



IN-HOUSE MAGAZINE

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CONTENTS

00 Editorial	Principal Editor	0
01 From Secretary's Desk	Dipak K Singh	1
02 From Editor's Desk	Deepak Anand	2
03 Memoirs (Part-1)	John Beames	3-6
04 Patna and Bihar	Navin Verma	7-10
05 Last Bus to Mandi	Avay Shukla	11-13
06 Book Review (आग और पानी)	Sanjay Kumar	14-15
07 Achievers-Shrikant Jichkar	Amita Paul	16-17
08 Has the IAS Failed?	Discussion	18-19
09 Response on Prayaas	From Readers	20
10 Obituary – JV Narlikar	RU Singh	20
11 Cartoons	Assorted	21
12 Crossword-4 Answers	Principal Editor	22
13 परशुराम प्रसंग (कविता)	राम उपदेश सिंह 'विदेह'	23
14 World Trade Organisation	Discussion	24-26
15 Tragic Mishaps	From Internet	27
16 संस्मरण	डॉ० अशोक कुमार	28
17 Activities - CS Day 2025	Discussion	29
18 Transfers & Postings	Deepak Anand	30-32

Editorial

Dear Colleagues,

Yet again, I am privileged to place before you Prayaas for the April-June quarter of 2025. Please do take some time out of your busy schedule to turn over its pages and read, and comment on, whatever may be of interest to you. This would justify the publication of this magazine at enormous cost to our Association.

We are elated to know of the exceptionally good achievements by some of our colleagues in the field, which have created waves and received universal recognition. Dr N Thiagarajan as DM of Gaya, has implemented the *Shrawan Shruti* scheme with finesse, and thereby benefitted large number of hearing-affected children from poor families. Close on the heels has come, Bhagalpur DM, Dr Nawal Kishore Choudhary by executing the '*Nourish to Flourish*' scheme, an intervention which has dramatically reduced severe child malnutrition in his district.

Thanks to B Rajender, ACS of GAD, the officers are getting promoted by due dates. The position in GOI also is the same. Hopefully, the trends will continue.

I compliment Ms Sujata Chaturvedi, IAS-1989, on her appointment as a Member of UPSC and KK Pathak, IAS-1990, at his escalation up to Secretary-level in GOI.



(RU Singh, IAS-Retd.)

Principal Editor

(Mobile: 91133-04025)

[Email: rusingh61@gmail.com]

Ares 04-05-25

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



IAS BHAWAN

Photo Gallery

KIYG (4-15 May, 2025)



The Grand Inauguration



ACS Sports Department, DM Gaya and others at BIPARD Campus at Gaya



Football Match at Barauni Stadium, Begusarai



Volley Ball Match at Patliputra Sports Complex, Patna



A Game of Gatka at Gaya



Mallkhamb Competition at Gaya

From Secretary's Desk

Dear Colleagues,

As I am writing this column, our country has just come back from the brink of a full-scale war with our neighbour. Thankfully, good sense prevailed on both sides. The brunt of wars is always felt more by the common man. It might lead to an immediate surge of nationalistic feelings, but once the euphoria dies down, the stark reality bites back. As our country has not faced a full-fledged war after 1971, the present generation, raising frenzy on social media about war, have never experienced what a real war entails. For a great majority, glued to the social media, television and newspapers, and raising war cries through social media, this may mean just a few numbers of enemy drones and planes shot down, few posts targeted, border-shelling in retaliation, but for the members of the families of common people and soldiers killed at the border by cross border firing and shelling, the deceased were not merely numbers but their only sons and daughters, who shall never come back. Ask the families of Palestine, carrying dead bodies of young and infant sons and daughters, what a war achieves.

The wars are seldom about principles, ethnicity or control of territory. They are mere cover ups to hide the real intentions of the real war mongers, which are the arms manufacturer and their dealer lobbies, who work behind the scenes to escalate the undercurrent simmering. When the real hostilities break or are designed to break, it becomes very clear that in international politics there are no real friends or foes, there are no long-term interests. The brief engagement with our neighbour has exposed the real faces of leaders, who claimed to be our well-wishers.

While the wars or border skirmishes are not everyday events, though highly disruptive, we must also be more concerned about equally disruptive and damaging ongoing internal infestations which are eating up our social fabric and governance. This is the horizontally and vertically growing expanse of corruption. As civil servants, we can't claim to be unaware about this vertical and horizontal expansion. It has reached a stage where even the victims have acquiesced as *fait accompli* while the perpetrators have boldly converted it into their rights. The intensity and expanse can no longer be controlled by mere change of personnel or targeting the persons involved. The cure has to be systemic. As the top most service of the country and manning the topmost echelon of bureaucracy, we, as members of a service have the highest responsibility also. Let us never forget that. We cannot and should not give up.

Taking leave till the next issue,



May 17, 2025

Sincerely yours,

(Dipak Kumar Singh)

Secretary, IAS Officers' Association, Bihar Branch



From The Editor's Desk

Dear Colleagues,

We are back with a new issue of PRAYAAS. The first quarter of a new financial year starts with blueprints and roadmaps, anticipation and projection, imagination and vision for the financial year. April witnesses hectic meetings, long parleys and purposeful brainstorming. The month of May - scorching and ferocious - sees the mobilisation and activation of resources. June is when initial accomplishments begin trickling in. As many initiatives and schemes require inter-departmental coordination, so the members of our fraternity frequently sit together with one another to set apace what Max Weber says "strong and slow boring of the hard boards".

Also, that is the time of the year when children get much needed break from schools and colleges. In the days of yore, we would generally troop to the house of our maternal grandparents. In these image-saturated, consumerist and mimetic times, they would compromise on nothing short of destination holidays to cool climes. For them, the exposure to new views, vignettes and ways broadens their mental horizon. But with hill stations becoming chock-a-block with tourists and long traffic snarls becoming the order of the day, some of the pleasure stands diminished.

The first quarter is also the time adolescents look forward to joining colleges and during the process, face transitional ambiguities: which stream to join? Which college to go for? Staying away from the cocoons of kinship poses its own challenges. Many members of the fraternity would be up against these challenges just as well. The Editorial team of PRAYAAS wishes them success in their ventures and endeavours.

We look forward to hearing more and more from the young IAS officers - their trials, tribulations, ventures and accomplishments.

Sincerely,

(Deepak Anand)
Editor, Prayaas Magazine
Mob. : 7764000000

May 5, 2025



1858

– John Beames
(1837-1902)



Excerpts from 'Memoirs of a Bengal Civilian'

[Part-1]

Arrival at Calcutta for a Sojourn

Several old Haileybury comrades came to meet us, and thus full of life and spirits buoyant with hope and excitement, eager to begin my new career, I along with Eliot landed in India on the 16th of March 1858.

When we landed in Calcutta the Mutiny was not yet crushed. Lord Canning, the Governor-General, was living at Allahabad and Mr John Peter Grant, President of the Council, was ruling in his place in Calcutta. Everyone was in terror of the *sepoys*, who, in contempt of all geographical arguments, were supposed to be on the point of making a raid upon Calcutta at every moment.

Eliot and I went, on landing, to D Wilson's Hotel (now called the Great Eastern), a large, stuffy, vulgar, noisy place permeated with a mixed odour of cooking and stale tobacco. We could not stand it for long and were advised to take rooms in a boarding-house. Fortunately we obtained rooms at the best house of the kind in Calcutta - Miss Wright's, 3 Middleton Street, a large, comfortable house, where we obtained on the first floor a vast, airy, handsomely furnished sitting-room about the size of a church in England, with two spacious bedrooms. For this we paid the modest sum of rupees 300 (30 pounds) a month including board. We had to keep our own servants besides. My salary I found was to be Rs 333 3 anna 3 pie, equal to 33 pounds 4 shilling a month or 400 pounds a year. Out of this I had to pay my half share of the rent of our rooms, Rs 150, about Rs 50 for three servants, a bearer or valet, a *khidmatgar* or footman, and a *mehtar* or sweeper, and I had

of course to buy my own wine and beer and my clothes. The income, though not large for so expensive a place as Calcutta, would have been sufficient with economy. But we had neither of us the slightest idea of economy. We were both utterly inexperienced in the management of money.

We took our meals at the public table where we made the acquaintance of a number of very pleasant people. Boarding-houses, which are very numerous in Calcutta, are like private hotels in England with the addition of the public table. People holding the highest positions in society who wish to avoid the trouble and expense of keeping up an establishment in one of the vast, palatial houses of Calcutta with the troops of servants and other expenses which it involves, often take a suite of rooms at a good boarding-house. Bachelors of all ages especially favour these comfortable refuges for the homeless where they are well cared for and looked after. These are always kept by women of the middle class, such as would be found in the position of housekeepers or matrons of an institution at home. Of those whom I have known most were widows: one was the widow of a pilot, another of an indigo planter, a third of a captain in the merchant service. These good ladies are very kind to young bachelors, look after them when ill, get their clothes made and mended, help them to get servants, talk the language for them to native when they cannot do so themselves, and generally do their best to give a home-like tone to their establishments. Miss Wright was a cheery, fat

old maid, the daughter of a newspaper editor, deceased, who had left her this and some other houses in Calcutta. She was also part proprietor of the Englishman, the leading newspaper in Bengal.

The first thing we did was to report our arrival to Colonel Lees, Secretary to the Board of Examiners, who informed us that we were attached to the North-West Provinces and would have to pass an examination in Persian and Hindi, for which purpose a native tutor or *munshi* would be assigned to each of us. An imaginary institution called the College of Fort William, consisting of Colonel Lees who conducted the examinations and a staff of native tutors, was supposed to exist and certain high officials constituted nominally a Board of Examiners, but their duties, as far as I have ever been able to ascertain, were nonexistent. Each young Civilian on his arrival was supposed to have a *munshi* from the College assigned to him, and the Government paid the *munshi* thirty rupees a month. But the number of *munshis* was too small for the number of Civilians; each *munshi* therefore took several pupils - three was, I believe, the number to which he was limited. At any rate three was the highest number for whom he could draw the allowance in any one month. Moreover there were three or four of these men who were much better teachers than the others and were therefore much sought after. A man who wanted to pass quickly or to pass with honours had to secure one of these three or four, and as their sanctioned number of pupils was always full we had to pay them out of our own pockets. This is one of the muddles so common in British Administrations everywhere.

A few days after my arrival a fat old Bengali gentleman called on me, gave his name as Hari Prosad Dutt. He said he was the best *munshi* in the college and as he had heard that I had taken the Persian medal at

Haileybury he, and he only, claimed the honour of being my *munshi*. As, however, his list was full I should have to pay him out of my own pocket, but he promised to give me the first vacancy that occurred. On leaving some of the men who had been some time in Calcutta I was strongly advised to agree to this, which I did. Hari Babu then put a Persian book before me and asked me to translate at sight. This I did quite correctly. I also translated correctly an English exercise into Persian. On this he assured me that I should certainly pass the first time I went up. An examination was held on the first of every month. I went up and was plucked! Hari Babu was full of indignation. He said he had seen my papers and there was only one very slight mistake, hardly in fact a mistake at all, merely the use of a word in a sense which was somewhat antiquated. He then told me this was a favourite trick of Lees. He often refused to pass a man who was perfectly competent, because he had only been a month in India, holding that no one was fit to be passed who had not had longer training under his College *munshis*. This disgusted me and for some months I idled considerably and did not finally pass in Persian till my fourth month. Elliot also had a *munshi* but as he was new to Persian, or nearly so, not having paid much attention to it at Haileybury, he did not make much progress.

We usually got up between five and six in the morning and sat in our sleeping jackets and pyjamas on the veranda having tea. Then we dressed in riding breeches and went for a ride till seven. We usually rode on the *maidan*, the broad plain round which Calcutta is built, but sometimes went for long scrambling rides in the country. Elliot was an excellent rider and could sit any horse. He rather liked a vicious or troublesome horse. I used to accuse him of liking to show off his skill, which made him very angry. At seven we came in and got into pyjamas again. Many of our old Haileybury

friends would drop in and our cool, shady veranda was full of men drinking tea, smoking, reading the papers or letters, talking, laughing and enjoying themselves. At nine the *chota haziri* party broke up and we went to have our baths, put on clean clothes and went down to breakfast. This was rather an elaborate meal consisting of fish, mutton chops, cutlets or other dishes of meat, curry and rice, bread and jam and lots of fruit-ranges, plantains, lichis, pineapples, papimys or Pummelos-according to season. Some drank tea but most of us had iced claret and water. After this we returned to our rooms and worked at languages till twelve. The *munshis* appeared and read with us one hour each, daily. About twelve we usually went out either in a buggy or a *palki*, custom having appointed this, the hottest time of the day, for making calls. Buggies are seldom now seen in Calcutta, the present generation preferring dog-carts. But a buggy has a hood which a dogcart has not, and it is therefore more suited for going out in the middle of the day. It is a light gig on two wheels with a hood. I bought one second-hand but in good condition, with horse and harness, for Rs 750 (75 pounds). Elliot also had one. We each had, besides, a saddle horse. We went out at twelve and made a round of calls on the principal ladies in the fashionable quarter of Calcutta-Chowringhee. We were often asked to stop to tiffin (lunch) at someone or other of these houses. If not, we returned to 3 Middleton Street for that meal. This was also an elaborate meal of soup, hot meat, curry and rice, cheese and dessert, with claret or beer. After this we felt (naturally) lazy and drowsy and lay about idly dozing - a sort of siesta in fact - under the *punkah*. About five o'clock we got up and dressed, for during the heat of the afternoon a good deal of clothing had been dispensed with. Then we ordered our horses and rode on to the course. This is a road along the banks of the river; on one side of it

were the Eden Gardens, not then so well cared for as now, where the band played. All the rank and fashion of the town collected here in carriages or on horseback. Round the Eden Gardens there was at that time a turf road for riders. The remains of it are there still but in 1858 it was longer, wider and more frequented than now. After meeting our numerous friends and acquaintances, and having a canter round once or twice we dismounted at the bandstand and went and talked to the ladies in their carriages which were drawn up in rows, or fetched them ices from a refreshment pavilion in the gardens. We got home to dinner at half past seven and were generally in bed by nine unless, which often happened, we were invited to dine out or to a ball.

This method of life was certainly expensive, and though we did not know it at the time we were both getting into debt. So were all our contemporaries, and so had been many generations of Haileybury men before us. It was the fault to a great extent of the absurd system which was then in force, by which all the young Civilians were kept for a time in Calcutta 'to learn the languages', as it was phrased. This was not only unnecessary but led to their wasting their time and getting into debt. In those days it was not the custom for all the high officials and rich non-officials to desert Calcutta for the hill-stations as they do now, from March to November every year. Simla and Darjeeling, Mussoorie and Ootacamund, had only recently been discovered and very few houses had been built there. There were very few railways, so it was not easy to get to them, and the P & O steamers did not run so often as they do now, so it was not so easy to get to England. Consequently the upper classes of society lived in Calcutta all the year round, and rich men inhabited, and dispensed a lavish hospitality in, the palatial houses of Chowringhee, which are now turned for the most part into boarding-houses and

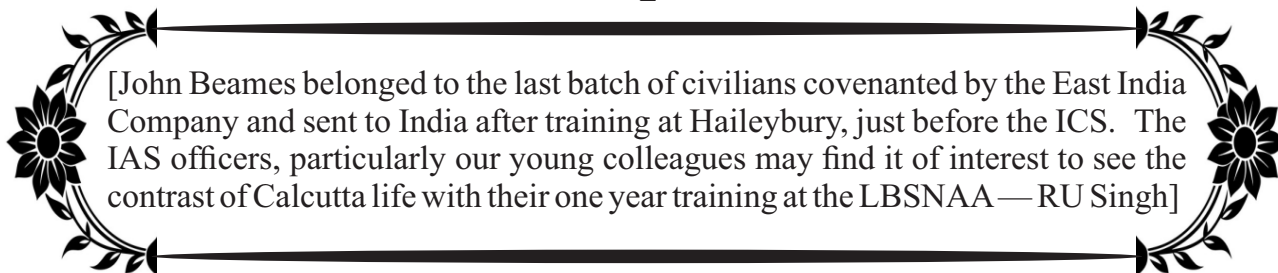
offices. The young Haileybury men were, in very many instances, related to the high officials, and even if they were not, their position as members of the Covenanted Civil Service secured for them a ready admission into the best society. The Civil Service was in those days an aristocracy in India, and we were the *jeunesse doree* thereof. We were invited everywhere and dined out three or four times a week besides numerous lunch and garden parties. Mamas angled for us for their daughters for, as the phrase then went, we were 'worth three hundred a year dead or alive!' Then of course we had all sorts of amusements among ourselves. Men met to play, and for high stakes too; they had dinner parties, billiard-playing parties at the Bengal & United Service Clubs, cricket, horse-racing, steeple chases and many other less reputable diversions. It was not surprising that they did not work very hard. And Colonel Lees made matters worse, for instead of doing his best to pass men and get them away from what my father called 'that unwholesome Capua', Calcutta, he plucked them one examination after another and so kept them there longer. When a man had been plucked twice or three times running as I was, on each occasion for one trifling mistake, he naturally lost all interest in his work and turned to the numerous attractions of society. Thus it came to pass that hardly any man left Calcutta without getting heavily into debt; a man was said to have 'turned the comer' whose debts exceeded one

lakh of rupees (10,000 pounds). And all this while they were not really learning the languages. They had mostly learned these languages as far as they could be learnt from books at Haileybury, and it would have been better to have sent them at once, on arrival in India, to some station in the interior where they could live among the natives and learn to speak the languages from hearing them speak. This is what they do now, and if they had done it in our time it would have saved many a man from life-long indebtedness and misery.

In the first writing of this narrative in 1875 I inserted here a long description of Calcutta as it was in 1858 when I landed there. But on reading it over again now in 1896, it occurs to me that the city has changed very little in all these years. It is rather bigger, new houses have been built in between the old ones; docks, railway stations and bonded warehouses have sprung up; the place is more crowded, lately cleaner, and perhaps more stately than it was. But the general features are not very much changed. It is still the somewhat sleepy, stately, palatial city with its wide, park-like *maidan*, broad streets, huge white houses and enervating atmosphere: Gay and busy for three months, from December to March, dull drowsy and empty for the rest of the year. Thanks to Messrs Cook & Co and the 'increased facilities of communication' India is now so well known that a description of Calcutta is unnecessary. I therefore omit what I wrote in 1875.

— Continued on Part-2

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Patna and Bihar through the Ages

Thanks to the initiative of Mr Sachidanand Sinha, Bihar along with Orissa was carved out of Bengal as an independent State on 22 March 1912. Subsequently Orissa got separated from Bihar in 1936 and Jharkhand in 2000.

There is an interesting episode about the origin of Bihar as a separate state. Mr Sachidanand Sinha, studying in UK in the late 19th century, was taunted when he said he was from Bihar. Bihar then was nowhere to be found in the then map of India. He felt so disconcerted that he made the issue of separation of Bihar from Bengal as his life's mission. He raised the issue as a member of the Council and got a resolution passed. Mr Sinha got the new capital established in Patna.

Why is Bihar so backward?

Despite Biharis being so intelligent at the individual level, why is it that collectively they are not able to lift the State out of its morass? A friend gave a useful insight into the comparative development of Bihar on the basis of the land price. He stated that just like the value of a share of a company reflects its growth story, the value of land in a particular geography is an approximate barometer of the growth and the growth potential of that area, which is the logic behind Real Estate Improvement Trusts that are traded in the stock market. His contention is that the cost of land per unit was the same in Patna than as in Hyderabad and Bangalore in 1970. This shows that the

level of overall development and expected growth was quite similar in all these States at that point of time.

If this, indeed, was the case, the next question arises as to what happened in the next 40-50 years that brought Bihar to this level where its youth are forced to study and work and live in other States? The idea behind writing this is not to find alibis for Bihar's underdevelopment but to understand the whole issue in a correct perspective so that we can take concerted steps to improve the economy.

History:

Bihar has been traditionally a rich State. Patna, one of the oldest continuously inhabited places in the world, served as the seat of power and political and cultural centre of the Indian subcontinent during the Maurya and Gupta empires. About 475 BC the capital of the Magadha Empire was located at Patna, where it remained so under Ashoka (273-232 BC). It was also the capital of the Gupta dynasty in the 4th Century and 5th Century CE. With the fall of the Gupta Empire, Patna lost its glory. It regained some of its glory in the Pala period.

Bakhtiar Khilji captured Bihar in the 12th Century and destroyed everything. Bihar had little independent history in the medieval era under Muslim rule and Patna lost its prestige as the political and cultural centre of India. It was ruled as a province from Delhi during the Middle Ages except for a brief period when Sher Shah Suri

revived Patna in the middle of the 16th Century. The province of Bihar and Bengal was among the first to attract the East India Company because of its wealth. After the decisive Battle of Buxar of 1764, the East India Company was given the right to collect tax. In 1793 Nizamat - Mughal sovereignty - was abolished and the East India Company took control of the province of Bengal and named it Bengal Presidency. Under British rule, Bihar together with Chota Nagpur was merged with the state of Bengal. Soon after the East India Company occupied Bihar, the Bihar Regiment was raised as part of the Bengal Native Infantry. The brave jawans of Bihar Regiment demonstrated their bravery in many battles in the pre-1857 period, including those in Malaya, Sumatra and Egypt.

Bihar was an epicentre of the Mutiny in 1857-58. Bihari soldiers were the first to revolt under the leadership of Mangal Pandey. In July 1857, the soldiers of the 7th and 8th Regiment based in Danapur Cantonment raised the banner of revolt and decamped after firing on the British. These soldiers came with the ammunitions to Jagdishpur and under Babu Kunwar Singh, attacked Arrah and captured Arrah.

It seems that after losing the First War of Independence, when Bihari soldiers were told that they would be shot if they did not obey the orders of the Captain, they kept their head high and preferred to be shot. The English Captain was so mortified that he sent a message questioning how could the English rule the country with few officers if the majority of the soldiers refused to carry out their orders. The British were so apprehensive of the valour of the Bihar jawans and unsure of their loyalty to them that they disbanded the Bengal Native

Infantry. Even recruitment of jawans from Bihar was stopped. Bihar Regiment was also disbanded. It was only in September 1941 that the British Indian Army raised the Bihar Regiment with jawans from Bihar.

Economy:

The Chinese monk Fa Hien (Faxian), who visited ancient Patliputra in 400 AD, found the people to be rich and prosperous. However, in the 6th and 7th Century CE, the city was devastated by the inundation due to the Sone River. The Chinese pilgrim Xuanzang recorded that in 637 that the city had few inhabitants.

During Akbar's visit in 1574, his official historian Abul Fazl refers to Patna as a flourishing centre for paper, stone and glass industries. He also refers to the high quality of rice grown there. Meanwhile the Portuguese traders who were in Bengal established a factory in Patna around 1580 and products were shipped down the river to Chittagong port.

In 1620 the East India Company established a factory in Patna for trading in calico and silk. Patna was then described as the largest town in Bengal and most famous for trade. Soon it became a trading centre for saltpetre. The Dutch also sent large cargoes to many parts of the Indies, including Europe. Peter Mundy, writing in 1632 described Patna as the greatest mart of the eastern region. By the 17th Century Patna became a centre of international trade and an agricultural and textile hub, including a major silk and calico market.

With the decline of the Mughal Empire, Patna moved into the hands of Nawab of Bengal, who levied a heavy tax on the populace but allowed it to flourish as a commercial centre. In the 17th Century, the British revived Patna as a centre of

international trade. Until the 19th Century it was a major trading and commercial hub in India.

The economy of the State of Bihar was, however, ruined during British rule. The first blow was given by the colonial regime through introduction of the system of Permanent Settlement, which ruined the agricultural sector. Although zamindars existed even during the Mughal rule, the British, in their aim to maximise revenue, formalised this system through the Permanent Settlement. The zamindars were forced to give a fixed amount, irrespective of the climatic conditions and production by farmers. These zamindars in turn appointed intermediaries and the exploitation of the poor peasant was at its maximum during the British rule. The numbers forced into penury were huge, and lakh of lives lost in the famines.

The ill-effects of the Industrial Revolution were most felt in Bihar which was one of the most prosperous regions before the British rule. In the textile sector, the intricate designs of the weavers were copied and produced in English factories and coupled with low import duties and high export taxes, the sector was literally killed.

The growth of Calcutta and a port much near to the sea robbed the status of Patna as a trading centre. The system of compulsory cultivation of indigo in some parts further affected the rural economy. After the 1857 Mutiny, not only was the Bihar Regiment disbanded, but also Investment in Bihar was much lower than other provinces. The British developed the port cities of Madras, Calcutta and Bombay and the rest of the country became the hinterland for economic exploitation. Patna became the opium centre, both for cultivation and trading but

the wealth generated from this was spent in the Presidency towns. During the freedom struggle, Bihar remained among the front runners and continued to incur the wrath of the British.

The recurrent floods and famines in Bihar further weakened the economy. The Spanish flu was the last straw. It is, therefore, not surprising that after the Spanish flu; most of the indentured labour that went to West Indies and Mauritius were from Bihar and eastern UP.

Post-Independence

In 1947, Bihar was ranked among the poorest states and it continues to remain among the poorest States till date. In 1971, 41.8% of the economically active population was employed in the agriculture sector, compared to 31.4% in the country as a whole. This percentage increased to 48% in 2001, when the proportion of agricultural workers in the overall workforce for India reduced to 26.5%. A study has established a significant wage differential between Bihar and other States of India emerging from the 1960s and persisting till the 1990s, which has been identified as a key factor for migration. The growth of urbanisation in Bihar has been critically slow, with the state only observing a decadal increase of 1.8% from 1961 to 2022. Bihar remains the least urbanised State in the country. Thus, Patna has slid almost to the bottom.

Role of politicians

Bihar has produced very tall leaders including the first President of the Republic. The political clout of Bihar with 54 MPs in the Lok Sabha was only second to UP and yet it did not get its due share of Central aide. Either they were shy in asking for their own State or were too magnanimous other regions. It is surprising how the Bihar

leadership allowed the freight-equalisation policy which robbed the State of its competitive advantage.

Being a land locked State, with annual recurrence of floods in North Bihar; the State had few natural resources. Petty politics ensured that Bihar did not get adequate share of Central institutions in proportion to its population and political clout. There was no Central University or IIT/ IIM in Bihar till 2004-05 whereas UP had as many as 5-6 such institutions although Patna University along with Allahabad University and Lahore University were the best in North India in the early part of the 20th Century. True some PSUs were established in the then South Bihar, now Jharkhand, but there was little development of ancillary units.

Bihar is a natural sugarcane growing area and hence it is not surprising that it accounted for about 25% of the country's sugar production in 1947. By 1993 this figure was 3% and Bihar was at par with Haryana. The rain parched areas of Maharashtra got many licences for setting up sugar factories. Only one license was issued for a factory in Bihar, and that too in the cooperative sector in Banmankhi, and this never took off.

The refrain was: if I am a Central Minister from Bihar how can I suggest that my Ministry sets up new units in my State? Perhaps such thoughts would have plagued Babu Jagjivan Ram's mind when he was the Defence Minister and could not get any new defence establishment in the State. Leaders from Maharashtra had no such qualms. The results in terms of defence establishments in that State can be seen! And this is the crux of the problem. Neither the political executive, nor the bureaucracy, have worked towards a common goal of the development of Bihar.

□ □

In a democracy, dissent and opposition is but natural, but then everyone comes to a common ground for the higher goal, when the overall interest of the nation is concerned. Casteism is a phenomenon rampant throughout the country, but in other States, it takes a backseat when the interest of the State is concerned. But, the situation is not so in Bihar.

If a new super thermal power plant cannot be established in North Bihar because there is no coal there, the second best option would have been to get it in South Bihar. However, the political masters preferred that the plant could be set up in some other State! And this is how our MPs do not combine to safeguard the interest of Bihar.

Issues of governance

Bihar has been a well governed State and the Appleby report mentions this. However, this report talks of the regulatory functions of the State. The higher bureaucracy in Bihar was obsessed with rules. Many officers 'carried honesty on their sleeves' and some would not even go to office in their official vehicle as the rules did not permit it. Officers took pride on writing long notes thwarting a certain course of action. Such officers found hundred reasons for not doing a thing but failed to find one reason for doing it. Those who went to the extent of being negative and would suspend their subordinates at the drop of a hat were held in high esteem. On the other hand, the honest officer who was also a good performer by getting things done did not earn any name. Even in the Sixties, Bihar had no premium for development. Rarely, meaningful discussions and exchange of views were held to understand what could be done for the betterment of the State.



– Avay Shukla
IAS (HP-1975)



Last Bus To Mandi

Most people would be surprised to learn that Himachal's most iconic symbols are neither Preity Zingta nor Kangana Ranaut, it is the HRTC (Himachal Road Transport Corporation) bus- green and white in colour when the money for a paint job is available, a muddy ochre when it is not; battered and dented, baskets of fruits, vegetables and a few drunken Rohru types perched on the roof; a goat or two ruminating on the back seats. Nothing represents Himachal better than a fully loaded HRTC bus, clawing its suicidal way up mountain roads that have no reason to be there, one rear wheel on the road, the other off it, mocking the sheer abyss below it. This humble bus has kept the state connected since long before the roads were taken over by the private cars, SUVs and taxis; it has been the lifeline for Himachal's commerce, tourism, agriculture, and has given the state a sense of collective identity.

Its drivers are iconic figures themselves, role models for every village youth and even Mr. Modi's chaiwallahs, pakoda wallahs, chowkidars and “panna pramukhs” have not been able to displace them. They are the counterparts of the gunslingers of the American wild west- a rough breed with their own distinct language and culture, risking their lives daily on roads that defy the accepted laws of gravity, physics and engineering.

Every second rural teen aspires to become an HRTC driver. On rural routes, where the buses have to park at night at the terminal point of their route, villagers vie with each other to offer board and lodging (free of course) to the driver, for he is their vital life line to the modern world and markets outside. Relatively well travelled and widely respected, he is also a potent opinion maker, especially when it comes to elections!



HRTC Bus

My first experience with the HRTC dates back to in 1977 when I had to take my brand new bride to Mandi where I was undergoing my IAS training. In those pre-Gadkari days there were only two services from Delhi to Mandi, one during the day and one overnight. On a cold February night, therefore, Neerja and I boarded the night bus to Mandi at Kashmiri Gate (an ordinary one, there were no AC or deluxe buses then). As an IAS probationer, I and my wife were allotted the favoured seats just behind the driver. The bus was overcrowded and smelt of Himachal-garlic, angoori, sheep (everybody was wearing the “pattu” coats) and the vapours released by sturdy tribals who had dined well, if not wisely. Fresh out of Lady Shri Ram, Neerja was adorned in tight jeans, jacket and boots; the driver took an instant liking to her and invited her to sit next to him on the hot engine cover. She declined, not wishing to become the toast of the evening. The

journey took all of ten bone-breaking hours; we lost most of our luggage (kept on the roof) on the steep climb from Kiratpur to Swarghat. and the bus broke down twice, coincidentally at “desi sharab ka thekas” where the driver would disappear for half an hour and reappear saying he had fixed the fuel pipe! I am happy to report that our marriage survived this first test, and every trial and travail since then has been a cakewalk in comparison.

In subsequent years one got to travel quite a lot in HRTC buses, because back then it was the fortunate SDM (Sub-divisional Magistrate) who got a Jeep to himself. I as SDM Chamba had to share one with the SDM Dalhousie, my good friend C. Balakrishnan, who in later years managed the impossible feat of retiring as Secretary Coal in the central government without getting charge-sheeted or imprisoned. I toured extensively by bus in Churah, Tissa, Salooni and Bharmour, some of the most undeveloped areas of the state, and developed a healthy respect for HRTC and its staff.

In the late eighties I was appointed as Managing Director of this creaking behemoth, with 1200 buses and 7000 staff. And here I learnt of some endearing tricks they kept up their sleeve. Leaking of revenues (pocketing the fare instead of issuing tickets) is an existential problem for all state transport undertakings. We used to set up “nakas” everywhere at all hours of the day and night to nab the rascals but rarely succeeded in netting anyone after the first catch. I soon discovered that these chaps had perfected a wireless form of communicating with other buses to warn them of the

checkpoints. Remember, this was decades before the advent of the cell phone. They had a system of coded signals which was flashed to all other buses “en passant”, as it were, warning them of the impending check post. We rarely caught any fish after the first one.

There were no private buses in those pre-liberalisation days and HRTC functioned as a monopoly. This gave their Unions enormous power, and they flexed their muscles every six months by going on a strike just for the heck of it. We just had to grin and bear it, for confronting them was out of the question. The officers were accustomed to the tried and tested SOP- we were all locked up in our rooms in the head office, sans food or water, gheraoed in proper Labour Day style till we signed on the dotted line. I decided to develop an SOP of my own the day before the next strike. I rang up an old friend, AK Puri who was the DIG (Police) Shimla, reminded him of our good old days in Bilaspur (AK was the Superintendent of Police there when I was the Deputy Commissioner), and expressed the hope that he would like to see me in one piece after the next day's strike. AK responded like a champion: the next day the HRTC office was flooded with more policemen than are currently on spiritual duty in the Kumbh Mela. The gherao was rendered “non est”, the unions decided they didn't have a grievance after all, and I had no more strikes for the duration of my tenure- cut short, sadly, by a Minister who was miffed by the fact that I didn't see (say?) “Aye to Aye” with him!

There were no hard feelings, however. Almost twenty years later a tree fell on me while I was taking my dog for a

walk in a snowstorm. I busted three spinal vertebrae, two ribs and punctured a lung and spleen for good measure. I was laid up in hospital for three months and the doctors told me I would probably never walk again without crutches. While I was absorbing all this a group of HRTC drivers came to see me. They told me of a “vaid” in Mandi who fixed broken bones (even vertebrae) with a concoction made out of herbs and roots which had to be taken four times a day with ghee and honey. They assured me that it would have me on my feet again in two months. On my expressing some well-founded skepticism they told me something which made a lot of sense:

“Look, sir, we are breaking our bones all the time in some bus accident or the other. We don't go to any hospital, we go to this vaid, and he has cured each and every one of us. We all speak from personal experience. Please give him a try- you are already flat on your back, you can't get any lower than that, can you?”

□

Since this rhetorical question was one which even Mr. Subramaniam Swamy would have found difficult to answer, I agreed. Every week one of these good samaritans would bring me a fresh batch of the unctuous, foul smelling concoction, with some of the precious “shilajit” as an added kick. I banished the doctors and surgeons to their autopsy rooms and within three months I was playing golf again, even though my swing is not what it used to be- earlier I used to move the ball, now I move more of terra firma. A couple of years later, I retired from service with most of my spine intact, being no mean achievement for a bureaucrat, if I say so myself! All because of a bunch of ne'er do wells who remembered an MD who had out-smarted them at their own game twenty years ago.

It's been a long association with achal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) and I've gained far more from it than I have given. And it all started with a night bus for Mandi forty eight years ago.

[Avay Shukla is a reputed author who retired from the IAS (HP Cadre) in 2010. He is a keen environmentalist and trekker. Shukla writes for various publications and websites on the environment, governance and social issues. He divides his time between Delhi and his cottage in a small village above Shimla. He has so far authored six books which make interesting reading. His first book is The Trails Less Travelled, on high altitude trekking in the Himachal Himalayas; His second book is Spectre of Choor Dhar, published in July 2019, which is a collection of short stories; His third book, released in 2020, is Politicks, Democrazy And Mumbo Jumbo which is a compilation of satirical and humorous articles on the state of our nation; His fourth book, published in 2021, is India: The Wasted Years which chronicles all the missed opportunities; His fifth book, is The Deputy Commissioner's Dog And Other Colleagues which portrays the lighter side of life in the IAS in Himachal; and His sixth book, published in 2024, is Disappearing Democracy-Dismantling Of A Nation which is a commentary on events from 2021, a sequel to The Wasted Years.]

□ □



आग और पानी

लेखक: व्योमेश शुक्ल

For an insider who has found it impossible to live anywhere else, it could be extremely problematic to balance attachment with detachment. To wriggle out of this predicament, he tries passionate detachment. Nativism doesn't push him towards parochialism. Sense of belonging doesn't lead him to glorification. And yet, intimacy is impossible to miss. Banaras gives him reason to be and this integral connection makes him reflect upon Banaras, its lingering civilisational affinities and continuities, metamorphosis of mundane into magnificent and otherwise, its obstinate imperviousness, informal ways and manners of people, its bewildering geography which could as well be history with the Ganga both in the background and the foreground and all these in a prose that could be sanskritised and vernacular at the same time. Probably this is where Banaras exists- at the juncture of great and small traditions, classical and vernacular, universal and local. In this interaction, local is not overawed by universal but could dictate terms to the latter just as well. In fact, they interact with, interpenetrate each other's domain and influence each other with bewildering ease.

Not unexpectedly, a very maverick but very capacious Shiv is the reigning deity of the city and a very irreverent and very unorthodox Kabir is its patron saint. The book abounds in images and instances, snippets and stories, myths and anecdotes which could obtain nowhere else. So, when an overbearing Sikandar Lodi - intent upon punishing Kabir - summons Kabir to appear before him, Kabir doesn't come in time. Asked to explain the delay, Kabir proffers a reply that is not the reply of a poet but of a

city, a civilization. Replies Kabir, "On the way, I encountered an ant which had applied nine maunds of kohl or kajal in its eyes and was carrying a camel on one shoulder and an elephant on the other. Following ant and its antics, I got delayed." Such transcendental reply to the power of the empire was the reply of not a poet but of a city - Banaras.

While writing his account of Banaras, Vyomesh doesn't follow a method - perfectly understandable given the methodlessness in Banaras. "बनारस की पहचान के सारे बिंब भटके हुए देवता हैं। वे अपने मंदिरों से बाहर निकलकर भक्तों की अंतहीन कतार में खड़े हैं। समय नाव में बैठा है और साधु का लंगोट आसमान में पतंग की तरह लहरा रहा है। नदी रेत में छिपी हुई है। मैकडॉनल्ड्स की स्मार्ट इमारत के सामने ठेठ कचौड़ी जलेबी का फिदायीन ठेला लगा हुआ है। सब अपने आप में एक-दूसरे से अलग-अलग भी बनारस हैं।"

For a city that celebrates death, kashinath Mukti Bhawan on Manikarnika - where the dying awaits the arrival of liberating death - makes it loud and clear on its board: "No one can stay here for more than 15 days. If someone doesn't die before 15 days, he will have to arrange on his own". Such agnosticism to death!

The book comes alive especially when the author dwells upon icons and idols of Banaras who remained Banarasi regardless of fleeting or enduring fame. Bismillah Khan and his Shehnai, "शहनाई को सोचने पर एक नदी, एक मंदिर, एक शहर, एक पस्त होती तहजीब और भारत का स्वतंत्रता संग्राम अनिवार्यतः मौजूद रहते हैं।" A city that is the nucleus of Hindu religious traditions - finds its spiritual emblem in a five-time Namaz offering Shia Muslim. Going back in time is the unmissable presence of Bhartendu whose forefather Amichand had once sponsored Clive against

Sirajudaullah in the battle of Plassey and whom Clive had eventually betrayed. His family migrated from Calcutta to Banaras and later on, Bhartendu would declare, "मेरे पूर्वजों को पैसे ने खाया, अब मैं पैसों को खाऊंगा।" A significant voice of Navjagran, he maintained an eclectic company - much like the wedding procession of Lord Shiva. Once he invited Dayanand Saraswati to Banaras for a Shastrath for which Bhartendu was clearly ill-equipped and stood no chance. But his rag-tag of supporters would create such ruckus and bedlam, such *ho-halla* that Dayanand had to fold his hands in helplessness. That is Banaras.

The author rummages through the history and popular culture of Banaras to retrieve what lie fragmented, scattered and forgotten. One instance is how he happened upon a paper in the library of Nagri Pracharini Sabha in which Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi had struck off Bhagwan and replaced it with Parmeshwar after Panch (पंच) and which would become the title of an iconic story by Premchand. Kishan Maharaj with a debonair, flamboyant exterior but with the inner self of a typical Banarasi wrestler - impulsive, steeped in local flair and flavour, unencumbered of his perceptions, playing heresy with tabla, "वह एक थकी हुई तहजीब के प्रतिनिधि चरित्र थे।" A Lacchhu Maharaj who is not unduly bothered about his own accomplishments. There is Pandit Chhanulal Mishra who had the intimate temerity to address the then Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh as Sardar Ji. Kumar Bose's dexterity with Tabla has taken him to places but Banaras is a habit, an obstinate habit that keeps him tethered.

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[I have fond memories of Banaras where I studied for and passed my BSc from BHU with flying colours in 1958. I frequently prayed at Baba Bishwanath and Sankat Mochan temples. Later in life, I had chances to visit Bharatendu's house for meals at the invitation of his grandson, Girish Chandra Choudhary with his class-mate and my cadre-mate, DPMaheshwari — RU Singh]

□ □

All the same, it is impossible to miss Goswami Tulsidas and the way he scripted the story of Ram in a city which rightfully and mythologically belonged to Shiva. Not an easy job, he chose Shiva to narrate the entire story of Ram to Uma and it is how he got the better of the Saivites of Banaras. He also got a temple for Hanuman constructed. Those who were not part of the elitist Sanskrit and Persian circles - wrestlers, folk singers, farmers, labourers, flotsam and jetsam - they would flock to this temple.

This is what Banaras is, "बनारस असंभव जगह है। उसकी माप मुश्किल हैं इस पार भी है, उस पार भी। राख में है और बालू में भी। खड़ा है और भाग रहा है। नींद में है और जाग रहा है। आग और पानी का मुकाबला है बनारस। शोर के साथ संगीत की जुगलबंदी है। मंत्र और गालियों में होड़ है। प्यार की सबसे कोमल कहानी का नायक पहलवान है। निर्गुण के गुण राम हैं और सगुण मस्जिद में सोया है।"

So this sparse book by Vyomesh Shukl ought to be read for a good number of reasons. Firstly because, it deals with Banaras which has been in existence without ever having been abandoned. Its civilizational continuity needs to be understood. Second, because even though Shukl is an insider, his gaze is critical. Third, he chooses icons and idols of Banaras who are well known outside Banaras but he has important and interesting things to say about their being quintessential Banarasi. Fourth, because the book abounds in stories and anecdotes which could be half true or even untrue but they end up telling more about Banaras than truths could ever be capable of. Lastly, because it is an intimate tale of an intimate city narrated in a most intimate manner.



Dr Shrikant Jichkar, IAS (1980)

Dr Shrikant Jichkar (September 14, 1954 – June 2, 2004) had a picturesque persona. He joined IPS. in 1978 and IAS in 1980. Thus he was one of my batch-mates in the 1980 batch of the IAS, allotted to Bihar Cadre. Just by some strange coincidence, he had a big impact on my life. Dr Shrikant Jhichkar was 36th in my batch of the IAS. I was at the top of the rest of the services and initially allotted Income Tax which I did not join.

Barely four months after joining the IAS in 1980, he put in his resignation and joined the Indian National Congress party to contest his first general election. In 1980 he was elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly becoming the youngest MLA in the country at the age of 25 and the youngest ever Home Minister of the state after having been selected for IAS 1980 at the same time. He had made a scholarly legal reference and representation to GOI citing the French system of flexible movement between bureaucracy and political



Shrikant Jichkar

executive and asked that his IAS position be held in abeyance for 5 years till he completed his term as MLA. It took DOPT 3 months to decide the issue against him. Meanwhile cadre allotments had been finalised and he was allotted Bihar cadre which he never joined. On 10

Dec 1980, I got a telegram from Ministry of Home affairs (Department of Personnel and Training) to say that I had been allotted IAS and to join LBSNAA in 3 days. As I had already appeared for 1981 prelims

and cleared them, I wrote back to say that I would like to better my rank by taking the written 1981 exam but was told IAS is theoretically at the top of the Civil Services and once I had got it, I had to say yes or no forever. So folks, you got me instead of Jichkar. Now you decide what sort of bargain of destiny it was for Bihar with reference to Jichkar and me.

Dr Jichkar held numerous academic degrees and is hence well known as "the most qualified person"

of India He is noted in Limca Book of Records as the most qualified person in the country. Beginning as a Medical Doctor (MBBS and MD), he did his Law (LLB) with Post-graduation (LLM) in International Law, Masters in Business Administration (DBM and MBA) and degree in Journalism (BJourn). He did his Masters in ten subjects: Public Administration ; Sociology; Economics; Sanskrit; History; English Literature; Philosophy; Political Science; Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology; and Psychology. He got his DLitt (Doctor of Literature) in Sanskrit, the highest of any Degree in a University. Most of his Degrees are with First Merit and he has obtained several Gold Medals for his degrees. Between 1973 and 1990 he has written 42 University Examinations, every summer and every winter. He had one of the biggest personal libraries in



Photo1980

India with 52,000 books. Jichkar was also an academician, painter, professional photographer, and stage actor.

He was a Member of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly (1982–85), Maharashtra Legislative Council (1986–92) and served as a Minister in the Government of Maharashtra. He was also a member of Rajya Sabha (1992–98). He was

a very powerful Minister holding 14 portfolios at a time.

Dr Jhichkar tragically died in a road accident in 2004. The information in this article was published though not in exactly these words in TOI when Dr Jichkar so tragically passed away. A TOI reporter had got some lead from somewhere and he briefly interviewed me also over the telephone.

The message that flows from the above story of Shrikant Jichkar is that Truth can be stranger than Fiction.

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[In this series of achievers in Prayaas, we cover the stories of those IAS officers whose contributions go beyond the ambit of the IAS. Somehow the persona of Shrikant Jichkar fits into this scheme of things. As Shrikant resigned from IAS before joining Bihar cadre allotted to him. Amita Paul, by the grace of providence, got allotted Bihar cadre, against the vacant slot. She has given a graphic account of the life and deeds of Jichkar – Principal Editor]

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“Has IAS Failed The Nation?”

The writer of the article on above subject is Duvvuri Subbarao (b. 11 August 1949) who is an Indian economist, central banker, and retired topper IAS officer of 1972 batch. He served as the 22nd Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (2008-13).

Some excerpts from the article are given below for ready reference:

“The public perception of the IAS today is of an elitist self-serving, status quo perpetuating set of bureaucrats who are out of touch with reality, who wallow in their privileges and social status and lack the courage of conviction to stand up for what is right. When the IAS was instituted soon after Independence, it was seen as the home grown answer to the enormous task of nation building. The IAS officers led this effort from the front, built an impressive network from ground zero and earned a formidable reputation for competence, commitment and integrity.

That reputation began unraveling in subsequent decades. The IAS lost its ethos. Ineptitude, indifference and corruption crept in. This negative view is shaped by a minority of officers who have gone astray, but the worry is that that minority is no longer small. The biggest problem with the IAS is deeply flawed system of incentives and penalties. The service still attracts some of the best talent in the country, and young recruits come in with sharp minds and full of enthusiasm to 'change the world'. But soon, they become cogs in the wheels of complacency and acquiescence, turn lazy and cynical' and worse, lose their moral compass.

IAS officers would like the world to believe that this happens because of politicians standing in the way of their delivering the results. You can't miss noticing that most IAS memoirs are, at heart, tales of: 'I was going to do great things but politicians came in the way and stopped me.' I don't want to trivialize the challenge of political interference, in a democracy, it comes with the territory. But to blame the politicians for the intellectual and moral decline of the IAS is self-defeating. Politicians will of course dangle carrots but why should officers go for them? The truth is that no political system, no matter how venal, can corrupt a bureaucracy if it stands united and inflexibly committed to collective high standards of ethics and professional integrity. Sadly, that has not been the IAS story.



D Subbarao

In a system where the smart, enthusiastic and capable are not assured of rising to the top, and the corrupt lazy and incompetent do not get weeded out, there is no motivation for officers to upgrade their knowledge and skills. A system that promotes mediocrity and risk aversion rather than innovation and change sinks to a low common denominator as indeed the IAS has. The IAS has to be reformed into a meritocracy.

There are hundreds of officers out in the field performing near miracles under testing circumstances. Sadly, my generation of civil servants, and subsequent cohorts have bequeathed a flawed legacy to these unsung heroes. To

them passes the challenge and opportunity of recovering the soul of the IAS.”

Opinions:

The article presents a strongly critical perspective on the IAS, attributing its shortcomings to a flawed system that rewards mediocrity, risk aversion, and moral compromise. While the article raises valid concerns, it is heavily skewed against the IAS, ignoring the structural and systemic constraints that shape its functioning.

The article paints the IAS as self-serving, bureaucratic elite that has lost its moral compass. However, it does not acknowledge the countless IAS officers who have made significant contributions to governance, development, and reform. It unfairly over-generalizes and paints a one-sided picture of an entire service based on the shortcomings of a few.

The article fails to mention the many instances where IAS officers have brought about transformative change in governance, healthcare, education, and infrastructure. Several officers have worked tirelessly in adverse conditions to implement policies that have improved the lives of millions. A balanced critique should highlight both failures and successes.

The article makes a flawed comparison with the past by suggesting that the IAS of the early years post-independence was more courageous and principled. However, it does not provide concrete evidence for this claim. The challenges of governance have evolved,

and the nature of public administration today is vastly different from what it was in the 1950s or 1960s.

While the article criticises the IAS for its flaws, it does not offer concrete and constructive solutions to reform the system. A more balanced discussion would have included recommendations on how to improve bureaucratic efficiency, reduce political interference, and encourage officers to take initiative without fear of repercussions.

The article presents a cynical and overly negative view of the IAS, focusing primarily on its perceived failures without acknowledging its successes or the systemic challenges it faces. A more nuanced analysis would consider both the limitations of the system and the achievements of dedicated officers, rather than dismissing the entire service as ineffective. Instead of blaming individuals, the discussion should focus on structural reforms that can make the IAS more dynamic and accountable.

— Ashok K Choudhary, IAS-1972

Going a bit further, I feel highly suspicious about IAS bashers on public forums. Their aims and objectives must be questioned. It is different to be self-critical from within so that we can improve ourselves. But to give outsiders heavy sticks to beat the service with does not speak well of the service bashers. They are inviting chaos and must be looked at accordingly.

— Amita Paul, IAS-1980

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[As the theme of Subbarao's article is of paramount importance to our fraternity, I venture to request our colleagues to take such lessons from this as they may deem fit and also be so good as to offer their comments. As an elder member, my polite advice to them is: 1. Give respect to people whether they deserve it or not; Not as a reflection of their character but as a reflection of your own personality; and 2. Don't carry the horse of the IAS over your head, just ride on it to serve the people – Principal Editor.]

□ □

Response on Prayaas

Respected sir, let me first acknowledge your tireless efforts, in bringing out Prayaas. We all are thankful to you for the same. With regards,

- JRK Rao, IAS-1985

Many thanks for sharing this issue of Prayaas-1 of 2025. And congratulations for your piece on the pre-ICS days of the 19th century!!! With Regards,

- Navin Verma, IAS-1982

I have gone through Prayaas-1 of 2025. The articles included are very inspiring. IAS officers should know their rich past also.

Your write-up on Ms. Amita Paul's multifaceted talents is excellent. I have long admired her as a straightforward officer who never hesitated to speak the truth, known for her impeccable drafting skills and sharp intellect. However, I was not fully aware of the depth of her other talents until reading your piece. In that sense, you have rendered a great service by bringing them to light.

- AK Choudhary, ex-CS

Thanks a lot Sir. Hope that you are doing well. I read the magazine (Prayyas-4 of 24) you sent me. I was particularly interested in Netarhat school which resulted in Navodaya. I will try to find more about that because I particularly like the concept of Navodaya Vidyalaya. It opens the door for high class education to sons and daughters of poor people from the rural background.

- Md Sirajuddin, ex-Allahabad University

Got the Soft copy of Jan-Mar 2025 Issue of PRAYAAS. As usual, this issue is very informative. Filled with Humour, Cartoon, Tidbits, Quiz and Poem it makes an interesting reading. Under Legends, an article on LP Singh by Late I C Kumar makes every Bihari proud of bureaucrats of Bihar cadre. Another article entitled 'Bihar: India's Fastest Growing Sports Destination' by Dr Sanjay Sinha speaks of return of Bihar's glorious sports heritage. With heartiest kudos to the Editorial Team,

- Dr S B Singh, IES, Chief Engineer (Defence) Retd

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Obituary on Jayant Vishnu Narlikar (1937-2025)

The internationally famed Astrophysicist, Dr Jayant Vishnu Narlikar died in sleep in Pune on 20 May 2015. A sad and shocking news to me personally as he had been one year senior to me in BSc of BHU. He had topped in BSc in 1957 and I in 1958. TR Prasad who topped in 1959 entered IAS in 1963 and rose to be the Cabinet Secretary in GOI. I, a poor self, thus came between the two giants.

- RU Singh, IAS-1961

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CARTOONS



Iron Lady of India



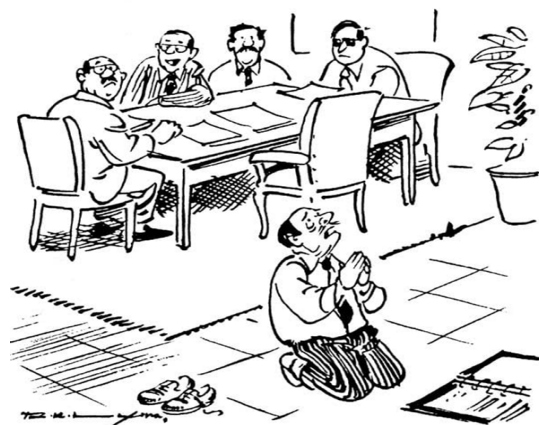
The Man among Men



By the way, Your predecessor, who was sacked for alleged corruption, has joined my business.



I am the most experienced chap here. I have been removing poverty and unemployment for nearly 30 years now!



He is a very nervous person. He always prays before signing any deal!

CROSSWORD (QUICK)-4 with ANSWERS

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L		G		T		H		A		U		N
11 I	R	A	T	E		12 R	I	N	G	L	E	T
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	13 P	14 U	B	S	R	O	B	15 B	E	R	S	
16 R		N				N		U				17 C
18 E	D	I	T	19 O	R	S		20 N	I	21 K	A	H
A		F		U		O		G		A		H
22 C	L	O	U	T		23 N	A	L	A	N	D	A
T		R		E		E		E		S		T
24 S	O	M	B	R	E		25 B	R	E	A	C	H

— Designed by Principal Editor

CLUES:

ACROSS

- 1 Stare - Ogle (6)
- 4 District of south Bihar (6)
- 9 Execution Time (7)
- 10 Attic - Garret (5)
- 11 Angry - Fuming (5)
- 12 Curly lock of hair (7)
- 13 Looters in pubs (4,7)
- 18 Publishing Supervisors (7)
- 20 Muslim wedding (5)
- 22 Power and influence (5)
- 23 District of Bihar (7)
- 24 Dark and gloomy (6)
- 25 Break law or promise – Gap (6)

DOWN

- 1 Strong tasting plant used in cooking (6)
- 2 Sacred river of India (5)
- 3 Proceeds slowly (7)
- 5 Musical keyboard instrument (5)
- 6 Tube-shaped (7)
- 7 Device for keeping bodily tubes open (6)
- 8 An erstwhile industrial town in south Bihar (11)
- 14 Complete outfit- Consistent (7)
- 15 Blunderer (7)
- 16 Responds - Retorts (6)
- 17 An important festival started in Bihar (6)
- 19 External (5)
- 21 Krishna's Mama killed by Him (5)

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[With regrets, The CROSSWORD and QUIZ are being discontinued from this Issue of PRAYAAS due to lack of response from the colleagues – Principal Editor]

Answers to Quiz in the previous issue of Prayaas:

1. FOMO=Fear of Missing Out, 2. YABA=Yet Another Bloody Acronym, 3. BAE=Before Anyone Else, 4. YOLO=You Only Live Once, 5. Infla-dating=Keeping a check on expenditure while dating, 6. ICYMI=In case you missed it, 7. GYAT=Get your act together, 8. IMHO=In My Humble Opinion, 9. NITM=Not in the mood, 10. Wanderlove.

□ □



परशुराम-प्रसंग

तभी मार्ग में मिले परशुधर, धनुष-बाण कर में था,
धनु-भंजन-वृत्तान्त सुना तो महारोष स्वर में था;
कहा राम से, 'किया पराक्रम का अद्भुत यह काम,
करना भंग पिनाक पुराना भी अचिन्त्य था, राम!'

'था अचिन्त्य एवं अद्भुत शिवधनु का तोड़ा जाना,
अतः लिये आया वैष्णवी धनुष का ताना-बाना;
यदि प्रत्यंचा इस धनु पर तुम चढ़ा सको, बलवान,
कर दूँगा मैं, द्वन्द्व-युद्ध का अवसर तुम्हें प्रदाना'

सूख गये थे प्राण अवधपति दशरथ के, भृगुपति से,
बोले, 'हम अनभिज्ञ नहीं, भृगुनाथ! आपकी गति से;
तपसी! विप्र! ब्रह्मज्ञानी! जब दिया क्षात्र-व्रत त्याग,
इन बच्चों को, अभयदान दें तथा क्षमा अनुरागा'

युवक मनस्वी के विरोध में, परशुराम का कहना,
बहुत कठिन था राम हेतु, उस परशु-दर्प को सहना;
बोले, 'था असमर्थ नहीं मैं, रहा वर्तता शील,
शक्ति-परीक्षण के क्रम में, अब नहीं चाहता ढीला'

वैष्णव धनु को लिया राम ने, परशुराम के कर से,
धनु प्रत्यंचा-युक्त किया, संपूक्त चाप था शर से;
भृगुपति को आभास हुआ, हो रहा शक्ति का हास,
शक्ति वैष्णवी भी, प्रभु ने, कर ली जो अपने पास।

बोले, 'भृगुपति! आप विप्र हैं, जुड़े पूज्य गुरुवर से,
प्राण आपका हर न सकूँगा, इसीलिए निज कर से;'
दूर गगन में, मुक्त बाण जब किये अभय रघुनाथ,
भृगुपति, हतप्रभ, हुए अग्रसर, नष्ट-दर्प, नतमाथ।

*

[यह प्रसंग वाल्मीकि रामायण पर आधारित मेरे काव्य-संग्रह चरितांगद से है। इसके अनुसार परशुराम राह में आये जब बरात जनकपुर से अयोध्या लौट रही थी। रामचरितमानस के अनुसार तो भगवान परशुराम धनुष-भंग के बाद ही अपना रोष प्रकट करने हेतु राजा जनक के दरबार में पहुँच गये थे। - 'विदेह']

□ □

Confabulation about WTO (World Trade Organisation)

Jayant Dasgupta IAS based on his experience in WTO, should enlighten us about the impact of increased tariffs announced by Trump on Indian exports. Also, in view of the unilateral declaration of this tariff war by Trump, will the WTO survive or we will see its demise soon?

- Vyasji

*

Thanks Vyasji. The TV channels and newspapers are full of analyses, so I don't want to bore everybody with too many details. However, my personal take on the issue is as follows:

(1) India's main export items to the US (total exports about \$85 billion in a good year) are polished diamonds, gems and precious metal jewellery, petroleum products, engineering goods (including auto components), pharmaceuticals, mobile phones, other electronic goods, textiles and clothing and leather products.

(2) Trump has exempted pharma (for the time being), petroleum and other energy products, semiconductors and minerals (not mined in the US) from tariffs.

(3) Of the rest of the products, the exports of several of the others are dominated by China and to a lesser extent by Vietnam. Thus the higher tariffs on these two countries could present some opportunities for increasing our exports of mobile phones, electronic items, engineering goods, textiles and clothing, agricultural products (tea, coffee, spices, some fruits and vegetables, shrimps etc). However, the domestic value addition in mobile phones and electronic items is quite low because most of the components are sourced from China. In clothing, we specialise in servicing small orders of cotton garments in different styles with a lot of hand embroidery etc., whereas China, Bangladesh (1% higher Trump tariffs than us) and Vietnam can service large orders of basic garments because they have large factories and their supply chains are more efficient. In Agriculture, our exports may not suffer as much as for other products because the demand is comparatively inelastic and the large Indian diaspora is a large consumer. Thus we may gain by increased exports of some of these products but it cannot offset the overall reduction in exports because of contraction of demand in the US on account of higher prices for the consumers and the recessionary trend that most economists are forecasting.

(4) It has been estimated by CRISIL and other agencies that we may lose between \$7.5 billion to \$9 billion per annum due to the increased tariffs in the US. However, the estimates are based on various assumptions.

(5) We cannot retaliate effectively against the US by raising our own tariffs (except for some niche items with small import volumes) because we buy oil and gas, rough diamonds, capital goods, medical devices, organic chemicals and fertilisers etc. which are required for our own economic growth.

(6) On the positive side, the expectation is that the Trump tariffs would cause inflationary pressure (and a possible recession or stagflation if continued beyond six months or so) and thus there would be a strong backlash from big business and even the Republicans, which would make the US roll back some of its tariffs.

On the issue of the impact on the WTO, the Trump tariffs violate two fundamental pillars of the WTO (A and B below) and the international trading order, which have been built up through painstaking negotiations since 1947.

(A) These are the obligation of each country not to impose higher tariffs than it has committed to remain within (called the bound tariff for each tariff line - there are more than 12000 tariff lines at the 8 digit level); and

(B) to charge each WTO member country the same tariff for the same product (called the Most Favoured Nation or MFN treatment), the only exception being if there is a Free Trade Agreement between the two countries. Under the Trump administration 1.0 (2016-20), the Appellate Body mechanism of the WTO was already made non-functional because of blocking of the appointment of new members to the 7 member permanent body by the US. Because of these actions of the US, the future of the WTO is indeed in serious jeopardy. The developed countries (mainly the US and the EU), at whose behest the GATT and later the WTO was set up, have extracted substantial benefits from the system and now they do not want to make any sacrifices/ contributions to preserve and nurture the system. The western think tanks have of late been informally speaking of setting up a new and smaller parallel organisation which would be a 'coalition of the willing', i.e. leaving out the LDCs and smaller developing countries. It is important to note that in the 'trade jungle' where might is right (e.g. the unilateral WTO violative actions of the US in Trump 1.0 and 2.0), the developing and weaker countries have a greater stake in preserving the WTO in order to ensure predictability, justice and an orderly rules-based system governing international trade. Thus the decline of the WTO will hurt India and other poorer developing countries more than it will hurt the west or China.

- Jayant Dasgupta

**

Sir, you deconstructed the problem, examined it threadbare, came up with very incisive insights, kudos. I thought you will conclude by saying that we paid a price for embracing the 'export led growth theory' peddled by Economists. We paid and will continue to pay a huge price for grossly neglecting 'Manufacturing sector'. We got

carried by IT sector, which does help us in providing jobs to Middle class boys and earns us substantial dollars. But, criminal neglect of 'Manufacturing' will haunt us.

- JRK Rao

Thanks Jayant for your in-depth analysis of the issues involved. In fact the credibility of the so called mainstream media is so low that whatever they place on the table is unworthy of any consideration according to me. That's why I made my request to you because of your deep knowledge and understanding of external trading and WTO. However pl permit me to ask you few questions.

I understand that China has slapped 34% reciprocal tariffs on US imports across board and suspended chicken imports from US as well as imposed trade sanctions on several US exporters. I also understand that some traditional allies of US are mulling similar measures against US imports. However, our mainstream media is deriving sadistic pleasure by proclaiming that “US has slapped us on back whereas she has slapped others on stomach”!

In this context, my questions are:

1. Will unilateral hike of tariffs by U.S. and ineffectiveness of WTO will fuel a global trade war?
2. Will it fuel a global recession and increased inflation? and
3. Will the inflationary pressure and shortage of goods and services in US markets will ultimately force Trump administration to revisit tariff hike and take recourse to WTO mediation? Thanks.

- Vyasji

Thanks Naveen, Girish, Sanjay, Animesh and JRK. Yes Girish, the WTO is in a terrible state but still some activity in the form of a Fisheries Agreement is being negotiated. The US, which is the largest contributor to the WTO, has not paid it's dues for 2023 and 2024, ostensibly for a budgetary review. However, in the National Trade Estimate 2025 of the USTR released on 31 March 2025, the US mentions it's concerns raised in the WTO at numerous places. Thus it still wants to 'use' the WTO to its advantage in naming and shaming, if it can.

- JRK Rao

I do agree with you that we should have paid much more attention to manufacturing but there is no alternative to boosting exports for attaining strong economic growth.

- Jayant Dasgupta

The Story of Titanic

On the 10th April 1912, the RMS Titanic, the largest and most luxurious ship of its time, set sail from Southampton, England, on its maiden voyage to New York City. Designed as a symbol of modern engineering and elegance, the Titanic was considered 'unsinkable.'

Built by Harland and Wolff in Belfast, the ship measured 882 feet long, weighed over 46,000 tons, and featured 16 watertight compartments. It took nearly three years and over 15,000 workers to complete. Titanic was a floating palace, with grand staircases, luxury suites, a swimming pool, Turkish baths, and fine dining rooms. Even third-class passengers traveled in relative comfort.

Carrying more than 2,200 passengers and crew, the ship began her journey with pride and high expectations. But on 14th April, just four days into the voyage, she struck an iceberg in the North Atlantic. In the early hours of 15th April, the Titanic sank, claiming over 1,500 lives.

The tragedy shocked the world and remains a lasting reminder of human ambition and its limits. Over a century later, the story of Titanic continues to fascinate and move people across generations.

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Air India Flight 128

Air India Flight 182 was a passenger flight operating on the –Montreal–London–Delhi–Mumbai route, that on 23 June 1985, disintegrated over the Atlantic Ocean as a result of an explosion from a bomb planted by Canadian Sikh terrorists. It was operated using a Boeing 747-237B registered *VT-EFO*, and named Emperor Kanishka.

The aircraft had been delivered to Air India in July 1978. On 28 January 1983, the aircraft operating as Air India Flight 306 was damaged following a ground collision with an Indian Airlines Airbus A300 at Palam Airport. The aircraft was then repaired and returned to service.

The incident happened en route from Montreal to London at an altitude of 31,000 feet. The remnants of the aircraft fell into the sea approximately 190 kilometres off the coast of Ireland, killing all 329 people on board, including 268 Canadian citizens (Canadians of Indian descent made up the majority of the passengers), 27 British citizens, and 22 Indian citizens as the Crew. The bomb killed all 22 crew and 307 passengers. Of the 329 killed, 132 bodies were recovered and 197 were lost at sea. The bombing of Air India Flight 182 is the worst terrorist attack in Canadian history, and the deadliest aviation mishap in the history of Air India.

□ □



सैनिकों की पुण्य भूमि – गहमर

जब हम सभी रात्रि के गहन निशा काल में मीठी मीठी नींद के आगोश में नित्य रहते हैं तो उस समय सेवा हेतु समर्पित हमारे सैनिक देश की सीमा पर अनेक संकटों के बावजूद डटे रहते हैं। वैसे तो देश के हर प्रांत के क्षेत्रों से सैनिक सेना में प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं, लेकिन उत्तर प्रदेश के गाजीपुर जिले के 'गहमर' गांव का एक विशिष्ट स्थान है। सौभाग्य से मुझे गहमर की पवित्र धरती का दर्शन करने का शुभ अवसर मिला है। राष्ट्र रक्षा में सदैव समर्पित भारतवर्ष का सबसे बड़े गांव गहमर की भूमिका अद्वितीय और प्रेरक है जो अपनी विशेषता की अभूतपूर्व शौर्य गाथा आज भी कह रहा है। आंकड़े बता रहे हैं कि करीब डेढ़ लाख की जनसंख्या वाला यह ग्राम अनेक टोला (पट्टी) में विभक्त है और हर पट्टी का नामकरण एक पुरुषार्थी सैनिक के नाम पर रा गया है। इस गांव के सैनिकों ने अपने पुरुषार्थ का परिचय वर्ष 1962, 1965, 1971 एवं कारगिल युद्धों में दिया है। यहां के अनेक सैनिकों के ओजस्वी पराक्रम के कारण भारत सरकार द्वारा उन्हें कई राष्ट्रीय सम्मान से विभूषित भी किया गया है। आज भी इस गांव के करीब बीस हजार से अधिक लोग सेना के विभिन्न पदों पर कार्यरत हैं जबकि करीब पंद्रह हजार से अधिक सैनिक सेवानिवृत्त होकर सेना में भर्ती के लिए अपने गांव के युवा को प्रेरित करते हुए उन्हें निःशुल्क प्रशिक्षण प्रदान कर रहे हैं। बक्सर के सेवा पदस्थापन काल वर्ष 2002 में जब मैं उक्त पावन भूमि के दर्शन हेतु गया तो वहां के कई सेवानिवृत्त फौजी भाइयों ने बताया कि यहां बौद्धिक चर्चा में सिर्फ सेना की ही बात होती है। यह भी ज्ञात हुआ कि यहां के हर दूसरे/तीसरे घर से कोई न कोई सदस्य सेना में अपनी सेवा दे रहे हैं। यह जानकर गर्व हुआ कि अभी तक किसी भी युद्ध में यहां के कोई भी सैनिक शहीद नहीं हुए हैं। पचास की संख्या से अधिक यहां के सैनिक लेफ्टिनेंट एवं ब्रिगेडियर के पदों पर मातृभूमि की सेवा हेतु पहुंचे हैं। बताया गया कि गांव के 'मठिया मैदान' में करीब पंद्रह सौ मीटर का एक ट्रैक बनाया गया है जिसपर प्रातःकाल एवं संध्या में युवा दौड़ने का अभ्यास करते हैं और मान्यता है कि इस ट्रैक पर जो युवा हृदय से दौड़ अभ्यास करते हैं, उसका सेना में चयन निश्चित है। सेना में ट्रेनिंग के दौरान जितनी तरह की कठिन एवं जटिल किस्म के प्रकल्प हैं, उसी प्रकार के संसाधन सुबह-शाम के प्रशिक्षण में उपलब्ध कराया गये हैं। इन संसाधनों में जो राशि व्यय होती है उसकी पूर्ति गहमर के सेवानिवृत्त बड़े अधिकारी अपने पेंशन राशि से करते हैं। इस गांव में अवस्थित 'कामख्या मंदिर' के दर्शन का भी सौभाग्य मुझे मिला, जिनके बारे में यह मान्यता है कि माँ की कृपा से ही कई दशकों से सेना में सेवारत इस गांव के किसी भी सैनिक के साथ कोई अनहोनी नहीं हुई है। गांव में आपसी समन्वय, सद्भाव एवं सहयोग की भावना कूट कूट कर भरी हुई है, जिसके कारण इस गांव के कोई विवाद थाने या न्यायालय में नहीं जाते। सेना के अतिरिक्त यहां के नागरिकों की आजीविका कृषि पर निर्भर है। यह जानकार हृदय अभिभूत हो गया कि वर्ष 1965 के युद्ध में तत्कालीन प्रधानमंत्री स्व० लाल बहादुर शास्त्री जी के आह्वाहन पर प्रर राष्ट्रवाद से ओतप्रोत इस गांव के सभी लोगों ने अनाज, नगद एवं आभूषण भी देश की सेवा में अर्पित किए थे। सेवानिवृत्त एक फौजी भाई मार्कण्डेय सिंह, जो पूर्व सैनिक सेवा समिति के अध्यक्ष थे, उनके साथ मैंने जमीन पर बैठकर दिन का भोजन किया और देर संध्या इस धरा की मिट्टी को नमन करते हुए पुलकित एवं गर्वित भाव से लबरेज हो बक्सर वापस आ गया। रास्ते में गहमर की गौरव गरिमा के सुने, दे एवं अनुभव किए हर गाथा मन में यह पुनीत संदेश दे रहा था:

मातृ मंदिर का समर्पित दीप मैं, चाह मेरी यह कि मैं जलता रहूँ।

*

[लेखक बी.ए.एस. के अवकाशप्राप्त अधिकारी एवं बी.पी.एस.सी. तथा बी.एस.यू.एस.सी. के पूर्व सदस्य हैं। स्मरणीय है कि गाजीपुर के सांसद, विश्वनाथ सिंह 'गहमरी' ने 3री लोक सभा में यह कहकर पं० नेहरू को द्रवित कर दिया था कि इस क्षेत्र के गरीब लोग मवेशियों के गोबर में से अधपचे अन्न के दानों को पकाकर अपनी भूख मिटाते हैं – प्रधान संपादक।]

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The Civil Services Day -2025

This year's Civil Services Day is special for several reasons. This year, we are celebrating the 75th year of our Constitution, and it is also the 150th birth anniversary year of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man and Bismarck of India. This day honours the behind-the-scenes efforts of government officials who ensure public services reach the citizens and maintain a robust system. The first National Civil Service Day was observed in 2006. The significance of the date is because on 21 April 1948, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel addressed the first batch of civil servants in Independent India at the Metcalf House. In his inspiring speech, he referred to civil servants as the 'Steel Frame of India'.

- From Internet

On Civil Services Day, let's recall with relish our association with senior colleagues. I am personally indebted to SK Sharma sir. I was his probationer, for nearly four decades now he still treats me like a younger brother. Not to forget Mrs. Sandhya Sharma, a graceful hostess. One is grateful to persons like VS Dubey sir and Anup Mukherjee sir for demonstrating what 'sthiti pragnyatha', is all about in service. One also saw, how on 31st March, Mukesh Nandan sir, as FC, left at 5.30 PM. No one was running helter-skelter behind Finance Department. True Professionalism. A number of seniors, I hold in esteem, but didn't mention, as I didn't want to post too long a message. This is a day to convey regards to all seniors and best wishes to all other colleagues.

- JRK Rao

They didn't just serve the nation - they shaped it.

In the chaotic years after 1947, India stood at a historic crossroad. It needed more than freedom - it needed structure, stability, and vision. That's when a remarkable generation of civil servants stepped in - IAS, IPS, and IFS officers who weren't just bureaucrats, but builders of modern India.

From integrating princely states to securing borders, from conducting the first elections to conserving wildlife - their vision and courage helped transform a newly independent nation into a functioning democracy.

There is a long list of the civil servants whose legacy continues to guide India today.

- Navin Verma

□ □



**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.	2063 / 04.02.2025	श्री मनोज कुमार, आई.ओ.एफ.एस. (2010), अपर सचिव, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग का विशेष सचिव के रूप में पदनामन।
2	2064 / 04.02.2025	श्रीमती प्रीति तोंगरिया, आई.डी.ए.एस. (2010), अपर सचिव, पंचायती राज विभाग का विशेष सचिव के रूप में पदनामन।
3	2620 / 12.02.2025	श्री अजय यादव, भा०प्र०से० (2005) सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग का सचिव, शिक्षा विभाग के पद पर पदस्थापन तथा निदेशक, उच्च शिक्षा/प्रबंध निदेशक, बिहार राज्य पाठ्य पुस्तक प्रकाशन निगम लिमिटेड, पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
4	2621 / 12.02.2025	श्री दिनेश कुमार, भा०प्र०से० (2007). प्रमण्डलीय आयुक्त, भागलपुर को प्रमण्डलीय आयुक्त, मुंगेर का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
5	2622 / 12.02.2025	श्री अनिमेष कुमार पराशर, भा०प्र०से० (2010), मुख्य कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी—सह—नगर आयुक्त को प्रबंध निदेशक, बिहार शहरी आधारभूत संरचना विकास निगम लि. (बुडको), का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
6	2623 / 12.02.2025	श्री उदयन मिश्रा, भा०प्र०से० (2011), निदेशक, विज्ञान प्रावैधिकी एवं तकनीकी शिक्षा विभाग का विशेष सचिव, पर्यटन विभाग के पद पर पदस्थापन तथा निदेशक, पर्यटन का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
7	2624 / 12.02.2025	श्री पवन कुमार सिन्हा, भा०प्र०से० (2013), बंदोबस्त पदाधिकारी, जमुई का अपर सचिव, जल संसाधन विभाग, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
8	2625 / 12.02.2025	श्री श्याम बिहारी मीणा, भा०प्र०से० (2014), निदेशक नियोजन एवं प्रशिक्षण का निदेशक, अनुसूचित जाति एवं अनुसूचित जनजाति कल्याण विभाग, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
9	2626 / 12.02.2025	श्री राजेश कुमार, भा०प्र०से० (2014) बंदोबस्त पदाधिकारी, पूर्णिया का अपर सचिव, संसदीय कार्य विभाग, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
10	2627 / 12.02.2025	श्री अहमद महमूद, भा०प्र०से० (2014) अपर सचिव, विज्ञान, प्रावैधिकी एवं तकनीकी शिक्षा विभाग, बिहार, पटना को निदेशक, विज्ञान, प्रावैधिकी एवं तकनीकी शिक्षा का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
11	2628 / 12.02.2025	श्री विजय प्रकाश मीणा, भा०प्र०से० (2016), निदेशक, निःशक्तता का अपर सचिव, नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग के पद पर पदस्थापन।
12	2629 / 12.02.2025	श्री योगेश कुमार सागर, भा०प्र०से० (2017), प्रबंध निदेशक, बिहार शहरी आधारभूत संरचना विकास निगम लिमिटेड (बुडको), पटना का निदेशक, निःशक्तता, समाज कल्याण विभाग के पद पर पदस्थापन तथा संयुक्त सचिव, समाज कल्याण विभाग का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
13	2630 / 12.02.2025	श्री अभय झा, भा०प्र०से० (2017), प्रबंध निदेशक, बिहार राज्य पाठ्य पुस्तक प्रकाशन निगम लिमिटेड, पटना का संयुक्त सचिव, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।

क्र. सं.	अधिसूचना संख्या/तिथि	संबंधित अधिकारी की प्रोन्नति, पदस्थापन तथा अतिरिक्त प्रभार
14	3584 / 01.03.2025	श्री निर्मल कुमार, भा०प्र०से० (2011). सचिव, बिहार राज्य विश्वविद्यालय सेवा आयोग, पटना का नगर आयुक्त, सासाराम नगर निगम, रोहतास के पद पर पदस्थापन।
15	3585 / 01.03.2025	श्रीमती साहिला. भा०प्र०से० (2018). संयुक्त सचिव, आपदा प्रबंधन विभाग, बिहार, पटना का निदेशक, प्राथमिक शिक्षा, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
16	4469 / 11.03.2025	श्री निर्मल कुमार, भा०प्र०से० (2011), नगर आयुक्त, सासाराम नगर निगम, रोहतास का प्रबंध निदेशक, बिहार राज्य बीज निगम लिमिटेड, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
17	4898 / 18.03.2025	श्री नवदीप शुक्ला, भा.प्र.से. (2013), निदेशक, पशुपालन, बिहार, पटना को प्रबंध निदेशक, बिहार राज्य शैक्षणिक आधारभूत संरचना विकास निगम लिमिटेड, पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
18	6636 / 13.04.2025	श्रीमती हरजोत कौर बम्हरा, भा.प्र.से. (1992). अपर मुख्य सचिव, समाज कल्याण विभाग का अपर मुख्य सचिव, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग के पद पर पदस्थापन।
19	6637 / 13.04.2025	श्री मिहिर कुमार सिंह, भा.प्र.से. (1993) अपर मुख्य सचिव, पथ निर्माण विभाग, बिहार, पटना को अपर मुख्य सचिव, उद्योग विभाग, बिहार, पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
20	6638 / 13.04.2025	डॉ. सफीना ए. एन. भा.प्र.से. (1997), अपर सदस्य राजस्व पर्षद, बिहार, पटना का प्रमण्डलीय आयुक्त, मगध प्रमण्डल, गया के पद पर पदस्थापन तथा अपर महानिदेशक, बिपार्ड, गया का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
21	6639 / 13.04.2025	श्री प्रेम सिंह मीणा, भा.प्र.से. (2000), प्रमण्डलीय आयुक्त मगध प्रमण्डल, गया का अपर सदस्य राजस्व पर्षद बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
22	6640 / 13.04.2025	श्रीमती बन्धना प्रेयषी, भा.प्र.से. (2003), सचिव, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग का सचिव, समाज कल्याण विभाग के पद पर पदस्थापन तथा प्रबंध निदेशक, बिहार राज्य महिला एवं बाल विकास निगम, पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
23	6641 / 13.04.2025	श्री कुन्दन कुमार, भा.प्र.से. (2004), स्थानिक आयुक्त, बिहार भवन, नई दिल्ली को प्रबंध निदेशक, आधारभूत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार-आइडा, पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
24	7040 / 21.04.2025	श्री कृष्ण कुमार, भा.प्र.से. (2017). संयुक्त सचिव, वाणिज्य-कर विभाग, बिहार, पटना का संयुक्त सचिव, पथ निर्माण विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
25	7041 / 21.04.2025	श्रीमती अनन्या सिंह, भा.प्र.से. (2020) का उप विकास आयुक्त-सह-मुख्य कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी, जिला परिषद, औरंगाबाद के पद पर पदस्थापन।
26	7435 / 26.04.2025	श्री विनोद सिंह गुंजियाल, भा.प्र.से. (2007), सचिव, मद्य निषेध, उत्पाद एवं निबंधन विभाग, बिहार, पटना का सचिव, निर्वाचन विभाग-सह- मुख्य निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी, बिहार पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
27	7436 / 26.04.2025	डॉ. एन. सरवण कुमार, भा.प्र.से. (2000), प्रधान सचिव, खाद्य एवं उपभोक्ता संरक्षण विभाग, बिहार, पटना का अपर सचिव स्तर एवं वेतनमान में उपाध्यक्ष, दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकार के पद पर प्रतिनियुक्ति।

क्र. सं.	अधिसूचना संख्या / तिथि	संबंधित अधिकारी की प्रोन्नति, पदस्थापन तथा अतिरिक्त प्रभार
28	7437 / 26.04.2025	श्री केशव कुमार पाठक, भा.प्र.से. (1990), अध्यक्ष-सह-सदस्य, राजस्व पर्षद, पटना की अपर सचिव, (बाद में सचिव स्तरीय घोषित) मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय, भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली के पद पर प्रतिनियुक्ति।
29	7534 / 28.04.2025	श्री चैतन्य प्रसाद, भा.प्र.से. (1990), मुख्य जांच आयुक्त को अध्यक्ष-सह-राजस्व पर्षद, बिहार, पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
30	7535 / 28.04.2025	डॉ. बी. राजेन्दर, भा.प्र.से. (1995). अपर मुख्य सचिव, सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग को महानिदेशक, बिहार लोक प्रशासन एवं ग्रामीण विकास संस्थान-बिपार्ड का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
31	7536 / 28.04.2025	श्री एच. आर. श्रीनिवास, भा.प्र.से. (1996) का प्रधान सचिव, पिछड़ा वर्ग एवं अति पिछड़ा वर्ग कल्याण विभाग, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
32	7537 / 28.04.2025	श्री पंकज कुमार, भा.प्र.से. (1997), प्रधान सचिव, लोक स्वास्थ्य अभियंत्रण विभाग को प्रधान सचिव, खाद्य एवं उपभोक्ता संरक्षण विभाग / प्रबंध निदेशक, बिहार राज्य खाद्य एवं असेैनिक आपूर्ति निगम, पटना के अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
33	7538 / 28.04.2025	श्री नर्मदेश्वर लाल, भा.प्र.से. (1998), प्रधान सचिव-सह-खान आयुक्त, खान एवं भू-तत्व विभाग, बिहार, पटना का प्रधान सचिव, लघु जल संसाधन विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
34	7539 / 28.04.2025	श्री अजय यादव, भा.प्र.से. (2005), सचिव, शिक्षा विभाग का सचिव, मद्य निषेध, उत्पाद एवं निबंधन विभाग के पद पर पदस्थापन। वह सचिव, शिक्षा विभाग एवं अतिरिक्त प्रभार के पदों पर बने रहेंगे।
35	7540 / 28.04.2025	श्री दिवेश सेहरा, भा.प्र.से. (2005). सचिव, अनुसूचित जाति एवं अनुसूचित जनजाति कल्याण विभाग का सचिव सह खान आयुक्त, खान एवं भू-तत्व विभाग के पद पर पदस्थापन तथा प्रबंध निदेशक, बिहार राज्य खनिज विकास निगम लि., पटना / प्रबंध निदेशक, बिहार राज्य खनन निगम लि., पटना के अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
36	7541 / 28.04.2025	श्री संदीप कुमार आर. पुडकलकट्टी, भा.प्र.से. (2006), सचिव, लघु जल संसाधन विभाग, बिहार, पटना का सचिव, परिवहन विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
37	7542 / 28.04.2025	श्री मनोज कुमार, भा.प्र.से. (2007), सचिव, पिछड़ा वर्ग एवं अतिपिछड़ा वर्ग कल्याण विभाग, बिहार, पटना का सचिव, पंचायती राज विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
38	7543 / 28.04.2025	श्रीमती रचना पाटिल, भा.प्र.से. (2010), विशेष सचिव सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग, बिहार, पटना को अपर महानिदेशक, बिपार्ड, पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
39	7544 / 28.04.2025	श्री राजेश्वर प्रसाद सिंह, सेवानिवृत्त भा.प्र.से. (2007), सदस्य, बिहार तकनीकी सेवा आयोग पटना को अध्यक्ष, बिहार तकनीकी सेवा आयोग, पटना का प्रभार।

□ □



Photo Gallery

KIYG (4-15 May, 2025)



Kabaddi Match at Rajgir Sports Complex

KIYG (4-15 May, 2025)



Judu Match at Gyan Bhawan, Patna

Bird at Water Tap



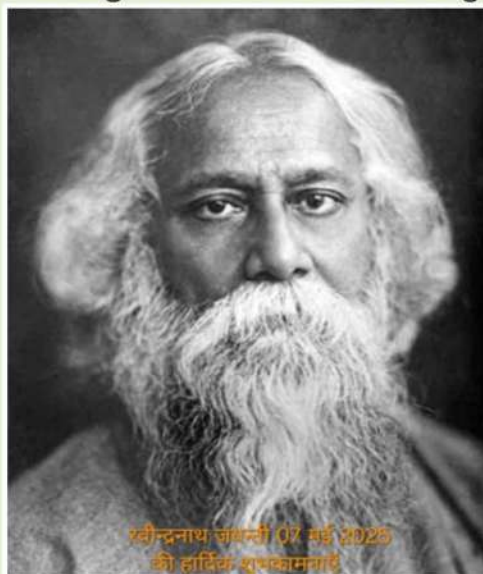
Balancing on its wings for a trickle.

Historic Prison



Gaya Central Jail where Baikunth Shukla was hanged

Homage to Rabindranath Tagore



On his Jayanti on 7 May 2025



1955 postage ticket of Pakistan doesn't show Kashmir as part of its territory.

Photo Gallery

HAPPINESS



Painting shows a poor family members along with their dog sleeping on an old cot, one leg of which supported by two bricks, an umbrella stretched to protect from leakage of rainwater and their Cock giving security cover!

QUIRK OF FATE



Scorpio, taking a Goat for sacrifice, crashes into River, killing the occupants. The Goat survives.

AIR SHOW AT PATNA



BY IAF SURYA KIRAN TEAM

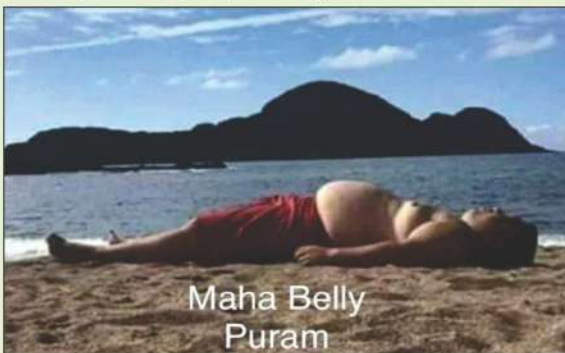
When your body is perfectly in tune with Nature!

AIR SHOW AT PATNA



BY IAF SURYA KIRAN TEAM

Launch of Prayaas-1 of 25 on 30 March



Maha Belly
Puram

Perfect match between the Silhouette of a Man's Body and a Mountain Range in background.
(Photo sent by JRK Rao)



In IAS Bhawan. (L-R) S Siddharth, NVijaya-lakshmi, RU Singh (Principal Editor), VS Dubey (Chief Guest), Ashok Choudhary, SS Thakur, Surendra Pd Sinha, Dipak Kumar Singh (Secretary)

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