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Editorial

Dear Colleagues,

The Clock of Time runs incessantly, and here comes the happy occasion to place before you this 40-page Prayaas for Oct-Dec quarter of 2025.



Thanks to the Secretary, Dipak Kumar Singh (1992), who has changed the face and facilities in the IAS Bhawan. The current Quarter has been full of activities. His final gift is the Diwali Milan-2025. Thereafter, he has helped me in finalising the contents of the current issue of Prayaas. His successor, Sanjay Kumar Singh (2007) will surely keep up the tempo.

On October 2, 2025 when the nation celebrated the Jayanti of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri, a renowned exponent of Banaras Gharana, Padma Vibhushan Pt Chhanulal Mishra passed away. It is a delight to listen to Chaiti, Thumri, Dadra, Kajri, etc. enchantingly sung by him.

In October 2025, death also took away from our midst my batch-mate, NK Singh IPS on the 5th, Divesh Sehera's mother on the 10th and 'Angrejon ke Zamane ke Jaior' Asrani, on the 20th and, just a month later, the actor Dharmendra.

We wish best of health and happiness to Sunil Barthwal (1989) in his second innings after his illustrious career.

(RU Singh, IAS-Retd.)

Principal Editor

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Areaus 25-11-25

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



IAS BHAWAN

Photo Gallery

Bihar on the March

Photo sent by S Siddharth



Panoramic View of Vashali

Photo sent by Kumar Ravi



International Stadium at Rajgir

Annual General Meeting of IAS Association on 27 October, 2025

On the Dais in the AGM-2025



(L-R) Dipak K Singh (Secretary),
S Siddharth (President), RU Singh (IAS-Retd),
Mihir K Singh (VP), Abhay Jha are seen.

Audience in the AGM-2025



(R-L) Ms Harjot Kaur, AK Choudhary,
Ashok Chauhan, MA Ibrahimi & Ors

Welcome to 2024 Batch



CS, Pratyay Amrit presents Gift Pack



President, S Siddharth presents Gift Pack



Secretary, Dipak k Sing presents Gift Pack



Retd IAS, RU Singh presents Gift Pack

From Secretary's Desk

Dear Colleagues,



When I sit down to write my maiden musings as the Secretary of the IAS Association of Bihar, the first feeling that wells up in me is one of gratitude, immediately followed by the realisation of difficulty of a hand that has long-forgotten the art of penning creative couplets for arid and placid officialise, often shorn of any poetic devices.

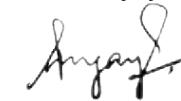
This October has been a season of gala and gossip in Bihar. In the precincts of the IAS Bhawan, members and their families participated in the Diwali Milan with great fervour and camaraderie, replete with light, music and cuisine to suit the occasion.

Across the State, the festival of light and Diyas lifted the spirits of the people and opportune lowering of GST rates brought twinkle into the eyes of the businessmen. Then came the ultimate religious carnival of Bihar, its USP, wafting on the lilting tunes of CHHATH now finding reverberance across globe with the ever-expanding outreach of the Bihari diaspora. The rag and flag, the wit and barbs, the soundbytes and reels and the din and dust of Assembly elections rustled past the streets of Bihar amidst this season of festivity. The unprecedented voter turnout sprang as a marker of rising sense of democratic duty of the citizenry bolstered by effective facilitation by mature electoral machinery. A loud cheer to all polling and police personnel, all DMs, SPs and the team CEO Bihar for conducting such a fair and peaceful poll.

Twenty one new members joined the cadre, nineteen of them graduating from the BAS and two from the non-SCS. Their induction will bring wealth of ground-level experience to the service and send waves of motivation to the State services. We welcome them all.

As I write this piece, preparations are afoot for swearing-in of the new Government. We are sure that the members of service will help the State achieve new heights under the aegis of the newly reinvigorated Government.

Sincerely yours,

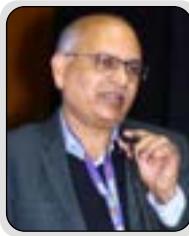


(Sanjay Kumar Singh)

Secretary, IAS Officers' Association, Bihar Branch



Nov 18, 2025



From The Editor's Desk

Dear Colleagues,

For all its obsessive fixation with formal rules and regulations, defined systems and procedures, bureaucracy is not bereft of humour. In a way, humour could well be an escape from the rigidities and stultifications of bureaucracy. Two, administration is eventually about people and wherever people are, they can't do without humour. Three, with the passage of time, rules and regulations turn obsolete in relation to changing circumstances and their obsolescence-induced absurdity engenders humour. Four, hierarchically arranged positions - because they are manned by democratically minded people at various levels of freedom - interact uncertainly with each other and humour follows in its wake. Five, humour could be a way to humanise a structure that is mechanically designed. Six, humour together with gossip and grapevine could be an indicator of the health or otherwise of organisations. It is a safety valve as also a barometer of what concerns and preoccupies people.

In the bureaucratic setting, humour takes many hues. One instance relates to interminable processes. The use of technology in administration in a big way is a fertile ground for humour: 'Technology has helped us get rid of all the administrative red tape, now the mess is all digital.' The relationship between the Boss and the subordinate has led to many humorous takes: Once a subordinate had a bad case of Dengue and he needed the transfusion of blood platelets of a rare group. His friends ran helter-skelter but to no avail. The subordinate suggested to his friends to approach his boss for the same. His friends wondered, "Are you sure your boss has the same blood group?" "No", replied he "but then he has sucked so much of my blood."

The way files move. Exasperated with the turgid movement of files, Lord Curzon would express his frustrations, "Round and round, like the diurnal revolution of the earth, went the file, stately, solemn, sure and slow."

Difficult to locate, much more difficult to understand and impossible to conclusively pin them down, files are the reasons an office exists. In the noting side of a file, a subordinate scribbles '*Bhavdiya*' which better befits a wedding invitation card. Again, seeking some '*Margdarshan*' as if it were not an office but some ashram with a Baba privy to all the secrets of the universe. On a note of utter disgust and unwilling to be likened to Babas whose credentials are seriously suspect, superiors doodle on the file that their salary is hardly more than that of the subordinate so they are in no position to give *Margdarshan*. Humour in the bureaucratic setting came for slick treatment in BBC-produced '*Yes Minister*'. Newly inducted Cabinet Minister for Administrative matters thinks that he can make some transformational changes but it is easier said than done. Appleby - his Permanent Secretary - is apparently deferential towards the new minister but he is all status quo. The result is laughter riot. Sample this from Appleby. "If you are going to do this damn silly thing, don't do it in this damn silly way."

Inter-services humour is again extremely common. The one between Generalists and Specialists takes the cake. To quote Colin C. Williams, "Any idiot can build a bridge that stands, but it takes an engineer to build a bridge that barely stands. Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited."

Here is another one about tax officials. When tax officials were sent to join a Yoga training class to improve their spiritual and emotional health, the Yoga teacher started with "*Sarve bhavantu sukhinah, sarve santu niramaya*" and tax officials immediately rushed out to survey all those who were happy and healthy.

On a more serious note, as society becomes less hierarchical and more egalitarian, as mimetic desires become more homogeneous and as bureaucracy seeks to grapple with new forces, humour - amidst all sorts of anxieties - is here to stay. Rightly so, as Oscar Wilde would remind, "Humanity takes itself too seriously. It is the world's original sin. If the caveman had known how to laugh, History would have been different."

Editorially yours

(Sanjay Kumar)

November 13, 2025



1858

[Part-3]

Excerpts from 'Memoirs of a Bengal Civilian'

– John Beames
(1837-1902)



The Last Phase in Calcutta and Departure for Gujrat in the Punjab:

With old Sir Richard Birch, who returned to Calcutta with the Viceroy (as the Governor-General was now for the first time called), I soon became a favourite. He was a large, fair-haired man, very stout and unable, from an old wound, to ride or walk. I used to go and sit with him of an evening while his wife and daughters went for their drive, and I learnt a great deal about the upper provinces from his conversation.

Elliot had left Calcutta and gone up-country in November 1858, and I now longed to go too. During December 1858 and January 1859 I worked hard and got a Degree of Honour in Hindi with a prize of Rs 800 (80 pounds). My father, though sensible of the value of the medal and prize, and rather hoping that I should throw over Ellen for the daughter of a General and K.C.B., had constantly urged me to try and get away from Calcutta, and so had Ellen. Elliot's letters from his new district were full of the charm of mofussil life, and in such a circumstance, I finally resolved to stay no longer. I might have stayed and gone in for higher honours still, but I was getting rather tired of the aimless existence and as such was determined to bring it to a close. So I reported that I did not wish to go in for any more honours and wished to join my district. In a few days I got orders to go to Benares and report myself there, but before I could start I received fresh orders countermanding the previous ones and directing me to proceed at once to Lahore and report myself to the Chief Commissioner of the Punjab.

As the time for my departure drew nigh, Mrs Howe, who had wept over Elliot when he went away, wept over me also. She

had formed the idea of marrying 'dear Mr Elliot' to one of her daughters, Sophie; and 'dear Mr Beames' to another, Nellie. But as both Elliot and I persisted in leaving Calcutta before those young ladies, who were then at school in England, could arrive, this plan broke down. She was none the less practically kind to both of us, and kept a small army of tailors at work in her veranda on my wardrobe. As we had clean clothes on every day - clean white duck trousers and coats or jackets, shirts, drawers, banians and socks - our stock of clothes in those days had to be very extensive. Mrs Howe also laid in abundant stores for my use on my journey. Calcutta people then, as now, had an idea that the whole of India except Calcutta was a vast, howling wilderness where none of the provisions required by Europeans were procurable. Acting under her advice I laid in so large a stock of provisions that I had been months at my station in the Punjab before I got through them. Bottled beer, brandy, sherry, tinned meats, jams, marmalade, biscuits, sauces, tea, sugar and numerous other things were bought and packed. I engaged a *dak gari* from Raniganj to Lahore, bought a pistol and some cartridges and engaging an up-country bearer recommended by Sir Richard Birch, stood ready to start.

My last evening in Calcutta, I spent at the Birches'. After dinner the old man kindly wrote me several letters of introduction to high officials up-country, some of which were afterwards very useful to me. As the moment for saying good-bye arrived Lulu got very restless, and Thomas, who was as usual present, watched her closely. At last I

took my leave of the General and the ladies, and as I did so Lulu whispered, 'I will meet you in the veranda' and left the room. Thomas had already disappeared. In the carriage porch Lulu was waiting. She said, 'I could not bid you farewell before them all.' Taking both my hands in hers, she wrung them and sobbed out, 'Has it come to this - must we really part?' I was much moved at this, and I know not what I should have said or done, when suddenly Thomas emerged from the shadow of a pillar, uttered the word 'Harris' and vanished into the darkness again! Lulu flashed a glance of anger at him, wrung my hands once more and dashed away. I never saw her again. Many years afterwards a man who knew her well told my wife and me that she was a notorious flirt, and that it was obvious to all Calcutta society that she was trying hard to catch me - a rising young Civilian being preferable to a Captain in the Haidarabad contingent. People were, he said, very much amused, at my evident unconsciousness of all Lulu's wiles. Poor Lulu! She was very beautiful, very clever and very accomplished. I cannot bear to think she was a hypocrite. I was never in the least in love with her; I liked her very much as a companion and I used to write frankly to men about her, and talk about Ellen to her. I suppose I was a very green, conceited young prig in those days. I heard afterwards that she married Captain Baker, had two children and died after a very brief married life. The next morning 12 February 1859 I left Calcutta by train for Raniganj. I had spent eleven months there, an idle, happy time; not doing much good, nor much evil, beyond, as I discovered afterwards, overdrawing my account with my bankers by some Rs 5,000 (500 pounds) and thus forming the nucleus of a debt which clung to me and harassed me throughout my career. As to the languages, which were the pretext for keeping us in Calcutta, I can honestly say that I knew very little more about them at the end of the eleven months than I did at the beginning.

The train started from Howrah terminus about nine o'clock in the morning and crawled slowly along all day reaching Raniganj -120 miles - at six in the evening; a speed of about fourteen miles an hour. It now (1896) does the distance in about half the time, and an ordinary English express would do it in two hours. Raniganj seemed to be a rambling, chaotic place, a mere jumble of rusty rails and dusty trucks. Here the railway left off, and after a dinner of sundry tough and tasteless dishes at a nightmare of half-finished and half-furnished rooms, sarcastically called the Hotel, I found my *dak gari* waiting for me. This vehicle, which I now beheld for the first time, was an oblong four-wheeled carriage - like a box upon wheels - with a sliding panel door on each side, windows and canvas shades all round it and a board behind for the syce.' It had once been painted green, but that was long ago. When I saw it, it had a general air of dust, rust, and various kinds of dirt and looked as if it might tumble to pieces at any moment. Inside there were two seats and the space between them, where in an ordinary carriage the legs of the passengers would go, was boarded over with a movable plank, forming a sort of well in which were stowed all my provisions. From the roof hung a network of cord, fastened at the four corners of the vehicle, and in this were oranges, soda-water, and wraps. In front under the driver's seat was a shelf which held books, a surahi of water, drinking-cup, purse and various odds and ends. The flat surface obtained by boarding over the well was, together with the seats, covered with a mattress on which my bearer spread a rug, a 'razai' and a pile of pillows. On the roof were my boxes amongst which the bearer dozed, curled up in a heap. I got in and lay down comfortably at full length, the bearer clambered to his airy perch, and the coachman to his, while a ragged, wiry, ungroomed pony was coaxed between the shafts by the united efforts of two or three ragged syces.



— Part-4 To be continued in the next Issue



Article 21 of the Constitution of India: The Evolution of the Fundamental Right to Life and Decent Living

Article 21 of the Constitution of India declares: “No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.”

At first glance, the text of Article 21 seems narrowly framed, limiting itself to protection from arbitrary deprivation of life and liberty by the state. Yet, over the decades, the Supreme Court of India has breathed life into this provision, transforming it into the fountainhead of a wide spectrum of fundamental rights. Today, Article 21 is not merely about physical survival but about living with dignity, decency, and meaningful fulfilment.

This transformation was neither immediate nor straightforward. It is the product of judicial creativity, constitutional dynamism, and socio-political realities that pressed the courts to expand the scope of rights to meet the aspirations of a changing society. The story of Article 21 is thus the story of India's constitutional jurisprudence itself - a journey from textual rigidity to purposive liberalism.

This essay traces the evolutionary process of Article 21's interpretation by the Supreme Court, highlighting landmark judgments, doctrinal shifts, and the emergence of a rights-based framework that redefines “life” as encompassing all that makes existence worthwhile.

Phase I: Narrow Interpretation and Formalism

AK Gopalan vs State of Madras (1950 AIR 27, SCR 88).

In the early years of constitutional interpretation, the judiciary adopted a literal and compartmentalised reading of fundamental rights. In A.K. Gopalan v. State of Madras (1950), the petitioner challenged his preventive detention under the Preventive Detention Act, 1950, arguing that it violated Articles 19 (freedom of movement) and 21. The Supreme Court upheld the detention, holding that Article 21 merely required “procedure established by law” and did not import substantive due process. The Court rejected the argument that the procedure must be “fair, just, and reasonable.” Instead, as long as a law existed and was followed, deprivation of life or liberty was constitutionally valid. The Gopalan judgment reflected judicial conservatism: it insulated legislative action from searching review under Article 21, reduced the scope of judicial intervention, and confined rights within their textual boundaries.

Phase II: The Turning Point –

Maneka Gandhi and the Broadening of Article 21.

RC Cooper vs Union of India

(1970 AIR 1970 SC 564, [1970] 40 COMPCAS 325 (SC),
(1970) 1 SCC 248, [1970] 3 SCR 530)

The first crack in the Gopalan framework appeared in RC Cooper vs Union of India (1970) (the Bank Nationalisation Case), where the Court adopted a doctrine of overlapping rights. It held that fundamental rights were not watertight compartments;

state action could simultaneously violate Articles 19, 21, and others.

Maneka Gandhi vs Union of India

(1978 AIR 1978 SC 597,

(1978) 1 SCC 248, [1978] 2 SCR 621)

The real transformation came with *Maneka Gandhi vs Union of India* (1978), which is widely regarded as the watershed moment in Article 21 jurisprudence. *Maneka Gandhi*'s passport was impounded by the government "in public interest" without being given reasons.

The Supreme Court held that:

1. "Procedure established by law" under Article 21 must be fair, just, and reasonable, not arbitrary or oppressive.
2. Articles 14, 19, and 21 are interlinked; any law depriving liberty must pass tests of reasonableness, equality, and fairness.
3. The right to travel abroad is part of "personal liberty."

By reading substantive due process into Article 21, the Court fundamentally altered its scope. *Maneka Gandhi* overturned *Gopalan*'s restrictive approach and created a foundation for expansive judicial creativity.

Phase III: Expansion of "Life" into the Right to Dignity and Decent Living

After *Maneka Gandhi*, the Court began to interpret "life" under Article 21 as something more than mere existence. The term came to mean a life of dignity, with all that makes life meaningful.

Francis Coralie Mullin vs Union Territory of Delhi

(1981 AIR 746, 1981 SCR (2) 516).

The Court held that the right to life includes the right to live with dignity and all that goes along with it - adequate nutrition, clothing, shelter, facilities for reading, writing, and expressing oneself.

Olga Tellis vs Bombay Municipal Corporation

(1985 AIR 180, 1985 SCR SUPL. (2) 51)

Known as the "pavement dwellers' case," the Court recognised that the right to livelihood is an integral part of the right to life. Eviction without rehabilitation would deprive dwellers of their livelihood and, thus, of life itself.

Bandhua Mukti Morcha vs Union of India

(1984 AIR 802, 1984 SCR (2) 67)

The Court extended Article 21 to cover the rights of bonded labourers, interpreting life to mean not just animal existence but freedom from exploitation and inhuman working conditions.

People's Union for Democratic Rights vs Union of India

(1982 AIR 1473, 1983 SCR (1) 456)

In this case concerning labour rights during the Asian Games, the Court reiterated that the right to life includes protection against exploitation and the right to live with dignity under humane working conditions.

Through these cases, Article 21 became the bedrock for socio-economic rights

jurisprudence in India, moving beyond civil liberties into the terrain of welfare and social justice.

Phase IV: Right to Health, Education, and Environment

Consumer Education and Research Centre vs Union of India

(1995 AIR 922, 1995 SCC (3) 42)

The Court held that the right to health and medical care is a fundamental right under Article 21, extending to safe working conditions and medical attention for workers.

Paschim Banga Khet Mazdoor Samity vs State of West Bengal

(1996 SCC (4) 37, JT 1996 (6) 43, AIR 1996 SUPREME COURT 2426)

Failure to provide timely medical treatment by a government hospital was held to violate Article 21. The Court declared the state's duty to preserve life a constitutional obligation.

Unni Krishnan vs State of Andhra Pradesh

(1993 AIR 2178, 1993 SCR (1) 594)

The Court read the right to education as implicit in Article 21, particularly for children up to the age of 14 years. This interpretation later influenced the insertion of Article 21A through the 86th Constitutional Amendment, making free and compulsory education a fundamental right.

Subhash Kumar vs State of Bihar (1991) and MC Mehta Cases

(1991 AIR 420, 1991 SCR (1) 5)

The Court recognised the right to a wholesome environment as part of the right to life. Pollution, environmental degradation, and ecological imbalances threaten the quality of life and hence fall within Article 21's protection.

Phase V: Privacy, Autonomy, and Contemporary Rights

Kharak Singh vs State of Uttar Pradesh 1962

(1963 AIR 1295, 1964 SCR (1) 332)

Initially, the Court rejected a broad right to privacy under Article 21, though it struck down domiciliary visits at night as unconstitutional.

Govind vs State of Madhya Pradesh

(1975 AIR 1975, SC 1378, 1975 CRILJ 1111)

The Court cautiously recognised a limited right to privacy as part of personal liberty, subject to reasonable restrictions.

Justice KS Puttaswamy vs Union of India

(Delivered on 18th July, 2017, website of Supreme Court of India)

In a landmark nine-judge bench judgment, the Supreme Court unequivocally recognised privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21. The Court declared privacy intrinsic to dignity, autonomy, and liberty, protecting citizens against intrusive state action. This judgment opened avenues for safeguarding digital rights, bodily autonomy, reproductive rights, and sexual orientation under the umbrella of Article 21.

Phase VI: Expanding Horizons of Decent Living

The Supreme Court has, over time, read into Article 21 numerous rights that make up the constituents of a dignified existence. These include:

1. Right to shelter — Chameli Singh vs State of U.P. (1996 2SCC549).
2. Right to reputation - State of Bihar vs Lal Krishna Advani (2003), delivered on 16th September, 2003, website of Supreme Court of India.
3. Right against sexual harassment - Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan. URT 3011).
4. Right to speedy trial — Hussainara Khatoon vs State of Bihar (1979 AIR 1369, 1979 SCR (3) 532).
5. Right to legal aid — MH Hoskot vs State of Maharashtra (1978 AIR 1548, 1979 SCR (1) 192).
6. Right to die with dignity (passive euthanasia) — Common Cause vs Union of India (2018 AIR 2018 SC 1665).
7. Rights of prisoners - Sunil Batra vs Delhi Administration (1978 1978 AIR 1675, 1979 SCR (1) 392,).

Each of these judgments expanded the scope of Article 21, showing that the right to life evolves with society's needs and conceptions of dignity.

The expansion of Article 21 has been widely celebrated as judicial creativity in service of justice. It has allowed courts to deliver social and economic entitlements without waiting for legislative action. However, it has also raised concerns:

- a. Judicial Overreach: Critics argue that the Court has ventured into legislative and executive domains, raising separation-of-powers issues.
- b. Enforceability: Many socio-economic rights read into Article 21 remain under-implemented due to lack of state capacity and resources.
- c. Uncertainty: The ever-expanding scope of Article 21 makes it difficult to set boundaries, risking dilution of judicial authority.

Yet, despite these criticisms, the transformative interpretation of Article 21 has become central to Indian constitutionalism, aligning law with the Directive Principles and international human rights commitments.

From Gopalan to Puttaswamy, Article 21 has undergone a radical transformation - from a narrow procedural safeguard to the very heart of the Constitution's rights framework. Today, it stands for the principle that life is not mere animal existence but a meaningful, dignified living with access to all conditions that make it worthwhile: health, education, livelihood, environment, privacy, and dignity.

The Supreme Court's interpretative journey reflects both constitutional dynamism and the pressing demands of Indian society. By judicial innovation, Article 21 has become the source of innumerable rights, ensuring that the Indian Constitution remains a living document responsive to the needs of its people.

As the challenges of the 21st century - technological surveillance, climate change, socio-economic inequality - intensify, Article 21 will continue to be the touchstone for balancing state power with individual dignity. Its journey so far affirms that the Constitution's promise is not static but an evolving guarantee of a life of decency and dignity for every citizen.





Swimming Tigers!

A Judge of the Calcutta High Court staying in the Hazaribagh Circuit House for the Puja vacation in 1982 rushed breathlessly to the Deputy Commissioner's residential office late one evening in panic to say that he had seen a tiger pouncing on a cow. I was in Hazaribagh in 1975-76 and again from 1981 to 1983 but was never fortunate enough to see a tiger in the then luxuriant Hazaribagh National Park or even a leopard on any drives in the district.

My first tiger sighting in the wild was in the Sundarbans in December 2012. Before going there I read Amitav Ghosh's gripping novel *The Hungry Tide*. It added an additional dimension to that trip. Our large group of nature-lovers was in two boats. The tiger was sitting behind some mangrove bushes. However, some ladies in our group shouted so loudly in their excitement that the tiger retreated into the jungles.

Our second boat searched fruitlessly and even doubted our sighting till we showed them the photographs. Sundarbans tigers are the best swimmers in this species but that was our only sighting with no swimmers. They also drink saline water in the delta distributaries. Sundarbans is also famous for its large variety of Kingfishers, and we saw most of them.



A notable feature of the trip was the delicious food served both on the boat and in our homestay, especially tiger prawns in unlimited quantity. In those days there was no electricity on Bali Island. Generators were switched on for two hours in the evening and early morning to charge our camera batteries. We had *Kahani*-style running hot water with "Chhotu" running to our rooms with a bucket of hot water when asked.

A brief trip to Ranthambore in early 2013 was as the end of the name suggests. My next tiger sightings were in two trips to Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserves in May 2013 and February 2014 with tigers literally brushing past our safari Gypsies. I was so excited that I forgot to reduce the zoom and could capture only a part of the head in one shot! Sightings galore in both trips!

This was followed by tiger sightings, including one fording a stream, in Corbett Tiger Reserve in March 2023 after a gap of almost 10 years.

I spent the summer of 2024 visiting several Tiger Reserves in Madhya Pradesh. Poor sightings in Panna were followed by no sighting in Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve. My companions were convinced that my *karma* was jinxed because those in the other safari vehicle were regularly seeing tigers including with their cubs. In fact, in the following trip to Bandhavgarh they were planning to "accidentally" lock me in my

room for the afternoon safari after the morning drew a blank for my vehicle while, as usual, the other group had splendid views including of a tiger, appropriately named Pujari, emerging from a dip and “praying” – raised on its hindlegs it was clawing a tree. I got wind of the plot and forewent my siesta after lunch, alert for the slightest sound of footsteps outside my door. The jinx was partly broken that afternoon when we did see a beautiful tigress resting in the shade. This was ascribed to the good *karma* of others in my group! Later, my good *karma* surfaced with a tiger walking, its tail raised, straight towards us – what they call “a head-on view”!

Kanha proved even luckier. Apart from several tigers lolling in different ponds to beat the heat, we saw a young female cub searching anxiously for her mother. This was followed by my first unforgettable sight of a young male leaping on to higher ground.

By then I had enough of tigers though to some that may sound strange. What put me off was the way we tourists and our vehicles hem the animals in leaving them no space to cross the road. Many drivers and guides also collaborate in this unethical behaviour in the hope of a handsome tip. All our remonstrations fell on deaf ears.

Nostalgia and the charm of the mangroves drew me back to the Sundarbans in February this year (2025). I read *The Hungry Tide* again. After boarding our boat, “Shardul” (Tiger), at Gosaba jetty we meandered slowly through the various channels in the serene mangroves while heading towards our lodge, scouring the banks to see various birds. Again, the local food served on board was delicious. Bali Island now had electricity. Bathrooms were equipped with geysers, so we had running hot water. Standby generators ensured that we had light in the evenings if the power failed.

Day 2: A good breakfast was followed by seeing several varieties of Kingfishers. A rare bird call was heard and our group leader and guide started scanning the foliage on the banks. It was repeated. Thanks to them we too were able to spot the very rare Mangrove Pitta. Though quite easy to see during the monsoons, it is next to impossible to view it at other times. Another extremely lucky sighting for this season was the Ruddy Kingfisher. Our guide surmised that the recent storms had brought them out of the jungle.

We spotted some more birds and then went to the open lower deck with our boat manoeuvring near the banks to give us close ups of the abundance of Mudskippers on the mudflats. Our guide became very alert and didn't let us tarry too long. Sundarbans tigers are maneaters and the lower deck when near the bank would make us easy prey. One jump was all that was needed.

Mid-morning ennui set in with many catching a brief nap. A storm loomed on the horizon over the Bay of Bengal. Our ever-vigilant Boat Pilot, Anjan, keeping a watch on the route as well as other boats and the banks, suddenly jolted everyone awake! Shouting, “Bagh!” He revved the engine. The boat picked up speed. Far in the distance we could see two heads in the water, one much smaller than the other. Our binoculars and zoom lens trained on them revealed a tigress swimming across the channel with her cub following. Right from cub stage, Sundarbans tigers become habituated to swimming and become the strongest swimmers among the various tiger species because of this.

The storm hit us hard. Regardless of the fierce wind and rain, all of us crowded

along the upper deck railing watching the pair swim across the broad estuary and reach the other side.

A little later mother and cub were spotted on the bank through the heavy downpour. Shutters whirred while the camera body and lens got soaked. Later, the rain lessened a bit, and we had a better view. The tigress was looking around and calling. Both were also soaking wet; so were we and shivering in the sudden cold but in the excitement of the moment it didn't matter. The adorable cub looked at us curiously.

Another boat came and ventured too close to them. The tigress and cub retreated. Our knowledgeable guide instructed our boat to retreat but remain in the area. This tigress had two cubs. The tigress had a kill on this bank and had gone to fetch her cubs. He surmised that the tigress and the female cub had swum across while the male cub, which was more adventurous, had remained behind. Her flehmen behaviour while calling indicated that she was trying to smell the whereabouts of the other cub. It was likely that she would return to bring the other cub to the kill. Our wait proved fruitful. The tigress and her cub swam back across the estuary.

We decided to leave the area so that the anxious mother could return to her kill with her hungry cubs without any further disturbance. Our guide informed another boat in another area with a professional camera crew about the sighting. They did, indeed, see the tigress swimming back across the estuary with both her cubs. They had very powerful zooms and were able to film them from a distance. A happy group gorged on the delicious lunch. Later in the evening, fortified by many cups of hot tea with hot pakodas to beat the chill, a delirious group returned to the lodge a bit late.

Many people have not sighted a tiger in the Sundarbans even in 17 trips. At the start of the trip I had little hope because after the first sighting over a decade ago, the odds were heavily stacked against seeing another tiger on my second trip. However, I kept this knowledge close to my chest lest my fellow group members lock me up below deck or, worse still, throw me overboard as tiger bait. I had never in my wildest dreams that I would see a tiger swimming across the broad Sundarbans estuary, a memory of a lifetime!

A month later, in March 2025, I was in the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, not so much to see a tiger but to refresh childhood memories of passing via Pilibhit in the train to Kathgodam. The main canal of the Sharda River descending from the Himalayas, passes through the Tiger Reserve. We saw a tiger chilling in the freshwater canal at the opposite end, then swim across!

It swam towards our side and rolled around in the grass like a puppy. Anticipating its next movement we raced to the other side. Sure enough, it swam back, lolled around a bit more and then disappeared into the jungle.

While a good guide increases the chances of spotting animals and birds, again, *karma*, I don't know whether of the others or mine, had favoured me! Another swimming tiger! A popular saying in our birders' group is, "Samay se pehle aur naseeb se zyada kisi ko kuchh nahin milta"; so true. One cannot ask for anything more ...

Human nature is greedy. Now the Amur Falcon beckons from Nagaland and the Shan (Snow Leopard) from Ladakh.





Trump Tariffs- Implications for India and the Global Trading System

Jayant Dasgupta
IAS (1981)



The highlight of the first year of Donald Trump's second presidency has almost exclusively been about US tariffs, imposed against friend and foe alike, and two other matters of a more personal nature. One, his late quest to get himself a Nobel Peace Prize in 2025 (for which nominations ended on 31 January 2025) and second, his claim to have brought to a quick end eight wars, including the India-Pak conflict in May 2025.

Trump Tariffs

2. The Trump tariff saga unfolded over several months from February 2025 onwards and nine months on, its last chapter is still to be written because negotiations are still continuing with India and China (where an uneasy truce has been put in place till 10th November 2026 only). The highest tariffs have been imposed against India and Brazil (50% each), Syria (41%), Myanmar and Laos (40%- both LDCs), Switzerland (39%), Canada and Mexico (35%- neighbours and close trading partners of the US, China (32%- after Trump-Xi meeting in Busan on 30 October 2025).

The possible reasons for imposition of differential tariffs

3. No expert or analyst has been able to pinpoint the exact reason for the imposition of tariffs by the Trump administration in 2025. However, if we glance at the interview given by President Trump in 1988 to Oprah Winfrey (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BJYbn4MppM>), when he had not even joined politics, we get to know how he viewed tariffs as a means to ensure "free trade" between the US and its trading partners. President Trump needs to be given credit for being consistent at least on one count- his views on tariffs have not changed at all.

4. Some of the other reasons which are likely to have contributed partially to the imposition of the tariffs are:- (a) the belief that raising tariffs would restore manufacturing in the US and would create jobs, a demand of the Make

America Great Again (MAGA) support base of Trump, (b) it would reduce the goods trade deficit of the US, (c) the additional tariff revenue collected by the US would help in reducing its public debt, (d) threats of imposing high tariffs with a negotiated reduction in the levels subsequently, would lead to extracting concessions from the others of guaranteed purchases of US oil/ defence equipment (e.g. the EU promise to buy \$ 750 billion worth of US oil and gas over the next 3 years) or of investing in the US (e.g. EU, Japanese and S.Korean promises of investing \$600 billion, \$550 billion and \$350 billion respectively) which would give a boost to manufacturing, (e) tariff threats could serve a political purpose of breaking up so called "anti-US" coalitions like the BRICS, which wanted "de-dollarisation" of global trade, (f) tariffs could also be used to browbeat countries like Brazil to provide better treatment to Trump friends like former President Bolsonaro, (g) some analysts have stated that singling out India for the 25% additional tariffs on account of buying Russian oil is motivated by the personal pique of Trump for not getting credit from India for stopping the India-Pak conflict in May 2025 and not being nominated by India for the Nobel Peace Prize, (h)last but not the least, tariffs would prevent the full utilisation of the huge additional capacities that China has built and help in keeping the US ahead in the race for global supremacy.

Irrationality of Trump tariffs

5. Trump's actions in imposing arbitrary and differential tariffs on different countries, have been found inconsistent or irrational on several counts, some of the important ones among them are as below.

6. First, the cornerstones of GATT 1947 (subsumed in the WTO in 1995) are the Bound Tariffs (Article 1) commitment of a member nation and the Most Favoured Nation treatment (Article 2) to all other WTO members. The first

one entails that a country will not exceed the tariffs for any product beyond its bound tariff commitment to the WTO. The Most Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment enjoins upon a country to provide the same tariffs to all members, other than through a Free/Preferential Trade Agreement or a generic concession to a group of countries (e.g. the Generalised System of Preferences, the Duty Free Quota Free access to LDCs). Trump's differential tariffs are a violation of both these foundational principles of the WTO.

7. Second, the initial reason advanced by the US was to compensate for the trade deficit in goods suffered by the US vis a vis another country, to calculate the level of "reciprocal tariffs" to be imposed. The flaw in this argument lies in the fact that the reciprocal tariffs imposed do not take into account the substantial services trade surplus which the US enjoys against many countries (not India though) as well as the repatriation of huge IPR royalties (e.g. in the case of Apple iphones, Microsoft software sales), dividends and profits earned by US companies in foreign countries (e.g. advertisement revenues earned by Google). Another weakness in this line of reasoning is the fact that Brazil, which has consistently been running a goods trade deficit against the US, has been slapped with the highest tariff of 50%. In Brazil's case, the tariffs have apparently been imposed because of three unrelated reasons- the unfair treatment being faced by the former President Bolsonaro at the hands of the current Lula government; Brazil's strong advocacy of coordinated action by BRICs members against the US tariffs; and President Lula's flat refusal to negotiate a trade agreement with the US to reduce the tariffs. A final argument against trying to compensate for the trade deficit by imposing tariffs is the fact that the US has been running trade deficits against almost all its major trading partners since the late 1970s because its manufacturing base has been shrinking steadily, especially in labour intensive low tech and medium tech industries.

8. Third, imposition of 25% additional tariffs against India (the second largest buyer) for buying Russian oil, which has not been imposed on China (the largest buyer) or Turkiye (the third largest buyer) or the EU (a significant buyer of Russian gas and oil put together). According to

the latest reports, Hungary (an EU member) has been exempted for one year from US sanctions for buying Russian oil from Rosneft and Lukoil. Another point to be noted is that the US is itself a significant buyer of an energy resource (uranium- to run its nuclear power plants) along with palladium (for catalytic converters and electronics) as well as fertilisers from Russia.

Implications for the multilateral trading order

9. The multilateral trading order, was a direct result of the experience of the bruising free-for-all trans-Atlantic trade war of the nineteen thirties and the post-war realisation among the western nations that a rules based trading system would not only increase trade among nations but also act as a positive inducement for peace and stability. As an outcome of the Bretton Woods Conference of 1944 (which also led to the setting up of the IMF and IBRD), the GATT was set up with effect from 1 January 1948 (with 23 founding members, including India) and led to progressive trade liberalisation through eight rounds of negotiations (including the Uruguay Round, which led to the transformation of the GATT into a permanent body called the WTO). The current membership of the WTO is 166.

10. World trade has grown by roughly 43 times since the establishment of the GATT (1950 to 2024). World trade values have increased by almost 382 times during this period. As of 2024, world trade volume and value have expanded 4% and 5% respectively, on average, since 1995 when the WTO was established (source: WTO).

11. The world's current MFN applied tariffs stand at an average of 8.8%. This is in contrast to the average effective post-Trump US tariffs at 15.8% as on 1 August 2025, compared to the pre-Trump levels of 2.3% (source: JP Morgan Global Research).

12. The current US tariffs and the way they have been applied in brazen violation of the WTO commitments of the US, bodes ill for the multilateral trading order, nurtured carefully over the past seven decades. Nobel prize winning economists like Charles Stiglitz and Paul Krugman, among others, have expressed the grim view that the Trump tariffs may signal the end of the current multilateral trading order. The existence of the GATT/WTO rules based framework has been credited as having

contributed significantly to the steady growth in world trade, which has in turn led to the growth of the world economy and the alleviation of poverty in many countries.

13. What makes the situation worse in the context of the WTO, is that the two tier dispute resolution mechanism of the WTO has been made completely non-functional by the US singlehandedly (first Trump administration), by blocking fresh appointments to the seven member Appellate Body (AB) of the WTO between 2017 and 2019, leading to the last member of the AB finishing her tenure in December 2019. President Biden (2021-24), also did not help matters by lifting the US veto and allowing the AB to be revived. He also did not roll back some of the tariffs imposed by Trump during his first term (2017-20) but retained them. Thus, seeking redress against the US tariffs by approaching the dispute settlement mechanism of the WTO, is no longer a viable option.

14. A silver lining in the clouds is the pending challenge to the tariffs before the US Supreme Court, as being beyond the jurisdiction of the Presidential powers. The Supreme Court hearing was concluded on 5th November 2025. The challenge basically questions the powers under the International Economic Emergency Powers Act 1977 of the US, under which most of the tariffs have been imposed. It needs to be noted that the US Supreme Court currently has a 6-3 majority of judges appointed by the Republican Presidents (some by Trump in his first stint) and even if the verdict goes against Trump, it has been surmised by some experts that Trump may take recourse to Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act 1962 or Section 122/ Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 to reimpose the tariffs, though all these provisions have some limitations.

Implications for India

15. Along with many other developing countries, India has also gained significantly from the multilateral trading order. The demise of the multilateral rules based system, as we know it today, will affect India quite badly. Unfortunately, India does not have strategic trading weapons like China, which has tightened

control over its rare earth magnet exports to the US and stopped imports of US soybeans completely since April 2025. This has compelled Trump to get into negotiations with China rather than carrying out his threats of imposing punitive tariffs.

16. The disappearance of the existing world trading order could potentially lead to the evolution of an unequal trading order, tilted in favour of the more powerful traders as well as retaliation by some countries (though this has not taken place till now). India is not in a position to retaliate against larger trading nations like the US, EU or China because it is dependent for its energy resources, capital goods and a whole host of raw materials and intermediate products along with its goods and services exports to these countries, in order to keep the wheels of its economy moving forward.

17. In view of the current state of play in global trade, a question is often asked as to what should India do to limit the damage and keep moving on its growth trajectory as before. Unfortunately, there are no easy answers to the question. However, what India undisputedly needs to do is to carry out the second level of reforms to diversify its product basket and penetrate new markets, reduce transaction costs and red tape, improve productivity and focus hugely on innovation to produce new and better products at competitive costs.

18. Another related question is also often raised as to how much should India concede to the US to get the 50% tariffs reduced. In this context, we have to bear in mind that whatever concessions we yield to the US, will be pocketed and are not going to be given up by the post-Trump administration. Also, some doom sayers had predicted that the US tariffs would have a strong adverse effect on our GDP growth. From the analyses emerging so far, this has not proved to be correct. Even though some labour intensive exports of ours to the US (e.g. textiles and clothing, leather, gems and jewellery) have been affected very badly leading to the laying off of tens of thousands of workers, we need to keep our long term perspective in sight and not make concessions to the US either under pressure or in a hurry.

*(The Author is former Ambassador / PR to the WTO)





The Living Word : Oral Traditions of Bihar

- Ms Ruby
IAS (2017)



Long before scripts were invented, Bihar was already speaking — through song, chant, and story. Its culture has been carried not just in stone or palm-leaf manuscripts, but in the living breath of oral tradition — in the melodies sung at dawn by farmers, the tales whispered by grandmothers, and the epics performed by village bards under moonlit skies.

The Songs that we Remember

Every season or event in Bihar has its own song — sohar for birth, sumangali for marriage, birha for separation, chhath geet for devotion, and kajri and ropni geet for the rains. These songs are not just expressions of emotion; they are the oral history of a people — carrying within them local dialects, women's voices, moral wisdom, and memories of changing times.

Women, in particular, have been the silent custodians of this oral culture. Through their songs, they recorded what history books never did — the textures of daily life, longing, and resilience.

A Bhojpuri sohar sung by women captures the essence of maternal blessing and divine grace:

Hamara janata babua GM hoihai, Na na i ta DM hoihai ho....

Such sohars are not just songs; they are joyful affirmations of hope and aspiration.

During Shravan, when clouds gather over the Ganga, the plaintive Kajri fills the air — a song of waiting and love:

“Ka karein koi sajni, sawan bhail are, Saiyan ghar na ailan...”

And from the dusty lanes of Bhojpur rises the eternal Birha, sung by men separated from their homes — a song of migration, pain, and patience:

“Bidesia mor saiyan gailan, kauno patiya na bhejlan, Tore bina hamar jeevan soon.”

Bihar's oral storytelling has always blurred the line between myth and memory. Bidesia, created by Bhikhari Thakur — often called the Shakespeare of Bhojpuri theatre — turned the migration of labourers into lyrical drama. The Paika nach, Launda naach, and Natua nach preserved humour, protest, and social commentary in their performances. The Katha Vachak and Maithili Panjikars kept alive the art of recitation and extempore narration, often fusing religion with philosophy.

In every district — from the ballads of Birsa Munda in south Bihar to the Mahishi Vidyapati geet of north — oral forms have kept the moral fibre of society intact. Raja Sahlesh ki katha, hirni-birni in the form of lok gatha continue to enrich our oral traditions.

Orality as Memory, Identity, and Resistance

What makes oral tradition remarkable is its democracy. It belongs to everyone. In times when literacy was a privilege, oral culture became the people's archive — ensuring that voices from the margins were heard. It carried satire against injustice, songs of labourers, and prayers of women.

Even today, folk singers and storytellers from Champaran, Gaya, and Madhubani use their art to raise awareness on education, health, and environment — proving that the oral tradition is not an antique but a living instrument of change.

Preserving the Living Word

The Directorate of Culture has taken steps to document and revitalize these traditions through cultural mapping, folk artist registries, and initiatives like Guru-Shishya Parampara Yojana. The aim is not merely to record the songs, but to ensure that they continue to be sung — by the next generation, in new voices and new contexts.

Conclusion: The Future of the Spoken Word

In a world dominated by screens, Bihar's oral legacy reminds us that the spoken word still holds power — to move, to teach, to unite. Its songs and stories have survived invasions, migrations, and modernity — because they are more than art; they are the collective heartbeat of the people.

As custodians of this heritage, our task is simple yet profound — to keep listening, recording, and nurturing the voices that have carried Bihar's soul across centuries. For as long as a grandmother hums a sohar or a village bard sings of Bidesia, the culture of Bihar will never fall silent.





VS Dubey, IAS-1966

Mr Vijay Shankar Dubey (b. 15 July, 1942) has a picturesque persona lined with brilliant academic attainments and an eventful bureaucratic career as an IAS officer of the Bihar Cadre even after retirement. I am indebted to him because he always gives me the respect due to an elder brother. Having post-graduated from the Allahabad University, I along with the UPians, V S Dubey, D P Maheshwari (1966) and Sheo Murti Rai (IPS-1966) formed a close-knit social group that flocked together and went to movies or restaurants jointly in our younger days.

VS Dubey has enviable academic record as he secured first class first position in MA from Allahabad University in 1962 getting a number of Gold Medals, worked as an Associate Professor in the Ancient History and Archaeology Department of AU from 1962 before joining the IAS in 1966.

In a bureaucratic career spanning 36 years, VS Dubey worked on various posts in Bihar and had a stint also as Joint Secretary to GOI in the Department of Coal. Like me, he worked also as Chairman of BPE in the rank of CS.

As for VS Dubey, I have been a close

witness to his prowess as a redoubtable civilian with unimpeachable integrity, admired not only by those who worked with him but also by those who watched him from the sidelines. He fully exemplifies the adage: 'A friend in need is a friend indeed'. There came a phase in which he could easily be identified by his wearing a half-sleeve white shirt even in

cold weather when others covered their bodies with woolens.

I am particularly privy to his performance in different capacities, though it was no secret to those who worked with him. A Few examples are:

(a) VS Dubey was the DM of Patna when violence broke out in Patna on 18 March 1974, in the initial

phase of JP-Agitation. His family lived in the Circuit House the rooms of which were ransacked by the rowdies and the family members hid themselves in the compound. The agitators burnt The Searchlight building on Budh Marg and crowds ran amuck here, there and everywhere. When a magistrate called Dubey on the walkie-talkie from a trouble spot, he did not ask a senior officer to visit the spot to tackle the situation, but the energetic DM himself rushed to the spot. This naturally filled



VS Dubey

the subordinates with a lot of self-confidence.

The situation was very tense on 19 March also and I, as Labour secretary had given option to my staff either to stay in office or go home. I was sitting with the Labour Commissioner, DP Maheshwari and another officer. In the late afternoon, we dispersed and I escorted DPM to his residence in Circuit House where his family also lived. When I found Mrs Dubey panicky, I reassured her that many heads would fall before any bodily harm was done to Duheyji. Then I walked to Sultan Palace (where I had worked as GM of BSRTC) across the road, borrowed a bicycle and cycled to my residence, A-3/5 on Bailey Road.

(b) Patna was visited by serious floods on 25 August 1975 due to a breach on the eastern Sone embankment. At that time I was Secretary of Urban Development Department and Dubey the DM of Patna. By the night there knee-deep water on the Baily Road in front of my residence at 7, Baily Road and waist-deep water at the Dak Bangalow-Fraser Road crossing. The condition was worse in Rajendra Nagar, Kankarbagh, Patliputra Colony and such low-lying areas. The condition became worse due to choking of drains. Dubey as DM played a key role in evacuating people, dropping of food packets from helicopters and pumping out flood waters to Purna and Ganga rivers. It took more than a month for the floods to recede.

(c) VS Dubey was appointed as Finance Commissioner in July 1995 where he discovered excessive withdrawals from the treasuries for beyond the budget of the AH Department. His actions culminated in ordering the DC of West Singhbhum, Amit Khare to file the first FIR on the

basis of excess withdrawals from Chaibasa treasury. The news of AH Scam thereafter spread like wild fire and many more FIRs were filed, which were investigated by the CBI under monitoring by two judges of the Patna High Court. Later, his forthright comments on the sequence of AH Scam came in crossfire.

It is relevant to mention that in November 1995, VS Dubey was appointed on deputation as Additional Secretary to GOI, but luckily he chose to continue as FC. Hypothetically, I surmise that had he gone to GOI in November, he would have had to answer questions later as to what he did to detect the AH Scam during his tenure as FC from July to November 1995!

(d) VS Dubey has the unique distinction of working as Chief Secretary of two States, Bihar and Jharkhand, created as a new State on 15 November, 2000. After retirement, he worked, from 5-8-2002 to December 2003, as Chairman of the State Advisory Committee constituted by GOI to finalise the Division of State level Cadres between the States of Bihar and Jharkhand.

(e) After retirement, VS Dubey was appointed as VC of Nalanda Open University where he effectively worked from 2003 to 2009 and set right the systems and procedures. During those days, he also additionally worked as Chairman of the Bihar State Administrative Reforms Commission and submitted a much acclaimed Report in 2006.

VS Dubey is remembered as a no-nonsense, kind-hearted officer with forthright views. He had suggested a seven-point progress agenda for the new Government that took office in 2005.





Ladakh Diary

Even as it was once almost inaccessible, Ladakh figures prominently on the itinerary of an increasing number of tourists from India and abroad. The defiant beauty of its barren landscape, unique flora and fauna, its clear blue skies, clear air, its cultural diversity- Ladakh beckons for more than one reason. It is a land 'where snow never melts and only corn ripens'- as a local saying goes.

Ladakh beckons:

My tryst with Ladakh came in May, 2005. Aboard Indian Airlines flight IC 447, the journey from Srinagar to Leh was captivating as the aeroplane flew over thick snow covered mountain range. At Leh airport, an official of the state tourism department received us. Before letting me know about the places to visit, she advised us to take continuous 24-hour rest to get acclimatised. The circuit House - made of wood - looked a very quaint structure. The temperature inside the room was sub-zero and we used heavy Razai to keep the wintry chill at bay. Sweet, milky tea provided much needed warmth. After our acclimatization complete, we ventured out to face the captivating beauty of Ladakh and fierceness of elements.

People, Culture and Public Administration:

Leh is a small town with a very visible Buddhist culture. Tourism constitutes the lifeline and most of the house owners convert a part of their homes into stay homes for tourists especially during tourism season. The 23rd May 2005 happened to be Buddha Purnima and it was a day of celebration all over Ladakh. The Buddhist Lamas organised special prayers at monasteries. Colourful cultural events were organised in which school children participated with gusto. Apart from the majority of Buddhists, Ladakh also has a sprinkling of Kashmiri Muslims and Hindus. It being a small place, most people seemed to know each other. At Restaurants, one can get a variety of dishes including Israeli dishes. As Israeli tourists visit Ladakh in large numbers, local restaurants make it a point to cater to their taste buds.



When I visited the office of Deputy Commissioner of Leh, I was surprised to know that DC - an officer of Kashmir Administrative Service - was managing his office from his family home at Srinagar. In fact, Ghulam Ali, PA to Dy Commissioner was managing the affairs of the district. Another PA - a Buddhist lady- seemed to be in control. Gazing at the succession board in the office of Dy Commissioner, I noticed that Mr SS Rizvi was Dy. Commissioner of Leh for about two years during 1976-78. He belongs to Patna and we are family friends. But what I must mention is that Leh Local Hill Area Development Council was functioning very effectively. We also came across

ecology and environment oriented organisations with their commitment to sustainable development.

Alok Kumar (IPS, 1997) SSP, Leh welcomed us for dinner at his residence. He belongs to Patna. His father Ram Chandra Prasad was an MLA from Rajgir and a Minister in the early 70s. It is impossible not to run into officers from Bihar holding important assignments across the country.

Iconic Buildings

Leh Palace was built in the late 16th Century by Singay Namgyal. It stands like a sentinel overlooking the town. Inside the building are old wall paintings depicting the life of Buddha. The Ladakhi Royal Family occupied the palace until the 1830s before they were exiled.

Thiksey Monastery has 12 storeys and consists of 8 temples with 250 resident lamas. It is full of statues, stupas, thangkas and Tantric wall paintings.

Shey Palace and Monastery is the summer palace of the erstwhile rulers of Leh. Built in 1620, it has the largest victory stupa and it is topped with pure gold. A spectacular double storeyed statue of Buddha Shakyamuni in a sitting posture leaves one breathless.

Leh mosque was built by Deldan Namgyal in the mid-17th century as a tribute to his Muslim mother. An exquisite work of Turko-Iranian architecture, it stands majestically in the main Bazar.

Pangong Tso:

On May 25, 2005, we left Leh at 7 AM in the morning. After a treacherous road journey along thick, snow peaked mountains, we arrived at Pangong Tso at about 2 PM. On the way we stopped at Karu to take tea. Pangs of hunger were tormenting us. Aloo Parathas from a Punjabi Dhaba with tea tasted very different that day. Between Karu and Pangong, the road was narrow and at frequent stretches, there was not even a single pillar. Sudden curves would remind one of Dostoyevki's 'death being a permanent probability.'

The deep blue water of the Pangong Lake offers a spectacular scene and it compensated for the risks undertaken in reaching there. The lake looks especially beautiful as the evening approaches. Its rich deep blue hue strikes the eye. As we reached, it was like a dream having come true. We took out our packed lunch, washed our hands in the lake and enjoyed the pleasure.



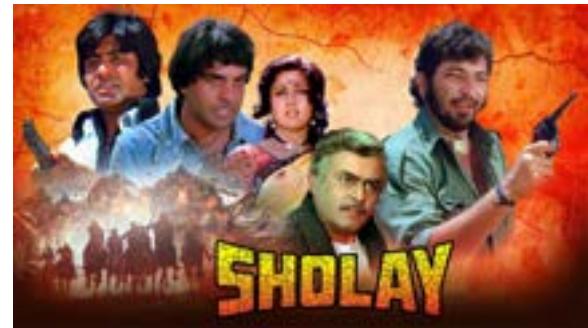


50 Years of 'SHOLAY' : From Disaster to Destiny

Sholay had created quite a pre-release buzz. Here was a brash young director, an ensemble cast, a new star on the firmament riding his Deewar success, and a scriptwriter duo beginning to create waves. Those were times of staggered releases, and a film was released in different territories at different times. Sholay was first released on 15th August, 1975 in the Bombay territory. Its premiere was held the evening before at Minerva theatre with a 35 mm print, as the 70 mm prints that had been procured and processed in London were not released by the Bombay customs on the orders of a senior but petty finance ministry bureaucrat who had a bone to pick with the Sippys.

The reactions at the Premiere show were far from encouraging. There were no whistles, no catcalls, no loud guffaws, no tears, and not even jeers; just an ominously silent audience. The next morning, reviews were mostly abrasive as both the industry and the trade pundits panned the film. The film was cruelly called "Chholey", and even worse, the story of three 'maharathis' and one 'chooha'. The Jai-Veeru friendship came in for a lot of criticism as being in bad taste with critics questioning the marriage proposal scene as the betrayal of one friend by another. The industry could also not make any head or tail of the handicapped Thakur and the silent Jaya, or the iffy romance between the Jaya-Amitabh pair. Amitabh's death at the end did not go down well, and at 3 hours and 40 minutes, the film was seen as interminably long. But the biggest barbs were reserved for the debuting Amjad Khan, who was brutally mocked for having a weak screen presence and an even weaker voice. KL Almadi writing in India Today called Sholay a 'dead ember' and 'a gravely flawed attempt'. Filmfare's Bikram Singh termed the film an unsuccessful grafting of a western on the Indian milieu. The trade papers were equally pessimistic of the film's prospects, with Trade Guide predicting a week after the film's release that Sholay would be a sad experience for distributors.

Meanwhile, audience response had at best been lukewarm. The seats were filling up, but there were hardly any takers for advance bookings during the first week. There were no tickets in black being sold during those initial days. The audience reaction mirrored that of the Premiere show, as it remained mostly silent during the screenings. The same story was repeated when the film was released in the Bangalore territory on 22nd August. There were calls to change the ending to show both the lead pairs walking off happily into the sunset. Worried confabulations took place between the director, his lead actors and the scriptwriters, but Salim-Javed stood firm, as they felt that the



lingering ache at the end was at the heart of the film, and any changes in the ending would damage the film's essence. By the beginning of the second week, almost everyone was reconciled to the film being a disaster.

Except the audience, that is. And the owner of Geeta theatre in Bombay who assured Ramesh Sippy that his film would certainly be a hit as for the first time in his life, he was seeing a drop in the sale of snacks and cold drinks during the interval. It appeared that the audience were so stunned by the film that they were taking time to process their feelings and their reactions, and therefore not leaving their seats at interval. Their silence was merely a reflection of how overwhelmed they were by the film.

By the middle of the second week, the tide had begun to turn. Riding on the strength of word of mouth, advance bookings were picking up, and people who had already seen the film once, having processed their emotions, were coming back for a repeat viewing. By the beginning of the third week, there were housefull signs over all theatres, and the advance booking line at Minerva stretched for more than a kilometer by the end of that week. The Rs 15 balcony tickets were now selling in black for as high as Rs 200, an unprecedented sum in those days. The audience was now laughing and crying along, anticipating and mouthing the dialogues as they were spoken on the screen. Polydor, who had the music rights of the film, quickly realised that the songs were not doing very well as the viewers were completely focused on the dialogues, and came out with a 58 minute long dialogue album. The album sold like hot cakes, and soon 'Kitne aadmi the' was resounding from transistors and tape recorders across the length and breadth of India. The 'chooha' of the film had become its USP. By the time Sholay was released in North India on 11th October, ten weeks after its initial release, it was already a blockbuster. It would go on to become arguably Bollywood's most loved film, and when adjusted for inflation, its most successful one as well, with its characters still being fondly remembered and its dialogues recounted with glee 45 years after the film's release.

Anupama Chopra recounts a particularly poignant story in her seminal 'Sholay - The Making of a Classic'. Several months after Sholay's release, Amjad Khan and Asrani were invited to inaugurate a studio in Gujarat. The studio was more than 40 kilometers away from the airport, and Amjad's son felt thirsty on the drive to the studio. They stopped at a ramshackle roadside stall selling cold drinks, biscuits and cigarettes. The stall was in a very remote location, with no habitation for miles around. The stall owner did not recognise the visitors, but while they were being served, a rickety gramophone in the shop crackled into life and 'Kitne aadmi the' blared across the shop. It was then, in the middle of nowhere, with his recorded voice booming around, that Amjad Khan sat by the side of the road and broke into uncontrollable tears.

The weight of being a part of history can indeed be overwhelming.

*

[Anand Madhukar, an incorrigible Bollywood Buff, is a member of Indian Railway Personnel Service, currently serving as Additional Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India.]





Delhi-catessen!

Delhi is a city where empires have risen and crumbled, yet their whispers still cling to the dust. For me, Delhi has always felt like a friend who knew me before I knew myself. From the little girl in Patna waiting for gifts, to the teenager who solved her way to the crossword trophy, and finally to the dreamer who found a home in St. Stephen's red-brick corridor.

For me, Delhi was never merely a destination. It was an event. Growing up in Patna, Delhi meant excitement, not the kind that came from watching fireworks, but the quiet thrill that emanated when Papa would say, "I have an official trip next week." Because that sentence always came with a sparkle, the hope of getting something new packed in his luggage when he returned.

It could be anything, a new board game with the kind of packaging that screamed "imported," or a puzzle that smelled faintly of cardboard and Delhi's winter fog. I would wait by the door, my little world revolving around the rattle of the suitcase zip and that soft crinkle of plastic bags. Delhi, back then, wasn't just a place; it was the magician behind Papa's gifts, the city that delivered excitement to my doorstep, a thousand kilometers away.

Over the years, my relationship with Delhi evolved. I went from seeing it as a distant giver of gifts to experiencing its generosity firsthand. Every visit came with something new, not just material, but sensory. The smell of Ghughni Chura at Bihar Bhawan on a winter evening, the chaos of strangers haggling over prices in Sarojini Nagar, all of it made me feel like Delhi was constantly performing, as if every lane and every person were part of a never-ending play.

Sarojini. The unofficial national park of bargains. If Delhi is a living character, Sarojini is her sassiest alter ego. Loud, colorful, a little chaotic, and completely irresistible. Every trip there felt like a game show: "Guess the Real Price." You'd spot a jacket that looks straight off a Pinterest board, ask the vendor the price, and prepare for the drama that follows. The dance of bargaining, the vendor's exaggerated sighs, your fake disappointment, the final triumphant deal, it's all part of the ritual.

Sarojini taught me more about economics than any classroom ever could. The market has its own rhythm, its own micro-economy powered by the boldness of college students and the stubborn charm of shopkeepers. Somewhere between the "last price batao didi" and the "fixed rate hai madam," I learnt that Delhi doesn't do transactions, it does conversations.

But Delhi has always been more than its markets and monuments. It's a feeling that is layered, complicated, and deeply personal. For me, it's the city where I proved something to myself for the first time, in a hall buzzing with crossword enthusiasts, under flickering tube lights, and with my heart pounding louder than the claps around me.

The first year I went for the Inter-School Cryptic Crossword Nationals in Delhi, I finished third. Third, the number that tastes almost like victory but dissolves into "almost". I remember standing on that stage, clapping for the winner, smiling politely while a tiny storm brewed inside me. I didn't hate losing, I hated the idea that Delhi had watched me fall short.

So I came back the next year. A little older, a little surer, armed with a dictionary's worth of determination. Delhi greeted me again, same air, same energy, but this time, I was ready to match its pulse. When they announced my name as the winner, I swear I heard the city sigh as if it had been waiting for this moment too. The city and I had finally shaken hands, equals at last.

That moment was more than a trophy. It was Delhi looking at me and saying, "Welcome. You belong here."

And maybe that's why, years later, when I opened my laptop to check my CUET college admission results, I couldn't help but smile when I saw the words that I've gotten into St. Stephen's. The college I dreamt of getting into ever since I was a little girl.

It felt poetic. The same city that had once tested me, challenged me, and made me wait, was now calling me back, not as a visitor, but as a resident. Delhi, in its signature dramatic style, had opened its arms once again.

Getting into Stephen's wasn't just about academics; it felt like being invited to live inside a piece of

Delhi's soul. The red-bricked corridors, the sprawling lawns, the chapel bells, everything about the campus whispered old-world charm, yet buzzed with youthful curiosity. I'd walk through those corridors and feel Delhi breathing with me, in the chatter of friends discussing politics, in the rhythm of rain on the arches, in the coffee-stained laughter of the café crowd.

Sometimes I sit on the front lawns and think about how far I've come, from that child waiting for board games from Papa's trips, to that teenager clutching a crossword trophy, to a student who now calls Delhi home. The journey feels circular, as if the city had been patiently scripting our story all along.

Delhi, for me, is a mosaic of contradictions that somehow make perfect sense together. It's old and new, sacred and sarcastic, timeless and impatient. It can host a Sufi night in Nizamuddin and a fashion pop-up in Mehrauli, both in the same evening, and make you feel that both belong to the same soul.

Every part of Delhi has a mood. Connaught Place, with its colonial pillars and overpriced coffee, feels like the city's idea of dressing up for guests. You walk around the white circles, watching people click selfies in front of stores they can't afford, and you realize, Delhi is not pretending; it's performing. It likes to be seen.

Then there's Chandni Chowk the heart that refuses to slow down. Every turn feels like a time machine. The air is thick with the smell of jalebis and history. The lanes are too narrow for comfort, yet wide enough to hold centuries of stories. You don't walk in Chandni Chowk; you flow through it, pushed by the crowd, carried by the noise, until you find yourself standing before the Red Fort, slightly dazed but oddly at peace.

Delhi doesn't just talk; it argues, it debates, it flirts, it sings. It's that friend who always runs late but somehow makes the wait worth it. It's the person who'll complain about pollution but still won't stop loving the sunset over Lodhi Gardens.

When I think of Delhi, I think of extremes. Of summers that test your patience and winters that make you want to fall in love. Of the Lajpat aunties with their PhDs in bargaining and the teenagers with DSLRs who turn every chai stall into a photoshoot. Of auto-wallah who become philosophers in traffic jams and strangers who become friends over shared metro rides.

There's something deeply human about Delhi's chaos, something that mirrors life itself. You can love it, you can hate it, but you can never ignore it. Delhi demands attention, unapologetically and completely. Whenever I step into the city, it feels like opening a window into all versions of myself, the child waiting for Papa's suitcase, the teenager lost in crossword grids, the dreamer walking on the lanes of Chanakyapuri with her Mom, Dad and brother at midnight trying to digest the Butter Chicken bonanza from Gulati. Delhi has watched me grow up, even when I didn't realize it.

Sometimes, I imagine Delhi as a person, perhaps an older friend who has seen too much but still laughs loudly. She wears heritage as effortlessly as she wears street style. She can recite Ghalib in the morning and binge-watch Netflix by night. She's unpredictable, she'll charm you with kindness one moment and honk you out of her way the next. But she's real, painfully and beautifully real.

And that's what I adore about her.

When I return to Patna, people often ask me what's so special about Delhi. I usually smile, because how do you explain a relationship that's built on memories rather than logic? How do you describe a city that feels like both a carnival and a classroom, a teacher and a friend?

Delhi taught me resilience in its heat and humility in its winters. It showed me ambition in its glass towers and contentment in its street food stalls. It gave me my first real win, my favorite memories, and my endless reasons to come back. It gave me St. Stephen's, the dream that had seemed too distant, too perfect, until Delhi decided I'd earned it.

To me, Delhi is a reminder that life doesn't have to be perfect to be extraordinary. It just has to be alive. And Delhi, more than any place I know, is alive in every horn, every hustle, every laugh, every chai cup balanced on the edge of a roadside bench.

When I think of the city now, I think of it not as a place I visit, but as a person I return to someone who knows all my stories and still surprises me every time. Someone who's been with me through growth, chaos, and change. Someone who, despite everything, feels like home.

Because Delhi is home not in the geographical sense, but in the way certain people or moments can be. It's the city that taught me how to chase, how to lose, how to win, and how to belong.

*

[Studying as a first year student at St Stephen's College Delhi, Adya Singh is daughter of Vivek Kumar Singh, IAS (1989)]

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बच्चे - पीढ़ी के दूत

(बाल-दिवस 14 नवंबर के लिए विशेष)

थे नौनिहाल, जो आज प्रौढ़, वे दौड़ चुके अधिकांश दौड़;
जो आज पनपते बच्चे हैं, वे मन-मानस के सच्चे हैं;
वे ही कल बाग-डोर लेंगे, पीढ़ी को नया मोड़ देंगे।

तन मन बच्चों का निर्मल है, पंखुड़ी पुष्प-सा कोमल है;
उस पर जो रेखांकित होगा, कल वही चित्र अंकित होगा;
हम जो नज़ीर अपनायेंगे, कल की तस्वीर बनायेंगे।

बच्चों के निश्छल मानस पर, ऋजु कोमल स्निग्ध रंग भरकर;
जो विन्दु-रेख पड़ जायेंगे, वे जीवन में जड़ जायेंगे;
जो नींव बने, मजबूत रहे, इस पीढ़ी का वह दूत रहे।
जो थीं विभूतियाँ भारत की, जो हैं सुस्मृतियाँ भारत की;
किसलय में अनल आज भी हैं, कीचड़ में कमल आज भी हैं;
जो भारत को गरिमा देंगे, जो भारत को महिमा देंगे।

घाटी में ताल छिपे होंगे, माटी में लाल छिपे होंगे;
बस, उनका पता लगाना है, उनका अभिज्ञान जगाना है; वे
अपना ज्ञान बढ़ा लेंगे, भारत की शान बढ़ा देंगे।
अकबर अशोक चौहान कहीं, राणा प्रताप की आन कहीं;
हैं कहीं छत्रपति शिवा अगर, होंगे चाणक्य-समान शिखर;
जो अवसर पाकर चमकेंगे, स्वर्णिम रवि जैसे दमकेंगे।

हैं रामकृष्ण, अरविन्द कहीं, टैगोर, विवेकानन्द कहीं;
झांसी-रानी पर्याय यहाँ, नेहरू, लाजपत राय यहाँ;
गांधी, सुभाष, राजेन्द्र कहीं, विद्या प्रकाश के केन्द्र कहीं।
बच्चों से तो कल लेना है, पर उन्हें आज ही देना है;
अन्तर में झाँक कभी देखो, कर्तव्य महान् अभी देखो;
कब किसे कहाँ क्या करना है, यदि शैशव-काल सँवरना है।

शिशु का विशुद्ध परिवेश रहे, अनुरागपूर्ण सुनिवेश रहे;
आशा-विद्या भर दो उनमें, हो ईर्ष्या-द्वेष नहीं जिनमें;
हो सत्य-अहिंसा का धेरा, हो नहीं जहाँ, तेरा-मेरा।



आदर्श अगर माहौल रहा, निष्पक्ष न्याय का तौल रहा;
यदि प्रतिभा का संज्ञान रहा, यदि खादी का परिधान रहा फिर
तो ऐसी कृतियाँ होंगी, जो देव-तुल्य धृतियाँ होंगी।

जो बाल धीर-गम्भीर रहा, जो तेज-तराशा तीर रहा;
जिसमें पर-लौकिक प्रज्ञा है, जुल्मों के लिए अवज्ञा है;
जो कर्मों पर बलि जाता है, वह भारत भाग्य विधाता है।

जो अपनी नावें जला चुके, पीढ़ी का अवसर गवाँ चुके;
वे कल को आज प्रतिष्ठा दें, बच्चों को सच्ची निष्ठा दें;
यह समय निकल ही जायेगा, प्रतिचिह्न मात्र रह जायेगा।

जब कहीं एक बच्चा होगा, मिट्टी का चक, कच्चा होगा;
जिस साँचे का तल पायेगा, वह उसमें ही ढल जायेगा;
हो संस्कृति का सम्पुट उसमें, हो नहीं जाति या गुट जिसमें।

देखो विचार करके मन में, कल के हैं कर्णधार उनमें;
गौतम की भाँति तथागत हैं, वे कल की भव्य विरासत हैं;
अनुचित अतीत जब हम होंगे, उनके भविष्य दुर्गम होंगे।

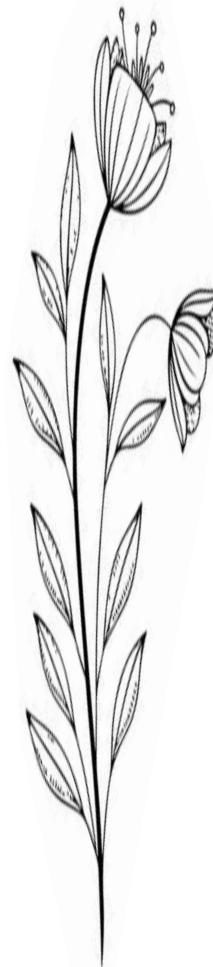
लघु हाथ बढ़ें शिक्षा निमित्त, दर-दर न फिरें भिक्षा निमित्त;
अब बाल श्रमिक की कथा न हो, अब निर्धनता की व्यथा न हो;
उनके प्रति कोई चूक न हो, उनके हाथों बन्दूक न हो।

व्यक्तित्व अन्यथा उभरेंगे, दानव-समान जो विचरेंगे;
ढायेंगे वे, जो मनचाही, कल्पना भयावह है, राही!
जो बनी नर्क-सीढ़ी होगी, निर्माता, यह पीढ़ी होगी।

जब वृद्ध पिता-माता होंगे, कुछ पुत्र कष्ट-दाता होंगे;
मानस में बहु विकार होंगे, सामूहिक बलात्कार होंगे;
जब संस्कार मिट जायेंगे, मन में सुख-शान्ति न पायेंगे।

यदि संस्कृति में न चाव होगा, मित में भी अरि-स्वभाव होगा;
बच्चों का कल उज्ज्वल होगा, यदि वर्तमान का बल होगा;
कृत्रिम प्रभाव को भंग करें, उसमें स्वदेश का रंग भरें।

हे देशवासियो! अब जागो, बच्चों के लिए दुआ माँगो;
कल सोचें, कल से क्या पाया, परसों के लिए गढ़ें छाया;
कुछ कर दो, बनें सपूत वही, इस पीढ़ी के हैं दूत वही।





जल जीवन हरियाली

निहारिका छवि
भा.प्र.से. (2021)



कहते हैं सही शुरुआत ही सही अंत तक लाती है –
अब तो जाग जा मेरे पुत्र, प्रकृति बिलख–बिलख समझाती है।
तू तो मेरा सबसे प्यारा राज दुलारा मानव था,
बाकी को तो थोड़ा देकर तुझपर कृपा उड़ेला सारा था।

मैं तो माँ हूँ–मुझसे तेरा, तेरी जननी का जन्म हुआ
फिर धुंआ धुंआ कर मुझको, कैसा तेरा दंभ सधा ?
तू ही सबसे आगे है तो आगे की सुध ले ले अब,
बस कर झुलसाना मुझको धंस न हो जाए हम सब।

ताप मेरा न बढ़ा पुत्र! तेरी माता अब ज्वर में है।
हरियाली से भर दे आंचल, मेरी करुणा स्वर में है।
बुद्धत्व का बीज भी तुझे दे दिया,
फिर तेरा मन क्यों छोटा है ?
व्याधित हृदय में टीस उठ रही,
क्या मेरा सिक्का खोटा है ?

ध्रुव विशालाक्ष हैं मेरे,
अश्रु बनकर अब पिघल रहे ——
तेरा आंगन डूब रहा है पर
मेरे ही उपवन उजड़ रहे।
तू मानव आएगा जाएगा,
पर रूप मेरा ही बदलेगा
क्या तू अपने आगे पुश्तों को
विष का प्याला ही दे देगा ?

चीख रही है सारी सृष्टि!
मानव रख ले दूर की दृष्टि!
जल ही जीवन का आधार,
सूख रहा सारा संसार।

तेरे भौतिकता में उलझ रही जीवन की धार,
और तेरे कर्मों को धोकर मैं प्रकृति अब तार–तार।

विषयों के युद्ध तेरे भीतर है,
पर मैंने इसके सब वार सहे
अब तो जाग जा पुत्र!
मौन मुझे अभिव्यक्त करे ——
तरू तरंग अमृत का निःस्वार्थ सदा ही धोल रहा
चुप चाप देख रहा निर्ममता,
असहाय नहीं कुछ बोल रहा ——

पर सोचो मानव!
जब सबसे ज्यादा तुझे मिला तो खोना भी तुझको ही
होगा।
बाकी तो फिर जुड़ जाएगा,
पर तेरा शीर्ष न वो होगा।

प्रकृति की पुकार पुनः एक बार,
आज नया फिर अवसर, लाना है बहार!
सौर्य ऊर्जा का करें उपयोग,
ऊर्जा बचत में हो हमारी सहभागी,
अपने बागों के बन जाएं माली
जल का संरक्षण करें,
जल जीवन हरियाली!
तभी फैलेगी खुशहाली।





Mother Mary Comes to Me

By Arundhati Roy

- Sanjay Kumar
IAS (2017)

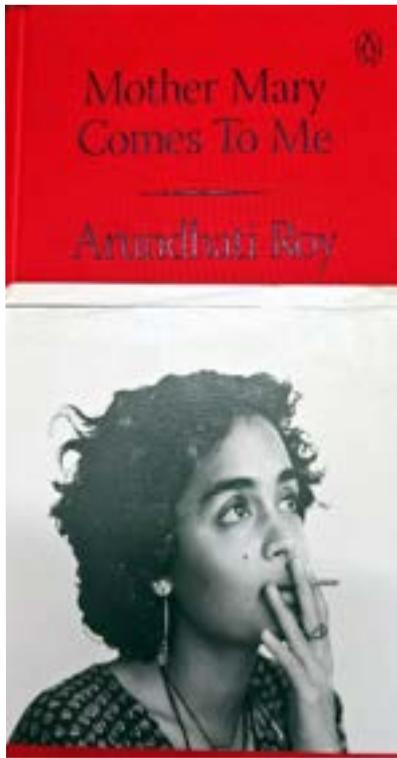


For a memoir of bare all kind, it takes fierce intrepidity, searing honesty, surfeit of self-flagellation and supreme indifference to the ways the world sits on judgement. For Arundhati Roy, no euphemism, no sugar-coating, no camouflage. Only plain speak in a prose that is inventive, playful and precise. 'Mother Mary Comes to Me' by Roy is an interesting read, covering her deeply ambivalent relationship with the maverick of a mother in Mary Roy interspersed with creative milestones, passionate activist years and her bohemian irreverence.

Ambivalent Relationship Between Mother and Daughter

For someone not subservient to conformity and compliance, taboos and prescriptions, someone who would successfully challenge the patriarchal inheritance system of the Syrian Christians and would go on to found an unorthodox school that would acquire eminence, character. Walking out of a small kids and no obsession with herself and Mary. A young Arundhati, internationally acclaimed how to come to terms with coherent comment she sounds paradoxical: She storm. Too self-absorbed fastidious to permit brook dissent, the best that let her go to figure out the

This unusual, ambivalent relationship and an unsure daughter based on Arundhati's difficult marriage ('a nothing man') followed by penury, homelessness and oppressive patriarchy would make her vulnerable and vengeful at the same time. Maybe, her recalcitrance and intransigence were her only resources in a world arrayed against her. Because she knew what Naipaul calls in 'A Bend in the River', "The world is what it is; men who are nothing, who allow themselves to become nothing, have no place in it" Deep within, she wanted to protect her daughter but also knew that an umbrella in a rainstorm would serve her no purpose and she should be her own person,



Mary Roy is a feisty marriage quite early with two resources to fall back upon, an obstinate streak define a grown up Arundhati and an Arundhati- she is not sure her mother.... the most makes about the relationship was both my shelter and my to display affection, too latitude, too demanding to she does to her daughter is to world on her own.

problematic, deeply between a mercurial mother calls for some explanation-account. It is possible that a (married to what Mary calls

living life on her own terms and not give a damn to what the world thinks of her. Arundhati writes that her mother set great store by her academic exploits while her brother failed to shine bright. Arundhati craves for her validation which is not forthcoming. Mary insists on her submission which is again not forthcoming. Both mother and daughter could not have been more different and still, more alike.

Being her Mother's Daughter

Mary Roy - after her bitter, belligerent but uncompromising years at Kottayam - finds herself in a position where her eccentricities are accommodated. Her Laurie Baker designed and creatively experimental school- after a nervous start- turns into the toast of town and beyond and refuses to succumb to the diktat of a District Magistrate. She puts patriarchy of Syrian Christians in place by successfully challenging inheritance traditions. Her sentimental fixation with her baby- the school - is obsessive and intense so much that her own offspring's- brother Lalith and sister Arundhati- are dispensable. For all her differences with Mary Roy, the writer is still her daughter and in many essential ways, comes close to the way Mary has been.

The daughter seeks to understand unmotherly part of her mother by distantiating and 'undaughtering' herself. From a different perspective and a distant vantage point, she is able to comprehend her mother's difficulties and dilemmas and employs empathy while doing so. Her long years of absence from Kottayam doesn't dim her craving for validation from her mother. In essential respects, she is so much like her mother. Despite falling in love- first with JC and later on, with Pradip- she is too much of her mother's daughter to remain embedded in relationships that could restrain and constrain her. As for Mary, when the author writes and gets the Booker for 'The God of Small Things', she rummages through the book to find out how she has been depicted and heaves a sigh of relief after reading it. She decides to meet her father- Mother Mary's 'Nothing Man' in a hotel that would enable her to understand her mother better. When Mary passes away, a flood of grief overwhelms her while her brother takes it more matter of factly. In her childhood days, Roy says she loved her mother "irrationally, fearfully, completely, as children do." In adulthood, she aimed to love her "coolly, rationally, and from a safe distance." She admits she often failed. It is this sense of failure despite persistent efforts to succeed that constitutes the nub of the book.

From Kottayam to Delhi and beyond

The distance travelled from Kottayam to Delhi is as much physical as mental and emotional. Living on the margins of metropolis and on the margins of conventional morality, she tries her hand at architecture, script writing, film making and acting before finding her vocation which her mother had sort of predicted for her- writing. And like all great writing, she didn't plan it. It began happening to her and before she could realise, it gathered a momentum of its own. But her first book would go back to her childhood, her association with Meenachil River, her equation with her brother and mother, social and political mobilisation in Kerala. Ammu is shown to have been in love with Velutha- an untouchable, which Mary Roy would not take kindly. The book ends in 1993 when brother and sister come close to each other after a long gap but

traumas and tribulations of the past continue to haunt them. Mother Mary is a leitmotif running through the book. While her next book- The Ministry of Utmost Happiness- is about fractured identity, frustrated longings and alternative space(as against mainstream) for those at the receiving end and her political essays published in mainstream national magazines amount to a critique of the nation- state, it is Mother Mary who keeps coming back again and again.

So, who is Mother Mary and who is daughter?

A feisty maverick. A permanent rebel. A wrecker-in-chief but also in possession of creative genius. A self-absorbed narcissist. A failed family person. An institution-builder. Someone given to my way or no way. A mother who couldn't be motherly enough and yet, she kept coming back to her daughter- through her ephemeral presence and prolonged absence.

And Arundhati Roy? A daughter who wished to love her mother completely as a child and as an adult, to understand her rationally but her wishes would more often be thwarted. A daughter who felt the presence of her mother even in her absence. A daughter who kept craving for motherly validation - something that would come her way unsteadily and uncertainly. A daughter who wants to understand her fraught relationship with her mother but not as a daughter but only as an outsider. Only an outsider perspective could result in such an eminently readable book.

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[Sanjay Kumar, presently posted as Joint Secretary in Rural Works Department, is also the Editor of PRAYAAS.]

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Feedback on Prayaas-3 July-September of 2025:

It is a very nice issue, covering a wide range of issues. Many congratulations Sir.

- Navin Verma, IAS (1982)

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Respected sir, thanks a lot. Aap hain, isliye ye chal raha hai. Regards.

- JRK Rao, IAS (1985)

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Many thanks for the autumn issue of Prayaas. As always, it is full of articles of interest and helps us to be in touch with one another. Keep up the good work. Kind regards.

Going through the excerpts of Beames' Memoirs, reminds me that I saw a register signed by him in the Purnea District Collectorate record room, when I was DM there in 1967-69.

- SR Adige (IAS-1959)

□ □

Activities

Activities of IAS Association (Bihar Branch)
Minutes of the AGM held on Friday, October 17. 2025
at 7 PM in IAS Bhawan, Patna

Agenda No 1 The Minutes of the AGM held on September 27, 2024 were confirmed.

Agenda No 2 The Secretary presented the Annual Accounts and the Balance Sheet of the Association for the year ended 31-03-2025 which were adopted unanimously.

Agenda No 3 The Secretary presented the Annual Budget for the year 2025-26 and it was approved unanimously.

Agenda No 4 All the Capital Expenditure incurred by the Association since the last Meeting was approved.

Agenda No 5 It was decided to appoint RN Mishra & Co as statutory auditors and Anant Dokania as concurrent auditors for the FY 2025-36. Statutory auditor had been paid Rs 1,000/- plus service charges and the concurrent auditor had been paid Rs 12,000/- plus service charges during the FY 2024-25. The same charges shall be payable for the current financial year also.

Agenda No 6 The following office bearers were elected unanimously for the term 2025-26:

SNo	Name	Batch	Designation
1.	Shri S Siddharth	1991	President
2.	Smt Harjot Kaur Bamhrah	1992	Vice President
3.	Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh	2007	Secretary
4.	Shri Mahendra Kumar	2011	Treasurer
5.	Shri M Ramachandrudu	2009	Joint Secretary
6.	Shri Rajnish Kumar Singh	2014	Joint Secretary
7.	Shri Abhay Jha	2017	Asstt. Treasurer

The following eight members were elected unanimously to the Managing Committee:

(1) Shri AK Chauhan, IAS Retd. (2) Shri Girish Shankar, IAS Retd (3) Shri Manoj Kumar, 2007 (4) Smt Rachna Patil, 2010 (5) Shri Shirshat Kapil Ashok 2011 (6) Shri Shailendra Kumar, 2014 (7) Smt Ruby, 2017 (8) Shri Aushutosh Dwivedi, 2018

Agenda No 7 Shri RU Singh (IAS Retd.) and Shri Sanjay Kumar (IAS-2017) were unanimously elected as Principal Editor and Editor respectively of PRAYAAS Magazine.

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

Sd/-
(Dipak Kumar Singh)
Secretary

Sd/-
(Mihir Kumar Singh)
President in Charge

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Diwali Milan

This year Diwali Milan and AGM of the Association were organised on the same day, i.e. October 27, 2025. It could be an aim at economy or convenience or both. Unlike last year when the overcast sky threatened to play spoilsport with Diwali Milan, this year the sky was absolutely clear, incipient nip in the air some distance away and it was a perfect day for the celebration of festivities.

Members of the fraternity began trooping in from 7 PM in the evening. The organisation was spearheaded by Mr. Dipak Kumar Singh and Mr. Manoj Kumar with a good number of young officers including Abhay, Ashutosh, Shekhar, Sahila, Nitin, Vinod Duhan and Vaibhav chipping in with their ideas and their execution. The expansive lawn was suitably manicured and it had been tastefully decorated. Selfie point was the busiest place. Games for kids provided them much needed entertainment. Many kids were spotted trying their marksmanship on the balloons. A range of starters catered to the eclectic taste buds. It is such a heartening sight to see very senior members of the fraternity including Mr. R U. Singh (1961) and Mr. N.K. Agrawal(1969) joining the festivities. At the other end of the spectrum were young officers of 2024 batch who were also welcomed by the Association in the General Body Meeting. Members of both the Associations looked resplendent in their fineries. Both the Associations, IAS Association and IAS Officers' Wives Association, welcomed the Chief Guests, Chief Secretary Sir and Ma'am (Mr Pratyay Amrit and Ms Ratna Amrit) with bouquets and they were kind enough to do the honours of lighting the ceremonial Diyas.

The cultural Programme in the background - thanks to the Art and Culture Department - regaled the audience with one song after another. The songs selected for rendition were exquisite and so was the rendition. The Association expresses sincere thanks to Mr. Pranav Kumar and Ms. Ruby - Secretary and Director, Art and Culture Department respectively.

Over the years, Amrapali had been catering to the taste buds of the members with distinction. This year the Association engaged Hotel Chankya which serves Frontier foods with distinction. Delicious Menu, individualised service and unfailing courtesy extended by its catering staff really stood out. Malpua with Rabri, Icecream and Shahi Toast were like icing on the proverbial cake.

Mr. Mihir Kumar Singh and Shekhar Anand must be appreciated for arranging designer hamper as parting gifts. The staff members of the Association including Subhash, Lalan and Chunchun did a great job. Last but not the least, what is a get-together and a party without customary Paan! As one chewed the Paan, it left a lingering aftertaste in the mouth. All said, Diwali Milan was an evening worth savouring.

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[Sanjay Kumar, presently posted as Joint Secretary in Rural Works Department is the new Editor of Prayaas Magazine.]

Know the Officers (IAS, 2015 Batch (SCS), Bihar)

Vinay Kumar
IAS (2015)



1. Arvind kumar

DoB: 10-06-1968

Arvind kumar has experience of more than 31 years of service in Administration. He did his Masters in Psychology. He did commendable job as Secretary of Dedicated commission for Nagar Nikay Elections, Bihar 2022. He was also awarded Sarkari Sevak Protsahan Puraskar for good noting and drafting in Hindi by Cabinet Secretariat Department, Bihar.

His Hobbies are Driving, Gardening and Playing Badminton.

2. Pramod Kumar

DoB: 15-02-1969

Pramod kumar is Bachelor of Arts from Allahabad University. He is presently posted as Settlement officer in East Champaran. He loves Music and Football.

3. Vinay Kumar

DoB: 18-04-1970

Vinay Kumar did his Bachelor in Physics and Masters in History. Besides serving in the state he also served in an autonomous organization of Government of India in Delhi. He was awarded with Bhartendu Harishchandra Man Puraskar by MoI&B, GOI and Bihar Kala Samman by DACY, Government of Bihar for his writings in culture.

He has authored three books on art and culture. He loves plays, classical music, dances, and parallel Cinema.

4. Abhay Kumar Singh

DoB: 13-07-1970

Abhay did his Masters degree in Biotechnology. He has contributed in improving BSSC Exam pattern and played key role in making Bhabhua a Green city. He is an amateur artist, mobile lover and keeps exploring new places and meeting people.

5. Rajiv Kumar Singh

DoB: 28-02-1969

Rajiv did his Bachelors from Science College, Patna and LL.B from Delhi University. He played key role in different drives of Jeevika (BRLPS) (2014-2022) i.e., Didi ki Rasoi, Rural Retail Mart and Shilpa Gram Producer company as a State Project Manager. He also served as State coordinator of swachchh Bharat Mission (Gramin), LSBA. He earned the opportunity to speak and represent at "Innovation and Learning" event at Nairobi, Kenya organized by World Bank. He also spoke at SANKALP Unconventional Summit at Mumbai.

Rajiv loves reading, listening music, sports and travelling.

6. Amit Kumar

DoB: 13-11-1970

Amit Kumar is a Science graduate. He is passionate in philately and music. Presently he is posted in Bihar Technical Service commission.

7. Kumari Seema

DoB: 12-09-1968

Kumari Seema is a passionate advocate for development in the administrative sector. She did Master in Science from Patna University. She loves reading books.

8. Dr. Mahendra Pal

DoB: 10-03-1968

Dr. Mahendra Pal is a dynamic officer having diverse administrative experience of more than twenty nine years. His educational qualification is B.Ed., M.A. and Ph.D. Dr. Pal has served as SDM, Barsoi, Director, Rajbhasha, DDC Buxar, and State Protocol Officer he initiated a dedicated online platform for Bhawan/Niwas/Sadan.

Dr. Pal is also deeply grounded in spirituality, which shapes his approach to life and leadership.

9. Rashid Kalim Ansari

DoB: 01-05-1971

Rashid Kalim Ansari is an Electronics graduate. He has been awarded National Award for E-Governance 2019-20 (Silver) sponsored by Department of Administrative reforms and public Grievances, Govt of India. As SDM Benipatti, Rashid was honoured with a citation, on the occasion of Bihar Police Annual Award Distribution ceremony 2011-12 for playing an important role in maintaining peace and communal harmony. His hobbies are Driving, Travelling and Listening music.

10. Md. Mumtaz Alam

DoB: 24-12-1969

Md. Mumtaz Alam is a Science graduate with experience of around three decades of mid-level administration. He loves Music and himself is a vocalist too. He is also interested in watching Cricket Matches.

11. Vijay Kumar

DoB: 05-01-1971

Vijay kumar is an Arts graduate. He is interested in reading creative stories and advocates for community involvement in the administrative sector.

12. Sushant Kumar

DoB: 26-08-1969

Sushant did his M.Phil from Delhi University. He was inducted in service in 1996. Besides his passion for public service, he also loves travelling and cricket.

13. Manoj Kumar Rajak

DoB: 05-02-1969

Manoj kumar Rajak completed his Master in History. He has also administrative experience of more than 28 years. He has interest in reading and travelling.

14. Ram Kumar Poddar

DoB: 20-01-1968

With over 27 years of experience in administration, Ram Kumar Poddar has worked with various departments. Presently he is Deputy Mission Director, Jal- Jeevan-Haryali Mission, Rural Development, Government of Bihar.

Mr. Ram did his M.Sc. and he is recognized for the effective implementation of JJH Abhiyan.

He loves reading, travelling and community welfare activities.

15. Rajesh Parimal

DoB: 20-11-1971

Rajesh Parimal is presently working in CM Secretariat. He did his Masters in Geology, M.Phil. in Environmental Science from JNU and PG Diploma in Sustainable Rural Development. He was also Junior research fellow of CSIR. He played a key role in the establishment of Development Management Institute (DMI) Patna. As State Nodal Officer of PMAY, established a robust system of Monitoring. He also represented RDD at MORD and got applaud for excellent monitoring of awas yojana. His Hobbies are reading, music and travelling.

16. Raj Mohan Jha

DoB: 01-08-1968

Raj Mohan Jha did his Bachelor degree in Arts. He has interest in Literature and Cinema.

17. Rajeev Ranjan Prabhakar

DoB: 21-11-1969

Rajeev has diverse educational Background like, Engineering, MBA, Computer course, Urdu language course etc. He also authored books like "Word Power for the Aficionado", Special Survey (Land).

His hobbies are reading books, writing, singing and blogging.

(<https://prabhakarreflections.blogspot.com/>)

18. Dhananjay Kumar

DoB: 04-12-1968

Dhananjay Kumar has contributed in Land acquisition of Mega industrial Park, Sikandarpur (Bihta) and NH (Patna-Bakhtiyarpur).

He did his Masters in statistics with experience of over twenty seven years in Administration.

19. Rakesh Kumar

DoB: 16-05-1968

Rakesh Kumar is presently posted in MCD, New Delhi. He did his bachelors in Law and Master Degree, with hobbies in gardening, travelling and watching movies.

Transfers and Postings

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

क्र. सं.	अधिसूचना संख्या / तिथि	संबंधित अधिकारी की प्रोन्नति, पदस्थापन तथा अतिरिक्त प्रभार
1.	16133 / 28.08.2025	श्री अमित कुमार पाण्डेय, भा.प्र.से. (2014), निदेशक, समेकित बाल विकास सेवाएं (आईसीडीएस) का अपर मुख्य निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी, के पद पर पदस्थापित तथा निदेशक, समेकित बाल विकास सेवाएं (आईसीडीएस) का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
2.	16134 / 28.08.2025	श्री प्रशांत कुमार सी.एच., भा.प्र.से. (2015), निदेशक, पंचायती राज विभाग का अपर मुख्य निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी के पद पर पदस्थापन निदेशक, पंचायती राज विभाग/मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, बिहार विकास मिशन का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
3.	16265 / 30.08.2025	डॉ. एस. सिद्धार्थ, भा.प्र.से. (1991), मुख्य मंत्री के प्रधान सचिव का विकास आयुक्त, बिहार के पद पर पदस्थापन।
4.	16266 / 30.08.2025	श्रीमती हरजोत कौर बम्हरा भा.प्र.से. (1992), अपर मुख्य सचिव, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग का अध्यक्ष—सह—सदस्य, राजस्व पर्षद के पद पर पदस्थापन।
5.	16267 / 30.08.2025	श्री अरविन्द कुमार चौधरी, भा.प्र.से. (1995), अपर मुख्य सचिव, गृह विभाग को अपर मुख्य सचिव, मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय विभाग का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
6.	16268 / 30.08.2025	डॉ. बी. राजेन्द्र, भा.प्र.से. (1995), अपर मुख्य सचिव, सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग को अपर मुख्य सचिव, शिक्षा विभाग का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
7.	17042 / 10.09.2025	श्री नर्मदेश्वर लाल, भा.प्र.से. (1998), प्रधान सचिव, लघु जल संसाधन विभाग का प्रधान सचिव, गन्ना उद्योग विभाग के पद पर पदस्थापन तथा जांच आयुक्त, सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
8.	17043 / 10.09.2025	श्री बी. कार्तिकेय धनजी, भा.प्र.से. (2008), सचिव, गन्ना उद्योग विभाग का सचिव, लघु जल संसाधन विभाग के पद पर पदस्थापन तथा जांच आयुक्त एवं सचिव, उद्योग विभाग का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
9.	17044 / 10.09.2025	श्रीमती छिरिड वाई. भूटिया, भा.प्र.से. (2013), का अपर सचिव, स्वास्थ्य विभाग के पद पर पदस्थापन।
10.	17045 / 10.09.2025	श्री यशपाल मीणा, भा.प्र.से. (2014) अपर सचिव जल संसाधन विभाग का अपर सचिव, स्वास्थ्य विभाग के पद पर पदस्थापन।
11.	17046 / 10.09.2025	श्री रजनीश कुमार सिंह, भा.प्र.से. (2014), निबंधन महानिरीक्षक—सह—उत्पाद आयुक्त का निबंधक, सहयोग समितियां के पद पर पदस्थापन तथा अपर निदेशक, (कार्यक्रम अनुश्रवण), बिहार विकास मिशन का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
12.	17047 / 10.09.2025	श्री अंशुल अग्रवाल, भा.प्र.से. (2016), निबंधक, सहयोग समितियां का निबंधन महानिरीक्षक—सह—उत्पाद आयुक्त, मद्य निषेध, उत्पाद एवं निबंधन विभाग के पद पर पदस्थापन।
13.	18637 / 29.09.2025	श्री कंवल तनुज, भा.प्र.से. (2010), सचिव, लघु जल संसाधन विभाग का सचिव, योजना एवं विकास विभाग के पद पर पदस्थापन।
14.	18638 / 29.09.2025	डॉ. जितेन्द्र गुप्ता, भा.प्र.से. (2013), संयुक्त सचिव, बिहार राज्य योजना पर्षद का संयुक्त सचिव वित्त विभाग के पद पर पदस्थापन।
15.	18639 / 29.09.2025	श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र गुप्ता, भा.प्र.से. (2023) का विशेष कार्य पदाधिकारी, गृह विभाग के पद पर पदस्थापन।

क्र. सं.	अधिसूचना संख्या / तिथि	संबंधित अधिकारी की प्रोन्नति, पदस्थापन तथा अतिरिक्त प्रभार
16.	18640 / 29.09.2025	श्री निशांत सिहारा, भा.प्र.से. (2022) का विशेष कार्य पदाधिकारी, सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग के पद पर पदस्थापन।
17.	18739 / 03.10.2025	श्री चन्द्रशेखर सिंह, भा.प्र.से. (2010). आयुक्त, पटना प्रमण्डल, पटना का सचिव, मुख्य मंत्री सचिवालय, बिहार, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन तथा सचिव, आपदा प्रबंधन विभाग, बिहार एवं अध्यक्ष, बिहार राज्य पुल निर्माण निगम लिमिटेड का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
18.	18740 / 03.10.2025	श्री अनिमेष कुमार पराशर, भा.प्र.से. (2010), मुख्य कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी—सह—नगर आयुक्त, पटना का आयुक्त, पटना प्रमण्डल के पद पर पदस्थापन तथा प्रबंध निदेशक, बिहार शहरी आधारभूत संरचना विकास निगम लिमिटेड (बुडको), पटना का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
19.	18741 / 03.10.2025	श्री हिमांशु शर्मा, भा.प्र.से. (2011), मुख्य कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी, बिहार ग्रामीण जीवकोपार्जन (जीविका) प्रोत्साहन सोसाइटी—सह—राज्य मिशन निदेशक, राज्य ग्रामीण जीवकोपार्जन—सह—आयुक्त—स्वरोजगार, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग को विशेष सचिव, स्वास्थ्य विभाग का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
20.	18742 / 03.10.2025	श्री शीर्षत कपिल अशोक, भा.प्र.से. (2011), प्रबंध निदेशक, बिहार राज्य पथ विकास निगम को प्रबंध निदेशक, कम्फेड का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
21.	18743 / 03.10.2025	श्री यशपाल मीणा, भा.प्र.से. (2014) अपर सचिव, स्वास्थ्य विभाग का मुख्य कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी—सह—नगर आयुक्त, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
22.	18744 / 03.10.2025	सुश्री कृतिका मिश्रा, भा.प्र.से. (2023) अनुमण्डल पदाधिकारी, पकड़ीदयाल, पूर्वी चम्पारण का अनुमण्डल पदाधिकारी, गोगरी, खगड़िया के पद पर पदस्थापन।
23.	18745 / 03.10.2025	श्री प्रधुम्न सिंह यादव, भा.प्र.से. (2023), अनुमण्डल पदाधिकारी, गोगरी, खगड़िया का अपर नगर आयुक्त, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
24.	18801 / 05.10.2025	श्री अनिल चौधरी, भा.प्र.से. (2011), नगर आयुक्त, मधुबनी नगर निगम का विशेष सचिव, गृह विभाग के पद पर पदस्थापन।
25.	18802 / 05.10.2025	श्री उपेन्द्र प्रसाद, भा.प्र.से. (2013), बन्दोबस्त पदाधिकारी, जहानाबाद का अपर सचिव, सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग के पद पर पदस्थापन।
26.	18803 / 05.10.2025	श्री संजय कुमार, भा.प्र.से. (2014), अपर सचिव, सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग को मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, बिहार विकास मिशन का अतिरिक्त प्रभार।
27.	18804 / 05.10.2025	श्री स्पर्श गुप्ता, भा.प्र.से. (2019), उप विकास आयुक्त—सह—मुख्य कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी किशनगंज का प्रबंध निदेशक, बिहार राज्य बीज निगम लिमिटेड, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
28.	18807 / 05.10.2025	श्री कुमार गौरव भा०प्र०से० (2017). समाहर्ता एवं जिला पदाधिकारी, अरवल का अपर कार्यपालक निदेशक, राज्य स्वास्थ्य समिति, पटना के पद पर पदस्थापन।
29.	18808 / 05.10.2025	श्रीमती अभिलाषा शर्मा, भा०प्र०से० (2017), संयुक्त सचिव, नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग का समाहर्ता एवं जिला पदाधिकारी, अरवल के पद पर पदस्थापन।
30.	20482 / 01.11.2025	श्री आशीष कुमार, भा.प्र.से. (बी एच: 2022), अपर नगर आयुक्त, पटना का अनुमंडल पदाधिकारी, बाढ़ (पटना) के पद पर पदस्थापन।



Photo Gallery

Glimmeps of Diwali Milan on 27 October, 2025

Lighting of Ceremonial Lamp



By an elegant Group

Exclusive Group at Selfie Point



Mr & Mrs Deepak Kumar and CS,
Pratyay Amrit and Ratna Amrit

Ladies' Group – Selfie Point



Exclusive - Mixed Group at Selfie Point



Charismatic Couple at Selfie Point



Dipak Kumar Singh and Ms Harjot Kaur

Exclusive Family Group



Ms Nisha Jha with family of Dipak K Singh

Exclusive in the Diwali Milan



An Officers' Group

Exclusive Group



CS with 2024 Batch officers

Photo Gallery

Pt Chhannulal Mishra



Receiving Padma Vibhushan Award
From President, Hon. Ram Nath Kovind

Newton's Third Law



Action of Man - Reaction of Dog

Madhubani Painting



Depicting Celebration of Chhath Parv

Largest Joint Family in the World

Martyrdom in the Freedom Struggle



Photo sent by RN Dash

A Peep into the Old Times



Zebra Cart being used as a mode of
Transport in Calcutta in the 1930s

Launch of Prayaas-3 of 2025 on 26-9-25



(L-R) Abhay Jha, Sanjay Kumar A-Editor, SP Sinha,
RU Singh (Principal Editor), VS Dubey
(ex-CS and Chief Guest), Aamir Subahani (ex-CS),
Dipak Kumar Singh (Secretary) and Satish Singh Thakur.

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