

*Selfless  
Soldiering  
And  
Public Service*

*By*  
*Major D.S. Bisht (Retd.)*  
*Director Central Himalayan Institute*  
*Dehradun (India)*



## PROLOGUE

*This autobiography is the result of everlasting and inspiring inaugural speech given on 10 December, 1932 by then Field Marshal Lord Philip Chetwode, Commandant of the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun where he laid down the duties and responsibilities for Commissioned officers i.e. "The safety, honor and welfare of your country comes first, always and every time. The honor, welfare and comfort of the men you command comes next. Your own ease, comfort and safety comes last always and every time". And I was fortunate enough to follow the motto religiously since the day I was commissioned on 30 June, 1963. More about 'making of an Indian Army Officer', read Chapter-1 in Part-VII of this book.*

*-Author-*

*Dedicated to my wife Devi Damyanti Bisht*



(5.2.1943 – 17.3.2022)

*She was strong (mind & spirit), respectful, fearless, popular and always smiling who blessed all and rendered selfless service to the family continuously for sixty long years from mother, father in-law's days till her last day with grandchildren. Without her unflinching support I could not have pursued my hobby in research, writing and published so many books – details of which are now available on the website: [www.chidehradun.com](http://www.chidehradun.com). She will continue to inspire us in times to come.*

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

*I am pleased to acknowledge the technical assistance given to me by my younger grand- daughter Enakshi Bisht in page making and moral support given to me by my elder grand-daughter Aishani Bisht and grandson Kriyansh Bisht to complete the book.*

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**E:**

**W:**

## P R E F A C E

This book is the outcome of my sixty years long personal and practical experience of selfless soldiering, committed and dedicated civil service rendered including research and writing undertaken by me for the welfare of soldiers and citizens of the country. Together, the mission helped me to establish full time research institute now known as 'Central Himalayan Institute' in Dehradun to promote good governance for development and delivery of public services at the grass root level for the welfare of citizens and soldiers in rural (real) India. The book is equally valuable for the administrators in civil service as well as for officers serving in the Armed forces. The most important guiding principle of selfless service has been to follow the path of truth and justice for all which I learnt from my parents. Briefly the book includes the memoirs of sixty years practical experience and selfless service rendered for the safety and welfare of the country.

I was commissioned into 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Jat Regiment of Indian Army on 30th June, 1963 from Indian Military Academy Dehradun. Twenty years of active military service included being part of an Infantry Battalion with actual battle experience of Indo-Pak war of 1965, Nagaland (1969-72) and personal achievement of capturing an enemy post on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 1964 in J & K which the Pak Army had established after crossing CFL similar to Kargil intrusion of 1999. My performance during Military service stands well recorded in the History of the Regiment and in a book titled 'The Far Flung Frontiers' by Major General O.S. Kalkat.

After my premature retirement, I got an opportunity to serve in Civil service (Aug 83- Aug 1999) as District Soldiers Welfare officer in the state of Uttar Pradesh which helped me to gain sufficient experience of civil service. Here I got deeply interested and involved in social welfare program of the government. During this period, I also attended training program then at the Uttar Pradesh Administrative Academy, Nainital and also at the Institute of Entrepreneurship Development, Lucknow. I was highly successful to introduce fast delivery system and innovation to get all kinds of grants, facilities and relief to all eligible personnel under my jurisdiction. This was spontaneously commended upon by the press, the public at large as well as the beneficiaries living in remote hilly and rural areas of the

plains in Uttar Pradesh. My performance was also recognized by an all India Ex-servicemen organization in Maharashtra who honored me with 'Maha Yodha Seva Award' in 1995.

Military service also gave an opportunity to study the socio-economic life of the people living in various parts of the country-starting from Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Gujarat, Maharashtra including life in metropolitan cities like Mumbai. Physical knowledge of land and the people, practical experience of both military and civil service has been the major contributing factor which helped me to write many useful articles and books related to governance, social welfare, planning and socio-economic development studies. My first book 'Guide to Garhwal and Kumaon Hills' (now titled-Uttarakhand Today) containing comprehensive socio-economic, cultural and historical survey was published in 1982 and a 3<sup>rd</sup> revised edition in 2008. My second book titled 'Selfless Soldiering' was published in 1985 which was described as an "honest appraisal of profession of Arms" in 'Sainik Samachar' March 29, 1987. Having seen closely the status of present- day civil administration and the conditions of the people in rural areas including those serving in the Armed forces, I was able to write four more books in Hindi for the welfare, awareness of duties and entitlement both for Armed forces personnel and other citizens in the country. 'Defence Services Pension Rules'(4<sup>th</sup>,5<sup>th</sup>,6<sup>th</sup> Ed.) compiled by me has helped hundreds of military pensioners in the country receive their due entitlement of pension after a gap of 5-50 years.

While implementing social welfare program of the government in Uttar Pradesh (1983-99), I got an opportunity to study the basic problem of poverty, planning and development in the light of changing socio-economic conditions of the people particularly of those living in rural and hilly areas in various parts of the country. My concern finally resulted into a first ever research study project undertaken by me titled 'Poverty Planning and Development' which was sponsored by then Planning Commission, Government of India and successfully completed in November, 2003. The outcome of this research study project is now quoted and referred to by many research scholars/institutes today. The study project report concluded that even after understanding the issues related to poverty,

planning and development - not much will change for the majority of the population unless the quality of Governance is improved. As a result of this, Planning Commission sponsored my second research study project titled 'Governance and Development of Rural India' which was also completed by me successfully and approved by the Planning Commission in August, 2010 and published in 2014. The other research study-based books written by me include 'God Faith and Religion' which is presently available on my institute's website; [www.chidehradun.com](http://www.chidehradun.com) Another important research study project in hand is titled 'Making of corruption free united India (After 75 years' as progressive and welfare state) and the contents of the research study project and 'preamble' are presently available on the website of CHI.

If you believe in the essence of 'Shrimad Bhagavad Gita' i.e. '*Thy right is to work only, but never to the fruits thereof*', then Honors and Awards are not relevant. Besides 'Maha Yodha Seva Purushkar', I was also nominated for 'Secular India Harmony Award - 2001' by United Children Movement, New Delhi. I continue to follow the dictum laid down at the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun i.e. 'The Safety, Honor and Welfare of your country comes First Always and Every Time' which has been the prime source of inspiration for me to undertake research and writing for the welfare and development of the country.

After having gained sufficient experience in research and writing with my own library, it became necessary for me to start my own research institute now known as 'Central Himalayan Institute' which is registered as a private trust in Dehradun. Since electronic media has overtaken print media, my institute has launched its own website [www.chidehradun.com](http://www.chidehradun.com) on 12 April ,2020 for the benefit of all concerned authorities and individuals genuinely interested in good governance for the welfare of the people (including Armed forces) and development of the country.



Author with Late Dr R S Negi (Right) and late Wing Commander (Dr) M M Dhasmana (Centre) at Kartik Swamy Temple hill top in Chamoli District in Uttarakhand state providing closest panoramic view of Garhwal Himalayas (1987). This holy temple is dedicated to Kartikeya, the elder son of Lord Shiva, on a hilltop (now reconstructed) with deep valley surrounding it. It was my good fortune that I came in contact with two learned persons like Dr Negi and Dr Dhasmana which helped me to pursue my interest in academic field during my life long friendship which I have also narrated in Chapter-2 , Part -I of this book.

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## Part-I

### MEMOIR IN A NUTSHELL

#### 1

#### MILITARY SERVICE

After undergoing pre-commission training in the Indian Military Academy Dehradun (1962-63), I was commissioned on 30th June, 1963 at the age of 22 years into 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Jat Regiment of the Indian Army. Twenty years of military service included actual battle experience of Indo-Pak war of 1965, Nagaland (1969-71) and personal achievement of capturing an enemy post on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 1964 in J&K which the Pak Army had established after crossing CFL similar to Kargil intrusion of 1999. I had put in only 11 months service when I was selected to lead a platoon strength of the battalion and given the task to raid and capture the enemy post on 18 May, 1964 which I captured after inflicting casualties on the enemy side only. My performance stands well recorded in a book titled 'The Far Flung Frontiers' by Major General O.S. Kalkat who was my Brigade commander in 1964. Full details of this operation are available on page 100-103 of the book.

I am grateful to Late Major General O.S. Kalkat for having included full details of the operation led by me on 18 May, 1964 in his book 'The Far-Flung Frontiers' which is all about professional soldiering. Field Marshal S.H.F.J. Manekshaw, MC in his 'Foreword' for the book wrote, "Onkar has been a devoted soldier, a trusted colleague and an affectionate friend. I have the greatest regard for his professional abilities and moral courage. His eventful and colorful service which spans a period of nearly forty years in the Indian Army in various capacities in command, staff and instructional assignments- has made him eminently suitable to write a book of this

nature which I am sure will be of great interest to all professional soldiers and also serve as valuable guide to them."

I was recommended for gallantry award but missed the same because United Nations observers, then stationed in J&K, had declared the operation a serious cease fire violation. However, I was promoted as Captain out of turn on the spot with only 11 months service by the Brigade Commander. This was also the first border encounter with Pakistan after 1947 in Jammu & Kashmir. Thereafter, many encounters had taken place between Indian and Pakistani troops leading to full-fledged war in September, 1965. All this was good enough for me to have acquired practical knowledge of soldiering within first three years of my military service. Full details of my contribution during twenty years of military service can be seen in Part-VII of this book titled 'Selfless Soldiering' (Revisited) which was published in 1985.

## 2

### **PRELUDE TO RESEARCH AND WRITING**

My story about research and writing goes back to the year 1972-73 when I established my permanent residence at 37-3, Nehru (Curzon) Road Dehradun. An ideal city and best planned oldest locality of Dalanwala in Dehradun which was historically known as civil area inhabited by rich and privileged people from all parts of India. The rule then existed was that no one could construct his bungalow on less than 5 bigha of land in this locality. However, in 1972-73 it was reduced to 2.25 bigha of land and I managed to buy 2.25 bigha of land for Rs.30000.00 only and constructed double storied house with the help of government loan through Army Headquarters. I, however, sold 1.25 bigha of land after few months to complete the construction of my house which helped me to keep my financial liability under control. It is in this house that my family has

been living for over 52 years now. The locality continues to be green and covered with all kinds of trees right in the middle of Dehradun city even today.

Early settlement in Dehradun city helped me to ensure undisturbed education of my two sons Mahesh and Harish on the one hand and fulfill my responsibility towards my dependent parents till their last days before they left for their heavenly abode. My father lived up to the age of 90 in good health and my mother up to the age of 80 even though she had undergone serious illness of brain tumor at the age of 60 which was successfully operated upon in Army Hospital Delhi. She lived happily thereafter and saw her great-grandchildren before leaving this world on 15 September, 2002.

I have been closely watching the changing socio-economic life of the people living in Garhwal and Kumaon hill region now Uttarakhand state particularly after independence. Since there was no book available in English language till then which could provide comprehensive and up-to-date socio-economic, cultural and historical survey of the Garhwal and Kumaon hill region, then part of Uttar Pradesh state, I decided to undertake research study on Garhwal and Kumaon hill region in 1972 and succeeded in bringing out the first edition of the book in 1982 after my premature retirement from Army. The book was then titled 'Guide to Garhwal and Kumaon Hills'. This book has been in great demand from people in all walks of life before and after the formation of Uttarakhand state on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2000. Second revised edition of the book was released in 2001 and third revised edition in 2008 titled 'Uttarakhand Today' (A complete guide to 27<sup>th</sup> state of India). This book has been republished in USA, UK, Germany and New Zealand etc. and distributed all over the world.

Beside 'Gyan Lok' library, owned by late Shri Padam Kumar Jain in Dehradun, I came in contact with many renowned citizens and historians of Uttarakhand such as Captain Soor Bir Singh Panwar, Shri Bhajan Singh 'Singh', Shri Shiv Prasad Dabral and Shri Bhakt Darshan who were kind enough to appreciate my work and give their comments which encouraged me to continue with my research and writing till to date. My next book was 'Selfless Soldiering'. I started working on this book while in service and posted in Shillong from May, 1972 to August, 1974. It was here that I came in contact with Major (Dr.) K. Brahma Singh who had by then become well known writer on military history and related subjects. Major Brahma Singh also took premature retirement and obtained Ph.D. thereafter. **He had settled down in Jammu but I was not in direct contact with him.** To my surprise, he was able to contact me on 29 Mar, 2022 after 50 years because of this book which is uploaded on the website [www.chidehradun.com](http://www.chidehradun.com) and to recollect the memoir included in this part of the book. Here I would also like to record my deep gratitude to Major (Dr.) K Brahma Singh, my first guru, now 90-year-old, with my best wishes for long and healthy life.

Though I qualified for Defense Services Staff College Entrance Examination in 1972-73 but missed the course due to changes made in the rules by Army Headquarters. The rule was changed to give additional marks to those officers who had done instructional or staff appointment but failed to come in the merit list. This rule deprived officers like me who were up in the merit list but had not done any instructional or staff appointment by then. The rule was later changed due to representation by me and other affected officers. This was a turning point in my career and I decided to continue my professional study and wrote a comprehensive article on 'National Security' itself. I discussed the draft of the article with Major K. Brahma Singh who was kind enough to give his

encouraging comments and valuable tips about writing an article or a book. After that I produced the revised version of the article which Major K. Brahma Singh approved and found valuable for publishing the same in the Journal of the United Service Institution (USI) New Delhi.

I submitted the article titled 'National Security of India' to USI New Delhi for publishing the same in their quarterly USI Journal in 1972. Unfortunately, USI was ready to publish the article but could not do so without security clearance from Army Headquarters. My desire to express my strong views through writing made me plan my premature retirement after 20 years of service. Thereafter, I started recollection of all that I saw good or bad about soldiering while personally remained fully committed to 'Selfless Soldiering' till the day of my premature retirement. The final draft of my book 'Selfless Soldiering' was published in 1985 which also included my original article 'National Security of India' as part of Chapter two on 'Safety Honor and Welfare of the Country'. Incidentally the book titled 'Selfless Soldiering' was being finalized by me in the year 1984 when the country was facing biggest ever threat to national security and integrity due to development in Punjab. The book was reviewed by late Lt Col Gautam Sharma, another historian and prolific writer those days, who described the book as an 'honest appraisal of profession of Arms'. Full text of the review by Lt Col Gautam Sharma published in 'Sainik Samachar' on 29 March, 1985 can be seen at Annexure-I in part VI of this book. Here I cannot omit the name of late Lt General K.P. Candeth, former Army Commander who was kind enough to write the 'Foreword' for the book on 1 May, 1984.

It was my good fortune that I came in contact with Wing Cdr (Dr.) M.M. Dhasmana FRAI, FRGS in 1972-73 who was also posted in Shillong. He was from Education Branch of the Air Force and deeply interested in Sociology and Anthropology. During the

same period, I came in contact with Dr. R.S. Negi who had been Director of Anthropological Survey of India in Dehradun. Both, originally from my home District Pauri Garhwal, became my guide and friend which helped me to pursue my interest in socio-economic development studies. While Wing Cdr Dhasmana started working for the Institute of Indology and Himalayan Studies at Ambala after his premature retirement, Dr R.S. Negi also joined Garhwal University as Head of Department of Anthropology. He was also residing near my house on Circular Road in Dehradun. Together we also made a memorable study trip to 'Kartik Swamy' temple in Garhwal Himalayas (Chamoli District) in 1987 and a photograph can be seen next to contents in this book. It was good to be in the company of learned people and friends who could always convey or discuss that may be very useful to understand the land and the people living in any part of the country or the world. Wing Cdr Dhasmana had once conveyed to me a quote from 'Yajurveda' which reads, 'Let one and all bloom, where ever they be' in his new year greeting card in 2001 as gospel of the year.

After my premature retirement, I got re-employment as District Soldiers Welfare officer in 1983 then under Uttar Pradesh state. My first posting was in Pauri district where I served from 1983 to 1991, then in Haridwar district (1991-1994) and finally in Bijnor district from where I retired in 1999. Sixteen years of civil service (Aug1983-Aug 1999) was an ideal opportunity to study both working of Civil Administration, implementation of Welfare and Development program of the government particularly in rural and hilly areas. Here I got deeply involved and interested in social welfare program of the government. During this period, I also attended training program then at the Uttar Pradesh Administrative Academy, Nainital and at the Institute of Entrepreneurship Development, Lucknow. I was highly successful to introduce fast delivery system and innovation to get all kinds of financial aid,

facilities and pensionary benefits to all eligible personnel under my jurisdiction. This was spontaneously commended upon by the press, the public at large as well as beneficiaries living in remote hilly and rural areas in the plains.

A write up on my life and performance written by late Shri Bhajan Singh 'Singh' and Dr. Yogesh Dhasmana, both renowned writers and historians, was published on 27 October, 1987 in local weekly newspaper. This write up or biography at the age of 46 and within four years of my re-employment in civil service has been a very special source of inspiration for me to continue to serve the people and the country through my writing till to date. I was one of the few 'District Soldiers Welfare Officer' in India who was also honored with 'Maha Yodha Seva Award' by an ex-servicemen organization known as 'Second World War Soldiers and Dependents Welfare Association' Bilashi Sangli, Maharashtra on the eve of Golden Jubilee of Second World War on 6 August, 1995. My experience as District Soldiers Welfare officer also forced me to compile 'Defense Services Pension Rules' which has been very useful for all category of military pensioners all over the country in the absence of official updated 'Manual' till to date. Sixth supplementary edition of this 'Manual' was published in October, 2019. During my 16 years civil service at least 150 outstanding pension claims (5 to 50 years old) were taken up with pension sanctioning authorities by me and decided in favor of the claimants.

## **AS FULL TIME RESEARCH SCHOLAR**

Military service also gave an opportunity to study the socio-economic life of the people living in various parts of the country- starting from Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Gujarat, Maharashtra including life in metropolitan cities

like Mumbai. Premature retirement from Army service enabled me to acquire in-depth knowledge of civil service and functioning of state level Departments in Uttar Pradesh state from 1983 to 1999. Physical knowledge of the land and the people, practical experience of both military and civil service has been the major contributing factor which helped me to write many useful articles and books related to governance, social welfare, planning and socio-economic development studies.

While implementing social welfare program of the government in Uttar Pradesh (1983-99), I got an opportunity to study the basic problem of poverty, planning and development in the light of changing socio-economic conditions of the people particularly those living in rural and hilly areas in various parts of the country. My concern finally resulted into a research study project undertaken by me on 'Poverty Planning and Development' which was sponsored by then Planning Commission, Government of India and successfully completed by me and approved in November,2003. The study project report concluded that even after understanding the issues related to poverty, planning and development- not much will change for the majority of population unless the quality of governance is improved. As a result of this, Planning Commission sponsored my second research study project titled 'Governance and Development of Rural India' which was also completed by me successfully and approved by the Planning Commission in August 2010. In the year 2023, I continued to pursue my mission and hope to complete the following research projects during my life time.

1. God Faith and Religion. 2. Making of corruption free united India after 75 years (AS progressive and welfare state). The present progress of these research projects is available on [www.chidehradun.com](http://www.chidehradun.com)

However, I am of the opinion that unless general education and capabilities of the leading citizens is improved in India, the

ultimate goal of improving the quality of life of the people cannot be achieved. Hard work used to be the dividing line between penury and survival in the old days. Today hard work is not merely about survival but living well also. It has become necessary to educate leading citizens of the society so that they are all the time aware of their primary duties and responsibilities towards their family members, backward section of the society and the country. It should be the duty of all leading citizens to set example and ensure that national resources are not wasted and utilized for the good of the people and the country. Unless leading citizens have learnt to manage their personal life with hard earned money i.e. by fair means without wasting national resources and proper time management they cannot be expected to contribute much to improve the quality of life and Governance in India. To this end, another book titled 'Modern Life Management Guide' was written and published by me for the educated and leading citizens of the society in 2005.

## 4

## **MY EXPERIENCE WITH ADMINISTRATIVE INEFFICIENCY**

Here I want to record specific cases which I personally dealt with or represented to civil- military administration till to date and succeeded in bringing each claim or project to its logical conclusion. This will definitely help those interested to improve administrative efficiency both in civil and military administration in India.

### **Missing gallantry award (1964)**

During my first year service in J&K ( 1963-64), I was given a task to raid and capture a post which the Pakistan Army had established on our side of CFL similar to Kargil intrusion of 1999. I executed the task given to me successfully after inflicting casualties

on the side of enemy only. This was the first clash between Pakistan and Indian Army after 1947 which was followed by many encounters and finally culminated into 1965 Indo-Pak war. However, I missed gallantry award or honor for this achievement of mine with only 11 months service. I was, however, promoted to Captain out of turn by the Brigade Commander at the place of the encounter. This was mainly due to United Nations observers stationed in J&K who declared the action by India, a serious cease fire violation at that point of time. The reason for missing award by me was that the authorities concerned decided to avoid adverse publicity after cease fire violation. In a situation like this the civil-military administration will be well advised to award special letter of commendation in lieu of gallantry award missed due to political or administrative reasons.

### **House building loan (1972)**

It was in the year 1972 when I applied for house building advance of Rs.42000/- from Army Headquarters which was sanctioned only after certain queries raised by Army Headquarters had been replied. The query was regarding purchase of land on which no right of pre-emption should exist. For this I have to consult law books with the help of my advocate friend and clarified the position to Army Headquarters and the loan was sanctioned. It is common practice in civil administration to raise objections without any ground to delay any kind of claim or entitlement before it is sanctioned or granted. Thereafter, I also took loan thrice from HDFC but without any difficulty because of the efficiency in private sector.

### **Nomination for Defense Services Staff College (1972)**

In 1972 I appeared for DSSC entrance examination and qualified for nomination. Before final nomination, Army Headquarter issued a policy letter which laid down that additional marks will be given to officers who had done staff or instructional

appointment for nomination to DSSC course. This decision was taken to help certain officers who were at the lower level in the merit list and deprive the officers who at higher level in the merit list but had not done staff or instructional appointment. I did represent against the policy letter which was cancelled for subsequent years. However, the damage had been done to me and other officers who were similarly placed.

### **Non -payment of hill allowance in Shillong (1972)**

During my tenure in Shillong with Headquarter Eastern Air Command (1972-74), I found that Air force officers were drawing Hill compensatory allowance but the same was being paid to Army officers. I took up the matter with CDA (O) Pune with a pay slip of an Air Force officer for payment of the hill allowance. After some time CDA(O) Pune replied that their office is not in possession of any Army instruction on the subject and therefore the allowance can not be paid. I took up the matter with Army Headquarters through proper channel where it was found that the policy letter issued by Ministry of Defence was not circulated by Army Headquarters to all concerned authorities including CDA(o) Pune for action. Army instructions were issued subsequently and arrear of hill allowance were also received by me during my next tenure in Mumbai (1974-76).

### **TA/DA Bill claim**

It was my first administrative encounter with my Commanding officer in J&K (1976-78) when my commanding officer was not willing to countersign my TA/DA claim which was pertaining to my move in connection with Top Secret heliborne operation for the first time undertaken in the mountain as part of training and preparation for war. It took me time to convince the commanding officer that as per rule I am not required to indicate the

place and purpose of duty in the TD/DA claim pertaining to Top Secret movement. Then only the bill was countersigned and my claim was passed by CDA(O) Pune without any query as laid down in the rules.

### **As DAAG Ambala Sub Area**

It was in the year 1978-80 when I was posted in Ambala as DAAG which post is now held by an officer of the rank of Colonel. It was here that I got full opportunity to deal with various provision of military law, rules and regulations applicable for maintenance of discipline, welfare of personnel on the one hand and the court of inquiries into crime and corruption cases as and when reported and follow up action thereafter. Here I was completely satisfied with my own performance because I succeeded in giving correct advice to my Sub Area commander to settle each case in accordance to law and procedures laid down by Army Headquarters. I have reason to believe that my Sub Area commander had given me outstanding Annual Confidential Report in 1978-79 based on which I was also approved for promotion/upgradation to Lt Col in 1980. Unfortunately, orders for my up gradation to Lt Col w.e.f. 5 Aug 1981 were issued in 1984 by Army Headquarters and I had taken conditional premature retirement w.e.f. 28 Oct 1981 with reserve liability up to 31 Aug, 1991. However, my claim to minimum guaranteed pension w.e.f. 1.1.1996 on the basis of my upgradation to Lt Col and the pay scale held by me at the time of retirement has been under correspondence since 1999 and the outcome of the claim is given at the end of Part-V of this book.

### **My experience with Income Tax Department**

In 1981, when I had taken premature retirement from Army service, CDA(O) Pune, while closing my pay account informed Income Tax office in Pune regarding house building

advance taken by me and the additional income tax I was liable to pay on account of rent I was receiving for the first floor of my house in Dehradun. The ITO Pune accordingly sent me a notice to pay additional tax by a particular date failing which I will have to present myself before the ITO. This forced me to read books on Income Tax/Rules. After going through the rules I found that I had no tax liability after necessary exemptions /deductions permissible. I accordingly informed ITO Pune and also asked for refund of excess tax deducted at source but ITO Pune never replied and also failed to refund the excess tax deducted at source.

In the year 2018, I had to file capital gain tax return after I sold the flat I was allotted by AWHO at Noida in 2004. I prepared the return on my own after reading the rules and submitted to Income Tax department. I had included interest paid by me on loan taken from HDFC while calculating value of acquisition since 2004-05. Surprisingly Income Tax officer in Dehradun raised objection on the ground that interest paid to HDFC on loan can not be added while calculating value of acquisition of the property on the ground that benefit of interest paid on loan has already been availed by me in the yearly tax return filed. I had to show relevant rule to the ITO and explain that interest paid on borrowed loan for purchasing the asset is also part of its cost of acquisition. Finally ITO agreed with the rule and I was able to save Rs.2 lac on account of capital gain tax.

### **Allotment of flat by AWHO at Noida**

In 2004-05 I purchased a flat in Noida allotted by AWHO and paid the price fixed. Later I discovered that AWHO had allotted open space for car parking in the same block but space for scooter parking and covered space for car were allotted in the neighboring blocks. I represented against this and asked AWHO to refund extra money i.e. Rs.1.20 lac charged for parking car/scooter in different

blocks. AWHO initially did not agree to refund the amount on the ground that I had given choice for three parking space. Since AWHO allotted parking space in different blocks which did not suit me, AWHO finally refunded the extra money paid by me.

## **MY CONTRIBUTION FOR THE WELFARE OF EX-SERVICEMEN**

After my premature retirement, I found the job of District Soldiers Welfare Officer very satisfying. Here I got full opportunity to ensure that all ex- servicemen, widows including war widows and disabled soldiers got all their due entitlement of pension, financial aid, facilities and concessions without any delay or harassment. This was well received by the ex- servicemen, the people at large and the press in all three districts i.e. Pauri Garhwal, Haridwar and Bijnor where I served as District Soldiers Welfare Officer from 1983 to 1999. Here I want to record important pension claims and welfare projects for which I had to fight both with civil and military administration to settle the pension claims and to implement the welfare projects.

### **Pension claims of Second World War Widows**

When family pension was introduced for II World War Widows sometime 1983-84, the problem had arisen in respect of large number of widows in district Pauri Garhwal who got married to younger brother of the deceased husband for protection under the customary laws of the society which was common in northern states in India including Punjab. The customary law does not deprive the widow of her legal right and share in land and property of her deceased husband even after remarriage. The Record offices and the Pension Sanctioning authorities were reluctant to sanction pension to such widows. Subsequently the legal position of the customary laws

was explained to the authorities and the pension was sanctioned to all affected widows. In some cases younger brother of the deceased husband had also expired.

### **Revival of War Widows Centre at Pauri**

In 1983, when I took over as District Soldiers Welfare officer Pauri Garhwal, I found that the War Widow Centre, which was established for the rehabilitation of war widows of 1965 and 1971 war under the supervision of War Widows Association New Delhi, was not functioning for many years. The building needed some funds for its repair which could not be allotted by any authority. Smt Mohini V. Giri then President of War Widows Association had written letters to District Magistrate, Chief Minister and Army Commander Central Command but the Centre could not be made functional. I took up the matter with District Magistrate and suggested that since the land belongs to state government the center be handed over to District Soldiers Welfare office, funds be made available through budget for repair etc. so that the Centre could be made functional. The District Magistrate agreed with my proposal, rules were framed for the functioning of the training center with necessary staff, the name of the Centre was changed to 'Sainik Mahila Prashikshan Kendra', funds were allotted in the budget and the center was made functional and reopened for training of all wards of serving soldiers and ex- servicemen as per new rules of the Centre.

### **Opening of CSD canteen in non- military station, Pauri**

In 1983-84 Armed Forces allowed mobile CSD canteen to function for the benefit of ex- servicemen who are residing away from military station. Demand for opening static CSD canteen by ex- servicemen also started in districts with large concentration of ex- servicemen. I took up the matter with UP Area Headquarter for

opening a CSD canteen at Pauri with a promise that all facilities will be provided by District Soldiers Welfare office. The demand was sent to local station commander for further action. The local station commander did not support the demand on the ground that there will be no security for CSD canteen in a non- military station. Incidentally, robbers during the same period had stolen stores from a CSD canteen in a military station. The real reason for not opening canteen was the profit and not security. I convinced the District Magistrate on the issue of security and gave an undertaking that in case of any irregularity in the functioning, the canteen can be closed. The District Magistrate took no time to grant liquor license etc. for the canteen in Pauri which has been functioning smoothly till to date with full cooperation of the ex- servicemen.

### **Restoration of pension illegally stopped**

In 1994, a case of Rfn Hem Bahadur Gurung was brought to my notice in Haridwar who had retired from 1 GR in 1969 with pension but his pension was stopped by DPDO Shimla w.e.f. June 1970 on the ground that he was involved in a case between State v/s State under excise Act. The individual remained in Nahan Central Jail from 10.2.1970 to 17.1.1971 during the trial and subsequently released without any conviction. The ex-Army man represented to DPDO and the Record office but his pension was not restored due to non- availability of the copy of the Judgment which could not be procured due to reorganization of Himachal Pradesh after the division of Punjab state. Government of Uttar Pradesh was kind enough and appointed him as chowkidar w.e.f. 15.7.1971 and he retired from civil service on 1.2.1991 with pension. At this stage I took up his case with DPDO and the Record office to transfer his pension papers to Haridwar where the individual had settled down. It is only after giving legal notice to Ministry of Defense that his pension papers were transferred to Haridwar and arrears of military

pension were paid in 1994 and thereafter I was also posted to Bijnor district.

It is also common that pension of widows is stopped by the Record office on the ground that the widow has re- married based on false complaint and without verification from civil authorities/District Soldiers Welfare office. A case of such widow was brought to my notice in Haridwar and her pension was restored. It is for this reason and changing time that the widows are now allowed to draw family pension even after remarriage. However, policy decisions are not taken in time and therefore most of the eligible widows fail to receive due pension during their life time.

### **Allotment of land to war widows and gallantry award winners**

In Bijnor district I came across a UP Government policy letter dated 22August, 1984 regarding allotment of acquired land to war widows and gallantry award winners. The land could not be allotted to any one because Bijnor district had no eligible war widow or gallantry award winners and the land had been occupied illegally by civilians. After going through the policy letter of UP Government I found that the provision existed in the letter to allot land to war widows and gallantry award winners from the neighboring districts in case no eligible person was available in Bijnor district. I took up the matter with the District Magistrate who permitted to invite application from the neighboring districts. As a result 16 eligible war widows/gallantry award winners from Pauri and Moradabad district were selected for further action on 13 July,1999 after 15 years of the policy letter issued on the subject. I also retired from civil service on 31 Aug,1999 and could not see the follow up action, if any , was taken thereafter. This is yet another example that unless the officers are committed and determined to help the citizens at large,

the benefit of scheme will never reach to the beneficiaries in time of need.

## Part-II

### **PREVIEW OF BOOKS WRITTEN BY ME**

#### 1

#### **UTTARAKHAND TODAY (2008)**

The detailed socio-economic survey of then 'Garhwal and Kumaon Himalayas' carried out by the Britishers in 1875, is available in the Himalayan Gazetteer published way back in 1882. The Himalayan Gazetteer contains historical and anthropological background of the people and geographical, physiological study of the land. In addition, it gives the details of day to day life of the people and the social institutions which existed hundred and fifty years back in various sub-divisions of Uttarakhand. According to Himalayan Gazetteer, the aim of the detailed survey was to enable the officers placed in-charge of the district to have such general knowledge of the physical capabilities of the tract, its fiscal history and its inhabitants as may enable them at once to exercise an intelligent control over its administration. However, the requirement of present day administration are multifarious as well as complex in a free, democratic and developing country. Today both the public at large and the administrators in particular also need to understand and monitor the working and impact of welfare and development program of the Government undertaken for the economic uplift of the masses.

Unfortunately no comprehensive book on Garhwal and Kumaon Hills, now Uttarakhand state, containing up-to-date survey was made available to meet the present day requirement of the

people and the state. First edition of this book then titled 'Guide to Garhwal and Kumaon Hills' was published in 1982 which attempted to provide comprehensive and up-to-date socio-economic, cultural and historical survey of the hill region of Garhwal and Kumaon. A part of the book was devoted to tourism, trekking and mountaineering which is rapidly changing the socio-economic life of the people living in a state like Uttarakhand. Second revised edition of the book was released in the year 2001 after the formation of separate hill state of Uttarakhand on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2000. Third revised edition of the book was published in 2008 titled as Uttarakhand Today.

The hill state of Uttarakhand is conspicuously different from the plains of Uttar Pradesh due to its topography, soil, relief, climate, vegetation, language, culture and historical background. The Himalayas (2500 km Long and 300 km in breadth) are the highest mountains in the world. Garhwal and Kumaon Himalayas is about 350 km of this mighty and formidable range with natural boundaries on all sides. The entire region is mountainous with valleys in between the ridges. River Tons and Yamuna separate Uttarakhand state from Kinnaur and Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh in the west. To the north is international border with Tibet (China) with 17 major passes-height varying between 5000m to 6000m. These passes remain open only from June to October. The river Kali forms the natural boundary with Nepal in the west. The middle hilly region (1800m to 3000m) is thinly populated except for small hamlets here and there. The climate is temperate. The cultivation is dry and there is generally shortage of water. Animal husbandry is the main occupation due to sufficient pasturage in this part of Uttarakhand. The high altitude region (above 3000m) is about 30 to 45 km in breadth and the population from this region generally migrate to lower hilly region due to snowfall during winter. The upper high altitude region is referred to as Tibetan watershed along the border

with Tibet (China) which has old gorges, stones, barren rocks and snow. Most of the population is Garhwal and Kumaon hill region of Uttarakhand state lives in lower hilly region (600m to 1800m) with villages being within a distance of two to five km.

In this edition, population totals as per census of India-2001 and other data pertaining to thirteen reorganized districts of Uttarakhand state have been incorporated, updated, quoted and analyzed wherever necessary. Part-I of this book contains general information on all aspects of life including land and the people, historical background, art, culture and traditions of the people living in Uttarakhand state since Vedic-Puranic time. Part-II provides economic development indicators including present state of development and future prospects pertaining to important sectors of

of economic activity. Part-III contains all essential information which is equally valuable for all citizens of the new state of Uttarakhand as well as tourist, travelers, visitors, pilgrims, traders, industrialist including those interested in adventure sports like trekking, mountaineering, skiing, river rafting etc. in Garhwal and Kumaon Himalayas of Uttarakhand state. Information on wild life sanctuaries including man eaters, lakes, fishing spots, glaciers and trekking routes are the other attractions included in Part-III of this edition of the book. In addition, all the required information is available in this book for those undertaking pilgrimage to holy shrines of Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath, Kailash-Mansarovar in Tibet (China) and Adi-Kailash (Chhota Kailash) in Pithoragarh district.

Your first and last impression of Uttarakhand is peace and tranquility. Uttarakhand has been referred to as 'Dev Bhumi', the dwelling place or abode of all Hindu Gods i.e. Brahma, Vishnu, Mahesh, Shakti and Ganesh who are worshipped as 'Panch

Parmeshwar'. The people of Uttarakhand are peace loving and they have deep rooted faith in God and religion. Skand Puran says, "He who thinks of Himalayas, though he should not be-hold him, is greater than he who performs all worship in Kashi. As the dew is dried up by the morning sun, so are the sins of mankind by the mere sight of Himalayas". Shankaracharya established Badrinath as one of the four Dham (sacred shrines) in Uttarakhand. Millions of people of all shades and faith have been visiting these holy shrines for several thousand years. Kalidas described the Himalayas, as the supreme lord of the mountains possessed of a divine soul. Uttarakhand has been the peaceful abode for great saints, philosophers and tourists from various parts of the world. It is the natural surroundings in Uttarakhand which attracted the renowned musician Udai Shankar to open a Dance School at Almora.

In addition to religious importance for Hindus, Uttarakhand has many scenic spots. Dr. T.G. Longstaff, the world renowned mountaineer said, "After six visits to the snow, I still believe that Garhwal is the most beautiful country of all high Asia. Neither the primitive immensity of the Karakoram, the aloof domination of Mount Everest, the softer Caucasian beauties of the Hindukush, nor any of the many other region of Himachal can compare with Uttarakhand Himalayas. Mountains and valleys, forests and alps, birds, animals, butter flies and flowers all combine to make a scene of delight unsurpassed elsewhere".

Uttarakhand has played an active part both during past and the present history of the country. The illustrious sons of Uttarakhand such as Rikhola Lodhi, Madho Singh Bhandari who successfully secured the northern borders against Tibetan hordes sometime during 1630AD, brave women like Teelu Rauteli and Rani Karnavati, soldiers like Bal Bhadra Singh Negi and freedom fighters like Ansuya Prasad Bahuguna, Badri Dutt Pandey, Keshar Singh

Rawat, Shri Dev Suman, Victor Mohan Joshi and Chander Singh Garhwali will be remembered for all time to come.

The hill state of Uttarakhand has its own peculiar problems like other hilly regions of the country. The terrain is rocky and limited arable land needs hard labor to cultivate. The region is sparsely populated and transportation facilities are limited. Due to inadequate attention paid by the mother state of Uttar Pradesh after independence, lack of planning and investment – the development of the region has been slow. An in-depth case study of Uttarakhand on 'Poverty, Planning and Development' was sponsored by the Planning Commission, Government of India and completed by the author of this book in November, 2003. A published version of the study report is now available for reference for those concerned about and responsible for economic development and eradication of poverty in Uttarakhand. The First edition of the book was appreciated by all as could be seen from the comments and review of the book. However, additional basic information has been included in this edition with reference to power sector, medicinal plants, tourism, trekking and adventure sports identified now as the key sector which will materially help in the faster economic development of Uttarakhand state. Variation in distances between places, if any observed, are due to change in alignment of roads as well as distance being measured by authorities in relation to different Bus stands, Railway stations or city centers. (*Third revised edition of the book titled 'Uttarakhand Today' was published in 2008. The book has been reprinted by publishers in UK, USA, Germany and New Zealand and is presently distributed online by Amazon/Flipkart etc.*)

## **POVERTY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (2008)**

(Case study of Uttarakhand state)

Before the construction of roads, the people in the hill region of Uttarakhand maintained self-sufficient economy with limited trade with Tibet (China) and the plains of Uttar Pradesh. The import was limited to Salt and Gur from the plains and cloth including home made woolen was available locally and supplied by the tribal population in the North. There was hardly any migration to plains before independence except for higher education. As the construction of roads extended to remote areas and more educational facilities became available demand for salaried jobs kept on increasing. This resulted into loss of agricultural labor and subsequently agricultural output. SC/ST population and others who partly lived on their traditional occupation and provided agricultural labor also opted for formal and higher education. This helped SC/ST population to take full advantage of new job opportunities provided by reservation policy after independence. Craftsmen like Blacksmiths, Coppersmiths, Carpenters, Mason also gradually left their traditional occupation and opted for white collar jobs.

The modern approach to planning and development has made the population of this hill region totally dependent on the supplies coming from the plains both for agricultural and industrial products. This has led to increasing demand for money and salaried jobs. Spread of education did not match with job opportunities available. Increasing reservation for various categories of the people at state and national level also affected and reduced job opportunities for the people living in this hilly region. The people have, therefore, been compelled by the circumstances to migrate wherever salaried job could be guaranteed and those unable to

migrate are either living below the poverty line or making money by any means even at the cost of public health, ecology and environment.

All social obligations such as marriages etc. which were earlier carried out on a cooperative mutual and self help basis now require money for hiring labor, equipment etc. due to changing social conditions, development of road communication and high rate of literacy. The construction of houses, which was earlier done with locally made and available construction material and labor, now takes away whole life savings of the rich to buy bricks, cement and steel to construct modern houses generally along roadside. All this has led to increasing demand for money. The rural economy can not sustain without agriculture. The people in this region are clearly facing different kind of situation whose agricultural income is negligible which can last for 3 to 6 months and alternative sources of income could not develop due to defective planning which was possible to manage by selling surplus agricultural produces and other homemade goods to moneyed people. Today no one has surplus agricultural produces to sell or barter resulting into increasing demand for money.

It is now widely accepted that in spite of huge expenditure incurred on development program, the economic standard of the people continues to be backward and poor. About Rs 570 crore per year was spent on development of Uttarakhand hill region since the inception of Sixth Five year plan with no tangible results. The situation had worsened to such an extent that a separate state had to be created to meet the demand and aspirations of the people. The existing planning is based on national perspective and priorities. However, national priorities may not be strictly applicable to planning and development of a hill region such as Uttarakhand. Planning has to be realistic to the prevailing local socio-economic

conditions, resources and availability of man power and existing infrastructure in the region. Unless socially relevant development plans are drawn and evenly distributed then the exploitation of one socio- economic order by another i.e. by plains of the hills, by urban or the rural or by the rich of the poor cannot be checked.

This research study was, therefore, undertaken to examine the present approach to reduce poverty and unemployment in general with particular reference to planning and program undertaken so far for the economic development of the hilly state of Uttarakhand. This study report has been carried out in the light of National Human Development Report-2001. The study examined the planning process and implementation of relevant development program since the Sixth Five year plan period (1980-85) with a view to identify factors that has lead to the failure of development program in a hilly state like Uttarakhand. The author of this research project has personally and physically seen the planning process and implementation of development program at the grass root level in the hill region of Uttarakhand during his 16 year service (1983-1999) with the state government of Uttar Pradesh. Besides government publication on planning and development, the author of this project has gone through all possible research work published on Poverty alleviation and Rural development and relevant to the economic development of a hilly state like Uttarakhand.

Being a case study, it has given full opportunity to study all aspects of the problem in-depth with in a limited time frame. This enabled the author to collect all the evidence systematically, methodically study the variables based an information collected from all possible sources including observation made and interviewing individuals which is frequently used in a case study. Thus the role of all participating agencies was critically examined to illustrate the relationship and the pattern of influence on poverty,

planning and development program undertaken by the government during the last 25 years for the development of hilly region of Uttarakhand state.

No fresh data were collected for the study report. Secondary data already available pertaining to district and state level (then Uttarakhand hill region of Uttar Pradesh) and published during the period from 1980 to 1999 have been used for this study report. The government of Uttarakhand could not up-date data after 1999 mainly due to reorganization of districts prior to and after the creation of new state. However, primary data, pertaining to prevailing socio-economic condition at the grass root level in Uttarakhand state, have been used from the following three pertinent published research work. Unfortunately, the planners fail to utilize these primary data collected by research scholars for the purpose of realistic planning and development of a hilly region like Uttarakhand.

Basic and primary data collected in 1988-89 by the Government of Uttar Pradesh pertaining to 59 villages with a population of 13959 with 2759 families and 4230 cattle to implement IRGAD Micro-Watershed Project in and around Pauri Development Block in Pauri Garhwal District (now Uttarakhand state.)

‘Eco-system in the Central Himalayas’ by Vikram Singh published in 1995, containing primary data pertaining to 11 villages near Nainital, Ranikhet and Almora in Kumaon Division. The ‘thesis’ provides the prevailing socio-economic condition in Kumaon Region with particular reference to small holding of land, agricultural practices number of human being per hectare of land cultivated, degradation of forest, decreasing livestock population resulting into migration of the people to cities and urban areas.

‘Environmental Health in Garhwal Himalayas’ by Ramila Bisht (A study of Pauri Garhwal) published in the year 2002

containing latest authentic primary data pertaining to prevailing socio-economic environment in the hill state of Uttarakhand. The study (Thesis) is based on an areas study of five villages of Yamkeshwar Development Block in Pauri Garhwal district.

The book 'Environmental Health in Garhwal Himalayas' rightly brings out that, "for centuries the people of Uttarakhand hill region have wrested a very comfortable living from a very difficult terrain. The pattern of life that survived for centuries has now been transformed by the inroads of development which has been resource intensive, ignoring the socio-economy of the local people. The advent of industrialization and the modern state with its political centralization, development of transport and Communication and other aspects of infrastructure such as permanent markets, the extension of law and other machinery etc. have undermined the self-sufficiency of the village and the close relationship of man with nature has been disturbed." The concept of local level planning practiced in China, U.S.A and own experience in India since the inception of Sixth five year plan have been included in this report for comparative study.

After having completed the detailed examination of all issues involved, it was felt necessary to divide the whole study report into six parts for clear understanding of problem in various stages and suggest specific or combined policy intervention under the relevant chapter or part of the study report. First part of the study report provides an introduction to the new state of Uttarakhand with basic data universally used to know the broad picture of the state. Part-II of the study report examines poverty and status of Human Development Index in Uttarakhand in the light of National Human Development Report-2001 and further analyses the indices fixed by the Planning Commission and whether the same has any meaning for the people living in a hilly state like Uttarakhand where forest

and agriculture are the basic needs of the people and not road and electricity.

Part-III of the study reports covers planning and development process adopted since the inception of Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85) introduced for the development of hilly and other specified backward region in the country. To what extent hill area sub-plan has helped or failed in the development of the hill region of Uttarakhand State has been covered in this study report. Part-IV of the study report reviewed budget allotment and utilization of funds by various departments connected with development during the year 1982-83 where it is found that money was simply distributed among various offices of the department from state to district level. As a result of this no single program or project could have been completed nor could have produced result both in terms of income or assets for the people living in rural and hilly areas. In fact the utilization of budget has only increased the assets and expenditure of the government which is now forced to sell assets to private sector on the one hand and reduce government expenditure on the other side.

Part-V of the study report brings out an alternative approach to the development of a hilly region like Uttarakhand which involves a major policy intervention to understand poverty and related problems and then draw realistic development plans for implementation. Finally, it was appreciated that unless there is improvement in governance, the ultimate goal of planning and development can not accomplished. Only effective government machinery which understands local conditions and adopt realistic approach to planning and development, prepare comprehensive plan document, do better management of financial resources and effectively monitor implementation of development program-can produce desired results. Good governance (political, civic and

economic) can be provided only by well trained, dedicated and experienced employees at all level of government which has been discussed briefly in the last Part-VI of this study report. However, it requires detailed study of the existing structure of each department, administrative-financial-technical powers of personnel, responsible in accordance to existing or non existing rules and procedures. Only after detailed study remedial measures can be suggested to improve the quality of governance in general and governance for the development of a hilly state in particular.

Findings of this research study will definitely help planning commission, Government of India to get first hand information about ground realities with particular reference to : (1) As to how multiplicity of various government agencies are working and spending money for the socio-economic development of the district without any consideration to human development with no short term or long term perspective plan drawn for the development of the region. (2) As to how data are being collected, compiled and analyzed independently by various agencies of the government and non-government organizations to which district or state planning committees has no access, control or interaction. The findings of this research study will directly help the new state of Uttarakhand to streamline the planning process, modify plan strategy and draw short term and long term perspective development plans for the new state of Uttarakhand and improve the quality of governance to achieve the goals set for human development by the Planning Commission. Lastly use of English language is also one of the handicap in local area planning and development and therefore, the research study report needs to be translated into Hindi for the benefit of Hindi speaking state for compliance by all connected with local area planning and development. *(The study project was completed in 2003 and published with the approval of Planning Commission in 2006.*

*The book has been reprinted and is presently distributed on line by Amazon/Flipkart etc.)*

## **GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL INDIA (2014)**

Not many people would remember today that at the time of independence in 1947, India was terribly short of food grain because the areas that produced surplus food grain were transferred to Pakistan. Even though India's population at that time was possibly one third, we had to import large quantities of wheat and rice from US, Canada and Australia. When the First five year plan was being drawn care was taken that increase in food production must be given priority. Hence the schemes of rural reconstruction. As a result of the efforts made, India is able to not only feed a population which is more than three time now than what it was in 1947 and also in a position to export wheat and rice, which is all due to the green revolution in which the rural development played an important role. The architect of this rural development was then a little known man S.K. Dey. Born on September 13, 1905 in Sylhet district of the present day Bangladesh, S.K. Dey's beginnings were humble. He called himself a farmers son. He was basically a public relations expert. He drew a plan based on the lessons of Gurudev Tagore's Santiniketan, Gandhiji's Sewagram, F.L. Bryane's experiment in Gurgaon and an American organization's work in Etawah district of U.P. and came to the conclusion that basically **one departmental work was complimentary to the others work and coordination would yield better results.**

His experiment at coordinated approach impressed all, including the rehabilitation Minister, Lady Mountbatten and Jawaharlal Nehru. S.K. Dey drew up a plan of community

development which could be initially implemented in 55 districts spread all over India. The project was actually launched on Gandhiji's birth day in 1952 at Alipur near Delhi by Jawaharlal Nehru and other dignitaries in other districts. Officers were specially chosen for the project. Care was taken to ensure that they were a committed lot. One of the officers had been working in Sewagram under Gandhiji. They were taken from other departments and not the revenue department whose reputation was somewhat 'tainted'. It was the dedicated approach of the community project officers that was responsible for the transformation in the rural areas and awakening of the people.

An important aspect of the program was the administrative unit. Before independence, the lowest administrative unit was the district, where the principle function of the collector was maintenance of law and order and collections of land revenue. For the collection of land revenue the administrative unit was the Tehsils or Taluk. The effective administrative unit was the district, where the agriculture, veterinary, education, health department had posted their representative. As against this S.K. Dey thought of a community project consisting of 300 villages and a population of 200000. Each community was provided with officers representing agriculture, veterinary, panchayat, cooperative, health department. Later it was realized that even the project of 300 villages and a population of 200000 was too big. Hence the decision of having three community development blocks in place of one Community development block was taken. Each community development block was to consist of 100 villages and population of 60000. This then was the unit where representative of the different departments were posted to work under the supervision of a Block Development Officer who was provided with a jeep. Furthermore, each CD Block was divided into ten circles of ten villages having a village level worker or Gram Sewak who maintained personal contact with, say

about 600 villagers and helped them resolve their problems with the guidance of the block level technical expert. Each community development block was provided with fifteen lakh rupees for incentive work for three years.

The success of the coordinated approach at the block level caught the imagination of the people. Therefore, there was a demand for the extension of the program. The USA agreed to help the community development project by sharing part of the expenditure. Government of India was to bear half cost, the rest being borne by the State Governments. The underlying idea was the people's participation. And the people came forward to help setting up schools or such work as Panchayat Ghar, village roads through voluntary labor etc. The people in the process realized the great potential they had. The community development block became the new administrative unit throughout India. It also led to the creation of new services e.g. block development officers, village level workers, or Gram Sewak and social service organizers/department had not existed in administration till then. Then Special institutes were set up in different parts of the country to produce and train such officers. All this was S.K. Dey, contribution.

In due course, as often happens, the dedicated officers, who had been able to motivate people for voluntary work, faded. The Panchayats were now encouraged to come forward and take over the development work, the basis being the three institutions of village Panchayat , village school and the village cooperative. So far dedication to the original concept of community officers is concerned, an ICS officer associated with the program had observed that, with the creation of a regular community development, a ministry had been born but a mission had been lost. The name community development was changed to rural development. However, it had done a pioneering job, created new administrative

units throughout India, and the Green Revolution. This study will go into all aspect of rural development which has mainly suffered due to urban development on the one hand, and the inability of the Government to formulate suitable policy and program on the other hand which could meet the changing demand of developing society both in rural and urban India.

Community Development program is one of the oldest program of the Government. No other program has been subjected to greater probe and scrutiny than this program meant to bring about an all-round improvement in the living conditions of rural India. Addressing both houses of Parliament on May 16, 1952, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, India's first President announced an 8-Point Program to raise the quality of life in Indian villages where the heart of India still beats. The Program included:

1. Reclamation of Wasteland providing water for Agriculture, development of other agricultural facilities for farmers;
2. Development of Roads and of Animal transport;
3. Provision of free and compulsory education unto Primary stage in every village of India;
4. Provision of Public Health and Community medical measures.
5. Providing Houses for all villagers;
6. Imparting Training to villages in different trades, including traditional trades handed over in the family from father to son;
7. Promotion of cottage industries and small-scale industries for self-employment; and
8. Other community program such as sports, Khel-Melas, and other cultural and entertainment program.

The First Five Year Plan envisaged the establishment of 500 Community Centers. In 1953 'National extension Service' was introduced. But Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957) found that the people's participation was not there and the village Panchayats were not even involved. The Committee, therefore, recommended a three-tier system of rural local government namely the village Panchayats at the local level i.e. village, the Panchayat-samiti at Block level and Zila Parishad at the district level. This was considered as a Magna Carta of Community participation in the New village which was to emerge in Free India. The Panchayati Raj institutions particularly the Gram Panchayats known as tiny legislatures worked very well till the mid-sixties but they fell out of favor as a form of local government.

The Ashok Mehta Committee Report (1978) sought to strengthen the Panchayati Raj not only thought community participation but also open participation of political parties, induction of women and youth to make Panchayati Raj a people's movement. He made 100 recommendation the two-tier system of Panchayati Raj instead the earlier three, viz the Mandal Panchayats and the Zila parishad. Elected directly by and from among the villagers all adult inhabitants of the village are its members. Most of these recommendations were theoretical. The result was the dream of 'Gram Rajya' remained unfulfilled till Rajiv Gandhi came on the scene, with his ideas of 'participatory development. He wanted rural development to be based on science and technology, where the Panchayati Raj system should play a pivotal role. He was of the view that this system alone can enhance the awareness of the villagers about the various schemes launched by the government.

On 24<sup>th</sup> April 1993 the Constitution (73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment) Act 1992 came into force. It was a Red-Letter Day for the Panchayati Raj. It gave constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj institution. The Act

provides for a three-tier system of Panchayati Raj in the all states having a population of 20 lakh, regular elections to these bodies every five years, reservation of seats for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and women, with not less than one-third of the seats reserved or them appointment of state finance commissions to recommend financial power to the Panchayats and to have district planning committees for preparing development plan for the entire district.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had made it abundantly clear to Plan panel that India has to improve delivery system and the Planning Commission was engaged to various ways and means to improve efficiency in the system of Governance today. But no solution has been found out to address this fundamental issue of governance and development of rural India. It is for this reason that this study was undertaken to highlight all possible known deficiencies in planning and functioning of all central/state government departments and agencies created or deployed for the welfare and development of rural India. The large scale corruption reported periodically in the implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana etc. all over the country can be attributed directly to poor governance at the level of state and below. The study was, therefore, titled 'Governance and Development of Rural India' which can be described as most comprehensive in terms of scope, holistic in terms of approach and truly empirical lasting a period of 15-20 years.

This study project has covered all aspects of rural development today which has mainly suffered due to fast growing urbanization on the one hand and inability of the government to formulate new policy framework to modify and reform program and program implementing agencies (PIA), which could meet the modern day requirement of a developing society in rural India. The

study succeeded in identifying all the governance issues related to all agencies directly involved in development of rural India. Each sector discussed in this study project includes plan perspective at national level, policy framework, program and scheme drawn at Government of India level for implementation of welfare and development program or scheme under each sector from state to village level. The findings and conclusion drawn in this study project report clearly brings out that there is multiplicity of both government and non-government agencies as well as duplication of welfare and development programs, schemes targeting same population in rural areas resulting into wastage of human and financial resources without any accountability and delivery of benefits to the beneficiaries. To overcome this problem, it is necessary that structural and functional reform of the existing government machinery at the level of state and below is undertaken to make them more effective to bring about visible development in rural India. (*The study project was completed in 2010 and published in 2014 with but copyright retained by the Planning Commission. The book has been reprinted and is presently distributed online by various agencies like Amazon/Flipkart etc.*)

## **MODERN LIFE MANAGEMENT GUIDE (2005)**

Hard Work used to be the dividing line between penury and survival in the old days. Today hard work is not merely about survival but living well also. However, time management coupled with hard work is the key to success. It is now an accepted fact that Indian middle class is becoming bigger every day. If the middle class fails to learn the art of managing the modern day life in the face of rising cost of living and demands of growing children increasing, they will be left with no alternative except sell off their ancestral

house or existing assets for their survival. While on the one hand single source of income is unable to meet the requirement of the middleclass families today particularly in urban areas-doubling of income through employment or self-employment for both husband and wife may result into neglect of the aged and the children who are left with no opportunity for sporting etc. except sitting with television or computer for entertainment. This is the first ever attempt to bring out a comprehensive 'Guidebook on Modern life Management' which deals with all important subjects affecting directly the personal, family, social and national life of all responsible and progressive citizens of the country. The importance of public education program is finally being realized in India too. It is the growing middleclass population of the country who have a responsibility not only to regulate their own lifestyle but also serve as a leader or a guide to other fellow citizens of the country following behind them.

While malnutrition is a major problem for a vast section of the population in our country, lifestyle defects are fast emerging as an equally serious concern for the people as well as the Government institutions. Increasing population, fast developing surface transport system, telecommunication, movement of population, total dependence of human being on modern technology, oil and machine- now require proper education to manage modern day life efficiently both in rural as well as urban areas. Unfortunately uncontrolled and unplanned urbanization of small and big towns have also created many more social and health problems for the people residing in urban and semi urban areas. The problems faced particularly by the educated middle class include not only the health of the family members but also the problems related to social security, financial security, housing and total dependence on service sector for all their daily requirement.

Besides health problems created by pollution and environmental degradation, the World Health Organization (WHO) has estimated that 60 to 85 per cent of the people in the world, from both developed and developing countries, lead sedentary life style. As per WHO report, incidence of cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and obesity is on the rise because of the combination of physical inactivity, increasing tobacco use, poor nutrition and unhealthy dietary habits. India's crowded metropolis where life is characterized by fast paced movements, high level of stress and improper diet seem to be ideal breeding ground for lifestyle related ailments. Millions of citizens continue to be struggling against infectious diseases like tuberculosis and malaria. Although life style related diseases are on the increase, the number of people who continue to suffer from HIV or tuberculosis is very high. About 2.2 million new cases of tuberculosis are reported in India every year. Most of the people are generally ignorant about the causes of their ailment, first aid, preventive or precautionary measures that can be undertaken and also treatment facilities or options available for all kinds of ailments.

Whereas increasing population, poverty and malnutrition are the main reason for poor health in rural areas, unplanned development of social and service sector are the main reasons for the problems related to health, housing etc. multiplying in urban areas. Regular physical activity benefits communities and economies in terms of reduced health care costs, increased productivity and better performance at schools. Physical activity should begin sooner rather than later in ones life span. Parents, schools and community should provide a supportive environment that encourages and integrates physical activity into our daily lives. People of all ages must be introduced to regular physical activities and provided with opportunities and skills that can be enjoyed for many years. The health benefits from regular physical activities are many and can

prevent a variety of non-communicable diseases. Even though life expectancy is increasing in India, the people suffering from non-communicable diseases are also on the rise.

Only good health does not have any meaning if an individual fails to utilize economic prosperity, mental and physical health for the good of the family and the society. The Government efforts, to undertake public education program have been limited to publishing full page advertisement in national dailies year after year, generally on the occasion of national or international day fixed for remembrance with a view to educate or remind the people at large on matters of national and public interest including issues related to health, social security, social welfare etc. These advertisement, though containing valuable information with special message from the President, Prime Minister, Chief Ministers and the Minister of the department concerned, could hardly be made use by any individual. The public at large does not take these advertisement or publicity material seriously nor they have time to study the newspaper in detail. Besides sensational news occupying the main headlines of all news papers in the present day world, news related to crime and politics are the main attraction for other news seekers. As a result of this phenomenon news, views and information useful for the people at large get diluted and is wasted out, without being made use by anyone.

Innumerable and voluminous guide books on each specific subject affecting day to day life of the individuals cannot serve any purpose. An individual need guidance in a nut-shell and not lengthy books written for specialist or professionals. The lifestyle of the people in urban India is changing dramatically due to fast developing economy, tele communication, transport system and computerization etc. No one has time to read lengthy articles and books in a fast moving and busy life of the citizens today. Nor it is

possible for an individual to buy books on every subject, study and then act to manage their day to day life mostly revolving around health, housing and finance etc. It is for this reason that this single comprehensive guidebook has been written to provide basic and essential information in a nut-shell on all subjects connected with the management of modern-day life. Every effort has been made in this book to include all the information on need to know basis so that one could take preventive, precautionary and pro-active measures on matters related to health and also do proper planning on matter related to housing, finance, travel, education of children, care of the women and the aged etc.

The book also contains basic and essential information which will help individuals to take right decision and approach appropriate authorities to deal with all the problems related to citizens rights and responsibilities including basic legal rights. 158 topics included in this 'Guidebook' have been covered in 20 Parts representing twenty main subjects related to 'Life Management'. Now you don't have to search for 158 books, pamphlets, leaflets, authorities or institutions to deal with your day to day requirement related to general health as well as deadly diseases, senior citizens and care of the aged, housing, cooking, power management, car buying, kitchen gardening, sports, match making, citizens rights and responsibilities, basic legal rights, travel rules and personal financial management etc. This book is equally valuable for housewives, househusbands, busy executives and those living or working in remote and difficult areas with limited facilities. This book is equally useful for various government and non-government organizations who are genuinely interested to work for human resource development and welfare of the society as a whole. The book also aims at educating citizens who are economically better off but least informed about their family, social and national responsibilities. Besides being educationally and economically forward, one also

needs to be responsible citizen of the country. Major portion of this book deals with the health of the children, adults and the aged. Healthy citizens are the most valuable resource of any country and only healthy and responsible citizens can strengthen the health, economy and pride of the nation. (*The book was published by me in 2005*)

## 5

## **COMPILATION OF DEFENCE SERVICES PENSION RULES**

There have been far too many amendments to basic Military pension rules during last 35 years as a result of Fourth/Fifth/Sixth pay commission report and ruling given by the Supreme Court etc. Original rules, regulations and Act enacted and notified prior to independence are there with reference to Military Pensioners and the same continue to be in the statute book till to date. After independence the Pension Regulations were drafted and notified separately for the Army, Navy and Air Force. Subsequently, the pay commission report decided to consider Military Pensioners as one category of pensioners. Thereafter, all orders issued to implement the pay commission report, especially after the Fourth Pay commission report, are referred to as Armed Forces pensioners or Defence Pensioners. Each order ends with a phrase that, "the Pension Regulation for the Army, Navy and Air Force or for the three services will be amended in due course of time." The truth is that Pension Regulation for the Army, Navy and Air Force do not exist today. Because each paragraph of the three pension regulation stand amended and superseded. The requirement of the day is to draft a new pension regulation for the Defence Services incorporating all the basic, amended and extended pension rules and pensionary benefits

granted from time to time which should also have the approval of Law Ministry. Otherwise there will be no end to anomalies, amendments, clarifications being issued by the Ministry of Defense on the one hand and the confusion in the mind of the pensioners, pension sanctioning/disbursing authorities on the other hand. Non-availability of up-to-date Pension regulation has resulted into hundreds of representations, petitions and court cases pertaining to Armed forces pensioners pending with various authorities in the country.

Government orders issued to implement pay commission report have been either on the authority of letters issued by the Ministry of Personnel PG & Pension or by the Ministry of Defense on their own. Letters issued by the Ministry of Personnel could be divided into three categories. First, consolidated orders like periodical increase in Dearness allowance/relief which is applicable to all category of Central Government employees including Armed Forces. Secondly, orders issued by the Ministry of Personnel PG and Pension and based on which separate orders are issued by the Ministry of Defence and Thirdly, orders issued by the Ministry of Defence on their own to regulate special monetary/pensionary benefits applicable to Armed Forces personnel only. This procedure has created additional anomalies and confusion both in the mind of pensioners as well as pension disbursing authorities. In the case of consolidated or one single order issued by the Department of Personnel and adopted say by the Ministry of Defence, subsequent amendment and clarifications issued by the Ministry of Personnel do not reach all concerned authorities for implementation. Similarly, if the order issued by the Department of Personnel is challenged in any court of law and declared unconstitutional, cancellation or amendment of the order as a result of court order do not reach all concerned in time for implementation. It is for this very reason that 'Compilation of Defense Services Pension rules' was undertaken by

me and the importance of this 'Manual' cannot be over emphasized till such time revised and updated Pension regulation for the Defense services is notified by the Government.

I have been dealing with military pensioners claims both in my personal capacity and official capacity as District Soldiers Welfare Officer in the state of Uttar Pradesh from 1983 to 1999. During this period at least about 150 cases (being 5 to 50 year old) were taken up with the concerned authorities and decided in favor of the claimants. These cases could be divided into various categories i.e. pension not claimed, pension claimed but wrong details given, pension sanctioned/revised at lower rates, pension not sanctioned due to wrong or more than one claimants even though all of them were entitled to pension, pension wrongly or for some other reason stopped and the pensioner failed to get it restored and also like disability pension stopped due to non- availability of resurvey medical board proceedings etc.

The main reason for the above state of affair are, ignorance of pension rules, not following the laid down procedures, so called guidance by self styled welfare workers living in remote villages and towns who are not at all aware of latest and changing pensionary entitlement after every CPC report. Unfortunately, the official machinery including 'District Soldiers Welfare Officers' are equally ignorant of pension rules due to lack of interest, non-availability of updated orders/regulations or 'Manual.' And finally even if the 'Manual' are made available, no one tries to go through the orders/rules and decisions are taken by PSA'/PDA's on the basis of general knowledge resulting into unnecessary correspondence, representation to Govt. of India and court cases. In many cases claimants die before receiving their due entitlement of pension. The problem faced by military pensioners is bound to multiply when their pension claims are being settled by Civilian/Bank employees at

various level who are themselves governed by different set of civil service pension rules.

Unfortunately, implementation of Government decision on the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission has been far from satisfactory. After the issue of first letter on 11 November, 2008, there have been far too many amendment, clarifications as a result of court orders, representation from various categories of Armed Forces pensioners and on the basis of Cabinet Secretary's Committee (CSC) recommendations. All the original orders are available in the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (2005) that were applicable after 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> CPC report and 5<sup>th</sup> edition (2014) contains orders issued after 6<sup>th</sup> CPC recommendations. In this edition every effort has been to consolidate orders under specific heading notified till the month of February, 2019 on the recommendations of 7<sup>th</sup> CPC. Large number of government orders, issued prior to implementation of 6<sup>th</sup> CPC recommendations and after 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> CPC report continue to be applicable in many cases which have been quoted in various Government orders issued by GoI to regulate revised pensionary benefits granted w.e.f. 1.1.1996/1.1.2006/1.1.2016. Copies of the required orders are available in the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Edition of this 'Manual'.

In addition to the above, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition also includes additional orders/amendments/clarifications issued to implement 6<sup>th</sup> CPC recommendations applicable w.e.f. 1.1.2006, OROP w.e.f. 1.7.2014 and Army pay rules, amendment to pay fixation rules applicable to re-employed pensioners w.e.f. 1.1.2016. Last Section-X of this 'Manual' contains common errors in entitlement and payment of pension to pensioners notified by the PCDA(P) Allahabad. Annexure/Tables running into about 500 pages have not been included. However, to know exact entitlement of individual pensioner, users can access to [www.pcdapension.nic.in](http://www.pcdapension.nic.in) if not

satisfied with the amount of pension sanctioned by the PSA's or being paid by the PDA's.

### Part-III

## PREVIEW OF LATEST BOOKS AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE OF CHI

### 1

#### **GOD FAITH AND RELIGION**

During my childhood, my mother started telling me stories from 'Ramayana' and 'Mahabharata' as well as teaching from the holy book 'Gita' which she used to read in a monthly Hindi magazine 'Kalyan' during her spare time. Ramayana, Mahabharata and Bhagavad Gita are supposed to be kept in every house who believed in Hindu religion. Once I started my schooling, there was no time to read or listen teaching of Holy books even though all my family members took part in all kinds of worship and rituals as per traditions starting from Shiva worship to Durga worship. Beside that every Hindu family also have family deity and village deity which are also worshipped regularly and to be never forgotten or else you may invite curse or unhappiness of the god and goddesses. In my own family we had two family deity i.e. Nag Devta and Narsingh Devta (Narsimha).

Once I finished my schooling and joined military service, I started looking for books on Ramayana, Mahabharata and Gita in English language instead of Sanskrit or Hindi. I was more curious to know the teaching of Bhagavad Gita because my mother used to tell me that the holy book Gita is not for children because it is difficult to understand even by adult. However, my mother did teach me essence of Shrimad Bhagavad Gita i.e. Thy right is to work only but

never to the fruits thereof, which I continue to follow till to date. I even went further and named my house as' Karma cottage' in 1973.

It was after 1973 that I was able to buy Mahabharata in English language retold by William Buck which was published by New American Library, London in 1973. Thereafter, I kept on looking for books on ancient and Vedic civilization including Ramayana, Mahabharata and Gita in English language published in India and abroad to strengthen my knowledge about God Faith and Religion. The result was that I had 22 books in my library to study and then write this book for the benefit of the readers. The list of books I have gone through is given in the bibliography.

After my retirement in 1999 from military- civil service I took up to full time research and writing and successfully completed two research projects titled ' Poverty Planning and Development' published in 2006 and 'Governance and Development of Rural India' published in 2014. Beside other books I had also written a book on 'Modern Life Management Guide' as part of research study for citizenship education program which was published in 2005. Right now the world is going through the worst period in its history due to climate change, pandemic and military conflicts. In recent years we have been mainly talking, reading and writing about military power and economic strength of the countries at the cost of Human Development Index (HDI) going down steadily all over the world. Unfortunately, there is a total decline in 'dharma' (right- action-duty) and 'adharma' ( wrong doing) is on the rise. It was, therefore, the right time for me to complete this book on 'God Faith and Religion' and publish it in the larger interest of mankind.

Oral as well as written knowledge of Vedas, Puranas, Upanishads and Gita is vast and touching all aspects of human life from birth to death and thereafter. The oral knowledge obtained by ancient sage and saint was through transcendent revelation (sruti) or

through traditional teaching by wise human beings (smriti). Lengthy sacred books in 'Sanskrit' with different translation, interpretation and elaboration by religious teachers, godmen and gurus fail to reach large population who remain mainly occupied to earn for their livelihood and survival in a highly competitive society in the world today.

In this book I have, therefore, tried to help devotees to understand ancient cultural history of India on the one hand and easy way to understand the existence of God as super power (not a country) already accepted by all religions in the world. For the ordinary people with or without education, it is good enough to worship their family deity or village deity in India a representative image of God on whom the devotees have blind or full faith to get rid off all kinds problems he or she may be facing in life. However, for the educated masses of today it is necessary to have better understanding of 'God Faith and Religion' for peace and happiness for self, family and the society. To this end, I hope that the book will prove to be valuable and useful.

An introduction to mankind, God and civilization has been covered in Part-I of this book. As far as ancient and Vedic civilization is concerned the same has been covered briefly in Part -II of this book. Sacred book of Vedas and Upanishad contain information about the development of Hindu culture since the very creation of the universe by Brahma Himself. The other details available in Part-II of this book are: the Aryan and their sacred books, religion of Rig Vedic period, epic age of Ramayana and Mahabharata, Hindu mythological time structure and incarnation of God.

The meaning of religion given in 'Bhargava's standard illustrated dictionary is that: a prevalent system of faith and worship, practice of sacred rites (religious ceremony/observance) or rituals (manner of performing rites, recognition of God and duty (devotion) towards Him. According to progressive English Dictionary, the

definition/meaning of religion also includes: belief in God as the creator and the controller of the universe and system of faith and worship on such belief. Together, the meaning of religion given in the two dictionaries are good enough to understand the meaning of religion as far as followers of any religion are concerned. However, the third dictionary 'NEW ROGET'S THESAURUS IN DICTIONARY FORM' has given various alternative name of religion which include creed, faith, religious persuasion, church, religious preference, orthodoxy, cult, cultism, denomination, sect, theology, divinity and hierology. Beside this, names of all living religions of the world are also given in the dictionary.

Faith is a trust or belief in the philosophy of a particular religion and what that religion expects you to follow the principles or tenets laid down. At present we have many living religion in the world which include Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Bahai's Faith etc. In this book I have included the origin, philosophy and belief of Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism born out of Hinduism in Part-VI of the book. History and philosophy of all other religions of the world have been covered in Part-IX of this book. Devotees will find that almost all religion believe in one God and service to mankind through worship and prayer according to their own customs and traditions

Bhagavad-Gita sums up the true knowledge contained in Vedas, Puran and Upanishad dating back to 10000 years as per latest research study papers published by historians and included in this book. It is this knowledge which Lord Krishna applied to motivate Arjuna to do his duty and to overcome the ideological conflict that Arjuna was faced with. Those who want to run away from 'Karma' (duty) and become saint can never realize God. Those who acquire Knowledge while doing their duty are the true saint. Lord Krishna said that whenever and wherever there is decline in religious

practices and predominant rise of irreligion, He descends on the earth himself to save the mankind from the suffering caused by evil forces and establish truth in the society. Evil human being can be described as bad, harmful, sinful, evil minded, wicked nature and malicious. As against evil minded, truth must prevail which means the quality of being truthful, fidelity, veracity, reality, virtue, honesty, sincerity and constancy.

Bhagavad-Gita has answers to all the queries from every human being. However, dissemination of knowledge of the holy book could not reach ordinary people mainly it is vast and in 'Sanskrit' language. Even though 'Gita' has been translated in English language by many learned religious teachers, the translation elaboration and interpretation has neither been uniform nor universal. In this book I have tried to enlighten and explain the basic knowledge of 'God Faith and Religion' with special emphasis on teaching from the holy book 'Gita' in the larger interest of mankind with the divine blessings of Lord Krishna only. I have attempted to present the historical background of 'God Faith and Religion' and its importance in a nutshell for the smooth functioning of the society for peace, happiness and survival of individual human being in this earth planet with resources diminishing on the one hand and demand increasing on the other hand due to population multiplying year after year.

The time and environment in which we are living today and peculiarity of human nature, we are unable to translate our knowledge into action in spite of our desire to practice self discipline. The main cause responsible for this is ignorance combined with absence of faith in God, the scriptures and great sages, saints and philosophers who have been preaching about existence and faith in God for ages. If you do not believe in holy book 'Gita' you should repose faith in God accordingly as you have conceived of Him and surrendering yourself to Him, apply yourself in right earnest to the

work of self realization. Supposing you doubt even the existence of God, you should look for the ideal man of the age and arm yourself with sufficient courage to follow in his footsteps. He who does not withdraw his mind from idle pursuits, lethargy and enjoyment of sense objects and put it on the right track and proceeds along the downward path.

"It is well and good if one realizes Him in this very life, if on the contrary one fails to know Him in this life, he will be a greater loser. Man of strong determination who seek for the lord in every creature attain immortality on casting off this body." -Kenopanishad-II: 5.

Therefore, one has to tread this path of self- evolution by himself; no one else can do it for him. Idle pursuits, lethargy, enjoyment of sense objects and immoral practices out to be given up as the greatest stumbling blocks on this path. By fixing one's mind on God one can easily surmount all difficulties through his grace. Lord Krishna says: 'For the wonderful illusion of mine consisting of three Gunas (modes of nature) is extremely difficult to get over; those, however, who take refuge in Me alone cross at. (Chapter-VII verse 14)

After completing life long research study project on 'God Faith and Religion' and documenting the outcome of the study, I find that the book is likely to contribute and further strengthen the faith of mankind in God and unity among followers of different religions and sects for peace and happiness of each individual family and the society. Once human being has accepted and realized the existence of God and understood the teaching of his religion, he is likely to work only for the welfare and development of the society on this planet earth. It is also equally important for mankind to understand the historical background of all civilizations in this earth planet so that he is able to realize the role played by God Faith and

Religion for the wellbeing of mankind in different part of this planet earth.

Earlier the human being had no or limited communication system to understand each others religion with particular reference to historical background and philosophy behind the origin of different religion on this planet earth. This resulted into all kinds of differences among various religious groups within and outside the countries leading to political and military conflicts all over the world. However, once the people are given correct information and education about God Faith and Religion, the chances of conflicts will reduce considerably in this world.

The aim of this book is not to sermonize on 'God Faith and Religion' but to let ordinary human being understand the importance of 'God Faith and Religion' for the very survival of human being on this planet earth. I was not a preacher or a religious teacher but only a research scholar. This research study is purely empirical and as experienced by the author of this book. To this end every word that has been spoken and written about God Faith and Religion from time immemorial has been studied to fulfil the purpose of this book. Today the 'World is One' and all countries are interdependent for their survival and therefore the unity of purpose on the issue of 'God Faith and Religion' should not be overlooked.

Every effort has been made in the book to present historical background and philosophy of Hindu religion being the oldest indigenous religion of the world. Scripture of Vedic civilization are too vast and relevant for historians. Vedic scriptures do give clear picture of highly developed Vedic civilization that was existing at least ten thousand years ago as per latest discoveries made by geologist, archaeologist, astrologers, scientist, sociologist and historians in India and abroad. The available information has been quoted appropriately in this book in nutshell for the information and education of all about 'God Faith and Religion'. The

'Encyclopaedia of Hindu Religion' compiled by Indian Heritage Foundation released in 11 volume, contains 7000 entries which includes ancient history, science, art, culture, music, dance, politics, religion etc. This document can be useful for historians and teachers but not for understanding the belief in 'God Faith and Religion' practiced by various religious group in this world today.

For glossary of Vedic words with explanatory notes used by the followers of Hindu religion including Manu smriti have been given at the end of this book. The oldest 'Dharma Shastra' (Laws of Manu) which was written in Sanskrit language includes jurisprudence, philosophy and religion to create an extraordinary model of how life should be lived in public and in private, by untouchables as well as priest or kings and by women as well as men. Customs, rites and rituals performed in connection with birth, marriage, death, funeral and worship of ancestors are also laid down in the scriptures for the followers of Hindu religion which may be followed even today depending upon the circumstances and the availability of a qualified priest in Dharma Shastra's. (*The book was completed in the year 2021 and presently uploaded on the website: chidehradun.com*)

## 2

### WELFARE OF INDIAN ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL

#### Introduction

In the present context, the Indian Armed Forces has a dual responsibility. Besides protecting the national border (15168 Kms of land and 5689 Kms of maritime border) and as a deterrent against any form of real or anticipated foreign aggression, it maintains internal unity and integrity of the nation by coming in the aid of the civil administration in emergent situations. It is often deployed by the civil authorities to crush communal riots and other major law

and order problems. The Armed forces are called to restore the essential services in case of snap strikes, and to mobilize its resources in the aid of the nation on a war footing during grave natural calamity. The soldier is an important human element behind the grand military machine. He has the great honor to wear the country's uniform; and in turn, he is willing to lay down his life for the defense of the country. But like every human being, he does have his own problems and inclination, which are to be cared for by the nation. His problems have to be attended to with sincerity, sympathy and urgency. Then only nation can expect its soldiers to be ever prepared to sacrifice his precious life with pride and contentment.

Considering the magnitude of the Armed forces immense responsibility, it is logical to conclude that it is in the interest of the nation to accord priority to soldiers wherever necessary. Indeed no human life carries a price tag, and the least of all the soldiers. So the person, who is ever willing and eager to die for his nation, certainly deserves something more than common citizenry. Therefore, it is the sacrosanct duty of the bureaucracy- the executive arm of the government to look after the interest of the Armed forces personnel.

For ages Indian Armed forces were manned by professional soldiers who were always proud of being soldiers and sacrificed their life for the country without asking for any additional monetary benefits. Time have changed now and in a democratic and developing society with higher pay and perks, the wages has to keep pace with cost of living for all including personnel serving in the Armed forces. Thus the Government of was bound to constitute Pay commission from time to time to examine the existing wages for all government employees including Armed forces personnel. While in case of civilian employees, successive Pay commission did present a report to the satisfaction of the civilian employees, the military

pensioners claim /demand could not be studied in a comprehensive manner for various reasons and therefore recommendation made by the Pay commissions particularly after 4<sup>th</sup>,5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> pay commission has in fact resulted into more anomalies and court cases instead of rationalization or parity in pay and pension between military pensioners retiring prior to or after 1986.

The Indian Armed Forces have deep rooted traditional values which they have followed for centuries. It is these traditional values and regimental tradition and training which makes them do supreme sacrifice for the defense of the country. While the soldiers were duly honored, rewarded and respected in the society prior to and after independence for the defense of the country both during war and peace, the situation has deteriorated in recent years. The soldiers have also been compelled now to fight for their due pay, promotion and pension etc. and approach various court, tribunal both during service and after retirement. The veterans feel that the bureaucracy and political leadership is least interested in the welfare and morale of soldiers which is an important factor to win war both within or outside the country. The demand for OROP was the result of this negligence and the soldiers continue to struggle to regain their lost pride and honor.

The service conditions peculiar to Armed forces affecting the pay, promotions and subsequently pension and terminal benefits must be understood by all those concerned about the welfare and morale of soldiers as well as its adverse effect on the performance of the Armed forces personnel. Criteria for promotion to the next higher rank keeps on changing in the Armed forces depending upon the vacancies available in all branches of three services at different point of time due to sudden expansion, reduction and reorganization undertaken to meet the security threat to the country. There can be no minimum service limit laid down for promotions. During

emergency say in 1964-65, one could become Captain/ Major without any service limit. As a matter of policy all ranks in the Armed forces are also trained to hold two next higher ranks.

Unfortunately, there is nothing known as Assured Career Progression (ACP) scheme and no career planning can be done in the Armed forces which often results into stagnation at middle and higher level affecting both officers and PBOR. Upgrading of post or downgrading of rank structure on ad-hoc basis is not the solution to ensure due time bound promotion on merit. Prior to 1986, certain post that were held by an officer of the rank of Major with 10-15 year of service, are now held by an officer of the rank of Colonel with 20-25 years of service as a result of up gradation of post.

As far as pay scales or pay band applicable to Armed forces personnel are concerned, broad parity between pay scales of Armed forces personnel and civilian Group 'A' officers in general and IPS officers in particular will have to be maintained. Revision of lower and higher pay scales and pay fixation without broad parity in terms of status vis-à-vis Junior, Senior and Higher administrative grade or Class A,B,C,D of civil services will have serious repercussions in lateral entry on re employment of Armed forces personnel in various analogous post both in civil services and Central Para Military forces. The 6<sup>th</sup> CPC had rightly recommended Military Services Pay (MSP) for Armed forces personnel over and above pay band and grade pay. The MSP can be revised or modified for each rank by GoI whenever considered necessary and the military pensioners could be compensated for the financial loss they suffer due to non-existence of Assured Career Progression (ACP) scheme and non- implementation of Dynamic Assured Career Progression (DACP) scheme resulting into lower pay, promotion and subsequently retirement benefits.

Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) had recommended that grant of DACP scheme only to doctors would lead to resentment and not be in the interest of national security and smooth functioning of Armed forces. It will cause stratification of the officer cadre, based on differential in grade pay with consequent command and control ramification. DACP is currently applicable to technical services- doctors, dentist and scientists in central government services. Under DACP a doctor is suppose to get functional grade pay of Rs.8700/- (equivalent to Director or Colonel) at 13 years and non-functional grade pay of Rs.10000/- (Joint Secretary level) at 20 years of service.

Joint consultative machinery for Central government employees had also represented to the 7<sup>th</sup> CPC for grant of OROP for all post to remove injustice done to them. The 7<sup>th</sup> CPC had also recommended that there will be parity between past and present pensioners with same length of service and pay scale held at the time of retirement. However, there is no justification to compare Military service with civil service or even Central Para military forces who are governed by different set of civil service rules and conditions of service. Military service is governed by strict military law which even denies certain fundamental rights in the interest of professional soldiering and national security. Military service involves round the year training and preparation for modern day warfare in all kinds of terrain in any part of the world. Fitness of both men and weapons with highest level on proficiency has to be maintained all the time to be able to undertake any operation jointly with artillery, tanks, aircrafts and warships or independently by Army, Navy and Air Force at short notice and without even any warning.

Unlike civil service where one is available all the time to attend to his personnel problem and that of his dear ones round the year, a soldiers family is left alone to fend for themselves or be

dependent on others for security of the family and property etc. In other words, it is not only the soldier but his family also sacrifices for the sake of the country. While in civil service, one can proceed on leave and be absent from duty at his own sweet will, the military service is for 24x365 days and no one is permitted to be absent from duty without written permission provided he can be spared from duty.

Military is a steeply pyramid like hierarchy where only 3 per cent officers reach the rank of Brigadier. Unlike civilian counterparts where pay rises irrespective of promotion, soldiers pay is linked to military rank. Article 311 of the constitution gives full protection to AIS officers which is not available to Armed forces personnel. It was for this reason that military personnel were given 70% of the last pay as pension as against 30% to civilian employees prior to 1973. Since civilian employees have been moved to contributory pension scheme in 2004, military pensioners can now be given 70% of last pay drawn as pension in lieu of OROP and minimum guaranteed pension as and when pension is revised by the CPC.

### **Welfare of Armed forces personnel**

Indeed, the Armed forces occupy pre-eminent position in the country. The very existence and survival of the country as a nation primarily depends on the quality of its manpower and strength of the Armed forces. History is a witness to the fact that from the days of Chandragupta Maurya right up- to the advent of the British Raj and even beyond, the military was the prime cementing force which maintained the unity and integrity of the empire or country. It is a matter of historical record that the rise and fall of the major empires in the world depended mainly on the strength, efficiency and functioning of their existing military machine.

The welfare and morale of soldiers is considered as one of the 'principle of war'. The aim of welfare, as taught to Indian Armed forces personnel, is to ensure that a soldier gets all his due entitlement in time i.e.

- (a) Food, shelter, pay, allowances and due promotion in accordance to existing rules and regulations.
- (b) His family is not harassed by any authority on any count and is given prompt necessary assistance by the authorities concerned to help get their claims, dues or enforcement of their legal rights. So that the soldiers remain free from worries while carrying out his duties in defense of the country.
- (c) A soldier is paid all his terminal benefits, pension and medical facilities after retirement without any undue delay or harassment. Because a soldier who sacrificed his youth for the defense of the country under adverse conditions deserves to be treated with preference.

In case the soldiers fail to get their legal entitlement during service and after retirement, the welfare schemes undertaken on charitable basis may become totally irrelevant. This is also one of the main reasons, which has resulted into politicization of soldiers like scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and backward classes etc.

### **Welfare and Resettlement of Ex-servicemen**

Many brave soldiers of the Armed forces have made supreme sacrifice while defending the country during various wars and conflicts since 1947. These wars and operations have left many broken homes without a bread winner. A large number of Armed forces personnel have become disabled imposing severe handicaps on their capacity to maintain themselves and to support their families. Soldiers render yeomen service not only in times of conflict

and calamities but also in peace time. They guard our land, sea and air frontiers round the clock under extremely hazardous conditions. They also undertake valuable service in aid to civil authorities to restore law and order and also render help in the event of natural disasters. On numerous occasions, Indian Armed forces have played an effective role in the United Nations peace keeping operations in various parts of the world. It is therefore mandatory for the Government to ensure that Armed forces personnel and their families are well taken care of both during peace and war.

The requirement of keeping our Armed forces young and active necessitates their early release/ retirement at comparatively young age. Each year about 55000 soldiers, sailors and airmen between the ages 35-40 retire or released from service and also transferred to reserve list. These men are young, physically fit and mentally alert, and have qualities of leadership, drive and discipline. Since compulsory retirement is necessary in the interest of service, resettlement of ex-servicemen becomes moral responsibility of the Government. Befitting rehabilitation of the released Armed forces personnel contribute to a large extent towards the maintenance of high morale of serving personnel. It also motivates young men to get attracted towards a career in the Armed forces when they become aware that the terms and conditions of service are favorable in comparison to other professions and that the nation takes care of ex - servicemen and their families.

### **Changing role of civil administration**

According to a paper by an IAS officer published by United Service Institution of India New Delhi in 1986, the following four major indicators had been identified to assess the role played by civil administration while dealing with matters concerning Armed forces personnel.

- (a) The lack of adequate and ready response from the civil administration is the first indicator of the substantial erosion in the military-civil interaction. The soldiers has a growing feeling that he is not being attended to with much care. His pressing grievances are generally being ignored or looked into belatedly and in a slip-shod fashion. Whenever the soldier has some problem, he puts up his petition through the 'command channel'. The commanding officer normally sends a demi-official letter to the concerned civil authorities to look into the problem. Earlier, every such letter invoked a courteous and prompt response from the civil administration which are lacking today. And if reply comes after repeated reminder, it is usually not positive in its content.
- (b) Secondly, there has been a fall in the prestige and value of Armed forces personnel except during war, when soldiers are honored and even worshipped and thereafter forgotten. Such decline in the social estimation has reduced this once 'premier occupation' into a job of the 'last resort category'. Therefore, vacancies exist at various levels in the Armed forces due to non availability of right type of manpower.
- (c) Thirdly, the degree of erosion in the interaction pattern is also visible from the persistent family problems of the soldiers. The traditional social structure of joint family system breaking down coupled with the lack of adequate co-operation from civil administration, has heightened the insecurity in the soldier's family which affects both morale and performance of soldiers.
- (d) The fourth indicator is the mounting frustration among the soldiers. In this age of controls, quotas, permits and reservations, they do not get the kind of attention they used to get in the past. Since they neither have the money nor the time, either to bribe their way through or patiently await their

turn, they feel anguished, angered and let down. Individually, when a soldier's problem remain unresolved for a long time, a feeling of resentment, relative deprivation and despondency builds up in his psyche. In extreme cases, this mental state leads to desperation and may even culminate in suicide.

Bureaucracy in a transitional society assumes an entrepreneurial role as an initiator of change. But presently it is unresponsive, marked by red-tape, rampant corruption and declining professional ethics. Having said this, one must hasten to add that praise or blame will do little to alter the situation, which must be attended to if the bureaucracy has to acquire a new sense of direction, its performance capability sharpened, and its waning credibility restored. In this context, the corrective measures shall have to be pursued with absolute sincerity, devotion and integrity, or else, if the present trend continues, the nations Armed forces will be surely be in a sorry state. There will be frustration, demoralization and covert unwillingness to sacrifice life or lead precarious life style, and all round decline in the performance of the Armed forces.

Due to gradual democratization of the polity, control and direction on matters related to welfare of the Armed forces personnel have gone into the hands of far too many agencies, who are neither accountable nor trained to serve the personnel of Armed forces. This has resulted in steady neglect of welfare issues affecting Armed forces personnel.

Earlier it was said that military-civil interaction and cordial relationship was necessary for national security. This may have been true when the Armed forces enjoyed sufficient powers and authority to deal with civil matters affecting Armed forces personnel. But today in the democratic society and polity, the Armed forces

personnel are totally dependent on the civil administration for all matters affecting their livelihood. This interaction is said to have been conducive to favorable action in the early years after independence. But ever since, the trend started towards gradual erosion in the harmonious interaction. As a result there has been change in the perception of the soldiers who feels that he is not getting due consideration by the civil administration.

### **Failing of civil administration**

With the changing social structure with in Indian society, the bureaucracy denies special privileges and preferential treatment to an honest and sincere soldier by taking refuge in the name of rules and procedure. However, bureaucracy will resort to all kinds of manipulations to help or favor particular person or parties who have the resources to keep them in good humor. A soldier is neither able to bribe nor has any means to put political pressure on the officials for any kind of help or relief he is entitled to receive.

Failing of civil administration can also be attributed to low level of professionalism, inept handling of the major problems faced by the nation, inability to innovate and come up with imaginative solutions, lack of cost consciousness, extreme reluctance to take decisions and even neglect of routine administration which are left to be decided by the Account officer or Section officers at various level of the Department.

Further, as a result of proliferation of welfare and development program, the work load has increased at the level of Collector and Superintendent of Police at the district level. The number of ex- servicemen have also increased who can not be given personal attention by the district administration unlike during old days. The district administration now remains more preoccupied with the rights and relief available to SC's, ST's, religious minorities,

landless laborers etc. Here the importance of experienced District Soldiers Welfare officer with adequate staff and resources cannot be over emphasized.

The role played by local politician and rural leadership is also important who would generally look after the interest of their own group. The soldiers are apolitical and absent from rural scenario and therefore cannot identify themselves with any of the groups. This results into soldiers family not able to avail the benefit of other schemes universally applicable to all citizens. This job could be entrusted to qualified and dedicated welfare workers for soldiers and ex- servicemen.

### **Redress of grievances**

It had been reported a few years back that about 7000 petitions from ex servicemen were pending with the Ministry of Defence and another 350 are being received by the Prime Minister's office every month from the Armed forces personnel. In addition 6000 cases were pending in various courts and tribunal in the country.

Government of India may have realized by now that in spite of high power committees constituted from time to time such as High level committee to look into the problems of ex servicemen in 1984, Koshhyari committee recommendations on OROP, Cabinet Secretary's committee, Judicial Committee of 2015 on OROP- there is no end to litigation and grievances of Armed forces personnel. In 2020 names of 198 retired Major General had been notified on the website of PCDA(O) Pune whose pension had not been revised w.e.f. 1.1.1996 for want of certain documents even after Supreme Court Judgment dated 9.9.2008 and MoD policy letter issued on 15 July, 2009. It is not known as to how many of the affected officers may or may not be living to claim their due pension. The procedure laid down for revision of pension in respect of those officers who retired

prior to 1.1.1986 are also to be regulated as per policy laid down in MoD policy letter dated 27.5.1998. The worst kind of news was that serving officers of the rank of Major General had to approach the Court for correct fixation of their pay w.e.f. 1.1.2016. The problem of military pensioners has been discussed in detail in the following chapters.

The expert committee also observed that the representative of the MoD (Finance), IFA set-up, the CGDA and the office of PCDA(Pension) were not enthusiastic with ideas for bettering and further sensitizing the system and generally kept on shifting the onus on the other agencies/department. Today the civilian employees are least interested in military pay, pension rules because they are themselves governed by different set of pay and contributory pension rules. Defence Account Department (DAD) under Government of India headed by CGDA is responsible for financial advice, payment, accounting and internal audit in respect of expenditure and receipt of the Defence services and defense related organization such as DRDO, ordnance factories, coast guard and border road etc. Only an officer of Director level not necessarily from DAD who is well versed with pay, promotion and pension rules applicable to Armed forces personnel could do the job more efficiently and effectively provided official 'Manual' of rules and regulations are in place and available for ready reference.

## **Conclusion**

There is no end to non- payment of pension or illegally denying pension to all categories of pensioners including military pensioners in the country who are then forced to approach the high court, supreme court and tribunals etc. for grant of pension under the existing orders of the government. In most of the cases

government is ordered to pay pension which may take 20-30 years time

It will be in the interest of the country to end all anomalies in pay, promotion and pension rules including fundamental/subsidiary rules applicable to Armed forces once for all by notifying legally valid regulations. This can only be done by experienced people with up- to- date knowledge of existing pay, promotion and pension rules including fundamental/ subsidiary rules, constitution of India and court ruling given from time to time. Any other order notified in violation of constitution of India , court ruling is bound to create fresh anomalies and court cases. Service rules can not be laid down to benefit one group of employees and deprive another group employees with in same organization. Armed forces who remain fully occupied all the time to ensure internal and external security of the country can not wait for recommendations of Central Public Grievance commission to regulate rights of citizens for delivery of goods and services or Redress of Grievance Bill No.131 of 2011 and National Commission for ex- servicemen Bill 2015 etc.

Therefore fundamental pay, promotion and pension rules without any ambiguity can be drafted and notified for the Armed forces to implement present and future CPC report leaving no loophole for the record office, pay account office, pension sanctioning authorities and the departmental heads who act in a discretionary manner and without any accountability which is the main reason for grievances multiplying year after year. (*The article quoted above was also published in the Journal of the United Service Institution of India - July-September 2008. For other issues related to welfare of military pensioners visit [www.chidehradun.com](http://www.chidehradun.com)- page on Welfare of Indian Armed Forces Personnel*)

## **MAKING OF CORRUPTION FREE UNITED INDIA AFTER 75 YEARS (AS PROGRESSIVE AND WELFARE STATE)**

It is evident that the whole country is being misguided on the issue of corruption by members of civil society and the political parties where ever they are in opposition. Unfortunately, the media is equally responsible for this state of affairs who are not able to expose or highlight corruption without fear or favor. The other organizations and civil society, who raised the issue of corruption, are not accountable for political stability and national security. Therefore, the problem can best be addressed by the combined efforts of all political parties through existing system of parliamentary democracy in India provided political and electoral reforms are implemented immediately. The civil society who have the resources can continue to pursue the struggle against corruption by making best use of RTI Act and Public Interest Litigation to expose corruption in various organizations and favoritism committed on behalf of caste, community or family members. No exchange of money is involved in favoritism but it is also a form of corruption.

The one point agenda i.e. passing of Lok Pal Bill will neither eradicate nor reduce corruption in India. In a country of India's size with population over 140 crore living in 35 states/union territories governed by different political parties who are totally independent to manage the affairs in their respective states- it will be difficult to put up a united front to eradicate corruption when no one government is free from corruption.

Therefore, the present exercise to enact Lok Pal and Lok Ayukta bill and appointment thereafter has so far not given any positive results. In fact the offices of Lok Pal and Lok Ayukta are

becoming a parallel Centre of governance with additional burden on the state exchequer. The issue of corruption is being raised to malign the ruling party both at the center and states by the opposition parties only to gain political advantage during election and not for eradication of corruption. Whether the Prime Minister and the Judiciary is brought under Lok Pal or not, will not solve the problem of day to day corruption faced by the ordinary citizens of the country. Number of cases involving middle and lower level government employees are regularly caught and reported with unaccounted money and wealth running into crores of rupees which should be the main issue for those interested to eradicate corruption in the country.

It is often forgotten that 73 per cent of India's population continue to live in villages located in varying agroclimatic conditions where they have been practicing fair and co-operative means for their livelihood and survival from time immemorial. It is only the 20 per cent of the 27 per cent population (the lower middle class) mostly living or working in urban or semi urban areas who are facing the brunt of corruption in public services on the one hand and uncertain opportunities in employment, wages and inflation on the other. The political organizations give more importance to community interest and linguistic brotherhood rather than national interest or supremacy of law of the land. Obviously, corruption is not an important issue for many organizations and political parties.

It should be noted that as per Linguistic survey of India (LSI) carried out in 1894 by British Linguist, India has 179 languages and 544 dialects and 117 dialects have been identified now which are proposed to be included in the list. Each community has their own occupational and cultural practices who are now facing the problems created by new culture of corruption spreading in rural/tribal areas due to urbanization and increasing role being played by the

Government to implement welfare and rural development program in the country.

Over a period we have innovated various forms of corruption in the country. There are ordinary cases of bribery or collusive bribery where the bribe giver and bribe taker together take advantage and deprive the honest citizens of their fundamental rights. The other forms of corruption adopted by the so called literate and rich people are: income tax evasion by collusion, managing government work orders including advertisements and execution of sub-standard works, corruption by government officials while buying goods and services (public procurement), illegal exploitation of natural resources like mining forest etc., production of spurious drug food etc. injurious to health and violation of safety norms to earn fast and easy money. The most important issue that is being over looked is the corruption within government machinery. Bribery for recruitment, payment of salary, posting, promotions and payment of dues at the time of retirement. Therefore, the problem can be addressed only by undertaking necessary administrative and legal reforms to check corruption in each sector and department of the government.

However, administrative and legal reforms should aim at strengthening existing law enforcement authorities vertically from top to bottom. The existing authorities and law include Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Comptroller and Auditor General of Accounts of India, Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Prevention of Corruption Act,1988 and Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) etc. which are good enough to check corruption at all level involving multiple authorities such as CWG and Adarsh building society scam etc. Corruption can also be checked if prompt action is taken under existing Prevention of Corruption Act which includes (a) public servant taking

gratification other than legal remuneration in respect of official act  
(b) taking gratification by corrupt or illegal means in order to influence public servants (c) taking gratification for exercise of personnel influence with public servants.

Similarly, corruption in delivery of public services by various departments/agencies of Central/State government can be checked by strengthening and enforcing Civil Service Conduct rules/Classification Control and Appeal (CCA) rules etc. already in existence. Unfortunately rules are there in the statutory books and amended from time to time but not updated and honestly enforced to regulate the conduct of government employees. Since government employees themselves remain ignorant of Service rules, the number of court cases between government employees and the government continue to rise in various tribunal and courts in the country. Hence, day to day corruption in public services is overlooked and delivery of public services is either delayed or denied till such time one is willing to grease the palm of service providers.

Beside strengthening existing laws, the corruption can be checked by simply making each head of office, exercising administrative powers, directly responsible to check corruption in his own office and subordinate offices directly under his control. The head of the office should either take action against the employees indulging in corrupt practices or report the matter directly to anti-corruption department/ vigilance authorities of the state for further action. If head of the office fails to do his duty, then action can be taken against Head of the office under civil service conduct rules which can be amended accordingly. The scope and form of corruption vary from department to department and profession to profession and therefore needs different regulating mechanism in each department or profession. This can be done by the existing Law Commission of the country by undertaking reforms of all anti-

corruption agencies including departmental vigilance organizations responsible for prevention of corruption.

The people are generally ignorant of existing mechanism such as internal audits of accounts, vigilance wing under each department and police vigilance who can be made more effective and accountable after necessary reforms. This could check corruption at the lowest level and provide immediate relief to poor and helpless people living both in urban and rural India.

The issues needs to be discussed today are: (a) what are the existing laws and agencies available to deal with corruption in all walks of life. (b) what is the present status of agencies responsible to prevent corruption (c) how to make the existing agencies more efficient, effective and accountable? There is a need to identify all corruption cases decided by various courts during last ten years, status of cases under trial in various courts and status of cases under investigations. This will help Government and all other organizations including media to adopt more constructive approach to eradicate corruption in India. Lastly, but not the least , corruption in the Armed and Para Military forces, who are responsible for national security, should not be accepted at any cost. Therefore, any one found indulging in corrupt or undesirable activities within Armed Forces must be punished promptly and severely in the largest interest of the country. Similarly Armed forces personnel and their family members should be given full protection from corruption in civil society and civil administration which will always remain there in one form or other.

Now, that the issue of corruption has come to center stage, it will not die till such time concrete steps are taken to eradicate corruption in all walks of life which may take at least 5-10 years. How best this can be done systematically without disturbing political

stability, national security, day to day public administration, existing legal system and development of the country- is the key question before the government and civil society , which are proposed to be studied in-depth in this research project for brighter future of the country.( The article was first published in ' Garhwal Post' from Dehradun on 19 November, 2011 then titled 'Corruption and Lokpal Bill' which has been taken further as comprehensive research study project titled - Making of corruption free united India after 75 years (As progressive and welfare state)- (*The preamble and contents of the study project report are presently available on the website [www.chidehradun.com](http://www.chidehradun.com) and updated/revised edition of the report will be uploaded on 1 July and 1 January every year till we see visible sign of corruption free governance in India.*

#### Part-IV

### UPHOLDING TRADITIONAL VALUES AND REGIMENTAL TRADITIONS

#### 1

#### **GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION FOR ME AND MY BATTALION (1962-2012)**

Fifty years back one would not have dreamt of 'Golden Jubilee' but I was fortunate and honored to have attended the 'Golden Jubilee Celebration' of my Battalion on 15 November, 2012 at Jaipur. Besides serving personnel of the Battalion, large number of retired officers and PBOR were able to be part of this celebration. Many of these invitees were able to meet after 40 – 50 years. The mood was truly jubilant, full of enthusiasm and gaiety. The kind of honor I was given, because of my contribution, made me feel that I am still serving in the Battalion then at the age of 72. Though I had

written about farewell to soldiering in the last chapter of my book 'Selfless Soldiering' published in 1985, (Reproduced in Part-VII of this book), I have now realized that soldiers who believed in regimental and traditional values of Indian Armed Forces would never retire and say 'Farewell to Soldiering'.

I am delighted to record here that it was a very well planned, organized and conducted 'Golden Jubilee Celebration' of the Battalion at Jaipur and the Commanding Officer Colonel B B Singh and his team of officers then serving in the Battalion had done great service by making this historical day a memorable one. Special efforts made by the Commanding Officer to recount and reconstruct fifty years history of the Battalion with commendable record of achievements could be described an important event of the 'Golden Jubilee Celebration' of '**Smashing Seventh**'.

Besides younger one, it was also an opportunity for me personally to meet many officers after 40- 50 years and old soldiers like Sub Major Umrao Singh who was with me when we encountered heavy MMG fire in 1965 war during patrolling in Sialkot Sector, Sub Bhagirath who was with me during 'Ragini' operation on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1964 in Tangdhar sector (J&K), my last Sahayak Mohan Lal and Sub Durga Prasad who was part of Unit Basket Ball Team led by me when we played Divisional final match at Ferozepur in 1967 against a Sikh Battalion. It was a tough match which was played for extra time but we lost by one point.

It is also a matter of pride for us and satisfaction that 7 Jat has been doing extremely well since the days in Nagaland (1969-73), J&K (1994-96) and Mendhar Sector (J&K) (2002-03) taking the total gallantry award tally to 39 by 2010. Rightly 7 Jat was selected to serve under UN Peace Keeping Mission in Sudan (2007-08) because of its outstanding achievements where it earned the UN Force

Commanders unit citation for its excellent performance. The Battalion has unique distinction of receiving the Chief of the Army Staff Unit Citation twice in January, 1998 and January, 2003.

Lastly but not the least, specially designed folding 'baton' presented to us to Commemorate 'Golden Jubilee Celebration' will remain a valuable memento in our drawing room for all time to come.

## 2

### PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS AND SOLDIERING

It is also equally important that we do not forget the role played by officers who maintained highest degree of integrity in the interest of professional soldiering and gentleman. Such officers will always remain role model for all regiments of the Indian Army. Here I want to repeat what I had written about **late Lt Gen RK Jasbir Singh (1926-2010)** with whom I had long association lasting 46 years from 1964 to 2010. I was commissioned into 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Jat Regiment in 1963 and Gen Jasbir had taken over the Command of the Battalion as Major in 1964 and was later promoted to Lt Col.

Lt Gen Raj Kumar Jasbir Singh was born and educated in a royal family of former state of Jind, now part of Haryana state. He was a true war time soldier and has been in the forefront during every operation that the country fought since independence in 1947. In 1948-49, he served with 2/4 Gorkha Rifles in Guraish- Kanzalwan sector during Indo-Pak conflict. In 1955-56, he served with the Second (Mooltan) Battalion of the Jat Regiment in Naga Hills during the peak period of insurgency. In 1965 Indo-Pak war he was commanding 7<sup>th</sup> Bn of The Jat Regt which he led to capture Unche Wains and Salia in Sialkot sector. In 1971 he commanded 191 Infantry Brigade in Chamb sector which faced the brunt of Pakistani

offensive in the western sector. Gen Jasbir also served in Korea when he was Captain and as Company commander with 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Jat Regiment in Congo.

I was promoted to Major after three years of service in June 1966 and Lt Col RK Jasbir Singh was also posted out of the Battalion in 1966. When I had put in 7-8 of service, I wrote an article on raising special forces for mountain, jungle and desert warfare etc. and sent the same to then Brig RK Jasbir Singh for his comments. He was kind enough to send his comments which gave me confidence to write and pursue my studies in professional soldiering. When I sent a complimentary copy of my book 'Garhwal and Kumaon Hills' to Gen Jasbir in 1982 after my premature retirement, he appreciated my effort but pointed out that I should have mentioned the name of my Regiment/Bn along with my bio-data. This clearly reflected his true regimental spirit. Thereafter, I have given full details of my military career in all my books and bio-data published till to date.

Lt Gen RK Jasbir Singh was Col of the Jat Regiment from 1975 to 1985. It was during his tenure that 'History of the Jat Regiment- Vol II' was published. It was at his instance that an abridged Hindi version of the regimental history was published for the benefit of soldiers of the regiment. Gen Jasbir may not have asked any one for any kind of favor and was, therefore, never seen or inclined to do any undue favor to any one. He believed in selfless professional soldiering and self respect which I could also emulate in my life.

Gen Jasbir was very fond of reading and had good collection of books mainly connected with regimental traditions, military history and national security. His article 'An Introduction to a Jat Soldier' was published in Sainik Samachar on 17-18 September, 1995, is the best example of his love for regimental soldiering. Every time he spoke to newly commissioned officers in Dehradun, his main

emphasis was on physical fitness and knowing the men they would lead in war and peace. Lt Gen RK Jasbir Singh was in fact a warrior king and it is my belief that only gentlemen can become warrior and professional soldiers.

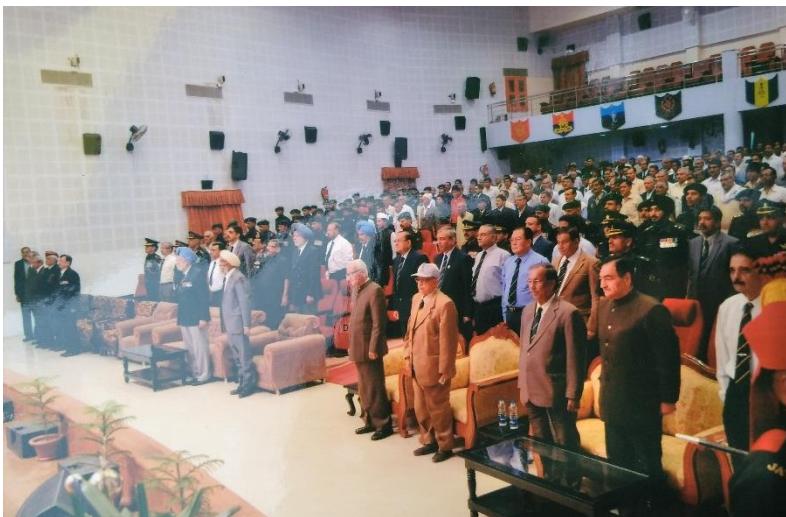
Gen Jasbir retired in 1983 and I was also reemployed in 1983 after my premature retirement. Since I was also residing close to his house, we had been meeting regularly and discussed mainly governance issues at the grass root level affecting both national security and national development. Meaningful discussion with Gen Jasbir also encouraged me to pursue my research studies which were undertaken by me and completed during later years as brought out in Part-II of this book.

## UPHOLDING TRADITIONAL VALUES OF ARMED FORCES





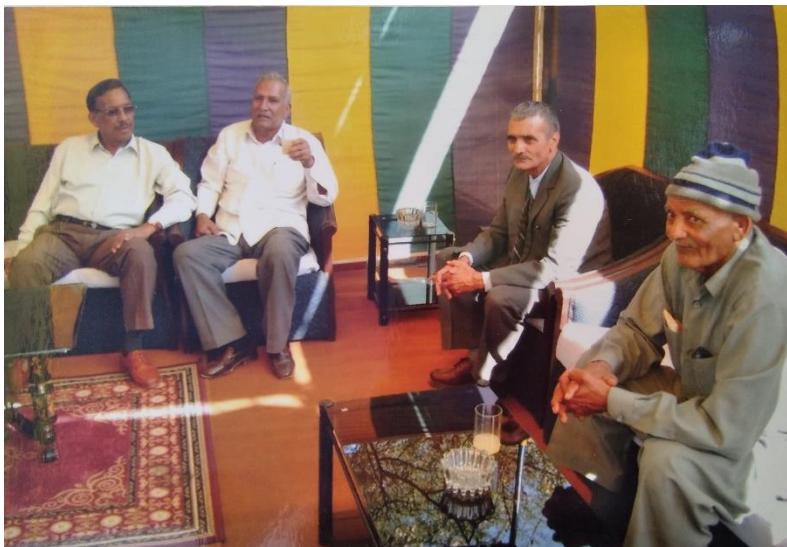
Col Bipin Bahadur Singh, then Commanding officer of 7<sup>th</sup> Bn The Jat Regt, had the privilege to host Golden Jubilee Year celebration on 15 November, 2012 which I also attended. Col Bipin Bahadur Singh, Commanding Officer receiving Unit Commendation from Lt Gen Gyan Bhooshan, GOC-in-C South Western Command.



Late Shri R.S.Mehta , who retired as IG BSF and a close friend of mine from the date of our commission on 30 June,1963, can be seen standing first on my left in the above photograph



With officers and men of the Battalion including Lt Col Inderjit Singh, Lt Col L.B Gurung and Col R K Soni. Col S K Saini can be seen in uniform who retired as Lt General in 2020



The above photographs include the retired officers and men of 7<sup>th</sup> Bn The Jat Regiment who served with me from 1963 to 1981.

**UPHOLDING TRADITIONAL VALUES OF THE ARMED FORCES**

*The photograph below reminds us of the first successful operational task of 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Jat Regiment which was led by me as 2/Lt with only 11 months service on 18 May, 1964 with 21 men in Tangdhar sector (J&K). The photograph was taken few hours after the capture of the objective with Coy Comdr. Maj Kulwant Singh and Brigade Comdr. Brig O.S. Kalkat who reached the post on foot after a long walk in high-altitude area to congratulate me and brought rank badges of Captain and promoted me out of turn on the spot as per policy then existing.*



*Presented by IC-14670M Major D S Bisht (Retd.) to the Commanding Officer Col Sandip Ashok Jadhav and all officers of 7<sup>th</sup> Bn the Jat Regiment who had the good fortune of celebrating 'Diamond Jubilee' day on 15 Nov, 2022 in the capital city of Delhi.*



*Keeping in view the traditional values of the Indian Armed Forces, the officers of my battalion (7<sup>th</sup> Bn The Jat Regiment) i.e. Major General Rohan Anand SM & Mrs. Anshu Anand, Col M S Jaswal & Mrs. Kamna Jaswal, Col L K Rawal, Col S C Singla SM & Mrs. Anita Singla, Mrs. Lata Yadav & Mrs. Pushpa Adhikari came to my residence on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov, 2025 while they were in Dehradun to celebrate Annual get-together of Ex- 7 Jat officers. At the age of 85, I was deeply touched for the courtesy shown to me and I conveyed my good wishes to all their family members for a very happy, long and healthy life with the blessings of almighty God.*

## Part - V

**WELFARE OF MILITARY PENSIONERS**

(Victim of Administrative Inefficiency)

*(Part-V of this book has been written for the welfare of military pensioners who have been the victim of administrative inefficiency. Part-V has three chapters. Chapter-1 deals with the issues related to delayed and non-payment of pension. Chapter-2 deals with existing anomalies in military pension rules and last Chapter-3 is the case study of long drawn battle fought by the author of this book for his own claim for pension as Lt Col.)*



Like 'Selfless Soldiering', I enjoyed the job of District Soldiers Welfare Officer from 1983 to 1999. The above is the group photograph of my staff when I was in Pauri District from 1983 to 1991.



With Shri Dev Dutt, District Magistrate Bijnor District during Flag Day where I served from 1994 to 1999.

## **DELAYED AND NON- PAYMENT OF PENSION**

We all know many cases of Military Pensioners and Family pensioners who have been sanctioned due pension after 40-50 years of retirement or death of a military pensioner. The two recent example are that of Aanuli Devi (91 yrs) widow of a soldier who was killed during World War-II but was granted due family pension in the year 1917-18 only. Second case was that of Paruli Devi whose husband Gagan Singh had joined Army in 1946 but died in service and his widow was only 20. Paruli Devi then 82 was finally granted family pension in the year 2021 only after fighting for her claim for seven long years with the help of non- military personnel like retired Treasury Officer Dalip Singh Bhandari of Pithoragarh district in Uttarakhand state. The latest case is that of Sepoy Balwant Singh, a 97 year old World War II veteran from village Gidaniya District Jhunjhunu Rajasthan who won a long personal battle on 9 Nov,2021 with the help of his counsel Col S B Singh (Retd.) when Armed Forces Tribunal Delhi allowed him war disability pension that was denied to him for the past five decades. Sep Balwant Singh had applied for the pension that the government introduced in 1972 which guaranteed 100% of the last salary drawn by Indian soldiers discharged from service because of disability in various wars since independence but the soldiers who lost their limbs during World War II were excluded from this pension scheme. Sep Balwant Singh's disability was 100% as he lost his left leg during World War II. Similar cases appear periodically in various newspapers which does not speak very well of the present status of the bureaucracy and civic governance in the country. What we do not know that hundreds of military pensioners/family pensioners fail to receive their due pension during their life time because they did not live long or did

not get necessary assistance to claim for due pension during their life time in accordance to existing rules/procedure laid down by GoI and subsequently amended from time to time as a result of court ruling.

In a recent case a disabled infantry soldier Paramjit of the Sikh Regiment who died during the pendency of the petition was finally allowed disability pension till the date of his death and family pension thereafter to his widow Amarjit Kaur by AFT Chandigarh after 23 years of litigation. The soldier joined service in 1988 and was invalidated in 1993 due to his disability attributable/aggravated by stress and strain of military service.

Even after legal battle successfully fought individually or collectively in various courts or tribunal for correct entitlement of pension, all affected pensioners fail to get their due pension during their lifetime. In a 'Rank Pay Case' regarding re-fixation of pay w.e.f. 1.1.1986 in respect of officers (Lt to Brig), Supreme Court gave final order on 4<sup>th</sup> Sep, 2012 and GoI/ MoD issued final orders to implement the decision given by SC on 24<sup>th</sup> Jul, 2014. How many of the affected officers or their NoK could have received arrears of their revised pay or pension after 28 years will never be known. Orders regarding re-fixation of notional pay and pension in respect of Major Generals retired prior to 1.1.1996 were passed by the SC on 9.9.2008 and orders to implement the same for re-fixation of pension w.e.f. 1.1.1996 were issued by MoD on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2009. However, Pay Account office Pune was showing the names of 195 Major Generals' on their Website in 2020 in whose case the required action had still not been taken for want of certain information from the affected officers or their NoK. Similarly pre-2006 retiree Hav holding Hony Rank of Nb/Sub were granted pension payable to Nb/Sub w.e.f. 1.1.2006 on the orders of the SC on 20 May, 2015. The benefit of these orders may not have reached to all eligible pensioners/family

pensioners/NoK because implementation of court orders by the PAO/PSA's/PDA's also takes time and many of the eligible pensioners may have died during the intervening period.

The author of this article in his official capacity during service as District Soldiers Welfare officer in Uttar Pradesh (1983-99) and in his personal capacity helped at least over 150 pensioners to get their initial correct pension after a gap of 5-50 years. Hundreds of other military pensioners all over the country got their due pension with the help of 'Defence Services Pension Rules' (DSPR) compiled by me and published after 4<sup>th</sup>,5<sup>th</sup>,6<sup>th</sup>&7<sup>th</sup> CPC recommendations. However, there is no end to pension related grievances being received by GoI/MoD every month which have been reported to be around 1500 per month from military pensioners only.

Revised government orders are issued to implement recommendations of the successive pay commission report without going into the existing pension rules and implications for pensioners retiring at different point of time resulting into anomalies multiplying year after year. Further, clarifications to original orders by GoI/MoD are issued by subordinate offices like PSA's, PAO's, Record offices who are not authorized to do so. Decisions on the petitions are given by subordinate offices in an arbitrary manner without careful consideration. AS a result of this large number of petitions continue to be pending with MoD, AFT, High Court and SC for final decision. Most of the pensioners die before getting their due pension. Unfortunately, even if a favorable decision is given by the highest court say after 10-15 years, the benefit of the same is not given automatically to other living pensioners similarly placed.

Today we have no regulations, only amendments/clarifications are available to implement pension rules. Every government order issued by the GoI/MoD to implement the Pay

Commission report ends with a line that- pension regulation will be amended in due course of time and second line reads that 'Hindi' version of the order will follow. The truth is that each paragraph of the pension regulations stands amended and superseded due to large number of revised orders, amendments and revised conditions laid down to implement the recommendations of 4<sup>th</sup>,5<sup>th</sup>,6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> CPC and ruling given by the SC etc.

Original rules, regulations and Act enacted and notified prior to independence are there with reference to Military pensioners and the same continue to be in the statue book till to date. After independence the Pension Regulations were drafted and notified separately for the Army, Navy and Air Force. Subsequently the central pay commission decided to treat Armed Forces pensioners as one category of pensioners. Thereafter, all government orders issued to implement the pay commission report, especially after the Fourth Pay Commission, are referred to as Armed Forces pensioners.

Most of these orders issued by the MoD to implement revised pension rules /pensionary benefits are based on orders issued by the Ministry of Personnel PG and Pension. The requirement of the day is to draft a new pension regulation for the Armed Forces incorporating basic, amended and extended pension rules which should have approval of the Law Ministry. Otherwise , there will be no end to anomalies, amendments, clarifications being issued by the MoD on the one hand and confusion in the mind of pensioners, record offices, PAO's, PSA's and PDA's on the other hand.

Consolidated orders like implementation of CPC recommendation and periodical increase in Dearness allowance/relief etc. which are applicable to all category of central government employees including Armed forces, are issued by the

Ministry of Personnel. Subsidiary orders are also issued by the MoD on their own to regulate special monetary/ pensionary benefits applicable to Armed forces personnel only. In the case of consolidated or one universal order issued by the Ministry of Personnel and adopted say by the MoD, subsequent amendments or clarification issued by Ministry of Personnel do not reach all concerned ministries for implementation. Similarly, if the orders issued by GoI is challenged in any court of law and declared illegal, the cancellation or amendment of the order issued by GoI do not reach to all concerned authorities including MoD in time for implementation. This invariably results into financial irregularities in payment of due pension on the one hand and court cases multiplying year after year.

Time given for implementation of orders has never been realistic. One of the government order says that action will be taken 'as usual' which is vague and can not be complied with to implement the orders in time. There are number of orders where the controlling authorities have directed that action will be taken by the affected pensioner within one month from the date of order issued which is impossible in a country of India's size. The controlling authorities need to understand that GoI orders fail to reach even every PDA within a month and the pensioners come to know about the orders only after a gap of few months. It is one of the reason that many pension claims of the pensioners are being settled after a long period ranging from 5 to 50 years.

The Armed forces have failed to present their demand or claim with proper justifications based on law, changing service conditions and socio-economic conditions in the country. The service conditions do keep changing in the armed forces due to reorganization, reduction and expansion undertaken to maintain

professional efficiency and battle worthiness of the Armed Forces to meet the variety of security threat developing around the country.

Early retirement is the requirement of military service. However, it is often forgotten that the officers including those allowed to proceed on premature retirement under the existing rules are placed on reserve list up to the age of compulsory retirement and are liable to be recalled to rejoin service as and when required by GoI. All military pensioners are not guaranteed re-employment after retirement. But some of them mostly PBOR who are given re-employment in government department and public sector undertaking could even earn two more pension under new/contributory pension scheme.

OROP was not the answer for the problems faced by military pensioners. Grant of military service pay was the first correct decision by GoI which will continue to be revised after every CPC report. Secondly grant of minimum guaranteed pension w.e.f. 1.1.1996 was also fully justified and should have been applied w.e.f. 1.1.2006 and again w.e.f. 1.1.2016. Armed forces personnel who are transferred to reserve list are entitled to pay applicable to the rank/grade held and promotions if they are recalled to rejoin service during emergency. It is not known as to how their rank, post, pay and service for promotion will be recalculated for revised retirement benefits after the release from second spell of service.

GoI has since withdrawn the weightage in service w.e.f. 1.1.2006 which was given to all ranks to compensate for early retirement. It will, therefore, be in national interest to give the benefit of reserve liability period which should be counted for revised pensionary benefits after the completion of reserve liability period. This will serve as a good incentive for Armed forces personnel to join service when recalled in an emergency. Under the existing policy

those who seek premature retirement are not entitled to re-employment. In view of this, policy with regard to retirement, reserve liability and re-employment should be examined again in the larger interest of the Armed forces and national security.

Politicization of problems faced by Armed forces personnel can have serious consequences for the security of the country. Total apathy on the part of bureaucracy in matters pertaining to service conditions of government employees including Armed Forces personnel is clear from the fact that hundreds of petitions from the government employees are decided by the tribunals and the courts which may have taken 5 to 30 years. The Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) were also established in the year 2007 with eight regional centers and principal bench in Delhi to grant speedy justice to serving and retired personnel of Armed Forces on matters related to service conditions and retirement benefits. The AFT has not been able to enforce its order or decision for compliance by the MoD because it does not have power of civil contempt to enforce its judgments. In most of the cases the aggrieved personnel of Armed forces are forced to approach Supreme court for necessary relief. The problems faced by Armed forces pensioners are bound to multiply when their claims are being decided by civilian employees who are themselves governed by different set of service and pension rules.

The administrative orders issued to regulate the implementation of the policy decision are generally lengthy, vague and without caring for earlier judgments on service matters by various courts in the country and Article 14 (Right to equality) of the constitution resulting into fresh anomalies and court cases multiplying year after year. It will, therefore, be in the interest of the country to ensure that Armed Forces personnel are not allowed to become victim of administrative inefficiency. The government of India has to remove existing anomalies in military pension rules and

notify revised regulation for Armed forces pensioners to get out of the present hopeless situation.

## ANOMALIES IN MILITARY PENSION RULES

### Revision of Pay and Pension w.e.f. 1.1.1986 as a result of SC Judgement in a 'Rank Pay Case'

As a result of SC Judgement dated 4 September,2012 in a 'Rank Pay Case' applicable to Lt to Brig, MoD issued orders to implement the Judgement of SC on 27 Dec,2012 which was further amended vide MoD letter No.34(10)2013/D(Pay/Services) dated 24 July,2014 and mainly included the following for refixation of pay w.e.f. 1.1.1986 in accordance to SAI 1/S/1987.

- (a) Para 6 of SAI 1/S/1987 dated 26 May, 1987 was amended to read w.e.f. 1.1.1986 instead of as on 1.1.1986.
- (b) After the existing emoluments have been increased w.e.f.1.1.1986, the officer's pay will be fixed in the revised scale Rs.2300-100-3900-150-4200-EB-150-5100, at the stage next above the amount thus computed as per para 6 of SAI 1/S/87. In addition to pay fixed, the officer will be eligible to the 'Rank Pay' for the rank held.
- (c) No change in SAI 1/S/1987 dated 26 May,1987 and SAI 2/S/1998 dated 19.12.1997.

Accordingly pay of all officers of the rank of Lt to Brig was required to be refixed w.e.f. 1.1.1986/1.1.1996 and in case of Lt Col (TS) the existing rules continued to be applicable till 1.1.2006.

- (a) Lt Col (TS) and Major were allowed Rank pay of Rs.600/- as per para 3(a) (ii) of SAI 1/S/1987.

- (b) Lt Col (TS) was equivalent to Major as per para 5(a) of SAI 2/S/1998 who were allowed the pay scale of Lt Col(S) w.e.f. 1.1.1996 but with Rank Pay payable to Major.
- (c) Lt Col (TS) was abolished w.e.f. 16.4.2004 and thereafter the pay admissible to Lt Col(S) as per 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> CPC recommendation was extended to Lt Col (TS) w.e.f. 1.1.2006 and 1.1.2016 in the absence of revised scales for this abolished rank as quoted in the concordance table notified for Lt Col (TS) vide MoD letter No. 17(1)/2017(02)D (Pen/Pol) dated 17 Oct, 2018 for revision of pension w.e.f. 1.1.2016.

In case of officers who retired prior to 1.1.1986, their notional pay was also required to be refixed w.e.f. 1.1.1986 in accordance to SAI 1/S/1987 as amended from time to time and as per MoD policy letter No.4(3)/98D(Pen/Ser) dated 27.5.1998 for revision of pension/minimum guaranteed pension w.e.f. 1.1.1996. Even though MoD has notified necessary rules on 3 May, 2017 to regulate the pay fixation of officers w.e.f. 1.1.2016 in the revised pay structure as per recommendations of the 7<sup>th</sup> CPC, fixation of notional pay in respect of those officers who had retired prior to 1.1.1986/1.1.1996 continues to be in dispute for revision of minimum guaranteed pension w.e.f. 1.1.1996/1.1.2006/1.1.2016. In case of Lt Col who retired prior to 1.1.1986 and were drawing Rs.1850/-, the notional pay as on 1.1.1986 would be as per SAI 1/S/1987 Rs.4350/- (without notional increment) or Rs.4500/- with one increment plus Rank Pay of Rs.800/-after SC judgement in a 'Rank Pay Case' whereas PAO Pune continued to indicate Rs.3900/- as pay plus Rank Pay of Rs.800/- as per their office pay fixation table notified in 1987 which should have also been amended in respect of officers (Lt to Brig) after the SC Judgement in the 'Rank Pay Case'. Further the PAO was not required to notify a fresh common pay fixation table but refix the pay/notional pay w.e.f. 1.1.1986 in respect of each individual officer because according to para 6 (j),(k) of SAI 1/S/1987 where the

existing emoluments as calculated in accordance with sub-para (e) or (g), exceeds the revised emoluments so fixed in the case of any officer, the difference shall be allowed as personnel pay to be absorbed in future increases in pay.

### **Implementation of orders regarding OROP w.e.f. 1.7.2014**

As per GoI/MoD letter No. 12(1)/2014/D (Pen/Pol) dated 3 Feb,2016 issued to implement OROP w.e.f. 1.7.2014, maximum pension has been restricted to maximum term of engagement in case of Major only while in other cases pension has been fixed beyond the maximum term of engagement. OROP was not fully justified in the present form because service conditions and promotion policy are liable to change from time to time due to changing- organizational/operational requirement of the Armed Forces. The dispute about revision of OROP policy after every five years was decided by the Supreme Court in the month of Mar,2022 only. Revised orders for grant of OROP w.e.f. 1.7.2019 have since been issued. However, the pensioners continue to raise anomalies in the revised rates of OROP notified by the MoD. Similarly minimum service for promotion for Major and Lt Col rank stands amended to 6 years and 13 years from 11years and 16 years w.e.f. 16.12.2004. To what extent it has affected the pensionary benefits to past and present pensioners should also be examined and corrective measures taken for the sake of fairness and principle of natural justice. There were rules governing war time promotions which also needs to be clarified, if still existing or abolished. Pension is granted on the basis of last pay drawn w.e.f.1.1.1996 and not on the basis of last rank held and therefore OROP is not the answer to compensate military pensioners for their early retirement due to service conditions. Instead GoI should consider further improvement in the formula for grant of minimum guaranteed pension which was granted w.e.f. 1.1.2006.

## **Pension for acting and substantive rank**

The quantum of pensionary awards admissible to the commissioned officers acting or substantive of the Armed forces who became non-effective on or after 1 April, 1979 vide MoD letter No. B/40725/AG/PS-4(C)/1816/A/D (Pension/Services), dated 28 Sep, 1979 were notified on the basis of standard period of service and fixed rate of pension. Para 2(b) of SAI 1/S/87 issued for pay fixation w.e.f. 1.1.1986 was also applicable to all officers holding rank both in substantive and acting capacity. However, the new pay fixation rules notified for revised fixation of pay w.e.f. 1.1.2016 are applicable to officers holding substantive rank only which needs to be clarified.

## **Pension for maximum term of engagement needs clarification**

PCDA(P) vide circular No.551 dated 28.12.2015 in para 3 had clarified that minimum pension can be granted for maximum term of engagement only. Since pension is granted for minimum period of 20/15 year service w.e.f. 1.1.2006 without any linkage to 33 years of service and weightage in service, the term of engagement also needs to be clarified for the purpose of pension. Terms of engagement for all ranks of the Armed forces is fixed both in terms of age and standard period of service. MoD policy letter issued on 3.2.2016 to implement OROP scheme lays down that existing pension of all pre-1.7.2014 pensioners/family pensioners shall be enhanced with reference to applicable table for the rank in which pension with reference to actual qualifying service as shown in column-1 of the tables subject to maximum term of engagement for each rank as applicable from time to time.

Standard period of service can be extended by the government during emergency even beyond the age of compulsory retirement. Minimum period of service was laid down to earn full fixed pension prior to 1.1.1986 for the rank held by the pensioner. An

officer, say a Lt Col may complete even 30-35 years of service on reaching the age of retirement. The weightage in service granted for pension stands withdrawn w.e.f.1.1.2006. The question, therefore, arises as to why the pension should be restricted to maximum term of engagement.

### **Dependent pension (ordinary)**

Father and mother are entitled to dependent pension in case the son dies while in service as bachelor in accordance to MoD policy letter No.1(15)87/D(Pen/Pol) dated 30 Oct,1987. Para 16 of the policy letter lays down that dependent pension shall be admissible to the parents/eligible brothers and sisters (in the absence of the parents) of the deceased officer at the rate equal to 50% of the notional Special family pension that would have been admissible, if they were largely dependent on the deceased officer for support and are in pecuniary need. The existing condition regarding means limit is dispensed with and this has been repeated in MoD policy letter No.1(2)/97/D(Pen-C) dated 31 Jan, 2001 for grant of dependent pension w.e.f.1.1.1996.

Even though existing condition regarding means limit has been dispensed with, PSA's have been denying the dependent pension on the ground that the parents are already drawing pension. This needs to be examined and a clarification should be issued for compliance by all concerned authorities. Parents rich or poor, drawing pension or not, are always dependent on their children for support and dependent pension should not be denied to parents whose only son may have died as bachelor. Dependent pension already stands reduced to 50% of the notional Special family pension that would have been admissible to the widow if the son was married.

### **Compensation for delayed payment of pension**

Reserve Bank of India have issued instructions through its Master circular dated 1 July,2010 to pay compensation to the pensioner for the delayed payment of pension w.e.f. 1.10.2008 by the Bank automatically without waiting for any application from the pensioner. Similarly GoI/MoD should also issue standing orders to PSA's to sanction compensation to the pensioner for delay in sanctioning and payment of pension by the PDAs. Govt of India has since notified new pension rules in 2021 which lays down that interest will be paid for delayed pension and responsibility will also be fixed for delaying payment of pension. Implementation of this rule is yet to seen on the ground.

### **Reemployment with or without terminal benefits**

Large number of ex-servicemen, who get re-employment in civil services, do earn second and third pension on superannuation at the age of 58/60yrs and together draw higher pension as compare to other ex - servicemen of the same or higher rank who fail to get reemployment and draw only one military pension. Pay during reemployment in Central/State government department is regulated in accordance to para 525 and 526 of Civil Service Regulations (CSR). Though military pension is taken into consideration for fixation of pay and no dearness relief is paid with military pension during the period of reemployment, no pension / gratuity is paid to the reemployed officers on superannuation at the age 58/60 years with more than 10 year service even though it is provided in the civil service regulations.

### **Title and terms used in rules and regulations**

It is common knowledge that every law or Act passed by Parliament starts with short title, extent, application, commencement and definitions of specified legal terms and words to be used for the application of that particular law, Act or Rules. The original title

Military Pensioner/ Military service, which continues to be in all statutory books including Civil Service Regulations has been overlooked by the concerned authorities of Government of India and the Central Pay Commission without any official amendment or notification. The military pensioners are now being referred to as 'Armed Forces Pensioners'. However, beside the word 'services' at many places, the other words i.e. 'Defence Pensioners'/ Defence Personnel/Armed Forces Personnel has also been used in various orders issued by GoI/MoD. 'Defence pensioners' is in fact been used for civilian employees under Ministry of Defence. Orders issued to implement OROP on 3Feb,2016 refers to 'Armed Forces personnel'. This needs to be corrected through an official Gazette notification for uniformity and legality. 'Defence Services Regulation' are already in existence and Defence Services Pay/Pension rules (Army/Navy/Air Force) could be the right term. However, it should not be mixed up with civilian employees who are governed by different set of service/pay/pension rules.

### **Concluding remarks**

Finally, it is important to understand that unless the officials at various level including record offices/PAO/PSA's are fully conversant with the fundamental pay/pension rules and GoI/MoD orders issued to implement pay commission reports including amendments/clarifications issued from time to time, the problem faced by military pensioners will never end. Therefore, GoI/MoD will have to come out with updated pay/pension regulation and make it applicable w.e.f. 1.1.2016 for all Military pensioners with a provision of minimum guaranteed pension to all pre- 1.1.2016 pensioners. The revised and updated rules/regulations should have no ambiguity and decisions given by the court should be taken into consideration and appropriately incorporated in the revised and updated pay/pension rules.

## **CASE STUDY OF AUTHOR'S OWN CLAIM FOR REVISED PENSION AS PER PAY COMMISSION REPORT**

*(Lord Krsna said to Arjuna: Learn from Me of the five factors which bring about accomplishment of all actions which have been described in Sankhya philosophy (The Sankhya philosophy is based on action/work Yoga with knowledge Yoga). The five factors operating towards the accomplishment of actions are: the place of action, the performers, the senses, different kind of efforts one makes to accomplish the action and finally the destiny or divine power. Whatever right or wrong action a man performs by body, mind or speech in accordance to or against prescribed directions in the scriptures, these five factors contribute to accomplishment of the work performed. - Verse -13,14 &15 of Chapter-18 of Shrimad Bhagavad Gita refers)*

### **UPDATED STATEMENT THE CLAIM AS ON 1.12. 2024**

Non payment of revised pension/ minimum guaranteed pension w.e.f. 1.1.1996/1.1.2006/1.1.2016 which should not be less than 50% of the minimum of corresponding pay of the scale of pay held by me due to upgradation from Major to Lt Col w.e.f. 5 Aug, 1981 and drawing pay of Lt. Col (S) at time of premature retirement on 28 October, 1981 with reserve liability up to 31 Aug, 1991.

### **APPLICABILITY OF GoI/MoD ORDERS TO MY PENSION CLAIM**

#### **Retirement with Reserve liability**

1. I was granted conditional premature retirement w.e.f. 28 Oct, 1981 and transferred to Regular Reserve officers Class-X up to 31 Aug, 1991 under Army Instructions 10/S/63 as amended from time to time vide AHQ Letter No. 38176/791/MS7C dt. 30 July, 81. I was

liable to be recalled to join service, if required, by the Government of India and also liable to be punished under Army Act if I failed to obey orders. Further, I was not permitted to leave the country without the permission of Government of India during reserve service period.

### **Implication of Reserve Liability with comments**

2. India Reserve Forces Act 1888 Sec-5 lays down the liability of reserve forces to Military Law which lays, "Subject to rules and orders as may be made under Sec-4, a person belonging to Indian Reserve Force shall as an officer or soldier, as the case may be, be subject to Military Law in the same manner and the same extent as a person belonging to the regular Army. If recalled to join service, an officer is entitled to pay and allowances payable to Rank/Grade held by him at the time of retirement and also entitled to promotions as per eligibility conditions. Had I been recalled to join service any time before the date of my reserve liability i.e. 31.08.1991, non-implementation of upgradation, promotion policy from lower grade to higher grade and non-fixation of pay/pension in accordance to the rules before and after retirement could have created more complications for GoI /MoD to recall and re-deploy officers transferred to Regular Reserve Officers Class-X. To avoid such situation, it will be in the interest of MoD that clear cut rules/policy without any ambiguity are laid down to regulate pay fixation, seniority and promotion of officers on reserve list recalled to join service in future. Further, reserve service period should be counted for additional qualifying service for revision of pension after the completion of reserve liability period. Because weightage in years that was given earlier to calculate qualifying service under 33 years formula for pension has since been withdrawn w.e.f. 01.01.2006.

### **Upgradation policy from Maj to Lt Col (1980-83)**

3. I was upgraded from Major to Lt Col with higher selection grade pay scale (1800-50-1900) w.e.f. 5 Aug 1981 as a result of MoD policy letter No. 15(13)79/1061 dt 16.7.1979 and No.3(1)/80/D(MS/IS) dated 14.2.1980. Only extract of orders was provided by the office of PCDA(o) to the office of PCDA(P) on 10.6.2016. Full copy of the MoD No.3(1)/80/D (MS/IS) dt.14.2.1980, MoD policy letter No. B/25391/AG/PS Coord/1102/D (AG) dt. 5.3.1982 and letter No. 01450/MS8-C/2497/ S/D(MS) dated 17 Nov, 1982 (copy encl. A-5) issued to implement selection grade policy were made available by the o/o PCDA(O) only on 25.11.2021. Selection grade pay policy was authorized in the scale of 1800-50-1900 authorized for 20% of the strength of Major and in the scale of 2000-50-2100 was authorized for 10% of the strength of Lt. Col.

4. The up gradation was to be phased over a period of three years from the year 1980 in consultation of Ministry of Finance (Defence). The upgradation policy was not implemented in letter and spirit. Instead, MoD/ AHQ decided to bring down the minimum service laid down for Lt Col (TS) from 24 years to 21 years. As a result of this, those Majors approved for up gradation to Lt Col were permitted to put on the rank of Lt Col on completion of 22 years of service and upgradation policy was forgotten.

5. Selection grade (NFU) was introduced in 1980 for the benefit of three regular courses who passed out together on 30 June, 1963 from Indian Military Academy Dehradun due to emergency in the country. It is these officers who served the country during 1965 and 1971 war but the government could not provide functional up gradation due to fixed vacancies even after approved by the promotion board.

6. It is clearly stated in MoD policy letter dated 14.2.1980 (copy encl. A-5) that it was up gradation from Major to Lt. Col. i.e. from lower to higher pay scale which is also a promotion as per clarifications issued by GoI from time to time regarding Selection Grade Pay scale which already existed in other Departments of GoI prior to 1.1.1986 and thereafter. However, the selection grade pay policy in the Army was implemented in 1983 only and in my own case orders were issued in 1984 and selection grade pay scale was granted to me w.e.f. 5 Aug, 1981 before my conditional premature retirement w.e.f. 28 Oct, 1981 with reserve liability up to 31 Aug, 1991.

7. It was clear from the above quoted policy letter dated 14.02.1980 that there was up gradation of Major to Lt. Col. during the period 1980-83. The pay scale applicable to Major/Lt. Col.(S)/Major granted selection grade prior to 1.1.86 were as follows :-

Rank	Pay scale	Minimum Service	Authority
Major	1300-1800	7 year	As per SAI I/S/87
Lt. Col(S)	1750-1950	14 year	As per SAI I/S/87
Major upgraded to Lt Col			
	1800-50-1900	15 year	MoD Letter dt. 14.2.1980, 5.3.1982 & 17.11.1982

8. In my case, orders regarding selection grade pay due to up gradation to Lt Col were issued by AHQ vide MS Branch letter No. 37030/SGP/Major/MS8B dated 01.10.84 and based on that authority revised LPC, indicating clearly Rs 1850/- as basic pay of the rank i.e. Lt Col, was issued by PCDA(o) vide their office letter No. Arch 1B/112324 dt 18.3.1985 . (Copy encl. A-9)

## **Merger of pay scale with equal or higher pay scale**

9. Up gradation policy under MoD policy letter dt 14.2.1980 with higher selection grade pay scale was to be phased over a period of three years and therefore selection grade pay i.e. Rs1850/- drawn by me at the time of retirement on 28 oct, 1981 was rightly merged with identical pay scale (1750-1950) that was applicable to Lt Col(S) at that point of time. In 1981 Major with 24 year service were drawing Rs 1800/- as maximum basic pay whereas I was drawing Rs 1850/- as SGP after 18 years of service. Subsequently, service limit of 24 years was brought down to 21 years w.e.f. 31.07.1984 for grant of stagnation increment to Major who were allowed to wear badges of rank of Lt Col (TS) after 25/22 years of service but continued to remain equal to Major for all purpose including pay scale/rank pay/grade pay that was applicable to Major rank only.

10. Since no corresponding pay scale for selection grade was recommended by the 4th CPC, the department i.e. MoD was required to notify the merger of such selection grade pay scale either with equal or higher pay scale for all purpose. In my case selection grade pay scale had already been merged in 1983 with pay scale (1750-1950) applicable to Lt. Col (S) and revised LPC was issued by PCDA(O) on 18.03.1985 indicating Rs.1850/- as basic of the rank i.e. of Lt. Col (S). (Copy encl. A-9)

## **Rules applicable for revision/ refixation of pay in case of selection grade pay/pay scale**

11. Orders regarding selection grade pay/pay scale and applicability of rules for revision of pay etc. are notified by the DoPT and MoF from time to time for all departments under GoI for implementation. In this case the following orders were relevant which should have been referred to by the concerned authorities

including Pay Account Office for notional fixation of pay w.e.f. 01.01.1986/ 01.01.1996.

(a) MoF, Dept. Of Exp. Letter no.7(36)B-III/88 dated 09.08.1988 regarding fixation of pay w.e.f. 01.01.1986 in respect of those drawing higher selection grade pay on personal basis.

(b) MoF, Dept. Of Exp. letter no. 5(7)/E-III(A)99 dated 29.04.1999 which lays down that benefit of higher corresponding pay will also be given to those holding higher pre-revised selection grade pay scale on personal basis.

### **Promotion or Up-gradation policy**

12. Army officers Pay Rule-2017 notified by MoD on 3 May, 2017 has made it clear that promotion and up gradation is one and the same and non-functional up gradation shall also count for the financial benefits. This is in line with existing civil services pay rules. This time Army officers pay rules have been notified through an EXTRA ORDINARY GAZETTE NOTIFICATION dated 3 May 2017 by MoD/DoD so that PAO/Service Headquarters are unable to misuse their power in pay fixation like in a 'Rank Pay case' and subsequently for revision of pension etc.

### **Rules applicable for promotion/up-gradation from lower to higher pay scale**

13. Promotion means appointment of a member of the service to the next higher grade over the one in which he is serving at the relevant time. This has been also included in para-2(m)(Definitions) of Indian Administrative Service pay rules-2007. The same definition has also been adopted by the MoD. MoD vide gazette of India (Dept. Of Defence) notification dated 3 May,2017 file no. 1(8)/2016/D(P/S) wherein it is laid down that Lt Gen who were

fit for promotion as Army Commander but overlooked due to lack of requisite residual service shall be granted pay in level- 17 on non-functional basis and this non-functional up-gradation shall count for all financial benefits associated with level-17 but shall not count for other privileges associated with the post of Army Commander. Para-10, 2(a) & (b) of the notification also clarified that the appointment, promotion or up-gradation is one and the same. Para-12 of the notification also says that promotion and up-gradation is one and the same. The issue also came up before SC and a ruling given in the Supreme Court Judgement (2011) 9 SCC 510 lays down that if minimum service is fixed, vacancies are also fixed and screening is done before up-gradation then the same will be considered as promotion. The MoD has rightly implemented the ruling given by the SC. Therefore, financial benefit of up-gradation from Major to Lt Col could not been denied to me by any authority.

#### **Revision of pension w.e.f. 01.01.1986 in case of pre-86 retiree officers**

14. As against slab formula, the pension of pre-86 pensioner was rationalized and re fixed w.e.f. 1.1.86 on the basis of 33 years formula, last pay and pension drawn at the time of retirement (and not on the basis of last rank held) as a result of 4th CPC recommendations in accordance to GoI/MoD letter No. 1(4)/87-D(Pen/Ser) dt 12 May, 87 and 27 July, 87 which is also quoted in PCDA(P) office letter No. G1/M/43868 dated 27.02.1989 addressed to me for rationalization/revision of pension w.e.f. 01.01.1986. and my pension was also accordingly revised to Rs.1596/- w.e.f. 1.1.1986.

#### **Interpretation of rules**

15. Selection grade pay was abolished w.e.f. 1.1.1986 as a result of 4<sup>th</sup> CPC recommendations and there is no mention of the same in SAI 1/S/87 dt. 26 May, 1987. My case had nothing to do with Lt Col

(TS) which was granted to Majors after 24 years in 1981 whereas I was upgraded to Lt Col with higher selection grade pay scale (1800-50-1900) with pay fixed at Rs 1850/- after 18 years of service and the same was rightly merged with identical pay scale (1750-1950) then applicable to Lt. Col(S) as per pay fixation rules and indicated in the revised LPC issued on 18.3.1985 as basic pay of the rank i.e. Lt Col(S). Lt Col(TS) were not given separate pay scale but stagnation increment to Major and allowed to wear badges of rank Lt Col(TS) after 25 years of service. Subsequently the service limit was brought down to 21 years service w.e.f. 31.07.1984 and allowed to wear badges of rank of Lt Col (TS) after 22 years of service. Even after 1.1.1986, Lt Col (TS) continued to be equal to Major only till 16.12.2004 for all purpose including rank pay/grade pay and pay fixation. SAI 1/S/87 dated 26.05.1987 and para 5(a)(v) of SAI 1/S/98 also clarified the position with regard to Lt Col (TS).

16. Once the original pension was re fixed and rationalized w.e.f. 1.1.1986 on the basis of last pay plus dearness pay merged with pay for pension, 'Rank' held at the time of retirement had no relevance. 'Rank' was applicable for grant of pension under slab formula prior to 1.1.86 and grant of weightage in service to calculate QS for pension at the time of retirement. The court have already ruled that 'Rank Pay' or 'Grade pay' is not part of pay scale. Since no 'Rank Pay' existed prior to 1.1.86 the same is added on notional basis only in all cases for revision of pension w.e.f. 1.1.96/1.1.2006 like Military Service Pay.

#### **Action that was required to be taken by PCDA(O) and PCDA(P)**

17. PCDA(P) vide their office letter No. G-1/M/43868/VII dated 11.5.2016 (Copy encl. A-6) addressed to PCDA(O) in para 2 had informed that the last pay Rs.1850/- which I was drawing at the time of retirement pertains to Lt Col only as per SAI 1/S/87. In this

letter PCDA(P) requested to PCDA(O) to intimate the notional pay as on 1.1.1986 for revision of pension w.e.f. 1.1.1996. Pension in respect of pre-1986 retiree officers was required to be revised and re - fixed w.e.f. 1.1.1996 in accordance to instruction laid down in para 5,6&20 of GoI/MoD letter No. 4(3)98 D(Pen/Ser) dt. 27 May, 1998.

18. In my case, being pre-86 pensioner, no fixation of pay was involved as on 1.1.86. Instead PCDA (O) was required to take action for updating of notional pay as on 1.1.86/1.1.96 in accordance to para 6 of MoD policy letter dated 27 May, 1998 and procedure laid down in SAI 1/S/1987 for revision of pay as per 4<sup>th</sup> CPC recommendations as amended from time to time and forward Annexure-IV in accordance to para 20 of MoD letter dt 27 May, 1998 to PCDA(P) for revision of pension w.e.f. 1.1.1996. After 22 years of protracted correspondence, the office of PCDA(O) took action and forwarded Annexure-IV as per MoD letter dated 27.5.1998 to the office of PCDA(P) on 25.11.2021 (Copy encl. A-7) but the same was found with factually wrong with false certificate and misleading information given in para 7-8 of Annexure-IV i.e. treating me as pre-1973 retiree and fixing notional pay at the minimum as on 1.1.1986 in the absence of records even though all required details were available and shown in para 1 to 6 of Annexure-IV. Further PCDA(O) had arbitrarily shown my rank as Senior Selection Grade Major which did not exist.

### **Applicability of GoI orders**

19. GoI/Min of Per PG and Pension, Dept of Pen and PW vide their OM F. No. 45/86/97-P & PW(A)- Part -III dated 10.2.1998 issued necessary orders for implementation of Govt decision on the recommendations of 5th CPC. The same orders are quoted and adopted in letter and spirit by the MoD in their office letter no.4(3)/98D(Pen/Ser) dated 27.05.1998 issued to implement the

decision for revision of pension w.e.f. 01.01.1996 in respect of pre-1986 retiree commissioned officers. In para-5 of MoD letter dated 27.05.1998 it was clearly laid down that the Govt has inter-alia accepted the recommendations of 5th CPC and the pension of all pre-1986 retiree may be updated by notional fixation of their pay as on 01.01.1986 by adopting the same formula as for the serving armed forces officers for the purpose of consolidation of their notional pension/family pension as on 01.01.1986 and thereafter they may be treated like those who have retired on or after 01.01.1986. Para-6 of MoD letter dated 27.05.1998 lays down that notional pay as on 01.01.1986 in respect of pre-1986 retiree officers will be fixed as per procedure laid down in SAI 1/S/87 and as amended from time to time in the same manner as was done for those officers who were in service as on 01.01.1986. No notional increments were allowed for the period from the date of retirement to 1.1.1986. SAI/ 1/S/87 stands amended as a result of supreme court judgment in a 'Rank Pay Case'. Accordingly, the pay of an officer drawing Rs.1850/- prior to 01.01.1986 is to be fixed notionally in the integrated pay scale applicable to Lt. Col w.e.f. 01.01.1986. Para-20 of MoD letter dated 27.05.1998 lays down that Annexure- IV will be sent by the office of PCDA(O) to PCDA(P) indicating last pay drawn, pay scale held prior to 01.01.1986 and notional pay fixed as on 01.01.1986 and 01.01.1996 for revision of pension/minimum guaranteed pension w.e.f. 01.01.1996 by PCDA(P) accordingly.

### **Implementation of orders by PCDA(O)/PCDA(P)**

20. Since fixation of pay was not applicable in respect of pre-86 pensioners as on 1.1.86 for revision of pension w.e.f. 1.1.1996, PAO i.e. PCDA(O) was required to take action only for updating of notional pay and pension as on 1.1.1986. The total emoluments that were payable at CPI 608 prior to 1.1.86 against pay Rs. 1850/- was Rs.3835/- as per SAI 1/S/87 and notional pay could not be brought

down to Rs. 3700/- from Rs 4,350/- or Rs.4500/- arbitrarily without following revised pay fixation rules laid down in SAI 1/S/1987 as per 4<sup>th</sup> CPC recommendations applicable w.e.f. 01.01.1986 and as amended after SC Judgment in the 'Rank Pay Case'. In this connection PCDA (P) letter No. G-1/M/43868/VII dt 11.5.2016 (Copy encl.A-6) addressed to PCDA (O) in para 2 had clarified that that the pay Rs1850/- which I was drawing at the time of retirement pertains to Lt Col only. However, notional pay Rs.3700/- as on 01/01/1986 shown by PCDA(O) in their office letter dated 12.10.1998 in accordance to MoD letter dated 27.05.1998 appears to have been worked out after deducting 'Rank Pay' i.e. Rs.800/- that was applicable to Lt Col (S) who were in service from the revised pay of Rs.4500/- fixed as on 01.01.1986. This was required to be corrected as per SAI 1/S/87 and as amended as a result of SC Judgment in the 'Rank Pay Case'.

21. PCDA(P) was to issue necessary Corr. PPO for revised and minimum guaranteed pension w.e.f. 1.1.96/1.1.2006/1.1.2016 which should not be less than 50% of the minimum of the corresponding pay scale of the scale of pay applicable to Lt Col(S) and held at the time of retirement. In this connection GoI/MoD letter No. 1(1)99/D (Pen/Ser) dt 7 June, 1999 was issued for grant of minimum guaranteed pension w.e.f. 1.1.1996 which was based on Min of Per, PG and Pension letter No. 45/10/98 P & PW (A) dt 17.12.1998 quoted therein. Min. of Per again clarified regarding the post/scale of pay held by the retired government servant vide their office letter No. 45/86/97-P & PW (A) dt. 11 May, 2001 and amended their office letter dt. 17.12.1998 to read that pension of all pensioners (without any reference to post/rank held) irrespective of their date of retirement shall not be less than 50% of the minimum of the corresponding pay scale as on 01.01.1996 of the scale of pay held by the pensioner at the time of retirement. This has been repeated and implemented to grant minimum guaranteed pension w.e.f.

01.01.1996/01.01.2006/01.01.2016 by all departments of the central /state government in the country.

### **Rules applicable to pre-86 retiree officers after 1.1.1986**

22. As per para 5 of MoD letter No. 4(3)98D (Pen/Ser) dt 27 May 1998 and Para 6.1 of MoD letter No.17(4) /2008(1)/D(Pen/Ser) dt. 11.11.2008, all pre-86 retirees for the purpose of pension as on 1.1.1996/1.1.2006 are to be treated alike those who retired on or after 1.1.86. Therefore, amendment to SAI 1/S/87 issued vide GoI/MoD Letter No.34(6)2013/D(Pay/Ser) dt. 27 Dec, 2012 and letter No. 34(10)2013/D (Pay/Ser) Dt. 24 July 2014 are equally applicable to me for revision of notional pay on the basis of corresponding pay scale as on 1.1.96/1.1.2006 as per court ruling in the 'Rank Pay Case.'

### **Direction given by the Supreme court**

23. As a result of long drawn legal dispute over "Rank Pay Case", the SC in CONMT,PET (c) No.328 of 2013 and transfer petition (c) No.56 of 2007 dt.18 Aug 2015 had given final direction that affected pensioners can approach the concerned authorities for the redress of grievances and avoid further litigations. My claim to correct revision of pension w.e.f. 1.1.96 /1.1.2006 has been under correspondence with PCDA(O) since 3.11.1999 when the matter was referred to the o/o PCDA(O) by PCDA(P) for further action. Even after repeated direction by the office of Secretary DESW & CGDA, PCDA(O) failed to take action in accordance to GoI/MoD orders issued from time to time quoted and explained above.

### **Action taken/not taken by the PAO i.e. PCDA(O)**

24. Unfortunately, PCDA(O) has been giving different reply since 2003 with different file/Account No. signed by different Wing/Account officers with different interpretation to deny me due

revised/minimum guaranteed pension w.e.f. 1.1.1996/1.1.2006 on the basis of corresponding pay scale of the scale of pay held by me at the time of retirement on 28 Oct, 1981. Surprisingly PCDA(O) has not considered it necessary to seek clarifications from the office of CGDA or MoD, DESW on various orders issued by GoI to implement 4th/5th/6th/7th CPC recommendations for revision of pension w.e.f. 1.1.1996/1.1.2006/1.1.2016 in respect of pre-1986 retiree commissioned officers.

25. An attempt by PCDA(o) to pass on the responsibility to AG/PS -5 in 2021 and to AHQ MS Branch again in 2022 had no justification. MoD/DESW had already ruled vide their office letter No. 04/RTI/A/D (Pen/Ser) 2006 dt 13 Oct, 2006 that no power has been delegated to AG/PS - 5 to settle pension dispute involving PCDA(O) and PCDA(P). Moreover, AG/PS-5 had already transferred my petition to PCDA(P) vide their office letter No. B/41002/Maj/AG/PS-5 dt 3.2.2016. It was clearly laid down in para-20 of MoD policy letter dated 27.05.1998 that the matter can be referred to Service HQ only in case of date of commission/retirement if not available with Pay Accounting authorities. Yet PCDA(O) earlier referred the claim to AG(PS-5) in 2021 and to AHQ MS Branch in 2022 instead of CGDA/ MoD for clarifications, if any, was required.

### **Opinion and direction given by MoD, DESW and CGDA**

26. PCDA(O) failed to take REMEDIAL ACTION as directed by CGDA vide their office Regn. No. CGATP/P/2018/01301 dt 7.7.2018. MoD, DESW D(Pension/Policy) had also given their opinion vide MoD ID no.1868/D(Pen/Pol)/2018 dated 22.11.2018 and ruled that my representation is related to notional fixation of pay w.e.f. 01.01.1986/1.1.1996 in accordance to MoD letter dated 27.05.1998 and therefore not being the policy matter, the

representation was forwarded to D(PG) for redress of grievances. PCDA(P) vide their office letter no.G-1/M/01/ICO's/7th CPC/Vol-II/2017 dated 29.09.2017(para 5&6) addressed to PCDA(O) has also repeated the orders regarding applicability of MoD letter dated 27.05.1998 for revision of pension in respect of officers who retired prior to 01.01.1986. Orders issued by MoD were also and repeated by PCDA(P) Allahabad

27. Orders issued by GoI/MoD for revision of pension w.e.f. 01.01.2016 vide their office letter No. 17 (01)/2017 (02)/ D (Pen/Pol) dated 5 Sep, 2017 (para 7 &8) and letter No. 17(01)/2017(O2)/D (Pen/Pol) dated 17 Oct, 2018 (para 2) has repeated again that for the purpose of notional pay in respect of commissioned officer who retired or died before 1.1.1986, the pay scale and notional pay as on 1.1.86 as arrived at in term of instructions issued vide MoD letter No. 1(3)/98/ D (Pen/Ser/) dated 27.5.1998 shall be treated as the corresponding pay scale held at the time of retirement for calculation of notional pay and pension as on 1.1.1996/1.1.2006/1.1.2016 for further revision of pension/minimum guaranteed pension w.e.f. 1.1.1996/1.1.2006/1.1.2016.

### **Opinion and direction given by Min of Per PG & Pension**

28. Para 14 of Min of Per PG & Pension, Dept. Of Pension & PW OM F. No. 45/86/97-P & PW (A) Part-III dated 10 February, 1998 which is quoted in MoD letter dated 27.5.1998 for revision of pension w.e.f. 1.1.96, has further laid down the procedure to determine the corresponding pay scale which reads as follows:-

" There may be cases where it would be difficult for the Head of office to determine the revised scale of pay corresponding to pre revised scales, as the scales of pay have been revised from time to

time and some of the scales might have become defunct after a particular period of time. In such cases it would be for the Head of Department to decide about equivalence of pre-revised scale with the revised scale after consulting the integrated finance Division. However, in cases where it is not feasible to arrive at a conclusion in this regard, the final decision can be taken by the Head of the Department in consultation with Ministry of Finance and DOPT.”

### **POSITION OF THE PENSION CLAIM AS ON 1.5.2025**

29. As a result of my final petition dt 4 Sep, 2023 to Secretary DESW, I was informed by AG's Br AHQ on 28 March, 2024 by SMS that my claim to due revised pension has been resolved. A letter No.12621/IC-14670/T-4/MP5(B) dated 24 March, 2024 was also issued but the copy of this letter was not received by me. A message from PCDA(P) was also received by me that suo motu action will be taken by their office within 15 days but PCDA(P) failed to notify Corr. PPO till the month of May, 2025. The original PPO dated 8.10.2020 is due to be revised and updated in accordance to para 21 of MoD policy letter dt.29 Oct, 2016 and dt. 5 Sep, 2017, dt. 17 Oct, 2018 and concordance table applicable to Lt Col with grade pay of Rs 8000/- as per decision given by MoD.

### **Delay in notifying Corr. PPO**

Since AG's Br. AHQ, PCDA(P) & PCDA(O) failed to take required action, I submitted another petition to Secretary Department of Ex-servicemen, Government of India MoD on 19 May,2025 which reads as follows.

**Sub:-Revised Corr. PPO w. r. t. original PPO No.131198100669 with PPO Suffix 0199 issued on 8.10.2020 due to be notified by PCDA(P) after revision/refixation of my pension w. e. f. 1.1.2006/ 1.1.2016 as a result my final petition dt. 4 Sep, 2023 to MoD- Reg. delay report about notification of Corr. PPO**

**Sir,**

I was informed on line by AG's Br. AHQ in March, 2024 that my grievance regarding revision of pension has been resolved and a letter No.12621/IC-14670M/T-4/MP-5(B) dated 24 March,2024 was also issued for compliance by PCDA(P). PCDA(P) vide their office letter No. SPARSH Army (ICOs)/11232/MoD/2024 dt.11.12.2024 (copy encl. A-1) informed me and D (PG) DESW that further action is required to be taken by the office of MP 5&6 of AG's Br AHQ with regard to amendment of 'Rank' and LPC through Corrigendum PPO with the approval of PCDA(O) Pune. Copy of this letter was received by me only in Feb, 2025.

**2.** PCDA(O)/PCDA(P)/AG's Br. AHQ have been playing this game since 1999 to delay and deny me due pension by giving factually wrong /misleading replies or passing the responsibility among themselves in violation of all the existing orders of MoD/GOI which have been adequately quoted and explained in the updated statement of the claim(SoC) as on 1.12.2024 (Copy encl. as Annexure-I with supporting documents A-5 to A-10 ). I had accordingly sent my application again for the redressal of my grievances to DESW on 23/26 Dec, 2024 which were sent to AG's Br. AHQ on 26.1.2025 vide MoD ID No.146/161/D(PG)/2025. In this connection I also submitted my application and a reminder to AG's Br on 25 March, 2025 but till to date no action has been taken by AG's Br. to send amended LPC-cum-data sheet with change in 'Rank' etc. for notifying Corr. PPO as intimated by the office of PCDA(P) letter dt. 11.12. 2024 quoted in para 1 above. Instead AG's Br. has sent copies of old correspondence between DIAV/MP-5(B) /PS-5/PCDA(O) for my information ignoring the decision given by MoD/GoI which have been adequately quoted in the statement of the claim as on 1 Dec, 2024 enclosed.

**3.** Initially, it was the AG's Br. AHQ who failed to understand the difference between Major upgraded to Lt Col with minimum 15 year service and Lt Col (TS) which was neither upgradation nor promotion as explained in para 15 of the statement of the claim. Thereafter, the o/o PCDA(O) was

responsible to delay and deny me due minimum guaranteed pension w.e.f. 1.1.1996. PCDA(O) took action after 22 years to send Annexure-IV to the o/o PCDA(P) on 25.11.2021 in accordance to MoD policy letter dt. 27.5.1998 which was also found factually wrong with false certificate as explained in para 17- 18 of the statement of the claim enclosed. MoD policy letter dt. 27.5.1998 has been repeated in all GoI/MoD policy letters issued to implement 5<sup>th</sup>,6<sup>th</sup>&7<sup>th</sup> CPC recommendations in respect of pre-1986 retiree officers which was ignored for 22 years

4. In a nutshell, I have been the victim of omission (fail to include something) and commission (giving authority to somebody to act for another) and misuse of office without accountability on the part of AG's Br AHQ/ PCDA(O)/PCDA(P). As a result I was forced to spend at least Rs15,000/- per year since 1999 to collect all supporting documents/orders of GoI/MoD in support of my pension claim and for drafting/typing/printing/postage to submit my application/petition at least four time in a year to all concerned authorities under MoD/GoI for necessary orders and action.

5. Since MoD had already given their decision that no power has been delegated to AG Br. AHQ to settle the pension dispute involving PCDA(O) and PCDA(P) (para 25 of the statement of the claim refers), Ministry of Defence, D (Pen/Policy) is requested to pass necessary orders for compliance by AG's Br./ PCDA(P)/PCDA (O) and revise my pension w.e.f. 1.1. 2006 /1.1.2016 as per draft calculation sheet enclosed as A-2 and issue Corr. PPO accordingly. Copy of original PPO dt. 8.10.2020 and Concordance Table applicable to me are also enclosed as A-3 & A-4 for ready reference please.

Thanking you for doing the needful for payment of my due pension with arrears as early as possible and for saving me from further harassment and financial loss at this old age of 84 yrs.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS AND LESSONS LEARNT

### Concluding remarks

The importance of this claim is that MoD never rejected my claim and therefore I did not approach court or the tribunal to decide about my claim but used my knowledge and experience in research and writing to convince the authorities for taking right decision/action in the interest of truth and justice. It is said that 'knowledge is power' but this 26 year of war will prove that 'God is super power' and I fought this war for truth and justice and God was with me.

I was granted conditional premature retirement w.e.f. 28 October, 1981 with reserve liability up to 31 Aug, 1991. After my

retirement I had a chance meeting with one of my course mate in 1984 who was surprised to see me that I had taken premature retirement in spite of better career prospects. He further asked me whether I was granted selection grade pay due to upgradation from Maj to Lt Col or not based on my record of service. I had no information about this. Thereafter, I wrote a letter to the office of PCDA(O) Pune to let me know if I was granted selection grade pay before my conditional premature retirement on 28 October, 1981 and also requested their office to remit the arrears of pay, if any due, to my bank account.

Unlike today, the o/o PCDA(O) then promptly replied on 18.3.1985 indicating that I was granted selection grade w.e.f. 5 Aug, 1981 due to upgradation from Major to Lt Col as per authority letter issued by MS Branch AHQ dated 1.10.1984 and a copy of the letter was also sent to the o/o PCDA(P) Allahabad indicating amendment to original LPC about my last basic pay of the rank i.e. Rs.1850/- which was applicable to Lt Col (S) only instead of

Rs.1800/- which was the maximum pay drawn by me as Major before my premature conditional retirement w.e.f. 28.10.1981. It is this letter which helped me to claim for revised/ minimum guaranteed pension w.e.f. 1.1.1996/1.1.2006/1.1.2016 as per 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> CPC recommendations. According to policy letters issued by MoF/Min of Per & PG/MoD, minimum guaranteed pension should not be less than 50% of the corresponding pay as on 1.1.1996 of the pay drawn by the pensioner at the time of retirement.

Orders for revision of pension in accordance to 5<sup>th</sup> CPC recommendations were issued by MoD on 27.5.1998. In case of pre-1986 retiree officers different procedure was laid down in para 5,6,20 of MoD policy letter dated 27.5.1998 which the o/o PCDA(O) ignored for 22 years. Even though MoD/CGDA had given their opinion /direction to the o/o PCDA(O), their office continued to drag the long outstanding claim by giving factually wrong and misleading replies to all concerned authorities to delay and deny me revised/ minimum guaranteed pension w.e.f. 1.1.1996 without any accountability.

### **Lessons to be learnt**

Firstly, the policy letters issued to implement revised pay fixation and pension rules at GoI level should be carefully drafted by MoD and should have the approval of MoF/Min of Per & PG when the orders are based on MoF/Min of Per & PG policy letters issued on the subject. In case of amendment or clarification by MoF/Min of Per & PG, the same should also be notified and incorporated subsequently in the original policy letters notified by the MoD.

Secondly, the lowest level offices like the Record offices i.e. MS Br/ AG's Br AHQ, PAO and PSA will not be able to do justice to the job assigned to their office if they remain ignorant of basic

service rules/ conditions, promotion/upgradation rules, pay fixation rules and pension rules as amended from time to time as a result of CPC recommendations or court rulings. In case of doubt, the concerned office should seek clarification from GoI/ MoD instead taking action/ decision arbitrarily without any authority resulting into infructuous correspondence, financial loss and harassment to the pensioner on the one hand and financial irregularities being committed in fixation of pay/pension by the concerned offices on the other hand.

Thirdly, all concerned authorities need to know the difference between promotion and upgradation which was clarified by the MoD in the policy letter dated 3.5.2017 quoted in the updated statement of the claim as on 1.12.2024 quoted above.. However, there is always a tendency among concerned authorities to continue to take arbitrary decisions to either give benefit to one individual/ group of employees or deprive of the benefit to another individual/ group of employees. This may be due to ignorance about the fundamental rules and regulations laid down by GoI or inefficiency/ corruption in the department.

Fourthly, final Judgement given by the SC in any case particularly affecting pay/pension rules should be automatically incorporated in the rules and notified by GoI/MoD for implementation. It may be noted that in a case between Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd v/s R. Santha Kumari Velusamy (2011) 9 SCC 510 the bench of R V Raveendran and Markandey Katju in the SC laid down the principles relating to promotion and up gradation with higher pay scale and entitlement of financial benefits accordingly. According to SC judgement, if vacancies are fixed for upgradation to higher post with higher pay scale, minimum service is laid down and upgradation is granted after screening then it will be also treated as promotion.

Fifthly, I succeeded in collecting all relevant rules and policy letters/law cases issued by GoI/MoF/Min of Per & PG/MoD in support of my claim with the help of various websites and manuals published by government and non-government organizations which have been adequately quoted and explained in the updated statement of the claim as on 1.12.2024 reproduced as above. However, no single office or concerned authority was found to be knowing or in possession of the relevant rules/policy letters except that my representation was forwarded repeatedly to the o/o PCDA(O)/PCDA(P) by MoD DESW/ Min of Per & PG for necessary action.

Sixthly, MoD issued final orders on 24.7.2014 to implement SC Judgement in a 'Rank Pay Case' for refixation of pay as on 1.1.1986 in respect of all officers who were in service on 1.1.1986 and the same also became applicable to me for notional fixation of pay on 1.1.1986 being a pre-1986 retiree officer for revision of pension w.e.f. 1.1.1996. Army Pay Rule-2017 notified on 3 May, 2017 also clarified that promotion and upgradation is one and the same. Full copy of the MoD policy letters dated 14.2.1980 , dated 5.3.1982 and dated 17 Nov, 1982 regarding selection grade policy were finally made available on 25.11.2021 by the office of PCDA(O) to the o/o CGDA and me which helped to resolve the long drawn claim only in 2024.

Lastly, it may be noted by all authorities at all level that there has been repeated violation of guidelines and procedure laid down by the DARPG for the redressal of grievances. According to para 5.1 & 6.1 of the guidelines- "An analysis of grievances received in DAPRG and Directorate of Public Grievances has revealed that the majority of grievances related to inordinate delay in taking decisions, extending from several months to several years and refusal/inability to make speaking replies/disclose basic information to the petitioners to enable them to examine whether their cases have been

correctly decided. It is observed that, had the concerned organizations expeditiously and appropriately dealt with the grievances in the first instance, the complainants would not have approached DARPG & D (PG)".

## Part-VI

### CONCLUSION AND LESSON LEARNT FOR NATION BUILDING

**But who cares for the country?** This question has been there in my mind since my childhood (1940-47) when the country was fighting final battle for independence of the country. So for many years freedom fighters were our role model who sacrificed their life for the independence of the country. After independence, I realized that each region in India had its own historical background and so was the region of Garhwal and Kumaon Hills. Kingdom of Garhwal and Kumaon region had mostly remained independent during the Mughal and British rule from the capital city of Delhi. In Garhwal and Kumaon hill region, the men and women as farmers wrested a very comfortable living from a difficult terrain and as soldiers successfully secured northern borders of ancient and modern India. Therefore, future development plans can not be successful without keeping in view the historical background of each region in India with varying agroclimatic conditions, ecology, environment and agricultural practices.

I inherited certain qualities from my parents. My father always stood for truth and justice for all and my mother was known for perfect planning in household affairs and believed in hard work only. My mother did great service to bring up the family and efficiently managed household affairs, children care (3 brothers and 4 sisters) and farming in the absence of my father who was serving as teacher away from home due to limited number of schools those

days. My mother was well informed about health and care of children and every other woman in the village looked up to her for guidance. She was also well versed with the teaching of 'Gita' which did influence my life also during my childhood. Thereafter, it was the military training that made me honestly think and work for the safety, honor and welfare of the country all through my life.

After lifelong observation and study, I find that the country is still fighting in the name of nationalism and patriotism instead of fighting against corruption, tax evasion, black marketing, black money, money laundering, criminals, crime against women and weaker section of the society. Let us not forget that it was due to true nationalism and patriotism that people of India irrespective of caste, religion and region who took part in freedom movement and finally got independence for the country after thousand years of slavery. All this has made me to work for latest book titled - 'Making of corruption free united India after 75 years'. Unfortunately, right now the world is facing the biggest ever threat due to pandemic like COVID-19 and climate change which is bound to change the course of history and the normal life of the people all over the world. Beside climate change, the similar pandemic in the near future can not be ruled out. In view of this, I also completed my life long study on 'God Faith and Religion' as part of citizenship education program of my research institute. To know more about 'Central Himalayan Institute' and its past, present and future program see Annexure-3 in the following pages and visit [www.chidehradun.com](http://www.chidehradun.com)

### Annexure-1

#### Review of my book "Selfless Soldiering"

The book titled 'Selfless Soldiering' by me and reproduced as Part-VII of this book was reviewed by renowned historian late Lt Col Gautam Sharma and the same was published in Sainik Samachar on March 29, 1985 which reads as follows.

"Selfless Soldiering is an honest appraisal of the profession of Arms by an Army Major with about twenty year of service, with two wars thrown in for good measure and actual battle experience. Ever since independence, our Armed Forces have been tested. Time and again, not only in battles on our borders in the North East and North West, in the air and on the high seas but also within the country to fight insurgency. That they have come out with flying colors on all these occasions is due to the devotion and sincerity of men like the present author and thousands of his fellow officers and men. No tribute in either words of praise, certificate of merit or by awards of gallantry medals can compensate for the sacrifices made by them.

" Modern fighting, as of yore and according to beliefs still held, is not going into a battle with doses of opium or liquor and with deafening battle cry (yuddha ghosh), bugles and drums to enthuse the men to face the enemy at times, to court death, it is rather a display of courage and calculated plans rehearsed, perfected and finalized over long years.

"It is also a battle of wits where the history, culture and traditions of a nation are tested. These days decisive victory to defeat is a mirage. National and international forces and pressures continuously influence and interfere with the conduct of war where young officers and men in the fighting lines are treated like pawns in a game of chess. That these young leaders take initiative and undertake operations, risking not only their own lives but also those

of the men under their command, is often forgotten in the corridors of power or at conference tables. The author has rightly grouse at such cavalier treatment.

“ The raid referred to by the author and carried out by him in May 1984, as a very junior leader, is significant and indicates concentrated planning and devotion. Like an honest leader who keeps the welfare of the men he commands uppermost, he made sure that those who had contributed towards the success of the mission were brought to the notice of higher commanders for awards and commendation. It was very satisfying to him and others that they did receive them. His duty was done; in fact, well done. His observation that he too was waiting for some kind of gallantry awards which never came, is a weakness.

“ Soldiering is not all bouquets and banquets as many young brides seem to imagine. The republic day parade with all the glitter dazzle is only a flash in the life of a soldier. Even the Annual parade is the result of years of practice, hard labor and sweat. Only selected units are given the honor to salute their Supreme Commander on that day, Even at Delhi, these officers and men practice for a full one month to ensure that every event goes according to plan.

“ The best and most satisfying period of soldiering is admittedly when involved have a sense of personal participation and recognition by one's own people. Counter- insurgency operations, as the author rightly points out, is not soldiering. Mounting casualties at the hands of a determined and unscrupulous enemy who happens to be our own nationals can be very frustrating because the soldiers are at the receiving end, all the time. While they are ordered to exercise restraint, the other side makes full use of this to cause maximum casualties and then escape.

“ In spite of these handicaps, the author was able to set new trend. He came to the conclusion that fraternization with the ‘Locals’ was the only answer. This was a singular method to alienate and neutralize the insurgents from the people. That he succeeded speaks well of his ingenuity and resourcefulness.

“ An aspect of soldiering which the author has rightly emphasized more than once is the gap which exists between profession and practice and between ideals and actions. There can be no two opinions that the officer has to set highest standard and has to be beyond reproach all the time.”

#### **Annexure-2**

**My biography in Hindi, published in 1987.**  
**(Copy reproduced- see next page)**

## प्रतिभावान एवं कर्तव्यनिष्ठ

### मेजर डी० एस० विष्ट

(श्री भजनसिंह 'सिंह' तथा श्री योगेश धर्मानन्द)

विपरीत परिस्थितियों में अनुकूल कार्य करने की क्षमता गढ़वालियों में एक जातीय संस्कार के रूप में रही है। इसीलिये विकट एवं संकटपूर्ण परिस्थितियों में नैसर्गिक प्रतिभा सम्पन्न युवकों ने विकास के मार्गों पर चलने से पूर्व काँटों को साफ कर आने वाली पीढ़ी के लिए अनुकरणीय कार्य कर मार्य प्रशस्त किया है। इहीं सतत प्रयत्नों के फलस्वरूप आज गढ़वाली देश ही नहीं, विदेश में भी अपनी मातृभूमि का गौरव बढ़ा रहे हैं। पिछले एह दशक से प्रशासकीय सेवाओं में भी इस सेवा के लोगों ने उल्लेखनीय कार्य कर बहुआयामी प्रतिभा का परिचय दिया है। इहीं व्यक्तियों में एक मेजर डी० एस० विष्ट हैं। जिला सैनिक कल्याण एवं पुनर्वास अधिकारी मेजर विष्ट का जन्म गढ़वाल जनपद के ग्राम चाली पट्टी अजमेर में हुआ था। आपके पिता श्री प्रतापसिंह स्वयं एक कर्तव्य-निष्ठ आदर्श अध्यापक रहे हैं। श्रामीण परिदेश में पले-पोषे श्री विष्ट ने आरम्भिक शिक्षा गांव में ग्रहण करने के पश्चात 1962 में भाव 20 साल की आयु में थल सेना में कमीशंड आफीसर की परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण कर अनुष्ठान प्रतिभा का परिचय दिया। मेजर विष्ट ने अपने सेवाकाल में जाट रेजीमेंट के सैनिकों के बीच सर्वाधिक द्याति अर्जित की। इसका आभास आपके द्वारा लिखित पुस्तक Selfless Soldiering (निष्ठवार्थ सैनिक सेवा) पढ़ने से मिल जाता है। इस पुस्तक में मेजर विष्ट ने जाट रेजीमेंट के एक सैनिक द्वारा उन्हें लिखे गये पत्र को प्रकाशित किया है। जिसमें सैनिक द्वारा मेजर विष्ट को मानवता से ओत-प्रोत सहृदयी व्यक्ति बताया है। सैनिक की जन-भावनाओं को ही मेजर विष्ट अपने सेवाकाल का सर्वोच्च सम्मान पदक मानते हैं। एक सैनिक के रूप में मेजर विष्ट ने चिलक्षण प्रतिभा का पर्दिचय दिया है। सन् 1964 में ट्यूनियट वटालियन में कार्य करते हुये कालमीर में पाकिस्तान द्वारा बनाई गई एह चौकी का सफाया करने में कुशल नेतृत्व व साहस का परिचय दिया था। इसके पश्चात 1965 में भारत-राक युद्ध में भी जाट रेजीमेंट के रूप में युद्ध मोर्चे पर मेजर डी० एस० विष्ट ने सजगता के साथ दुश्मनों के द्वारों पर पानी केर दिया था।

स्वाधीनता प्राप्ति के पश्चात भी देश के पूर्वोत्तर अंशांत क्षेत्र में शांति स्थापना के प्रयासों में सेना की भूमिका उल्लेखनीय रही है। इस संदर्भ में मेजर बिष्ट ने सेना में रहते हुये सन 1968 से 72 तक भूमिगत नागा उप्रवादियों से नागालैंड को बचाये रखने में अधक प्रयास किये तथा उप्रवादियों के हृदय परिवर्तन कर उन्हें राष्ट्रीय जीवन की मुख्य धारा में जोड़ने का प्रयास किया। इस पूरी अवधि में मेजर बिष्ट एक अन्वेषक की तरह सेना और जनता तथा जनता व प्रशासन के रिस्तों पर विचार करते हुए लोकतांत्रिक व्यवस्था के श्रंदर इसकी भागीदारी को कारगर बनाये जाने के लिये अपने अनुभव लिखते रहे। इस प्रकार से वे में 20 वर्ष तक कार्य करने के उपरांत सन 1981 में अवकाश लेकर गढ़वाल लौट आये। यहां आते ही सैनिक जीवन और यात्राओं को लेकर अध्ययन में रम गये। फलस्वरूप सन 1982 में मेजर बिष्ट की पहली पुस्तक 'गाइट दू गढ़वाल एण्ड कुमायू हिल्स' प्रकाशित हुई। इसमें गढ़वाल-कुमायू की संस्कृति, इतिहास, सामाजिक एवं आर्थिक व्यवस्था का सम्पूर्ण अध्ययन कर उसका विश्लेषण करने का प्रयत्न किया गया है।

प्रशासनिक क्षेत्र में मेजर बिष्ट की दृष्टि और कुशल सूज-बुझ के भलस्वरूप 7 अगस्त, 1983 को मेजर बिष्ट को जिला गढ़वाल में सैनिक कल्याण एवं पुनर्वास अधिकारी का दायित्व सौंपा गया। अपने 3 वर्ष के सेवाकाल में ही कुशल प्रशासक, निष्पक्षता तथा जन-सेवक के रूप में इन्होंने विभाग के कार्य-कलापों को व्यवस्थित करके भूतपूर्व सैनिकों के हितार्थ कई उपयोगी कार्य किये।

भूतपूर्व सैनिक या उनके आश्रितों के लिये शासन द्वारा चलाई जा रही योजनाओं का लाभ उन तक पहुंचाने के लिये विशेष व्यवस्था की है। इन प्रयासों में सन 1986 में मेजर बिष्ट द्वारा 'भूतपूर्व तंत्रिकों के लिये सुविधायें' शीर्षक पुस्तक का प्रकाशन किया गया।

पुस्तक में शासन की योजनाओं और उसकी नियमावलियों को बहुत ही सरल व सुगम ढंग से लिखा गया है। इससे कम पढ़-लिखे सैनिक भी समझ सकते हैं। अपनी तरह के इस अभिनव प्रयत्न के कारण पूर्व की अपेक्षा भूतपूर्व सैनिक लाभान्वित हो रहे हैं। इन दिनों श्री बिष्ट अपनी प्रस्तावित पुस्तक 'जनता और प्रशासन' की आधार भूमिका तैयार कर चुके हैं। इसके माध्यम से वे प्रशासन को जन-कल्याणकारी और जनता

के लिये कारगर बनाने वाले तथ्यों का पता लेगाकर प्रशासन में आ रहे खामियों के हल के लिए प्रयत्नशील हैं।



मेजर डी० एस० विष्ट की कर्तव्य परायणता और लगन का परिचय इसी बात में फलकता है कि सेना से सेवा निवृत होने पर वे सीधे मातृभूमि की सेवा के लिये गढ़वाल चले आये। आज के भौतिक तथा पलायनवादी प्रवृत्ति के विरुद्ध दिशा बदलने का कार्य किया है।

सरल हृदय के व्यक्ति श्री विष्ट अपने द्वारा की गई जन-सेवाओं को वस अपना कर्तव्य मानते हैं। इससे ज्यादा नहीं। यही सलाह उनकी अन्य अधिकारियों के लिये भी है। इसी से प्रशासन लोक-कल्याणकारी

कहलाने का हकदार है, अन्यथा नहीं।

मेजर विष्ट के अनुसार उनके कार्यों पर उनकी माता जी श्रीमती मुभद्वा देवी के आदर्शों का प्रभाव अधिक रहा है। जो स्वतंत्र कर्मठ, निष्ठा-वान व देश भक्ति में विश्वास रखने वाली महिला है। आपकी माता जी अंजमेर सेवा की पहली शिक्षित महिला थी। उन्होंने महाभारत, गीता, रामायण का अध्ययन कर मेजर डी० एस० विष्ट को उनके बाल्यकाल में ही नैतिक शिक्षा का पाठ सिखाया था। मेजर विष्ट से पूछे जाने पर 'आज की विश्वरीत परिस्थिरों में जनता की समस्याओं को समझने व उनके हल के लिए आप ही इतने अधिक व्यग्र बग्रों हैं' सहज कितु गम्भीर भाव से उनका उत्तर था कि 'हर समस्या को वे चुनौती मानते हैं। प्रत्येक भूतपूर्व सैनिक जो अनपढ़ है, उसके आश्रितों को यदि कोई सुविधा मुहृद्या हो सकती है तो, वे इसको करने में अपना धर्म समझें, इससे अधिक कुछ नहीं।' सैनिक जाति के संस्कारों के कारण मेजर विष्ट निरंतर भूतपूर्व सैनिकों के हाथों को रचनात्मक दिशा में लगाने के लिये प्रत्तन-शील हैं। उनकी भान्यता है कि इस बक्तु अकेले गढ़वाल जनपद में लगभग एक लाख भूतपूर्व सैनिकों को गाँव के पारस्परिक झगड़ों के हल तथा शासन द्वारा संचालित ग्रामीण योजनाओं की देख का उत्तरदायित्व सौंप कर उचित देख-रेख की जा सकती है।

अपने मीलिक एवं व्यावहारिक विचारों के कारण मेजर बिष्ट एक मेहनती, दृढ़संकल्पी तथा अध्यवसायी व्यक्ति हैं। क्षेत्रीय जनता को उनके सार्थक प्रयत्नों का लाभ पहुंचता रहेगा, इसकी अपेक्षा हम सबको है।

मेजर बिष्ट एक कर्तव्यनिष्ट अधिकारी होने के साथ-साथ एक अच्छे साहित्यकार भी हैं। युवावस्था से ही उनकी रचि साहित्य के अध्ययन तथा लेखन में रही है। सम्प्रति वे गढ़वाल तथा कुमायू पर्वतीय क्षेत्र के यात्रा, पर्यटन और यहाँ की दुर्लभ भौतिक सम्पदाओं पर एक पुस्तक की रचना कर रहे हैं। गढ़वाल के गोरक्ष को बढ़ाने वाले ऐसे सुधी विद्वान्, ईमानदार एवं कर्मठ सेवानिवृत सैनिक अधिकारी पर यहाँ की जनता को स्वाभिमान है।

### Annexure-3

#### CENTRAL HIMALAYAN INSTITUTE (CHI) IN A NUTSHELL AS ON 1 Jul, 2025

Central Himalayan Institute is a one man research Institute (Regd. as Trust on 28 June, 2008) with an extra ordinary achievements without any patron, Godfather or donation but with the divine grace of **Lord Krishna** only.

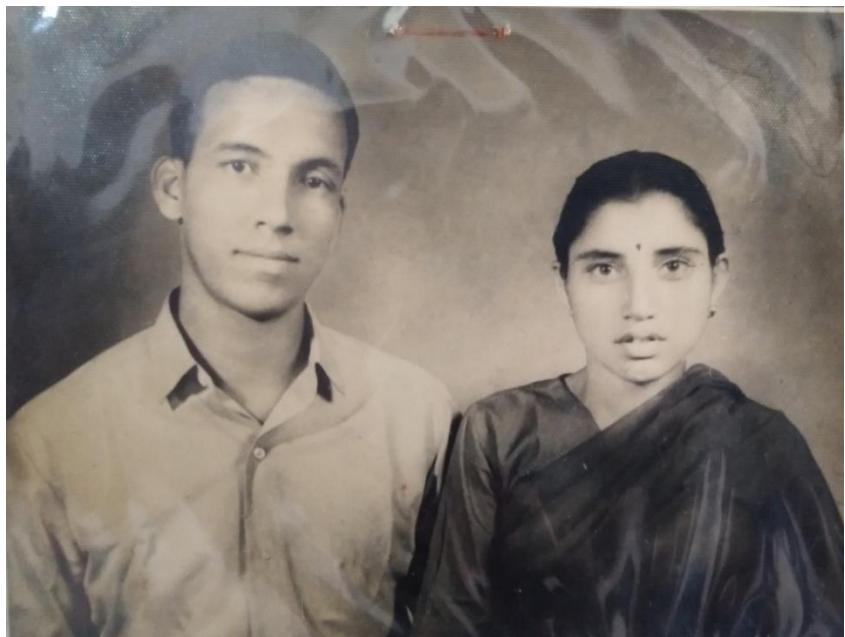
**Lord Krishna** was the incarnation of supreme soul (Paramatma), the faceless '**Brahma**' who created the universe millions of year ago. CHI had, therefore, undertaken a fresh study about the origin of '**Sanatana Dharma**' (the eternal religion for mankind) which was first spoken by the creator of this universe, the supreme soul '**Brahman**' to **Surya** and passed on to **Manu** etc. and retold by His incarnation **Lord Krishna** about 5000 years ago during the **Mahabharata** war to rid the society of evil forces and the irreligious

happenings during 'DwaparaYuga'. Documented version of the words spoken by **Lord Krishna** to brave warrior Arjuna has since been available to all human beings in the form of a holy book '**Shrimad Bhagavad Gita**' in Sanskrit language with translation in Hindi or English language but with variation in meaning of each verse, interpretation and lengthy elaboration which does not sink in the mind of ordinary human beings in today's world. The dictionary meaning of God and its manifestation given in the English language dictionary does not differ with what has been said convincingly by **Lord Krishna Himself** and recorded in the holy book '**Shrimad Bhagavad Gita**'. The meaning of God given in the dictionary are: the supreme Deity, the Deity, the Absolute Being, the All Holy, the All Knowing, the All powerful, the All Merciful, the Almighty creator, the Eternal Being and Lord of Lords etc.

CHI is, therefore, please to announce that the original translated version of '**Shrimad Bhagavad Gita**' in simple international English language without elaboration or interpretation has been included in our book titled "**God Faith and Religion** ' written for the followers of all religion in the world which is presently available on our website [www.chidehradun.com](http://www.chidehradun.com) for comments and Chapter-VI on '**Sanatana Dharma and Hinduism**' has also been added.

CHI is engaged in research and writing in accordance to guiding principles of the institute to promote citizenship education, efficient and corruption free governance, administrative reforms, socio-economic development studies for the welfare of citizens/soldiers and sustainable development of rural (real) India. CHI successfully completed two national level research study projects sponsored by then Planning Commission GoI, namely 'Poverty Planning and Development' published in 2006 and 'Governance and Development of Rural India' published in 2014. Digital version of two more research- based books titled 1. God Faith and Religion 2. Selfless Soldiering and Public Service completed during 2022-25 and preview

about other research based books published prior to 2022 are also available on our website. **CHI** is presently in the process of completing first comprehensive and result/action plan -oriented research study project, ever undertaken by any individual/institute till to date, which is titled '**Making of Corruption Free United India After 75 years**' and the progress made so far is also available on our website [www.chidehradun.com](http://www.chidehradun.com)

**MARRIED LIFE AND TIME OF – Devi Damyanti Bisht (1962-2022)**

Attended passing out parade of my late younger brother Major S. S. Bisht on 16th Dec, 1977 at the Indian Military Academy Dehradun with parents.





Attended passing out parade of elder son Mahesh Bisht at the Air Force Academy Hyderabad on 13 June, 1992 who is due to retire on 31st Dec, 2025 as Group Captain.









Hopefully, grandchildren Aishani, Enakshi and Kriyansh will carry forward the traditions established by their grandmother.





Author of the book celebrated 'Diamond Jubilee' of Selfless Soldiering and Public Service (30 June, 1963-30 June, 2023) on 14 November, 2023 (84<sup>th</sup> birth day) with the family members in DSOI Dehradun. The draft of the book titled 'Selfless Soldiering and Public' is presently uploaded on this website and the printed version of the book will also be released soon for distribution.



## Part-VII SELFLESS SOLDIERING- REVISITED

The original book was published in 1985 and is reproduced in this part of the book to bridge the link between selfless soldiering and public service. The book was dedicated by me to the memory of Late Captain R.P. Gaur (died in 1965 Indo-Pak war) who was a close friend and commissioned together with me on 30 June, 1963 and to Late Captain H.P.S. Ahluwalia, K.C. (Posthumous) who was my company officer (died in Nagaland in 1972), both fighting gallantly with my unit 7<sup>th</sup> Bn The Jat Regiment without caring for personal safety in the best traditions of selfless soldiering.

“We should be ever ready to meet any threat to our freedom and integrity. Our Armed Forces are an excellent example of national integration and unity”, said Giani Zail Singh, then the President of India. Incidentally the book on ‘Selfless Soldiering’ was being finalized by me during the year 1984 when the country was facing biggest ever threat to its national security and integrity. In a situation like this, the importance of the Armed Forces and selfless soldiering will always remain of paramount importance.

The book ‘Selfless Soldiering’ highlights the high ideals and the contribution of soldiers to strengthen national integration and national security in the best traditions of the Indian Armed forces. The following pages include the full text of the book starting from ‘Foreword’ by Lt General K.P. Candeth, PVSM (Retd.) to last Chapter-8 titled ‘Farewell to Soldiering’. The review of the book published in ‘Sainik Samachar’ on 29 March, 1985 can be seen as Annexure-1 quoted in Part-VI above.

**(Continue reading Part-VII in the following pages)**