

# উত্তরণ - ইন্ডিয়া

VOICE OF KOLKATA



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Message from Principal  
Chief Commissioner

আমাদের যাত্রা হল শুরু এখন, ওগো কর্ণধার।  
তোমারে করি নমস্কার।  
এখন বাতাস ছুটুক, তুফান উঠুক, ফিরব না গো আর--  
তোমারে করি নমস্কার॥  
আমরা দিয়ে তোমার জয়ধ্বনি বিপদ বাধা নাহি গণি  
ওগো কর্ণধার।  
এখন মাইভে: বলি ভাসাই তরী, দাও গো করি পার--  
তোমারে করি নমস্কার॥

(Rabindra Nath Thakur, Swadesh, 1905)

Every new beginning brings with it both excitement and a sense of uncertainty. *Uttaron* (উত্তরণ) has emerged from a shared feeling among us - a desire to create a space where our voices can be heard, where our thoughts can be expressed, and where our collective journey can find a place to be recorded.

আমাদের দৈনন্দিন কাজের ব্যস্ততার মধ্যে অনেক সময়ই আমরা নিজেদের কথা বলার সুযোগ পাই না। কিন্তু প্রত্যেকের মধ্যেই কিছু না কিছু বলার আছে আমাদের অভিজ্ঞতা, আমাদের উপলব্ধি, আমাদের সৃজনশীল চিন্তা। উত্তরণ সেই সব কণ্ঠস্বরকে সামনে আনার একটি ছোট প্রচেষ্টা। এই যাত্রার শুরুতে আমরা সকলকে সাথে নিয়ে এগিয়ে যেতে চাই। পথ হয়তো সব সময় সহজ হবে না, কিন্তু একসাথে চলতে শুরু করলে চলার পথ আপনিই খুঁজে পেয়ে যাব।

*With this spirit, we take the first step forward—together.*



## স্যানুট

A Tribute to a Leader

Each edition of *Uttaron* will feature a tribute to an officer of the Kolkata Zone recognising their contribution, dedication, and the values they uphold in service.



Experiences on the holy  
pilgrimage to Shri  
Kailash Mansarovar  
Yatra-  
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## Message from the Principal Chief Commissioner

**Shri Shrawan Kumar**  
Principal Chief Commissioner  
CGST & CX, Kolkata Zone

*“It gives me immense pleasure to extend my warm greetings to all members of the Superintendent’s Association on the occasion of the launch of the inaugural issue of **“Uttoron.”**”*

*An association such as yours plays a vital role in fostering professional excellence as well as a sense of shared purpose among officers. I am confident that this publication will encourage creative writing, showcase innovative ideas, and strengthen the bonds among the officers. It is heartening to see this initiative and I commend everyone involved in bringing this first issue to life.*

*I extend my best wishes for the success of Uttoron and look forward to its continued evolution in the years ahead.”*

*Shri Shrawan Kumar*



## From the Secretary's Desk

As I sit to pen this, I am reminded of my younger days when I first read Ramdhari Singh Dinkar's epic Rashmirathi. The power of his words deeply moved me and left a lasting impression. One particular passage, describing Karna's unwavering dignity in the face of adversity, taught me the value of resilience and self-respect. That moment was more than just literary appreciation—it was a lesson in life. Here are two verses from Rashmirathi that continue to inspire:

“जो भरा नहीं है भावों से, जिसमें बहती रसधार नहीं,  
वह हृदय नहीं है पत्थर है, जिसमें मानव का प्यार नहीं।”

“विपत्ति जब आती है, कायर को ही दहलाती है,  
शूरमा नहीं विचलित होते, क्षण एक नहीं धीर खोते।”

It is this same spirit of inspiration that I hope Uttaron will bring to its readers. Just as Dinkar's words stirred my heart, may the voices within these pages awaken thought, empathy, and courage in all who read them.

As we release this first issue, we stand at the beginning of a new journey—one that carries both excitement and a sense of uncertainty. Yet, it is this very feeling that makes every beginning meaningful. Uttaron is envisioned as a platform for creativity, thought, and cultural expression—a space where we can share, reflect, and grow together.

The path ahead may not always be clear, but the possibilities are vast. What stories will we tell? What ideas will we exchange? These questions will find their answers

through your participation and contributions.

Bengal has long been a cradle of art, literature, music, and intellectual thought. From Rabindranath Tagore's literary genius to the vibrant traditions of Baul singers, the cultural identity of Bengal is deeply rooted in creativity and human expression. Uttaron draws inspiration from this rich heritage and seeks to reflect it through its pages.

At its heart, Uttaron is a platform for expression—a space where members can share their thoughts, experiences, and creative works. It also serves as a means to preserve cultural traditions, strengthen our shared identity, and foster a sense of unity and belonging within the association. Through active participation, it will encourage collaboration and bring together diverse voices in a meaningful way.

Beyond the association, Uttaron aspires to act as a cultural ambassador, showcasing the richness of Bengal's heritage. It reflects how a professional community can remain deeply connected to its cultural roots while moving forward with purpose.

Uttaron is more than a publication. It is a bridge between tradition and modernity, between professional responsibility and cultural pride. As we take this first step, let us move forward together and shape its future collectively.

Nitesh Kumar  
General Secretary

## ✍️ इसलिए लिखता हूँ अब मैं

किसी शोहरत की तमन्ना नहीं दिल में,  
बस पलके भीग जाए इसलिए लिखता हूँ अब मैं।

बड़ी मासूम-सी शकल थी दिल भगाने से पहले,  
एक नाकाम आशिक-सा दिखता हूँ अब मैं।

गिर-गिर के संभलना अब रहा न मुमकिन,  
जरा संभल के गिरने की अदा सीखता हूँ अब मैं।

राजदारों से भी हुए फासले इस क्रदर,  
बड़ी तन्हाई से उनसे मिलता हूँ अब मैं।

तमाम उम्र गुजरी यारों की महफिलों में,  
अपनी मैय्यत पे तन्हा चीखता हूँ अब मैं।  
अपनी मैय्यत पे तन्हा चीखता हूँ अब मैं।

किसी शोहरत की तमन्ना नहीं दिल में,  
बस पलके भीग जाए इसलिए लिखता हूँ अब मैं।

✍️ निशि "अविरल" पाठक



## ✍️ আমি আর তুমি

আমরা অনেক কিছুতে একই রকম-  
আমাদের কামনা, আমাদের লোভ,  
আমাদের চং।  
আবার অনেক কিছুতেই ভীষণ আলাদা-  
আমাদের ভাষা, আমাদের ধর্ম, আমাদের  
রং।

কখন ও তোমাকে মাড়িয়ে এগিয়ে যাই  
কখন ও তোমার চুমুতে গাল রাঙাই।  
আবার যখন যেমন সুযোগ সুবিধা বুঝি,  
একে অপরকে জড়িয়ে ধরি, নতুন স্বার্থ  
খুঁজি।

আমরা ঘৃণা দিয়ে ভাব কুড়াই,  
আর তিরস্কারে দল বাড়াই,  
তারপর প্রয়োজন ফুরোলেই,  
নটে গাছ মুড়োলেই,  
স্মৃতিটুকু সরে যায়, শুধু পোড়ো ভিটে  
পড়ে রয়।

অবশেষে অভিলাষে রং ফিকে হয়ে যায়,  
তখন ও কি পিছু ফিরে তোমাকেই খুঁজে  
বেড়াই?  
কি যেন কি অবসাদে ঘুরে ফিরে বাদ  
সাধে  
যেমনে পেয়েছি চাওয়া সত্যি কি তাই  
চাই?

দিন শেষে যাই ই পাই, ভাগ করে নেওয়া  
চাই  
লজ্জা কি অপমান, ভালোবাসা -সম্মান  
না বিকোলে বোঝা হয়ে, বুকে জোড়া  
ভার নিয়ে,  
চাপা পড়ে যাবো ক্ষয়ে।

রাজু হালদার





## The Menace of Old Age

— A Silent Struggle of Dependency and Neglect

Old age is an integral part of human life. It is the evening of everybody's life. It is unavoidable, undesirable, unwelcome and also a problem-ridden phase of life. But it is really interesting to note that everybody wants to live a long life but not to be old. It is ironic; however undesirable, old age is bound to come in everybody's life. A man is compelled to go through the pains and pleasures of this age, like the other phases of life, before making an exit from the mortal world.

Every phase of life has its problems which require prudence, wisdom, courage and strength to attend to. In childhood and youth one has parents and other close elderly kith and kin to help, co-operate and guide. Besides, one himself is full of energy, strength, stamina and courage. But the situation takes a reverse turn in old age. For his every work he needs someone to help. He becomes dependent on others largely due to his physical infirmity. He wants someone to take care of his needs and share his feelings. But in this materialistic society, everybody is short of time. Nobody has enough time for the old man. Even his own children, to whom he dedicates his life and his earnings, do not find time for him. Diseases, both minor and major, always follow them. Regular medical aid and assistance become routine at this stage of life. The feeling of loneliness adversely affects their mental health, which is often reflected in physical problems.

In recent times, insecurity of the old age, particularly in metropolitan cities, has emerged as a matter of grave concern. Usually, they are alone with servants to take care of them. After some time, the servants become familiar with everything in the household. They rob them of all their belongings and often become cruel enough to kill them and run away. The occurrence of such incidents is frequent in national dailies. So, the problem of loneliness and isolation from society is a gift of modern materialistic life. The modern society forces an old person to live on a lonely island. In fact, during old age one is faced with multidimensional problems. One of the major problems is financial constraint, which becomes more difficult in case of those who are not entitled to social security and have no source of income, being completely dependent on children. This increases dependency further and plays havoc in the life of an old man.

The picture is really grim in the twilight years of life. There is no friendship, no love, like that of a parent for a child. We should be more caring and take care of the elderly when they need it the most.



 **Arindam Mukherjee**

Superintendent of Central Tax  
Range-V, BBD Bag-II Division  
CGST & CX Kolkata North Commissionerate  
Mobile: 9433016626



## **FIRE ON THE WATER:**

### ***The Gulf Crisis That is Reshaping the World Economy***

Iran has exploited its commanding geographic position along the Strait of Hormuz—one of the world's most consequential energy transit corridors—to disrupt global oil and gas flows as an instrument of economic coercion amid its deepening geopolitical confrontation with Western and regional powers. The Strait serves as the conduit for nearly 20 percent of global oil trade and approximately US\$500 billion in annual energy shipments, rendering any sustained disruption systemically significant.

Following the initiation of Operation Epic Fury, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy (IRGC Navy) declared the Strait effectively closed to international shipping. Although US–Israeli forces conducted pre-emptive strikes on Iranian naval assets—including the reported destruction of the frigate Jamaran—Iran's doctrine of asymmetric maritime warfare, encompassing drone strikes, naval mining, and electronic interference, proved highly effective in paralysing commercial traffic. The contrast between Iran's conventional naval losses and the operational potency of its irregular capabilities underscored the enduring strategic logic of asymmetric conflict.

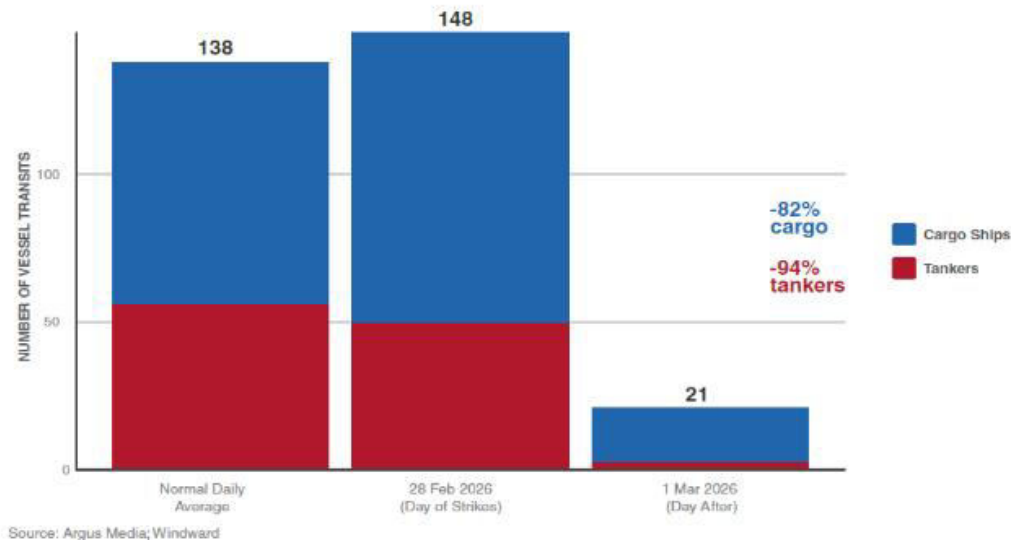
The scale of disruption was immediate and severe. Tanker traffic through the Strait fell by nearly 70 percent, prompting major shipping firms such as Maersk to reroute vessels via the Cape of Good Hope—adding considerable transit time and cost. Within days, more than 150 oil tankers, LNG carriers, and chemical vessels were stranded in open waters. By 13 March, transits had effectively ceased following coordinated attacks on multiple vessels. The United States subsequently proposed naval escort operations; however, significant uncertainty remains as to whether such arrangements can adequately serve the approximately 150 vessels that typically transit the Strait daily, particularly given the reluctance of commercial operators to assume heightened risk exposure.

The conflict expanded sharply in scope with Iran's retaliatory strikes on 28 February and 1 March, targeting civilian and military infrastructure across all six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states. This marked an unprecedented escalation—the first large-scale, direct Iranian assault on the Gulf monarchies as a collective. The United Arab Emirates bore the most severe impact: over 150 missiles and approximately 500 drones caused casualties and extensive infrastructure damage, including direct strikes on Dubai International Airport. Although the intensity of attacks has since moderated, their persistence in sporadic form continues to underscore the fragility of regional security.

Maritime data illustrate the full magnitude of the disruption. Within 24 hours of initial escalation, tanker transits through the Strait collapsed by 94 percent, falling to just three vessels, while broader cargo traffic declined by 82 percent. Concurrently, more

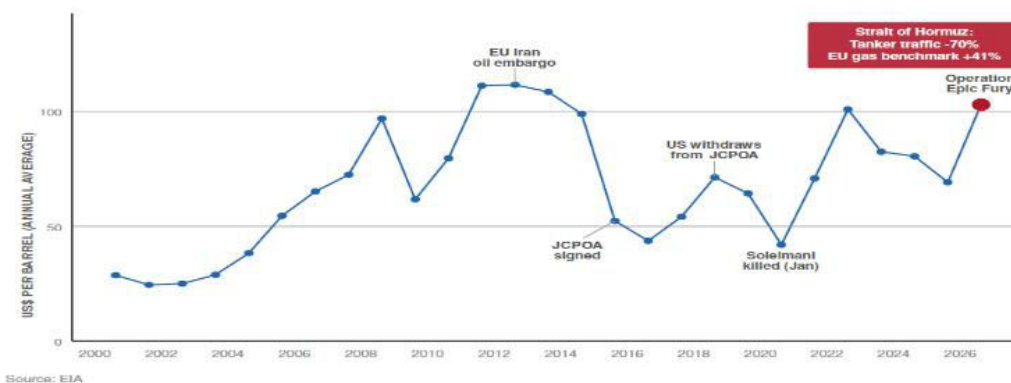
than 450 vessels were observed drifting in the Gulf of Oman, and over 1,100 ships reported GPS interference across the wider Gulf region—a stark demonstration of the growing role of electronic warfare in maritime conflict.

Daily vessel transits through the Strait of Hormuz, February–1 March 2026  
 Tanker transits through the Strait of Hormuz fell by 94 per cent within 24 hours of the commencement of Operation Epic Fury.



Global energy markets responded with sharp volatility. Brent crude surged toward US\$100 per barrel at the onset of hostilities, with analysts projecting prices in the US\$150–200 per barrel range under scenarios of prolonged disruption. European gas markets tightened considerably, with benchmark contracts rising by 41 percent. The crisis deepened further when Qatar Energy was compelled to suspend operations at key facilities in Ras Laffan and Mesaieed following drone strikes, temporarily withdrawing nearly 20 percent of global LNG supply from the market. Simultaneous attacks on Saudi Arabia's Ras Tanura refinery amplified supply-side concerns and added further upward pressure on energy prices.

Brent crude oil price, 2000–2026  
 The 2026 price surge towards US\$100 per barrel marks the sharpest Iran-related oil shock since the 2012 EU embargo.

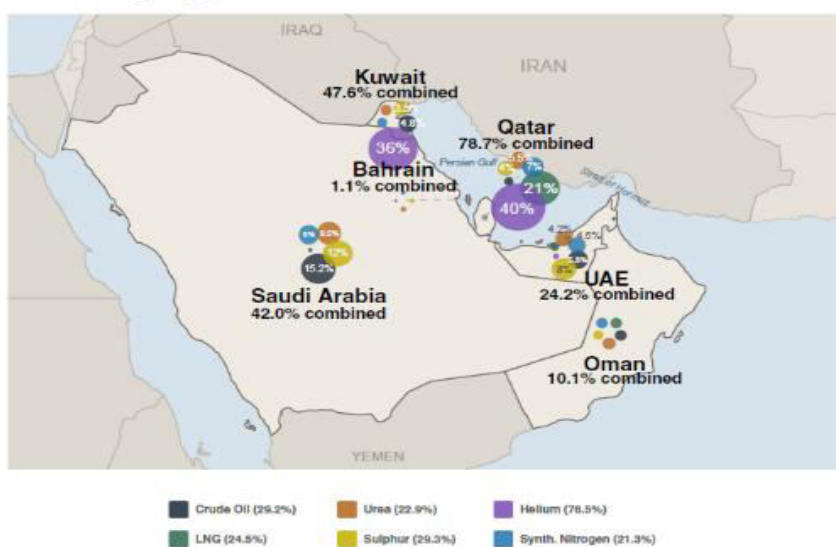


The ramifications extend well beyond hydrocarbons. GCC countries are principal exporters of fertiliser feedstocks, sulphur, natural gas, and helium—the last being an

essential input for advanced semiconductor fabrication. Disruptions to these supply chains risk cascading effects across agriculture, extractive industries, and high-technology manufacturing. Of particular concern is the fertiliser shock, especially in urea and nitrogen markets, arriving precisely as the Northern Hemisphere enters its spring planting season. A sustained supply shortfall could suppress agricultural yields through the latter half of 2026 and potentially drive global food prices up by as much as 20 percent.

#### Proportions of critical global resources by category exported by Gulf Cooperation Council states

The GCC states supply significant proportions of global fertiliser and natural gas exports. Closure of the Strait of Hormuz is inducing a supply shock.



Source: EIA/Vortexa (crude oil, Q1 2025); IEA/Kpler (LNG, 2025); Kpler/TradeInt (urea, sulphur, nitrogen, 2024–25); USGS (helium). Natural Earth 1.50m. Country shares are estimates; totals may not align with Hormuz transit volumes due to pipeline bypass capacity.

From a strategic perspective, the engineered energy crisis serves several concurrent objectives for Tehran. It imposes immediate and material economic costs on energy-importing economies, intensifies inflationary pressures globally, threatens food security across vulnerable nations, and heightens diplomatic pressure on the United States and its allies to consider de-escalation. Taken together, these dynamics constitute a systemic global shock—one that transcends the boundaries of regional conflict and poses a tangible threat to global economic stability, inflation management, and growth trajectories.

For India, the crisis presents a distinctly complex macroeconomic challenge, given the country's structural dependence on imported energy and agricultural inputs. With approximately 85 percent of its crude oil requirements met through imports—much of which transits the Strait of Hormuz—any prolonged disruption threatens to widen the current account deficit and exert sustained downward pressure on the rupee. A durable price escalation toward the US\$150–200 per barrel range would transmit directly into domestic inflation through elevated fuel and transportation costs, substantially complicating the monetary policy calculus for the Reserve Bank of India.

Simultaneously, disruptions to fertiliser supply chains—particularly for urea and ammonia—risk raising agricultural input costs and undermining food price stability at a critical juncture for the Kharif crop cycle. Elevated LNG prices would compound these pressures by increasing the cost of gas-based power generation and industrial activity, potentially impeding India's energy transition agenda. While mitigation measures—including drawdowns from strategic petroleum reserves, diversification of import sources, and targeted fiscal interventions—may offer partial and temporary relief, the cumulative macroeconomic impact is likely to be stagflationary in character: marked by rising inflation coinciding with a meaningful deceleration in economic growth.

 **Abhishek Chakraborty**  
Superintendent





সম্মতি U  
-A TRIBUTE TO A LEADER



Some lives are not measured by designation, but by the impact they leave behind. In every organisation, there are individuals who quietly become its strength—who stand firm

when it matters, who speak when silence is easier, and who choose responsibility over comfort. This edition of *Uttaron* pays tribute to one such officer **Shri Kousik Roy**.



A student of the University of Calcutta and an alumnus of Kedar Nath Institution, Howrah (Class of 1983), his journey reflects not just professional growth, but a deep sense of humanity. A poet at heart, a lover of life, and above all, a person who believed in standing beside people—not above them.

Throughout his career, he was not merely an officer; he was a pillar for his colleagues. Whether it was welfare activities, organisational responsibilities, or raising his voice against injustice, he remained unwavering in his commitment. Many of the association's movements in Kolkata, during his tenure as Inspector and Superintendent, bear his imprint. There comes a moment in every life when one has to choose between convenience and conviction. He chose conviction.

During his tenure as Secretary of the Association, he faced wrongful suspension for standing up for the cause of his fellow members. It was a difficult phase, but it also revealed the strength of his character. His eventual reinstatement was not just a procedural correction—it was a quiet acknowledgment that truth, though delayed, does prevail.

Today, as he serves as an Assistant Commissioner, he leaves behind more than a career—he leaves behind a legacy. A legacy of courage, compassion, and commitment. Truly, he has left behind “big shoes to fill”.



His poetic expression captures the essence of his belief:

“মানুষের কাছে মানুষের আসা,  
মানুষের প্রতি মানুষের ভালোবাসা”

.....

নিঃশ্বাস বন্ধ হয় সহজেই,  
বেঁচে থাকা সময় কখনো মরে না।”

In these lines lies a simple yet profound truth—that beyond roles and responsibilities, what endures is humanity. This tribute is not merely about remembering an officer. It is about recognising a spirit—a spirit that continues to inspire, guide, and remind us of what it truly means to serve.





## Central Pay Commission

### *A Decade's Dream of Central Government Employees*

*(Sources: The Hindu, Wikipedia, etc.)*

We are all aware that the Union Government announced the 8th Pay Commission on 17 January 2025. It is scheduled to come into effect from 1 January 2026. Before implementation, the Commission will be formally set up, and its detailed report will be presented to the government for approval. But, when we discuss about 'Pay Commission', some questions regarding history of pay commission, its legality, usefulness etc. comes to our inquisitive mind. I tried to discuss some of the topics here in the foregoing paragraphs for those curious minds.

Pay commissions in India are set up by the government to review salaries, pensions, and service conditions of central government employees, including defence personnel. Their role is to recommend changes to ensure fair and sustainable compensation.

#### Historical Background:

Since independence, several Pay Commissions have shaped the compensation structure of government employees:

The 1st Pay Commission (1946), chaired by Srinivasa Varadachariar, introduced the concept of a minimum "living wage." The 2nd (1957), under Justice Jagannath Das, recommended merging 50% of dearness allowance with basic pay. The 3rd (1970), led by Justice V.P. Raman, focused on pay and retirement benefits, while the 4th (1983), chaired by Justice P.N. Singhal, aimed at removing salary disparities.

The 5th Pay Commission (1994), under Justice S. Ratnavel Pandian, significantly

restructured pay scales. The 6th (2006), chaired by Justice B.N. Srikrishna, introduced performance-oriented pay structures. The 7th (2014), led by Justice A.K. Mathur and implemented in 2016, established the current framework with a minimum pay of ₹18,000.

The upcoming 8th Pay Commission, chaired by Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, continues this evolving process.

#### Constitutional and Legal Basis:

There is no explicit provision in the Constitution for setting up a Pay Commission. However, its authority flows from the executive powers of the Union under Article 73 and Article 309, which empower the President to regulate recruitment and service conditions of government employees.

The Central Pay Commission is therefore an ad hoc body, constituted approximately every ten years to review and recommend changes in pay, allowances, and pension.

#### Functions of the Pay Commission:

The Commission performs a wide range of functions. It reviews compensation structures, ensuring that salaries and benefits reflect both responsibilities and skill levels. It seeks to maintain internal equity among different services and external competitiveness with the private sector.

It also evaluates the long-term financial implications of its recommendations to ensure fiscal sustainability. In addition, it plays a role in shaping broader service conditions, including leave policies, promotions, allowances, and work-life

balance. Beyond pay, it considers socio-economic factors affecting employee motivation and productivity, and often serves as a guiding framework for states and public sector undertakings.

### Terms of Reference (TOR):

The Terms of Reference of the Commission define its scope and guiding principles. These include reviewing pay structures in light of the country's economic and fiscal conditions, ensuring that recommendations do not adversely affect developmental expenditure, and assessing pension liabilities.

The Commission also undertakes comparative benchmarking with the private sector and international practices. It focuses on employee motivation, retention of talent, and alignment of compensation systems with broader administrative goals.

### Challenges Before the Commission:

The recommendations of Pay Commissions often involve significant fiscal implications. Salary and pension revisions can substantially increase government expenditure, putting pressure on fiscal discipline. For instance, after the 7th Pay Commission, the annual pay and pension bill rose considerably.

There is also the risk of inflationary pressure, as increased income levels can stimulate demand in the economy. At the same time, higher committed expenditure may reduce fiscal space for developmental and capital investments.

Another major challenge lies in balancing a uniform pay structure across a diverse workforce, ranging from defence personnel to scientific and administrative services. Ensuring fairness, parity, and motivation across these varied roles is a complex task.

### Way Forward:

What can we do with CPC to make it more sustainable, equitable and performance oriented?

- **Move Toward a Permanent Pay Review Body:** Instead of setting up an ad-hoc Pay Commission every 10 years, create a Permanent Pay Review Authority (like the UK's Pay Review Bodies).
- **Outcome-Based Budgeting:** Link wage bills to departmental performance outcomes, not just headcount.
- **Simplify Implementation:** Develop standardized software and HR systems for uniform implementation across departments and states.
- **Strengthen Non-Monetary Incentives:** Focus on training, career growth, and working conditions — not just salary increases. Use competency-based HR management like in advanced civil services (Singapore, UK).

The Central Pay Commission plays a vital role in ensuring fairness and rationality in public sector compensation, but its impact must balance employee welfare with fiscal prudence. Going forward, India needs to transform the CPC from an infrequent, expenditure-heavy exercise into a continuous, data-driven, and performance-linked mechanism that aligns pay with productivity, fiscal sustainability, and administrative reform. This approach will make government service both efficient and equitable, supporting good governance in the long run.

### **Dina Nath Kar**



## জীবন্ত লাশেরা

সময়রা একলা পড়ে—  
কিছুটা তোমার সাথে, কিছুটা আমার হাতে।  
চোখে চোখ থাকে না আর, চোখ রাঙানিই বারেবার।

ভালোবাসারা আজ আতসকাঁচেও নিখোঁজ—  
নেই কোনো চিহ্ন আর।  
না সইতে পারা দুটো জ্যান্ত শবদেহ  
নিয়ম মেনে দিন কাটায়।

কথারা আজ সুর তোলে না,  
চিৎকার করে শুধু।  
মাঝে পড়ে থাকে নিষ্পাপ কেউ—  
বোঝে না, কী দোষ তার।

নিষ্ফল আশ্ফালন ফেটে পড়ে তার ওপর,  
অসহায় সে বোঝে না কারণ।  
ভালোবাসা যখন ঘৃণায় রূপান্তরিত হয়,  
সবকিছুই বিষাক্ত লাগে।

অন্তরের যন্ত্রণায় কেউ দিনে, কেউবা রাতে জাগে।  
অবাক চোখে দেখে বাকি পৃথিবীকে—  
ভাবতে থাকে, কেন এমন হয়?

ভালোবাসার ছুঁয়ে যাওয়া হাতে  
শুধু আজ ঘৃণা আর পরাজয়।

তবু বিছানার চাদর হয় এলোমেলো,  
বালিশ ভেজে কান্নায়।  
কেন এই জীবন?  
কেমন এ বেঁচে থাকা—  
উত্তর অধরাই থেকে যায়।

দিন, রাত, বছর—সময় এগোয় নিজের নিয়মে,  
শুধু মানুষগুলো থমকে থাকে ভাগ্যের বেনিয়মে।

সাদা চাদর মুড়িয়ে নেয় জীবন্ত লাশ দুটো,  
ধোঁয়ায় মেশে ধীরে ধীরে,  
ভবিষ্যৎ থাকে পেছনে পড়ে।

এভাবেই শেষ হয় রূপকথা হতে চাওয়া গল্প,  
ছাই হয় শেষ পরিণতি।

রাজপুত্র-রাজকন্যার স্বপ্নের জাল  
আটকে থাকে মাকড়সার জালে—  
কালের শিকার হয়ে।

এক এক করে খসে পড়ে সবকিছু,  
অন্ধকারে মেশে সব।

যে অন্ধকার থেকে আলোর ফুলকি বেরিয়েছিল,  
সে আজ গ্রাস করে মন, শরীর, সর্বস্ব।

হারানোর থাকে না কিছু,  
কুড়োনোরও নেই এক কণা—  
শুধু পরিণতি ফেলে যাওয়া, যার নাম অজানা।

চলে এভাবেই কালের শাসন,  
তবু ভুল হয় বারবার—  
একই পথে হাঁটা অবিরত,  
নেই আর পথ পালাবার।

👉 জয় দেবনাথ

অধিক্ষক

শিলিগুড়ি কাস্টমস ডিভিশন



# Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2025

*A Journey of Faith, Endurance and Inner Transformation*

**Har Har Mahadev**

## The Sacred Calling:

Religious belief in Sanatan Dharma speaks of the Panch Kailash Parvats—five sacred Himalayan peaks believed to be manifestations of Lord Shiva. Among them, the most revered is Mount Kailash, located in the Ngari Prefecture of the Tibet Autonomous Region of China, near the tri-junction of India, Nepal, and China.

Standing at an elevation of 6,638 metres, with an average approach altitude of around 15,500 feet, Mount Kailash is revered not only by followers of Hinduism but also by Buddhists, Jains, and followers of the Bon faith. For centuries, pilgrims have undertaken this arduous journey, often with minimal facilities and immense faith.

In earlier times, the journey lacked structured routes or support systems. Today, however, modern infrastructure and improved connectivity have made the pilgrimage more accessible, though the spiritual and physical challenges remain unchanged.



## Organisation of the Yatra:

The Government of India, through the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), facilitates the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra in coordination with Chinese authorities. Currently, around 750 pilgrims from India are permitted annually. The yatra, resumed after a pause due to the pandemic, is conducted between July and September in batches of 50 pilgrims each.

Pilgrims travel through two routes—Lipulekh Pass (Uttarakhand) and Nathu La Pass (Sikkim). The Nathu La route, with better road connectivity, is considered relatively more suitable for senior citizens.

The selection process involves online application and lottery. Pilgrims must meet strict medical requirements and submit necessary documentation, including affidavits acknowledging the risks involved.

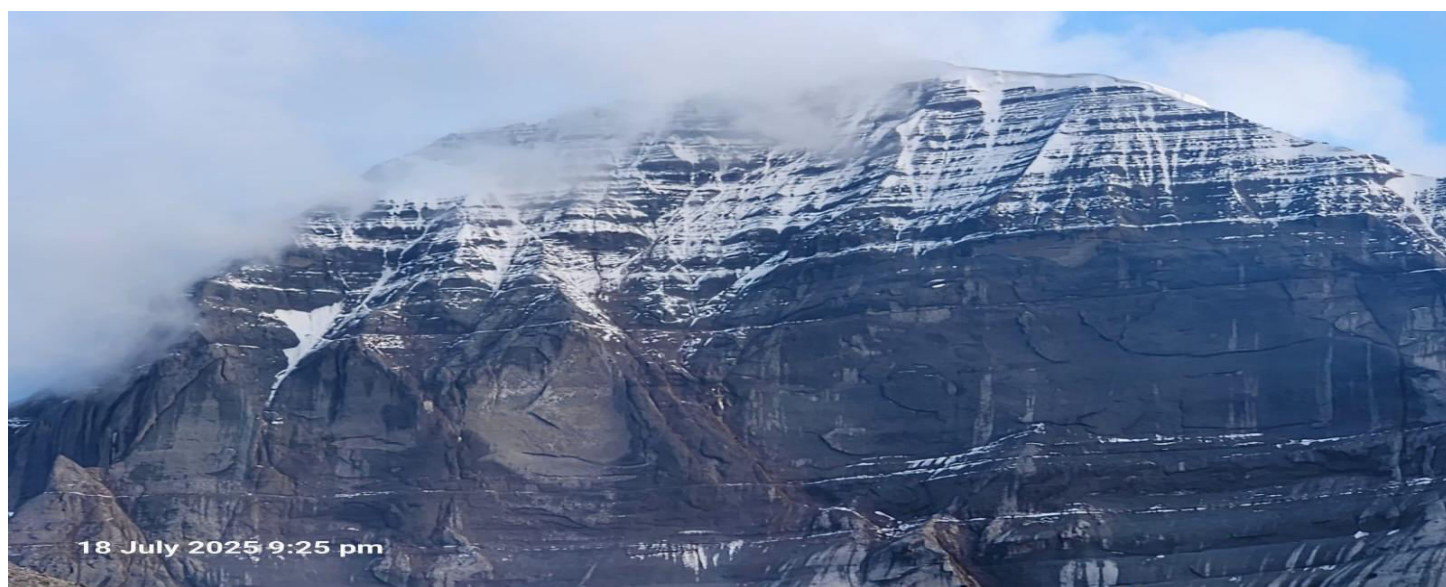
Each batch is supported by a Liaison Officer, a medical officer, and ITBP personnel who provide logistical and medical assistance throughout the journey. The group, comprising individuals from across India, reflects unity in diversity—each yatri carrying a unique story and unwavering faith.

## A Personal Blessing:

It was sheer faith in the Almighty that I, along with my spouse, was blessed to be part of this sacred journey. Despite health concerns, including medical conditions in my family, we were cleared by the medical board.

The support of my family, especially my elderly mother and daughters, gave me the courage to undertake this pilgrimage. Encouragement from colleagues, friends, and departmental authorities further strengthened my resolve.

This journey was not just a physical undertaking but a deeply emotional and spiritual experience.



## Journey Through the Himalayas:

The yatra began from New Delhi and proceeded through Sikkim via Nathu La Pass into Tibet. Pilgrims underwent gradual acclimatisation to high altitudes before crossing the border.

The journey to Darchen, the base of Mount Kailash, covered approximately 1,450 kilometres. The roads were well-developed, and facilities en route were comfortable. ITBP personnel ensured proper food and medical care throughout the journey.

Despite the harsh climatic conditions—thin air, intense sunlight, and cold winds—pilgrims remained resilient. The breathtaking views of the Kailash ranges, vast plateaus, and occasional sightings of wildlife added to the uniqueness of the journey.



## The Parikrama of Mount Kailash:

The highlight of the pilgrimage is the outer Kora or parikrama of Mount Kailash, covering approximately 52 kilometres on foot.

The journey begins at Yam Dwar, symbolising the gateway to the divine. The first halt is at Deraphuk, situated at an altitude of around 16,500 feet. The highest point, Dolma Pass, stands at a challenging altitude of 18,900 feet.

Despite the physical demands, every yatri displayed remarkable determination. Many devotees performed the parikrama through prostration, reflecting the depth of their devotion.

The experience was transformative. The physical limitations of the body seemed to dissolve in the presence of divine energy, and an inner strength guided each step.

## Mansarovar – The Divine Experience:

The holy Mansarovar Lake, with its serene and pristine waters, is a place of immense spiritual significance. Pilgrims are blessed with the opportunity to perform rituals, take a holy bath, and offer prayers.

Spending time on its banks, witnessing the vast expanse of calm waters, and participating in collective prayers created an overwhelming sense of peace and fulfilment.

In contrast, the nearby Rakshastal Lake presents a stark difference—with rough, saline waters and a barren surrounding. The coexistence of these two contrasting lakes is both fascinating and symbolic.

## An Inner Journey:

This pilgrimage is not merely a journey across geographical terrain—it is a journey within.

The availability of modern communication allowed me to share live moments of darshan with family and friends. Yet, beyond these external connections, the experience was deeply personal and introspective.

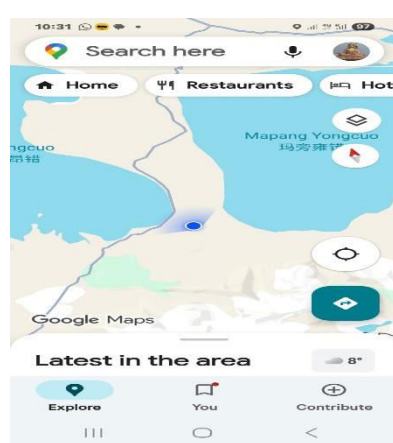
The unity among yattris, speaking different languages yet bonded by faith, was a powerful reminder of collective spirituality.

The journey to Kailash Mansarovar is unique, profound, and transformative. It demands physical endurance, mental strength, and unwavering faith.

I sincerely hope that this account encourages others to consider undertaking this sacred pilgrimage. It is not just a journey to a destination, but a path to inner awakening.

Lastly, I pray that the number of permits for Indian pilgrims may be increased in the future, allowing more devotees to experience this divine journey.

 **Prakash Jha**  
Superintendent



## ❏ आधुनिक दौर

अब खुद ही गिर जाओ तुम, टूटकर ज़मीं पर,  
पत्थर मारने वाला बचपन, मोबाइल में व्यस्त है।

अच्छी थी पगडंडी अपनी,  
सड़कों पर तो जाम बहुत हैं।  
फुर्र हो गई फुर्सत, अब तो  
सबके पास काम बहुत है।

नहीं ज़रूरत बड़ों की अब,  
हर बच्चा बुद्धिमान बहुत है।  
उजड़ गए सब बाग-बगीचे,  
दो गमलों में शान बहुत है।

मट्ठा, दही नहीं खाते हैं,  
कहते हैं, जुकाम बहुत है।  
बंद हो गई चिट्ठी-पत्री,  
व्हाट्सएप पर पैगाम बहुत हैं।

आदी हैं ए.सी. के इतने,  
कहते बाहर गर्मी बहुत है।  
झुके-झुके स्कूली बच्चे,  
बस्ते में सामान बहुत है।

नहीं बचे कोई संबंधी,  
अकड़, ऐंठ, एहसान बहुत है।  
सुविधाओं का ढेर लगा है,  
पर इंसान परेशान बहुत है।

❏ आशीष कुमार सिन्हा  
अधीक्षक, बोलपुर आयुक्तालय





## “Shraddhanjali”

*“They may be gone from our sight, but never from our hearts.”*

*With deep sorrow and respect, we remember our esteemed colleagues who are no longer with us. Their contributions, dedication, and presence will always remain a part of our association.*



Shri Madhusudan Dutta

*Superintendent, Hilli LCS, CCP  
(Passed away on 28th March 2026)*

A dedicated officer and a valued colleague, Shri Madhusudan Dutta served with sincerity and commitment. His contributions to the department and his warm presence among colleagues will always be remembered with respect and gratitude.



Shri Suman Debnath

*Superintendent, Anti Evasion, Howrah  
(Passed away on 19th November 2025)*

Shri Suman Debnath left us during a high-altitude trek to Goechala. His passion for life, courage, and dedication to duty will remain an inspiration to all who knew him.

### ✉ Call for Contributions

*Uttaron* invites original literary contributions from its members, providing a platform to share ideas, experiences, and creative expressions. Submissions are expected to be original and unpublished, maintaining the decorum and standards of the Association. Contributors are requested to ensure that their work is free from plagiarism and within a limit of 1500 words (literary works). Entries should be submitted in Word format (.doc/.docx) to the email address mentioned below.

✉ [aiasctkolkata@gmail.com](mailto:aiasctkolkata@gmail.com)

☎ 9547211210

We look forward to your valuable contributions and active participation in enriching future editions of *Uttaron*.



### Did You Know?

#### Kolkata in a Mughal Revenue Record

Long before Kolkata became a modern city, it appeared in the Mughal administrative records of the 16th century. Under Emperor Akbar, Raja Todar Mal's revenue system documented a settlement named *Kalikata* in the *Ain-i-Akbari*.

This humble mention marks one of the earliest recorded references to present-day Kolkata—long before it evolved into a major urban and cultural centre.