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ऋतु

THE UNIVERSAL TRUTH

~ SHASHWAT ~



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Milind Bhagwat from News18 Lokmat encapsulates the real meaning of Broadcast Journalism >> Pg 10

Historical dispute comes to a halt

The Supreme Court passed a historic verdict on the Ayodhya dispute in November, bringing down the curtains on the nearly 500-year-old issue

Gauri Parab
(TYBMM - JOURNALISM)

The Supreme Court gave a historic verdict on the Ayodhya dispute on 9th November 2019, awarding Hindus the ownership of the disputed site whilst the Muslims were given 5 acres of land elsewhere to build a mosque on. The dispute was whether the Mughal emperor Babur has built a mosque on the same site as an ancient Hindu site. They claim Babur had his general Mir Baqi construct the Babri Masjid in 1529 by demolishing a pre-existing temple, which they believe was the birthplace of Lord Rama. A 2003 report by the Archaeological Survey of India suggests that there were signs of a pre-existing site of some sort, where the mosque once stood.

On 4th January 2019, the Supreme Court decided to take up petitions for the final hearing. A 5-judge Constitution

bench was set up comprising of the Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S.A. Bobde, Ashok Bhushan, S.A. Nazeer and D.Y. Chandrachud.

The SC acknowledged the presence of a non-Islamic structure before the construction of the Babri Mosque but the Archaeological Society of India could not establish whether it was demolished or not.

The bench also noted that the faith of Hindus believing the site to be the birthplace of Lord Rama as well as the existence of structures such as 'Sita Rasoi', 'Ram Chabutra' and 'Bhandar Grah' is undisputed. However, at the same time, they made it clear that a title cannot be established on the grounds of faith and beliefs and that they are only indicators for deciding the dispute, the five judges also said. Historically, Muslims used



As the whole nation kept an eye on the verdict, journalists were no exceptions

to pray inside the mosque while the Hindus worshipped the 'Janmabhoomi' just outside, on a 'chabutra' i.e. raised platform. The issue kept popping up

throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, e.g. - A request was denied by the District Judge to build a temple at the site in 1885, stating almost 350 years

have passed since the construction of the mosque. In 1949, some Hindus entered the premises and placed some idols there. Following this, the Dis-

trict Magistrate K.K. Nair took control of the premises and subsequently, the court denied access to anyone. In the 1980s, L.K. Advani, the then president of BJP, and had become the hard-line face of the event, carried this issue forward. In 1986, the Faizabad district court gave orders to reopen the premises which resulted in protests and riots, leaving many dead in its wake. This was the result of the premises being unlocked within an hour of the verdict, where generally in India, it takes 3 to 4 months for court orders to be followed.

Following the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in 1991, Kalyan Singh became the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and the state government acquired a 2.77-acre patch of the disputed land for tourism purposes and leased it to the Janmabhoomi

trust. Meanwhile, the Allahabad High Court banned any permanent construction on the disputed site. The situation came to a head on 6th December 1992, when a crowd of around 2 lacs gathered in Ayodhya. 'Kar Sevaks', stormed the Babri Masjid and tore it by the afternoon, with whatever tools and instruments they could find. A rudimentary temple site with a 'Ram Lalla' idol was set up by evening. The legal battle over the ownership of the site continued between 1992 and 2018. The demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992 was in violation of the law. Whilst it took a long time for the Supreme Court to announce a verdict, it provided some much-needed time and space for the public to express. This verdict caused both positive and negative repercussions in many areas.

Quant to Nobel Prize Winner

Pratik Gadhav
(TYBMM - JOURNALISM)

Abhijit Banerjee was conferred with the Nobel Prize in Economics on 10th December 2019 at a ceremony in Stockholm. He shared this prestigious honour with Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty. Banerjee and his wife Duflo became the sixth married couple to jointly win a Noble Prize.

Banerjee has managed to be the second Indian to receive the Nobel Prize in economics after celebrated economist Amartya Sen. His research measured the effectiveness of government programmes in improving people's life and stated that although polio vaccinations are free in India, many mothers were not bringing their children for the vaccination drive.

Banerjee completed his Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University, USA. Subject of his doctoral thesis was 'Essays in Information Economics' and is currently the Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. While receiving the Nobel Prize he said, "It feels like I walked into the set of a wrong movie. The prize is not for us but the entire movement."

Anxiety equals jitters in your mind

Minaz Khan
(FYBMM)

A survey conducted by the American Psychological Association revealed that nearly 54% of workers feel anxious or nervous. A recent report by the World Health Organisation specified that nearly 7.5% of India's population, suffer from mental illnesses, thus intensifying the 'not so good' condition of mental health awareness in India.

Conventionally, anxiety is the fear that something bad might happen and is often accompanied by physical symptoms such as sweating and avoidance behaviour. Many still don't consider anxiety disorder as serious and is often seen as a temporary phase in life but in reality, the affected person shows signs of depression and other mental illnesses. People with anxiety are often told to not overthink, however, it is much more than simply overthinking. The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) surveyed Bangalore in October 2016, which revealed that 1 in 20 people suffer from anxiety, making up approximately 5% of its population.

Unravelling J&K through a new lens

Jeet Joshi
(TYBMM - JOURNALISM)



Source: Internet

On 5th August 2019, Home Minister Amit Shah announced in the Rajya Sabha that the President of India had issued 'The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019' under Article 370, superseding the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954, making various provisions of the Indian Constitution applicable over Jammu and Kashmir.

The first resolution brought up by the new President's Order, acted for the eradication of Article 370 and the second resolution i.e. The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation bill focused on creating new union territories, one comprising of Ladakh (without legislature) and the other comprising of Jammu and Kashmir (with legislature).

Article 370 of the Indian constitution gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, which was administered as a state, giving it an exceptional power to have a separate constitution, a state flag, and autonomy over its internal administration. An intriguing fact about Article 35A is that it is not mentioned in the Indian Constitution, but clearly noted down in the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir.

In May 2019, BJP won the Lok Sabha elections and as mentioned in their election manifesto, they proceeded with the scrapping of Article 370 and 35A. It took nearly 70 years for this step and is seen as a great initiative to promote sustainable tourism, thus integrating the people of Jammu and Kashmir with the mainstream society.

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'Democracy of the enlightened can only achieve progress'

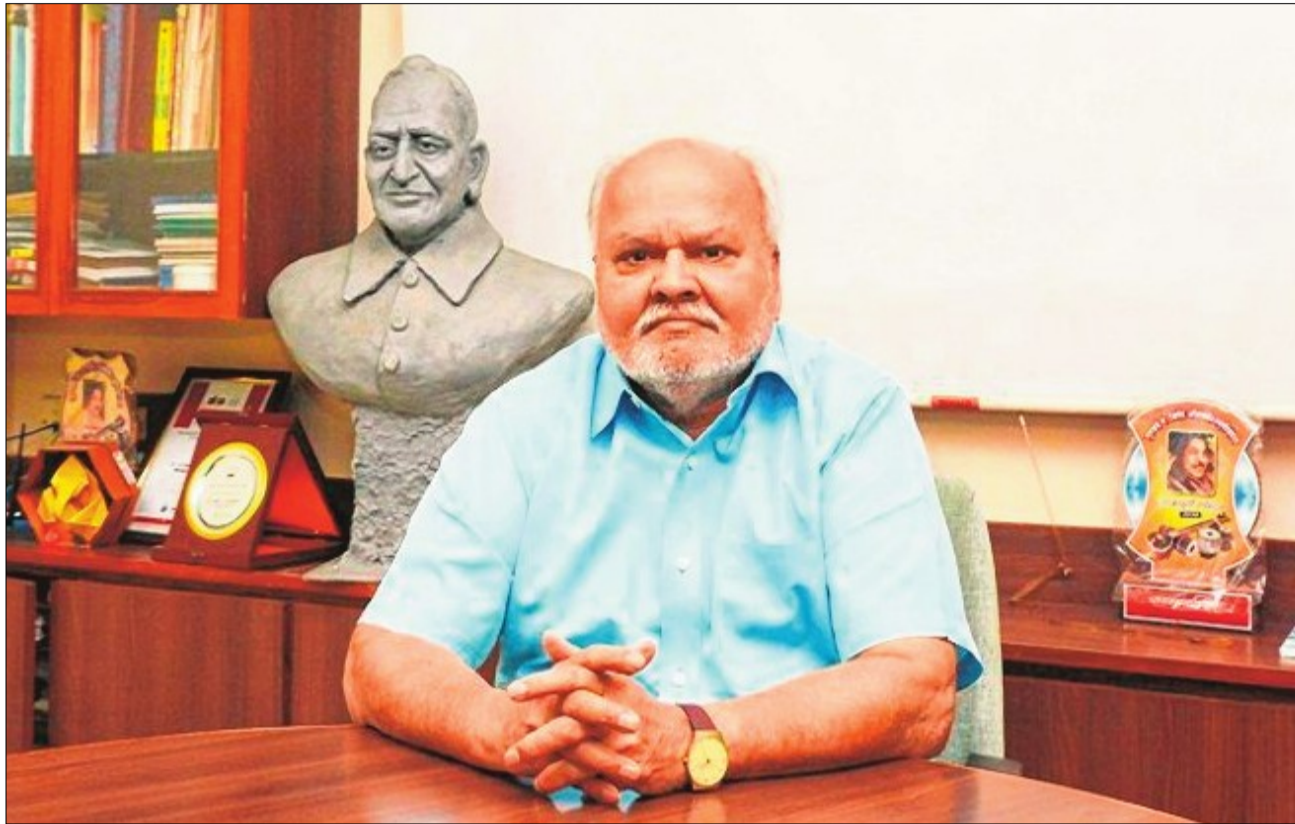
ऋतु Team

Q: As ऋतु turns 10 this year, how do you feel about this idea of yours that has turned into a big venture?

A: I am very happy about it. I hope that all stakeholders appreciate the real meaning of that word, and try to contribute to maintain that equilibrium in the environment. After all, it is all about human life and the environment. VPM's campus is a small island with multifarious activities. We planted a large number of trees, to maintain balance between human activities and environment. So the idea is harmonising environment, which in scientific language we call 'homeostasis'. In our cultural parlance, the word used is ऋतु, which carries far deeper meaning of harmonising the environment, than homeostasis.

Q: When we talk about this year's theme 'Shashwat', it also translates to an entity that is 'eternal'. So, in the aspect of human life, what do you think is eternal?

A: Whatever is born ultimately ends. So, as far as human or any environmental activities are concerned, they are time-bound. There is something that is 'eternal', which gets carried forward through our value system. We call them as our 'cultural values'. It not only includes art, but it encompasses all human activities. Many things that we do have an impact on our environment. Most of this impact affects adversely on our environment, which leads to environmental degradation. If we wish for something to be "shashwat", we should hold ourselves accountable for our actions.



Apart from talking about carbon footprint and other environmental problems, Dr. Vijay Bedekar conveyed the difference between modernisation and westernisation

Q: In your article 'Education in Ancient India' you have written about the traditional Gurukul system and western education system. Can you elaborate more about it?

A: India was a great civilisation. We had exported many products and value-systems, to the rest of the world. Different vocations were also a part of education, just like the Gurukul system. Since our current education system involves learning everything in school, we have gotten pinned to the concept of a 'guru' and a 'student'. There is a misconception that the Indian education consists of only 'Gurukul

System'. Gurukuls were very important where philosophical and other scientific knowledge was codified and transmitted from guru to shishya. However, other societal needs, which were satisfied through various vocations, were also continued through family traditions, and vocational practices. The vocational skills were learned from childhood, and were continued through a person's entire life span. This, also, is a part of education, though it was not a typical 'Gurukul pattern'. It was through the practice of vocation, that skill development was continued for generations.

Q: Shashi Tharoor won the Sahitya Academy award for his book 'An Era of Darkness', which talks about the effects of colonisation. What's your take on this book?

A: It is a very good book. Shashi Tharoor has done a lot of homework. He has used the material very effectively, which was already known to us. While people have already written on similar topics, Mr. Tharoor has done a great job of compiling information and communicating it to us in a better way. The impact of colonization on mind and culture is best explained by Shashi Tharoor.

Q: In light of the recent Aarey forest controversy, do you think that environment and development can co-exist?

A: It has to co-exist. Extremities are hazardous and hence, development at the cost of the environment is never good and vice-versa. In Aarey's case, I personally feel, that we should accept few things that are inevitable, if we want to survive in modern society. We need to take care of the environment, but we also have to progress. We have made progress at the expense of environmental resources. We have to be cautious and conscious.

Q: What measures can we take on a personal as well as institutional level in order to reduce our carbon footprint?

A: Carbon footprint is directly proportional to consumerism. Consuming anything in excess is not good. On the flip side, industries thrive because there is demand. If we cut down on consumption and adopt a Gandhian philosophy, our industries may not be profitable. Hence, the key is to maintain a balance between less and excessive consumption.

Q: A festival like Ganesh Chaturthi has turned into a private event which causes more harm in terms of pollution. What's your take on this?

A: There's only one answer, 'depoliticising' the event. Since it has fallen in the hands of irresponsible politicians, it has become a business. We have elected these leaders through the democratic process. Be it Ganesh Utsav, Navratri, or any event, the same principle is applied. A change can happen only when we mature as a society, and make politicians accountable for their deeds. After all, the democracy of the enlightened can only achieve the real aim of democracy, not becoming 'numerocracy'.

Q: What, do you think, is the difference between modernisation and westernisation?

A: There is nothing wrong with modernisation. Whatever we do at present, is a product of the modernisation only. Since the 16th century, most of the development in science and technology has been happening in the west. These innovations re-

sulted in new products, which are sold all around the world. Modernisation and westernisation should be differentiated. The former is dominated by Western society, no doubt, and in regards to the latter, we need not adopt blindly, the cultural aspects of Western society.

Q: In the past year, the NDA has taken many decisions like scrapping the Article 370 and introducing the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. Do you think core issues like education, economy, and poverty are being neglected?

A: I personally don't think so. Talking about education, there is a new policy coming up. We think nothing is being done, because change takes time to manifest. It is often portrayed by the opposition that the current government is doing nothing. It is not so. Can this government do more? Of course, Yes. Speaking of the economy, we are simply following a global trend in which the entire world has experienced an economic slowdown.

Q: What message would you like to give to the student readers of ऋतु?

A: I remember a quote from Shakespeare's Hamlet, where Polonius advises his son Laertes that "To thine own self, be true." Whatever we have discussed earlier, is to refine ourselves in the process of life. Our life long activities should help us to enlighten and reach to a state, where we can take a decision of reasonable actions, which would lead to sustainable environment. Education is a process, which qualifies you to take enlightened decisions in life.

'Weather forecasters are mere clerks and not scientists'

Atul Deulgaonkar, a celebrated environmental journalist from Latur emphasised the need to take a serious action on climate change, media's role in it and how one should utilise the resources properly. He was also quite outspoken about his views on weather forecast in India and how it needs proper scrutiny

ऋतु Team

Q: What's your take on climate change and tell us about your upcoming book on Greta Thunberg?

A: Climate change has brought us into an age of extreme weather conditions. There are climate extremities, with more rainfall in less and less time as well as cloud bursts, cyclones, etc. We have observed an average rise of 1 degree in temperature around the world since the industrial revolution. Oxford dictionary named 'climate emergency' as the word of 2019. Talking about my book, its name is 'Greta Chi Haak - Tumhala Aaiku Yetay Na? Thunberg has brought the climate change debate into the mainstream agenda - something people have been trying for decades. She is appealing to our psyche and this historical activism has been labelled as the 'Greta Effect' by many news outlets from around the world. The Indian government isn't doing enough to combat climate change, despite us being 5th on the global climate change index. This is what my book is about, in a nutshell.

Q: As an environmental journalist, do you think mainstream media should give more coverage to environment beat?

A: There absolutely isn't enough coverage about it, certainly not in India. In the UK

and Europe, there definitely is more coverage with news outlets such as The Guardian, BBC amongst others, reporting on climate change and environmental crisis. About 26 news outlets around the world have accepted that they were wrong and guilty. In India, they aren't proactive and provide coverage only when there's a natural disaster or a conference.

Q: In 2016, you had written an article on 'Water Mismanagement in Marathwada'. Is the situation same or are there any improvements?

A: The situation is exactly the same, not just in Marathwada or Maharashtra but India, as a whole. We haven't reduced our water footprint, haven't arrested our leakages, nor improved our delivery system.

Q: Issue of rising sea level is on a forefront these days. Reports are also coming that Mumbai is going to sink by 2050. What's your opinion on this?

A: Not just Mumbai, but most of the coastal areas around the world will be affected by the rising sea levels. Due to global warming, the ice on Earth's pole is melting and it is accelerating very fast, which will result in rising of sea levels. Measures to tackle this are on two levels - micro and macro, some in our control and some not. What we



can do on a personal level is keep our sewage system clean, restrict the use of plastic to avoid floods even in heavy monsoons. In some countries, they have built walls to combat the sea. Pumping systems have also been set up along the coasts. However, the ideal method is to improve mangrove coverage but we are doing the exact opposite. Traditional and modern methods should be used together to combat the threat of rising sea levels.

Q: In your article 'Yugant ki Yugantar' in Mukht Shabd, you highlighted the need to

maintain balance between environment and development. Do you think we can attain sustainable development in the coming years?

A: In India, sustainable development is not on the agenda but in Europe, it is a concrete idea. We don't have any cities on the list of 100 green cities in the world and yet, our model for maintaining a balance between development and environment remains absent. Our assessment of the environment should be more systematic.

Q: There are reports that state Artificial Intelligence is

In 2019, heat waves killed approximately 2000 people but politicians did nothing.

In Nordic countries, children are taught to care about nature from kindergarten itself but we are the most hypocritical country in the world.

We have to realise the effect of oil companies and how they are dictating the terms of the world.

having a great impact on environment-both positive and negative. What's your view on this?

A: Science and technology are amoral in nature. It really depends on how it is used; it can be positive as well as negative. Technology is invented as per the needs of the region where it is developed. For example, in Europe, there is a shortage of manpower and hence, artificial intelligence is quite useful. Whereas in India, there is no shortage of labour and AI can do more harm than good by replacing unskilled and low-skilled labour.

Q: Mahatma Gandhi said, "Earth has enough to fulfil your needs, but not your greed." Do you think we should properly utilise our resources?

A: Mahatma Gandhi was ahead of his time. He didn't use this principle exclusively for the environment but always encouraged the use of local commodities. If we apply this philosophy now, our carbon footprint will definitely be reduced. Gandhi's approach was minimalistic and minimalism is the most important concept in the current period.

Q: How did you get into this field and what made you pursue your career on exploring environment?

A: I am a Mechanical Engineer, but I have always had a passion for journalism. I was a part of many activities during my days as a student, such as People's Science Movement and Lok Vidyan, as well as being closely associated with Andhashraddha Nirmulan Samiti, film society, street play, etc. At that time, environment was a promising subject in media and it attracted me because it covers all subjects.

Q: Once in a session, you were speaking about how weather projection should be sued and raised questions over the department. Can you elaborate?

A: Weather prediction is a 24/7 job but that doesn't happen in India. Any person that has a post-graduate degree from mathematics to engineering can become a weather forecaster by simply undergoing a one-month training programme. A weather scientist gather data, crunch the numbers and make predictions. This process is absolutely wrong and inadequate. Our method of weather forecast is based on cloud statistics and not dynamics. Things like cloud physics and cloud dynamics are quite crucial when it comes to predicting weather accurately. Many European and other western countries are ahead of the curve when it comes to the weather forecast, in comparison to us. Which is why, we rarely get accurate predictions as our weather forecasters are mere clerks and not scientists.

Q: You often give the reference of 'Silent Spring' by Rachel Carson in your speeches and articles. Are there any other books which you would recommend?

A: Silent Spring was a turning point for our civilisation. 'The Third Wave' by Alvin Toffler, 'Order Out of Chaos' by Ilya Prigogine, 'The Portrait of Indian' by Sudhir Kakkar, 'The Argumentative Indian' by Amartya Sen are some thought-provoking and fascinating books.

Education cannot sustain without innovations

The current education system needs development to create a burning desire of learning in every inquisitive mind

Khan Moin Shahabuddin (TYBMS)

Education, being the most vital component of our life, it is certainly a question to ponder, whether it is sustainable or not. A single piece of marksheet cannot decide your future and yet, the society respects or judges you based on your marks and grades instead of capabilities. There is still a public opinion directed towards rote-learning and theoretical approach.

Talking about the education system in India, 31% of the government colleges don't offer a valid degree and 40% of the schools don't have electricity, which are some shocking revelations. The government claims that public schools have quality education as well as good facilities. The worst thing in our education system is the fee structure and the cut-off lists for the selection of students in colleges. Caste quota has 49.5% of seats in reserve. The following table states the current scenario of the education system in India:

Courses	Selection Process	Scores	Government Colleges	Fees of Government Colleges	Fees of Private Colleges
Engineering	JEE, AIEEE, JEE(Adv.)	90% General 60% SC/ST	235	40,000 to 2 lakhs	6 lakhs to 12 lakhs
Doctor (MBBS)	NEET, AIIMS	550-560 General 120-196 SC/ST	272	4 lakhs	64 lakhs
MBA	CAT	99.85% General 72% SC/STI	20	20 lakhs	12 lakhs to 22 lakhs

This is the comparison between the government and private colleges of India. The main concern is fees, which is unaffordable for a large number of people. The education system is broken and doesn't focus on the overall development of students in terms of communication and presentation skills. Sure, marks can make a good initial impression during an interview but you may not get hired if your soft skills are lacking. The unemployment rate in India was 4% in 2018, which amounts to 6.6 million individuals. This is directly related to the lack of quality education in this country and unless the government takes a serious stand, things aren't going to improve.

- Facilities** - Access to electricity, qualified teachers, proper food, and sanitation are the basic needs of an educational institute and should be readily available. They should not become hindrance in the education of students.

- Organise competitions** - There are many hidden geniuses in our country. Competitive exams and competitions are an excellent way to bring them into the spotlight and bring the best out of them. These exams can help in exploring talented people and can prove to be good platforms for learning and earning as well.

How to bring about a sustainable education system in India:

- Fair treatment** - The government schools should treat the entire student body equally and not be partial towards certainly entitled pupils. Schemes and scholarships should be purely on economic conditions and merit, respectively. A proper regulating body should be established to keep a hold on those, who are misusing the reservation system.
- The overall development of students** - Schools and colleges must keep an eye on the overall personality development and train the students accordingly, since it will help them present their ideas in their own creative way. They should focus more on practical learning, which might broaden their horizons.

Thus, it is very crucial to bring improvements and innovations in education system. Education, being an important goal of sustainable development, needs proper direction to reach students, who are eager to learn.

BRIMS - Elevating management to a next level



Source: Internet

Dr. V.V. Bedekar fulfilled the dreams of his father Dr. V.N. Bedekar in the academic year 2005-06 by establishing Dr. V.N. Bedekar Institute of Management Studies (DR VN BRIMS) and since then the institute is growing and reaching new heights. All this has been possible because of the continuous support of the management who had a strong mission and a culture of the organisation which says 'Go global but act local'. The management of Dr. VN BRIMS has a clear vision 'To be amongst the top management institutes in the country and become the world class center of excellence in learning and innovation driven by social sensitivity and state of art technology'.

BRIMS offer various full time and autonomous programmes in the area of Management. Two years Masters in Management Studies (MMS) affiliated to the University of Mumbai is the flagship programme of BRIMS. They also offer Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management (PGDM) approved by AICTE. Various autonomous

programme include Executive MBA, Post Graduate programme, Certification in Digital marketing, Certification in Supply Chain Management, and Certificate programme in Travel and Tourism.

The institute wishes to work on cutting edge technology, thereby creating a platform where learning is not restricted within the four walls of a classroom. They want to deploy highly interactive and engaging technology that will continuously engage the learner to explore his potential and adapt with the ever-changing and demanding business environment.

The advantages for the students which makes Dr. VN BRIMS different from other B-Schools is the teaching pedagogy which believes in 'Learning by Doing'. The teaching structures are more workshop based and they believe in student engagement through scenario planning and problem solving cases. Apart from this, institute also takes its students for International Industrial Visit which gives them an exposure globally.

Gurukuls of the modern era

Education can blossom if a balance between ancient Gurukul system and modern education system is maintained appropriately

Neha Sinkar (NMS)

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"- Nelson Mandela

Over the years, the educational system has undergone a lot of changes, from ancient 'gurukul' to the modern education system. The former is a residential schooling system with 'shishyas' residing in a 'gurukul' with their 'Guru'. 'Shishyas' had to stay with the guru, away from their family, for years. The education provided was grounded in the Vedas and was based on practical implementation being at the centre of it. Knowing each student lean at a different

pace, the teacher would decide when the course ended for a particular student, at the end of which, the 'shishya' would offer 'Gurudakshina' - a token of respect to his teacher.

In contrast, the modern/western education system is a classroom based one and theoretical lessons are given more importance. The students generally stay with their parents and a fixed curriculum is followed. The fees are paid at the beginning of the course itself. The gurukul system and the modern one have their pros and cons. In the case of the former, there was discrimination when it



Source: Internet

came to accepting 'shishyas'. For example, in Mahabharata, Ekalavya was denied admission by Guru Dronacharya since he wasn't a 'kshatriya' (warrior caste). There was strong gender bias

and no girls were allowed to stay in a 'gurukul'. The students were not allowed to voice their opinion. In a way, these flaws paved the way for the changes we see in the modern education system,

why both boys and girls are given equal opportunities.

There is often a misconception that Vedic education is equivalent to religious education but, in reality it is much broader and focuses on improving the personality of students. In the modern world, everyone is running a rat race that can often lead to stress and anxiety. The Vedic education focuses on yoga and meditation and teaches one to live life in a better way. Adapting gurukul system would be quite difficult but integrating some significant aspects from it can truly make the process interesting and innovative.

VPM's Dr. V. N. Bedekar Institute of Management Studies

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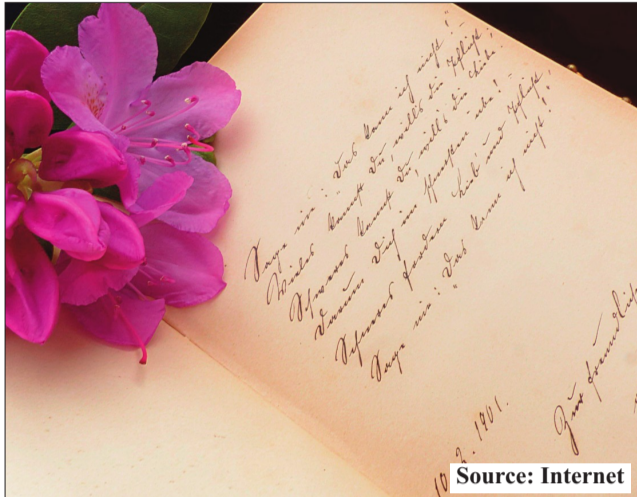
Poetry and psychology - Two sides of the same coin

From the origin of poems till now, they have depicted poet's psychology which continues to mesmerise the readers

Atharva Deshpande
(FYBMM)

Aesthetic language, a rhythmic pattern, metaphors, imagery, and ideology expressed through these aspects, make a poem. Whether it is a couple of sentences or a composition of thousand words, it is a poem as long as the aforementioned aspects are covered. However, poet's psychology is the one thing that builds and shapes a poem. It evokes thought and inspires to frame that thought in a meaningful way. The way it affects a poem is very evident through the earliest works; or in other words, the origins of poetry as a literary art can be considered to be the result of the minds of the great psychologists of history.

Poetry had taken birth even before the development of writing systems and that makes it difficult to pinpoint the first poetic work. In ancient times, a poem was quite musical and was transferred through vocal means – a trait evident in the modern world in the form of ballads. They described historic events such as victories and conquests of kings. Many of the poems were also hymns or



Source: Internet

chants praising deities or the forces of nature. Great philosophers and thinkers used this medium for narrating tales of wisdom and laws of the society. Poems soon conveyed riddles that enhanced problem-solving skills and were popular among intellectuals and commoners alike.

The earliest known written example of poem is 'The Epic of Gilgamesh', a Mesopotamian poetical work in the Sumerian language, written on a clay tablet, around the eighteenth century BCE. It consists of stories about Gilgamesh, the king of Uruk. In the eight century BCE, the Greek scholar Homer

wrote 'Iliad' and 'Odyssey', two poetical western epics about Greek mythology. Indian mythologies like Ramayana and Mahabharata were also penned down in sixth to fifth century BCE, in verses, by Valmiki and Vyasa, respectively. Mahabharata is still considered to be the longest poem ever, containing more than a thousand verses.

Human psychology had instinctively started reflecting itself in poetry, with a rich and expressive vocabulary being used to create an imagery of the human mind and its feelings. Poets would pour their emotions into their poems so that readers

could fetch them out. Thus, the psychological thoughts were being transferred from person to person, rendering an enlightening social chain. For example, Shakespeare's works also majorly focused on human emotions and feelings. Even before that, the compositions of Kalidasa would talk about the state of the human mind in different situations. Many sages and intellectuals throughout India, composed spiritual poems to preach human psychology. The 'Bhagavad Geeta', written way back in fourth to second century BCE, was all about the functioning of human psychology.

In the aforementioned Sangam literature, human aspects of romance and courage were the ideologies in focus. On the other hand, Vedas would direct rituals for the betterment of human psychology and help gain control over it. Without a psychological instinct, one cannot compose what we call a poem. Poems simply would have been lines with some rhythm without psychology. Composing as well as reading poems improves one's psychology and also provides an understanding of the human psyche. They truly are two sides of the same coin!

UNEARTHING THE CULTURE



Farzaan Rustan Patel

Evidence of pottery has been found in the early settlements of the 'Indus Valley Civilisation'. Though we have entered in this fast-paced world, aura of these naturally beautiful earthen pots remain eternal.

Connecting the dots with knots

With distinct kinds and types, association of tribes with the outer world can become rigid through effective communication

Chinmayee Shinde
(FYBMM)



Source: Internet

Phenomenal combination of bright smiles, enjoyment, coordination and special dress of tribal folks that gives them a distinct identity

There are said to be more than 100 tribes, constituting about 5% of the world's total population. These tribal people are indigenous, embraced with obvious and prominent cultures and behaviors. They choose to stay aloof from the outer world, thus enjoying their communal space. The Dukha of Mongolia, the Piraha living in the Amazon forest, the Maori of New Zealand, the Eyak of Alaska, the Maasai of Kenya and Tanzania,

the Huli people of Papua New Guinea, the Warli tribe of western India, and the Nenets of Arctic Russia, are some of the indigenous people groups living in different parts of the world. Culture of tribal people broadens through tribal music, dance, paintings, sculptures, pottery, ornaments and cloth-making as well as hunting, fishing, and cultivation.

The aforementioned Maasai tribe of Africa is popular for its

hunting and dressing styles. On the other hand, the Warli tribe of Maharashtra in India is well-known for its folk paintings. The Karen women wearing long neck rings are quite famous in Burma and Thailand. Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act was passed to preserve the tribal heritage. In spite of living in seclusion, human activities like poaching, mining, fishing, and hunting adversely affect the tribal people,

with clans being hugely reliant on nature and are endangered due to its depletion.

In Botswana, the Bushman communities are accused of hunting and arrested for doing so, even after the high court recognised their rights for living and hunting in the Kalahari Desert. It is crucial to promote tribal life, celebrate it, and educate them about the latest developments as well educate the world about them.

An appealing zeal

Pop culture has attracted the youth and from reality TV to VR and AR, it has left unprecedented marks on society

Darshan Solanki
(SYBMM)



Source: Internet

The term 'popular culture' holds different meanings depending on who you ask and the context of use. It is the entirety of attitude, ideas, images, perspectives, and other phenomena that are within the mainstream of any given culture. It encompasses a wide array of aspects such as print media, entertainment, sports, TV, leisure, advertising, and cyberculture.

The modern pop culture took off with baby boomers influencing the pop culture revolution through their disposable income. In the recent times, pop has undergone tremendous changes caused by increased technological advancement. Every person seems to have a preferred pop culture menu, with most of these ideas being propagated through smartphones. It is undeniable, that, nowadays pop culture has gone beyond TV shows and bungee jumping, making human rela-

tionships more intact.

Popular culture has the capability of impacting individuals' mentalities towards specific subjects. In video games, for example, we have 'Fortnite' and 'FIFA,' among others. Instances of popular culture in music incorporate 'India's Got Talent' or 'Indian Idol' and fashion is driven by the recent rap culture boom, which in turn, has brought street-wear to India. Reality shows like 'Bigg Boss', 'Kaun Banega Crorepati', and 'Splitsvilla' have managed to dominate the TRP for years. Popular culture in food industry empowers loved ones to feast together and shows like 'Junior MasterChef' takes the excitement to a next level.

Innovation has changed how individuals consume culture. The adjustment of popular culture in music is obvious, given the ongoing shape-moving with artists like Frank Ocean and Be-

yoncé going for a hybridised format that consolidates visual execution. It is likewise, reputed that Calvin Harris will stop album release and focus on single tracks instead.

It is foreseen that the recordings will advance from virtual reality (VR) to augmented reality (AR). AR offers improved insight, which allows the games to permeate the real world by putting together fictional characters and in-game actions in a manner that can only be achieved by whiskey and hallucinogens. People have always been intrigued by the sustainability of any pop culture in a particular society. It is likely to be altered, in a lot of ways, in the near future. The truth is, what is adored now may be bypassed with time. With its unique dimensions, popular culture, has impressed and expressed, that certainly would mould the masses accordingly.

PERSONALITY FEATURE

Spawning, Moulding and Remodelling Indian Literature

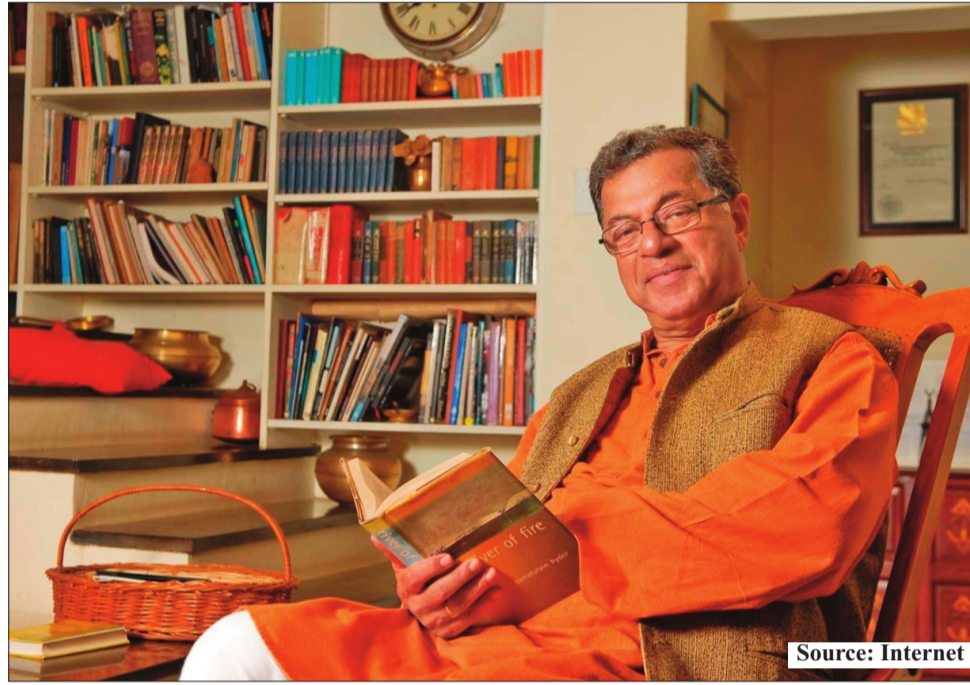
A retrospection of Karnad's life and the treatise of mythology in his literature

Namisha Kondaskar
(TYBMM)

Girish Karnad, in his life of eight decades, has given roots, moulded and remodelled the Indian theatrical drama. He did start his education in the quest of becoming an English poet, but to only be one of the greatest playwrights the world could ever see. Karnad's illustrious, mammoth contribution to the arts and society as a playwright, author, poet, actor, director, critic, translator, cultural administrator and a public intellectual is phenomenal.

Karnad, born in Matheran, Maharashtra in 1938 completed his primary education in Marathi. His next abode Dharwad, Karnataka carved out his character in real sense. His conversancy with different theatre groups in this juncture rigged up his love for theatrical drama. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics and Statistics (1958) from Karnataka Arts College. Bagging the Rhodes Scholarship, he went on to acquire his Master's degree in Economics, Politics and Philosophy (1960-63) from the Lincoln and Magdalen colleges, Oxford University, England. He has served as the President of the Oxford Union (1962-63).

Karnad is celebrated as one of the best playwrights of India. Whilst studying in Oxford, he wrote his first play, the critically acclaimed *Yayati* (1961) unfolding the story of a mythological king which won the Mysore State Award in 1962. He worked with the Oxford University Press, Chennai before incontrovertibly committing to the show business. Using themes of history and mythology, he shed light on the issues of contemporary times. His treatise was systematic, providing remedies for the issues and drawing praise from all over. The second one was *Tughlaq* (1964), a thirteenth-century play which encapsulated the life of the fourteenth-century king Muhammad bin Tughluq. Neither his mother tongue Konkani nor his dream language English; but Kannada was his language of choice. Dr. Bhargavi P. Rao translated several of his Kannada plays into English; some of them were translated by Karnad himself. The coming times witnessed a handful of exemplary plays by Karnad like *Hayavadana* (1972), *Nagamandala* (1988) and *Taledanda* (1990) to name a few.



Source: Internet

With several books to his credit, Girish Karnad dabbled in many worlds and painted a wide and variegated canvas

The world eyeballed Karnad's debut on the silver screen with *Samskara* (1970). He wrote the screenplay and played the lead role of Pranesacharya in the movie; which was an adaptation of a novel by the same name written by great U. R. Ananthamurthy. The movie won the

first ever President's Golden Lotus Award for Kannada Cinema. *Vamsha Vriksha* (1971) showcased Karnad's directorial vision racking up the Best Direction in the National Film Awards (1971) for him shared with B. V. Karanth who co-directed the movie. His other ap-

plauded performances in films; both acting and direction; include *Godhuli* (1977), *Onanondu Kaaladalli* (1978) and *Utsav* (1984).

His acting in the Hindi movie *Iqbal* (2005) was met with critical and public acclaim. His everlasting finesse in acting was

relished in recent movies like *Ek Tha Tiger* (2012), *24* (2016), *Chalk n Duster* (2016), *Shivaay* (2016) and *Tiger Zinda Hai* (2017). Karnad's small screen acting debut as Swami's father in *Malgudi Days* (1986-87) based on the short stories by R. K. Narayan is stamped on the memories of all 80's kids and generations to follow. He has also hosted *Turning Point*, a weekly science magazine programme aired on *Doordarshan* in the 90's. *Khandan* (1985), *Indradhanush* (1989), *Apna Apna Aasman* are some other television shows Karnad contributed in. Karnad gave his voice to India's former President, A. P. J. Abdul Kalam in audiobook version of *Wings of Fire* by Charkha Audiobooks.

The Government of India awarded Karnad with the nation's top civilian honours *Padma Shri* and *Padma Bhushan* in 1974 and 1992 respectively. He has also been awarded the *Sangeet Natak Academy* in 1972, the *Sahitya Academy* in 1994 and the *Kalidas Samman* in 1998. In recognition of his extraordinary contribution to the literature, Karnad was conferred India's

highest literary prize, the *Jnanpith Award* in 1998. In 2011, he has been bestowed upon by an honorary degree by the University of California, Los Angeles. For his contribution to the Indian cinema, he has won more than thirty awards in his lifetime, eighteen of them being *Filmfare* awards for his critically acclaimed movies. In 2011, Karnad wrote an autobiography in Kannada titled *Aadaadtha Aayusha*. It is incomplete in the sense that it covers only first half of Karnad's life.

Karnad's individuality lies in the fact that he deflected from the existent flow of literature. He familiarised the populace with the world's glorious history and mythology to help them tackle the new-fangled perplexities of life. Karnad's thrill seeking attitude has never misjudged the audiences, ensuring unwavering success in all his works. His approach towards art and literature is invigorating, uncontaminated and sprightly. His compositions will always remain youthful and in the continuance of life will keep on appealing to the forthcoming generations.

Art and Architecture : Two stupendous pillars of the Nation

Chinmay Ranade
(SYBMM)

Humans like to express their feelings and they do this through a number of mediums, with art and architecture being two of the most powerful ones. Raja Ravi Varma, known as 'The Father of Modern Indian Art' often depicted Indian goddesses and scenes from *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* in his paintings. The oldest known paintings in India are the Stone Age paintings at *Bhimbetka Rock Shelter*, believed to be around 10,000 years old. In other parts of the world, *Mona Lisa*, a Renaissance Era masterpiece by *Leonardo Da Vinci*, is a visual treat for millions at the *Louvre*.



Saurabh Khedekar

Theatre, at one point in history, was the most popular form of entertainment and still continues to attract audiences. The 19th and 20th centuries saw the rise of photography and videography. It gave us a better, faster and more efficient way of preserving memories and has since

evolved into an art form of its own. India has a wide architectural history and has been subjected to many foreign invasions. Invaders have left their mark on the nation's architecture, none more so than the *Mughals* and the *British*. We

can see forts, temples, mosques, mausoleums, churches, etc., which reflect the culture and religion. Houses built out of stones, making the roof out of leaves and branches, painting the walls with mud, highlighted some or the other message. The

Ajanta and *Ellora* caves in Maharashtra are Buddhist cave monuments from the 2nd century and are the best cave complexes in the world. *Taj Mahal* in *Agra*, the *Konark Sun Temple* in *Orissa*, the *Hawa Mahal* in *Rajasthan* and the *Gol Gumbaz* in *Bijapur* compels us to visit again.

The *Pyramids of Giza*, the *Great Wall of China*, the *Hagia Sophia* mosque in *Turkey*, the *Lincoln Cathedral* in *England*, the *Eiffel Tower*, the *Sydney Opera House* and of course, and the *Burj Khalifa* are appreciated globally. Humans have gone far from using stones and mortar to bricks and cement and now steel and glass in construction. Art and architecture allow humans to showcase their creativity, ingenuity, resourcefulness as well as capability to shape things the way they like. It is what makes us human, what defines our society and what we shall be remembered for.

Kathak- A symbol of storytelling

Kathak has represented a variant culture and continued to blossom time and again

Adhishree Gadgil
(TYBMM)

A dance form embodies the tradition and culture of geographical region it has originated from. One such form is *Kathak* – one of the oldest and most sensual of classical dances from around the world. Derived from the word 'katha', which means story, *Kathak* literally means 'storyteller'. It involves dancers communicating with their audience by telling stories of epics such as '*Ramayana*' and '*Mahabharata*' through their bodies and not their words.

Kathak, however, has evolved over the centuries, none more so than when the *Mughals* invaded *India*. It slowly moved from being performed in temples to royal *Mughal* courts as well as resulting in a change for style, costume, attire, etc. *Emperor Akbar* married a *Rajput* princess who allowed *Hindu* dancers and musicians to perform at the

royal court and this was the beginning of the golden era for *Kathak*. Over the course of the following centuries, we have seen major developments that have shaped the dance form in unimaginable ways. For example, today's dancers focus on brilliant variations of rhythms and swift pirouettes. 'Modern *Kathak*' is a blend of *Hindu* and *Muslim Kathak* which has been brought about by political and religious influences through the decades. *Kathak* is making a resurgence in front of a younger and wider audience due to the influence of social media.

It has penetrated *Bollywood* with many popular songs being based around it or incorporating its aspects. In fact, it has received global reach owing to the shows like '*America's got talent*', thus attracting dancers from *Britain*, *America*, *Canada*

among others. Celebrities like *Pandit Birju Maharaj*, *Madhuri Dixit*, *Asha* and *Archana Joglekar*, too, have had a huge influence on modern *Kathak* being as popular as it is. Its creative aspect will always mesmerise the future generations.

Famous *Kathak* dancer *Shrimati Shovana Narayan* aptly states -

"The shimmering tinkles of a hundred ghungroos, the single twist of the wrist which tells a hundred tales, the suggestive lift of an eyebrow, the resounding beats of the tabla and the twinkle toes keeping pace as if skimming water....the story is complete."

Joint Booker prize winners for the first time in thirty years

Booker Prize 2019: Margaret Atwood and Bernardine Evaristo win joint award as the jury break the rules

Manali Kalele
(BA English Literature)

The judges of this year's Booker prize have explicitly disregarded the rules of the August Literary Award to choose the first joint winners in almost 30 years – *Margaret Atwood* and *Bernardine Evaristo*. The former won it for her book '*The Testaments*' and the latter for '*Girl, Woman, Other*', making *Atwood* the oldest ever winner, at the age of 79, and *Evaristo* the first-ever black author to be felicitated. The pair received the prize on 14th October, 2019 in *London*.

'*The Testaments*' is a sequel to *Atwood's* previous novel, '*The Handmaid's Tale*', written in 1985. It was about women in

Gilead, a dystopian country dominated by totalitarianism, where women had the compulsion of being pregnant and had to undergo a monthly pregnancy test. Women's bodies were controlled by those in power. The sequel, however, is all about how things unfolded and resulted in its fall. Set around 15 years after the first book's conclusion, it explores the difference between the lives of the first and the second generation of citizens. The story is told by three narrators – two of them being young women; one grew up in *Gilead* and is illiterate and the other was from *Canada*. The third narrator is an old woman

named *Aunt Lydia*, who happens to be the founder of *Gilead* and is also seen in '*The Handmaid's Tale*'.

There is virtually no subtext in '*The Testaments*'. The meaning is all on the surface i.e. what you see is what you get. One event leads to another, obstacles are external, sections end on cliffhangers, and characters remain unchanged by the plot. *Atwood* is not interested in how people become degraded as objects, but how their morality is compromised. She believes, something similar to the dystopian society of *Gilead* has already happened in our world and the setting of her book owes

a lot to the *United States' Puritan* past.

The girls are courageous and hopeful, venturing out in the second half of the novel like the heroes of old. They believe in friendship and even witness the perseverance, after death, of a person's soul. To read this book is to feel the world changing, as the unforeseeable shifts of the last few years reveal the same old themes. It also gives us a chance to witness our own political life flash in front of our eyes; to remember how the world was 30 years ago and wonder, "If she was right in 1985, she is probably more right today." The Booker prize jury

said the following about '*The Testaments*', "There isn't a single moment of dullness in this book and the pace does not allow you to turn away from its momentum." High praise indeed. The other winner, '*Girl, Woman, Other*', is the eighth novel written by *Bernardine Evaristo*, an English novelist. The story has been told through twelve female voices, especially those of black women. The voices represent twelve distinct characters with separate stories that, from time to time, overlap one another. The writer says, "The novel is an inclusive fusion fiction that shows the complexities, the variety of

experiences, and identities of black women. It is a free-flowing read with lots of comas and poetic patterning." The story of the novel can be traced back to the racial tensions throughout the 20th century and to a certain extent, feminism, since the book is all about women.

The book mainly addresses the twelve black women and their respective lives, moving forward in the world, through the decades. Many of the characters are close friends, relatives or even lovers while others simply are in the same theatre on the same night or argue with each other on *Twitter*. Many subjects explored in the novel

feel urgent and timeless at the same time.

'*Girl, Woman, Other*' will surely change the mindset of the readers regarding black people and even has the potential to create a whole new world. In an interview, *Evaristo* said, "My mission behind this book was to write about the African diaspora. We are all things and everything. You cannot dismiss us, nor can you easily define us." Though the world portrayed by *Evaristo* is not idealised, there is something uniquely beautiful about it. The Booker prize judges described '*Girl, Woman, Other*' as a modern '*Womanhood*' novel.



Leave the nest

It's time to take wing and fly out of religious conflicts

Jagruti Mahajan
Editor-in-Chief

Religion is supposed to be the means of attaining peace, but in practicality, every religion has got a base of fundamentalism. Religion is the very foundation of the culture of all Nations. They are twined so much that there will not be culture without religion. On the other hand, it has been a major feature in some historical conflicts and the most recent wave of modern terrorism. With reference to the example of Ayodhya dispute, the Supreme Court cleared the way for the construction of a Ram Temple at the disputed site at Ayodhya and directed the Centre to allot a 5-acre plot to the Sunni Waqf Board for building a mosque. But again, the question here arises as to why this even happened? India is a diverse country and hence it is possible to have varying opinions about the past.

Today, if you utter the word "religion" then mostly you are talking generally in terms of conflicts. This is due to the atmosphere of fear and discrimination created in society. When we analyze the Ayodhya dispute, we can see that fighting for a particular place in the name of religion is just unnecessary. Even though if people claim that Lord Rama was born in Ayodhya, no one can guarantee or prove the exact spot where he was born. So arguing about the specific area is not healthy for the society and its development. Most importantly, a large part of the media is responsible for this situation today. Many newspapers had banner headlines and pictures of the Hindu ascetics which created certain opinions among the masses. Fear-based media has become a staple of popular culture. There are a number of failings with how Ayodhya dispute is represented in the mainstream media, well documented. Media and the general public must understand that religion is not related to concepts.

Everyone has a right to live happy a life. If we emphasize secondary level differences like "I am a Hindu," then it makes seem more concerned with the Hindu community. Also, "I am Muslim," gives some kind of close feeling with other Muslims, but automatically creates some sort of small distance from other faiths. One should not forget the oneness of humanity. We all should concentrate on our primary goals rather than paying attention to secondary differences. Then, we disregard the rights of others and even have no respect for the lives of others. Sustainable religion promotes peaceful co-existence between various religious groups. Talking about politics, many politicians used Ayodhya dispute as a medium in order to get their support to capture power. In modern times, it is evident to keep away religion from other aspects like politics, economy and science and technology. In India, religion tries to interfere with other elements due to which the issues are piling up for religious minorities in India. All of these just show that the root cause of religious conflicts in India will be a hard task to understand but it's essential to prove that religion is the truth that sustains everything.

A SAFE H(E)AVEN ?

Nirmeeti Patole
Editor, English Section

Kashmir issue is in the pipeline since many years. Recent measures taken to reduce the magnitude of this concern were abrogation of Article 370 and 35A. Whether the decision was good or bad is not a matter of discussion, but is the government taking legitimate action and implementing proper policies, is a real question. It is the time to seize opportunity for sustainable development in this so called 'Heaven on Earth'.

Jammu and Kashmir, known for its inexplicable beauty has witnessed years of bloody conflict, perception war, political unrest and is still in the middle of controversy. Reports of communication and economic shutdown coming from the valley cannot be ignored. One also needs to acknowledge the employment opportunities which are being created for local youths to refrain themselves from stone-pelting. Recently, when EU delegation visited Srinagar, they welcomed this move and one of the members said he did not want Kashmir to become a 'second Afghanistan'.

Terrorism remains a core issue and a great threat that occupies the whole world. Rising insurgency in Kashmir since Burhan Wani's death in 2016 had made the situation worse. Terrifying terrorist attacks during Amarnath Yatras in last several years cannot be forgotten. Extremist terror outfits, mobilisation of young students and cross-border terrorism are burning issues, which needs to be addressed carefully. Seen as a great move to curb terrorism, this historic step has restored a sense of relief in Kashmiri Pandits, who are the major contributors in Jammu and Kashmir's social fabric.

Tourism industry in the valley has a global appeal. Rejoicing the tranquility of Dal Lake, and wandering freely without any fear of terrorists in Gulmarg, thus skiing in this 'Meadow of Flowers', will bring alive true spirit of Kashmir. Shalimar Bagh and Pari Mahal are another magnificent places. Along with tourism, Kashmir has its unique culture, cuisine, art and accessories. 'Pheran', a traditional Kashmiri dress is quite popular. Removal of these articles has opened a wide door for trade opportunities. Ladakh, which is now a Union Territory is an area to explore. Owing to its influence of Buddhist culture, monasteries and rich heritage, it has the ability to become a best tourist destination. It is now seen as a research center to study ancient herbs, examine new scientific inventions through its vivid nature. Stunning speech of Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, a MP from Ladakh has grasped the attention of many and is an emerging youth icon with a good political consciousness.

Legally, Jammu and Kashmir is integrated with India but are the minds integrated, that is the question. Instead of using it as an instrument of vote bank, it should be used as a means for getting high-class education, creating top-most Universities and providing jobs to the youth. Problems of local villagers, businessmen and common citizens should be addressed as they are the ones who have suffered a lot and are now looking forward with a new hope and determination.

CLIMATE REFUGEE

Varadh Phansalkar
Head, Reporting Department

A year ago, the name Greta Thunberg was unknown but now, she has grasped the attention of many through her courageous spirit, distinct vision and bold attitude. A 16-year-old girl, hailing from Sweden, has left no stone unturned to take a clear stand regarding climate crisis and her dynamic charisma has made the whole world to take the notice of this horrendous scenario. Her inclusion as the Time magazine's 2019 'Person of the Year' is a cherry on the cake and a dream come true for any teenager.

Thunberg set the United Nations stage on fire with her 'How dare you' speech, which bought politicians back to their senses and gave a strong message of developing strategies to confront the climate change. The school strike or the 'Fridays for Future' saw students dumping their classroom lectures and attending the protests.

"Our house is on Fire", Thunberg said at the World Economic Forum in the Davos. Inspired by Thunberg, wealthy



Source: Internet

philanthropists and investors have donated almost half a million pounds for Extinction Rebellion to establish 'Climate Emergency Funds'. Thunberg's untapped potential to file a legal complaint against five major countries for not staying true towards a UN pact on children's human rights, states her genuine concern for climate change.

The Swedish activist had earlier protested against the disas-

trous heat wave that Europe faced and forest fires which had created a serious dent in Sweden. Her burning desire to bring change was gradually recognised by others and many citizens supported in her journey, which she still continues to travel. Though mocked by many, her relentless spirit and extra-ordinary efforts have helped to chase her dream and stand for a humble cause.

Electric Vehicles: The road of an uncertain future

Rohan Pingle
Head, Reporting Department



Source: Internet

Electric vehicles, or EVs, have been quite a stir in recent times. They run on battery powered motors and hence, produce close to none emissions.

The trend of these environment-friendly and highly tunable vehicles is seen on a conspicuous rise in Europe and America. Companies like Tesla and Hyundai have also begun installing public charging stations

in multiple locations, providing a full charge to the vehicles' batteries in less than four hours.

Though the widespread use of EVs is still a distant vision in India, Indian government has deployed battery-powered inter-city transport buses. In Bangalore, there are start-ups that offer electricity-driven scooters on rent. Whereas in Nagpur, Ola has started India's first multi-

modal electric vehicle project that can enhance electric mobility system. Since EVs run on motors which are controlled by an array of sensors and other electronics, fine-tuning their performance is as easy as plugging in your laptop and uploading an updated software. They offer impressive performance as well as range and are easier and cheaper to maintain. They exclusively use an automatic transmission, which makes them easier to drive as well.

Indian automotive market is aggressively dependent on conventional vehicles and fairly new to the concept of EVs. However, vehicles running on fossil fuels have become a huge burden on our environment and we are in dire need of a change. We need to look forward to change our economic resources, to adjust to changing transportation and to accept that saving our planet is our responsibility. So, let's pave the way for electric vehicles!

ETERNAL TUKARAM: A QUINTESSENCE OF CONFESSIONAL POETRY



Dr. Prashant Dharmadhikari
Teacher-in-Charge

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Dnyaneshwar and Tukaram are considered as the 'life force' of Marathi culture. They represent the 'warkari' sect which caused revolution in the socio-political scenario of Maharashtra. The influence of these saints on the cultural life of Maharashtra can be compared to the influence of King James Bible on English literature. The poems, phrases and abhangas of Tukaram are weaved in the very fabric of the language that we often use as idioms and sayings. They have proved the test of time because of the relevance and visionary qualities of his poetry.

The glory of Tukaram is rightly traced by noted Marathi poet and Dnyanpeeth Awardee, Vinda Karandikar in one of his famous poems titled 'To meet Tukaram, Shakespeare come over'. He exploited an opportunity to juxtapose the oeuvre of both these contemporary poets of sixteenth century. The distilled essence of this poem lies in the fact where Shakespeare concedes that whatever Tukaram has achieved was not attainable for him. The same kind of metaphor has been implemented by noted Indian English critic Dr. M.K. Naik in his book 'Indian English Poetry' where he compared Tukaram to Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore.

There are many instances in the collection of poetry which is famously called as gatha, where Tukaram initiated a very frank and candid discussion, as if he was recording each and every incident of his life in his diary. He talks about his profession, the inner turmoil during his 'sadhana', his sufferings, the discussion with Pandurang, his letter to Shivaji Maharaj, etc.

Tukaram witnessed utmost misery during the drought when he lost all his kith and kin. In utterly confessional tone he laments:

Famine reduced me to penury, I lost my honour
I have to watch one of my wives starve to death
Ashamed of myself, I suffered great anguish

To find my business in ruins
When my father died, I was too young to understand;
My children died; So much the better
The lord has removed the last illusion
My mother died in front of my eyes
My worries are all over says Tuka....

In this instance, one can compare Tukaram with Job, a prophet in the 'Book of Job' in Old Testament of Bible, who suffers all the miseries to attain the salvation. Like Job, Tukaram also hails from a prosperous family but the horrendous disasters take away all that he holds dear, including his offspring, his wife and property. Unlike Job, Tukaram takes it on an optimistic note and sheds away the depression by saying it as 'illusion'.

Tukaram confesses that he didn't knew the ways of the world and made his mind the judge instead of wandering here and there by the advice of people. He says:

'I was so weary of the ways of the world
That I spurned all advice given by my friends.
I made my own mind the sole judge of truth
Rejecting the popular view of life.'

Tukaram never hesitates to confess that, initially it was very difficult to concentrate (Navhate Abhyasi Chitt Adhi). Like a common man he used to feel that what if he could not attain the blessings of God. But ultimately he understood the truth. He says:

I have understood one thing, that Narayana
Never lets down his devotees.

Says Tuka, my only assets in this world are
The poems that Panduranga made me speak.

Tukaram was the epitome of confessional poetry in Marathi literature. He distinguishes himself from other confessional poets like Kamala Das and Sylvia Plath by confessing his feelings and inner turmoil unto the God.

The Imperfect façade

Saurabh Teli
Head, Proofreading Department

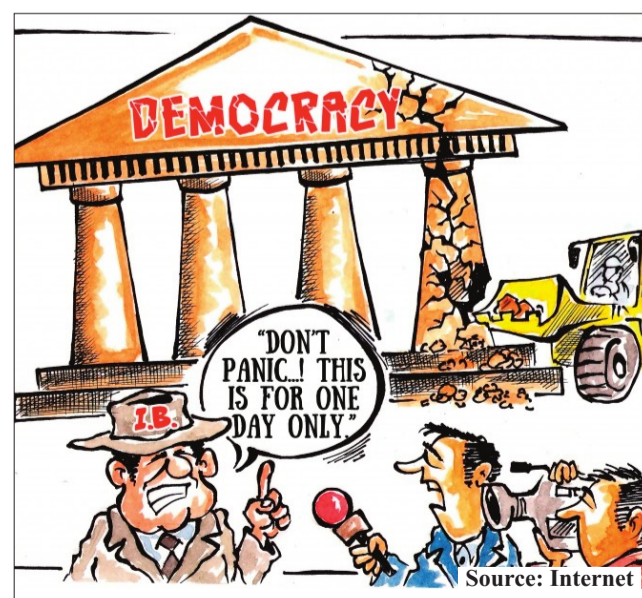
We have had two separate elections in the past twelve months. In a democracy, citizens elect the person they deem fit to lead their country or state. Candidates spend a lot of time criticising the ruling party and make promises in exchange for votes, but as they come in power, they tend to do the same things they criticised the opposition for. The way a leader behaves can often seem as "illogical", "selfish", "corrupt" or downright "stupid". So, what are the citizens, who brought him or her into power, supposed to think? Why do these powerful leaders of countries, act in such inexplicable ways?

First of all, we need to understand how leading a country works. Be it a democracy or a dictatorship, one statement stays true - "No one rules on their own". A President/ PM or a dictator, on his own, cannot guard the country, but delegate power. Democracies have senators or

cabinet ministers whilst dictators are often backed by their most trusted generals. These key supporters are crucial for a ruler's reign as the difference between them being and not being in power decides how happy the keys are. So, it begs the question, how does one keep these keys content? The simple answer is to reward them.

Key supporters don't necessarily like the ruler as a person but rather the gifts he/ she gives them and for the latter, it is a careful balancing act between "doing the right thing" by working for your citizens' welfare and keeping your keys happy; these two things almost warrant contradictory actions. The money spent on the public is money not spent on keeping the keys content, keys that can replace the leader, either discreetly or publicly, because - "no one rules on their own".

One may wonder why the key supporters are so fickle and cau-



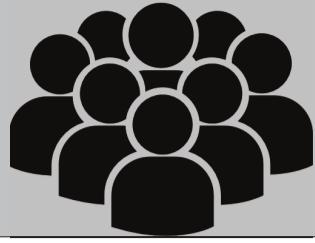
Source: Internet

tious and the answer being, they have the same problems as the ruler, just one level below. It is a hierarchy that goes from the leader of the country to a labourer. Hence, in order to maintain their own power, the key supporters can and will re-

place the leader in favour of someone that would protect their interests. A leader only has two ways to go about running his/ her country - First, be pragmatic and corrupt, performing a tricky balancing act between keeping your citizens and key

supporters happy. Second, the ruler can uphold his morals, go by the book and spend everything on the welfare of the citizens; this will surely make him popular in the eyes of the people but almost guarantees that he will never come back in power and even get overthrown before the end of the current term.

Let's answer the question asked at the very start - Why do politicians act in such irrational ways? Being in power is more important than having the love of your citizens. If one finds the "game" of power to be too corrupt or disgusting, they can choose to be ignorant but can't escape it, no one can. Successful leaders are rarely nice men that haven't done anything questionable in their careers. They know how the game works and follow the rules that keep them in power because they understand one very important thing - being powerless gets you nowhere.



Cover more or cover core

Media needs to be specific in its coverage and be loyal towards its principles and ethics

Prof. Tejal Shinde
B.M.M. Faculty Member

Does the media cover everything? Can the media cover everything? Precisely no. What is the media not covering enough of? On what parameters do news agencies decide 'significance' of news? And is 'significance' a subjective matter?

Numerous questions arise when it comes to media coverage. The fact we can never know how truthful the media coverage is quite worrisome. Print, digital, and web, all have a loyal set of audiences which grows significantly day by day. Owing to the technical advancements, audiences or 'consumers of media' it regularly. News/ entertainment channels on television, social media networks on the web and current affairs through newspapers, the majority of information dispersion comes through the media.

It is this regular and constant presence of media in our lives that makes it such a powerful entity, and often with such power, comes the possibility of manipulation. The media can and does filter out information and content which isn't entertaining or 'sensational' enough.

Let's look at the international media's coverage of the environmental crisis. The media is not just very late on this subject but have downright failed the viewers. Only when the Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg began skipping school on Fridays in 2015 and inspired many along the way that the media started to take notice. Her campaign gained momentum slowly and triggered similar



Source: Internet

protests across the world. The media was in awe of this teenager, who bluntly called out the ignorance of world leaders. She was featured on the cover page of 'Time' magazine and ended up getting nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

The media applauded, gave her massive coverage as she spoke at the UN climate summit. However, the media could have set off to talk and cover the climate crisis way before Thunberg entered the scene. The fourth estate of democracy failed to question the industries and corporations that have no environment-friendly policies and have been exploiting our natural resources for decades. Media's interest and attention to

the Hong Kong crisis too came late and the issue still doesn't get reported enough. There's crisis reportage but no conversation about the protesters' demands, police response and the overall effects of the protests.

The Amazon fires initially received minimal media coverage and became 'important' when it got politicised. These instances highlight whether there is nothing worth covering or why is media not exploring the core of an issue? The Indian mainstream media, too, is often silent about climate change unless the capital of the country chokes on high levels of pollution. They fail to give fair coverage to many significant issues just because they weren't 'sensational

enough' for primetime. It would be somewhat fair to say that news in India can be put into two categories, sensational and less sensational.

Media in India and Hindi language news channels, in particular, have a large audience. It seems these news channels like entertainment shows, follow a 'theme' for the media coverage. The most widely used, rather an exploited theme would be nationalism. There will be 'experts' on every panel who lock horns with each other on television every night, defending their opinions, and with this theme, often the media ends up giving an unnecessary coverage to a neighbouring nation and its cricketer turned politician PM.

We may not be at war but we have an 'enemy' according to the media. The news on these channels doesn't seem to get past Pakistan's border violations and how the Indian army taught 'them a lesson'. The narrative on nationalism is questionable. The north-east of India never gets enough media space, being conveniently neglected. The media also has little to no coverage on education. With one of the largest student populations in the world, why are there no debates or panel discussions on education policies, quality of education and the urgent need to update the system, which seems to be failing our students? There are many such issues that needs careful consideration. The media has to look at itself and ask - Are we pro a certain political party or pro-truth?

Economy is dropped and jobs are cropped

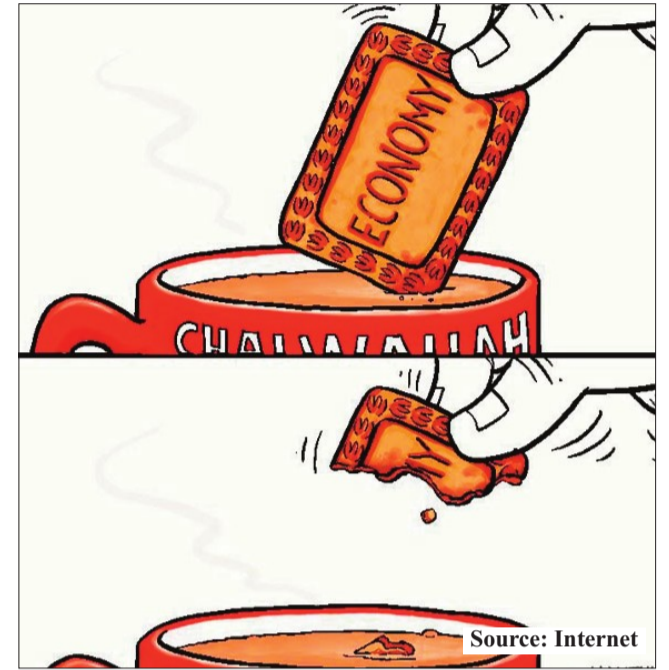
From manufacturing to automobile sector, a serious decline is observed in the economic state of India

Prof. Uma Iyer
B.M.M. Faculty Member

India's economic slowdown is worth consideration and as we enter 2020, there are numerous economic problems that needs proper attention and analysis. The ongoing China-United States trade war is another aspect that might have some impact on India's economy. Instead of diverting the focus on external matters, the government must try to resolve internal economic conflicts and achieve its target of \$5-trillion economy.

There are rising concerns over the GDP growth, as it has plunged to 4.5% in the July-September quarter of 2019-20. Though the Finance Minister is introducing reforms and laying down new strategies to tackle the slowdown, the results are not constructive and one has to just wait for India to bounce back to a desired 8-10% trajectory. Talking about unemployment, which the media never talks, it is at a four-decade-high. Youth of the country is not satisfied as joblessness continues to haunt them. As the debate on Citizenship (Amendment) Act accelerates, it will have a considerable impact on employment and recruitment policies. Though government is giving boost to startups, proper infrastructure is required. Many local and multinational companies are laying off their employees due to cost-cutting, which clearly depict the effects of economic slowdown.

The 2016 demonetisation can be one of the reasons for the economic crisis. Corporate investments dropped to 60% during the demonetisation period.



Source: Internet

Apart from this, bank frauds, fake currency, GST implementation, union budget (2019-20) have contributed in the economic slowdown. When the budget was declared by the Finance Minister, foreign investors pulled out Rs 475 crore from the Indian markets. It seems as though government is facing huge revenue shortfall and is imposing LTCG tax and buyback tax. Modi government, also failed to please investors who are looking forward to invest in share market.

From automobile to real estate, many sectors faced issues due to the declining economic condition. Total share of India's automobile industry in the country's manufacturing GDP is 49% and faced huge loss in 2019. A drastic loss of 3,50,000 jobs was observed as dealers

faced bankruptcy. Though mergers were introduced in the banking sector, no rigid improvements are observed in the sector. Reports are now coming that government will provide capital to the public sector banks (PSBs), which is a good thing to look forward. Last year, manufacturing growth collapsed to a rate of 0.6% which was 12.1% in the Q1FY19.

To enhance trade, investment and employment opportunities, the government as well as media should start working more on the economic crisis and give it utmost attention. The recent onion price hike was an example of how the economic slowdown is disseminating in the entire nation. Hence, it's time to give this issue a serious thought and make India economically strong.

Can a woman's dress be a mess?

Prof. Dr. Sangita Mohanty
B.M.M. Faculty Member

It is a sickening and unfortunate phenomenon that women across the world and particularly in India, are being subjected to ruthless sexual crime despite the stringent law in force. Law is more in paper rather than being enforced effectively as proportionate to the volume of crime. Another school of thought advocated that the revealing dress, modern approach to life with flamboyance and an independent thought are other causes of temptation for a potential criminal to commit heinous crime. It is nothing but victim shaming.

Decency in dress code and interaction are required as per occasion and dresses must not be outrageous. For example, in the United States, baggy jeans caused a problem. Lots of young people started wearing baggy jeans which showed their underwear—an 'outrage' which was made illegal in some American towns. This probably wasn't because the jeans were indecent or unusual, but because some people thought that showing your underwear was of the disrespectful nature of some teenagers. Likewise, miniskirts caused similar shock waves in the sixties because some people thought they were 'immoral'.

Studies by Edmonds and Cahoon (Bulletin of the Psychonomic Society 1986, 24 (6), 444-446) indicated that females wearing sexually oriented clothes are perceived by both men and women as being more



Source: Internet

vulnerable to victimisation and are responsible for crimes committed against them, as compared to women who dress more conservatively. However, some studies, as reported in the 'Washington Post' show that women with passive personalities, who tend to dress in layers, long pants and high necklines, are more likely to be assaulted sexually. It was found that most convicted sex offenders could not remember what their victims were wearing.

Yes, in some cases prevention can be better than treating a full-blown issue, it is definitely not right to blame his or her actions (reactions) based on what their victim was wearing at the time.

One may dislike or even hate someone for dressing up in a particular way but on no

ground, it can justify assault on a woman's modesty. Suggestions of dress codes for controlling crime against women are representation of very weak society which has given up its right to fight against crime on the pretext of adopting non-violent approach.

It is also important to note that women who express their fear of being assaulted as a reason to avoid strange men on the street are often chided for thinking, "All men are rapists". Indeed, studies show that a small percentage of men are responsible for most sexual assaults.

Though everybody agrees to be decent on attire irrespective of sex, modesty of a person cannot be challenged, no matter how he/she is dressed or where and when he/she is walking. Sexual assault is a criminal act

and should be dealt severely as per law of the land.

Though very few cases are reported, young men do fall prey to sexual assault by opposite sex but we don't insist that they dress differently. We don't warn young men not to tempt the older women with their bare biceps, knees or other body parts. So what's the point of policing skirt lengths, advising young women not to go to certain places, to protect their drinks instead of focusing on telling the assaulter to mend his ways or face the consequences?

Remember, it is a war between evil and good. Evil will not be satisfied until it demolishes you completely. It can never be satisfied by compromises. Wars are never won by avoiding fight. We have to fight and win over the evil.

Into the Men Too Movement

Prof. Prachi Nitnawane
B.M.M. Faculty Member

Everyone is familiar with the Me Too movement but these days, #MenToo or Men Too movement is spreading and creating change in the society. This movement in India was started against false sexual harassment allegations. Its mission is to bring about judicial equality for men. Currently, a woman can get a man arrested by falsely accusing him of sexual assault, with the proof of burden lying on the man's shoulders. The movement hopes to shed light upon this breach of constitutional rights. Men's rights activists feel there is a need for "gender neutrality" and "gender-biased" laws are proving to be a roadblock. The recent case of Karan Oberoi created a stir, thereby bringing awareness about this movement.

A surge has been observed in the number of consensual sex-turned rape allegations in recent years. For instance, Rishi (name changed) was part of a yoga group in Malad. A friendly live-in couple from the group, Lina and Karan, opened up their house to him on Saturday nights to save him a long trip on Sunday, when they had their yoga sessions as he lived in Chembur. Lina and Rishi subsequently got into a consensual sexual relationship. Soon, the former realised that there is no future in this arrangement and wished to marry another girl he met. In re-



Source: Internet

sponse, Lina slammed rape charges against Rishi, in a fit of rage. He was arrested and spent a week in jail. It took 3 long years to be acquitted of his charges - which ultimately resulted in him losing his job, reputation and confidence.

Amit Deshpande has set up the Vaastav Foundation in 2014, an organisation working towards protecting men's rights. Deshpande said, "Most of the times these cases become extortion tools and although the acquittal rate in rape cases is 74%, stretched litigation destroys a man's reputation. Once such a case is filed, a man is persecuted at every level - police, judiciary and media. Friends, family and acquaintances look at him with suspicion."

Organisations like Vastav and Save Indian Family - a group of 45 NGOs that work towards men's rights, are conscious of the #metoo movement and the atrocities towards women but work towards making sure that when men, who are being harassed come forward, their word is taken seriously.

Section 498A, which was actually introduced to protect women from domestic violence is being misused by some of the women and try to gain sympathy out of it. There should be more discussion and policies that favour justice and are not biased. The society and law must also listen to the voice of men and preserve equality in a real sense. It's time to say "Men Too" with unified voice.

Amazon - The burning lungs of our planet

As the Australian fires break out, agony of Amazon rainforest still continues to be a talking-point across the globe

Swapna P. Deopurkar
(SYBSC – BIOTECH)

The extensive forest fires of Amazon in August 2019 grabbed everyone's attention and stimulated concern from across the world towards the destruction of this forest and its impact on the global climatic change. Many researchers, scientists, social activists, movie celebrities and political experts have voiced their opinion, but exploring the ground reality and thinking beyond social media hashtags, could present the whole scenario on a bigger canvas.

Some of us might wonder why a forest fire, thousands of kilometres away is a big deal? Well, Amazon is the largest rainforest in the world and accounts for close to half of all the rainforests present on Earth. Spanning an area of almost 5.5 million square kilometres, this huge forest is a major carbon sink for the millions of tons of carbon dioxide, produced by human activities, thereby reducing greenhouse effect and global warming to a considerable extent. The evapotranspiration ratio from the giant trees of Amazon directly affects the hydrological cycle of the earth, thus, slowing down the global climate change. Apart from recycling oxygen in a significant amount, Amazon also houses several million species of living organisms (nearly 10% of all species in the world), many of which remain undiscovered. Some ecological cycles are exclusive to this biosphere.



Source: Internet

The question that crops up in our mind is - who or what caused the fire? In the dry season from July to October, it experiences several fires. The fire of 2019 was different because it kept burning for 3 weeks, releasing tonnes of carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide. Deforestation, being a vital reason became prominent in the Amazon in the 1960s and 1970s when the Brazilian government started providing incentives to individuals and corporations to clear forest land for industrial-

sation. The forest cover was swept and replaced by farmlands and pastures for the beef industry. The agricultural land becomes futile after a few cycles of cultivation, thereby forcing farmers to clear more and more forest land, which leads to shrinking of forest boundaries. The first eight months of 2019 witnessed a record-breaking 75,000 forest fires, majority of which were later found out to be manmade. Many critics suggest the policies of Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro are to be

blamed for the increase in deforestation and subsequent forest fires. People around the world rose in anger when Bolsonaro said - "It was a 'fallacy' to describe the Amazon as the heritage of humanity and a 'misconception' to consider it as the lungs of the planet and that Brazil owes nothing to the climate change of the world!".

The world is not new to the dire consequences of the greed for money and power of the western countries; if these insensitive actions don't stop, it

won't be long before the earth gives out. In addition, resources are present in nature in abundance but many of them take time to regenerate. It is not practical for every one of us to fly to the Amazon and try to undo the irreversible damage. Simply being aware of our resource consumption and reducing the generation of unnecessary waste can go a long way. The recent 'Australia fires' revealed that the nature can't bear inhuman activities and mankind should respect and treasure the nature.

Celebrating 45 years of Chipko movement

Manasi Ranade (YBA)



Source: Internet

Now you are safe! This line is emoted by many gestures and a 'hug' is surely one of them. Ever thought of hugging a tree? Why not? We all know flora is a living being and they feel everything that we feel. This precept is called interbeing i.e. interrelatedness of all life. Nature and life are fused in a single entity and we cannot disturb this structure nor do we have the right to do so. There was a point where the giver had to beg for its own life and we were the only cause of it. Let's dig into this example.

'Chipko moment', has stepped in its 45th year, and was a non-violent movement started in 1970s. It was initiated with a motive of protecting trees and forests that were supposed to be slated by the government for commercial purposes. The movement got its name with an urge to hug or to cling on to trees to prevent their cutting. It was led by villagers, especially by women, solely in charge of cultivation, livestock and children who lost everything due to floods and landslides caused by deforestation.

After Sino-Indian border conclusion in 1963, Uttar Pradesh experienced growth, especially in the rural Himalayan region. Interiors of this area attracted many foreign-based logging companies who wanted access to the region's vast resources. Although residents depended heavily on forests for subsistence, government policy prevented them from managing lands and denied access to lumber/timber. Barren forest led to the depletion of water resources, erosion, etc.

Some reports say the original 'Chipko Movement' was started by the Bishnoi community in Rajasthan in the 18th century. More than 75 villagers, led by a lady named Amrita Devi, gave their lives to protect trees and since then, this movement has

disseminated across many regions of India. Chandni Prasad Bhatt, a social activist and an environmentalist founded Dasholi Gram Swarajya Sangha (DGSS) in 1964. This organisation became a force of opposition when severe monsoon floods linked to industrial logging killed 200 people in 1970. The first-ever 'Chipko Andolan' occurred near the village of Mandal in April 1973, when government allotted plots to sports goods company rather than the villagers. Chandni Bhatt led the locals to embrace the trees which resulted in the cancellation of the logging permit.

Following the success of DGSS, local environmentalist Sunderlal Bhaguna started sharing Chipko tactics with villagers from different regions. One major Chipko Andolan was led by Gaura Devi and students from villages in Reni. This movement evolved and began to emerge as a peasant movement for forest rights and additionally utilised many techniques of the Satyagraha Movement by Mahatma Gandhi.

Later as the movement continued, the protest became more project-oriented and expanded to include the entire ecology. In 1980, the building of the Tehri dam on the Bhagirathi River and various mining operations resulted in the closure of at least one limestone quarry. More than one million trees were planted in that region.

This movement will always be remembered for its different approach and continue to inspire the future generations. It will lend support to the human-nature relationship and give it a boost. With the advent of digital media and technology, this eternal drive for preservation of trees has propagated a message of sticking to trees and not continuously sticking to mobile phones.

Nature's dangerous decline

With birds getting extinct, humans risk the ecosystem

Chinmayee Shinde (FYBMM)

The Sea mink, the dodo, the Atlas bear, the Great Auk, the Quagga, the Javan tiger, the Western black rhinoceros - these are only some of the species that have gone extinct over the years. According to a UN report, close to a million species are endangered and if the process continues, it will start affecting the ecosystem in more than one irreversible way. The abundance of species in an area defines the stability of its ecosystem. Amongst all organisms in nature, bird species play a crucial role in maintaining the balance between predators and their prey.

Birds help in plant reproduction through pollination and seed dispersal. They are a source of food for humans and also help in the agriculture

process by eating pests. Migratory birds indicate the coming of seasons and changing biospheres. They bring nutrients back to the earth and oxygenate the air. Children get fascinated by seeing birds and a bright smile appears on senior citizens with the sight of birds. With all these aspects considered, there is a growing concern over their sustainability.

With ever-increasing population, man is turning forests into urban areas and agricultural lands, thereby leaving no space to birds. Invasive species like cats, goats, dogs, and rats have led to the extinction of many bird species like the Dodo, the Great Auk and the Moa - all of whom were hunted to extinction within the last 600 years. Previously, commonly seen bird species like the Kingfisher and



Soham Bawaskar

According to World's Birds report, extinction crisis has spread so far that even some well-known species are now in danger

the Woodpecker are now being spotted lesser. Even the common house sparrow is rarely seen these days owing to the lack of food and suitable nesting sites.

A conscious effort is needed from humans in order to conserve the living bird species since any further crisis will prove to be threatening. 'BirdLife International', a non-

profit organisation for bird conservation has estimated that among the 9,865 bird species, 12% are endangered and 2% are on the brink of extinction.

The situation is only going to get worse and cause irreversible damage to the ecosystem if proper measures aren't taken. These include putting a stop to hunting and poaching, controlling the population of invasive species, controlling the use of pesticides and insecticides in agriculture, proper management of the consumption and distribution of meat products, and most importantly - raising awareness among people so that each and every individual can make a difference at a primary level. To maintain sustainability, we have to make sure we protect and conserve whatever we are left with.

Organic - Mania in every area !

Organic food has managed to penetrate the food market by offering sustainable nutritional values

Janhvi Patil (SYBMM)

The craze for organic food has washed all over us. All around the globe, people are getting more aware of what they are consuming, how they are living and how it is affecting their surroundings. They are looking for healthy and sustainable alternatives that offer various advantages. Whenever we think of organic, we immediately picture something healthy and tasty. People are now turning towards it not only because of the health benefits it offers, but also because

of the way it is grown and processed.

Organic foods consist of all those foods that are produced without the use of any chemicals or genetically modified Organisms (GMOs). Livestock raised for meat and dairy products is fed an organic diet, not injected with any growth hormones. They are also given access to roam outdoors. Organic produce is grown with the help of manure or compost and crop rotation is practiced. This ensures that the land is optimally

used and not deprived of certain nutrients over a period of time.

Before the introduction of chemicals into our food, all of us consumed locally grown products. The chemicals were introduced to preserve and increase shelf life but subsequently reduced the nutritional value. Now, some have decided to switch back to organic food, despite it being slightly expensive.

There is an ongoing debate between researchers whether organic food is really healthier

than its conventionally grown alternative or not. Some say there isn't a lot of difference between both except for the presence of more antioxidants and certain micronutrients in the former. It is also dry in nature as compared to conventionally grown food and hence, tastes better. Studies also suggest that it can reduce the risk of cancer by 25% and of course, one can't ignore the benefits that organic farming has for the environment since it ensures the sustainability of biodiversity.

With modern refrigeration methods, products like pulses, grains, milk, meat and juices can be easily preserved, which wasn't the case in earlier times. There was always a need to retain and store these foods because most of them were not available throughout the year. Some of these preservation techniques were drying or dehydrating, canning, sugaring, salting, burying and freezing as allowed by the climatic conditions. There are different certification standards and while

purchasing organic products, we have to check whether these standards are met. It can be really tricky to ensure the authenticity of a product because companies often label as '100% organic', even if they meet only one or two certification guidelines, as found by the Telangana State Seed and Organic Certification Authority where almost all the organic food samples contained chemicals. Hence, in order not to get duped by such big corporations, whose only aim is to make money, consumers

need to be aware of what they are buying.

In 2017, Sikkim was declared as the first fully organic state in our country and since then, demand for Indian organic food has skyrocketed worldwide. Products like oilseeds, cereals, millets, sugar, fruit juice concentrates, tea, spices, pulses, dry fruits, medicinal plants are exported on a large basis from India as the country has a number of agro-climatic regions that are capable of producing a variety of organic products.

P.V Sindhu emerges victorious at the badminton World Championship final

P.V Sindhu slogged harder to prove her talent and won a prestigious title

Sandhya Jadhav (TYBMM)

P.V SINDHU BEATS NOZOMI OKUHARA

P.V. Sindhu became the first Indian to win the badminton World Championships by beating Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in Basel on 25th August 2019, the final score being 21-7, 21-7. The match lasted just 38 minutes. She has previously defeated Okuhara in a final of the 2012 Asian Youth U-19 Championship but lost out to the Japanese player in the 2017 World Championship final. Sindhu was bettered by Okuhara in a remarkable final at Glasgow, in a game that is considered one of the greatest battles in badminton history. It lasted close to two hours. The Indian got rid of that loss with a completely leading win over the same opponent in 2019.

Sindhu came to international attention when she broke into the top 20 of the BWF world ranking in September 2012, at the tender age of 17. She has won a medal at every world championship from the 2013 edition, with 2015 being an exception, making her only the second woman to win 5 more medals at the tournament. Sindhu represented India at the 2016 Summer Olympics, becoming the first Indian badminton player to reach a final, subsequently winning a silver medal after losing out to Spain's Carolina Marin. Since then, Sindhu has become a household name in India.



Incredible personality and a dashing auro of PV Sindhu

Sindhu won her first super series title at the 2016 China Open and followed it up with four more finals in 2017, winning the title in Korea and India. Additionally, she has won a silver medal each at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, 2018 Asian Games and two bronze medals at the Uber Cup. She is a recipient of 'Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna' and India's fourth-highest civilian award the 'Padma Shri'.

Sindhu has quite an intense daily fitness regime that includes 8 hours of training and following a very strict diet. Although, she doesn't mind a dish of Hyderabad Biryani as part of her cheat meals. Off the court, she has been described as jovial, fun and is passionate about shopping.

Sindhu says, "I just believed in myself though I was not expecting a final appearance in Rio before I left. Now, I hope to keep the momentum going, keep winning more title and hopefully, win an Olympic gold in future." She also acknowledges her coach's role in her overall development as a player. Sindhu said - "It was all because of a lot of hard work. Gopi sir has been constantly changing my game- plans and more importantly, we trained accordingly." One of the reason to keep motivated at Rio was to sing the national anthem.

Is this what it takes for justice?

A 29-year-old Irani football fan dies of self-immolation committed in protest of Iran's oppressive laws against women

Nidhi Girijan (SYBMM)

Women are now allowed in stadiums for football games in Iran, for the first time in almost 40 years. On 2nd September, 2019, the footballing world was rocked by the news of the death of Sahar Khodayari. Khodayari, dubbed as the 'Blue Girl' by the internet, set herself on fire in front of Iran's Revolutionary Court, as a protest against the country's twisted laws against women.

Iran has had a policy of banning women from attending football matches since 1981 and hence, Khodayari had to disguise herself as a man to enter the Azadi stadium in Tehran, for a match between her beloved Esteghlal FC and Al-Ain FC, in March. She was caught, put in jail for 3 days and was ordered to attend the court on 2nd September, where she was charged with "openly committing a sinful act by appearing in public without a hijab" and "insulting officials". After exiting the court, where she had reportedly been given a 6-month prison sentence, Khodayari self-immolated in protest and suffered 3rd degree burns, succumbing to her injuries a week later.

The incident created havoc in the football realm and Iran got a lot of backlash from other coun-



Source: Internet

A clear message that reveals sports and discrimination can't exist

tries. Calling the case 'heart-breaking', Philip Luther from Amnesty International said, "Her death showed the impact of Iran's appalling contempt for women's rights." FIFA, who have selected Iran as a host country for the 2022 World Cup Qualifiers, released a statement - "We are aware of that tragedy and deeply regret it." Iran has been chosen as a site for qualifier matches for the 2022 World Cup, and FIFA said the country must provide free entry of women to the international

matches and tournaments. Iran, since its Islamic Revolution in 1979, has had stricter, often barbaric laws, especially against women like compulsorily wearing the hijab, not being allowed to drive or no permission to attend football matches in stadiums. Football supporters and teams from all across the world have paid their respects to and are mourning the death of Sahar Khodayari. The 'Blue Girl' has since become a symbol of protest against Iran's unfair laws against women.

Ishita Malviya : Combating water with a relentless quest

Surfing is an emerging sport and Ishita Malviya has shaped it in a new way through her magnetic efforts

Radhika More (TYBMM)

In India, Ishita Malviya is the first professional female surfer and currently runs a surf club, named 'The Shaka Surf Club' in coastal Karnataka. It is primarily a surf school that aims to get more people into the water and introduce them to the joys of surfing. It is also accessible to local kids and Malviya's ultimate goal is to establish the Indian coastline as an international surfing destination. Her camp provides surf lessons and water safety education as well as offer tourists a place to stay, at an otherwise remote location.

Surfing is often considered as much as a way of life as it is a sport. It is enjoyed as a recreational activity but is also a competitive sport. Surfing involves riding ocean waves with a surfboard and is certainly not as easy as it looks. That being said, it is worth taking the time out to learn the basics and hopefully, get you up on your feet. Since it involves the unpredictable ocean, a potential surfer should be a strong swimmer and always make sure all the safety measures are in order. 2020 is going to be a big year for surfing as it is to make its debut as an Olympic sport at the Tokyo Games.

Malviya said in one of her interviews, "Surfing changed our perspective on life and helped us get our priorities right. It



Source: Internet

Adventurous Ishita Malviya finding herself via surfing

made us realise the importance of living our lives now rather than later. We want people to have a healthy and wavy relationship with the water. Because once you start spending time in the water you develop a respect for it - you want to keep your beach clean."

Some of the documentaries based on her life are 'Beyond the surface' and 'Chronicling the life of Malviya'. Surfing is still pretty much unheard of in India and like any other sport, it too will take some time to become popular here. Also Malviya, being an Indian woman meant there are obstacles and cultural barriers that always stand in the way. One of the issues most Indian parents have is letting their daughters into the water, after a

certain age, because they are concerned about the attire. Malviya, is working hard towards her ambition and is popularising surfing in this country.

Surfing is one of those risky sports, beautiful and amazing, and has its etiquettes and guidelines which need to be followed. It provides many health benefits, including cardiovascular fitness, shoulder strength from paddling and strong limbs. Research says, exercise and sports trigger chemicals in the brain that can make you feel happier and relaxed. Malviya, with her incredible energy and conviction has grabbed attention of many youngsters and given a new dimension to surfing as an emerging sport. Many predict that surfing has a better future.

Age is just a number

Eileen Ash, the oldest living cricketer, turned 108 in 2019 and still treasures the cricket bat, which was gifted on her 5th birthday

Nansi Pandit (TYBMM)

The oldest living cricketer in the world is England's Eileen Ash, who turned an astonishing 108-year-old in 2019 and is showing no signs of slowing down. Born on 30th October 1911 in London, she first fell in love with cricket when she was gifted a cricket bat on her fifth birthday. Her debut as a test cricketer for England came in June 1937, against Australia. She went on to represent her country in 7 test matches, playing her last one on 26th March 1949, against New Zealand. Ash was a specialist bowler in her playing days and was more successful in provincial matches than international ones. She also played for Civil Service Women, Middlesex Women, and South Women and was seconded to MI6 for more than a decade. Later she retired and moved to Norwich with her husband, where she resides to this day.

In 2011, Ash became the first female test player to reach the age of 100 years old. In 2017,



Source: Internet

Eileen Ash is the world's oldest living Test cricketer

she became the oldest living cricketer to ring the bell at the Women's World Cup Final between England and India, at Lord's. This tradition signifies the start of play and is considered a great honour to be invited to ring the bell. The England Women's Team gifted her by winning the game after making a sensational comeback.

The same year, the International Cricket Council released a video to celebrate Ash's 107th birthday, in which she was

shown teaching yoga to England Women's captain Heather Knight. They talked about Ash's days as a young lady, looking at pictures of matches during WW2 and played some table tennis, too. On 17th August 2019, she was honoured with the unveiling of a large portrait at the Lord's Cricket Ground. In 2011, she was awarded the 'Honorary Life Membership' by the Marylebone Cricket Club.

She was also a spy and likes to experiment with her life. She

is fond of martial arts and likes to accept challenges. Her most prized possession is a bat signed by cricket's greatest test batsman of all time, Sir Don Bradman, who was her ideal. Ash is now a hero herself and a source of motivation for all age groups, who are looking forward to enter the world of sports. Her relentless quest to be healthy and happy is an inspiration for many youngsters. When asked about her secret to a healthy long life, she answered by simply saying "liking people, laughing and breathing in the air of Norwich." She is passionate about yoga and had initially started it to improve her golf but later found it to be very good for muscles. Although she doesn't play cricket anymore, Ash is a part of it by watching games regularly. Even at the ripe old age of 108, she is nowhere to be seen indoors, doing yoga or tending to her garden. She even drives on her own and is a testament to the expression 'age is just a number'.

शुरूवात जिंदगी की!

शुरूवात जिंदगी की!
बदलते खाहिशो में अब तक बदल न
पाई ये मुकदर मेरी,
उम्मीद है दिल मे की शायद पूरी होगी
कभी तो ये इनायत मेरी ।
ले जाएगी, मुझे मंजिल तक मेरी ।।
शायद यही तो शुरूवात है नई,
जिंदगी की मेरी.....
टूटे थे कई सपने, पर शायद ना
टूट पाई ये दिल की आस मेरी,
हमने तो बदलते हवाओ के रूख को
देखा है, ये तो फिर भी
जिंदगी है मेरी,
आखिर,
बदलते दुनिया की तरह हमने भी
बदल ली, जिंदगी को मेरी,
कहीं ना कहीं यही तो शुरूवात है,
नई जिंदगी की मेरी.....
सफर कहीं तो अधुरा था मेरा,
पूरा हो बस यही मुराद है,
शायद इसलिए मुझे मिली हर मोड
पे एक नई राह है,
साजिशा कहीं ना कहीं उस खुदा की भी
है, वरना यूही रोज एक नई
शुरूवात ना होती,
कहीं ना कहीं यही तो शुरूवात
है नई जिंदगी की मेरी....
खैर, वो सपनों को जो भूल गये थे,
उन राहों में,
उन सपनों में आज जिने की फिर
से वही तलब है ।
झो ले जाएगी मुझे मंजिल तक
मेरी,
कहीं ना कहीं शायद यही तो
शुरूवात है नई जिंदगी की मेरी....

मोना विश्वकर्मा

शाश्वतवाणी

१. सम्मानस्य प्राप्तिमात्रं
यथार्थसम्मानो
नैव व्यर्थति।

२. परोपकारस्य युक्तस्य कार्यस्य
परिणामः तथा सुगंधो हि प्रकृतः
शोभायुक्तः सम्मानो भवति इति।

३. सर्वेषु जीवेषु परमात्मनः अंशो
व्याप्तः अस्ति उपर्युपरि कलेवरम्
वीक्ष्य कस्मिन्नपि घृणादृष्ट्या अवलोक-
नं कुतः च
बुद्धिमत्ता? इति।

४. तनस्य धनस्य च सुन्दरता
क्षणिका तथा प्रत्येकं क्षणं निरन्तरं
परिवर्तनशीलम्, केवलं मनसः
सुन्दरता एव तनस्य धनस्य च
समाप्यन्तन्तरमपि यथावत् लिखितं,
एवं मानवः च अमरो
भवेदिति।

यः आगतः सः अवश्यं
गमिष्यति इति तु वयं सर्वे जानीमः
एव। परन्तु इति तु वयं सर्वे जानीमः
एव। परन्तु इतोऽपि दीर्घायुः स्यादेव
मे इति विचार्य मानवः सम्पूर्णमायुं
व्ययीकरोति, न किमपि सत्कार्यम्
सः जीवने सम्पादितवान्। अ-
न्ततोगत्वा जीवने करणीयं
आवश्यकं कार्यमपि अकुत्वा एव नि-
वस्य वा एकस्मिन् दिने इतो चिराय
निर्गमिष्यति इति।

वयं येषु सांसारिकव्या-
वितवस्तुषु सुखस्य अनुसन्धानं
कुर्मः, तेषु तत् न कदाचित् पूर्वम्
आसीत्, न इदानीं विद्यते, न वा
भविष्यकाले एव प्राप्त्यते। प्रकृतं सुखं
तु परसुखदानेन एव लभ्यते इति।

विदग्धा वाक्
अलब्धमीहेदधर्मेण लब्धं यत्नेन
पालयेत्।

पालितं वर्धयेन्नित्यं वृद्धं पात्रेषु
निक्षिपेत्।

याज्ञवल्क्यस्मृतिः १. ३ १ ७
अलब्धम् ईहेत् धर्मेण लब्धव्यत्वेन
पालयेत्। पालितं वर्धयेत् नित्यं वृद्धं
पात्रेषु निक्षिपेत्।
अलब्धं धर्मेण ईहेत्। लब्धं यत्नेन
पालयेत्। पालितं नित्यं वर्धयेत्। वृद्धं
पात्रेषु निक्षिपेत्।
जो नही मिला, उसके लिए धर्म
मार्ग के द्वारा कामना करनी
चाहिए। जो मिला, उसकी
सतर्कता से रक्षा करनी चाहिए।
जो बचाकर रखा, उसे सदैव
बढ़ाना चाहिए। और जिसे बढ़ाया,
उसे पात्र व्यक्ति को देना चाहिए।

आचरणस्य
महत्त्वम्।

कस्मिंश्चित् नगरे एकः वृद्धः चोरः
निवसति स्म। तस्य एकः
पोडशवर्षीयः पुत्रः अपि आसीत्।
सः वृद्धः चोरः एतावान् वृद्धः अभवत्
यस्मात् कारणात् सः चोरकार्यं कर्तुं
न शक्नोति स्म। अतः सः तस्य पुत्रं
चोरविद्याम् अधिभूयत्।

पुत्रः अपि चोरविद्यायां
निपुणः अभवत्। तदा तयोः
पितापुत्रयोः जीवनं सुखेन चलति
स्म।
एकदा वृद्धः तस्य पुत्रम् अकथयत्
पुत्र! कदापि साधु-महात्मनाम्
उपदेशं न शृणुयात्। यद्यपि कुत्रापि ते
उपदेशं कुर्वन्तः सन्ति इति दृश्यते
तर्हि कर्णो अङ्गुल्यौ स्थापयित्वा ततः
निर्गच्छेत्।

तदा पुत्रः तदङ्गीकृत्य
आम्, तातः तथैव भवतु इति उवाच-
वान्

तदा एव सः महात्मनः वचनद्वयम्
श्रुत्वान् आसीत्।

कदापि मिथ्या न वदेत्,
कस्यापि लवणं खादति चेत् तस्य
अन्यायं न करणीयं तेन सह विश-
वासघातोऽपि न करणीयः चेति।
तदा सः चोरः शीघ्रं ततः
उत्थाय पुनः राजभवनं प्रति गमनम्
अकरोत्।

यदा सः राजभवनं प्र-
वेष्टुम् उद्यतः तदा राजभवनस्य द्वा-
रपालः तं निराकुर्वन् पृष्टवान् भवान्
कः? कुत्र गच्छति इति।

तदा सः चोरः महा-
त्मनः वचनं पालयामि सत्यमेव
वदामि इति मत्वा सः उवाच-
अहं चोरः, राजभवनं गत्वा अहं
चोरकार्यं करिष्यामि इति।

द्वारपालः तदा चिन्तितवान् यत् एषः
मया सह विनोदं करोति। सः महा-

थदा सर्वे आगत्य तं गृहित्वा महा-
राजस्य समीपं नीतवन्तः आसन्।

महाराजः तं पृष्ठवान्-किं त्वं चोरः?
आम्, महाराज। अहं चोरः।
तर्हि चोरितानि वस्तूनि कुत्र इति पुनः
महाराजः पृष्टवान्।

चोरः तदा उत्तरितवान् महाराजः।
एकः महात्मा उपदेशं दत्तवान् आसीत्
यत् कदापि मिथ्या न कथयेत्, यस्य
लवणं खादति तस्य अन्यायं न
करणीयम् इति।

अहं भवतः गृहे चोरकार्यं कृतवान् इति
सत्यं परन्तु भवतः लवणम् अपि
खादितवान्। भवतः पाकशालां गत्वा
भोजनं कृतवान्। अतः महात्मनः
कथनं संस्मृत्य मया चोरितानि वस्-
तूनि सर्वाणि तत्रैव स्थापयित्वा अहं
बहिः आगतोऽस्मि इति।

तस्य चोरस्य वचनं श्रुत्वा
सन्तुष्टः महाराजः तदा एव तस्मै
राजभवनस्य एकां सेवां दत्तवान्।
ततः परं सः अत्यन्तं सुखेन जीवति
स्म। शिक्षणीयं यत् अस्माभिः
महात्मनां वचनम् एव श्रोतव्यम् इति।

ओम द्यौः शान्तिरन्तरिक्षं
शान्तिः, पृथ्वी शान्तिरापः
शान्तिरोपधायः शान्तिः। वनस्पतयः
शान्तिर्विश्वे देवाः शान्तिर्ब्रह्म शान्तिः,
सर्वं शान्तिः, शान्तिरेव शान्तिः, सा
मा शान्तिरेधि।। ओम शान्तिः
शान्तिः शान्तिः।।

अर्थं द्युलोक

शान्तिदायकं ह्यं, अन्तरिक्ष

लोक शान्तिदायकं ह्यं,

पृथ्वीलोक शान्तिदायकं ह्यं।

जल, औषधियाँ और

वनस्पतियाँ शान्तिदायक

हैं। सभी देवता, सृष्टि की

सभी शक्तियाँ शान्तिदायक

हैं। ब्रह्म अर्थात् महान

परमेश्वर हमें शान्ति प्रदान

करने वाले हैं। उनका दिया

हुआ ज्ञान, वेद शान्ति देने

वाले हैं। सम्पूर्ण चराचर

जगत शान्ति पूर्ण हों अर्थात्

सब जगह शान्ति ही शान्ति

हो। ऐसी शान्ति मुझे प्राप्त हो

और वह सदा बढ़ती ही रहे।

अभिप्राय यह है कि सृष्टि का

कण-कण हमें शान्ति प्रदान

करने वाला हो। समस्त

पर्यावरण ही सुखद व

शान्तिप्रद हो।

प्रा. स्वाती भालेराव.

“प्रबुद्ध भारत: एक संक्षिप्त अनुशीलन”

भारत की संस्कृति और सभ्यता
उतनी ही प्राचीन और जितनी की
अन्य देशों की। मैं तो यहां तक कर्हूंगा
की उनसे भी प्राचीन यह सभ्यता नि-
वसित हुई है। भारत अतीत में
अत्याधिक सक्षम देश था। इसके प्र-
माण बहुत जगह मिलते हैं। अशोक
के शिलालेखों से का जिक्र है। भारत
कृषि प्रधान देश है क्योंकि यहाँ का
राजा कृषक था। हमने विकास किया
और निरंतर हमारे विकास की गती
बनी हुई है। मुझे यहां प्रबुद्ध भारत की
बात करनी है, भारत जानी भी था
दानी भी था। ज्ञान के हर क्षेत्र को
भारत ने व्याप्त कर दिया था।
अध्यात्म में तो भारत ने इतनी
ऊंचाइयां छलित की है की आज सारा
युरोप भारत का कायल बना हुआ है।
जहां दुनिया में शिक्षा का नामोनि-
शान नहीं था, वहां भारत के पास
वक्षिशला, नालंदा, विक्रमशिला जैसे
विश्वविद्यालय थे। और इन विश्ववि-
द्यालयों में १०००० छात्र शिक्षा
अर्जित कर रहे थे और इनका अनुपात
एक शिष्य के लिए एक अध्यापक
(आचार्य) कहा जाता है। जब एक छात्र
विश्वविद्यालय में पढता था तो परिपूर्ण
ज्ञान लेकर ही बाहर निकलता था।
उसी विश्वविद्यालय में राजनीति के
चाणक्य विष्णुयुक्त भी निकले, पर
भारतीय लोगों का दुर्भाग्य देखिए

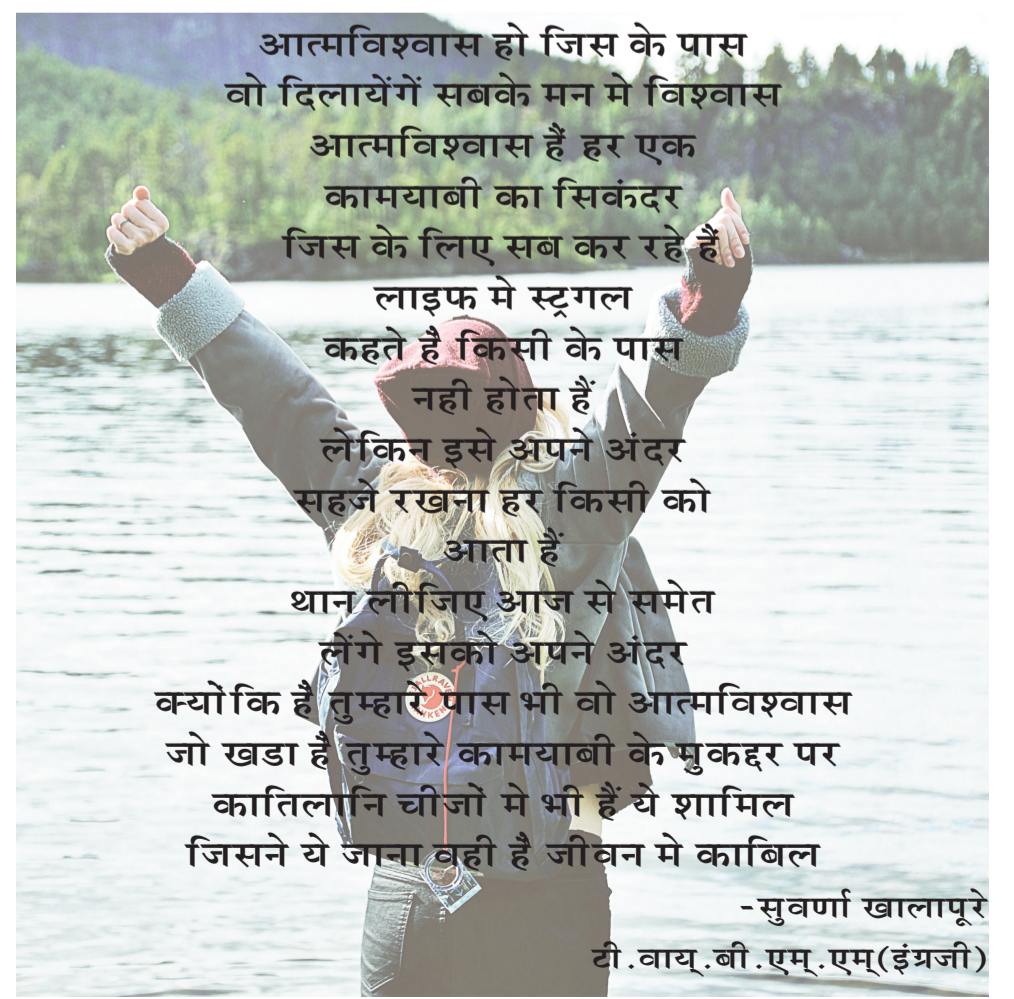


इसी विश्वविद्यालय को जलाया गया।
भारत को वैशानिकता दी थी। इसी-
बिना प्रमाण के आरोप थोपो गए। अ-
पना जो की वास्तविक नहीं है झूठ की
बुनियाद पर अपने आईडियोलॉजी
खडी की गई और भारत की भारत
की सभ्यता और संस्कृती का रास
होना शुरू हुआ। उसके बाद भारत में
एक सुई की भी खोज नहीं की गई
सारी खोज युरोप में हुई। बुद्ध ने

कहना यह था प्रबुद्ध बने अंगेजी मे
अर्थ होता है इनालाइटेड। इनालाइटेड
का मतलब होता है स्वयं प्रकाशित
होना। जाहिर सी बात है कि भारत को
प्रबुद्ध बनाने में तथागत भगवान बुद्ध
का बहुत बड़ा योगदान है। अगर एक
शब्द में पूछा जाए की तथागत बुद्ध ने
हमे क्या दिया? तो इसका उत्तर होगा
प्रबुद्ध भारत। इतना सटीक है इसका
दूसरा उत्तर हो ही नहीं सकता। पर-
वर्ती काल में हम हिंसा में उलझ गए
जबकि हमारी असली न्ताकद अहिंसा
है। १९२० के बाद महात्मा गांधी जो
आंदोलन चलाया वह कोई और नहीं
बुद्ध दर्शन ही था। कितनी बड़ी ताकद
हो आप झुकने पर मजबूर कर सकते
हैं। रक्तपात से कुछ भी छलित नहीं
होगा। सम्राट अशोक तक तथागत
भगवान बुद्ध की शरण में आया और
उन्होंने इस धर्म का प्रचार-प्रसार भी
बहुत खूब किया। इसीलिए भी सम्राट
अशोक को द ग्रेट सम्राट अशोक
कहा जाता है। अभी-अभी ताजा ताजा
हमारे प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी नि-
वदेश में जाकर कहने लगे भारत ने
दुनिया को क्या दिया तो बुद्ध दिया।
बुद्ध को जानना ही प्रबुद्ध होना है।

प्रा. डॉ. अनिल ढवळे.
(हिंदी विभाग)

आत्मविश्वास के सिंक दर



Eternal Japanese bond

ऋतु Team.....

VPM has signed MOU with Kyoto Sangyo University, Kyoto, Japan in the year 2011-12 on cultural exchange programme. During last 6 years, 5 Japanese groups visited VPM, Thane campus. Japanese students stayed, played and enjoyed their visit during 1st to the 12th September 2019. They were acquainted with the Indian culture in the form of 'Yoga' and learned the difference between yoga and prayer, as well as some basic 'mudras' and 'asanas'.

Joshi-Bedekar College obliged and served them a hearty Indian meal. Dr. Vijay Bedekar, VPM's chairman, even invited them to his place for some 'modaks' on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi. Language, being the roadmap of culture, Hindi and English sessions were conducted by Dr. Jayshree Singh and Dr. Prashant Dharmadhikari respectively. They made learning process intriguing through screening of films like 'Beauty and the Beast' and 'Pyaasa'.

Japanese students gave visit to places like Buddha Vihar, Pan-chavati, Bhau Daji Lad Museum, and the Shivaji Maharaj Vastusangrahalaya. They were also introduced to activities like wearing traditional Indian attire, Mehendi, making rasgullas and dancing to Indian songs. Talent



Ashish Shirkar

Academy showcased the culture through traditional dance forms like Dindi, Manlagaur, Kathak and a brilliant skit on 'Unity in Diversity' in Japanese language.

Poetry, being an important facet of culture, 'Haiku' is a highly traditional form of Japanese poetry consisting three nonrhythmic lines focusing on a brief moment in time, and a sense of sudden enlightenment. The KSU students came up with interesting Haiku poem of their own like, 'The Mehendi on our hands will fade away but the memories of India will stay forever', 'The taste of chai is soaked into my body', and 'In-

dian people are always full of kindness. From having 'chai' in the morning to dancing on 'Zhingaa' and travelling in pot-holes, Japanese students were truly Indian for those 15 days.

For the first time, a group of 18 Indian students/parents and teachers visited Japan from 18th to 26th November 2019 to understand the culture, history and educational set up of Japan. Dr. Vijay Bedekar, Chairman of VPM, Thane and Dr. Sudhakar Agarkar and Dr. Prashant Dharmadhikari led the Indian group.

A welcome ceremony was held at Kyoto Sangyo University where Indians were shown

the traditional Japanese Ikebana. Instruments like koto and shamisen were also played. The group visited three important temples i.e. Kinkakuji, To-ji and Fushimi Inari shrine. These are the landmark historical shrines of Kyoto. Kyoto was capital of Japan for many years and retains its historic significance till today. Right from the initial stage, Indian students started to get instances of the discipline and punctuality prevailing in Japan.

Engaging and informative lectures were delivered at Osaka University. Dr. Prashant Dharmadhikari, delivered a guest lecture on 'Japanese Haikus about India'. He enumerated the haikus written by Japanese students about India when they had visited VPM's Thane Campus in September 2019.

The group also visited Osaka Castle and Osaka Museum of History which is located at the heart of city. They took Aqua Liner River Bus to reach Osaka Castle. It was a thrilling experience to travel by water bus. The group visited Horyuji temple, Chugujji Temple, Jikoin Zen Temple, Yakushiji Temple and Toshodaiji Temple. They witnessed many magnificent places in Japan, thereby enhancing their knowledge. The exchange programmes were an enriching experience for both sides.

A boost to value added courses

ऋतु Team.....

Joshi-Bedekar College initiated various value added courses to give students new opportunities in their respective fields. Many departments conducted these courses in order to improve the skills of students and make them familiar with the industry environment. Various such courses are in the pipeline and even students are showing equal interest to be a part of them.

Skill Development Committee organised value added course on 'Employability Development Skills' from 9th to 19th December 2019 in association with 'Prowisdom Growth'. It continued for 10 days and total 53 TY-BA students enrolled for this course. Principal, Dr. (Mrs.) Suchitra A. Naik, Mr. Puneet Raman, Director Prowisdom Growth and Vice Principal Priyavanda Tokekar were a part of the inauguration. On the other hand, the Department of Financial Markets also organised value added course on 'Mutual Funds'. Main objective of the course was to give overview of mutual funds and to equip the students to appear for NISM examination. The lectures for the course started on 29th July 2019 and 52 students took benefit of this course.



Source: Internet

The Accounting and Finance department also hosted a value added course on 'Industry Research'. As this course lasted for 20 days, students received theoretical as well as practical knowledge. It was inaugurated by Dr. Nishkant Jha who is a member of BOS committee at University of Mumbai. He presented an overview of research project. In August 2019, Department of Mass Media conducted value added course in photography, in which 19 students enrolled and the course duration was 30 hours. An exhibition of photographs clicked by students was also conducted as a part of course evaluation.

Sanskrit department con-

ducted add-on course for 15 Days and bridge course for 7 days in August 2019. 25 students were a part of this course and Vice Principal Priyavanda Tokekar distributed all the certificates and encouraged the students to take part in more such activities. On 2nd December 2019, an event named 'Philosophical Praxis' was organised by the Department of Philosophy, Psychology and the Counselling Cell as the value added course. It had lectures from a number of experts for seven days and attracted a huge audience. As the new year unfolds, the college is planning to expand these courses so that all students can be a part of it.

A professional and innovative touch to Chrysalis 2019-20

ऋतु Team.....

Chrysalis, an academic media and management event of Joshi-Bedekar College was conducted on 23rd August 2019. Chrysalis came up with very pioneering theme named SHASHWAT (Sustainable Harmonious Activities to Support Home and Wisdom to Achieve Total well-being). Coordinator Dr. Sangita Mohanty and co-coordinator Trupti Kantikwar stood like a support system behind the whole core committee.

Two run-up events, corresponding with the theme were organised before the advent of Chrysalis. 100 volunteers participated in a community cleanliness drive at Upwan Lake. The team had Prakash Kumar Guha, Managing Director of Juventus Healthcare as a chief guest to inaugurate the cleanliness drive. They also visited Swami Vivekananda Balak Ashram, where the team taught some basic arts like singing, drawing, and painting to small children. They also conducted the tree plantation programme at Yeoor, in which more than 500 saplings were planted.



Source: Chrysalis Team

YouTubers' meet, was conducted, in which Tushar Khair, a popular YouTuber, along with his team launched their music video named 'Ala Motha Shana'. Another enriching event was the Startup session, which gave a boost to all management students. Sandip Adhyapak, Managing Director of Water Field Technologies, Shiladitya Roy Chaudhary from Thane

Startup Club and Aniket Singh, young entrepreneur graced the occasion with their exemplary startup lessons. They were talking about various strategies for infrastructure, finance and logistics requirements in startup. On 22nd August, a special lecture on 'Uses of Renewable Energy and Environmental Sustainability' by Sanjay Mangala Gopal was organised.

Main event was inaugurated by Subhrarabinda Birabar, GP CEO of Sandhu Group. According to him, "When everybody is in rat race, even if you win the race, you still remain a rat." He also advised that one should respond to the situation and not react. Followed by the inaugural session, a panel discussion was held, wherein Dr. Vinita Apte, Founder of TERRE Policy Center, Dr. Laxman Bhole, former Principal of MCC, Shripad Upasani, COO of Madhav Buug and Kiran Khot, Managing Partner of Metkut revealed various aspects of socio-cultural sustainability. Chrysalis had total 12 media and management events. Journ-o-war, Management drill, Birdbox, Junk innovation, Ad-mad, Film fusion, etc. were some engaging events that attracted many participants. Rolling trophy went to C.H.M College, Ulhasnagar. Coordinator Dr. Sangita Mohanty asserted, "Sustainability should be a habit that needs to be practiced for professional growth and Chrysalis is a good platform to take this message ahead."

Navrang: Rays of excitement through nine days

ऋतु Team.....

Students of Joshi-Bedekar College witnessed an amalgamation of happiness and wisdom as Navrang, one of the most awaited festivals, approached the campus. It was the 26th glorious year of this festival and was celebrated from 14th to 24th December 2019. Prof. T.J Sharma was the Chairperson of Navrang 2019-20. Principal, Dr. (Mrs.) Suchitra A. Naik, along with other dignitaries inaugurated the festival.

Sports day gave a green signal to Navrang, which was followed by musical chair for teachers and supportive staff. Other events like Quiz, Word search, Tiny tales, Rangoli, etc. got maximum participation. All the 9 days of Navrang, which are always the core attraction were celebrated with a new zeal and energy. Youngsters, rocked the campus with their distinct attire on days like Tiara/Hoodie day, Group alike day, Retro day, etc.

The Personality Contest, which is the face of Navrang was conducted on 20th December 2019.



Source: Ritesh Shinde

The title of Mr. Navrang and Ms. Navrang was bagged by Yuvraj Tamhankar and Esha Khandagale respectively. On the other hand, Pratik Dhangar and Manuja Sonavne from Junior College won the honour of College Prince and Princess respectively. Various rounds like introduction, talent and Q&A session proved to be spectacular

experience for the participants as well as audience. Participants displayed their skills by performing stand-up comedy, storytelling, mono acting, beat boxing, etc. Formal day, being the last day, gave a professional essence to the entire campus. Navrang concluded with loads of memories and was set to blossom in the next year.

Study tour to Oxford, Cambridge and London

ऋतु Team.....

VPM has been organising educational tour of students, parents and teachers to Oxford, Cambridge and London, UK since 2004. From 21st to 31st May 2019, educational tour of UK was conducted, in which 11 students of Joshi-Bedekar College participated. This tour included visits to educational institutions, museums and libraries. It provided a rare chance of interaction with local people and academicians in UK at different levels of education.

At Trinity College, students were thrilled and privileged to walk on the corridor on which great scientists like Newton and Ramanujan have walked. Col-

leges in both the Cambridge and Oxford Universities follow a common pattern, that is it has a chapel, a library, dining hall and hostel. They were taken to Oxford University as the second part of study tour. The stay was arranged in Youth Hostel. Oxford needs no explanation in the academics. It has created a benchmark of its own in the global fraternity. A visit to the Somerville College was arranged to have an interaction with the teaching staff and students. Anne Phillips from London School of Economics delivered a special lecture on 'Reading Mill: Subjection of Women through Changing



Source: Tour Team

Lens' which was eye opener. Ashmolean Museum, Pitts River Museum, Weston Library, Bodleian Library and Oxford Botanical Garden were some of

the crucial destinations that gave immense academic insights. An exhibition entitled 'Babel', at Weston Library, Oxford, which focused on different

languages of the world, was a great epitome of systematic display of cultural and linguistic artifacts.

London was the third part of the study tour. The stay was arranged in Young Men Christian Association (YMCA) Indian Hostel located in central London. It is the legendary place where the Indian cricket team that won World Cup-1983 stayed. The students lived there for four days. The visit to the National Maritime Museum revealed the rich maritime culture of Britishers.

Exhibitions on the great war fought by French General Neapolian and British General

Nelson at Trafalgar was a great visual treat. An exhibition on 'Rise of East Indian Company', maintained on the second floor covered the span of the rule of East Indian Company. On 28th May 2019, VPM's London Academy of Education and Research and Maharashtra Mandal, London jointly organised a programme entitled Vinayak Damodar Savarkar's Poetic Genius (His compositions during his stay in London from 1906 to 1910). This programme was a blend of poetry, play and music on the occasion of 136th birth anniversary of the great revolutionary Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. Students

were sensitised towards visiting art galleries and painting exhibitions at Royal Portrait Gallery and Trafalgar Square in London.

The study tour contributed immensely to the overall development of the students. Idea of 'global citizen' has been developed in their minds. A noted writer Arthur Frommer says that travel should challenge our preconceptions and most cherished views, cause us to rethink our assumptions, shake us a bit, make us broad-minded and more understanding. The statement is true when one travels to England to make it an educational odyssey.

A new dawn

This new dawn
Let's find a new glory to adorn
Eliminate all the grounds of mourn
And get ready for a mystic turn

It's a new dawn
Don't find any reasons to scron
Heaps of opportunities are waiting on
your lawn
So get ready to go on and on

This new dawn is your gift
So let your hopes ignite
And make its way to light
So, this dawn be ready to fight

A new dawn is here
Then why fear?
Screw the past gloom
And make the present bloom

It's not just a new dawn
But a great boon
So make it a chance
To self enhance

This dawn if you fail
Don't think that you're in a wane
Because there's lot much for you to avail
On the next coming dawn

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