In our Memories
Always....

Priyank Joshi
In Loving Memory of our Colleague

Dr. Priyank Joshi
Dr. PRIYANK JOSHI – RIP
1981 to 2019 (WOTRian from 1st June 2004 to 11th July 2019)

"It was suggested by Anna Hazare that I contact Fr Bacher’s organization" was what brought Priyank Joshi to WOTR in 2004. When we saw the handsome 22 year old MSW graduate with his broad smile, we wondered if he was serious about rural development. That’s when Priyank was put to the test – placed in Nandurbar, no salary, but boarding, lodging and travel all taken care of. One month later in June, Priyank was recruited as Social Development Officer continuing in Nandurbar, learning Marathi, putting his heart and soul as he worked with the Kokani tribal communities there. This is how Priyank began his journey as a WOTRian.

In 2006 WOTR decided to open an office in Jabalpur and volunteers from across the organization were invited. Priyank immediately opted and joined Harish Daware (Team Leader and RRC-In-Charge) in February 2007 becoming the WOTR pioneers in Madhya Pradesh. With Harish focusing on the technical aspects and Priyank on the social parts, they worked together mobilizing and building capacities of NGOs and villagers to implement WOTR’s Wasundhara Watershed projects with a quality similar to that in Maharashtra. Till today the impacts of our efforts are seen in the first villages of Jungalia, Kareli and others. From then on the local team decided that WOTR itself would implement projects and so, besides Jabalpur and Katni districts, work started in Mandla too. As the project villages and the staff strength increased, so did Priyank’s capability to handle the team and work.

In November 2010 Priyank was ready and took over as Team Leader and RRC-In-Charge when Harish returned to Maharashtra. Ever joyful, always enthusiastic, with a focus of achieving his and the WOTR Vision, he put his heart and soul into mobilizing and developing capacities of his team and the tribal communities. He wanted the best for his people. Priyank entered a village with his characteristic loud greeting to everyone, which received an equally loud welcoming response that set the tone for day’s agenda. He could rally the people around. Nothing new was challenging for him; he would adapt it to the local situation. In 2008 WOTR started the “School for Sustainable Living and Livelihoods” courses that trained rural youth as community organizers. After observing the results of two batches, SSLL in 2010 received a group of 10 persons from Madhya Pradesh, including young Lata. He motivated these village youth to attend the long trainings (45 days at a stretch) and to this day we have 7 of them as WOTR staff in Madhya Pradesh. Later he urged them on to continue studies; some completed graduation, masters and also MSW and he also organized that they take English speaking courses.

In 2012 the Climate Change Adaptation project which WOTR has initiated in Maharashtra, was offered to Madhya Pradesh and Priyank jumped at the offer. Eight villages in Narayanganj, Mandla were taken up. The CCA project required new insights and new approaches which were being piloted in Maharashtra. As soon as Priyank or Romit returned from the trainings, the key lessons and innovations were immediately implemented and attractively displayed. On my visits to our MP projects, I was always happily surprised to see big painted displays of the Village Visioning Process; the Disaster Risk Alertness Annual Circle; moreover, the local people would explain these to outsiders and government officials. In the quarterly Ecologic, the Local Money Multiplier and other experiences implemented were shared. When useful training material was developed in Marathi or English, like the recipe book “Chiman Chara” for the 7 months to 5 years old children, Priyank was quick to translate it into Hindi and he would do it himself. On the other hand, innovative activities were also eagerly accepted such as the People’s Biodiversity Register, group micro-irrigation, group bio-gas plants, the system for crop intensification (SCI) and the implementation were in relatively large numbers. The rest of WOTR learnt the SCI method from our
MP experience. He sought guidance from experts as required and was able to build a link with the local expert institutions and the local Agriculture University.

As RRC-in-Charge of WOTR Madhya Pradesh, Priyank dreamed big for his state. He wanted WOTR-MP to be the best. From the initial 8 villages in 2006, he together with his team grew to the current 75 villages currently under implementation in 5 districts and more are in the pipeline. (He would have expanded more rapidly, but I restrained it a bit). Today WOTR has work to show in Jabalpur, Katni, Mandla, Annupur, Chindwara, Dindori and Seoni districts of Madhya Pradesh. At the Annual review meetings, RRC Madhya Pradesh often received the highest rating. The Annual Retreats and organization meetings were a time for sharing joy, talent and new concepts and ideas and challenging one another. Occasions, events and even the rural situation brought out the poet in Priyank. What ever the occasion, Fr Bacher's 90th birthday, WOTR's 25th Anniversary, on the occasion of my handing over charge as executive director on April 1st this year, Priyank flowed with verse – appropriate and straight from the heart.

While Priyank was committed to his mission which he found well aligned with WOTR's, he was also a dedicated family man. As he shared with me, his was a love marriage and his love for poetry made him fondly call his wife 'Kavita'. He took care to introduce her and their son Ram (9 years old this year) to rural development, taking the little one to the villages when possible. In RRC events as is the WOTR custom, Priyank made it a point that the team and families participated and Kavita and little Ram were actively involved too.

While Priyank encouraged his team to study, he himself did the same by registering for his PhD in the local university. In 2015 he defended his thesis, “Impact of Globalization on Tribal Communities” a comparative study of Gond and Baiga Tribes of Mandla District, Madhya Pradesh. Post PhD Priyank continued his work with the same enthusiasm and simplicity. In February 2017 till July 2018 WOTR required a person to be positioned in the World Bank SLACC project based in Madhya Pradesh, for which WOTR was responsible. That's when Priyank willingly accepted and joined the project. Although he was not an agriculture expert, his field knowledge (through implementation experience in our projects and his ability to link with agriculture experts) made him an accepted candidate and in the short while he was able to draw upon the learnings from WOTR's CCA project and develop training modules for the SLACC projects in Madhya Pradesh. Returning to WOTR in July 2018 he continued as RRC-In-Charge motivating and mobilizing his team, sharing the new learnings from the SLACC project.

Priyank was in the throes of a bigger expansion with dreams to achieve when suddenly mid-day on the 9th of July 2019 we received a call that he suffered a cerebral stroke. On the 11th July Priyank passed on.

Priyank, you were a true WOTRian. You have left a void in the hearts of many in the rural communities, your team, in the WOTR family and your many friends, donors and well-wishers and most of all in your Kavita, Ram and your family. Thank you for what you have been to us.

*Original Message
“अन्ना हमारे ने सुगुणा दिया था कि मैं फादर बाकर के संगठन से संघर्ष करूँ”, यही कारण था कि प्रियांक ने जीसी 2004 में WOTR में शामिल होने का निर्णय लिया। उन्होंने प्रवेश पत्र के लिए 2004 में दीक्षा दी और आधारात्मक अधिकार हेतु 2019 तक रायमंड को तहसील देखा। जब तक प्रियांक ने नए संगठन से संघर्ष करने के लिए विवादों को समाधान नहीं किया था, तब तक उन्होंने नए संगठन में अनुभव अर्जित किया।

2006 में इंडिया और जबलपुर में एक कार्यालय खोलने का निर्णय लिया और संगठन के स्वयंसेवकों को आस्थापूर्वक उपस्थित किया गया। प्रियांक ने उन्हें तुरंत बुधवार और शनिवार में हरीश डावे (टीम लीडर और आधुनिक जीवन) की दीम में शामिल हो गये और इस प्रकार उन्हें वे वर्तमान WOTR के आगाजीतों के तरह एक सेवानिवृत्त बनकर और प्रयास करने के लिए नए कार्यक्रमों को नवीनित किया।

वर्ष 2010 में प्रियांक ने बड़ी माहौल के लिए नए संगठन में अन्य संस्थाओं में अपने शीर्ष कोर्स के लिए प्रदर्शन किया। उन्होंने जबलपुर के लिए प्रतिवेदन किया और वर्तमान संस्थाओं को आपसी लीक और अन्य संस्थाओं को आपसी लीक अद्यावधि से नवीनित करने के लिए प्रतिनिधित्व किया।

2007 में रूपान्तरण अनुमोदन परिषद की विषयाक का निर्णय लिया गया। उन्होंने एक बाद में प्रमुख के रूप में नए संगठन में अनुमोदन कर दिया। उन्होंने प्रतिबद्धता के लिए नए संगठन की आयुक्त विभागों को नवीनित किया। उन्होंने एक बाद में प्रभात के लिए नए संगठन का नवीनित किया।

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वॉटर भारत में अपनी प्रधानों के रूप में, प्रियांक ने अपने राज्य के लिए बड़ा सपना देखा। वह यहाँ यह लेख लिखा है कि WOTR-भारत प्रदेश के संस्थान बने हुए हैं। उन्होंने अपनी टीम के साथ बिछला 2005 के शुरूआती 8 गांवों से, बनाम 79 गांवों तक प्रगति की जिनमें 5 विभागों के अंतर्गत कार्यान्वयन किया जा रहा है और अत्यधिक गांवों में कार्य करने का विचार किया जा चुका है। (उन्होंने और अधिक तेजी से विस्तार किया होता, लेकिन निचे इसे धोड़ा संपूर्ण किया जा रहा।) आज के दिन तक, यह मध्य प्रदेश के जबलपुर, कटनी, मंडला, अनुपुप, चिड़ियाघर, डिकियरी और रिवाज़ी जिलों में WOTR का उपलब्धित कार्य समय बांटा है। वार्षिक समीक्षा बैठकों में, आदरणीय मध्य प्रदेश को अक्सर ज्यादातर रिंगिंग प्राप्त है। वार्षिक रिंगिंग और भीमिंग उद्योग, कौशल और बिजनी में मौजूद हैं। और विचारों को साझा करने का मौका हुआ करती थी। विविधता अपराधी और आयोजनों और वह प्रेम करते हैं।

WOTR का रघुवंश बंधुत, इस साल 9 अगस्त को कान्तिकारी विवेकानंद राह के रूप में मैं द्वारा अपना कार्यभाषा सीमाएं मैं जब ध्यान नहीं है जिसके विकस्त्र को मंद्री प्रायोजन के लिए प्रारंभित करते।

एक और प्रियांक WOTR की कार्यक्षेत्र का तालमेल में विवाद किया गया और विवाद हेतु प्रतिक्रिया थी, वह वह एक समान तात्पर्य परिवारिक व्याख्या भी थी। यह जानकारी उन्होंने बालों-बालों में मुझे बताया था कि कथन के लिए यह उनका प्रेम ही था जिसके कारण वह अपनी पत्नी को प्यार से 'क्षमा' कह कर बुझाए दी। उन्होंने अपनी पत्नी और अपने बेटे राम (जो इस साल 9 साल का हो गया है) की प्रानी विवाह के परिवर्तन करने का ध्यान रखा, और जब वह समय होता वे अपने बेटे को अपने साथ आये लेकिन देखा करते। जैसा कि WOTR की प्रत्यहरू है, प्रियांक ने इस बात का हमेशा ध्यान रखा कि RRC के आयोजनों में, टीम के संदर्भ और उनके परिवार की भागीदारी हो और कथन करते और उनका बेटा राम भी उनमें रचित रूप से शामिल हो।

एक और प्रियांक ने अपनी टीम को अध्ययन करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया, वह उन्होंने स्थानीय विभागित में पीएचडी के लिए पंजीकरण करवाकर पुलिस दूर दौड़ी किया। 2017 में उन्होंने, “अविश्वासी संदर्भों पर वैतर्किक कार्यों का प्रभाव” मंडला जिले, मध्य प्रदेश की गोरा और बैजा जलाजीदों का तुरात्कर्त्ता अध्ययन, शीर्षक और यहीं निर्देश पूरे की पीएचडी के बाद प्रियांक ने उसी उदाहरण के साथ अपना काम जारी रखा। फरवरी 2017 से जुलाई 2018 तक WOTR के लिए हिस्टरियां बैठे SLACC परियोजना में एक व्यक्ति की निवृत्ति करने की आवश्यकता थी, जिसके लिए हम जिनेदों थे तब प्रियांक ने इस वर्ग में परिवर्तन करवाकर लुप्त भी वैसे किया। 2019 में उन्होंने, “उम्मीदवार समूहों पर वैचारिक कार्यों का प्रभाव” मंडला जिले, मध्य प्रदेश की गोरा और बैजा जलाजीदों का तुरात्कर्त्ता अध्ययन, शीर्षक और यहीं निर्देश पूरे की पीएचडी के बाद प्रियांक ने उसी उदाहरण के साथ अपना काम जारी रखा। फरवरी 2017 से जुलाई 2018 तक WOTR ने हिस्टरियां बैठे बैठने पर उन्होंने RRC भारत के रूप में SLACC परियोजना से प्राप्त बिजनी ज्ञान को साझा करते हुए अपनी टीम के सदस्यों को प्रेरित करते और एकजुट करने का क्रम जारी रखा।

प्रियांक अधिकारिक विवाद करने की प्रति उम्मीद को दाराकर करने की योजना में मन प्राप्त से ले जाने तक कि अधिक 9 जुलाई 2019 को हमें एक फोन कॉल आया कि उन्हें प्रतिस्पर्धी आयात हुआ है। और 99 जुलाई प्रियांक ने इस पुलिया को अलविदा कह दिया।

प्रियांक, आप सभी अभी में WOTR परियोजना के अभिव्यक्ति अंश है। आपके जाने से प्रारूपीय समुदाय, अपनी टीम और WOTR में और अपने कई निम्न, दाताओं और श्रद्धालुओं और सबसे अधिक आपकी कविता और राज और आपके परियोजना के सदस्यों को आपूर्ति कर क्षमा श्रद्धांजलि का है।

*Translated from English to Hindi*
“Why are you always in a hurry?” That’s what I had to tell Priyank when I met him…he had planned a grueling itinerary and made sure that we cover as much ground as possible during the day. We were always on the move…but he made up for all that by engaging us continuously about the project and the work on the ground.

Slowly the conversation was about self and he opened up as if he was waiting to tell me everything about him…his childhood, his education, how he proposed to his wife, his interest in writing poems, hell bent to join WOTR and last but not the least his love for Lord Ram!

To my surprise we had lot in common…. He left us at the hotel at Chindwara late evening and had to leave for Jabalpur back to greet another delegation expected early morning…I wished he stayed back for an evening and left the next day but he was in a hurry…not knowing that he was so serious that he was in a hurry to leave all of us…”

"तुम हमेशा हड़बड़ी में क्यों रहते हो?" प्रियांक से मिलने पर मैं उससे यही कहने वाला था उससे अत्यधिक ब्याथ कार्यक्रम की योजना बनाने थी और यह तुम्हारे लिए था कि हम दिन मर भी अधिक से अधिक कार्य कर सकें। हम हमेशा बल्ले रहते थे लेकिन उससे परियोजना के बारे में और जननी स्तर पर काम करके मैं लम्बाई धारा रहकर हमें इस सब के लिए तैयार किया था।

धीरे-धीरे अपने बारे में बातचीत मे रुक हो गई थी और वह मुझे अपने बारे में अपना बयान , अपनी शिक्षा, उससे अपनी पत्नी को विवाह का प्रस्ताव कीसे दिया, वह तीनों के बारे में उसकी रुचि आदि के बारे में इस प्रकार खुलकर बताए लगा जैसे तब मुझे बताए का इंतजार ही कर रहा था, लेकिन WOTR में शामिल होने के बारे में तो उसने ऐसे विस्तार तो बात की बातों में उन पर भूत ही रख़ा हो गया हो, और भवानी राव के प्रति कभी बढ़ता बना के बारे में उसके अंत में, लेकिन कभी बात बदनी की!

अ) वर्ष वर्ष जन जन के रूप से हमारी कई बार एक दूसरे से मेल खाती होती उससे हमें देर शाम छिड़वाणा के होटल में छोड़ दिया और वहाँ से उसे एक और प्रतिलिपिमंडल से मिलने के लिए जबलपुर रवाना होता था जो बहुत समय बराबर ही आते थे था। ये इतना था कि वह कभी ठककर आपसे दिन जाए लेकिन वह बहुत जल्दी में था मुझे वह पता बदने था कि वह इतनी जमीनी था कि वह हम सभी को छोड़कर पले जाने की जल्दी में था ………

*Original Message

*Translated from English to Hindi
A gem of a person, I realised the real meaning of this sentence after meeting Dr. Priyank Joshi. Its been three months since I joined WOTR at RRC, Jabalpur and worked with him for last two and a half month.

He not only made my work easy but also made my existence in a city like Jabalpur possible. I was very anxious when I joined WOTR, I wanted to quit immediately and run away back to my home, but Priyank Sir made it assure that I don't give up, he supported me in all ways possible, helped me a lot and acted like an ideal guide one should get in their early stage of career.

His passing on has left me, along with other staff in MP shocked and sad. Words are not enough to express how much we miss his laughter in our office. The way he use to talk about work done by WOTR and praise it was commendable. The gap he left in our life is never going to get filled. We all look forward to take his legacy forward and make him proud wherever he is.

We have not only lost a great team leader but also a great orator, an emotional poet and a very respected human. My heart goes out to Kavita Madam, his wife and Ram, his young nine year old son who he loved dearly. May his soul rest in peace.

*Original Message

Chiti Gupta
WOTR, MP, Jabalpur
I admired him for his “pimple laugh”, soft spoken and supportive nature. We shared many values in personal and professional life. All the RRCs have implemented projects using Wasundhara approach. But it is the only RRC which implemented the Wasundhara Guidelines in its true spirit. According to me, the MODEL VILLAGES based on Wasundhara Approach could be seen in MP only. He always found innovative solutions and strived to implement them successfully in his work.

I have also seen him being elaborate in delegation of skills and knowledge to his team. The CO’s (community organiser) from his team were able to handle projects independently!! The real ‘upscaling’ of not only projects, but also the Vision of a ‘Happy and Enriched village’ could be seen in every village he worked. During my tenure in Rajasthan, he always encouraged me to keep going inspite of many challenges. I can still remember him saying “वर, राजस्थान के लोगों के साथ काम करता बहुत मुश्किल है और आप जो काम और जैसा कर रहे है वैसा कोई भी नहीं कर सकता” He will always remain my inspiration for Commitment and Honesty towards the people whom we work for. I pray that he finds solace in the eternity.

*Translated from English to Hindi*
I first met Priyank at the AAPLA 2017 meeting. I still remember that first introduction when we were bundled in the same group. He was very warm hearted, got along with people very easily and a smart personality but never tried to impose his smartness on the group or the people around. He impressed everyone with his presentation skills, positive approach towards problems and of course his poetic skills. It was always a cheerful and positive experience working with him on a few instances.

We met again at the AAPLA 2019 and it was equally overwhelming to meet and engage with a human being of his personality. I last spoke with him the day before this sad incidence and no one would had imagined what destiny had planned for him. It's sad to hear about his unexpected death and it's a great loss to his family, the WOTRian family, his friends and well-wishers. I express my deepest sympathy to family and pray god to bless them with the strength to get through this big loss.

*Nitesh Rikame
WOTR, Pune

*Translated from English to Hindi

*Original Message*
Priyank Joshi was one of the most enthusiastic persons I have ever known. Greeting people always, with bright smile that was contagious. He had passion to work for the rural communities and liking towards simplifying the WOTR tools of codrive, DRR, Vulnerability assessment for greater benefit to the rural community. Priyank's contributions were powerful and his work ethic more than remarkable.... Energy, commitment, integrity are all words that begin to capture my image of Priyank.

His contribution in developing WOTR Madhya Pradesh work and team is huge. He had the power to build in positive energy which reflected in his team mates during the annual review meetings. I remember, if any challenging situation came or any new thing was to be tested I heard Priyank motivating his team by saying, ye ho sakta, aur hum ye karenge “This can be done and we will do it”.

All of us in WOTR including me were fond of his poetries which were impromptu and straight from heart, apt for every occasion. With him we have lost a poet, an orator, a dedicated colleague and a friend. He will be sorely missed.

*Sujaya Dangwar
WOTR, Jharkhand*
Priyank, your presence and words had always brought an excitement, happiness and enlightening surprises to me and many others. Your last surprise was shocking exception and not invited for.

I could not resist to read, again and again, through several exchanges of thoughts on the purpose of life in recent months on whatsapp that display your intense and deep rooted understanding of life. Your transition from a 'poet in love' to 'poet in devotion' over last few years still maintained the humanity at the centre of your actions.

I am sure that your soul is blessed with peace and delight in the lap of Bhagwan Krishna as you always were there at your subtle level. Be one with Him and send energy to dear ones to sustain through the earthly shock like this

*Original Message

Priyank, तुम्हारी उपरिधिति और शब्दों से मुझे और अन्य लोगों को हमेशा उत्साह, सुख और ज्ञानव्यक्त आश्वय की अनुभूति हुई है। लेकिन अंतिम बार तुम्हें रहस्य हम सभी लोगों को जैसे स्वतंत्र कर दिया उसकी तुम्हारे अपेक्षा नहीं थी।

मैं हाल के महीनों में हादसाएं पर जीवन के उद्देश्य के विषय में हुए कई प्रकार के विचारों के आदेश-प्रदान को बार-बार पढ़ने से अपने को रोक नहीं पाता हूँ, जो जीवन के विषय में तुम्हारी प्रवृत्ति और गहरी समझ दर्शाते हैं। पिछले कुछ वर्षों के दौरान ‘प्रेमयुक्त कवि’ ते ‘ईश्वर सत्ता कवि’ के रूप में अपने संप्रतिकाल के दौरान भी तुम्हें अपने प्रकाश की आधार कल्याण पर कैल्पिक बनाए रखा।

मुझे विचार है कि तुम्हारी आत्मा भगवान क्रिष्ण की धरण में शांति और आगम्य की अभिव्यक्तियाँ अनुभूति से सराहन है क्योंकि अपने सुख्त रूप पर तो धर्म रूप से ही उस रूप पर विभाजित थे। उनके साथ एकाकार होकर अपने दिनजनों को ऐसा भीगत आयतांतर की रहने की शक्ति प्रदान करें।

*Sandeep Jadhav
WOTR, Pune

*Translated from English to Hindi
'In WOTR, Priyank Joshi was one of the first persons who I struck up a good bond with. We spoke at least once a week or twice a week and his friendly, warm personality made it easy to strike a chord with anyone. I really liked Priyank’s optimism, sense of humour and ability to stay upbeat in every situation. He was ready with witty remark and a laugh at any time. His passion for Hindi poetry was one of the features of his personality.

It is said that people never forget how you made them feel. Priyank was one of those people who made people feel good. His contagious enthusiasm and spirit was something that made an impression on everyone. At a young age, he managed to build up quite a fan following among his colleagues and outside. I would say that a tribute to him, a real tribute, would be for each to bring his exuberant, optimistic and warm nature into ourselves and the people around us. I am still in shock and words cannot fully capture what I feel now. Rest in peace my friend.'

*Original Message

"WOTR में, प्रियंक जोशी ऐसे प्रथम व्यक्ति थे जिनके साथ मेरी अच्छी मिलता थी। हर सप्ताह कम से कम एक या दो बार हमारी बात हुआ करती थी और उनका भिन्नता, प्रसन्नता, व्यक्तित्व हर किसी को सहजता-पुरुष अपना बना लेता था। मैं प्रियंक के आशावाद, हास्य-बोध और हर स्थिति में उत्साहित रहने की क्षमता का वातावरण में बहुत काफिला था। सब: प्रश्न निवेदित होतीं, लेखनी और उनका हंसी हमकी पहचान थी। हिंदी कविता के प्रति उनका अनूठा उनके व्यक्तित्व की विशेषताओं मे से एक था।

कहा जाता है कि लोग यह कभी भूलते कि आपने उन्हें कैसा अनुभव कराया। प्रियंक ऐसे लोगों में से थे जिन्हें लोगों को अच्छा अनुभव कराया। अन्य लोगों को भी प्रेरित कर देना वाला उनका असर और उद्वाह, हर किसी पर प्रभाव डालता था। अगर अपने उद्वाह, अन्य लोगों को बीच उनके पर्यावरण प्रांतक थे। मैं कहता हूँ कि उनका एक अद्वितीय, रहस्य और जिज्ञासु, यहीं होतीं कि हमसे हर कोई अपने और अपने आसपास के लोगों के व्यक्तित्व में उनके आशावादी और सीखने-पुरुष स्वभाव का विकास करे। मैं अभी भी इस आधार से रहता हूं, और शब्द अब भोजन की पूरी तरह से व्यक्त करने में रामरथ नहीं है। तुम्हारी आत्मा को शांति मिले जो भी होगा।"
Dear Priyank,

Your untimely exit is making us all disturbed. You used to write such beautiful poems. You are a poet at heart, still rooted in the reality. You used to mesmerize all of us with your words and charm, today it's very difficult to digest the truth that you are not here among us.

You first met me at Nandurbar. We worked there and later we met often at different places on different occasions: meetings, trainings programmes, etc. Every time we met, I discover new facet of your personality: the poet in you, the artist in you, the creative genius in you. It was such a pleasure working with you. When I came to know that you could read hands (prediction after analysing palms), I made you read my palms and you told me many things about my life correctly. Then, why didn't you foresee your own future Priyank? Why didn't you delay your death?

You have a poet's heart and you lived with your heart till the end.

After you left, we all are sorrowful; however it's a monumental loss to your wife Kavita and your son Ram. Let god give them the strength to bear you loss! I wish eternal peace for your soul.

*Translated from Marathi to Hindi

Vandana Patekar
WOTR, Aurangabad

*Translated from Marathi to English
My four months of working with WOTR have been full of positivity and zest because I got the opportunity to work under an able and dynamic boss like Dr. Priyank Joshi who always praised my work and recognized my efforts.

In the span of 23 years of my profession, I have had the privilege of working under the mentorship of several IAS officers but without doubt, for the first time I came across a person with such exceptional qualities whose mind was completely oriented to the wellbeing of others- be it a member of the Village Development Committee, a colleague, a friend or someone from the family; he used to look at everyone with the same benevolence.

I learnt from him how one can always be optimistic however grave the situation. Even when someone complained about something he would surely point out some positive aspect in it- amazing! One could visualize his depth of gender sensitivity from his small moves, his kind behavior and respect for human values. Though he was younger to me by at least 15 years yet I learnt many lessons of life from him. Many call him their true friend, philosopher and guide; but for me the pain of his departure was akin to the deep sorrow I felt when my father passed away. I could barely stop crying. I did finally meet the ideal person I had been looking for in life but alas the association was very brief. Not just for WOTR, it is an insurmountable loss for the entire field of social development.

Dr. Priyank Joshi has been a pillar of positivity and has always praised my work. Working under his mentorship has been a privilege.

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Nisha Parnami
WOTR, MP, Jabalpur

*Original Message

*Translated from Hindi to English
Poetry Titled “Now that you have left us…”

I now understand your inner world, now that you have left us. I understand the true meaning of your words, now that you have left us.

They say, you only know the value of what you have when it is taken away from you. You are such a gem, even God would have thought twice about taking you away from us. Now that you have left us...

Your poems brought you praise, and countless prizes too. But it is only now that I truly understand your poems. Now I yearn to write poems for you. Now that you have left...

I know that you will come again to this world. You will have to complete your unfinished endeavours. You will have to walk on the same path again. You have to come back; like Shabari, I will wait for you. Now that you have left us...

In this sensitive and beautiful poem titled (Tumhare jaane ke baad-Now that you have left us) Nisha Parnami expresses her heartfelt sentiments about Priyank Joshi. She appreciates his love for poetry and feels that she now understands the deeper meaning of his poems even more. She reflects on the connection she had with him and that as human beings, it is eternally true we truly realise the value of someone when that person is taken away from us. Even God, she feels, would have thought twice about taking away a gem of a person like Priyank. At the end of the poem, Nisha conveys her belief that Priyank come back in this world, and that he is still with us and always will be. She will wait for him like Shabari in the Ramayana.

*Translated from Hindi to English
Dr. Priyank from WOTR, Madhya Pradesh remained the fundamental influence inspiring people around him and mobilizing them to act in a committed manner towards the service of our Mother Earth. He used to tell people to deem it as their good fortune they had got the opportunity to work for the betterment of the nation and that they needed to pledge their entire life to this cause. Such was his conviction that he adjudged his team as the best in the world; whatever their capabilities and capacities of execution.

His inspirational presence kept the team in high spirits and to give their best to accomplish the task at hand. His profound interest in spirituality and deep sense of devotion was primarily bestowed upon him as a family legacy which was evident in his day-to-day conduct and interaction with the world. In addition to Hindu religious scriptures, he had also studied the Quran, The Bible and other doctrines of faith with similar meticulous zeal.

He spread the message of service to humanity and described it as the epitome of true religion. He was a family man and ensured adequate time and attention to his mother, father, brother, sister and wife. He equally shared the responsibility of bringing up their children with his wife who is a staff nurse at a medical college, so she did not feel overwhelmed with household chores. Filled with curiosity and amazement for life, he used to write poetry and books; and listen to Sufi verses and sacred Bhajans. Lord Shri Krishna resided in his soul and he kept chanting the rosary of His name in his mind. Following his footprints he walked the path of welfare of all beings.

As the string holds flowers of a garland together, he acted as a vital link to uphold harmony so no flower of the WOTR team tore off. WOTR, Madhya Pradesh owes its progress and growth to his invaluable contribution and guidance which cannot be measured in words. He never compromised on his principles under any circumstance, keeping in mind the ethical values and transparency of the esteemed organization. His unusual ability of assaying people was such that he could effortlessly reach out to individuals and come up with solutions for the immaculate functioning of WOTR.

*Translated from Hindi to English*
परिवारिक जीवन में उन्होंने सड़क सभा पूरा किया था। उन्होंने अपने दोस्तों के साथ रैली झुकाया था।

**Original Message**
This personality is so good that it will stay in our hearts forever.

His nature was very loving and always caring for others. I have never seen him getting angry.

I always adored him because of his this nature.

I was shocked when I heard the news of his demise. I went to his native at Ujjain to attend his last rituals.

Many people expressed their views about him at the mourning meeting after the funeral took place at Ujjain. I then realised that Priyank was not only WOTR’s hero, but he was the hero for all. His fame was known everywhere. Such a hero never dies, instead he remains in the heart of each and everyone.

*Translated from Marathi to English*

Datta Chavan
WOTR, Ahmednagar

*Translated from Marathi to Hindi*
When I first met Priyank, in Nandurbar, I remember he said to me “I have come here to learn something new. I am not here just to earn some money.”

He was always a cheerful person. To every task, his favourite answer was “It will be done.” He would always strive hard to fully implement any new idea.

In the KKS-European Union project, Priyank played a very major role in the evaluation process. So it had a very positive impact.

Even in staff meetings, Priyank would create a very positive atmosphere. His enthusiasm was contagious. In the Pimpalner team, he would play a leadership role.

The whole team would get energised with his presence.

Today, I can imagine his ever-smiling, cheerful face. When I would go to MP, he would never tire of saying: You are my first boss and my guru.

*Translated from Marathi to Hindi*
I had known Priyank for the last twelve years. Throughout these twelve years, I had the opportunity to speak and discuss many issues during the AAPLA meeting and Jabalpur visits, so today it is very difficult to suddenly accept that Priyank is not in our midst. Whenever Priyank is spoken of, the first thing one remembers is his infectious, booming laughter. A laughter that used to resonate throughout the room and would bring cheer to everyone present.

One of Priyank’s qualities was his ability to remain upbeat and find solutions in all circumstances. A few times, we faced challenges while working on certain reports or projects, but he accepted them positively and found out solutions. Perhaps, this is one of the reasons why we were able to expand our work in Madhya Pradesh so much.

At the time of the Climate Change Adaptation project, we got the opportunity to learn and use many new tools and concepts such as LM3 and CASDAAT. Priyank was always excited to learn these new things and to try them in the field. He tried to adapt these new concepts to the villages of Madhya Pradesh and to the needs of the people there. I remember, a few years ago I had gone with Priyank and Romit to Kareli village in Madhya Pradesh. Priyank was visiting that village after about 4-5 years. But even after all this time, the villagers still remembered him fondly. His connect with the villagers made our work simple. His straightforward and sociable nature made him popular with everyone - be it the village communities or office colleagues.

I had a chance to visit his home during the work on resilience study; I interacted with his son Ram and other family members. Therefore, it is becoming difficult to imagine what his family is going through today. I pray that God gives them strength to cope with this situation. Even if Priyank is not with us today physically, he will be in our memories forever.

*Translated from Hindi to English*
I vividly remember when I had first met Priyank in 2008, 11 years ago. I was doing my MBA at that time in XIDAS Jabalpur, and as part of my course had to work in an NGO for a short time. I had come to know about WOTR and was interested to work there. Priyank had guided me, while I worked in WOTR, and helped me out with my report, be it questionnaire preparation or data analysis. From that time itself, I grasped that he was a good mentor and went out of his way to help me. This left a major impression on me as senior people in a company don’t generally take out that much time for juniors, but he was different.

Over the course of the last many years, I had worked with Priyank extensively and obviously more than just a colleague, he was a friend of mine. When I think about him, one aspect which really stands out was his positive nature. In every situation, he remained upbeat and positive and tried to find solutions to any problem. To take just 1 example, in the tribal dominated villages of Partala and Dungariya in Mandla district, the local villagers initially did not cooperate but Priyank did not lose hope and eventually got them on board. The second key feature of his personality was his ability to connect well with everyone. He had a talent for making everyone feel comfortable with him, irrespective of their background. Even the new people, who would join our WOTR Jabalpur team would quickly feel at home, thanks to him. Third, he was a leader in the true sense, i.e. someone who can decisively take a group of people in a particular direction, while at the same time being sensitive to their needs. His tireless efforts underpinned WOTR MP’s growth, yet he personally never took credit for it and instead worked behind the scenes. He was always happy to credit the team as a whole. His ability to inspire people and motivate them to grow was legendary, not just within WOTR but outside. We need to incorporate these values in our work in WOTR MP and across India in general if we are to survive in the long run. I sincerely believe that this would be the best tribute to him, and his work.

Romit Banerjee
WOTR, Jabalpur

*Translated from English to Hindi*
What a shocking news. Unbelievable! When I visited our M.P. project often Priyank was always there, was a source of joy and motivation. I was with his family and we kept in touch a bit over the years. When I learnt that he was back in Jabalpur I was really glad, knowing his very valuable contribution for the work there. And when we just recently planned that in February next I will come with our ANDHERI friends to M.P. I was also very much looking forward to meeting Priyank again. How is it possible that he is no more? I am sure for his family, friends and colleagues it is going to take a long time to really understand and accept this reality. God's plans are really difficult to accept sometimes, let alone to understand. Please tell Kavita, Ram and Saloni how much I am with them in my heart and with my prayers.

*Original Message

Translated from English to Hindi
We are extremely disturbed with this sudden departure of Priyank with whom I have extremely fond memories of a perpetually smiling and hard-working WOTRian. To me he was a perfect representative of WOTR’s values and ethics. RBS Foundation team joins you all in your moments of grief. The teams on ground will miss him very much. We join you too in your prayers.

*Translated from English to Hindi

Nusrat Pathan,
Head CSR, HDFC Bank Ltd

It was indeed shocking for all of us to hear of the tragic loss of Priyank. We are with you and his family in their moment of grief. His absence will always be felt by us. Please accept our heartfelt condolences.

*N. Sunil Kumar
RBS Foundation

*Original Message

*Translated from English to Hindi
Those who are with us...
to we love
this everyday