



ISTM NEWS

Newsletter of Institute of Secretariat Training and Management



April - June 2022



FROM THE DIRECTOR

By S. D. Sharma, Director, ISTM

ISTM has been bringing out this quarterly newsletter with glimpses of activities and programmes undertaken during every quarter. I welcome all readers to the activities undertaken during April to June 2022, in the present issue. The various training programmes and workshops in this quarter are focused on such relevant areas as competency building, need based training, etc. The various in-house faculty members along with external experts from reputed organizations delivered the sessions.

During this quarter, ISTM launched and conducted several important training programme such as 'Workshop for liaison officers', 'DAKSHTA programme under capacity building curriculum' etc. The visit of Secretary, DoP&T, Mrs. Radha Chauhan motivated the participants and the faculty members to set and achieve higher goals. The Rajbhasha inspection was held twice in this quarter by different offices, namely Rajbhasha North Regional Implementation Office & DoPT. A workshop for employees of ISTM was conducted by Hindi Section on the topic of voice typing.

I request all the esteemed readers of ISTM News to share their ideas and suggestions with us for further improvements in the content of the newsletter.

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS



Story inside - The Secretary, DoP&T Mrs. Radha Chauhan visited ISTM to inaugurate "Workshop for Liaison Officers".

From the Director

ENKINDLE

TRAILBLAZE

YEARNING



ENKINDLE

It is our pleasure to present to you the April to June 2022 issue of ISTM News. For your convenience and easy reading, ISTM News is divided into four parts - From the **DIRECTOR**; **ENKINDLE** - which provides an outline of activities of the Institute; **TRAILBLAZE** - which gives a glimpse of major activities of the Institute during the period; and **YEARNING** which is a forum for our faculty members, officers / staff and trainees to share their creative thoughts & ideas.

Multiple programmes and several events were conducted during this quarter which includes Eminent Speaker Series under Foundation Training Programme (FTP), Rajbhasha inspection was held twice in this quarter by different offices, namely Rajbhasha North Regional Implementation Office & DoPT. The Secretary, DoP&T, Mrs. Radha Chauhan personally visited ISTM to inaugurate the two days Workshop for Liaison Officers for Preparation and Management of Reservation Roasters, Five Batches were also trained under Dakshta Program as a part of Capacity Building Curriculum.

During this quarter, the Institute conducted 60 courses, online and offline, which were attended by 1790 officers/participants.

The editorial team has tried to encapsulate various activities held in the Institute during this period. We will also request you to log in to our website www.istm.gov.in to know more about our ensuing programmes.

Editorial Board

Smt. R. Gayatri	- Director (FTP), Chairman
Smt. Namita Malik	- Joint Director, Member
Shri Puneet K Sharma	- Deputy Director, Member
Shri Pandey Rakesh	- Assistant Director, Member
Shri Pawan Kr. Shrivastav	- Assistant Library and Information Officer, Member Secretary



Workshop for Liaison Officers on Preparation and Management of Reservation Roaster



At the behest of Department of Department of Personnel & Training (DoP&T), two workshops on "Preparation and Management of Reservation Roasters" (PMRR) were organised for the Liaison Officers of Seventy Nine Ministries on 09th and 10th June and 23rd to 24th June of 2022 at Institute of Secretariat Training and Management. Total 93 Officers attended the workshop.

The Secretary, DoP&T Mrs. Radha Chauhan, inaugurated the first workshop along with Member (Admin) Capacity Building Commission, Shri Pravin Pardeshi.

Interaction between the participants and the representatives of DoP&T gave the kick start to the workshop. The representatives of DoP&T were happy to clear the doubts of the trainees.



Development of Attitude, Knowledge and Skills for Holistic Transformation of Administration (DAKSHTA) Programme

TRAILBLAZE
Continues...

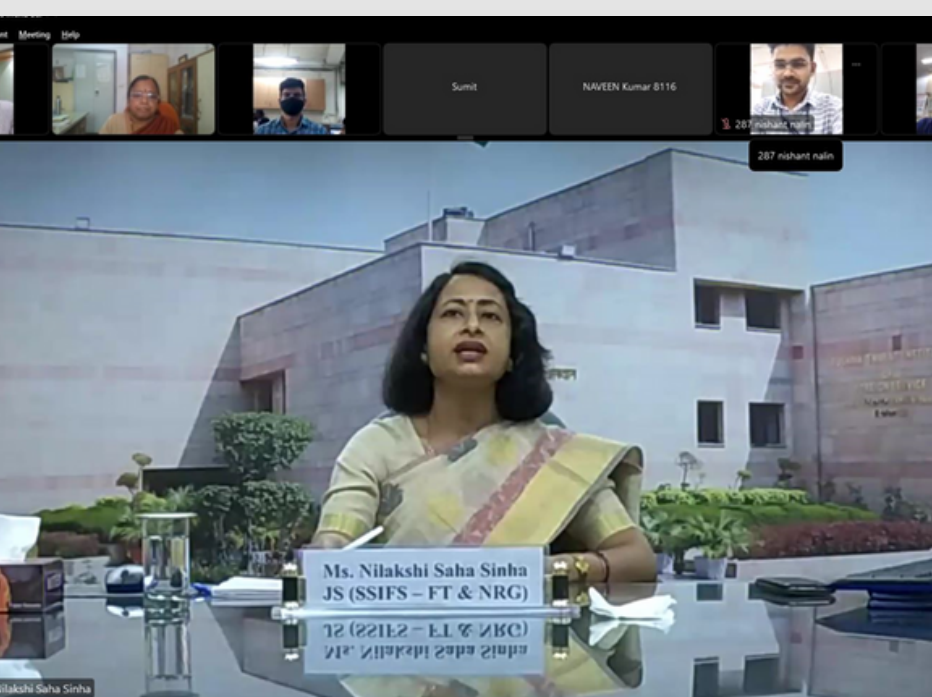
The Capacity Building Commission, as part of National Programme for Civil Service Capacity Building (NPCSCB) is responsible to take initiative for building capacity of various categories of civil servants. After conducting detailed Gap Analysis and Training Need Analysis, the CBC came out with certain Behavioural, Functional and Domain Competencies which are required at the level of ASOs/SOs/USs/DSs level officers posted in different Ministries/Departments. To fill the gap by introduction of necessary training intervention, ISTM was approached. ISTM devised a detailed capacity building programme for this purpose which are called DAKSHTA (Development of Attitude, Knowledge and Skills for Holistic Transformation of Administration) Programme. These programmes were designed after detailed consultation with the concerned Ministry.



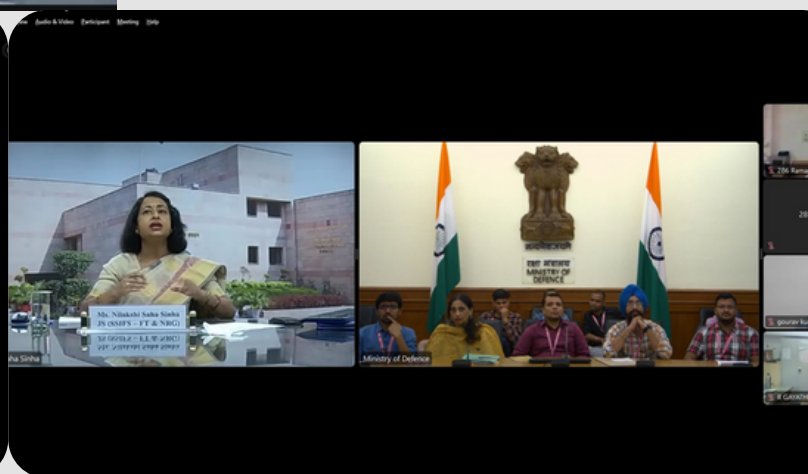
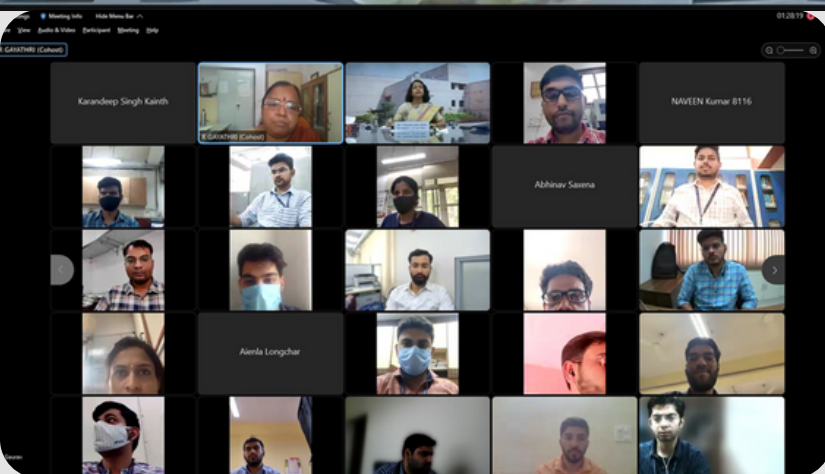
The DAKSHTA programmes have following features:-

- (a) These are highly interactive and trainee centered programmes in which focus is more on experiential learning techniques including case studies and role plays;
- (b) The learning takes places both online and offline. The participants are provided 10 hours of e-learning contents prior to commencement of the programmes followed by twenty hours of classroom training at ISTM;
- (c) As all participants belong to a single Ministry/Department, examples and cases are specific to that Ministry//Department.
- (d) An impact assessment exercise is carried out after 45 days of completion of DAKSHTA programme in the form of Post Training Seminar to know impact of the learnings at performance level

So far, ISTM has conducted five DAKSHTA Programmes covering seven Ministries/Departments in which 147 officials, both Group A and Group B, have been covered. The Post Training Seminar results show 'Marked Improvement' in the performance of the trainees after attending the DAKSHTA Programme.



EMINENT SPEAKER SERIES UNDER FOUNDATION TRAINING PROGRAM



‘Lecture Series by Eminent Speakers’ is organized for newly recruited ASO Probationers of 2018 Batch who are currently undergoing redesigned Foundation Training Programme. Lecture Series aims at macro-level understanding of diverse governance issues, developing innovative mind-set and scientific temper. Ms. Nilakshi Saha Sinha was invited as an eminent speaker to deliver lecture on the topic “Importance of languages in building cultural ties and international relations” on 28th April, 2022. She is currently Joint Secretary in the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS). Being an internationally trained interpreter, she has also been serving as the Interpreter to the Hon’ble Prime Minister since 2014.



हिंदी कार्यशाला का आयोजन

TRAILBLAZE
Continues...

अप्रैल-जून तिमाही के लिए दिनांक 24 मई, 2022 को दो सत्रों में “वॉयस टू टेक्स्ट” की सहायता से हिंदी लिखने संबंधी हिंदी कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया गया था। यह कार्यशाला संस्थान के अधिकारियों, संकाय सदस्यों, कर्मचारियों एवं डेटा एंट्री ऑपरेटर्स (डीईओ) के लिए आयोजित की गयी थी। हिंदी में कार्यशाला में कुल 62 प्रतिभागी उपस्थित थे। कार्यशाला के विषय विशेषज्ञ एवं अतिथि वक्ता वर्तमान में राजभाषा विभाग के तकनीकी सेल (राष्ट्रीय सूचना केंद्र) में तैनात श्री केवल कृष्ण, परामर्शदाता (सेवानिवृत्त वरिष्ठ तकनीकी निदेशक) थे।



अतिथि वक्ता महोदय ने कार्यशाला में हिंदी ई-टूल्स का प्रयोग, कंप्यूटरों एवं मोबाइल फोन में टाइपिंग विकल्प, यूनिकोड, एनकोडिंग, गूगल वॉयस टाइपिंग विकल्प, मोबाइल एप्स आदि के विषय में विस्तृत चर्चा की। इस दौरान प्रतिभागियों ने बड़े उत्साह से हिस्सा लिया और अपनी शंकाएं भी बताई जिसका समाधान अतिथि वक्ता महोदय द्वारा बहुत ही अच्छे ढंग से किया गया। इस कार्यशाला का उद्देश्य हिंदी का अधिक से अधिक प्रयोग सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उसे तकनीक के साथ जोड़कर कंप्यूटर पर हिंदी में कार्य करना सरल बनाना था।

उत्तरी क्षेत्रीय कार्यान्वयन कार्यालय-1, दिल्ली द्वारा सचिवालय प्रशिक्षण तथा प्रबंध संस्थान में राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन संबंधी निरीक्षण तथा विचार विमर्श

TRAILBLAZE
Continues...

राजभाषा विभाग, गृह मंत्रालय के उत्तरी क्षेत्रीय कार्यान्वयन कार्यालय-1, दिल्ली में उप निदेशक (कार्यान्वयन) के पद पर कार्यरत श्री कुमार पाल शर्मा द्वारा दिनांक 09 जून, 2022 को सचिवालय प्रशिक्षण तथा प्रबंध संस्थान में राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन संबंधी निरीक्षण/विचार विमर्श किया गया। इस निरीक्षण के दौरान संस्थान के हिंदी अनुभाग में कार्यरत श्रीमती सुजाता मट्टू, सहायक निदेशक (रा.भा.), श्रीमती प्रीती कुशवाहा, कनिष्ठ अनुवाद अधिकारी एवं सुश्री कृष्णा कुमारी गुप्ता, कनिष्ठ अनुवाद अधिकारी के अलावा संस्थान में उप निदेशक (प्रशासन) के पद पर कार्यरत श्री राजेश सिंह, श्री अगम अग्रवाल, उप निदेशक, श्री पांडेय राकेश, सहायक निदेशक, श्री आर. एन. कुलश्रेष्ठा, अनुभाग अधिकारी (प्रशासन), श्री संदीप कुमार, अनुभाग अधिकारी (स्थापना) एवं श्री पवन कुमार श्रीवास्तव, सहायक पुस्तकालय एवं सूचना अधिकारी उपस्थित रहें। अपनी शंकाएं भी बताई जिसका समाधान सॉफ्टवेयर इंजीनियर महोदय द्वारा बहुत ही अच्छे ढंग से किया गया।



कार्मिक एवं प्रशिक्षण विभाग द्वारा सचिवालय प्रशिक्षण तथा प्रबंध संस्थान का राजभाषा संबंधी निरीक्षण

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत आने वाले एवं सचिवालय प्रशिक्षण तथा प्रबंध संस्थान के नियंत्रक कार्यालय कार्मिक एवं प्रशिक्षण विभाग के राजभाषा अनुभाग में कार्यरत श्री जगमोहन सिंह नेगी, उप निदेशक (रा.भा.) तथा कनिष्ठ अनुवाद अधिकारी द्वारा दिनांक 15 जून, 2022 को सरकारी कामकाज में हिंदी के प्रगामी प्रयोग की स्थिति का जायजा लेने के प्रयोजन से सचिवालय प्रशिक्षण तथा प्रबंध संस्थान का राजभाषा संबंधी निरीक्षण किया गया। इस निरीक्षण के दौरान संस्थान के हिंदी अनुभाग में कार्यरत श्रीमती सुजाता मट्टू, सहायक निदेशक (रा.भा.), श्रीमती प्रीती कुशवाहा, कनिष्ठ अनुवाद अधिकारी एवं सुश्री कृष्णा कुमारी गुप्ता, कनिष्ठ अनुवाद अधिकारी के अलावा संस्थान में उप सचिव (प्रशासन) के पद पर कार्यरत श्री वे. श्रीनिवासराघवन, उप निदेशक (प्रशासन) के पद पर कार्यरत श्री राजेश सिंह, श्री अगम अग्रवाल, उप निदेशक एवं श्री संदीप कुमार, अनुभाग अधिकारी (स्थापना) उपस्थित रहें।

**TRAILBLAZE
Continues...**





INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA - 2022 CELEBRATION @ ISTM



International Day of Yoga - 2022 was celebrated on 21st June 2022 at ISTM. The Director, ISTM Shri S. D. Sharma along with many officers, faculty members and staff members, joined this international event early in the morning. Mrs. Rosy Sharma, Yoga Instructor (Consultant) extended her support to all the present members and Shri Bhagaban Padhy, Under Secretary led the entire session and presented demo of all the yoga postures. All the staff members learnt yoga postures enthusiastically. The session ended with a post light breakfast organised by the Administration Section of this office.



ONLINE & OFFLINE COURSES CONDUCTED

DURING APRIL TO JUNE 2022



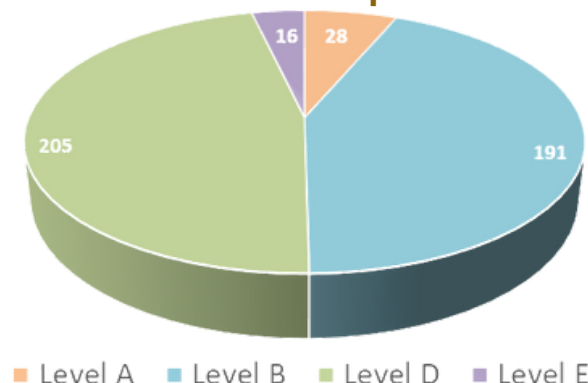
CSS - CADRE TRAINING COURSES - 15 COURSES AS UNDER:-

Total 15 courses of Level A, B, D & E conducted during this quarter (Apr to Jun 2022). The duration of these courses ranges from two to six week long. Total of 440 participants attended the training.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE NAME:

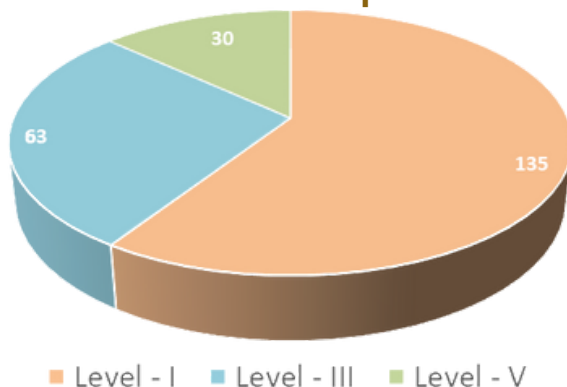
- LEVEL E: UNDER SECRETARIES OF CSS WITH 4 YEARS OF APPROVED SERVICE
- LEVEL D: SECTION OFFICERS OF CSS WITH 6 YEARS OF APPROVED SERVICE
- LEVEL B: ASSISTANT SECTION OFFICERS OF CSS WITH 6 YEARS OF APPROVED SERVICE
- LEVEL A: SENIOR SECRETARIAT ASSISTANT OF CSS WITH 4 YEARS OF APPROVED SERVICE

**CSS - Cadre Training Courses
No. of Participants**



CSSS - CADRE TRAINING COURSES - 8 COURSES AS UNDER:-

**CSSS - Cadre Training Courses
No. of Participants**



Total 8 courses of "Level I, III & V" conducted during this quarter (Apr to Jun 2022). The duration of these courses is three weeks long. Total of 228 participants attended the training.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE NAME:

- LEVEL V: STENOGRAPHERS GRADE D OF CSSS WITH 7 YEARS OF REGULAR SERVICE
- LEVEL III: PRIVATE SECRETARIES OF CSSS WITH 4 YEARS OF REGULAR SERVICE
- LEVEL I: STENOGRAPHERS GRADE D OF CSSS WITH 7 YEARS OF REGULAR SERVICE

R/CBP - REFRESHER CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME NOW DAKSHTA - 4 COURSES AS UNDER:-

S. No.	Ministries participated in DAKSHTA Programme	Duration From	Duration To	No. of participants
1	Ministry of Finance	18.04.2022	23.04.2022	39
2	Ministry of FPI	18.04.2022	29.04.2022	18
3	Ministry of Labour & Employment - 1	06.06.2022	10.06.2022	19
4	Ministry of Labour & Employment - 2	13.06.2022	18.06.2022	30
	Total No. of Participants			106

CALENDAR COURSES OTHER THAN CSS/CSSS AND CTP - 24 COURSES AS UNDER:

S.No	Name of course	Course Code	Duration FROM	Duration TO	No. of participants
1	MS-Excel - 09	MS-Ex-09	04.04.2022	06.04.2022	22
2	Cash & Accounts - 175	C&A-175	04.04.2022	03.06.2022	26
3	Reservation In Service - 24	RIS-24	04.04.2022	07.04.2022	48
4	OTP-e-Bhavishya-05	OTP-e-Bhavishya-05	11.04.2022	11.04.2022	25
5	e-HRM	e-HRM	11.04.2022	11.04.2022	27
6	MS-Office - 07	MS-OS-07	18.04.2022	22.04.2022	71
7	Establishment Rules-1 -07	ER-1-07	18.04.2022	22.04.2022	11
8	Workshop on Noting and Drafting -41	WND-41	18.04.2022	19.04.2022	32
9	Cash & Accounts -174 Phase-II	C&A-174 Phase-II	18.04.2022	13.05.2022	30
10	Workshop for Liaison Officer SC/ST-19	WLO SC/ST-19	25.04.2022	27.05.2022	15
11	Data Driven Decision Making in Government - 02	DDDMG-02	28.04.2022	29.04.2022	23
12	Preparation of Roster-01	POR-01	04.05.2022	06.05.2022	50
13	Building E-Learning Content -01	BELCMK-01	06.05.2022	06.05.2022	42
14	Administrative Vigilance 3-09	AV3-09	09.05.2022	13.05.2022	18
15	Workshop on e-Procurement -11&12	WEP-11&12	09.05.2022	10.05.2022	31
16	Effective Drafting -1-01	ED-1-01	09.05.2022	13.05.2022	47
17	MS-Word -09	MS-W-09	23.05.2022	25.05.2022	25
18	Establishment Rules-2 - 06	ER-2-06	30.05.2022	03.06.2022	62
19	Drafting of Request For Proposal -03	D-RFP-03	03.06.2022	03.06.2022	13
20	Introduction to Artificial Intelligence-01	AI-01	06.06.2022	07.06.2022	39
21	Preparation and Maintenance of Reservation Roster-01	PMRR-01	09.06.2022	10.06.2022	48
22	Workshop on Cyber Security - 01	W-CS-01	13.06.2022	14.06.2022	14
23	Workshop for Liaison Officer SC/ST-20	WLO SC/ST-20	15.06.2022	17.06.2022	32
24	Preparation and Maintenance of Reservation Roster-02	PMRR-02	23.06.2022	24.06.2022	45
Total No. of Participants					796

ORGANISATION SPECIFIC PROGRAMMES (OSP) – 9 COURSE AS UNDER: -

S.No	Name of Ministry/Department	Course Code	Duration FROM	Duration TO	No. of participants
1	Ministry of Textile	OSP-M/o Textile	18.04.2022	29.04.2022	25
2	Central Government Health Scheme	OSP-CGHS	18.04.2022	29.04.2022	19
3	Indian Railways Institute of Transport Management	OSP-IRITM	02.05.2022	06.05.2022	49
4	Department of Economic Affairs - 1	OSP-DEA-1	09.05.2022	20.05.2022	12
5	Directorate General of Civil Aviation	OSP-DGCA	30.05.2022	03.06.2022	25
6	Delhi Development Authority	OSP-DDA-	08.06.2022	10.06.2022	28
7	Department of Economic Affairs - 2	OSP-DEA-2	13.06.2022	17.06.2022	12
8	Peripatetic Programme for GOA - 02	PT-GOA-02	20.06.2022	21.06.2022	25
9	Jamia Millia Islamia	OSP(O)-JMI	20.06.2022	24.06.2022	25
Total No. of Participants					220

विलुप्त होती संवेदना...

YEARNING

जिस तरह हम बचाना चाहते हैं
जल, पेड़ों एवं वन्य जीवों को,
उसी तरह जरूरी है बचाया जाना
मानव के मन में संवेदनाओं को ।
जिस तरह धरती के गर्भ से
कम होता जा रहा है अमृत,
उसी तरह समाज का हृदय भी
अल्प ही होता है अब द्रवित ।
जिस तरह वनों के उजड़ने से
धरती खो रही हरियाली,
उसी तरह संवेदनाओं से भरा
मन होता जा रहा खाली ।
विलुप्त होती जा रही प्रजातियों की सूची पर
पुनः किया जाना चाहिए गौर,
जोड़ा जाना चाहिए उसमें
संवेदनशील मनुष्य का नाम और ।
जब शुरू करती हूं आदि से सोचना
तो दिखता है गुफाओं में रहने वाला आदिमानव
जो संवेदनाओं से धीरे-धीरे परिचित होकर मनुष्य बना,
पर जब याद आता है आज का मानव
तो लगता है प्रगति की इस यात्रा में
यहाँ तक आते-आते बहुत कुछ पीछे छोड़ आया अनमना।
ऐसा एक दौर भी था,
तंग थे समाज के हाथ,
पर था मानव का मानव को साथ ।
ऐसा एक दौर भी था,
जीवन यापन के स्रोतों की थी कमी,
फिर भी जिंदगी थी
संवेदना, सहानुभूति और सहायता की डोर से थमी ।
आज की तकनीकों से भरी दुनिया में,
जब मानव अधिक समय है
मशीनों के साथ बिताने लगा
कुछ कुछ मशीनों सा बनने लगा है,
संवेदनाओं से दूर हटने लगा है ।

कभी कभी मुझे लगता है कि
ये संवेदना विलुप्त नहीं हुई है,
बल्कि कहीं फंस कर रह गई है
मशीनों के कलपुर्जों में ।
कहीं उलझ कर रह गई है
टीवी, कंप्यूटर के तारों में ।
अथवा क्या पता, कहीं उदासीन सी बैठी हो
टेलीकॉम टॉवर की ऊंचाई पर ।
या हो सकता है पीछे छूट गई हो
मानव के एक पीढ़ी से दूसरे में आने पर ।
संभव नहीं हमारा अब लौटना,
इसलिए ईश्वर से है यही प्रार्थना,
हमारे भीतर संवेदना का पुनर्जन्म हो,
मन में न कभी अहम् हो,
हर मनुष्य के मन को मिले ये प्रेरणा,
किसी तरह हम बचा लें अपने भीतर संवेदना ॥

कृष्णा कुमारी गुप्ता,
कनिष्ठ अनुवाद अधिकारी,
स.प्र.एवं प्र.सं.

WINNER

The Present

Papa continued to scold Deepanshu, "The match was in your hands. How could you lose it like that? Anyone who has already won one set and is 4-0 up in the second can easily win from there, but not you. How long will I and your mom continue to carry on like this? Just like this match, you leave everything in between. Do you even have the zeal in you to be a winner? It's not easy to get so near to victory but you will never learn; you feel your parents will be there to support you forever....." And he continued to blast Deepanshu.

The Past

Actually Deepanshu was born with Dyslexia and Attention Deficiency Disorder (ADD). He finds it tough to concentrate for too long on anything. He is a normal child in all aspects except for these learning disorders which make it difficult for him to excel in studies. In fact, he finds it tough to do any structured task. His problem with learning was found way back when he was in play school itself. The teachers found him to be lost in his own world many a times. He had difficulty memorizing even small poems. In addition he was many a times constructing and reading the letters the wrong way; like 'd' as 'b' and vice - versa.

When the school reported about his problem to his parents, it led to a huge showdown between his parents and teachers. His parents refused to accept that their son had any issues. Instead they blamed the school and the teachers for his poor performance and for trying to label him as a child suffering from Learning Difficulty (LD) to cover their ineptitude. This led to them changing the playschool of Deepanshu twice in quick succession. But after reaching the same conclusion from the other schools as well, his parents reluctantly agreed that he had LD.

Once out of playschool, he was sent to a regular school. Till now Deepanshu was too small to understand that he was a slow learner or attention deficit. In playschool most of his time was spent in fun activities which he enjoyed and never felt too much pressure due to the individualistic attention he got from his teachers. But in the regular school, it was a huge class with 45 students. The poor teacher to student ratio meant that there was no one to constantly remind him of the lesson in progress and he could easily wander off whenever he lost concentration, which happened too often. His very poor results got the school as well as the parents worried.

The school decided that they will need a certificate to the effect that Deepanshu had a LD from some Government or recognized institution. The parents were told in no uncertain terms to either get the certificate or get a transfer certificate so that Deepanshu could leave the school. Deepanshu's parents had no choice and they had to take him to a hospital with Child Development Centre. There he was tested by speech therapists to psychologists over 15-20 sittings spanning over 3 months. He found all of it strange but never complained. He was happy to stay away from his school whatsoever may be the reason. At last his problems (rather of his parents' and teachers') had a label. He was declared as Dyslexic and suffering from ADD. His parents felt as if heaven had fallen. Only question they had in mind was "Why them?" Blissfully, Deepanshu was unaware of all this.

But all this innocence and ignorance could not have lasted forever. With age, Deepanshu realized that something was wrong with him. He was the butt of most of the jokes in class because of his wrong 'bs' and 'ds'. All his teachers were always annoyed with him for not being attentive. His parents used to feel humiliated at parent teacher meetings because of complaints from teachers and his ever falling grades. There was always a fear of his being detained in a lower class but somehow the school always relented, thanks to the recently passed Right To Education Act.

It was not as if Deepanshu was not trying. His parents arranged home tuitions for him. He tried his level best to concentrate on studies but even he could not understand why his mind wandered to things around him. All of the inconsequential and insignificant things around him caught his fancy whenever he tried to concentrate. He started every task with enthusiasm but would soon get bored and lose interest. He was feeling helpless and was pained at the pain of his parents. Initially he used to feel hurt at the jibes of his friends, the frowns of his teachers, the scolding of his parents, the comparison with his friends and cousins but with time he was growing stoic to all the criticism. He knew his parents and his teachers meant well for him and this thought gave him the strength to try harder, though with little success.

The only solace for his tortured life at school was Chakarvarty Madam. She was the school counselor. She was hired by the school to look after distressed souls like Deepanshu. There were about 20 students in school who had some Learning Difficulty 'officially'. Chakarvarty Madam was nice to all of them. She used to fight with the other teachers to treat these children fairly and make them part of the mainstream by giving them meaningful role in co-curricular activities. She would meet the parents of these children and counsel them too about coping with such children and understanding them better. She counseled Deepanshu's parents too and asked them to find what interests Deepanshu had and help him master some other activity other than studies. She also asked them to get him coaching in any sports which might help his concentration levels as well his coordination.

This led to another round of humiliations for Deepanshu. His parents tried to somehow fix him as a painter, dancer, cricketer, judoka and what not. He too displayed much interest at the beginning of each set of classes but as was his wont, after some time his interest would wane into thin air, leading to ridicules and lectures on how he wastes time and money of everyone. Everyone around him was getting more and more frustrated. All the while, he was growing physically, but it was his mental faculty which was a laggard. Finally, he was sent to tennis classes. Somehow, something clicked and Deepanshu found the game interesting for duration longer than usual. His poor hand-eye coordination also started to show some improvement, but it was evident that he was not going to be a professional at the sport. Anyway at last, his parents were happy that he was improving.

From the age of 14 to 16, he kept on taking coaching classes to learn tennis and was now playing full 3 set matches at his tennis academy. His coach used to send players for local and national level tournaments. Players much younger than him and with much less experience of attending tennis classes were picked for these tournaments but never him. His coach had negligible confidence in his abilities to win a match. The coach did not want to take the risk of spoiling the reputation of his academy by sending players like Deepanshu in tournaments who were not upto the mark. Deepanshu's parents found this humiliating even though Deepanshu had no complaints. He was enjoying playing the game without any pressure of winning or losing. But finally, the coach succumbed to the pressure of Deepanshu's parents and sent his entry to a low profile Under-16 local tournament.

Fortunately, the first round opponent of Deepanshu was a 14 year old boy. Deepanshu's father had accompanied him to the tournament. He was lectured the whole day on how to play and how to win and how crucial it was for him to prove himself to others as well as himself. He nodded in affirmation to everything his father said, as if he had a choice. The match was being played on the side courts of a tennis stadium and it was on clay court, which was Deepanshu's favorite as he could slide and even roll during the match to get messy, which he was not allowed to do otherwise.

To the utter disbelief of Deepanshu and his father, he played very well and without any lapse of concentration. He won the first set easily against a much younger opponent, who clearly had much less

physical strength than Deepanshu. After a long time, Deepanshu was enjoying every bit of his existence. Even his father was all praise and was encouraging him at every point. The second set started as the first had ended. Deepanshu was dominating his rival with ease. He was 4-0 up and just needed 2 more games to win the match. His opponent was almost in tears. Deepanshu was cantering to an easy win. But then it happened, suddenly he lost all his focus. He started missing easy shots and committing too many errors. Within minutes the match had turned on its head and so had the atmosphere around the court. Now his father was back to his scolding ways and his opponent was all fired up at his parents' encouragement who had been so far reprimanding their son. Within half an hour, Deepanshu had lost the match 2 sets to 1.

Deepanshu's father was beyond himself with anger. He started reprimanding Deepanshu for his poor attitude and his constant failures. As Deepanshu was packing his bags to get out of court, he could hear his father giving him an earful for losing a match which was in his pocket.

Back to The Present

Papa continued to scold Deepanshu, "The match was in your hands. How could you lose it like that? Anyone who has already won one set and is 4-0 up in the second can easily win from there, but not you. How long will I and your mom continue to carry on like this? Just like this match, you leave everything in between. Do you even have the zeal in you to be a winner? It's not easy to get so near to victory but you will never learn; you feel your parents will be there to support you forever....." And he continued to blast Deepanshu.

Deepanshu kept on walking in front of his Papa, with his head bowed, trying to avoid his gaze. He knew he had let him down badly. He realized his parents loved him too much and were trying to find something where he could make a career. He also appreciated their efforts and understood that they felt tennis was the panacea which could be answer to their countless prayers. He felt ashamed for losing. Suddenly, his father held his hand and asked him, "How can you do this to us Deepanshu? How could you lose your attention at time when you could have smelled your life's first victory?"

Deepanshu could see hurt in eyes of his father. He could take it no further and replied, "Papa, I never lost my focus, I could have easily defeated that little boy today. I was cruising to a 2 set victory, but did you see how badly his father was scolding that boy? At 4-0 he was even slapped by his father; he was almost in tears when I went past him at the time of crossover. Papa, I know the taste of defeat, that has been my life. I did not want that poor little boy to feel its taste. Please forgive me Papa for letting you down, but that was not my intention." Deepanshu said all this and continued to walk towards the exit gate of the stadium.

His father stood rooted, with tears streaming down his cheeks. He did not know whether the society will ever understand but it was clear to him, who the winner was.



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(आईएसओ 9001:2015 संस्था/AN ISO 9001:2015 INSTITUTION)

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