

कार्यालय, रक्षा लेखा नियंत्रक (प्रशिक्षण) राष्ट्रीय रक्षा वित्तीय प्रबंधन अकादमी एवं क्षेत्रीय प्रशिक्षण केंद्र, गोलीबार मैदान, पुणे - 411 001.

Office of The CDA (Training)

National Academy of Defence Financial Management & Regional Training Centre

Golibar Maidan. Pune - 411 001.



I convey my compliments to IDAS 2018 batch Probationers for taking the initiative of creating and publishing the magazine Palavi. I am sure this endeavour will be appreciated by everyone in the DAD fraternity.

The young, talented and intelligent officer trainees of 2018 batch have worked on this project along with the arduous, hectic and demanding Departmental Training Course. We, the officers and staff of the Academy are deeply moved by their commitment to embark on setting a new tradition of publishing a Probationers magazine in the form of a periodical. The probationers in previous batches have been creating a course end magazine-"Reverie". The batch of 2018 has set a very high benchmark for itself and the batches in future by taking the resolve of publishing a periodical which will convey to the Department the story of their journey of training on a regular interval.

I am joining all the IDAS officers of the Department in wishing them best of luck and the readers a very happy reading experience.

Place: Pune

Date: 30 Sep 2019

(Mihir Kumar) Director, NADFM

Miles In

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Editor's letter

Kavya Tangirala

elcome to the first edition of Palavi!

The magazine was born out of an effort to give voice to the creativity that lies within us. As an academy, we are a close knit group – our social functions, programs, sports activities along with the everyday are done together.

Palavi is for those who wish to share their work with others for appreciation, for self-fulfilment or for imparting knowledge. This magazine, I assure you, will contribute to bringing us even closer and to contribute to the happy environment of the Academy, increasing it by leaps and bounds.

We chose the name 'Palavi' in Marathi as an ode to both the vibrant greenery of Pune and to new beginnings – for it symbolizes the sprouting of new leaves, signalling the arrival of Spring (vasant). This is the beginning of a journey for the magazine as well as probationers.

As a magazine, the vision is to give ourselves a platform – to all those who work and live in NADFM. The effort is to be able to move towards more inclusive and holistic editions that cover everybody here. The future of Palavi involves all of you and will strive to provide an equitable voice to everybody.

In this first edition, however, the (fantastic) five that have made this place home for the past 3 months have contributed — ranging from poetry to their opinions on Department initiatives. We have curated our experiences so far to talk of all that has been important and close to us. A few pictures from our time so far have also been shared. Here, I would like to thank our Director for his constant encouragement and kind words.

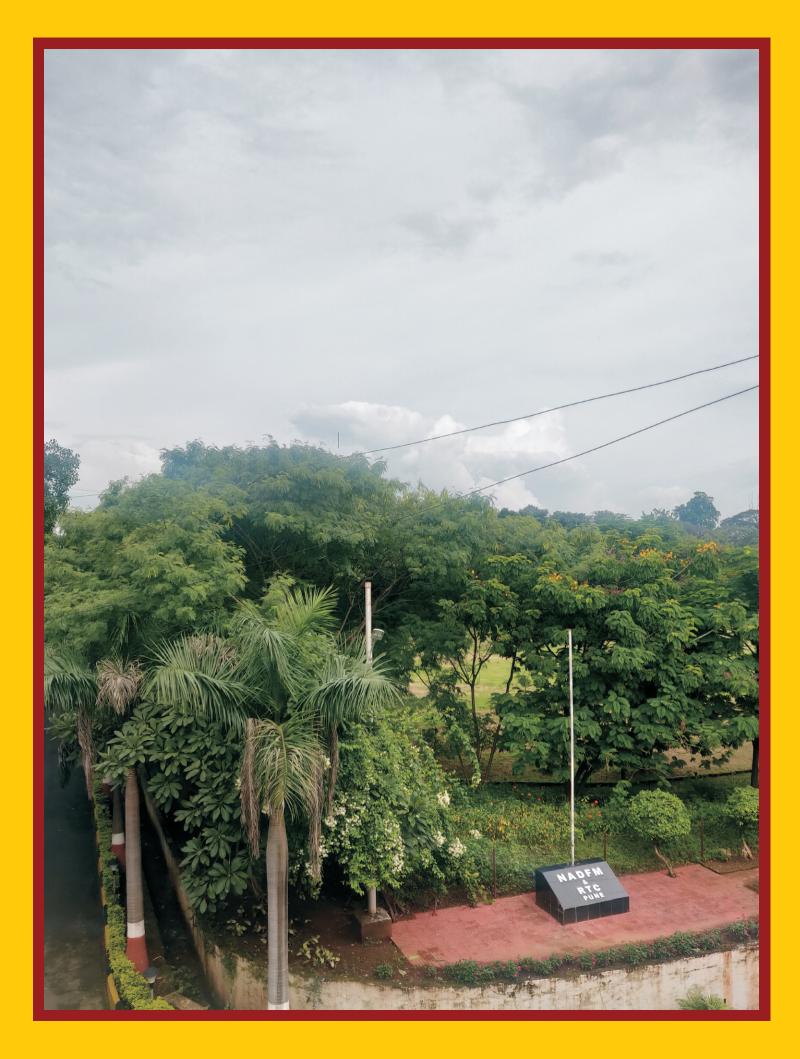
As we move to our three month sojourn outside the Academy, the publication of Palavi will be on hold. This was but to give you a taste of what is to come.

Once we return to the Academy, nestled amongst tall trees and a lovely driveway away from the main road, we shall resume with new editions that carry better features, such as columns on food and travel, amongst others.

I hope you enjoy this first issue! Improvements and suggestions are always welcome – we look forward to working with everybody.

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My classroom experience so far

Sainath Reddy

When I entered the classroom in NADFM in December last year for the first time, I was surprised by its size. Our batch strength was 14 and it was very hard to escape from the eyes of the speaker.

One look at the phone was reprimanded by a song, by our director! Especially after coming from the FC in Bhopal (where the strength was 90 and the room big enough for a nap), it was a new feeling for me. However, this made me pay attention in classes which are very useful for

my career.

Our training so far has been split into firstly, the induction training in December, 2018; followed by Phase I from July to October, 2019.

In our induction, we were given a cursory introduction to the Defence Accounts Department and their 'clients' — the services.

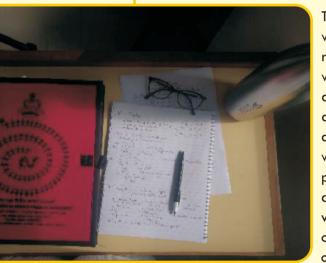
These are the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Border Roads Organization, Ordnance factories and Defence PSUs. We came to appreciate our motto—'Service to the services'.

As part of this, we visited various defence establishments in Pune including College of Military Engineering, INS Shivaji (with an amazing speedboat ride!), MILIT, DRDO (ARDE), NDA and Ordnance Factory Dehu Road. The month flew by in our many visits and building bonds as a batch!

We came back to NADFM in July, 2019 following a 6 month attachment in NIFM Faridabad. As part of Phase I now, our training has been conducted in modules designed to cover subjects like budgeting,

accounting and audit. These modules include written communication skills, establishment and administration, bills and payments along with a dedicated module on IT initiatives taken by our department.

Training includes both theory classes and field visits (to smaller offices like LAO OD Talegaon, amongst others). Classes have been taken by in house faculty (thanks to Menon sir for breaking down Punching medium so easily for us!) as well as guest lecturers, both from within the department and outside. Our Director, Mihir sir has ensured a good and useful mix of pedagogy and takes feedback from us seriously, as visible from weekly sessions to take appropriate suggestions.



The lectures provide us with deep and well-rounded insights into what we will face a head. Field attachments are arranged to understand work culture and problems faced by actual workspaces. We visited PCDA (SC) almost once a week to connect concepts taught in classes. This was enjoyed

and appreciated by all. I can say proudly that we have now got a good grasp of concepts like the Punching Medium, Suspense Account, New Compilation System after we saw them real time in PCDA (SC).

Some of the classes have been specially remembered by us, like the lectures by Shri Sunil Kumar Kohli, FADS (Rtd) who gave a holistic idea of the department. I admire sir for his energy and zest. Lectures by Mayank Sharma sir PCDA(SC) gave us an insight into deputation opportunities as an IDAS officer. R.K.Arora sir PCDA(O) took class on written skills, like noting and drafting which was very useful in understanding the importance of communication in civil service.

Our daily schedule of two tea breaks provides ample opportunities for our own version of *Chai Pe Charcha*, sometimes with visiting faculty where they share their experiences and anecdotes with us and entertain our doubts and apprehensions about our future; and sometimes amongst ourselves where discussions are over first postings to even post-retirement plans, along with contemporary issues!

Overall, it's a great experience in the academy and kudos to our director sir who is a friend, philosopher

and guide to us. I would also like to thank the support staff who ensure a working classroom and supply us with water in our steel bottles and chai on time and any other help we may need; Menon sir for teaching us new concepts with such ease and humour and others who have engaged us in this rich learning experience.

Looking forward to a much awaited Bharat Darshan and for an even better Phase II!



The classroom after a long day

"It does not matter how slowly you go, as long as you do not stop"

Confucius

A tryst with the Babas

On a rainy evening in August, a cultural show was organized by the probationers of the 2018 Batch for the senior station officers of Pune. Since we had done this once before, we were familiar with what the show entailed – a few songs and a dance routine. But being in possession of ample time and in the mood for laughter, we decided to put up a small skit.

The skit revolved around parodying 3 popular babas – Radhe Ma (as Gucci Ma), Guru Ram Rahim Singh Insaan (as Amar Akbar Anthony Insaan) and Nirmal Baba (as Viral Baba). They assemble together with their devotees at their feet. Questions are put forward by devotees only to be received by

unhelpful yet witty answers. A spin on this skit were the questions asked by devotees – they were our take on the most common issues faced by our offices. Hence, TA/DA passing, APAR and vigilance found mention.

To put up such a show, which also featured a few songs by Sonal (with Neharika for backup vocals), Krishna's poems along with two dances was a project of sorts. Apart from the great fun we had practising, the processes of makeup-costume decisions, dress rehearsal and 'final run-throughs' were thoroughly enjoyable.

The show brought us together as a batch – from practicing to hurried costume changes and constantly encouraging each other was genuinely a warming experience.



The cast

A collection of poems



Our in-house poet, Krishna, shares two poems he has composed himself.

मैत्री

मैत्रीच्या भावनांना, कधी शब्द समजून लिहावे....

अनमोल क्षण जिव्हाळ्याचे कधी श्वासातून जगावे...

या रांगडया जिवाचे, तुम्हाविन हाल काय पुसावे?

तुम्हा सोबती भावांनो, जीवन दुर्ग कड्यांचे व्हावे...

आपुल्या खांद्यास खांदा भिडताना, माझ्या अश्रुचे मोती व्यावे...

> चुकलो कधी जगताना, तुम्ही ओले आसूड व्यावे...

सोबती असताना वा नसताना, मी मैत्रीस समर्पित व्हावे... (This hindi poem was recited by Krishna during the Hindi Pakhwada, winning him the first prize in poetry.)

> सूरज है डूब गया, शाम धरती पे उतर गयी... तूफ़ाँ सा चलने लगा, काली घटाए छा गयी...

पंछी सारे डर गए,
पेड़ों की शाखें हिल गयी...
गरज गरज के बादल रोए,
बिज़ली भी तांडव कर गयी...

काली काली घटाओं से, मोतियों की बरसात हो गयी.. मखमली चादर सी, आज धरती हो गयी...

हरे हरे बागानों मे, फ़ूलों की कलियाँ खील गयी... गुण गुणी धूप लेके, सुबह नयी आ गयी...

नया सवेरा, नयी बात, बारिश से खुशहाली आयी...

Sonal

An evening in the land of the Peshwas!



Remember the song -

"Bombay se gayi Poona, Poona se gayi Dilli, Dilli se gayi Patna, phir bhi na mila sajna..."

from the 90's hit Hum Hain Rahi Pyar

Ke?

I do, because as a kid, this is how I got to know of a a place named Poona for the first time. It was only later that I studied in my history textbook about Pune and its rich history.

And as things stand today, this city has become an important milestone of my life because this is where I have begun my career as a government servant. It's been over two months that we have been here in this city, and what a time this is to be in Pune!! With monsoon at its full potential rendering a beautiful canvas for nature to paint a lush green picture in the backdrop

of Sahyadri! In these two months that I have been here, I have seen quite a bit of the city and I wish to share some of my experiences here.

Pune is as historically rich as it is naturally. Pune city is known to have existed as a town since 937 AD. Shivaji Maharaj, the founder of the Maratha Empire, lived in Pune as a young boy, and the city oversaw significant growth and development during his reign. Around 1730, Pune city became an important political centre as the seat of the Peshwas - the prime ministers to the Chhatrapati i.e 'The Ruler'. The whole of Pune city is abound with the signs of the 'Glorious Age' gone by of the Peshwas. I found a beautiful painting hanging at a local eatery that shows Shivaji interacting with his subjects. What a grand era it must have been.

A lot of glimpses of history can also be experienced at the Shaniwar Wada, which was a fortified establishment and remained a seat of power of Marathas until 1818. Visiting Shaniwar Wada was a one of a kind experience. While going there I

expected to see some remnants of the erstwhile Maratha fort, but all I came across was a massive front gate and boundary walls. Apparently the rest of the fort was destroyed due to unexplained fires somewhere around 1830's. However some of the structures still remain, for example the fountain in the centre sitting across which I came to think of all the



grandeur, the victories and the defeat, the loyalty and the betrayals, the love and deceit that the the place would have witnessed.

Next up on my list was to explore some culinary culture of the city. Thanks to Zomato and the likes, I planned a visit to one of the most highly rated restaurants of the city, "Ahilyadevi's Thali" located on Pune-Satara road. Much to my surprise the restaurant was buzzing with guests even though it was a weekday and a sunny afternoon (ps: there was no air conditioning there). The crowd made a statement about the popularity of the place and it was not before another 40 minutes that I got a table to myself. Anyway, cruising across a menu written mostly in Marathi I was wondering what to order, when a young man at the restaurant advised me to go for Maharaja Mutton thali. The food came and what a sight it was! (I will leave you a picture of the thali to do the rest of talking.)

The thali was one of the most sumptuous nonvegetarian meals I have ever had. The restaurant



combines the rich flavours of Maharashtrian cuisine, with a generous use of kothinbir (dhaniya) along with a tender treatment of meat. Bhakri with loads of ghee was a feast, while keema made me crave for another helping. Winding up the food I tasted the Maharashtrian speciality "Solkhadi" which combines the tanginess of kokum and the creaminess of coconut milk to give it a heavenly taste.

Much said and done, as I decided to call it a day, I went on looking for a cab outside. While waiting for my cab I spotted an auto with a cheeky line written on its back. It said "Meri chalti hai toh teri kyun jalti hai". That was very unique! I must say. So that's how I spent one of my many evenings here. For more stories, stay glued!





आँखों में रहा दिल में उतर कर नहीं देखा कश्ती के मुसाफ़िर ने समुंदर नहीं देखा

बे-वक्त अगर जाऊँगा सब चौंक पड़ेंगे इक उम्र हुई दिन में कभी घर नहीं देखा

महबूब का घर हो कि बुजुर्गों की ज़मीनें जो छोड दिया फिर उसे मुड़ कर नहीं देखा

जिस दिन से चला हूँ मेरी मंज़िल पे नज़र है आँखों ने कभी मील का पत्थर नहीं देखा

ये फूल मुझे कोई विरासत में नहीं मिले तुम ने मेरा काँटों भरा बिस्तर नहीं देखा

Bashir Badr



Rahul Gaur

On Vision 2024 and Unified Payments Portal

The world has seen rapid advancement in the field of Information Technology (IT) over the past few decades. It has completely changed the way we live, work and interact with each

other. The Digital Revolution has totally transformed our world, with technologies like the Internet of Things (IOT), Artificial Intelligence (AI) et al.

Organizations too are using these new tools to improve their efficiency, by delivering better services to their customers. We can now order food, book a cab or pay online in a click. Like their business counterparts, Government organizations are also using IT to deliver services to citizens while improving overall transparency and accountability.

Historically, the Defence Accounts Department has been at the forefront of using IT to improve its efficiency. From Hollerith machines to COBOL programming, DAD maintained its edge in the field of computerization and information technology. In 1931, Hollerith machines

were introduced for data

processing. In 1969, the first computer IBM-1401 was installed in Meerut. Then, in the 1980s COBOL based programs were used to improve the quality and accuracy of work in DAD offices. However, in recent years we have not been able to fully incorporate latest advancements in information technology. Though 'Mission Excel IT' was launched in the last decade, it saw limited success.

Subsequently, we developed a number of software programs for our offices to leverage IT like Tulip, Dolphin, Skylark etc and we have dedicated EDP sections in DAD offices. These programs helped the Department in automating its processes but we still lack fully integrated systems with real-time and centralized databases with the only exception of

the New Compilation System (which is also not fully real-time).

In this backdrop, our department has come out with Vision 2024, where it intends to enhance its efficiency and service levels in critical areas of pension sanction and disbursement (Comprehensive Pension Package), pay and allowances of serving personnel both uniformed and civilians (Comprehensive Pay System), and vendors payments and budget management (Unified Payment Portal supplemented with Unified Budget Management System).

I will focus on Unified Payments Portal (UPP), where, as per the vision document, services would directly upload sanctions and supply orders and payments

would be released in a timebound and transparent manner with full information to vendors at each stage. Thus, Units, vendors and DAD offices are main stakeholders here. Now let's discuss some of the issues with the UPP and their possible solutions.

Database should ideally be on *cloud* rather than traditional local systems as cloud is more flexible and scalable to future requirements of more storage capacity;

A few other suggestions

Grievance redressal should be present in the UPP along with a dedicated helpline to help users

There is an issue of connecting all stakeholders to

the portal. While services have their WAN and don't use the internet, vendors cannot access WAN and can only connect to the portal with internet.

One possible solution to this issue can be use of Staging Database Servers. These servers can act as a buffer between Services WAN and the internet. Units would periodically upload data on these servers and the UPP database server will fetch data from these servers. Though in this system there would not be real-time uploading of data, it will at least address concerns of the services regarding security of their networks and databases.

Another issue is of integration of Tulip with UPP. Tulip is used by DAD offices as an office automation software to, *inter alia*, pass vendors bills. But Tulip is

not centralized and thus cannot be integrated with UPP. So, we need a centralized database so that real-time information can be accessed and further, incorporating biometric authentication (with user ID and password) to authenticate clearing bills will reduce chances of misuse.

UPP will be supplemented by a Unified Budget Management System facilitating downstream budget allocation by different hierarchies on a single platform. It will also provide this information to paying authorities and budget holders and for real-time management of budget. This will resolve the issue of overbooking of expenditure.

To conclude, Unified Payments Portal is an important initiative to ensure timely payments to vendors with

full disclosure of information at each stage. Stakeholders should be consulted extensively while developing this portal so that it becomes successful. Once UPP develops and stabilizes, we should go a step further and make a *unified portal for vendor management* (UPVM) and not just for payments. This UPVM can be a joint initiative of services and DAD and can include all activities related to vendors such as publication of tenders, bidding, award of contract and supply order and then payments.

UPP and Unified vendor management portal will help our department to retain its position as an efficient organization which serves the services and contributes to the defence of the country.

While new beginnings are afoot, a few also left us to pursue their aspirations elsewhere – Neharika, Deepakji and Rajkesh.

The three are sorely missed – for the warmth and happiness they exuded. Their sense of humour and ability to bring everyone together are remarkable and we are glad that they are on their way to pursue their aspirations. They will always be a part of the 2018 batch!

वक्त रहता नहीं कहीं टिक कर आदत इस की भी आदमी सी है गुलज़ार

> उम्र भर उठाया बोझ उस कील ने, और लोग तारीफ़ तस्वीर की करते रहे

Sonal

यात्रा...

बचपन से ही मुझे ट्रेन में सफर करना बड़ा अच्छा लगता था। गर्मी की छुट्टियों में गाँव जाने का प्लान हो

या फिर पापा के LTC का प्रोग्राम ट्रेन से जाने की बात मुझे हमेशा रोमांचित करती थी। इसकी एक बड़ी वजह ये माँ मुझे प्लेट्फ़ार्म से कोई ना कोई किताब या मैगज़ीन दिलवाया करती। पूरे सफ़र में मूँगफली खाते खाते किताब पड़ना मेरे सफ़र का सबसे सुखद अनुभव होता।

बहरहाल, आप सोच रहे होंगे की मैं इस बात का ज़िक्र यहाँ क्यूँ कर रही हूँ। बात यह है कि हाल ही में मुझे दिल्ली से अंबाला ट्रेन से जाने का मौक़ा मिला। कारण चाहे Purchasing power का बढ़ना हो या हवाई यात्रा का सस्ता होना, सच तो यही है की ट्रेन से जाने का मौक़ा आज कल कम ही मिल पता है। ऐसे में यह मौक़ा मेरे लिए पुरानी यादों को ताज़ा करने के लिए काफ़ी था। तो जनाब दिल्ली की सर्द सुबह में जब मैं ट्रेन पकड़ने प्लेटफार्म पर पहुँची तो पता चला की ट्रेन तो आधे घंटे देरी से चल रही है। ख़ैर अब समय तो काटना ही था तो सोचा क्यूँ ना कोई किताब ख़रीदी जाए। वैसे मेरे बैग में Kindle पड़ी थी, पर जाने क्यूँ कागज़ के पन्नों की ख़ुशबू लिए किताबों को पढ़ने में जो आनंद है वो Kindle में कहाँ।

इन्ही ख्यालों में खोयी मैं धीरे धीरे प्लेटफॉर्म पर बने बुक स्टॉल पर जा पहुँची और वहाँ रखी किताबों को उलट पलट कर देखने लगी। इतने में ही मेरी कानो में एक आवाज़ पड़ी "भैया कोई अच्छी सी best seller दे दे"। मैंने आवाज़ की दिशा में देखा तो एक युवा दुकानदार की तरफ देख कर बातें कर रहा था। दुकानदार ने उसे पास में पड़ी एक किताब उठा कर दी और कहा ये ले के जाओ, बेस्ट्सेलर है। मैं दुकानदार की और देखती रही। जब वो युवा पैसे दे कर चला गया तो मैंने दुकानदार से पूछा " ये कौन सी किताब थी जो आपने अभी उस लड़के को दी?" दुकानदार ने मेरी तरफ़ देखा फिर बोला " मैडम इंग्लिश में लिखी बहुत बढ़िया किताब है। Author IIT-IIM से है। कहानी भी कॉलेज के ऊपर ही है। किताब का नाम है.....।" आगे की बात मैं सुन नहीं पायी क्यूँकि मेरी ट्रेन प्लेटफॉर्म पर आ रही थी और उसका शोर बढ़ चुका था।

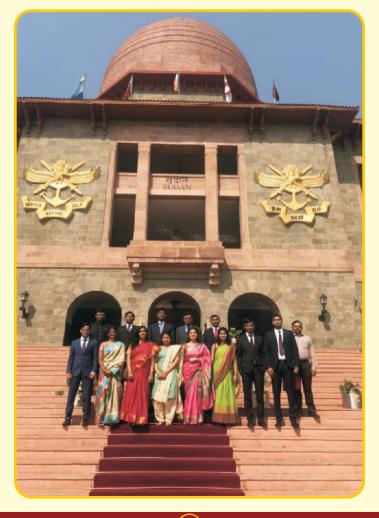
ख़ैर मैं अपना सामान लेकर ट्रेन में बैठ गयी। ट्रेन ने गति पकड़ी तो जल्दी ही फिर से मुझे उस दुकान का स्मरण हो आया। दुकान में जो किताब उस लड़के ने ख़रीदी, या यूँ कहें की दुकानदार ने बेची उसके ठीक बगल में भगवती चरण वर्मा की रची "चित्रलेखा" रखी थी। १९३४ में लिखी गयी यह किताब हिंदी साहित्य की कुछ बेहतरीन कृतियों में से एक है। अंग्रेज़ी में जिसे हम fiction कहते हैं उस genre की यह एक उत्तम रचना है। मुझे ये देख कर बड़ा आश्चर्य हुआ की दुकानदार ने इस किताब को उस लड़के को बेचने का प्रयास तक नहीं किया। गलती उसकी भी नहीं, वो तो वही बेचेगा जो लोग खरीदना चाहेंगे। सवाल तो ये है की आख़िर क्यूँ हम साहित्य के नाम पर ऐसी किताबें पढ़ना पसंद करते जिसमें कहानी के नाम पर प्रेम, छल, ईर्ष्या और दुवेष की भावनाओं को मिर्च मसाला लगा कर परोसा जा रहा है। जिसके पात्रों का अपना कोई स्वतंत्र आयाम नहीं, जो केवल लेखक के हाथों की कठपुतली नज़र आते हैं। आखिर क्यूँ हम साहित्य के नाम पर "चित्रलेखा" या "तमस" पढना पसंद नहीं करते, पसंद छोड़िए, हम में से कुछ लोगों को तो ये नाम भी पता नहीं होंगे।

केवल यह जान कर की लड़का अंग्रेजी की किताब ख़रीद रहा था, आप ऐसा ना समझें कि मैं केवल हिंदी भाषा के साहित्य का पक्ष ले रही हूँ। असल में तो मैं ये मानती हूँ कि जान और मनोरंजन, दोनों ही किसी भाषा के मोहताज नहीं होते। मैं हर भाषा के साहित्य को उतनी ही इज्जत देती हूँ। मैंने जितने प्रेम से प्रेमचंद की "गोदान" पढ़ी है उतने ही मन से Perumal Murugan की "One Part Women" भी पढ़ी है। मेरी शिकायत तो सिर्फ इतनी सी है की क्यूँ हम प्रामाणिक साहित्य भूल हैं। कई बार सोचती हूँ कि विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी के इस युग में यूँ भी साहित्य की ज़रुरत क्या रह गयी है। साहित्य तो हमारे मूलभूत जरुरतों को पोषित भी नहीं करता। तो क्या ये समझ लिया जाए की साहित्य जैसी कला का अंत निकट है?

साहित्य केवल कला नहीं, समाज का दर्पण भी है। साहित्य हमें संवेदनशील बनाता है। ग्रीक दर्शन (philosophy) के अनुसार साहित्य विरेचन (catharsis) का माध्यम है और हमें हमारी भावनाओं को व्यक्त करने का एक माध्यम देता है। आज की इस गला काट प्रतियोगिता की दुनिया में साहित्य और ज़्यादा प्रासंगिक हो जाता है, क्यूँकि यह हमें नैतिक आदर्शों तथा उचित मूल्यों के बारे में बताता है। आप कह सकते हैं की आज की इस भौतिकवादी और उपभोक्तावादी (consumerist) समय में नैतिक मूल्यों के लिए जगह ही कहाँ है। सच है, लेकीन ये भी सच है की इस उपभोक्तावादी संसार में जब इंसान अकेलापन और अवसाद जैसी समस्याओं से जूझ रहा हो तब उसका सबसे बड़ा साथी भी साहित्य ही होगा। फ्रेंच फिलॉसफर Jean Paul Satre ने कहा है कि जब मनुष्य अमानवीकरण का शिकार होगा, तब उसे मनुष्यता से जोड़े रखने की भूमिका साहित्य को ही निभानी होगी। पर इसके लिए ज़रुरी है की हम प्रामाणिक साहित्यक पढ़ें और समझें। इन्ही ख़यालों में पता ही नहीं चला की कब ट्रेन अम्बाला पहुंच गयी। ख़ैर, विदा लेने का वक्त है तो चलते चलते "चित्रलेखा" से ही दो पंक्तियाँ साझा कर रही हूँ –

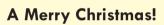
"हम दीवानों की क्या हस्ती, आज यहाँ कल वहाँ चले । मस्ती का आलम साथ चला, हम धूल उड़ाते जहां चले ।"







Welcome Dinner at NADFM







Chai Pe Charcha in Tea Square







A Selfie at University of Maryland, USA

Tennis mornings





A tank ride on T-72



Attachment at NAAA, Shimla