



Chhayankan (Visual Art)

From darkness to light

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असतो माँ सद्गमय ॥
तमसो माँ ज्योतिर्गमय ॥
मृत्योर माँ अमृतम गमय ॥

Brihadaranyaka Upanishad (1.3.28)

Author's translation:

*“Lead me, Mother, from the Lie unto the Truth,
Bring forth, Mother, the Light to extinguish the Darkness,
From Death, Mother, lead me towards Immortality.”*

The image was captured in one of the many tortuous tunnels of the Bara Imambara - a monument which is an engineering marvel representative of the bygone splendour of the Nawab of Awadh.

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In many ways, this long, narrow tunnel is an allegory to the progress of the Indian health system towards equity, alternately punctuated by light and darkness.

As the country takes small and decisive steps towards achieving that goal, there

will be, as there always have been, moments of brilliant clarity interspersed with moments of shadowy murkiness.

With ethics as the lodestone and equity as the aim, one hopes that there will be, as the idiom goes, light at the end of this long tunnel.
