

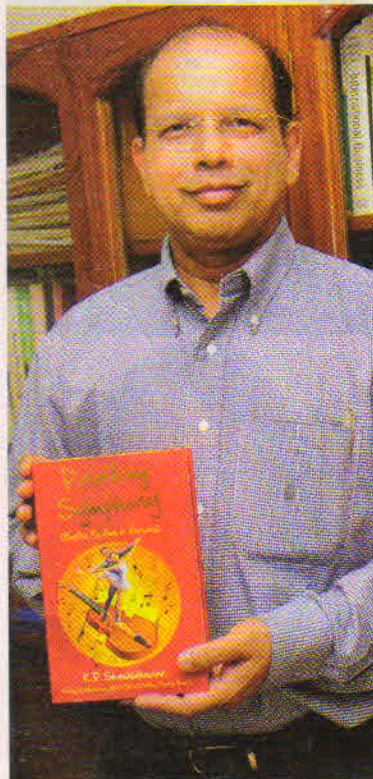
Painting symphony

The former President of India, Dr. Abdul Kalam, and other prominent personalities of the country read and appreciated Shashidharan's latest book *Painting Symphony*. KP Shashidharan is the DG, Comptroller and Auditor General. He in an interaction with *Bureaucracy Today* talks about his passion of writing poetry and spreading the fragrance of love through it.

By BT Bureau

“World over, poetry is increasingly being ignored, though verses have been the preferred medium since the beginning of mankind to preserve the essence of human wisdom. Poetry writing and reading may not only help to develop an acute sense of empathy, but also enhance creativity and add the beauty, meaning and purpose of life. The relationship between business and poetry may be indirect, but poetry nudges business leaders to be empathetic to environment and responsible to community. It also coaxes them to think out-of-the-box solutions to challenging business problems and transform them as greater human beings,” says the DG

Writing has been Shashidharan's passionate hobby since childhood. He was fascinated by the love of imaginative world and literary works. “I have been writing poems since my school days, first time in Malayalam, being my mother tongue, and later in English. I used to write short stories, short plays, poems, essays, short novels in Malayalam and English and participate in competitions during my school and college days. Later on, after joining the Civil Service, I started writing ‘middles’ in national English newspapers and poetry off and on whenever I was in mood. A few poems of *Whispering Mind* were written in 1994 when I was at Bath in the United Kingdom, but again I kept it unpublished like my ‘middles’ and earlier writings; most of them I had lost while shifting from city to city on transfer,” says Shashidharan.



KP SHASHIDHARAN,
Director General, CAG

His *Painting Symphony* is a garland of 54 symphony poems, sequentially flowing like a stream of thought. The volume comprises three separate books of 18 poems each; well-knitted into one whole; reflecting the indelible impressions on love, life and joy of living. The book revolves around hatching new ideas; triggering innovative thoughts to the expanding blue horizon of knowledge and sowing high-bred seeds of messages of joy in the fertile mind. There are varieties of dishes in the menu for the gourmet's delight.

How do you paint symphony? The DG replies, “*Painting Symphony* is

conceived as a book of exotic fiction in verses. The verses weave a unique web of a fantasy world - a poetic Garden of Eden. Painters, musicians, poets, singers and ballet dancers join the other characters in the Opera of Life. The actors relish consuming the forbidden and non-forbidden fruits of life. The poetic landscape reflects different shades of human emotions - love, envy, lust, greed, lie, betrayal, treachery, corruption and crime. The fiction is honey-dipped in reality, striving to be ecstatic, philosophical and erotic at times, depending on the theme.”

KP Shashidharan is an alumnus of the London School of Economics and a member of the Indian Audit & Accounts Service. He is currently working as Director General (Western Region) in the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. He is well known in the audit fraternity.

The book portrays the best and the worst of human emotions, entering the warring forces between the Good and the Evil in the flow of the River of Life in the River of Time. The idea is to entertain, enlighten and exhilarate readers, taking them for a *Joie de vivre* on a roller coaster ride to an esoteric world. “Specifically speaking, I am deeply impressed by T.S. Eliot, Kahlil Gibran, Tagore, Omar Khayyam, Kalidasa, Shankaracharya, Sufi poets like Rumi, Urdu poet Ghalib, and Bhakti poets like Surdas and Jaidev. Through my poetry I try to touch the heart, stimulate the brain and in the process denude the consciousness for re-discovery,” says the Director General. ■

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