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Sawan Utsav

Our Associate Editor, Sanjay Kumar has described in his symbolic style the celebration of 'Sawan Utsav' organised by IAS Officers' Wives' Association jointly with IAS Officers' Association at Hotel Maurya on 23 August 2023.

Wives in their finest fineries- green, yellow, and red- had gathered at Maurya in early afternoon while their IAS husbands were slugging it out at their corner offices, wrestling with thick, stale, dog-eared files and completely unmindful of how to dress themselves for the occasion in the evening. No thought given, no preparation done, totally agnostic about colour codes. When they joined their beautiful wives in the evening, after another day in the office, the contrast between wives and husbands could not have been starker. Most of them were attired in formals- UPSC interview is a brief interlude in the life of an IAS officer but formals last for a lifetime. Some of them were dressed in semi-smart casuals and all of them were interested in gossip, starters and food not necessarily in that order. Waiters serving starters don't follow any definite pattern, nor do they believe in inclusiveness. Where they go, what fares they serve, how many times they serve, sense of proportion between vegetarian and non-vegetarian starters- their sense of discretion lacks any rational basis.

Thanks to meticulous planning, everything from deep red *Aalta* to *Menhdi* to colourful bangles in different sizes had been taken care of. Organisers had done a brilliant job. Be it choreography or selection of songs or combination of performers, regional hues of Sawan from across the country, selection of food items, selfie/photo point on Sawan Swing by the stage- such attention to details is not easy to visualise or execute. The President of the IAS Officers' Wives Association, Harjot Ma'am was a livewire, on and off the stage. Welcoming and greeting everyone, the first to arrive and last to leave, she ensured the evening was a great success. And on top of everything, there was parting gift too. Such celebrations invest our humdrum mundaneness with colour, joy and most of all, beautiful memories.

More power to IAS Officers' Wives Association!

— Sanjay Kumar, IAS (2017), Associate Editor

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Transfers and Postings

सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग, बिहार सरकार द्वारा निर्गत अधिसूचनाओं के अनुसार
भारतीय प्रशासनिक सेवा के पदाधिकारियों के स्थानान्तरण, पदस्थापन, प्रोन्नति एवं अतिरिक्त प्रभार

क्र. सं.	अधिसूचना संख्या / तिथि	संबंधित अधिकारी की प्रोन्नति, पदस्थापन तथा अतिरिक्त प्रभार
1	14426 / 28.07.2023	डॉ० (श्रीमती) आशिमा जैन, भा०प्र०से० (2008), विशेष सचिव, लघु जल संसाधन विभाग, बिहार, पटना को राज्य परिवहन आयुक्त, बिहार और प्रशासक, बिहार राज्य पथ परिवहन निगम, पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
2	16384 / 27.08.2023	श्री कुमार निशान्त विवेक, भा०प्र०से० (2020), अनुमण्डल पदाधिकारी, कहलगाँव का अनुमण्डल पदाधिकारी, सोनपुर के पद पर पदस्थापन।
3	16955 / 06.09.2023	श्री प्रभाकर, भा०प्र०से० (सिविकम:2007), विशेष सचिव, बिहार राज्य योजना पर्षद, पटना का परामर्शी, बिहार राज्य याजेना पर्षद, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
4	17843 / 21.09.2023	श्री दयानिधान पाण्डेय, भा०प्र०से० (2006), आयुक्त, भागलपुर प्रमण्डल, भागलपुर का निदेशक, चकबंदी, राजस्व एवं भूमि सुधार विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
5	17844 / 21.09.2023	श्री संजय कुमार सिंह, भा०प्र०से० (2007), आयुक्त, मुंगेर प्रमण्डल, मुंगेर को आयुक्त, भागलपुर प्रमण्डल, भागलपुर का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
6	17845 / 21.09.2023	श्री दीपक आनन्द, भा०प्र०से० (2007), अपर सचिव, कला, संस्कृति एवं युवा विभाग, बिहार, पटना का निदेशक, उपभोक्ता संरक्षण, खाद्य एवं उपभोक्ता संरक्षण विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पदस्थापन।
7	17846 / 21.09.2023	श्री अनिल कुमार झा, भा०प्र०से० (2012), संयुक्त सचिव, कृषि विभाग, बिहार, पटना का सचिव, राजस्व पर्षद, बिहार, पटना के पद पदस्थापन।
8	17847 / 21.09.2023	श्री संजय कुमार, भा०प्र०से० (2017), संयुक्त सचिव, सहकारिता विभाग, बिहार, पटना का आयुक्त, मनरेगा, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पदस्थापन।
9	17848 / 21.09.2023	श्रीमती रूबी, भा०प्र०से० (2017), संयुक्त सचिव, वाणिज्य-कर विभाग, बिहार, पटना का निदेशक, सांस्कृतिक कार्य निदेशालय, कला, संस्कृति एवं युवा विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
10	17849 / 21.09.2023	श्री संजय कुमार सिंह, भा०प्र०से० (2017), संयुक्त सचिव, कृषि विभाग, बिहार, पटना का संयुक्त सचिव, भवन निर्माण विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
11	17850 / 21.09.2023	श्री अभय झा, भा०प्र०से० (2017), संयुक्त सचिव, सहकारिता विभाग, बिहार, पटना का प्रशासक, बिहार राज्य पथ परिवहन निगम, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
12	18218 / 26.09.2023	श्री अवनिश कुमार सिंह, भा०प्र०से० (2010), समाहर्ता एवं जिला पदाधिकारी, जमुई का समाहर्ता एवं जिला पदाधिकारी, मुंगेर के पद पर पदस्थापन।
13	18219 / 26.09.2023	श्री पंकज कुमार, भा०प्र०से० (2010), निदेशक, प्राथमिक शिक्षा, बिहार, पटना का समाहर्ता एवं जिला पदाधिकारी, शिवहर के पद पर पदस्थापन।

क्र. सं.	अधिसूचना संख्या / तिथि	संबंधित अधिकारी की प्रोन्नति, पदस्थापन तथा अतिरिक्त प्रभार
14	18220 / 26.09.2023	श्री राकेश कुमार, भा0प्र0से0 (2010), संयुक्त सचिव, मुख्यमंत्री सचिवालय, बिहार, पटना का समाहर्ता एवं जिला पदाधिकारी, जमुई के पद पर पदस्थापन।
15	18221 / 26.09.2023	श्री मिथिलेश मिश्र, भा0प्र0से0 (2011), को निदेशक, मध्याह्न भोजन, बिहार पटना एवं निदेशक, प्राथमिक शिक्षा, बिहार का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
16	18222 / 26.09.2023	श्री नवीन कुमार, भा0प्र0से0 (2011), समाहर्ता एवं जिला पदाधिकारी, मुंगेर का समाहर्ता एवं जिला पदाधिकारी, रोहतास, सासाराम के पद पर पदस्थापन।
17	18223 / 26.09.2023	श्री श्रीकान्त शास्त्री, भा0प्र0से0 (2012), समाहर्ता एवं जिला पदाधिकारी, किशनगंज का समाहर्ता एवं जिला पदाधिकारी, औरंगाबाद के पद पर पदस्थापन।
18	18224 / 26.09.2023	श्री धर्मेन्द्र कुमार, भा0प्र0से0 (2013), समाहर्ता एवं जिला पदाधिकारी, रोहतास, सासाराम का अपर सचिव, नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
19	18225 / 26.09.2023	श्री सुहर्ष भगत, भा0प्र0से0 (2015), समाहर्ता एवं जिला पदाधिकारी, औरंगाबाद का अपर कार्यपालक निदेशक, राज्य स्वास्थ्य समिति, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
20	18226 / 26.09.2023	श्री तुषार सिंगला, भा0प्र0से0 (2015), संयुक्त सचिव, वित्त विभाग, बिहार, पटना का समाहर्ता एवं जिला पदाधिकारी, किशनगंज के पद पर पदस्थापन।
21	18464 / 30.09.2023	श्री अरविन्द कुमार चौधरी, भा0प्र0से0 (1995), प्रधान सचिव, वित्त विभाग, का प्रधान सचिव, योजना एवं विकास विभाग/सचिव, बिहार राज्य योजना पर्सद, पटना/परियोजना निदेशक, बिहार आपदा पुनर्वास एवं पुनर्निर्माण सोसाइटी, पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
22	18465 / 30.09.2023	श्री संतोष कुमार मल्ल, भा0प्र0से0 (1997), प्रधान सचिव, सूचना प्रावैधिकी विभाग, बिहार, पटना का प्रधान सचिव, नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
23	18466 / 30.09.2023	श्री अभय कुमार सिंह, भा0प्र0से0 (2004), सचिव, पर्यटन विभाग, बिहार, पटना को सचिव, सूचना प्रावैधिकी विभाग, बिहार, पटना/प्रबंध निदेशक, बेल्ट्रॉन, पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
24	18467 / 30.09.2023	श्री प्रभाकर, भा0प्र0से0 (एसके: 2007), परामर्शी, बिहार राज्य योजना पर्सद, पटना का प्रबंध निदेशक, कॉम्फेड, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
25	18865 / 07.10.2023	प्रशांत कुमार सी.एच., भा0प्र0से0 (2015), निदेशक, समाज कल्याण, बिहार, पटना को मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, बिहार विकास मिशन, मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय विभाग, बिहार, पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
26	19329 / 13.10.2023	श्री कुंदन कुमार, भा0प्र0से0 (2004), स्थानिक आयुक्त, बिहार भवन, नई दिल्ली को मुख्य कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी, बिहार फाउण्डेशन एवं निवेश आयुक्त, मुम्बई का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
27	19330 / 13.10.2023	श्री संजीव कुमार, भा0प्र0से0 (2012), निदेशक, तकनीकी, उद्योग विभाग, बिहार, पटना का अपर सचिव, लोक स्वास्थ्य अभियंत्रण विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।



Photo Gallery

Glimpses of Diwali Milan organized jointly by IAS Association
& IAS Officers' Wives' Association on 8 November 2023 at IAS Bhawan, Patna



Photo Gallery

Patna Panorama



Picture of Patna Skyline taken by S Siddharth

Buddha Smriti Park at Patna where at one time the Bankipore Central Jail was located



Photograph by S Siddharth

Flora and Fauna



A beautiful picture snapped by S Siddharth of a Butterfly in his Garden

Preparations for Patna Marathon



On Sunday 26 November 2023

Get-together



IAS 2023 and 2021 Batches of Bihar Cadre in LBSNAA

Launch of Prayaas-3 on 26 August 2023 at IAS Bhawan, Patna



(L-R) GS Prasad, Surendra Pd Sinha, RU Singh (Principal Editor) AK Choudhay, M Kumar (Chief Guest), Ashok K Chauhan, Sunil K Singh, Dipak K Singh (Secretary) and Deepak Anand (Editor)

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