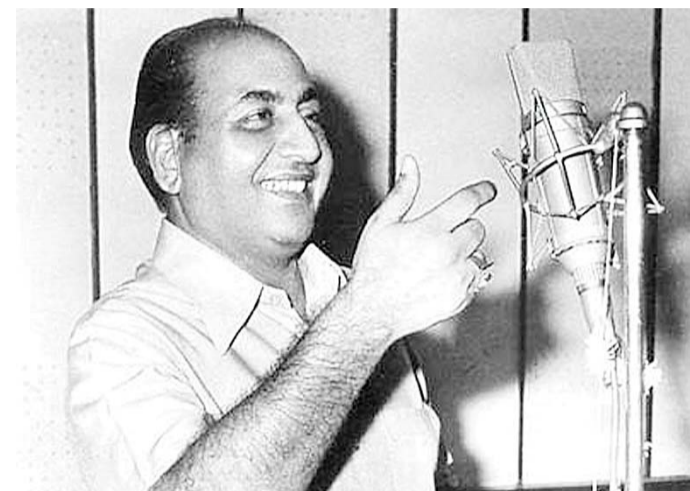


#MEMORIES

A Tryst with Rafi A pilgrimage to remember



Dr Rajeev Bagarhatta
Cardiologist,
Principal and
Controller SMS
Medical College,
Jaipur

*Meri duniya mein naa Purab h
Naa Paachhim koi
Sare insaan simat aaye hain
Meri baon mein...*

How he taught us the philosophy of life in...
*Maayus na ho haar se takdeer ki baaji
Pyara he woh gam jisme ho
Bhagwaan niji...*

Driving back to Chartrapati Shivaji Airport, I hesitantly ask the cab driver if Bandra is on the way. He mentioned that it required a detour of few kilometres and some extra minutes. I furtively surf my net and request him to take me to 28th Road, Handra west.

While we approach the address, my heart races and emotions overwhelm. I couldn't believe that I would be at his place, where he stayed, where he lived and where he started his last journey on that inauspicious 31st day of July, 1980.

The lane bears his name and I enquire about his house from a couple of passers by. I am amazed that they feign ignorance. That's probably the Mumbai culture. I muse, either how would they be ignorant of Rafi!

And then an auto rickshaw driver comes to my help. "Rafi Sahab ka ghar na? It's over there," he peaks in a sombre tone soaked with deep respect for the person, whose voice is inseparable part of auto driver's life as it is of mine too.

Few moments later I stood in front of Rafi mansion. A tsunami of emotions swept me away. Forty years of separation had disappeared into yesterday.

Jab se hosh sambhala tha mere najod par to inke Rafi sahib puri tarah se chhaye huye the.

He was by my side, bucking me up, as I sulked, *Kahan ja raha he tu ae Jane wale Andhra he Maan ka Diya to jalale.*

He was imploring my Saviour to come and help me with...
Badi der bhae, Badi der bhae, Kab lagey khabar mere Ram...

Or even surrendering to Mahadev.
Tu hai mera prem Devta In charnon ki Dasi hun mein Maan ki pyas bujhane aaye Anter ghat tak pyasi hun mein...

And yet he fired my imagination with...
Chura liya he tumne jo Dilko... Lahu jigar ka doonga hasenee labon ki tali ko...

Was he not celebrating my birthday in my fifth standard with...
Hum bhi agar bacche hote...

And then Holi with...
Bray mein Holi kheilat Nandial... His mellifluous silken voice blended with Lata's magic in Aavaaz de kar hame tum bulao Muhabbat mein itna na hamko satao...

An artist of all inclusive persona, he rendered the immortal...

Yeh jindagi ke mele... Duniya mein kam na hongey... Afsos hum na hongey...

But Rafi will always be there in our lives to tide us over the troughs and regale us through our highs....!

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My association was an irritant to the Bombay Police. At a meeting in the room of Rajesh Pilot, then Minister of State Home, the Cabinet Secretary, an IAS officer of Maharashtra Cadre even suggested that Joint Director CBI, Bombay could replace me as my association required me to travel every week to Bombay. That was not the real reason. I was asking too many probing questions. Then Director of CBI, SK Dutta, bluntly said, "No, never!" I was present there. The Cabinet Secretary was taken aback and feebly asked, "but what is wrong." The response was short, "Yes, it is wrong." I remained but that was before Vijay Rama Rao.

Passages through power I Irritated Them... (..2)



Shantonu Sen
Former CBI Joint Director

#REMINISCENCE

their way. They out-ranked me and were determined but it was the solid evidence that had its way. I resisted them and had my way. I made some people angry.

There is a footnote though. It came in July 1985 Rajiv-Longowal accord, a little more than a year after their detention by the Army, whereafter all 379 were set at liberty. I witnessed the welcome they got, how they were received by Siddhartha Shankar Roy, then Governor of Punjab. Of the hardcore terrorists about 250 were killed in the operation. My stubbornness prevented the hapless pilgrims and worshippers, nearly 1,100 of them caught in the cross-fire from being held in the Jodhpur Jail. This was a jail built to detain terrorists.

After this investigation CBI hitherto an Anti-Corruption body, which also investigated a few economic crimes was thrust into investigating terrorist crimes too. What was popular as a band of CBI men known within the CBI as Punjab Cell, was named a Special Investigating Unit with three Superintendents of Police, headed by a Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) who reported to the Director of CBI.

I was its first DIG. We started our work in 1985 and a series of terrorist incidents were successfully investigated. These included the murder of Gen AS Vaidya in



With RCMP officers from Canada visiting India calling on Director Mohan Katre 1988.

the hour, the Director was on the RAX (a phone restricted between 400 officers of GOD) and said the Home Minister (Buta Singh) did not want him to be arrested. He added for good measure that he appreciated my point and that I could proceed as I had planned. He faced the upset Home Minister who was neither pleased with me. I had my way. I ordered his arrest and we did. Those were halcyon days of the CBI for me. Decisions that went against the superior expressed desires, wishes and orders, call them what you wish were never easy but if taken and explained hoesover contrary to their orders one could survive in the department with honour. I did.

He engaged the very best lawyers to suggest he was not into any crime. He lost because we had done our homework. He was directed to appear before CBI by a specific date. We had made it clear that his would be a custodial interrogation. A day or two before he was to land and our plans to arrest him were complete. At this time the Director (MG Katre) directed the Chief Investigation Officer, an SP, not to arrest him. He was reportedly too sick.

I was informed by the SP, who reported to me that the Director's order overruled mine. I directed him to convey the Director's verbal orders to me by putting it into words. He did so. At once I recorded a note to the effect that the CBI is committed to arrest him as he lands. We had told the Delhi High Court that he would be subjected to custodial interrogation. Within

the hour, the Director was on the RAX (a phone restricted between 400 officers of GOD) and said the Home Minister (Buta Singh) did not want him to be arrested.

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Uncommon Instrument Awareness Day

There are all sorts of instruments in the world and most of them have keys or strings of some sort. But there are drums that lack both and instruments like the Theremin a uniquely bizarre one as you do not touch the instrument. Uncommon Instrument Awareness Day encourages you to broaden your idea to research many varied and unique instruments in the world and consider picking up an uncommon instrument yourself to expand your horizons.

Bomb Blasts in 1993; in collecting material to solve more than 40 IED explosions in Bombay that were unsolved; in solving the case of the train blasts in all five premier trains on the anniversary of Babri Masjid demolition on December 6 1993, linking them to Dr Jalees Ansari, all done within a fortnight of the investigation being transferred to the CBI by the states where the crime occurred.

Vijay Rama Rao just did not like me. Gone were the days when the Director of CBI did not take amiss at his subordinates challenging a direction. Not only they did not take it amiss, D Sen (1968-1975) and those that followed him, Messers CV Narasimhan (the topper and stickler for rules) John Lobo (the tallest stalwart of all), JS Bawa (the most big-hearted), MG Katre (the great professional), R Sekhar (honest and simple berrif of show and pomp) and SK Dutta (without a mean bone in him), all much-admired, who rose to the Director's position after working in the CBI at other ranks, who stood up and defended me and others like me when our legal actions went against the interest of the powerful elements who had an access to the politicians who were powerful Ministers at that time.

Vijay Rama Rao brought me down step by step. He asked me



Author with an FBI officer in front of the FBI Headquarters in Washington, in 1986.

about my heavy charge one day. I admitted it was heavy. He soon relieved me of my main charge and asked me to deal only with the 1993 Bomb Blast. It could have been otherwise. It was one of the prized charges and I had earned it by sheer merit. He wanted a man he could control. I managed to antagonise him in my truncated charge too. There were several instances beginning with the 1993 serial Bombay Blast. The Government of India had wanted that CBI investigate the blasts but wiser counsels prevailed and it was the Bombay Police that continued to investigate. We took over only after they filed the first charge sheet in the later part of 1993. I, and only I was associated with their investigation.

My association was an irritant to the Bombay Police. At a meeting in the room of Rajesh Pilot, then Minister of State Home, the Cabinet Secretary, an IAS officer of Maharashtra Cadre even suggested that Joint Director of CBI Bombay could replace me as my association required me to travel every week to Bombay. That was not the real reason. I was asking probing questions. Then the Director of CBI, SK Dutta, bluntly said, "No, never!" I was present there. The Cabinet Secretary was taken aback and feebly asked, "but what is wrong." The response was short, "Yes, it is wrong." I remained but that was before Vijay Rama Rao.

The Bombay Police had included in the criminal charges, the



Author in Ottawa reviewing along with Indian High Commission official joint anti terrorist operations involving both countries with RCMP official, in 1988.



Author in discussion among delegates at International Criminal Seminar held in Tokyo, in 1979.

charge of Waging War against the State. The evidence collected did not at all establish that the accused charged sought to secede and create a new state as the Khalistan movement had done. During my associate status, I had won my reservation and it was one reason for my being an irritant. Nevertheless, they charged and then the prosecution began, it was the task of the CBI to convince the trial court that all charges including Waging of War Charges had evidence to back it. I sensed that Majid Menon, then defence counsel, was confident of getting this charge dropped by the Court. Our Public Prosecutor N Natrajan felt the same way.

Upon further investigation, we filed seventeen (17) additional charge sheets after garnering more evidence against those already arrested and sent up for trial by Bombay Police. We arrested nine more involved. We arrested absconders. But we found no evidence on Waging of War Charges. Therefore, the prosecutor dropped this charge. He told the court that he would only argue on this charge when he was provided material by the investigation to support this charge. While I endorsed his stand and so did the Attorney General of India; both the Home Secretary and the Director of CBI were annoyed and remained annoyed. Only I know how much a pariah became after this.

Mercifully, I retired in a year's time without fanfare. In that year

though I faced several attacks and challenges under Vijay Rama Rao's tenure. A matter of rent is interesting. During the time of Director R Sekhar, who preceded him and two Directors before him, my recently constructed house was sought for the newly created office of DIG CBI, Jaipur. All procedural steps were taken and after the Director's approval I gave it on a monthly rent of 4,500/ per month. Incidentally, the CPWD assessment was 7,500/ per month but the Director of CBI's power was limited to 5,000/ per month.

The Stubborn Streak
Vijay Rama Rao was informed, obviously he wanted to know how to fix me as the CVC had asked the CBI to enquire into this deal. The enquiry had taken place during the time of R Sekhar's successor, Vijay Karan. No fault was found in the process. This I learnt from SK Dutta, who was Vijay Rama Rao's immediate predecessor. Vijay Rama Rao reopened the case and issued a formal warning letter to me; my only official reprimand in my entire career in the CBI.

His ground? He wrote that since I was a CBI officer, he construed that I had official dealings with CBI. Under conduct rules, I was required to take Director of CBI's prior permission before negotiating to rent my house to anyone with whom I had official dealings. This I had not done prior to submitting the proposal to the then Director of CBI, R Sekhar. He sought no explanation

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from me for this alleged violation of conduct rules. He blocked all chances of my securing post-retirement jobs, whether in the Ministry of Health or Interpol Paris, from where I had defertoed. He continued his animus against me post-retirement.

After retirement, I was offered a consultancy under the Ministry of Chemicals. This was to look into why the National Fertilizer Corporation had failed to import even one gram of urea after paying in advance 133 million to a Turkish company. This consultancy was also terminated at his instance after I named the Prime Minister's son, Prabhakar Rao, as a person of interest in the urea scam. Subsequently, there was a possibility of joining as Managing Director of Vigilance in the General Insurance Corporation (GIC), which was spiked by the CVC, N Vittal, no doubt on his advice.

D Sengupta, Chairman GIC told me that the CVC's commentary on my file were: "I have reservations about Sen." I had an outstanding record. I stood decorated with the Indian Police Medal for Meritorious Service and the President Police Medal for Distinguished Service. True, I had not helped my cause. I had recommended the investigation of the PM's son, Prabhakar Rao and also questioned the role of the Secretary to the PM, the Cabinet Secretary himself and the Revenue Secretary in the matter of the 133 million lost in the urea deal by the National Fertilizer Corporation. I had made too many enemies.

I do not regret my stubborn streak. More so, when I read the memoirs: "An officer that I invited to join the Raj Niwas team was Shantonu Sen, who had retired as Joint Director Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in April 1998, a few months before my own superannuation. Sen carried a reputation as a highly competent, honest and uncompromising professional whom I happened to meet in the Commerce Ministry when he was looking into the NFL fertiliser import scam. His ability to shift the grain from the chaff was both remarkable and unassailable. During my first, as well as the subsequent second tenure as LC, Sen was the principal Raj Niwas Secretariat functionary, assisting me for interaction and follow up with Delhi Police."

My stubbornness was lost on Vijay Rama Rao, N Vittal and several others. It earned me dividends from all Directors before Vijay Rama Rao and all Central Vigilance Commissioners before N Vittal. From Tejendra Khanna, I received this thumping endorsement and I am content and hold that our stubborn streak to uphold the law is our strength, not our weakness. He backed me when both Home Minister PC Chidambaram and Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit wanted me out for reasons that he has never shared with me.

Concluded

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#COVID-19

Covid Antibodies In Eggs



Gallardo and colleagues immunized hens with two doses of three different vaccines based on the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein or receptor binding domain.

Researchers have been able to produce antibodies to the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein in hen eggs. Antibodies harvested from eggs might be used to treat COVID-19 or as a preventative measure for people exposed to the disease.

"The beauty of the system is that you can produce a lot of antibodies in birds," says Rodrigo Gallardo, a professor in poultry medicine in the population health and reproduction department at the University of California, Davis School of Veterinary Medicine.

"In addition to a low cost to produce these antibodies in hens, they can be updated very fast by using updated antigens to hyper immunize hens, allowing protection against current variant strains."

Birds produce a type of antibody called IgY, Gallardo says. Gallardo and colleagues immunized hens with two doses of three different vaccines based on the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein or receptor binding domain. They measured antibodies in blood samples from the hens and in egg yolks, three and six weeks after the last immunization.

Purified antibodies were tested for their ability to block coronavirus from infecting human cells at the National Centre for Biodefense and Infectious Diseases at George Mason University in Virginia.

Both eggs and sera from immunized hens contained antibodies that recognized SARS-CoV-2. Antibodies from serum were more effective in neutralizing the virus, probably because there is more antibody in blood overall, Gallardo says.

Gallardo is working with colleagues Daria Mochly-Rosen at Stanford University and Michael Wallach of the University of Technology in Sydney, to develop the egg-based antibody technology.

The team hopes to deploy these antibodies in a preventative treatment such as a spray that could be used by people at high risk of exposure to coronavirus.



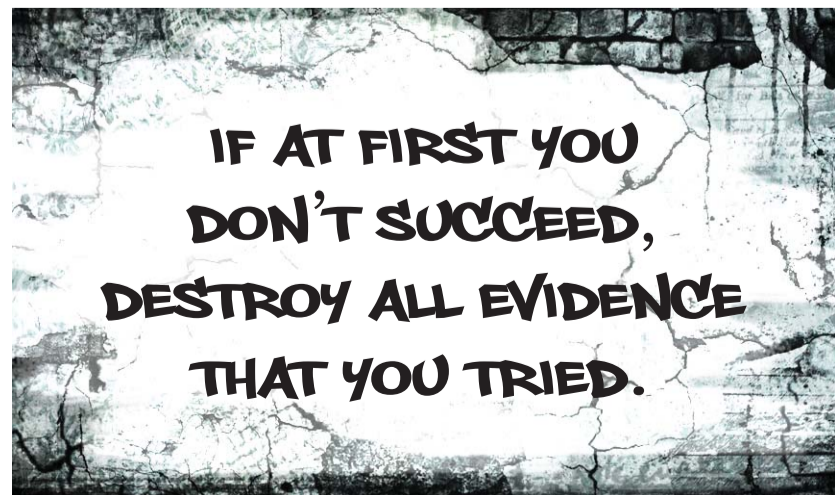
By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



Author (extreme right) in Tokyo attending an International Criminal Seminar in 1979. The first day welcome ceremony.

From the beginning, my body language troubled him. He had no idea of the CBI units and how they functioned. Frankly, I did not find in him the qualities of a CBI Director. Probably, I showed it.

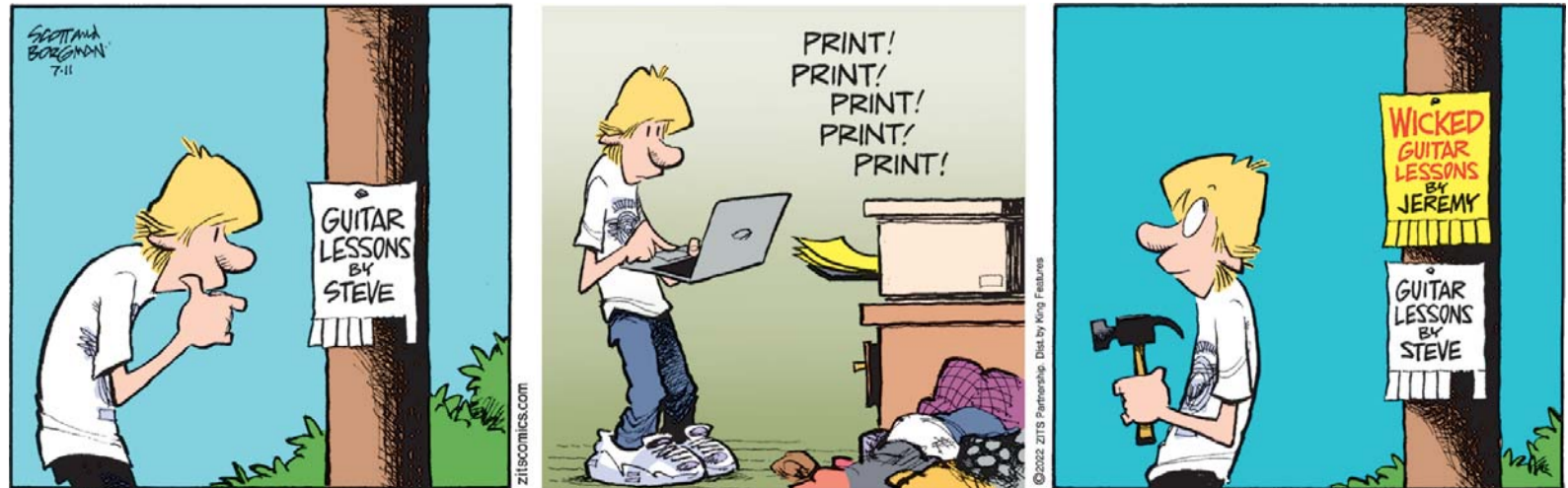
THE WALL



BABY BLUES



ZITS



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