



PRAYAAS

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Editorial

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In this Issue....

RCS in his mid-nineties about RCS in the post-1947 era.....	01
- S. N. Sinha	
Score : e-registration in Bihar	12
- Anil Kumar	
Reminiscences of a Deputy Commissioner.....	23
- Satish Singh Thakur	
एक नजर	25
- राम उपदेश सिंह	
इस दरम्यान (In the Meanwhile).....	26
- सी. अशोकवर्द्धन	
मोल	27
- ममता मेहरोत्रा	
Features....	
Waves & Ripples.....	29
Kids Corner	
Remembering 26 / 11.....	30
- Shivaditya Sinha	
Sea Swim Dream	32
- Ashutosh Mehrotra	

Dear Colleagues,

We have had nearly two months of excitements, months of meticulous planning and assiduous preparations for the Elections to the Bihar Legislative Assembly. And the outcome fills us with joy and pride: the upward swing in the percentage of our people at the polling booths and the overwhelming participation of the female voters and the mechanical smoothness with which various stages have just glided into their places have as it were, set a benchmark for future events.

And now here we are, with the December issue of PRAYAAS, this being the third one during 2010. With this issue we really come to the end of an era that began with our seniors in the pre-independence phase of administration: our seniormost colleague Shri R. C. Sinha who had joined the State Civil Service in 1941 passed away on the 4th of December 2010.

PRAYAAS proudly presents the second — and what turned out to be the final — instalment of the dialogue PRAYAAS had been having with him since early this year. The concluding words “The dialogue will continue” retains its inner meaning — administration too is a process of a perennial interaction between the experiences and wisdom of the past and the imagination and requirements of the evolving times.

(Arvind Kumar Chaudhary)

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



Patliputra Karuna Stupa, Buddha Smriti Park, Patna

RCS IN HIS MID-NINETIES ABOUT RCS IN THE POST- 1947 ERA

- S. N. Sinha

That our respected RCS continued to spare time for this second part till the very day after which he moved to the ICU ward in the Heart Hospital on 22nd of Nov.'10 is yet another stamp — the final one — of the indefatigable spirit of this great soldier of life and life's majesty. That we could not present the December issue of 'PRAYAAS' to him profoundly saddens us. PRAYAAS is proudly publishing the second part of the dialogue which its Principal Editor had been working on for the past six months or so. When our Principal Editor went to look him up on 23rd of Nov. in the ICU ward he had reminded him of the Sloka of the Atharva Veda "जीवेम शरदः शतम्" forming the epigraph to the interview carried out in April, 2010 issue, that had brought a beaming smile on his face. That tragically turned out to be the last beaming smile, but the beam glows on ...

— Editor

SNS: Sir, I am happy to share with you the warm response of the members of our Association to the first part of this dialogue which we had left amidst the first unfurling of the National Flag on the 15th of August, 1947 to the soul-stirring chanting of the National Anthem. I would now request you to narrate some of your experiences in the post-independence period. Our curiosity is centred at the account of the first Secretary to the first Chief Minister of Bihar, Dr. Srikrishna Sinha. It must have been both a daunting responsibility and fascinating experience for you to be associated with the inner workings of administration in post-1947 Bihar.

RCS: Let me first thank you, Sinha, from the depth of my heart for providing me with this unique opportunity of both recalling the past and sharing some slices thereof with all of you, although in a rather sketchy manner.

I clearly recall that while posted as Administrator, Patna Municipal Corporation one day I got a call from the P.A. to Sri L.P. Singh, ICS, the then Chief Secretary, Govt. of Bihar. It was conveyed to me that I was required in the Chief Secretary's chamber immediately. Sri L.P. Singh told me there that out of the names of

two officers submitted to the Chief Minister for selecting one of them as Secretary to the Chief Minister, the latter had picked me up. Incidentally, the other officer belonged to the community to which the Chief Minister himself belonged. I assumed my new charge on 08-02-1949.

This was the first time that such a post had come into existence. Indeed, the background is very interesting. Earlier, a Parliamentary Secretary was attached to the Chief Minister who used to function as his Secretary. I don't remember his name right now. You may like to ascertain it*. Once it so happened that the advice of the same Parliamentary Secretary to the Chief Minister ran counter to the recommendation of one of the senior-most Cabinet Ministers. The Chief Minister agreed with the advice of the Parliamentary Secretary and thereby the recommendation of the same Minister stood over-ruled. The Minister concerned took umbrage at this 'humiliation' at the hands of a Parliamentary Secretary. The matter ultimately landed in the office of the then Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of India, where in course of discussions the Chief Minister stood by the analysis and advice recorded on the file by

* Subsequent enquiries indicate that Sri Shivnandan Prasad Mandal was the Parliamentary Secretary to the Chief Minister.

the Parliamentary Secretary functioning as Secretary to the C.M. However the discussions resulted in the replacement of the system existing then of a Parliamentary Secretary by a suitable Civil Servant to function as Secretary to the Chief Minister. This arrangement, it was agreed, would mesh with the normal pattern of administration in the Secretariat. Thus was born the post of Secretary to the Chief Minister, Bihar.

Very soon this arrangement was liked by one and all, the political leaders as well as civil servants. Indeed this went on so smoothly that I continued to enjoy the confidence of the Chief Minister and the Finance Minister as well as the entire Cabinet till Dr. S.K. Sinha was alive. It was only after his sad and sudden demise on 31st January, 1961 that I returned to my second post, Chairman, Patna Improvement Trust on a full-time basis.

SNS: Sir, as we discussed last time I tried to locate the relevant papers like correspondence of Governor of Bihar Sir Hugh Dow (13th May, 1946 to 14th Aug. 1947) with the Governor General of India as well as the Mountbatten papers. I have not succeeded so far. It would take some time. Meanwhile we should go by your account which would be adequate for the present purpose. How did Dr. S. K. Sinha, the Chief Minister of Bihar respond to the sensitive issue of retention of British ICS / IP Officers?

RCS: Well, I am also trying to get those papers. While I know you would continue with your efforts to fret out these information from the Archives, etc. I have also given this task to Bala, my grandson who is in London. Whenever I happen to get more information I would pass it on to you for your further research work.

The position was like this: Till the late

forties, as you know, the C.M. was called the Prime Minister or Premier. During this period (13th May, 1946 to 14th August, 1947) in pursuance to the advice of the Central Government the then Governor of Bihar Sir Hugh Dow had conveyed individually to all the four members of the Cabinet including the Premier to retain some of the experienced British ICS Officers who did not have any black mark. Before the Cabinet meeting began, the Premier advised his Cabinet colleagues that they should not discuss this point at all and this should be left to the Chief Minister. When the Governor raised this issue at the Cabinet meeting and laid stress on the benefit that could accrue to the State administration from the rich experience of such British ICS Officers, the Premier settled the issue in his own inimitable way. He told the Governor very politely and respectfully – ‘Your Excellency, I would like to submit that the utility of these Officers would vanish as soon as your Excellency would have reached the Government House.’ And thus no British ICS or IP officer was retained in Bihar.

SNS: How was the joint cadre of ICS and IP Officers of Bihar and Orissa managed till the cadre separated in 1951? Any interesting example that comes to your mind at this hour?

RCS: Yes, the customary practice was that the first in the seniority among the IP Officers of the joint cadre would hold the post of I.G. Police, Bihar and the second one would hold the post of I.G. Police, Orissa. The single exception that was made was in the case of Shri A. K. Sinha, IP, who was appointed Inspector General of Police, Bihar. You know it very well, since he happened to be your great grand father-in-law.

SNS: Yes Sir, now it is a glorious part of administrative history, since he was the first

Indian Inspector General of Police. He passed away a few months before I got married, indeed a tragic loss for me since I could not have his blessings in person.

While we are on this subject I would like to remind you that the general perception about Dr. S. K. Sinha is that in his tenures as the Premier (Chief Minister) of Bihar in pre-independent India i.e. (i) from 20th July 1937 to 3rd November 1939 and (ii) from 2nd April 1946 to 14th August 1947, while he was very fair to the British ICS / IP officers, he would be visibly happy whenever he came across any Indian ICS / IP officer whose number then was very small.

RCS: This perception happens to be absolutely correct. All of us knew how happy Sri Babu was to “find out” that Mr. Reuben, ICS was an Indian of Jewish extraction and Mr. M. M. Philip, ICS belonged to Syrian Christian community. Mr. Reuben became the Chief Justice of Patna High Court and Sri Babu saw to it that Mr. M. M. Philip got his due and he held many senior assignments, ultimately ending up as a Secretary to Govt. of India. Likewise as Shri L.P. Singh used to tell me that as Chief Minister in his first term Dr. S. K. Sinha was almost thrilled to know from him that he hailed from Bihar.

SNS: I may add in this regard that Shri L.P. Singh, ICS has indeed recorded it in his article: “Srikrishna Sinha: the Great Son of India.”

It is axiomatic to say that a healthy relationship between the political masters and civil servants holds the key to both functioning of democratic form of government and effective conduct of the administrative machinery. How did this delicate balance evolve?

RCS: At the outset, let me tell you what is already well known – there was a wonderful understanding between Dr. Srikrishna

Sinha and Sri L.P.Singh. Indeed this understanding and relationship was so profound and constructive that it would be difficult to find its parallel. We all knew that this mutual respect and understanding between the two continued even after the sudden transfer of Sri L.P. Singh to the Govt. of India.

Secondly, Sri Babu, as he was fondly called, always stood publicly by the Civil Servants. I will give you only a couple of examples out of the numerous ones which could form a long chapter of this story. The Chief Minister was not happy with one District Magistrate. One of his Deputy Ministers wanted to play upon this. During one of the visits of the Chief Minister to the district, this Deputy Minister arranged a dinner party in honour of the Chief Minister where he invited senior officers of the district other than the District Magistrate. When Sri Babu came to know of this, he refused to attend the dinner, come what may. The message was conveyed – the C.M. disapproved of such attempts to disparage officers.

SNS: What was the mechanism devised to entertain and attend to the grievances of the people?

RCS: In the first place, Dr. S. K. Sinha was a great leader of the masses. And the tours undertaken were important sources of feed-back; discussions at the cabinet meetings were meaningful and issues-centric. Besides, as we know, Dr. S. K. Sinha used to take the debates and discussion in the legislature very seriously and utilized them as effective tools for rectifying the deficiencies in planning of policies as well as their execution. In addition to all these he was open to individual visitors at his office chamber.

As Secretary to the Chief Minister, I would receive all visitors before 05.00 PM,

the time fixed for visitors. I used to fix up appointments and duly record them in a register and the visitors would come according to the schedule fixed. Whenever some serious issues were brought before him by the visitors, I was sent for and charged with the responsibility of pursuing them under due intimation to the Chief Minister. If there was a delay in the compliance of directions on such matters the individual officer used to be sent for. This was the kind of Janta Darbar which Sri Babu used to hold after 05.00 PM in his office chamber at the Secretariat. This served as a window to the functioning of the entire machinery and follow-up actions at our level to ensure the desired results instilled faith in the system.

SNS: Could you kindly briefly share with us your views about the performance of the State Govt. under his leadership during the first two five year plans which were heralded as the open seasam to economic growth and social justice?

RCS: Well, now it is a matter of history; and any one can ascertain the figures and take a view. However I would like to mention here only this much. The fifties in Bihar clearly registered a dramatically higher rate of growth. If my memory serves me right it was higher than the all India growth rate. Dr. S. K. Sinha, I can tell you with full confidence, used to spend a lot of time with

senior officers in periodical reviews of implementation of the plan.

SNS: Thank you sir. In this very context could you kindly educate us a little more about the administrative ambience of this period? This will obviously include a reference to the report of Mr. Appleby who had recorded Bihar as one of the best administered states of India.

RCS: It could be put like this: the parameters evolved out of the understanding and working relationship between the political masters and the senior civil servants set the tone of administration making it

The central objective of planning in India at the present stage is to initiate a process of development which will raise living standards and open out to the people new opportunities for a richer and more varied life. The problem of development of an under developed economy is one of utilising more effectively the potential resources available to the community, and it is this which involves economic planning. But the economic condition of a country at any given time is a product of the broader social environment, and economic planning has to be viewed as an integral part of a wider process aiming not merely at the development of resources in a narrow technical sense, but at the development of human faculties and the building up of an institutional framework adequate to the needs and aspirations of the people.

Planning: Economic And Social Aspects
First Five Year Plan (1951-55)

responsive to the new facets of governance geared towards the achievement of goals of eradication of hunger, illiteracy and ushering in social and economic development. The idealism inspiring our leaders was still fresh and vigorous to guide the new enthusiasm of civil servants to come up to these expectations. It was a combination of these that resulted in

structuring an administration system sensitive to the people's needs and requirements, as well as their desires and dreams. Such a productive environment led experts like Mr. Appleby to maintain that Bihar was one of the best administered States in the country. I would say that Dr. Srikrishna Sinha, the Chief Minister and Sri L.P. Singh, the then Chief Secretary equally shared this glory, along,

of course, with the entire hierarchy of their colleagues and supporting functionaries. I am sorry I cannot recall the words or the sentences used by Mr. Appleby. As far as my memory goes, the contents were communicated by the Union Home Minister in a personal letter to our Chief Minister.

SNS: Sir, you should be in a better position to throw light on the circumstances leading to the transfer of Sri L.P. Singh to the Govt. of India. How did such a strong bond of understanding between the two come to a sudden cooling off?

RCS: The answer to this question is as interesting as the question itself and also illustrates how a simple single incident could bring about a sudden end of a decade-old working relationship.

It was sometime probably in June 1956 that Sri L. P. Singh once went up to the C.M. with a request that he be relieved of the responsibilities of dealing with the files of the Transport Department. Sri Babu

was taken aback and his "Why" remained "unexplained". Sri Babu shared with me his feelings of unhappiness at this sudden development and added that he (Sri Babu) had been always approving of the recommendations of the C.S. on the files of this department as well and therefore this suggestion sounded a little strange.

For sometime it had been quietly circulating that it would be in the interest of the career of Sri L.P. Singh if he moved to the Centre. The unhappiness of Sri Babu

activated this force, and no time was lost in sending communication to the Union Home Ministry the State Govt.'s willingness to place the services of Sri L.P. Singh at the disposal of the Centre.

The stock of Sri L.P. Singh at the Centre too was evidently as high as it was here. Thus this was a god-sent opportunity for the Home Minister who immediately rang up Sri Babu. The latter confirmed it. However, soon thereafter, while we were at Ranchi, Sri Babu told me that he had made a mistake and directed me to leave for

Patna and convey this message to Sri L.P. Singh that the Chief Minister would like him to continue as Chief Secretary and that the Union Home Minister would be informed that Bihar Government had reconsidered the matter and was not in a position to spare the services of Sri L.P. Singh.

However, Sri L.P. Singh told me that he would not like to continue as Chief Secretary to the Government any more since the Chief Minister had once so decided.

He, however, emphasized that his warm affection and deep respect for Sri Babu would always be there. He wanted me to convey his request to the C.M. to be kind enough to urge the Union Home Minister to help him get a suitable

During these last thirty years I have often reflected over Sri Babu's actions, his values and norms in politics and administration, his vision and strivings, his insight into our political history and spiritual heritage, his painful awareness of the weaknesses of the structure of Indian society and of the exploitation of large sections of our people. I have had opportunities in my working life to know most of our political leaders' functioning in Delhi and in the States, and my observations and experiences have only increased my admiration and respect for Sri Babu. In my eyes his stature has grown with passage of years, when that of some others, who because of their outgoing personalities and the environment of the State in which they functioned, had greater importance in national life has diminished.

"Srikrishna Singh, The Great Son of India"(1989)
— Sri L. P. Singh, ICS

Government residential accommodation at New Delhi. Sri L.P. Singh, ICS handed over charge to Sri M. S. Rao, ICS the following month.

SNS: Now a few words about the relationship between you as Secretary to the Chief Minister and Dr. S. K. Sinha, the Chief Minister.

RCS: Well, let me first tell you that Sri Babu was like a father figure and it was a different quality of human relationship between the two of us as also between him and many political leaders and senior civil servants. As is well known he was a great lover of books and could hold his own in any conversations, casual or academic. This aspect added a special charm to his personality and helped him in "influencing people and winning friends".

So far as I was concerned I remember he told me the very first day "There will be no secret between you and me". This actually set the tone of our relationship which remained, despite many adverse situations and intrigues, not un-usual in such positions, intact till the end. I also recall that he spoke to me in English thereafter only on two occasions. Once while we were travelling in a car after the cremation of Anugrah Babu, he named a Minister and told me "Now 'X' will be the Deputy Chief Minister". All that he wanted to convey was that he had always accorded importance and respect to Anugrah Babu as if he were de jure Deputy Chief Minister.

The third occasion when he spoke to me in English was when we were together in the lift in the main Secretariat building. He asked me "what do you think of the loyalty of Deputy Superintendent of Police in-charge of security attached to me?" I told him that his loyalty should not be doubted. By that time, we had come out of the lift and this question too appeared to have been

answered and answered finally. I felt so humbled by the quality of trust this great man always reposed in me.

During my entire period of nearly 13 years as Secretary to the Chief Minister, he called me from my residence only three times. This, let me tell you, underlined his respect for the legitimate privacy of the public servants. Such generous understanding became a matter of history soon after the end of that era.

SNS: How would you recall the relationship between Dr. S. K. Sinha, the Chief Minister and Shri Anugrah Narain Sinha, Finance Minister, since public perceptions continue to dwell on their political rivalry?

RCS: I can only speak with confidence on the administrative aspects. There was never any evidence of personal differences, what to talk of rivalry, between the two in Cabinet meetings, debates and discussion in legislatures or in public addresses. They always maintained grace and decorum befitting their stature and status.

SNS: How come, you were appointed Chairman Patna Improvement Trust, even while you were holding an important and more than full-time assignment as Secretary to Chief Minister, Bihar? There is obviously no relationship between the two assignments.

RCS: You see, so long as Sri L.P. Singh was the Chief Secretary, the entire administration had settled down on an even keel evolved and nurtured in an administrative culture conducive to efficiency and mutual trust and respect. His successor-in-office, Sri M. S. Rao, ICS had naturally his own scale of judgement and order of preferences. On this scale my transfer was required in the interest of my career advancement, as I was to learn a little later, only after the discomfiture I faced in answering a most unexpected question from the Chief Minister!

It is like this. One evening as I was

about to enter my office room at the Official residence of the Chief Minister at 4KG (now 4 Deshratan Marg), Sri Babu spotted me from his bedroom and called me only to ask: why are you unhappy with your present assignment? I was shocked and speechless. I could only mutter - Sir, had I been unhappy I could have told you first since you alone could remove my unhappiness, if any. There was no further word from him and this was a signal for me to move to my office-room.

The same evening I went to the residence of the Minister, Sri Mahesh Prasad Singh for a possible clarification of my 'sudden interrogation'. It was there that I learnt that Sri M.S. Rao, ICS, Chief Secretary to the State Govt., had told the C.M. that the transfer was in the interest of Sri R.C. Sinha because a different assignment would in due course help him in getting charge of an important district.

While subsequently I placed my views to the C.M. who was fully satisfied, Sri M. S. Rao continued to request him for a new posting for me. It was in such a situation that by way of a partial deference to the suggestions of the Chief Secretary to the Govt., I was posted as Chairman, Patna Improvement Trust in addition to my assignment as Secretary to C.M. Of course, a very senior officer Sri Suleman, IAS was there as Officer on Special Duty to look after the day-to-day work of Patna Improvement Trust. Sri Suleman later succeeded me as Chairman, Patna Improvement Trust.

SNS: Sir, the 1967 General Election had thrown up a new dispensation in the political and administrative life of Bihar. As you may kindly recall that before the General Election the services of Shri B.D. Pandey, I.C.S. were obtained for six months. He was the only Chief Secretary to be

designated as Chief Secretary-cum-Commissioner General, Bihar (to protect as you could recall, his emoluments as Secretary to Govt. of India, the post he was holding), I was then Subdivisional Officer, Jehanabad, where on the day of the poll Chief Secretary Shri B.D. Pandey, I.C.S. accompanied by Shri H.N. Thankur, Divisional Commissioner, Patna and Shri R.N. Roy, DIG Central Range, Patna had come by road on their inspection tour of the Districts of Patna, Gaya and Shahabad. At Jehanabad after a brief discussion with me over a cup of coffee at my official residence I accompanied them in visiting a few polling booths in Jehanabad.

The one party rule of the Congress was substituted by a coalition of various political entities with widely divergent antecedents and ideologies.

Would you like to share with us some of your personal experiences with the first United Front Government?

RCS: Since we are skipping the period of the Chief Minister, Shri K. B. Sahay, we would have to take it up later.

Initially the United Front Government appeared to take a dim view of those officers who were supposed to have been 'close' to the previous Ministry. I happened to be placed very high up in that 'Select list' but as my good luck would have it the two great figures, the C.M. and the Deputy C.M. turned out to be my two great bulwarks of support.

My family had old ties with Sri Mahamaya Prasad Sinha, Chief Minister and his family. Besides he was a magnanimous personality. In addition to this, the Deputy Chief Minister, Sri Karpoori Thakur widely respected for his simplicity, integrity and transparent commitment to uplift of the weaker sections happened to have been a witness to my independent

and bold stand as a Magistrate in the face of a possible adverse fall-out and held me in high regard ever since thereafter.

A great orator with histrionic talents and his famous "Jigar Ke Tukare" for the student community Shri Mahamaya Prasad Sinha won the hearts of the people, particularly the youth. He was, in his personal life, honest and hospitable to a fault. Indeed his hospitality at his official residence cost him quite a large chunk of land. True, it would have been difficult for any Chief Minister to 'monitor' and productively coordinate such a diverse group, and for a simple leader with no great administrative experience the job remained almost incomprehensible. No wonder this ministry lasted from March 1967 to January 1968.

SNS: Any interesting or important episodes about the Minister incharge of your department which you may still recall?

RCS: Yes, I have some episodes to relate.

Once on way to New Delhi the Minister called me at Patna Airport where he wanted to know why and how an order in a tender-bid had not been allotted to the lowest bidder. When I explained to him that the lowest bidder was a seasoned litigant and had instituted many cases against the department, my minister coolly retorted: "Secretary Saheb", Bihar Government has instituted quite a number of cases against me and still I am a Minister.' The procedure of allotment of tenders was undoubtedly clear and accordingly the orders were issued to the lowest bidder even though he was a habitual litigant.

The second anecdote runs like this. There was a Committee of Ministers consisting of a Minister belonging to the CPI as Chairman and two Ministers representing the Samyukt Socialist Party and two Ministers representing the Praja

Socialist Party and my departmental Minister. Our Minister seldom attended this meeting. Once it so happened that in a meeting of this Committee some of these Ministers went on asking the Chief Engineer of my department relevant / irrelevant questions whereupon the Chief Engineer started crying. Even my requests to the Committee to allow me to explain the position were not heeded. I felt completely exasperated and on the very first opportunity communicated this to our Minister and requested him to attend the meetings of this Cabinet Sub-Committee in future.

My Minister arrived at the next meeting well in time. Before the agenda items could be formally taken up he told the Chairman and other members of the Committee that in the last meeting they all had behaved like "Goondas" but they had forgotten that he himself was a "Super Goonda". He added that henceforward he would make the various departmental officers present in the meeting weep and also make the Ministers themselves weep. He left the meeting at this point. The meeting was naturally adjourned.

I do not know what would have transpired subsequently between the various members of this Committee and how this outburst could have been sorted out. All I can say is that thereafter in all meetings neither the Chairman nor any other member ever crossed the boundary line.

SNS: I recall once you had mentioned about the beautification project for Gandhi Maidan, Patna undertaken by Patna Improvement Trust while you were its Chairman. Could you kindly elucidate it further?

RCS: It was after my return from Bangalore that I was inspired to take up a few steps in this direction. I vividly remember that it was on

the 27th of December, 1960 that the Chief Minister Dr. S. K. Sinha had delivered inaugural address at the All India Political Science Conference at Senate Hall, Patna University. I also recall how enthusiastically his address was received by the audience and hailed as a profound speech of a philosopher-political thinker. While we were returning by car, he was happy to see the road dividers approaching Gandhi Maidan and the raising of the plants on the dividing ridge.

He advised me to extend this to other areas of the town. The same evening he had to leave for Calcutta where unfortunately he fell ill. Although after suitable treatment there he returned to Patna but he could not recover and passed away on 31st January 1961.

To extend the beautification plan to the whole of Gandhi Maidan however remained ringing in my ears and I fondly took it as his last instruction to me.

Since I continued as Chairman, Patna Improvement Trust I kept those words as a road map for me. The next Chief Minister Pandit Binodanand Jha fortunately took great personal interest in the beautification of Patna for which schemes were sanctioned. And the last desire of Sri Babu as I took it was put into action.

Subsequently steps for beautification of Patna Gandhi Maidan were drawn up by the Engineers in consultation with eminent

persons like Prof. Moinul Haque who used to come there for a morning walk regularly. I may confide that it is the pleasing sight of

Gulmohar and Amaltas trees in bloom and the rows of trees, that still provide me quality satisfaction of a task accomplished. I wonder at times whether the beautification of our Gandhi Maidan is not the one contribution I would like to be proud of, even though I realize a lot remains to be done to beautify the Gandhi Maidan.

How heartening it is to find a distinguished psychologist asserting that human nature is changing and a new kind of humanity is coming into existence. How reassuring it is to find another psychologist engaged in the search of a 'psychological man' in whom the different elements in human nature, the id wants, the ego wants, the super ego wants and the enlarged ego wants will be so properly developed as to give rise to the 'harmonious man' - from the 'intellectual man' to the 'economic man', from the 'economic man' to the 'sociological man' and from the 'sociological man' to the 'psychological man' of harmony. What a daring effort in the study of man?

Inaugural Address by Dr. S. K. Sinha, Chief Minister, Bihar at the Twenty-third All-India Political Science Conference held at Patna on the 27th December, 1960.

Even after my posting as D.M., Patna I continued as Chairman, Patna Improvement Trust. I remember how once during this period when I had been to Rajgir to receive the C.M., Pandit Binodanand Jha. Sri Satyendra Narain Sinha, then Minister, Local Self Govt. was also there. As we three were on the steps to the Rajgir Circuit House the C.M. told Satyendra Babu: Ramchandra Babu has been doing excellent work both as D.M., Patna and Chairman, Patna Improvement Trust. We should post him, after his present tenure is over, as D.C., Ranchi. As later events proved this was not to be. Indeed I was posted as Deputy Commissioner, Santhal Paraganas, Dumka which was altogether a new experience for me: as DM, Patna I was always besieged by visitors both at the Collectorate and the residential office, at Dumka the visitors were very few and far between.

I must add here that the project of shifting of Central Jail from Bankipur to Beur is the gift of Pandit Binodanand Jha. Now it is a culmination of that long journey that the premises of the old Bankipur Central Jail are proudly hosting the Buddha Park inaugurated by the Dalai Lama. I must congratulate the present Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar for the concept and execution of Pataliputra Karuna Stupa there.

SNS: Sir, I am really so grateful to you for your references to some of the famous speeches of Dr. S. K. Sinha, Chief Minister of Bihar. I have read his address at the All India Political Science Conference on the 27th of Dec. 1960. This is indeed an all-encompassing address, an intellectual feat to approach the genesis, the rich complexities and the critical relevance of political science to modern human life, so much torn by conflicts. This address, you would be happy to recall, is an attempt to study political science from the perspectives of an anthropologist, a sociologist, a psychologist, a historian, an economist and a humanist.

And I feel, Sir, this 'great Son of India' really remained a dreamer and a visionary all his life and it was but natural for him as you would appreciate better, to conclude his inspiring and erudite speech with the following: "I have been a dreamer all my life and I still see the vision of a great Indian Republic successfully leading in a democratic manner the millions entrusted to its care to the goal of a good life envisaged in its Constitution."

RCS: I have a feeling now; your new enthusiasm in this direction may highlight some of the less-studied traits of the multidimensional personality of Chief Minister Dr. S. K. Sinha. I would be certainly one of the happiest persons to read any such paper.

SNS: In one of our chance meetings at Sinha Library, Patna a few years ago I vaguely remember, you had mentioned some of your interesting experiences during your visit to Germany while you were Education Commissioner, Govt. of Bihar. Could you, sir, recall some of them?

RCS: Thank you Sinha, for reminding me about that unique experience. As Education Commissioner, during one of my visits to Germany I was the guest of Heidelberg University, Germany. I was invited to a dinner hosted by Director of South Asia Institute. There I was agreeably surprised at the quality of knowledge about our country which the members of the Institute reflected in informal conversations with us.

SNS: We owe a lot to German scholars like Max Müller for "rediscovering" much of our ancient knowledge. We all know how the great German philosopher Schopenhauer and Herman Hesse, great poet and writer were deeply influenced by the Indian philosophy. Thus your personal experience at the South Asia Institute, Germany falls in line with this living tradition of Germany's fascination for India and her cultural heritage.

RCS: To get back to your enquiry. Let me tell you that one of the scholars there asked me about the Chhath festival. I could recall the name of the Sun Temple at Deo, Aurangabad where there is a large congregation on the occasion of Chhath festival. I also explained how the banks of river Ganga at Patna and other river banks, and embankments of canals, ponds and lakes near villages and towns were specially decorated for offering prayers to the Sun god on this occasion. I remember with certain amount of satisfaction that I had a very attentive learned audience intently lapping up the basics of the four-day festival with its fasting and offerings with prayers to

the rising and the setting sun.

The second question initially found me at sea. I was asked how I would compare Phanishwar Nath Renu and Premchand as novelists. The fact was that while I had read all the novels of Premchand I had little knowledge about the novels of Renujee. Fortunately for me, however, I had seen the film "Maila Aanchal". This came to my immediate "rescue". I could then share with them with some confidence my ideas about the basic similarity in the focus sharpened by both on the rural life and dissimilarity in their styles of writing, Renujee's novels being generally called 'regional' novels.

Let me add that after my return from Germany I recommended to the Government for an appropriate "Padma Award" for Renujee. I also utilized that occasion to recommend Prof. Moinul Haque for Padma Award in the field of sports. These were accepted by the Government. I had also recommended Shri Hari Uppal for Padma Award in the field of culture. But, this was not accepted then. I was therefore very happy to see a couple of years ago that Shri Hari Uppal was decorated with a Padma Award.

SNS: Finally, would you like to offer some words of advice to the current generation of public servants? We are indeed looking forward to such tips coming as they would from the wisdom, now in a spirit of detachment and recollected in well-earned tranquility with a grandeur all its own.

RCS: Thank you Sinha for this kind of trust and respect. But times have so changed and values have been refashioned that new idioms of approach and understanding have surfaced. Besides, each generation has to make its own choices and take its own decisions. The new generation is

certainly better equipped academically and technologically and I hope and trust the future of our country is in safe hands.

SNS: Could I now request you to dwell a little on your experiences as a Senior Advocate at the Patna High Court where you earned such a commendable name synonymous with fairness, integrity and legal acumen?

RCS: Thank you Sinha, but I would beg to be excused. I would not like to relate my judicial experiences because I regard them as something strictly between me as an Advocate and the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature, Patna.

SNS: This frankness is sincerely appreciated, Sir.

It has been a great pleasure and privilege to be with you on so many occasions. You have been very generous with me, with responses to clarifications sought repeatedly on telephones and in course of discussions. There is much more to be decoded from your vast and rich memory I know. But it would be prudent to have a break. This dialogue will continue.

RCS: God bless you, Sinha. Let me repeat, but for your initiative, persuasiveness and patience this could never have been possible. Please do convey my best wishes to the IAS Officers' Association, Bihar Branch for this wonderful opportunity to one, now very much in his nineties. I would also like to add that a series of lively interactions with you spread over quite some months has stimulated my memory to recreate some more slices of the past. The credit for all this clearly lies at this project of yours. God bless you again. I agree with you: this dialogue will continue.

[Sri S.N. Sinha(1963),creative & social activities apart, still pursuing his 1980 - born dream of developing Koshi region as the Kochi of North India.]

SCORE : e-REGISTRATION IN BIHAR

This project was highly appreciated by Government of India and Shri Anil Kumar and his team were recipients of the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Administration. —Editor

BACKGROUND

The system of registration of documents in Bihar dates back to later part of 18th century. The system, which was started in 18th century, was prevalent with certain variations and changes, till the new system of computerized registration (score) was introduced. In conventional system of registration of documents, the documents were copied serially in register books maintained in the office of the Sub Registrar and after making an endorsement of final certificate of registration and after indexing them, they were delivered to the concerned parties. Gradually this system led to the huge backlog of 7 to 8 years not only in Bihar, but in other states as well. In Bihar, a significant change in old manual system of copying the documents admitted to registration was brought in 2001 when the system of presenting the documents in two copies was introduced. The only difference in this system from the conventional system was that the parties were themselves submitting the photocopy of the document prepared instead of its being copied by the office staff. This system, however, made it possible to deliver the original registered document same day or very next day. Since in this system also the marginal endorsements made on the original document were to be copied on Duplicate copy, the delivery of document was again being delayed. Sometimes the delay was even of a month or more.

The advancement of technology paved the way for introducing radical changes, in the process of governance and delivery of service to the citizens. It is pertinent to mention here that no

government service is as custom made for use of computers, as is registration of documents and their archival. An ICT solution of the manual system of registration is bound to improve efficiency, objectivity and transparency. This



Anil Kumar

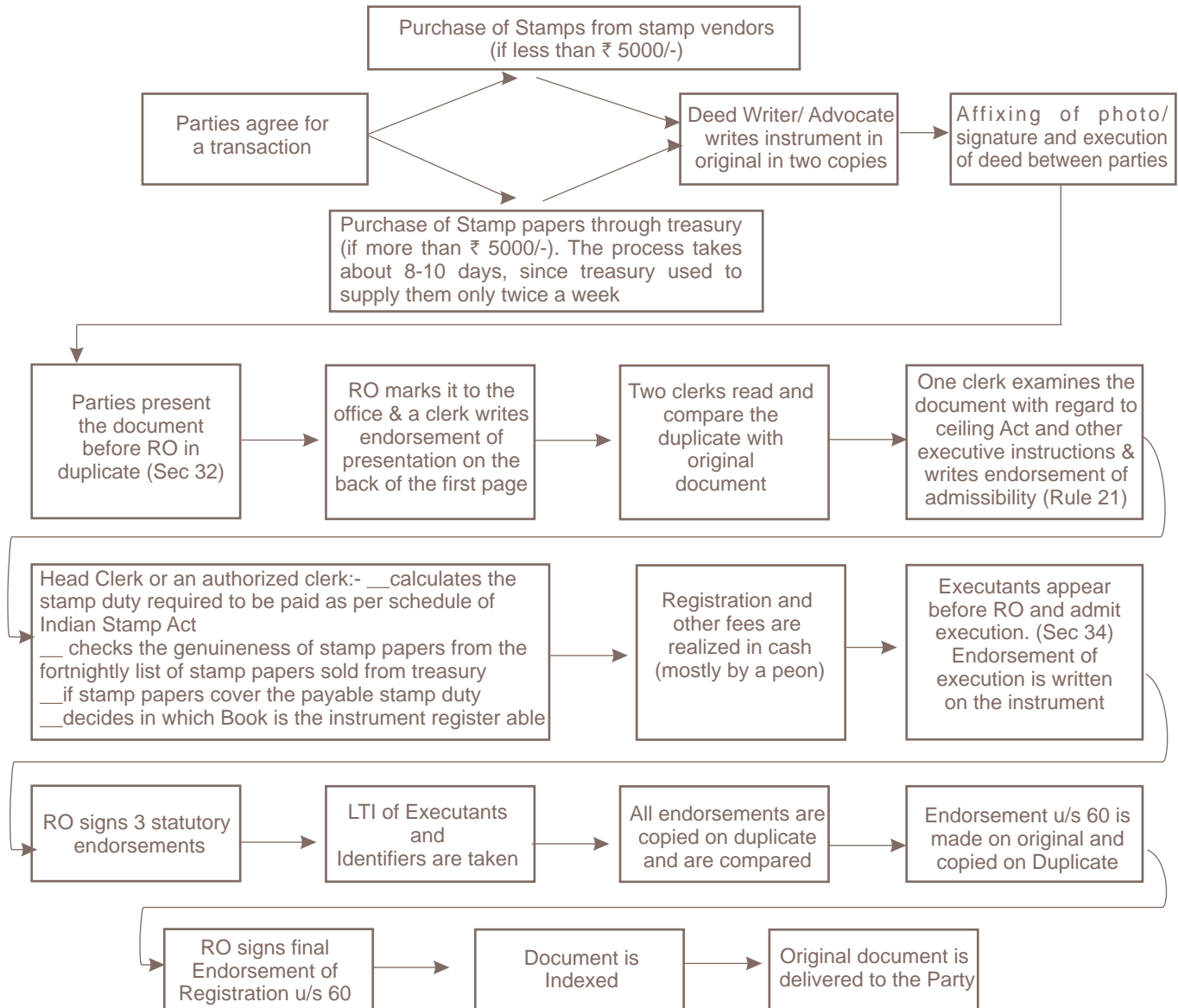
also is the solution to break down the shackles of age old maladies of corruption and harassment in the Registration offices.

Inspired by the computerized system of registration in Andhra Pradesh and other southern states, the Registration Department of Government of Bihar started taking initiatives to implement it in Bihar also. A team of departmental officers and officers of NIC were sent to study the system of computerized registration in different States. A team of NIC Officers took the task of developing software for the project of Computerized System of Registration. But, as the manual system was captive of multi faceted interest groups, the ice could not be broken till the author (a senior IAS officer of 1976 batch) took over as Secretary & Inspector General of Registration. Earlier also in the capacity of Planning Secretary and Secretary of Science & Technology he had suggested for ICT solution of registration process, but with no result. Strong determination and continuous effort backed by some equally diligent officers finally led to the implementation of the project.

FLOW CHART OF ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO SCORE

When the author took over as Secretary -cum-

Inspector General of Registration Department, the existing manual process of registration was something like this:



BOT EXPERIENCE

In this background with little initiative, ECIL offered to run the system of computerized registration in Karnataka pattern in Bihar also on BOT basis. The proposal of ECIL was as under:-

PSU Run Initiative (BOT model) – Proposal

- Minimum Guarantee for scanning of 35 lakh pages in a year
- Service Charge @25/- per page
- Escalation of Rs. 1/- per year in service charge
- Contract for 5 years
- Operator to transfer hardware after contract period.
- Software was to be provided by state government.
- The state govt. to make rooms available for computerization.
- No manual or other system of registration allowed during contract period nor could it be given to other agencies.
- PSU to have liberty of having a private partner

- A pilot project to be run in 1 registry office.

The Government agreed to it in principle with the rider that a detailed project proposal would be submitted by ECIL, which would be evaluated by an Evaluation Committee headed by the Development Commissioner and consisting of Secretaries of Finance, Law & Registration Departments and SIO, NIC, Bihar.

During the evaluation of their proposal, ECIL offered to run a pilot project, which could be useful for the Evaluation Committee to evaluate their proposal. It was offered that the success of the demonstration would be useful for the Evaluation Committee to arrive at proper recommendations. From the Department's point of view also, it was an attractive part of the proposal as there were lots of misgivings about the problems & implications of computerization of registration offices. Therefore NIC was suggested to expedite their software preparation with a view to permit early pilot launch. The Evaluation Committee endorsed the idea of the pilot project and, accordingly, it started in District Registration Office, Patna on 05.09.2005, using the software developed by NIC, Bihar.

1 Unit of Hardware

Items	Number
Server	1
Clients	4
UPS	5
Printers	2
Web Camera	1
Scanner	1
8 Port Switch	1
Finger Print Scanner	1

ECIL ran the pilot project exactly in a manner in which it was proposed by them to the state, so that public & officials could satisfy themselves, not only about the advantages of computerization but also about the manner in which it is proposed to be run. This also suited the government.

The ECIL provided 4 computers, web camera, finger print scanner, scanner etc. as 1 unit of hardware along with their locally recruited & trained operators. A document was registered on the day of inauguration. To avert any functional dislocation, during transitional period the Registering Officer was permitted to do manual registration also.

However, the system did not function properly next day & in the entire day only 1 computerized registration took place while a good number of documents got manually registered. The department reviewed it. ECIL people were blaming NIC for their allegedly slow software while NIC people were blaming ECIL for slow speed scanner and other hardware. In fact the operators were feeling lost with an entirely new job and since nobody from the office was forthcoming to help them, computerized registration looked like an abortive exercise.

PSU RUN INITIATIVE (BOT MODEL) - DEVELOPMENTS

- **Launch**
 - A pilot project was launched on 5th September 2005 in Patna District Registry office to evaluate the BOT offering
 - The software was prepared by joint efforts of the department & NIC Bihar
- **Shortcomings**
 - System malfunctions were observed right from the day of initiation
 - There was a low level of accountability for faults - PSU blamed NIC for slow software while NIC blamed PSU for slow scanner
 - The PSU staff was slow in processing applications due to their limited knowledge of deeds and their structure
 - In 17 days only 50 registrations were done through computerized process although the average demand in the office was about 70 per day

- **Remediation**

- PSU was asked to install additional hardware which was completed in 15 days
- DSR was transferred
- New DSR put 1 staff each behind PSU's operators for accelerating data entry
- The project looked up and survived

A review at the level of Chief Secretary was arranged in which Collectors and representatives of NIC, and Finance Department were also present. The collector was of the view that computerization has led to retardation of registration leading to loss of revenue. But Chief Secretary's firm reiteration of the government's resolve for computerization finally clinched the issue. The author had anticipated teething troubles and, therefore, had permitted manual registration also for initial few days but the Chief Secretary was clear on the issue. He termed it as one sailing on two boats and warned that in the process both would sink. It was decided that come what may, only computerized registration should be permitted. The process should be sped up by induction of more computers & operators.

As it was ECIL's responsibility to provide computers & operators, they were requested accordingly. But their higher authorities in Hyderabad evaded telephone call for 3 days. When contact materialized, they acceded to the request in principle but informed that the hardware would be rushed from Hyderabad to Patna only and for this the State government had to send a no objection certificate for its entry. (No such permission was required under law, but they told that no transporter agrees without it.) A 'no objection certificate' was faxed to them after taking it from commercial Tax Department. However, in spite of the situation of pendency of registration work deteriorating and the public suffering, the additional hardware could arrive only after 15 days. By that time, the State Government had learnt its first lesson: if you depend upon an all India organization, they may not meet any emergent situation. In the meantime the District Sub Registrar was removed as she

was looking like a happy party in presiding over the failure of the pilot project in her office. Another senior officer was deputed. He attached one office staff with each operator and the data entry became quite fast. The State government had to learn the second lesson. That the office staffs of Registry office, which are familiar & thorough with the contents of the instrument to be entered in the computer, have to be gainfully employed to make computerization successful. Hitherto ECIL was adamant that they should have operators only from outside. Even when it was suggested to them that use of carefully chosen young smart staff could reduce the cost & thereby the service charge, they were not agreeable.

ALTERNATIVE PILOT- MUZAFFARPUR MODEL

While the pilot project was looking for augmentation of hardware, a local hardware supplier offered to supply a set of 5 computers, 5 UPS, Printer, Web Camera, Finger Print Scanner and one Scanner on hire for a monthly rent of Rs. 13,500/-. NIC endorsed the offer to be reasonable. ECIL could have also availed of such offers and salvaged the failure of pilot. That would have inspired much more confidence to the government in their sincerity.

The offer of ECIL (BOT partner) was, in fact, very costly and they were not ready to take the 15 services/ assistance of departmental staff. If the offer of ECIL had been accepted, the clerical staff of the department would have been without work for the contract period of 5 years and the Government had to pay them the salary and other financial benefits without taking any work from them. This finally led to seek an alternative way to implement the project. The offer of a private vendor was already there to provide a set of required hardware on hire and finally the idea of HOHB (Hardware on Hire Basis) system was conceived and based on which a decision to run parallel Pilot projects in District Registration Offices at Muzaffarpur & Hajipur and in sub registry office at Danapur was taken by the Empowered Committee on the advice of the author.

MUZAFFARPUR MODEL- SALIENT POINTS

- The program was initiated departmentally in Muzaffarpur, Hajipur and Danapur using hardware on hire and the NIC software prepared for Patna model
- It was run by departmental employees after they were given appropriate training
- 1 data entry operator was permitted
- Service charges were levied on the pattern of the BOT model to meet expenditures on :
 - Hardware hiring
 - Consumables
- Several features were incorporated to avoid unemployment
 - Writing of deeds by deed writers was continued to retain their jobs
 - Partial use of stamp paper was maintained to retain jobs of stamp vendors
- A connectivity between the computers at the bank and the registrar's office eliminated the risk of forged receipts in challans
- Several other features helped plug corruption
 - Auto-valuation of the property
 - Payment of registration fees in the bank
 - Instant delivery of deed
- An all-purpose software enabled efficient working of the computerized registration system*
 - Allots Token no., Serial no. and book wide Deed no. for registered document.
 - Assists public in presentation of instruments.
 - Assists SR by printing 4 statutory endorsements for him.
 - Calculates market value.
 - Generates registers and reports.
 - Generates Encumbrance Certificates.

Resistance

- **Public Interest Litigation**
 - Vested interests felt threatened by a successful pilot running of computerized

registration procedure

- APIL was filed to challenge the procedure
 - Hon'ble High Court rejected it summarily
 - Detailed writ petition was filed by deed writers which was also dismissed
- **Other complaints and allegations**
 - Elected government took over in Nov'05
 - Several baseless complaints including personal allegations were received.
 - Slow scanning was identified as a cause for delay in the process which was remedied by ensuring scanning of the registered document on the same day by better scanners.

On comparative evaluation of the pilot project run by ECIL and on HOHB basis, it was soon found that the HOHB system was not only cost effective, but also had other advantages, such as staff satisfaction due to their involvement, development of entrepreneurship among local people as the supplier of hardware. Hence after considering all the facts the Government finally took a decision to implement the project through the innovative model of HOHB.

GOVERNMENT DECISIONS

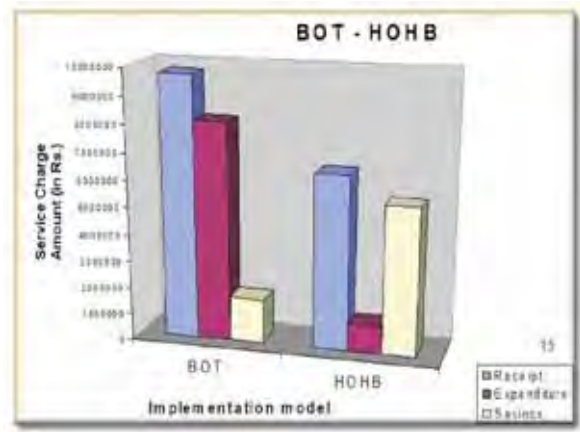
1. A presentation was made before the CM on 1st February 2006 explaining both types of pilots, their advantages and disadvantages
2. On 5th February 2006, the CM approved the following proposals:
 - BOT offer be rejected
 - Muzaffarpur model be extended in all offices
 - Societies to be registered at state & district levels to function as SPVs
 - Societies to hire hardware, collect service charge and meet expenses on consumables etc.
 - State level society to collect savings of district level societies and use it for maintaining the software etc.

- Not more than 10 officers to be served by 1 hardware supplier
3. BOT rejection was justified due the following reasons:
 - Major part of the project i.e. software development was already with state/ NIC by then
 - Govt. was to bear the cost on civil items anyway
 - Only hardware supply & operators were left which could be arranged in the state itself
 - BOT from any other reputed all India party was likely to be as expensive
 - Involvement of department staff was missing - Patna project could take off only after involving them
 4. The rate for each division was decided on the basis of minimum rate quoted for that particular division.
 5. The suppliers were trained for installing the software.
 6. Intensive training programs were organized for both the officers as well as for clerical staff. Bihar Institute of Public Administration & Rural Development (BIPARD) with the help of resource persons from the Registration Department and NIC played exemplary role in it.
 7. The suppliers were to keep a technical man to remove the trouble shootings, so that registration work may not hamper even for a day.
 8. The running and maintenance of the system was entrusted to a District level Society called **(Name of the District)_SCORE**. A state level society was also created which is called **BISCORE** to guide and monitor the function of District level Societies.

Before final implementation of the project following decisions were also taken which had crucial bearing on the speedy success of the project -

1. Hardware suppliers were selected by inviting all India tenders from suppliers.
2. One supplier was to be allotted not more than 10 offices.

3. The suppliers were listed according to the rates quoted by them for supplying the tendered unit of hardware in any registry office of a particular division.



SOME OTHER INNOVATIONS

With the introduction of SCORE, some other innovations were also introduced which may be listed as follows:-

1. The payment of registration and other fees through cash in the registration offices was completely stopped and a new system of deposit of Stamp Duty, Registration Fees and all kinds of fees including Service Charge directly into the designated banks using especially designed challan was introduced. This measure was a radical leap in the system of collection of government revenue and was carefully introduced with the cooperation of Finance Department and Banks. In this system whereas government revenue received in treasury Banks get remitted instantaneously to the state government's account with RBI, the information gets visible to the RO on his computer on-line. Any prior endorsement either of Registration office staff or of treasury staff on the challan has been dispensed with. The "Heads" in which the money has to be booked in the treasury are pre-printed on challan and do not require any

official help to the party who used to face corrupt practices right at this stage.

- The option to pay stamp duty either through Stamp paper or through deposit in bank or partly through stamp paper and partly through deposit in bank was also made available. This on one hand did not make Stamp Vendors unemployed, on the other hand permitted the

satisfaction of having instrument on traditional stamp paper, to the parties. A limit already existed (Rs 5000/- in Corporation areas, Rs/- 3000/- in other municipal areas and Rs 2000/- in rural areas) for the amount upto, which a stamp vendor could sell, stamps to one party. This limit was consciously not increased, although stamp

तृतीय प्रति

निबंधन कार्यवाही हेतु

विधान सभा
निबंधन विभाग
के अन्तर्गत

राजधानी के विधान सभा के लिए जमा किए जाने वाले राज्य मुद्रा-निबंधन शुल्क एवं प्रत्येकी के निबंधन शुल्क के भुगतान के लिए बैंक खाते पर

- राजधानी का नाम
- (निबंधन शुल्क का विवरण देना है)
- राजधानी का क्रम
- निबंधन कार्यवाही
- बैंक का नाम एवं पता
- भुगतान को संबंधित एजी का विवरण

क्र.सं.	मुद्रा का नाम एवं शीर्ष	रकम
(क)	राज्य मुद्रा-मुद्रा शीर्ष-4000-राज्य एवं प्रदेशों का राजधानी एवं मुद्रा शीर्ष-10-राज्य के अन्तर्गत एवं शीर्ष-103-राजधानी के अन्तर्गत राज्य मुद्रा-राजधानी-राजधानी (क) एवं प्रदेशों के अन्तर्गत राजधानी-2540-राज्य के अन्तर्गत निबंधन शुल्क का क्रम R0030021030001	
(ख)	निबंधन शुल्क-मुद्रा शीर्ष-1000-राज्य एवं प्रदेशों का राजधानी एवं मुद्रा शीर्ष-10-राजधानी के अन्तर्गत एवं शीर्ष-104-राजधानी के अन्तर्गत राज्य मुद्रा-राजधानी-राजधानी (क) एवं प्रदेशों के अन्तर्गत राजधानी-2540-राज्य के अन्तर्गत निबंधन शुल्क का क्रम R0030031040001	
(ग)	राजधानी मुद्रा-मुद्रा शीर्ष-1000-राज्य एवं प्रदेशों का राजधानी एवं मुद्रा शीर्ष-103-राजधानी के अन्तर्गत एवं शीर्ष-104-राजधानी के अन्तर्गत राज्य मुद्रा-राजधानी-राजधानी (क) एवं प्रदेशों के अन्तर्गत राजधानी-2540-राज्य के अन्तर्गत निबंधन शुल्क का क्रम R0029008000006	
	भुगतान का कारण/कारण/कारण	
	मुद्रा जमा करने की तिथि	मुद्रा जमा

नाम _____ इनकार का नाम _____
 पता _____ एवं पता _____

बैंक खाते का विवरण देना है (अंकित करना है।)
 राजधानी की रकम जमा करने के लिए बैंक खाते में जमा होने।

FOR USE OF THE BANK

नाम नं. _____ शीर्ष _____ राज्य का नाम _____
 राज्य नं. _____ में दिए गए विवरण के अनुसार नं. _____
 शीर्ष नं. _____ एवं शीर्ष _____

राजधानी कार्यवाही का
रकम एवं मुद्रा

निबंधन शुल्क जमा करने का विवरण

शीर्ष नं. _____ शीर्ष नं. _____ राज्य का नाम _____
 बैंक का नाम _____ बैंक का पता _____
 बैंक खाते नं. _____ बैंक की शाखा का पता _____

चतुर्थ प्रति

(अप्रकार की)

विधान सभा
निबंधन विभाग
के अन्तर्गत

राजधानी के विधान सभा के लिए जमा किए जाने वाले राज्य मुद्रा-निबंधन शुल्क एवं प्रत्येकी के निबंधन शुल्क के भुगतान के लिए बैंक खाते पर

- राजधानी का नाम
- (निबंधन शुल्क का विवरण देना है)
- राजधानी का क्रम
- निबंधन कार्यवाही
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(ख)	निबंधन शुल्क-मुद्रा शीर्ष-1000-राज्य एवं प्रदेशों का राजधानी एवं मुद्रा शीर्ष-10-राजधानी के अन्तर्गत एवं शीर्ष-104-राजधानी के अन्तर्गत राज्य मुद्रा-राजधानी-राजधानी (क) एवं प्रदेशों के अन्तर्गत राजधानी-2540-राज्य के अन्तर्गत निबंधन शुल्क का क्रम R0030031040001	
(ग)	राजधानी मुद्रा-मुद्रा शीर्ष-1000-राज्य एवं प्रदेशों का राजधानी एवं मुद्रा शीर्ष-103-राजधानी के अन्तर्गत एवं शीर्ष-104-राजधानी के अन्तर्गत राज्य मुद्रा-राजधानी-राजधानी (क) एवं प्रदेशों के अन्तर्गत राजधानी-2540-राज्य के अन्तर्गत निबंधन शुल्क का क्रम R0029008000006	
	भुगतान का कारण/कारण/कारण	
	मुद्रा जमा करने की तिथि	मुद्रा जमा

नाम _____ इनकार का नाम _____
 पता _____ एवं पता _____

बैंक खाते का विवरण देना है (अंकित करना है।)
 राजधानी की रकम जमा करने के लिए बैंक खाते में जमा होने।

FOR USE OF THE BANK

नाम नं. _____ शीर्ष _____ राज्य का नाम _____
 राज्य नं. _____ में दिए गए विवरण के अनुसार नं. _____
 शीर्ष नं. _____ एवं शीर्ष _____

राजधानी कार्यवाही का
रकम एवं मुद्रा

निबंधन शुल्क जमा करने का विवरण

शीर्ष नं. _____ शीर्ष नं. _____ राज्य का नाम _____
 बैंक का नाम _____ बैंक का पता _____
 बैंक खाते नं. _____ बैंक की शाखा का पता _____

vendors were asking for it since long, to encourage collection of lion's share of Stamp duty through direct deposit in Banks. This



greatly relieved the burden of treasury in vending stamps to individual parties.

3. The system of making endorsements of the stamp vendor on the stamp paper was also changed. By amending the Rules the stamp vendors were required to write it on the front of the stamp paper (below the official printed emblem) horizontally in a strip of about 3/4" instead of earlier system of writing it on the back of the stamp paper in a circle. This reduced half of the scanning work as also the Service charge on the parties.
4. A consolidated endorsement of admissibility, presentation, admission, registration and indexing is printed on the top of first page (below stamp, if it is a stamp paper) of the instrument (see above). This, apart from providing all statutory requirements of registration process including the name of Registering Officer instantaneously, makes documents written on plain papers attractive.
5. The Registering Officers were directed to keep a Visitor's Register, so that the feedback from user public may be obtained. Some testimonials

to the new system are reproduced below :-

- "It is amazing and pleasant experience to see such an efficient execution of complex task in a very simply way. I congratulate the officers and staff of the office to keep it up. The behavior of staffs and officers are really praiseworthy. Best use of technology for services"

Dr. Manoj Kumar
Chief Commissioner
Ministry of S. J. & E., Govt. of India

- "I am Amitabh Verma from Muzaffarpur, but I stay in Mumbai and have sold a land but was very apprehensive about the Government functionary, but after coming to the registrar office my view has changed. Everything was done very smoothly and fast. I am impressed with the computerization of the system. I am pretty satisfied with entire system"

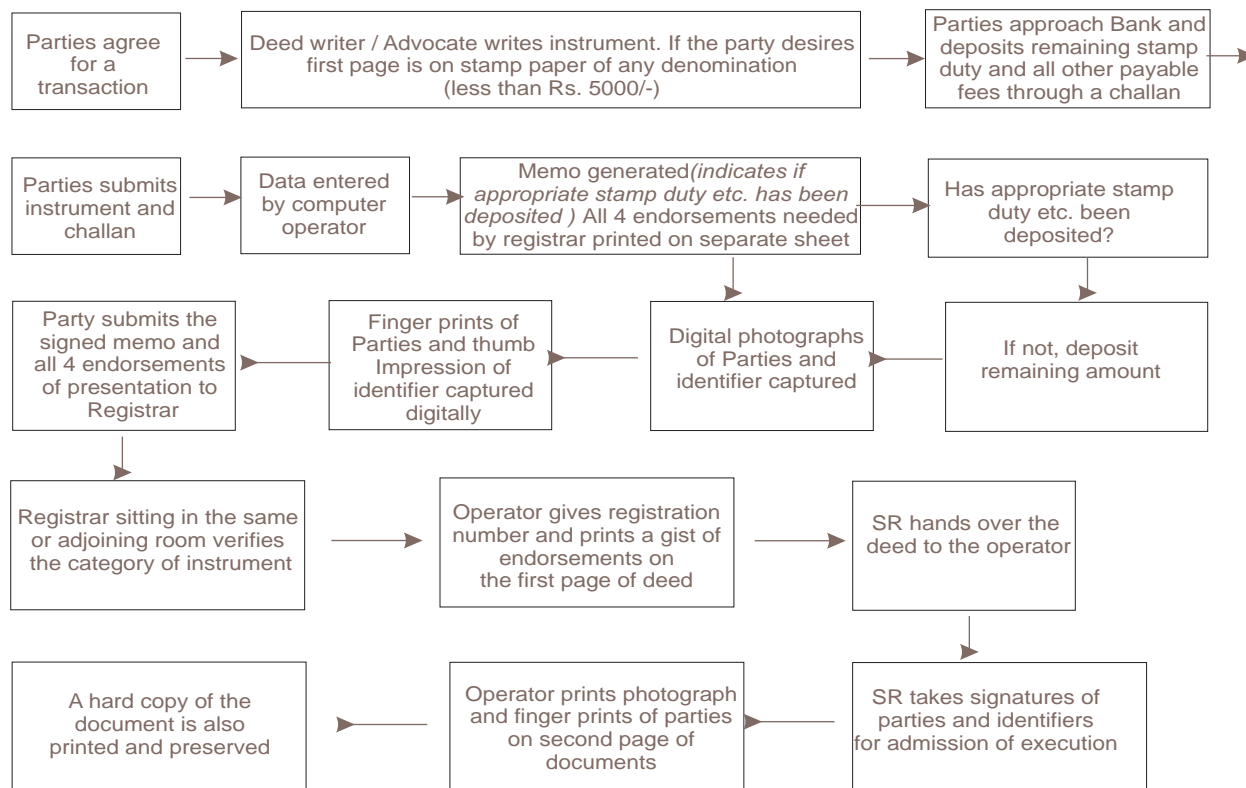
Amitabh Verma
Mumbai (10/02/2006)

6. HOHB model was first time used in the country with no liability (either financial or technical or other) on the Government.
7. Amendments in Bihar Stamp (Prevention of Undervaluation of instruments) Rules, 1995 were made in order to introduce Minimum Value Register for property-structures also. Valuation of structures is now calculated through computer on the basis of a 3-dimensional matrix of location, quality of construction and nature of uses. The parties are to volunteer this information and calculation of valuation on that basis has been made acceptable.
8. Amendment in Section 47- A of the Indian Stamp Act was also made which provides for referring the documents undervalued after registering it. This has put a curb on the power of Registering Officer to refer a document even when there was not sufficient reason to do so.
9. A state level society headed by Secretary, Registration Department named BISCORE and district level societies named (Name of the district)_SCORE, headed by Collector

were registered for autonomous functioning. The latter take care of the consumption needs for the functioning from service charges collected whereas the former takes care of the

maintenance and updating of the software. The former collects savings of the latter also and is responsible for providing guidance to the latter to ensure uniformity in the state.

FLOW CHART OF ACTIVITIES IN REGISTRATION AFTER SCORE



OUT COMES OF THE INNOVATIONS

1. The most important and significant outcome of the project was that the discretion of Registering Officer in the process of registration has been wiped out. The minimum valuation of property is now done by software on the basis of a 3 dimensional matrix of location, nature of use and quality of construction. Earlier minimum value of the property used to be assessed through enquiry. This gave a long rope to the RO or his enquiring officer as it could result into more stamp fee or even threat of impounding of the instrument. In the present system, RO is obliged to accept input regarding nature of use, location and quality of construction given by the party. He is expected to get these

information verified after registration and in case of information being found wrong, he refers the case to the collector u/s 47A of Stamp Act. The entire process of scrutiny of all type of instruments for registration is taken care of by the software.

2. Another important outcome was regarding the shortage or unavailability of stamp papers of required value or required denomination immediately came to an end. The public had now an option to deposit the stamp duty in the designated bank. This also had some other positive impacts, which are as follows:
 - a. It stopped the monopoly of stamp vendors and also of treasury staff in vending stamps
 - b. It was also cost effective as the amount paid to the vendors as commission had decreased

and the cost of printing, transportation and storage of stamp was also reduced.

- c. It also put a curb on circulation of fake stamp and black marketing of stamps.
3. The registration process was made simple with the help of the automated procedure.
4. It ensures transparency and accountability in registration process.
5. With no cash dealing system in the office, and transparency of the procedure has led to reduction in corruption. The project aims to take it to zero corruption level.
6. With the use of same software in all the registration offices of the State a uniform and standardized system of registration got developed.
7. The system has helped in developing teamwork. The officers and the staff of Registration offices who were used to only traditional ways of working got exposed to technology and skill up-gradation through elaborate training.
8. The software is user friendly and can be operated with convenience and ease.
9. It provides for the digital archiving of records and there is on line facility for making searches from computerized indexes and for obtaining certified copies in accordance with the provisions of Registration Act, 1908.
10. It has promoted public private partnership as hardware has been obtained from private vendors on rent. In fact this small scale PPP offers great employment opportunities to new generation of small entrepreneurs.
11. It has emerged as a model with maximization of satisfaction of all stakeholders.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Though no formal impact assessment of the project has been made, feed back in Visitor Books reveal that the new system has entirely changed the work atmosphere. The instant delivery of registered instrument comes as a pleasant shock to the parties in the backdrop of years / months long pendency faced earlier. Similarly people who always felt harassed by almost perpetual Stamp paper shortages have heaved a sigh of relief with the option of depositing Stamp Duty fully or its major part

directly in the Bank. Since System for computerized registration was a new innovation, the system of maintaining a visitors' registers was introduced since beginning of the project, and the feedback from the most important stakeholder, i.e., the citizens/users was used for mid course corrections and the system is continuously evolving. The people coming from outside Bihar for transactions relating to their immovable properties in Bihar were amazed to see the changes not only in working system, but also in working climate and attitude of officer & staff. SCORE, i.e, System for Computerized Registration and its implementation model, i.e. HOHB is a simple and user friendly model with ICT solution for registration of documents and can be replicated anywhere in the country. The project SCORE: e-Registration in Bihar" with all its components is easily replicable anywhere. The main components of the project are:

- i) SCORE, The software developed by NIC, Bihar
- ii) Implementation model, i.e., HOHB (Hardware on Hire Basis)
- iii) Implementation Tool, i.e. Societies at district and State level
- iv) Administrative reforms and legal change

SCORE software is the complete ICT solution for registration process as well as for archival of the registration records. Though types of land, system of measurement of land etc. differs from district to district in Bihar, SCORE software is adaptable with slight variation anywhere. Thus it can be very well said that with slight variation, it can be replicated anywhere in the country. Moreover, it has an extra advantage of being developed by NIC, national level organization of the Government of India. Other components like HOHB model and implementation through district level societies can be easily replicated. Other administrative and legal reforms like- system of deposit of registration fee and stamp duty directly into the dedicated banks through specially designed challan, Change of endorsement of stamp vendors from back to front, amendment in section 47-A of the stamp Act, auto calculation of valuation of land and structure and stamp duty payable thereon through computer as

per provision of the Stamp Act & Rules are also easily replicable.

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO SUCCESS

A number of factors contributed to the success of project, such as-

1. The Department had a full time senior IAS officer as its Secretary and IG Registration who provided uninterrupted and dedicated leadership to make the project successful.
2. Special Purpose Vehicles- an implementing Society for each district and one at State level were created and registered under Societies Registration Act. Responsibility of running and maintaining the system of computerized registration was assigned to the district society of the concerned district.
3. Mr. Dilip Kumar, AIG- Computerization played a crucial role in success of the project. He had the challenge of not only standing to the demands of his leader but also facing his colleagues who, to begin with, were up in arms against the idea of computerization. He along with his 2-3 trusted colleagues gradually motivated all registration officers to see virtue in the project. The functions of the State Level Society are custody and updating of software and to provide guidelines and technical and other support to the district level societies.
4. Everyone at the high level right from Finance Commissioner to Development Commissioner and Chief Secretary and also executives of higher levels of SBI and other Commercial & Nationalized Banks extended their full cooperation in implementation of the project which finally made it successful.
5. NIC had provided the full time service of its two dedicated Senior System Analyst Mr. N K Prasad and Mr. Sanjay Kumar for this project who got continuous guidelines from a team of departmental officers while developing the software SCORE.
6. The team spirit and we feeling among the departmental officers inculcated by the team leader.
7. An important factor contributing to the success of project was that it took care of all stakeholders such as, staff, officer, deed writer, stamp vendor and the citizens.

8. Most important factors contributing to the success were 2 pro active orders of the Patna High Court on the writ petitions filed by people with vested interests. In first order the Honorable High Court dismissed a PIL summarily by observing that use of computer in this era can't be against public interest. In the second it rejected the prayer of the petitioner for staying the pilot on the ground that it did not conform to Registration Rules. The Court accepted the statement of the government that Rules will be amended appropriately (new Rules have since come into force) on the basis of experience in the pilot.
9. Intensive training of officers and staff was also one of the factors for its success.
10. The cooperation of hardware suppliers in installing the software contributed to quick and successful dissemination of the System.
11. The cooperation and liberty that the department got from the Hon'ble Chief Minister who was also the then departmental Minister, had been a major factor in contributing for the implementation and success of the project.

THE WAY AHEAD

Some of the important activities that are to be taken up in continuation of the project are:

1. To increase the security features in the system.
2. To take up the task of data entry and digitization/scanning of old records, so that the computer without any hassle may also generate non-encumbrance certificate relating to the records of manual period and the certified copy may be issued without any delay.
3. To establish the computer connectivity between the registration offices within a district and also between a registry office and concerned circle offices.
4. To develop public assistance systems like "May I help you" booth or information kiosk.
5. To provide ICT solution for other services provided by the department, such as- Registration of firms & societies, different kinds of marriages etc.

[Currently Advisor, Bihar State Planning Board, Patna, Anil Kumar (1976), was Principal Secretary, Registration, Bihar during the period the innovative scheme was launched.]

REMINISCENCES OF A DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

-Satish Singh Thakur

I was posted as Dy Commissioner, Koderma (now in Jharkhand) in the year 2000. Extremist activities had just started in some parts of the district. One evening at around 10.00 PM local Dy S.P. came to me with the information that extremists had planted time bomb in Tilaiya Dam. He was very upset. Sri Jitendra Kumar, S.P. was on leave. I asked him not to get panicky.

The matter was very serious. Any damage to Tilaiya Dam would have been disastrous. I immediately left for the Dam site accompanied by the Dy S.P.

On reaching there I found one clock-like instrument placed between the Dam and the reservoir. The instrument was dazzling from the distance. It was very risky to go there without proper security arrangement. Large number of people had gathered there and they were getting scared. There was no bomb disposal squad. There was not much time left to call the squad from Hazaribagh where CRPF was stationed.

I requested the Principal of Sainik School, Tilaiya to come and help. He came with the Headmaster who had been a Major in the Army. They inspected the instrument from the close range. The time bomb clock was moving. They told me that not much time was available with us. We had to take quick decision. They advised me that there was one option available: the bomb could be exploded by shooting it. As there was not much time left with us and very limited option available, I agreed with the suggestion of the Sainik School authorities.

A rifle was brought from the School. The Major inspected the bomb very carefully and minutely. He told me that he would fire at the bomb with such care that entire explosion would go into the reservoir and no damage would be done to the Tilaiya Dam.

After getting my consent Major fired at the bomb. The bomb exploded with high sound. The entire impact of the explosion went into the reservoir. No damage was done to the Dam.

All of us heaved sigh of relief. Due to timely action and help from the Principal and Major of Sainik School, Tilaiya not only Tilaiya Dam was saved but also the lives of several thousand people and several thousand acres of crops were also saved. I thanked the authorities of the Sainik School for their help.

Next day the news made headlines and everybody congratulated us for timely action for averting a major disaster.

Another experience relates to development schemes and gives me highest sense of satisfaction even today.

After taking over as Dy Commissioner, Koderma everyday I used to get a number of complaints about Mukhias not calling Gram Sabha meetings. Mukhias in connivance with the Panchayat Sevaks drafted fake Gram Sabha meeting proceedings and schemes were chosen arbitrarily, leading to misappropriation of Panchayat development funds on a large scale.

The complaints against Mukhias started piling. Repeated warnings to Block officials were of no use.

Finally I decided to hit at the root of this problem. I prepared a roaster for Gram Sabha Meetings of all the Panchayats of the District. For every meeting I deputed a district level officer including Dy Commissioner to remain present in the meeting. The officers were clearly asked not to interfere in the deliberations of the meetings but remain present as observer so that genuine meetings take place. The roaster for the meeting was widely circulated.

This procedure changed the entire scenario. Very encouraging reports started coming about the success of the Gram Sabha. I myself participated in several Gram Sabha meetings. I found villagers fighting for every scheme. All times it appeared that they would come to blows but nothing of that sort happened. After heated discussions schemes were finalised. Similar was the experience of other officers also. The presence of officers ensured holding of genuine Gram Sabha meetings and only community useful schemes were selected. Mukhias could not manipulate the schemes to their own advantages.

And gradually complaints about fake Gram Sabha meetings almost stopped. Sri Tilakdhari Singh, the then Member of Parliament from Koderma Parliamentary Constituency congratulated me on telephone from Delhi. When he came to Koderma he met me and apprised about the positive impact of genuine Gram Sabha meetings. He expressed his gratefulness and thanked me on behalf of the general public of the district.

Today Jharkhand Government has adopted this model of circulating roaster for Gram Sabha meetings through newspapers. I regularly find in newspapers roaster for Gram Sabha meetings in Jharkhand districts. This gives me highest satisfaction as this step ensures people's participation in development process and finalisation of genuine schemes.

I hope that above two examples would be of some help to our young colleagues in their long career.

[Sri Satish Singh Thakur (1988),
Officer on Special Duty to Chief Secretary]

Bustopher Jones: The Cat About Town

Bustopher Jones is not skin and bones —
In fact, he's remarkably fat.

He doesn't haunt pubs—he has eight or
nine clubs,

For he's the St James's Street Cat!

He's the cat we all greet as he walks
down the street

In his coat of fastidious black:

No commonplace mousers have such
well-cut trousers

Or such an impeccable back.

In the whole of St James's the smartest of
names is

The name of this Brummell of Cats;

And we're all of us proud to be nodded or
bowed to

By Bustopher Jones in white spats!

— T. S. Eliot (1888-1965)

एक नजर

– राम उपदेश सिंह

जिधर जिन्दगी सिसकियां भर रही है,
नज़र फेर कर तुम उधर भी तो देखो ।

मिले हैं बहुत तुमको मतलब के नेता,
मसीहा गरीबों के, मजहब के नेता,
गरीबी जिधर करवटें ले रही है,
नज़र फेर कर तुम उधर भी तो देखो ।

किसी की अमीरी की औकात देखो,
किसी को गरीबी की सौगात देखो,
तड़पता जिधर भूख से तन-बदन है,
नज़र फेर कर तुम उधर भी तो देखो ।

कहीं दोस्त तो फूल पथ पर बिछाते,
कहीं कर रहे जान देने की बातें,
जिधर दोस्त में दुश्मनी पल रही है,
नज़र फेर कर तुम उधर भी तो देखो ।

जवां हुस्न के नग्न व्यापार देखो,
वो आगोश, बोसा की बौछार देखो,
सिसकतीं जिधर सिलवटें बिस्तरों पर,
नज़र फेर कर तुम उधर भी तो देखो ।

वो रंगी-बिरंगी जहां तितलियां हैं,
वहीं पर तो भौरों की भी पंक्तियां हैं,
वो चिथड़ों में लिपटा बदन ही जहां हैं,
नज़र फेर कर तुम उधर भी तो देखो ।

भले तुमने देखी बहारों की रंगत,
चलो, देख लो टूट पेड़ों की पंगत,
जिधर झड़ रहे शाख से नर्म पत्ते,
नज़र फेर कर तुम उधर भी तो देखो ।

बहुत खुश थे बेटी की सौगात पाकर,
था नाज़ों से पाला गले से लगाकर,

दुल्हन बन के बेटी जिधर जल रही है,
नज़र फेर कर तुम उधर भी तो देखो ।

वो बेटी तो थी इक समुन्दर की मोती,
ज़माना न चलता जो बेटी न होती,
जिधर भ्रूण को गर्भ में खत्म करते,
नज़र फेर कर तुम उधर भी तो देखो ।

मुकद्दस रहीं जब सियासत की चालें,
नहीं भेड़ियों की थीं भेड़ों की खालें,
यूं इन्सानियत ही जिधर मर रही है,
नज़र फेर कर तुम उधर भी तो देखो ।

मुहब्बत गरीबी से थी जिनकी फितरत,
वो करते मगर हैं गरीबों से नफ़रत,
जिधर आज खुदगर्जियां पल रहीं हैं,
नज़र फेर कर तुम उधर भी तो देखो ।

कहीं बंट रहे हैं गरीबी के पर्चे,
कहीं हो रहे बेहिजाबी से खर्चे,
हर इक पल जिधर जिन्दगी रो रही है,
नज़र फेर कर तुम उधर भी तो देखो ।

रहा जिन्दगी की तरह दिन शहर का,
सुबह का अमन, कोलाहल दोपहर का,
जिधर शामे-ग़म, रात में खात्मा है,
नज़र फेर कर तुम उधर भी तो देखो ।

यहां जिन्दगी तो है पल-पल क़यामत,
कहीं से हिक़ारत कहीं से ज़लालत,
गुज़रते जिधर लम्हे सदियों की जानिब,
नज़र फेर कर तुम उधर भी तो देखो ।

[राम उपदेश सिंह, भा.प्र.से. (1961)
(अवकाश प्राप्त)]

– डॉ. सी. अशोकवर्द्धन

- Dr. C. Ashokvardhan

फिर कभी ऐसी
कोई पुकार नहीं आएगी।

शब्दों की गुहार की जरूरत नहीं रही,
चूँकि एक अकेला सवालिया निशान
कहीं शून्य में विलीन हो चला।

वर्तमान के सीमांत से
जोड़ते
अतीत के महिमा—गान के लिए
कुछ भी तो नहीं रहा।

लाख याद करने पर
वे दिन
बतौर झूठी तसल्ली भी,
फिर नहीं चहकेंगे।

कहीं थोड़ी रुकावट आएगी
जन्म—जन्मान्तर के सिलसिलों में
ताकि तुम कमरे बदल सको,
बिछावन
और चादरें भी।

साफ—सुथरी ये गलियाँ—
खुले—खुले गलियारे,
वर्तमान मानों अतीत का
प्रतीक्षारत है।

और इस दरम्यान
उपयुक्त शब्दावली
खुशनुमा भाव—भंगिमाओं की
नक्काशी
जारी है।

वे हाथ खुद की
सफाई में मशगूल हैं—
ताकि गुज़रे दिनों की
जमी हुई जिद्दी धूल तो
धुल जाए।

There may not be a call
like this, again.

No fumbling for words
as a question mark,
the lone thus far,
vanishes in the blue,

No glories to sing
relating the past
even remotely
to the present.

In the deepest of thoughts
ever
those days,
may not twitter again,
even in false proxies.

There could be a small break
somewhere
from bith to birth
to let you change rooms,
beds
and bed covers.

Broomed these streets
anew-
and corridors opened ajar-
in wait, the present,
for future,

Suitable phrases,
in the meanwhile,
and gestures, pleasant enough
for a take-
in the make.

Busy those hands
giving a finishing touch
to themselves,
washing of debris
sticking stubborn,
all these passing days.

[Dr. C. Ashokvardhan (1980),
Principal Secretary, Revenue & Land
Reforms Department, Bihar]

मोल

— ममता मेहरोत्रा

एक कोने में बैठकर सब्जी काटते हुए वह बेदम प्रतीत हो रही थी। बूढ़ी की ख़ाँसी बढ़ती जा रही थी। बाबूजी चारपाई पर बैठकर अखबार पढ़ रहे थे। अम्मा कोई ऐसी बूढ़ी नहीं थी कि उम्र ज्यादा गई हो। यही कोई चौसठ-पैंसठ साल की रही होगी। घर की गृहस्थी ढोते-ढोते जीवन के अनुभव शरीर के हर अंग पर दिखायी देने लगे थे। बाल पक गये थे। शक्ल पर झुर्रियाँ दूर से प्रतीत होती थीं। दुबला-पतला, छरहरा बदन उस पर एक अपाहिज टांग।

बाबू जी रिटायर हुए सात-आठ या दस साल हो गये थे। उसके बाद कहीं काम-धाम ढूँढा नहीं और मजे से घर में बैठकर रिटायर्ड जिंदगी बिता रहे थे। जीवन भर घर की जिम्मेदारियों से फारिग रहे। एक कुशल बीबी के चलते कभी उस ओर झँकने का मौका नहीं मिला। सरकारी नौकरी होने के कारण आदत भी आरामतलबी की पड़ गयी थी।

कभी कोई काम वक्त पर नहीं होता तो आसमान जरूर सिर पर उठा लेते थे। अम्मा को निजी और सार्वजनिक जीवन में अनकानेक बार वह अपमानित कर चुके थे। पर अम्मा पर तो मानो जूँ भी न रेंगती थी। शायद बाबूजी को झेलते-झेलते आदत-सी हो गयी थी।

उनकी दो बेटियाँ थीं, जो ब्याह दी गई थीं। बेटा मैट्रिक पासकर आई.ए. में आया था। बेटा अविनाश ट्यूशन कर जैसे ही लौटा तो माँ की ख़ाँसी उससे देखी न गई।

“चल माँ तुमको डॉक्टर को दिखा लाऊँ!” स्वर उसका थोड़ा तेज था। यह बाबू को सुनाकर थोड़ा सहानुभूति लेना चाहता था।

अखबार पढ़कर बाबूजी अब आँगन में तेज कदमों से टहल रहे थे। “कहाँ जाने की बात हो रही है?”

“बाबू जी, माँ की ख़ाँसी पिछले दो महीने से बराबर बनी हुई है। दवादारू भी नहीं कर रही है।”

बाबूजी थोड़ा रोष में बोले ‘दवा-दारू से किसने रोका हुआ है? अपना ध्यान खुद ही नहीं रखती। सुबह उठकर जब देखो तब ठंडे पानी से सर धोकर नहा लेती है। यह भी कोई उम्र है इस तरह की ठिठोली की! शरीर का ख्याल रखे। पर नहीं, दुनिया को तो यह दिखाने में आनंद आता है कि कैसे पति से शादी हो गई है जो ठीक से इलाज भी नहीं करवाता, देखभाल

तो दूर है। क्या मैं जानता नहीं हूँ? यह चाल उसकी पिछले तीस बरस से झेलता आ रहा हूँ।

अम्मा की आँखों से आँसू छलक आये।

अविनाश बोला “अब आप तो अच्छा खासा भाषण देने पर उतावले हो गये।

“अच्छा! अब बेटा इतना बड़ा हो गया है कि माँ के लिए बोलेंगा। जो खुद ही नहीं बोला जाता, वह बेटे के मुँह से कहलवाती है।”

और बाबू ने चाल तेज कर दी। अकेले पड़ गये थे। जवान-जहान होते बेटे से मुँह लगाना उचित नहीं था। थोड़ी देर व्यग्र रहे फिर वहीं से चिल्ला कर बोले।

“ओ अविनाश की माँ, चाय तो देना।”

अविनाश अपनी माँ के गिरते हुए स्वास्थ्य को देखकर चिन्तित था।

“बाबू थोड़ा पैसा दे दो।”

“पैसा? अरे पैसा कहीं पेड़ पर फलता है? रिटायरमेंट के बाद तो ऐसे ही आधा मिलता है। तुम माँ-बेटे जब देखो तब पैसे का ही रोना रोते रहते हो।”

अविनाश को भी गुस्सा आ गया। “अब बस भी कीजिए बाबू जी। मेरे पास कुछ बचत के पैसे हैं, उन्हीं से माँ को दिखा आता हूँ।

“पैसे तो मैंने ही तुमको दिये हैं, वही न तुम बचाकर रखे हो और शेखी बघारते हो?”

अविनाश कुछ नहीं बोला। साइकिल बरामदें में लगाकर अन्दर चला गया।

अम्मा भी पूरे नाटयक्रम में चुप बैठ सब्जी काटती रही। बाबू जी शुरू से कंजूस और लापरवाह आदमी थे, पर रिटायरमेंट के बाद तो जैसे वह पूर्णतः ही बदल गये थे, बात-बात पर झुंझला जाना उनकी आदत में शुमार हो गया था।

अविनाश ने अम्मा से काफी मिन्नतें की कि चलकर दिखा लो, पर वह राजी नहीं हुई।

“कुछ नहीं हुआ है बेटा। बस थोड़ी-सी ख़ाँसी ही तो है।

फिर देख, दवा तो ले रही हूँ। कुछ दिनों में सब ठीक हो जायेगा। तू ऐसा कर, यह वाली दवा लाकर दे दे। इससे आराम हो जाता है।”

बात आई—गई हो गयी। पर अम्मा की हालत में ज्यादा सुधार न हुआ। अब तो उनको बुखार भी रहने लगा था। पहले से काफी कमजोर भी हो गई थी। एक दिन सुबह अम्मा बिस्तर से नहीं उठीं। इधर वैसे तो भोर होते ही उनका काम—काज चालू हो जाता। यह मटके भरना, कपड़े धोना, आदि। पर आज सूरज पूर्णतः अपना साम्राज्य फैला चुका था पर वह बेसुध पड़ी थी। बाबूजी को सुबह की चाय की तलब लगी हुई थी। आँगन में चहलकदमी कर रहे थे। चौके में कभी अम्मा ने जाने का सुअवसर न दिया था। उसके प्रति ठहरे निरे अनाड़ी। मरता क्या न करता! बार—बार झाँक के देख जाते कि अम्मा उठी कि नहीं फिर मन मार कर घूमने लगते।

“पता नहीं आज क्या हो गया है तुम्हारी अम्मा को? अभी तक सोई पड़ी है। चल जरा चाय तो बना दे।”

“बाबूजी, आप भी हद करते हैं। अम्मा ऐसे ही नहीं न आराम फरमा रही है। जरूर तबीयत बिगड़ गयी होगी।” अविनाश भागते हुए अन्दर गया।

अम्मा के सर पर हाथ रखा तो काफी बुखार था। खौंसी पहले की तरह यथावत थी। बाबूजी पैसे के लिए कहना व्यर्थ था। वह अपना दराज खोल कर पैसे निकाल लाया और आनन—फानन में पड़ोस के डॉक्टर को ले आया।

डॉक्टर ने हर प्रकार से मुआइना किया और एक कागज पर कुछ लिख कर अविनाश का पकड़ा दिया।

“पहले यह सब टेस्ट करवा लीजिए, तब कुछ कहा जा सकता।”

एक्सरे और खून की जांच तो बगल के सरकारी अस्पताल में करवा लाना था। उनका नतीजा आने के बाद बाकी परीक्षण करवाना था। इस बीच बगल वाली शीला मौसी ने घर को संभाल लिया था। बीच—बीच में आकर माँ की देख—भाल कर जाती थी। शीला मौसी और अम्मा आगे पीछे ब्याह कर इस मुहल्ले में आयी थीं। अम्मा के स्वभाव के कारण दोनो में घनिष्ठता काफी बढ़ गयी थी। जब शीला मौसी विधवा हुई थी तो अम्मा ने उनको संभाला था। आज उसी का ऋण वह अदा कर रही थी।

रिपोर्ट ले कर शाम को डॉक्टर के पास गया। देखकर डॉक्टर थोड़ी देर सकते में आ गये फिर अविनाश का चेहरा पढ़ने की कोशिश करने लगे। थोड़ी देर बाद संयत स्वर में उन्होंने

कहना शुरू किया।

“बेटा, जो सोचा था उससे भी भयंकर अंजाम सामने आया है। मैंने तो बहुत सोचा तो भी टी.बी. के आगे की कल्पना न कर पाया। पर एक्सरे तो” वह ठिठक गये। अविनाश के चेहरे पर से उन्होंने आँखें हटा ली। सर झुका कर बोले “आखरी अवस्था में...” और कमरे के गमगीन माहौल के साथ वह भी एकाकार हो गये।

अविनाश के ऊपर तो जैसे वज्रपात हुआ। कभी दूर—दूर तक भी उसने नहीं सोचा था कि उसकी माँ हर पल जिन्दगी और मौत की लड़ाई लड़ रही है।

सकते की स्थिति से उबरने के बाद वह धीरे से पूछ पाया “कोई उम्मीद?”

“बस, ईश्वर ही कुछ कर सकता है।

नहीं तो एक महीना से अधिक का वक्त नहीं है उनके पास।”

अविनाश भारी मन से डॉक्टर के कक्ष से निकला, उसका जी कैसा—कैसा हो गया था।

घर पहुँचा तो बाबूजी का अपना ही राग चल रहा था। माँ अपनी चारपाई पर पड़ी कुछ बुदबुदा रही थी। कमरे में जाकर माँ का हाथ पकड़ कर बैठ गया। शायद कसकर पकड़ने से माँ छुड़ा नहीं पायेगी। माँ में भी उसके स्पर्श से स्पन्दन हुआ।

“बेटा तू आ गया। जा, जाकर खाना खाले। पिताजी कब से तेरे लिए परेशान घूम रहे हैं, भूखे भी हैं। अब मैंने ही आदत बिगाड़ दी है। बच्चे—जैसा व्यवहार करते हैं।

भूख तो उन्हें बर्दाश्त नहीं। मौसी खाना पकाकर रख गयी है।”

....माँ बोले जा रही थी और वह सुने जा रहा था। आज वह माँ से ढेरों बातें कर लेना चाहता था, पता नहीं कल क्या लेकर आये।

थोड़ी देर में जब संयत हुआ तो उठ कर बाबूजी के कमरे में गया।

“कहाँ था अब तक?” कड़क कर पूछा “बोलो कहाँ था?”

“डॉक्टर के पास” बड़ी मुश्किल से स्वर निकला। “क्या बोला डॉक्टर?”

अविनाश बाबूजी की शकल देखने लगा। फिर बिना कुछ भूमिका बाँधे बोला।

“फेफड़े का कैंसर।” और सर झुका लिया जैसे उससे कोई बड़ा अपराध हो गया हो। बाबूजी शायद समझे नहीं या समझा

कर अनजान बने रहे “फेफड़े का कैंसर!” फिर शायद अपने ही स्वर से उनकी तन्द्रा टूटी और शब्दों की गम्भीरता का ज्ञान हुआ।

“इलाज....?” टूटे हुए स्वर में पूछा। “कुछ नहीं आखरी वक्त है। सिर्फ दुआ ही काम करेगी।”

शायद बीमारी की भयावहता बाबूजी के दिमाग में धीरे-धीरे प्रवेश कर रही थी। भारी मन से वह भी चहलकदमी करते रहे। उठ कर अम्मा को छूने का साहस उनमें नहीं हो रहा था। पास की ही कुर्सी पर पूरी रात बैठे रहे।

उस दिन परिवार में किसी ने भी खाना नहीं खाया।

सुबह जब अविनाश की आँख खुली तो अम्मा सो रही थी पर बाबूजी का कहीं अता-पता नहीं था।

उठने पर माँ ने भी सबसे पहले बाबूजी के विषय में पूछा।

“बस माँ, आते ही होंगे, पास ही कहीं गये हैं.....” अविनाश झूठ बोल गया।

अम्मा कुछ न बोली।

बाबूजी कपड़े की दुकान के बाहर बैठे हुए थे। सुबह से ही दुकान खुलने का इंतजार कर रहे थे। कल शाम से उनके अन्दर एक शून्यता ने प्रवेश कर लिया था। उन्हें कुछ भी अच्छा नहीं लग रहा था। अम्मा के साथ बिताये हुए क्षण उन्हें

रह-रहकर कचोट रहे थे। वह अम्मा को भी पूरा वक्त नहीं दे पाये—इसकी उनको आत्मग्लानि हो रही थी।

काफी समय से अम्मा को एक साड़ी खरीदने का मन था। सुन्दर सी भारी साड़ी। सूती धोती के सिवा वह उसको कुछ भी खरीद न पाये थे और अम्मा ने इसके आगे कभी कोई फरमाइश भी नहीं की थी। एक संतुष्ट गृहणी की तरह वह घर के कार्यों में खुश रहती थी, पर इधर उसने पहली बार मुँह खोला था वह भी कीमती साड़ी के लिए और उन्होंने इसे झिड़क दिया था।

“अपनी औकात देख कर पैर पसारना चाहिए।” और अम्मा हमेशा के लिए चुप हो जाय इससे पहले वह लाल चुनरी की गोटे वाली साड़ी उसको पहनाना चाहते थे—पहनाकर उसको खुश देखना चाहते थे।

और जैसे ही दुकान खुली वह साड़ी खरीद कर तेज कदमों से घर की ओर लपके। अम्मा की तरफ जाते हुए वे हर कदम तेज करते गये। साड़ी को काफी कस के पकड़े हुए थे कि कहीं छूट न जाय। आज उन्हें अनुभव हुआ कि जिन्दगी के आगे बाकी सब बेमोल है। सिर्फ जीवन ही बहुमूल्य है।

[श्रीमती ममता मेहरोत्रा साहित्यकर्म से जुड़ी हैं और श्री ब्रजेश मेहरोत्रा (1989), प्रमण्डलीय आयुक्त, पूर्णिया की पत्नी हैं।]

WAVES & RIPPLES

Sri Subhkirti Mazumdar (78),
Principal Secretary,
Environment & Forest Department, Govt. of Bihar.

Sri Manoj Kumar Srivastava (80),
Principal Secretary,
Department of Panchayati Raj, Govt. of Bihar.

Sri C. K. Mishra (83),
Principal Secretary,
Department of Industry, Govt. of Bihar.
Additional Charge : Principal Secretary,
Sugarcane Department, Govt. of Bihar.

Sri Amarjeet Sinha (83),
Principal Secretary, Health Department, Govt. of Bihar.

Sri J. R. K. Rao (85),
Commissioner, Kosi Division, Saharsa.
Additional Charge : Project Director, BDRRS, Bihar.

Sri E. L. S. N. Bala Prasad (86),
Director General,
BIPARD, Patna.

Sri C. K. Anil (91),
Secretary,
Agriculture Department, Govt. of Bihar.

Sri Rajit Punhani (91),
Income tax Commissioner-cum-Secretary,
Income tax Department, Bihar

Sri Atish Chandra (94),
Secretary,
C.M. Secretariat, Govt. of Bihar.

Sri Arvind Kumar Chaudhary (95),
Additional Charge: Managing Director,
BELTRON, Patna.

REMEMBERING 26 / 11

- Shivaditya Sinha



Two years ago, on a quiet November night ten people did descend from a small boat onto the land of Bombay. Each of them is carrying large bags that contain an AK-47 rifle, an auto loading revolver, eight hand grenades, magazines of rounds and a supply of dried fruits. Four fishermen lie dead aboard the very vessel that they used for transport, the first of many deaths to come on that fateful day. The men split up and begin their systematic and coordinated attack on several different targets, most of which lie in south Bombay. The first place to be struck was Leopold cafe, a popular joint in Colaba. Soon after at around 9:30pm the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus was attacked by two gunmen one of whom was later identified with the aid of CCTV cameras at the location. He was Ajmal Kasab the only terrorist to survive the Fedayeen style

assault. The destruction caused at the station was beyond anything seen in years.

Nariman House, a building that mainly houses Jews was also targeted. The terrorists "would be told by their handlers in Pakistan that the lives of Jews were worth 50 times those of non-Jews." The hostages were brutally and inhumanely tortured. Bullets were flying all over the place as the terrorists entered the Taj and the Oberoi to continue this shooting spree that knew no bounds. As the death toll started to mount, media presence increased tenfold and the police were sent in to combat, a situation that they were clearly ill-equipped to deal with.

While the terrorists created havoc in Bombay; miles away in the capital city, Delhi, politicians were being woken up and rushed to places where decisions were taken though with much ado. The politicians twiddled their thumbs as the innocent were slain far away. Finally as it grew out of control the NSG commandos were called to launch a strike under the codename

"operation black tornado". It took them ten hours before they got the necessary clearances and the proper approval to climb aboard a plane and haul themselves off to Bombay where their incredible displays of heroism saved the politicians their blushes and the nation, many a valuable citizen.

No amount of venting of anger against politicians for the tardy pace of police reforms, for the delays in bringing to justice the perpetrators of the attack, no candle light vigils, no silent grief, will bring catharsis to a nation, that mourns today. Two years on as grieve for those one hundred and sixty-six lives that were lost on that tragic day we are also reminded of the human spirit shown by those under attack.

One of the greatest stories of hope during the terror strike is also one of the saddest. The general manager of the Taj Mahal Palace and Tower hotel in Bombay, Karambir Kang was in Delhi when he first heard news of the terrorists. At the time his wife and two children were inside the hotel. Kang caught the first flight to Bombay and went straight to the hotel where he received the tragic news about his wife and children, they had perished in the fire on the sixth floor. Despite hearing about such grave losses Kang still entered the premises and assisted those inside who were still trapped to escape the war ravaged hotel.

Another great story is about the

restaurant manger of "golden dragon" a fine dining place in the same hotel. He locked all the guests he could find inside the chambers of the very hotel which were located on the first floor and himself stood outside looking for more people whom he could help, Fortunately both survived.

Moshe Holtzberg, a two year old boy who was rescued by his nanny, Sandra Samuel who appearance beside this boy after hearing his parents scream for help seems like an act of God.

Such awe-inspiring stories remind us of the amazing power of courage and resilience that lies inside each and every one of us.

As Helen Keller once said ' Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it.'

[Shivaditya Sinha, a student of class IX, R.K Puram, New Delhi, is the elder son of Nikesh Sinha and Aradhana Sinha, elder daughter of Amrita Sinha and S.N Sinha]



SEA SWIM DREAM

- Ashutosh Mehrotra

Once upon a time there lived a boy, who always wanted to swim in the sea, but his mother won't let him swim. His name was Masoom, his mother was afraid that he will drown. When he was 12 years old he went to the beach with his school friends. He played many types of games like Volleyball, Kabaddi etc. After all masti he and his friends went to swim in the sea. He didn't know swimming, still he went to swim in it and in a few seconds a big tide took him with it into the sea. After a few hours he reached an island where ghosts lived. He suddenly saw a ghost. He went to the ghost and the ghost said "Whoever comes here becomes a ghost". He had also been human being somewhere around 50 years back. Masoom was afraid of becoming a ghost. Then he asked "Is there any passage to go out of here". Ghost said "No, there is no passage to go out". But the ghost said that the king of evils makes us ghost so he should go out of here fast before he is recognised by the king of Evils. Masoom then went to the sea and there was a big monster. He fought the battle well with the monster but the monster was much more powerful than him. Then suddenly another monster came and saved Masoom from being eaten up by the 1st monster. He then asked the kind monster to tell him the passage to get out. The monster said "There is a passage in the huge mountains but the route is very dangerous". He said "I can go anywhere and do anything to go out of here", then gave his thanks to the monster for helping him and went to the mountains. On the route he saw a big scorpion. Masoom was bitten by it and the venom reached inside his body. He was writhing in pain. He got up and searched for an anti venom bush to

heal him, he ate it and in an hour the effect of venom came down. He started walking again. He reached the river of hope and asked-Good River! Please take me to the mountains. The River said that it could only take him to the mountains if he agreed to do two things. He said "Yes". The River first asked not to throw the garbage near it and secondly he has to show the biggest human feelings. He saw a shark eating small fish, so he picked up the fish and saved her, so the River believed that he was a real human and took him to the mountains. He then went inside the hole and reached the seashore where his friends were trying to wake him up. He suddenly woke up and realised that it was just a dream.

[Ashutosh Mehrotra, Class - 7 is son of Sri
Brajesh Mehrotra, 1989, Divisional
Commissioner, Purnia]

The Pope

It is a fearful thing to be
The Pope.
That cross will not be laid on me,
I hope.
A righteous God would not permit
It.
The Pope himself must often say,
After the labours of the day,
'It is a fearful thing to be
Me.'

- A. E. Housman ((1859-1936)



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