

Meerut to Morinda

A Journey of Grit, Knowledge, and the Quiet Fire of Destiny

A Novel by Devansh Mehta

Preface

Every great journey begins not with certainty, but with a quiet question inside the heart. The story of **Ajay** is not merely the story of a boy travelling from one town to another. It is the story of a mind awakening to responsibility, of a spirit learning resilience, and of a young dream transforming into a national mission.

The distance between **Meerut and Morinda** may be measured in kilometers, but the distance between **childhood innocence and administrative leadership** is measured in courage, discipline, and perseverance. This novel traces that invisible distance.

Through hardship, loneliness, and intellectual awakening, Ajay gradually discovers that success in life is not defined by comfort but by **purpose**. His journey ultimately leads him toward the most demanding dream of all—becoming an officer of the **Indian Administrative Service (IAS)**, the steel frame of India's governance.

Chapter 1 — The Small House in Meerut

Ajay was born in a modest neighborhood of **Meerut**, a city whose dusty streets had witnessed revolutions, soldiers, traders, and dreamers for centuries.

His father worked tirelessly in a small government office, while his mother quietly managed the household with remarkable patience. Their home was small, but it carried something far greater than wealth—it carried **discipline, respect, and aspiration**.

From a young age, Ajay was fascinated by books. While other children ran through the streets playing cricket, Ajay often sat near the window with an old atlas, imagining distant cities and powerful institutions.

One evening, his father spoke words that would remain in his memory forever:

"Education is the only inheritance I can give you."

Ajay did not fully understand the depth of those words then, but somewhere in his mind a seed had been planted.

Chapter 2 — The Dream Awakens

One day, Ajay's school organized a visit from a district officer. The man arrived in a government vehicle, greeted respectfully by teachers and officials.

Ajay watched carefully.

The officer spoke about **development, governance, and responsibility**. He explained how administrative decisions could improve the lives of thousands.

That evening Ajay asked his teacher a simple question:

"Who becomes such an officer?"

The teacher replied calmly:

"Those who clear the UPSC examination and become IAS officers."

That night Ajay could not sleep.

For the first time, he had a **clear dream**.

Chapter 3 — The Departure

Years passed. Ajay completed school with determination.

However, his family faced financial limitations. To pursue higher education, Ajay had to leave Meerut and travel to **Morinda**, a town in Punjab where he had secured admission in a pharmacy college.

The day he boarded the train was emotional.

His mother silently placed her hand on his head and whispered:

"Never forget who you are."

As the train moved forward, Ajay watched Meerut slowly disappear behind him. The journey toward Morinda had begun, but so had the **journey toward adulthood**.

Chapter 4 — The Hostel Walls

The hostel in Morinda was noisy, unfamiliar, and sometimes hostile.

Ajay had never lived away from home before. The first few weeks were filled with confusion and discomfort.

Many students came from affluent backgrounds, while Ajay had to carefully manage every rupee his father sent.

At night, when the hostel corridors became quiet, Ajay often felt a strange loneliness.

But within that loneliness, a new strength was beginning to grow.

Chapter 5 — The Library Refuge

Ajay soon discovered a place that changed everything—the **college library**.

Inside that silent hall, surrounded by books on pharmacology, chemistry, history, and politics, Ajay found peace.

He began reading beyond his syllabus—books on **Indian constitution, economics, and public administration**.

The idea of becoming an **IAS officer** returned to his mind with renewed clarity.

Knowledge became his refuge.
