



PARIVARTAN

April 2015

Prayas JAC Society

April is the cruelest month of the year, wrote T S Eliot and he has proved prophetic. The devastating quake in Nepal has taken a heavy toll of life and property and Prayas has joined relief operations in a big way.

But life is a roller coaster and ups and downs are part of it. April 19, 2015 happened to be the Annual Gala dinner night of the 'Friends of Prayas' which was celebrated in a grand way at Hotel Ashok. The high -light of the night was the staging of Shatrughan Sinha's popular play 'Pati Patni aur Main'.

The month end marked the inauguration of the 'Prayas Hairsplitters Forum' an interactive discussion group to keep our members and children updated about the latest trends in society.

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Post-quake trafficking: 5 kids rescued near India-Nepal border

HTSPECIAL

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RAXAUL: The worst fears voiced in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Nepal on April 25, which claimed thousands of lives in that country and scores in the bordering state of Bihar, appear to be coming true.

First evidence has now emerged to show that earthquake-triggered child trafficking has started in East Champaran and other north Bihar districts located close to the India-Nepal border, which bore the brunt of the tremors.

It was officially confirmed on Wednesday that five children being taken to Mumbai for a life of drudgery were rescued from the railway station at the East Champaran town of Raxaul on May 2.

The confirmation came from Imamuddin Ahmad, director, social welfare, in the Bihar government, an officer who tracks child trafficking as a priority item on his work agenda.

"We have rescued five children who were being trafficked to Mumbai for being engaged as child labourers. However, the trafficker in their case managed to escape," Ahmad told HT.

The official said no FIR had been lodged in the case as the identity of the trafficker could not be ascertained. "The res-

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cued kids were sent to our child welfare committee at Motihari, and handed over to their parents on the following day," he added.

The children, from earthquake-hit east and west Champaran districts of Bihar bordering Nepal, were rescued from the Jansadharan Express, bound for Mumbai. The person escorting the children managed to give the authorities a slip.

Aarti Kumar of Prayas, an NGO, who was part of the raiding team, said: "The GRP is reluctant to register a complaint if a child is accompanied by any of his/her distant relative. In the instant case, one rescued kid was escorted by a cousin."

Though the rescued child's father confirmed the relationship, he said he was unaware his son was being taken to Mumbai.

The rescue came soon after the state government had issued an advisory, saying the catastrophe in Nepal might lead to a spurt in human trafficking, especially of young women and children.

Prayas joins relief efforts for massive Nepal tragedy

Like in every tragedy Prayas has responded in a big way to the call of humanity in the wake of the massive earthquake in our friendly Himalayan neighbor Nepal.

The District administration East Champaran had sought assistance from Prayas for bringing succour to earthquake victims at Raxaul. Initially eight Prayas personnel had been deployed for the task to assist the stranded Indian origin persons while crossing the border



But after judging the magnitude of devastation and the presence of Prayas in the area 25 volunteers including five ANMs were offered to them under the guidance of Ms. Indu Rani Singh and Roshni Shreshha.

These volunteers have been functioning at the Rehabilitation camp at Raxaul which became functional 24x7 with the collaboration of Prayas, the District Administration, the transport department and medical experts.

The team is helping Indians returning from Nepal, refugees from Nepal and children who need post-trauma treatment.



Raj Gupta, a member of the Prayas relief team said they were focusing on providing relief to women and children who had lost their parents in the massive tragedy by providing them infant food, biscuits and trauma-care to try and bring their life back to normalcy.

Kyonki har dost zaroori hota hai

April 19 was a Time for Celebrations. It was Time for Rejoicing. It was Time for Catching up with well-wishers whom we fondly call 'Friends of Prayas' who have watched the growth of this organization from close quarters and been part of a journey that began with a small group of 25 beneficiaries in 1988 to a rapidly growing Banyan tree that today spreads across 09 states/UTs with 241 branches and 45 shelter homes, employing 700 employees.



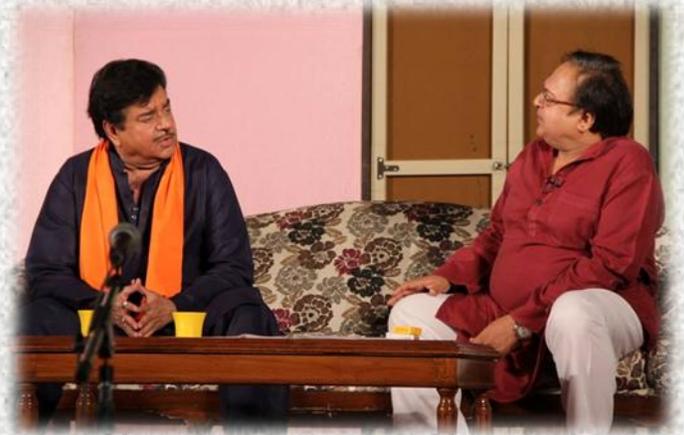
To witness this historical event there were VIP galore including BJP Patriarch, Mr.L K Advani with daughter Pratibha Advani, Dr.Harshvardhan, Mr.Subodh Kant Sahay, Mr.Abhishek Manu Sanghvi, Mr.Salman Khurshid, Mr.Rajiv Shukla and Ms.Anuradha Prasad, Mr.Oscar Fernandes and Mr.Jayant Sinha among others.

The program started with a brief introduction of the journey of Prayas by Mr.Amod Kanth, General Secretary who told the elite viewers about how Prayas had been going from strength to strength, taking upon newer challenges as they came, in its effort to provide succour to the women and children who needed it most.



But this was also an occasion for celebration and it began in style with Shatrughan Sinha, the President of Prayas taking centre-stage as the audience went

‘Khamosh’. It was time to watch his famous play ‘Pati Patni aur mein’ that has seen 100 performances since 2001 directed by Ramesh Talwar and produced by Sanjay Goradia. The hilarious play has a script originally written by Manohar Katdhare in Marathi and translated in Hindi by Raman Kumar. Written in the Sutradhaar style Shatru plays the Sutradhaar to the love life and later the married life of a couple Rakesh Bedi and Bhawna Balsaver. It is a laughter riot a minute.



The very ordinary and predictable story of how the equations of a couple change before marriage, at the time of marriage, one year later and five years after marriage has been creating ripples of laughter wherever it is staged in India and abroad because of the universal appeal of the theme.

But if a play is attracting houseful audiences for 15 years it means that it has to be improvised at every performance to keep the audience interest from waning. And so it was at this performance where both the director Sanjoy Goradia and the Mein of the ‘Pati Patni aur Mein’ Shatrughan Sinha, take pot-shots at politics, social norms and literally everything that they could hit at to get the audience laughing.



No wonder L K Advani the BJP Patriarch who had watched the first performance of the play in 2001 sat through the whole play this time again and seemed to be enjoying every bit.

Probably the most apt comment on this play comes from writer, author, columnist Shobha De who said after watching it “Sinha’s (Shatrughan Sinha) ability think on his feet depending on the audience must be acknowledged”

This First Lady is a charmer



What Humility, what Patience and what Charm. The First Lady of Afghanistan Rula Ghani touched every heart as she spent nearly two hours at the Prayas Girls Shelter Home at Tughlakabad. Never for a moment did the girls of the Home, most of them destitute and

traumatised, get the feeling that they were talking to the wife of a President as she spoke of her interest in India and the cause of women and children.

She encouraged them, saying she was very happy to meet so many young girls ready to take on life. She even spoke of Kabuliwala as comfortably as she spoke of Ashiana, an organisation similar to Prayas in Kabul.

But the loudest cheers were reserved for her as she talked of a possible collaboration between Prayas and Ashiana and said "Who knows some of you might get a chance to visit Kabul!"

New beginnings- Launch of Prayas Hairsplitters Forum

The Prayas Hairsplitters Forum could not have asked for a better beginning. The first programme of the Forum titled “Is India ready for absolute Freedom of expression” had the staff and students of Prayas literally eating out of the hands of eminent cyber lawyer and IT expert of the country Mr. Pavan Duggal. An international expert on cyber security and internet he has been actively engaged in the field of Cyberlaw, intellectual Property Rights, and Information Technology.

Mr. Duggal was talking to the staff and senior students of Prayas to explain how Article 66 A of the IT Act 2000 was being misused by the authorities and why it’s abolition by the Supreme Court was a big victory. But he also revealed the downslide by saying that striking down of the Act had led to a new phenomenon called cyber bullying because users had lost the fear of the law.

He told a rapt audience that there was nothing like absolute freedom not only in India but anywhere in the world. For India this new found medium was more dangerous because it was like throwing someone who did not know swimming into the sea. Mr. Duggal told the gathering that apps like i-phones and the internet and Whatsapp may appear very tempting more so because many of their services were

free but “by subscribing to it we are handing over our security and privacy to outsiders”.

He advised the users of modern technology to be very careful in posting on these sites because the memory of the internet was infinite and this memory could not



be deleted. “Be careful not to write hate messages or react in anger on social websites like Facebook or twitter or Instagram because what you write as a youth would be still available when you become a grand-parent” he told an audience gaping in awe.

His talk elicited a lot of interactive response from those present giving a fitting start to the Prayas Hairsplitters Forum. Some asked him questions about the harm from mobile towers while some others wanted to know how to do get them removed before they were installed in their area.

Proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Duggal after the first meeting of the Forum, Amitabh Srivastava, Media Adviser to Prayas said that he had given them loads of information about the harms that they faced in the form of applications that they thought were very user-friendly.

Prayas Stree Shakti-Suvidha Kendra holds Training Programme



Prayas GRC Wazirabad organized an SHG Training Programme from April 20 to 29 to sensitize adolescent girls and their families regarding their nutritional needs and inculcate healthy eating habits through easy- to-cook, tasty and affordable recipes and to address the problem of malnutrition in the community. It had 46 Participants and Mr. R P Singh, a nutritionist, was the resource person.

Appeal to Prayas Parivar

This is an earnest appeal to each and every member of the Prayas Parivar across the country to keep the editorial team informed of the activities in your region for the newsletter.

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