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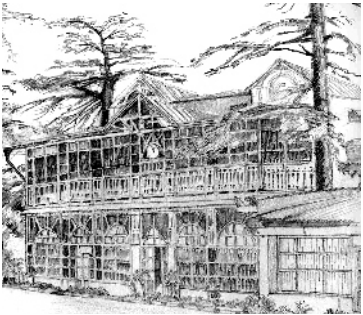


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The ACADEMY

Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration

Vol. 4 Issue 1 January-February 2011

Vision of LBSNAA

We seek to promote good governance by providing quality training towards building a professional and responsive civil service in a caring, ethical and transparent framework.

Jottings from the Editor

The months of January and February, the coldest in Mussoorie, yet crisp and dazzling bright, are also the months when the Academy gears itself up for an activity-packed year. It being the 'lean season', we bring you a joint issue covering events of both the months. With relatively lesser number of courses running than in other months, the faculty took turns to visit and supervise the field training of IAS officer trainees in their district postings. For those present on campus, couple of spells of snow around the middle and later half of February provided much excitement - to those who had never before witnessed snow 'au naturel', as well as to 'veterans' - snow never ceases to delight! This year, however, the usually languid month of January saw a fair share of spirited activity. Phase V of the Mid Career Training Programme (MCTP), hosting senior officers of the IAS, continued until the middle of the month. The Course was packed with intense classroom deliberations, workshop on issues and challenges in governance, and far-reaching strategy papers were written by the participants, all of whom hold key positions in government. January 14 marked the culmination of this Course, in the duration of which the participants not only made meaningful contributions through their distinguished collective experiences, but also enthusiastically participated in many an extra-curricular activity, be it outdoor adventure, or the artistic venture.

The 62nd Republic Day was celebrated with fervour by the Academy *parivaar*, with children of staff members turning out in their finest, making it the customary lively tradition in which LBSNAA celebrates the pluralistic values of the nation. A significant initiative being undertaken by the

Academy is the adoption of E-office application wherein personalized services are enabled and employees receive electronic notification of services and transactions based on their need and requirements. Designed and developed by the National Informatics Centre, New Delhi, a capacity-building programme for E-office was conducted over the two months for the Academy workforce. February saw two important training workshops, in 'Public Private Partnership (PPP) in Urban Sector'; and the first National Training of Trainers (ToT) on 'ICT Essentials for Government Leaders', the latter in partnership with Department of Information Technology (DIT), GoI, and United Nations Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (UN-APCICT/ESCAP). The Secretary, DoPT, came a visiting in January along with other department officials, and toured the Academy premises.

Meantime, the third week of February once again saw the Academy abuzz with youthful energy as it welcomed back the IAS officer trainees (Batch of 2010) to resume their Phase I of training. After two months of traversing the length and breadth of the country during *Bharat Darshan*, getting a feel of the quintessential India, it was a homecoming of sorts, as the young officer trainees prepare to spend the next four months until June 2011, learning the ropes of administration. In this issue, we pay homage to the late Yashwant Sonawane, who laid down his life for justice. In the same breadth we also salute the young crop of officer trainees who have taken up myriad challenges of governance by entering into the administrative services - we bring you an article on this.

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News Sparks

Cricket camaraderie: A wintry Mussoorie day saw its share of excitement with a friendly cricket match organized between the junior Sri Lankan Cricket Team and officers/staff members of LBSNAA on 13 January. The match was won by the guest Sri Lankan Cricket team.

Phase V: The final weeks of Phase V in January were marked by rigorous workshops and discussions, apart from the customary Academy out-of-class activities. Some highlights of the programme:

- **Workshop on Key Governance Issues and Challenges:** A workshop on the theme was organized by the participants. Divided into four groups, their task was to identify the governance challenges that the country is facing. The groups worked overnight on January 12-13 and came out with suggestions to help mitigate the challenges. It was noted that governance implies a process of inter-relationships between multiple stakeholders, mediated through institutional mechanisms, directed towards a set of public services or goods; entitlements/opportunities.

Key Governance Issues and related challenges were broadly categorized into:

- Institutional Framework
- Public Service Delivery
- Corruption

These are not segregated from each other and their inter-locking constitutes a triadic relationship in the governance reform agenda.

It was felt that the existing governance eco-system is characterized by

- Widespread corruption
- Poor accountability and transparency
- Leadership deficit
- Selective application of law
- Inadequate rational decision resulting in short term view and adhocism

The working groups came out with the recommendation that the approach to identifying priority action points contributing towards a possible governance reform agenda includes issues that are

- Systemic
- Process related
- Symptomatic

The key governance issues were analyzed and explored in depth for arriving at a strategic framework of action

further divided into short term, medium term and long term perspectives. It was recommended that herein the key entry point triggers needed to be identified and activated.

The above findings were validated at the plenary session. Amita Sharma, Rajiv Gauba, Pravesh Kumar, Jai Prakash and Gurucharan were charged with the responsibility, by their fellow participants, of working on the broad contours churned out as a result of the workshop. These are to be developed into a detailed paper to be forwarded to the Prime Minister Office, Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances and the Cabinet Secretariat.

- **Strategy Papers:** As part of the programme curriculum, the participants of Phase V were to write strategy papers for various departments of Government of India. Prajapati Trivedi, Secretary, (Performance Management), Cabinet Secretariat led an expert team which evaluated the strategy papers. LBSNAA proposes to bring out a publication containing the twelve best strategy papers listed here:

- › Food and Public Distribution: Jagan Nath Chamber and K.Anand
- › Panchayati Raj: D.S.Misra and R.N.Srivastava
- › Health and Family Welfare I: Anuradha Gupta and Leena Nair
- › Health and Family Welfare II: Pradeep Shukla and V.S.Madan
- › Power I: K.Ghanadesikan and Himanshu Das
- › Power II: Sanjay Mitra and Deepak Sanan
- › Commerce: D.S.Dhesi and Jayant Das Gupta
- › Tourism: Vinod Zutshi and J.P.Prakash
- › Telecommunication: Deepak Jagdish Saksena and Pravir Kumar
- › Information Technology: Aruna Sundarrajan and B. Vijayan
- › Overseas Indian Affairs: Gurcharan Gollerkeri and Khurshid A Ganai
- › Urban Development: K.K.Sharma and D.Lakshmi Parthasarthy

- **Valediction:** The five week long Phase V of the Mid Career Training Programme came to a conclusion with the Valedictory Ceremony organized on 14 January 2011.

The Course Coordinator Prem Kumar Gera presented the course report. He highlighted the enthusiastic involvement of the participants in all the extra-curricular activities such as sports, trekking, river-rafting, bird-

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News Sparks

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Vignettes from the cultural programme of Phase V organized on 13 January

watching and cultural events. The participation in these events was overwhelming, considering the rigorous academic inputs that were required of the participants in the nature of a strategy paper and intensive discussion on identification of three critical governance challenges, over and above the regular academic sessions. He concluded his address with an Irish quote "May you have the hindsight to know where you have been, the foresight to know where you are going and the insight to know when you have gone too far".

The Director, Padamvir Singh applauded the participants for their enthusiastic participation within and

outside classrooms. He mentioned the generous contribution of Rs. 92,000/- made by the participants for the benefit of the staff, which he assured, would be put to good use for the desired purpose. He offered that the Academy could function as a platform to create a knowledge network and solution exchange and invited the participants to join this forum. He also emphasized the need for leadership and role models who could show the way forward for inclusive growth with integrity and vision.

The 12 best strategy papers were announced during the ceremony and the authors of the reports were given prizes.

N.C. Saxena, 68, Member, National Advisory Council, and former Director of LBSNAA, featured in an article titled "The most powerful Indians in 2011"*. He figured at number 27 in the list and the reasons cited by the newspaper are reproduced here:

Why

He makes it to the list and to the top 30 because he's the country's top "official activist". This former Planning Commission member's adverse reports on Vedanta and Posco formed the basis of the government's decisions on these high-profile projects. Sonia Gandhi pays particular attention to him at NAC meetings. He was the Supreme Court's eyes and ears when it was looking at the issue of the effectiveness of food security programmes.

Power Punch

His unambiguous condemnation of Vedanta's mining project. The ferocity of his critique is rare in most government-commissioned reports.

What Next

He has another report, on the poor implementation of Forest Rights Act nationally, that is likely to have a big impact on official policy for both tribal rights and industrialisation.

By the way

Always tall for his age, he says his height as a child got him admitted to Class V when he went for admission to kindergarten.

*<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/the-most-powerful-indians-in-2011-no.-2130/745643/5>

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News Sparks

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Capacity Building Programme for E-office: E-Office has been designed in sync with the needs of a modern government and has been conceived as the instrument for Next Generation Government. Under E-Office, personalized services are enabled and employees receive electronic notification of services and transactions based on their needs and requirements.



NIC team assisting the Academy staff in the e-office capacity building programme

The Academy has stepped up to implement E-Office application. The E-Office is being designed and developed by National Informatics Centre, New Delhi. For the implementation of E-office, the system study of the present working environment was done, so that the application may cater to the need of the Academy.

An extensive training programme for the employees and officers of the Academy has been designed, so that an exposure of E-office components may be available at the user end. The Capacity Building Program for E-office was inaugurated by the Director on 7 January. He emphasized the need and importance of paperless working environment in the Academy.

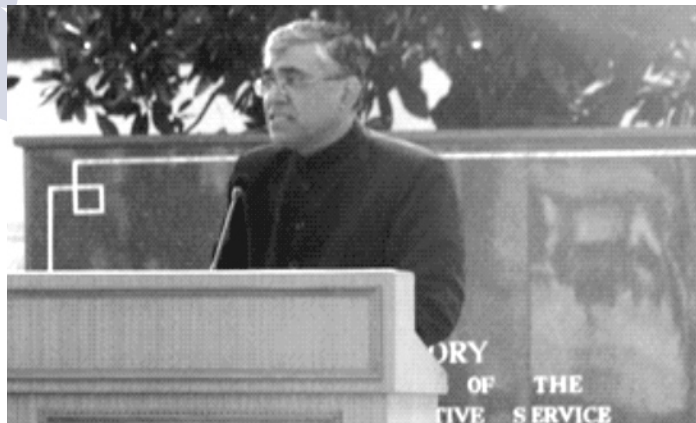


The Director inaugurating the Knowledge Center

The Capacity Building Programme will include inputs on typing in Hindi/English, Scanning, Computer Fundamentals, MS Word, MS Excel, Knowledge Management System (KMS), Appointments, Other E-office applications, Content Management and E-Filing. For the smooth functioning of the programme, a nodal officer and an alternate nodal officer have been appointed from each section. These nominated officials will further guide their respective sections in its day-to-day activities. All the employees and officers have been divided into six groups.

The capacity building programme started from 11 January for a month in the Computer labs at NIC Training Unit. The pedagogy includes lectures, practical demonstration, hands-on sessions, discussion forum and workshops. The faculty involved in the training programme comprises of resource persons from NIC HQ, Delhi, the Academy and NIC Training Unit.

Republic Day Celebrations: The Academy awoke to a bright 26 January awash with a light cover of pristine snow. The Joint Director, P.K. Gera addressed the gathering of the Academy *parivaar* on this occasion.



The Joint Director addressing the gathering on the 62nd Republic Day



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News Sparks

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A silence of 2 minutes was observed before the address to pay homage to the departed soul of Yashwant Sonawane, Additional Collector, Malegaon, who laid down his life in the cause of good governance. In his address, the Joint Director said that while we were all discharging our duties, the little extra effort that leads to improved and good governance can ensure that the dreams that had been envisaged for the republic of India come true. He exhorted the employees to come forward with their suggestions on improvements within the Academy.

The brief function at the Main Campus was followed by a flag hoisting ceremony at the National Institute of Administrative Research. The Executive Director, NIAR, Kush Verma, unfurled the flag at the ceremony that was also attended by the Joint Director and Deputy Directors.

Workshop on Public Private Partnership in Urban Sector: A week's workshop, 7-11 February, was organized at the Indira Bhawan Complex. The workshop was inaugurated by the Joint Director, P.K. Gera who highlighted the importance of enabling infrastructure in urban areas to sustain the growth momentum in countries like India where the urban population has been burgeoning at unprecedented levels; and the role that Public Private Partnerships could play in bringing about this transformation. M. Ramachandran, former Secretary (Urban Development) set the tenor for this workshop, which saw enthusiastic involvement of the participants. The workshop benefitted not just from the experience of eminent resource persons across the public and the private sector, but also from the rich and varied experience of the participants. Executive Director, NIAR, Kush Verma, graced the Valedictory function and gave away training completion certificates to the participants.



The participants at the workshop on PPP in Urban Sector

First National Training of Trainers on 'ICT Essentials for Government Leaders':

The Academy, in partnership with Department of Information Technology (DIT), Government of India, and the United Nations Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (UN-APCICT/ESCAP) organized the first National Training of Trainers (ToT) on 'ICT Essentials for Government Leaders', from 14-16 February.



Participants and resource persons of the ToT on ICT

UN-APCICT has developed eight modules for equipping policy makers and government officials across the Asia Pacific region for leveraging ICT4D (ICT for development) to achieve National Development Goals. These eight modules provide flexible curriculum ranging from basic to more advanced topics on ICT4D and have already been adopted as standard training material by national training academies across Asia and Pacific Region. In India, DIT as a nodal authority has planned adoption, customization and national rollout of these modules in Central Training Institutes and State Administrative Institutes. As part of national roll-out, UN-APCICT offered the first ToT for members of the LBSNAA faculty and other national level partner institutes.



Valedictory function of the UNAPCICT ToT on 16 February

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News Sparks

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The inaugural function was chaired by a panel comprising of P. K. Gera, Joint Director, LBSNAA; Shankar Aggarwal, Additional Secretary, DIT, Government of India; and Dr. Hyeun-Suk Rhee, Director, UN-APCICT. This ToT focused on the following modules:

Module 1: The Linkage between ICT Applications and Meaningful Development

Module 4: ICT Trends for Government Leaders

Module 3: e-Government Applications

The Valedictory address delivered by Padamvir Singh, Director, LBSNAA was preceded by a discussion on identification of module content for incorporation in training programmes at LBSNAA and other partner institutes, course durations, and faculty for various training programmes.

Phase I: After around six weeks of spanning out in groups covering the length and breadth of the country during Bharat Darshan, the IAS trainees of the 2010 batch resumed their training in the Academy on 21 February. The first week, focused on District Administration and Land Management, began with sessions on Overview of District Administration

and continued with Land Records management, Chain Survey practicals, Land Acquisition, National Land Record Modernization Mission, conventional techniques of survey as also the application of GPS and remote sensing among other things.

Training Programme organized by NICTU at Indian Railway Institute of Transport Management (IRITM): A week's training programme on MS-Word, MS Power Point and MS Excel for the India Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officers was organized by NICTU at the IRITM in Lucknow. There were 40 participants.



Scenic snow: seen here are the Director's Office and the Kalindi Lawns after the snowfall on 16 February

Faculty News

Shildhar Singh Yadav, a 1998 Batch PCS officer, Uttar Pradesh cadre, has assumed charge of the office of Assistant Director in the forenoon of 7 January 2011, prior to which he was posted as the District Supply Officer at Moradabad. He has also worked as Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Nainital in Nainital district, SDM Iglas and Aligarh in Aligarh district, SDM Bharthana in Etawah district, SDM Etmadpur, Agra and Fatehabad in Agra district, SDM Kanth and Thakurdwara in Moradabad district and as Additional City Magistrate in Aligarh and Agra.



Smt. Alka Sirohi, Secretary (DoPT) on a tour of the Academy on 13 January with Director Padamvir Singh and members of Academy faculty

Dr. Garima Yadav, a 1998 Batch PCS officer, Uttar Pradesh cadre, has assumed charge of the office of Assistant Director in the forenoon of 7 January 2011. She has worked in various positions as the SDM in Dehradun, Nainital, Etawah and Agra, as Officer on special Duty in Agra Development Authority, as Project Director, District Urban Development Agency, Aligarh, as Special Land Acquisition Officer, Moradabad, as Additional City Magistrate in Agra and Moradabad and as Officer in charge Elections in Moradabad.



Research Centres in Action

Centre for Rural Studies (CRS)

Socio-Economic Profile of Rural India: One of the major objectives of the LBSNAA is to sensitize recruits to the civil services towards the plight of rural people but also to equip them with an in-depth understanding of rural issues. The IAS officer trainees are required to prepare a village study report as a part of their district assignments after conducting extensive questionnaire-based household survey. The "Socio-Economic Profile of Rural India" is based on data collected by the IAS Officer Trainees and further modified and consolidated by experts.

This "Socio-Economic Profile of Rural India" Series I is published in four volumes. The Centre also initiated the publication of Series II. The following two volumes were published recently:

- Socio-Economic Profile of Rural India: Series - II vol IV (Eastern India);

Edited by Raj Mohini Sethi, 2011, Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi, p 314, Rs.750/-

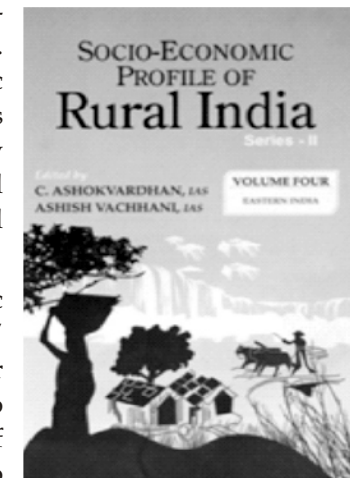
Contributors: Sucha Singh Gill, Padamvir Singh, H.R. Sharma, Virender Kumar, S.N. Chaudhary

- Socio-Economic Profile of Rural India: Series - II vol V (North and Central India);

Edited by Dr. C. Ashokvardhan & Ashish Vachhani, 2011, Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi, p 560, Rs.1200/-

Contributors: Praveen Jha, Atul K. Singh, Ashish Vachhani, S. Tripathy, Varunendra Vikram Singh, S.K. Bhaumik, Bimal Kumar

The present volume on Eastern India contains study reports of the States of Orissa, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. In the light of findings it is suggested that efforts should be made to reduce the poverty in rural parts of these states through appropriate policy measures. An integrated approach in all sectors is necessary for all-round development.



National Institute of Administrative Research (NIAR)

The Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation has identified NIAR as one of the key resource centres (KRC) for capacity building of pertinent stakeholders from five states namely Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Punjab. Initiating the operations as KRC, NIAR has already organized three state level workshops for the states of Madhya Pradesh (20-24 December 2010), Haryana (27-31 December 2010) and Punjab (4-8 January 2011). The underlying purpose of the workshop was to identify emerging issues related to water and sanitation. The engineers from Department of Water Supply and Development and technical officials of Panchayati Raj Institutions participated in the workshop. The major themes covered included:

- Water Management Issues
- Approaches in Sanitation
- School Sanitation and Hygiene Education
- IEC in Water and Sanitation
- Solid and Liquid Waste Management
- Sensitization about water conservation

Republic Day at NIAR: Subsequent to the synergistic amalgamation of all LBSNAA Centres under the encompassing umbrella of NIAR, a new chapter has been added to the history of the latter. The republic day flag hoisting ceremony on 26 January presided by Executive Director, NIAR Kush Verma was attended by all the Centre coordinators. The ceremony held at NIAR was also graced by both the Joint Directors and the faculty members of the Academy and the respective Centers.

Centre for Disaster Management (CDM)

The Centre, in collaboration with National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) organized two Sensitization Workshops on Incident Response System (IRS) for the District Officers at Uttarakashi and Haridwar on 24 and 25 February, respectively. JK Sinha, Member NDMA, New Delhi was the chief guest at both the workshops. Kush Verma, Executive Director, NIAR, also joined the Workshop at Haridwar as a resource person on 25 February. The workshop in Uttarakashi was attended by 46 district officers and the Haridwar workshop was attended by 44 district officers.

Yashwant Sonawane: Condolence

Dr. S. H. Khan*



Malegaon:Additional District Collector of Malegaon, Yashwant Sonawane, was burnt alive by people involved in black marketing of petrol and diesel. The tragic incident took place about 10 kms from Malegaon in Maharashtra's Nashik district on 25 January, 2011.

Sonawane was going to Nandgaon for a tehsildar meeting when he spotted a few trucks parked in a suspicious manner near a road side eatery where the depots of IOC, HPCL and BPCL are located. The area is infamous for smuggling and adulteration of petrol, diesel and kerosene.

Sonawane got off the car and started investigating about the

trucks when a man identified as Popat Shinde, with a reputation of running an oil, petrol and diesel smuggling racket, along with his men, attacked the officer.

He was reportedly beaten up by Shinde and his men and then set on fire. Shinde was detained by police and was taken to the Malegaon Civil Hospital after he also suffered burn injuries.

The other attackers fled after the incident and police have launched a massive manhunt to track and arrest them.

**Deputy Director (Sr.), LBSNAA*

(This contribution is to mark the condolence observed on 26th January 2011)

Many chuck cushy MNC careers for government jobs

Gautam Dheer*

Two years ago, Kartikeya Mishra enjoyed a cushy job of an investment banker with Goldman Sachs in New York.

“I was deeply involved in mergers and acquisitions and would take home an annual salary package of Rs 50 lakh,” Mishra, originally hailing from Andhra Pradesh and an IIM-Ahmedabad MBA graduate, told Deccan Herald. Recently, he cleared the Union Public Service Commission-conducted civil services examination and was posted as assistant collector in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, with an annual salary that is less than one-tenth he drew at Goldman Sachs.

Mishra is not alone. He is among a cohort of youngsters who have quit well-paid jobs in multi-national corporations that also accorded them comfortable lives, to join the civil services. For instance, Mishra's course mate while undergoing training at the IAS academy in Mussoorie, Sandeep Nanduri, chucked his job at Hewlett Packard (HP), cleared the UPSC examination in the first attempt and then took charge as assistant collector at Virudhnagar in Tamil Nadu.

Call it what you will - a temptation for power, the lure of perks that babus enjoy or even a belief in serving the people - the 2009 IAS batch that passed out of Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in Mussoorie has many young officers, several of whom studied in some of the southern cities, including Bangalore, and gave up their MNC tags to join the great Indian civil service, once the steel

frame of the British empire.

Many are from South India, with their hometowns in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Academy Director Padamvir Singh told Deccan Herald that there are at least 35 per cent officers in the 2009 batch who left big corporates and other private sector jobs to join the IAS.

Many want to be the agents of a solution and a part of the problem, pledging to weed out corruption in everyday government functioning and ushering in functional administrative reforms that would facilitate the public.

Lead from the front

Talking to Deccan Herald, Mishra explained: “You can tackle any situation if you maintain an upright taintless image. One needs to lead from the front. Corruption breeds wherever there are ineffective systems of accountability and blemished record of officials in public dealing. This will have to change and I am here for this.” Mishra grew up looking for a corporate job.

After taking an MBA degree from IIM-Ahmedabad, Mishra went to the US to work for Goldman Sachs for two years. It was then that he realised he didn't want to lead a corporate life. “The IAS is one job where you can impact the lives of many. The scope in the corporate sector is limited to making money with little job security and status. I could have only served a specific sector,” he said.

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Many chuck cushy MNC careers for ...

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Nanduri, a marketing manager with HP, drew close to Rs 12 lakh as annual starting salary. He is now settling in his first government job as assistant collector of Virudhunagar. Nanduri quit his job, sat at home and prepared for the UPSC examination.

For this MBA holder from IIM-Bangalore, the quality of life, the respect that comes with the job and the kind of work one can do to empower people's lives as a civil servant is a big lure, bigger than what fat corporate salaries can buy.

“My priority is now to ensure that public dealing jobs are hassle-free so that it strengthens the image of the administrative machinery in the state,” he says.

For Rohan Thakur, another MBA IIM-Ahmedabad degree-holder, it was the attraction of the global markets that made him take up a job with Tata Administrative Services, Mumbai. However, Thakur, an economics graduate from St Stephens College in New Delhi, found that he was attracted to the IAS.

Fulfilling experience

“I strongly feel that the civil services builds you as an individual and gives you a more fulfilling experience. There's job security, status and it offers you enough room to make a contribution to society. Lifestyle is certainly a temptation,” says Thakur, whose mission is now to bring in some tangible results in administration delivery system.

According to Padamvir Singh, talent has always been attracted to the civil services and IIT students, MBAs and doctors have joined the IAS. “It's heartening to see that young people are choosing the IAS over fat salaries and corporate lifestyle,” Singh said.

The rise in the number of aspirants vying for the IAS seems to corroborate his statement. “From a decline, there were nearly 4.09 lakh applicants for the first leg of the civil services examination last year. Given that the number was 3.25 lakh in 2008, the jump has been steep,” sources said, Also, the revised pay packages have also made the job more lucrative.

**This article appeared in Deccan Herald, Chandigarh, on 21 January 2011*

मैं और मेरी हिन्दी

के. सुरेश*

मैं और मेरी हिन्दी अक्सर यूँ ही बातें करते रहते हैं, कि वो तमिल होती तो कितना अच्छा होता।

मुझे हिन्दी सीखने की ये मजबूरी 1982 में भारतीय प्रशासनिक सेवा में मध्यप्रदेश राज्य आवंटन होने से प्रारंभ हुई। लोगों द्वारा मेरा दक्षिण भारतीय होने से हिन्दी उच्चारण में गलतियां ढूंढने से मुझमें हिन्दी सीखने का जुनून सवार हुआ। शुरुआत में हिन्दी बाल पत्रिका “लोटपोट” पढ़ने तथा “अमरचित्र कहानियां” पढ़ कर हिन्दी सीखने का प्रयास किया।

दिन—ब—दिन मेरा हिन्दी से लेकर मेरी हिन्दी तक व्याकरण, शब्दावली एवं उच्चारण सब अपने आप सुधरने लगे। “मजबूरी से प्रगति पथ पर चल कर चाहत बन गई हिन्दी।”

अब मैं मध्यप्रदेश में लगभग 27 वर्ष की सेवा कर चुका हूं और मेरी हिन्दी सुबह चाय की प्याली के साथ समाचार पत्र से प्रारंभ होकर रात टी.वी सीरियल घर—घर की कहानी देखकर सोने तक, पढ़ना—लिखना, उठना—बैठना, चलना—फिरना, खाना—पीना, सोना—जागना सब में घुल—मिल गई है। यहां तक कि मेरी पत्नी भी

चैन्नई के सेन्ट्रल रेलवे स्टेशन पर उतरकर ऑटो चालक से हिन्दी में बहस करने लग जाती है।

मेरे बच्चे, मध्यप्रदेश निवासी होने की वजह से धीरे—धीरे हमारे घर में हिन्दी प्रवेश होने के कारण तमिल धीरे—धीरे भूलने लगे हैं। ननिहाल बेंगलूरु में छुट्टियों बिताते समय अधिकांश हिन्दी में ही उनकी बातचीत होती, जिसका एक नुकसान यह होता है कि जब भी हम हिन्दी में बातचीत करते हैं तब रिश्तेदार समझते हैं कि कोई गोपनीय बात कर रहे हैं और एक फायदा यह कि हम चाहे वो बात कर सकते हैं जो घर के और लोग नहीं समझते।

मेरी हिन्दी की जीवन यात्रा में विभिन्न पन्नों में हिन्दी के ज्ञान की यात्रा कैसे हुई, इस लेख के साथ मैं आपसे बांटना चाहता हूं।

बैतूल जिले में परिवीक्षाधीन अवधि में मुझे वनग्राम कुकुरु कामला में फारेस्ट गेस्ट हाउस में रुकना पड़ा तब वहां के चौकीदार ने कहा “साबजी” दरवाजा ठीक से बन्द कर लेना वरना भालू आयेगा। इस पर मेरे थोड़े से हिन्दी के ज्ञान से उन्हें जवाब दिया कि “भालू हो तो आने

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दो मैं मिल लूंगा”, मुझे यह थोड़ा मालूम था कि भालू का मतलब कोई जानवर होगा। मैं तो यूँ ही समझा कि कोई भालू जो दक्षिण भारत में व्यक्ति का नाम बालु, बालकृष्णन प्रचलित है, होगा। मेरा यह जवाब सुनकर चौकीदार हक्का—बक्का रह गया और बहुत कोशिश कर इशारे से मुझे भालू का असली अर्थ समझाया।

मुझे बालु का एक और अर्थ मालूम हुआ कि रेत को भी बालु कहते हैं। उस समय मुझे क्या मालूम था कि भविष्य में केन्द्रीय मंत्री टी.आर. बालु के साथ काम करने का मौका मिलेगा। वे हिन्दी अभाषी होते हुए भी उन्हें हिन्दी में भाषण देना पड़ा, जिसे उन्होंने तमिल में लिखकर दोहराया। जब तक हिन्दी अंतःकरण से स्वप्रेरित होकर सीखी नहीं जाती, शायद ही वो किसी किसी को लुभाती है।

मेरे परिवीक्षाधीन साथियों ने मुझे हिन्दी सिखाने में भरपूर सहयोग दिया एवं मुझे हिन्दी गाने सुनने के लिए भी प्रेरित किया। रेडियो में हिन्दी फिल्मों के गाने खासकर “विविध भारती” के “भूले बिसरे गीत”, “बिनाका गीतमाला” सुनकर हिन्दी का ज्ञान बढ़ाया। वीडियो, दूरदर्शन, सिनेमा खासकर टाकीजों में हिन्दी फिल्में देखकर हिन्दी प्रेम और उमड़ा।

उस समय एक हिन्दी भाषी वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधिकारी की यह कोशिश थी कि उनकी बेटी से शादी हो जाये। उन दिनों “शायद मेरी शादी का ख्याल दिल में आया है, इसीलिए एस.पी. साहब ने आपको चाय पे बुलाया है।” ये गाना गाकर साथी मुझे चिढ़ाते थे लेकिन किस्मत में मेरी तमिल भाषी से शादी नियत थी, जिससे एक और को भी हिन्दी सीखने का अवसर मिला।

श्री पी.के. चौधरी, कलेक्टर होशंगाबाद के अधीन मैं हरदा का अनुविभागीय अधिकारी रहा। जिन्हें, मैं मुंशी प्रेमचंद की कहानियां, श्रीलाल शुक्ला जी का “राग दरबारी” और हरिशंकर परसाई जी की व्यंग कथायें एवं सुरेश उपाध्याय के लेखन से परिचित कराया, जिससे मेरी हिन्दी की प्यास और बढ़ी।

मैं, मानस भवन गुना में रामकिंकर जी का रामचरित मानस पर प्रवचन हो या गुना की हास्य शायरा अंजुम रहबर की गज़लें हो, जिला प्रशासन अधिकारियों के आफिसर्स क्लब के माध्यम से आयोजित कर सक्रिय भाग लेता रहा। इससे मेरी हिन्दी और विकसित हुई।

बस्तर में अतिरिक्त कलेक्टर रहा। उस समय इलाहाबाद के श्री सुनील टण्डन जो नारायणपुर के अनुविभागीय अधिकारी थे, मेरी

उनसे आकस्मिक मुलाकात हुई और मेरी बोलचाल की हिन्दी काफी हदतक समृद्ध हुई क्योंकि उन्होंने हिन्दी के क्लिष्ट साहित्य के साथ इलाहाबाद की सड़कों पर बोली जाने वाली हिन्दी सिखाई। मैं समझता हूँ कि मुझे किसी किताब में ढूँढ़ने से भी वैसी हिन्दी नहीं मिलती। कई प्रकार की गालियों से हिन्दी बोलचाल से मेरा परिचय हुआ। बस इसका उपयोग बहुत सोच—समझकर करना पड़ता था। मेरा मानना है कि जिन्हें इलाहाबाद की इस बोली का ज्ञान नहीं हो, उसका हिन्दी ज्ञान अधूरा है।

आरक्षण विरोधी मुहिम गुना जिले में तीव्रता से चलाई जा रही थी। कॉलेज के विद्यार्थियों का झुण्ड शहर के विभिन्न इलाकों में चक्का जाम कराता था। मैं टूटी—फूटी हिन्दी में भाषण देकर शान्त कराता था। इसमें कोई संदेह नहीं है कि कानून व्यवस्था जैसी कई विषम परिस्थितियों को सामान्य करने में हिन्दी भाषा ने अहम भूमिका निभाई। उस समय छात्र नेता श्रीकान्त शर्मा ने सल्फास की गोलियां खा ली थी, उन्हें तत्काल प्रथम उपचार के बाद कलेक्टर की जीप में बैठाकर ग्वालियर रवाना किया और ग्वालियर मेडिकल कॉलेज में उपचार उपरान्त शर्मा बच गये। श्रीकान्त शर्मा वर्तमान में प्राथमिक स्कूल में शिक्षक हैं और जब भी मुझसे मिलने भोपाल आते हैं तो पर्वी भेजते हैं, उसमें यह लिखा होता है “सल्फास शर्मा”।

मुझे उस समय की घटना याद आ रही है, जब मैं गुना जिले के कलेक्टर पद पर कार्यरत था। मेरे विरूद्धस्थानीय विधायक ने तत्कालीन माननीय मुख्यमंत्री जी से शिकायत की, तब मुझे माननीय मुख्यमंत्री जी ने याद किया तो उनके समक्ष उपस्थित होकर शिकायत के संबंध में अपना पक्ष रखा। यह वार्तालाप हिन्दी में थी और मेरी हिन्दी से प्रभावित होकर उन्होंने मुझे अपना कार्य निष्पक्ष एवं निडर होकर करने की सलाह दी। संभवतः मेरी हिन्दी सही समय पर काम आई।

कलेक्टर कांफ्रेस भोपाल में आयोजित हुई, जिसमें बिलासपुर के कलेक्टर की हैसियत से मैं और मेरे कमिश्नर दोनों ने इस बैठक में भाग लिया। तत्कालीन मुख्यमंत्री स्वयं बैठक में कृषि संबंधी समीक्षा कर रहे थे। हरएक कलेक्टर कोई अंग्रेजी में कोई हिन्दी में अपने जिले के बारे में जानकारी दे रहे थे। जब मेरी बारी आई तो मैंने अंग्रजी में बोलना शुरू किया तब माननीय मुख्यमंत्री जी ने मुझे टोका और कहा कि आप हिन्दी में बोलिये, जिस पर मैंने खरीफ पैदावार संबंधी जानकारी शुद्धहिन्दी में दी, जिससे माननीय मुख्यमंत्री जी ने खुश होकर मेरी हिन्दी की तारीफ की। मेरे साथ आए हुए कई अधिकारी जिनकी मातृभाषा हिन्दी थी, वे भी इतनी धाराप्रवाह हिन्दी नहीं बोल पाये।

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माननीय उच्च न्यायालय जबलपुर में न्यायाधीश के समक्ष मुझे मध्यप्रदेश राज्य सड़क परिवहन निगम की ओर से अवमानना प्रकरण में उपस्थित होना पड़ा। पहले अंग्रेजी में अपना स्पष्टीकरण दिया, जिसका कोई असर नहीं हुआ पर माननीय न्यायाधीश ने मेरी हिन्दी में की गई विनती को मान्य कर मुझे अवमानना प्रकरण से मुक्त कर दिया।

अविभाजित मध्यप्रदेश के बिलासपुर जिले के कलेक्टर पद पर रहते हुए भारत—ज्ञान विज्ञान समिति का पदेन अध्यक्ष भी रहा। उस समय बिलासपुर जिले को शतप्रतिशत साक्षर बनाने हेतु मैंने सम्पूर्ण साक्षरता अभियान की कमान संभाली थी।

हिन्दी पढ़ाई—लिखाई से अनभिज्ञ लोगों को हिन्दी पढ़ना लिखना सिखाते—सिखाते मैं खुद हिन्दी अच्छी तरह से सीख गया। गांव—गांव में, गली—गली में, शहरों की तंग बस्तियों में छत्तीसगढ़ी हिन्दी बोलचाल सुनना और सीखना भी एक अलग—सा अनुभव था।

केन्द्र में प्रतिनियुक्ति पर मैं जब चैन्नई पोर्ट ट्रस्ट के चेयरमेन के पद पर कार्यरत था, मेरी हिन्दी बहुत सहायक बनी। तमिलनाडु में वैसे भी हिन्दी का उपयोग कम होता है। अपने कार्यालय में हिन्दी भाषा सिखाने की जिम्मेदारी मैंने सफलतापूर्वक संभाली। राष्ट्रभाषा कार्यक्रम को सक्रियता से क्रियान्वित कर शतप्रतिशत हिन्दी प्रशिक्षण में मजदूर, कर्मचारी, अधिकारियों को सहभागी बनाया और प्रथमबार “सागर सलोनी” नाम से हिन्दी पत्रिका का प्रकाशन किया।

मेरी उन भाषा प्रेमियों से और भाषा विरोधियों से विनती है कि भाषा एक व्यक्ति, समाज, राज्य एवं देश को जोड़ने का काम करती है। हिन्दी को राष्ट्रभाषा मानकर उन्हें अपनाने में और अपनी मातृभाषा को नहीं भूलने एवं दोनों के विकास में समानता दिखाकर कार्य करना होगा। कहना आसान है, मगर क्रियान्वित करना उतना ही मुश्किल है।

यह बात मैं विश्वास के साथ कह सकता हूँ कि मेरी मातृभाषा तमिल होने पर भी हिन्दी सीखकर तमिल एवं हिन्दी भाषाओं के उत्तम साहित्य को पढ़ने, समझने एवं आनंद उठाने का जो अमूल्य अवसर मुझे मिला; वह हिन्दी न जानने वाले और न ही पढ़ने वाले लोगों को नहीं मिलता। वे हिन्दी साहित्य की अमूल्य धरोहर से अपरिचित एवं वंचित रह जाते हैं।

मेरे मध्यप्रदेश में बिताये गये 27 सालों में मेरी हिन्दी में उत्तरोतर सुधार होता गया और हिन्दी के सभी पहलुओं में मुझे काम करने का

अवसर मिला। चाहे कोर्ट के आदेश लिखना हो, शासन को टीप भेजना हो और कर्मचारियों को प्रोत्साहित करने हेतु भाषण देना हो।

जो हिन्दी शुरू में मेरे हाथ, मेरी जुबान पर अत्याचार झेलती रही, वह धीरे—धीरे परेशान होकर, तंग आकर आखिर में मेरे दिल और दिमाग पर छा गई और कभी हिन्दी ने मेरा साथ नहीं छोड़ा।

अब वह यूँही साथ चलते—चलते.....

अब मैं और मेरी हिन्दी अक्सर यूँ ही बातें करते रहते हैं.....

हिंदी का हृदय काफी विशाल है

डॉ. भावना पोरवाल*

हिंदी का हृदय काफी विशाल है

इसका हमें जितना ख्याल नहीं

जितना इसको ख्याल है

हिंदी का हृदय काफी विशाल है।

यह सभी भाषाओं को अपनाती है

उनका विस्तार कराती है

फिर क्यों इस पर बवाल है

हिंदी का हृदय काफी विशाल है।

यह हमारे देश की आन,

इसकी अपने आपमें एक पहचान

यह सिर्फ भाषा ही नहीं बल्कि लोकपाल है

हिंदी का हृदय काफी विशाल है।

जिस दिन ये राष्ट्रभाषा बन जाएगी

देश की तकदीर ही बदल जाएगी

अब तक यह संभव नहीं हुआ तो जरूर कुछ चाल है

हिंदी का हृदय काफी विशाल है।

*सहायक व्याख्याता

भाषा संकाय