

HARMONY

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Connecting the IAS Community

April 2004

Operation Clean-up

Too little, too late! That's what the cynics will say on hearing that the Indian Civil & Administrative (Central) Service Association has recently passed a resolution and forwarded it to the Cabinet Secretary requesting him to put in place an effective mechanism to identify officers of All India Services and other Group A Services who have amassed movable and immovable assets disproportionate to their known sources of income and launch a thorough probe against them. Concerned about the declining standards of integrity among public servants, the Apex Body has called for action to be taken to its logical conclusion as per the law of the land and appealed to all IAS Associations in States as well as other Service Associations of all India Services and Group A Services to deliberate on the issue and work out a mechanism for identification of such officers in their States/Services and request the Authorities to take appropriate action after a thorough probe.

But surely, the Central Association cannot be naive enough to expect us to believe that such efforts would produce earthshaking results. And yet, let us give it credit for its sincere appeal to try to identify such black sheep, who have a 'poor' public image on account of amassing assets disproportionate to their known sources of income, whether in their own name or in name of their spouses or near relatives or through *benami* transactions since "such officers are bringing the service into disrepute". Let us hope that the competent authorities will now take deterrent action against such officers, for "any inaction in the matter will lay us open to the charge that we are against probity and transparency in civil services." After all, it is "our bounden duty to improve the image of the Service and of the country on the 'Transparency and Probity Index' if India is to continue shining in the comity of nations". ■

Rameshchandra Kanade

Welcome to the IAS

We congratulate and welcome the following State Civil Service officers who have made it to the IAS: ■ *PE Gaikwad*: Associate Professor, YASHADA, Pune. ■ *SR Daund*: MD, WMDC, Pune. ■ *SD Dhok-Rajurkar*: Dy Secretary (RD & WCD). ■ *HK Jawale*: Dy Secretary (R & FD). ■ *RR Jadhav*: Dy Secretary (UDD). ■ *VV Deshmukh*: Dy Secretary (R & FD). ■ *SP Kadu-Patil*: CEO, Latur ZP. ■ *JD Patil*: JMD, MTDC. ■ *SR Hazare*: Addl Collector, Mumbai Suburban District. ■ *BD Sanap*: Ahmednagar Municipal Commissioner. ■ *Philip Gabriel*: CEO, Chandrapur ZP.

Who's gone where?

■ *K Shivaji (1986)*: MD, MAFCO. ■ *Seema Vyas (1992)*: Deputy Secretary (GAD). ■ *NN Kawade (1995)*: Director, Cultural Affairs & Project Director, PL Deshpande Maharashtra Kala Akademi. ■ *BR Jadhav (1996)*: MD, MS Coop Tribal Development Corporation, Nasik. ■ *Atul Patne (1999)*: CEO, Nagpur ZP. ■



By VS GOPALAKRISHNAN

"If the electronic voting machines were shock-proof, how come your election result is shocking?" ■

[Mr VS Gopalakrishnan (1962) is Director General, World Trade Centre, Mumbai. He can be contacted on: 022-22182879; 24936429; vsgopal2000@yahoo.com].

Upa Lok Ayukta RC Iyer demits office

Upa Lok Ayukta RC Iyer (1964) demitted office on 7 March 2004 after a stint of five years. Already known to our readers as a gifted writer, Mr Iyer decided many important cases during his tenure. We wish him a very healthy and happy retirement life. ■

A Tribute to Mr KK Moghe

By SV BHAVE

Shri KK Moghe had been one of my close friends and colleagues in the service since 1947 when we first met in Delhi as members of the first batch of the Indian Administrative Service, the batch of war service officers. Both of us served in the same states, initially in the old Madhya Pradesh, later in the bigger bilingual Bombay State, and finally in Maharashtra State. It so happened that after retirement both of us settled down in Pune, and so could continue our close friendship and association for more than twenty years before Shri Moghe passed away in Pune on 13 March 2004.

Shri Moghe was a sincere and very capable officer, and had risen to the rank of Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra before his retirement. He was an enthusiastic and cheerful worker and a good member of a team.

May God grant peace to the departed soul, and strength and courage to his wife Prabhatai (always a source of strength and support to her husband), and the children to bear their sad loss. ■

[Mr SV Bhave (1946) is the former Upa Lokayukta, Maharashtra and Chief Secretary to Govt. of Maharashtra. He lives at 76/35, Shantishila Society, Chiplunlar Road, Erandwane, Pune 411004 and can be contacted on 9520-25433857]. ■

77 & 88 batches promoted

1977 batch officers: NB Patil, UC Sarangi, Chand Goel, and Subhash Lalla have been promoted to the scale of Principal Secretary with effect from 15 March 2004. Also, officers of the 1988 batch: Nitin Kareer, Sanjay Chahande, Ashish Kumar Singh, and KB Bhoge have been promoted to the super time scale in the IAS with effect from 1 April 2004. Congratulations to them all! ■

Gorde, Shivajirao Deshmukh and Man Mohan Singh say Goodbye, happily

Rarely have so many Secretary-grade officers retired in one go in the past as this time. The March-end of 2004 saw superannuation of three stalwarts: WG Gorde, Shivajirao Deshmukh, and Man Mohan Singh, and despite the hectic year end activities, there was a record turnout to give them a farewell.

There was a remarkable unanimity about what the speakers: Satish Tripathi, SS Hussain, Govind Swarup, UPS Madan, KS Baroi, and Suresh Joshi said about the three retiring officers. Describing Mr Gorde as a very nice and sensitive person and responsive officer, they recalled his days as Secretary in the Department of Women & Child Development. They appreciated Mr Deshmukh for being frank and firm, and liked his calling a spade a spade. They found Mr Man Mohan Singh to be fearless, upright and down to earth. They also said he was a hard and ruthless task master but an excellent officer and a thorough gentleman, whether as the BEST General Manager or as Principal Secretary in Mantralaya.



Felicitating the trio, Chief Secretary Ajit Nimbalkar said that Mr Gorde taken lot of interest in work as Secretary in the Department of Women & Child Welfare and later as Vice Chairman of the MSRTC. Recalling that Mr Deshmukh was his SDO at Baramati when he himself was Collector of Pune, the CS said that Shivajirao had always got along well with non-officials and had an excellent record which enabled him to get into the IAS early.

Pointing out that he had known Mr Man Mohan Singh for a long time as a resident of Suniti Building where he too had lived in the 1980s, Mr Nimbalkar said that Mr Singh always had a smile on his face and gave his best. The Association President then wished the three officers and their families a happy retired life, good health and happiness.

Replying to the farewell, Mr Gorde said that his entry into the IAS taught him to be impartial; it gave him exposure and improved his vision. He thanked the government for having given him good postings. Mr Deshmukh disclosed that he was against any farewell to him because he believed that colleagues vie with each other to say good things about a person who is retiring. He

said that he was taught by his father early in his childhood to always speak the truth except when it was clear that telling a lie would save somebody's life. Shivajirao ad-



mitted that he had been close to political bosses. He pointed out that politicians are shrewd, intelligent and work without any real power and therefore needed proper guidance. Being a local person, he could take them into confidence only to serve the larger good. He thanked all his bosses and revealed that he got into the IAS because he had outstanding CRs for 11 years.

Saying 'ditto' to what his two retiring colleagues had said, Mr Man Mohan Singh admitted that he had the same feelings and gratitude. He wondered how the time had flown by since the day his colleague Madhukar Chobe had hugged him in Mussoorie as a probationer and welcomed him to the State when the news of cadre allotment broke out. He said he had enjoyed working in Maharashtra.

As the function was coming to an end, one could see satisfaction writ large on the faces of the three officers. They had reason to feel happy, for their colleagues had not only not forgotten them even on the day of their retirement but said things which warmed the cockles of their heart. *Aur jeene ko kya chahiye?* ■

(Rameshchandra Kanade)

My Dear Shivajirao

By VP RANE



I can very well anticipate the feelings surging forth in your mind as you proceed to occupy the official chair on the last day of your career in Civil Service. Like many before you, it would indeed be a day of reckoning with remem-

brances of trials, tribulations and triumphs; and finally, of course, grateful thanks to Almighty for having given you an opportunity to be a part of this great institution of Civil Service with unparalleled opportunities to serve the teeming millions, with self respect. You are one of those very few who were lucky and of course, with sterling qualities, to occupy the chair of Secretary to Government starting from the provincial service and that too in important Departments, viz. Agriculture & Cooperation, with deep social roots and with vast potentialities to make an impact. True civil servants imbued with the highest traditions can never retire with opportunities to serve galore in the environment around. But just a word of advice: Do not take any assignment with a Corporate House for leaking out Government secrets for personal gain. Wishing you all the best in your retirement life, Yours sincerely.

[The writer (IAS-1975) is Director-General of Vasantdada Sugar Institute, Pune. Well known to our readers, he has written this piece to his friend Shivajirao Deshmukh who retired on 31 March 2004. He can be contacted on 020-26993939]. ■

Jayashree Mukherjee bereaved

Krishna Mukherjee, mother of Jayashree Mukherjee (1986), passed away in Delhi on 20 March 2004 at the age of 82. She is survived by her daughter and a son who works in private sector. Her husband, who died in 1988, belonged to the Indian Economic Service and was Under Secretary in Planning Commission at the time of his death. Coming from a small village Khardah in 24-Paraganas District in West Bengal, Krishnaji had the distinction of studying from home and becoming the first lady from her village to receive a degree in Sanskrit from Cuttack University. She was very fond of Jayashree. It was indeed a great coincidence that when her mother was breathing her last, Jayashree happened to be in Delhi for a meeting with the Election Commission as an observer and therefore could meet her mother. We share the grief of Jayashree. *May God rest her mother's soul in peace.* (Ph:022-27564892; 22029896; 9819350360). ■

TSR Subramanian: In the same league as LP Singh and BG Deshmukh?

By MR KOLHATKAR



Rupa & Company Publication, New Delhi, 2004.

These are memoirs of a distinguished IAS officer (U.P.-1961) who rose to become, first, the Chief Secretary of a State (U.P.) and

then, the *summum bonum*, viz. Cabinet Secretary in New Delhi. According to TSR, there have been only two other officers who have enjoyed such double distinction: LP Singh and BG Deshmukh. But does the author belong in the same league as LP Singh and BG Deshmukh? Let us reserve judgment.

The subtitle of the book is *Governance in India* and TSR has interspersed the account of his career with his observations on governance matters. The tale is absorbing and the observations on governance made at various places are generally interesting.

Apart from district postings, the author appears to have specialized in industry and commerce areas both in U.P. and in Delhi. He had his foreign training in the US as Edward Mason Fellow and his foreign assignment as Senior Adviser, International Trade Centre Geneva. He was Chief Secretary of U.P. in the post-Babri Masjid demolition period, during the Governor's rule and then for a short time after the elections, during the CMship of Mulayam Singh Yadav, till mid-1994. TSR was Cabinet Secretary from August 1996 to March 1998.

At the end of tale the author emerges as a no-nonsense executive officer of a high order who fearlessly dealt with corruption irrespective of consequences, who tried to find solution to problems regarded as intractable and who is not afraid to name names.

During his district postings, TSR saw how the myth of efficiency and impartiality of ICS officers was hollow. (He refers to cases of three ICS officers: HC Gupta, MA Qureshi, both of U.P., and AL Dias, then Union Food Secretary). As Managing Director of the Small-Scale Industries Corporation, he exposed the sinister role of the then

Industries Commissioner in selling, for consideration, iron and steel quota for small scale units and also did not hesitate to terminate the services of an inefficient senior executive related to a Minister. He successfully privatized a PSU (a tractor unit). The account of how he managed to escape, in a helicopter, by breaking through his 'gherao' by retrenched employees reads like a thriller. During the Emergency, he was witness to Indira Gandhi's unsuccessful attempt to get a 'Fatwa' from the Muslim leader, Ali Miyan, endorsing Sanjay Gandhi's family planning drive.

TSR narrates how mechanical was the review by the C.S. of detention cases under MISA and COFEPASA. In the post-emergency period, he was falsely implicated in an alleged 'Emergency excess' case by the then Chief Secretary KN Srivastava, but his successor DK Bhattacharya exonerated him.

The author was hand picked for the post of Chief Secretary of U.P. by the PMO and ensured peace in U.P. in the aftermath of the post-Babri Masjid disturbances. He crossed swords with the likes of Rajesh Pilot and Chandraswami and resisted subtle pressures of Governor Motilal Vora and also Central Minister Arjun Singh, the latter wanting TSR to give permission to *Sahamat* (the Safdar Hashmi Trust) to hold an exhibition in Ayodhya, depicting various versions of Ramayana including one that portrayed Rama and Sita as siblings. He broke the threatened strike of engineers of U.P. Electricity Board, with the help of the Central Government.

TSR was Joint Secretary Commerce for 5 years between 1979 and 1984, during the final three years of which he was in-charge of Trade Policy Division. He was sorry to lose an opportunity to go as India's Ambassador to GATT because of change of tenure rules, but his Minister, VP Singh, helped him to get the assignment in Geneva. In his chapter on India's Trade Policy, the author suggests that there has been a decline in India's ability to sustain its negotiating position and blames the obstinacy of officers like SP Shukla and Muchkund Dubey. Some-

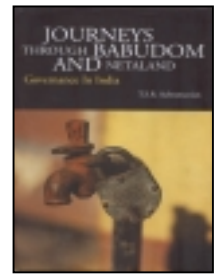
how, his discussion in this chapter strikes as unsatisfactory because instead of discussing basic issues of international trade, he gives a detailed account of shadow-boxing which passed for trade negotiations at that time.

As Textile Secretary, he had to see modernization packages for National Textile Corporation and Jute Corporation escalating in costs and not being implemented due to the Ministers' reluctance to retrench labour. He refers to Maharashtra Government's monopoly cotton scheme as absurd but does not tell what he did to stop the absurdity.

Unfortunately, when it comes to his stint as Cabinet Secretary, TSR tends to ramble, maybe because he does not want to say much. Thus, many pages are devoted to criticizing various measures of NDA (which he calls BJP Central Alliance) including how unwise it was for Atal Bihari Vajpayee to have Brajesh Mishra as his Principal Secretary and National Security Adviser.

The chapter on 'Reform Infrastructure' devotes exactly 8 out of 29 pages to reform in telecom and power sectors with no credit to any predecessors but a lot of carping about successors. The rest is devoted to foreign jaunts, anecdotes and the Fifth Pay Commission package. One wonders why TSR did not have the gumption to resign on the issue of Fifth Pay Commission package, especially since the implementation of the Pay Package has launched India on the road to bankruptcy, as he himself admits. The so-called reforms in infrastructure are now known to be flawed. About administrative reforms, TSR concedes lack of success but refers to the issues like Civil Services Board, amendment to the Official Secrets Act, Right to Information bill, Lok Pal bill, revamping of the FERA, the proposal to abolish BIFR and the proposal to abolish Central and state Administrative Tribunals.

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TSR: Book Review**Continued from page 3**

The justification for the latter proposal was that they were almost functioning like courts with their elaborate, expensive and time consuming procedures. The author shows scant regard for the background of setting up CAT and SATs as part of the process of 'tribunalization of justice' under the Constitutional Amendment and the record of solid work particularly by the CAT which has disposed of 335,742 cases out of 374,413 cases instituted between the period 1.11.1985 and 31.12.2001. He says his proposal for abolition of CAT caused him a slight pinprick in the form of an order of a CAT Bench, which was set aside by the High Court the next day. Here his memory fails him as will be shown later.

The epilogue refers to a dream in which TSR describes how a genuine leader who separated politicians from administration and appointed fifty talented young administrators on 10 year-contracts in selected slots, was able to make India a developed country in 2020. It is remarkable that his Epilogue is a mirror image of Lee Kuan Yew's system in Singapore described by the author on p.282.

This raises the larger issue of TSR's diagnosis of current administrative malaise. Apparently, Administration became politicized in 1980s. Why in 1980's? The author appears to be reluctant to trace the malaise to the Emergency (1975-77) and its aftermath. The deep flaw in the governance vision of the author is his failure to realize that governance reforms must begin with the re-engineering of political institutions in India, viz political executive, legislature and the judiciary within the over-arching, architectonic of Federalism – India cannot emulate the city-State of Singapore and Lee Kuan Yew of the Chinese origin and of an authoritarian strain is the last leader figure one can think of to lead India into the promised land. TSR does find a few examples of good Indian politicians. Why not start with reforming the political class? TSR has a low opinion about the Legislature and its Committees. He says: examination by a Committee of the Legislature on any matter is a farce.

This may be true of U.P. at a certain stage but how can Maharashtra forget distinguished Speakers and Chairmen of Assemblies/Councils like DK Kunte, VS Page, JS Tilak, and RS Gavai?

And why does TSR have such a low opinion about the role of the judiciary which has come to the rescue of the Indian people against excesses or inactions of the executive? In fact, he appears to have a long lasting feud with the judiciary. Thus, as SDM Ranikhet, he did not pass speaking orders under the Kumaon Tenancy Act, they were all reversed by the High Court. His peevishness vis-a-vis judiciary comes out most clearly in his account of the CAT's order staying the extension for 3 months given to him as Cabinet Secretary in December 1997. His account is factually inaccurate. The question involved was: whether CAT can entertain a petition for issue of a *quo warranto* writ filed by persons whose standing was questionable. The Tribunal held, it could. The High Court took a different view. But Government defended the case in a ham-handed manner. Though the Cabinet Secretary was a party, TSR did not put in an appearance. The brief of the Department of Personnel to the Counsel was apparently incomplete and he did not raise the point of jurisdiction before the CAT, though he later on raised it before the High Court. 31 December 1997 was a Wednesday. Contrary to TSR's version, the appeal against the order of CAT was heard by the High Court only on 3 January 1998 (Saturday). Thus the Government was without a Cabinet Secretary not for half a day but for 4 days.

TSR has the knack of evoking mixed feelings in a single paragraph or a single chapter. Thus, as one warms to him for his ecstatic references to the beauty of English and Tamil versions of Gyaneshwari and his envy for Marathi speaking people who can follow it in the original, the jarring reference to the pseudo-intellectual translation of Gita by Dr S. Radhakrishnan puts one off. In his chapter relating to Leather Development Council, Madras where he was Secretary, TSR refers in graphic detail to the minor misdemeanors of Bhoj Raj M.P. (viz. excessive social drinking and claiming T.A. for Delhi-

Bombay journey although the MP was in possession of a Golden Pass issued by the Railway Board). Evidently, TSR's reference is to PN Rajbhoj, MP, who is well regarded in Maharashtra and who was a trusted follower of Dr BR Ambedkar. In the same chapter, however, TSR also refers to a Minister from Tamil Nadu who enjoyed hospitality in an expensive English hotel and left £17,000 worth of unpaid bills (at today's exchange rate worth about Rs 14 lakh), which were required to be settled by the Indian High Commissioner in London. Why this solicitousness for protecting the identity of a delinquent Tamil Nadu Minister and why the harshness toward Bhoj Raj alias PN Rajbhoj?

Let me conclude the review by raising a few pointed questions:

1. Beginning with the title, why succumb to the self-description as a 'babu' given by uppity journalists to the steel frame of bureaucracy inherited by India from the British Raj? The title of the book has an echo of BBC journalist Mark Tully who as early as 1988, talked of Neta Babu Raj.
2. Why talk of dew on lush green fairway crunching under the feet, when dew is not gravel?
3. Why glorify Cornwallis of 'permanent settlement' notoriety merely because TSR was the D.C. of Ghazipur-on-Ganga where there is tomb of Cornwallis?
4. Why refer to Philip Mason, the author of the three-volume: *Men who Ruled India* as the author of a non-existing book: *Steel Frame: History of ICS* and why say that he might have been TSR's predecessor at Ghazipur on-Ganga when Mason's autobiography: *A Shaft of Sunlight* shows that Mason worked only in Bareilly and Garhwal?
5. Why fall into the trap of bad taste by referring to the story of an officer about whom it was said that he studied his files much closer than he had ever examined his wife? And why give a vivid description of nose digging and gargle gurgling activities of PM Deve Gowda?
6. Why copy P.Sainath, the journalist-author of *Everybody Loves a Good Drought* (1996) by penning a sentence like "Every one in India, except the

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Do Small Things to Make a Big Difference

By TILAKA JOSEPH



Chief Secretary Ajit Nimbalkar lights the lamp (Top) and releases the souvenir of the WeCare sub-committee of the IC&AS Officers' Wives' Association at the function held at YB Chavan Centre on 11 March 2004. Also seen in the pixs are: (Top) Vice President Iyra Nalinakshan, President Prema Nimbalkar, and Vice President Pramila Srivastava. ■

It was a great learning experience! The formation of the WeCare sub-committee, the innumerable meetings, tossing of ideas, the advertisement / donation drive, the publishing of the souvenir, the movie, the function, everything! Now the responsibility of deploying the funds for various suitable causes lies heavily on our shoulders.

As sub-committee members, we thoroughly enjoyed what we did. When we collected a whopping sum of Rs 4.70 lakh in advertisements and donations, we were pleasantly surprised. It was way ahead of our expectations. This gave us a lot of hope, enthusiasm and confidence to bring out a good souvenir.

The editorial board met every week to decide on the logo, the cover, the layout of the advertisements, the articles, finding the art designer, the printer, the cost ... everything. We discussed all of this in great detail. We agreed, disagreed, argued, sighed, laughed, ate and, at the end of it all, we appreciated each others' individuality and sincerity, and we rediscovered the meaning of coming together for a cause. Every opinion was heard, discussed. Every decision was

unanimous. There was no room for egos, no senior / junior complexes. It was great teamwork. And now we are ready to take on more challenges.

We do not believe in patting our backs unnecessarily. The book release function and the attendance for the movie and the way the programme went off were really not up to the mark. This is one area we have to improve. We have to understand why our members do not turn up in large numbers. Something has to be done. Inside the movie hall, when the audience was counting the dead (*Ab Tak Chhappan!*), outside the sub-committee members were busy asking each other: *Ab tak kitne?* The head count was on for attendance!

We are grateful to those who attended and showed their support and for the many kind words that came our way that day. We do hope our I.C.& A.S. families would continue to support the cause with guidance, suggestions and donations. ■

[Ms Tilaka Joseph, wife of Secretary (Surface Transport) DT Joseph (1968), is a Senior Library Assistant, Mumbai University. Down-to-earth and always willing to help, she can be contacted on 022-26592718]. ■

Book Review

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long suffering local residents, loves a 'natural calamity'?

7. Why refer to the well-known 'Indira Awas Yojana' as 'Indira Gandhi Rural Development Programme'?

8. Why give a transparently imaginary account of a rural couple whom TSR is supposed to have observed through his binoculars during his stint as Election Observer at Azamgarh election in 1978 (p 101)?

9. Why spell the name of Wolfensohn, President of World Bank wrongly as Wolfhenson?

10. The slogan 'Cooperatives have failed but cooperatives must succeed' was coined by the authors of well-known Rural Credit Survey Report of the 1950s (DR Gadgil and B. Venkappiah). How can TSR call it a slogan of 1970s?

So, I come back to the question raised at the beginning: Is TSR in the same league as LP Singh and BG Deshmukh? Though they might share some superficial similarities, the feeling at least of one reviewer is: he is not. LP Singh was a giant and would not have sacrificed factual or historical accuracy for the sake of parading one's cleverness and would have stood as a rock against Nation's impending bankruptcy and BGD memoirs have been aptly reviewed by the Editor of *Harmony* in the March issue, who calls him Titan.

All said and done, these criticisms should not detract either from the achievements of TSR or from the lucidity of his memoirs, which would make a rewarding read, both for tyros and the veterans of civil service as well as the general reader. ■

[The author, Mr MR Kolhatkar (1960) is well known to readers through his *Chalo Dilli Again* (Harmony, Sept 2003). He can be contacted on: 022-22875651]. ■

The Bansals & Hakeem promoted as Secretary, GoI

Vinay Bansal, his wife, Kumud Bansal, and PMA Hakeem have been promoted to the rank of Secretary in Government of India. 1969 batch officers of this cadre, Mr Bansal has been made Chairman of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority in place of Arun Kshetrapal (1968), Madhya Pradesh cadre IAS officer, who retired on 31 March 2004. Ms Kumud Bansal will now be Secretary Elementary Education & Literacy. Mr PMA Hakeem who is CMD of Export Credit Guarantee Corporation has been promoted by temporarily upgrading the post. ■

Catch Them Young

By PR DASGUPTA



In official life, one does come across certain incidents which leave lasting impression in one's mind. Here is one such incident I remember.

It happened when I was Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Heavy Industries, Government of India and was sent to Bulgaria as a member of the Indo-Bulgarian Joint Commission. The delegation was led by Shri C. Subramaniam, the Finance Minister.

It was in Bulgaria that we learnt about the proclamation of Emergency by Mrs Indira Gandhi. In fact, it was during the banquet when all the members of the Joint Commission were be-

ing feted that a message about the proclamation of Emergency came through our Embassy staff. We could see our Ambassador and Shri Subramaniam holding whispered discussion and leaving the hall together for some time. But of course, we had no idea about the news.

The Finance minister came back after sometime looking very grim. As the usual toasting was going on, the Finance Minister of Bulgaria asked Mr Subramaniam, "Well, Mr Finance Minister, how do you select your people to man the Finance Ministry?" Our Finance Minister looked very perplexed and then said, "We have a system of civil servants' entrance examination, through which we select young people to join the superior civil services as well as the central secretariat services. We pick up people for various ministries out of these successful candidates.

The host said spontaneously, "No, no, this is not a very scientific system. It is more or less, a hit or miss system. In Bulgaria, we have a much better and more scientific system. Some children, after their birth, cry out 'Mama, Mama' immediately. But there are a few tough ones who cry out 'Niyama, Niyama', meaning 'No Mother' instead. We pick up these stubborn children and train them up for the Finance Ministry."

As I realized later, even though Shri Subramaniam was reeling under the shock of the news of declaration of Emergency, he could not help dissolving into laughter, in which everyone present joined in. ■

[Mr PR Dasgupta (1963), former Member of the Telecom Disputes Settlement & Appellate Tribunal, who has always believed in being silently effective, can be contacted on: 022-22828005; 080-30616596]. ■

Living History Compiled

By SURESH JOSHI

- There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America.
- Fail to plan, plan to fail.
- Significance of the insignificant.
- Anyone with kids knows there is never a 'convenient' time to start a family.
- If an issue is everyone's business, it becomes no one's responsibility.
- One of the reasons you hire lawyers is to have them worry for you.
- "A woman is like a tea bag," Eleanor Roosevelt said, "You never know how strong she is until she is in hot water."
- When her family faced tough time, she told me, they told one another to "soldier on." I like that phrase.
- Too many women / In too many countries
- Speak the same language / Of silence.
- They said the hotel pool was drained before we arrived and they refilled it with bottled water.
- Strength, money and knowledge. We cannot do anything without them. Good advice for women everywhere. ■

[Dr Suresh Joshi, Principal Secretary (Housing), is a versatile person. He can be contacted on 022-22023036; 22022859; 982152427]. ■

A Good Person

By SD JAHAGIRDAR

A good person may be defined as one who can manage all the things simultaneously and never fails in life.

Laboratory preparation of a good person: Take some mixture of knowledge, salt of intelligence and patience. Take a glare of courage and determination, a spoon full of equality and discipline, a pinch of love and courtesy. Prepare a paste of these things in a china dish and keep it lifelong. Also take an aqueous solution of self-control and self-reliance in excess. The catalyst to be used in the preparation is truth. The mixture is then heated with honesty. The end product has to be a good person.

Chemical reaction: Honesty + Knowledge + Truth + Patience + Intelligence + Courage + Courtesy = A good person
Physical, Chemical properties: Bright career, less disputes. Every one has faith and confidence in you. Happiness is always seen on your face. Sweet temperament, sensitive and loving nature and last but not the least, a healthy body with a sound mind with B.P 120/80 always.

Conclusion: A good person with all these qualities will not only lead to a good society, good community, good city, good nation but also a good world. ■

Statistics Lied

By Dr LK GATNE

- Statistics is a respected art of lying.
- Statistics is a cod's wallop of an expert.
- Statistics provides a syllogism in which the conclusion is already deduced and the premises are then built up to suit it.
- Statistics prefers theoretical over practical aspect and thus preserves the bath water and throws out the baby.
- Statistics is a science of averages. Hence, if your one foot is in the ice and the other foot is in the fire, you should be comfortable.
- Statistics, like a lamp-post to a drunkard, is more for support than for enlightenment.
- Statistics, like a mini skirt, neither hides nor discloses fully. ■

[Dr LK Gatne (1975), did PhD after retirement and at the age of 72 and won a Gold Medal. Presently, he is studying Urdu with the aim of appreciating Soofi philosophy on the canvas of Bhagwad Geeta. An outstanding officer of the yesteryears, Dr Gatne can be contacted on: 020-25444455; 022-26409988]. ■

[A good person himself, Mr SD Jahagirdar is a former civil servant of 1984 batch. He can be contacted on 0712-2248973]. ■

Are Men More Intelligent Than Women?

By MALATI TAMBE-VAIDYA

Proper comprehension and interpretation of any statement always implies analysis, appreciation of the background and correlation of all the words used in the statement individually.



Such important words in the statement: 'Men are more intelligent than women' are 'men', 'intelligent', and 'women'. Once we define a 'man' as a being of the human species, who is not a woman, the word 'woman' is automatically fixed. That is fairly easy. Not so, however, with the other slippery, elusive word 'intelligent', which has defied all-weather word-trap even at the hands of the greatest lexicographers since time immemorial! The humdrum definition available says that the word 'intelligent' is an adjective which means (a) endowed with faculty of understanding with reasoning power, (b) having an alert mind, of active intellect, or (c) revealing intelligence, indicating the exercise of mental activity.

Sir Cyril Burt, a renowned psychologist has described intelligence as a 'dispositional property, not a substantial entity'. I took serious notice of these words as they came from the cranium contents of a male and started wondering about the necessity of deciding at all since by implication, intelligence is not a substantial entity worth bothering about. Since, however, a point had been raised; I decided to use my intelligence to do some exploration around.

My first area of exploration shook me up violently. Even conceding that known lexicographers have been men (after all, between you and me, it is only compilation of existing words that they know, nothing much to do with activation of grey cells), would you believe if I tell you these word collectors have got more than a century while coining words starting with 'man' and that those starting with 'woman' are hardly 10-12. While I have no objection to 'maniac, manipulator and manoeuvrer' since they indicate traits cor-

rectly, why should care of hands and nails be expressed by 'manicure', why should more than 25 per cent of the words starting with 'woman' deal with 'man' (woman-hater and womanizer) and why should 'womanish' be a disparaging connotation?

Same is the case with 'man to man, man of the world, man in the street', and so on. Even when women have been accused of being 'chatterboxes', we are taught the expression 'Let us have a man to man talk'. I went ahead vigorously with my research work.

I found nothing on record to prove that men or women are more intelligent than women or men. Infinite variety of jokes were available, however, to show that both men and women are foolish. I had a hearty laugh and looked for talkative data in other directions. All my attempts to do some first hand research were foiled, however, when I found that my worse-half suddenly became non-cooperative and red-eyed and when male colleagues started to ignore my presence in the office systematically. Conclusion: It is a male dominated society. Result: A Thesis, which would have been a master-piece, was given up!!

'When did this male domination start?' I asked the stars in the sky. 'Woman has been shrewd,' someone from the cosmos whispered. 'Let me tell you the story. When Adam and Eve got to a routine life, the first problem was food. Eve chose to remain in the cozy cave and charmed dear Adam to go into the dense forests infested with wild animals. At first Adam was elated, later he found out that the difficult job had been thrust upon him and his charmer was doing a comparatively easier job. To hide his frustration, he took the garb of male superiority and head of the family. This continued while it demanded more of physical prowess and male minds started having their own doubts when intellectual prowess also came in demand. So started the Movement for Emancipation of Women where males became its vociferous advocates. They wanted women to contribute their intellectual

mite towards welfare of mankind in every way.

Frankly, I am a firm believer of women having the capacity to do any job demanding high intelligence, originality, resourcefulness, hard work, top class memory and an all-comprehensive grasp. They score over men in charm and patience. But then, I have never understood why the Institution of the Household has always been so much underestimated that women are required to step out of their houses to prove that they are intelligent.

The many-splendoured job of a house-wife makes her not a jack of all trades but a master of all trades and practices. She is a scientist, chemist, physicist, bio-chemist, Doctor, an engineer, psychiatrist, in short, everything. I have never understood why the Society has overplayed various chemical products produced in a Laboratory by a scientist with the help of crucibles, barometers, beakers and Bunsen burners and completely ignored culinary products made in the kitchen by an imaginative house-wife with the help of frying pans, baking powder, rotisseries and ovens. My contention is that the intelligent quotient required for top class results in both these locations is the same. Madam Curie becomes world-famous because she discovers radium while Madam Curious remains unknown though she produces excellent pate de fois and mock Hollandaise Sauce.

I can write a separate thesis on the 'Role of woman as a Psychiatrist in the family' and earn my Doctorate. No jokes! The Freudian Theory of Inferiority Complex governs our life. The husband feels depressed, the son does not do well in the school sports, the daughter gets bad marks in Mathematics, the servant feels indispensable, and so on. Dr. Housewife faces them bravely and systematically and keeps the Wheel of Life whirring smoothly.

Now please do not blame me if I cannot help challenging first Albert Einstein and his Theory of Relativity as against Madam Housewife' and her Theory of Relatives. And then Newton and his Laws of Motion against Madam Housewife and her Laws of Emotion. Please tell me why I should digest the contention of the famous Einstein

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A Few Things Maharashtra

By LALHMINGLIANA SAIAWI



Hailing from Kawkulh, a drab village in Mizoram, and having lived the prime of my life from 1964 till the end of 2001, mostly in faraway Maharashtra, and some years in Delhi, and in Patna, too, as a very ordinary government officer, I have a few things to say about the Maharashtra. I may have some things to say in praise of the much maligned Biharis too. By the way, you cannot be an outstanding government servant in a state like Maharashtra without being fluent in the official language of the government.

During my long years in Maharashtra, I developed a taste for things Maharashtra and a distaste for a few things. I dislike cricket, a game which takes a whole day to be over, and a game which top athletes do not deign to play in western countries. But I root for Sachin Tendulkar when he is batting. And for me, the game is over when the small, compact and strong Maharashtra is out.

Sunil Gavaskar was my hero when he was playing. After his controversial inclusion in the Indian team to tour the West Indies in 1970, he stood his

ground against the fearsome West Indies fast bowlers and thrashed them in their own country. And later as captain of the Indian Team, he gave self confidence and self respect to his team touring abroad. I can't think of any other Indian cricketer to have done so much for cricketing India.

After his retirement, there was a private dinner hosted in his honour at Peddar Road, Mumbai, which my wife and I attended. After some talk about film stars joining politics, the host proposed a toast to him, which was followed by a genteel clap. Then unbidden, I shouted, "Sunil Gavaskar, the greatest cricketer in the world! I want him to become the chief minister of Maharashtra. My wife and I will vote for him." All the ladies and gentlemen there gave him a big hand, and to me also, I like to think.

Thus I found myself to be with a high degree of loyalty to Maharashtra. But I found the way they wrote my name and my daughter's name to be exasperating. I went by my abbreviated personal name of L. Hmingliana, just like that, without adding my father's name or my surname to it. Whenever they wanted to write my name, they in-

sisted that my father's name and my surname should be added to it. My vehement protest that Mizos did not add their father's/husband's name to their own name was to no avail, and my name in the electoral roll and in my ration card came to be hardly recognizable even to me, as they were unfailingly misspelt.

Even a reputed English medium school distorted my daughter's simple Mizo name of Muanpuii in their register as 'Hmingliana Muanpuii Lal' and got the strange name recorded in her matriculation certificate as her name. Even though she got her name recorded as 'Muanpuii Hmingliana Saiawi', as the Maharashtra do, and followed it up with a change of name deed published in the Mizoram government gazette, the odd name stuck in her government service record. Do we have to file a PIL in the highest court of the land for a writ to make the Maharashtra to write Mizo names correctly? ■

[Mr L. Hmingliana (1965), has settled at Chaltlang, Aizawal 796012 and can be contacted on: 0389-2341862]. ■

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Equation $E = mc^2$ where E means energy, m mass and c the velocity of light, is any day superior to the Housewife Equation $H = ap^2$ where H is happiness, a is affection and p, patience, when the latter is in demand day in and day out.

I strongly recommend that we should stop this never-ending and ever-frustrating debate over who is more intelligent of the two, 51% or 49%. Let their equally good intelligence be utilized as they like, individually and jointly for the good of human beings and for community living. Won't you agree, Males & Females? ■

[Malati Tambe-Vaidya (1955), needs no introduction. A versatile former civil servant and one who led a solid foundation of both tourism and cultural affairs in the State, she is a role model. She can be contacted on 022-22852089; 22880939; malatitv@vsnl.net]. ■

Life: A Jigsaw Puzzle

■ Don't force a fit. If something is meant to be, it will come together naturally. ■ When things aren't going so well, take a break. Everything will look different when you return. ■ Be sure to look at the big picture. Getting hung up on the little pieces only leads to frustration. ■ Perseverance pays off. Every important puzzle went together bit by bit, piece by piece. ■ When one spot stops working, move to another. But be sure to come back later (see above). ■ The Creator of the puzzle gave you the picture as a guidebook. ■ Variety is the spice of life. It's the different colours and patterns that make the puzzle interesting. ■ Establish the border first. Boundaries give a sense of security and order. ■ Don't be afraid to try different

combinations. Some matches are surprising. ■ Take time to celebrate your successes (even little ones). ■ Anything worth doing takes time and effort. A great puzzle can't be rushed. ■

Help, Help!

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