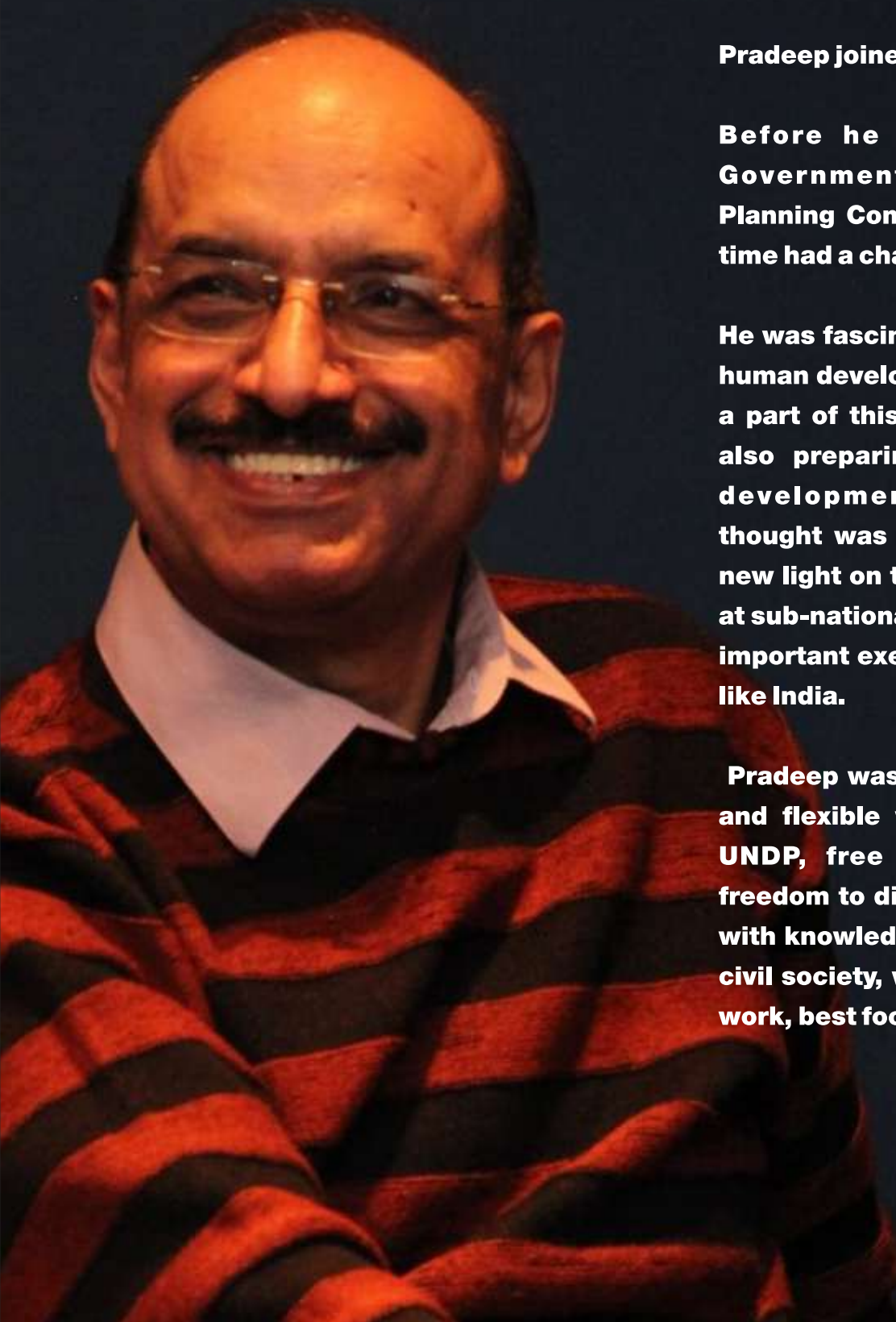


22/09/2015

"Life is really simple, we insist on making it complicated"



Pradeep joined UNDP in 2000.

Before he had worked for the Government of India, where in Planning Commission he for the first time had a chance to meet UNDP.

He was fascinated by UNDP's work on human development and wanted to be a part of this. India was at that time also preparing sub-national human development reports which he thought was very exciting and threw new light on the state of development at sub-national level, which was a very important exercise for a large country like India.

Pradeep was fascinated with relaxed and flexible working environment in UNDP, free and open discussion, freedom to disagree, daily interaction with knowledgeable people, including civil society, who were doing amazing work, best food next door...



Quote:

“Elections are around the corner. First of all, I congratulate all Kyrgyz people for staying peaceful over the last many years. I hope this country stays peaceful in coming years and also becomes a prosperous country in the region. Your democracy is vibrant, remarkable; you're the only parliament democracy in this region. I wish you peaceful elections and smooth transition from one election to another, and deepening of democracy. Democracy, which is not just representative but also participative, and every citizen benefits from the fruits of it, every citizen can participate. I have only the best wishes for the Kyrgyz Republic. Good luck, peace and prosperity!”

A man and a woman are standing in a forest, looking at a tree trunk. The man is wearing a light blue shirt and dark trousers, and the woman is wearing a light-colored jacket. They are both looking up at the tree. The forest is lush with green trees and foliage.

Favorite place in Bishkek

That is Panfilov park. Beautiful. I go there quite often and I love that park. I like all the parks in Bishkek. I have not seen any other city with so much of greenery, so many parks. This is one thing that I'm going to miss in Delhi, this is the Bishkek parks. Not “Bishkek Park”, but the parks.:))

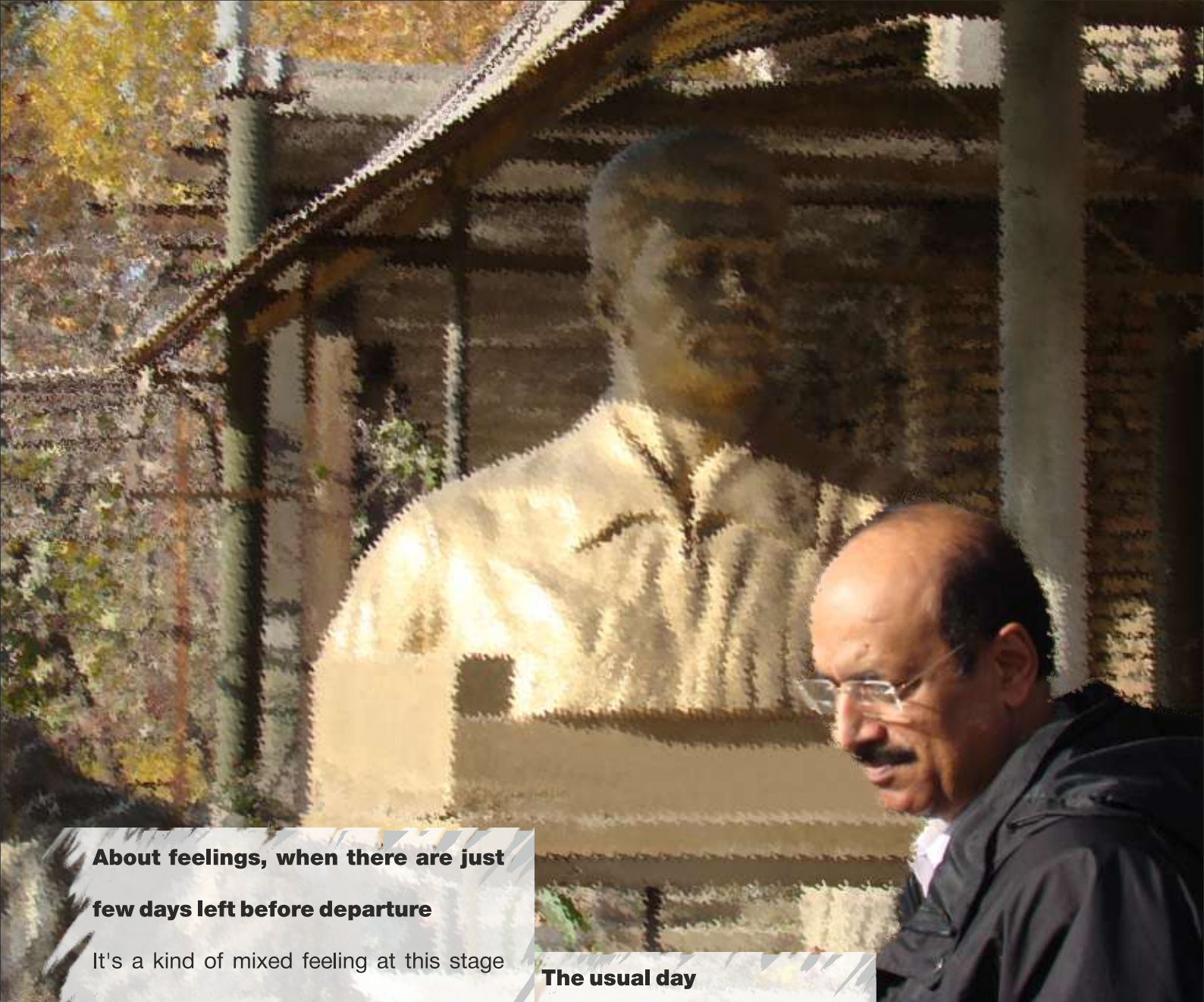
Idea of establishing of UNDP Park in Bishkek

It's a wonderful idea. We should have a UNDP Park. We should actually create a new park, not rename one of the existing parks to UNDP Park. I think, we may go outskirts of Bishkek and identify location, plant trees and call that a UNDP Park. Or maybe, UN Park is better than UNDP Park.

The main distinguished feature of UNDP

Speaking on behalf of UNDP, I would say that we are very responsible, we respond to the country needs and country challenges almost real-time. We are flexible, although UNDP is criticized sometimes for being too bureaucratic. But despite being bureaucratic, I think we have been acting very fast and responding to government's needs in a big way. And that makes us very critical organization in values of the government. The most recent example is the government transferring money out of their budget to UNDP for the procurement of electoral equipment. Almost one million dollars were transferred to UNDP. I think that makes UNDP very unique when compared to other UN agencies.





About feelings, when there are just few days left before departure

It's a kind of mixed feeling at this stage because, on one hand, I am happy that I'm going back to India, to my own country with my own people but I've spent more than 5 years in the Kyrgyz Republic and it became very important part of my life. I'm really going to miss this country, the beautiful surroundings, the parks and people. At the same time, such is life, so I have to go back, but I hope that I will stay in touch with most of the people in the office and stay tuned to the Kyrgyz Republic.

The usual day

My day starts quite early. I get up, make myself a cup of tea, and go around the house look at surroundings. I go out for a walk in the garden, my favorite park in the morning, I come back, get ready, come to office, work, go home for lunch, and then go back. I go back home in the evening, have a cup of tea, charge my mobile. Sometimes we go out in the evening, eat out in the restaurant.

About future work

I have absolutely no idea yet. I will take some time for settling in. I'm relocating after 5 years in Bishkek, so it will take some time before I settle down. And then I'll see what work I can do. I haven't really thought of anything. But I would like something more than just live a retired life. I will also catch up on reading books that I haven't been able to read, watch some films and work at my own pace. It's the kind of freedom retirement gives you – you can work at your own pace.



Features one needs to become successful person

What is success is a very relative term. I may be successful compared to some other people who are less fortunate than me, but I may be unsuccessful compared to others. I think, basically I would consider a successful person one who is a really satisfied person. It's a person who can sleep well in the night without any burden in his head, and without any tension. Person who is happy and peaceful is a successful person, to my mind. Not necessarily a person who has a good job, a lot of money, a lot of property. If you can't enjoy life and really tense all the time, I don't consider that person successful.



Tips to make a career of DRR?

I was also a national officer like most of you here. As I keep saying on several meetings, particularly this bureau, there is large number of national officers who later became international. I think, luck might have played its role, but if you are recognized as national officer, you will be spotted. Somebody will look at you “oh, there is something in this person” and you'll get picked up. I think, good delivery of results, sincerity and good communication skills – these are the few tips I can actually give to national officers. And high degree of integrity is necessary, you should be truthful to the purpose or mission that you chose

Things that inspire

Basically, at very personal level - good music. I love good music; I love art in any form. I look for the local art and folk art and paintings; I go to painting galleries, and local music. Also, when I see somebody doing good for the community, for the society, somebody trying to give back to the society, I feel motivated by that, and I think I should do the same.

I love....

Kyrgyzstan and my family

I don't like

I don't like hypocrisy and lack of integrity...

I dream

I dream of peaceful and prosperous world ! (small dream, right?!)

The best present is ...

Love

The best food is...

Vegetarian. I also like plov.

About cooking

I do, actually. I am not a great cook, but I can manage. If I'm alone and I have to cook, I won't starve. I cook rice, Indian dal and vegetables. I can survive.

The music you like

Well, any kind. It's a whole range. I mean if you talk about Indian music, I love both Indian classical music, both vocal and instrumental, and I also love more popular music. I really like old music from black-and-white era of Indian films.

About closest life plans...

I'll go back to Delhi; I'll clean up the house and relocate. I'm not really planning to sit at home; I would like to continue to work, actually.

What region of the Kyrgyz Republic do you like most?

I like the whole country, honestly. It's a difficult question to be answered, but I think for natural beauty I liked Naryn, Osh, Jalal-Abad, Sary-Chelek. I was in Sonkol Lake; it's absolutely pristine beauty. Your country is absolutely, amazingly beautiful.

Anything common between Kyrgyz and Indian people?

We share lots of common Asian values; you know, following traditions, respect for elders, and respect for women. There is a lot in common. Even in terms of food, you have “nan”, we have “nan”. In fact, if you look in vocabulary, there are many words that are commonly used in India. Dos. You call a friend “dos”. Another word “dushman”, which is “enemy” in India as well.

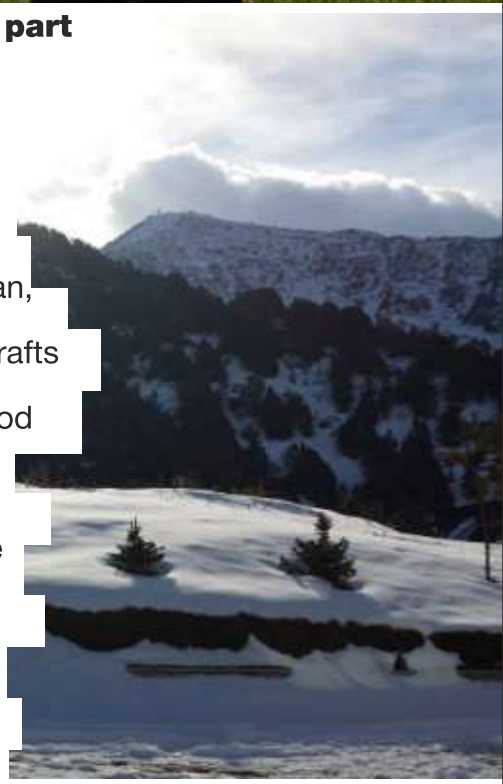


What will you take home as a part of the Kyrgyz Republic?

The memory of Kyrgyzstan is deeply etched in my mind. I don't need any physical object remind me of Kyrgyzstan, although I like lots of Kyrgyz handicrafts and I discovered a number of very good Kyrgyz painters. I'm taking back a lot from the Kyrgyz Republic to remind me of this beautiful country.

By one word - an image of the Kyrgyz Republic

Fascinating.

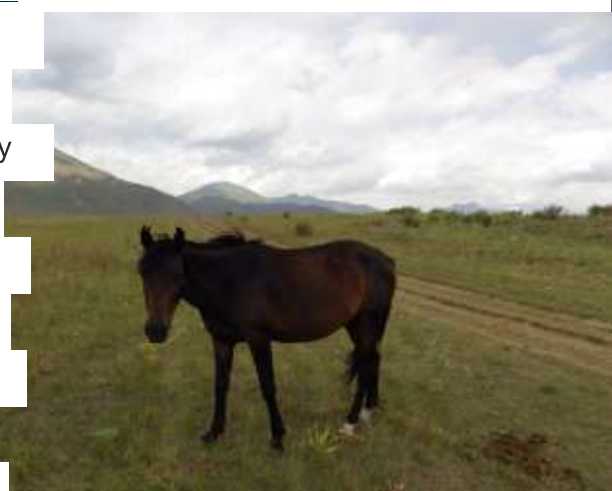


Have you ever managed to visit and buy something in Dordoi or Madina ?

I've been to Madina as company to my wife who liked the clothing material, the lace for the curtains. The designs are very Asian and they will look very well like home in India. And I've also been to Dordoi once. I bought some warm clothes for the winter. It's the same Chinese material everywhere. :) I liked it.

Kyrgyz bazaars similar to Indian ones

We have similar bazaars in India, much narrower than here, actually. Very narrow street and you rub shoulders with each other. That's the real action. There are people who really love to go to this kind of old bazaars and traditional style of shopping and not go to big shopping mall. Did I negotiate the price? I'm Asian, what do you think? :))



***Absolutely beautiful people. Both my wife and I felt
very welcomed. I can compare the Kyrgyz Republic to
none in terms of warmth and hospitality. We were
received very warmly and accepted by the community.***

I was very happy.

*See you again,
Pradeep*

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