

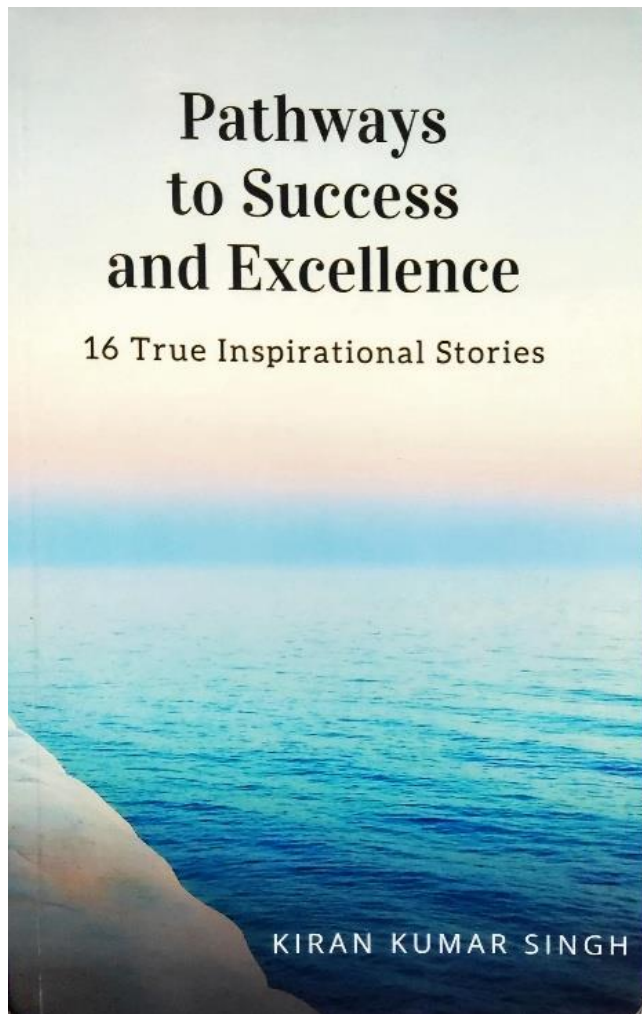
**Pathways to Success and Excellence (16 True Inspirational Stories) by
Kiran Kumar Singh. 1st Ed. 2023, Jaipur: Wisdom Words Publishing.
ISBN: 978-93-90765-86-7**

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Kiran Kumar Singh's *Pathways to Success and Excellence* is a compelling collection of sixteen true stories that highlight resilience, determination, and innovation in pursuing excellence. The book transcends being just a set of inspirational accounts; it is a valuable commentary on the evolution of education in India during the twentieth century. Through these narratives, the author sheds light on the personal and professional triumphs of individuals who overcame obstacles to achieve remarkable success.

The preface itself is a microcosm of the book's essence, offering glimpses into extraordinary lives. Among the stories, those featuring the author's wife, **Reba Rautela**, and **Smt. Kanti Devi** are

captivating tales of triumph over adversity, blending the richness of rural traditions with the transformative power of education and art. Born in the picturesque village of Tedi Baroti in 1929, Kanti Devi's early life was marked by hardship, including the loss of her mother and the lack of formal schooling. However, her story is not one of despair but of relentless determination. Her success in both Indian classical and Western music is a testament to the power of determination and adaptability. Similarly, the chapter of **Reba Rautela** beautifully



portrays a woman of extraordinary talents and enduring grace, whose life was a perfect blend of creativity, intellect, and selfless devotion to her family and community. Born in Agra in 1947, during her father Govind Chandra (Singh) Rautela's tenure as Superintendent of Police, Reba's formative years were shaped by frequent transfers, culminating in her education at the prestigious Loreto Convent, Lucknow, and later at Isabella Thompson College, where she completed her BEd with distinction. The chapter on Govind Chandra (Singh) Rautela in this book offers a riveting glimpse into the life of a police officer whose unwavering integrity and ethical leadership set him apart during some of India's most tumultuous times. Born in 1917 in Almora, Uttarakhand, into a family with ties to the historic Chand dynasty, Govind Chandra's journey from a rural upbringing to the prestigious ranks of the Imperial Police (later Indian Police Service) is inspiring.

What makes this account compelling is not just Chandra's professional achievements but the humanity and values that guided his life. His deft handling of communal crises, with minimal force and maximum diplomacy, showcases his rare leadership abilities. Beyond his career, his dedication to family, his support for education, and his care for those in need paint a picture of a man whose principles defined him both at work and home.

This chapter is more than a biography; it is a testament to the power of integrity and the impact one individual can make. Readers will be drawn to the book's vivid storytelling and the profound lessons embedded in Govind Chandra's remarkable life. This story promises to inspire and resonate deeply with all who read it.

The narrative also touches on the author's father, **Prof. R.K. Singh**, whose contribution to education and research is monumental. The chapter on **Prof R. K. Singh** serves as an inspiring tribute to a man whose life was dedicated to reshaping education in India with unwavering passion and vision. Born in a humble Rajput farming family in 1904, Singh rose to prominence as an academic innovator, establishing high standards in higher education and leaving an indelible mark on institutions like Meerut University and Himachal Pradesh University. As the founding Vice Chancellor of these universities, Singh pioneered reforms such as the semester system, MPhil programs, and correspondence courses, fostering accessibility and quality in education. What makes this narrative truly captivating is Singh's unwavering commitment to leaving a legacy of excellence in education and life. Guided by his principle, *"Leave a place better than you found it,"* he planted seeds of literal and metaphorical change that continue to bloom in the lives of those he touched. This chapter invites readers to reflect

on the profound impact one individual can have when driven by ideals of compassion, integrity and a relentless pursuit of progress. Ram Karan Singh's story is a beacon of hope and inspiration for educators, students, and dreamers alike. The author's storytelling is enriched by his own experiences, including his four-decade-long academic journey at two IITs. His firsthand accounts of his family's dedication to education in New Delhi and the USA add depth to the book.

The book *Pathways to Success and Excellence* celebrates individual achievements and underscores the role of education in nation-building. Singh's lucid prose and meticulous attention to detail ensure these stories resonate with readers across generations.

Pathways to Success and Excellence is more than just a book; it is a roadmap for aspiring individuals and an insightful resource for educators, policymakers, and students. Kiran Kumar Singh's narratives inspire readers to dream big, work hard, and value the transformative power of education. The stories of Reba Rautela, Govind Chandra, and Prof. R.K. Singh are particularly impactful, showcasing the indomitable human spirit and the significance of values in achieving greatness. This collection is a must-read for anyone seeking inspiration and a deeper understanding of India's educational evolution.