

*Born and brought up in the remote hill district of Uttarkashi (origin of the Holy River Ganga) in the Garhwal Himalayan region of the state of Uttrakhand on April 15, 1958, Arvind Singh Bisht is an acclaimed journalist with a long chequered career spanning over three decades since 1980. He was with The Times of India working as the “Political Editor” based at Lucknow. He held this coveted position after a gradual elevation from the post of senior reporter to chief reporter, principal correspondent to special correspondent and finally assistant editor to **political editor**.*

As a professional full-time journalist, he began his career in 1980 with the National Herald, an esteemed newspaper of its time, which was founded and edited by India’s first prime minister Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru. He left the organisation in 1986 to join the Lokmat Times. Thereafter, he joined The Times Of India in 1988 and continued with it till before he joined as the State Information Commissioner of Uttar Pradesh on January 7, 2014,.

He also worked as a part-time contributor for the London Financial Times, the BBC and the Tribune. Active in social life, he was also associated with different socio-cultural organisations. As an young adventurist, he also brought out a monthly magazine –Life & Times from Lucknow way back in 1983. The publication was later closed and remained no more in existence for over two decades.

A widely-travelled journalist, Arvind Singh Bisht also worked as a consultant for the World-Bank for its Ganga Project in 2010. His work entitled as : Ganga Project: Political Economy, Study On Socio-Economic Dynamics Among Stakeholders, was widely acclaimed. He was also a part of Indian delegation invited to take part in annual national farm progress show and the conferences on GM (genetically-modified) crop in different cities of USA. As a part of this interactive programme he also had the opportunities to visit Monsanto facilities, its Corn fields and interact with farmers in Chicago, Illinois, Decatur Illinois,

St. Louis, Missouri, Texas Lubbock, New York and Washington DC in 2013.

His exposure to national and international forums broadens his vision. The experience thus gained over the years by him, widened his understanding and horizon. Testimony to this was his writing, which spoke of his deep insight and concern for public issues. His background of rural area and professional acumen acquired over a period of time made him a fine blend of the old and the new. This was why he was able to make his mark in the field of journalism in spite of hailing from the highland of the remote Garhwal hill region, which is now a part of the Uttrakhand State. A combination of irrepressible buoyancy, vigour and agility, he has a mind with great ability to grasp the issues of diverse nature quickly. He was intensively sensitive about wide-ranging subjects--from education to health and civic affairs to politics and economics and agriculture to science and environment and parliamentary procedure and practices to government functioning. To his credit were several illustrious articles and reports, which had great impact on government policies in the state and national level.

PERSONAL PROFILE : Hardworking combined with a sense of humour and a friendly approach, Arvind Singh Bisht did his B.Sc from the Government PG College, Uttarkashi. He also had a course in journalism from the International Institute of Journalism, Sofia in Bulgaria. He has a clear, logical mind with an eye for detail and a practical approach to problem solving and a desire to see things through completion. His inquisitive mind has always reflected in his writing that was rich in its content. The amount of inputs in his writings showed a unique method that was full of innovations and research work.

He ruffled many a feathers through his writings. He predicted the rise of the BSP in UP way back in 1989, even though the party had then lost security deposits of its candidates in almost all assembly seats in UP. Apart from

this, he also predicted the rise of former prime minister VP Singh after he broke away from the Congress. He also focused government attention on many issues pertaining to cane growers and money squandered by ministers in the name of pocket money in UP. These reports forced the government to make policy decisions through which payment of cane dues by cheques was made necessary to cane growers in 1996 and levy was fixed on pocket-money of UP ministers to curtail wasteful expenditure in 2002. Not only this his report also formed the basis for the policy-decision to create the Bishist BTC cadre in the state.

His journalistic career spanned over three decades since 1980 to 2014. In fact, this was an important period from the point of view of socio-political change in India in general and in UP particularly. This was the period when UP witnessed its division into two states; the Uttrakhand of Himalayan hills comprising two divisions—Garhwal and Kumaon, that was created on September 9, 2000. Politically, the period was also full of upheavals. The process of mandalisation (*Social justice movement*) on the one hand and “kamandalisation” on the other hand took place in the shadow of the post 90 era of economic liberalisation. The state in the successive years witnessed frequent elections in which political instability became a rule.

This transformed the traditional politics which changed under the process of fragmentation and integration. Realignment of political forces, altered the axis of power and this made UP a unique laboratory for socio-political experiments in which politics of permutations and combinations also became a fact of life.

All these eventful years were challenging in many ways. But all through these years, Arvind Singh Bisht steadfastly stuck to high-standard of professionalism and always maintained his credibility as a journalist.