

## What a relief!

IF your wife gets exasperated because you are a workaholic bureaucrat who returns home late and drowns himself in a newspaper or a book or sits in front of a television set, don't worry; it's an age-old *Kahaani ghar ghar kii!* Though you may be responding to your wife's queries while busy in these activities, your wife will grudge because she knows that you are not with her mentally. She will take your inattention as affront, get upset and show resentment. Since men hate not being allowed left alone and women don't give up easily, chances are that your wife and you will feel hurt, sulk and drift apart.

Allan & Barbara Pease provide a plausible explanation for this behaviour of men and women. Writing in their best seller *Why Men Lie and Women Cry*, they trace the reasons to the time immemorial when men would return from the hunt at the end of the day and spend the evening just gazing into the fire. A man would sit in this trance-like state among his friends for long periods without communicating, and the other men made no demands on him to speak or participate. For men, this was a valuable form of stress relief and a way to recharge their batteries for the next day's activities. For the modern man, newspaper or book reading or flicking through the channels with a remote control serves as fire-gazing.

Given a choice, women would like to bury their husbands with these things. If only they understood the age-old need of their husbands for stress relievers. If only they appreciated that men like to forget about their own problems by looking at someone else's problems. If only they knew that their husbands' carelessness does not mean lack of love for them.

To be sure, even this problem has a solution. As the celebrated authors say, women should discuss calmly with their husbands how their manners drive them crazy, or hide such distractions from them, and if both measures fail, they should follow suit. That should be a great relief to men. □

Rameshchandra Kanade

## Who's gone where?

□ *Suresh Kumar*: Addl Chief Secretary, Social Development Coordination, GAD. □ *Rajendra Singh*: Addl Chief Secretary, GAD & Special Enquiry Officer-II. □ *Ashok Khot*: Principal Secretary, Forests. □ *YPS Tomar*: Commissioner, Tribal Research & Training Institute, Pune. □ *Ashok Sinha*: Principal Secretary, Labour. □ *RR Sinha*: Principal Secretary (Transport & State Excise), Home. □ *Chand Goel*: Secretary, State Election Commission. □ *MB Ray*: Secretary & OSD (Appeals), R&FD. □ *Gorekh Megh*: Commissioner, Fisheries. □ *Sanjeevane Kutty*: MD of M.S. Film, Stage & Cultural Devp Corporation, Mumbai. □ *ABP Pandey*: Secretary to Chief Minister. □ *Sanjay Ubale*: Secretary (O&AR& Golden Triangle Special Projects). □ *Bipin Mallick*: Director, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (GOI), New Delhi. □ *CS Sangitrao*: Joint MD of CIDCO. □ *Nitin Gadre*: Director General, Information & Public Relations. □ *GT Bandri*: Addl Divisional Commissioner, Pune. □ *Sonia Sethi*: Collector, Sindhudurg. □ *Vilas Banginwar*: Addl Commissioner, Tribal Development, Amravati. □



By VS Gopalakrishnan

"Why can't you wait until I finish with this, my dear?" □

(Mr VS Gopalakrishnan, IAS-61, is Director General, World Trade Centre, Mumbai. He

can be contacted on: 022-22182879; 24936429; [ysgopal2000@yahoo.com](mailto:ysgopal2000@yahoo.com)). □

## Suresh Kumar, Rajendra Singh promoted as Addl CS

Principal Secretary (Social Justice) *Suresh Kumar* (1968) and Principal Secretary (O&AR) *Rajendra Singh* (1968) have been promoted as Additional Chief Secretaries. Congrats to them. □

## BB Sharma, GS Sandhu, VR Khobragade retire

Additional Chief Secretary (Forests) *BB Sharma* (1966), Director General, YASHADA *GS Sandhu* (1967), and Collector *Sidhudurg VR Khobragade* (1991) have superannuated on 31 August 2003. The Association wishes them a happy post-retirement life. □

## Jambunathan is BSE non-exec chairman

Our former bureaucrat *S. Jambunathan* (1961) has been appointed as non-executive chairman of the Bombay Stock Exchange till 31 March 2005. He has been a public representative director of the BSE since 30 January 2002. Mr Jambunathan retired from the IAS as Chairman and Managing Director of the Export Credit & Guarantee Corporation. Prior to that, he was Addl Chief Secretary (Home), Maharashtra for about three years. The Association congratulates him on this great honour. (You too can congratulate him on 022-26609525; [vjambu@hotmail.com](mailto:vjambu@hotmail.com)). □

## 2001 batch posted as ACs

IAS officers of the 2001 batch: *P. Anbalagan*, *Prajakta Lavangare*, *Nipun Vinayak*, and *Shrikar Pardeshi* have returned from Mussoorie after the phase-II training and joined as Assistant Collectors at Karad (District Satara), Vaijapur (District Aurangabad), Umred (District Nagpur), and Radhanagari (District Kolhapur), respectively in the second week of August 2003. *Nidhi Pandey* who could not attend the training has already joined as Under Secretary in the School Education Department in Mantralaya. Best wishes to them all for their maiden posting. □

### NN Kawade bereaved

*Karuna Kawade* (46), wife of Joint MD of MTDC *Narendra Kawade* died here of cancer on 31 August 2003. Always smiling and cheerful despite cancer, she helped her husband bring up their daughter (19) and son (16). May God rest her soul in peace and give strength to Mr Kawade and his children to bear this loss. (You can contact Mr Kawade on 22885806; 28495533; 9820806534). □

### 2002 batch Supys

IAS officers of the 2002 batch: *Anup Kumar Yadav*, *Praveen Gedam*, *P. Velrasu*, and *Pankaj Kumar* have been posted as Supernumerary Assistant Collectors in the Districts of Nagpur, Ahmednagar, Aurangabad, and Amravati, respectively from 14 July 2003. □

### Three officers from 1972 batch empanelled

*Johny Joseph*, *Yashwant Bhawe*, and *Ravi Kamal Bhargava* of our cadre have been empanelled for the post of Additional Secretary to the Government of India. Congrats to them all. □

### RA Rajeev, Vandana Krishna proceed on foreign training

□ Addl Municipal Commissioner of BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation *RA Rajeev* has been selected by the Department of Personnel & Training for one-year training (18 August 2003 to 15 August 2004) in the University of Syracuse. He will do MA in Public Administration. □ Commissioner of Employment & Self-Employment *Vandana Krishna* has been awarded fellowship by the Netherlands Government under the Netherlands Fellowship Programme to do an MBA in Environmental & Energy Management offered by the Centre for Clean Technology and Environment Policy and the Technology and Development Group, University of Twente. *Vandana* has been granted one year study leave from 11 September 2003. *Bon Voyage, Rajeev and Vandana!* (You can contact them at [rajeev@rediffmail.com](mailto:rajeev@rediffmail.com) and [chrishna@vsnl.com](mailto:chrishna@vsnl.com), respectively). □

### RY Gaikwad convalescing

Principal Secretary *Ratnakar Gaikwad* (1975) is recovering from pancreatitis in the Breach Candy Hospital. He had an excruciating pain in Pune on 22 August 2003 and was rushed to the Poona Hospital. Next day he was brought to Mumbai thanks to the timely action by *Umesh Sarangi*, *Sanjay Ubale*, et al. We pray for Mr Gaikwad's speedy recovery and health. □

### What is pancreatitis?

*Pancreatitis* is inflammation of the pancreas, a compound gland about 15 cm long and lying behind the stomach and composed of clusters (*acini*) of cells that secrete pancreatic juice containing a number of enzymes. In *acute pancreatitis*, the patient experiences severe pain in the upper abdomen and back, with shock. Its cause is not always discovered, but it may be associated with gallstones. It may be mistaken for a perforated peptic ulcer but differs from this condition in that the level of the enzyme amylase in the blood is raised. The main complication is the formation of a pseudocyst. Patient is given intravenous feeding and anticholinergic drugs. In *relapsing pancreatitis*, these symptoms are recurrent and less severe, and the remedy is removal of gallstones and avoidance of fat. Operation may be done to improve drainage of the pancreatic duct. In *chronic pancreatitis* there is a pancreatic failure causing malabsorption and diabetes mellitus. □

### K Shivaji to join our cadre

*Kshatrapati Shivaji* (1986) of Kerala cadre has been granted a cadre change to Maharashtra. He is presently Resident Director, MPEDA, Department of Commerce, USA. He is expected to join here soon. □

### Riddles

1. Why the Labour Department has no reason to be sad?
2. In what respect are the CM and the Dy CM similar? □

(For answers see page 7).

### How can we forget them?

You'll be happy to know that this year we were able to invite almost all retired officers in Mumbai for the Independence Day function and the 'At Home' through the Protocol Division. We also invited the retired officers settled in Pune and Nagpur for the Independence Day functions there. It will be our endeavour to invite them for all public functions. □

### Govind Swarup scripts a spiritual sojourn

Principal Secretary Govind Swarup's book *Nasik Kumbha Mela: A Spiritual Sojourn* was released in Nasik at the hands of the Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde on 30 July 2003 and in Mumbai at the Chhtrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya at the hands of scriptwriter Gulzar in the presence of Jamshed Bhabha and a galaxy from the metropolis. The India Book House publication, priced at Rs 2,100, is a pictorial presentation of Mr Swarup's multi-layered experiences of the 1991 *Kumbha Mela* at Nasik. It draws the reader into the very heart of this ancient festival. □

### Readers also write

□ I am sending a cheque for Rs 1,500 toward the cost of the wonderful newsletter for the IAS "Harmony" which you have been so diligently and beautifully bringing out. With warm personal regards: Dr V Subramanian.

□ We are very happy to see the *Harmony* issue promptly delivered to us and thank you for the same. Keeping in touch with the latest development in the posting and remembering the colleagues is really a wonderful task. In fact, the telephone numbers list with latest numbers is a very useful ready reckoner to keep in touch with colleagues. The telephone numbers of outstation officers, especially of those in Delhi came in handy when we were there for a short holiday. We could call and talk to a few officers. Here is a cheque for Rs 600 towards the subscription amount for a period of three years: Mr & Ms S Jambunathan. □

(Thank you very much: ... Editor).

## Roadmap for Good Governance by Chief Secretary Ajit Nimbalkar

### *On the role of administrators:*

The administration in Maharashtra is responsive and transparent. What we need to do is to improve continuously its responsiveness and transparency. An administrator cannot afford to be stagnant. He has to be vibrant and change according to the requirements of the time. Administrators should not work in isolation from the requirements in the field. They must have an interaction with different sections of the population. In spite of his busy schedule, an administrator should keep his door open to members of the public and try to understand and solve their problems. We have already introduced the concept of *Lokshahi Din* in Maharashtra. Such measures will help the administrators understand the needs of the people. As regards transparency, the Government has already passed the Right to Information Act. In a democratic system there is no need to shroud Government work with an aura of secrecy. Decisions taken by administrators should be transparent. And except in rare cases, we should not hesitate to explain why a particular decision was taken. Transparency needs to be maintained especially in decisions having financial implications. It is important that administrators not only take the right decisions but also inform and convince the members of the public that the decisions taken are right.

### *On training of officers and staff:*

Successful administrators should be involved in preparing a training strategy. They can tell the newcomers how they could achieve success in their areas of work. We need to stress that we are paid to serve the public. If we fail to do so, we would be failing in our duties. Also, during the training some senior and mature leaders, elected to some offices at some time or the other, need to talk to officers and the staff and explain their expectations from officers and staff.

*Adapted from Mr Ajit Nimbalkar's interview with YASHADA's Ramesh Vaswani and Shashikant Waidande, with permission of YASHADA.*



Ajit M. Nimbalkar

### *On coordination among different departments:*

Coordination among different departments is required at all levels. First of all, there should be coordination at the Mantralaya level where policies are framed. Different secretaries need to coordinate with each other to ensure that they are not working at cross purposes but to achieve better results. Coordination is required at district level where actual implementation takes place. The District Collector is expected to play an important role in coordination of efforts of different officers. Where coordination is required at divisional level, the Divisional Commissioner has to play that role. The officers belonging to different departments need to work as a team. The best results are achieved only with teamwork.

### *On how to resolve the differences between officials and non-officials in Panchayati Raj:*

In the *Panchayati Raj* system, both the officials and the non-officials must remember that they are two wheels of a bicycle. If one wheel fails, the cycle cannot go forward. There has to be an understanding about each other's roles. Different issues need to be sorted out with understanding and maturity on both sides. Officers must remember that non-officials are elected by the people and have to fulfill the requirements of their constituencies. At the same time, the non-officials must also note that Government officers are bound by rules and procedures. They cannot violate the laws of the land. Action against a government servant can be taken if he or she violates the rules and procedures during implementation. No non-official will save him/her at such times.

### *On effective implementation of development schemes related to weaker sections:*

There are several schemes that are oriented to the development of the weaker sections: Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women and children. We need to understand the schemes fully and implement them in such a manner that the weaker sections get maximum benefit through their effective implementation. Periodic reviews of implementation need to be taken so that more efforts could be taken in areas that are lagging behind. Also, enough awareness needs to be created in the weaker sections. Only those who are aware of the provisions of the schemes come forward to take benefit from them.

### *On whether excellence is achievable in Government:*

Of course, excellence is achievable in Government. But for that we all must make a determined effort. Sincerity and dedication to our work will help us in achieving excellence. Let us all create this consciousness to focus on the common citizen. Let us inspire our staff to do so. □

*(Ajit M. Nimbalkar, Chief Secretary to the Government of Maharashtra, belongs to the 1967 batch of the IAS. He has served on various prestigious posts in Maharashtra as well as with the Government of India. He was Collector of the erstwhile Kulaba District and Pune District. He has served as Director of Sugar, Commissioner of Labour and Employment, Chairman of MSEB, Managing Director of Mahanagar gas, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of the Maharashtra State Road Transport Development Corporation, Secretary (Cooperation), and Secretary to Chief Minister. He was on deputation to the Government of India on various posts including Director General of Employment & Training, Additional Secretary (Ministry of Labour), Special Secretary (Ministry of Home Affairs), Secretary (Defence Production). He lives at Sarang on Gen. J Bhosale Marg, Mumbai 400021. Ph: 022-22025042; 22846606). □*

*PM Bayas (1983), SS Yadwadkar (1983), MG Salvi (1989), and NJ Gajbhiye (1989) will retire on 30 September 2003. □*

## It's not difficult to resolve disputes faster!

By NP Bhanage

We often talk about the pending cases but fail to devise mechanisms to deal with delays. There are cases galore waiting for decisions in different high courts in India. But that is only a tip of the iceberg, considering that there are a huge number of cases pending in the *mofussil* courts, labour courts, industrial courts and statutory tribunals.

The state governments and the Government of India are parties in many cases. The financial stakes in these cases, including those from the public sector undertakings and semi-government institutions, are usually very high. The expenses and liabilities go up. Then we become defensive and say that the officers do not have enough time to look into these cases. So what do we do?

Fortunately, we have a bold initiative from Kochi, called the *Alternative Dispute Resolution* (ADR) and given by Justice Krishna Iyer. It seeks to give justice through creative professional intervention and constructive involvement of concerned officials. The objective of ADR is to make justice quicker and less expensive, the justice-delivery system less cumbersome, and check the explosion of litigation.

In order that you appreciate the new approach, let me highlight the salient features of the Arbitration & Conciliation Act of 1996, which is more comprehensive than the earlier enactment of 1940.

Part-I deals with arbitration while Part-II talks about enforcement of certain foreign awards. Part-III is concerned with conciliation and procedural formalities. Lastly, Part-IV gives Supplementary Provisions.

The powers of the court under the new enactment have been considerably curtailed. The arbitrator and the conciliator have been invested with the requisite authority. They are completely free from control of the courts during the proceedings.

As per section 19 (1), the Arbitration Tribunals are not bound by the Civil Procedure Code or the Evidence Act. But the provisions of the Limitations Act apply.

Arbitration Awards are final and binding on the parties and persons claiming under them. The Award can be a valid piece of conclusive evidence of the facts stated in it.

For the first time, the Act recognizes conciliation as a means of settlement of commercial disputes. The conciliation has been accorded the status similar to the arbitration award, and the conciliation agreement can be enforced as the decree of the court under the Civil Procedure Code. Both the domestic and the international disputes can be resolved through conciliation. The parties to the conciliation are at liberty to lay down their own procedure for arriving at a settlement.

The nature of the dispute may be contractual, tortuous or even criminal, compoundable under section 320 of the Criminal Procedure Court.

The conciliation method is relatively simple and flexible. It avoids cumbersome procedure and minimizes the scope for corruption and malpractices. Naturally, it is gaining popularity and widespread acceptance.

The Act is a bold initiative which promises to usher in efficient and effective ADR methods for resolving civil and commercial disputes. Therefore, arbitration tribunals are preferred to the ordinary courts. Governments must make efforts to arouse confidence of the disputants by ensuring that only competent people possessing adequate knowledge are appointed as arbitrators.

The relevant provisions have been incorporated under rule 43 of the Rules of Arbitration of the Indian Council of Arbitration. These rules have come into force from 1 March 1998. The parties may request the tribunal to decide the reference in a fixed time-frame, which may be less than six months. The tribunal will be authorized to decide a dispute on written pleadings, documents, etc and oral hearing may be held if both the parties tender a joint request to that effect.

This method of settling the dispute is becoming popular all over the world. The Act has been widely accepted because of its result oriented approach

and its efficacy in expeditiously settling the disputes and also reducing the pressure on the judicial system.

The implementation of the law during the last seven years has shown many positive results and helped inculcate the desired conciliatory spirit among the leaders of industry and commerce. The Act has promoted reforms in the system of settlement of disputes, outside the courts. Governments need to use it more for speedy settlement of disputes. □

(An MA and LLB, Mr NP Bhanage, IAS-82, specializes in dispute resolution methods. On retirement he has settled in Pune and resides at, *Pandurang*, Bungalow No. 8, Tejas Housing Society, Kothrud, Pune 411038. He can be contacted on 020-5382758). □

### Brain teasers

1. Place four black queens and a black bishop on a chessboard so that they 'control' the entire board.
2. If several space stations are to be put on the moon, and if each station must be at the same distance away from every other station on the moon, what is the maximum number of stations that could be constructed on the moon's surface?
3. From which six-letter word, if you subtract just one, twelve will remain?
4. What is the longest English word you can make using only the letters from the first row of a key-board (i.e. QWERTYUIOP)? You may use the letters more than once. □

□ *Names of the respondents giving all correct answers will be published in the October 2003 issue. So, email your answers to the Editor fast.* □

### Managing Committee meets

The Managing Committee of the IAS Officers' Association met on 30 August 2003 and discussed a few important issues, especially the one about providing transit accommodation to officers coming to Mumbai on transfer. It was decided to make a budget provision. □

## Licence to Enter

By SK Shrivastava

HOW often have you driven the wrong way up half the street before you saw that *No Entry* sign? Matters are decidedly not improved by the appearance of the friendly cop who is parked strategically at the exit of the street and appears to have the smug countenance of a spider, who sees a fly wander into its trap! Still, I am quite reluctant to share the firm belief of many that the *No Entry* signs are deliberately placed near the exit of the street and this is a fiendishly clever design of the powers-that-be to prick occasionally the bloated ego of the citizens and let them experience, first hand, the Majesty of Law.

My first brush with the *No Entry* sign goes back to almost thirty-five years. I was a lad of ten and my cousin was visiting us. In those days, Nagpur was a quiet place, with a leisurely pace. Bikes were the preferred mode of transport and I think it was on a Sunday that we decided to take a round of the city. We went round the newly constructed Yashwant Stadium and rode leisurely towards the Variety Square. We were almost at the other end of the road when a shrill whistle beckoned us. We stopped short only to find a cop gesticulating at us. We immediately dismounted and pushed our bikes up to him. That worthy had a *paan* stuffed in his mouth. He attempted to speak but

that only directed a spray of *paan*-spit towards us. He therefore somewhat menacingly pointed out to the *No Entry* sign. In those days, we believed that the streets in Nagpur were meant for coming and going, and this concept of *No Entry* was certainly new to us. I felt rubbery in my legs as the fear of the Police Station loomed large. My cousin, however, was more a 'man of the world' and soon the matter was settled for the princely sum of two rupees, delivered to the '*paanwalla!*'!

I was reminded of this incident the other day as I travelled back from Bhopal to Mumbai. Nowadays, while in train, I am quite wary of disclosing my vocation to anybody. Usually in such gatherings the talk eventually veers round to how inefficient and callous the Government is, and I consider it prudent not to let anyone know my vocation to avoid being subjected to the verbal equivalent of lynching or at least to be at the receiving end of an untenable argument. It is indeed great fun to join in the general chorus and have a potshot or two at the government yourself!

My companion in this journey was a young man, recently out of College, who was groping and struggling to find that door which would open up to the path to a career and an identity in the society. The talk eventually swerved to the utterly unaccountable ways of the government. He told me this story

which I can do no better than to narrate in his own words:

".... and the traffic cops; they are absolutely beyond all control. The other day, I wanted to go to Rajawadi, when a traffic cop stopped me near a *No Entry* sign. He said, '*Licence laao.*' I told him that I had not yet entered the no entry zone, but he told me that there was a *No Entry* sign further up, which I had already crossed. I told him that I had seen no such sign and he had better come up and show that sign to me. He told me that he had better things to do and the fine would be six hundred rupees. We haggled for some time and settled the matter for forty rupees. Then I asked him the shortest way to Rajawadi. Without batting an eyelid, he told me, '*seedha chhale jao.*' I was kind of aghast and said to him, 'Boss, you just told me that there was no entry that way!' The cop had a patient smile and said, '*Arre main bola na? Ab tum ko kaun rokega?*' □

(The writer *Sudhir Shrivastava*, IAS-83, is Secretary to the Govt of Maharashtra in the Finance Department (Accounts & Treasuries). A B.Tech in chemical engineering from the LIT Nagpur, he is already known to our readers for his delightful sense for humour. He resides at *Suniti*, General J Bhosale Marg, Mumbai 400021 and can be contacted on: 022-22023085, 22846292; [mhfat@msu.bom.nic.in](mailto:mhfat@msu.bom.nic.in)). □

## Two patients

Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour each afternoon to help drain the fluid from his lungs. His bed was next to the room's only window. The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back. The men talked for hours on end. They spoke of their wives and families, their homes, their jobs, their involvement in the military service, where they had been on vacation.

Every afternoon when the man in the bed by the window could sit up, he would pass the time by describing to his roommate all the things he could see outside the window. The man in the other bed began to live for those one-

hour periods where his world would be broadened and enlivened by all the activity and color of the world outside.

The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake. Ducks and swans played on the water while children sailed their model boats. Young lovers walked arm in arm amidst flowers of every color and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance. As the man by the window described all this in exquisite detail, the man on the other side of the room would close his eyes and imagine the picturesque scene.

One warm afternoon, the man by the window described a parade passing by. Although the other man couldn't hear the band, he could see it in his mind's eye as the gentleman by the

window portrayed it with descriptive words. Days and weeks passed.

One morning, the day nurse arrived to bring water for their baths only to find the lifeless body of the man by the window, who had died peacefully in his sleep. Saddened, she called the hospital attendants to take the body away.

As soon as it seemed appropriate, the other man asked if he could be moved next to the window. The nurse made the switch, and after making sure he was comfortable, left him alone.

Slowly but painfully, he propped himself up on one elbow to take his first look at the real world outside. He strained to look out of the window beside the bed. It faced a blank wall. He asked the nurse what could have compelled his deceased (Contd on page 8)

## Chalo Dilli Again!

By MR KOLHATKAR

*My friend Bal Bhagwat's forays into the trials and tribulations and thrills and exhilarations of Delhi postings (Harmony, August 03) inspired me to comply with the Editor's long-standing request to write for Harmony. Anil Gokak's verse 'On Empanelment' was another inspiration. Since I have done three stints in Delhi, including one as Under/Deputy Secretary, the wisdom of the seniors like S. Raj could also be tested. So here goes. What follows is not necessarily autobiographical.*

AMATEUR historians of the Maratha Power believe that the slogan *Chalo Dilli* stands not for the march to Delhi of Subhash Chandra Bose in the 20<sup>th</sup> century but the annual march to Dilli of Maratha Generals in the 18<sup>th</sup> century for greatness and glory! There is also a universal conceit in Maharashtra that the Maharashtrians, by dint of some native instinct (in addition to the alleged similarity between vocabulary and script), are proficient in Hindi, the official language of the Capital. Moreover, people from Maharashtra have, somehow, a some romantic fascination for the land of the *Jamuna* (and *Ganga*), the cradle of the culture of India, that is *Bharat*, which is home to surnames like Kaushik, Kashyap, Shandilya, Chaturvedi, etc redolent of the merit and learning of the Rishis of yore!

An IAS officer going from Mumbai to Delhi in his young days, however, is soon disillusioned on all these counts. He realizes that Delhi, far from being a territory to be conquered, is capable of turning into a nightmare, like the Great Shivaji's Agra-like 'captivity' to be borne and escaped; that the style of Hindi as practised in Delhi is alien to his tongue and that the modern day Kaushiks and Kashyaps are no Rishis. The problems of our 'hero' (so I will call him) pertain first to the accommodation and secondly to the 'culture shock'! In later stints, when these problems become tractable, he is required to cope with the 'court' atmosphere of the capital to rise on the shaky ladder of his precious career.

When a brilliant boy or girl from Maharashtra appears for his 'viva' for the IAS at the great UPSC on Shahjahan Road, he/she generally stays at Maharashtra Bhavan (MB) in Paharganj or Karol Bagh. Imagine the shock of the same person now transformed into a

budding Under Secretary to the Government of India, who (not being the son or son-in-law of any senior officer or judge posted in Delhi) finds the doors, not only of Curzon Road Apartments or Preet Vihar but even of the Maharashtra Sadan (MS) on the Copernicus Marg, closed to him and is compelled to resort to the same MB! So, as they famously say in French, the more the things change, the more they remain the same for our hero, especially so if he is reluctant to tackle that notorious breed called Delhi landlords.

There may be small consolations, of course. The MB is generally manned, in its lower echelons, by the famous factotums from the Pahari areas of Uttaranchal who later on manage to materialize as senior waiters and roomboys of the MS! They recognize our hero (who during his second stint will be senior enough to make it to the MS) and are duly deferential to him, both having been promoted!

If you have the 'will' to Government accommodation in addition to the will to power, you can manage it even during your junior years. One way is to land a job on the personal staff of a Minister, which entitles you to allotment on out-of-turn basis. In the normal course, you are likely to be fobbed off by the Babus of the Directorate of Estate with some stable-like DII type flat on Willingdon or Minto Road. If you want to avoid this contingency, the trick is to persuade your Minister to write demi-officially to the Housing Minister, and sure enough, you get allotted a nice DII flat in the central area like Pandara Road, but alas, on the first floor, because as in the case of garages, there is a queue for the coveted ground floor flats. But never mind, you can look down upon the journalists and prima donnas, the denizens of the ground floor. So life for a junior officer (and his family) can be very pleasant indeed if only he knew how.

The know-how of success in Delhi, of course, is to master (what, for want of a better term, I call) *Punjabi culture* which is essentially a go-getting, highly competitive, no-holds barred culture. In administrative terms, our hero has to strive to belong to the Punjab School of Administration (PSA) which one histo-

riographer of the ICS has distinguished from three other schools, viz., Bombay, Bengal, and Madras. The ways of the PSA are hedonistic, robust and much more. The PSA has the core of Punjabi ethos, further shaped by the 'court' of Mughal Empire transformed by way of the British Raj into the Republican courts of Nehru-Gandhi Dynasty, only slowly learning the ways of 'Coalition Dharma' in the 1990s onwards.

To illustrate, a junior officer from Bombay School of Administration (BSA), accustomed to its prim and correct ways, may perhaps experience a 'culture shock' while dealing with colleagues and seniors who are steeped in the PSA, irrespective of their provenance, from the Deep South of Chennai to the Far East of Kolkatta. He may encounter the problems of 'relative' juniority which, in concrete terms, may involve his finding a close relative of his boss working as a subordinate. As ill luck would have it, the junior relative may be below average in performance, and if our hero continues to follow the BSA ways and gives an adverse CR to his junior, he would soon find that his own CR, for no ostensible reasons, has been spoilt. So beware! The empanelment can depend as much on 'relative' juniority as on 'relative' seniority.

As you go up in the service hierarchy, a useful trick is to land in Delhi at the 'politically correct' time in terms of the electoral calendar of the theatre of national politics being played out on the stage of Delhi. If you get posted in Delhi in the last phase of a Regime in its political decline, you might perhaps find yourself in a dog house when the New Regime assumes power. So, you are well advised to join a Delhi posting in the honeymoon phase of the Ascendant Regime which would raise your stock not only in Delhi but, what is more important, also in Mumbai! So, *chalo Dilli!* □

(Mr MR Kolhatkar, IAS-60, who made his mark in the education sector in the latter part of his career, was himself a brilliant student: he had topped the SSC Exam of the Bombay Board in 1953, for which YB Chavan himself had sent him a congratulatory telegram. Many academic laurels followed. Even in the IAS exam he had scored the second highest marks in the written test that year. He retired as Member of CAT in 1998. He now lives at Charleville CHS, Churchgate and can be contacted on: 022-22875651). □

## Honeydew at Dawn

By BM Ambhaikar

THOUGH not a worshipper of Aurora, a drive in the twilight at this time of year is a temptation to which I succumb in an effort to overcome it. A journey by car on the Bombay-Goa highway is a felicitous experience undefiled.

The azure sky, with thin wisps of clouds moving slowly across it, the transparent air promising a clear day, shimmeringly verdant vegetation carpeted on hills and ridges, a wide black-topped strip of highway and a car cruising steadily in this sylvan ambience. This, surely, is the paradise apt to turn a motorist into a dreamer.

The hill-and-dale landscape strewn with relics of Maratha glory is replete with contradictions, precipitated by the spirit of reform which is abroad.

Just below pylons carrying power lines, paddy crops and vegetables ripen. The sounds of transistorized music mingle with the lusty Chanticleer's hymns in praise of the blushing dawn. A scooter parked by a wattle-and-daub dwelling close to the village health centre with the red triangle painted on its wall is a symbol; of slow reform.

Swampy spots by brooks and tanks by temples contain water lilies, white and maroon, to heighten the aesthetic contrast, and *kamal*, sacred to gods and dear to Sanskrit lyric-writers. A village woman, walking daintily, balancing akimbo her water-filled pots -- a good omen to my superstitious mind -- completes a piece which tells the tale of eternal India.

Fleeting glimpses of the geology of the tract from my ear window remind me of the legend of Pan, the Greek god of nature, now stamping his foot to disperse armies, now trolling on his pipe to charm denizens of the woods. Dark-coloured, horizontal stone sheets constitute spurts, hill ranges, peaks, plateaus and impressive cliffs --- all commemorated in ballads of Maratha war heroes, accentuating the shagginess of the topography of fastnesses which could be scaled by the Maratha warrior who sent up an iguana with a rope tied to it and then hauled himself up when the lizard had fixed itself on the crag.

I stop my car overpowered by the fragrance of honeydew and wild flowers. Storks nosedive into ponds, breaking them into concentric ripples mirroring the shattered young sun. In the creek beyond, fishermen at work spread their nylon nets for the catch of the day. Looking on this joyous autumn scene, I learn how to invent happiness. The culture of toil and moil grows distasteful by seconds. The sun, now brightening, melts my fantasy. I coax my reluctant car into action and wonder why time does not stop at moments like these. □

(Late Mr BM Ambhaikar, IAS-76, wielded a powerful pen as can be seen here. His wife, *Shailaja*, resides in Meera Madhura Society, Andheri (W), Mumbai 400048. Ph: 022-26390505). □

## From Rajiv Jalota With Love

I reached here on night of 5 August. Children got admitted to school. Their school started on 11 August. My school started on 25 August. I have taken the following subjects in first semester: Economic Foundations of Development Policy; Policy Analysis of Development; Institutional Design for Development Policy; International Conflict Management; and International Peace and Conflict Resolution.

I have come on a Rotary World Peace Fellowship. Rotary has given me a local American host who came to receive me and helped me in settling here. I stayed with an Indian family for the first few days and then shifted to our apartment on 10 August. Apartment is near the University. Senior Indian students have been a great help and take care like a family member. Some Indian families have also been quite helpful. I attended our Independence Day function on 17 August as it was a Sunday and met a lot of Indian families. The local mayor attended the function. Academics are quite different and there are weekly assignments and presentations and papers.

How are things in Mumbai? It was shocking to know about the blasts. Rest is fine. I will keep in touch with you, Sir. Please convey my regards to all. Yours sincerely, *Rajiv Jalota*. □

(*Ex-Collector of Latur Rajiv Jalota, IAS-88, is doing his MA in International Development Policy in Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, USA. He can be contacted on [jalotarajiv@hotmail.com](mailto:jalotarajiv@hotmail.com)*). □

## The Urban Edge

By TANUJA MULLICK

Under the shade of an old Peepal tree sat a young maiden, blissfully dreaming of a life in the big city.... knowing not the pains and pangs of urban plurality that moment to moment struggle for survival and sanity.

Long years in the city have twisted her with the angst of promiscuity. Ask not wherefore and how Barren, like the metropolis cow chewing on crimson cud stained with the blood from gaping wounds inflicted by the shards of splintered dreams consciousness, ebbing like underground streams.

In dark Eden among the teeming heathen, her tales ravaged by reality how she longs for the sanctity of her old village community. Snatches of long gone poetry like the hysteria of suburban crows seem sheer mockery of all that is past and steeped in personal history as she blankly gazes at concrete imagery.

The Onlooker sitting on the urban edge gazing slyly at her on the other side of the broken ledge propped by the sheer power of human might haunted by abject misery in sight.

But, who are we to discern what is wrong or right in that fading light .....

[*Tanuja Mullick*, wife of Sumit Mullick, IAS-82, Secretary to Governor of Maharashtra, is not only a master story-teller but also a poet with great sensitivity. A student of Sociology, Tanuja knows not only the countryside but also the urban settings so well. She can be contacted on 022-23683116; [tanusum@yahoo.co.in](mailto:tanusum@yahoo.co.in)]. □

## Answers to the riddles

1. Because it had Secretary *Ashok Khot* and now has *Ashok Sinha*.
2. Both have Secretary *Pandey* (*ABP Pandey* and *BP Pandey*, respectively). □

## Goodbye, Mr Sharma!

IN what could be termed a great revival of old good practices, the Association hosted a fond farewell function for the Additional Chief Secretary *BB Sharma* on 30 August 2003 on his superannuation. In a well-attended function in the committee room on the sixth floor of Mantralaya, as many spoke in his praise and gratitude, speaking the minds of all others, it appeared as if the IAS fraternity was coming closer and the service harmony was getting reinforced. The person who made this happen was the man who called it a day while still enjoying tremendous goodwill among his countless colleagues and friends.

Admitting the Association's failure in the past few years to give farewell to its retiring members, Hon. Gen. Secretary Satish Tripathi hoped that Mr Sharma's farewell function would serve to make amends for the lapse. He described Mr Sharma as a disciplinarian, a family man, and a person with a sharp brain and ever willing to help others. Mr Navin Kumar recalled his happy and funny moments with Mr Sharma when they were probationers in the Mussoorie Academy. He thanked Mr Sharma for having come to his rescue in a high court's contempt case.

Mr Mukhopadhyaya described Mr Sharma as a great friend, a cool cat, someone who would always go to the root of any problem. Mr Ashok Khot called him a fair and upright officer whose forte it was to ferret out facts from files. Being an Army man, Mr Sharma dared to attack and win.

Mr SS Hussain said that though he had never worked directly with Mr Sharma, he was proud that both had been SDO Gadchiroli and loved Urdu poetry. Admiring his fondness for social work, Mr Hussain recited a *sher* to highlight Mr Sharma's philosophy of life. Mr Rajendra Singh liked Mr Sharma for his clear ideas and thinking and for being most helpful, especially in settling many land acquisition cases.

Mr Govind Swarup admired Mr Sharma for his disarming smile and affectionate approach. Mr Jagdish Joshi recollected his happy relationship with *Panditji* Sharma for over 25 years since the Nagpur days when he was Collector and his friend MD of DCVL there.

Applauding him for his sterling qualities, Chief Secretary Ajit Nimbalkar said that Mr Sharma had imbibed discipline and team spirit from the Army and hard work coupled with innovative thinking from the IAS. He pointed out that Mr Sharma looked at every issue with total impartiality and

always came out with mature solutions. He thanked Mr Sharma for the help he rendered in dealing with the service matters and admitted that his retirement would mean a big loss. Mr Nimbalkar then felicitated him, wishing him health, happiness and peace of mind.

In a touching reply, Mr Sharma recited a few lines from the *Geeta* and Harivansh Rai Bachchan's *Madhushala* and said that our day of arrival in the world and our day of departure from it are pre-decided but people remember us only by what we do between these two events. He thanked God that he was allotted to this cadre and said that he was a happy and contented man, retiring after serving for about 34 years in the best administered State. He said he was grateful to the Army for teaching him discipline, hard work and impartiality.

In passing, he pointed out that while we work we don't realize the stress we create, undergo and accumulate. We may not feel it immediately but it takes its toll, he said. He remarked that the seniority does not matter; what matters is the camaraderie, the feeling of oneness and we must maintain it and stand as one cadre. He complimented the Association on reviving the practice of giving farewell to retiring officers and wished all well. □ (RK)

## Our subscribers for 2003

□ SV Bhavne □ LS Lulla □ BG Deshmukh □ RD Pradhan □ Shanta Uppal □ Malati Tambay-Vaidya □ Dr V Subramaniam □ MD Godbole □ AK Majumdar □ MR Kolhatkar □ N Jayaraman □ S Jambunathan □ DK Jain □ PS Palande □ SP Upasani □ VS Gopalakrishnan □ P Subrahmanyam □ CK Modi □ S Padmanabhan □ SG Kale □ T Balaraman □ PR Dasgupta □ NS Kulkarni □ Pushpa Jadhav □ BN Makhija □ R Vasudevan □ RC Iyer □ BN Bahadur □ SG Daithankar □ KS Sidhu □ PR Bhalerao □ AL Bongirwar □ CD Singh □ BB Sharma □ GV Gokhale □ Asoke Basak □ Ajit Nimbalkar □ Jagdish Joshi □ KS Baroi □ Rajendra Singh □ RB Budhiraja □ Shashi Mishra □ Suresh Kumar □ Nand Lal □ RK Zutshi □ AP Sinha □ Suresh Chandra □ Chitkala Zutshi □ Govind Swarup □ Man Mohan Singh □ RK Bhargava □ Satish Tripathi □ Neela Satyanarayan □ JP Dange □ SS Dodd □ Amitabh Chandra □ VK Aggarwal □ Ashok Sinha □ GB Pingulkar □ Lata Sagane □ Ranjana Sinha □ Sudhakar

Joshi □ VP Rane □ BC Khatua □ GM Pillai □ RR Sinha □ Mahesh Nayak □ MB Re □ NB Patil □ KK Nayudu □ JM Phatak □ JS Saharia □ Rameshchandra Kanade □ TF Thekkekkara □ AM Khan □ SS Kshatriya □ Jayant Kawale □ Sumit Mullick □ PM Bayas □ Upamanyu Chatterjee □ Sanjeevane Kutty □ V Giriraj □ D Chakravorty □ NP Bhanage □ BN Bobade □ SB Borde □ Nirmal Deshmukh □ Yashwant Kerure □ BN Batabyal □ SH Shool □ EZ Khobragade □ Mahesh Zagade □ S Gopal □ RN Shingare □ UG Dangat □ HM Gajbhiye □ Krishna Vatsa □ CS Sangitrao □ Apurva Chandra □ SL Kulkarni □ BL Awdhal □ SM Deshpande □ Milind Mhaikar □ Jayant Gaikwad □ SK Sawant □ Sanjeev Kumar □ Vikas Kharage □ Ashish Sharma □ VN More □ Satish Bhide □ Parag Jain □ S Chockalingam □ Praveen Darade □ Saurabha Vijay. □ *We thank them and request other members to send their subscription of Rs 200, for Harmony and other activities, in cash or by cheque, to the Hon Gen Secretary Satish Tripathi, Prin. Secretary (F,*

*CS&CR), 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Mantralaya Annexe, Mumbai-32. Ph: 022-22024851. □*

## Two patients

(Contd from page 5)

roommate to describe wonderful things outside the window. The nurse responded that the man was blind and could not even see the wall. She said, "Perhaps, he just wanted to encourage you."

Epilogue: *There is tremendous happiness in making others happy, despite our own situations. Shared grief is half the sorrow, but happiness when shared, is doubled. If you want to feel rich, just count all the things you have that money can't buy. □*

(Source unknown).

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EmailID: □ [harmony@iasmah.org](mailto:harmony@iasmah.org) □  
□ [r\\_kanade@hotmail.com](mailto:r_kanade@hotmail.com) □  
Phones: 022 □ 22703785 □ 22834329 □