



Brief Introduction of Mr. Avinash Dharmadhikari:

A full time voluntary activist for ten years, before joining IAS. A free-lance journalist during the same period. Undertook extensive study tours of the country. The outcome was the book, 'Aswastha Dashakachi Diary', based on the reflections on experiences of these visits. Joined IAS in 1986.

Important postings held in the IAS : Sub-divisional officer at Phaltan. Officer on special duty for the state's Chief Secretary. Director, State Archives, Mumbai. Chief Executive Officer at Ratnagiri and Amaravati zilla parishads. Additional Collector, Pune. Director, Women and Child Welfare Department, Maharashtra. District Collector, Raigad (Alibag). Deputy Secretary to the Chief Minister, Maharashtra.

While in service, initiated some experiments in responsive administration. A few of them are : Many original experiments in office and field level functioning of government machinery to reorient the operations and methodologies in bureaucracy. Long-pending land disputes resolved speedily through reconciliatory measures, adopting revenue-court system. Active participation in literacy, universalisation of education, women-farmers-consumer movements, land and water conservation, movements against corruption and superstitions. Implemented a special program for neo-literates, so that they do not re-lapse into illiteracy. The program was appreciated as a 'model scheme' by the National Literacy Mission. Actively supported various developmental schemes by acting as informal interface between the administration and voluntary agencies.

Resigned from the IAS on March 1, 1996. to **Contested election** for parliament as an independent. **Organised mass movement** for clean and efficient governance. **Worked as Director General, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan** under Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, Govt. of India from February to November 2001.

Now works as :

- * Founder Director, **Chanakya Mandal** - a network organization for competitive examinations, career guidance, entrepreneurship development and personality development. Today Chanakya Mandal conducts 19 different courses in which around 6000 students participate.
- * Conducts variety of **workshops** all over Maharashtra.
- * Has plans to harness **Information Technology** for education and develop into a full scale autonomous **Open University**.
- * Organizer of the **Citizens' Action Plan**;
- * Chief Editor of a **periodical for youth "Chanakya Mandal"**.

Books published :

- 1) “**Aswastha Dashakachi Diary**” (original Marathi).
- 2) “**Diary of a Decade of Agony**” (English translation of the above ‘Diary’ by Gauri Deshpande. Hindi translation, by Meera Nandgaonkar, will be published shortly.)
- 3) and 4) “**1, Vijaypath**”(Marathi as well as in English – providing guidance for competitive exams, with orientation to proper value-system).
- 5) “**Ratra Gahirichya Tisrya Prahari**” (Marathi – collection of poems.)
- 6) “**Naagrik**” - a book about how citizens can and should solve their problems on their own.

Forthcoming books :

“**Bhoomica**” a book stating thinking and action-plan on India’s national problems. Also the author of “**Collector**”, “**Drushtant**”, “**Sahavya Swargamadhoon**” and “**Priya Siddharth**” - to be published soon.

Before joining the highest Civil Service Shri. A. B. Dharmadhikari was closely involved in the Punjab situation between 1978 to 1986. His wife Mrs. Poorna had her headquarter at Chandigarh right during the thick of Bhindranwala phase (1983 to 1985). Both Mr. and Mrs. Dharmadhikari worked for national integration. They undertook extensive ‘Padayatras’ throughout Punjab, learnt Punjabi and Gurumukhi script, stayed in Gurudwaras and also at the Golden Temple. They were in contact with Sant Harchandsingh, Sant Longowal, Sant Gurucharansingh Tohra, Sant Jurnelsingh Bhindranwala, Sant Harmidersingh Sandhu of All India Sikh’s Federation. Since then both of them have continued and active association with Punjab. Working as the Director General of Neharu Yuva Kendra Sangathan under Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs; Government of India, Shri. Dharmadhikari initiated some major programs in Punjab. Listening to him talk on Punjab, India and our future would be pleasant and enlightening experience.
