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We welcome articles and write-ups from our readers and subscribers. These can be sent to the Editor.

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# The ACADEMY

Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration

Vol. 3 Issue 11 December 2010

### 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 Academy' warmly greets all its readers in the Year 2011! This past month of December, unlike in other years, did not see LBSNAA take a break for the winters. Quite fittingly, perhaps, in keeping with the expanded scope and responsibilities of the nation, as the decade took a turn to its second in the millennium. After bidding adieu to the 85th Foundation Course (FC) participants early in the month, it was time to immediately start off on the Phase I training for the IAS Officer Trainees (OTs) of 2010 batch. The last of the FC saw rigorous end-of-Course evaluations, quick recaps of learning, and all the co-curricular activities that could possibly be packed in - before the OTs of the Indian Foreign Service, Indian Police Service, and the Indian Forest Service left for their respective professional training institutes in New Delhi, Hyderabad, and Dehradun, respectively; while the recruits to the IAS stayed on at LBSNAA. The days also saw reaffirmations of friendships, cementing of some relationships, and yes, many a broken heart too, as compulsions of service took people away in different directions! Kamal Nath, the Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways graced the valedictory function, indeed a memorable occasion in the life of every OT. By mid-month, the OTs of Phase I too embarked on a long voyage of sorts - the Winter Study Tour aka *Bharat Darshan* - which will take them on an experiential tour of the myriad facets of the country.

After over three months of vibrant interactions with the young recruits to the civil services, which energize the

environs of the Academy, it was time to welcome participants of the Mid Career Training Programme Phase V - hosted by the Academy for the first time - in the third week of the month. The earlier Phase V programmes for senior IAS officers were being hosted at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. This year, the initial week of the Course was conducted at the Harvard Kennedy School, Boston, after which the IAS officers of the 1979-83 batches along with two members of the Sri Lankan Administrative Service joined LBSNAA for the remainder of the programme until mid January. Leaving behind the brief spell of quiet after the departure of Phase I participants, the Academy precincts were once again abuzz with activities and spirited discussions of the Phase V participants.

The *joie de vivre* of the Phase V participants, many returning to their beloved Alma Mater after decades, has been quite palpable - as they scaled new heights atop the George Everest point, or sang and danced to delightful old tunes bringing in Christmas cheer, or ringing in a glorious New Year. We dedicate this issue of 'The Academy' to all the participants of Phase V and wish them a most memorable stay in Mussoorie. We also thank them for their contributions to the newsletter, which we are carrying in the inside pages. Happy reading!

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## News Sparks

**Phase V:** The Phase-V of the Mid Career Training Programme for IAS officers commenced on 12 December, with the initial one week of the Course taking off at the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS). 93 officers from 1979-1983 batches including two officers from the Sri Lankan Administrative Services are participants of this programme. After the opening week at Boston, the programme continued at LBSNAA from 21 December and is on until 14 January 2011.



*Nobel Laureate Prof. Amartya Sen addressing the Phase V participants at the Harvard Kennedy School...*



*... and interacting with the participants*

The tenor of Phase V was set with an address by Nobel Laureate Professor Amartya Sen at the commencement of the Course at HKS. The module at Harvard Kennedy School was designed to give global perspectives on governance and included sessions on the Global Financial Crisis, economic challenges of Globalization, Global Climate Change Policy

as well as Strategic Leadership and Ethics. The global perspective was followed up by inward focus and deliberations on issues of strategic importance for the nation. In the Academy, the first two weeks, from 21 December have been scheduled for sessions by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad and primarily included inputs on infrastructure - social and physical, regulatory frameworks, subsidies, financial sector and related reforms. A team comprising the top faculty of IIM conducted these sessions. The comprehensive deliberations are being complemented by high-order discussions, presentations, and sharing of rich insights by the participants themselves.



↑ Inauguration ceremony - at the Academy for Phase V ↓



Rigorous classroom inputs apart, Phase V also had its lighter moments during Christmas and the eve of the New Year. A gala musical evening was organized on 25 December at the Officer Trainee Lounge, where the participants of Phase V joined in with gusto. The New Year was welcomed with equal gaiety by the Course participants and the Academy fraternity! Another refreshing change was that the salubrious climes of Mussoorie induced the participants to opt for perambulation or the lowly bicycle as their preferred mode of transport!

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## News Sparks

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*Phase V participants atop the George Everest Peak*

**Phase I:** The Phase I of the IAS commenced on 13 December, immediately after completion of the 85th FC with 136 officers. Three OTs of Phase I participated in the Inter Institutional Debate organized by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Academy at Dehradun on 12 December. While the team ended as runners-up, the prize for the 'Best Speaker against the motion' was bagged by Joyoshi Dasgupta. The first week of the Course saw an alignment and reorientation through sessions designed to put in perspective the role of an IAS officer in a rapidly changing strategic and socio-economic milieu, and in an India of rising aspirations. After a week of orientation, the OTs left for the much awaited Bharat Darshan on 17

December which would take them through the length and breadth of the country before their return to the Academy to continue their training on 21 February.

**85th Foundation Course:** The last few days of this vibrant Course was taken up with the end-of-the-term examinations. The tests wrapped up, the OTs spent the last of their days in the Academy living it up with their batch mates from different services, immersing themselves in a number of extracurricular activities. They also had an enriching interaction with Azim Premji through videoconference. Many of them took off on a river rafting expedition to Rishikesh, braving the icy-cold rapids. Another team opted for the thrill of rock climbing at the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) campus in Mussoorie. Appreciating the environmental concerns and to reinforce the concept of dignity of labour, a Shramdan was organized early in the early morning of 6 December. The entire Faculty, OTs of the Foundation Course, and members of the staff joined hands in this battle for cleaner environs.

The OTs of the 85th Foundation Course organized *Sham-E-Rukhsat* - the moment of departure - a cultural evening on 9 December, followed by a special dinner at the Officer's Mess and a camp-fire. The blues of parting from the Academy and friends from other Services were downed in open-air dancing well into the night. The following day (10 December) saw heavy hearts bidding goodbye to dear friends, as the OTs belonging to the Indian Foreign Service, Indian Forest Service, and Indian Police Service left Mussoorie to resume training at the Institutes of their respective Services. As one of them put it, "One had to say byes to people; you could not even properly say Hi to!"



*FC OTs bidding adieu to friends...*



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## News Sparks

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*Shramdan: working towards a cleaner environ*



*85<sup>th</sup> Foundation Course Valedictory: Kamal Nath giving away prizes to OTs (left); singing the Academy song with Director Padamvir Singh, and Course Coordinator Gaurav Dwivedi (picture on right)*



The 85th Foundation Course that commenced on 30 August came to a formal closure with the Valedictory Function on 10 December. Kamal Nath, Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways presided over the function and gave away prizes to meritorious officers at the award distribution ceremony.

**E-office:** A workshop in connection with implementation of online file system in the Academy was held on 14-15 December.

## अकादमी की राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति की बैठक का आयोजन

निदेशक महोदय की अध्यक्षता में अकादमी की उपर्युक्त बैठक का आयोजन दिनांक 27 दिसंबर, 2010 को अपराह्न 4:00 बजे ध्रुवशिला सम्मेलन कक्ष में किया गया। बैठक में अकादमी के कार्यालयी कामकाज में राजभाषा हिन्दी की उत्तरोत्तर प्रगति की समीक्षा की गई तथा संसदीय राजभाषा समिति द्वारा उठाए गए विषयों को पूर्ण करने की दिशा में किए जाने वाले प्रयासों पर विचार-विमर्श किया गया। निदेशक महोदय ने अकादमी के सभी अधिकारियों/कर्मचारियों से

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## News Sparks

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टिप्पणियों को अधिकाधिक रूप से हिन्दी में लिखने का आह्वान किया, साथ ही अभी अनुभागों से हिन्दी में कामकाज के वार्षिक लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने की दिशा में अधिक प्रयास करने के निर्देश दिए।

## नगर राजसभा कार्यान्वयन समिति के सदस्य कार्यालयों के लिए आयोजित चित्र कविता लेखन प्रतियोगिता में अकादमी की प्रविष्टि को पुरस्कार

उपयुक्त प्रतियोगिता में अकादमी की ओर से भेजी गई भाप्र सेवा की अधिकारी प्रशिक्षणार्थी सुश्री रचना पाटिल, की 'मैं मजदूर' शीर्षक कविता को दिनांक 14 दिसंबर, 2010 को नराकास बैठक में नराकास अध्यक्ष एवं आयकर आयुक्त, देहरादून द्वारा स्मृति चिह्न एवं प्रशस्ति पत्र देकर तृतीय पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया गया।

## “मैं मजदूर”

मैं मजदूर,

मुझे चाहिए मजदूरी न सिर्फ धन से  
बल्कि चाहिए मान सम्मान।

मैं करती हूँ दिहाड़ी, जिससे मैं जाती हूँ देह-हार,  
साथ ही दिन हार कर भी, नहीं हो पाती भूख शांत,

देह पर जगह-जगह, घाव हैं जो भरते ही नहीं,  
कभी मैं ईंटों को ढोती, तो कभी रेत में बही जाती,  
कभी अपनों को खोती, तो कभी अस्मिता गवांती,

मैं मजदूर .....

मैं मजदूर,

दूसरों के घर बसाती और खुद खोल में बस जाती,  
बरसता सावन, ठिठुरती हवा, तपते सूरज में खुद को तपाती,  
मेरा बच्चा भूखा मरता, नंगा रहता,

न देती उसे एक सुख जीवन,

मेरे श्रम का श्रृंगार, बना देता मुझे विकराल,

मैं मजदूर .....

मैं मजदूर,

मेरा जीवन सूखा पान,

न गिरे उसमें कभी हरियाली जान,

मैं बढ़ना चाहूँ, देना चाहूँ अपने को मान

पर यही समाज मुझे करता बार-बार बदनाम,

हे प्रभु, क्या यही विडंबना है मेरे जीवन की,

क्योंकि मैं हूँ ..... एक मजदूर?

— सुश्री रचना पाटिल, अधिकारी प्रशिक्षणार्थी, भाप्र सेवा

## Research Centres in Action

### Centre for Disaster Management (CDM)

The Centre conducted a training programme on “Science & Technology for Rural Societies” from 6-17 December under the plan scheme 'National Training Programme for Scientists and Technologists working in the Government Sector' supported by Department of Science and Technology, GoI. Attended by 18 scientists/technologists from different parts of the country, the main feature of this two-week programme was to experience the theoretical participatory learning methods through village study visit.

The scientists went through PLA steps in two villages in Kalsi Block (Dehradun District) to survey scientific interventions and impact on socio-economic conditions, the way of life, infrastructure facilities, and social dynamics, etc. At the end of the exhaustive field visit the groups prepared reports with suggestions for scientific and technological

intervention in the villages. The BDO and other Uttarakhand officials were also invited as observers during the presentation of the group reports.



*The village study visit for the participants of the CDM course*

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Research Centres in Action

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Centre for Rural Studies (CRS)

The Centre conducted two-day regional workshop on "Land Administration in North East States: Distances Covered and Challenges Ahead" on 14-15 December at Guwahati in the campus of National Institute of Rural Development, North East Regional Council, Guwahati. Senior government officials, eminent academicians, and researchers from the seven sisters States namely Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Manipur and Sikkim participated in the workshop. The objectives were to examine the status of survey and settlement of land, cadastral survey, computerization of land records, land record management and National Land Record Management Programme (NLRMP) in the Northeastern States. The understanding and review of the land tenure system vis -a -vis customary land laws and status of gender in land ownership were other important objectives. A range of papers presented during the workshop covered different dimensions of land administration and management in the region.

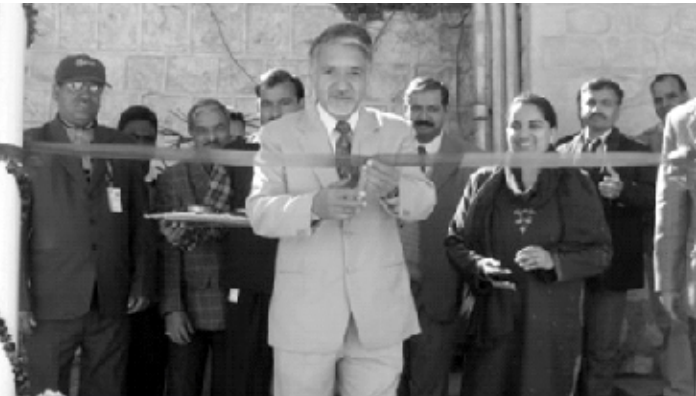
The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. AK Dutta, Director, Indian Institute of Management, Shillong, Meghalaya. Dr. Walter Fernandes, Director, North East Social Research Centre, Guwahati, delivered the keynote address. Charanjit Singh, Director, Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, GoI briefed participants on various Central Government schemes on land administration. V.K. Pipersenia, Principle Secretary (Revenue) Government of Assam highlighted various challenges in land administration in the region during his valedictory address. At the end of the workshop policy recommendations were drawn up by the participants to be sent to the MoRD, DoLR, GoI.

National Centre for Gender (NCG)

**Conference on Gender Budgeting:** The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) and National Gender Centre, LBSNAA organized two-day conference on Gender Budgeting, on 13-14 December at LBSNAA. MWCD, as the nodal ministry for Gender Budgeting has adopted the mission statement of “Budgeting for Gender Equity” in 2004-05 for universalizing gender budgeting both in the Centre and in the States. As a part of its mandate, MWCD has been organizing training for senior government officials for the Union and State governments.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Familiarize Nodal Officers of Gender Budgeting Cells of Central Ministries/ Departments with gender concepts and gender budgeting tools.
- Enable them to undertake gender budgeting exercise in their respective ministries/ departments.
- Review the functioning of the GB Cells.



Inauguration of the 48-room Executive Hostel, Valley View, Indira Bhawan Campus, on 20 December by Director Padamvir Singh

The Minivets are Here

(An ode to our beloved Nagarjuna)

Walking with you in Mussoorie,  
The clear sky, The cold nights would  
enthuse you to teach me Astronomy,  
I became a novice Star Gazer.  
Twenty eight years after, back here in Mussoorie,  
Walking alone in the clear nights one could locate  
The Hercules constellation with the belt on.  
The Galaxy and Constellations are mere words now,  
Stars such as Boots, Orion are all here,  
But our twinkling star,  
Where are you Naga?  
Classes are the same and  
the themes, “Not Only But Also”  
It has not changed a bit, NREP, IRDP  
have now become PMGSY, NREGA  
Skits you staged, roles you assigned us,  
Who will forget the first and the last  
Commandment uttered on the stage.  
“Let there be Light”

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The Minivets are Here

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Much of Eighty Two is here,  
“Just” ... “like that only”,  
Actors and Non State Actors are all here,  
The stage is all set, but Our Hero,  
Where are you Naga?

In the winter, braving the chilly mornings  
It was you who introduced me to serious  
“Bird watching”, of the feathered kind,  
Looking for birds, walking, trekking on the hilly tracks  
Along with ornithologist Dr Salim Ali  
Tree-pie with its long tail flew by,  
Hearing the mesmerizing notes of Bush Chats,  
Sweet whistles of Black Thrush, I remember,  
we could enlist all but one, the minivets.  
This morning, the one which eluded us was spotted,  
After twenty eight years, at Company Bagh,  
Amongst the Rhododendron flowers,  
Gleaming red colored birds, flying high and diving down,  
The pair, unmistakably that of minivets,  
The minivets are here,  
Where are you Naga?

\*On behalf of Batch of 82, K.Suresh (Madhya Pradesh cadre)

इक्कीस बिहारी और एक मद्रासी

के. सुरेश\*

यह कोई फार्मूला या समीकरण नहीं है, जिससे कोई समस्या या उसके हल निकालने की बात हो। यदि आप यह सोचने लगे कि सुपर स्टार रजनीकांत और उनसे भिड़े गुण्डों की सुपर फाइट हो तो, आपके विचार को भी निराशा ही हाथ लगेगी। हां यदि आप इस मुहावरें की शरण लेंगे जैसे सौ सुनार की और एक लुहार की, तो वह भी नहीं है और ना ही अलीबाबा और चालीस चोर की कथा है।

मैं आपसे झगड़ा-झंझट, कथा-व्यथा इन तमाम बातों से हटकर अपने अनुभव की एक दिलचस्प कहानी का आख्यान करना चाहूंगा। “इक्कीस बिहारी और एक मद्रासी” (जो मैं हूँ) के बीच दोस्ती की दास्तान। बिहार के अमिताभ की भाषा में कहना हो तो, यह अजब-गजब दोस्ती की कहानी होई गवां।

मसूरी स्थित लाल बहादुर शास्त्री अकादमी में भारतीय प्रशासनिक सेवा के फाउण्डेशन कोर्स के प्रारंभिक सत्र के अवसर पर हुई आकस्मिक मुलाकात ने एक गहरी दोस्ती की नींव डाली।

मैं, दिल्ली के बस अड्डें पर मसूरी जाने हेतु बस का इन्तजार कर रहा था। तब लम्बे कद के नौजवान और सांवले-से हंसमुख व्यक्ति ने मुझसे पूछा कि क्या आप आय.ए.एस. ट्रेनिंग में मसूरी जा रहे हैं? उनकी सहजता से मैं काफी प्रभावित हुआ। वे भी मेरी तरह परीवीक्षाधीन अधिकारी थे और उन्हें भी मसूरी जाना था। इस प्रकार बिहार के अमिताभ से पहचान हुई जो मसूरी तक के सफर के अन्त में मित्रता में परिवर्तित हुई।

मंगलवार की शाम की बात है, अमिताभ मुझे जबरदस्ती माल रोड स्थित हनुमानजी के मंदिर ले गये और उन्होंने खुद भगवान से प्रार्थना की और मुझसे भी कहा कि उनकी मनोकामना पूरी हो, ऐसी मैं भी भगवान से प्रार्थना करू। मैंने उनकी बात मान कर वैसा ही किया लेकिन मुझे यह बात कुछ अजीब-सी लगी। फिर गरम-गरम गुलाब जामुन खिलाते हुए उसने अपनी प्रेम कहानी सुनाई। गुलाब जामुन की सी मिठास से उसने क्या कहा? और क्यों कहा ? की तह तक जाने से मुझे वंचित रखा।

अगले मंगलवार अमिताभ ने फिर हनुमान जी के मन्दिर चलने को कहा तो मैंने गुलाब जामुन खिलाने की शर्त रखी, जो उन्होंने सहर्ष स्वीकारी। गुलाब जामुन की लालच में मैंने उनकी मन्नत पूरी होने की प्रार्थना की। धीरे-धीरे बिहार के और साथी, पहले रश्मि और नवीन साथ हुए और उनको भी गुलाब जामुन खिलायी और उनसे भी अमिताभ ने मन्नत पूरी कराने हेतु प्रार्थना करने की शर्त रखी। हर मंगलवार मन्नत पूरी करने या गुलाब जामुन खाने की इच्छा से और भी बिहारी एक-एक करके बंध गये और एक झुण्ड बना, जिसमें रहे इक्कीस बिहारी, मैं ही एक अकेला मद्रासी।

इस प्रकार परीवीक्षा अवधि का एक साल मसूरी में बीत गया। हमारी मित्रता सुदृढ़ हुई। गुलाब जामुन के दुकानदार अमीर हुए मगर अमिताभ का सपना, सपना ही रहा। विदाई से पहले यह तय किया गया कि हम हर मंगलवार हनुमान जी के मन्दिर में अमिताभ की मनोकामना पूर्ति के लिए प्रार्थना करेंगे और मनोकामना पूरी होने पर जहां कहीं भी पदस्थ हों, उनके मनोकामना पूर्ति प्रसंग में सम्मिलित होंगे। यह वादा रहा इक्कीस बिहारी और एक मद्रासी का।

बिहारी एवं मद्रासी के बीच की समानता सिर्फ परिश्रम से ही नहीं है, वादा निभाने से भी है। परीवीक्षाधीन अवधि के दो साल बाद अमिताभ का फोन आया और उन्होंने खुशी-खुशी अपनी मनोकामना पूरी होने की शुभ सूचना दी। मैं उस समय हरदा अनुविभागीय

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## इक्कीस बिहारी और एक मद्रासी

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अधिकारी के पद पर कार्यरत था। मुम्बई हावड़ा रेल लाइन के इस कोने पर हरदा और जहां अमिताभ की शादी होनी थी उस कोने पर धनबाद स्थित है। खबर मिलते ही फिर एक बार सभी मित्र वादा अनुसार इक्ट्ठे हुए। यही था उस अजब—गजब कहानी का इक्कीस बिहारी एवं एक मद्रासी का, एक सुखद संजोग प्रसंग।

मुझे आज भी तमिलनाडु के अधिकारी व अन्य राज्यों के अधिकारी यही समझते रहे कि मैं भी बिहारी हूं। अमिताभ, नवीन, रश्मि, गिरीश, व्यास जी, सुधीर, के.पी. बक्षी, शिशिर, ए.एन. झा, शीला, प्रभाश, रमेश अभिषेक, राजेश गुप्ता, बी.बी. विश्वास, सुशील कुमार, जे.पी. प्रकाश, हेमन्त सिन्हा, आदित्य स्वरूप, राजीव, एस.के. सिन्हा, आर.एस. पोद्दार ऐसे कुल मिलाकर हुए इक्कीस बिहारी और ये खाकसार के. सुरेश, एक मद्रासी।

तमिलनाडु के बिहारी हेमन्त अब सुश्राव्य तमिल बोलते हैं, लिखते हैं और उनके बच्चे हिन्दी भूल चुके हैं। वैसे ही आन्ध्रप्रदेश के एस.के. सिन्हा एवं उनका परिवार तेलगु के प्रखर वक्ता हैं। बिहार की होली अब मद्रास, बेंगलुरु, हैदराबाद जैसे शहरों में मनाई जाने लगी है और दक्षिण के डोसा, इडली, सांभर बिहारी की डाइनिंग टेबल पर सजने लगे हैं।

कभी दिल्ली में या कभी मद्रास में, कभी सरकारी काम से तो कभी व्यक्तिगत काम से इस बीच मेल—मिलाप होता रहा, मगर कभी इक्कीस बिहारी और एक मद्रासी की साथ—साथ मुलाकात नहीं हुई।

लगभग 28 साल बाद जब मुझे नवीन के सेलफोन से उनके पुत्र के विवाह की सूचना मिली तो मैंने उनसे पूछा कि शादी में सब लोग आ रहे हैं क्या? उन्होंने भरोसा दिलाया सब लोग आ रहे हैं, आपको भी आना है। तब मेरे मद्रासी मन में आशा जागी कि मौका है, उन इक्कीस बिहारियों से मिलने एवं बातचीत करने का, और मैं बेसब्री से उस दिन का इन्तजार करने लगा।

वह दिन भी आ गया और मैं दिल्ली पहुंचते ही यह जानने में लग गया कि सब लोग कहां इक्कठे होंगे। पता लगाकर मैं शाम को सबसे पहले धौलाकुआँ फ्लाई ओवर के नीचे पहुंचा। वहां बिहार के गिरीश मुझसे पहले पहुंच चुके थे। धीरे—धीरे बारातियों का आना प्रारंभ हुआ।

तभी आर्मी की एक डीलक्स बस आकर खड़ी हुई, उसमें से सबसे पहले जो शख्स उतरा वह जाना—पहचाना चेहरा, सिर के पूरे सफेद बाल और बन्द गले की शेरवानी में सुशोभित नवीन था और उतरते ही मुझसे गले मिला।

तभी सजी हुई होण्डासीटी कार हार्न बजाते हुए आकर रुकी उसमें से रश्मि उतरी जो 28 साल पहले जैसी थी, वैसी ही दिखी। उसके पीछे कद में लम्बा, सुन्दर एवं आकर्षक युवक उतरा, जिसका रश्मि ने परिचय कराया शाश्वत उनका पुत्र है। शाश्वत, रश्मि एवं नवीन से कद—काठी में लम्बा है। शाश्वत को घोड़ी नहीं मिलने से पैदल ही बारात ने नाचते हुए सुब्रतो पार्क की ओर प्रस्थान किया।

बारात के बैण्ड बाजा के ठीक पीछे आकर्षक युवती और उनके मां—बाप संगीत के साथ कदम मिलाते हुए चल रहे थे। मुझे एकदम हैरानी हुई क्यों कि सामने अमिताभ, उनकी पत्नी एवं पुत्री आरूषि, जो अमिताभ के चेहरे से मिलती—जुलती थी, दिखे। अमिताभ ने भी मुझे देखा और दौड़कर हम गले मिले।

दिल्ली में हुए इस विवाह कार्यक्रम में मेरी उन सभी मित्रों से जो अन्य राज्यों में हमारे बैच के अधिकारी थे, 28 साल पश्चात पहली बार मुलाकात हुई। कुछ के बाल सफेद तो कुछ का वजन बढ़ा दिखा। कईयों में कोई परिवर्तन ही नहीं दिखा।

अन्त में जब सब डायनिंग टेबल पर खाने के लिए बैठे तब एक—एक करके बीस बिहारी दिखें। मैंने गिनना शुरू किया और साथ—साथ शक्ल से पहचानते तभी एक शख्स की कमी लगी। अमिताभ ने बताया,

आज हमारे बीच में मित्र विश्वास नहीं रहे हैं। उनकी मृत्यु गतवर्ष हृदयाघात से हो गई है। मुझे लगा अब इक्कीस बिहारी की संख्या घटकर बीस रह गई है और रहा एक मद्रासी।

वह भी तीस साल उत्तर भारत में बिताने के बाद वह अब मद्रासी नहीं रहा और पुनः बीस की संख्या बढ़कर इक्कीस बिहारी हो गई, पर एक पुराने मद्रासी को मिलाकर।

आइये, हम सब मिल कर हनुमान जी से हर मंगलवार प्रार्थना करें कि यह संख्या कभी न घटे और बने रहें इक्कीस बिहारी और उनमें से एक मद्रासी, जिसका वादा रहा हाय—हाय ये रस भरी गुलाब जामुन खिलाने का।

\*1982 बैच, मध्यप्रदेश कैडर

## Journey of an ASM

*Sarban Singh\**

While glancing through the pages of *The Tribune* in June 2006, I got stuck at the first page of “Chandigarh Tribune” carrying the photograph of the Assistant Station Master (ASM) candidates waiting for the train for their return journey and found myself tempted to narrate the journey of an ASM.

It dates back to June 1975, when I received a call letter for appearing in the ASM's written test. Everybody in the family was happy. My father, himself a Railways employee, had special reason to be happy. More thrilled was my uncle.

The journey of a group of eight candidates began in a passenger train leaving Jullundhar railway station for Ludhiana on a sultry evening. The thrill of journey was doubled due to the two reasons -the train was going to take four times the normal time, thus making us spend more time and have fun in the train; and it was a free trip, passes having been sent by the Railway authorities.

On having qualified the written examination, I was called for an interview in Allahabad in January 1976. However, at the end of the exercise, I was not found fit to man a railway station.

Having acquired my NCC Air Wing “C” Certificate, I was allowed to appear for the selection test of pilots in the Indian Air Force. Seven of us reached the Dehra Dun Air Force Selection Board. From day one, we were being noticed as to whether we possessed officer like qualities (OLQ) or not. There was a pre-requisite test called the pilot aptitude battery test (PABT). During the PAB test, I was, like few others, not found capable of flying an aircraft. However, one colleague of ours, namely Gurwant Singh Gill, got selected. A dejected lot of three of us found ourselves sailing in the same boat, straight from the aircraft to the boat and decided to head towards Mussoorie, 'the Queen of Hills'.

On reaching Mussoorie, we got a room near the Library Point. In an attempt to explore Mussoorie, we started off our journey towards the Children's Park. On the way, there was a huge gate showing the entrance to the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration. By this time, we had come to know that this was the academy producing the Deputy Commissioners. Later on, I happened to be there on

two occasions. First, for the foundational course of the Indian Economic Service; and then for the IAS.

First time, I came to know about the Deputy Commissioner's aura from close quarters was the visit of the then Deputy Commissioner of Jullundhar, Mr Ram Gopal, to my college function in the early seventies. My first encounter with an SDM was in the middle column titled “SDM's Chhora” written by Mr M.G. Devasahayam that appeared in *The Tribune* sometime in 1978.

Though, in between, I got selected into the clerical cadre in two nationalized banks and as probationary officer into two nationalized banks, to be part of LBSNAA remained at the centre of my heart.

During my IES foundational course, I noticed that my next door neighbour in the Valley View II Hostel(old) was Mr Hrushikesh Panda whom I had met through the Competition Success Review which carried his photograph as the IAS topper of 1979. I saw him thereafter during the Election Observers briefing at Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi. We revived our memories during the “one-week training programme” at National Law School of India University, Bangalore, in 2006.

DAV college, Jullundhar, where I studied, had the tradition of sending officers to the defence forces and civil services. That was the time, when Mr B.S. Bahl, a strict disciplinarian, was the principal of the college. I occasionally used to meet him at the Sukhna Lake (Chandigarh), until recently.

I had an occasion to attend one week course on 'Ethical Issues in Administration' at LBSNAA in September 2000. Thereafter, I visited Mussoorie twice with my family members. I recapitulated my memories at the Mid Career Training Programme Phase V (12 December 2010 - 14 January 2011) comprising one week at Harvard Kennedy School followed by four weeks at LBSNAA. It came as a pleasant surprise when Dr Maninder Kaur Dwivedi, Deputy Director(Sr) called me in the later half of November 2010 informing to attend the five week training programme. It was a fresh home-coming for me to be at one of my dearest places, Mussoorie. Mussoorie has now grown modern with

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Journey of an ASM

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many new buildings and hotels with latest amenities having come up all around, though I have grown senior with new layers of grey hair on the scalp, inducing me to fight against them by using the device of colours. Nevertheless, I find the same freshness and sweetness in the Mussoorie air that I first came across 35 years ago.

Thus, the journey of ASM continues, so does the journey of life - unmindful of the next platform, governed by a mysterious but beautiful thing called destiny!

(This is the updated version of the article that appeared first in the middle of The Tribune on 4 July 2006)

*\*Batch of 1983 (Haryana)*



*Zurich Lake, as clicked by Snehlata Srivastava,  
Batch of 1982 (Madhya Pradesh cadre)*

Ladakh Visit  
(19 to 24 October 2006)

*Snehlata Srivastava\**

We went to Leh by Jet Airways flight at 6 am and reached Leh at 7.30 am on 19 October 2006.To enjoy maximum the visit to Ladakh, one has to be real fit and preferably visit this place when one is younger in age, between 18-40.

Precautions:

- First day just take rest and move only to nearby market and in the area of your stay, no matter how fit you feel that day. Second day, also travel short distances. From the 3rd day long travel is advised. This prevents you from the problems you may face there.
- Although we could climb up Vaishno Devi stairs about 150 at a time and completed the Yatra to the shrine in flat three hours, but here one felt tired even after climbing 10-20 stairs. If you bend to wear your socks or pick up things from your suitcases to keep in the almirah you feel tired. The above example would give an idea of problems one faces due to high altitude.
- It is better not to use room heater as it also reduces oxygen level in the room and delay your acclimatization. Room heater run by kerosene also gives you a headache due to smell.

- Take layers of woolens to protect you in the night and during the day like warmers, inners, sweaters and woolen caps including a cap wearable during the night and socks and gloves depending on the cold weather. Since we went in the third week of October, moreover did not use the heating system, we required heavy woolens.
- Take your medicines especially for nausea and headache and cold. If one has asthma or heart disease or high blood pressure, avoid the visit.
- Take liquid soap, vaseline and sunscreen.
- When going to higher altitudes like Khardungla Pass and Changla Pass, do wear layers of cotton socks also to avoid frostbite. Always keep extra pairs of socks in case if they get wet.
- Due to wearing layers of woolen clothes and inners, the waist size of jeans or pants should be larger.
- Jackets with fitted cap and made of windcheater material are better.

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Ladakh Visit

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- If you feel sick or uneasy at the time of starting your journey, it is better to take rest rather than ignoring it and going ahead with your programme.
- Once you reach the place of sightseeing and then feel sick or uneasy, then it is better to conserve your energy and try to be calm. Do not panic as it deteriorates the condition and there are no options and no immediate medical help available.

Now, I would briefly write about our visit of places:

**Day 1:** We visited Leh city market in the afternoon and Shanti Stupa and enjoyed the panaromic view from there.

**Day 2:** We visited Thiksey, Shey Palace, Sindhu darshan, Himis and Leh Palace. Opposite the SBI we visited Gunpa Soma monastery. We visited our Liaison Officer's house in the village and saw a traditional kitchen. His sister made butter tea in a different kind of vessel. Tea was delicious. His brother, who was working in Planning department brought his Maruti 800 as a Safari was not able to go into a narrow strip in the village. We were greatly touched by their gesture and hospitality.

**Day 3:** We started at 7 am and visited Khardungla Pass which is the highest motorable road at a height of 18400 ft. We covered 7000 ft between Leh to Khardungla in two hours. The road is open throughout the year. Thung village is the last Indian village. Siyachen is four hours from there. We passed through villages Gangka,Chalunkya, South Pullu.

**Day 4:** We planned to go to Changla Pass and Pangkok Lake but due to heavy snowfall and bad weather, returned 12 km before Changla Pass. Then we went to Pathar Saheb Gurudwara and confluence of Zanskar and Indus rivers. On the way we saw Magnetic illusion point where you park your vehicle in the middle of the road on the painted white box and you feel the vehicle moving in different directions. Honestly, we did not have that illusion but it was enjoyable trying to do that anyway.

Zillang is the last village from confluence where you can reach through river trek when Indus river is frozen. Otherwise one has to reach via Kargil which is 205 km plus 200km. On this road Indian Oil highest bottling plant, FCI godam and industrial unit of J & K Lehberry production unit are situated. The villages on the way are Nimmu, 2 km from

confluence and Phayang. Then we saw the museum maintained by the forces. It has a very rich collection of high altitude flora and fauna, arms and ammunities, etc. I wish they could show these items on the internet as in a brief time available one cannot absorb so many details.

**Day 5:** We visited the 11th century Mandala architecture Anchit Gompa a branch of Likir monastry comprising of old temples. There are three temples - Golden Buddha Sumtsek Temple, Lotsava Lakhang and Manjushri Lakhang. We reached the Alchi monastery passing through Nimmu, Bazgo, a small palace, the apricot region, where one finds greyish green hills on the left side and reddish purple terrain on the right. This area was so warm that in last four days we could get ourselves photographed without two-three layers of woolens for the first time. Saspol has a Doordarshan Kendra. This area was very dusty also. Attended one local marriage and returned in the evening. We bought dried apricot, roasted barley with apricot seed, tiny tea cups without handle for Chinese tea, some fresh vegetables like giant size radish, carrots with leaves, etc. We saw in the market that butter is kept in the stomach of yalk (hollow) and sold. Pure vegetarians should know this!

**Day 6:** Returned to Delhi by Indian Airlines flight from Leh to Delhi in the afternoon. In fact we were booked on Jet Airways flight on discounted tickets which was Rs.1000 less than the actual fare - i.e.Rs.7660, but they cancelled their flight on that day in the morning at 6.30 am. Although the Jet staff was trying to book us on IA flight at 11am, we were told that on IA flight X class tickets costing only Rs. 3430 were available and fortunately we got them, resulting in quite a lot of savings. Only thing, we had to hang around at the airport for five hours. In the VIP lounge we met one Lama Hon'ble Cheogon from Kargyupa Monastery. His address is P.O. Clement town-248002, Dehradun (UK). His phone numbers are +91-135-2641704, 91-9418057951, 91-9818811351. The airport staff was eager to meet him and touch his feet. I must say that Mr. Cheogon was simple, courteous and with humility talking to everyone of us. We had a discussion on many topics related to meditation and on some points where we are in dilemma like whether to spend more time doing religious ceremony or doing own work. We find that his preaching is practical and contemporary. He traveled with us in the flight. We got the benefit of his proximity.

*\*Batch of 1982 (Madhya Pradesh)*