



PRAYAAS

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CONTENTS

00 Editorial	- Principal Editor	0
01 From Secretary's Desk	- Dipak K Singh	1
02 From Associate Editor's Desk	- Sanjay Kumar	2
03 Down the Memory Lane	- GR Patwardhan	3-5
04 Shrawan Shruti	- Thiagarajan SM	6-9
05 Quiz	- Associate Editor	10-11
06 Book Review	- Sanjay Kumar	12-13
07 Know the Officers	- Navin	14-15
08 Achievers-Sunil K Singh	- RU Singh	16-17
09 अनुभव की सीख (कहानी)	- Geeta Singh	18-22
10 अन्तिम पटाक्षेप (कविता)	- RU Singh 'Videh'	23
11 लौट आओ जीवन (कविता)	- Dr Ashok Kumar	24
12 Crossword	- Vivek K Singh	25
13 Anecdotes	- Courtesy Khushwant Singh and others	26
14 Cartoons	- Assorted	27
15 Feedback and Welcome	- Principal Editor	28
16 चुनावी चकल्लस	- Brij M Vaish	29
17 Activities	- Associate Editor	30
18 Transfers & Postings	- Deepak Anand	31-32

Editorial

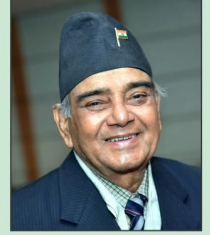
Dear Colleagues,

I have again got this opportunity to present to you this issue of our Prayaas Magazine for the April-June quarter of 2024. The main event that caught the attention of all is the Election to the 543 constituencies of the 18th Lok Sabha which was held in as many as 7 phases on April 19 and 26, May 7, 13, 20 and 25, and June 1, 2024. Many died of heat-stroke while braving unprecedented mercury levels.

Many of the serving members of our fraternity were directly involved in conducting the elections, besides some of them sent to other States as ECI's Observers. In one constituency, a candidate was declared elected as all others had withdrawn their candidatures. For the sake of academic discussion, it occurred to me that NOTA being a virtual candidate in every booth, should not voting be done between the real candidate and NOTA in such a case?

An exemplary success story has come from Gaya where Thiagarajan SM, the DM and his team have got cochlear implants done on 45 children mostly from poor families, suffering from hearing impairment, with no cost to them!

We are introducing a new feature of Crossword contributed by Vivek Kumar Singh, the doyen of Crossword movement in India.



RU Singh

RU Singh, IAS-(Retd.)
Principal Editor
[Mob: 91133-04025]

Areus 10-06-24

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



IAS BHAWAN

Photo Gallery

Glimpses of Holi Milan on 22 March 2024 at IAS Bhawan



From Secretary's Desk



Dear Colleagues,

The General Election to the 18th Lok Sabha, having the longest ever election schedule has been successfully concluded by our officers in the field and headquarters. All officials and employees, involved directly or indirectly, in the conduct of elections, must be congratulated, especially considering the severely adverse weather conditions.

The scorching and unprecedented heat this summer, has kept our colleagues on toe, in managing water and health crisis. Irony is that despite having many rivers and water bodies, some parts of Northern Bihar has also started facing drinking water crisis, during summers, due to depletion in groundwater table, in areas which were once dotted by “bamboo borings.” Not just Bihar, not just India, temperature records are being made and broken, across the world. A study has shown that April 2024 was the 11th consecutive month when the global average monthly temperature for that month touched a new record. The one-year period from May 2023 to April 2024 was warmer than any previous 12-month period, about 1.61°C higher than the pre-industrial (1850-1900) average. Worst affected are the cities, across the world, as the altered thermodynamic and aerodynamic properties of the cities tend to trap more heat, making them warmer than their rural and suburban counterparts (a phenomenon known as the Urban Heat Island effect).

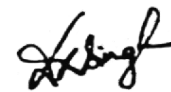
This only shows that myriads of resolutions taken since 1992 Earth Summit of Rio de Janeiro, to mitigate climate change and pledges to slow down the Global warming have remained empty slogans only. Bihar is the first state in the country which, even before the country as a whole committed, in Nov 2021 during COP 26, to achieve carbon neutrality by the year 2070, had started preparation for low carbon development pathways, in the year 2020 itself. However, as the Global trend shows, mere commitment and studies are only worth piece of papers, on which they are written, until they are translated into actions; until we pause and review, critically and in an unbiased way, the development path adopted till now, and agree to course correction.

In the context of our state, we must rethink the strategy of blind run to embank the rivers, cutting their link to the Chauras and Water bodies, the closure of inlet and outlet of water bodies, in the name of beautification, the destruction of matured trees for the sake of roads, which apparently brings development. In essence, development does result in depletion of Natural Resources. We must pause and think, whether we have been able to protect our territory by river embankments, or it has only severed the vital linkage which recharged the water bodies and revitalized the top soil. If we do not click the pause and reroute button, these highways shall become a “Road to Nowhere”.



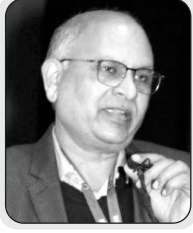
June 3, 2024

Sincerely yours,



(Dipak Kumar Singh)

Secretary, IAS Officers' Association, Bihar.



From Associate Editor's Desk

Dear Colleagues,

By the time this issue reaches you, the General elections will be over with the last of the votes having been counted, the last of the reports having been submitted to the Election Commission and the members of the fraternity having acted in different capacities in conducting the election process - hoping for a break from the thrum and bustle of a very demanding process. However, it is extremely unlikely that they would get any break as the imperatives of the development agenda would have them in its cross hairs. As the ecosystem of administration becomes more complex, more and newer stakeholders come into play, democratisation gains irreversible momentum and the role of conventions gets eroded, the members of the IAS fraternity have their tasks cut out. They can't relax.

And yet they must relax. Samuel Beckett says, "I can't go on. I must go on." In this journey, humour could be a valuable ally. The Chief Election Commissioner, Mr. Rajiv Kumar took to humour and shayari in order to enliven the proceedings, to humanise a mostly mechanical process, to connect better with the stakeholders and the citizens and to emphasize the point that the Election Commission is not some forbidding fortress but a human organisation. "दुश्मनी जमकर करो पर यह याद रहे कि जब फिर से मिलें तो शर्मिदा न होना पड़े।" Was a timely reminder from him about the fundamental decencies of human relationships. Ruskin Bond - the nonagenarian writer of wonderful stories puts it brilliantly, "After all the wars are done, the butterfly shall still remain beautiful."

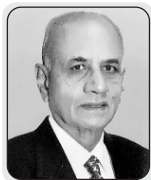
In fact, humour could be an extremely valuable ally in administration. Not slapstick humour, not one dripped in sarcasm but situational humour that stems from the mundanities of everyday exposure and experience. Upmanyu Chatterjee - a member of the fraternity - wrote, 'English August' - a coming-of-age book speaking of the rites of passage of a young IAS officer at the fictional outpost of Madna in Central India. His 'Mammaries of the Welfare State' would offer a humorous take on the process of development. Shri Lal Shukla - another member of the fraternity and his "RaagDarbari" is a brilliant, irreverent, humorous and genre-defying take on the process of decentralised development and how it struggles and flounders when pitted against the hold of the traditional and localised power structures. Shripad Bhalerao's, "With Tongue in Cheek: A Civil Servant Recalls" - is a wonderful account of anecdotes and canards, grapevines and gossip that are bound to inform the existence of any human organisation.

Salman Rushdie reminds in his seminal work, 'Joseph Anton' that the basic struggle in the world is between those who have a sense of humour and those who are humourless. Humour in administration could be cathartic as well as therapeutic. It could make administration less hierarchical, less mechanical and more humane. One Mr. Max Weber might or might not approve it but then bureaucracy - as it developed in India - is one of its kind, sui generis.

Yours,

(Sanjay Kumar)
Associate Editor

May 24, 2024



DOWN THE MEMORY LANE (Part 7)

Continued from the previous Issue...

Things in Sitamarhi as elsewhere appeared to be returning to normal. Agitation was showing signs of ebbing. As if to remind me that it was still kicking, a crude cracker was thrown at my residence in evening on a day in March, just after Holi. It was warm and my wife was sitting behind a bamboo partition in front garden close to the entrance with the new born daughter. Some servants were tending to plants around. I was in office complex. The cracker exploded with a loud thud emitting dark smoke. Wife immediately moved inside and servants closed the gate. Hearing it Dr. Sharma of the dispensary opposite, rushed and rang up the police. The SP, Cairae reached the place and sent for me. He was upset that there was no house guard and it had happened. He insisted that I should keep the house guard and immediately deputed one. I had no option though personally I did not like it.

Long thereafter, in 1979 January, while going to Connaught Place from Delhi Jn after arriving from Patna by Howrah-Delhi express early morning in an auto rikshaw, a passenger was given a lift by the driver asking me if I had any objection. The man looked like a passenger and said he had come from Patna. As he was getting down near Minto Road hutments, he looked at me and said, “CheenheNahin, Hum hi Aapke Deramein Bum phenke the.” And then he vanished. I was taken aback as it was quite strange and sickening. First someone throws a projectile at innocent beings, then

takes a lift from the very target, reaches the destination, does not pay his part of the fare, discloses his identity and vanishes!

I was reminded of a visit by a retired addl collector belonging to Majorganj Block of the district whom I asked the circumstances in which Kuldeep Singh the then SDO and Murat Jha, the then inspector of police of Sitamarhi were speared to death at Baj patty in August, 1942 and their bodies thrown in a hay stack and burned. I asked him if the officer had a bad reputation. He simply laughed at it. He said he was also an accused in that case like many, secured bail and was not charge-sheeted. His remark was typical, “Ye sub kuch mayne nahin rakhta hai...Mob yeh sub nahin dekhta hai. Suna hai aapko khoob daudnapada hai. To ye sub chaltarahtahai...Bheed to badmashi karta hi hai...aapkoto majbootrahnahai ...jyadanahinsochiye!”

The officer had worked with me in Patna Sadar sub-division as a deputy collector and was a successful magistrate. Many a time he had accompanied me in conducting raids and removing road blocks set up by students near University. And invariably he was successful in clearing the road. His presence near assembly during session was a normal feature and his observations appeared factual and free from emotions. The person who got down at Minto Road must have been part of a large group and so was not concerned with the good or bad aspect of his deeds. I had so much to learn, I thought.

Emergency was imposed in June 1975. Another round of meetings, visits and messages started. In July, I was transferred to Santhal Pargana as Dy Commissioner (DC) vice Mr SN Mishra, a very experienced officer under whom I briefly worked as addl collector in 1975. He was a work horse and had weathered the agitation on a large scale. My successor was Mr Kusheshwar Jha who evaded joining for long and was finally posted to Arrah. The commissioner made it very clear that he would relieve me from Sitamarhi only after a substitute joined and he saw the joining report! So I stayed put till Ms Laxmi Chakravarty joined in last week of July. Flood waters had disrupted the communications at Runi Saidpur on the Muzaffarpur road. She left her car there, took a boat, crossed late in the evening and reached Dumra in jeep at about 6 PM. The staff had put wooden benches for her to reach office from overtopped road outside and the charge was handed over at 7 PM. In the next morning a special messenger took the charge report to the Commissioner at Muzaffarpur. Early morning, my wife found the front verandah nearly touching the rising flood waters and started shifting perishables to higher shelves. At one more place near Kataunjha on Muzaffarpur Road, River Baghmati overtopped the road and all communication with it stopped. The railway track to Samastipur was submerged near Bajpatty and that link also snapped. Only telephone lines and power remained intact. The appointment department was pressing for my joining the new place. I had already spent a week waiting for the road to open. I thought of reaching Muzaffarpur and then take the train to Jasidih for Dumka. Laxmi Chakravarty faced the floods with lack of resources and she prevailed upon the commissioner to air drop relief material by

helicopters and got assurance. Yadu Nath Sahay, the secretary was coordinating it and asked me to take a lift in the sortie returning to Muzaffarpur after dropping relief material. The helicopter, a Russian MI 8 on landing was contacted and it agreed to do so. It used to return to Patna everyday after work to be with the other team members. I got notice of about half an hour by which time it would complete two rounds and return. So my wife prepared a kitchen box with some utensils, one small suitcase with clothes and few packets of biscuits all weighing ten kg, the limit put by the helicopter pilot. With baited breath we waited for it to come and left by about 4 PM. Once up we could see the flood waters spread all over the area around Sitamarhi-Muzaffarpur road. In about half an hour, after dropping supplies in Saidpur and Belsand blocks, we landed on Muzaffarpur air strip only to be informed of snapping of the rail link to Barauni and decided to reach Patna. The pilot Flt Lt. Sathay turned out to be the son in law of the District Judge, Gaya and agreed to take us to Patna. In another hour we were there.

Next day after informing the appointment department that I was on my way to Dumka, we made some purchases of essential clothing for children and boarded the Pataliputra Express reaching Jasidih same night and Dumka next day. It was perhaps 10th August that I joined as Dy Commissioner. Mishraji heaved a sigh of relief as his commissioner Mr SK Srivastava was also insisting on a regular successor.

When I joined Dumka, I was the junior most in the division. Mr Ramanujam (1961) was the DM at Bhagalpur and was pretty senior. Mr Roy Paul (1967) at Monghyr was not only senior but very sharp and hard working. My charge was challenging by virtue of its area and border

with West Bengal. I was definitely starting with a handicap, much like in the game of Polo, where Jodhpur's Hanut Singh had a handicap of four! Only after he had scored four goals would the fifth one be counted as the first! The Commissioner was very much worried as the Sravani Mela was approaching with Kanwar Yatras from Sultanganj to Deoghar which posed logistic problems. And a novice, 31 year old officer to manage it! He decided to give a call to know my bearings. He was full of anxiety as I could make out. But when I told him that I had been addl collector for eight months earlier under Mr RU Singh in 1973, he appeared to feel a bit relieved but encouraged me to work diligently and be careful about Deoghar.

So it was, every Sunday evening, I had to be at Jasidih Railway station, to receive a dignitary, escort him to the IB, supervise Darshan next day and that over, return in the evening. The SDO, one KD Singh belonged to Bhagalpur, knew the Kanwar route well and was an excellent officer. VIP duty was his hobby so to say. He enjoyed it immensely. To that extent, my headache was reduced. I detested it and remained only a formal, essential part. Many a time, visiting dignitaries kept enquiring about the absent DM and when politely told that the Dy Commissioner was the DM who received them, they appeared confused!

89 I had spent about eight months under Mr RU Singh who had been the Deputy

Commissioner at Dumka in 1971-73. I was in charge of relief work and the establishment of Revenue functionaries, Zamindari abolition cases and agriculture statistics. It had allowed me to move in the interior and also conduct crop cutting experiments and supervise preparation of DC bills at Block and circle levels.

Mr Singh was very methodical, analytical and possessed an unusual capacity to read others mind. He was not very communicative and appeared reserved. His simplicity and frugal life style made him work for long hours and his presence in field was seldom caused inconvenience to his subordinates. His heart lay in concern for the poor tribal people. With this background and emergency in force, I attempted to concentrate on court work which was badly disturbed during the JP-led agitation of 1974. Camp courts at Deoghar and Sahebganj (at a distance of about eighty miles) were held regularly after the Shravani Mela was over. One result was increased appeals in the court of Commissioner at Bhagalpur. This perhaps was noted by the commissioner who in one of the visit later told me that he was uneasy initially when I was notified but felt now that I was making efforts to dispel that impression as the lawyers were happy and the field officers were feeling my presence. For the first time, I felt that the cautionary words of five Tirhut Divisional Commissioners did not go in vain!

... Concluded.

*

[I remember that as DC of Santhal Pargana at Dumka, GR Pawardhan painstakingly collected the photographs of many previous Deputy Commissioners, got them framed and hung on the walls of the DC's Chamber in the Collectorate. I saw them when I visited Dumka on my way to Tarapith — RU Singh]

□□

Initiative



– Thiyagarajan SM
IAS (2011)



SHARWAN SHURUTI TRANSFORMING LIVES

Context : The “Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” defines living with a disability as having a long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairment that hinders one's participation in society on an equal basis with others. Children with disabilities and their families are likely to live in poverty, owing to the costs, lack of access to education and other essential services, and inadequate social protection. Children with disabilities often work hard to accommodate themselves to an inaccessible world that excludes them. The extent to which children with disabilities are able to lead happy lives depends on our own willingness to confront barriers to change.

In light of the above context, Shrawan Shruti emerged as a crucial initiative, responding to the substantial prevalence of hearing loss in children and its severe impact on their development. With 5-8 out of every 1000 children affected, the initiative recognizes the urgent need for early intervention with an aim to address the multifaceted challenges posed by hearing impairment through a model that not only identifies and treats children but also incorporates a family-centered approach to limit the barriers, resource optimization and develop a tested design ensuring replicability.

Description of the Model : ShrawanShruti adopts a multi-pronged, end to end

approach, encompassing screening programs, medical and surgical interventions, therapy, and ongoing support services. The Otoacoustic emission (OEA) screening identifies children with hearing disabilities, categorizing them into temporary and permanent impairment. Temporary cases undergo conservative treatment, while those with permanent impairment receive cochlear implants. The family-centered approach ensures that the family's role is acknowledged and integrated into the care process, enhancing the overall effectiveness of the intervention. Collaboration and convergence of different departments and programs are the two major factors for the success of this initiative.

Capacity Building : Capacity-building efforts focus on training healthcare professionals in the early identification and intervention of hearing loss, ensuring a skilled workforce capable of implementing the initiative effectively. AWW and supervisors were trained in the program implementation by the district program management unit. Audiologists were trained in OAE screening by Late Dr. S. N. Mehrotra Memorial ENT foundation in Gaya itself with no additional cost involvement.

Counselling of Family : Trained counselors initiate the process by providing information and counseling to families, emphasizing the importance of early detection and

intervention for hearing impairments in children. Families are educated on the potential benefits of screening camps and subsequent treatments. ASHAs conduct door to door screening apart from regular camp approach.

Development of Work Plan for Screening Camp : A collaborative effort between health officials, community workers and relevant stakeholders create a comprehensive work plan for the screening camp. The work plan includes details such as location, dates, logistics, required resources, and roles and responsibilities of team members.

OAE Tests at Screening Camps : Screening camps are held in Anganwadicenters. Trained personnel, including health workers and audiologists, administer OAE tests to identify hearing impairments in children. Children who show positive results are carefully identified for further evaluation.

Referral to DEIC (District Early Intervention Centre), Gaya for further screening & treatment : Children identified with hearing impairments are referred to the District Early Intervention Centre (DEIC) in Gaya for a comprehensive diagnosis and treatment plan. Detailed medical assessments, including Brainstem Evoked Response Audiometry (BERA) are conducted at DEIC. Children with positive BERA results, indicating severe hearing impairment, are referred for free cochlear implant surgery. The surgery is performed at reputed medical facilities such as AIIMS Patna or Dr. S. N. Mehrotra Memorial ENT foundation, Kanpur. Post-surgery, children

receive free-of-cost speech therapy and ongoing follow-up care. Children with negative BERA results, suggesting no severe hearing impairment, undergo further assessment and receive free-of-cost treatment. But it is pertinent to note that temporary hearing loss, if left untreated can progress to permanent hearing loss. For them, treatment is provided at designated healthcare facilities such as JPN Hospital in Gaya.

Early intervention prevents long-term negative consequences, reducing the economic burden on families and society associated with delayed treatment. The cost-effectiveness is further enhanced by the project's emphasis on resource pooling and collaboration, maximizing the impact of available resources. On every cochlear implant, there is an approximate cost of 10,00,000 (Ten lakh) involved. There is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Gaya district and Late Dr. S. N. Mehrotra Memorial ENT foundation which is empaneled in Government of India Scheme of Assistance to Disable Person scheme (ADIP). Under ADIP – Assistance to disabled persons scheme, reimbursement of cochlear implant and surgical costs is done by the Disabilities department, GoI to the empanelled hospitals. SN Mehrotra hospital is one such hospital. The District Health society has borne the cost of screening camps and OAE & BERA using the team of in-house experts, availability of hearing aids, free speech therapy with availability of free ambulance and transport. While AIIMS, Patna and SN Mehrotra Hospital, Kanpur bears the cost of cochlear implant with free

speech therapy and follow-up sessions with facility for stay for the family. ICDS has supported mobilization and screening.

Convergence and Collaboration : Under the spirit of two-pillars of the model, the initiative strategically pools resources from different departments such as Education, Health, and social security cell and ICDS to optimize their use, ensuring efficient delivery of services. Human resources are organized to facilitate collaboration and coordination across departments and schemes. Health professionals and HR working with different departments, including audiologists, surgeons, therapists, and educators, worked together to provide comprehensive care. Also, the no cost collaboration with the private sector needs to be highlighted.

Evidence of Effectiveness & Efficiency : Positive outcomes include improved access to sound and language, enhancing cognitive social development. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms tracked the progress of the treated children, providing evidence of the intervention's effectiveness in improving their quality of life.

The data from the Shrawan Shruti screening as of 09.05.2024 vividly illustrates the profound impact of the project on addressing hearing disabilities in children aged 0-5 years. The extensive coverage of 1659 Anganwadi Centers and screening of 325,911 children reflects the project's commitment to a wider reach. The identification and referral of 739 children for BERA testing demonstrate the project's efficacy in early detection. The positive BERA test results for 87 children emphasize

the critical role of the initiative in identifying and addressing potential hearing impairment. Notably, the successful completion of cochlear implant operations for 45 children is a testament to the project's tangible outcomes, ensuring that those with permanent hearing impairment receive the necessary interventions for complete access to sound and language. 45 cochlear implant surgeries have been successfully completed under the project, 43 at Kanpur and 2 at Patna.

Case Study : Vandana Kumari's journey is a poignant success story, underscoring the transformative impact of the Shrawan Shruti initiative. At just 1 year and 8 months old, Vandana, residing in the village of Ilra, faced the silent challenge of undiscovered deafness. Through the screening camps, Shrawan Shruti identified her hearing impairment during the OEA screening. Prompt action followed, and Vandana was referred to the tertiary level care center at AIIMS, Patna, where her suitability for BERA was confirmed. & Surgery done at AIIMS Patna, for cochlear implantation. After surgery we provided free of cost speech therapy, now she is Vocally sound. Vandana's story is a testament to the crucial role of early intervention. In cases like Vandana's, where parents are unaware of their child's condition and awareness about hearing disabilities is minimal, Shrawan Shruti project emerges as a lifeline. Not only does it facilitate early screening, preventing complete deafness, but it also addresses the broader social factors surrounding deafness. Beyond medical intervention, the initiative recognizes and

mitigates the profound impacts of childhood hearing loss on language development, literacy, self-esteem, and social skills.

Many children's lives have transformed :

The initiative becomes a beacon of hope, preventing lasting emotional and psychological consequences like isolation, loneliness, and depression. Additionally, it acknowledges the ripple effect on families, offering support to parents dealing with unique challenges, from increased stress to higher financial burdens and workday losses. It represents a holistic approach to hearing disability, addressing not only the immediate health concern but also the broader socio-economic and emotional aspects. In doing so, Shrawan Shruti not only transforms individual lives but contributes to the overall well-being and development of communities and the nation at large.

Potential for Scale-Up: The ShrawanShruti initiative's easily replicable design based on convergence and collaboration without any additional cost involved positions it as an ideal model for other healthcare situations. Its success in addressing the diverse needs of children with hearing loss makes it adaptable to various settings. Collaboration with local and out of the state partners facilitate the expansion of the initiative, ensuring its reach to a larger population.

Partners Involved in Implementation: Implementation involves a collaborative

effort with various partners, including healthcare institutions, government departments (Health, Education, Social Welfare departments), and non-governmental organizations. The convergence of departments and schemes facilitates a seamless integration of resources and expertise, ensuring a comprehensive and effective implementation of the Shrawan Shruti initiative. Local communities, schools, and parents also play a crucial role as active partners in successful execution of the project. Among International organizations, UNICEF played a major role in providing technical support, especially in providing exposure visits and replicating the learnings with overall monitoring support for the program.

Recognition:

1. Noala Skinner, Regional Director, UNICEF, South Asia, Cynthia McCaffrey, Country head, UNICEF, India, Nafisa Binte Shafique, CFO, UNICEF, Bihar and Dr. Siddhartha Reddy, Health Specialist were apprised on the journey of Shrawan Shruti project on 9/5/2023;
2. State Level Award for recognition on 28th April 2023; and
3. This Scheme was extended throughout Bihar after being renamed as “Bal Sharwan Yojana” by the State Health Society Bihar, Patna.

* * *

The innovative author is currently posted as DM, Gaya — Principal Editor



Quiz



- Sanjay Kumar
Associate Editor



Some Prayas for Your Prayaas

1. Dilip Sardesai's batting exploits against the mighty West Indies in 1971 earned him all-round appreciation and kudos. In the first test in Kingston, Jamaica, India was tottering at 75 for 5 and India was already being dismissed as a club side. Sardesai stitched together a memorable partnership with Eknath Solkar as he ended up scoring 212, the first double hundred by an Indian batsman on foreign soil. However, Dilip Sardesai was not the original choice for the team to play there and he played because a key batsman was injured. Name the injured batsman?

2. West Delhi is unarguably the heartbeat of Cricket in Delhi. Sehwag, Nehra, Ishant, Gambhir, Shikhar Dhawan, Aakash Chopra and, not to forget, Virat Kohli hail from West Delhi or surrounding areas. This sporting culture in Cricket comes close to a cricketing rivalry between two rival cricket clubs/teams in Mumbai. Name the celebrated Mumbai rivals?

3. The first Sikh sporting superstar was the 'Flying Sikh' Milkha Singh whose legends and exploits did India proud. In the first two decades after Independence,

only three Sikhs played Cricket for India: Bedi and two brothers. Name the two brothers and which state did they represent?

4. Pat and Jai, as the duo was called, were Indian cricket's Jodi number one in the 1960s. Jai was an extrovert, Pat more self-effacing. Both liked cigarettes, whiskey and the attention of women. Jai did Pat a great favour. What is the favour being mentioned?

5. Iftikhar Pataudi is the only player to have played for both England and India. He scored a century on debut for England in 1932. He captained India in 1946. But before that, he was dropped from the English team as he refused to concur with something that did not behove a game of gentlemen. What was Pataudi senior opposed to?

6. Sunil Manohar Gavaskar left for the West Indies in December 1970 as a talented young cricketer and he returned four months later as the brightest star in the sport. A Trinidadian musician even composed a Calypso song in his honour, "It was Gavaskar, the real master, just like a wall, we couldn't out Gavaskar at all". On the same tour, Dilip Sardesai also

shone with the bat and the West Indian fans called him by an affectionate name. What was that name?

7. During India's tour of Pakistan in 1982-83, the Indian manager Fateh singh rao Gaekwad hosted a dinner to which the legendary Pakistani singer Noor Jehan was also invited. "I am sure you know our captain Sunil Gavaskar," Gaekwad said while introducing her to the players. Noor Jehan replied, "Nahin ji, I only know of..." as she took the name of two Pakistani players. When Gaekwad turned to Gavaskar and said, "Sunil, surely I don't need to introduce Mallika-e-Tarannum Noor Jehan". Gavaskar replied with a quick wit, "No, Sir, I only know of Lata Mangeshkar!" Which two Pakistani players was Noor Jehan referring to?

8. Even Sachin Tendulkar could not have dreamt that he would play his first test for India at the age of Sixteen against the mighty Pakistanis led by Imran Khan. The selection meeting that chose him was

headed by Raj Singh Dungarpur who was determined to engineer a generational change in the sport. There were sceptics in that meeting who thought it was a bad idea. A former Indian Wicketkeeper had the last words, "Don't worry, Tendulkar never fails." Who is the former wicketkeeper being referred to?

9. Azhar made his debut on New year's Eve at Eden Gardens in Kolkata. Following defeat to England in the previous match, Kapil Dev and Sandeep Patil had been dropped. The intimidating presence of a large crowd had almost convinced Gavaskar, the captain not to pick the young man but the chairman of selectors was insistent. Who was the chairman of selectors?

10. When Sourav Ganguly hit his seventeenth boundary to reach a debut hundred at Lords, he wouldn't have known that he had achieved something very special. What is that special being referred to here?

*

[Readers may send their answers to Associate Editor, Sanjay Kumar either on his Whatsapp No: 94312-83881 or to his email: ksanju569@gmail.com. Correct answers which will be shared in the next issue, will bag attractive gifts from the Association.]





नव प्रोन्नत भा.प्र.से. के अधिकारी

(पहली किश्त)

1. **श्री सुशील कुमार** - बिहार प्रशासनिक सेवा के 35वीं बैच के पदाधिकारी जिन्हें भा.प्र.से. में प्रोन्नति के उपरांत 2011 बैच आवंटित हुआ। वर्तमान समय में ये निदेशक-सह-विशेष सचिव, भू-अर्जन, राजस्व एवं भूमि सुधार विभाग, बिहार, पटना में पदस्थापित हैं। सामाजिक सेवा में इनकी गहरी रुचि है एवं लोक संगीत सुनना इन्हें बेहद पसंद है।

2. **श्री किशोरी चौधरी** - बिहार प्रशासनिक सेवा के 36वीं बैच के पदाधिकारी जिन्हें भा.प्र.से. में प्रोन्नति के उपरांत 2011 बैच आवंटित हुआ। वर्तमान समय में दिनांक-28.02.2024 को ये विशेष सचिव, राजस्व एवं भूमि सुधार विभाग के पद से सेवानिवृत्त हो चुके हैं।

3. **श्री पुरुषोत्तम पासवान** - बिहार प्रशासनिक सेवा के 36वीं बैच के पदाधिकारी जिन्हें भा.प्र.से. में प्रोन्नति के उपरांत 2011 बैच आवंटित हुआ। वर्तमान समय में ये सचिव, राज्य निर्वाचन प्राधिकार, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापित हैं। सामान्यतः शांतस्वभाव के ये पदाधिकारी हमेशा दूसरों के कार्यों में मदद के लिए तत्पर रहते हैं।

4. **श्री उज्ज्वल कुमार सिंह** - बिहार प्रशासनिक सेवा के 37वीं बैच के पदाधिकारी जिन्हें भा.प्र.से. में प्रोन्नति के उपरांत 2011 बैच आवंटित हुआ। वर्तमान समय में ये विशेष सचिव, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, बिहार, पटना के रूप में कार्यरत हैं। इनकी विशेष रुचि Classical Black and White फिल्में देखने की है तथा बागवानी का भी शौक रखते हैं। ये सोशल मीडिया से दूरी बनाकर रखते हैं।

5. **श्री विनय कुमार राय** - बिहार प्रशासनिक सेवा के 37वीं बैच के पदाधिकारी जिन्हें भा.प्र.से. में प्रोन्नति के उपरांत 2011 बैच आवंटित हुआ। वर्तमान समय में निदेशक, पर्यटन, बिहार, पटना के पद पर कार्यरत हैं। घूमना, लोगों से मिलना-जुलना एवं आतिथ्य करना काफी पसंद है।

6. **श्री नरेश झा** - बिहार प्रशासनिक सेवा के 37वीं बैच के पदाधिकारी जिन्हें भा.प्र.से. में प्रोन्नति के उपरांत 2011 बैच आवंटित हुआ। वर्तमान समय में ये बंदोवस्त पदाधिकारी, कटिहार के रूप में कार्यरत हैं। इन्हें गाना गाना एवं किताबें पढ़ना काफी पसंद है। शांत प्रवृत्ति के हैं तथा इन्हें विकास कार्यों में विशेष रुचि है।

7. **श्री रजनीकांत** - बिहार प्रशासनिक सेवा के 37वीं बैच के पदाधिकारी जिन्हें भा.प्र.से. में प्रोन्नति के उपरांत 2011 बैच आवंटित हुआ। वर्तमान समय में जिला पदाधिकारी, लखीसराय के पद पर पदस्थापित हैं। Non-veg के शौकिन इन्हें किशोर कुमार के पुराने गाने सुनना काफी पसंद है। नदियों, पहाड़ों के किनारे घूमना पसंद है। इन्हें गर्मी का मौसम एवं सुबह का व्यायाम नापसंद है।

8. **श्री संजय कुमार** - बिहार प्रशासनिक सेवा के 37वीं बैच के पदाधिकारी जिन्हें भा.प्र.से. में प्रोन्नति के उपरांत 2011 बैच आवंटित हुआ। वर्तमान समय में ये राज्यपाल सचिवालय में विशेष सचिव के पद पर पदस्थापित हैं। शांत स्वभाव के इस पदाधिकारी को घूमना एवं संगीत सुनना काफी पसंद है तथा ध्यान-क्रिया आदि में विशेष अभिरुचि रखते हैं।

9. **श्री शशांक शेखर सिन्हा** - बिहार प्रशासनिक सेवा के 37वीं बैच के पदाधिकारी जिन्हें भा.प्र.से. में प्रोन्नति के उपरांत 2011 बैच आवंटित हुआ। वर्तमान समय में ये विशेष सचिव, स्वास्थ्य विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापित है। ये बिहार प्रशासनिक सेवा संघ के अध्यक्ष भी रह चुके हैं। इन्हें घूमना, गप्प करना तथा सामाजिक कार्यों में विशेष अभिरुचि है। कोरोना के समय में इन्होंने सक्रियता के साथ लोगों की काफी मदद की थी।

10. **श्री मुकेश कुमार सिन्हा** - बिहार प्रशासनिक सेवा के 37वीं बैच के पदाधिकारी जिन्हें भा.प्र.से. में प्रोन्नति के उपरांत 2011 बैच आवंटित हुआ। वर्तमान समय में ये

सचिव, राज्य निर्वाचनआयोग, बिहार, पटना के पद परपदस्थापितहैं।सरकारीकानून एवंनियमोंमेंविशेष रुचि रखनेवाले शांतप्रवृत्ति के इसपदाधिकारीकोतैरना एवंबैडमिंटन खेलनाअच्छालगताहै।

11. श्री निर्मल कुमार - बिहार प्रशासनिक सेवा के 37वीं बैच के पदाधिकारी जिन्हें भा.प्र.से. में प्रोन्नति के उपरांत 2011 बैच आवंटित हुआ। वर्तमान समय में ये लोक स्वास्थ्य अभियंत्रण विभाग में विशेष सचिव के पद पर पदस्थापित हैं। इन्हें पर्यटन एवं किताबें पढ़ने का शौक है तथा अकार्यशील व्यक्तियों को बेहद नापसंद करते हैं।

12. श्री शिव कुमार शैव - बिहार प्रशासनिक सेवा के 37वीं बैच के पदाधिकारी जिन्हें भा.प्र.से. में प्रोन्नति के उपरांत 2011 बैच आवंटित हुआ। वर्तमान समय में ये बंदोवस्त पदाधिकारी, किशनगंज के पद पर पदस्थापित हैं। योग एवं ध्यान-क्रिया में विशेष रुचि रखनेवाले इस पदाधिकारी को शास्त्रीय संगीत सुनना बेहद पसंद है।

13. श्री धीरेन्द्र पासवान - बिहार प्रशासनिक सेवा के 37वीं बैच के पदाधिकारी जिन्हें भा.प्र.से. में प्रोन्नति के उपरांत 2011 बैच आवंटित हुआ। ये दिनांक 28.02.2024 को विशेष सचिव, वन, पर्यावरण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद से सेवानिवृत्त हो चुके हैं।

14. श्री अरविन्द मंडल - बिहार प्रशासनिक सेवा के 37वीं बैच के पदाधिकारी जिन्हें भा.प्र.से. में प्रोन्नति के उपरांत 2011 बैच आवंटित हुआ। ये दिनांक 28.02.2024 को विशेष सचिव, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद से सेवानिवृत्त हो चुके हैं।

15. श्री अनिल चौधरी - बिहार प्रशासनिक सेवा के 37वीं बैच के पदाधिकारी जिन्हें भा.प्र.से. में प्रोन्नति के उपरांत 2011 बैच आवंटित हुआ। ये वर्तमान समय में नगर आयुक्त, मधुबनी के पद पर कार्यरत हैं।

16. श्री विश्वनाथ चौधरी - बिहार प्रशासनिक सेवा के 37वीं बैच के पदाधिकारी जिन्हें भा.प्र.से. में प्रोन्नति के उपरांत 2011 बैच आवंटित हुआ। वर्तमान समय में बंदोवस्त पदाधिकारी, सहरसा के रूप में कार्यरत हैं। इन्हें घूमने का विशेष शौक है। फालतू समय बर्बाद करना नापसंद है। राजस्व कार्यों में इन्हें विशेष रुचि है।

17. श्री ब्रजेश कुमार - बिहार प्रशासनिक सेवा के 37वीं बैच के पदाधिकारी जिन्हें भा.प्र.से. में प्रोन्नति के उपरांत 2011 बैच आवंटित हुआ। वर्तमान समय में बंदोवस्त पदाधिकारी, मधेपुरा के रूप में कार्यरत हैं। राजस्व कार्यों में विशेष रुचि है। बागवानी तथा फोटो ग्राफी इनका मन पसंद शौक है।

18. श्री अरूण कुमार सिंह - बिहार प्रशासनिक सेवा के 38वीं बैच के पदाधिकारी जिन्हें भा.प्र.से. में प्रोन्नति के उपरांत 2012 बैच आवंटित हुआ। वर्तमान समय में ये राजस्व एवं भूमिसुधार विभाग में अपर सचिव के रूप में पदस्थापित हैं। मस्तमौला स्वभाव के इस पदाधिकारी को पुरातात्विक स्थलों का भ्रमण करने एवं बागवानी का शौक है। ये पारंपरिक लोकसंगीत सुनने एवं गाने का भी शौक रखते हैं।

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[ज्ञातव्य है कि पिछले वर्ष (2023) में बिहार प्रशासनिक सेवा के कुल 54 पदाधिकारियों को भा.प्र.से. में एक मुश्त प्रोन्नति दी गयी थी। इतनी बड़ी संख्या में पदाधिकारियों की एक साथ प्रोन्नति बिहार की एक ऐतिहासिक घटना है। इन 54 अधिकारियों का परिचय तीन किश्तों में कराया जायेगा। यह पहली किश्त है - प्रधान संपादक]





A Corner of a Foreign Field By Ramchandra Guha

Maharaja Fatehsinghrao Gaekwad of Baroda was the manager of the Indian test team visiting Pakistan in 1978. Accompanying the team was Lala Amarnath whom PTV had invited as a commentator. At Lahore airport, they found a bus and a Mercedes waiting for them. Feeling entitled, Maharaja advanced towards the Mercedes but only to be intercepted by the tall and sturdy Pathan chauffeur, "Tum udhar jao. Yeh siraf Lala Saheb ke liye hai."

Ramchandra Guha has that uncanny knack to enliven proceedings with such gems which turn otherwise dour history books into page-turners. His 'A Corner of a Foreign Field' is a brilliant account of the relationship of colonial and post-colonial India with the history of Cricket in India. When Ashish Nandy in 'Tao of Cricket' proposed that Cricket is an Indian game accidentally discovered by the British, David Frith, editor of Wisden Cricket wrote a rejoinder; mostly belaboured and unable to veil some sort of hurt, he sought to deny plausibility to Nandy's view. Be that as it may, Guha brings out in vivid detail the way Cricket evolved in India with its distinctive flair and flavour along with its Social Anthropology.

In India, the Parsis, half oriental and half Occidental, were first to take to Cricket partly because it spoke of modernity and partly because it allowed them to come closer to the British. But before long, it would turn into a wrangle when British polo players with their ponies played havoc with the Parsi side on the parade ground. This led to letters of protest written by Shapoorjee Sorabjee, the first Cricket historian of India, to the exclusively British Bombay Gymkhana first and Governor of the Bombay Presidency later. The petition was drafted four years before Hume's Congress initiative. And soon they had started winning odd matches against the Bombay Gymkhana

with ME Pavri and others distinguishing themselves. Very interestingly, Guha emphasises on the similarity between the agitating Parsi cricketers and the moderate phase of the INC.

Cricket would soon take Hindus and Muslims also in its crosshairs. While Hindus sought to catch up with Parsis, Muslim Cricket in India got an enormous boost with the setting-up of the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College in 1875 where a Brahmin teacher of Mathematics, Rama Shankar Mishra sponsored a Cricket club. Very soon quadrangular matches involving British, Parsis, Hindus and Muslims became an annual feature of the Bombay Cricket Calendar.

The formation of Cricket teams along communal lines had its apologists and detractors. While the latter including the nationalist newspaper Bombay Chronicle under Syed Abdullah Bareilvi (monogamous in his loyalties towards the Congress) denounced the idea as divisive, the former including many players saw nothing wrong about it; a certain MK Gandhi was opposed to the idea. At the same time, Cricket in Madras Presidency bore a more inclusive and cosmopolitan look. However, Bombay quadrangular must be credited for high quality of Cricket which Bombaywallahs looked up to with great enthusiasm and excitement. Later on, commentary by maverick Bobby Talyar khan would go a long way in popularising the game.

As to respective fortunes of different teams by 1930, the British Club was losing more often than not; Parsis were no longer a force to be reckoned with; Hindu and Muslim clubs had come into their own; now the players were being recruited from far and wide; Sikhs including Maharaja of Patiala would play for Hindu club. Into the 1940s and with nationalism and

communalism defining the political horizon of India, these tensions were increasingly reflected on the Cricket field in increasingly partisan, shrill, strident and exclusive terms.

But amidst growing rancour on and off the field, the tale of Palwankar Brothers- Baloo, Vitthal, Ganpat and Shivram- is a riveting account of the ambiguous relationship between merit and caste prejudices against the background of the national movement. Belonging to Cobbler caste, Baloo-left-arm orthodox spin who would also play a crucial role in persuading Ambedkar for Poona Pact with Gandhi- embodied brilliance on the field but for all his brilliance and long years of service to Hindu Gymkhana, he could never be the captain. However, Vitthal-his brother- would captain the club for long and with distinction and it shows how things were changing.

Between Bombay Quadrangular (later Pentangular) and Ranji Trophy lay efforts to organise cricket in India along secular lines. But whatever might be said against communal cricket, it threw up brilliant cricketers including maverick Palwankar brothers, stately CK Naidu, formidable BD Deodhar, Amir Elahi, Mushtaq Ahmad, Vijay duos of Merchant and Hazare - the list goes on and is really impressive.

Guha underlines the reasons leading to the massive popularity and indigenisation of Cricket in India. One, Cricket fits in easily with the rhythms of what is still in its essence an agrarian culture, accustomed to thinking in cosmic rather than clock time. Given this, a five-day test match is just a bare wink of the eye for Indians. Two, the structure of Cricket also resonates well with the Indian ethos, slow and slow-moving. A five-day test match could well yield up nothing more than a draw but this outcome has a curious appeal for the Hindu, many of whose myths stress negotiation and compromise rather than unequivocal defeat or victory. Three, Hindus are culturally syncretic

and choose to absorb foreign imports rather than reject them. To these must be added the motive of national pride. So when India defeated Australia in 1959, Vizzy had this inimitable take: If the Mahatma did it with his spinning wheel, another Gujrati, Jasu Patel did it with his off spin.

One could partly agree and partly disagree with Guha's above analysis but look at these: MS Golwalkar was vehemently opposed to Cricket but his two disciples- Atalji and Advaniji- were very indulgent towards Cricket. Similarly, Lohia was opposed to Nehru, English and Cricket in that order but when the Pakistan team was once playing at Brabone stadium and he was holding a press conference outside the stadium, he was heard asking a Paanwallah: "Hanif khel raha hai kya!"

Guha underlines how India's unexpected victory in the World Cup in 1983 together with the economic liberalisation in 1991 and satellite television led to democratisation and decentralisation of the game on an unprecedented scale. Big centres started giving in to qasbas and small places began nurturing and producing brilliant talents. They were bereft of facilities but it was more than made up by fire in the belly.

But it also came with a gentleman game being turned on its head. Till late 1970, Cricket spectators wanted the home team to win but they were appreciative of brilliant performances from rival teams but now Cricket is not only a "war minus shooting" as George Orwell would have us believe but as Guha puts it frighteningly, "war minus nuclear warheads."

All said, the book makes for a great read as it seeks to juxtapose the history of the evolution of cricket in India with the dynamics of the Indian National Movement. Add to that, the ability of Guha to infuse history-writing with lovely description and passionate flair.

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[The author of this brilliant Review is currently posted as MGNREGA Commissioner.]





Sunil Kumar Singh, IAS (1983)

An Electronics graduate, Sunil K Singh has had a unique career in the IAS in that he held several important posts in Bihar as well as on deputation in Government of India. Having myself been secretary in the Urban Development during 1975-77, I remember him most for his formulating the urban tax structure as Administrator of PMC.

I have known the suave Sunil Kumar Singh for the last more than 25 years and have also been aware of his work. He has an outstanding service record of more than 35 years in Bihar Cadre of the Indian Administrative Service. He has been an outstanding officer of impeccable integrity and ability. From the details of his postings it is clear that he has special knowledge of and professional experience in Urban Taxation, public affairs, administrative law and policy, academics and management.

In Bihar cadre, he worked as SDO, Aurangabad (1985-87), DM of Araria and Divisional Commissioner of Darbhanga and Munger (2003-04). Later on, he worked as Secretary in the Departments of Art, Culture & Youth Affairs (2004-05) and Urban Development (2005) before going on central deputation. As principal secretary Mines and Geology in 2014, he drafted Mines Rules. In the last phase, in the top scale, he held the post of Agriculture Production

Commissioner in 2015. During his tenure, the third Agriculture Road Map was launched by the then President of India, Mr Ram Nath Kovind. In the last phase of his service, he became Chairman-cum-Member of the Board of Revenue, from where he retired on 31-5-2019.



Sunil Kumar Singh

He is very innovative and is very good at formulating policies which are of far-reaching consequences. He received the highest Award of UN-Habitat (the Dubai International Award) for “Improving Human Settlements” in the year 2002. It is given to internationally distinguished and exemplary work every second year. It was conferred on him for

“Development and Introduction of Area Based Assessment of Property Taxes” which was conceived and formulated by him as Administrator of Patna Municipal Corporation in 1992-93. It was hailed as “Patna Model of Taxation” and was adopted by many other States. The Government of India guidelines for property tax reforms are based on this model. This model is based on the twin principles of reasonable rate of taxation and ease of determination and implementation. This model has been upheld by the Supreme Court of India. It figures as a successful model in the “World Cities Report 2002” published by the UN General Assembly.

While on deputation to GOI, he worked as director in the Ministry of Urban Development from 1998 to 2003 and as joint secretary in the same Ministry during 2007-11. Before that he also had a stint as Financial Advisor during 2005-06 in the UGC at the joint secretary level. In that capacity he was Visitor nominee in the finance committees of all central universities. During 2011-14, he worked as chief vigilance officer (CVO) of the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Gas Authority of India (GAIL) and held additional charge as CVO of Engineers India and of the Urban Poverty Alleviation in the Ministry of Housing. He was elected as the President of the Vigilance Study Circle under the patronage of Central Vigilance Commissioner. At the additional secretary level, he worked as Financial Advisor in the Agriculture Ministry during 2015-17, which was his last stint in GOI.

With experience, Sunil acquired expertise in matters related to Urban Development and Housing. He was the Chief Coordinator (Secretary General) of the Asia-Pacific Minister's Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) which is a forum of Housing and Urban Development Ministers of 53 countries.

He was part of the drafting process and decision making for repeal of the Urban Land Ceiling and Regulation (Repeal) Act 1999. He was also involved in formulating the policy for direct foreign investment in Real Estate and Housing. He was associated with drafting of Real Estate Regulation Bill and Model Municipal Act.

He is the Chairperson of the drafting committee, Development Strategy for Informal Settlement in Bihar, constituted by the United Nations Population Fund, which has the membership of the UN-Habitat and of such illustrious people like Magsaysay awardee, Mr Bezwada Wilson.

With such sterling experience and expertise in urban sector and its real estate sector, it was natural that he was appointed as Member Administrative Technical of the Real Estate Tribunal, Bihar on the recommendation of a committee headed by the Chief Justice of Patna High Court. He demitted office on 24 May 2024. He tried through the judgements of the Tribunal to streamline otherwise chaotic real estate sector. He has distinction of disposing more than three hundred fifty (350) cases and many of Judgments/Orders are being quoted by other tribunals.

His depth of knowledge, keen interest to go to the bottom of the problem and sense of moral and social responsibility is amply demonstrated in the lasting contributions he has made with respect to a variety of policy formulations and their implementation with the intent to bring about administrative efficiency, good governance for ensuring larger public good.

Sunil K Singh is married to Prem Lata Gautam (Priya) who is an advocate of Delhi High Court and has been senior counsel for Union of India as also advocate of Municipal Corporation of Delhi. They are blessed with two sons, the elder Supriy Singh is working in Asian Development Bank (ADB) at Manila and the younger, Sukumar Singh at Bengaluru.





अनुभव की सीख

उस रात जो अचानक वह आपदा न आती तो सात्यकि की आँखें बहुत सारी वास्तविकताओं की ओर खुलनी ही नहीं थीं। घर की लगभग पचास वर्षीया घरेलू सहायिका मीना की तबियत रात को आठ बजे अचानक खराब हो गयी। उसने कराहते हुए आकर सीने में दर्द की शिकायत की थी। दिसंबर का अंतिम हफ्ता चल रहा था। हलकी बूँदा-बांदी भी हो रही थी जिससे ठण्ड और बढ़ गयी थी। ऐसे में पापा सरकारी दौरे पर तीन दिनों से बाहर थे।

सात्यकि एम.बी.बी.एस. द्वितीय वर्ष का छात्र होने के कारण मीना की अवस्था कुछ-कुछ समझ पा रहा था। उसे हार्ट-अटैक का संदेह था। उसने अपनी माँ से कहा कि मीना को लेकर वह स्वयं ड्राइव करते हुए हॉस्पिटल जाएगा। माँ उसके अकेले ड्राइव करने पर चिंतित होती थीं पर मीना की हालत देखकर उन्होंने कोई आपत्ति नहीं की। लेकिन सात्यकि की सहायता के लिए उसके पचहत्तर वर्षीय बाबा भी जिद कर के साथ हो लिए। उन्होंने माली राजू को भी साथ ले लिया। रास्ते में उन्होंने कहा कि ऐसी स्थिति में थोड़ी जान-पहचान होना हॉस्पिटल में सुविधाजनक रहेगा। उनके घर के करीब ही दो लेन के बाद वर्मा जी का घर था जो बाबा के कॉलेज के जमाने के साथी थे। उनकी छोटी बेटी नमिता शहर के बड़े हॉस्पिटल में हॉस्पिटल मैनेजर के पद पर थीं। बाबा ने उन्हें फोन लगाया तो उधर से

आश्वस्त किया गया कि यद्यपि वह उस वक्त अस्पताल में नहीं थीं परन्तु वह ड्यूटी पर मौजूद चिकित्सक को कह देंगी।

अस्पताल पहुँचने पर वहाँ सर्वत्र व्याप्त गन्दगी और भीड़ देखकर सात्यकि को आश्चर्य मिश्रित वितृष्णा हुई। उसे अपने मेडिकल कॉलेज के हॉस्पिटल की स्मृति हो आई और उसका मन यहाँ की प्रत्येक कुव्यवस्था-जनित कमी की तुलना अपने हॉस्पिटल की सुविधाओं और वहाँ के स्टाफ की दक्षता से करने लगा।

काउंटर के पास किसी तरह एक कुर्सी पर अपने बाबा के बैठने की व्यवस्था कर उसने वहाँ मीना की जाँच करवाने का प्रयास किया परन्तु वहाँ से उसे बिना किसी जाँच के ही काउंटर के पीछे खड़े सज्जन ने मेडिकल इमरजेंसी की ओर जाने को कहा अर्थात् प्राथमिकता निर्धारित करने का कार्य हुआ ही नहीं। मेडिकल इमरजेंसी में अनेक मरीज इधर-उधर पड़े थे और इमरजेंसी शब्द की सार्थकता भी नदारद हो गयी थी, क्योंकि डॉक्टरों के पास मरीजों की लम्बी कतार थी। उनतक पहुँचने में ही मरीजों को न जाने कितना समय लगना था। नमिता वर्मा का रेफरेंस देकर सात्यकि एक डॉक्टर के पास अपने मरीज को पहुँचाने में सफल रहा तो उसने पाया कि वह अपनी अतिव्यस्तता के कारण मरीजों के परीक्षण में अतिशय जल्दबाजी बरत रहे थे। सात्यकि के यह बताने पर कि वह खुद एक मेडिकल छात्र है, वह

थोड़ा सचेत हुए। सीने के दर्द से परेशान मरीज को वह स्ट्रेचर के वजाय पैदल ही कुछ कमरे पार करवा कर ईसीजी मशीन तक ले गए। ईसीजी में दिखी समस्याओं के सन्दर्भ में उन्होंने कुछ और टेस्ट तथा इमरजेंसी दवाएँ पुर्जे पर लिखीं जिनमे से कोई भी दवा इमरजेंसी विभाग में उपलब्ध नहीं थी। इमरजेंसी के बाहर एक ग्रिलवाली खिड़की की ओर गार्ड द्वारा इशारा करने पर सात्यकि वहाँ गया तो विक्रेता ने उसे दो बोतल आईवी फ्लूइड के थमाए ओर कहा कि बाकी दवाएँ उसे बाजार से लेनी होंगी। सात्यकि सोच में पड़ गया, रात के दस बजे वह दवाइयाँ कहाँ से लाये। तभी नजदीक ही खड़ा कुरता-पजामा पहने एक अधेड़ व्यक्ति उसकी ओर बढ़ आया। उसने कहा, “आप कहिए तो ये सारी दवाइयाँ पास की ही एक दुकान से दिला दूँ, बस आपको साथ चलना पड़ेगा।”

मीना की तकलीफ को याद कर सात्यकि उसके साथ चल पड़ा क्योंकि वह और समय गँवाना नहीं चाहता था। वह उसे अपनी बाइक पर बिठाकर कई गलियाँ पार कराते हुए एक मेडिसिन स्टोर पर ले गया जहाँ सारी दवाइयाँ मिल गयीं पर उसके लिए उसे आठ हजार रुपये चुकाने पड़े।

सात्यकि जानता था कि इंस्टेमी के मरीजों का ट्राप टी टेस्ट बेड पर तुरंत करना होता है तथा एस्पिरिन, क्लोपिडोग्रेल एवं अटोरवास्टेटिन जैसी दवाएँ तो तुरंत ही देनी होती हैं। अस्पताल से दूर किसी स्टोर से दवाएँ लाकर मरीज को देना तो किसी क्रिटिकल मरीज के लिए घातक सिद्ध होता। खैरियत थी कि मीना के साथ कुछ इतना बुरा तो नहीं हुआ पर जब सात्यकि दवाएँ लेकर वापस

हॉस्पिटल आया तो उसने पाया कि उनका रक्त चाप बहुत ऊँचा चला गया था जिस पर तुरंत नियंत्रण आवश्यक था वरना हार्ट-फेलियर की स्थिति बन सकती थी। इसके लिए डॉक्टर साहब ने निदान दिया कि नाइट्रोग्लिसरीन १०० माइक्रोग्राम प्रत्येक मिनट की रेट से ऑटोमेटेड इन्फ्यूजन पम्प के द्वारा मरीज को दिया जाए। लेकिन वहाँ कोई इन्फ्यूजन पम्प उपलब्ध ही नहीं था। इसके लिए डॉक्टर ने एक गुजरे जमाने की तकनीक अपनाने का परामर्श दिया। उसने एक पीडिया ड्रिप से वह दवा चढ़ाने को कहा ताकि आवश्यक संख्या में ही बूंदें अंदर जाएँ एवं साथ ही हर पांच मिनट पर सिस्टोलिक ब्लड प्रेशर मापना था जब तक वह १६० तक न पहुँच जाए। सात्यकि ने नर्स को कहा कि वह प्रत्येक मिनट १२ बूँद की रफ्तार से दवा चढ़ाए तथा हर ५ मिनट पर बी पी की माप करे। यह सुनते ही नर्स ने सीधे मना कर दिया और उसे घूरते हुए बोली, “मेरे पास इतना फुर्सत नहीं है ड्रॉप्स गिनने का और बार-बार बी पी लेने का। खुद से करो।” यह बोलकर वह दूसरे मरीजों की तरफ चल दी। निरुपाय सात्यकि ने उसका आदेश मानकर खुद मोर्चा संभाला। पर वह यह समझ नहीं पा रहा था कि जिन मरीजों के साथ कोई मेडिकल छात्र या कोई डॉक्टर या नर्स परिजन के रूप में मौजूद न हो वह इस इमरजेंसी विभाग से सही इलाज पाकर सलामत बाहर निकल कैसे सकते थे। ऊपर से जो कुछ भी इलाज वहाँ किया जा रहा था उसमें एसेप्सिस के सिद्धांतों का पालन करने की ओर किसी का ध्यान नहीं था। यहाँ तक कि दवा देने और आई वी कैनुला लगाने जैसे कार्य वहाँ हाउसकीपर और स्वीपरों के द्वारा किये जा रहे थे,

जो मरीजों के रिश्तेदारों से इन सेवाओं के बदले टिप की वसूली भी कर रहे थे।

मीना की हालत जब कुछ स्थिर हो गयी तो सात्यकि का ध्यान पुनः वार्ड की दुर्दशा पर गया जहाँ कतार से गरीब मरीज बिस्तरों पर थे और उनके अटेंडेंट फर्श पर। जिस बेड पर मीना को सुलाया गया था उसके पीछे खिड़की के शीशे टूटे हुए थे। वार्ड की कुछ अन्य खिड़कियों के शीशे भी गायब थे और उनसे जाते दिसंबर की बर्फीली हवाएँ अंदर आकर लोगों को ठिठुरा रही थीं। उसे समझ न आया कि रात भर बर्फीली हवा के झोंके झेलते हुए मीना किस तरह सो पायेगी और सुबह तक सही सलामत रह पायेगी। अन्य मरीज भी अपने फटे-पुराने कम्बलों को स्वयं पर लपेटे हुए ठिठुर रहे थे। राजू ने पास की गली में एक कबाड़ी की दुकान के बाहर बिखरे हुए कबाड़ में अखबार पड़े हुए देखे थे; वह वहाँ जाकर कई अखबार उठा लाया और एक दयालु नर्स से टेप मांगकर किसी तरह सात्यकि और राजू ने खिड़कियों पर अखबारों की तर्हें चिपकाई। अंततः राजू को मीना की देखभाल के लिए उन्होंने हॉस्पिटल में ठहरने को कहा और रात लगभग बारह बजे वे घर लौटे। रास्ते में लौटते हुए बाबा अपने पोते की झुंझलाई हुई मुख-मुद्रा देखकर बोले, “दुखी न हो, कल नमिता से इस विषय में बात करते हैं।”

सात्यकि नाराज ही रहा, “बाबा इस विषय में उन्हें कहना ही क्यों पड़ेगा? यह सारी व्यवस्थाएँ सही रखना तो उनकी रोजमर्रा की ड्यूटी का हिस्सा होना चाहिए। आप जानते हैं, हमारे हॉस्पिटल में ऐसी परिस्थिति में क्या होता? किस प्रकार इमरजेंसी में आये हुए मरीजों के लिए त्वरित गति से डॉक्टर

और नर्स जो भी एस.ओ.पी. है उसका पालन करते हैं एवं किस प्रकार हॉस्पिटल में आधार-भूत सुविधाओं और दवाओं के स्टॉक की जाँच-पर निरंतर चलती रहती है। बाबा मैं आपकी परिचित हॉस्पिटल मैनेजर से मिलकर उन्हें एक आवेदन देना चाहता हूँ ताकि वे उसे देखकर कहाँ सुधार की आवश्यकता है यह समझें और उस हिसाब से यह सब कुछ सुधारें।”

बाबा सात्यकि की निराश मनःस्थिति को समझ रहे थे क्योंकि उन्होंने ही तो अपने पोते को बचपन से महापुरुषों की कहानियाँ सुना-सुनाकर उसकी मनोवृत्तियों को यह दिशा दी थी। ‘महाजनो येन गता स पन्था’ की उक्ति सात्यकि को रटवा दी थी। उसके बचपन की कई रातें उनके बगल में लेटकर छत्रपति शिवाजी, राजा रंजीत सिंह, अहिल्याबाई, विवेकानंद, विश्वेश्वरैया आदि महापुरुषों की कथाएँ सुनते गुजरी थीं। वह तन्मय होकर उन्हें सुनता और कई-कई जिज्ञासाएँ करता हुआ बाबा से अपनी जिज्ञासा संतुष्ट करवा के ही सो पाता।

बाबा अपने पोते की बात टाल नहीं सके। अगला दिन इतवार था और नमिता वर्मा अपने घर पर थीं। फोन पर उन्हें सूचित कर दोनों उनके घर सुबह नौ बजे जा पहुंचे। नमिता जी ने दोनों को नाश्ते की टेबल पर बैठाया और बहुत आग्रह से सात्यकि को स्वयं ही फल काटकर खिलाने शुरू किये परन्तु सात्यकि के मन में तो रात की घटना ही घूम रही थी। उसने नमिता से अनुमति ले कर सारा घटना क्रम विस्तार से बताया। फिर कहा, “दीदी उस वार्ड में भर्ती मरीजों के कम आर्थिक स्तर को देते हुए

व्यवस्था में कई सुधारों की आवश्यकता है। वे सब मैं इस आवेदन में लिखकर लाया हूँ।”

नमिता का चेहरा गंभीर हो गया और वह चुप्पी लगा गई। बाबा माहौल का भारी हो जाना समझ गए और बात पलटने को कहने लगे, “हो सकता है, नीचे वाले कर्मचारी ये सारी बातें नमिता से छुपाते हों। तुम्हें पता है, नमिता खुद कितनी कुशल और प्रतिभावान है। इसने कलकत्ते के नामी कॉलेज से डिग्री ली है और टॉप भी किया है। उन दिनों जब यह खबर मैंने सुनी तो मैंने इसके पिता द्वारा मिठाई खिलाने का इंतजार नहीं किया था। खुद मिंटू होटल के रसगुल्लों का कुल्हड़ लेकर यहाँ पहुँचा था और नमिता को पहला रसगुल्ला मैंने ही खिलाया था।”

इस बीच नमिता के माता-पिता भी टेबल पर आ गए और वे सब मिलकर पुरानी यादों को ताजा करने में लग गए।

पर सात्यकि की उम्मीद भरी नजरें अभी भी खुद पर टिकी देकर और हाथ में रखे आवेदन-पत्र को अभी भी अपनी दिशा में बढ़ा हुआ पाकर नमिता ने भावहीन चेहरा बनाये हुए कहा, “अभी इस की जरूरत नहीं है, इसे देकर अथॉरिटीज नाराज होंगे। मैं तुम्हारे मरीज की अच्छी देखभाल के लिए स्टाफ को हिदायत दे दूँगी।”

वे जब घर लौटे, बाबा अपने बिस्तर पर आराम करने चले गए। सात्यकि उनके पास बैठकर कहने लगा, “मैं हॉस्पिटल जा रहा हूँ मीना को देखने। अभी मैं अपने मित्र बरुन को साथ ले लूँगा। इसलिए आप और मम्मी चिंता न करें। राजू के लिए

खाना भी ले जाऊँगा। पर बाबा, एक बात है, आपने इस टॉपर दीदी की जितनी प्रशंसा की, मुझे उनका काम और उनकी मनोवृत्ति उस प्रशंसा के काबिल नहीं लगे।”

बाबा मुस्कुराकर बोले, “अब उस वक्त मैं और क्या बोलता। ऐसे तो बेचारी बहुत अच्छी है, अपने वृद्ध माता-पिता का वही तो ख्याल रखती है। उसकी अच्छी नौकरी बेंगलुरु शहर में लगी थी पर माता-पिता के साथ रहने के लिए, उसने यहीं जॉब पकड़ ली। उसने घर की सारी जिम्मेदारियाँ निभाई हैं। पर मानव मन की जटिलताओं को समझना मुश्किल है।”

भाग्यवश मीना की बीमारी ने कोई गंभीर मोड़ नहीं लिया और फिलहाल स्वस्थ होकर एवं कुछ दवाइयों एवं हिदायतों के साथ वह अस्पताल से मुक्त होकर तीन दिनों बाद घर आ गई। उसके लौटने के अगले दिन सात्यकि को वापस हॉस्टल जाना था। इसलिए वह सुबह-सुबह बाबा से गप्पें लड़ाने के लिए उनके बिस्तर पर पैर झुलाते हुए बैठा था। बाबा भी रोज की तरह खिड़की से आती धूप का आनंद लेते हुए नाश्ता कर चुके थे और समाचार-पत्र का तन्मयता से वाचन कर रहे थे। सात्यकि ने उनके अखबार में झाँका और दूसरे पन्ने पर एक खबर देकर चौंक उठा; फिर उस पर अपनी तर्जनी रखकर बोला, “बाबा आपने यह खबर देखी?”

बाबा ने अपना चश्मा ठीक कर उस खबर पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया, “हॉस्पिटल प्रबंधक के घर पर आयकर का छापा; पचास लाख कैश बरामद।” बाबा चौंककर बोले, “अरे यह तो नमिता के विषय में है, उसके घर पर आयकर का छापा पड़ गया?”

सात्यकि ने कहा, “अब आपको यह पता लग गया होगा कि टॉपर दीदी मेरी शिकायत पर ध्यान देने के बजाय आनाकानी, टाल-मटोल की पालिसी क्यों अपना रही थीं।”

कुछ देर तक खिड़की के बाहर बाबा की दृष्टि टिकी रही पर वह उड़हुल पर नाचती हमिंग बर्ड को नहीं देख रहे थे, विचार कर रहे थे कल और आज की दुनिया पर। उन्होंने फिर सात्यकि को सम्बोधित किया, “मैंने तुम्हें कभी रानी अहिल्याबाई की कथा सुनाई थी?”

“हाँ, सुनाई थी और मुझे बहुत अच्छी लगी थी। मैंने भी थोड़ा रिसर्च गूगल पर किया है। वह मालवा की रानी थीं एवं अट्टारहवीं सदी के उत्तरार्द्ध में उन्होंने भारत के एक बड़े भूभाग पर शासन किया। वह बहुत ही जनप्रिय थीं और अपनी प्रशासनिक एवं सैन्य कुशलता, न्यायप्रियता एवं दयालुता के कारण जनमानस में देवी माँ की तरह प्रतिष्ठित हो गयी थीं।”

“हाँ, सही कहा तुमने पर देखो उस समय प्रजातंत्र और कल्याणकारी राज्य की संकल्पना मौजूद नहीं थी। उसपर भी अहिल्याबाई ने किसी अमीर घराने में जन्म नहीं लिया, उनके पास शिक्षा की बड़ी डिग्री नहीं थी, घर पर ही शिक्षा पाई थी, फिर भी उनकी अंतरात्मा अपने कर्तव्यों के प्रति इतनी सतर्क थी कि वह राज्य के धन का एक पैसा स्वयं के उपयोग में नहीं लाती थीं। मैंने पढ़ा है कि उनकी व्यक्तिगत कमाई के अलग साधन थे जिनसे वह अपना और अपने परिवार का भरण-पोषण करती थीं। अपने निजी दान-धर्म का कार्य भी वह स्वयं के धन से करती थीं।

परन्तु उनके ठीक विपरीत आज कल की स्थिति देखो जब छोटे से लेकर बड़े तक शासन के कई केंद्र हैं जहाँ ज्यादातर फाइव स्टार स्कूलों और कॉलेजों से गणित, विज्ञान एवं अन्य कई जटिल विषयों में निन्यानबे और सौ प्रतिशत अंक पाए हुए छात्र हैं जो व्यवस्थापक और प्रबंधक बनते ही सार्वजनिक दायित्व के विषय में फेल हो जाते हैं।”

सात्यकि पता नहीं क्यों गंभीर होने के बजाये हँसने लगा। बाबा ने कहा, “यह गंभीर मामला है फिर भी हँस रहे हो। आज बाबा के उपदेशों से छुट्टी पाकर मित्रों की संगति मिलेगी, यह सोचकर तो खुश नहीं हो रहे?”

“नहीं बाबा,” सात्यकि बोला, “मैं यह सोचकर खुश हो रहा हूँ कि चाहे हर कोई अपना काम करने से चूक जाए पर प्रकृति का कर्म सिद्धांत अपना काम जरूर ठीक से करता है। अब दें, जिन महारानी की कथा आपने सुनाई उनकी कीर्ति आज दो सौ साल बाद भी अमर है। और कहाँ आज की वह टॉपर दीदी हैं जिनकी कीर्ति टॉप करने के बाद पाँच बरस भी नहीं टिक पाई।”

“बहुत अच्छे। और कोई सीख भी मिली क्या इससे?”

“हाँ,” सात्यकि गंभीरता से बोला, “कहावत है कि ऊँचे भवन पर बैठ जाने से फाख्ता बाज नहीं कहलाता। उसी तरह हम ऊँचा पद पा लेने मात्र से बड़े नहीं हो जाते, हमने उस पद पर रहते जो काम किए वही हमें बड़ा या छोटा बनाते हैं।”





अन्तिम पटाक्षेप



है ज्ञात मुझे, जीवन में, वह दिन अवश्य आयेगा,
आँखों से दृश्य, धरा का, जब ओझल हो जायेगा।
अन्तिम यवनिका गिरेगी, जब मेरी इन आँखों पर,
जीवन विश्राम करेगा, नीरवता की साखों पर;
फिर भी रातों में नभ को, तारे निहारते होंगे,
सुरभित प्रभात के रेशे, कालिमा टारते होंगे;
प्रश्वास-श्वास लमहों के, लहरों-से लहरायेंगे,
सुख-सुमन, थपेड़े दुख के, पहले-से गहरायेंगे।
जब समय शेष होने की, यह बात हृदय में आती,
क्षण-क्षण की घेराबंदी, टूटती चली है जाती;
आलोक मृत्यु का मुझको, दिखला देता अनजाने,
संचित, असावधानी से, प्रभु! तेरे विविध खज़ाने।
हे प्रभो! लोक में तेरे, दुर्लभ भी सदा सुलभ है,
निम्नतम स्थान विरले है, अस्तित्व निम्न दुर्लभ है;
अभिलाष व्यर्थ जिनकी की एवं जिनको था पाया,
उन सभी वस्तुओं को तो, है मैंने अब बिसराया;
स्वामित्व मिले अब उनका, जिनको न अभी तक पाया,
थी की जिनकी अनदेखी या था जिनको ठुकराया।

[विश्वकवि रबीन्द्रनाथ ठाकुर विरचित अंग्रेजी गीतांजलि (जिसपर उन्हें 1913 में साहित्य में नोबेल पुरस्कार से नवाजा गया था) की निम्नांकित पद्य सं. 92 का 'विदेह' द्वारा किया गया उपर्युक्त का व्यान्तरण।]

The Last Curtain

I know that the day will come when my sight of this earth shall be lost,
and life will take its leave in silence, drawing the last curtain over my eyes.
Yet stars will watch at night, and morning rise as before,
and hours heave like sea waves, casting up pleasures and pains.
When I think of this end of my moments, the barrier of the moments breaks
and I see by the light of death Thy world with its careless treasures.
Rare is its lowliest seat, rare is its meanest of lives.
Things that I longed for in vain and things that I got - let them pass,
Let me but truly possess the things that I ever spurned and overlooked.

*

— Rabindranath Tagore

कविता



- डॉ. अशोक कुमार



लौट आओ जीवन

लौट आओ बिखरे जीवन
प्रतीक्षारत हैं हम
विचलित मन
कई यात्राओं के बाद भी
परिक्रमा की तरह
चीजें लौट आती हैं
अपनी ठाह पर
चल पड़ती है नियत राह पर।
पतझड़ के बाद लौट आती है
हरियाली की खुशहाली
बसंती हवा के साथ
वृक्षों में निकल आती हैं
कोपलें लौटती हैं जैसे
वन-उपवन की वसुंधरा पर।

तुम चाहो तो वैसे ही
आशा की नूतन किरण लेकर
लौट सकते हो
मेरे जीवन पथ पर।
जैसे ऋतुएं लौटती हैं
जैसे सूरज नित्य लौटता है
जैसे चांद-तारे रोज लौटते हैं
धरती-गगन के वक्ष पर।
तुम सब कुछ लेकर लौटो
बचपन की धमा-चौकड़ियां
किशोरवय की शरारतें
युवामन की उत्पाती तरंगे
प्रौढ़ावस्था के निश्चल भाव
ढलते शाम के अनुभव

पुनः लौट आओ
दुख-सुख के क्षितिज पर।
वैसे तुम कभी भी
लौट सकते हो
समय बहुत है
पर समय का क्या है
यह तो रहेगा ही
हो सकता है
तुमसे मिलने
मैं न रहूं धरापर।

*

[कवि बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग एवं बिहार राज्य विश्वविद्यालय सेवा आयोग के पूर्व सदस्य हैं।]

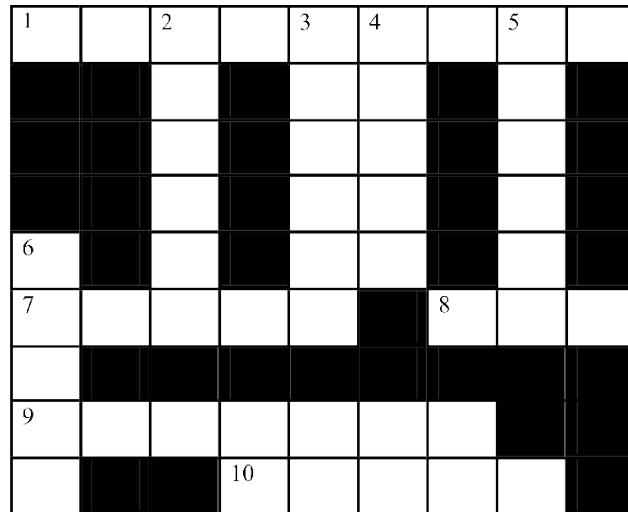
Obituary

On 30-4-24, Ashok Chauhan, IAS (1980) informed that his batch-mate, Dr Chandragupta Ashok Vardhan passed away that day leaving his family forlorn. Condolence messages for his wife Mrs Usha Tiwari and daughters Yuthika, Utkarsha and Tusharika poured in from colleagues. Dipak Kumar Singh took command of the situation and Kumar Ravi extended logistic support in organising the cremation at Digha Ghat. His Shraddh ceremony was held at his Flat B-55, Jayprakash Nagar, AG Colony, Ashiyana-Digha Road, Patna-800025. Vardhan was a former administrative member of Bihar Land Tribunal and an authority in Revenue laws –Principal Editor.



CROSSWORD - 1

- Vivek Kumar Singh
IAS (1989)



Across

- 1 Desperately push armed editor (3, 6)
- 7 Senior officer, while harsh initially became fine (5)
- 8 Half of Java goes to one revenue authority (3)
- 9 Primarily suave and natty, talented, outdoor-type sports loving, handsome co-operative guy (7)
- 10 Neighbouring country repatriated the Italian DM (5)

Down

- 2 Posted at Darbhanga, fellow is hot (6)
- 3 Way a king lorded over schools and colleges (6)
- 4 Land manager, paid arbitrarily, approaches head of koshagar (5)
- 5 Just a composed top-class officer in Delhi (6)
- 6 Spouse at a Khagariastation (5)

— Vivek Kumar Singh, IAS (1989)

[1. The Solutions will be published in the next issue of Prayaas, 2. Please send your Solutions by Whatsapp either to MrVivek Kumar Singh on 9473191443 or to Mr Sanjay Kumar, Associate Editor on 9431283881 latest by the 31st August, 2024 — Principal Editor]



Sick of Religion

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

I replied, “I am Sikh.”

“I am sorry, “ said the lady, “hope you get well soon.”

To this I replied. “no dear, I am not sick as that of the body, I am Sikh as of religion.”

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

— Khushwant Singh

*

If 1 and 1 makes 2, it is Arithmetic;

If 1 and 1 makes 11, it is an Organisation;

If 1 and 1 makes 1, it is Love;

If 1 and 1 are not allowed to meet, it is Diplomacy;

If 1 and 1 stand against each other, it is Politics.

— Anonymous

**

A child's towel was stolen during the school swimming class. The irritated parent confronted the class teacher, “What kind of petty thieves are in class with my child?!”

The Teacher calmly replied, “I am sure it was picked up by someone by mistake; What does it look like?”

“It's white,” said the parent.

Teacher said, "Almost every towel is white, any other mark?"

'Indian Railways' is printed on it.” said the parent!

— Anonymous



Cartoons



May you reach still greater heights!
— R.K. Laxman

From RK Laxman



March 11, 1975: That's the spirit. He says he wants a job not because he has four kids and a wife but to pay taxes to help the government



"If you help a criminal before the crime, you're an accomplice. If you help after wards, you're a Lawyer."



"Your husband says he won't contest the divorce, but he wants custody of the maid."



'I'm not calling it my third gin and tonic. I'm calling it my booster'

Feedback

Respected Ram Updesh Babu, Pranam.

Got soft copy of Jan-Mar 24 Issue of Prayaas Magazine a few days back. That day saw it cursorily, so could not comment upon. However, today I got time to go through page by page. Hence penning my views. As usual, it was informative and more illustrative with Photo gallery.

Your Editorial page highlights the achievements of various IAS luminaries. An article on JEEVIKA by Rahul Kumar unfolds its fast growing impact on rural development through women empowerment. Under 'Achievers' Column, the educational and professional achievements of Mr. AK Choudhary impressed me, particularly his jesture to stand up as Chief Secretary for a Senior like you, touched my heart. Great people always remain grounded to the earth.

However I could not be able to read Hindi poems as it was not appearing in Devnagri script. May be some language conversion snag.

Notwithstanding the Issue was good and impressive. I wish for its continued growth under your stewardship.

With Regards.

Dr SB Singh, Patna.

*

Welcome

Officers of IAS Batch 2023 in Bihar Cadre

SN	Name	Native Place	Qualification	Mobile No
1	Tushar Kumar	Bhagalpur	IIT, Delhi	75037-58860
2	RohitKardam	Lucknow	IIT, Kurukshetra	94677-08599
3	ShipraChoudhary	Agra	Mumbai Univ.	74281-40260
4	AnirudhaPandey	Prayagraj	BTech, Allahabad	70078-24134
5	Pratiksha Singh	Prayagraj	MA, DU	75035-27071
6	GarimaLohia	Buxar	BCom, DU	76678-99615
7	AkankshaAnand	BVSc	Vet College, Patna	79039-56060
8	NehaKumari	Madhepura	PhD from BHU	63938-99401
9	Kritika Mishra	Kanpur	PG, Kanpur Univ.	88400-46748
10	Anjali Sharma	Samastipur	BA, Sikkim	79086-93160
11	Pradhumn S Yadav	Alwar, Raj	Graduate, IIT Kanpur	97173-95485



लखनऊ की तहजीब

ये बड़ी ही दिलचस्प कहानी है जो सत्य घटना पर आधारित है। लखनऊ में पहले पहल म्युनिसिपैलिटी के चुनाव हुए। चौक से, अपने समय की मशहूर तवायफ और महफिलों की शान, दिलरुबा जान उम्मीदवार बनीं। उनके खिलाफ कोई चुनाव लड़ने को तैय्यार नहीं हुआ। उन दिनों एक मशहूर हकीम साहेब थे, हकीम शम्शुद्दीन। उनका चौक में दवाखाना था और वह एक मशहूर हकीम थे। दोस्तों ने, जबरदस्ती चुनाव में उनको दिलरुबा जान के खिलाफ खड़ाकर दिया!

दिलरुबा जान का प्रचार जोर पकड़ा। चौक में, महफिलें लगने लगीं और मशहूर नर्तकियों के प्रोग्राम होने लगे। महफिलें खचाखच भरी रहती थीं।

वहीं हकीम साहेब के साथ बस वो चंद दोस्त थे, जिन्होंने उनको इलेक्शन में झोंका था! अब हकीम साहेब नाराज हुए कि “तुम लोगों ने पिटवा दिया मुझे! मेरी हार तय है।”

दोस्तों ने हार नहीं मानी और एक नारा दिया,

“है हिदायत, चौक के हर वोटर-ए-शौकीन को,

दिल दीजिए दिलरुबा को, वोट शम्शुद्दीन को!”

इसके जवाब में दिलरुबा जान ने नारा दिया:

“है हिदायत चौक के हर वोटर-ए-शौकीन को,

वोट दीजिए दिलरुबा को, नब्ज शम्शुद्दीन को।”

कहना ना होगा हकीम साहेब का नारा कामयाब हो गया और वो इलेक्शन जीत गए!

लखनऊ की तहजीब के मुताबिक दिलरुबा जान ने हकीम साहेब को घर आकर बधाई देते हुए कहा, “मैं इलेक्शन हार गयी, आप जीते, मुझे इसका कोई रंज नहीं है। आपकी जीत से एक बात तो साबित हो गयी कि “लखनऊ में मर्द कम और मरीज ज्यादा हैं!”

तो यह थी इलेक्शन लड़ने की लखनवी तहजीब!



**Holi Milan–March 23, 2024**

The sprawling lawn of the IAS Bhawan literally came alive as it braced itself to welcome members of the IAS fraternity along with their kith and kin on the occasion of Holi Milan. The invitation had specifically insisted on bringing children and grandchildren. Alok Ranjan Ghosh's little one Pragyan did not mind Gulal being smeared on his cheeks.

Members began joining early in the evening. Alok Ranjan Ghosh had been named the master of ceremonies and he was ably assisted by Taranjot Singh and Arif Ahsan at the entrance. They welcomed one and all with warmth. Members after entering their details in the registers applied customary Gulal before dispersing into different parts of the lawn. Round tables and chairs had been arranged aesthetically but only a few were interested in warming the chairs. Most of the members preferred moving around, interacting respectfully with seniors, lovingly with juniors and scandalously with their batchmates. The amount of Gulal applied depended upon whom one was interacting with- customary tika for seniors, a pinch for juniors and a fistful for batchmates. The selfie point attracted one and all. There is something about cameras and photography that makes human beings smile, close ranks, remain focused, draw the bulging tummy inward and attempt to appear young.

Very thoughtfully, the Association had arranged a musical session to regale the audience with all manners of Holi songs. A typical Holi song starts on a low note but in no time it acquires maniac intensity to achieve crescendo and after staying there for a while, climbs down gradually. Belting out one Holi song after another celebrating the cosmic congress between Lord Shiva and Parvati, the levity that spring inspires, the celebrated Bollywood numbers like 'Rang Barse' and 'Holi Khele Raghuveera Awadh mein', their range was eclectic and performance electrifying. But the session came into its own when one of the members of the fraternity- Ranjit Kumar- sang a few Holi songs. Singing Holi songs requires strong vocal chords and high pitch. Ranjit Kumar gave a brilliant display of his singing prowess- Baba Hariharnath khele Holi, Baba Hariharnath! Hari is Vishnu and Har is Shiva and the arena where they play Holi is Sonpur.

But what is Holi Milan without food! And when it comes to food, Amrapali keeps serving the Association with distinction.

Holi Milan lasted for more than three hours and there was not a single dull moment. Holi Milan followed soon after the Civil Services Meet. Thank you IAS Officers' Association and IAS Officers Wives' Association for everything!



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.	4058 / 07.03.2024	सुश्रीप्रीति, भा.प्र.से. (2019) का उप विकासआयुक्त खगड़िया के पद पर पदस्थापन तथा मुख्य कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी, जिला परिषद, खगड़िया का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
2.	4536 / 15.03.2024	श्री संजय कुमार, भा.प्र.से. (2011), विशेष कार्य पदाधिकारी, राज्यपाल बिहार, पटना का विशेष सचिव, राज्यपाल सचिवालय, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
3.	4537 / 15.03.2024	श्री महाबीर प्रसाद शर्मा, भा.प्र.से. (2013), विशेष कार्य पदाधिकारी, राज्यपाल बिहार, बिहार, पटना का अपर सचिव, राज्यपाल सचिवालय, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
4.	4538 / 15.03.2024	श्रीमती अमृषा बैन्स, भा.प्र.से. (2018) का विशेष कार्य पदाधिकारी, ऊर्जा विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
5.	4539 / 15.03.2024	श्री हिमांशु कुमार राय, भा.प्र.से. (2010), विशेष सचिव, योजना एवं विकास विभाग, बिहार, पटना का निदेशक, पंचायती राज, बिहार पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
6.	4539 / 15.03.2024	श्री मुकेश कुमार लाल, आई.ए. ऐंड ए.एस. (2006), विशेष सचिव, वित्त विभाग, बिहार, पटना का निदेशक, कृषि, बिहार, पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
7.	4610 / 16.03.2024	श्रीमती अभिलाषा कुमारी शर्मा, भा.प्र.से. (2014), अपर सचिव, वित्त विभाग, बिहार, पटना का अपर मुख्य कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी, जीविका, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
8.	4716 / 18.03.2024	डॉ० एस० सिद्धार्थ, भा.प्र.से. (1991) अपर मुख्य सचिव, गृह विभाग, बिहार, पटना का मुख्यमंत्री के प्रधान सचिव, मुख्यमंत्री सचिवालय, बिहार पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन तथा अपर मुख्य सचिव, मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय, विभाग, बिहार, पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
9.	4828 / 19.03.2024	श्री प्रत्यय अमृत, भा.प्र.से. (1991) का अपर मुख्य सचिव, गृह विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
10.	5243 / 29.03.2024	श्री शशांक शेखर सिन्हा, भा.प्र.से. (2011), विशेष सचिव, जल संसाधन विभाग, बिहार, पटना का विशेष सचिव, स्वास्थ्य विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन तथा अपर मुख्य कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी, बिहार स्वास्थ्य सुरक्षा समिति, पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
11.	5244 / 29.03.2024	श्री नवीन, भा.प्र.से. (2013), अपर सचिव, संसदीय कार्य विभाग, बिहार, पटना को अपर सचिव, जल संसाधन विभाग, बिहार, पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
12.	5607 / 04.04.2024	श्री रामकृष्ण खण्डेलवाल, भा.प्र.से. (1989) का जांच आयुक्त, सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
13.	5608 / 04.04.2024	श्री मिहिर कुमार सिंह, भा.प्र.से. (1993) अपर मुख्य सचिव, पंचायती राज विभाग, बिहार, पटना को अपर मुख्य सचिव-सह-खान आयुक्त / प्रबंध निदेशक, बिहार राज्य, खनिज विकास निगम लिमिटेड / प्रबंध निदेशक, बिहार राज्य खनन निगम लिमिटेड, खान एवं भू-तत्व विभाग, बिहार, पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
14.	5609 / 04.04.2024	श्रीमहेन्द्र कुमार, भा.प्र.से. (2011), प्रबंध निदेशक, साउथ बिहार पॉवर डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन कम्पनी लिमिटेड, पटना का समाहर्ता एवं जिला पदाधिकारी भोजपुर, आरा के पद पर पदस्थापन तथा बन्दोबस्त पदाधिकारी, भोजपुर, आरा का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
15.	5610 / 04.04.2024	श्री प्रशांत कुमार सी एच, भा.प्र.से. (2015), निदेशक, समाज कल्याण, बिहार, पटना का समाहर्ता एवं जिला पदाधिकारी, नवादा के पर पदस्थापन।

क्र. सं.	अधिसूचना संख्या / तिथि	संबंधित अधिकारी की प्रोन्नति, पदस्थापन तथा अतिरिक्त प्रभार
16.	5611 / 04.04.2024	श्री राजकुमार, भा.प्र.से. (2010), तदेन समाहर्ता एवं जिला पदाधिकारी, भोजपुर, आरा का निदेशक, समाज कल्याण, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थान तथा निदेशक, सामाजिक सुरक्षा, बिहार, पटना / मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, बिहार विकास मिशन, पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार ।
17.	5612 / 04.04.2024	श्री आशुतोष कुमार वर्मा, भा.प्र.से. (2010), तदेन समाहर्ता एवं जिला पदाधिकारी, नवादा का प्रबंध निदेशक, बिहार राज्य बीज निगम लिमिटेड, पटना के पद पदस्थापन तथा निदेशक, खेल विभाग, बिहार, पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार ।
18.	6066 / 13.04.2024	श्री दयानिधान पाण्डेय, भा.प्र.से. (2006), सचिव, राजस्व एवं भूमि सुधार विभाग, बिहार, पटना का सचिव, लघुजल संसाधन विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन ।
19.	6067 / 13.04.2024	डॉ० (श्रीमती) आशिमा जैन, भा.प्र.से. (2008), सचिव, लघु जल संसाधन विभाग, बिहार, पटना का सचिव, नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पदस्थान ।
20.	6068 / 13.04.2024	श्री गिरिवर दयाल सिंह, भा.प्र.से. (2008), ईखायुक्त, गन्ना उद्योग विभाग, बिहार पटना का सचिव, राजस्व पर्षद्, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थान ।
21.	6069 / 13.04.2024	श्री अनिल कुमार झा, भा.प्र.से. (2012), सचिव, राजस्व पर्षद्, बिहार, पटना का ईखायुक्त, गन्ना उद्योग विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन ।
22.	6431 / 24.04.2024	श्री निर्मल कुमार, भा.प्र.से. (2011), विशेष सचिव, लोक स्वास्थ्य अभियंत्रण विभाग, बिहार, पटना का सचिव, बिहार राज्य विश्वविद्यालय सेवा आयोग, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन ।

*

Saturday Gyan

JUST LEAVE IT

It's a wonderful sentence. If we know the value of it, we won't be suffering as much as we do in our lives.

Try convincing a person once or twice. If he or she refuses to get convinced, Just Leave it!

When the children grow up and take their own decisions, do not impose, Just Leave it!

Your frequency doesn't match with everyone in life. If you can't connect with someone, Just Leave it!

After a certain age, if someone criticises you, don't get upset, Just Leave it !

When you realise that nothing is in your hands, stop worrying about others and the future, Just Leave it!

When the gap between your wish list and your capabilities increases, stop self-expectations, Just Leave it!

Everyone's path of life, duration of life, quality of life is different, so stop comparing. Just Leave it!

stop counting what you don't have in life, Just Leave it.

In other words, it is "The Art of Ignoring." If this does not appeal or apply to You, Just Leave it.



Photo Gallery

Glimpses of Shrawan Shruti Project in Gaya



Photographs of Events



Unicef International team monitoring



Screening Camp Address by DM, Gaya



Screening Camp and Mobilization Camp Chaired By DM, Gaya



Meeting with Unicef International and National Delegates on Shrawan Shrutu Projects



Screening Camp

Photo Gallery

Glimpses of Shrawan Shruti Project in Gaya



CM Bihar Distributing Hearing Aid to Children



Sharwan Shruti Camp on the Bodh Mahotsav

Launching of Prayaas-1/2024 on 27 March



Press Conference for SharwanShrutiProgramme



(L-R) GS Prasad, AK Choudhary, Ashok K Cauhan (Chief Guest), Sanjay Kumar (Associate Editor), RU Singh (Principal Editor), Dipak Kumar Singh (Secretary), Sunil K Singh and ArvindChaudhary.

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