**सिद्धान्त संहिता होरा रूपस्कन्धत्रयात्मकम्।**

**वेदस्य निर्मलं चक्षु ज्योर्तिशास्त्रमकल्मषम्।**

What people say about us !

Whispers in Corridors is doing great work keeping people fully informed of latest developments with regard to bureaucracy and corporate affairs etc. even during this most difficult time. Keep doing the good work !

D V Singh

This is History (2113)

Some of the greatest battles will be fought within the silent chambers of your own soul.

**Thackeray gets in a tizzy as nomination file gathers dust in Guv house !**

The nomination of Uddhav Thackeray in Legislative Council meant to pave the way for continuation of Chief Ministership is whispered to be in the doldrums with the nomination file gathering dust in the Governor house in Maharashtra for a long time. An inordinate delay on the part of Governor may queer the pitch of Thackeray and cause a political upheaval in the State already struggling with COVID.

**Rajasthan CM concerned about redundancy of journalists – a message**

Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister of Rajasthan, has expressed grave concern on the reports of downsizing manpower of journalists by various TV, Print Media houses and reducing salaries to half citing reasons of economic downturn. The Chief Minister has urged the proprietors of media houses not to give the journalists sack and reduce salaries. A message to other CMs.

BUREAUCRACY

**Secretary level appointments this week ?**

Secretary level appointments in the Government of India are expected to be made this week.

**Two 1986 batch IAS officers yet to get posting as Secretary**

Two 1986 batch IAS officers  are still waiting  to get Secretary level postings in the Government of India.

**One dozen 1987 batch IAS officers still waiting in the wings**

After the recent empanelment, altogether one dozen IAS officers in the Government of India are still waiting in the wings to get posting.

**1988 batch IAS officers to get Special Secretary rank**

All the 1988 batch IAS officers who have been empanelled to the rank of Secretary in the Government of India will be given in-situ promotion.

**No new diplomatic appointments expected for next 3 months**

No new diplomatic appointments foreseen for next 3 months as MEA gets busy in COVID-19 control.

**Who will be new Secretary, MSME ?**

A vacancy of Secretary of Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) is arising on May 1 with the retirement of incumbent Dr. Arun Kumar Panda on April 30, 2020. Who will succeed this 1984 batch IAS officer of Odisha cadre ? 1987 batch IAS officer is expected to succeed him.

**Only one officer each from 10 states empanelled as Secretary in GoI**

Going by the recent empanelment of 28 IAS officers as Secretary in the GoI, it is clear that there are 10 stattes from where only one IAS officer each has been empanelled. They are Armane Girdhar, AP; Ali Raza Rizvi, HP; Tarun Bajaj, Haryana; T K Jose, Kerala; Anil Kumar Jha, Karnataka; Rajiv Bansal, Nagaland; Ms Anjali Bhawara, Punjab; Jatinder Nath Swain, TN; Sukhabir Singh Sandhu, Uttarakhand and Indeevera Pandey of West Bengal cadre.

**Three Secretary equivalent rank IAS officers of 1987 batch now Secretary in GoI**

Three IAS officers of 1987 batch, who were empanelled as Secretary Equivalent in October 2019, have now been empanelled as Secretary in Government of India. They are: Rameshwar Prasad Gupta of Gujarat cadre; Ajay Tirkey and Rajesh Kumar Chturvedi of Madhya Pradesh cadre.

**BBB to interview candidates for one SBI MD vacancy soon**

The Banks Board Bureau has completed application process for one vacancy of MD in SBI and interaction with the candidates will be scheduled soon. Whispers are that there are more than nine candidates in the race for the post so far.

**SBI promotes 30 GMs to CGM rank**

The State Bank of India has promoted 30 of its general managers as Chief General Manager. They are Devendra Kumar, Naresh Yadav, Ramesh V, Sankar Bala Bhadrapatruni, Ms Ruma Dey, Kaushik Sinha, Barkat Ali, Muralidharan S, Rajesh Kumar Mishra, Kelshikar Pradeep S, Ravichandra Koveloor V, Amitava Chatterjee, Shamsher Singh, Sridhar K, Vijay Kumar Tyagi,  Nair Padmakumar M, Ms Vaidya Krishnan, Suresh Kazikote, Rajesh Sikka, R S Ramesh, Sham Lal Garg, Suresh Manikoth, Krishna Singh Barguzaar,  Gulshan Malik, P Umashankar, Ms Manju Sharma Bolakani, Sandeep Kumar Mishra, Subhash Chand Joinwal, Pravin Ragvendra and Sanjay Sahay.

**SBI promotes 14 CGMs and DMDs**

The State Bank of India has promoted 14 of its chief general managers and Deputy Managing Director.They are Arun Mehta, Natrajan Sundar, Sastry S Venkataramana, Ravindra Pandey, Prakash Chand Kandpal, Ashwini Kumar Tewari, V S Radhakrishnan, S Salee, Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh, Prabodh Parikh, Rao Sureddi Srinivasa, Anup Kumar Mahapatra, Vinay M Tonse and Ms Saloni Narayan.

**Rly Board may delay ‘transfer on own request’ proposals ?**

Whispers are that the Railway Board may be delaying processing ‘transfer on own request’ proposals from officers to offer priority to more urgent postings in the post COVID-19 situation.

**Govt plan to appoint defence personnel in DMA as Jt Secy delayed**

Whispers are that Govt’s plan to appoint serving defence officers as Joint Secretaries in the Department of Military Affairs has been delayed due to COVID-19 situation.

**DG, Health in UP shunted out**

-Dr Badri Vishal, DG, Health & Family Welfare, has been shunted out from his post in UP and put in wait list. PS, Health Amit Mohan Prasad issued the related order on Sunday late evening. Order further says that Dr Ms Mithilesh Chaturvedi has been given additional charge of DG, Health and Family Welfare.

**Who is running the shot in NHAI ?**

Whisper has it that two officials in the NHAI are running the shot in every file. They are being called above the board in the office galleries.

**Only one vacancy at Director level in BHEL in 2020; selection in the offing**

Only one vacancy at Director level is arising in Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) with retirement of S Balakrishnan in 2020. The selection of Director (Industrial Systems & Products) is delayed due to unexpected situation arising out of COVID-19 spread.

**Justice Dipankar Datta recommended for CJ of Bombay HC**

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended elevation of Calcutta High Court Judge, Justice Dipankar Datta as Chief Justice of Bombay High Court.

**Justice Mohammed Rafique recommended for CJ of Orissa HC**

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended transfer of Meghalaya High Court Chief Justice Mohammed Rafique as Chief Justice of Orissa High Court.

**Justice Biswanath Somadder recommended for CJ of Meghalaya HC**

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended elevation of Allahabad High Court Judge Justice Biswanath Somadder  as Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court.

**MHA issues guidelines for stranded workers**

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has said that stranded workers could be engaged but social distancing norms should be followed. Buses used for transport be sanitized as per guidelines. The MHA has clearly said that there shall be no movement of workers outside the state/UT from where they are currently located. These guidelines will be effective from April 20, 2020.

**Rs 36, 859 Cr transferred to 16.01 crore beneficiaries’ accounts**

An amount of Rs 36,659 crores has been transferred through DBT in the bank accounts of 1601 crore beneficiaries between March 24 and April 17 this year under various schemes.

**Two IAS officers transferred in UP**

Masoom Ali Sarver has been posted as MD, PCF and Abhishek Pandey was made Chief Development Officer (CDO), Bulandshahar in Uttar Pradesh.

**J S Venkateswara Prasad is ACS, Revenue in AP (UPDATED)**

J S Venkateswara Prasad has been appointed as Special Chief Secretary, (Endowments)Revenue Department in Andhra Pradesh. He is a 1987 batch IAS officer.

**Offices start functioning  in GoI (UPDATED)**

- After a long lap Govt of India offices  have started functioning in Delhi. Social distancing norms are being followed in the offices. Parking in all premises were seen full because maximum officers and staff reached by their own vehicles. Due to lockdown in Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad and other NCR areas , public transport, DTC buses and Metro trains are off .

**PESB Chairman, K D Tripathi is now Secretary to President of India (UPDATED)**

Kapil Dev Tripathi, Chairman, Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB), has been appointed as new Secretary to the President of India on contract basis for a term co-terminus with the tenure of the President or until further orders. He is a 1980 batch retired IAS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre.

**(We said this on Feb 20, 2020)**

**M K Gupta likely to get an additional charge of Chairman, PESB? (UPDATED)**

M K Gupta, Member, PESB, is expected to be entrusted with an additional charge of Chairman, Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB). He is a 1979 batch retired IRSE officer.

3 advocates recommended as judges of AP HC

Supreme Court Collegium has recommended elevation of Boppudi Krishna Mohan, K Suresh Reddy and K Lalitha Kumari , advocates as judges of Andhra Pradesh high court.

B Vijaysen Reddy recommended as Telangana HC Judge

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended elevation of B. Vijaysen Reddy, Advocate as Judge of the Telangana High Court.

5 judicial officers recommended as Karnataka HC judges

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended elevation of the following Judicial Officers as Judges of the Karnataka High Court:-Shivashankar Amarannavar, Mrs M. Ganeshaiah Uma, Vedavyasachar Srishananda, Hanchate Sanjeevkumar, and Padmaraj Nemachandra Desai.

3 Addl judges recommended as Calcutta HC judges

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended appointment of following Additional Judges of Calcutta High Court as Permanent Judges of that High Court: Justice Bibek Chaudhuri, Justice Subhasis Dasgupta, and Mrs Justice Suvra Ghosh.

**Secretary Culture, Rajesh Chaturvedi bereaved (UPDATED)**

The mother of Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi has passed away. Chaturvedi, who belongs to a 1987 batch IAS officer of MP cadre, is presently Secretary Culture in Government of India.

**AP High Court to get three Judges (UPDATED)**

Boppudi Krishna Mohan, K Suresh Reddy and K Lalitha Kumar have been recommended as Judges of Andhra Pradesh High Court.

**Two IAS officers shifted in MP (UPDATED)**

Mahesh Chandra Chaudhary has been appointed as Commissioner, Jabalpur division while Ravindra Kumar Mishra is Secretary, Secretariat in Madhya Pradesh.

**Three IPS officers get new postings in MP (UPDATED)**

Upon return from central deputation, A Sai Manohar has been appointed as IG, Vigilance, PHQ with additional charge of CID, while Amit Singh, SP Jabalpur, was shifted to Bhopal as Assistant IG, PHQ, Bhopal and Siddharth Bahuguna will now be SP, Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh.

CORPORATE

**LNJ Bhilwara Group donates Rs.5.51 cr to COVID -19 relief funds**

As the CoronaVirus pandemic has affected the entire country, LNJ Bhilwara Group Company, a multi-product & services conglomerate with ventures in areas as diverse as Textiles, Graphite Electrodes and Power has decided to stand with the Government and donated Rs.5.51 crores in COVID- 19 relief funds. The company has decided to bifurcate the amount as Rs.2 crores to the PM-Cares fund, Rs.1.5 crore to the Madhya Pradesh CM Relief fund, Rs.1.01 crore to the Rajasthan CM Relief fund, Rs.50 lakh to the Himachal Pradesh CM Relief fund and Rs.30 and 20 lakh to the Bhilwara and Ajmer Local DM Relief fund respectively. Promoters of the group companies (HEG Ltd and RSWM Ltd) have decided to undertake a 50% cut on their basic salaries for the year 2020-21. All guest house facilities of RSWM Ltd. around Bhilwara district totalling 80 beds have been offered for quarantine procedures to local authorities. Mr. Ravi Jhunjhunwala, LNJ Bhilwara Group, said, “We stand with the Government and the people in this crisis and will extend our entire support to help combat the pandemic.” He further added, “The Company through Jawahar Foundation is working on ground for food packet distribution and is working directly in the districts of Bhilwara and Ajmer providing food relief packages to underprivileged families.”

**Appointment of two HDFC Bank Directors put on hold**

Sashidhar Jagdishan and Bhavesh Zaveri have resigned as Additional Directors on the Board of HDFC Bank in compliance with RBI directives. The Board of Directors of the Bank shall examine and consider their appointments once the new MD and CEO assumes charge.

**HDFC Bank finalises three candidates for MD & CEO post**

The Board of HDFC Bank has finalised three candidates, in order of preference, to succeed CEO and MD Aditya Puri. However, an external agency is working to zero in on a candidate.

**Savla appointed Addl. Director of Deep Industries**

Deep Industries Ltd has appointed Dharen Savla as an Additional Non-Executive and Non-Independent Director of the company.

FORUM

**Rethink on NFU to free up resources**

President, PM, Ministers, MPs and public servants to the last group C employees are contributing by voluntary reduction in pay or through donations, to enable the country overcome the hardships of COVID-19. Governance came to standstill and training programs were curtailed. Health and medical professionals and others on essential duty including conservancy services are directly fighting the battle with the pandemic. In this backdrop, it is correct that the All India Services and the Central Civil Services voluntarily forgo the Non-functional Financial Upgradation and consequent benefits. As it is, the NFU was a sleight of hand at the time VI CPC, employed to bestow undue benefits upon the already wealthy powers that be. It defrauds the people of this country, of their hard earned resources, which are always inadequate for development and welfare. The VII pay commission recommendations were ambivalent in recommending continuation of NFU, but it continues. This is the correct time to have rethink on NFU to free up resources for the fight post COVID-19. If not done voluntarily the Government must discontinue NFU from 01 Apr 2020.

Prakash

RTI

**Assets of a public servant**

The appellant stated that the information about the assets of the public servant cannot be withheld on account of fiduciary relationship, since as per Section 44 of ‘The Lokpal and Lokyukta Act, 2013’, it is mandatory on the part of every public servant to make a declaration as to his assets and liabilities. Moreover, the information, which is required to be disclosed under any enactment and/or any provision of law, cannot be held to be given under fiduciary relationship. The CIC held that the details about a public servant's assets were required by law to be submitted to the government, and as the public servant would own these by means of his earning as a public servant, it cannot be held that the details of his assets are private or that their disclosure has no relationship to any public activity or interest. Hence, the information which has been shared with the respondent organisation about the assets of Mr Birendra Jaiswal can be shared with the appellant.

**Comments**

The stand of the Information Commission has been varying on the issue of disclosure of the assets of a public servant. This order appears to be contrary to Supreme Court decision in Girish Deshpande case.

**Citation:**Kamal Kishore Arora v. Ministry of Commerce and Industry Intellectual Property Office, Delhi and Trade Marks Registry Mumbai and Delhi in Decision no.: CIC/MOCMI/A/2018/160203/03169, Date of Decision: 18/03/2020

**Dr. Anuradha Verma** ([dranuradhaverma@yahoo.co.in](mailto:dranuradhaverma@yahoo.co.in)) is an expert on RTI matters and has co-authored the books RIGHT TO INFORMATION - LAW AND PRACTICE and PIO’s guide to RTI. Apart from her weekly article here, her other articles can be read at the website of **RTI Foundation of India** at the link: [**www.rtifoundationofindia.com**](http://www.rtifoundationofindia.com/)