

Vol. I, No. 1



SIKKIM

CIVIL SERVICE CHRONICLE



50

YEARS OF
STATEHOOD
1975-2025
EDITION

NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICES DAY-2025

BASICS OF HIV/AIDS TRANSMISSION

HIV IS TRANSMITTED THROUGH



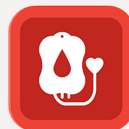
SHARING OF
NEEDLES / SYRINGES



UNPROTECTED
SEXUAL CONTACT



INFECTED PARENTS
TO THEIR CHILD



INFECTED BLOOD
& BLOOD PRODUCTS

HIV IS NOT TRANSMITTED THROUGH



SHARING
TOILET



INSECT
BITES



SHARING
CLOTHES



HUGGING
OR KISSING

INTEGRATED COUNSELLING & TESTING CENTRE (ICTC)

For free HIV/AIDS Counselling & Testing Services please visit the nearest ICTC Centre



Free treatment & Diagnosis of HIV/AIDS at Anti Retroviral Therapy Centre (ART)
Free Treatment & Diagnosis of STI/RTI contact the nearest Designated STI/RTI Clinic (DSRC)

U=U*

* Undetectable = Untransmittable

**UNDETECTABLE
viral load means HIV IS
UNTRANSMITTABLE**

ओम प्रकाश माथुर
Om Prakash Mathur



राज्यपाल सिक्किम
GOVERNOR OF SIKKIM

राज भवन
गान्तोक-737103
(सिक्किम)
RAJ BHAVAN
GANGTOK-737103
(SIKKIM)

No: SKM/GOV/MESG/2025/19

Dated: 16th April, 2025

संदेश

सिविल सेवा दिवस 2025 के शुभ अवसर पर हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ। मुझे अत्यंत प्रसन्नता और गर्व है कि सिक्किम राज्य सिविल सेवा अधिकारी संघ द्वारा प्रकाशित सिक्किम सिविल सर्विसेज क्रॉनिकल पत्रिका का पहला अंक जो अपने आप में एक अनूठी पहल है, सिक्किम के राज्यत्व की स्वर्ण जयंती के अवसर पर 2025 में जारी हो रहा है। यह विशेष संस्करण न केवल आपकी उपलब्धियों का दस्तावेज है, बल्कि सिक्किम के 50 गौरवशाली वर्षों का भी एक स्मरणीय प्रतीक है।

सिविल सेवा दिवस हमें यह अवसर प्रदान करता है कि हम आपके द्वारा निभाई जा रही महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका पर विचार करें। आप राज्य के प्रशासनिक ढांचे की रीढ़ हैं, और आपकी अथक मेहनत, समर्पण और लचीलापन ने सिक्किम को प्रगतिशील, समावेशी और प्रकृति के साथ सामंजस्य बनाए रखने वाला राज्य बनाने में योगदान दिया है। चाहे वह सरकारी योजनाओं का प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन हो, जनता की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करना हो, या हमारे राज्य की अनूठी भौगोलिक चुनौतियों का सामना करना हो, आपका योगदान अतुलनीय है।

सिक्किम के राज्यत्व की स्वर्ण जयंती के इस ऐतिहासिक वर्ष में, मैं आपसे आग्रह करता हूँ कि आप ईमानदारी, संवेदनशीलता और नवाचार के मूल्यों को और सशक्त बनाएँ। हमारा सपना-एक ऐसा सिक्किम जो एकता, समृद्धि और पर्यावरण संरक्षण के साथ आगे बढ़े आपकी नेतृत्व, क्षमता और उत्कृष्ट सेवा पर निर्भर करता है। यह पत्रिका न केवल आपके कार्यों का सम्मान करे, बल्कि भावी पीढ़ियों के सिविल सेवकों को कर्तव्यनिष्ठा और सेवा के उच्चतम मानकों को अपनाने के लिए प्रेरित भी करे।

सिक्किम सरकार और सिक्किम की जनता की ओर से, मैं आपकी निःस्वार्थ सेवा के लिए हृदय से आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ। सिविल सेवा दिवस 2025 की आपको शुभकामनाएँ, और सिक्किम के राज्यत्व के 50 वर्ष पूरे होने के इस ऐतिहासिक अवसर पर इस अनुपम प्रकाशन के लिए बधाई!

जय हिन्द।

(ओम प्रकाश माथुर)

प्रेम सिंह तामाङ (गोले)
Prem Singh Tamang (Golay)



सिक्किम सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

मुख्य मन्त्री, सिक्किम
CHIEF MINISTER, SIKKIM

MESSAGE

On the momentous occasion of Civil Services Day 2025, I extend my heartiest congratulations to the Sikkim State Civil Service Officers' Association and to all civil servants whose unwavering dedication and integrity form the bedrock of our state's governance.

It is a matter of great pride that the inaugural edition of the Sikkim Civil Services Chronicle is being unveiled as we celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Sikkim's Statehood. This first-of-its-kind publication stands as a suitable tribute to five decades of exemplary service, steadfast progress, and an enduring commitment to the welfare of our people.

Civil Services Day offers us the opportunity to reflect on the indispensable role played by the Sikkim State Civil Service Officers in ensuring the effective delivery of public services, implementation of key policies, and addressing the evolving challenges of our time. Your contributions have been pivotal in shaping a resilient, inclusive, and progressive Sikkim.

As we collectively work towards the vision of "Sunaulo, Samriddha, and Samartha Sikkim," I urge each of you to continue upholding the highest values of integrity, empathy, and innovation in public service. May this pioneering publication document your achievements besides serving as a source of inspiration for the upcoming generation of civil servants.

On behalf of the Government and the people of Sikkim, I express my sincere appreciation for your tireless service and commitment. Wishing you all a purposeful and proud Civil Services Day 2025. Heartiest congratulations on this landmark publication.



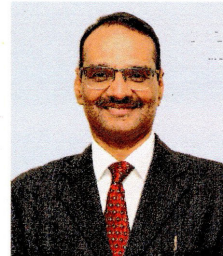
10/04/25
(Prem Singh Tamang)

Date: 10th April 2025,
Place: Gangtok.

Tashiling Secretariat, Gangtok, Sikkim- 737101
Email: cm-skm@nic.in | Phone: 03592-201091 (Office) | 03592-221857 (Residence)



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY
TASHILING SECRETARIAT
GANGTOK – 737101



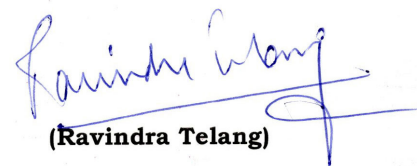
R. TELANG, IAS
CHIEF SECRETARY

MESSAGE

I am pleased to know that Sikkim State Civil Service Officers' Association (SSCSOA), Gangtok is publishing the Sikkim Civil Service Chronicle Magazine on the occasion of National Civil Services Day, April 21, 2025. This special edition comes at the a very important time as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary — the Golden Jubilee — of Sikkim's Statehood.

As we celebrate the historic milestone of 50 years since Sikkim became a part of the Indian Union in 1975, we take a moment to reflect on the incredible transformation our state has undergone. This publication honours the invaluable contributions of our civil servants, whose tireless efforts, resilience, and visionary leadership have been the cornerstone of Sikkim's progress. Their dedication and integrity have laid a strong foundation for our growth by improving education and healthcare, promoting sustainable development, fostering social harmony, and effectively responding to natural disasters such as earthquakes and landslides. Their work has touched countless lives, inspired dreams, empowered communities and helped make Sikkim one of India's leading states.

In celebrating their remarkable legacy, let us reaffirm our promise to serve with integrity, simplicity and creativity. The excellence and dedication of Sikkim's Civil Service continue to inspire us and build a success story that truly reflects the spirit of "**Sunaulo - Samridha and Samarth Sikkim.**" Together, let us carry this spirit forward, writing new chapters of progress for the benefit of future generations.


(Ravindra Telang)

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Message from the President - SSCSOA

Dear esteemed Members of SCS fraternity and respected Readers,

Warm greetings from the Sikkim State Civil Service Officers' Association!

It is with great pride that I could connect to you through the inaugural edition of our magazine, Sikkim Civil Service Chronicle. This publication reflects our collective dedication and serves as a platform to showcase the literary creativity of our members and contributors from across states. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who have contributed despite their demanding schedules.

As civil servants, we shoulder the noble responsibility of being the backbone of State's administration, bridging the government and its citizens. Our role has evolved beyond policy implementation; we are now catalysts for progress and sustainable development. From meeting administrative challenges to advancing State's growth, our officers have consistently risen to the occasion.

This magazine is more than a record of achievement rather it is a space to share ideas, experiences, and aspirations. It celebrates our unity, fosters learning, and reinforces our commitment to integrity and professionalism. I am confident that we will be able to draw inspiration from these pages and encourage us to approach your duties with creativity and purpose.

As we look ahead, let us embrace the opportunities to shape a brighter future for Sikkim, a state blessed with natural beauty and cultural richness. Together, we can build an administration that is proactive, compassionate, and forward-thinking, leaving a legacy of excellence for generations to come.

On behalf of the Sikkim State Civil Service Officers' Association, I extend heartfelt greetings to the Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim, Shri Om Prakash Mathur, on the occasion of National Civil Services Day and the historic milestone of Sikkim's 50th Year of Statehood (1975–2025).

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Prem Singh Tamang (Golay), for securing the unwavering trust of Sikkim's people with an unprecedented second consecutive term. His exemplary leadership has laid a robust foundation for the holistic and sustainable development of our State. We pledge our unwavering support to his vision for a Sunaulo, Samriddha, ani Samarth Sikkim.

I express my sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister for his steadfast trust in the Sikkim State Civil Service cadre, entrusting us with key governance roles and championing our welfare. I am particularly thankful for his recent approval of the mass promotion of 33 Deputy Secretaries to Joint Secretaries, a significant milestone for our cadre.

Special thanks are due to the Hon'ble Chief Minister for enabling the promotion of four distinguished SCS members – Dr. A.B. Karki, Ms. Dicky Yangzom, Ms. Kesang Dicki Rechung, and Mr. Basant Kumar Lama – to the 2023 Select List of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) allocated to the Sikkim Cadre. This achievement is a testament to his commitment to recognizing merit and fostering excellence.

Under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Prem Singh Tamang (Golay), the Sikkim

State Civil Services cadre has seen significant expansion and reform. The number of Secretary posts from the State Civil Service increased from 12 to 16, Special Secretaries from 27 to 35, Additional Secretaries from 41 to 65, Joint Secretaries from 53 to 75, Deputy Secretaries from 77 to 100, and Under Secretaries from 150 to 200. This has raised the total cadre strength from 360 to 491 for State Civil Service opening unprecedented career opportunities for the SCS fraternity.

The Government's focus on streamlining promotions for Under Secretary and above positions between 2019 and 2024 has been really appreciable and game changing.

The Sikkim State Civil Service Officers' Association (SSCSOA) expresses gratitude to the Government for appointment of 18 new Under Secretaries in 2025, further strengthening the cadre.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all former Executive Members of the Sikkim State Civil Service Officers' Association (SSCSOA), led by Shri Tshewang Gyachho, IAS, for their remarkable contributions during their tenure from 2019-2020 to 2022-2023. Their leadership breathed new life into our Association, which had remained dormant since its registration in 1986. Their efforts led to unprecedented achievements, including increased cadre strength, enhanced member confidence, and vibrant activities such as national-level conferences and memorable Annual General Meetings to name the few. Their initiatives have uplifted the spirit of our members, fostering a renewed sense of unity and purpose within our State Civil Service fraternity. On behalf of all members, I sincerely thank and congratulate the former executive members for their outstanding dedication and accomplishments.

On behalf of the SCS fraternity, we express heartfelt gratitude to the Adhoc Committee – Smt. Kesang D. Rechung (President), Shri Samdup Bhutia (General Secretary), Shri Anil Bagdas (Joint Secretary), and Ms. Tripti Hangma Subba (Treasurer) – for successfully conducting the Executive Committee elections with fairness and transparency, ensuring a seamless transition of responsibilities.

I express my sincere appreciation to the government departments, companies, business houses, and individuals whose generous financial support made this magazine possible. My heartfelt thanks also go to the editorial team for their tireless efforts and to every SSCSOA member for their unwavering support to make this magazine see the light of the day.

As we celebrate 50 years of statehood, let us redouble our efforts to implement government programs and schemes with utmost dedication, reflecting the strength and commitment of our cadre to meritocracy and public service.

Let us continue this journey with purpose and devotion, ensuring our actions today pave the way for a brighter tomorrow.

With warm regards and best wishes,



Dushyant Pariyar

Secretary to the Government of Sikkim-Panchayat &
President
Sikkim State Civil Service Officers' Association

Editorial

As we commemorate National Civil Services Day on April 21, 2025, the Sikkim Civil Service Chronicle is honoured to present its inaugural edition, a heartfelt tribute to the ethos of public service and the extraordinary journey of Sikkim.

This year, our celebration is infused with profound significance as we join the people of Sikkim in marking 50 years of statehood – a golden milestone that embodies resilience, unity, and progress since our integration into the Indian Union on May 16, 1975.

This special edition is a testament to the collective spirit of those who have shaped Sikkim's past and are forging its future. We extend our deepest gratitude to our contributors, dedicated state civil servants, retired officers whose wisdom continues to inspire, and members of the All India Federation of Civil Services and other state cadres. Their insightful articles enrich this issue, fostering dialogue and reflection on governance and public service. Your voices are the heartbeat of this publication, and we are profoundly thankful for your contributions.

We are immensely grateful for the unwavering support of our esteemed leaders. Our heartfelt thanks go to the Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim, Shri Om Prakash Mathur, and the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Prem Singh Tamang (Golay), for their encouragement and inspiring messages, which strengthen our resolve to serve as a platform for meaningful discourse.

We also express our sincere appreciation to the Chief Secretary of Sikkim, Shri Ravindra Telang, IAS, for his guidance in bringing this maiden issue to fruition, and to the Cabinet Secretary, Shri Vijay Bhushan Pathak, IAS, whose administrative expertise continues to inspire us.

As we celebrate Sikkim's 50th year as a state, we salute the indomitable spirit of its people, whose contributions have made Sikkim a beacon of harmony and sustainable development. From its verdant valleys to its majestic peaks, Sikkim's story is one of collective aspiration, and we are privileged to chronicle its milestones.

The Sikkim Civil Service Chronicle is a humble endeavour by the Executive Committee and of every members of the Sikkim State Civil Service Officers' Association (SSCSOA) to provide a platform for sharing the rich experiences of senior officers, nurturing literary creativity, and engaging a broader audience. We extend our special thanks to the SSCSOA Executive Members for their tireless efforts in coordinating articles, securing sponsorships, and managing logistics for this issue.

Looking ahead, we aspire to make this publication a vibrant mouthpiece for civil servants, documenting initiatives, success stories, and contributions from the State Cadres and All India Services, including IAS, IPS, and IFS in our subsequent issues. We welcome your feedback and suggestions at scssikkim@gmail.com to make this chronicle a true reflection of our shared journey.

We aim to transform the Sikkim Civil Service Chronicle into a dynamic platform that showcases the initiatives, success stories, and contributions of civil servants from State Cadres of Sikkim and All India Services, including IAS, IPS, and IFS, while enhancing its presentation and informativeness in future issues.

On this National Civil Services Day, let us renew our pledge to serve with integrity, empathy, and excellence. Here's to Sikkim's golden legacy and the civil servants who uphold its vision.

Editorial Board

Sikkim Civil Service Chronicle

Bhim Thatal (SCS) - Secretary

Tashi Chopel (SCS) - Secretary

Annapurna Alley (SCS) - Secretary

Jigme Wangchuk Bhutia (SCS) - Additional Secretary

Himmat Rai (SCS) - Joint Secretary

ACTIVITY REPORT 2019-2020

1. The elected Executive Members of Sikkim State Civil Service Officers' Association (SSCSOA) took charge of their offices and the Executive Committee was formed simultaneously after the investiture function held on 29th September, 2019 at Janta Bhawan, Gangtok.
2. **The elected members of Executive Committee (2019-2020 to 2022-2023) were as under :**
 1. Mr. Tshewang Gyachho(IAS), President
 2. Mr. Bhim Thatal(SCS), Vice-President
 3. Ms. Annapurna Alley(SCS), General Secretary
 4. Mr. Umesh Sunam(SCS), Joint Secretary - I
 5. Mr. Prem Kamal Rai(SCS), Joint Secretary - II
 6. Ms. Suprina Chettri(SCS), Joint Secretary - III
 7. Ms. Kamala Rai(SCS), Treasurer
 8. Mr. Kiran Thatal(SCS), Assistant Treasurer



Meeting of Ad hoc Committee for revival of SSCSOA and to conduct elections to the Executive Committee



*Elected Executive Members -SSCSOA
2019-2020 to 2022-2023*

3. First meeting of the Executive Body was held on 7th November, 2019 wherein various matters concerning the State Civil Service (SCS) fraternity were discussed.

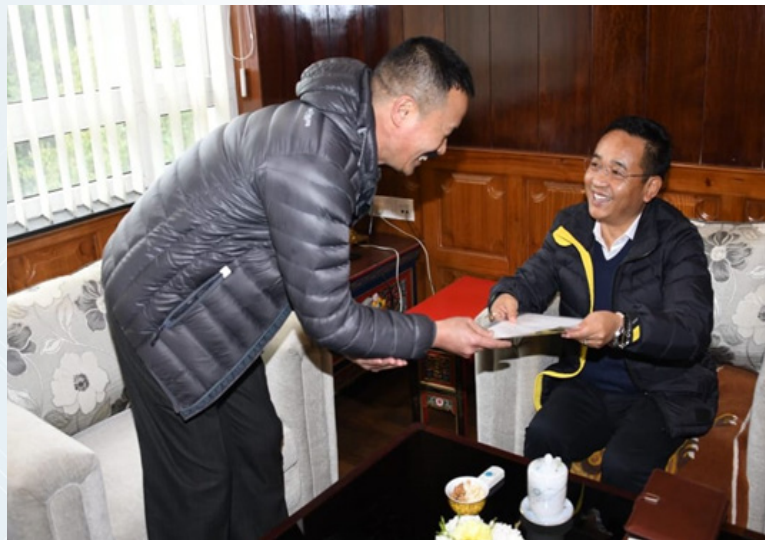


4. The Executive Body made a courtesy call on the Chief Secretary on 14th October 2019 and apprised him of the issues related to SCS.



5. An application seeking permission for becoming members of the association and for holding executive post in it was submitted to Department of Personnel on 14th October, 2019. The permission was granted vide DOP letter No. 11829/G/DOP dated: 26th November, 2019.
6. The initial Bank Account of the association maintained in the State Bank of Sikkim was to be revived and updated keeping in view the flexibility of online transactions. Hence, A Joint Account in the name of SSCSOA operated by the General Secretary and the Treasurer was opened in the Axis Bank with online transaction facility.

7. The first Annual General Meeting (AGM) of SSCSOA was held on 16th November, 2019 at Janta Bhawan at Gangtok wherein status of association was discussed along with other decisions being taken. The logo letter head and the rates of membership fee and monthly fee was also decided and approved during the Annual General Meeting.
8. The second meeting of the Executive Body was held on 19th February, 2020 to follow up decisions taken during the AGM and to seek appointment with the Hon'ble Chief Minister.
9. The Executive Body called on the Honorable Chief Minister on 2nd March, 2020 wherein general matters related to the SCS fraternity was discussed. A memorandum requesting for urgent interventions of the Hon'ble Chief Minister was also submitted. The meeting also had the presence of Shri. T. Gelek Principal Secretary, DOP. Copy of the memorandum was also submitted to Department of Personnel for further action.



*Executive Members -SSCSOA with
Shri Prem Singh Tamang (Golay) Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim*



Sikkim Declared First **ODF Plus Model** State of India on 14th August 2023



Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)
Rural Development Department
Government of Sikkim

2020-2021

The Global outbreak of Covid-19 resulted in enforcement of lockdown in the entire country and our State too. As a result, activities of all sorts were limited / restricted. However, SSCSOA constantly worked towards welfare of its members and also in providing service to the State in such times of crisis.

1. The SSCSOA was the *First Association* to contribute towards the **Chief Minister's Relief Fund** lending a small hand in tackling the Covid-19 situation. All the members of the service contributed towards this cause and the association could hand over a cheque of **Rs. 500,000** to the Hon'ble Chief Minister during one of the High level meetings held on 27th March, 2020.



Government of Sikkim

27 March 2020

Gangtok March 27: (IPR)Sikkim State Civil Service Association led by Shri Tshewang Gyachho, President

and two members, Ms. Annapurna Alley, General Secretary and Shri Bhim Thatal, Vice President called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Prem Singh Tamang at Samman Bhawan this afternoon and handed over the cheque of Rs 5 lakh as a contribution to Chief Minister's Relief Fund to fight the pandemic COVID-19.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister expressed his heartfelt gratitude towards the association for their graciousness and generosity.



*Executive Members -SSCSOA with the
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim
(Handing over contribution amount of
Rs.500,000 of State Civil Service members
towards CMRF during COVID-19)*

2. The Executive Committee of SSCSOA had a meeting with the Secretary, Department of Personnel on 25th June, 2020 to discuss various pending issues of the Cadre and requested for early resolutions.
3. The Executive Committee of SSCSOA met on 3rd August, 2020 to discuss upcoming programme for felicitating retired SCS Officers and those inducted in to All India Service. Subsequent meetings of the Executive Committee were held on 8th December, 2020 and 4th February, 2021.
4. The meeting of the Executive Committee was held on 16th February, 2021. Among other important matters being discussed, the date for Felicitation Ceremony was fixed to be held on 26th February, 2021.
5. The Felicitation Ceremony held on 26th February, 2021 at Hotel Tashi Delek, Gangtok. 18 (eighteen) retirees, 17 (seventeen) promotes and 6 (six) IAS inductees were felicitated during the function.



Government of Sikkim ✓

26 February 2021 · 🌐

...

Gangtok, February 26 (IPR):

Sikkim State Civil Service Officers Association (SSCSOA) today felicitated 18 retirees along with six newly inducted IAS officers and 17 officials who have been promoted to the rank of Under Secretaries.

It is to be mentioned that Sikkim State Civil Service Officers Association was registered and established in the year 1986 and has been working for the welfare of the State Civil Service (SCS) Officers.

During the felicitation ceremony, President (SSCSOA) Shri, Tshewang Gyachho went on to express his gratitude towards Chief Minister, Shri PS Tamang and the State Government for promoting SCS officers to the post of Special Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries and Under Secretaries.

He further informed that 44 Under Secretaries have been promoted to the post of Deputy Secretaries by the Government but there are still few from the same batch who are yet to be promoted. We are sure and hopeful that all such left out officers would also be promoted soon, he added.

Further, he stated that the Association of SCS was inactive for a very long time but with the help and support of all the members the Association was revived in the year 2019.

He further mentioned that the executive members were duly elected and selected to the designated post of the Association and have been serving the Association since inception considering the welfare of all SCS officials.

He appealed all the SCS officials across the State to be the part of the Association with an idea of empowering the Association in the days ahead. He also informed that the SSCSOA is planning to institutionalize best SCS "Officer of the Year" award very soon.

He said "We all are one family and there are many newly promoted officials serving at the Under Secretaries level wherein we feel hand holding of such newly promoted SCS officials from the Inspector, Office Superintendent position by the seniors is a must".

Furthermore, he appealed all the officials to be more sincere and dedicated towards their work and serve for the welfare and larger interest of the public.

He lastly mentioned that as a servant of public the officers must be truly devoted to the public and loyal to the Government and added that serving the Government meant serving the public at large.

It was also informed during the ceremony that the Annual General Meeting of the SSCSOA would soon be held at the earliest.



*Felicitations of Retirees, Promotes and IAS Inductees
by SSCSOA at Tashi Delek Hotel on 26.02.2021*

2021-2022

1. The meeting of the Executive Committee was held on 25th June, 2021 wherein important matters were discussed and decisions taken; which included (i) Constitution and Memorandum of SSCSOA was proposed to be amended and updated (ii) proposal for cadre review to be placed in DOP, etc.
2. The follow up meeting were held on 21st July, 2021 and 19th August, 2021.
3. The Executive Committee had a meeting with the officers of Department of Personnel on 3rd September, 2021 to discuss the cadre review proposal and other related matters.
4. Another follow up meeting of the Executive Committee was held on 10th March, 2022 for preparation of memorandum to be submitted to the Hon'ble Chief Minister during the next meeting. The Association expressed its gratitude to the State Government for posting SCS officers as the new District Collectors and Additional District Collectors in the newly created districts of Soreng and Pakyong.
5. Meeting of the Executive Committee was held on 6th April, 2022 to finalize the memorandum to be submitted to the Hon'ble Chief Minister. It was also decided to present a Memento to the Hon'ble Chief Minister during the next meeting. Others issues discussed were (i) amendment to the constitution of the SSCSOA (ii) cadre review of SCS (iii) closing of accounts of the association for the financial year, etc.

6. The Executive Committee had a meeting with the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 28th June, 2022. The Committee presented a Memento on behalf of all the members of SCS cadre. A memorandum requesting for (i) cadre review (ii) periodic training for SCS officers (iii) direct recruitment, etc was also submitted to the Hon'ble Chief Minister.
7. The next meeting of the Executive Committee was held on 29th August, 2022 wherein matters relating to (i) national conference (ii) next AGM (iii) farewell -cum- felicitation to retired SCS officers, etc. were discussed and finalized.
8. The members of the Executive Committee attended the All India Federation of State Civil Service - Executive Committee Meeting held on 4th September, 2022 at Punjab Bhawan, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi.
9. Meeting of the Executive Committee was held on 13th October, 2022 to finalize arrangements for the North East State Civil Service Associations Regional Conference being held in Sikkim for the first time on 29th October, 2022.
10. The All India Federation of North East State Civil / Administration Service Association - Regional Conference was held on 29th October, 2022 at Tashiling Secretariat. The SSSCOA successfully hosted the conference which had the presence of Executive members of the All India Federation and from all the North Eastern States.







SC Sikkim Chronicle
5 September 2022 · 🌐

Meeting of the Executive Committee of the All India Federation of the State Civil Service Associations was held on 4th September, 2022 in the Punjab Bhawan, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi. On behalf of the Sikkim State Civil Service Officers' Association, the meeting was attended by Shri Tshewang Gyachho, President, Ms Annapurna Alley General Secretary and Ms Suprina Chhetri, Joint Secretary. The meeting was held after a gap of two and a half years due to the covid pandemic. Pertinent issues regarding the charter of demands to be placed before the Central Government, state specific issues, holding of the 16th Convention of the All India Federation at Jaipur, Rajasthan to be hosted by the Rajasthan Administrative Service Association and holding of Regional Conventions were deliberated. It was further decided that the Regional Convention of the North East States shall be held in Sikkim tentatively in September 2022. This is the first time that the SSCSOA Executive Committee has participated in the National Meeting of the All India Federation for State Civil/Administrative Services.



Government of Sikkim 🇮🇳
29 October 2022 · 🌐

Gangtok, 29th October 2022 (IPR): All India Federation of the North East State Civil / Administrative Service Association Conference was held at Tashiling Secretariat today. Dignitaries and representatives from the North Eastern States were present at the meeting. President SSCSOA, Shri Tshewang Gyachho, delivered the welcome address. General Secretary of All India Federation of the North East State Civil / Administrative Service Association, Shri Shivdular Singh Dhillon, addressed the meeting and reminded all that the State Government needs to develop a robust State administrative system to maintain an efficient service and delivery mechanism for the benefit of the people. Likewise, the President of All India Federation Of the North East State Civil / Administrative Service Association, Shri J.Chakravorty, in his short address, spoke about the roles and responsibilities of Civil Service Officers. He further said that Civil Service Officers are the fulcrums of the State Administrative System who are instrumental in creating policies and implementing them effectively. The meeting discussed in detail about activities regarding the All India Federation of State Civil Service / Administrative Services Association. The meeting agenda also reviewed the progress on implementing the decisions taken in the last session of the meeting held earlier. Similarly, the meeting proposed to discuss the State-specific issues in detail and to draw an action plan for effectively implementing the proposed deliberations. Likewise, State Civil Service Rules and Regulations were carefully examined, and the draft rules were circulated for suggestions and feedback.

Summit Times
4 September 2022 · 🌐

SSCSOA EXECUTIVES ATTENDED THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF ALL INDIA FEDERATION OF THE STATE CIVIL SERVICE ASSOCIATION

#summittimes #news

Meeting of the Executive Committee of the All India Federation of the State Civil Service Associations was held on 4th September, 2022 in the Punjab Bhawan, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi. On behalf of the Sikkim State Civil Service Officers' Association, the meeting was attended by Tshewang Gyachho, President, Ms Annapurna Alley, General Secretary and Ms Suprina Chhetri, Joint Secretary. The meeting was held after a gap of two and a half years due to the covid pandemic. Pertinent issues regarding the charter of demands to be placed before the Central Government, state specific issues, holding of the 16th Convention of the All India Federation at Jaipur, Rajasthan to be hosted by the Rajasthan Administrative Service Association and holding of Regional Conventions were deliberated. It was further decided that the Regional Convention of the North East States shall be held in Sikkim tentatively in September 2022. This is the first time that the SSCSOA Executive Committee has participated in the National Meeting of the All India Federation for State Civil/Administrative Services.

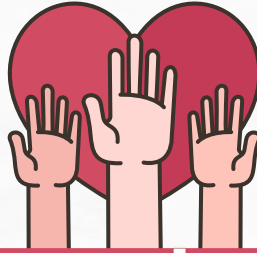


*Glimpses of Regional Conference of The All India Federation of
North East State Civil / Administration Service Association held on
29th October, 2022 at Tashiling Secretariat, Gangtok*





Social Welfare Department
Government of Sikkim



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The Annual General Meeting SSCSOA - 25 July 2023

The Annual General Meeting of the Sikkim State Civil Service Officers' Association (SSCSOA) was held at Chintan Bhawan. The programme was attended by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Prem Singh Tamang as the Chief Guest who was accompanied by the Hon'ble Minister for Education, Shri Kunga Nima Lepcha.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister mentioned categorically that the dedication, professionalism, and tireless efforts of civil services officers form the backbone of the State administration. He extended gratitude to their commitment to public service and their relentless pursuit of excellence contributing significantly to the growth and development of the State and its citizens.

Highlighting various steps undertaken by the State government to meet the aspirations of the State civil officers, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said that a review of the State Civil Services cadre was carried out under the present government wherein the posts for Secretaries for the State Civil Services was increased from 12 posts to 16. Similarly, the strength for Special Secretaries was increased from 27 to 35; from 41 to 65 for Additional Secretaries; from 53 to 75 for Joint Secretaries; from 77 to 100 for Deputy Secretaries; and from 150 to 200 for Under Secretaries. At present, the total strength of the Sikkim State Civil Services cadre lies at 491 from the previous strength of 360.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister informed that there has been a significant focus on streamlining the promotion process for civil services officers, leading to an increase in the number of promotions. He added that a total of 2,404 promotions have been approved under the present government at the Under Secretary level and above and 2,535 promotions approved in the State Police services. Likewise, a total of 797 direct recruitments and 350 regular appointments on compassionate grounds have been made by the State government till date.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister further congratulated the five State Civil Service officers, currently assuming the post of Secretaries, who are being inducted into IAS against the vacancies of the year 2023 namely, Shri Rinzing Chewang Bhutia, Shri Anil Raj Rai, Shri Tshewang Gyachho, Smt. Tenzing Kizom and Smt. Tashi Cho Cho.

The Chief Minister emphasized that the State government is committed to transparency and accountability and reiterated its commitment to ensuring the welfare and growth of civil service officers, ultimately contributing to the effective functioning of the State administration and public services.

On the occasion, the SSCSOA felicitated Ms. Annapurna Alley on being elected as the Secretary of Finance of the All India Federation of State Civil/Administrative Service Associations (AIFC/ASA) during the General Body Meeting of the AIFC/ASA on March 26, 2023. Smt. Alley is not only one of the first elected office bearers from the Northeast India but also the first lady executive of the Federation.

The SSCSOA had also felicitated three newly inducted IAS officers namely, Ms. Namrata Thapa (Secretary, IPR Department), Shri Jigme Dorjee Bhutia (Secretary, Raj Bhavan and Agriculture Department), and Shri M.T. Sherpa (Secretary, Urban Development Department), along with 32 retired civil services officials who served in various capacities.



The SSCSOA President, Shri Tshewang Gyachho, had given his brief report on the activities and concerns of the association. He thanked the Chief Minister for his unwavering support and encouragement and said that the Government's commitment to the welfare of civil service officers and dedication to good governance have been instrumental in empowering the officers to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

The welcome speech was delivered by SSCSOA General Secretary, Ms. Annapurna Alley and vote of thanks was proposed by Joint Secretary III, Ms. Suprina Chettri. Shri Umesh Sunam, Joint Secretary-I had also briefed the house on the updated memorandum and constitution of the SSCSOA and had highlighted roles and responsibilities of the adhoc and executive committees.

Earlier during the first half of the AGM, a total of 30 new SCS inductees were presented with a welcome token by the executive committee of SSCSOA. It was followed by presentation of the general report of the association by President, Shri Tshewang Gyachho, while the financial report was presented by Treasurer, Ms. Kamala Rai.

With the current term of the SSCSOA Executive Committee nearing its end, an adhoc committee was constituted during the meeting for the election to form the new Executive Committee of the Association. The adhoc committee included Smt. Kesang D. Rechung as its President, Shri Samdup Bhutia as General Secretary, Shri Anil Bagdas as Joint Secretary and Ms. Tripti Hangma Subba as Treasurer.

On the occasion, the message of Hon'ble Minister of Urban Development Department, Shri L.B. Das, who was unable to attend the important meeting owing to prior commitments, was read out by Assistant Treasurer, SSCSOA, Shri Kiran Thatal. The session was also addressed by adhoc committee president, Smt. Kesang D. Rechung, who assured that fairness would be upheld during the entire election process. The welcome speech for the session was delivered by Vice President, SSCSOA, Shri Bhim Thatal.





SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

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1. NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP FOR HIGHER EDUCATION OF ST STUDENTS - SCHOLARSHIP (FORMALLY TOP CLASS EDUCATION FOR SCHEDULE TRIBE STUDENTS) (<https://fellowship.tribal.gov.in>)
2. NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP FOR OBC STUDENTS (NF-OBC) (<https://nbcfdc.gov.in/NF-OBC>)
3. NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP FOR SCHEDULED CASTE STUDENTS (<https://nsfdc.nic.in/en/national-fellowship-for-scheduled-castes-students-nfsc>)
4. CENTRAL SECTOR SCHOLARSHIP OF TOP CLASS EDUCATION FOR SC STUDENTS. (<https://scholarships.gov.in/>)
5. CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME OF TOP CLASS EDUCATION IN COLLEGE FOR OBC, EBC AND DNT STUDENTS (<https://scholarships.gov.in/>)
6. NATIONAL OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP FOR SC, DNT LANDLESS AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS & TRADITIONAL ARTISANS (<https://nosmsje.gov.in/>)
7. NATIONAL OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP FOR ST STUDENTS (<https://overseas.tribal.gov.in/>)
8. SCHEME FOR RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS IN HIGH SCHOOLS IN TARGETED AREAS (SHRESHTA)
 1. <https://grants-msje.gov.in/>
 2. <https://exams.nta.ac.in/SHRESHTA/>
 3. <http://shreshta.ntaonline.in/>

For any query or grievance related to scholarship, students can send the query through email: scholarshipssikkim@gmail.com, Or may call in to the given phone number-

1. Ms. Roshni Pradhan, Welfare Inspector, 8509764794
 2. Ms. Tshering Ongmu Bhutia, Welfare Inspector, 8768648521
 3. Mr. Tshewang Tobden, Welfare Inspector, 7001058928
- Gangtok: 8509201128 | Gyalshing: 9832493543 | Mangen: 9339812373
Namchi: 8348202049 | Soreng: 7908125231 | Pakyong: 9641830567



SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP TO OBC, EBC AND DNT STUDENTS

Groups	Category of Courses	Yearly (in Rupees)		
		Academic Allowance	Tuition Fee	Total
i	"Group I: Degree and Post Graduate level courses in Medicine" (Allopathic, Indian and other recognized systems of medicines), Engineering, Technology, Planning, Architecture, Design, Fashion Technology, Agriculture, Veterinary & Allied Sciences, Management, Business Finance /Administration, Computer Science/ Applications. (ii) Post Graduate Diploma courses in various branches of management & medicine. (iii) C.A./ I.C.W.A./C.S./I.C.F.A. etc. (iv) M. Phil., Ph.D. and Post Doctoral Programmes (D. Litt., D.Sc. etc.). Group I and Group II courses (v) L.L.B., Integrated LL.B.L.L.M (vi) Commercial Pilot License for GDI institutes (including helicopter pilot and multiengine) (maximum 20 slots per annum).	₹ 10,000/-	₹ 10,000/-	₹ 20,000/-
ii	Group II: Other Professional Courses leading to Degree, Diploma, Certificate shall mean all Professional Courses leading to Degree, M.Ed./ M.Pharm, Diploma, Certificate in areas like Pharmacy (B Pharma), Nursing (B Nursing), BFS, other para-medical branches like rehabilitation, diagnostics etc., Mass Communication, Hotel Management & Catering, Travel/ Tourism/ Hospitality Management, Interior Decoration, Nutrition & Dietetics, Commercial Art, Financial Services (e.g. Banking, Insurance, Taxation etc.) for which entrance qualification is minimum Sr. Secondary (10+2) and Vocational stream, ITI courses and Polytechnic where entrance qualification is Class XII or above.	₹ 8,000/-	₹ 5,000/-	₹ 13,000/-
iii	Group III: Graduate and Post Graduate course shall mean: courses not covered under Group I & II eg. BA/B Sc/B.Com, B.Ed etc. M.A/ M.Sc/ M.Com etc.	₹ 6,000/-	₹ 2,000/-	₹ 8,000/-
iv	Group IV: All post-matriculation level Post Class X level) non-degree courses shall mean: All post matriculation level non degree courses for which entrance qualification is High School (Class X), e.g. senior secondary certificate (class XI and XII); both general and vocational stream, ITI courses, 3 year diploma courses in Polytechnics, etc.	₹ 5,000/-	NA	₹ 5,000/-

- Note 1. Students pursuing C.A./I.C.W.A./C.S./I.C.F.A. shall be treated as day scholars for the purpose of academic allowance. Students studying through correspondence/online courses shall not be eligible for academic allowance
- Note 2. Tuition fees shall be paid to online/correspondence students
- Note 3. The academic fee reimbursable by each student shall be subject to maximum or actuals whichever is less

Social Welfare Department, GoS, Post Matric Scholarship to OBC, EBC and DNT Students

POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP TO SC & OTHERS

Groups	Sub Groups	Category of Courses	Maintenance	Academic Fee Reimbursement
i	A	A. Degree and Post Graduate degree courses in Medicine (Allopathy), Commercial Pilot License (including helicopter pilot and multiengine rating) course.		₹ 1,00,000/-
	B	B. Degree and Post Graduate degree (i) Medicine in AYUSH, Homeopathy, Sowa-Rigpa and other recognized systems of medicines other than Allopathy (ii) Engineering, Technology, Planning, Architecture, Design, Fashion Technology, Agriculture & allied courses, Veterinary & Allied Sciences, Management, Business Finance /Administration, Computer Science/ Applications, J., L.L.B., Integrated LL.B., L.L.M and Lateral Entries (iii) Post Graduate Diploma courses in various branches of management & medicine, (iv) Chartered Accountant/Institute of Cost Works Accountants /Computer Secretary/Institute of Corporate Finance and Accounts, Actuarial Science, (v) Research programme - M. Phil., Ph.D. and Post Doctoral Programmes, D. Litt., D.Sc."	Hosteller - ₹ 13,500/- Dayscholar - ₹ 7,000/-	₹ 50,000/-
	A	A. Professional Courses leading to Post Graduate Degree in Pharmacy, Nursing and Para-medical branches - (Rehabilitation, Diagnostics), Forensic Science		₹ 40,000/-
	B	B. Professional Courses leading to Degree in Pharmacy, Nursing and Para-medical branches - (Rehabilitation, Diagnostics), Hotel Management, LL.B, Bachelor of Financial Studies, Mass Communication, Travel/Tourism/Hospitality Management, Interior Decoration, Nutrition & Dietetics, Commercial Art, Financial Services (e.g. Banking, Insurance, Taxation) for which entrance qualification is minimum Sr. Secondary (10+2) and Vocational stream, ITI courses and Polytechnic where entrance qualification is Class XII or above.	Hosteller - ₹ 9,500/- Dayscholar - ₹ 6,500/-	₹ 35,000/-
ii	C	C. Professional Courses leading to Diploma Certificate not less than 1 year duration covered under Group II (a) & (b).		₹ 30,000/-
		Graduate and Post Graduate course shall mean: courses not covered under Group I & II eg. BA/B Sc/B.Com, B.Ed etc. M.A/ M.Sc/ M.Com etc.	Hosteller - ₹ 4,000/- Dayscholar - ₹ 3,000/-	₹ 20,000/-
iv	A	A. ITI courses, 3 year diploma courses in Polytechnics.	Hosteller - ₹ 4,000/-	₹ 20,000/-
	B	B. All post-matriculation level non-degree courses for which entrance qualification is High School (Class X), e.g. senior secondary certificate (class XI and XII); both general and vocational stream, D.El.Ed.	Dayscholar - ₹ 2,500/-	₹ 15,000/-

Note: The academic fee reimbursable by each student shall be subject to maximum or actuals whichever is less

POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIPS TO ST STUDENTS

Groups	Category of Courses	For one academic session		
		Academic Fee reimbursement	Rate of Maintenance allowance	
			Hostellers	Day Scholars
Group I	(i) Degree and Post Graduate degree courses in Medicine (Allopathy), Commercial Pilot License (including helicopter pilot and multiengine rating) course.			
	(ii) Medicine in AYUSH, Homeopathy, Sowa-Rigpa and other recognized systems of medicines other than Allopathy			
	(iii) Engineering, Technology, Planning, Architecture, Design, Fashion Technology, Agriculture & allied courses, Veterinary & Allied Sciences, Management, Business Finance /Administration, Computer Science/ Applications, L.L.M and Lateral Entries			
	(iv) Post Graduate Diploma courses in various branches of management & medicine,			
	(v) Chartered Accountant/Institute of Cost Works Accountants /Computer Secretary/Institute of Corporate Finance and Accounts, Actuarial Science,			
	(vi) Research programme - M. Phil., Ph.D. and Post Doctoral Programmes, D. Litt., D.Sc.	₹ 1,00,000/-	₹ 12,000/-	₹ 5,500/-
	(vii) Professional Courses leading to Post Graduate Degree in Pharmacy, Nursing and Para-medical branches - (Rehabilitation, Diagnostics), Forensic Science			
Group ii	(viii) Professional Courses leading to Degree in Pharmacy, Nursing and Para-medical branches - (Rehabilitation, Diagnostics), Hotel Management, LL.B, Bachelor of Financial Studies, Mass Communication, Travel/ Tourism/Hospitality Management, Interior Decoration, Nutrition & Dietetics, Commercial Art, Financial Services (e.g. Banking, Insurance, Taxation) for which entrance qualification is minimum Sr. Secondary (10+2)			
	All non-professional recognized courses leading to a Graduate, Post Graduate Degree not covered under Group I in Arts, Science and Commerce like BA/B.Sc/B.Com or MA/M.Sc/M.Com etc.	₹ 40,000/-	₹ 8,200/-	₹ 5,300/-
Group iii	Vocational courses, ITI courses, 3 year diploma courses in Polytechnics, etc.	₹ 20,000/-	₹ 5,700/-	₹ 3,000/-
Group iv	All post-matriculation level non-degree courses for which entrance qualification is High School (Class X), e.g. senior secondary certificate (class XI and XII).	₹ 20,000/-	₹ 3,800/-	₹ 2,300/-

2023-2024

The Adhoc Committee successfully conducted the elections of new Executive Committee and the crucial role played by the former President, Shri Tsewang Gyachcho President in guiding Adhoc Committee throughout the process of conducting elections of the new committee was appreciable. He wanted a smooth transition for the continued welfare of the Association.

The notice for the elections and with dates for nominations, withdrawal and election date was issued vide Notice No.24/SSCSOA/2023 dated 3.9.2023 which commenced from 4th September,2023 and ended on 24th September, 2023.

The Adhoc Committee had appointed Shri Agawane Rohan Ramesh (IAS), the then Additional District Magistrate as Returning Officer and other members included Shri Zangnpo Gyaltsen, Joint Director(IT), Election Department and Shri Pritam Shah, Skill Development Department.



SIKKIM STATE CIVIL SERVICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

REGD NO. 307 VOL. 1087148
REF NO. : 24/SSCSOA/2023

DATE : 03.09.2023

Notice for Nomination and Schedule of Elections to the Executive Committee of the Sikkim State Civil Service Officers' Association (SSCSOA), 2023.

Nomination is hereby invited for various posts in the Executive Committee, Sikkim State Civil Service Officers' Association (SSCSOA), as per the level of officers, as under :-

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. President | Secretary – level. |
| 2. Vice-President | Special Secretary – level. |
| 3. General Secretary | Additional Secretary – level. |
| 4. Joint Secretary – I | Joint Secretary – level. |
| 5. Joint Secretary – II | Deputy Secretary – level. |
| 6. Joint Secretary – III | Under Secretary – level. |
| 7. Treasurer | Joint Secretary – level. |
| 8. Assistant Treasurer | Under Secretary – level. |

Further, Schedule of Elections is hereby published for information of all members, as under :-

Sl. No.	Date	Event
1.	04 th September, 2023. (Monday)	Nomination Form shall be shared in the SSCSOA WhatsApp group.
2.	06 th September, 2023. (Wednesday)	Filing of nomination to begin. Candidates may submit filled-in Nomination Form (hard copy) to Shri Agawane Rohan Ramesh, IAS, Addl. District Magistrate, Gangtok District , who is the Returning Officer (RO) for these Elections, on a working day till 03:00 P.M. in his office. OR E-mail the scanned copy of the filled-in Nomination Form to sscsoanominations2023@gmail.com any time except on the last date of filing of nomination.
3.	13 th September, 2023. (Wednesday)	Filing of nomination (both hard copy and online) ends at 03:00 P.M.
4.	14 th September, 2023. (Thursday)	- Scrutiny of nominations. - Preparation of List of Validly Nominated Candidates.
5.	15 th September, 2023. (Friday)	- Last date of withdrawal of candidature till 03:00 P.M. (Physical presence of the candidate or one of the proposers, with written authorisation of the candidate, in the office of the RO is mandatory) - Finalization of List of Contesting Candidates.

(Signature)

Page 1 of 2



SIKKIM STATE CIVIL SERVICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

REGD NO. 307 VOL. 1087148
REF NO. : 24/SSCSOA/2023

DATE : 03.09.2023

Sl. No.	Date	Event
6.	18 th September, 2023. (Monday)	"Know Your Candidate" programme. - Trial run of online voting system.
7.	23 rd September, 2023. (Saturday)	Internet link to online ballot shall be shared in the registered Gmail ID at 07:00 A.M. and voting line shall open from 08:00 A.M. The electors may submit the online ballot paper after ticking the name of candidates of his/her choice. The voting line shall be disabled at 08:00 P.M.
8.	24 th September, 2023. (Sunday)	The RO shall declare the result of the Elections and issue Certificates thereof.

By Order.

Sd/-
(Kesang D. Rechung) SCS
President, Ad hoc Committee, SSCSOA.

Copy to :-
01. All members, SSCSOA;
02. File.

(Signature)
(Samdup Bhutia) SCS
General Secretary, Ad hoc Committee, SSCSOA.

Page 2 of 2



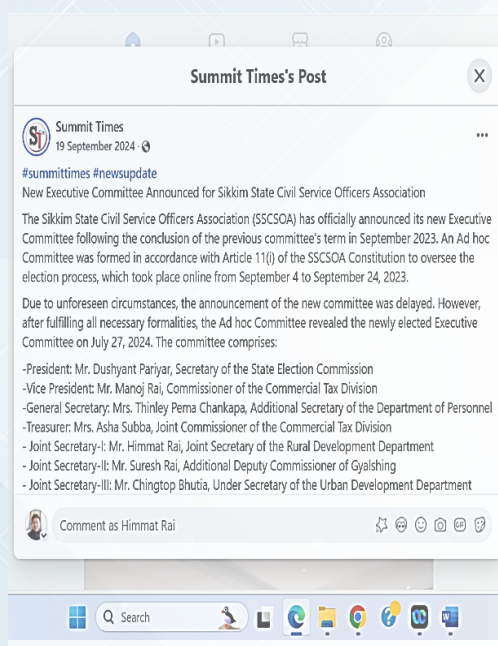


The Adhoc Committee - SSCSOA thanking the Returning Officer for successful elections of Executive Committee of SSCSOA



The names of the new elected members of the Executive Committee of SSCSOA were as under :

1. Mr. Dushyant Pariyar (SCS), President
2. Mr. Manoj Rai (SCS), Vice-President
3. Ms. Thinley Pema Chankapa (SCS), General Secretary
4. Mr. Himmat Rai (SCS), Joint Secretary – I
5. Mr. Suresh Rai (SCS), Joint Secretary - II
6. Mr. Chingtop Bhutia (SCS), Joint Secretary - III
7. Ms. Asha Subba (SCS), Treasurer
8. Ms. Munna Pradhan (SCS), Assistant Treasurer



Newly Elected Executive Members of SSCSOA



1. **GLOF induced Flash Flood Disaster:** The Adhoc Committee members and new elected Executive members visited post flash flood to Rangpo and Singtam areas to have stock of the problems being faced by the displaced persons and to see what help can be provided by the SSCSOA. The SSCSOA also contributed **Rs.350,000** towards the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

Summit TIMES

NEWS UPDATE

SIKKIM STATE CIVIL SERVICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION DONATES RS. 350,000 TO CHIEF MINISTER'S RELIEF FUND

www.summittimes.com | news@summittimes.com



2. **Visit of Meghalaya State Civil Service Officers(MCS) to Sikkim :** The two members of Meghalaya Civil Service Officers' Association, H. Keerwood Thabah (Additional Deputy Commissioner- West Khasi Hills District) and Evanmi Lyngdoh(Assistant Commissioner & BDO) visited Sikkim from 23 - 25 October,2024. They were deputed by the Meghalaya Civil Service Officers' Association to study the best practices followed in Sikkim State in respect of career progression of the state civil service officers and related aspects. They visited Department of Personnel and studied various procedures being followed in the State in respect of appointments and career progression of state civil service officers. They also met the Secretary, DOP, Ringzing Chewang Bhutia(IAS) and who briefed them on the matter. They also visited the office of the District Magistrate, Gangtok district and acquainted with the latest initiatives of the collectorate. The President of SSCSOA, Dushyant Pariyar presented the mementos to the visiting officers and thanked them for having chosen Sikkim for their study tour. He also appreciated the exchange of ideas for the development of State and cadre.



Meghalaya MCS Officers with Secretary -DOP
Shri Ringzing Chewang Bhutia, IAS

Government of Sikkim
25 October 2024

Press Release from Sikkim State Civil Service Officers' Association (SSCSOA)

Meghalaya State Civil Service Officers(MCS) on Three Day Visit to Sikkim

The two members of Meghalaya Civil Service Officers' Association, H. Keerwood Thabah (Additional Deputy Commissioner- West Khasi Hills District) and Evanmi Lyngdoh(Assistant Commissioner & BDO) are on three day of Sikkim from 23-25 October,2024.

They have been deputed by the Meghalaya Civil Service Officers' Association to study the best practices followed in Sikkim State in respect of career progression of the state civil service officers and related aspects.

They visited Department of Personnel and studied various procedures being followed in the State in respect of appointments and career progression of state civil service officers.They also met the Secretary, DOP, Rinzing Chewang Bhutia(IA) and who also briefed on the subject.Later they visited the office of the District Magistrate, Gangtok district and acquainted with the latest initiatives of the collectorate.

The visit of MCS officers are being managed and coordinated by the executive members of Sikkim State Civil Service Officers' Association- SSCSOA.The President of SSCSOA, Dushyant Pariyar (Secretary-Election Department) while presenting the mementos to the visiting officers thanked them for having chosen Sikkim for their study tour and appreciated the exchange of ideas for the development of State and cadre.

SERVICE OFFICERS



3. Meeting of the Executive Members with the Hon'ble Chief Minister:

The new elected Executive Committee members of the Sikkim State Civil Service Officers Association (SSCSOS) called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim Shri Prem Singh Tamang on 13th September 2024 at Mingtogang for the first time after taking over the former Executive Committee. The members offered khadas, memento and bouquet to the Hon'ble Chief Minister and formally introduced themselves to the Hon'ble Chief Minister. During the meeting the HCM enquired about the general well being of the State Civil Service fraternity and grievances of the State Civil Service, he ensured support to the fraternity whenever required.

He also very appreciative of the Annual General Body Meeting (AGBM) of the SSCSOA that was held on 25th July 2023 earlier. The HCM made suggestion to the Association stating various ways where it can make valuable contribution to the social causes in the State and make a difference in the lives of people.



4. North East Regional Conference of All India Federation of State Civil Services/ Administrative Service Associations in Kohima, Nagaland :Executive Committee of Sikkim State Civil Service Officers' Association attended the North East Regional Conference of All India Federation of State Civil Services/ Administrative Service Associations in Kohima, Nagaland on 12th November, 2024. The two members of Executive Committee comprising of Shri. Dushyant Pariyar (SCS)- President and Shri Suresh Rai (SCS), Joint Secretary -II of the Sikkim State Civil Service Officers' Association had attended the Conference. The Conference was attended by Ms Annapurna Alley

(SCS), Finance Secretary of the All India Federation.

The day long Conference was held at Regional Centre of Excellence for Music & Performing Arts (RCEMPA), Jotsoma, Kohima , hosted by Nagaland Civil Service Association. The inaugural session of the Conference had the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Nagaland, Shri Neiphiu Rio, as the Special Guest.

The All India Federation was headed by President, Shri Gaurav Bajad, Secretary General, Dr. Ravi Tirlapur, Sh. Lajbir Singh, Chairman AIF core group, Finance Secretary, Mrs Annapurna Alley (SCS), Member, Core Group Sh. Sunil Bhati. The North Eastern States had representatives of Civil Service Associations from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura.

The agenda of the Conference was to review and address the progress and issues pertaining to administrative reforms of various Civil Servants of North Eastern states. The meeting unanimously agreed that the Federation shall take up issues pending before Government of India as flagged in the Charter of Demands submitted to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India through the core group of Officers representing the Federation. The Conference also highlighted to replicate some of the best practices of some of the states to the States where there are marked deficits in different areas towards promoting better welfare structures for the SCS officers, and for cementing the fraternity among the SCS officers across the country among other issues.

< ST 13 Nov mailing...   :

transitioning to permanent status in roles such as Village Grievance Redressal Assistant, Village

ian compensation for all employees who have served five years or more since their regularization.

SCSOA executive committee members attend North East Regional Conference in Kohima



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 12 NOV:

The Executive Committee of the Sikkim State Civil Service Officers' Association, comprising of president Dushyant Pariyar and Joint Secretary-II Suresh Rai, participated in the North East Regional Conference of the All India

Federation of State/ Civil Administrative Service Associations in Kohima, Nagaland.

The conference took place at the Regional Centre of Excellence for Music & Performing Arts (RCEMPA) and was hosted by the Nagaland Civil Service Association.

turn to pg3

Governor adopts Chungthang GPU

Add to note



Way Forward - Adoption of Schools and other programmes :

Aligned with the vision of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Prem Singh Tamang (Golay), the Sikkim State Civil Service Officers' Association (SSCSOA) will launch an initiative to adopt schools in remote areas.

The program aims to enhance basic facilities, including toilets, teachers' common rooms, drinking water, waste management, gardening, libraries, and the overall school environment, while mentoring students. Officers will be allocated these programmes by rank, batch, and group to conduct inspections and collaborate with the Education Department to improve the functionality and sustainability of these schools.

Additionally, the SSCSOA is committed to implementing holistic community programs in a phased manner over the coming years.

The Association will also continue to prioritize the welfare, professional growth, and interests of State Civil Service members, ensuring their sustained progress and contribution to society.

युद्ध र प्रकृति

ए बी गुरुङ, संयुक्त सचिव
(सिक्किम राज्य लोक सेवा)

हामी मानिस/प्राणीहरू प्रकृतिको संरचना हौं। यहाँको हावा पानी माटोको रसले हाम्रो शरीर सचार र सञ्चालन हुँदछ। हावा विशेष तत्व हो जसलाई प्राण वायु पनि भनिन्छ।

हावा बिना हामी प्राणी किञ्चित बाँच्न सक्दैनौं। सबैलाई थाहा भएकै कुरा हो।

हावा, पानी ढुङगा माटो आगो आकाश यी पाँच तत्वले प्रकृति बनेको छ भने यो धर्तीमा बाँचिरहेका प्राणीहरूको शारिरिक संरचना पनि उस्तै मिल्दो जुल्दो छ। अर्को विशेष कुरो प्रकृतिको सम्पूरक आकाश हो। आकाश बनेको छ, घाम ताराहरू सगै अन्य ग्रह नक्षत्रहरू। ग्रहहरूमा “घाम” धर्ती वा प्रकृतिको निम्ति महत्वपूर्ण ग्रह हो। जसको प्रकाश बिना यो धर्ती अन्धकारमय हुनेछ। नदी नाला उद्विदहरू खाद्यपदार्थका बोटहरूको सृजनशील शक्ति र प्रक्रियाहरू सूर्यको प्रकाश बिना स्तब्ध रहनेछ। यी प्राकृत तत्वहरू अति अनमोल हुन् जो हामीले सितैमा पाएका छौं, मानौं, प्रारब्धले यी अनमोल तत्वहरू मानिसकै लागि संरचना गरेका होलान् जस्तो लाग्छ।

आवश्यक पनि यी तत्वहरूमा यदि सन्तुलन नरहे यो धरतीमा छिट्टै शिग्र हलचल मचिनेछ भन्दा दुईमत नहोला। यस प्रकृतिमा हामी मानिसहरू एक विवकशील प्राणीहरूको दर्जामा पर्छौं। यो धरतीलाई संरक्षण गर्ने परम जिम्मेवार पनि मानिसहरूको नै हुनु पर्ने हो। तर यस दिशा तिर पाँच प्रतिशत काम पनि भएको छैन।

आजको विज्ञानको होडबाजीले यो ईश्वरतूल्य प्रकृतिलाई ध्वस्त र विध्वंस पार्न सबै व्यस्त छौं। उदाहरणको निम्ति विज्ञानको होडबाजीमा बिभिन्न शक्तिशाली देशहरूले विनाशकारी हाइपरसोनिक बम ड्रोनहरू अविष्कार गरि प्रकृतिलाई नै हानी पुर्याउने काम गरिरहेछन्। जस्तै, युक्रेन र रूसको युद्ध, ईजराइल र फिलिपिन्सको युद्ध उदाहरण हुन्। सँग-सँगै अमेरिका, युरोपिय देशहरू पनि युद्धमा संलग्न भएका छन्। मानो यस धर्तीमा बसो बास गर्ने मानिस पशु प्राणीहरूको निम्ति संकटको समय स्थापित भईरहेछ।

हाइपरसोनिक मिसाइल, विभिन्न विध्वंसक बमको प्रहार र परीक्षण एक प्रकृति र प्राणी नरसंहारको खतरा संकेत हुन्। यसको कुप्रभाव हाम्रो सुन्दर धरतीलाई नै पर्न जानेछ। मानौं, यहाँको हावा, पानी माटो हिमखण्ड नै दूषित हुनेछ, तत्पश्चात् मानिसको शरीरिक संरचनामा पर्नेछ। साथै जसको कुप्रभावले प्राणीहरूको औसत आयु दर घटेर जाने तथ्य छ।

यसविषयमाथि यी शक्तिशाली देशहरूले किन बुझ्न सकिरहेका छैनन्?

पर्यावरण माथि किन यति धेरै हेलचेक्रयाई हुँदैछ?

विश्व पर्यावरणविद्हरू किन मूकदर्शक भएका हुन्?

युद्धको प्रकोप किन बुझ्न सकिराखेका छैनन्?

युद्ध किन रोक्न सक्दैन?

यो मेरो निजी मत मात्र हो, सही जस्तो पनि लाग्छ।

यस्तै मुखतापूर्ण कार्यहरू भइरहे एक दिन यो धरती मानव/प्राणीरहित बन्न सक्नेछ। साथै बज्ररभूमि बन्ला कि भन्ठान्छु पनि। त्यसर्थ यो महायुद्ध प्रकृतिको निम्ति महा खतरा हो, मानव र प्राणीहरूको जीवन शैलीको निम्ति विनाशको सूचक हो।

हाम्रो जीवन शैली

चन्द्र कुमार शर्मा, संयुक्त सचिव
(सिक्किम राज्य लोक सेवा)

पहाडी भेगको उकाली ओरालीहरुमा
गोडा खुच्याएर हिड्न धेरै साह्रो
गृहस्थी जीवन धात्रै गाह्रो
कहिले के को भार
कहिले के को भार
धेरै छ पसारो
धेरै छ लछारो
यता गर फलना
उता गर फलना
सबैको झटारो,
जति खोल्न खोज्यो
उतिगाँठो पर्छ
खोइ के को लठारो
खोइ के को लठारो ।

कहिले अभावको चपेटा
कहिले प्रकृतिको लबटा
कहिले देशनको मार
कहिले फेशनको भार
फेरि गन्दा-गन्दै गन्दा-गन्दै आइहाल्छ
रम्पै पर्ने शुभ चाड
तर पनि अथक
तर पनि परिस्रमी
आत्मनिर्भरता र स्वाभिमान छ अपार ।

जीवन धात्र सजिलो छैन
तर भैंसीलाई सिंगको भारी हुँदैन
बिसन्धैमा पनि सिन्को नसारी हुँदैन

ठिकै छु भन्ने आदत नबसाली हुँदैन
तेसैले मैले आजसम्म धने- बिरेको
गुनासो सुनेको छुइन ।

माथिल्लो घरमा पहिरो आउँदा
तल्लो घरले सोहोरीदिन्छ
पल्लो घरमा आगो नबल्दा
ओल्लो घरले जोडिदिन्छ
साइँला बाजे थलो पर्दा
रामेले भकारो सोहोरीदिन्छ
हर्केलाई चोट लाग्दा
मनेले घाऊ फुकिदिन्छ
एउटालाई परचक्रीले प्रहार गरे
अर्को ढाल बनेर उभिदिन्छ
एउटाले अईया-आत्था गर्यो भने
अर्काको मुटु दुखिदिन्छ
कसले भन्यो साहो छ-गाहो छ,
जिन्दगी यसरी
सरल भएर बगिदिन्छ ।

तेसैले यी असहाय छैनन्
तेसैले यी पछौटे होइनन्
नगरेको कर्म छैन
नढाकेको क्षेत्र छैन
म त देख्छु सधै सबै अघाडी
मातृभूमिको लागि लड्न परे
रणभूमिमा झनै अघाडी
तेसैले त सारा जगले
यिनीहरुको बीर गाथा गाउँछ
म पनि यिनीहरुकै सन्तान हो भन्न
मलाई गर्व लागेर आउँछ
मलाई गर्व लागेर आउँछ ॥

अमूल्य प्राण

श्रीमती आशा सुब्बा, संयुक्त सचिव
(सिक्किम राज्य लोक सेवा)

साना साना पाईला टेकी
यो संसारको अङ्ग बन्यौ
लड्डै-पड्डै, हाँस्टै-हँदै
आफ्नो हिम्मतको परिचय दियौ ।

बोल्न सिक्यौ, हिँड्न सिक्यौ
अनि खुशयालीको श्रोत बन्यौ
कसैको जिउने आशा बन्यौ
तर आज किशोर अवस्थामा पुगेर
किन हिम्मत हाछौ ।

संसारको चित्रमा आफ्नो योगदानको रङ्ग छर्ने बेलामा
गलामा मृत्युको सर्पलाई किन अँगाल्न खोज्छौ
एकबारको जिन्दगीलाई किन सस्तो ठान्छौ ।

चाँदीको थालमा सजाई कसैले सफलता दिँदैन
सफलताको लडाईँमा आफु रणभूमिमा नउत्री हुँदैन
त्यसैले हिम्मत अनि संघर्षलाई आफ्नो साथी बनाऊ
आफ्नो अस्तित्वको परिचय यो संसारलाई देखाऊ ।

नफाल अब त्यो अमूल्य प्राण ती तुच्छ क्रोधमा
युवक अनि युवती हौ अमूल्य छ तिम्रो प्राण
संसारको अमूल्य आभूषण हौ
त्यसैले गर आफ्नो प्राणको सम्मान ।

प्राण प्रतिष्ठा नै हो संसारको अमूल्य धन, यसैले
मान सम्मान गर आफ्नो अमूल्य प्राण,
नखन आफ्नो हातले आफ्नो त्यो चिहान
अमूल्य छ यो प्राण ।।

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एस्सेट

दुष्यन्त परियार, सचिव
(सिक्किम राज्य लोक सेवा)

नब्बेको दशकको पहिलो या दोस्रो वर्षको कुरा हो। त्यसताक म एक स्नातक शिक्षकको रुपमा कार्य गरिरहेको थिएँ एक स्थानीय सरकारी माध्यमिक पाठशालामा। एकदिन स्कूल छुट्टी भएर घर आइपुगँ चार बजीतिर। ठूलो छोरो गौरव सोह्र वर्षको स्कूलबाट अधि नै आएर होमवर्कमा तल्लीन रहेछ। सौरभ, छोरो सानु बाह्र वर्षको शायद कतै खेल्न गएको थियो क्यरे। श्रीमतीलाई घरमा देखिन। “गौरव, आमा खै?” सोधेँ मैले। “पल्लो घरको गौरी आन्टी बिमार भएर हस्पिटल लगेको छ अरे, आमा त्यहीँ जानु भा’को छ”, गौरवले बतायो। “बाबा चिया बनाइदिउँ?” गौरवले सोध्यो। “अँ बनाएर ले ले” भने मैले र अर्द्धवार्षिक परीक्षाको उत्तर पत्रहरू जाँच थालेँ। एक घण्टाभित्र सक्नु पर्ने थियो कारण पाँच बजेदेखि सात बजीसम्म वरपरका विध्यार्थीहरू अंग्रेजी, नेपाली र समाजविज्ञानको ट्यूसनको लागि आउने गर्थे। छ बजीसम्म श्रीमती आएकी थिइनन्। मोबाएल थिएन त्यस समय। ट्यूसन पढाउन पनि बाध्यता नै थियो, अलिकति भए पनि तेल, चामल, चिनी ठेल्ल सहायता हिन्थ्यो।

ट्यूशन पढाउँदा पढाउँदै मेरो घरको छेवैको भैया दोकान (जहाँबाट रासिन खान्थे)-को छोरो तल सड़कबाट करायो, “अंकल दोकानमा तपाईँको फोन आको छ, छिट्टो आउनुहोस्।” भैयाको दोकानमा टेलीफोन थियो। पढाउन छाडी राखेर हतार हतार कुदें। फोन समातेर, “हेल्लो” भनें। उताबाट “वल्लभ होइन?” भन्यो। मैले पनि “हो त” भने। “चिनिस मलाई?” भन्यो उताबाट। मैले पनि “स्वर त चिनेको चिनेको लाग्यो” भनें। उताबाट “म हो निमेष गान्तोकबाट” भन्यो। “आम्मामा कति दिनमा तेरो स्वर सुन्न पाएँ हो, मज्जा लाग्यो”, भनें मैले। उताबाट भन्यो “अँ, याँ सुन्न, भोलि मेरो बाह्र वर्षे छोरी शिखाको वर्थ-डे छ, नाई नभन् बहिनी (मेरो श्रीमतीलाई उसले बहिनी भन्थ्यो) दुईजना नै नानीहरू लिएर जसरी भएपनि आइज है। बस्ने गरी आइज नी फेरि। म बाटो हेरिबस्छु। धेरैलाई बोलाको पनि छुइन, छिमेकीहरू दुई-चार जना सीनियर, एक-दुईजना जुनियर अफिसरहरू अनि स्टाफहरू मात्रै बोलाको छु। साथीमा तँलाई मात्र बोलाको।” मन-मनै सोचेँ चारजना गान्तोक जान आउनु, प्रेजेन्ट किन्दा कमसे कम सात सय खर्च हुने भो, उसबेला महिनाको पैतीस सय तनखा, त्यहीमाथि महिना मार्नु अझै एकाइस दिन, टार्नु सोंचे र भने “निमेष भ्याउँदिन होला हौ, छुट्टी पनि छैन”। निमेषले भन्यो, “भोली स्याट्र-डे हो, तेरो हाल्फ डे होइन स्कूलको, दिउँसोको गाडीमा आइज न, पर्सी बिहान फर्की। हेर विश्वाद नबना है, यहाँ मेरो छोरा छोरीले पनि तँसँग भट्ने पूरा ईच्छा गर्दै छ, तेरो कम्ती कुरा गर्छु म घरमा?”, मैले पनि “ल ल कोशिश गर्छु” भनेर फोन राखेँ।

निमेष र म, कक्षा एघार अनि बाह्रमा सँगै पढ्यौँ। ऊ विज्ञानमा अनि म कलामा, हामी साह्रै मिल्थ्यौँ। खेल्दा, खाँदा, हिँड्दा, पिकनिक पिकचर सँधैँ सँगै हुन्थ्यौँ। कलेज सकेपछि म स्नातक शिक्षक भएँ तर निमेषले कक्षा बाह्र सकेपछि वनविभागमा बी.ओ.-को पदमा नियुक्ति पायो। अहिले त डी.एफ.ओ. पुगे सकेको थिएछ। एकपल्ट मेरो गाउँ आएथ्यो, बाटोमा भेटेर “घर फिनिसिड हुँदैछ कि, स्कटिडको लागि काठ खोज्दै आएको” भन्दैथियो। मेरो घरमा लैजाउँ भनेको लाज लागेर आयो, जाउँ पनि भनिन। घर देखेर खिसी पो गर्छ कि भन्ने लाग्थ्यो।

फोन राखेर घरमा गएर फेरी रहेका विषयहरू पढाउन थालेँ ट्यूसनमा। सात बज्न लागको थियो। श्रीमती अझै आएकी थिइनन्।

“गौरव, होमवर्क सकिस् भने पानी बसा है, आमा कतिबेला आउने हो कुत्री”, मैले भने । “हुन्छ बाबा” भन्यो गौरवले । मैले भने, “म स्टोभ बाल्दै गर्छु, तँ कलमा पानी थाप्दै गर।” पानी भाँडामा थाप्दै भन्यो गौरवले, “बाटो मुनीको मङ्गल बड़ा पनि साह्रो छ अरे । अब आमाको झन बिजी हुने दिन आउन आँट्यो”, भनि राखेर हाँस्यो त्यो ।

त्यसले यसो भन्नुको तात्पर्य यो थियो, मेरी पत्नी सुभद्रा, घर गृहिणी, अरुहरूको सहायता सेवा गर्नु भनेपछि हुरुकै हुन्थिइन । मलामीलाई खाजा बाँड्न, कोही बिमारी भएको थाहा पाउने बित्तिकै घरको काम छोडेर स्याहारनु, अस्पताल लानु, समाजमा कसैको घरमा जस्तो कार्य परे बिहानदेखि सघाउन जानु, पुराण लाग्दा भोक-भोकै बिहानदेखि साँझसम्म भक्तजनलाई चिया-प्रसाद बाँड्नु, छिमेकमा मरौ परेको छ भने आधारतसम्म रुझ्न आउनेहरूलाई चिया, आलुदम, पुरी बाँड्न जस्ता कामहरू गर्नुदेखि कहिले पछि पर्दिन थिइन् । म पनि यिनलाई रोक्दिन थिएँ । त्यसमै उनीलाई आत्म-सन्तुष्टि मिल्थ्यो क्यरे ।

ट्यूसन छुट्टी गराएर घिउसिँबी केलाउँदै थिएँ, “सात बज्न आँटिसक्यो, अहिलेसम्म सड़कमै खेलीरा’को रै’छ यो”, भन्दै सौरभलाई लिएर भित्र पसिन् । गोरो अनुहार, छिटो-छिटो हिँडेर होला गुलाबी दोखिन्दैथ्यो, निधारमा रातो टीका, सिँउदोमा सिन्दुर, ठूला ठूला आँखा, देब्रे च्यापुमा कालो कोठी, अकाशे कुर्ता-पाइजमा कालो चुत्री ओडेकी, लाबरले बाँधेकी कम्मरसम्मको कपाल, निक्कै राम्री मेरी पत्नी ।

भोलि गान्तोक जानु पर्ने विषय झिकेर भन्न थालें, “औँ, भोलि हामी गान्तोक.....’ मात्रै भनेको थिएँ, उनले भनिन् “गौरीको त बिजोक भयो है”, उनले भनिन् “समय नपुगी बेथा लागेछ, पेटमा नानी पनि उल्टा छ अरे, याँ त सक्दैन भन्दैछ” ।

मैले भने, “औ, सुनन् भोली नी हामी.....”

“सिलगढी रेफर गर्छ भन्दैछ ।” मेरो कुरा काटेर भनिन् । त्यतिबेला आज जस्तो सोकेथाड सोच्यागांग अस्पताल, मणिपाल अस्पताल थिएन ।

मैले भने, “म केही बोल्छु?”

“अँ, भन्नुहोस्” भनिन् ।

“मेरो साथी छ नी निमेष, उसको छोरीको वर्थ-डे अरे भोलि, हामीलाई बोला’को छ । कसै गरेर पनि आउनु भनेको छ है । जानै पर्ने भयो’ भने मैले ।

सब्जी बसाउँदै भनिन्, “ला....मैले गौरीको साथी गईदिन्छु भनेको थिएँ ।”

मैले भने, “मैले तिमीलाई अरूबेला रोकेको छुइन, तिमीलाई नलिइ गएँ भने त्यो रिसाउँछ, कम्ती सफाई दिनुपर्छ मैले?, गौरीसित अरु कोई गईदिन्छ होला नी।”

उनले भनिन्, “अब के गर्नु, उसको लोभ्रेको पनि पोस्टिड अरुणाचलमा छ अरे, अरु कोही छैन ।”

यता-उता गर्दा गर्दै आठ जिसकेछ । खाना खाइसक्यौं । सुभद्राले भनिन्, “तपाईं सुदै गर्नुहोस् । म हस्पिटल जानु पर्‍यो ।” सीतालाई भन्नु पर्‍यो, साथी गइदेउ भनेर । दैलोभित्रबाट मुडा राखिदिनुहोस् । कतिबेला आइपुग्छु कुन्नि, भनिराखेर उनी निस्कइन् । म पनि ढल्केर वेद प्रकाश शर्माको उपन्यास (त्यसबेला खुब चल्ती थियो)-पढ्दै थिएँ, निँदाएछु । राती मुडा सरेको घर्यारर् आवाज आउँदा आँखा खुल्यो, उनी आइपुगिछन् । ओछ्यानमा पस्दै भनिन्, “बल्ल-बल्ल मानी नी सीता बहिनीले, विन्ती गर्दा गर्दा । गौरीले मलाई नै जाऊँन दिदी भन्दैथिइ तर गान्तोक जानुपर्ने कुरा भनें । कतिबेला जानु भोली?”, सोधिन् उनले ।

“भोली दिउँसोको सर्भिसमा” भने मैले ।

“अन्त उतै बस्नु?”, सोधिन् ।

“त्यही त, बस्ने गरी बोला’को छ ।”

“छ्या.....अर्काको घरमा चार-चार जना पाहुना लाग्नु, मलाई त लाज पो लाग्यो ।” त्यत्तिकैमा हामी निदाएछौं ।

भोलिपल्ट दुई छोरालाई स्कूल जाने बेलामा भनें, “छुट्टी भएर अलमल नगरी घर आइज है तिमीहरू, गान्तोक जानुपर्छ, निमेष अंकलकोमा ।”

गौरवले भन्यो, “बाबा, भाई र म नजाने ल?, तपाईंहरू गएर आउनुहोस्, बेलुका म खाना बनाइहाल्छु, बिहानलाई सब्जी त्यही भइहाल्छ, तपाईंहरू भोली दिउँसै आइ त हाल्नुहुन्छ होइन?”

म केही भन्न अँटेको थिएँ, सुभद्राले सानो छोराको जुत्ताको लेस बाँध्दै भनिन्, “अँ ठीकै हो, न जाओस् यिनीहरू, काँ अर्काको घरमा लामेतौत लागेर जानु, त्यो पनि बस्ने गरी ।” त्यही पारित भयो ।

दुई छोरा र म स्कूल जान तरखरमा थियौं । अचानक गौरवले सोध्यो, “साँच्ची बाबा, एस्सेट भनेको के हो?”

मैले भनें, “सम्पत्ति, जोगाड गरेर निर्माण गरेको प्रोपर्टी” । “किन?”

गौरवले भन्यो, “एउटा सेन्टेन्समा थियोकि अनि मिनिड बुझेको थिइन, त्यसैले ।”

अचानक सुभद्राले भनिन्, “ए.....सम्पत्तिलाई एस्सेट भन्छन्?” भनिराखेर एउटा चाबी गौरवलाई दिएर भनिन्, “यो चाबी राखिराख्, तिमीहरूआउँदा हामी गइसकेका हुन्छौं । भोली त आइतबार तिमीहरू घरमै हुन्छौ हामी आउँदा ।”

“हुन्छ”, भनेर चाबी राख्यो गौरवले र हामी लाग्यौं स्कूलतिर ।

तेस्रो पीरियड सकेर सर्टब्रेक भा’को बेला मेरो एक सहकर्मी चन्दन सरसित भनें, “साथी तीन सय रुपियाँ छ भने, सापट देउ न हौ, सेलेरी भएपछि दिइहाल्छु” ।

चन्दन सरले, “किन त्यस्तो अर्जेन्ट पर्‍यो हौ?”, भन्यो । सम्पूर्ण वृत्तान्त सुनाएँ । चन्दन सरले वालेटबाट रुपियाँ निकाली दिए । उनकोमा जहिले पैसा हुन्थ्यो, काठ अदुवाको साइड बिजिनेस गर्थे ।

स्कूल छुट्टी भयो, बाटोमै बजार परेकोले एउटा टेडी वियर गिफ्ट प्याक गरी मागेर र गाडीमा दुई सीट भनी राखेर घर आएँ । सुभद्रा तयार भइसकेकी थिइन् । अस्तीको दशैंको कलेजो रडको साडी ब्लाउज लगाएकी थिइन ।

“तपाईं रेडी नहुने?”, भनिन् ।

“एतिकै ठीकै छ”, भनेको थिएँ, “कोट त लाउनुहोस् न हौ, कस्तो कस्तो मान्छेहरू हुन्छन् होला त्यहाँ”भनिन् ।
मैले पनि आज्ञा माने । राती सुत्दा लाउने लुगा ब्यागमा हाल्दै भनिन्तीनले,

“गौरीलाई पनि अधि दसबजी लग्यो सिलीगुडी” ।

“जाती हुन्छ होला नि त”, भने ।

“टुथब्रसहरू हाल्यौ?”

“हजुर हालें”

त्यसैखेर तल गाडीले हर्न बजायो । कमाण्डर गाडीको सेकेन्ड सीटमा बस्यौं । दुई बजी हिँडेको गाडी साँडेचारमा गान्तोक पुग्यो, त्यसबेला बाटो त्यति राम्रो थिएन । उत्रेर निमेषको घरतिर लाग्यौं ।

हिँड्दै गर्दा सुभद्राले सोधिन्, “तपाईंलाई याद छ, निमेष सरको घर?”

“अँ याद छ”, मैले भने ।

एकपल्ट शिक्षण तालिमको निम्ति गान्तोक आउँदा निमेषसँग भेट भएको थियो । “एउटा घर बनाउँदै छु हेर्नु हिँड न”, भनेको थियो । तालिमको अवधि पनि सकिएको थियो । उसको गाडीमा हामी सिच्छे पुगेको थियौं । अठार पोष्टको घर बनिन्दैथियो । चार स्ल्याब थियो । “आम्मा हौ, कत्रो घर बनाउन आँटिस हौ” छक्क पर्दै भनेको थिएँ । “काँ, जग्गा सानु भएर पो त”, भनेको थियो त्यसले । “फिनीसिड भएपछि ओभर दाम हुनैरेछ है”, भनेथें मैले । निमेषले “हेर्दै जाऊँ । ए साँच्ची तेरो त गाडी छुट्टु होला, हिँड स्ट्याण्डसम्म पुर्‍याईदिन्छु”, भनेर मलाई स्ट्याण्डसम्म पुर्‍याई दिएको थियो ।

यतिकैमा निमेषको घरको आँगन अधि आइपुग्यौं । ठूलो गेट ताला लगाएको, तर तर देब्रेपट्टीको पोष्टमा संगमर्मरको प्लेटमा कालो अक्षरले, “दीक्षित कुटीर” लेखिएको थियो, त्यसकै मुनी कलबेल रहेछ र मैले थिचें । भित्रबाट खाकी उर्दी लगाएको एउटा केटो आएर ताला खोल्‍यो र भन्यो, “आउनुहोस् न” । त्यस केटोको पछि पछि हिँड्यौं, घर त के भन्नु अट्टालिका रहेछ । हरियो चौर, स्टीलको पिङ, चौरबीचमा अलिक पर सानो घर कुरुरको निम्ति । “कत्रो घर हौ” भनिन् सुभद्राले । “त्यै त हगी? कत्रो एस्सेट बनाएछ मोरोले”, भने मैले । चौर वरिपरि बाह्र-तेह्रवटा गाडीहरू, शायद पाहुनाहरूका होला । अलिपर ग्यारेजभित्र एउटा मोटर बाइक, एउटा कालो गाडी । मार्बल लगाएको बरण्डामा पुगियो, “तपाईंहरू एकक्षण पखिनु होस है”, भनेर त्यो केटा माथिल्लो तला चढ्यो । एकक्षणमा “तपाईंहरू आउनुहोस् अरे” भन्यो हामी त्यसको पछि पछि गयौं । सिटिङ रुमको बाहिर नै हामीलाई लिन आइपुग्यो निमेष । “थ्याँक यू आइदिएकोमा” भन्दै अंगालो हाल्यो, “ठीकै छौ सुभद्रा” भन्दै नमस्कारको आदन-प्रदान पछि, “आइज न” भन्दै हामीलाई बैठक कोठामा लग्यो । टेक्नु पनि अप्ठ्यारो लाग्ने कार्पेट देखेर जुत्ता खोल्नु भन्दै थिएँ, “पर्देन...पर्देन” भन्दै तान्दै भित्र लग्यो हामीलाई । कम से कम छ सेट थियो होला सोफा । बीस जना जस्तो मानिसहरू बसेका थिए । सबैको अधि गिलासमा पेय पदार्थ, हरेक साना साना टेबलमा काजु, पिस्ता, बदामहरू राखिएको फुट्ने प्यालामा । छड्के आँखाले सुभद्रालाई हेर्ने, छक्क परेर भित्ताका महंगा महंगा पेन्टिङहरू, सिलिङका झुमरहरूतिर, महंगो सोफा, महंगो कार्पेट, टीकले बनिएका टेबलहरूमा निनिर्मेण हेरिरहेकी थिई सोफामा बसेर ।

निमेषले त्यस पछि भन्यो, “तँलाई अरुसँग चिनाइदिन्छु” अनि सबैतिर हेरेर भन्यो, “फ्रेण्डस, यो हो मेरो सबैभन्दा हितैषी साथी वल्लभ। हामी सँगै “पढेको, साह्रै मिल्थियौं, अझ पनि हाम्रो मित्रता प्रगाढ़ छ”। अनि सुभद्रालाई देखाएर भन्यो, “यिनी सुभद्रा मित्र वल्लभकी पत्नी”, अनि सबैको परिचय गराउँदै गयो। नमस्कारको आदान-प्रदान भयो। अचानक मपट्टि फर्केर भन्यो, “ओइ, खै नानीहरू?” “एकजाम चल्दैछ र ल्याइन”, भनें मैले। “थेतैरिका” भन्यो निमेषले। अनि दैलोबाट भित्र हेरेर करायो, “वृन्दा यहाँ आउ त, शिखा र अनमोललाई पनि बोलाऊ”। एकैक्षणमा वृन्दा(निमेषकी पत्नी) र दुईजना नानीहरू भित्र पसे। दुवै नानीहरूले वर्थ-डे क्याप लगाएका थिए। निमेषले भन्यो “म कुरा गरिरहन्थे नि, मेरो अभिन्न मित्र वल्लभको यहाँ नै हुनुहुन्छ”, अनि “यिनी यिनकी धर्मपत्नी” भनेर हामीलाई उसको परिवारसित परिचय गरायो। नमस्कारको आदान-प्रदानपश्चात् वृन्दाले सुभद्रालाई भनिन, “गुरुमा जाउँ भित्र, हामी लेडिज पार्टी अर्कै रुममा बसेका छौं”। निमेषले भन्यो, “होइन, पहिला केक काट्ने कार्यक्रम गरिहालौं। बरु सबै मेडमहरूलाई पनि यहीं बोलाउ न” भनि राखेर निमेषले, “कर्मा...” भनेर बोलायो। अनि हाम्रो ब्याग देखाएर भन्यो, “यो सरको ब्याग माथि गेष्ट रुममा पुन्याईदे”। कर्मा हाम्रो ब्याग बोकेर सिँडीबाट उकाले लाग्यो।

केही क्षणमा सबैजना सिटिङ रुममा भेला भए। मोमबत्ती फूकेर केक काटी शिखाले। सबैले ताली बजाए उपाहर दिने काम सकियो। निमेषले भन्यो, “लु अब पार्टी शुरू गरौं”, “नानीहरू अर्को कोठामा गएर खेल, वृन्दा, सुभद्रा बहिनीलाई पनि लैजाउ अनि इनजोय गर।” अब सिटिङ रुममा हामी पुरुष जमात मात्र भयौं। ट्रेमा कर्ची-मर्ची, फ्राई गरेको मासु-माछा लिएर एउटी काली केटी आई। अर्की काली केटी ट्रेमा जगमा पानी अनि गिलासहरू लिएर आई। सबैको अधि प्लेट प्लेटमा सबै कुरो पस्किईयो अनि निमेषले भित्तामै टाँसिने गरी बनाइएको काठको दराजबाट पालैसँग चार बोतल महंगो-महंगो ह्विस्की सबैको गिलासमा हाल्न थाल्यो।

“मलाई त कम्ती है”, भनेको थिएँ “काँ हो, कति वर्षमा वल्ल वल्ल भेटे भा’को लगा न। फेरि कहीं जानु छैन, मज्जाले खाएर आराम गर।” एकक्षणमा वृन्दा आएर मलाई भनिन्, “सर, सुभद्रा गुरुमालाई वाइन लिनुहोस् न भनेको डर लाग्छ भन्छिन्, तपाईंले परमिशन दिनु पर्ला जस्तो छ”, अनि हाँसिन्। म सुभद्रा र अरू मेडमहरू भएको कोठामा गएर सुभद्रालाई “खाउ न अलिकति केही हुँदैन”, भनी राखें। निकैबेरसम्म पिउने क्रम चल्यो। “एई कान्ता (शायद काली केटीको नाम हुनुपर्छ) अब खाना रेडी गर”, भन्यो निमेषले। सिटिङ रुमकै बाहिर पट्टी बालकनीमा लामो टेबलमा खाना सजाइएको थियो। अनेकौ प्रकारका आमिष-निरामिष व्यञ्जनहरू सबैले प्लेटमा हाल्दै भित्तामा लहरै राखिएका चौकीहरूमा बसेर खानथाले, थाल्यौं। खाना खाँदा झण्डै नौ बजिसकेको थियो। केहीबेरमा सबैजना गुड नाइट भन्दै प्रस्थान गर्न थाले। एक-एकवटा गर्दै गाडीहरू गेटबाट ओझल हुँदै गए।

“लु वल्लभ अब आराम गरौं है, सुभद्रा बहिनीलाई पनि थकाई लाग्यो होला”, भन्यो निमेषले। अनि हामीलाई जाऊ म रुमसम्म पुन्याइदिन्छु भन्दै उकालो सिँडीमा चढ्यो हामी पछि पछि लाग्यौं। चौथो तलामा रहेछ गेष्ट रुम। हिँड्ने बेलामा “केही चाहियो भने भन है अप्ठ्यारो नमानी”, भनि राखेर निमेष हिँड्यो। ठूलो कमरा, पलिस गरेको काठको भित्तामा, ठूलो खिडकी, महंगो पर्दा, त्यसमाथि ए.सी., त्यहाँ पनि झूमर, सुभद्रा द्वाल्ल परेर हेर्दै थिइन्। हामीले लुगा फेर्न्यौं, बाक्लो मेट्रेस भएको पलंग। दुईवटा सिरानीमा सेतो खोल बेडसिट पनि सेतो, सेतै खोल लगाएको सिरक, सुभद्राले विस्तारै औंलाले मेट्रेस थिचेको देखें, तर नदेखेको जस्तो गरेँ। “बाथरुम गएर आउँछु ल”, भनिन् सुभद्राले। बाथरुम एटेच्ड थियो। एकक्षणमा सुभद्रा आएर “क्या दामी हो बाथरुम त”, भनिन्। केही क्षणमा सुत्न अधि म पनि बाथरुममा पसें। हो रहेछ, चाहिने सम्पूर्ण समग्री थिए, टूथब्रस धरि।

“अब सुतौ ल”, भने मैले । सिरक तानेर लड्ने वित्तिकै निदाउने मेरो बानी, तर कुत्री आज निन्द्रा लागेकै छैन, तर आँखा चिम्ली रहें । लगभग दस मिनटपछि आँखा खोलें, मध्दिम रेशनीको बल्बको उज्जायालोमा देखें, सुभद्रा निदाएकी थिइनन् । सिलिङ झुमर, घरी खिडकीको पर्दातिर, काठको भित्ताहरूलाई एकोहोरो हेरी रहेकी थिइनन् । कुत्रि किन मलाई तीतो लागेर आयो तर केही भनिन । सुत्ने कोशिश गर्ने निदाउन, बेलुकीकोले भेटेछ की क्या हो, निदाएछु । शायद एघार बजेको हुँदो हो अनायासै ब्युझिएँ । सुभद्रा पट्टि फर्केर हेरेको त उ त बसिरहेकी रहिछ । के भन्नु, के नभन्नु बित्यामा ल्याएछु उसलाई भन्ने लाग्यो । बिस्तारै उसको ढाडमा सुम्सुमाउँदै भने, “सुभद्रा आफ्नो आफ्नो भाग्य हो । निमेषको भाग्य राम्रो, त्यसैले ऊ आज सम्पन्न छ । तर हामीले पनि हरेश खानु हुँदैन । हाम्रो पनि त दिन आउँछ । यत्रो नभए पनि कमसेकम दुईतलासम्मको घर त बनाउन सक्छु नि म पनि । तर पखिनु त पर्छनि होइन, तिम्नो साथ पाएको छु, विश्वास र भरोसा राख सुभद्रा, हाम्रो पनि राम्रो दिन आउने छ, तर तिमी यसरी हतास भयौ र हरेश खाँयौ भने त मेरो पनि जाँगर मर्छ नि होइन सुभद्रा?”, सुभद्रा ट्याक्क बोलिनन् । मैले “सुभद्रा, औ सुभद्रा” भनेर हल्लाउँदा “हँ.....” भनेर तर्सिइनन् । “सुभद्रा मैले भनेको बुझ्यौ होइन?”, भने । सुभद्राले भनिन्, “मैले तपाईंले बोलेको केही बुझिन, तपाईंको ओठ चलेको र आवाज आएको चाहिँ थाहा पाएँ तर केही बुझिन” । मैले छक्क परेर भनें, “के भनेको हो तिमीले...”, “याँ आफूलाई चाहिँ गौरी कस्तो होला, जाती भयो कि भएन, नानीको के भयो, घरमा ल्याए कि अझै कति दिन सिलगढी मै राख्ने हो, भन्ने कुराले निद्रा लागेको छैन तपाईं चाहिँ ट्याउँ...ट्याउँ.....ट्याउँ.....ट्याउँ गरी बस्नु हुन्छ”, भनिन् । म छक्क परें ।

“बरू एउटा काम गरिदिनु होस् न”, भनिन् । “भन” मैले भने ।

“निमेष सरकोमा टेलीफोन छ होला, रामशरण भैयालाई गौरीको बारेमा सोध्नु होस् न बरू”, भनिन् ।

आफूलाई चारमनको भारी विसाएको जस्तो भा'को बेला साथीलाई डिस्टर्भ होस कि नहोस भनेर निमेषलाई उठाएर फोनमा रामशरणसँग बात मारें अनि आएर सुभद्रालाई खबर दिएँ । “गौरी जाती भइ अरे, नानी पनि राम्रै छ अरे, अघि सात बजी बेलुका घरमा पनि ल्यायो अरे, सब ठीक छ अरे ।”

सुभद्राले हात जोडेर, “धन्यवाद भगवान” भनेर ड्याङ्ग सिरानीमा लडेर सिरक तानेर ओडिन् । ए अचम्म निदाई पनि हालिन् ।

अनि निर्निमेष धेरै बेर हेरिरहें मैले, पूर्ण सन्तुष्टिको साथ, निश्चिन्त, शान्त, निद्रामा पनि अलिकति मुस्कुराएकी मेरी सुभद्रा ।

मेरी इन्डीस्पेनसेबल एस्सेट ।

दया बिष्टका तीन कविता

दयाराम बिष्ट, संयुक्त सचिव
(सिक्किम राज्य लोक सेवा)

१- फुटेको घडी

घडीको काँटामा थन्किएको समय,
फुटेको घडीले सुनाउँछ गाथा पुराना ।
हातले घुमाउँदा, टिकटक टनाटन,
अब चुप, समयको आवाज हराएको ।

पानीको थोपामा परावर्तित छायाँ,
फुटेको काँचमा झल्किन्छ अतीतको माया ।
घडीको काँटा, अब निष्क्रिय,
तर स्मृतिमा बाँचिरहेको समय अनन्त ।

फुटेको घडी, समयको प्रतीक,
जीवनको चक्र, अनवरत घुमिरहन्छ ।
हामी पनि यस्तै, समयसँगै बग्दछौं,
तर कहिलेकाहीँ, थम्छौं, सोच्नका लागि ।
फुटेको घडी।

घडीको काँटामा थन्किएको समय,
फुटेको घडीले सुनाउँछ गाथा पुराना ।
हातले घुमाउँदा, टिकटक टनाटन,
अब चुप, समयको आवाज हराएको ।

पानीको थोपामा परावर्तित छायाँ,
फुटेको काँचमा झल्किन्छ अतीतको माया ।
घडीको काँटा, अब निष्क्रिय,
तर स्मृतिमा बाँचिरहेको समय अनन्त ।

फुटेको घडी, समयको प्रतीक,
जीवनको चक्र, अनवरत घुमिरहन्छ ।
हामी पनि यस्तै, समयसँगै बग्दछौं,
तर कहिलेकाहीँ, थम्छौं, सोच्नका लागि ।

२- गाउँको जीवन

गाउँको बस्ती, हरियालीले सजिएको,
हावा मिठो, शान्तिले रङ्गिएको ।
पाहाडका छायाँ, खोला सुसाउँदै,
जीवनको कथा, यहाँ सधैं बज्दै ।

घाम उदाउँदा, खेतबारी चम्कन्छ,
किसानका हातले माटो सुम्सुमाउँछ ।
गाईबस्तु चरिरहेका डाँडाकाँडामा,
जीवनको आनन्द भेटिन्छ सधैं गाउँमा ।

साँझ परेपछि चौतारीमा हाँसो,
बूढापाकाको कथा, बालकको आसो ।
आकाशमा तारा चम्किन्छन् टाढा,
गाउँको जीवनमा माया छ पक्का ।

साधारण जीवन, तर दिल भरिएको,
माया, सहयोगले गाउँ सजिएको ।
समृद्धि होस् या दुःखको कथा,
गाउँको जीवन सधैं रमाइलो यात्रा ।

३- पुरानो तस्बिर

धूसर पानामा थपीएको,
कालो र सेतोमा रंगिएको ।
स्मृतिका पाना पल्टाउँदा,
जीवनको कथा सुनाउँछ त्यो ।

मुस्कान लुकेको अनुहारमा,
आँसुका कतरा हराएको ।
समयको धारा बगाउँदै,
क्षणहरू सँगै लोपिएको ।

तर त्यो तस्बिरको जादूले,
जीवनलाई नयाँ बनाउँछ ।
अतीत र वर्तमानको सेतु,
सपना र यथार्थ जोड्छ ।

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स्मरण

अनुपमा राई, उप-सचिव
(सिक्किम राज्य लोक सेवा)

यादें बड़ी अजीब होती है।
कहीं भी, कभी भी, चले आना इनकी आदत होती है।
कहीं दौड़ती, कभी सुस्त चाल वाली होती है।
कहीं रुलाती, कभी मुस्कुराहट दें जाए ऐसी होती है।
कहीं सुकून, कभी बेचैनी भर देने वाली होती है।
यादें बड़ी अजीब होती है।
कहीं बेहद सुहावनी, कभी बड़ी डरावनी होती है।
कहीं मीठी दुलार, कभी रूठे हुए यार होती है।
कहीं बिन बुलाए मेहमान सी, कभी तन्हाई में जान सी होती है।
कहीं सुरज के किरणों सी, कभी जुगनुओं की चमक सी होती है।
यादें बड़ी अजीब होती है।
कहीं गैरों से बनी अपनी, कभी गुजरते लम्हों की परछाई भी होती है।
कहीं बातें ही नहीं, कभी खामोशी भी होती है।
कहीं बेबाक ही सही, कभी वफादार भी होती है।
यादें बड़ी अजीब होती है।
कहीं वफ़ा, कभी रुसवाई होती है।
कहीं मौत, कभी जिंदगी होती है।
कहीं ज़िद, कभी खुदाई होती है।
कहीं बेमानी, कभी हस्ती होती है।
यादें बड़ी अजीब होती है।
कहीं हवा में उड़ती मुसाफ़िरीन सी,
कभी ठहर कर जम गए पानी सी होती है।
कहीं अनगिनत नयी आरज़ू सी,
कभी दफन कोई पुरानी ख़्वाहिश सी होती है।
यादें बड़ी अजीब होती है।
कहीं भीड़ में पहचानी एक सूरत,
कभी गुमनाम कोई मूरत होती है।
कहीं टूटकर बिखरी सितारे,
कभी निखरती उभरती पुरानी
मगर ये जवान ही होती है।

मुस्कुराइये और चलिये अपने काम पर

राजेश भरत(राजेश गुप्ता)
सहायक कलेक्टर, भोपाल, मध्य प्रदेश

मुस्कुराइये और चलिये अपने काम पर ।

मुस्कान का कोई दाम नहीं

मगर ये बहुत कुछ दे जाती है ।

चाहे राजा हो या रंक

मुस्कान पर सभी का एक सा-हक है ।

यह उदास के मन में भी जीवन रस घोल देती है

गरीब और अमीर दोनों को एक-सा सुख देती है ।

यह बिना दाम की दवा है

और हर मर्ज का इलाज है

यह दुश्मन को अपना बना लेती है,

रुठों को मना लेती है

और अन्जान को भी अपना बना देती है ।

कुदरत का इन्सान को एक नायाब तोहफा है “मुस्कान”

तो बस मुस्कुराते रहिये और जीवन में खुश रहिये ।

चाहे वो घर वा आफिस

चाहे हो खेल का मैदान या कुछ और

तनाव मुक्त होने के लिये खिलखिलाइये,

ठहाके लगाइये, तालियाँ बजाइये

दूसरों को चिर अप करिए,

आप अपने आप चियर अप हो जाएंगे ।

तुम जो हँसोगे , तो हँसेगी ये दुनिया,

तुम जो रोओगे, तो न रोएगी ये दुनिया ।

इसीलिए मुस्कुराते रहिए और अपने काम पर चलिए ।

जीवन और आवश्यक उपकरण

भीम ठटाल, सचिव
(सिक्किम राज्य लोक सेवा)

आसपास कुछ करीबी दोस्त
ठिक ठाक दो वक्त की रोटी
साथ देनेवाला मजबूत कन्धा
तरो ताजा रखे लायक कुछ पुरानी यादें
पछताने को भद्दी सी कोई घटना
प्रावधान के एकाध प्याकेट
कुछ अच्छी किताबें और
ब्याट्री से चलनेवाली पुरानी लम्बी टर्च
फोन करने को कुछ खास दोस्त
दीवार में लटका पुराना एक पोस्टर
पुरा कंचनजंघा झट से अन्दर
घुसना चाहता एक छोटी खिड़की
पता लगभग मिट चुका
न भेजी हुई एक पुरानी चिट्ठी
प्रगति-पत्र में कुछ प्रभावकारी टिप्पणीयाँ
बरसात की शाम को निकलने के लिए एक जोड़ा गमबूट
कहीं से भी सामाजिक नहीं लगता
सोशल मीडिया पर कुछ दोस्त
कहाँ सुधारना हो पता ही न चलता
कभी न खतम होता जिन्दगी के अनुभूति का वाक्य
दायरा में रहकर मजाक करने को पहचाना सा कोई
बच्चु कैलाश और मुकेश के गीत
एक ही सूर में बजता पुराना छोटा सा रेडियो
गाउँ की लड़की का विदेश में कोई स्पर्धा जितने का खबर
बिना जूतों के चलने के लिए थोड़ी सी मिट्टी
राजनैतिक सोर सराबा से परे
पिले फूलों को दिखाता पुराना क्याबल टी भी
सर टिकाने को नरम एक तकिया
चैन से सोने को एक विश्वस्त शुभरात्री
अच्छे से जागने को एक निश्चित शुभप्रभात
जिन्दगी को इससे ज्यादा और क्या चाहिए।



STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD AN OVERVIEW



The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 provides for the establishment of Central and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB) and enumerates the powers and functions of such Boards.

As per the provisions of the above mentioned Act, the State Boards shall be constituted by the State Government and it shall be called as State Pollution Control Board. Every State Board shall be considered as a body corporate having perpetual succession with the power to acquire, hold and dispose of property. The Land Use & Environment Board, Department of Forest & Environment, Govt. of Sikkim was entrusted with implementation of this Act on 1988. The State Pollution Control Board-Sikkim was formally constituted on 2008 to specifically deal with the issues relating to pollution on 2008 by the State Government. The Members of the Board was specified on 2014 under Sub Sections 1 & 2 of Section 4 of the Act in 2014. In terms of section 17 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the State Board has to perform the following functions such as Planning Comprehensive Programme, Advisory functions, Dissemination of Information, Investigation and research, Organising training programme, Inspection of sewage/trade effluents plants, Lay down Standards for Causing Discharge of Water and Laying Down Standards for Treatment of Sewage.

The State Pollution Control Board has the following powers conferred on it by the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974:

1. Power to obtain information (Section 20)
2. Power to take samples of effluents for analysis (Section 21)
3. Power of entry and inspection (Section 23)
4. Power to impose restriction on new outlets and new discharges (Section 25)
5. Power to refuse or withdraw consent for the establishment of any industry, etc. (Section 27)
6. Power to carry out certain works (Section 30)
7. Power to carry out emergency operations in case of pollution of stream or well (Section 32)
8. Power to make applications to the courts for restraining apprehended pollution of water in water bodies (Section 33)
9. Power to give directions (Section 33A)

Under Sub-Section 2 of Section 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Sub-Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 all enterprises are to pay consent fee to the SPCB before establishment and also on annual basis for renewal of the consent based on their level of investment.

The SPCB is also assigned with ensure proper implementation of various waste rules notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 such as Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, Bio-medical Waste Management Rules, 2016, Hazardous & Other Waste (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016, E-waste Management Rules, 2022, Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2018, Battery Waste Management Rules, 2023 and Construction & Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016

JOURNEY OF CIVIL SERVICE

Lajvir Singh, IAS(Retd) - Haryana

Secretary Finance

All India Federation

It needs to be recognized that the Civil Service for that matter 'State Civil Service' of today, across the country have come a long way from the ancient time, medieval period (Mughal era) and the colonial days. Over the period, there has been paradigm shift in its role from revenue to magisterial, developmental, regulatory and so on. This service has marched along the milestone of time and adopted to the changing needs of the age. In a way, we can claim that the officers of the service are 'Change Agent', change for the betterment of the people. Today, there are more than twenty-one thousand SCS officers working across the country with total dedication and commitment towards realization of the vision of Governments, both of central and state in transforming the lives of people for the betterment.

It is State Civil Service that remains the most potent agent of translating the policy initiatives of the state goal into action in real term. They are the undisputable and invincible tool of the 'delivery mechanism' of the government. They are key functionary at the cutting-edge level for implementing the development agenda of both Central and State government. In addition to the task of implementing the social-economic policies and programmes of the government, the officers of the service are also engaged in different regulatory functions including maintenance of law and order in exercise of their statutory powers, conducting of free and fair elections of the Lok Sabha, legislative assemblies and other local bodies without fear and favour.

Tracing back the history of Civil Service, we found that it is derived partly from the British crown and parliament and partly from Mughal and other native rulers of India. Coming back to the evolution of Civil Service in India, it dates back to ancient time: Kautilya's Artha Sastra stipulates seven basic elements, Swamin (the ruler), Amaty (the bureaucracy), Janpada (territory), Danda (the army), Durga (the fortified capital), Kosa (the treasury) and Mitra (the ally - of the administrative apparatus). According to Arthasastra, the higher bureaucracy consisted of the Mantrins (the minister) and Amatyas (the bureaucracy). While the Mantrins were the highest advisors to the king, the Amatyas were the civil servants, meaning thereby the officers of the Civil Service.

If we talk of medieval period, during Mughal era, the bureaucracy was based on the Mansabdari System. It was essentially a 'pool of civil servant' available for civil or military deployment. During Akbar regime, there was concept of civil administration. Akbar's reforms required a central financial system and thus, by the side of each provincial Governor (Subadar, later called Nawab) was placed a civil administrator (Diwan) who supervised revenue administration, reporting directly to the emperor.

During British India: The British came to India in 1600 as traders, in the form of 'East India Company' under a 'Royal Charter' granted to it. In the earlier days of the East India Company, the affairs of the three principal settlement or say state hood, Bengal, Madras and Bombay were, in each case, administered by a President and a council composed of the 'servant' of the company, later on named 'Public Servant' under the constitution of India. In 1765, Shah Alam the Mughal emperor, granted the 'Deewany' i.e. the responsibility of the collection of revenue in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa to the company which automatically involved in the administration of civil justice. Even today, the civil servant or the 'Public Servant' are basically Revenue Officers and have been empowered as Deputy Collector and Collector under various statute (land laws).

The first act of the British parliament which prescribed a definite system of Government for affairs of India, was the Regulatory Act of 1713. Here one would question, who were to regulate the affairs of the Government, the simple answer, a battery of Civil Servant/Administrator, given the powers of Regulator under different provisions of the Act, prevalent in different states/union of India, meaning thereby that 'East India Company' gradually evolved a 'Civil Service'.

Towards Indenisation of Civil Service - the East India Company lost its monopoly right, partially in 1813 and fully in 1833. Under the Act of 1833, the company was reduced to a local managing agency of the state on behalf of the crown. For this purpose, the office of Deputy Collectors was instituted by Regulation IX of 1833 and of Deputy Magistrates in 1843. In Bengal, under this Act, it was resolved to share power with the natives in the form of giving them jobs and service in the un-covenanted civil service. This is how the civil service emerged in the province of Bengal in the year 1833. This civil service was solely introduced to facilitate the entry of Indian at the lower rung of the administration. Therefore, it can be safely assumed that the State Civil Service is 190 years old. But in practice, the un-covenanted civil service remained closed to the Indians until the last charter Act of 1853, when the system of recruitment in the Civil Service by patronage was entirely abolished. Henceforth, the system of appointment in the Civil Service by competition came into operation.

The concept of Civil Service also existed in princely state. Tracing back the history of kingdom of Mysore, which was realm in southern India, traditionally believed to have been founded in 1399 in the vicinity of the modern city of Mysore, Yaduraja Wodeyar being the first Maharaja. In 1700, the than Maharaja sent an embassy to Aurangzeb's court who bestowed upon him the title of Jug Dev Raja and awarded permission to sit on the ivory throne. Following this, he founded the district office, the central secretariat comprising 18 departments and his administration was modelled on Mughal lines. Departments were administered by the Secretary. When this princely state came under direct British rule in 1831, Bangalore was made capital of this princely state in 1834 and was divided into 4 division and 120 taluks, it is during this period, the concept of civil service emerged. Taking a step forward Sh. Nalvadi Krihsanraja Wodeyar, the than Maharaja constituted a civil service association, styled 'Mysore Administrative Service Officers Association' in the year 1919, which eventually transformed into 'Karnataka Administrative Service Officer Association' in 1956. This association can be

presumed to be oldest civil service association.

In 1854, Lord Macaulay's report introduced the concept of merit based Civil Servant. It provided for the first time an open competitive exam for the recruitment of Civil Servant and enabled Indians to enter into prestigious Civil Services. The first competitive exam for recruiting Civil Servants started in 1855. The very objective of the report was that only the best and brightest would do for the Civil Service, so as to serve the interest of British empire.

In 1858, through the Government of India Act, 1858, transferred the powers of governance from East India Company to the 'Crown' and all power of the company and board of control were to be exercised by the 'Secretary of State' who was responsible to the British parliament. This act provided the concept of 'Secretary of State'. In today's era, there is an office of 'Cabinet Secretary' to Govt. of India, who is responsible to the council of Ministers, GOI. In state, this responsibility has been assigned to the chief Secretary to Government.

The un-covenanted civil service was renamed as Indian Civil Service (ICS) under the Act of 1861. But as regards the participation of the Indians in the ICS, it remained more or less an impossible task or distant dream, because Indians were required to participate in the competition by appearing in the ICS examination in London, (there being no centre in India), and at a very tender age (23) and with two years of probation in England. No Indian could become member of the Indian Civil Service until 1863, when Sh. Sateyendra Nath Tagore (brother of Sh. Rabindra Nath Tagore) became the first Indian to become the member of ICS and this stream remained a trickle until the 1920's when ICS examinations began to be held simultaneously in England and India and when a principal decision was taken to admit more Indians in the ICS.

The period 1858-1919 was important for evolution of civil service in India; In 1886, Public Service Commission, under the chairmanship of CU Aitcheson was constituted, called Aitcheson commission. Aitcheson, a senior ICS officer and lieutenant Governor of Punjab, devised a plan which was finally approved in 1889 and came into execution in 1891. Under the new plan, the statutory Civil Service was abolished. The civilian officers of the Government were divided into three classes;

- (i) The Imperial Indian Civil Service
- (ii) The Provincial Civil Service.
- (iii) Subordinate Civil Service

Recruitment to Provincial Civil Service was made in three methods;

- (a) By examination (Direct Recruitment),
- (b) By promotion from the Subordinates service,
- (c) By Nomination

More or less, this system of recruitment is even continued today. Therefore, the provincial Civil Service emerged in the provincial states. Even today, in Uttar Pradesh and carved out State of Uttarakhand, the State Civil Service is notified as 'Provincial Civil Service (PCS)' whereas, in other state it has been notified as Civil or Administrative Service of that state.

With the outbreak of first world war in 1914, political parties and people of India, forgetting all differences, helped the war efforts with resources, hoping to get in return, self-Government, after the war. On 20th August 1917, a pronouncement was made in the British parliament to grant responsible Government to the Indian people by providing increase association of Indians in every branch of 'Indian Administration'. To give, a practical shape of idea of 'Indian Administration' Government of India Act 1919 was passed by the parliament. At both level of administration, a class of civil servants was introduced, who were supposed to execute the policies of Government in public interest. Since the aspirations of Indian people were not met and shadowed by the authority given by the Act of 1919, it led to the framing and passing of the Government of India Act, 1935. This Act., envisaged a federation of the Eleven British Indian province and six union territories.

Provincial States

Bengal	United Provinces
Bombay	Central Provinces and Berar
Madras	Punjab
Bihar	North west frontier province
Orissa	Sind
Assam	

Union Territories

Delhi	Himachal Pradesh
Andaman and Nicobar	Manipur
Lakshadweep, Mincoy & Maldives Islands	Tripura

In these provinces and union territories, the Civil Service existed from the earlier period in one form or another, in the name of patronage Civil Service, un-covenanted Civil Service and Provincial Civil Service before independence of India. Therefore, the Civil Service has its rich heritage. The Bengal being not only the oldest Civil Service but also has a heritage tag of Indian Civil Service. In 1863-64, Sh. Satyendra Nath Tagore, had the distinction of first Indian to be member of the Indian Civil Service.

Under section 264 of this Act, Federal Public Service Commission (now known as Union Public Service Commission) and a Provincial Public Service Commission (now State Public Service Commission) were established. The Act made a provision of two types of Civil Service;

1. In case of service of the federation and post in connection with the affairs of the federation, to be appointed by 'Governor General' or such other person as he may direct;
2. In the case of service of province and post in connection with the affairs of the province, to be appointed by the governor or such other persons as he may direct.

Therefore, the existing Civil Services and their terms and conditions were broad based under the Government of India Act, 1935. This Act continued till 26th January 1950; the constitution of India came into effect.

Article, 309 to 323 of the constitution stipulates recruitment and condition of service. This article provides that for regulating recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of union or states, provisions are to be made by the appropriate legislatures and till then rules are to be made by the President in case of union services and by the Governor in case of state services. Until the powers conferred by Article 309 are exercised, the rules in force immediately before the commencement of the constitution in so far as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of the constitution, shall apply. So, this article empowers the Governor of the state to enact rules as to the recruitment and conditions of the members of state civil service. The constitution in no way diminishes the independent status of state civil service. Therefore, the state Government is within its powers to encadre any post of administration in the cadre of state civil services.

Prior to the enactment of IAS (Recruitment) Rules, 1954 and IAS (Appointment by Promotion) Regulation 1955, the Provincial Civil Service was an independent service. It had its own promotional avenues and used to hold the post of Collector, Divisional Commissioner, beside head of Department and other senior posts. This service was not a subordinate to the Indian Civil Service. The officers of this service used to occupy the senior position held by an ICS. The officers of the civil service used to hold even judicial courts apart from working on executive side. Later on, the civil service was divided into provincial civil service (executive) and provincial civil service (judicial).

With the enforcement of IAS recruitment rules and promotion regulation, the independent status of the State Civil Service was converted to a feeder service and gradually the post of Collector, Commissioner and other senior post were encadred in the IAS cadre strength of the state. It has always been on the agenda of the federation that the State SCS officer should have a provision for parallel promotion on senior post of IAS cadre, besides other demands of career progression. It is high time for state civil services to reinforce its strength and restore the glory of service.

The State Civil Service having its high tradition and value, had been working, keeping the core objectives of the service in mind. But over a period, the Civil Service/ Administrative machinery have lost a great deal of credibility and confidence of common man, that was expected from the Civil Service. It is high time for us to pause, rethink and restore the valued tradition and total commitment to the ideology of the service, that it was created for.

SWEATING IN BOMBAY

(I)

Sarala Rai, IAS (Retd)

Life is a tapestry woven from an array of fascinating experiences, each stage presenting its unique act of challenges, opportunities and lessons. These incidents whether big or small shape us, mold us and ultimately define the narrative of our lives.

From the innocence and wonder of childhood to the self discovery and exploration of adolescence, the responsibilities and challenges of adulthood to the wisdom and reflection of old age, replete with intriguing incidents that make our journey worthwhile.

These experiences not only make life interesting but also teach us valuable lessons help us grow and enable us to evolve into the individuals we are meant to be. As the ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus said- "The only thing that is constant is change". It's the interesting incidents at every stage of life that make this change worthwhile.

My stay in Bombay (then) can be linked with late Homi J.H. Taleyarkhan, former Governor of Sikkim. Though I had never met him personally during his Governorship. As per local version he was a proactive and multi- talented personality. He firmly believed in publicity. A Padma Bhusan awardee (1991) he had distinguished career as a Minister of Housing and Civil Supplies, Government of Maharashtra and India's Ambassador to Libya.

The admission committee at Tata Institute of Social Sciences quizzed me about Shri Taleyarkhan. They virtually wanted me to review the work of their son who was holding a constitutional post above our elected representatives. After answering an array of question on him the members seemed pleased. Perhaps they might have seen my gullibility too.

Prof. V.G Panwalkar, head of the committee, with a smile said - "we have been reading about our son who is your Governor in newspaper almost every day. Most of local news paper carried his story, so we wanted to hear from the horses mouth."

I wiped off my sweat in a full blown airconditioned room and accepted my limitation on the subject.

The interview now shifted on Mrs. Thrity Taleyarkhan(wife). I acknowledged her efforts in empowering women folks at Gangtok, then. This reply ultimately opened gate at TISS, a premier Institution famous for rigorous academic programs and commitment to social justice. This marked a new beginning of a new chapter in my perception level and academic journey.

(II)

I received an invitation to attend a book launch at Raj Bhawan, Malabar Hills, Mumbai (now). Students from the London School of Economics, specializing in Indian Economy had authored the book which was to be launched by Dr. Ranga Rajan, the then Governor of Maharashtra and former Governor of Reserve Bank of India.

I arrived at the venue with correspondent of Economic Times (ETI). We were ushered into the elegant Ashoka Hall where we were offered front row seats directly facing the dais which was a prime spot to witness the proceedings.

As the VIPs took their designated seats, the Ashoka Hall reached its full capacity, packed with the creme-de-la-cream of Bombay elite. The notable absence was the glamorous Bollywood crowd.

The master of ceremony (MC) took the stage, adjusted the microphone and boomed a warm 'Hello' to the distinguished audience. With that a drama was unfolding.

A crushing weight suddenly descended upon my shoulder and I let out a loud yell- "A-P-PUII." I jumped from my seat causing the entire audience to turn and stare at me in astonishment including the guests on dais. As I turned to my right, I was met with the sight of a towering figure in a crisp white outfit. His broad shoulder now heaving with sobs as he leaned against me. My sixth sense screamed 'This could be only one person i.e. Taleyarkhan Sir.'

He cried loudly informing his son was found dead in Himachal Pradesh avalanche. His wife has gone into depression since last night. Tears were rolling down his cheek. I found that the language and pain of grief is the same whether you are big or small, rich or poor, male or female and in any part of this planet. I tried consoling him, said sorry which only I could hear.

The MC, ADC of Governor, Organizers and security personal rushed to my side inquiring about the sudden commotion. 'What happened?' they asked their faces etched with concern. Lt. Homi J.H Taleyarkhan was ushered to a special chair (arranged hurriedly) as he was member, Minority Commission of India, then.

I wiped off my sweat. The programme went off well. A group of local journalists came to me and asked - 'madam, please tell us something about yourself. By seeing the former Governor crying in front of you, there may be something for us to know.'

(III)

My attachment with the Times of India helped me to understand Bombay and organization behavior from a different perspective. My gratitude to my super senior, Shri Guha, the then General Manager of Bennett & Coleman, Shri (late) Vikky Cardozo and Government of Sikkim for their support.

The beautiful building opposite VT station (then) is a designer's creations. The old vase collections of Jain Brothers are a delight to the eyes. The 3rd floor of this building was home to TOI. The Times of India "office where the legend late R.K. Laxman, the one and only had his office.

We saw him come to office as per his timing. He was not interested in anything other than his work. The accounts people did not have his pay figure as the boss used to deal with him directly. Perhaps he was too big to fall in monthly pay system.

One day we the young girls especially from subbing desk were talking about how unattached is the legend. He has our concern expressed in his cartoon as “common man”. The common man’s dream, hopes, problems and frustration were depicted so well in his cartoon. He saw what we, the common man failed to see through.

I was told that it was very difficult to talk to him and he did not like visitors.

The days passed by. After 10-15 days of our discussion, I had free time. Suddenly I felt like meeting the legend – Shri R.K. Laxman.

‘He won’t like it’-girls said.

‘Let me try’ - I told them.

‘Knock! Knock!’ I banged at the door. After sometime Shri Laxman asked his PA most unwillingly – ‘Who is that?’ He never expected visitor of any kind at his office. I could see from half open door that his full concentration was on drawing cartoon. Omg! it was wonderful seeing the expert hand running on canvas. His PA was shocked to see me and I pushed the door and entered in and stood there watching.



After finishing his work, he asked me – ‘Who are you? Why are you here?’ His tone was rude. I did not seek prior appointment.

With folded hands, I gave my introduction, there was no reaction at all. To impress the old man, I folded my hand and told him that I am a student from Sikkim and am here at his office as a ‘Courtesy Call’. He was not interested.

Still with folding hands I said ‘am here for a short period to understand print media. Times of India group of newspaper is incomplete without- ‘Common man’. The ice was broken then.

I wiped off my sweat in a fully blown AC room.

‘Once I wanted to visit Sikkim in early 70’s - Lt Laxman told me. A paper in the name and style of Himalayan Observer was published from Kalimpong in English in those days. Basnett Brothers used to be the Editors. This paper published my cartoon which has a boulder moving towards a crow and the crow was looking at the boulder’. He visited Sikkim and stayed at Hotel Norkhil with inquisitiveness to explore this tiny Himalayan Country. He further told me that he enjoyed dinner and went to bed early to relax.

Someone’s knocking awakened him at midnight. He jumped from the bed and opened the door.

‘Sir, I am O.C. from Sadar Thana. I am here to inform you that you are required to leave our Country immediately.’ No summon was served. A taxi was arranged hurriedly and he left Gangtok at wee hour. Later, he came to know that the Cartoon made the king unhappy’.

‘The Royal family and authority failed to read my message. My message was positive. But I

was misunderstood. The boulder in the cartoon was representing Democracy and the crow represented Royals. I was telling the king to be careful with such powerful movement.'

Indeed, this great man never could see the after effects of his boulder in our State. My invitation was met with silence.

LIVES BEHIND FILES

*Rakesh Kumar R . KAS
Kerala*

It was as usual a gloomy afternoon for the 31-yr old lady Vijayamma. She belonged to an ordinary family in the eastern part of Idukki district. That day also she suddenly woke up on hearing the cycle bell. Looked through the windows for the postman.

For the last one year she was waiting for a brown cover carrying her posting order from the secretariat. But the postman didn't mind and passed through.

She slowly fell into the lovely memories of her family.

Rajan, Vijayamma and their only daughter lived much more happy life. Rajan was working as a last grade servant in a regional office of state-controlled PSU.

Only with that income they tried max to live happily and give his child better education. They had many plans as everyone. Having a small home was their most important priority. But fate was so cruel to them. Rajan met with an accident and got seriously injured. The small family spend almost everything what they had to save their loving family head. But all prayers and efforts went in vain.

Vijayamma's life along with kids was challenging. Even then she managed to give them good schooling. She was informed by some acquaintances about the chance of job on Rajan's post in the same office under compassionate appointment scheme.

All her thoughts after this was to get placed at the earliest. She applied for the same.

Since then she was waiting for the appointment order. It was a Friday morning that she was surprised to see the postman knocking the doors. He smiled and told this time there was cover for her. She was so anxious to see her long-awaited orders.

With lots of thanks and joy she received the post. She didn't wait much and opened the cover. Her eyes rapidly ran through the contents. But she couldn't complete reading as she read the words that her application was rejected. She slowly sat down at the door. Achu, her little daughter saw tears out of mom's eyes. She couldn't understand what happened and she swiftly patted on her shoulders.

It was really a shock to Vijayamma. She couldn't sleep for days. Few days later ward member met her and enquired about the situation. She told everything. After carefully listening to Vijayamma, she assured maximum help to sort out the issues. Next day member discussed the matter with regional officials. He got to know that Vijayamma was not eligible because she couldn't meet the age limit for such a posting as per the existing rules. But she understood that there is an appeal provision for the same.

The very next day he came to Vijayamma and informed about the appeal application and said that she could try giving an appeal as the last resort. He reminded one more thing to Vijayamma that then a young officer has taken charge as Under Secretary in the department concerned.

Even though Vijayamma decided to give an appeal, she had lost all the faiths and was not at all confident. Because she was informed that she was an over aged applicant and believed that nobody could help.

As instructed and helped by the Member she once again drafted an appeal petition and sent through proper channel.

Days later a normal day in secretariat Mr. Mohan Kumar a young officer who belonged to the KAS cadre was in a hurry to attend a usual meeting.

In the afternoon he was just going through the pending lists of applications in the e-office. Quite accidentally he noted an application directed from the Minister's office for urgent submission.

He went through all the documents. For a moment he felt so sad of what had happened but the rules strictly stopped him. He stopped thinking and decided to submit the files with remark that applicant's age was more than required for the job so, the application could be rejected. But suddenly some thoughts occurred in his mind. The words by Hon'ble CM in a speech during his training period, "There is a life behind every file. Apply your mind properly before taking a decision." That haunted him deeply. He again went through all the documents and existing orders and regulations relating to compassionate appointments in the PSU.

For the first time he noted a wording that government can make any decision if it thinks fit, overruling the existing provisions. Suddenly he changed his earlier decision and gave his remarks as the incumbent is genuinely eligible candidate for being appointed in the post under the scheme but qualifying age was just over. But as per the existing provisions government can give relaxation to the existing conditions and her application may be considered positively.

He submitted the file to the Secretary and requested his higher officer for a favourable recommendation.

Since then, he was also following that file for days. One day he got informed from the Secretary that the file was favorably recommended by Minister and would be considered in coming cabinet meeting. Next day he rushed to the minister's office for the final decision. The private secretary informed that cabinet had approved the appointment of Vijayamma and remarked that he had done a wonderful job. That was a great day for the young officer. He made a call to some of his batchmates and shared his joy. Two weeks later MD informed that Vijayamma joined duty and it was really heart touching day for them too. Mohan exactly saw a life behind the files and realised the mindfulness of serving the needy people.

I Alone Cannot Change the World but I Can Cast a Stone Across the Water to Create Many Ripples

*Nikhil Sherpa(SCS)
Under Secretary*

During medieval times in Europe, the Church held absolute authority and wielded significant influence across the continent. Most people did not dare to oppose it. In this era, Galileo, through his observations, discovered that the Ptolemaic theory was flawed. With courage and conviction, he went on to publish works that completely discarded the theory. Galileo was arrested and sentenced to house arrest for nine years. Despite this, he continued his work and made significant contributions that later changed humanity's understanding of the universe. Upon his death, he was buried near a church. He had requested that the phrase "Eppur si muove" ("And yet, it moves") be inscribed on his tombstone.

Another significant example of individual courage and intellectual revolution came with Charles Darwin. From time immemorial, the belief that man (Adam and Eve) was created by God had been deeply ingrained in society. This belief had biblical origins, and for centuries, no one dared to challenge it. However, Darwin challenged this notion by publishing his groundbreaking work—"The Theory of Evolution by Means of Natural Selection." His theory concluded that all human beings evolved through the process of natural selection from a common ancestor, rather than being directly created by God. Though Darwin's theory was widely criticized and rejected by many at the time, it laid the foundation for the modern understanding of evolution. Today, it is accepted as a scientific theory supported by extensive evidence.

Moving backward in history, Lord Buddha and Mahavira have also shown us how an individual can create a lasting impact, causing ripples across the world. Their messages of righteousness influenced their followers and masses, eventually forming two major religions of the world. Even today, their teachings and philosophies continue to guide humanity.

The Ramayana also teaches us the importance of every individual, even if they may seem unworthy or irrelevant. Ravan ostracized his brother Vibhishan for providing him with critical advice. He expelled him from his palace, failing to recognize his worth. Unlike his other brothers, Vibhishan was neither a skilled warrior nor an exceptional strategist. However, his inputs regarding Ravan's weaknesses proved crucial for Lord Ram in his battle against Ravan. Ultimately, Vibhishan's insights played a decisive role in Ravan's downfall.

Fast forward to the modern era, the 1950s marked the beginning of a monumental civil rights movement in the United States. African Americans faced systemic discrimination and segregation, with their rights severely restricted. However, Rosa Parks, an ordinary woman, sparked a nationwide movement when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger. This small yet defiant act triggered mass protests, ultimately leading to legislative reforms. Under the leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the civil rights movement gained

momentum, proving that one act of resistance could inspire millions.

Around the same period, during the Cold War, the Cuban Missile Crisis was a critical event where the world nearly witnessed another global war. A Soviet submarine, armed with nuclear torpedoes, was surrounded by U.S. forces and was under constant threat of attack. The submarine had lost all connection with Moscow and had received the command to use nuclear torpedoes. Among the three commanding officers, two agreed to launch the attack. However, it was Vasili Arkhipov who maintained a calm and rational stance under extreme pressure, ultimately preventing what could have escalated into nuclear warfare.

Meanwhile, in post-independent India, demands for linguistic states gained traction. However, the initial committees rejected this demand. It was Potti Sriramulu, an ardent Gandhian, who took the extreme step of fasting unto death in protest. When he died while fasting in Madras, the demand for linguistic division spread like wildfire. Consequently, the state of Andhra Pradesh had to be carved out from Madras Presidency. Later, the States Reorganisation Act was passed, leading to the creation of other linguistic states.

Among the many philosophical doctrines, Kant's deontology or the Kantian imperative focuses on the notion of individual worth. It argues that every individual is an end in itself and not merely a means. This philosophy recognizes the ability and importance of each individual in shaping moral and ethical principles.

IAS officer Ira Singhal, who secured AIR 1 in the UPSC Civil Services Exam 2014, is a remarkable example. Despite being differently abled and facing enormous challenges in life, she persevered and achieved success. Her journey has been an inspiration to millions, demonstrating that with hard work and determination, one can achieve and overcome any difficulties in life.

The civil services, too, provide a platform for individuals to make meaningful contributions and initiate positive change. Civil servants hold a unique position of trust and responsibility in implementing policies, delivering justice, and ensuring good governance. There are numerous instances where dedicated officers have transformed lives through innovative and people-centric approaches. For example, Armstrong Pame, an IAS officer from Manipur, famously built a 100-km road connecting remote villages in Nagaland and Manipur without government funds, relying instead on community contributions. His initiative, widely celebrated as the "Miracle Road," showcases how civil servants can empower communities and drive grassroots development. Civil services thus become not just a career, but a mission to serve and uplift society.

Throughout history, democracy has been criticized by many thinkers. Plato and Aristotle were among those who warned against it, arguing that, in a democracy, the leadership is not in the hands of a trained and experienced captain but in the hands of common people. However, democracy has stood the test of time and has emerged as the most widely accepted and effective form of governance. It is the only system that recognizes the power of an individual—the common man. Even a single individual can cast a stone and create many

ripples, influencing the broader society.

In conclusion, history is replete with instances where individuals, through their actions, have shaped society. Whether it was Galileo's defiance of dogma, Rosa Parks' resistance to injustice, Vasili Arkhipov's rationality under pressure, or Ira Singhal's perseverance, each of these individuals proved that a single act can create ripples that influence generations. As we navigate our own lives, we must remember that no effort is insignificant, and each of us has the power to initiate change. Had Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, or Abraham Lincoln doubted their abilities, the world would have been vastly different. Their courage, vision, and persistence reshaped societies and continue to inspire generations. Thus, no matter how small our actions may seem, they have the potential to create waves of change in the world.

A TRYST WITH HISTORY

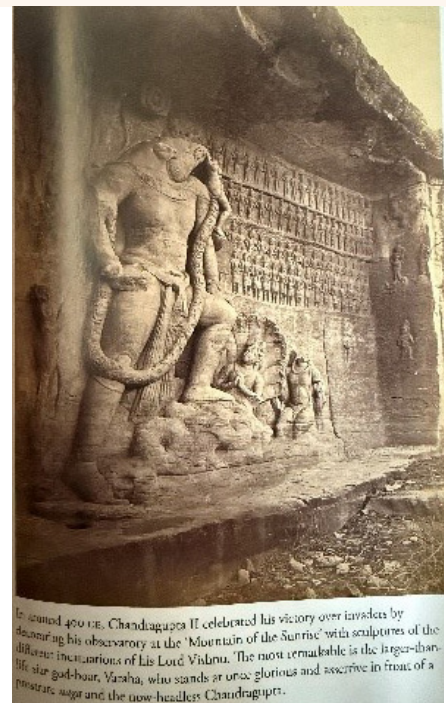
Tashi Chopel(SCS), Secretary

On a hot October afternoon, we find ourselves standing before a larger than life sized carving of Lord Vishnu in his Varaha (boar) avatar rescuing Bhu Devi (mother earth) from the depths of the cosmic ocean.

Bhu Devi is personified as a tiny, vulnerable figure clinging to the tusk of Varaha as he rises to the surface much to the relief of an array of celestials and rishis witnessing the miraculous rescue. Nagadeva is stomped on by the left feet of Varaha while two figures (one headless and on his knees with one surviving hand possibly in supplication and the other small figure chipped away) fill the lower right hand panel.

The two figures in the lower half are of interest. The supplicants, and benefactor of the cave-temple complex, are Chandragupta II and his minister Virasena and these caves are the earliest existing Hindu temple structures built around the 4th-5th century AD, probably reworked over earlier Buddhist and Jain structures.

We are in Udayagiri, some 15 kms from Sanchi, and an hour and half away from Bhopal. We are here for a conference at Bhopal and on our last day we are visiting the famed stupas at Sanchi and the rock cut temples of Udayagiri.



Udayagiri today pales in renown when compared to Sanchi. Emperor Ashoka during his stint as the young Governor of Vidisha married a daughter of a trader. Much later when he adopted Buddhism, it was here that he built the Sanchi Stupas and attendant Viharas, containing among them the relics of Mogallana and Sariputta, the disciples standing on either side of the Buddha on every image of his.

Searching for places of interest in Bhopal, the Udayagiri caves lie low in the list and the general comments are not too encouraging too– deserted, temples gates and ticket counters locked etc.

However, the mention of Guptas, synonymous with the Golden age of India, and the Varaha sculpture piques interest. And after a sumptuous lunch at Sanchi we make for Udayagiri.

Scattered remnants of pillars and temples with stone doorways come into view on the left side of the road. Luckily the ticket counters are open and the place is neat After all it is under the Archeological Survey of India. Lack of visitors and closed temple gates are true.

As we wander through the first structures a person with an ID approaches us and asks if we want a guide. He ushers us through the temple complex identifying the various gods and goddesses in their niches. There is a face on a Shivalinga, statues of Durga and Ganesha, apparently amongst their first known images. Varaha takes our breath away and a little higher the magnificent reclining figure of Vishnu which has half of the body demolished.

Once the guide realizes we are government officers, bunch of keys materialize as he also doubles as a guard. He opens the locked gates showing us lotus ceilings and snatches of an undeciphered script, Sankha lipi, harkening back to existence of the structure before the Guptas.

Locals keep vandalizing the structures he says hence the locked gates and being the only watchman, he cannot be at all places at all times. Earlier cattle would wander inside the compound, that too was brought to an end by fences. He is right as just the road separates the monuments from the sleepy village settlement.

At Delhi airport I pick up William Dalrymple's latest *The Golden Road*. As the flight gains altitude, I flip through the pages looking at some of the photographs. At the far end of the book I am astonished to find the photo of the Varaha statue.

Accompanying the photo is a brief note stating that in around 400 CE, Chandragupta II celebrated his victory over invaders by decorating his observatory at the 'Mountain of the Sunrise' with the sculptures of the different incarnations of his Lord Vishnu.

Intrigued I delve deeper into the book, Udayagiri 'Mountain of the Sunrise', was not just a sacred place for Gupta religious rituals, it was also a major centre for early Indian science, laying exactly where the Tropic of Cancer lay at that time. It was also the original location of the celebrated Iron Pillar, now at the Qutub complex in Delhi.

I now come to understand the desecration of the temple complex was by the army of the Delhi Sultanate.

The book mentions the observatory to be in Ujjain but the Varaha statue is too magnificent to be in two places and etymology of Udayagiri is just pat.

In 773 AD a delegation from the Raja of Sindh arrived in the court of Caliph Mansur, the Abbasid ruler, at Baghdad. Amongst the various gifts was a handwritten manuscript The Great Sindhind, a book of complex mathematical theory.

Written by the mathematician and astronomer, Brahmagupta, a century earlier, he used the zero symbol as a number just like the other nine, rather than a void or an absence. What it means it allowed any number up to infinity to be expressed with just ten distinct symbols for the first time.

The book would be translated into Arabic then Hebrew and Latin and the ideas within it in time would spread to Europe through Muslim Andalusia.

Brahmagupta in his time was the head of the observatory at Udayagiri and it was here that he had written the treatise that would change maths the way we see it today.

My head is dizzy with excitement. It is a serendipitous moment, to have stood just a day earlier, in the hallowed grounds of such immense astronomical and mathematical significance. The enormity of the moment is overwhelming.

I imagine the complex in its heyday, lighted oil lamps, chants of shlokas from the various temples and throngs of devotees with flower offerings and a lone astronomer on top of the hill watching the night sky. But today it is deserted.





हर घर जल
जल जीवन मिशन






JAL JEEVAN MISSION

RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

The Jal Jeevan Mission was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 15th August 2019 with an objective to provide drinking water to every home across the Nation through water-tap network by the year-2024. (Now extended upto 2028)

From humble beginnings with sincere dedication and hard work, the Sikkim Government under the vibrant leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Prem Singh Tamang has accomplished many notable and exemplary achievements & success stories since its inception.

These good deeds & holistic development exemplify the positive impact on rural areas showcasing how it has transformed lives by providing access to quality drinking water & better healthcare services to overall benefit to the public.




नए भारत की पहचान हर घर जल से बना जीवन आसान, हर घर नल | हर घर जल



Jal Jeevan Mission
Rural Development Department
Government of Sikkim

THE FOUR SACRED CAVES OF SIKKIM “PHUG CHEN ZHI”

*Sonam Topgay Tashi(SCS)
Additional Secretary*

Ugyen Guru Rinpoche Pema Jungney (Mahaguru Padmasambhava), the emanation of Yoe-pag-med (the celestial Buddha Amitabha), is the tallest figure in Vajrayana Buddhism. The Guru is the most revered promulgator of Buddha Sakyamuni's teachings. Guru Rinpoche was responsible for laying strong foundations for the ubiquitous spread of Buddhism in Tibet and its hinterland and is reverently regarded as the “Second Buddha” in Tibetan / Himalayan Buddhism.



Bayul Demojong / Mayal Lyang / Sikkim is believed to be the hidden blissful land made holy by the physical presence of Guru Rinpoche himself. It is said that Bayul Demojong is consecrated with all the essential outer, inner, and secret blessings of the great Mahaguru.

The ancient and rich Buddhist religious heritage of Bayul Demojong stands testimonial to the historic 8th century AD sojourn of Guru Rinpoche to the region. Bayul Demojong is filled with numerous places of sanctity and pilgrimage associated with Ugyen Guru Rinpoche.

Guru Rinpoche, during the 8th century AD, promulgated Buddhism in Tibet under the patronage of the Tibetan emperor, Tsenpo Choegyal Trisong Detsen. The Guru also essayed an instrumental role in construction of Tibet's first Buddhist monastery- Samye Gonpa.

Guru Rinpoche is believed to have gone on to select four major and four minor “hidden lands” around Tibet. The reason for this was to prepare spiritual havens for Buddhist practitioners as he prophesied that they would be taking refuge in such lands in the future when Buddhism would decline in Tibet with the approach of a degenerate age.

After teaching Buddhism to the Tibetans, ordaining Tibet's first Buddhist monks and overseeing the translation of original Buddhist texts into Tibetan, Guru Rinpoche travelled southwards towards Sikkim / Bayul Demojong (the sacred hidden valley of rice).

According to Sikkimese Buddhist tradition, when Guru Rinpoche arrived in Bayul Demojong, he found the land dominated by several negative spirits. It is said that the Guru concealed “terma” (spiritual treasures) at many places within Bayul Demojong. These were to be discovered in later times by his

own preordained incarnates. Further, using his spiritual powers, the Guru convinced and converted the negative beings into deities led by Khangchen-Dzonga, the mountain deity.

Khangchen-Dzonga was consecrated as the chief guardian deity of Bayul Demojong. Guru Rinpoche subsequently bound the deities through solemn oath into being protectors and guardians of Buddhist Dharma and all sentient beings. He also instructed "Yeshey Gonpo" (Mahakala) to ensure that Khangchen-Dzonga and the other guardian deities kept their pledge. Khangchen-Dzonga is believed to have afterwards played an important role in introducing Buddhism all over Bayul Demojong.

Guru Rinpoche is thereafter said to have sanctified and blessed the entire land of Bayul Demojong- including its caves, streams, lakes and rocks (leaving his body imprints on several of them). The Guru furthermore marked the site of Neychen Drakar Tashiding located in today's Gyalshing District as the "Denjong Ney-gi Teu" / "the sacred heart of Bayul Demojong" / "the sacred navel point of Sikkim" which he equated with his own abode- "Zangdopalri". He went on to "conceal" the land of Bayul Demojong as the most sacred of his hidden lands, predicting the manner of its "discovery" and the establishment of Buddhism in the land by the great yogi, Gyalwa Lhatsun Chenpo Namkha Jigmed "Kunzang Namgyal" more than eight centuries later. It is said that Lhatsun Chenpo was guided to Bayul Demojong by divine visions sent by Khangchen-Dzonga himself.

Out of the numerous sacred caves blessed and sanctified by Guru Rinpoche, four are considered particularly significant and hallowed as these surround Drakar

Tashiding- the spiritual centre and heart of Bayul Demojong, in the four cardinal directions. The Guru is believed to have meditated in these caves.

The four sacred caves of Bayul Demojong are as follows:

1. "Sharchog Bey Phug" or "The Hidden Cave in the East": It is located to the east of Drakar Tashiding at Sangmo which is about an hour's walk from Rabong. Local people revere it as "Sangmo Ney". It is believed that this was the first cave to be blessed by Guru Rinpoche in Bayul Demojong. It is a vast cave / cavern, about quarter of a mile in length, and is said to extend right upto Mt. Tendong and Maenam Hill. The Denjong Nye-yig written by the revered third Lhatsun- Kyabgon Jigmed Pawo during the early 1700s, states that the height of this cave varies from five feet to a hundred feet. This sacred cave holds a number of self-arisen figures. Upon entering the cave, to the right, one can see figures of forty-two peaceful deities; and to the left, figures of sixty-nine wrathful deities. At the entrance lies the seat of Guru Rinpoche upon which he had sat whilst meditating here. It is believed that the blessings accrued from visiting this holy site has the power to fulfill one's wishes;

2. "Lho Khandro Sang Phug" or "The Secret Cave of the Dakini" / "Womb of the Dakini in the South": This sacred cave lies to the south of Drakar Tashiding at a location (Sanganath) five kilometres south of Legship. The cave, which is easily accessible, is famous as "the cave of occult fairies". It is believed that at this place- all wishes for long life, virtues and knowledge are fulfilled. The height of the cave varies from two to twenty feet and it extends inwards for about eleven metres. At the end of the cave is the place where

Guru Rinpoche is said to have meditated. On the roof above, is a deep imprint created by the Guru's hat when he had sat there in meditation. Above the entrance is a rock which is believed to be the body of a nun transformed into stone. It is believed that she was liberated by the Guru in this manner to inspire future generations who would see the rock. The entrance to the cave is via a low tunnel, about ten metres in length. Inside the cave are numerous imprints left behind by the Guru including the "Lotus Hat that liberates upon seeing" and the "Pandita Hat". Next to the cave, on the left, is a path which leads to a hole. It is said that if one is able to pass through the hole, all one's negativities would be eradicated. It is also believed that from this cave there are underground passages leading to Sharchog Bey Phug. A few metres downstream from the sacred cave, on the river bank, are rocks with impressions of two foot-prints of fairies and also of a demoness that the Guru had subdued there. The demoness had been causing obstruction in the Guru's meditation. In front of the cave, in the river, are hot-springs known as "Phur-tsha-chu" that have both medicinal and spiritual significance;

3. "Nub Dechen Phug" or "The Cave of Great Bliss in the West": It is located to the west of Drakar Tashiding at a location above Darap village near Nampung village, about a day's trek from the sacred Khachodpalri Pemachen Tso / Lake. Referred to in the Denjong Nye-yig as "Chhime Tshetar Drubpa Nub Dechen Phug", this sacred place is believed to bless devotees with long life. The cave, which is about the size of a three-storied building, contains several

sacred images. The entire complex contains a number of caves- all of which are regarded as sacred and extremely propitious towards attainment of enlightenment. There is also a fragrant medicinal tree nearby which bears flowers and fruits said to have the ability to cure diseases; and

4. "Jhang Lhari Rinchen Nying Phug" or "The Cave of the Heart of the Deity in the North": This lies near Kongri-Labdang which is a three-day trek north from Drakar Tashiding. The cave is considered to be the holiest of all the sacred caves in Bayul Demojong. Here, there are a number of caves- each considered as abodes of deities. Guru Rinpoche is believed to have concealed a number of "terma" (precious spiritual treasures) here for the prosperity of the land and benefit of all sentient beings. The northern cave at this location is considered the most sacred. During the mid-1700s, while meditating in the sacred cave of Jhang Lhari Rinchen Nying Phug, the precious terma teachings of "Rigdzin Sokdrup" which had been concealed there by Guru Rinpoche, were discovered and revealed by Gyalwa Lhatsun Chenpo. Khandro Yeshe Tsogyal, the revered "Wisdom Dakini" and principal consort of Guru Rinpoche, is believed to have appeared and revealed the precious terma on to the Lhatsun. It was through these teachings, of which "Riwo Sangchoe" (mountain smoke offering practice) forms an essential part, that Gyalwa Lhatsun Chenpo was able to remove all obstacles in the establishment of Buddhism in Bayul Demojong, revealing it as "the most sacred and secret blessed land of Guru Rinpoche and of Buddhism".

COINS IN THE RIVER, FATE IN THE MAKING

*Gloria Grace Namchu(SCS)
Secretary*

Clink...Splash...ll

These imaginary sounds come to my mind as I recall my father's words – "I will come back and serve my state."

With hands folded in a solemn namaste, I gazed downhill from the roadside, speaking to the mighty river below. We had just crossed the Teesta Bridge, traveling towards Siliguri to catch a flight to Calcutta (now Kolkata). Our final destination was Bangalore.

The year: 1993.

The month: May.

The date: 17th.

The ICSE results had been announced a few days earlier, and I had veered off the path. A pure science student in school, I was expected to pursue engineering. But I was determined – stubborn, even – to follow the humanities instead. Whenever my friends discussed the humanities subjects, I felt a curiosity to explore them. Even after securing a seat in engineering, I chose not to take it up. That is another story.

I disappointed my father, no doubt. But being the Dad that he is, he left no stone unturned to ensure I pursued higher education in Bangalore – the city I had set my heart on. As we stood by the Teesta, he spoke those words solemnly and made me his daughter repeat them after him, while tossing coins into the river below as our offering. It was a ritual we followed every time we crossed the bridge, a cherished childhood memory that has since faded into time.

Those words, once spoken by my teenage lips, were carried away by the wind – forgotten, or so I thought.

I completed my graduation in Bangalore and later moved to Delhi for my postgraduate education. Life in the metros had kept me occupied – new subjects, new campus, new friends, new experiences. There was so much to see and do. After my studies, I returned home briefly but soon found myself oscillating between Delhi and Sikkim, uncertain about my next steps.

Then came news that a notification had been issued for 25 vacancies for the post of Under Secretary in the state government. It became the talk of the town in Gangtok. The year was 1998. Fresh out of college, I had no real understanding of what the position entailed. Word spread quickly – everyone seemed to be applying. So, I submitted my application and returned to Delhi, still unsure of what I truly wanted to pursue as a career.

Almost a year passed. Then, one day, I was called back home—the written examination dates had been announced. I say “it seems” because I barely recall the details. A friend later reminded me of how it all unfolded. And so, within days of my return, I sat for the exams. My first attempt at a government job.

After the exams, I stayed in Gangtok—a rare occurrence. Many of my friends remained in Delhi, furthering their studies. With little else to do, I volunteered to intern at a local newspaper, reporting and writing articles on current events, public issues, and the occasional human-interest piece. This phase lasted about 9 months. My restlessness caught up with me. Then came marriage, and life took a different turn. The year was 2000.

In 2001, I briefly worked as a government teacher but resigned after three months—it wasn’t for me. Around the same time, news surfaced: the results for the Under Secretary written examination had been declared. To be honest, I had completely forgotten about it.

When I heard my roll number was on the list of successful candidates, I was almost shocked. A pleasant surprise, but still, I didn’t fully grasp the weight of it. What exactly did an Under Secretary do? The results had come out three years after the initial advertisement and two years after the written exams. Life had moved on. We were all caught up in its current.

Then came another news in 2002—the viva voce (interview) dates were announced. But at that point, I was in the middle of something much bigger—motherhood. It was as if it was aimed to disrupt my newfound rhythm.

And so, in my *suthkeri* stage, I appeared for the interview. To my surprise, it went far better than my written exams.

While I was fully immersed in caring for my newborn—with immense support from Dr. Benjamin Spock—the final results were announced. My roll number was on the list. But just as I began to process this, a new challenge emerged.

A court case was filed by some persons, questioning the selection process. For another year, the case dragged on. Twenty-four of us—newly selected, still uncertain—huddled together in lawyers’ offices and court premises, waiting for a resolution. Finally, one day, the court dismissed the writ petition. Did we feel victorious? Perhaps. But it was a muted victory—one that comes after a long, drawn-out battle.

Since July 1, 2002, there has been no looking back. This year marks my 23rd year in government service. The words I spoke that day—above the river Teesta—have suddenly resurfaced from the depths of my memory.

Whenever I reflect on those words my father made me repeat, I realise I need no greater motivation to do my job. A man who dedicated around 40 years of service to the state as a devoted civil engineer, my father’s legacy inspires me to take the path I walk today.

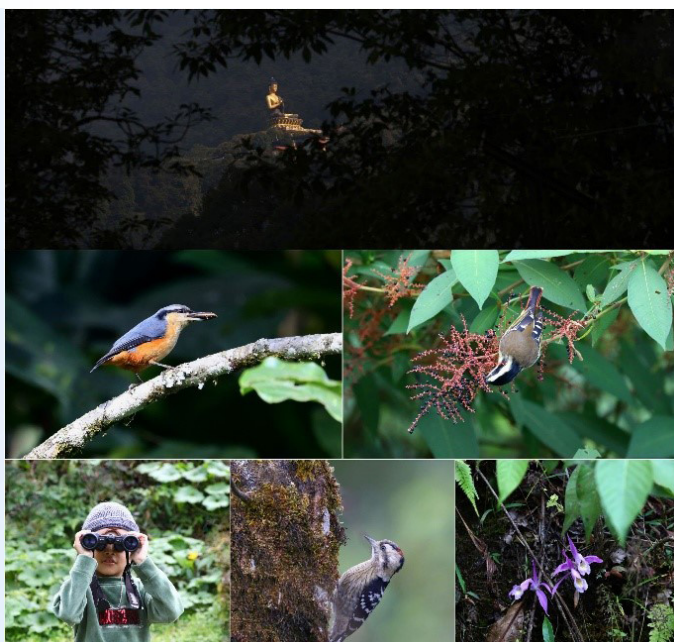
In retrospect, those coins I tossed into the river Teesta as an offering was destiny speaking.

ONE AUTUMN MORNING IN BARFUNG

*Suraj Gurung(SCS)
Additional Secretary*

We'd just missed the cherry flowers in full bloom at the Temi tea estate in southern Sikkim. The flowers were there alright, but they'd just about lost their lustre. Although disappointed, we looked forward to our stay at the Barfung Retreat, a resort located a few kms downhill from Ravangla. It was the third week of November, and we were on a family outing.

As I am wont to do, I'd packed my camera and telephoto lens in the morning before we left, just in case I saw an avian rarity along the way and during our stay at Barfung. The village resort was nestled amidst verdant woodlands. There were acres of farmlands around the property too. The other houses in the neighbourhood were few and far between, and most were tucked away from sight.



And like we'd hoped to see, we were just in time for the last of the cherry blossom in Barfung. It might've been a different subspecies of cherry, or perhaps due to the cooler climes, the cherry flowers here were in full bloom. More importantly, they hadn't yet lost their colour, although the cherry trees were but few and scattered around the resort. A few still lent dashes of colour in the sea of green woodlands beyond.

An hour's walk around the property the next morning did yield more than a few birds, but none I hadn't seen before. Small flocks of minivets, sibilas and minlas, a pair of doves, a nuthatch, a tree creeper and a few other birds normally seen around farmlands in Sikkim were the usual suspects that were up and about.

I was about to call it a day and pack my camera gear when my daughter excitedly pointed out a tiny woodpecker on a tree just beyond the cottage balcony. I braced myself on the wooden railing and leaned out to get a better view of the bird, which was preoccupied with pecking at something. I'd only got off a burst from my DSLR camera before the woodpecker decided to try its luck elsewhere and darted off towards the trees below.

I quickly checked the LCD screen and my heart skipped a beat when I saw what species it was. I couldn't believe my luck! It was a Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, a rarity indeed for me. And to top it off, it was a male. As far as bird photography is concerned, male birds are more coveted for their brighter plumages.

This woodpecker species is found only in the Himalayan region, Northeast India and Bangladesh. At a mere 14 cm from beak to tail tip, it measures less than a house sparrow and is among the smallest woodpeckers in the world. I wasn't sure if I'd seen the species before, although I'd photographed the Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, which is even smaller by a cm, in Kitam almost a decade ago.

I'd have most certainly missed this amazing sighting but for my young daughter who is proving to be a very useful bird-spotter for me. The birds going about their daily business, the rustic setting and an unbelievable 'lifer' avian find were just the right ingredients for some poetry.

It was about time too, as I hadn't been inspired to write a few lines of verse since my book on birding in the Eastern Himalaya, *A Rustle in The Foliage*, was released about this time, last year.

It's taken me the better part of a week to write it. And now it's a poem of over seventy lines!

A False Spring

*The lone nuthatch is busy hiding a seed
As minlas gorge on the fruits of the knotweed.
High up on a hog plum tree, a pipit lies in wait,
As a gorgeted flycatcher hides below in the shade.
My daughter spots a pygmy woodpecker for me
That's pecking at the mossy bark of an old dried tree.
A turtle dove is gathering twigs with nary a rest;
Rather strange now if it's meant for a nest
When the breeding season's done for the year,
And the cold of winter is drawing near.
But doves do breed through most seasons,
In that, I've been told they are much like pigeons.
Or maybe he's doing some much-needed repair
To make his home warm for the twosome to share,
For it's cold here now, and it'll only get worse
Here in these hills thick with trees covered in moss.*

*The minivets are flitting about on the canopies,
They always perch on the tallest of trees.
For them, autumn is as good a time to flit around,
If they're all together and food is to be found.
They fly and frolic, and often they even sing;
As if the seasons never changed, and it's still spring.
The sibilas can also whistle a tune or two,
And even mimic other birdcalls, as few birds can do.
They gang up to get the best foraging patches,
While the flycatcher settles for whatever it catches.
A mixed flock is on the move, chirping various avian words;
There's always a fantail among these garrulous birds.
And a treecreeper scurries up a mossy trunk,
Hurrying after the others as it tags along.*

*All things avian are up and about on their feet,
And in good spirits too as they chirp, squeak and tweet.
Aren't they worried that winter is at the door?
Or is it something that they've all faced before?
Could it be that they are all lulled
With the thought that all's well with their world?
Perhaps the first rays of the sun give them hope
As they fall on Buddha's visage far up the wooded slope.
Or do they revel in this second spring –
There are splashes of pink in the sea of green.
The trees abloom with flowers of the cherry
Must be the reason the birds are making merry.
And to add dabs of colour to the greenery
Are the ripe and reddened fruits of the indreni*.
And there are flowers that at this time are seen
Though their numbers are still few and far between.
Like an orchid that blooms beside a forest trail,
Its beauty unmissable, though the foliage tries to hide it well.*

*'Tis but a brief interlude before the wintry gloom,
And then even the cherry trees will lose their bloom.
How many of the birds will last this winter's cold?
Many won't live long enough to get old.
Some will be preyed upon by the marten or the hawk,
And a few more will run out of their luck.
Only their feathers will remain on the forest floor,
But the rest will survive like they did before.
Their progeny will then build their nests
Here in Barfung's evergreen forests.
And they will breed and roam these woods
That's been home for their kind and their broods.*

*But how long before the trees are felled?
For how long can change be repelled?
Could the woods stand their ground?
Will the trees always be around?
Or will they give way to farmlands,
And farmlands then fall into modernity's hands?
Will the birds still be around then
To be marvelled at by our children's children?
One cannot help but bemoan and be aware,
As the pattern is sadly all too familiar.
But we forge on undeterred hoping for the best,
Like birds, that's the way they are all raised.
Could they endure as long as there's life on earth?
But for now, for what it is worth,
They are under the Buddha's watch and care;
Only time will tell how this natural world will fare.*

** Bitter snake-gourd*

MY DENTAM MEMOIR

*Himmat Rai(SCS)
Joint Secretary*

The dusk had just settled over the picturesque township of Pelling in West Sikkim and I was driving my maroon Maruti car westward navigating through the rapidly slopping road slicing the clouds like a fleeting Lamborghini. The car was my prized possession at that time which had a fair share of fourth pay commission pay arrears.

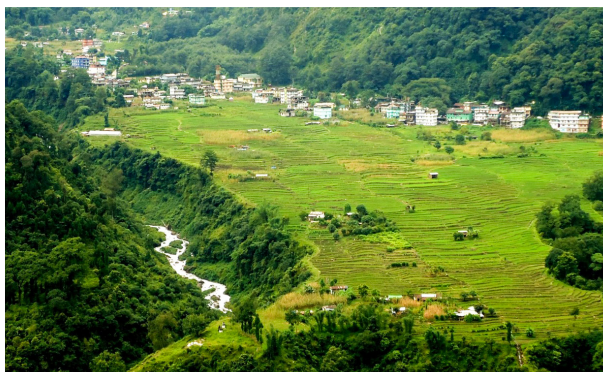
A mix of excitement and quiet contemplation stirring within me. This was no ordinary journey for me. I was bound for Dentam, a new assignment in a place as Block Development Officer I had visited only once years before, its memory now flickering back to life.



The sky had almost darkened, mirroring a swell of emotionsanticipation and the thrill of stepping into an unknown zone. This journey would come to shape my career as a civil servant. Lost in thought, I barely noticed a man waving for a lift until he caught my eye. I often stop for strangers when I am not pressed for time and in high spirits. I secretly hope for the chance to help. That evening too I happily welcomed him aboard, a small act to see him home before the monsoon claimed the night.

But my cheerful mood swiftly waned as a distinct pungent wave of whisky-laden breath filled the air and I could guess the man's seasoned indulgence. Disappointment dulled the journey's spark for a while. He alighted at Sardong, leaving me alone with my thoughts, which drifted back to Dentam.... serene, a world apart from Gangtok's bustle. My phone screen glowed.... seven past ten minutes. Then, like stars twinkling in a moonless sky, Dentam emerged before me shining in the dark.

After six hours of travel, the sight ignited a surge of excitement. I crossed Kalej Khola, the river's cool breeze caressing me as it flowed majestically beneath the bridge, a moment of tranquillity amid long journey. At last, I reached Dentam, bowing respectfully at the "Jalapa Devi Mata" temple- the guardian deity of Dentam, where the soft glow of light reflected upon a pond. The fish within seemed to have drifted into their nightly slumber, leaving the waters still and serene. Exhausted, I ended the day with dinner at KN Pradhan's building, its Newari Ankhi Jhyaal windows framing the night with timeless elegance.



The next morning, I arrived at the Dentam Block Administrative Centre near the market. Stepping into my office, a deep green room on the first floor, I felt an unexpected pulse of energy. The space, typically at the reception area, seemed an odd fit for the head of the office, unless one wished to keep a constant eye on staff. I settled into the rolling chair at the desk twisting myself left right.

My meeting with my colleagues, panchayat members, and locals followed who welcomed me warmly. Among them was Laxmi Khatiwada, a young Gram Rojgar Sahayak from Bongten Saponig Gram Panchayat, brimming with friendliness. I told him how beautiful and vast the Dentam Valley was... the Dentam's beauty and potential but he timidly denied calling it, "Sir avek thau ho hamro dentam" - a remote place. I countered - "Dentam is not isolated... it is a world in itself, rich and alive." Within a month, he returned, grinning, "Sir, sachai ramro po lagnu thalyo" - it's truly starting to feel beautiful. Even the school principal, once quick to label Dentam "backward," in his speeches shifted his tune: "Anyone who calls it that will be fined." These quiet wins, subtle shifts in perspective, marked my first steps in leading this place I had come to call my own.

Early memories linger still. One afternoon, a government leader visited and said in a light mood, "Tapai ta yo block ko raja ho" - you're the king of this block. A warning bell suddenly rang in my young mind. "No," I thought to myself. If I subscribe to such thinking, I'd be out of this place even before six months. I would never establish myself as someone with true potential as a government official. I simply wanted to stay grounded at that moment, focused on my purpose. We sometimes lose sight of when we become inflated with such flattery. So, I brushed it off, determined to stay grounded focused to purpose over praise.

Of all my Dentam days, the earthquake of September 18, 2011, burns brightest. Barely months into my posting, I was driving back from Namchi with friends Dilip Sharma 'Ahlay' and Janak Subba. It was the day after "Vishwakarma Puja," the air alive with bhajans from passing vehicles going for the puja 'visarjans'.

Janak cradled his harmonium for a planned jam session for Dentam as we rolled along the Nayabazar - Legship highway. Near Sagbari, a jeep warned of a roadblock, "bathoo bandh cha", the road is blocked. Unaware that a 6.7 -magnitude quake had just struck Sikkim but I kept driving, only to find the road buried under rocks and debris. It was getting dark fast. Turning back toward Namchi, we found chaos at Sagbari, trees toppled, boulders strewn like a doomsday scene from a disaster film - 2012. Stranded, we spent the night in my grey government jeep, rationing wai wai noodles, biscuits, and eating tomatoes as if like apples.. that I had brought from Namchi.

At dawn, my friends braved the wreckage toward Namchi while I pushed for Dentam. With local volunteers and NHPC excavators, we cleared the path to Legship. By 9:30 a.m., I reached Bongten, confronting the quake's toll. Panchayats and residents stood on cracked roads, faces etched with alarm. At Samsa Bahadur Chettri's home, his wife recounted their narrow escape....their early dinner in the kitchen had saved them as their cottage house rolled down into the valley with the velocity and fury leaving no sight of it. On normal days they would first finish watching their favourite programmes on television at that time in the house and take their dinner later. Luck alone had saved the family of five that night.

The District Collector entrusted us with Rs. 5 lakhs for relief which as per him also included donations from His Holiness the Dalai Lama. "Not a penny misused," he warned, "or we'd bear a great sin." I honored that charge, not even sipping tea with those funds.

Leading the relief effort in the block became a defining moment, one I revisit with memories. On September 19, 2011, we achieved a milestone. Dentam incidentally, by default, became the first block in the state to compile and submit a comprehensive report detailing damages to human lives, cattle, and homes across over 3,500 households. The work was very demanding but we were relentless.... coordinating,



compiling data in excel, printing, and binding reports until 3 p.m., then delivering the final document to the honourable MLA of the constituency by 5 a.m who was ready to start for Gangtok. She was appreciative and thankful to our team. The challenges that followed in managing ex-gratia payments, organizing relief camps, confirming beneficiaries, and expediting house reconstruction were daunting, yet we managed well as a team.

I could never forget an instance of a widowed elderly lady, "Kanchi Aama" of Mukrung, who had quickly utilized the amount of Rs.15,000 paid to her as ex-gratia for her severely house damages to repair her house made of stone and cement wall. Her strength and resolve were so inspiring that I wrote about her in a weekly newspaper, hoping to share her story with others. It is moments like these, small acts of courage and determination, that spark energy and encouragement, reminding us how the human spirit can shine in the face of hardship.

Dentam wove itself into the fabric of my being.....its Chiwabhanzang, Singshore Bridge, Hee Gaon, Uttarey, and Changey Falls etched vividly in my mind. I once dreamed of making those falls like Niagara, but my transfers intervened, pulling me onward to new horizons. Time, it seems, slipped through my fingers.. I ran out of time but I thought that five years time was enough.

Yet, the legacy endures. Nirmal Dentam, the NGO we (along with my friend, the then Sub-Divisional Magistrate) founded, thrives still which is a testament to our efforts and a lasting imprint of our time. The beautiful Gurasay Dara walk way we had developed with Shankhu Radhu Khandu panchayats under MGNREGA also remains an experience to share, cherish and for the people to visit atleast once.



More than anything, it was Dentam's people who shaped me with their warmth and generosity toward a novice like me leaving an indelible mark. Five years after I first arrived, a wanderer in an unfamiliar land, I departed transformed.

Today, Dentam remains a cornerstone of my heart and soul, a wellspring of purpose and hope. It is a chapter that seasoned me in ways I could never have imagined, a place that continues to define who I am.

THE ENGINE CHUGS ON

*Samdup Bhutia(SCS)
Additional Secretary*

Dee-Deee-Deeee-Deeeee..... as the earthquake rumbled, at first slowly, then increasing in intensity with every passing second, a realisation started to dawn on me that this was no ordinary earthquake. Inhabitants of the Himalayan states are wont to occasional shaking of the earth. While some do get panicky every time, a few like me would treat it matter-of-factly. It was something that happened once in a while and one dealt with it stoically. Until 18th September 2011, that is, until the big one that struck Sikkim at 16.10 p.m. local time.

Inside our government quarter unit at Chungthang, I was lying on the bed flipping TV channels, also thinking of the dinner party later in the evening that the ITBP establishment at Pegong was hosting. SDM Chungthang, Mr. Tashi Chophel and I, BDO Chungthang, had been invited along with some other officers in the local administration. Suddenly the ground started to shake a little; I dismissed it with bravado – ah another quake! Then the lights went out and the shaking intensified with pots and pans starting to clang loudly and falling off on the floor. Hang on, am I supposed to panic or wait for the quake to tide over – I said to myself. Better sense prevailed and I ran toward the kitchen, in the dark, as I managed to catch hold of my wife and toddler right outside it. She had the presence of mind to turn off the gas stove and pull the toddler who was playing in the kitchen out with her.

I remembered that one has to take shelter below a door frame or a sturdy table or a corner of the house during earthquakes. We dashed toward a corner in the room and once there I crouched over them. A brick narrowly missed my head and hit me at the nape. By now the shaking had given way to violent jerks coupled with the jarring sound of things breaking near and far. I joined her in saying prayers ALOUD for the first time; all the bluster having fizzled out by then. Still the violent jerking just wouldn't stop! It rather got interspersed with cries of people and booming landslides all around turning the entire experience truly horrific.

In what seemed like eternity (40 seconds in reality), the earthquake finally subsided. Staying put in that corner or getting out was a big dilemma as after-shocks are notoriously commonplace. But before we came out, I asked my toddler to say his Alphabets. Talk of pressure and the Indian parenting! But the real purpose was to find out if his "Saato" was in place. As he managed to utter a feeble A, B, C and on, I heaved a sigh of relief. All his senses were alright. Outside, people were running helter-skelter; women, children and some men were weeping openly. I called back home to inform of our safety and found out, to my relief, my folks were also unharmed. Mobile services died shortly thereafter only to be resumed a couple of months later.

All of us were instructed to gather at Gurudwara. Its courtyard was choc-a-bloc with people at various stages of shock and despair. I left my family there and joined SDM Chungthang in the rescue and relief efforts. Amidst a light drizzle, the Sikh brethren at the Gurudwara had started to distribute biscuit packets and water aided by local volunteers. Many people spent the night at the Gurudwara. We shifted to a guest house belonging to a power company. It was a one-storey structure and intact. If it at all it requires iteration, it is a fact that single storey structures are the safest bet in times of earthquake.

Next day when we went to the quarter building, an entire wall had collapsed in what used to be the bedroom. Kitchens between two units had fused into one; some utensils had made a jump from the other side and vice versa. Cracks had developed everywhere and the brick that had fallen on us had miraculously broken away near the top end of the corner column. A gaping hole was left in its place as a beam of light streamed through it. The house had been rendered unliveable. After salvaging important stuff, we quickly left the building.

It was round the clock work for the administration, Police, Panchayat, ITBP, local volunteers and the Army for the next one month. The North District highway was broken at several places rendering villages and mofussil towns into islands. Lachen and Lachung were inaccessible due to landslides blocking the access road. The only way to get in and out was through helicopters, which again was dependent on weather Gods.

Phu Phu Ground had turned into a veritable helipad, where the Indian Airforce helicopters first started its operations from (one important learning I have gleaned is that all remote areas must develop a playground of its own). Locals, tourists and labourers would swarm the helicopter that had come to drop food and other essentials. The police and the Army had the tough ordeal of regulating the crowd who were desperate to leave the place and would often go near the tail rotor. So, a policy to lift the sick, elderly, women & children first had to be implemented.

As days passed, information on the earthquake and its damage began to concretise. Chungthang had been the epicentre of the earthquake that measured at 6.9 in the Richter scale. Dozens of people had lost their lives. Many more lost their hard-earned property. Fatalities and damage were also reported from across the State. Road and mobile connectivity were the worst hit and took a long time to re-establish.

Arranging drinking water and restoration of power took some days, which was made possible with efforts from all stakeholders. NDRF and SDRF played a pivotal role in rescue of the injured and recovering of the dead bodies. The innate goodness in people was also evident through contribution coming in from all over the country, which went a long way in helping the people in need.

It takes a tragedy to yield the true nature of a person. The earthquake shone light on many people's inner strength. Many officials who were expected to strengthen the hands of administration during the crisis were seen trying to flee the place. The irony was that the same set of people would throng around the powers-that-be who came to Chungthang, after the road reopened, without feeling a pang of shame.

On the other hand, there were a few exemplary people who showed what it is like to have courage in adversity. Panchayat President Mr. Lendup Lepcha lost a five-storey building to the earthquake but he was out there helping others right from day one. An official from Food & CS Department unloaded the sacks of grain and food essentials from the helicopter on his back. SDM Chungthang crossed the landslide-ridden road on foot to reach Lachung. These and other such examples amid the despondency lifted our morale.

As if to lighten the sombre mood all around, some funny incidents came to light. Simple villagers who had boarded the helicopter for either Mangan or Gangtok would complain about the heat on landing and discover themselves at Bagdogra. I and my district head had also meant to reach Lachen while boarding but were dropped off at Libing. Mid-flight as it registered to me that we were headed to Gangtok instead, I tapped on the shoulder of the pilot and told him we needed to go to Lachen. He simply turned his head away; he did not care two hoots about my entreaty. My district head luckily managed to get us into another helicopter that reached us to Lachen the same day. I learnt later that helicopter flights also have a planned destination always and the pilots DO NOT DEVIATE from it unless there is an emergency.

It took a lot of time for people to rebuild their lives from the tragedy. Human beings have always found a way to move forward either by choice or design and that is the way it should be. However, a healing touch is required during such tragedies. Administrative systems can be that beacon of hope by simply being present on the ground, responding to peoples' needs the best way they can and relaying the issues that require attention of the higher authorities. It gives the hapless people a reassurance that they are being heard and solutions are on the way.

Across tragedies such as this, administration in Sikkim has given a good account of itself. Still the bureaucracy has got a bad rap. The term itself has come to acquire a negative connotation. It has become almost fashionable to flog bureaucracy and its vices. Who is to blame for this? Largely ourselves! By resisting change, by being opaque in our operations and by lack of magnanimity in appreciating the good work being done by each other. It is equally true that there are enough dedicated officers in the system who are doing some stellar work silently and efficiently. Those who sit down at the beginning of the month and start planning and apportioning their expenditure on the back of a used envelope. The rules do not permit them speaking out in public and at times many an unjustified allegation goes unchecked without a rebuttal.

This then begs a question - who is a bureaucrat anyway? Is it only the IAS or is it the SCS also or this that and other services? Honestly, the labelling has to go and everyone within the system must have a macro perspective of administration. It is really an engine – a whole made of multitude of equally important parts working in perfect harmony – to take the vehicle forward. Along the way, one must consider himself fortunate if he gets an opportunity to be a part of building some processes or some systems. Better still to be part of institution-building as institutions of excellence enrich the society and outlive us all.

THE WOLF VILLAGE

Suresh Sharma(SCS)
Under Secretary

This is a tale, from a far-off rural landscape of Hinoul. It was the early winter of 1981 and the hills seen to the east, from here, were already covered up with snow. As the dusk fell, Hinoul was entirely absorbed in welcoming its first guests. The visitors could hear faint sounds of wolves howling intermittently, but the strong wind, known to swirl in this place during winter, interrupted every time. With a lady and three gentlemen, the visiting folk look to be very keen on knowing about age, gender, education and some more about their host. Everything was recorded on thick white sheets and later stapled together.

After a while, the headman of the village, Musang, came from outside and joined them in a conversation. He was quick in sharing about the sad demise of his second wife recently. An extroverted character, the headman was perhaps hobnobbing on chance. The lady visitor was quick to ask about the cause of the death. Having been given the chance to elaborate, the talkative headman clarified. The four visitants were unnerved and dejected when they stumbled on the reason. She had died because of obstructed labour. He says how the whole village had attempted, but in vain, to lift her up to the nearby PHC some thirty kilometres off. The narration ended with Musang's criticism of the nature for what he thinks was its conspiracy against him in not stopping the snowfall. But in the process our systemic problem escaped from being held responsible!

It was 9 pm and talks were not over as yet. A lady called from inside and everyone slipped into that room hurriedly, so did the visitors. Nearly choked to death by the thick wood-smoke that had literally buried the stray-roofed kitchen, the visitors ran out in no time. Nevertheless, never ending hot mutton curry and some rice was finger-licking delicious for everyone. Here also Musang did not miss to open up and get into bragging oneself. He was really excited to say how he and his few pals go down the hill every year during summer to get the ration goods. Located some twenty kilometres away, the ration shop was owned by a fellow who for him was a philanthropist. Musang does not stop here to take a breath. He feels indebted to that owner for bartering two sacks of rice, twenty kilos each, for four fully grown woolly sheep. Let God decide if that qualifies a philanthropy!

No doubt the conversation would have lingered longer, but owing to the habit of sleeping at a fixed time since generation, or perhaps saving candle oil had become second-nature to them, everyone left suddenly and unexpectedly.

Next day when the visitors woke up, it was already 9 in the morning. The lady visitor felt elated at seeing no children playing around with dirt. Perhaps, they had already left for their school and in no time, Kindergarten would echo with the rudimentary English words. Alas, it was not anything like that! Instead, the children had left with their of sheep and goats, to return only in the evening.

The visitors left, perhaps to be never seen again. Will Musang ever get a chance to be wise and efficient to trade through the mainstream banking facilities? Is a school for the wolf village possible someday? Road connectivity is still a distant star for Musang's village let alone LPG, water pipeline or banks. Will any party, someday, be philanthropic in true sense to pioneer development in here?

Time passed by. In 2011, the village got another group of guests to prove their great hospitality under constraint avenues. Sadly, nothing much have changed for good here. Instead, the death toll had increased, Musang was already a heavenly reverend figure at a tender age and maternal mortality rate had not dropped much. The delegation noted it all and left, while the file they had prepared gathered dust later.

This repeated task of visiting the wolf village by a small group of delegation happens once in 10 years. Perhaps, they are now eagerly waiting to serve mutton curry and some rice to the next batch of visitors. Started by the British Government in 1871, these visitors are the officials for the decennial census of India appearing in Musang's village, in this fictional setup. The decennial census collects important data on age, sex, composition, education, development etc. And until every last corner of India is blessed with the embrace of holistic progress, this fictional wolf village will forever stand as a gentle reminder of our promise—to extend comfort and care to even the most distant reaches, ensuring that no village is left behind.

MOTHER

*Prem Dhoj Rai(SCS)
Special Secretary*

It was a bright and sunny September day. I reached M.G. Marg after a nights's rest at home. For the previous day and night I was with my ailing mother at Manipal Hospital where she was undergoing palliative treatment after she had her chemotherapy treatment for oesophagus cancer. Though it was a beautiful sunny day, my heart was not at ease since doctor had told that my mother would survive only for six months since she had stage -III cancer. And that this was the sixth month.

Further, my mother had confided long time ago that she would leave this earth on a sunny day. I bought some essential items for my stay in the hospital with mother and passed by Baidhyanath's shop and I had heard that they sell "Ganga Jal" which is to be poured in a dying person's mouth in their final moments. I thought of buying one. However, I shrugged off the idea and chided myself for such premonition. However, I prayed God with a heavy heart that if ever my mother was to die it should be in my presence.

I reached Manipal Hospital and entered mother's cabin; almost all family members were present. My mother was lying in my sister-in-law's lap and was restless. For few seconds she would lay down while after that she wanted to stay upright and this cycle continued. I told my sister-in-law that I would lay my mother in my lap and that she should take rest. I laid my mother's head on my lap but she motioned me to keep her upright. This continued for few minutes. For a while she was on my lap and I thought that she was going to sleep. As I looked on her face, she was quiet and peaceful. I cried out "Amma"...but I knew that she was gone. I was happy that she had waited for me but was crestfallen that she had left for her heavenly abode.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
GANGTOK

Sikkim Rural Livelihood Mission

“Livelihood Opportunity Made Regu Woman Self-Reliant”

Story of Teek Maya Gurung, Member – Sahara Group



Sikkim has strongly proven that livelihood and entrepreneurship is no more defined by gender which is the key measure for economic upliftment of the developing nation like India.

Teek Maya Gurung, aged 29 years who hails from the village of Rolep from Regu Block in Pakyong District is one such example of young, progressive and dedicated woman of a Non- Farm Activity who belongs to BPL farmer family and is educated up-to Class-IV. She is now an owner of two Homestays and one tourist vehicle with average income of Rs. 1.8 lakhs per annum.

Teek Maya Gurung got married at a young age to a farmer in Rolep, Regu. She started helping her husband after marriage in which they led a hand to mouth existence as both of them earned very less and they were totally dependent on agriculture. They did several other activities for their livelihood but it could hardly meet their basic needs to run their house. Her husband was the sole bread winner for the family which made it even more difficult for them to fulfill their needs as there was no other financial or family support.

After struggling for several years to make ends meet, she was finally driven by a desire to become self-reliant. Initially, she was clueless about how to proceed, fortunately, she got a chance to attend mobilization camp organized by SRLM in her own village and got ideas about joining SHG and its benefits. So she, along with her nine fellow members, formed a SHG named SAHARA in March 2016. Thus, she embarked upon the journey as an entrepreneur in 2017.



Her First Home Stay from
Loan of Rs.90,000



Her Second Home Stay from
Loan of Rs.100,000



Tourists in her Home Stay from
Kolkata

Teek Maya Gurung's Future Plans: I am planning to buy one more vehicle and expand my homestays along with additional facilities like trekking, bird watching, riverside camping and fishing to attract more tourist inflow. I also want to construct greenhouse with organic fresh farm vegetables so that my guest can enjoy their stay. But all of my dreams will be possible, only by taking loan from SHG and repaying back on time as I did earlier. I could never think of becoming an entrepreneur without joining SHG". **Teek Maya Gurung has become an inspiration to many women in her WDS. She has given employment to 04 staffs from her own Block to assist her. She is now living a life of her dreams.**

WOMEN OF SIKKIM IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Sandhya Pradhan(SCS)
Under Secretary

Sikkim, a small northeastern state of India, has made significant strides in the areas of women empowerment and gender equality. Despite its relatively small size and remote location, Sikkim has shown a strong commitment to improving the status of women through legal reforms, social programs, and cultural shifts.

India's journey towards women's rights began with pre-independence social reforms advocating for education and against practices like sati and child marriage.

INTEGRATION OF SIKKIM WITH INDIA

Post-1975, when Sikkim integrated into India, it adopted national policies while tailoring them to its unique cultural and geographical context. Key national milestones include the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments (1992), mandating one-third reservation for women in local bodies, later increased to 50% in many states, including Sikkim via the Sikkim Panchayat (Amendment) Bill, 2011.

Nationally, schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (2015) and Mahila E-Haat (2016) have aimed at saving and educating girls and supporting women entrepreneurs, respectively.

In Sikkim, the state's Buddhist heritage and community-oriented values have historically supported women's roles, with the Sikkim Human Development Report noting better gender parity compared to other northeastern states. This historical context sets the stage for understanding current achievements.

After 5 decades the role of women has increased and diversified in the context of state of Sikkim, Sikkim celebrated its State Level International Women's Day (IWD) 2025 at Saramsa Garden on March 8 to honour women's achievements and advocate for gender equality .

1. Legal and Policy Reforms

Sikkim has introduced several progressive policies that focus on the well-being and empowerment of women:

- **Sikkim State Policy for Women (2018):** This policy aims to promote gender equality, prevent violence against women, and ensure equal access to education, health, and employment. It also seeks to protect the rights of women and girls in areas such as land ownership, education, and political participation.

- **Reservation in Local Governance:** Sikkim introduced 50% reservation for women in Panchayat (local government) elections since 2011. Today, the women representatives in the local self-government stands at 60%. This move has encouraged more women to participate in political processes and decision-making.
- **Gender-Responsive Budgeting:** The state has also made efforts to allocate funds for women-centric schemes, ensuring that women benefit from various government welfare programs.

2. Educational Opportunities

Education is a cornerstone of empowerment, and Sikkim has made remarkable progress. The literacy gap between men and women has decreased from 11% to 2% since 2011, as per various studies. According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4, 2015-16), 41% of women in Sikkim have 10 or more years of schooling, surpassing the national average of 36%. This progress is driven by state initiatives like scholarships, free textbooks, and the Bahini Scheme, which provides free sanitary pads to schoolgirls, ensuring uninterrupted education by addressing menstrual health barriers.

The NFHS-5 (2019-21) data, while not fully detailed here, suggests continued improvement, with Sikkim ranking second nationally in the Women Empowerment Index (WEI) at 25.84, with a strong sub index in health and nutrition (11.85). Nationally, women's secondary education has improved, with over 50% of urban women completing it, but rural-urban disparities persist, which Sikkim has sought to mitigate through inclusive policies.

3. Health and Well-being

Sikkim's health indicators for women are impressive. Only 15% of women aged 20-24 were married before 18, compared to the national average of 27%, and teenage pregnancies are at 3%, which is the best among northeastern states (NFHS-4). Safe delivery rates have improved to 97%, with an infant mortality rate of 30, better than the national of 34. The state ensures 180 days paid maternity leave and 180 days of child care leave, aligning with the country's Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017, supporting maternal health.

Initiatives like the Bahini Scheme address menstrual health, while the Aama Scheme supports maternal well-being. Nationally, NFHS-5 shows 54% of women own mobile phones they use, and 88.7% participate in household decision-making, but Sikkim's figures are likely higher, given its WEI score and cultural emphasis on women's role.

The Vatsalya Scheme stands out as a remarkable effort to redefine family dynamics and provide opportunities to those yearning for the blessings of parenthood.

4. Women in Politics

Sikkim is one of the few states where women have been actively encouraged to participate in politics. The state has seen women holding leadership roles in local governance and the legislative assembly.

Political empowerment is evident in Sikkim's 50% reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) since 2011, a step beyond the national one-third mandate. This has led to significant representation, with four women elected to the State Legislative Assembly in 2019, and two out of six District Magistrates being women in recent electoral processes. Many women are nominated as the head of various commissions in Sikkim, a significant move towards integrating women in decision-making roles.

Nationally, 20 states have 50% reservations in PRIs, with studies showing increased women's participation and focus on gender-specific issues. Sikkim's approach aligns with India's Women's Reservation Bill (2023), aiming for one-third reservation in Lok Sabha and state assemblies, highlighting the state's proactive stance in political inclusion.

5. Economic Empowerment

Economic independence is vital for empowerment, and Sikkim excels here. The female labour force participation rate is 40%, significantly higher than the national average of 26%, as noted in the Sikkim Human Development Report and corroborated by NFHS data. Sikkimese women are actively involved in the field of agriculture, tourism and entrepreneurship. As regards government service, 15 State Government Departments are headed by women.

Entrepreneurship and Self-Help Groups (SHGs): Sikkim has fostered numerous initiatives to encourage women to start their own businesses. The state has a strong presence of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) where women come together to work on income-generating activities like weaving, handicrafts, agriculture, and eco-tourism. These SHGs are supported by the state government and NGOs, empowering women economically and socially.

Sikkim Integrated Service Provision and Innovation for Reviving Economies (Sikkim INSPIRES): *Sikkim INSPIRES* is an initiative of the *Government of Sikkim* supported by the World Bank (WB). It involves a pan-economy, pan-government approach to deliver improved economic opportunities for women (18-59 years).

Skill Development: Many government and non-government programs focus on training women in various trades, like tailoring, computer skills, and hospitality management, increasing their participation in the workforce. Niyukti Kendra, operating under the Skill Development Department, stands as a cornerstone in the effort to bolster employment opportunities and skill development for women.

6. Cultural and Societal Support

- **Support from Communities:** In Sikkim, women have traditionally held strong roles within families and communities. There is a sense of mutual respect for gender roles, and while the patriarchal system does exist, it is often more flexible than in other parts of India.
- **Protection against Violence:** The state has enacted measures to protect women from

violence and exploitation. The Sikkim Women's Commission, established in 2016, works towards addressing women's issues such as domestic violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based discrimination. Various committees have been set up in public offices to report sexual harassment at workplace.

7. Challenges

- Despite progress, challenges remain. Sikkim needs to address any gender disparities in higher education and leadership roles. Nationally, issues like domestic violence (increased in some states per NFHS-5) and economic autonomy require attention. Recommendations include capacity building for women leaders, enhancing access to digital and financial services, and continuous monitoring of gender-based violence. POSCO case have been emerged at a very high rate in the last 10 years. This needs to be checked and whole society needs to come together to challenge this evil.
- **Rural-Urban Divide:** While urban women in Sikkim may benefit from improved access to education and employment, rural women still face significant barriers, including limited access to resources and services.
- **Stereotypes and Social Norms:** Traditional gender norms and stereotypes continue to influence the roles women are expected to play, despite legal and social advances.
- **Economic Dependency:** Women in many rural areas remain economically dependent on their families and husbands, limiting their autonomy and ability to challenge patriarchal structures.

MY ALIBI

*Bhim Thatal(SCS)
Secretary*

I enter TV set
And exploring through the channels
Reach the tumultuous forests of Africa.

Riding the turbulent waves of the tranquil forest
There is a woman who has
Spent her entire legacy
Amongst the sprouting hopes in ruins of life and
Budding little hungry children.

In the contest of living of hundreds of people
A lanky man with unkempt beard spares his time
Casting his life in the bid of survival
And capturing untold realities of life in camera
He keeps on talking civilisation to all.
With scores of conflicts in her embryo
A river flows down the time.
Its water drops are provoked by the rays of the sun
Which rise high to invade
As if victory has beckoned
And though they rise
In a war footing speed but only to fall down
Yet its downpour is ample to irrigate.
All that a life requires to sustain.

There is no dearth of anything
Happiness is omnipresent
Yet, I don't know what,
These tourists are all around searching for,
In the regular intervals of commercials
Channels also telecast news.
Keeping a leopard in standby that is chasing a deer
Surfing the fancies and desires of daughter in cartoons
Listening to the folklores that father had ever liked

Keeping in abeyance the soap operas of wife
And the bank account that falls
Like songs from the top ten list
Life, slowly moves in the faster streets of bewilderment.

Abstract nouns like compassion, service, tolerance!
Are confined to grammar only these days.
Our children are graveling and going to schools
Where grammar is not in the syllabus
Like an exiled patriotism from a citizen
Thoughts escape every second from the soap opera
Like the self lifted out from the body
Realization shift dwelling.

There are lots of things to do
Like in a school boy's exercise book.
There are more things to think before you write
And still much more to visualize
Things that you should not write
You should not think
And you should never visualize.
A greater quest is there
About my alibi.

With Best Wishes
From
National Hydro Power Corporation Limited



With Best Wishes
From
Zydus Healthcare Limited
Bagheykhola, Sikkim



RAPED

(A tribute to the victim of RG Kar Medical College, Kolkata)

Saptika Rai(SCS)
Joint Secretary

Mom, how do I even start.
From where do I start.
The pain, the ordeal I went through
The shock, the brutality I went through
As the rapist inappropriately tapped my
buttock
And took turns to rape me.

With dirty clothes they clogged my mouth
With sinful hands they tore my clothes
And ripped me apart
I screamed, I pleaded , I cried my soul out
But nothing could melt their gruesome mind
I lay there raped...mercilessly raped.

They dragged me by my hair
Banged my head against the cold wall
My hands were twisted and broken half
My nose bled. So did my eyes.
Helpless and doomed
I lay there raped...consistently raped.

Mom, how could anyone be born without a
heart?
For if they had a heart like mine and yours
They could hear my wails and pleas
And would let me free...safe and sound
Unharmed and untouched
I would be alive.....ALIVE my dear Mom.

I longed to live
I was too young
I too had some dreams
I wanted to uphold your name
Earn some for myself a little fame.

Mom, as I lay there my life disarrayed
Dreams trampled into pieces
My life slowly but steadily leaving me
lifeless
"All Indians are my brothers and sisters"
This very line hit me like a last nail
The National pledge I was so proudly taught
I couldn't survive despite the might with
which I fought.

(Incidents like rape disturbs the very social fabric of our society. It kills our peace.
Our society, our country will grow exclusively only when men learn to
tame themselves and respect the women folks.)

THE LETTER UNSENT

*Daya Ram Bista(SCS)
Joint Secretary*

I penned my thoughts upon the page,
Each word a whisper from my heart.
Emotions tangled, thoughts engaged,
Yet still, the letter stays apart.

Unsealed, unread, it waits in vain,
A silent testament to fear.
The courage lost to speak my pain,
Now bound within these lines sincere.

Perhaps one day, the time will come,
When ink transforms to spoken word.
Until that day, this letter's hum
Remains unheard, its message blurred.

I HAVE A DREAM

*Namgyal Lepcha(SCS)
Under Secretary*

I have a dream, a dream long awaited,
Ever since a child rose to its limb.
A common child, not left without a hint.
While it hopes for heights,
Responsibility holds its way,
Not knowing how it flew away.

The weight of mockery lies ahead
A child never given opportunities,
Yet full of optimism.
A journey set toward its dream,
The rugged destiny awaiting on its way.

Things fall apart, yet it remains determined.
The society once trolled, a lover once left
Now held in high regard,
For its dream is awakening.
Dreamt through the nights of hustling days,
A dream that came a long way.

**LABOUR DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
SHRAM BHAWAN, SOKAYTHANG
GANGTOK-737102**



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Toll Free Helpline No.-18003451474



With Best Wishes

From

MacLeods Pharmaceuticals Limited

Aho Yangtam, Sikkim

Preserving Pristine Forests of Sikkim

OUR HOLY RESERVE - OUR ONLY SAVIOR

Hemant Rai(SCS)
Additional Secretary

Many of our Gangtokians and people from elsewhere have recognized the high forest zone that ranges from Kyongsala, Khedi Menla to Doklam stretch in Rhenock Rongli side in East Sikkim. The Assam and Pakyong reserved forest touching Kyongsala range in East Sikkim has been our holy reserve for centuries. Ramnawami festival in April every year marks the significance of this forest as people from different location gathers and moves towards the high forest trekking across Khedi Menla, near Tsomgo Kyongsala range in Gangtok. Being a permanent resident of Assam Gaucharan, Assam Lingzey, East Sikkim and having trekked this forest areas many times in the past, I have been witnessing tremendous growth in the number of trekkers visiting this forest areas every year. Rapid urbanization demands secluded environment and green forest at times for a temporary respite from the sounding hiccups that has almost become a routine features in our city life today.

The end destination for any visitors is reaching Khedi Menla which is close to Tsomgo Lake in East Sikkim from various pathways known from ages. Assam Lingzey, Gaucharan Pastenga, Parakha Rolep and Rongli provide a takeoff points for the visitors foraying into the high forest trekking.

High forest is usually known to have been

originated from its seeds that occur naturally where we can see large, tall mature trees with a closed canopy.

Across this high forest zone, we have the multiple tourist destinations to walk upon. Dhungel Kharka, Tal kharka, Dudiley tar and Ramitey are the few spots that are yet to be registered in the tourism map of Sikkim. Ramitey has a cliff on the hill top which is popularly known as Gorujurey meaning bull's hump where we can climb the bull's humped hilltop to view Kalimpong and parts of Darjeeling in West Bengal besides many other unknown scenes on other side. Between Gorujurey and Khedi Menla, we have two lakes (locally described as male and female lakes) located little away from each other. Those seeing the swimming white colored ducks in the lakes are believed they are blessed by the lakes there.

From Pasatenga Gaucharan, we can directly reach Khedi through the beautiful pasture land called Chawri Kharka. If you could taste the butter-made nuts in super market of Gangtok, they are either brought from Dzongri or the Chawri Kharka from East Sikkim because these are the only few places where the yaks are kept sheltered, nurtured and taken care of.

This high forest near Gorujurey belt has been known for Red Panda breeding ground in Sikkim. We have tiger corridor also in the high forest areas of Khedi Menla stretch.

Towards the Khedi Chawri kharka site, we have river Taksangchu which originates from there which culminates largely in the Madhya Bharat Hydro Project, Nimtar, Ranipool to generate power besides feeding many villages with its pristine fresh water. This river seemingly very fresh and clean comes down naturally dividing our Syari and Namchebong constituencies in East Sikkim. There are many rivers I know locally up to Pakyong Rongli side which emanates from these high forest areas such as Bala Khola, Tharo Khola and Seleley Khola, to name the least which gives fresh life to all of us unhindered and indeed, without paying anything for it in return.

I never knew and I have never thought of in my slightest of imagination, not at-least in my lifetime that these high forest stretches will be soon met with devastation, in the cause of development, for national security and above all to defeat the expansionism policy propagated by the other side of the boarder. Doklam situation was an indication and that indeed has forced this sounding strategy for the nation to build an infrastructure befitting to meet any eventualities.

It is indeed, yes. There is a National high-way road being built by the National Highway Corporation of India Limited (NHIDCL) under the Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways, Government of India, New Delhi. The construction starts from Rongli, Rolep, Barapathing and then going across to high forest areas of Gorujurey, reaching Khedi Menla and joining the National Highway road at Kyongsala side near Tsomgo Lake.

I have a colleague from the Forest Department who is more of a forest lover than being a forest officer who was expressing equal concern for the impending devastation that

is going to take place.

I am devastated more. I have seen these forests, lived below these forests reserve and grown with time, not acting as though I am an environmentalist per se. I may have moved away from this place temporarily but my originality never takes me away.

The story goes on. The road is proposed to takeoff across the ridge forest belt which ideally is to make lesser destruction. But is the destruction avoidable? The pastures of land where there are beautiful tars (flat pastures) are being used for dumping of mud and soil. Chawri kharka which is a home for our indigenous yaks has been mapped for dumping of mud and soil. All those flat pastures found in the midst of deep forest such as Dhungel Kharka, Dudiley etc. which are once the paradise of nature for nature lovers are now being converted into a dumping yard. Dumping of mud and soil does not take place by air; it obviously entails use of more forest lands to transport the mud to the dumping side. We can therefore, imagine the amount of devastation taking place. There are hundred to thousand years old pine trees, Okhar and kattus, some of them measures about 21 inches in size as I am told which are going to fell for the road construction. We can imagine the number of Rhododendron trees, Chimal and the high altitude flowering trees being uprooted and taken away. The number of trees counted for felling is unimaginable.

Does it not affect the source of many rivers which are flowing down to our villages from this high forest reserve? These are rivers which do not dry out during winter. I have a serious concern, my own concern which is that we have an abundant source of drinking water from this high forest source

till now. If these rivers get dried out, we may have to grapple with the lack of water for our survival. Our future generation will definitely question the wisdom and the efficacy on our part and the Forest Department in particular for not sensing and sensitizing the impact this project is going to thrust upon us.

We have National highway road, NH-10 from Siliguri Gangtok and connecting Rongli Phadamchen areas from West Bengal side which already forms the corridor for security purpose. This could have been upgraded to meet the growing security challenges of our time, instead of creating a new road from the middle of our forest reserve which has only connectivity objectives for now.

Security is a global concern worldwide; strategy is the only way forward. We may have tourism in its new avatar after the highway is built up there along the way, besides the defense infrastructure being created. We may have a beautiful high altitude road in future, with forest cover on both sides but at such a huge colossal

loss on our environment before we attain this imagination. The smuggling and black marketing of the matured forest trees and medicinal herbs-will be a new challenge as it creates pathways for such activities, adding woes to the Forest Department, Government of Sikkim. The project has long been sanctioned by the Ministry and hence, there is no going back with its re-thinking strategy with the Ministry now.

We can but hope that there was an adequate discussion and briefings done for the State Government to give a go-ahead in the project, with an alternative plan for the restoration of our loosing century - old reserve.

We can hope that the purpose for which this project has been planned spending about over hundred crores by the Ministry, GOI will serve its purpose. A developmental activity at the cost of environmental destruction has always been an issue but security at the end of the day becomes paramount if it is so. Preservation of our motherland, our natural resources at stake should occupy equal thrust on our priority. Hope all that goes well ends up well.

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Pang Lhabsol

*Sonam Tashi Topgay(SCS)
Additional Secretary*

Sikkimese Buddhist tradition states that Ugyen Guru Rinpoche Pema Jungney (Mahaguru Padmasambhava) blessed and “concealed” Bayul Demojong / Mayal Lyang (modern-day Sikkim) as his precious “sacred hidden land” during the 8th century AD.



Using his spiritual powers, Guru Rinpoche is said to have subdued and brought within his control, the various supernatural forces of the land led by “Dzonga Taktse” Khangchen-Dzonga, “the mighty mountain deity”. He then bound them through solemn oath into being guardians towards protection of Buddhism, the land of Sikkim and all sentient beings. The Guru additionally instructed Yeshe Gonpo (Mahakala) to ensure that Dzonga and the guardian deities kept their pledge.

The guardian deities were tasked by Guru Rinpoche to grace the land with ample rainfall and good harvest and also to protect the land from natural calamities and war. In return, the people would ceremoniously invoke and propitiate them during religious occasions- the most significant being the annual festival of Pang Lhabsol.

Pang Lhabsol follows Guru Rinpoche’s “Neysol” text, which is a “terma”, i.e. “sacred treasure text”, said to have been hidden by the Guru himself in the 8th century and later “discovered” by his pre-ordained incarnate, Gyalwa Lhatsun Chenpo Namkha Jigmed “Kunzang Namgyal” during the mid-1600s. The text, which is recited for three days by monks, propitiates the entire assemblage of Sikkim’s guardian deities. On the third day, it is accompanied by ritual performances including the “Sheylen” / “Khaylen” which is an oral oath of protection and assertion of devotion and loyalty to the lineage holders of Gyalwa Lhatsun Chenpo’s religious



tradition, the Miwang Denjong Chogyal and the guardian deities of Sikkim; the “Dzongkor”, a victory song; Khangchen-Dzonga and Yeshe Gonpo Chham(s) (ritual dance); and the famed “Pangtoed Chham” or “warrior dance”. Pang Lhabso is further known as a thanksgiving ceremony from Gyalwa Lhatsun Chenpo to Khangchen-Dzonga for guiding him to Sikkim from Tibet in the form of a pure white swan.

The unique Pangtoed Chham, which is performed by laymen, was added to the ceremony by the third Miwang Denjong Chogyal, Chagdor Namgyal (1700-1716). It is believed the dance was choreographed by the Chogyal himself based on a visionary dream that had occurred to him.

Led by the Chham-pon (leader of the sacred dance) and the Chham-jug (leader of the rear) clad in their distinguishing

black and white kho-tsi coats, the Pangtoedpas (Pangtoed dancers) - with skills honed through dedicated practice at Gangtok’s Tsuk-lha-Khang Royal Chapel located within The Palace “Phodrang Khamsum Silnon” campus during which they would be cloistered at the chapel abstaining from meat and alcohol towards getting sanctified for becoming “Mystical Warriors of Dzonga” - let-off war-cries of “Ki-kihuhu” and “Yi-yihuhu” and recite hymns known as “Bhed” while emerging from the Tsuk-lha-Khang escorting Yeshey Gonpo and Khangchen-Dzonga towards the Chamra (dancing circle) in the forecourt between the Tsuk-lha-Khang and the Yabring (the long shelter where monk instrumentalists playing monastery music for the chham would be seated) before performing their flamboyant and intricate whirling ritual dance.

Clad in their ceremonial finery of war-helmets topped with flags, brocade Khos with silk sashes and armed with Patang swords and shields, the Pangtoedpas are an awesome sight to behold. The Pangtoed Chham, during the old days, also served as a military drill and exercise for young aristocrats and the Sikkimese gentry.

The hallowed festival of Kagyed, observed on the 28th and 29th days of the tenth month of the Buddhist lunar calendar on the eve of the Namsoong and Losoong festivals that mark the end of the harvest season, is closely associated with Pang Lhabso which is held on the 15th day of the seventh month of the Buddhist lunar calendar. While during Pang Lhabso, the various guardian deities of Sikkim are invoked and propitiated; Kagyed symbolises year-end finalisation of prayers to the same deities.

The occasion of Pang Lhabso, observed as the most significant annual event during the time of the erstwhile Kingdom of Sikkim, remains today a special event for all Sikkimese towards ensuring furtherance and nourishment of Sikkim’s rich heritage, culture, customs and social ethos while also maintaining the essence and significance of its most hallowed festivals.

EPILOGUE

Manoj Rai(SCS)
Special Secretary

Be it email or official WhatsApp group or excel data, information technology (IT) has penetrated to the lowest level of government administration. It is impossible for any office to run without computer and internet. But it is intriguing to realize that the authorities in the senior management level today belong to the generation that grew up without computer and internet. The schools we went to, did not have this subject called computer science. Our elementary education never had even slight touch of IT. Our knowledge as user of system is something we gathered in middle age in bits and pieces, here and there. I guess all of us have learned to send email and browse apps standing behind desk of that IT guy of the office.

Basically, a group of people, poor in particular subject, are running a show that is rolling on that very subject. It is a concern that is not acknowledged despite of several manifestations of the impact. In short run, the utility gap has given hiccups in normal daily routine work. In long run, the concept gap has derailed design and implementation of large projects.

IT is not a tool that would assist a conventional method to resolve a problem. IT itself is a solution. IT is not to be applied; IT is to be adopted. Computer and internet should not be used to increase speed of existing process. The process itself has to be re-engineered to make best use of IT. The capacity of data processing, data storage and data accessibility can make service delivery system totally new ball game.

Government offices are there mainly for two purposes, namely, it is an address where public can meet the authorities and it is the building where the records are maintained. To run this show, roles were defined, hierarchy created and timing was scheduled. Now internet is one platform where public and authorities can meet and cloud computing is place to maintain records. No office, no hierarchy, no timing; but more transparency, more ease and more economic.

In this perspective, IT is more democratic. Every webpage is same for have's and have not's. No data have special privilege as OBC data, ST data, SC data, minority data, BPL data. The failure of conventional governance is the fact that the person who needs government most are the ones standing farthest away from the government. The physical distance perpetuated because the administration believed thirst should commute to pond. IT offers the capacity to move the pond to the doorstep of thirst. The caveat is - IT only offers the capacity, to move the pond is decision to be taken by administration.

As long as world exist and human being live here, problems will keep coming. The new genre of problems will have IT in its DNA. The robustness IT commands can turn into challenge to social values that have evolved with civilization. We cannot play neutral to this colossal turn of events occurring globally. Ignorance in this regard shall be fatal. You got to sleep with your potential enemy to witness the exact turning point where IT- the boon for human race, turns into bane.

The new generation that we pessimistically looked down upon, are best fit to deal with the challenge of future. As Albert Einstein had said we cannot solve a problem with the same mind that created it. The new generation is pole apart from us. We accepted television as small form of cinema whereas our children understood cinema as large form of television.

We see toddlers swapping touch screen of smart phone. Mother nature is preparing them for managing artificial intelligence and bitcoins tomorrow. They will live in digital world, communicating more with gadgets than with own fellow race.

There is widespread dislike among oldies for excessive technological exposure the kids indulge to. We rate their character and ability in context of parameters of our time, which is actually bygone. They are people for new world. We had parents who believed colour television can turn us blind in long run. We don't even remember when the apprehension got swept away under waves of technology. Doordarshan was mere mode of entertainment but cable television became our lifestyle. Every older generation have defied changes whereas every new generation have adopted them happily.

Time has come to hand over the baton. We have created enough mess around. Environment, Economy, Polity, Religion, Health, Education everything has depreciated since we took over. The call for "back to the basics" stems from this realization only. But there is no undo button in the globe anywhere. The revelation written over the wall is the world is already taken over by technology and the majority decision makers of world are still the people trying to use new technology in old manner. The horse and cart are not in same track.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
DIRECTORATE OF HANDICRAFTS AND HANDLOOM



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**Best Wishes and Heartiest Congratulations to the People of Sikkim
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