

# HARMONY

## Connecting the IAS Community

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## Virtual History

Since the Second World War, landmark changes have taken place in regimes across the world. The fall of the Berlin Wall, the dissipation of cold war between the United States and the erstwhile USSR and the ensuing perestroika, the coloured revolutions in east European countries have been driven more by economical considerations and desire for active participation in polity, and less by territorial politics and destructive arms. The latest uprisings, beginning with the "jasmine" revolution in Tunisia, are unique in that they are primarily triggered by tools of the virtual world – Facebook, Twitter and SMS. Even more surprisingly, the "revolution" in Egypt lasted less than 30 days, and the activists clearly averred by non-violence.

Autocratic regimes are being pulled down, and the uprisings have sent shivers down the spine of many a nation. Monarchies like Jordan, Bahrain and even Saudi Arabia have made concessions to the public. The events are a manifestation of peoples' desire for liberty, and faith in peace. Mere doles will not suffice; the people want their voices to be heard.

The positive power of Facebook and mobile messaging was well demonstrated during Barrack Obama's presidential campaign in the United State of America in 2008. In less than three years, the potency of this "non-

weapon" has once again asserted itself by way of the confidence and courage it gave the youth to apply it to something as earthshaking as transforming political structures. We are indeed witnessing history in the neighbourhood. ■ (Editorial Team)

## Saharia, Thekkekara are ACS

Mr. JS Saharia, IAS 1978, Principal Secretary (Relief & Rehabilitation) in



Revenue and Forests Department, and Ms. TF Thekkekara, IAS 1978, Principal Secretary, Minority Development Department have been promoted *in situ* to the rank of Additional Chief Secretary.

We congratulate them on their promotion. ■

## J Joseph Bereaved

Mrs. Thankamma George, wife of Mr. AC George, former Union Minister of State and mother-in-law of Mr. Johny Joseph, IAS 1972 (Retd.) Upa Lokayukta, Maharashtra passed away in February 2011 in Kerala after a prolonged illness, at the age of 78. We pay our condolences to Ms. Reena and Mr. Joseph.

Mr. Joseph can be contacted on 9819131000. ■

## Out of the Box

Employee "A" in a company walked up to his manager and asked what my job is for the day?

The manager took "A" to the bank of a river and asked him to cross the river and reach the other side of the bank. "A" completed this task successfully and reported back to the manager about the completion of the task assigned. The manager smiled and said "GOOD JOB"

Next day, employee "B" reported to the same manager and asked him the job for the day. The manager assigned the same task as above to this person also. "B" before starting the task, saw employee "C" struggling in the river to reach the other side of the bank. He realized "C" has the same task. Now "B" not only crossed the river but also helped "C" to cross the river. "B" reported back to the manager and the manager smiled and said "VERY GOOD JOB"

The following day employee "Q" reported to the same manager and asked him the job for the day. The manager assigned the same task again. "Q" before starting the work, did some home work and realized "A", "B" & "C" all have done this task before. He met them and understood how they performed. He realized that there is a need for a guide and training for doing this task.

He sat first and wrote down the procedure for crossing the river, he documented the common  
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## Bio-Diversity Conservation and Disaster Risk Reduction

By Sujata Saunik

The Satpura mountain range in Central India is the largest contiguous tiger habitat in the world and as such is crucial for the big cat's continued survival. The Satpuras are not only home to the majestic tiger, but also a host of other endangered species like the Forest Owlet, Otter, Pangolin, Chinkara and Mouse Deer. Its grasslands are home to the beautiful *barasinghas* and giant squirrels which inhabit the moist deciduous forest.



The Satpuras also give birth to important rivers such as Wardha, Tapi, Purna, Denwa, Tawa and Narmada. The forests of the Satpuras need to be protected for their contribution to augmenting India's supply of the most precious resource i.e. water.

The entire Satpura

landscape includes 13 Protected Areas (PAs) covering approximately 6,500 kms<sup>2</sup>. These PAs are connected by vital wildlife corridors and the inclusion of these takes the range's contiguous forest cover to around 10000 kms<sup>2</sup>. The famous tiger reserves of Melghat and Pench in Maharashtra and Pench, Bori-Satpura and Kanha (partly) in Madhya Pradesh all lie within the Satpuras.

Despite the significance as a tiger habitat, this region has received little attention and support for protection of the area. As a result, the continuity of the habitat is increasingly under threat from development and infrastructure projects, logging, poaching and wild life trade.

There is also an increasing

need for a well coordinated approach towards conservation, protection and management of disasters like forest fires, floods and earth-quakes in these Protected Areas. There is an



increasing need to generate awareness among the young generation about the need to prevent these areas from disappearing and to deal stringently with poaching and wild life trade.

Indeed, India should be proud that in the midst of its teeming millions, it still has these islands of extremely beautiful diverse ecosystem where different species of flora and fauna co-exist. In the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there were approximately 1,00,000 tigers in the world, of which 40,000 were in India. Today, we have lost almost 95% of our wild tigers. Of the eight species of tigers in the world, three are already extinct. The Indian species is known as the Royal Bengal Tiger.

It is important to save the tiger because it helps in conserving the eco-system like grasslands, semi-evergreen to dry deciduous forests to swamps, which is the tiger's prime habitat. A protected tiger habitat means a healthy forest

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**He who rides a tiger is afraid to dismount**

## Health Camp Organised By IASOWA

A Medical Health Camp was organised by the Indian Administrative Service Officers' Wives' Association (IASOWA) on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at Sachivalaya Gymkhana, Mumbai. The camp was

A team of doctors led by the Heads of the departments of Paediatrics, Gynaecology and Medicine from the JJ Group of Hospitals and St. George Hospital, participated in the camp. There was also a team of dentists and the Mobile Dental Van from the Government Dental College to carry

success.

IASOWA conveys its sincere and deepest thanks to Dr. WB Tayade, Director, Medical Education & Research and Dr. TP Lahane, Dean, Sir JJ Group of Hospitals for their cooperation. The Association also thanks Dr. A Rathod, Dr. Rekha Davar, Dr. V Joglekar, Dr. MG Pawar and their team of doctors and assistants for their time and commitment to the noble cause.

Encouraged by the success of this Camp, IASOWA plans to take similar initiatives in the future as well.



arranged for the students of *Susheel Balwadi* (run by IASOWA) and their families, and for the helpers living in the government buildings Suruchi, Suniti, Nilambari, Yashodhan and Bel Haven etc.

out filling of teeth cavity of children and adults. Nearly 100 people registered at the camp. Medicines and tonics were distributed free of cost to those who attended the Camp. The Camp proved to be a big



## Bio-Diversity...

Continued from Page 2

and eco-system which in turn means a healthy environment, a prerequisite for sustainable development of the country.

Disaster Management Plans should also necessarily look at the protection of these habitats and all developmental activity in and around these areas should be focussed on reducing the man-animal conflict, relocating villages on priority from within the protected area to outside locations, and including a service charge on tourists and hotels and resorts in these sensitive locations. The local people living in the area can be made stakeholders in the interest of well-being of the Protected Areas. Most importantly, any large infrastructure project like building of highways, dams, bridges etc should conduct an 'animal' audit to ensure that these fragile habitats can survive the development efforts.

*(Ms. Sujata Saunik, IAS 1987, is Joint Secretary, A & NDRF, Natural Disaster Management Authority, and can be contacted on Ph.011-26701817)*

**He, who has health, has hope. And he who has hope, has everything**

## "Main Hoon Na"

### - My Experiments With Empowering Cotton Farmers

By Sunil Porwal

'Main Hoon Na' or the 'Last Resort Option' is a very effective approach in providing security with freedom to primary stakeholders. The MGNREGS also operates on this approach.



This is basically a safety net mechanism instead of the monopoly mechanism. It provides state protection along with freedom to primary stakeholders so that they can enjoy benefits of market with the baseline protected.

In 1928, the British set up a Cotton Exchange at Kalbadevi to export cotton from Maharashtra to Manchester to run their mills. Cotton is cultivated in Maharashtra in about 22 districts by about 28 lakh farmers in an area of over 30 lakh Ha. in mostly rain-fed conditions.

Following the nationalisation of banks in the early 70's, it was decided to nationalise commodities as well. Cotton was selected as the first commodity and it was decided to experiment the implementation of the policy in Maharashtra. Thus cotton trade in Maharashtra was nationalised and all private business in cotton was banned by an Act of the State passed in 1972, commonly known as the Cotton Monopoly Scheme of Maharashtra.

Farmers could henceforth sell their produce only to the State and as per rates declared by the State. The growers would cease to have a choice. It was different from

the Minimum Support Price mechanism.

Why Monopoly and why not MSP? Debates in Assembly show that the policy makers didn't want any profit from the sale of cotton to go to anyone other than the growers. The philosophy was to capture full value addition from cotton to cloth by the State for the benefit of the region and the cotton growers. This approach came to be known as 'Cotton to Cloth approach'.

#### Impact of the approach -

Even after 30 years of the scheme, only a meagre quantity of cotton was used in cotton producing area for value addition. The cooperative set up to handle the scheme only bought cotton from farmers and after primary processing, bales were either sold to mills all over the country or were exported.

As private sector was banned by law to buy cotton, there was no incentive for them to put up factories in the cotton belt. The advantage of raw material in Vidharbha, Marathwada and Khandesh was lost to the industry for about 32 years because of the cotton purchase policy of the State. The situation was something like 'neither will we do it nor will we allow others to do it!'

One consequence of the monopoly was that the private business shifted their base to the nearby States of Gujarat, MP and AP. They set up factories there to be fed by cotton smuggled out of Maharashtra. The textile industry in Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country was also subsidised by the monopoly scheme of Maharashtra by providing assurance of raw material.

For purchasing cotton from farmers, about 500 - 800 purchase

centres are opened during the season. As the growers had no choice, the centres operated in a monopolistic environment. Purchases at a centre ranged from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 10 crore. The centre in-charge was empowered to determine the grade of cotton on the basis of which farmers were to be paid.

During every cotton procurement season, police nakas were often set up to stop cotton going out of the State. In 2000, I visited a place called *Kadi* near Ahmedabad and saw about 100 ginning factories, all fed by cotton coming from Maharashtra. The trucks parked in factories had brought raw cotton from Dhule, Jalgaon, Aurangabad, Beed etc.

A ballpark assessment by me based on some studies conducted during the late 70's and 80's showed that Maharashtra was losing on an average about Rs. 800 crore every year due to loss of value-addition on account of cotton being smuggled out. This includes value-addition up to bale level only. If the loss of value addition on the main crop of an area for 30 years is so substantial then the crop growers and the area are bound to suffer.

On the one hand farmers had no option to sell their produce and on the other hand the State lost heavily on opportunities for value-addition.

#### My experiments -

In November 1999 I joined as MD of the Maharashtra State Co-operative Cotton Marketing Federation (a parastatal set up to operate the Scheme). Soon thereafter, I visited a cotton purchase centre in Yavatmal. The centre was near the Andhra Pradesh border. I reached there at around 11 AM when the cotton

**Monopoly is business at the end of its journey**

procurement was in full swing. Already there were more than a thousand bullock carts, tempos etc. waiting in over a kilometre-long queue. Many of them were waiting for more than a couple of days. I was informed that it was just the beginning of the season and by mid-December, growers would need to wait for about a month or so for their turn to come.

All around, one was eating, drinking and breathing cotton and dust. I sat there chatting with the centre in-charge, growers and other people trying to understand the process of procurement step by step. After a while, a Police Inspector came with about 5-7 carts/tempos of cotton along with a few people. On enquiry he informed that those carts/tempos were crossing the border and were going to Andhra Pradesh to sell their cotton. My instantaneous reaction to that was "so what!" Everyone was shocked to hear this comment from me, as all were conditioned to using / misusing the provision of ban on the movement of cotton.

The Police Inspector replied, "Sir, as per law no one can take cotton out of the State. I have caught them doing so and have brought them here. You may kindly instruct the staff to accept this cotton".

While this conversation was on, the following issues were running across my mind --

1. The growers who were taking cotton to AP were doing so as they must have been getting more value for their produce.
2. If I readily agreed with Police, I would be helping them in running their 'shop'.
3. Every quintal of cotton purchase implied a loss of Rs.500 to the State.

4. Financially, the Cotton Federation was not in a position to make payment to growers in time. More cotton meant more delay.

5. But cotton going out of the State meant less of value addition, employment, taxes etc. to the State.

It was a paradoxical situation! What to do was the question.

If businessmen of AP could profit from the cotton coming from Maharashtra to run their business, then businessmen of Maharashtra could definitely do better, as they could save on transport. But the law was against them as they were not allowed to buy cotton under the monopoly scheme.

After I placed the facts before the Government, the following happened -

a) Immediately, the Government announced that the State was for its farmers and if they were getting better terms elsewhere, they would not be stopped from doing so.

b) In the 2000-01 season, using the exception clause in the Act, the Government decided to allow spinning mills (both private and co-operative) to buy cotton in Maharashtra.

c) In the 2001-02 season, the Government allowed ginning and pressing (both co-operative and private) mills to buy cotton in the State. Ultimately the Act was allowed to lapse in the next couple of years.

#### Outcomes:

The impact study of this policy change has not been done formally but feedback obtained from different sources indicates that at many places in the State (Sillod in Aurangabad district, Gevrai in Beed, Panderkauda in Yavatmal, Malkapur and Chikhli in Buldhana and

Majalgaon in Beed etc.), there has been a huge increase in the number of ginning and pressing mills. In some places the number had gone up from 2-3 mills to 15-20 mills in the last 3-4 years. Since transportation of cotton is costly, leads to deterioration in quality, and has a fire threat, it is quite logical that business will now set up factories in Maharashtra.

There is tremendous opportunity at present. The only threat is possible re-introduction of monopoly. The strength of availability of cotton will be exploited by the market in favour of Vidharbha, Marathwada and Khandesh. It may take some time but it will happen. The process can be expedited with appropriate package from the State. This will not only result in higher intensity of textile industry and higher employment and income generation in the cotton growing region but will also bring higher revenues for the State. "Cotton to Cloth" will now happen in the cotton belt.

In 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2009-10 the cotton prices in the market were high. Farmers enjoyed that. (Procurement by the Cotton Federation was negligible). In 2008-09, the Government prices were higher than the market prices, and farmers enjoyed that too. (Procurement by the state agencies went up sharply)! Farmers are now having the cake and eating it too. Kyonki "Main Hoon Na"!

*\*The views expressed above are personal to the author and do not represent the official position he holds or has held earlier.*

*(Mr. Sunil Porwal, IAS 1983, is Principal Secretary, Textiles and can be contacted on his Cell 9821223618.)*

## Spiritualizing Sexuality

By Navin kumar

I had read with concern the article of the editorial team in Harmony of June 2009 entitled "Are We a Sadist Society". A little browsing on the net shows that there are about 1 lakh reported cases of rape every year in the USA. The figure for India is about 20,000 but it needs to be increased ten times if unreported/unregistered cases are to be taken into account. The suggested remedy, in that article, of quickly bringing the culprits to justice would be helpful to a certain extent but I feel the problem lies much deeper and unless the issue of sexuality is studied and men folk learn to sublimate their sexual impulses for bringing them under control of their will, the problem may not be contained.



Several surveys have revealed that in a good number of cases the rapist is a well-to-do family member or a close relative or a friend of the victim. Thus, while humanity has risen much above the animals in matters of food, clothing, speech, reading, writing, calculating, discovering, inventing, theorizing and philosophizing, they are prone to be beastly in sexual behavior as revealed from the details of rape cases.

Often the men belonging to

police or army become the perpetrators of crimes against women. In war like situations, the invading army subjects the women of the vanquished side to their lustful cravings. The rape of Iraqi / Afghanistan women is reported many times in the papers. The rape of children by priests in the US Churches has been investigated and documented. It has to be recognized that all is not well with the sexual behavior of men-folk as a race. The soul, blinded by ignorance, falls into the pit of evil action.

Complete abstinence preached by Eastern Wisdom has been found to be unacceptable to the masses. The western writings like 'Kinsey Report on Male Sexuality' and Havelock Ellis's 'Psychology of Sex' have seen gratification as normal. The popular western press/media is full of literature which directly or indirectly recommends maximum indulgence. No wonder that pornography on the



Internet has become a business involving billions of dollars and young girls today face the danger of being pulled into it.

Pondering over these thoughts I discovered three books on the Internet. Their common theme - unlike total abstinence - is for spiritualizing sex. Emotions should impel all towards righteous living and the clear light of the intellect should illuminate the conduct. Their suggestions provoke everyone to think. When a large number of people do sincere thinking the direction to the right path may become visible. The books are -

- **Male Continenence** by John Humphery Noyes <http://www.sacred-texts.com/sex/mc/index.htm>
- **Kareeza. The Ethics of Marriage** by Alice B Stockham MD <http://www.sacred-texts.com/sex/eom/index.htm>
- **The Kareeza Method** by J Willam Lloyed <http://www.sacred-texts.com/sex/krz/index.htm>

I would recommend to the reader to browse these books which are available on the 'Sacred Books of the East' site (their URLs are given above) to facilitate pondering over the subject. Maybe thereafter this subject can be discussed in a group available to Harmony members. This group could be formed on the Internet by the editorial team on Facebook so that the discussion can take place without the need for actually assembling together at one place. ■

*(Mr. Navin kumar, IAS 1969, Retd., is State Information Commissioner, Maharashtra and can be contacted on Ph. 9819334333)*

***It is with our passions, as it is with fire and water; they are good servants but bad masters***

## Answer to Crossword No. 35



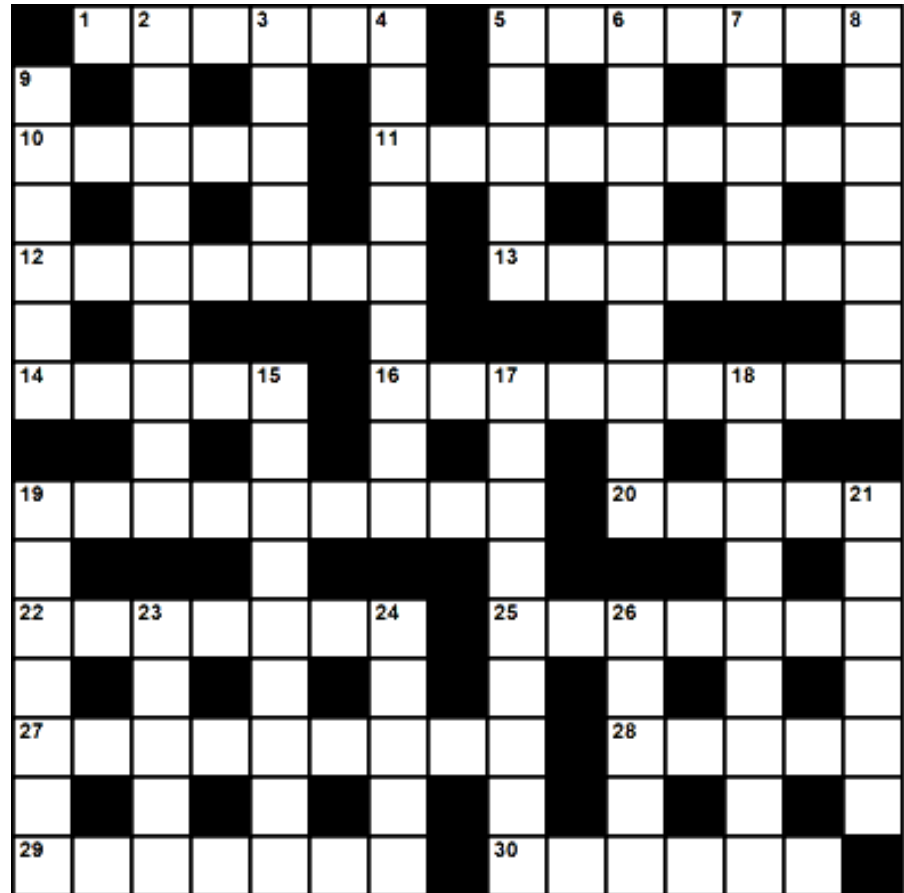
### Message from Neela Satyanarayana

Ms. Neela Satyanarayana, IAS 1972 (Retd.) and State Election Commissioner, Maharashtra informs that 'Parchure Prakashan Mandir', a publishing house, desires to publish a compilation of special experiences of IAS officers that could bring before the public the kind of challenges officers have to face in their career. The publishers feel that people know only the glamorous side of the Service without getting to know the hardships that very often officers have to go through.

The articles should be preferably in Marathi and of 2000 to 2500 words. Officers desirous of penning their experiences may approach Mr. Narendra Parchure on phone 23854691 or 23854465 or Ms. Neela Satyanarayana on 24953209. ■

**We wish our  
readers a very  
Happy Holi**

## CROSSWORD NO. 36



Compiled by Mr. Mohan Chunkath, IAS (Tamil Nadu-1978), Principal Secretary / Vice Chairman & CEO Tamil Nadu Maritime Board.

#### Across

- 1 Spasm (6)  
5 Babies' beds (7)  
10 Extreme (5)  
11 Sailor of a light vessel (9)  
12 Athlete participating in one of the Track and Field events (7)  
13 Disciple (7)  
14 Out-of-hand demonstrations (5)  
16 Broadcast in instalments (9)  
19 Church songsters (9)  
20 Narrow (5)  
22 Dispossessed (7)  
25 Esteem (7)  
27 Long pasta (9)  
28 Skinflint (5)  
29 Conclusive game (7)  
30 Stalls (6)

#### Down

- 2 Aquatic sport (5,4)  
3 Spoor (5)  
4 Magician's cry (3,6)  
5 Bed-time drink (5)  
6 Spaceman (9)  
7 Restriction (5)  
8 Genuine (7)  
9 Oil-well (6)  
15 Lengthened (9)  
17 Holds back (9)  
18 Suitably pleased (9)  
19 Wrinkled (7)  
21 Come back (6)  
23 Biblical father of Jacob (5)  
24 Dissuade (5)  
26 Ballroom dance (5)

*People rarely succeed unless they have fun in what they are doing*

## Who Goes Where

*Ms. Anna Dani (1976):* Additional Chief Secretary, Forests ■ *Dr. Sudhir Goel (1982):* Principal Secretary, Agriculture and Marketing Department ■ *Mr. Ashwani Kumar (1987):* Secretary and OSD (Appeals), Revenue and Forests Department ■ *Dr. Sanjay Chahande (1988):* Director General, YASHDA, Pune ■ *Mr. Vikas Deshmukh (1998):* Collector, Pune ■ *Mr. SD Shinde (1991):* Managing Director, Mahananda ■ *Mr. CN Dalvi (1995):* Settlement Commissioner, Pune ■ *Mr. Sanjay Deshmukh (1998):* Joint Secretary, General Administrative Department ■ *Mr. BG Wagh (1999):* Collector, Yavatmal ■ *Mr. Abhijit Bangar (2008):* Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Raigad ■ *Ms. Rubal Gupta (2008):* Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Ahmednagar ■ *Mr. B Radhakrishnan (2008):* Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Jalna ■ *Mr. E Ravendiran (2008):* Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Akola ■

## Association Wins Cricket Match

A friendly day and night T 20 cricket match was played between the IAS Officers' Association and ITC on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2011 at Police Gymkhana. Opting to bat first, IAS XI put up an imposing score of 180 in their allotted 20 overs. ITC XI gave a strong reply and at one stage it looked like they would breeze past the target. But IAS XI kept their cool and turned the tide by claiming the wickets of the two settled batsmen of ITC. IAS XI won the match by 10 runs. ■

## Out of the Box

### Continued from Page 1

mistakes people made, and tricks to do the task efficiently and effortlessly.

Using the methodology he had written down he crossed the river and reported back to the manager along with documented procedure and training material.

The manager said "Q" you have done an "EXCELLENT JOB".

The following day Employee "O" reported to the manager and asked him the job for the day. The manager assigned the same task again.

"O" studied the procedure written down by "Q" and sat and thought about the whole task. He realized company is spending lot of money in getting this task completed. He decided not to cross the river, but sat and designed and implemented a bridge across the river and went back to his manager and said, "You no longer need to assign this task to any one".

The manager smiled and said "Outstanding job 'O'. I am very proud of you."

What is the difference between A, B, Q & O?

Many a times in life we get tasks to be done at home, at office, at play. Most of us end up doing what is expected out of us. Do we feel happy? Most probably yes. We would be often disappointed when the recognition is not meeting our expectation.

Let us compare ourselves with "B". Helping someone else the problem often improves our own skills. There is an old proverb (I do

not know the author) "learn to teach and teach to learn". From a company point of view "B" has demonstrated much better skills than "A" since one more task for the company is completed.

"Q" created knowledge base for the team. More often than not, we do the task assigned to us without checking history. Learning from other's mistake is the best way to improve efficiency. This knowledge creation for the team is of immense help. Re-usability reduces cost there by increases productivity of the team. "Q" demonstrated good "team-player" skills,

Now to the outstanding person, "O" made the task irrelevant; he created a Permanent Asset to the team.

If you notice B, Q and O all have demonstrated "team performance" over an above individual performance; they have also demonstrated a very invaluable characteristic known as "INITIATIVE". ■



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*The cynic knows the price of everything and the value of nothing*