



हडको दर्पण HUDCO DARPAN

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आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव

हाउसिंग एंड अर्बन डेवलपमेंट कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD. (HUDCO)

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Editorial

At the outset, I congratulate all employees on the performance and achievements of HUDCO in the last year inspite of the challenges posed by the pandemic i.e. COVID19. In this seventy fifth year of India's independence, it is a matter of great pride that even after five decades, HUDCO continues to be an able partner of Government in achieving the Government of India aim of the inclusive growth and sustainable development of New India.

As we enter the new financial year, it is a matter of great joy that after a gap of two years, we are once again able to celebrate our Foundation Day in the physical form and personally meet and greet each other. While it is indeed a huge relief that we have come out of the lockdown period, we should not let our guards down or forget covid appropriate behaviour in our everyday interactions.

This year will also usher in changes in our operations in response to the changing market milieu. To stay relevant in the dynamic market scenario it is necessary that each employee should upgrade their skill sets and be prepared to respond to new challenges as and when they present themselves. This is the time we should develop suitable training modules to equip our officials with necessary know how to adapt to market changes, which requires an understanding of the customer needs and by doing so will help in creating more meaningful products and services.

Further, the need of the hour is that every official has to be very proactive in their respective departments, specially while dealing with our borrowing agencies and other stakeholders. In the highly competitive business environment, we need to ensure that HUDCO gets the first mover advantage, by anticipating potential needs and opportunities that may not be immediately evident. This requires each and every team, whether a department at corporate office or a regional office, to work as a cohesive unit with strategic thinking and looking to the future, while learning from the past by stepping outside our comfort zone.

HUDCO Darpan magazine is a unique platform that offers an opportunity for every employee and their family members to express themselves by sharing their ideas. I am happy to see the rich diversity of thoughts and ideas reflected in the compilation of articles in this issue of Darpan. Writing as a means of self-expression is a medium that allows us to explain and share ourselves with others, while preserving our personal experience and our memories. I encourage each one of you to continue to make use of this opportunity to express yourselves freely and contribute regularly in the form of prose, poetry, or creative writing.

M Nagaraj
Director Corporate Planning

Developing Spiritual Circuit for UT of Puducherry

HUDCO Puducherry Development Office was awarded the Consultancy Project to design a 'Spiritual Tourism Circuit Development Plan' for prioritized spiritual destinations at Puducherry UT under the GOI Programme "Spiritual Circuit of Swadesh Darshan". The project was undertaken by the Tourism Department, Government of Puducherry. Two destinations in Puducherry and four destinations in Karaikal were identified for development in this project. The scope included gap identification of tourism destination infrastructure and preparation of a destination development plan to provide spiritual experience to tourists, including landscape design works.

S.No	Name of Project	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Development of Kokilambal Thirukameswara Temple, Puducherry	445.00
2	Development of Gangaivaraganatheeswarar Temple, Thirukanchi, Puducherry	582.00
3	Development of Spiritual Park At Thirunallar	740.00
4	Development of Sacred Tanks At Thirunallar	220.37
5	Development of Sri Badra Kali Amman Temple, Ambagarathur	275.00
6	Development of Jadapureswarar Temple, TR Pattinam, Karaikal	265.00

A brief description of one of the projects proposed in the Spiritual Town of Thirunallar.

Development of Spiritual Park at Thirunallar, Karaikal

Location & Design Brief: The site is located opposite the parking and pilgrim site / bus terminus site across the inner ring road of Thirunallar, all the components are of Thirunallar Master Plan Project - the first Consultancy Project undertaken by HUDCO in the UT of Puducherry. The local administration had mooted the idea that they require a recreational spot at Thirunallar for the benefit of pilgrims and visitors, who could spend their time during their visit to the temple town. With this brief design, the HUDCO team developed the concept.



Existing features of the site: The site already has a sacred pond - ThamaraiKulam / lotus pond which was under the effect of eutrophication and was identified for rejuvenation under the Thirunallar Master Plan Project. As part of the Master Plan exercise, this land was acquired by the Tourism Department, GoP for development.

← The Photo shows the Lake under Eutrophication.



List of Components Proposed:

- Amphitheaters (for yoga and meditation)
- Sculpture Garden & Miniature Navagraha Temples
- Herbal Garden
- Meditation Zone
- Pathways and Paved Area
- Landscape and Landscape Electrification
- Tourist Facility Center (Information, Cloak Room & Toilet)
- Beautification of existing sacred pond – development of pathways, steps
- Parking facility



Trail of Spiritual Experiences:

The park tries to integrate all spiritual experiences related to landscape along with the significance of Nakshatras at one point.

The Lotus flower (based on the existing Lotus Pond) concept is replicated in the Entrance Plaza – the outer sepals and petals are used as stepped planters, the center has a landscaped area. The visitor is then taken through a series of landscaped areas which

would spiritually awaken the five senses: Vision, Hearing, Smell, Taste and Touch.

The visitor trail moves along to the Nakshatra miniature temples recreated – a visual treat, audio play of chanting of Vedas would add to the hearing sense. The surrounding gardens would be created to be conducive to small birds whose chirping will also add to the hearing sense. The central landscaped area is divided into gardens of spiritual herbs– the smell garden, the taste garden and the touch garden.

The miniature temples are recreated with the Google Map imagery, reflecting the exact distances between temples.

The next feature is the **Meditation Zone** which would provide quiet and secluded space for meditation. This





The structure was designed innovatively as a tensile structure with the help of local technical support provider. The structure is 18.5 m in diameter and 17.5 m in height. The structure has steel framework with double membranes covering the structure. Vents are provided for natural lighting and ventilation. The innovative structure is already creating intrigue in the minds of the public and they are awaiting its opening to enjoy the ambience.

family of shapes, which has traces in sacred architecture, has a relationship with the laws that govern the living world. The Zome creates a phenomena of resonance capable of modifying the vibratory quality of the space inside and outside of these shapes.

The Zome constitutes a privileged space-creating a space of harmony and meditation. It is also a metaphoric image of a lotus bud.



A grassed open amphitheater which rises from 1.5m level to the central pavilion, projects halfway into the existing ThamaraiKulam – filled with Lotus flowers of different hues, the grassed steps can be used for seating visitors. The sides of the Kulam have steps, where visitors could feed the swans and fish which are proposed to be introduced in the Kulam. The local administration is proposing to develop a sound and light show in the spiritual park in the second phase of the Spiritual Circuit Project.



A pavilion is located at the entry of the site serving as the ticket counter and for serving natural foods to visitors. Toilet facility is centrally located in the center of the site for easy accessibility.

The landscape has been designed to reflect the spiritual essence and all plants have been selected on the basis of its religious symbolism. The landscape around the Miniature Navagraha temples are also selected as per the trees and shrubs with symbolic relevance to the Navagrahas.



Dina. A. P, JGM(P)
Puducherry Development Office

A Consultancy Project through the Pandemic



Amidst separations for offering the best logistic support for the participants and HSMI's training coordinators at Goa in October 2018, we from the Bengaluru Regional Office (BRO), were in a way able to manage time for a classroom sharing of our little lessons on implementation of PMAY (Urban) as it unfolded in the State of Karnataka. To this, we had of-course added our theoretical abstraction of what we have individually and collectively learnt over our more than a couple of decades' understanding of 'Housing the Urban Poor'. Our session had just got over and apparently it was received well by the audience when a senior colleague, who had come from Delhi, came up to share a newspaper clipping on his mobile phone saying "after listening to your lecture, I think you can take up this project".

The Housing for All Plan of Action (HFAPoA) under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) for 61 towns across 9 districts for the State of Karnataka has been successfully completed by a small team, bringing in a fee of 1.72 crore rupees for HUDCO, in a short span of time. For the yet-to-be initiated on this subject, it is an action plan under the Housing for All Mission – PMAY (Urban) for housing those poor households living in slums and non-slum areas of the country who do not have a pucca house of their own. The Government of India along with the state, urban local body, and in some cases the private sector, supports housing access through four mutually exclusive verticals – Beneficiary-Led-Construction, Affordable Housing in Partnership, In-Situ Slum Rehabilitation and Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme'. While the project of preparing the HFAPoA was bagged by Bengaluru Regional Office (BRO) through competitive bidding amidst several systemic challenges in March 2020 itself, after negotiations with the client, i.e. Rajiv

Gandhi Housing Corporation Ltd (RGHCL), we received the formal award letter only in August, 2020. It was not a usual period in the history of time.

The COVID-19 pandemic had engulfed us all with fear and uncertainty. Prior to receiving the work order, amidst the lockdown, the only possibility before us was to commence the groundwork and be prepared with the secondary research and study tools that would help us in substantial terms, should the work order come at all. One of us was stranded at Chennai. We had Kanika and Ravi Ranjan from Delhi to officially join us in the exercise. But not everything is easy from a distance. We had things to do, to share, and to agree upon finally make sense of what we did. It was quite challenging and yet we managed to keep the ball rolling as we anxiously awaited the work order to come into HUDCO's mailbox. It finally did! It was in August, 2020. While super-joyed to have bagged this contract, we knew that we had a long and arduous way to go – the geographical and institutional scale of work; the given time frame, the inaccessibility of places and people amidst the pandemic, and the almost impossible size of team to match. 61 independent reports had to be prepared at their different stages – inception, draft and final-based on an intensive study. It wasn't as if the secondary data was all easily made available or accessible to us, and when we did manage, the data was not always comprehensible. The team was not well versed with the state vernacular, and the english versions that the ULB websites offered were often a good source of respite from stress. For instance didn't know what 'Calculator' meant in the English version of the ULBs directory, till we realized that it should be the 'Accounts Officer or Accountant, that the 'priest' was actually the 'ULB Commissioner', the 'Young performer' was the 'Junior Engineer' and 'Handkerchief' was actually the 'Bill Collector' in the ULB. The name of 'Ms. Panchakshari Doddamani' read 'Five Star Bigotry' and that 'Friendliness' was

Ms. Snehalata. One may fail to comprehend our sagacity and research deployed to make sense of what we came across. But then, the reasons and opportunities websites provided us to really laugh out loud.

The task of preparing the HFAPoA when PMAY (Urban) was already on ground for 5 long years had its own pitfalls. But in it, we found an opportunity to put together our individual and institutional resources to analyze the performance of the program in retrospect,

and provide a normative framework to the State for improving housing access. This opportunity was more distinct as one of the requisites of the Terms of Reference (ToR) was to 'Validate 5 % of the Demand Survey Data' that the State had already collected prior to the program implementation. This simply meant that we had to do a sample survey covering 16000 households in 61 towns/cities across 9 districts. And for this, we hired a Survey Agency through an open e-tendering process which would then go on to collect computer aided primary data across more than 25 parameters. It cost us Rs. 42.00 lakhs (including GST). The hiring process was worth the effort as the additional data collected through the household survey, was then analyzed by us to provide RGHCL an additional chapter in the HFAPoA document in a way that the implementation gap mitigation measures could be ploughed back to the program design. This exercise was cumbersome and not warranted by the ToR, and yet we did it. Such is the institutional stature of HUDCO we believed. It's nothing new to us that the administrative processes by virtue of the files having to move several desks are more time consuming and stressful than the meticulous intellectual labour that one has to put in. Yet, we must admit that besides a couple of officers in other Regional Offices, we received an immense support from our seniors and peers from Consultancy & Finance Divisions at Corporate Office. As we write this piece, we are taken away to certain days when we would pester late Akhilesh Sir for an urgent approval of this or of that. Even if he missed a call, he would get back to find out what we needed and address our concerns at the earliest possible. There were days when we could have missed the last dates of certain mandatory submissions thereby losing the project itself, had it not been for him. Late Ms. Veena Nagpal, the secretarial officer in Consultancy Wing, who we had hardly ever met, also had run up and down the floors, unexpected and unasked, while comforting us during our anxious wait for an important approvals. Though we lost them to the pandemic they would always be part of this project.

We had to travel to many towns, and this was part of the process. But this was no usual travel. The lockdown had not been eased everywhere. Our families were apprehensive and anxious; they took this to be too adventurous for such a time. We knew our team mates from Delhi would not be able to join us amidst this pandemic. The task on travel was large – collecting primary institutional data on housing, infrastructure conditions, administrative and



financial health of cities etc from multiple departments in each town; holding Focused Group discussions, mostly in slums, and stakeholder meetings with political representatives, bureaucracy, banking institutions, beneficiary representatives, private sector housing institutions, and other nodal departments of the town. All this meant intense mobility and in-person interface. People, particularly in smaller towns and in slums moved about without masks. The offices of Urban Local Bodies were crowded by people, often falling over us during a discussion with the ULB officials. We had to be part of this crowd and often worked oblivious of the Corona pandemic. We must share that it was only because of this project that we could keep away from any media updates of Corona and sail comfortably through the pandemic hoping and praying along our way that good times would return. We travelled by road and chose to hop through the different towns and often typed our notes over the night and on the drive. Harish, the taxi driver was of divine assistance facilitating our conversation with people where our limited knowledge of the local language sometimes posed a challenge. It was like, he has mastered the housing program and the protocols of a qualitative interview. On some occasions, he helped us photograph the study process. While the survey agency was hired and was doing its job of household level data collection, we, along with few student interns, would track the process on a daily basis. It was only timely that few undergraduate students from a Bangalore Planning School were looking forward to an internship that they had missed during the complete lockdown. While their school had not started, and all of us know what students went through, they were more than glad to come to HUDCO's office. Having these enthusiastic and committed students was of timely help. They had to learn about housing and contributed in their own ways to share our burden as we finalized the reports.

There were several repetitive tasks, and multiple revisions of the Annual Investment Plans (an integral part of the HFAPoA) as newer versions of data pertaining to multiple projects sanctioned over the last 5 years in various Sanction Committee meetings in each town kept coming to us till the fag end of the project period. We wished we could take the students to every town, but the pandemic had its own say. We couldn't put their welfare at a risk. So they joined us in one nearby district covering four towns. We had in fact tried to get some student interns from another Planning School for remote assistance during preparation of the inception reports, but it did not work well. This Consultancy project of HUDCO was part of our duties as HUDCO officials. But when towards the end of the project, the students won a prize for the first time in their National Planning event and they attributed this achievement to us and our guidance, we felt a deep sense of satisfaction and relief from our routine.

We hope we can bag more projects, and in our initiatives and efforts we feel comfortable to have the support of our Regional Chief. The Consultancy project for preparation of HFAPoA under PMAY (Urban) has come to an end just like any other project. However, it has left in its trail some opportunities for collaborations and competitions. The signing of a MoU between HUDCO and All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG) in January 2022 is one such opportunity, and this was an extension of the association the project team had with the institution that had worked as the survey agency. In an institutional ecosystem where physical spaces and built forms determine the contour and character for housing the urban poor, we are satisfied to have understood and placed the contextual priority of housing micro-finance, infrastructural utilities, financial and administrative elements in planning and program design.

P Subramanian, JGM & Sangeeta Maunav, DGM
Regional Office, Bengaluru

A Tribute

Sangeeta Maunav, a vibrant, lively and cheerful colleague, who could be identified with her trademark sartorial style of handloom clothes, flat footwear (kolhapuri being her favorites), long sling bag and small bindi! Her outgoing personality and sense of humour helped her ride the rough waves with a smile and nerves of steel. She spoke her mind and did not fear ruffling feathers when she had to fight for a cause dear to her heart. Having served in several HUDCO offices, I am sure all her colleagues would agree that the easiest way to locate her in the office would be to try and catch her typical giggle that punctuated every sentence and could be heard down the corridor.

She went the extra mile to ensure that she gave her professional commitments her best shot and yet managed to make the time to honour her personal commitments to her family and society. She worked hard to complete her last project, the HFAPoA for 61 Karnataka towns, battling the obstacles posed by the pandemic and yet was the first one to respond to the call for articles for this issue of Darpan.

Always the voice for the marginalised, her empathy for the poor and downtrodden made her go out of the way to help and facilitate anyone in need, whether in office, out on the street or her neighbourhood. Her joy knew no bounds if she spotted a dog of any shape or size! An ardent dog lover, she would feed the strays near her house and fuss over any canine that crossed her path. Though trained as an Odissi dancer, she was the live wire at every gathering, singing and dancing to the latest Bollywood tunes! We will long remember Sangeeta's energy, tenacity and ability to leap over tall hurdles despite her petite frame.



Sangeeta Maunav, DGM
Regional Office, Bengaluru

Kolkata: My City Through My Daughter's Lens

Ask me which city do you come from? The unhesitant and prompt reply would be Kolkata. It's an emotional response that can be technically challenged. I have been living in Delhi for close to three decades – 29 years to be precise. The first four years as a student and then as a working professional. In these long years of living in Delhi, I have learnt to speak in Hindi, appreciate chhole bhature and kadi chawal, started mentioning 'fuchkas' as 'golgappa', completely stopped referring to men's kurtas as 'punjabi' and most importantly adapted to lunch / dinner menu without fish atleast for a day or two in a week. I do technically qualify to be a 'Delhite'. But in my head and heart I still remain a Calcuttan. Emotionally I still belong to Kolkata – the city with a soul. Dominique Lapierre gave my city a second name – City of Joy but I much prefer Vir Sanghvi's take on Calcutta. "You want your city clean and green, stick to Delhi. You want your city rich and impersonal, go to Bombay. You want them hi-tech and full of draught beer, Bangalore's your place. But if you want a city with a soul, come to Calcutta."



Every ride is a heritage experience in these ambassador taxis....

Do you know of any other city that went to court to challenge its origin? Believed by many to have been founded by Job Charnock who came to the village of Sutanuti on 24 August 1690 to establish a factory for the East India Company – the idea was challenged in court. The ruling of the court was based on a report presented to the court by a five member commission of historians that ratified that there could be no single founding father and no birthday either for Kolkata. The official birthday was dropped. Although the date remains a milestone in the evolution of the city of



The first medical college in Asia. Girls were not allowed admission until 1876. It was not until 1884 that the first woman, Kadambini Ganguly, got admission.

Kolkata it was recognized that the idea of Kolkata, as it existed in the village of Kalikata, is much older. We successfully decolonized the 'history' of Kolkata. Well at least a part of it!

Kolkata with all its peculiarities and uniqueness is my elixir. After every visit to the city I used to feel rejuvenated. Now because of pandemic and personal reasons it's almost three years since I visited my city. With little chance of me visiting Kolkata anytime soon,



College Street – the second largest old book market in the world. If you don't find a book here probably it never existed

I was happy indeed to have a look at the pictures clicked by my daughter in Kolkata. She visited Kolkata last month and while travelling across the city of Kolkata, she captured whatever impressed her curious eyes. I was pleasantly surprised to notice that she was not just a tourist visiting the 'places to see'

but a young photo enthusiast trying to capture shades of Kolkata that makes it a unique experience. I got a chance to re-live my city through her lens. It was reassuring to realize that just like 'old habits' many old experiences are still intact in Kolkata. There is no denying the chaos, crowd, poverty and pollution that exists. After all, in the city still runs the hand-pulled rickshaw – a reflection of the worst form of human misery. But still equally vibrant are the street corner tea stalls where newspapers are kept for everyone to read. It is heartening to note that in the era of globalization and lure of foreign investment for which every city administration wants to be like Singapore, Kolkata has still retained its heterogeneous and inclusive identity. Thankfully, it has not donned a

sanitized glamorous look in the name development and beautification. Kolkata, remains Kolkata!



Once newspapers of Communist party of India (Ganashakti) used to be pasted there for everyone to read



According to Mercer's Annual Cost of Living Survey 2018, in a list of 209 most-expensive cities Kolkata was ranked 182- the most affordable Indian city.



A 150 year old iconic sweet shop in College Street.



Uttam Kumar – 43 years since he passed away....still a Mahanayak reigning in the hearts of Bengalis

Note: I chose these photos to reflect my emotion and nostalgia about Kolkata.

Kanika Basu, JGM (P)
C&P Wing

मन का भ्रम

मन का भ्रम अनेकों ख्वाब दिखाता है
करनी कथनी में, जीवन सतरंग बन जाता है।

बड़े-बड़े ख्वाबों में, मन को मारना पड़ता है
संवरते किसी-किसी के अक्सर कई डूब जाते हैं।

भ्रम तो भ्रम है, कहीं डूबकर बिछे हैं
होश कहाँ रहता, नींद चैन सब छिन जाता है।

स्वार्थ के दौर से ही जग की जंग चलती है
टूटा हुआ प्राणी भी ख्वाबों में उलझा रहता है।

डगर है जिन्दगी की लम्बी अक्सर किनारे पर मिलती है
झंझोर कर देती है जिंदगी जब भ्रम अत्यधिक उपजता है।

भ्रम की जिन्दगी हर एक का नशा बन गया है
कोई संवर कर चले गए कई स्वार्थ में डूब गए ।

क्यों रहते हो भ्रम में व्यर्थ की ये डगर है
माल खजाना हक का ही हर एक के हक में आता है।

क्यों जिन्दगी भ्रम में गुजारे जीवन जहान है
लोभ तो काया का भी नहीं काया ही भ्रम में डालती है।

मन का भ्रम अनेकों ख्वाब दिखाता है
करनी कथनी में ही जीवन सतरंग बन जाता है।

स्वाद अच्छा है सच्चाई का जीवन भर साथ देता है
पाप कोई सा हो जीवन को भ्रम में डाल देता है।

मन का भ्रम अनेकों ख्वाब दिखाता है
करनी कथनी में, जीवन सतरंग बन जाता है।



गोपाल लाल

गोपाल लाल, ए.एफ. (एस.जी.)

कोरोना

दूर-दराज से आया है
अपना नाम कोरोना बताया है,
कोरोना-कोरोना सिखा दिया, सबको रोना,
न चलता है तीर, न गोली
जाति धर्म भूल जाओ
कोरोना दिखाता नहीं, कोई करुणा
मार देता है, चुनकर एक-एक को
मोदी जी का संदेश, घर में रहो, घर में रहो
साफ-सुथरा और सुरक्षित रहो।
यह संदेश जन-जन तक पहुँचाओ
मिलकर अपना मनोबल बढ़ाओ
कोरोना को फैलने से रोकना, सबको सिखाओ।
दूर रहकर भी, दिल से एक हो जाओ
मानव कर्तव्य न भूलो
कोरोना ने रचा नया इतिहास



महाभारत का युद्ध 18 दिनों का
कोरोना का जंग का अंत नहीं
घंटी, थाली और मंजरे बजने से,
जनता का मनोबल बढ़ेगा।
विश्व हारा इस वायरस से
सुरक्षित रहेगा देश हमारा
कोरोना वायरस भागेगा।

चन्द्र कला क्षेत्री, सहायक प्रबंधक
हडको क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, गुवाहाटी

प्रोत्साहन और उत्पादकता

जयपुर यात्रा के दौरान निदेशक कॉर्पोरेट प्लानिंग, हडको, श्री एम नागराज ने बड़े ही सरल, सार्थक शब्दों एवं उच्च विचारों से सभी का मार्ग-दर्शन किया, — कि प्रोत्साहन और उत्पादकता एक दूसरे के पूरक हैं। यह हम सभी के लिए अमलीय है कि सर्वपक्षीय विकास का चिंतन हो। विकास की गाड़ी के चारों पहियों में यदि एक पहिया अटक या रूक गया तो गाड़ी चल नहीं सकती।

जिस संगठन में कार्यरत है उसके लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने के लिए अच्छे कर्मों का किरदार निभाकर खुशी-खुशी अपना योगदान करने की उत्कंठा जागृत रखना ही स्वयं तथा संगठन के हित में है। न्याय संगत समीकरण के घेरे में खुद को रखकर आवश्यकता तथा प्राथमिकता अनुसार कार्यों का मापदण्ड तैयार कर लेने से कई अवांछित समस्याओं से आसानी से किनारा किया जा सकता है।

संगठन यदि कर्मियों की आधारभूत आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति करने का हर संभव प्रयास करता है तो प्रत्येक कर्मों का भी व्यक्तिगत उत्तरदायित्व है कि अनावश्यक खर्चों एवं संसाधनों के दुरुपयोग पर लगाम कसने की शुरुआत स्वयं से ही करें, तो अन्य कर्मियों को भी प्रोत्साहन व मार्गदर्शन मिलेगा।

स्वस्थ व प्रसन्नचित्त कर्मों बड़ी कठिनाई में भी अच्छा अवसर ढूंढ़ लेता है और अन्य कर्मियों को भी स्पष्टता एवं सकारात्मक विचारों का आदान-प्रदान कर प्रफुल्लित होता है।

संगठन की छवि संगठन के कर्मों की छवि है जिसकी साख को प्रोन्नत करने का हर एक का प्रथम लक्ष्य होना चाहिए। भूत या भविष्य में अधिक क्रियाशील रहने से व्यक्ति मार्ग भटक जाता है। पूर्वाद्ध के बंधन व व्यवहार को तोड़ कर निरर्थक परेशानियों चिंताओं को त्याग कर मन को निरोगी रखते हुए प्रथमतः स्वास्थ्य को ठीक रखने का अभ्यास होना चाहिए। वर्तमान में जीना आना चाहिए जिससे परिवार, संगठन, समाज और देश के सामने आती कई चुनौतियों का आसानी से सामना किया जा सकता है।

विकास और प्रगति के लिए निःश्चल भाव से प्रसन्नता व संतुष्टि व्यक्तित्व से झलकनी चाहिए। घर, परिवार व समाज में कई परेशानियां आ जाती हैं क्योंकि बुद्ध कहते हैं कि कभी कुछ भी स्थाई नहीं है लेकिन सेवा के प्रति ज्यादा उत्तरदायी एवं हर एक के लिए सहयोग की भावना को जिंदा बनाए रखना हमारा स्वभाव होना चाहिए और इसके लिए क्रियाशील रहना होगा जिससे कई निरर्थक व अनचाही परेशानियों को घर व कार्यालय में सरलता से दूर रखा जा सकता है।

जीवन में प्राथमिकताएं निश्चित की जानी चाहिए। कर्म ही जीवन है और काम ही पूजा है। फल की चिंता में अधिक चिंता नहीं करनी चाहिए। परिवार की प्राथमिकताओं के साथ संगठन की प्राथमिकताएं भी कदापि नहीं भूलनी चाहिए। संगठन की साख है तो हमारी साख है।

प्रकृति ने सुंदर जीवन-यापन के लिए अनगिनत संसाधन हमें प्रदत्त किए हैं किंतु हम आज अधिक बुरी आदतों के अधीन नजर आ रहे हैं और इन संसाधनों को व्यर्थता व क्षय की ओर ले जा रहे हैं। भविष्य में यह सब हमारे लिए बेहद दुःखद चुनौती हो सकती है या गंभीर परिणाम प्रकट हो सकते हैं इसलिए इस सन्दर्भ में स्वः मनःविश्लेषण करते रहना आवश्यक है।

चुनौतियों को यदि समय रहते हम पकड़ नहीं पाए तो समझ लीजिए कि जिस प्रकार बूंद-बूंद यदि घड़ा भरता है तो बूंद-बूंद घड़ा खाली भी हो जाता है। समाधान समस्या के पीछे ही छिपा रहता है उसे प्रकट कर लेने की जिद व गुण दिल-दिमाग में बना लेनी चाहिए। क्या होने वाला है यदि उसे पकड़ नहीं पाए तो पहले भी ऐसे थे और अभी भी ऐसे ही हैं तो होना ना होना सब बराबर है। नई सोच की वजह से नया नहीं सोच पाए और कहें कि मैं तैयार नहीं हूँ तो समझ लीजिए जैसा वातावरण आपने बनाया है वह वातावरण व पर्यावरण भी आपको कुछ भी भविष्य में देने के लिए तैयार नहीं होगा।

डॉ प्रकाश जैन, प्रबंधक-प्रशासन
जयपुर क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय



स्त्रीवादी आध्यात्मिकता के स्वर

“तुम्हारी छवि नयनों में भींचे
मैं तुम्हारी प्रतीक्षा में बैठी थी
कि सहसा अश्रुधारा हृदय की व्यग्रता में लहर बन
उस मार्ग पर जा बही
जिस मार्ग से तुम्हारा आना तय था,
जिस मार्ग पर एकटक ध्यानस्थ हो
मैंने अनगिन बार तुम्हारा स्मरण किया,
क्योंकि स्मरण— ध्यान और चिंतन में तुम्हें पाना ही
तुम्हारे वियोग की घड़ी को काटने का एकमात्र उपाय रहा
मेरे पास....
मेरे प्रिय....!!! ”

साधारणतः इस तरह की पंक्तियों को पढ़कर हमें यह भ्रम हो सकता है कि यह किसी प्रेम काव्य की पंक्तियाँ हैं जिनमें ऊपरी तौर पर केवल प्रियतम विशेष के प्रति प्रेम दर्शाया गया है, जबकि इन पंक्तियों का वास्तविक अर्थ साधारण प्रेम भाव से अलग है। वास्तव में,

इन पंक्तियों के अंत में “प्रिय” विशेष का सम्बोधन किसी विशेष व्यक्ति के प्रति न होकर उस परम सत्ता और विश्व चेतना के प्रति है जो पूरे संसार में व्याप्त है। इन पंक्तियों की प्रमुखता का संदर्भ इस विषय को लेकर भी है कि यह पंक्तियाँ एक स्त्री द्वारा अपने प्रेम भाव को दर्शाने के लिए लिखी गयी हैं लेकिन फिर भी इनमें उक्त संबोधन किसी सांसारिक व्यक्ति के प्रति नहीं है। अर्थात् यह पंक्तियाँ एक रहस्यमयी भाव लिए हैं। यहाँ इन्हीं से मिलती जुलती कविता की अन्य पंक्तियाँ देखें:-

“पिया मिलन की आस में
छोड़ बैठी मैं निज संसार
भटकी कहाँ— कहाँ
अगाध व्यग्र — प्यासी सी सायास
और जब पिया मिले.....
सब ओर एक चित्त शांति थी
भीतर बचा रहा केवल अनहद नाद !”

इन पंक्तियों का संदर्भ भी केवल साधारण प्रियतम की प्रतीक्षा मात्र न होकर कुछ भिन्न अर्थों में है। इन पंक्तियों में भी एक स्त्री रहस्यमयी भाव लिए एक अज्ञात प्रिय के प्रति अपनी उत्कंठा व्यक्त कर रही है, जिसकी प्रतीक्षा में रहकर उसने पूरे संसार की मोह माया को त्याग दिया है। हमें यह समझना चाहिए कि इस तरह की काव्य पंक्तियों की प्रासंगिकता क्या और किन संदर्भों में है। इस विषय में इतिहास और परम्पराओं को टटोल कर देखा

जाये तो आध्यात्मिक जगत में स्त्रियों की भागीदारी नगण्य रही है। पीढ़ियों से स्त्रियाँ केवल घर की चार दीवारी के भीतर परिवार का पालन पोषण करती आयीं भारतीय सामाजिक ढांचा परिवार की ऐसी व्यवस्था पर टिका रहा जिसमें हम पुरुष को धनोपार्जन और स्त्री को घर की देखभाल, अन्य सदस्यों की सेवा पालन करते देखते आये। लेकिन पुनर्जागरण की प्रक्रिया स्वरूप और पश्चिम से उठते नए-नए विमर्शों के प्रभाव से भारतीय समाज बदलने लगा। स्वाधीनता आन्दोलन के समय से भारतीय समाज की कई घरेलू एवं सामान्य वर्ग की स्त्रियाँ अंग्रेजों के समक्ष भारतीय जनता के अधिकारों की मांग करने को लेकर खुलकर सामने आयीं। हमारा भारतीय इतिहास इस बात का प्रमाण है कि स्त्रियों ने अपने अधिकारों के साथ-साथ समाज और देश के हित की लड़ाई लड़ने में पुरुषों का कंधे से कंधे मिलाकर साथ दिया है। हमारा भारतीय इतिहास कई महान स्त्री विभूतियों के कर्तव्य पथ की शौर्य गाथाओं से ओतप्रोत है। रानी अहिल्याबाई होलकर, रानी चिन्नमा, सावित्रीबाई फुले, रानी लक्ष्मीबाई, सुभद्राकुमारी चौहान समेत कितनी ही महान स्त्री विभूतियों की असाधारण जीवन कथाएँ आज भी हमारे देश और समाज के लिए प्रेरणा है। लेकिन अध्यात्म के क्षेत्र में अगर स्त्रियों की भागीदारी की बात की जाये तो हमें भक्ति आन्दोलन के समय में दक्षिण भारत की महान सन्त आण्डाल का नाम स्मरण हो आता है जो बारह आलवार सन्तों में से एक थीं और जिन्हें दक्षिण की मीरा भी कहा जाता है। इसी सन्दर्भ में भक्ति आन्दोलन के समय में ही मीराबाई कृष्ण भक्ति करने वाली ऐसी प्रसिद्ध भक्त हुईं जिनका नाम आज भी पूरे भारत में परम श्रद्धा के साथ लिया जाता है। वहीं आगे चलकर हिंदी साहित्य में महादेवी वर्मा की छायावादी कविताओं को आध्यात्मिकता से जोड़कर देखा जाने लगा। यहाँ इस बात पर जोर देना आवश्यक है कि अध्यात्म के क्षेत्र में स्त्रियों की भागीदारी इतनी कम क्यों रही है या फिर भक्ति मार्ग में स्त्रियों के मतों को प्रमुखता से क्यों नहीं स्वीकार किया गया। भारतीय समाज और परिवारों को गौर से देखा जाये तो यह समझ आता है कि स्त्रियाँ सामान्यतः घर और परिवार के पुरुषों द्वारा निर्धारित परम्पराओं, विश्वासों एवं संस्कारों का पालन करती हैं। घर परिवार के मुखिया या पुरुष सदस्यों द्वारा अपनाये गए भक्ति मार्ग एवं विश्वासों को ही स्त्रियाँ अंगीकार करती हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में स्त्रियों की अपनी भक्ति, उनके अपने मत एवं विश्वासों के लिए भला कहाँ ही स्थान बचता है। लेकिन आधुनिक काल में विभिन्न दबावों, सामाजिक परिवर्तनों और स्त्री विमर्शों के आलोक में आकर स्त्रियाँ अपनी अस्मिता विशेष के प्रति जागरूक बनना शुरू हुईं। विशेष

रूप से स्वतंत्रता प्राप्ति के बाद से जिस तरह से स्त्रियाँ अपनी पारम्परिक छवि को तोड़ते हुए उच्च शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में आगे बढ़ी, नौकरियों में पुरुषों के बराबर आयीं और स्त्रियों के लिए वर्जित समझे जाने वाले क्षेत्रों जैसे तकनीक – प्रौद्योगिकी, खेलकूद, मीडिया – मनोरंजन आदि में उनका खुलकर सामने आना कहीं न कहीं उनकी अपनी उभरती चेतना का प्रतीक था। इन सभी के परिणामस्वरूप स्त्रियों को पुरुषों के आर्थिक आश्रय की अपेक्षा भावात्मक आश्रय की आवश्यकता ज्यादा महसूस होने लगी। स्वतंत्रता प्राप्ति के बाद घर से पहली बार बाहर निकलने वाली स्त्री के समाज के अन्य पुरुष साथियों का खुला साहचर्य मौजूद था जिसके कारण समाज में परम्परा से चले आते स्त्री पुरुष संबंधों की नयी परिभाषाएं उभर कर सामने आने लगीं। फलस्वरूप, अपनी अस्मिता और अपनी चेतना में पुरानी पीढ़ी से कहीं अधिक जागृत आधुनिक भारतीय स्त्री के लिए भक्ति और अध्यात्म सिर्फ परम्परा पालन न रहकर उसकी अपनी चेतना से जुड़ा महत्वपूर्ण पक्ष बनता चला गया। पीढ़ियों तक ईश्वर की आराधना और भक्ति करना केवल विशेष धार्मिक आस्थाओं का प्रतिरूप था जबकि आधुनिक समय में अध्यात्म का संदर्भ विश्व चेतना और विश्व शांति के रूप में लिया जाने लगा जिसमें स्त्री पुरुष का कोई भेद न रहकर सम्पूर्ण मानवता के लिए प्रार्थना करना अध्यात्म का एक मुख्य ध्येय बनकर उभरा। वहीं स्त्रियाँ विशेषकर अपने अस्तित्व और पहचान को लेकर अधिक मुखर हुई जिसका एक प्रमुख कारण घर और परिवार के पारम्परिक ढांचे में होते नए बदलाव भी थे। शहरीकरण और वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था के विकास के दौर में स्त्री वैश्विक बाज़ार में एक बदले हुए रूप में उभरी। एक सुयोग्य स्त्री की छवि के नये मानक बनने लगे जो पश्चिम से होते हुए भारतीय समाज में भी जगह बनाने लगे। उधर भारतीय स्त्री घर और परिवार के बीच अपने सम्बन्धों की नयी नज़रिये से परखने लगी जिसका एक मुख्य कारण उसका शिक्षित और आर्थिक रूप से दृढ़ होना भी था। नये दौर में स्त्री अपनी चेतना, अपने संबंधों को लेकर अधिक खुलेपन के साथ मुखर बनी। आर्थिक रूप से आत्मनिर्भर स्त्री के सामने घर सँभालने के साथ-साथ घर चलाने की भी पूरी जिम्मेदारी आ गयी। आधुनिक समय में घर से लेकर दफ्तर और बाहर की दुनिया की रोज़ की चुनौतियाँ स्त्री के भीतर एक अंदरूनी कश्मकश भरने लगी। वहीं समय के साथ स्त्रियों के साथ बढ़ते हुए अपराध और शोषण ने उसे भीतर तक झकझोरा। वर्तमान समय में एक स्त्री अपने ही घर में सुरक्षित नहीं रहीं। इन सभी दबावों के चलते एक साधारण स्त्री लेखन के क्षेत्र में एक

अलग ही धारा लेकर चली जिसे “स्त्रीवादी आध्यात्मिकता” के अंतर्गत रखा जा सकता है जिसके अंतर्गत एक अज्ञात प्रियतम का समरण करते हुए काव्य में प्रेम निरूपण किया जाता है। वास्तव में स्त्रीवादी आध्यात्मिकता किसी एक सगुण ईश्वर के प्रति न होकर एक अज्ञात चेतना के प्रति उन्मुख होती है। कहीं-कहीं ऐसा भी प्रतीत होता है की स्त्रीवादी आध्यात्मिकता किसी प्रिय व्यक्ति को केंद्र में रखकर की गयी है जबकि उसमें भक्ति का अवलम्ब कोई विशेष व्यक्ति न होकर एक अज्ञात चेतना होती है। अज्ञात चेतना से तात्पर्य उस परमसत्ता से है जिसका कोई सगुण रूप नहीं होता और जो अदृश्य होकर भी सम्पूर्ण जगत में व्याप्त है तथा जिस अज्ञात चेतना के प्रेम और सम्बल से ही पूरा विश्व एक सुर माला में पिरोया हुआ है। अब प्रश्न यह उठता है कि आखिर स्त्रियों में इस तरह के भाव आना या इस तरह की कविताएँ लिखने की प्रेरणा के मूल में आखिर क्या कारण हैं? सार रूप में यह कहा जा सकता है इस तरह का भावातिरेक और स्त्रीवादी आध्यात्मिकता स्वर के प्रेरणा स्वरूप लिखी गयी कविताएँ या साहित्य कहीं न कहीं आधुनिक समय की विसंगतियों, मानसिक दवाबों की देन है तथा इस तरह की कविताएँ आधुनिक समय की त्रस्त नारी की मानसिक अवस्था को चित्रित करती हैं जिन्हें हम पूरी तरह से किसी सगुण ईश्वर या प्रियतम के प्रति समर्पित न मानकर, उस एक परम तत्व और परम ऊर्जा के स्रोत के प्रति समर्पित मान सकते हैं जिसका कोई गुण, रूप या नाम नहीं हैं लेकिन जिसकी शक्ति से सम्पूर्ण विश्व एक सूत्र में बंधा है। आज इक्कीसवीं सदी के समय में इस तरह की कविताएँ लिखा जाना समय की जरूरत बन गयी है। विशेष रूप से आज की आधुनिक स्त्रियों के तनावग्रस्त और मानसिक द्वंदों से भरे जीवन में, जिसमें एक स्त्री विशेष के लिए प्रेम और आपसी संबंधों में तरह-तरह की उलझनें और तनाव हैं, और परस्पर विश्वास, समर्पण भाव न्यून हो गए हैं, ऐसे में एक अलौकिक प्रेम का अवलंब ही स्त्री के लिए जीवन जगत की मुश्किलों से उबरने का एकमात्र साधन रह गया है। इस तरह एक अज्ञात चेतना में विश्वास और उसके प्रति प्रेम और श्रद्धा का भाव स्त्रीवादी आध्यात्मिकता को बल देता है, जिसकी प्रासंगिकता आगे आने वाले समय में और भी गहरी होती जाएगी।

वैशाली कटारिया, हिन्दी अनुवादक
(प्रशिक्षु, राजभाषा अनुभाग, हडको मुख्यालय)



सफलता



इस दुनिया में हर व्यक्ति यह प्रयास करता है कि वह सफल हो। असफलता की इच्छा रखने वाला शायद ही कोई व्यक्ति हो। क्योंकि सफलता हमारे जीवन को सार्थक बनाती है। सफलता प्राप्त करने के लिए कड़ी मेहनत करनी पड़ती है साथ ही अर्जन की भांति आपका लक्ष्य निर्धारित होना चाहिए। यह अलग-अलग लोगों के लिए अलग-अलग मायने रखती है। कुछ लोग सफल होने के लिए कड़ा परिश्रम करते हैं, वहीं दूसरी ओर कुछ लोग केवल सपना ही देखते रह जाते हैं।

हमें अपने सपने साकार करने के लिए कड़ी मेहनत और समय का सही उपयोग करना आना चाहिए। हो सकता है कि सफलता की राह में शुरुआत में असफलता मिले पर हमें यह याद रखना है कि हर असफलता, सफलता की पहली सीढ़ी है। यह हमें सिखाती है कि हमने कहां गलतियां की, उसे पहचान कर उसे ठीक किया जा सकता है।

सफलता के मायने सबके लिए अलग-अलग होते हैं। किसी का लक्ष्य अमीर बनना हो, किसी का डाक्टर व टीचर आदि बनना। सफलता के कुछ मुख्य सूत्र हैं जिससे हम जीवन में सफलता प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

1. सबसे पहले हमारे जीवन का एक लक्ष्य होना बहुत आवश्यक है। बिना लक्ष्य इस जीवन का महत्व नहीं। इसके होने से हमें अपने लक्ष्य पर ध्यान केन्द्रित करने व वह लक्ष्य कैसे पूरा किया जाए, उसे पूरा करने के बारे में सोचने में सहायता मिलती है।
2. समय का सही उपयोग सफलता की कुंजी है। आलस सफलता का सबसे बड़ा दुश्मन है। आज नहीं कल करूंगा, यह सोच हमें असफलता की ओर ले जाती है। जो कार्य अपने निश्चित समय हो, वही हमें अपने लक्ष्य की ओर ले जाता है।

3. अपने लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने के लिए आपके दिमाग में एक रोडमैप होना चाहिए कि आप क्या चाहते हैं या आपके पास कौन से संसाधन हैं या उसके लिए कितने परिश्रम की आवश्यकता है या उसे कब तक प्राप्त करना चाहते हैं। सफलता एक निरंतर चलने वाली यात्रा है। इसे किसी शॉर्टकट से प्राप्त नहीं किया जा सकता है। इसे प्राप्त करने के लिए कड़ी मेहनत, समर्थन की भावना, प्रेरणा का गहन लगन होनी चाहिए।
4. व्यक्ति को अपने पर कितना विश्वास है कि वह सफल होगा या नहीं, वही उसके लक्ष्य प्राप्ति का प्रमुख बिन्दु है। अडिग विश्वास से तो पहाड़ भी हिलाया जा सकता है। अगर आपका विश्वास अटल है तो आप कभी भी जीवन में असफल नहीं हो सकते। आपके दिमाग में हमेशा यह होना चाहिए कि मैं कर सकता हूँ। यह बहुत शक्तिशाली वाक्य है जो आपको जीवन में सफल बना सकता है।

उपरोक्त के अतिरिक्त सफलता के लिए व्यक्ति को चरित्रवान होना चाहिए, उसे अनुशासित जीवन जीना चाहिए, उसे व्यवहार कुशल होना चाहिए, यह गुण अगर परिश्रम के साथ जुड़ जाए तो कोई भी व्यक्ति कभी असफल नहीं होगा। जीवन में एक बार सफल होने पर खुद में इसका परिणाम आपके अन्दर खुशी और एक अलग प्रकार की अनुभूति के रूप में दिखता है।

हरजीत सिंह, प्रबंधक (एचआर)

हडको

इतनी प्रगति इतना काम।

विश्व में हो गया हडको का नाम!!

गाँव शहरों का यह करे विकास।

सबको है हडको पर आस।।

है हमारा एक हडको निवास।

कोशिश जिसकी, देना सबको आवास।।

हडको को नई ऊंचाई पर ले जाना है।

मिनीरत्ना से महारत्ना बनाना है।।

आओ मिलजुल कर करे संकल्प।

कर मेहनत दिन-रात, करे देश का विकास

होगा इस से विश्व में हडको का काम।।

हरजीत सिंह, प्रबंधक (एचआर)

Ups & Downs of Lockdown 2020

January 2020 began with a new word 'Corona Virus'. Though the virus had made its presence felt in 2019 itself, but as a child this tiny virus had less importance for me. I was running past the last few months of my academic session. Final exams were approaching and the excitement of getting promoted to the next class was riding high. Suddenly on March 24, 2020 nationwide complete lockdown was announced. The reason given, was to control the spread of this 'corona virus'.

In the beginning, children like me considered this lockdown as holidays, with the exception, that in these holidays we were not allowed to even step out of the house, leave aside those lovely holiday trips to places of interest. Still, for me it was good to be at home, especially as my parents were also at home. But once the lockdown extended, it seemed as if we were part of some horror movie. The villainous coronavirus was killing thousands of people in our country and around the world. People were feeling helpless. The supplies at home had started shrinking. We had to do all house hold work ourselves as no house helpers were coming. Life became tough for everyone around. The whole scenario forced me to sit down and think about what life was just before the lockdown when there were no worries, but all fun with everything in abundance, and now suddenly it had turned upside down.

But, as we all know, problems are presented to test our ability to deal with them, and so was this pandemic. This had given me a chance to look at things differently. Today, I have realized the value of food, money, freedom, family, friends, hard work of our community & house helpers. Probably, I would never have understood their value had this situation not arisen. I became more considerate towards others. This has also made all of us more self-reliant and taught us to live with limited resources. It taught us never to run away from challenges when life throws them upon us and rather run against the challenges. Soon we all learnt to adapt to the situation and find ways to move on. That's why this virus could only close the gates of our schools and workplaces but not our spirit to study and work. The result was, 'virtual classrooms' and 'work from home'.

Over time, the situation is now coming under control. I bow my head in honour of all those warriors like police, army, doctors and health workers who give their everything to fight the war against the pandemic and kept us safe. Like every night, this pandemic time is also now seeing the light of the day. We must take lessons from what we all went through during this pandemic. Let us take pledge that we shall always remain committed in difficult times and become more responsible and considerate to mankind.

Anisha Reja D/o Sonali Reja, JGM(L)

HUDCO Initiatives for Health & Wellness



It is very rightly said, Health is wealth. Good health is essential for a successful life. Good health and fitness imply both mental and physical well-being. It is said, "Respect your body, it's the only one you get." Considering the importance of being healthy, HUDCO has been organising several awareness programmes to sensitise employees about lifestyle and age-related health issues. Senior doctors from major hospitals have delivered talks on issues related to gynaecology, orthopaedics, oncology, Covid

management etc. Employees found these health talks very useful and informative as it gave them an opportunity to clarify their doubts through one-to-one consultation with the doctors. This initiative undertaken by the medical team of Administration wing, has been very successful and much appreciated by all employees.

Administration wing (Medical Team)

My Time and Experiences at Lucknow

Three years ago, I was taken aback and aghast to hear that I was entrusted with the responsibility of Lucknow Regional head to oversee Hudco's operations of UP state. Thankfully, it was additional charge and not another posting. It was a relief, as I am always looking forward to one last transfer back to my home town, before I hang my boots. I was just probing, why amongst all I have been given this opportunity. I could not get the answer, so jokingly I presumed that as I was living in Noida, though close to Delhi and in National Capital Region, but actually it is in Uttar Pradesh. In fact, as an explorer, my first tour to Lucknow I preferred to go by road. There were two reasons, one was to get the experience of traveling national express ways and another was because the second leg of Agra Lucknow express way was funded by HUDCO (though pre-paid). I bet everyone will enjoy this drive more than taking a flight, which is laborious these days.

My first personal visit to Lucknow, was way back and is etched in my memory. I had gone there on a personal visit to attend a friend's marriage during my bachelor days. It was in a place called Barabanki, a close suburb of Lucknow. Those days in late 80s, there was lot of terrorist and bomb scare disturbance in Delhi. Once you experience the security drill it

becomes routine and we are aware and well informed. The day I landed in Lucknow, I heard there was a bomb blast in Lucknow Railway Station, that too the first time, as compared to the National Capital. In the meanwhile, I wanted to book my return journey as I had horrible experience of travel by bus in those days neither the bus was good nor the roads. Besides one was compelled to book it from reservation counter at the railway station only. I went there and there was huge chaos and security check.

I was hell bent upon taking a chance, as I was sure of the security drill, so I managed to go in. The cops insisted for not allowing my only bag. I said I cannot keep it anywhere and I suggested that in Delhi they permit after baggage check/screening. Immediately there was rash response ("Don't teach me"). In fact the UP Police warned me not to quote Delhi, as in Delhi if blast occurs in one gate people are permitted from another gate. Here we are strict and they did not budge to my request. However, one of them suggested to keep it in the cloak room and collect it after booking my ticket. I jokingly told if there is any arsenal in my bag the whole security stunt needs diversion from platform to cloak room. The moment I talked like that I was surrounded by many cops, as if I am culprit. Though my Hindi was good enough, I did not take



My Times and Experiences at Lucknow

chance in UP, as they speak pure Hindi, so my English and forceful Hinglish did not work. Luckily a senior IPS officer who was in charge immediately came in for rescue, once he understood that I being naïve and belong to south Indian city of Bengaluru and a qualified professional working in a CPSE, he in fact asked one of the cops to screen my bag and hold my bag till I finish my job of ticket bookings.

Visit to old Lucknow brings you memories of old Delhi. One could get lost in going from one place to other place. It is better to have a guide to understand the glorious history of the city. One should not miss "Residency" at Lucknow. It takes you back to olden days, as they maintain the area very nicely though it is in the heart of the city. After this first visit, I always enjoyed my visits to the capital of Awadh. The cuisine is so good; one goes gaga on eating. One should visit The Awadh Dastarkhwan, a famous nonvegetarian food joint or Madhurima a chain of vegetarian Hotels. After food paan (beetle leaf) is also very nice, above all Lucknowi adha makes the difference.

In my recent visits I happened to visit Gomti river front, which is a later a development : Unfortunately the last part was not completed making it look more like a stagnant cesspool, reminding me of similar situation of Tapi river front in Surat city. If the connectivity and the flow could have been managed as done in Ahmedabad at Sabarmathi River front, it would have been worthwhile. I could see the monument park which was built with stone statues/elephants, only thing missing is greenery. It is filled with materials and no water bodies or park. If one unable to visit this park in Lucknow, a similar park is also there in Noida. I could find the Lucknowites are very proud and they compare anything and everything and say it is available in Lucknow. Just to tease I asked them that there is no green park as compared to Lal Bagh and Cubbon Park in Bengaluru, immediately they responded and asked me to visit Ram Manohar Lohia Park and said once you visit that park, you may forget other parks. I did visit this park after that, I always enjoyed my morning walk at Ram Mamohar Lohia park as it was near the hotel, where I used to stay on my official visit to Lucknow. The park is huge and well maintained. I heard that the who's who of Lucknow, takes their morning stroll in this park. After the walk I used to enjoy a swim in the terrace top swimming pool which provided a bird's eye view of both stone and green parks.

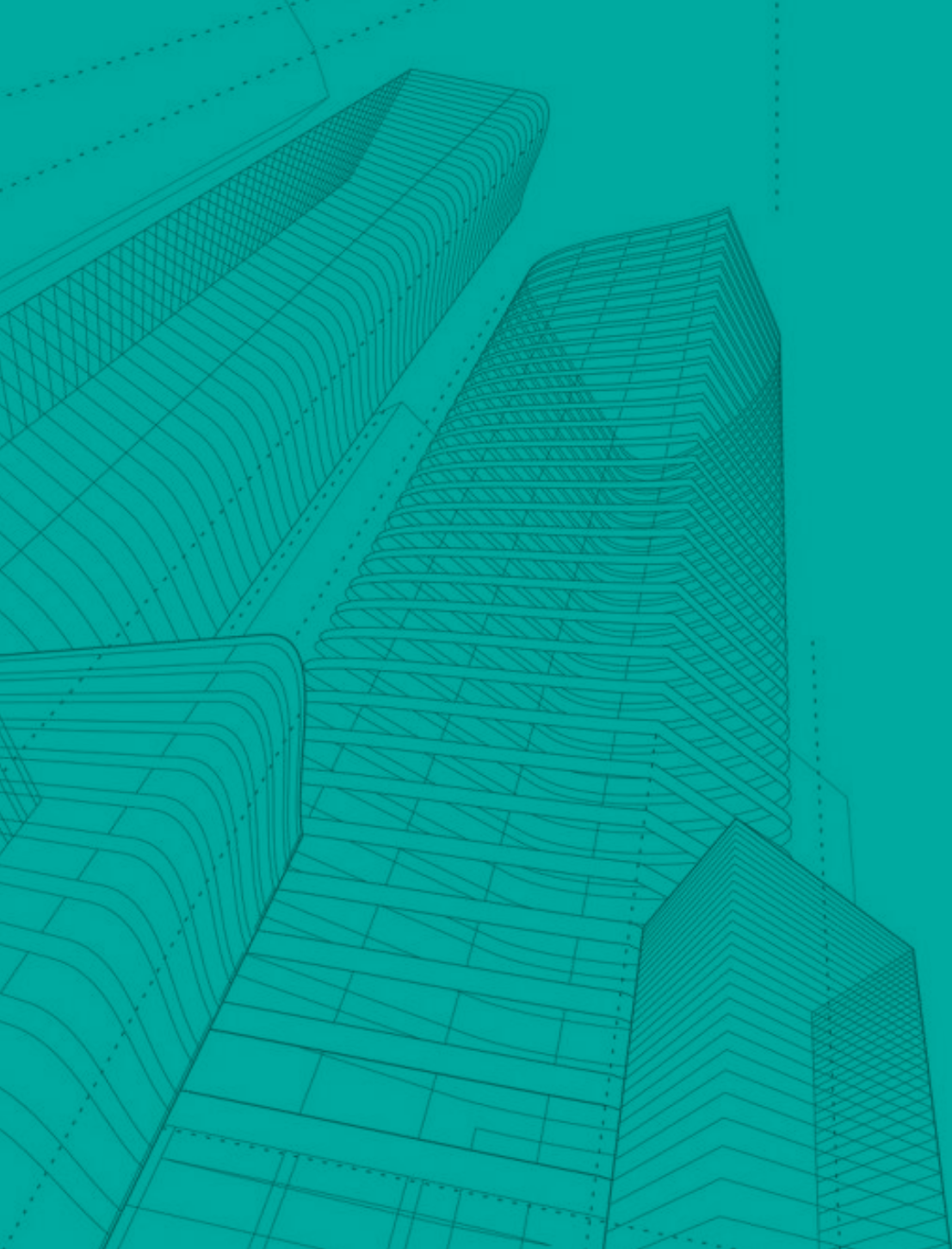
I once again had another teasing question for the locals, that there is no green park, a cricket stadium unlike in Kanpur, again they responded that forget the old green park stadium you should see Ekana Stadium a better cricket stadium is built and inaugurated recently. As my flight got delayed once, I got an opportunity to see Ekana Stadium, though without any live matches. On the same way to airport, so called Shaheed path one can see a mega phoenix mall (Palassio), which is local pride. I could not get answer why name of road is Shaheed path that too leading to Airport. I also got an opportunity to drive through La Martiniere British time school which is worth visit considering the architecture and greenery.

During my initial period of additional posting of Lucknow one of the important things, I came to know is that in the Old Secretariat/CMs Office, the major decision is taken at fifth floor called as pancham tal. I missed seeing it as by the time the next decisive meeting at higher level took place where HUDCO was involved, it happened in a new building. The incumbent CM has proved that one need not go by myth that only pancham tal decision is crucial, as it can be taken in new building as well. The major myth that was broken again by CM was that a visit to Noida would displace the CM. In fact, I had seen him come many times for various developmental works, including the inauguration of mega Jewar Airport and in next election CM was not displaced, instead myth believers were displaced. Before this I was wondering why a CM is not visiting important developmental hub like Noida which is the major revenue earner for exchequer of UP, may be more than the state capital.

All the above experiences shared herewith though personal, I always had good time personally as well as officially, as Lucknow Regional office was top performer during my time. LRO team and I had developed good rapport with major agencies and Government officials.

What matters is the good time one has, be it personal or official, unlike "King of Good Times". Now, I am looking forward to my time of handing over full charge to some other person, so that the baton can be passed on safely for HUDCO's betterment.

H T Suresh, ED
(Projects/RF/SP/LRO/HRMA)



हाउसिंग एंड अर्बन डेवलपमेंट कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड

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