

BOOK REVIEW: GROUP 10

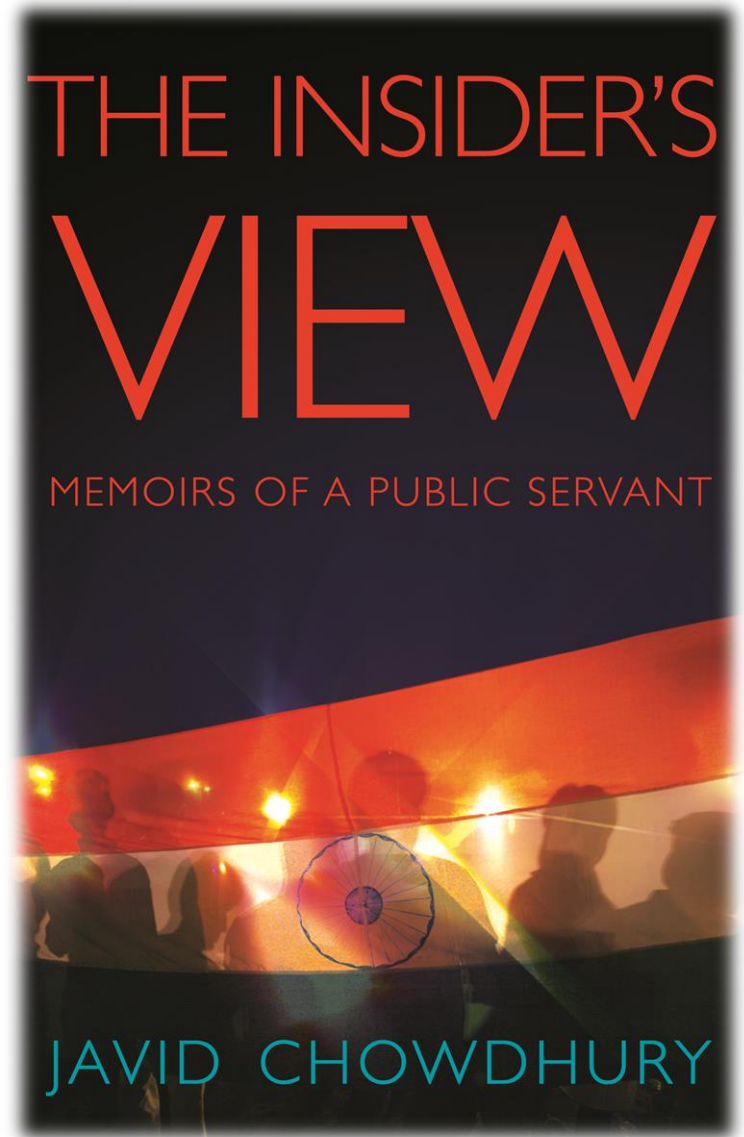
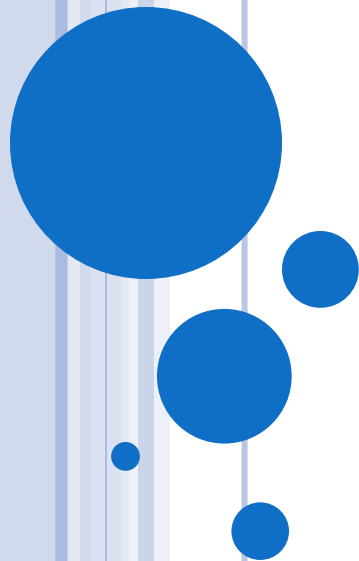
**“THE INSIDER’S VIEW: MEMOIRS
OF A PUBLIC SERVANT”**

by JAVID CHOWDHURY,

PENGUIN INDIA, ©2012,

PP IX + 310

Rs. 499/-



MEMBERS

- Amit Renu
- Deepak Verma
- Deepak Kumar
- Dharmendra Kumar
- Nedumaran S R
- Satheesh Kumar
Thota
- Shamim Ara
- Shobha Sharma (C)
- Sujeet Pujari
- Tulsipriya Rajkumari
- Vaibhav Rundwal



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

- Shri Javid Chowdhury,
 - Born in Khambhat, Gujarat (1942)
 - Childhood in Dehra Dun, FRI
 - Doon School
 - St. Stephen's College
- IAS, Gujarat Cadre (1965-2002)
- Served in Capacities of
 - Union Secretary, Ministry of Food
 - Union Secretary, Department of Revenue
 - Union Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare
 - Director of Enforcement
 - Establishment Officer, GMDC
- Retired; actively involved with NGOs in the domain of Public Health



CONTENT OF THE BOOK

1. Return to my roots
2. The Learning Years
3. The Terrain of Field Administration
4. Flashback from the Field (1974 to 1978)
5. The changing face of Public Administration
6. Caring for the Civil Services Family: 1996 to 1997
7. Orphaned Economic Laws
8. The Securities Scam
9. The Rogues' Gallery
10. The Russian Connection
11. Unending Bofors: Some Aspects
12. Treasures from Sleuthing
13. In the World of Finance
14. The New Theology
15. National Economic Security
16. Time in the Health Sector: 1999 to 2002
17. Gujarat: Societal Dynamics
18. Discharge of Rajdharm: 2002
19. Communalism? What is that?
20. Grassroots Political Workers
21. A Civil Servant's Icons



INTRODUCTION

- Chronological description of the journey of an IAS officer
- Delves in Professional escapades
- Challenges involved in discharge of duties as a Public Servant



OVERVIEW: PURPOSE

- Throw light on the contemporary issues and landmark events that proved to have far reaching impact on the society
- Critical insight of the implications of neo liberal policies for the Indian economy
- Appeals to young Aspirants, Public Servants, People curious about practical aspects of Public Administration



ABOUT THE BOOK

- Description from the learning years
- Transition from paternalistic to developmental to globalised-liberalized phase
- Changing dynamics of “civil services family” (caste system-spoil system)
- Series of scams observed during his tenure at Enforcement Directorate



ABOUT THE BOOK.....

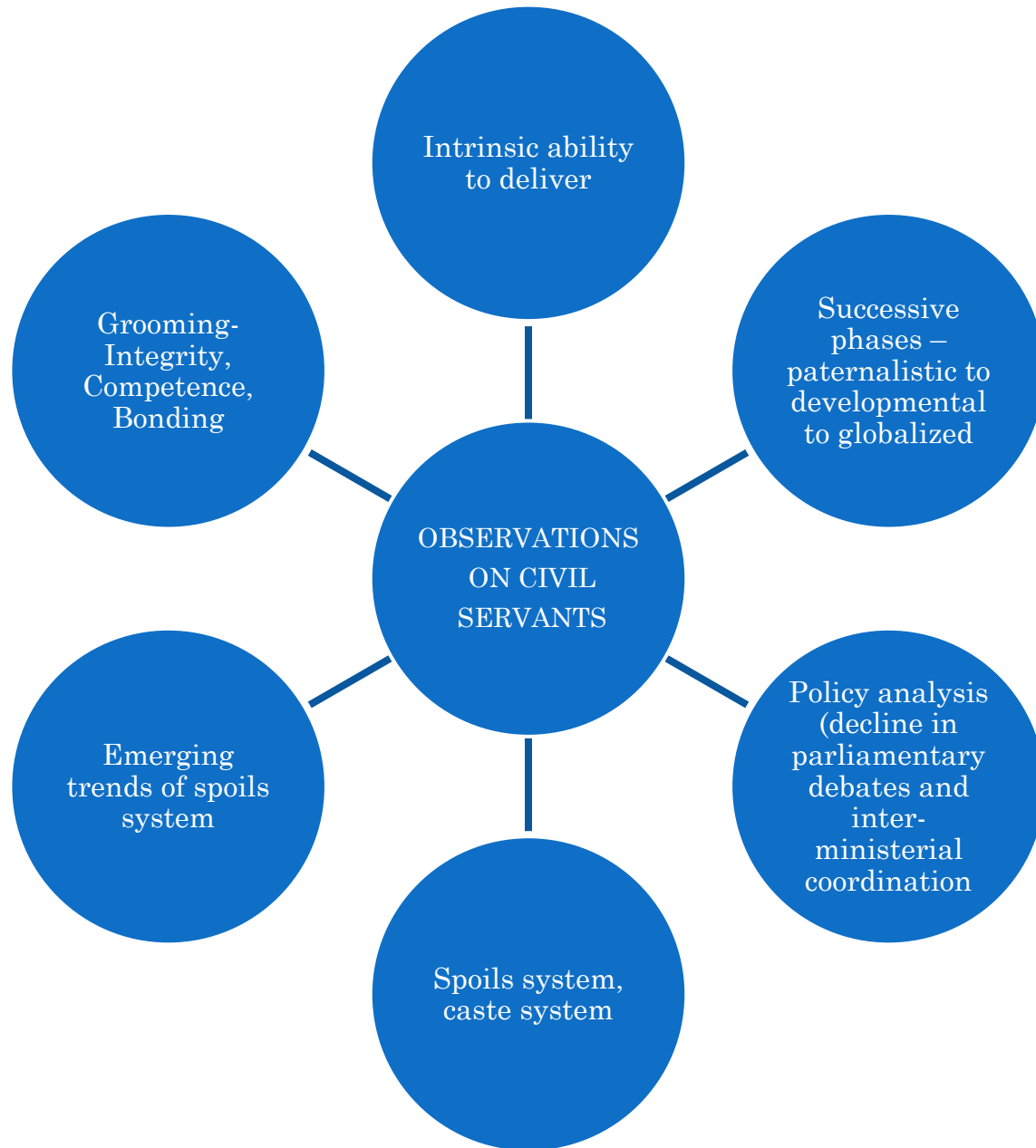
- Consequences of non reliable sources of information
- Experience in Ministry of Finance headed by Yashwant Sinha (1995-96)
- Subsistence subsidies and Industrial concessions (attacks neo liberal school of thought)
- Neglect of social sector



ABOUT THE BOOK.....

- Riddle of communalism in Gujarat 1992
- Centralized system of governance in Gujarat
- Some exemplary figures in political arena
- Admirable figures for the author





READERS' ANALYSIS

- Easy to read, use of uncomplicated language
- Style: informal way of writing, use of Hindi and Gujarati phrases to connect the reader to the situation
 - “Mafatiya Aya, Mafatiya Aya” “Chiman Chor” “bhare pani che, saheb. Khetar na taliyun miltu nathee”
- Point of view: Self, Autobiographical
- Even complex economic phenomenon are dealt with such an ease that even a layman can understand
- Many anecdotes but not as light as that in “English, August”
- Ideological bias: slightly left of the centre



CONTENT ANALYSIS

- Underlying Pathos
- Gradual decline of integrity among Bureaucrats
 - Pimputkar's "family ration card was suspended for misuse" by himself
 - Cabinet Secretary telling lies to PM
- Even sharper decline in the ethical standards and moral authority of politicians
 - Example of Babubhai Shah



WHAT IS MISSING

- Analysis is largely limited to establishment and economic issues.
- The scope of analysis of social sector is largely limited to Health Sector only.



RECOMMENDATION

- Highly recommended for young Public Servants, civil service aspirants and for all those who are seriously thinking of making a career in the Government.
- Keep the bias in mind.
- Read this book to understand:
 - Changing aspects of Public Administration and emerging issues
 - How role and image of Bureaucracy is changing with time with the emergence of Corporate Sector
 - How the society is undergoing a transformation



THANK YOU ☺

