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SPECIAL STORY

Transcending Genders

(Report By : Our Correspondent, Iya News)

Transgenders were a respected community in ancient India. People used to pay them respect and even take blessings from them in those times. But during the colonial era, the British enacted the criminal tribes act 1871. The act criminalized the transgender community in India. According to the act, they were prohibited from appearing in public wearing women attire.

The draconian law was abolished in 1949. But the damage had already been done by then. The society had gathered plenty of hatred for them. They were ridiculed, shunned and ostracized by the mass by then. They are still fighting with social stigma, hatred and ridicule from the society.

Though a lot has changed in the society's prospective towards them in recent years, yet they are still fighting their war against the established norms for acceptability. The arduous journey replete with hard struggle has forced many to resort to begging and prostitution. But they cannot be solely blamed for that.

Transgender communities exist in some form or the other across the demographic expanse of our country. They are also known by various names in different parts of the country such as Hijra in the north and east, Shiv Shakti and Kojja in Andhra Pradesh, Thirunangai in Tamil Nadu and Mangalamukhi in border regions of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Telangana. According to a study, there are 4.5 lakh transgender population in India. Their number is approximately 2000 in Odisha. Many of them are yet to come out of the closet fearing social stigma and backlash.

Why the urge to be a female ?

Several studies have been done regarding the brains of transgender people to find out why they feel the urge to be like female. According to a neurobiologist, transgender persons have clusters of cells or nuclei that resembles those of female brains. Transgender women have fewer cells of regulator hormone somatostation than men. According to a Spanish researcher, transgender men had relatively thin sub-cortical areas like typical men. Transgender women had thinner cortical regions in the right hemisphere like typical women. Dutch researchers found how adolescents with gender dysphoria responded to a pheromone called androstadienone. They found that adolescent transgender boys

responded to the pheromone like typical boys and transgender girls like typical girls.

The way they are...

The Guru-Chela system is the age old family system of these women aimed to protect and unite them. So a number of Chelas or transgender women would be under the guardianship of one Guru. A Chela has to undergo the metamorphosis after certain rituals. They have to be castrated and grow hair like a girl. Piercing their ear and nose is also compulsory. They have to give some portion of their income to the Guru for the sustenance of the community.

begging and prostitution, Meghna said, “The so-called civilized society is responsible for pushing us to do things which we don't like. They don't let us become a part of the mainstream. They hate and tease us. Our sisters have tried their hands in occupations like tailoring, grooming, makeup, etc but people were skeptical to work with us,” she said with signs of despair on her face.

Rani chipped in. “In 2017, the Saheed Nagar Puja Mandap had donated me an auto rickshaw to help transgenders come to the mainstream. I knew driving and decided to earn my living by running that rickshaw. But people

Her family shuns her. She is forced to fall back on the transgender community for her upkeep. Then the society shuns and ridicules her. She has a little education and awareness. The society doesn't support her in any profession and she is forced to beg or indulge in prostitution,” Ayasha said.

Meanwhile, the Secretary of All Odisha Third Gender Welfare Association and renowned transgender activist Meera Parida admitted that social stigma and the attitude of society towards transgenders have changed of late. “Their social acceptability has increased. But it has been limited only in urban



The Gurus of the community living opposite to the Kalinga Studio we recently visited were Meghna Kinnar and Rani Kinnar. Meghna is also the secretary of All Odisha Third Gender Welfare Association while the Bada Chelas (main disciples) include Ayasha, Sneha and some more. Around 50 kinnars are living there under the guidance of two Gurus.

Meghna, who made headlines a few years back after becoming the first transgender woman from the State to marry a man, Basudev, was the most vocal among them. She narrated the plight of fellow community members, the social stigma, stories of success amid deprivation, profession and government endeavors to involve them into the mainstream.

On being asked how a transgender will be accepted by the society if she resorted to

hesitated to take ride in my vehicle. So I was forced to return that rickshaw to the donors. How long I should have waited? I have to feed my stomach also,” she said in a choked voice.

Rani narrated a stirring tale. “Once, I requested an old couple to use my auto. But they outrightly refused. I even promised them to drop at their place free of cost, but they said they can't trust me as I am a transgender as I might kidnap them. It was really heart breaking,” she said.

Meghna, who happens to be Ola's first transgender cab driver in the country, joined Rani. “These so-called civilized people never pay attention to our struggle and plight. People would tease us by calling names like 'Chhaka' and 'Maichia' on the streets. A transgender is terribly hurt at such insinuations,” she added.

“A Kinnar has a soft heart. She craves for love all the time. But she doesn't get it from anywhere.

pockets like Cuttack and Bhubaneswar thanks to the effort of a few activists who are voicing their cause. A lot of awareness and education has to be spread for the total acceptance of Kinnars. The government and corporate sectors should come forward with helping hands to assimilate the transgenders into the mainstream,” she said.

Transgenders like Sadhana Mishra working as a Social Development officer at KISS (Kalinga Institute of Social Science in Bhubaneswar) and Aishwarya Rutuparna Pradhan (OFS officer) have the spirits to be successful in the society. But they earned the respect by fighting against odds.

“I don't feel any discrimination or didn't get any weird look from my colleagues because I am Sadhana Mishra. I am very much a professional. My education, awareness and personality have helped me a lot,” Sadhana stated.

Odia transgenders who broke the myth-

Aishwarya Rutuparna Pradhan- Working in the Odisha



Financial Service as a commercial tax officer since 2010.

Meera Parida- Working as a social activist & motivational speaker. She is also active in



Odisha politics and holds a respectable position as a BJD Leader. She has won several International, National and State level awards.

Sadhana Mishra- Social Development officer at KISS

(Kalinga Institute of Social Science). First in Odisha to get a passport under transgender category. She has won several International, National and State level awards.



Meghna Sahoo- First transgender from Odisha to marry a man. Working as a



transgender activist. She was the first transgender cab driver in India.

Ayasha Behera- Engineering in Mechanical. Bachelor in Social work at Utkal University. A Modeller.



Continued Page 02

From Page 13 (Importance of DNA Test...)

But thought the case which completely went on the basis of uncertainty of the "paternity" issue, unfortunately nowhere was DNA testing called upon to ascertain that.

Supreme court relying upon its judgment in this case observed that such a test should not be directed for upholding the legitimacy of a child unless the facts are compulsive and clinching as to necessarily warrant a finding that a child could not at all have been begotten to the father and such a legitimating of the child would result in rank injustice to the father.

The Apex Court further remarked Courts have always desisted from lightly or hastily rendering a verdict and that too on the basis of slender materials which will have the effect of branding a child as a bastard and its mother unchaste woman.

In India DNA testing got legal validity in 1989. Parentage identification deals with paternity/maternity legitimacy of the child etc. in child abandonment cases DNA test is necessary to prove child's maternity. Property disputes, inheritance, maintenance, rape and many other issues. DNA is necessary to reach the finality and justness of the issue. It is however not clear whether DNA test can be used in cases governed by Sec.112 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

In this case it was concluded that Dioxy Nucleic Acid (DNA) as well as Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) tests were not even in contemplation of the legislature. The result of a genuine DNA test is said to be scientifically accurate. But even that is not enough to escape from the conclusiveness of Section 112 of the Act, e.g. if a husband and wife were living together during the time of conception but the DNA test revealed that the child was not born to the husband, the conclusiveness in law would remain un rebuttable. This may look hard from the point of view of the husband who would be compelled to bear the fatherhood of a child of which he may be innocent. But even in such a case the law leans in favour of the innocent. But even in such a case the law leans in favour of the innocent child from being bastardized if his mother and her spouse were living together during the time of conception. Hence the question regarding the degree of proof of non-access for rebutting the conclusiveness must be answered in the light of what is meant by access or non-access as delineated above.

Judgment of the Supreme Court in 1993 also highlighted the fact that there is no provision in Indian laws to force or compel people to undergo blood tests or any other type of DNA testing.

The apex court held that DNA test is not to be directed as matter of routine and only in deserving cases such as direction can be given. The Court gave priority to social parentage over biological parentage and thereby rejected DNA evidence by observing that though the result of a genuine DNA test is said to be scientifically accurate it is not enough to escape from the conclusiveness of Section 112 of the Evidence Act, 1872.

Ø The Supreme Court's September 15, 2014 decision in the case of Dipanwita Roy vs Ronobroto Roy comes as quite a shocker, because it provides a legally sanctioned mechanism for a husband to accuse his wife of infidelity and adultery, and subject her to indignity.

The petitioner wife had appealed against the Calcutta High Court's direction that either she submit to letting her child undergo a DNA test, or accept the accusation of adultery which her husband had levelled against her. After four years of marriage, the husband had accused her of being ill-mannered, arrogant, extravagant in her tastes, disrespectful towards his mother, and of having an affair with a man who he claimed was the real father of the daughter born to the couple. Quite significantly, and even the Supreme Court in its decision acknowledged this, the husband demanded the DNA test not to prove the child's paternity, but as a testament of his wife's "going astray". He had filed for divorce and cited adultery as one of the principal grounds.

"It is sublime social policy that children should not suffer social disability on account of their parent's actions", the Supreme Court had said in the Kamti Devi case (2001), while ruling that DNA tests for determining paternity should not be allowed as a routine matter because the results could effectively impose a permanent stigma of illegitimacy on a child. Section 112 of the Indian Evidence Act states that a child born to a married couple shall be presumed to be legitimate. This can of course be disproved, but the burden is on the husband to do so. And the evidence in such a situation, though not as rigorous as that in criminal law, must be higher than that of mere weighing of possibilities. While ruling in a similar case last year, the Karnataka High Court had dismissed a husband's claim with a stinging rebuke - that a DNA test cannot be allowed as some modern day agni pariksha.

In the present case, the court didn't have to do more than asking the husband to prove that it wasn't possible for him to have any physical relations with his wife for fathering a child. Usually, in such cases, when the couple are no longer staying together, this is the standard adopted. But here the facts were different- the wife was staying with her parents after childbirth, and had gone back to her husband once she had recovered from the post-partum stress.

Instead, in a shocking leap of logic, the court ignored evident facts and thrust the burden on the wife. She had to agree to the DNA test. Of course, she wouldn't be compelled to do so, but her refusal would result in automatic validation of the husband's charges.

But this error, although grave, is only a comparatively minor harm that this judgement causes. By setting a precedent of allowing suspicious husbands to hold their wives to ransom, it indirectly contributes to the rising instances of domestic violence, many of which also end up in murder. Studies have conclusively proved that a particular kind of jealousy- suspicion of the wife or female partner's infidelity acts as a trigger for beatings, abuse, and killings. There is also a vocal, and justified demand for consigning the offence of adultery to the bin of obsolete, regressive laws.

In such circumstances, unfortunately, this judgement strengthens misogyny in a society already reeling from it.

In view of the above quoted instances, today, the most debatable question which generates thoughts amongst jurists, judges, scientists, lawyers and academicians, irrespective of any legal system, is as to how the present value based system of justice requires to be changed or modified or re-oriented for the purposes of utilizing the advantages of modern scientific discoveries and technological advancements in the justice delivery system

Conclusion

The time for denial of admitting DNA evidence is over. We know that the present system has identifiable flaws. Law has to grow in order to satisfy the need of the fast changing society and keep abreast with the scientific developments taking place in the country. The courts are very cautious in following for this test as they think, that may go against the basic principles of the Human Rights, as the order for such test may interfere with the personal liberty of that person guaranteed under Article 21 of the constitution, which must be just, fair and reasonable one. The courts also feel that such an order may violate the right of an accused person protected under Art. 20 (3) of the Constitution. I most humbly feel that this is a one sided approach of the court. Will it not be a violation of Human Rights in case of a child whose father denies his acceptance as a biological father? In such a delicate situation which father i.e. whether societal or biological shall have the right as well as the duty towards the child? Will the child not have the right to see that his or her Human Rights should also be protected and overlooked by the courts?

Some positive steps have been taken by the Government of India after a long time by proposing to adopt DNA tests in matters relating to paternity disputes under section 112 of the Evidence Act. The Law Commission of India in its 185th report has recommended Indian Evidence Act (Amendment) Bill, 2003 which makes provision for DNA tests in paternity disputes by the consent of the man, and in case of child by the permission of the Court. The Parliament has already established Advisory Committee to look into some of these aspects. One can hope this is sorted out at the earliest so that we can proceed with full swiftness on this path in the furtherance of truth. Then only the real meaning of "Satyamev Jayate" can be really manifested.

So, a final solution to all this dilemma and uncertainty can be the DNA mapping and comparison of DNA of a child and the parents. In the recent case of State through C.B.I. v. Amaramani Tripathi the paternity of a six months old fetus in the womb of deceased was conclusively established with the help of DNA test. Further, the Courts, these days, is heavily relying on scientific proofs, in the cases of murder and rape. Even there are cases where the conviction is made by following the medical evidences. So, it is high-time that the scientific aptitude should be brought in the issue of determination of legitimacy of a child and most importantly when it becomes a disputed ground for divorce.

From Page 12 (Union Budget 2023-24...)

National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme: To provide stipend support to 47 lakh youth in three years, Direct Benefit Transfer under a pan-India National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme will be rolled out.

Tourism: With an integrated and innovative approach, at least 50 destinations will be selected through challenge mode.

Unity Mall: States will be encouraged to set up a Unity Mall in their state capital or most prominent tourism centre or the financial capital for promotion and sale of their own ODOPs (one district, one product), GI products and other handicraft products, and for providing space for such products of all other States.

Priority 7: Financial Sector

Credit Guarantee for MSMEs: Revamped scheme will take effect from 1st April 2023 through infusion of Rs. 9,000 crore in the corpus. This will enable additional collateral-free guaranteed credit of Rs. 2 lakh crore. Further, the cost of the credit will be reduced by about 1 per cent.

National Financial Information Registry: A national financial information registry will be set up to serve as the central repository of financial and ancillary information. A new legislative framework will govern this credit public infrastructure, and it will be designed in consultation with the RBI.

Data Embassy: For countries looking for digital continuity solutions, setting up of their Data Embassies in GIFT IFSC would be facilitated.

Central Data Processing Centre: A Central Processing Centre will be set up for faster response to companies through centralized handling of various forms filed with field offices under the Companies Act.

Mahila Samman Bachat Patra: For commemorating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a one-time new small savings scheme, Mahila Samman Savings Certificate, will be made available for a two-year period up to March 2025. This will offer deposit facility up to Rs. 2 lakh in the name of women or girls for a tenure of 2 years at fixed interest rate of 7.5 per cent with partial withdrawal option.

Fiscal Management

Fiscal Deficit of States: States will be allowed a fiscal deficit of 3.5 per cent of GSDP of which 0.5 per cent will be tied to power sector reforms.

Revised Estimates 2022-23: The Revised Estimate of the total receipts other than borrowings is Rs 24.3 lakh crore, of which the net tax receipts are Rs. 20.9 lakh crore. The Revised Estimate of the total expenditure is Rs. 41.9 lakh crore, of which the capital expenditure is about Rs. 7.3 lakh crore. The Revised Estimate of the fiscal deficit is 6.4 per cent of GDP, adhering to the Budget Estimate.

Budget Estimates 2023-24: Coming to 2023-24, the total receipts other than borrowings and the total expenditure are estimated at Rs. 27.2 lakh crore and Rs. 45 lakh crore respectively. The net tax receipts are estimated at Rs. 23.3 lakh crore. The fiscal deficit is estimated to be 5.9 per cent of GDP and to bring the fiscal deficit below 4.5 per cent of GDP by 2025-26.

*From Page 1 (Transcending Genders)***The role of Government-**

There are also a few other success stories of transgenders like Babula Mohapatra of Berhampur, who is a famous choreographer in the State having more than 200 students in her academy. Models like Sneha, Devalina, Rachana, Odishi dancers like Lipsa and Sophia and a transgender group comprising Mithi, Sony and Tina excelling in handicrafts can be good examples for the community. But they are a minority.

"Only individual effort will not help the cause of the transgenders. Government also has a lot of role to play," Meera, also a BJD leader stated while acknowledging the help extended by the State government for the elevation of the community. She said though much has been done, the community members are deprived of adequate livelihood training programs and loans to support and start enterprises. "Reservation should also be extended in government and private sectors to provide employment for transgenders," she suggested.

Rani summed up by saying "It's a long struggle till Kinnars finally find their own place and comfort in the society. They have to be pulled out of their present status to join the mainstream."

*From Page 17 (My Waste My Responsibility)***Complete solution:-**

In trash management, the RRR principle is extremely useful. Recycle, reuse, and cut down on waste. Public awareness is important. Waste management is a critical issue that requires immediate government intervention. In our society, there is now relatively little awareness of this problem. The behaviour of generating garbage is too dangerous not only for today's generation, but also for future generations. It is critical to educate people and encourage them to practise Recycle, Reuse, and Reduce instead of producing waste. Waste disposal should be a priority for municipalities and governments. Individual involvement is essential. Since 1990, India's trash has altered due to two decades of economic expansion. Due to rising population and changing lifestyles, the amount of MSW generated in India is continually increasing. There is a scarcity of land and public health and environmental resources are valuable. The current SWM dilemma in India should be treated holistically; while long-term remedies should be considered, the current problems must be addressed first.

Note:-

It is critical to improve SWM in India. Improper SWM puts public health, India's environment, and Indians' quality of life in jeopardy. Improved SWM in India necessitates the recovery of materials and energy from waste. It not only adds value and makes SWM projects more economically viable, but it also makes them more sustainable. Any effort to divert MSW from landfills, particularly in India's unclean landfills, will help the cause. India should select one or more of these choices, or a combination of them, that will benefit the country.

Growth Oriented Historical Odisha Budget 2023-24

(Report By – Pradeep Kumar Panda, Economist, Bhubaneswar)

Ahead of the next year's assembly polls, the Government of Odisha (GoO) announced its last full-fledged state Budget for the financial year 2023-24. State finance minister Niranjan Pujari tabled the Budget with a clear focus on agriculture, health, drinking water and road infrastructure that would give impetus to the rural economy. The budget is aligned with the vision of building a New Odisha – An Empowered Odisha.

Outlay of the budget is Rs. 2.3 lakh crore which is 15% higher than last years (2022-23) budget and three times higher than 2016-17 Budget. Programme expenditure is budgeted at Rs. 1.25 lakh crore. Twelve sectors has seen significant outlay increase than last years which makes this budget progressive and historical one.

Of the Rs. 2.3 lakh crore Budget presented, a major allocation was made towards the health sector with Rs.16,048 crore, an increase of about 27% over the previous year and about three times the allocation in the 2017-18 Budget.

The finance minister who allocated Rs. 750 crore for the transformation of 147 health facilities, including community health centres, sub-divisional hospitals and district headquarters announced that the work will be over before the end of the year. Similarly, to bring down the average response time of ambulances from 30 minutes to 20 minutes, 236 new ambulances would be bought.

In a boost to agriculture and farmers, a Budget of Rs. 24,829 crore was allocated to the agriculture sector which is a 20% rise from the previous year's Budget. Of this, Rs. 2,000 crore has been provisioned for a revolving fund which will be utilised for paddy procurement operations that have become a rallying point for aggrieved farmers in the politically-important western Odisha districts.

GoO also allocated Rs. 1,879 crore for the Kalia scheme, a cash-transfer scheme for farmers that began in January 2019. Other major budgetary allocations made include Rs. 13,215 crore for piped drinking water, and Rs. 2,800 crore for payment of wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme. For infrastructure in roads, bridges, railways and airports Rs. 51,683 crore has been

provisioned, which is 34% higher than last year's provision and includes Rs. 4,600 crore for double-laning of about 3000 km of roads with improved riding quality.

Further, Rs. 1,900 crore for 526 new bridge projects under the Biju Setu Yojana and Rs. 2,071 crore for 6000 km of roads under the Mukhyamantri Sadak Yojana



were allocated. Besides, money has been allocated for the development of railway projects, viability gap funding subsidy under the UDAN Scheme for connecting smaller airports of Jharsuguda, Jeypore and upcoming state airports at Utkela, Rangeilunda and Malkangiri. Keeping its focus on self-help groups (SHGs), the GoO allocated Rs. 50 crore for Mission Shakti Scooter Yojana under which scooters would be given to members of Mission Shakti SHGs.

Allocation For Important Sectors

- Rs 16,048 crore for Health sector (27% increase)
- Rs 30,030 crore for Education and Skills (10% increase)
- Rs 38,437 crore for SCs and STs development (18% increase)
- Rs 13,215 crore for Piped Water (58% increase)
- Rs 24,829 crore for Agriculture & allied sector (21% increase)
- Rs 680 crore for Tourism (15% increase)
- Rs 19,452 crore for Roads, Bridges, Airports and Railways (34% increase)
- Rs 1,217 crore for development of Sports (34% increase)
- Rs 7,914 crore for Urban Development (9% increase)

- Rs 356 crore for E & IT (18% increase)
- Rs 6,224 crore for Mission Shakti, W & CD (12% increase)
- Rs 219 crore for Handloom, Textiles & Handicrafts sector (8% increase)
- Rs 1358 crore for Industries and MSME (7% increase)

- Rs 8,130 crore for Internal security and justice (8% increase)
- Rs 3,700 crore for Disaster Risk Management (13% increase)
- Rs 7300 crore for transfer to Local Bodies

In the last 23 years, the GoO, under the able leadership of Hon'ble CM Shri Naveen Patnaik, has not only been able to raise the aspirations of Odia people but has also been able to meet them by taking the State on an unprecedented growth trajectory. From a State often counted amongst the most underdeveloped States, Odisha is now surging ahead to lead the country in many sectors. Transformation is our singular aim.

The GoO is firmly committed on saving lives and livelihood from disasters, ensuring food and health security to all the people, political and economic empowerment of women, uplifting millions from poverty and all-round development and progress of the State. The GoO has always stood for, supported and advocated the cause of women, farmers, tribals, youths, labourers, religious minorities, and the weaker & backward sections of the society. Strategy and hard work has yielded remarkable results.

Odisha has made rapid progress in irrigation, agriculture production & productivity, food security, pucca houses for all, safe drinking water, sanitation, electricity, road connectivity, education, skills, health care, livelihood opportunities, social security and urban development. Odisha is today an attractive global destination for investment in manufacturing, information technology, service industries and start-ups. Significantly, Odisha is now a global sports hub with world-class infrastructure capable of successfully holding back-to-back international sporting events.

These achievements have been

made despite vulnerability of State to frequent natural calamities. As a matter of fact, Odisha has come a long way in its ability to respond to the natural disasters and has received global recognition from the United Nations. The GoO is committed to enhancing credibility, accountability and transparency in Governance and Public Financial Management. The 5T mantra of Shri Naveen Patnaik coupled with "Mo Sarkar" initiative has brought about transformation in every sphere of governance and service delivery.

The global economic prospects for 2023-24 appears to be grim. Both IMF and World Bank have forecasted a sluggish growth of around 1.7%. India is recognized as the bright spot in the world with projected growth of 6.8% during 2023-24. Odisha's economy with sharp recovery from the impact of pandemic with growth of 11.5% in 2021-22 and consistent higher growth than national economy has been the growth engine of the country. With projected GSDP growth of 8 percent in 2023-24, Odisha can be one of the brightest spots of Indian economy. With consistent higher economic growth, the per capita income gap at National and State level has narrowed down from 31.6 percent in 2015-16 to 11.7 percent in 2022-23. With this trend, we can expect the State per-capita income to surpass the national average in coming few years.

Odisha is predominantly an agrarian economy with Agriculture and allied activities constituting 22.5 percent in Gross State Value Added (GSVA) as per Odisha Economic Survey, 2022-23. The agriculture and allied sector is the largest single employment sector of the state and holds the key to socioeconomic development in the state. Therefore, the GoO lays special emphasis on development of the sector through various interventions supported by a comprehensive and inclusive State Agriculture Policy that has a paradigm shift with its orientation towards market linkage. It is expected to bring a substantial change in farmer's income through realisation of better prices.

The GoO is supporting this sector through a separate Agriculture Budget since 2013-14 with allocation of a sizeable portion of its resources. With an objective of increasing the production, productivity of both farm and the farmer and welfare of the farmers in State, an outlay of Rs. 24,829 crore under the Agriculture Budget, 2023-24 is proposed which is 20% more than last year and 3 times of the Budget Estimate during 2016-17.

The state is implementing NFSA and SFSS in a transparent and efficient manner. In fact, our efforts have not only been appreciated across the Country but have been recognised by recently conducted State ranking index (2022) for National Food Security Act (NFSA) by Government of India wherein

Odisha has been ranked as the No. 1 State in the Country.

Food Security can be achieved by putting in place a robust paddy procurement system on the ground. In the last two decades from a food deficit State, Odisha has not only become surplus but also are the 4th largest contributor to the Central Pool. Since paddy procurement operations are increasing and in order to ensure timely payment to the farmers, in this budget, there is a provision of Rs. 2,000 crore as revolving fund to be utilised for paddy procurement operations besides the borrowings by OSCSC. Though paddy procurement operations are conducted in all the 30 districts of the State but major contribution is from the Western Odisha. So, they will be the major beneficiaries of the revolving fund and it will help them in their livelihood.

Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme has been introduced by the State Government in the financial year, 2018-19 to accelerate agricultural prosperity and reduce poverty in the State. About 41.08 lakh small & marginal farmers and 18.69 lakh landless agricultural households have already been assisted under this scheme in the State.

The Strategy for Crop Production Management in the State embodies smooth procurement and distribution of Agriculture Inputs (Seeds, Fertilisers & Pesticides) of desired quality and making them available at farmers' doorstep in adequate quantities, timely and at affordable prices.

Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) plays a vital role in agricultural research and extension education in the State. The GoO has committed to transform OUAT into a Centre of Excellence and set global benchmarks in agricultural research and extension. Rs. 166 crore has been proposed as grants to OUAT for agricultural research, education, and infrastructure, which is more than five times of Budget allocation made in the year 2019-20.

Horticulture is one of the key drivers for economic development which provides income support to the farmers and improve their nutritional security. Rs. 381 crore has been proposed under Horticulture Development Programme to stimulate an array of activities for the promotion of horticultural crops and holistic growth of the horticulture sector. Similarly, Rs. 121 crore is proposed under National Horticulture Mission for integrated development of horticulture. Soil Health Management has assumed greater importance due to intensive agriculture practice. Organic farming is being constantly pursued under the aegis of State Organic Farming Policy and it is aimed to cover around 2 lakh hectares during next five years under organic farming.

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Farm Mechanization has been one of the focus points of State Government. Rs. 388 crore is proposed towards subsidy for capital investment for the establishment of commercial agri-enterprises & for popularization of agricultural implements and diesel pump sets. JALANIDHI Scheme has been remodeled as "Soura Jananidhi" programme to harness renewable source of energy, especially in power inaccessible areas. 2902 number of Solar powered private lift irrigation points have been established. During 2023-24, it is proposed for bringing more area under assured irrigation and for the purpose, Rs. 250 crore has been proposed under the scheme. Apart from that it is proposed to provide Rs. 45 crore under State Incentive for Micro irrigation.

Further, Rs. 306 crore has been proposed under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to ensure the holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors in the State. An allocation of Rs. 52 crore has been proposed to support Farmers' Producers Organisations (FPOs) in the production, aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and marketing of agriculture and allied sector resources for sustainable development.

Odisha is planning to spend Rs. 367 Crore for next five years for implementation of the "Empowerment of Women in Agriculture- Promotion of Entrepreneurship for Women SHG" to ensure sustainable income generation of women beneficiaries / WSHGs to make the State a net exporter of mushroom & high value flowers over the mission period. An allocation of Rs. 100 crore has been proposed under Mission on Floriculture & Mushroom. Odisha Jackfruit Mission is to be implemented in 50 blocks of selected 9 districts of the state within 5 years. An allocation of Rs. 9 crore has been proposed under the scheme.

Odisha Government's thrust on accelerated development of irrigation continues. In recent years, the GoO has dedicated to the farmers of Odisha big projects like Upper Indravati Lift Irrigation Project in Kalahandi, Lower Indra Major Irrigation Project benefiting Nuapada & Bolangir and Deo Irrigation Project benefiting the tribal farmers of Mayurbhanj & Keonjhar. In the last two years, irrigation has been provided to an additional 32,000 hectares in Mayurbhanj and Balasore from Subarnarekha Irrigation Project. Another 10,000 hectares will be added this year from this project.

To cater to the needs of the hitherto uncovered upland areas of the state, Government launched Parvati Giri Mega Lift Irrigation scheme. Under the scheme, 208 projects have been completed. In the 2nd phase, 170 new projects have been taken up with an estimated cost of Rs. 10,759 crore over a period of 5 years which will provide irrigation to an additional 2.63 lakh hectares and a sum of Rs. 500 crore has been proposed under this scheme. Deep Bore-Well and Community Lift Irrigation Programme has

received overwhelming response from over 16 lakh farmers in districts like Bargarh, Bolangir, Kalahandi etc. Under the scheme, more than one lakh deep bore wells and around 35,000 Community Lift Irrigation Projects have been completed. Considering its success, Government has approved Rs. 4,198 crore for installation of additional one lakh deep bore wells by 2025-26. An initial outlay of Rs. 300 crore has been proposed during 2023-24 under the scheme with a target to install 20,000 deep bore wells this year.

A sum of around Rs. 400 crore has been proposed under Biju Krushak Vikash Yojana (BKVY) for taking up around 1500 Community Lift projects during 2023-24. An initial sum Rs. 191 crore has been proposed to revive defunct Community Lift Irrigation Projects during 2023-24. In the coming five years, our Government proposes to invest around Rs. 75,000 crore for creation of water infrastructure to meet the growing needs of the people of the State.

Under Mukhya Mantri Adibandha Tiari Yojana (MATY), more than 15000 check dams have already been constructed across small streams and nallas. Under version 2.0 of the scheme, another 1280 check dams are proposed of which 450 will be completed and another 450 will be taken up this year for which a sum of Rs. 181 crore has been proposed under this scheme. Government has approved Mukhyamantri Disaster Resilient Saline Embankment Project. Under this scheme, around 200 km of saline embankments in Balasore,



Bhadrak, Kendrapada and Puri will be strengthened with the technical support of National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai. Strengthening of flood control embankments and drainage improvement works will be done in vulnerable areas for which a sum of Rs.961 crore has been proposed in the budget.

Under our Government's scheme, Canal Lining and System Rehabilitation Programme (CLSRP), major canals will be lined including ongoing lining of Bargarh & Sason Canal of Bargarh and Sambalpur district, Upper Indravati Right Canal in Kalahandi district, among others. For this an initial sum of Rs. 270 crore has been proposed. Further, for modernization of irrigation projects, a sum of Rs. 125 crore is proposed under Nabakrushna

Choudhury Secha Unayana Yojana. As transformational target using 5T principles, a sum of Rs.30 crore has been proposed for development of a Water ERP called GO-WATER for facilitating use of technology for proper assessment of water resources, flood forecasting, irrigation management and project monitoring.

The State Government, in collaboration with NABARD, has launched a scheme titled "BALARAM" to extend institutional credit to sharecroppers especially landless farmers. The scheme envisages covering 5 lakh farmers through 1 lakh Joint Liability Groups (JLGs). 56,311 JLG groups have been formed and 12,394 farmers have been financed a sum of Rs. 98 crore. Government is committed to provide interest free loans up to Rs. 50,000 to farmers under the KALIA scheme. We have also kept our promise to provide interest subvention on crop loans above Rs. 50,000 and up to Rs. 3 lakh at an effective interest rate of 2 percent. Rs. 836 crore is proposed under the scheme Interest Subsidy/Subvention to farmers.

The Cooperatives are providing about 60 percent of the total crop loans dispensed to the farmers in the State as against the national average of 17 percent. Rs. 30 crore is provided towards financial support to Cooperative institutions and Rs. 150 crore towards equity support to Cooperative banks. Similarly, a Corpus Fund of Rs. 100 crore has been provided for Odisha State Co-operatives Marketing Federation Ltd. towards

procurement of non-paddy crops. Rs. 200 crore is allocated towards interest free loan for fertilizers and seeds. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is being implemented in the State to provide insurance coverage to the farmers. An allocation of Rs.600 crore is proposed for settlement of the claim of the farmers.

The Price Support scheme has been introduced in the State through the involvement of NAFED to provide remunerative prices to the farmers for non-paddy crops namely green gram, black gram, arhar, groundnut, and sunflower. Further, e-Samridhi portal has been developed for the registration of farmers for procurement of pulses and oilseeds.

Odisha Millet Mission is a

pioneering step which we started in 2017 for promotion of the climate resilient and nutritionally rich crops. The special programme implemented in the state for promotion of millets in a Mission Mode in 143 blocks of 19 districts during 2022-23 and it has been extended to 177 blocks spread over all 30 districts of the state for coming year 2023-24.



The United Nations declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets. Odisha model of promotion of millets is now widely recognized and adopted by other states. Rs. 497 crore is proposed for the Mission.

Livestock and fisheries sectors have played a significant role in enhancing incomes of farmers over the last 2 decades in Odisha. The GoO has identified the allied sectors as the growth propellers for Odisha's farmers, women SHGs, and entrepreneurs, going forward. We propose to enhance the outlay of Fisheries & Animal Resources Development Department to Rs. 1,769 crore. Fisheries and aquaculture are playing a major role in multiplying farmers' incomes, enhancing livelihoods, creating gainful employment, providing nutritional security and contributing to export earnings in the State.

The state is encouraging pisciculture, on a large scale, to enhance production and productivity. A provision of Rs. 143 crore has been proposed for Intensive Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries Development. Mukhya Mantri Maschya Jibi Kalyan Yojana an umbrella scheme with 17 number of components proposed with Budget outlay of Rs. 210 crore aims at benefiting 50,000 fishers including 11,000 WSHGs directly and more than 1 lakh fishers with indirect employment generation during the current year. 49. An outlay of Rs.220 crore has been provisioned for renovation and up-gradation of Government Fish Farms. It is proposed for dredging of Devi River mouth at Astaranga and Mahanadi River mouth at Paradeep with provision of Rs. 20 crore to make them navigable round the year.

The GoO has proposed an outlay of Rs.180 crore under the scheme 'Blue Revolution' for integrated development & management of fisheries. Animal husbandry and dairy have enormous potential for rural self-employment and women empowerment. The GoO has proposed Rs. 157 crore under Poultry Development scheme to provide support for setting up of new broiler farm units, layer

poultry farms in cage system, duck farms, backyard poultry units, mini poultry feed units and small-scale poultry hatches during 2023-24. Over 300 farmers will be supported for setting up of small sheep and goat units & 2,200 WSHGs will be supported for setting up semi-commercial Goat units with a Budget Provision of Rs.29 crore

during the year 2023-24. 130 farmers will be supported for setting up of piggery units with a Budget Provision of Rs. 2 crore during the year 2023-24 for pig development in the state. To provide support to existing Goushalas/construction of new Goushalas in urban and semi-urban areas, Rs. 20 crore has been proposed during 2023-24. Rs.120 crore is allocated under the scheme 'Rashtriya Pashudhan Vikash Yojana - White Revolution' for the development of dairy and livestock management. Rs. 267 crore is proposed under Livestock Health and Disease Control programme during 2023-24.

A sum of Rs. 18 crore has been proposed for the Artificial Insemination Programme so as to improve the genetic quality of cattle for enhancing milk production. Rs. 194 crore has been proposed for infrastructure support and veterinary service delivery during 2023-24 for strengthening and modernization of Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries in a phased manner. The state had started a separate Agriculture Budget in 2013-14 with an outlay of Rs. 7,162 crore. An outlay of Rs. 24,829 crore in 2023-24 is proposed. Agriculture is a fundamental source of rural prosperity. Agriculture can no longer aim at subsistence. It has to be a key driver for growth and poverty reduction. Hence, crop diversification and value addition in the agrarian economy will be the main focus.

Odisha under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik, has achieved many landmark development milestones in just two decades. He has always set very high standards of public service delivery and ambitious development goals for his Government, thereby pushing his team to achieve what once appeared impossible. This Budget is a reflection of commitment of state. Odisha will move ahead and play an important role in nation building in the years to come. The budget is inclusive, pro-people, aspirational and futuristic.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE COLUMN

DISEASES – A Psycho-Physical Mal - Adjustment

(Report By – Prabhu Prasad Gadnayak)

There are equal and opposite forces at play in each and every aspect of creation. For us to understand darkness, there needs to be light. To know happiness, there needs to be sorrow. Nothing in creation exists in isolation. Every action has an equal and opposite reaction. Every bhog (pleasure) has a rog (pain). Health & Disease, Hope and Despair, Happiness and Sorrow are two ends of the same continuum.

Health is not the absence of disease. It is a state of physical, moral and spiritual well being. Those who attain self-realization are equipped with healing power, and they never have to face any disease because they acquire the knowledge to resist disease.

There are three kinds of illness: physical, mental and spiritual. Physical sickness is due to different forms of toxic conditions, infectious diseases and accidents. Mental sickness is caused by fear, worry, anger and other emotional inharmonious. Spiritual sickness is due to man's ignorance of his true relationship with God. Ignorance is the supreme disease. Ignorance is Sin.

The two basic causes of disease are under-activity and over-activity of the life energy (prana) that structures and sustains the body. Sound sleep, like good digestion, betokens a body and mind at peace with themselves and the world at large. It is a sign of wellness, of being 'Sukhi'.

Some physical diseases are thought to be particularly prone to be made worse by mental factors such as stress and anxiety. Your current mental state can affect how bad a physical disease is at any given time. There is a mental aspect to every physical disease. There can be physical effects from mental illness.

Man never falls ill. He invites illness. Diet cares more than a Doctor. It is overeating for 365 days of the year, that creates many kinds of diseases. Undeviating regularity in eating, whether the system actually needs food or not, is also a curse to the body. The more you concentrate on the palate, the more disease you will have. To enjoy food is all right, but to be a slave to it is the bane of life. Nature cannot punish you if you are not attached to the body or bound by food. If you insist on making your mind a slave to your body, the mind will take revenge. No doctor or medicine can help any patient if the patient's mind has become so weakened that the disease has become chronic. Three fourths of the cure lies in the mind.

Ordinarily, life force is continually reinforced by mind, power and food. But if it has been too much misused, it gives up and refuses to work anymore. Pain or aches in the body indicate that something is going wrong with its machinery; repairs are needed. Fasting gives rest to the overworked organs, the bodily engines; and also to the life force itself, relieving it of extra work. The spirit within becomes disassociated from the demands of the body as the body itself is freed from gross habits. The physical results and spiritual experiences of fasting are wonderful. You would begin to discover that you can live without food. No food gives strength, no change of air invigorates, nothing can restore energy to the body when its life force begins to diminish.

Healthy persons possess a natural resistance to disease, and

particularly to infections. Illness comes when the resisting power of the blood has been diminished by wrong eating or by overeating, or when overindulgence in sex has depleted the vital energy. To conserve the physical creative energy is to supply all the cells with vibrant life energy, the body then possesses a tremendous



resistance to disease. Sexual overindulgence weakens the body and renders it vulnerable to illness.

Nature tries by reflex action to remove causes of physical distress. When dust gets into the eye, we involuntarily try to wink the dust away. When dirt or dust enters the nose, we sneeze. If we eat something unwholesome, we get rid of it by regurgitation. When disease attacks any internal organ of the body, nature provides many means by which the organ may protect, defend, and renew itself. However, owing to various habits of living that alienate most men from nature, their innate powers of recuperation and rejuvenation become impaired and are prematurely lost.

Harmful microbes are ceaselessly attacking the body, good ones are ceaselessly defending it, aided sometimes by diet, herbs, medicines, and other health measures. But an unlimited source of protection for man lies in his strong thought that, as a child of God, he can not be affected by disease.

One's diet should be wisely chosen. Drinking liquids with meals gives a tendency to obesity. The most important principle in connection with eating is to avoid any form of overindulgence.

Mind has much greater power than medicine. Fasting is a natural method of healing. The bodily machinery thus has an opportunity to cleanse itself and to obtain a much needed rest. Most diseases can be cured by judicious fasting unless one has a weak heart. Another good method of physical healing is through suitable herbs or herb extracts.

In vegetables and fruits God has infused medicinal power to help in overcoming disease. Even these, however, have but a limited potency. The organs of the body are essentially sustained by the energy of God, and the person who employs various methods to increase this energy will have at his command a greater power for healing than is afforded by any medicine or diet.

It takes time to change one's way of thinking from dependence on food to dependence on mind. To be responsive to the healing power of God, the mind must be trained to believe in divine aid.

Whatever physical desires one indulges in, whether food or sexual pleasure, causes the body to age. Spices in food not only lead to corrosion of the top layer of the

intestines but also cause hyperactivity that speeds up the process of ageing in the body. Similarly, sexual indulgence leads to the loss of vital fluid called sukra. The term coined in Ayurveda for sexual pleasure is 'sukranash' or 'loss of sukra'.

According to Ayurveda, human

the spiritual disease of intolerance which increasingly is afflicting societies the world over. Freely make your own life-choice. But don't make it a standard of morality for everyone else.

When a person is suffering from depression, sadness is in the foreground of consciousness. But, if we examine depressive feelings deeply, at the root, there is hatred and anger. The powers of Divine are latent in each one of us, and we need to nurture them. When we have an intense aspiration, and make a dedicated effort, the powers of truth, the courage to destroy falsehood, love and devotion, become manifest. These abilities help us overcome all deficiencies, disease and dysfunctions so that we become perfect & immortal. Call upon the greatest force that can heal depression, which is love. Hatred and anger are overcome with love and when we learn to love deeply, depression terminates.

The effects from stress range from irritability and anxiety to raised blood pressure and heart disease. Perceiving stress through a negative lens can actually be harmful to our health. But, when we view stress as a helpful tool and motivator, and learn how to harness it to our advantage, our health is less likely to be negatively affected.

The body is a slave to habit. Habit is the source of all chronic pain. Usually it goes unnoticed. However, once it is observed, the mind should withdraw its consent. Initially we must speak, 'the language of the body' which means



You have to overcome physical desire. The key to satisfaction is to rise over and above these desires, something which often eludes the greatest of ascetics. Ayurveda may promote celibacy but it does not prescribe suppression of natural urges. If one has the urge to rest or to indulge sexually, and if instead one suppresses that urge, it results in disease in the body. If the focus of the person remains on the One (Ishta), then nothing can shake or affect that person and the need to suppress does not arise.

Kneeling before a woman for lust beauty

for a man is blasphemy onto the creator.

Message No.165 – Sri Sri Thakur

Quote from – Satyanusarana

The only moral yardstick with which we are entitled to judge any life choice is its potential to inflict real injury, as distinct from self-imagined harm, to others. It is the conflation of life choice with morality which is the root cause of

substituting bad habits with good ones, ultimately though, to transform, humanity must transcend all habits.

A series of circumstances triggers an illness; the mind latches onto the event and turns it into a construction which is then forced down into the subconscious. The body remembers and the memory gets pushed down to the subconscious where it awaits a trigger to re-appear. Once the memory crosses the mind, like a dart, the illness returns.

In the present age, most people are leading a bhogi life. A bhogi chases happiness in possessions, roles, status and all outer achievements that gratify his sense of 'I' and mine. He engages himself endlessly in competing for space, position and material resources. His actions gradually entangle him in a web of greed, ego and attachment. A bhogi ultimately become a rogi – physically, mentally, morally and spiritually unhealthy.

Most diseases today are psychosomatic, caused by negative emotions. The negative 'sanskars' of the soul adversely influence the individual's attitude, outlook dietary habits, relationships and behavior. As a consequence, norms of physical and mental health are violated. When the body's tolerance limit is crossed by repeated violations, disease sets in.

Yoga is a way of life. It involves satvik diet, positive thinking, spiritual study, healthy relationships, silent meditation and selfless service. A yogic lifestyle does not mean renunciation or shedding family responsibilities. A yogi maintains his mental equilibrium even in adverse situations. He is naturally free from addictions and unhealthy habits. A yogi celebrates the spirit of love through a very deep and authentic spiritual connection with each other.

Life is challenging. Every day people face situations that can make one feel stress and anger. Modern science has proven the effects, stress and anger have on the health and wellness of our body and mind.

Picture a boomerang. When we throw it, it comes back to us. When we feel anger and hatred for others, it boomerangs back to us. The people we are angry with may or may not be hurt by our anger, but we definitely will be.

Anger causes stress-related ailments. Scientists are now discovering that continued exposure to the body's own stress hormones can cause buildup in blood vessels and nervous system that may cause a stroke, damage parts of the brain, or cause anxiety, depression, and other psychological problems.

Is there any way that we can deal with stress and anger so that it does not create stress-related illness in our body and mind?

The way to avoid sending out anger that will come back to haunt us is to forgive. To avoid disastrous consequences, it is much better to forgive. Instead of letting thoughts of hatred and anger possess us and ruin our lives, we should stop ourselves and forgive the other person. In this way, we can keep our mind free and clear of the detrimental effects of anger.

The secret to forgiveness is love. In a state of love, forgiveness comes easily. If we are to forgive all who cause us pain, we must develop a love for all of God's creation. This can only happen when we see the light of God in everyone. Through meditation, we can begin to experience the Light of God within ourselves. When this happens, we will be able to see the Light of God in all of God's creatures and begin to love every creation. Then, forgiveness will follow.

Forgiveness has both mental and emotional benefits. When we are filled with anger and hatred, we can not concentrate on our work. Our productivity and efficiency may drop because we are unable to concentrate on our work. Medical researchers are noticing another benefit of forgiveness. It has a positive effect on our brain. If we know that anger can cause irreparable damage to our brain and affect our thinking and emotional states, when we may want to consider learning the art of forgiveness.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COLUMN

Electric Vehicles - Need of the Time

(Report By – Er. Mayadhar Swain)

One way of reducing air pollution is to reduce the number of vehicles, which is not possible. Rather this number is increasing every year. The alternative is to replace internal combustion engine with an engine which does not use fossil fuels and so does not emit pollutants to the atmosphere.

Scientists have now developed such a vehicle known as electric vehicles (EV) which run on electricity from a battery. Apart from pollution free, these vehicles have some other advantages too. EV electric motors produce a constant torque at all speeds, thus eliminating the

disadvantages. The most important and costly part of an EV is battery, which receives electricity by plugging into the grid. When fully charged, a standard EV is capable of covering distance between 150km and 170 km and then it needs to be recharged. The charging process can take anywhere from 30 minutes (in case of fast charging) upto 24 hours, depending on the capacity of the battery and motors. However on an average, most batteries take four to six hours to be fully charged. Further, EV charging infrastructure remains



batteries are used in EVs. A typical Li-ion battery consists of large number of lithium-ion cells that use metals like lithium, cobalt, nickel and manganese.

reserves are in Bolivia and Chile, while 60% of cobalt reserves are in Congo. Due to short supply of these metals, these are expensive and it makes also battery expensive. The battery accounts for 70% of the cost of two wheelers and 50% of cars. On average, one EV is twice as expensive as the comparable petrol vehicle.

In India, the automobile industry is one of the key sectors driving economic growth. More than 25 million vehicles including passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles, three- wheelers and two- wheelers were produced in 2017-18 in the country. However, it is also one of the biggest contributors of pollution which necessitates its transformation into EVs. Niti Aayog has proposed that only EVs should be sold after 2030.

Earlier a panel headed by Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant had suggested that only electric powered three-wheelers and two-wheelers with an engine capacity of up to 150 cc should be sold from 2025.

The Finance Minister has announced in the last budget about promoting electric mobility by reducing GST for EVs to 5% and allowing income tax benefits for EV buyers.

On the advice of NITI Aayog, the Government of Odisha has brought the Electric vehicle policy in September 2021 to encourage faster adoption of EVs in the State. Under the policy, the government has announced financial incentives to customers by waving of road tax and registration fee during the policy period between 2021 and 2025. The government is also providing 15 percent subsidy of the cost of the vehicle with maximum amount of Rs 5000 for two-wheelers, Rs 10000 for three-wheelers and Rs 50000 for four-wheelers. The government in its budget for 2022-23 has announced Rs 50 crore towards incentives of EVs.

China commands over 60% of global battery market share and it was also the largest EV producer with more than a million vehicles sold in 2018. Although there are fewer reserves of lithium and cobalt in China, it has purchased these mines in Congo, Bolivia,



need for auto helps in curbing noise pollution, especially in crowded urban areas and sensitive places. As an added advantage, EVs being lighter, offer a smooth drive with higher acceleration over longer distances than vehicles running on fossil fuels.

In spite of many advantages of EVs, their use is limited due to some difficulties and

inadequate in most parts of the world. Other disadvantages of EVs are lower battery life and higher battery cost. The currently used batteries in EVs have a life-span of around 3 to 10 years, depending on the make and model. The lower battery life often dissuades the user for EVs.

Cost of battery is high due to insufficient supply of raw materials. Lithium - Ion (Li-ion)

Each metal serves a useful purpose. For example, lithium generates flow of electrons and helps charge the battery. Cobalt prevents battery overheating. The problem is that the world does not have enough of lithium or Cobalt reserves required to replace current automobiles with EVs. Worst, most reserves are located in a few countries. For example, 65% of lithium

Subsidy on Electric Scooters in India

Eligibility



- ✓ Max speed: >45km/hr
- ✓ Min Range: > 70kms
- ✓ Battery: < 3kWh

Now it is extended to all types of vehicles. To achieve this, adequate charging infrastructure should be provided along National Highways. Niti Aayog has estimated that the sale of EVs will help save about Rs 3 lakh crore on account of the import of crude oil to meet the growing demand.

To facilitate development of EVs in the country, Govt. of India has unveiled the "National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020" under which it has declared a number of incentives for production of EVs in the country. The main hurdle for India is that it has very less reserves of lithium and cobalt and it depends on its import. We have to import either these ingredients of battery or the battery in totality. It depends on the availability and economics.

Chile and Australia. Even it controls half the cobalt mines in Congo.

EVs are the future of transportation and clean atmosphere. But it cannot be achieved, if battery technology is not improved. Worldwide researcher are working on battery. They are trying to replace the expensive cobalt with sulphur, sodium and magnesium. One emerging solution is to develop solid - state batteries, which have advantages of no leakage of electrolyte, more life and ability to operate at higher temperature. Use of fuel cells is another great idea. Fuel cell EVs fueled by hydrogen emit only water and warm air. But its cost is too high and there is a great challenge to bring down its cost. MIT scientists are working on a project of wireless charging of the batteries by using magnetic resonance based on oscillating magnetic fields.



The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today.

THE ART & CULTURE COLUMN

Satsang – A Protective Hedge for Existence

(Report By – Prabhu Prasad Gadhayak)

The common platform of the disciples who love existence and growth is known as Satsang which Sri Sri Thakur Himself described as “**Man Making Factory**”. He said His mission was to extinguish death, disease, ignorance, poverty, deprivation and disintegration and to usher in the golden era where not

- So that every single person can say courageously with active cooperative zeal of love that “I am everyone's and everyone is mind”

Satsang, Satdikshya, Satnam is the exclusive repository of the

rid of untruth, violence and fear, but of getting rid of ignorance of self. That alone is the problem. They are all there because of this ignorance. Without it they have no existence. If there is no ignorance of the self, all of these disappear automatically and truth, non-ego, desirelessness, non-anger, non-violence and non-possessiveness takes their place. They are symptoms of self-realization. So, it is better to be in Satsang with the wise and evolve. As per Sri Sri Thakur's principles, Ignorance is Sin.

Light dispels darkness, knowledge melts ignorance,

Darkness prevents us from seeing what is lying around,

Ignorance veils our eyes from observing the Truth,

Both in darkness and ignorance we stumble in the progress of life.

– Sri Sri Thakur.

- God, as Sri Sri Thakur Anukul Chandra says, is Sachhidananda - 'Sat' means existence, 'Chit' means responsiveness and 'Ananda' is the urge of becoming.
- Thus, a man who lives in God, is responsible to the whole world and becomes what he essentially is, “He who gathers not with the Lord, scatters”.
- He wrote in “Satyanusaran' at the young age of twenty two.
- He within whom all the resources of the world-knowledge, love and activity are spontaneous, and by the inclination towards whom the scattered lives of men and all the diversities of the world find a final solution, is the God of men.
- He also adds, “He whose intense and active inclination towards a Living ideal, transcending time and space, has made Him into God normally; whose literature, philosophy and science, penetrating the scattered good and evil prejudices of the mind, have been meaningfully adjusted in the Ideal, is the True Master.
- And without accepting and following this one-and-only Master provided by Providence, no one, however great his achievements may be in any field of life, can attain fulfillment or a truly purposeful state of existence.
- Messages without number came down from the untiring lips of Sri Sri Thakur day in and out covering all aspects of human life and activity – from eugenic principles to guide healthy marriage to health and hygiene, education, agriculture, industry, politics, administration, law and justice and even to salvation and are

priceless gems which provide panacea to all maladies of life – individual, familial, social, national and international and are the beacon star in everyone's journey of life.

As a seeker, you are trying to perfect an ethical way of living, striving to be non-violent, truthful, pure, humble and selfless. However, it is indeed difficult to remain non-violent in the face of violence. It is difficult to remain humble in the face of ego. It is not easy to remain truthful in the face of untruth, selfless in the face of selfishness and to remain pure in the face of impurity.

We want to meditate, but there are numerous interruptions and distractions that keeps us away from meditating. The challenge is to resist those and stay on the path.

We need to be like a tree that can grow strong in the soil despite the elements around it. When a young tree is planted, a small fence or wooden stakes are planted around it to keep it safe from foraging animals or winds that can knock it down. Similarly we need a small fence around ourselves so that our budding spiritual growth can flourish.

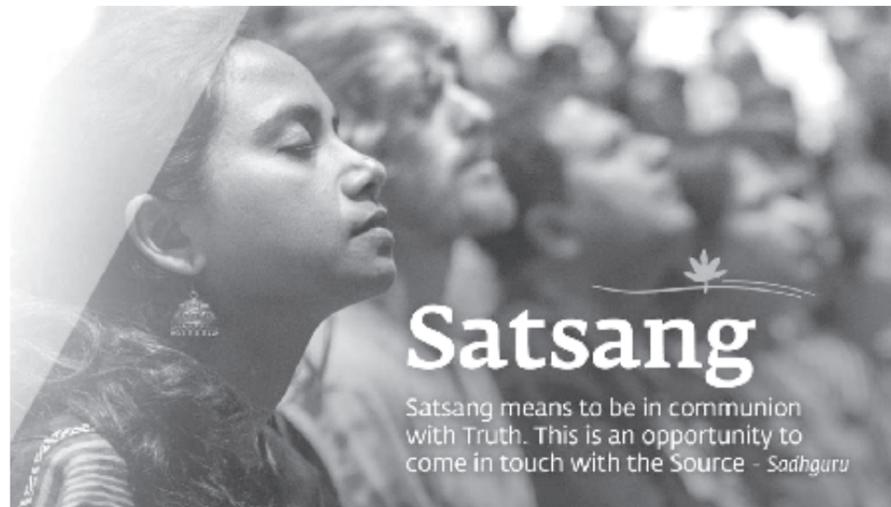
Besides meditation and ethical living, **Satsang** could offer A Protective Hedge for Body, Mind & Soul that helps the tree of spirituality to grow. When new to spiritual teachings, it is easy to become diverted by many temptations that bombard us. **Satsang** provides a protective hedge to remind us to meditate. It directs our focus to leading an ethical life and gives us a chance to cleanse and purify ourselves through selfless service. Within that fence, we need to be nourished by the nutrients of meditation and ethical living. We should stay focused on these activities so that no external elements deter us from growing spiritually. Thus, we can remain safe from falling prey to

saints. This charging helps to speed up our progress on the spiritual path so we can attain our goal of soul's union with God.

Satsang is a great gymnasium where lives are made perfect and strong. Sri Sri Thakur is the engineer of soul and elixir of being. To be in the company of the wise in Satsang, is very important. More than the words, it is their presence; more than the logic, it is their love; more than the structure of the path, it is the structure-less understanding in the life of a seeker. Thought has a structure. You try to comprehend something that does not conform to a structure through structure of thought.

Being constantly in Satsang gives you solitude. Then delusion loses its grip on you. Once that happens, what emerges is unchangeable reality, and one is able to experience a state of liberation. Constantly listen, go on listening till you are one with the understanding. So, Satsang will give you solitude, and detachment that removes delusion so that you start realizing the Truth. Once you know the Truth, you lose the grip of Samsaara inspite of being in Samsaara.

If one is sincere about bringing a transformation in one's life then this very thing can be used as a tool to reflect, implement and progress in every dimension of life. If you wish to follow the path of devotion, of wisdom and knowledge, then understand that you can not live recklessly, carelessly, without wisdom. Live wisely like an awakened one, not like a fool. And to be an awakened one, you have to be with the awakened one. This means to be with the knowledge – to be with jnana, Satsang, lofty thoughts so that you never perform wrong actions, never utter anything bad. Because whatever goes in, will come out. So you have to watch, what you listen to, what you see and also what you speak. Protect your mind from getting sullied. Make your mind sattvic, pure and



a single individual is afflicted by anyone of the above and there is paradise on earth. This movement transcends all movements. It doesn't serve just one political or economic purpose. It serves all the purposes in one single thrust – purpose of progressive life and growth of every individual of the human community along with the environment.

Satsang is a socio-cultural religious organization devoted to the cause of being and becoming of humanity at large, irrespective of caste, creed, sex and religion. Being religious involves a discipline for self-realization. The holy utterances of Sri Sri Thakur Anukulchandra, the founder, the exponent and the Supreme Spiritual Master of Satsang briefly outlining its objectives are given below:

- Satsang wants Man in the name of the one Supreme Creator of all beings, God, Khoda or Existence, whatever you call Him.
- Satsang wants Man, every one of mankind – Whether Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist or whatever to be gathered in His Name at the clarion call of Panchabarhi in pursuit, nurture and fulfillment, in elevating offering, in mutual compassionate co-operation and in an uplifting/efficient and industrious go of life.
- Satsang does not think in terms of Hindu, Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, regarding each and everyone as a child of Him alone.
- Satsang does not think in terms of Pakistan, Hindustan, Russia, China, Europe or America either.
- So that everybody by proper work & earning their food and clothing can survive, maintaining distinctiveness of being and moving in the way of becoming.
- So that everyone can understand that everyone belongs to him;
- So that no one can think that he is helpless, penniless, shelterless;

ultimate truth, that the path shown by it is exclusive and definitive, and that the methods adopted by it to achieve salvation are unique and superior.

Many situations in life upset us, and we wonder how we can remain ethical in the face of these daily challenges. Each moment we are confronted with choice between right and wrong. Whenever there are other people involved, there are bound to be situations where we disagree with what they are doing. Everyone is trying to live out their own life, and sometimes there are clashes between what others want and what we want.

Tolerance is the voluntary acceptance by the stronger of what otherwise one does not merely disprove but also abhors. Tolerance is “an attitude that requires us to hold the feelings of opposition and disapproval”. Tolerance also means the capacity to live with religious differences within one's own religion. On the other hand, the tolerance is the capacity to live with the prevailing religious differences with other religions. It is related with the capacity “of enduring or sustaining pain or hardship; the power or capacity of enduring”.

The seeds of intolerance in religions can be traced to exclusivism. Rig Vedic saying: “Truth is one; the sages describe it differently. Once we realize that all our knowledge is a contextual understanding of reality. We readily become tolerant of the others' viewpoint and our feeling of superiority and exclusiveness vanishes.

Some people may be violent; some others may be untruthful. We encounter those who are greedy and selfish, and others who may try to take advantage of us. As we navigate life, we engage with all sorts of people. How can one walk the spiritual path and retain our spiritual value and principles? There are many pitfalls along the way. **But once the seeker is on the right path, it would lead him to self-knowledge and God-realization.**

The question is not that of getting



negative characteristics. If people try to knock us down from being non-violent, truthful, pure, humble and selfless, or try to distract us from our meditations, we will find the strength to remain firm. We should continue to be good and compassionate and follow ethical values despite what happens to us.

At **Satsang**, we can find answers and deepen our understanding of spiritual teachings. By keeping the company of people who want to meditate and find God, we are strengthened. Our growing tree receives nourishment from the energy and blessings of gurus and

clean, only then it will become beautiful, so reflect wisely and well.

Satsang educates how to effect the practice of Dharma, Adjustment of Complexes, Nurture of Libido, How to prevent perversion & distortion in Libido, Presence of Evil or Satan & Resistance to Evil, Spiritual Realisation & Eternal Becoming, Immediate environment, Greater Environment, Necessity of Environment & Service to Environment.

THE CORPORATE & BUSINESS COLUMN

What Is Experimental Marketing ?

(Source – businessnewsdaily.com)

Traditional marketing is dead, at least, in the most traditional sense. A billboard with a picture of your product next to smiling faces just doesn't cut it anymore. Consumers now fast-forward through commercials, have ad blockers on their computers, and are more likely than ever to opt for commercial-free streaming services over live TV.

So what's an advertiser to do?

It may be time for your business to change directions and look to experiential marketing, which focuses on connecting

both be a part of and see the process of a campaign from beginning to end.

Why is it so effective?

"[Experiential marketing] is so effective because we are emotional beings," said Esther Sauri, marketing professional at Linki Law. "When a brand connects with us in an emotional way, we not only buy it, [but we become] loyal customers."

By involving your customers with the story, they feel connected rather than sold to, and this is a significant difference in

worked, too – the campaign reached more than 204 million impressions.

What to avoid

Experiential marketing can be a goldmine if leveraged correctly and a landmine if not. Many companies will attempt experiential marketing for the sake of it, knowing that it's a trendy and high-engagement practice, but without proper research and preparation, a campaign can very easily blow up in your face.

"The biggest pitfall in



consumers with a positive experience associated with a brand, rather than directly with a product.

What is experiential marketing?

Experiential marketing, also called engagement marketing, is a marketing strategy that directly engages consumers and encourages them to participate in a brand experience.

"Experiential marketing is all about creating a lasting impression on consumers that they want to share with others, and that ultimately leads to brand loyalty," said Katherine Rowland, digital marketing executive at Your Parking Space.

In traditional marketing, consumers are regarded as passive receivers of a company's message. In experiential marketing, a brand involves the consumer directly and often offers a window into the evolution of an advertising campaign. This allows a business to forge a relationship with the consumer by allowing them to

how they see your brand.

Take, for example, LeanCuisine's #WeighThis campaign. Women were invited to "weigh in" about something important about themselves, other than their weight. The responses were then collected and painted onto individual scales, which were displayed on a gallery wall in Grand Central Terminal. Responses ranged from "I care for 200 homeless children each day" to "I am back at college at 55 years old."

The brand then created a promo video that spoke to women about what they wrote and why.

The important aspect of Lean Cuisine's campaign was that at no time was anyone offered a Lean Cuisine product. The display was clearly branded with the company's Twitter handle and the #Weigh This hashtag, but that was it - Lean Cuisine depended on the gallery wall itself to draw people in and created an interactive experience around the message that women are more than a number on the scale. It

experiential marketing is to make the experience too salesy," said David Jacobson, founder and CEO of Triv Works. "Attendees don't want to feel like they're at a sales pitch. Make it too salesy, and you'll turn them off, or worse, they'll share that they had a negative experience."

Companies should try to create an experience that embodies their values, or, as Ashley Pontius, print campaign manager at News and Experts put it, "While experiential marketing is [mostly] brand building, focus [on making it] more brand being."

While the advertising world is most certainly moving toward a focus on experiential marketing, companies should think deeply before launching an engagement campaign. Is this right for your business? Can you devote the time, effort and money to doing it right? Do you have a clear goal in mind? If so, an experiential marketing campaign can launch your business with positive interactions and a loyal fan base.

Shopify built Indigo's new website in three days following ransomware attack

(Source – businessnewsdaily.com)

After reaching out to Shopify, Indigo was back online with a new site in three days.

When Indigo was struck by

only, and now permits users to buy "select books" online. A tagline at the top of the site's homepage currently reads, "Shop books online. Window-shop



ransomware and its website was down for more than a week, Shopify helped the company get back on its feet with a new website that allowed it to resume selling online.

Earlier this month, Indigo was hit by ransomware that wiped out the Canadian bookseller's e-commerce and in-store sales, shutting down its website for over a week. Indigo reached out to Shopify for assistance, according to Shopify president Harley Finkelstein. And, in a matter of days, Indigo was back online with a new, temporary, Shopify-powered website.

"They came to us, and in 3 days, we were able to build them a new site & get them back online and selling."

– Harley Finkelstein, Shopify

"Last week, one of Canada's biggest retailers and bookstores, Indigo, was completely down both online and in-store," tweeted Finkelstein on February 26. "They came to us, and in 3 days, we were able to build them a new site & get them back online and selling. That's the power of @Shopify."

Indigo, the retailer behind Indigo and Chapters bookstores across the country, was struck by what the company initially described as a cybersecurity incident on February 8.

This hack, which Indigo later confirmed was a ransomware attack, shut down the firm's e-commerce business. It also affected Indigo's computers and payment system, impacting the firm's in-store operations and costing the company an estimated "millions" of dollars in lost sales.

Nine days later, Indigo announced that it had launched a new, temporary website supported by Shopify.

Indigo's new website remains limited. It was initially browse-

lifestyle." Indigo has not provided a timeline for when full functionality, its original website, or its app may return.

RELATED: The Indigo hack is bad. Will AI make cyber threats worse?

"We are working hard to provide the seamless online shopping experience that you have come to expect," states Indigo. "Currently we are only selling select books online and look forward to expanding the assortment shortly. Please check back daily for updates and progress."

Indigo, which is conducting an investigation into the ransomware incident, said there is no indication that customer data was impacted by the attack. But as The Globe and Mail has reported, Indigo employees' personal information, including social insurance numbers, financial details, and other data, was indeed breached by hackers.

Experts say the Indigo hack highlights hackers' mounting prevalence and sophistication. The incident marks the latest in a series of high-profile cyberattacks on large Canadian organizations in recent months,



including the Liquor Control Board of Ontario, Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, and Sobeys parent Empire Co.

Though Shopify got its start helping small businesses, the company has recently been ramping up its focus on enterprise retailers. Shopify's role in the Indigo saga showcases its efforts to work with customers of this size.

THE EDITORIAL COLUMN

INITIATION – AN INTEGRAL PART OF LIFE

(Report By – N H Priya Garnaik)

The practice through which capability of a person increases is known as Initiation (Diparakshi, Vol.3, Page 207). Initiate is the root word of Initiation (Dikshya). So, Initiation is the beginning or new birth for those who get initiated. After initiation, a new life begins i.e. spiritual life.

Initiation is to know the clues of efficiency. The ideal or Guru gives his disciples a secret **Holy Name (a powerful impulse-generating word which is a combination of some of the highest possible vibration syllables)** at the time of initiation.

Initiation means to accept the ideal with a view to follow him for the achievement of knowledge and efficiency that fulfills life and growth. When a man gets initiated to an ideal and accepts the clues that ideal ordains to follow and practices the clues in his practical behavior, he tends to secure propitious efficiency in life. Initiation from an ideal begets adherence to the ideal. As is man's adherence to the ideal, so is the fire and ignition in him.

Invocation of the Holy Name sets a man free from all sorts of mental strains and anxieties, and from insecurity, alienation and other complexes which afflict life. The particular Holy Name, given to the disciples of Sri Sri Thakur, is an approximate articulate expression of the primordial vibration which has evolved with creation. Due to love and attachment for the Godly Man who is ideal in the true sense, man imbibes the divine nature of the ideal in his own character. The results- the very self of the man comes to shine in pristine purity.

In this age of accepting the Holy Name of Sri Sri Thakur through initiation, one can cross all the bondages and barriers and can attain the highest goal of the life. The path of devotion is easy, simple and safe for anyone. Active service and attachment to the Sadguru and repeating the Satnam and meditating in proper way with devotional prayer are the ways to achieve the highest perfection to life. The real worship is to perform all the duties and obligations of life as servant of the Lord who works through all the beings. By the active attachment towards the Lord, the integration,

consummation, sublimation and materialization of complexes are possible.

Initiation is the process in which a Man of complex, passion & desires is converted into Man of principle, Ideal and beloved. The spiritual master is the power source of all. So through his initiation we gets attached to him and work with precision to achieve perfection. So for our all-round success in life, Sri Sri Thakur has given us three main principles i.e. Jajan (To exalt oneself with pious worship), Jaajan (To exalt others with pious worship) & Istavriti (Daily sacred oblation to the Lord). We must be attached and identified with him and such identification comes through initiation. Being initiated with him, we can work out regular meditation and by chanting of Satnaam, we become active, agile, inquisitive, responsible, alert and tactful and the inner ability of the body and mind nourishes, as a result of which, we become healthy, confident and pleasant. So attachment to the living Ideal brings success in each and every life. Adherence to Ideal bring adjustment of complexes which invites uphold of existence, uphold of existence brings compassionate sympathy, compassionate sympathy brings integration, integration brings power, power invokes harmonious growth and uphold of existence.

So initiation in Satnaam from the Ideal Sadguru Yugapurusottam Sri Sri Thakur Anukulchandra is most indispensable and inevitable for everyone. Param Pujyapad Sri Sri Acharyadev is the demonstrator of devotion and he is the great attraction and source of inspiration for all. To be near to Him and hear His inspiring and exalting words thrills everybody's heart. He pointed out that the real significance and meaningfulness of life lies in working for the Ideal. He is the hope sustainer, shelter, true guide and source of inspiration for everybody. Sri Sri Thakur calls to each and everyone to unite under a

common platform of Satsang, irrespective of caste and religion. So imparting Satnam (Initiation) is essential for all.

An 11-year old child has to be initiated with imparting Satnam (Bijamantra). It was a practice of ancient times in Rushikula & Gruhasthashram. Now a days, we have also seen Bratopanayan (Initiation) in Brahmin Culture at the age of 11-12 years. But why at this age? This remains a question for us. Because, during the age of 5 to 10 years, the enthuse of a child to question why, how and what grows. At the age of 11, it was easy to do the psycho physical moulding of objects and affairs to fulfill the interest of the Ideal & Culture and the child is at proper stage for grasping and unfurling the faculties of perception, conception, distinction, sharp division and

remembrance with a shortening of reaction time starts.

Initiation is the root of the organization (Satsang), otherwise the organization is false. Initiation is the only way to be Unicentric Untottering attachment to the Ideal, who knows the mechanism of existence, by which a co-adjusted enthusiastic act of social life develops. Many people also question the viability of initiation to the society. Whether it is an elderly man or anybody else, initiation is fruitful to everybody, if the principles of Ideal and the means to observe, practice and workout His commandments are followed. Ideal is the prime pivot of stay. Nobody can go beyond the purview of principles of nature. It is apparent from Sri Sri Thakur's Verse:

"Whereas the fallen finds only faults, the next higher weighs vice and virtue, still higher appreciates the excellence in man, **Purusottam magnifies the microscopic virtue latent in man.**" Practice and culture according to initiation or 'Diksha'

with every concentric service and fulfillment of it – enable one to suffer and achieve success with a moulding of character. (M-2, Page-181)

At the early stage of 11-12 years, when complexes started to rule over our body and mind, we need to control our mind which is the strongest and most powerful healer of our body. To control our mind, we need 'Satnam' which we get through initiation, the remedy of all and for all.

Complexes are necessary for life & growth. In between 10-15 years, complexes are slowly developing in everybody. The complexes have to remain in parameter, otherwise it will drag anybody to the doors of death & destruction. So, complexes have to be controlled, solved and balanced. The very problem of the society starts from the unrolled complexes of human being. **U n i c e n t r i c u n t o t t e r i n g** attachment to the Ideal is the only way to control the **u n r o l l e d** complexes and get rescued from the problematic situation.

Religion is nothing but to be initiated with the Master-Exponent and to lead life according to His leading commands making Him prominent in life – by which solace of life and existential uphold, are cultured combating evil that deteriorates it. Religion relays psycho-physical coordinating strength of the people, and makes them inter-interested with every propitious prosperity of life and love. (M-2, 58-59)

The being is full of regard, and a man is what his object of regard is (Gita). If we can wholly concentrate our love on the ideal with un-repelling active adherence, we have nothing to worry about. Then, Dharma, wealth, fulfillment of desire and liberation would be at our disposal. We shall find fulfillment by achieving all-round worldly and other-worldly welfare. In order to concentrate our entire love on the Ideal, we have to practice some scientific processes everyday. To learn

these processes with all regardfulness is to be initiated. After initiation we have to observe these things daily with due adherence. This will develop our love for the Ideal from day to day. In a nutshell, our character will be tinged according to His characteristics. (An Integral Philosophy of Life).

There are various complexes and passions present in us. The more these complexes increases, the more endangered becomes our existence. By taking and practising initiation, the road towards the uphold of existence opens.

The action of the Holy Name is there. But, by taking initiation we come to know the correct procedure of repetition of Holy Name. The main point is to be concentric. Without being concentric, nothing is possible. Everything becomes a mess. And to be concentric, accepting Guru is a must. (Alochana Prasange, Alochana, Agrahayan, 1400).

The Present Prophet Sri Sri Thakur Anukulchandra is the concentrated digest and Fulfiller of specific specifications of all the Prophets,- the Forerunners, and He is the meaningful advent for the present,- the message of life and growth and rescue for all, but not limited by time. (M-2, 102)

Bibeleo naki achhe, jara aai nutan Naam pabe, karbe, tara chinhita haye thakbe, tara biparjayer samaye rakshya paye jabe, aai halo parampittar amogha bidhi. (Even it is found in Bible, who get this new NAME (initiated), observe & practice, he will be earmarked to get rid of at the time of disasters. This is the harden principles of Supreme Father.) A.P.8,

Dikshya halo tai, ja amader antarnihita shaktike sola kalaye jagiye toolbar tuk ta jante pari. Sudhu janlei habena, paripalan karte chai. (Initiation is, which we get the clues of efficiency to magnify the excellence and the microscopic virtue latent in us. Not only be informed, but also keep in practice & observe.)

Nobody should be deprived of getting the Satnam. Without initiation, there will be no complete coordinated intelligence.

THE LAW AND ORDER COLUMN

Demonetisation Judgement: Historical Dissent

(Report By – Pradeep Kumar Panda, Economist, Bhubaneswar)

The Supreme Court's judgment, upholding the constitutional validity of the demonetisation of Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 notes, is legally right but comes too late to be of any appreciable legal interest. It highlights the phenomenon of the Court determining the outcome of a case without actually deciding the case, and raises worrying questions about the abdication of responsibility by the Court.

Was the 2016 demonetisation of the Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 notes legally valid? The question which probably had relevance in 2016 has become stale in 2023. The answer afforded by the Supreme Court in *Vivek Narayan Sharma v Union of India (2023)* that indeed it was legal is, at best, academic. Nonetheless, the five-judge bench judgment provides the public a glimpse into the exercise and also an occasion to reflect on the demonetisation itself.

Lets go into the Court's interpretation of Section 26 of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934, why it upheld the

Justice Gavai's judgment rejects this argument pointing out that applying the canons of interpretation, "any" can mean "all" unless the interpretation would go contrary to the intent of the law, while Justice Nagarathna

union government's power here is guided by the RBI, the expert body on matters of money and currency, and cannot be considered unguided and arbitrary merely because of its scope.



argues that such an interpretation would not be sustainable.

On the face of it, Justice Gavai's interpretation is more legally sound and within the framework of the RBI Act itself. As I have argued in this column in the past (Kumar 2016), this is an interpretation that finds support

One other way to approach it is, if the RBI were to do away with the Rs. 10 note entirely for sound reasons, would it have to necessarily wait for Parliament to make a law for just this purpose and not simply recommend the same to the union government? Justice Nagarathna argues instead that demonetisation of all notes is possible only through the plenary legislation made by Parliament. While this is certainly a desirable way to do it, her judgment does not exactly point out why the Constitution intends that this is the only way to undertake such an activity.

At the heart of it, the petitioners' claims and Justice Nagarathna's dissenting judgment are the consequentialist reading of Section 26(2) - that because demonetisation had ill effects and caused undeniable harm, it must also necessarily be illegal and unconstitutional. While the failure of demonetisation to meet its stated objectives has been pointed out by experts over the years, the legality of a governmental act does not depend solely on its intent or whether it met its intended purpose.

Legality is just one attribute of a governmental act (an important one, no doubt) but not the sole one. A legal action on the part of the government may be fiscally ruinous for the exchequer, may cause unhappiness and a reduction of general welfare among the people, and may bring international opprobrium. Equally, a measure that is fiscally responsible, supported by the majority and improves welfare may go contrary to the law and Constitution. It does not get attributed with legality or constitutional validity simply by virtue of being a good measure.

That said, the more important aspects of this judgment might lie in what they tell us about the two institutions at the heart of the

discussion—the RBI and the Supreme Court.

It is quite telling that the RBI, which opposed the much smaller-scale demonetisation exercises of 1946 and 1978, was happy to go along with the much larger-scale demonetisation exercise of 2016. As the judgment notes, there was a back and forth between the RBI and the union government for six months in 2016 on the merits of demonetisation until it gave the recommendation that the same can be done. The Central Board of the RBI, having gone into the "pros and cons" of the move, recommended that the demonetisation exercise be carried out and even suggested a mechanism to implement it, with a apparently minimal inconvenience to the public.

The Supreme Court obviously does not have the expertise or the competence to judge whether the RBI did its job properly on both of these metrics, and wisely declined to comment on the merits of these matters. The Supreme Court judgment gives us a rare glimpse into the manner in which the RBI functions and its role in the lead-up to demonetisation. Though the RBI and the union government may have followed the letter of the law in taking the decision to demonetise currency, it can hardly be said that demonetisation was implemented in a smooth manner with little inconvenience to the public or that it achieved all of its stated objectives, no matter what they may be. It raises the question though: Did the RBI do its job

undertakes regulatory functions, even if it does not always result in the immediate review of its actions in all situations. Much of the material discussed in the judgment was not available in the public domain, and the judgment has, among other things, brought to light the manner in which the RBI's stand in the demonetisation matter may have been ill-considered or influenced by the government's pressure to approve the exercise.

However, the judgment equally exposes how the Supreme Court abdicated its responsibilities in the demonetisation case. While the challenges were filed within a few weeks from the announcement, the Supreme Court referred the challenges to a larger bench of five judges which delivered its judgment six years later. The order of referral simply framed a few questions and decided to refer the matter to a five-judge bench because of the "general public importance and the far-reaching implications" of the decision (*Vivek Narayan Sharma v Union of India 2017*). No doubt, the case has far-reaching implications and is of great importance, but nowhere does the court justify why the case needed to be heard by a five-judge bench.

By posting the case for a later date and to be heard by a larger bench, the court effectively decided the case without actually delivering a judgment. The judgment, such as it is, delivered by the five-judge bench, feels like an academic exercise without much bearing on the development of the law or in



demonetisation exercise as legally valid and what the judgment tells us about the state of two institutions: the Supreme Court of India and the RBI.

The majority judgment in *Vivek Narayan Sharma*, on behalf of four of the five judges, was authored by Justice B R Gavai and the dissenting judgment by Justice B V Nagarathna. Reference to Justice Gavai's judgment should be assumed to be a reference to the views of the majority in the judgment.

The core of the legal challenge to the demonetisation move centred around the interpretation of the phrase "any series" in subsection (2) of Section 26 of the RBI Act which was invoked by the union government to demonetise the bank notes in 2016. The legal argument was that the union government could not use this section to demonetise "all series" of bank notes of any denomination as it did with the notification dated 8 November 2016.

in the General Clauses Act, 1897 and also in the past precedents of the Supreme Court (from other legislation) which the judgment cites.

The interpretation offered by Justice Nagarathna, on the other hand, contends that in this context, "any" cannot mean "all." Her judgment does not account for the provisions of the General Clauses Act which explicitly state that when a law uses the singular, it includes the plural as well. It is an altogether strange interpretation of the word "any" - that it means as many as possible so long as it does not include the entirety. In her view, any should mean "specified" or "particular," else the section would result in the powers of the union government being unguided and arbitrary. There is a conflation here of the RBI's role and that of the union government's - the RBI on its own cannot demonetise notes nor can the union government invoke its power under Section 26. The



properly? In recommending the demonetisation exercise, did the RBI exercise its judgment properly? Did its recommendations on the implementation take into account the serious challenges that would be faced in trying to replace more than 85% of the currency overnight?

Even as these questions are left hanging, as other authors have pointed out, the RBI is being increasingly subjected to greater judicial scrutiny in the way it

defining boundaries within which institutions may act.

The judgment is interpreted as too little too late. The apex court should intervene in financial matter as it concerns livelihood of 140 crore fellow Indians and state of Indian Economy. The judgement could have spoke a few lines on troubles and hardship faced by fellow countrymen. The judgement should have focused on outcome of the exercise along with process.

HUMAN EMPOWERMENT COLUMN

TRUE CONFIDENCE

(Report By – SWAMI SUDDHANANDA)

Too often we come across situations, where someone describes or blames others that they are losing confidence in themselves. Yet some other say that they are losing the confidence in the other person.

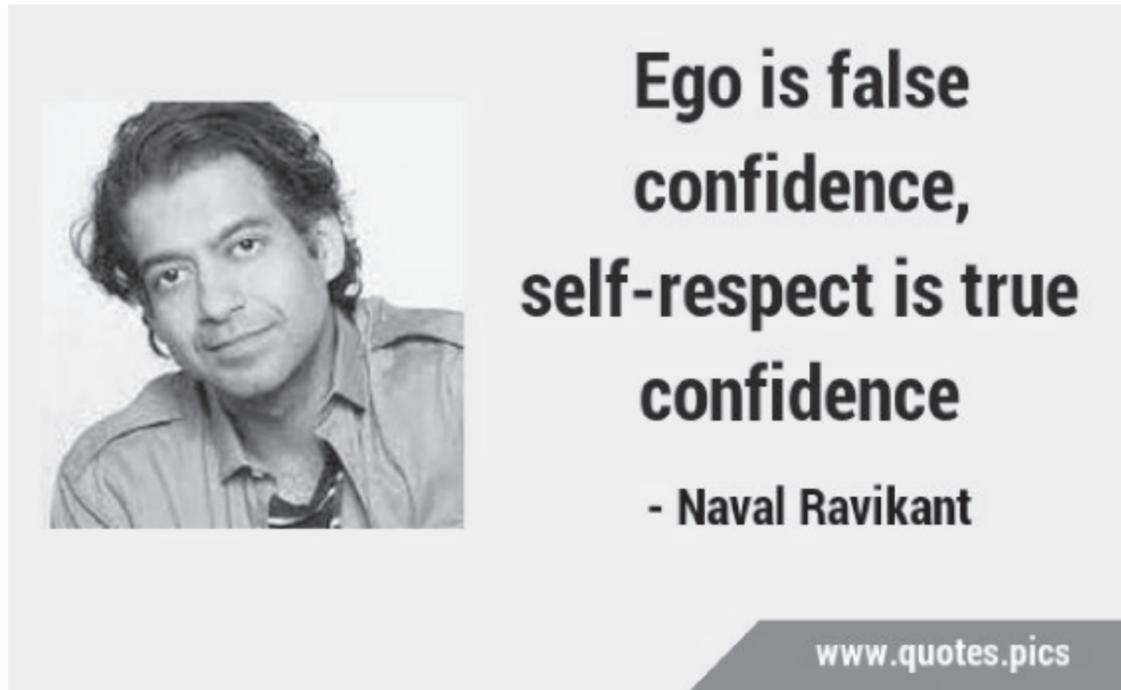
phenomenon for all times to come as everybody begins with the ignorance about himself, or helping out to keep it hidden, invisible! It is like the itch from a skin disorder. As long as it is

That is why, in Self-Knowledge the whole attempt is that the person is made to discover the inherent confidence in his own Self, the Being, and is never given a chance to transfer that to a book, a person, a faith, a practice, a divinity or any such thing. Most people come to a teacher after they are tired or frustrated by the crashing of the confidence that they had developed upon the immediate family, job, money, power etc. That's why too often, the religion or religious personalities, symbols or practices can be very alluring during the transition where the person is tired of old habits and looking for some new confidence boosters. Just anything and everything can look attractive, when the tired and wounded man is looking for a solace, shelter or confidence of some kind. Some people take to smoking, drugs or drinks- the drugs that make them feel relaxed and the drinks that becomes an addiction. Similarly, tired of the so-called secular or material world, many plunge into the vague and exotic world of the faiths, religions, mysterious practices and end up as the most frustrated, helpless and hopeless ones as they have travelled through both the extreme worlds

does not have to 'look for' Confidence in something or somebody.

The wise is the one who has found that source in himself and therefore sees that in anyone, everyone, in anything and everything. He shall be a confidence trickster, a confidence goofer if he leads on the people to shift their confidence from one material thing to the other, religious thing personality or practice. Even if the wise one attempts to push people beyond both, that includes his own personality or personality traits, yet there will be always someone or something who shall unconsciously hold unto either the person or the lifestyle around and shall feel goofed up when the collapsible collapses!

In spite of the attempt of the wise, those people shall never look into themselves, but shall have conscious pride or subtle arrogance on the patronage of the wise or the wisdom. If they share the wisdom, they shall continue to serve the wisdom, even if the relative world of judgement collapses around. As even the wise man continues to teach even after many people do not understand the Self, so also the wise one who may not be a preceptor but a supporter of the propagation continues to do so without losing the confidence



There is a basic flaw in these types of perceptions. Losing or gaining confidence is a relative matter. But in reality 'The Confidence' in one's own self and thereby in others is non-negotiable. That is the open secret, the most obviously oblivious phenomenon of life! Not many human beings are aware of it. Like everything else, in so many other human situations or emotions, most people direct their attention to the external, the peripheral, the obvious, the perceivable world around and never have the insight into themselves.

The other day, a student who just started attending a few classes burst out with frustration that he seems to be losing confidence in everything. He has no confidence upon the family, friends, studies, governments, religion, God, the Scriptures, etc. I was listening to all these familiar rantings, condemnation on others with total amusement as there was nothing new or novel about it. Everybody goes through this. I went through this and everybody too will go through this. This shall remain a universal

which seems to be the immediate source of all confidence, security, support, love, kindness, strength or whatever little or huge emotion that any man is seeking for in life!

Usually, an average person is rattled, when another person expresses his lack of confidence in him. One gets rattled because his confidence in himself is dependent upon the other person's confidence or dependence on him. The other person feels confident because he finds the other person as the source of his strength. It is a pathetic play of 'you scratch my back and I scratch your back'. The moment someone stops scratching your back, the itch is so overwhelming that you explode with vicious condemnation of the other as to how you were used, abused or misused. The eruption of anger is not because the other person stopped scratching you, flattering you, giving you what you needed but because your inherent weakness, the insecurity came into surface in the absence of the other person no more supporting

kept under control because of some heat, ointment or gently patting, the person feels comfortable. But the moment, the treatment stops, the person cannot refrain himself from making it painful. It is like the withdrawal symptom of a drug addict.

The average man lives with the artificial boosting of false confidence when others praise him, when the person has wealth, power, position, youth, followers, health, etc., Many people lose that confidence with the decline of youth, health, power, wealth, popularity, relationship and what not. Every one of those aspects of life can work like a drug to temporarily boost the confidence level. The young man was no exception. Neither shall he be the last man collapsing with sudden confidence goofing or crashing. Every man shall go through this. That is because every person by himself is a 'confidence goofer', a 'confidence crash victim' and they do not need somebody to goof up their confidence.

In fact, if the person has found his inner confidence, where there is no dependence on any person, anything, God, religion, philosophy, practices, time, place, forms, names, an emotion or an idea, then there is nothing or nobody who or which can shake that firm Confidence!

Dispelling Myths: True or False?

| | | |
|---|--|-------|
| 1 | Confidence can be learnt | True |
| 2 | Confident people don't fail | False |
| 3 | Confident people experience fear | True |
| 4 | You don't need to be perfect to feel confident | True |
| 5 | Confident people are confident in everything | False |

of the secular beliefs and the religious faiths.

The Self Knowledge is neither that of the secular world nor that of the religious world. When these two are mutually exclusive, the world of the Self or Self Knowledge is All-inclusive! The Self Knowledge deals with the 'I' - the universal first name, the Nameless that the One or Everyone 'Is'! Long before every one 'has' an identity, first every one 'IS'! 'Isness' is the Existence and does not have to 'HAVE' something to 'Be'! When to 'Have', first one must 'Be', in order to 'Be', nobody has to 'Have' anything! When that Inexpressible, the meaning of the word 'Being, the 'I', the Self, the Love, the Happiness, the Security is 'the meaning' of the word 'Confidence' itself, one

either in himself, in the teaching tradition or anything whatsoever in life. Therefore the confidence goofers and tricksters are those who have goofed up their own confidence ever maintaining the ignorance in the name of Knowledge. They have unconsciously tricked themselves to believe in something other than themselves on placing confidence in someone or something that they 'HAVE' and not in who they 'ARE'!

Therefore, Be the Self and un-goo your misplaced confidence in something or somebody never again to mourn or attempting to invoke sympathy as the 'victim' of confidence crashing or clashing.

Be the Confidence!!



Everybody knows how to raise children, except the people who have them.

THE GOVERNMENT COLUMN

Union Budget 2023-2024: Highlights & How it Unfolded

(Report By – Our Correspondent, Photo Source – history.com)

Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented Union Budget for the year 2023-24 a few days ago. Following are the highlights of the Budget presented:

Priorities of this Budget: The Budget adopts the following seven priorities. They complement each other and act as the 'Saptarishi', guiding us through the Amrit Kaal.

- 1) Inclusive Development
- 2) Reaching the Last Mile
- 3) Infrastructure and Investment
- 4) Unleashing the Potential
- 5) Green Growth
- 6) Youth Power
- 7) Financial Sector

Priority 1: Inclusive Development Extension of PMGKAY for 2023-24: To ensure food and nutritional security, from 1st January 2023, a scheme to supply free food grain to all Antyodaya and priority households for the next one year, under PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). The entire expenditure of about Rs. 2 lakh crore will be borne by the Central Government.

PM Vishwakarma KAushal Samman (PM VIKAS): The new scheme will enable them to improve the quality, scale and reach of their products, integrating them with the MSME value chain.

Digital Public Infrastructure for Agriculture: Digital public infrastructure for agriculture will be built as an open source, open standard and inter-operable public good.

Agriculture Accelerator Fund: An Agriculture Accelerator Fund will be set-up to encourage agri- startups by young entrepreneurs in rural areas.

Enhancing productivity of cotton crop: To enhance the productivity of extra-long staple cotton, a cluster-based and value chain approach would be adopted through Public Private Partnerships (PPP).

Atmanirbhar Horticulture Clean Plant Program: Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Program to boost availability of disease-free, quality planting material for high value horticultural crops at an outlay of Rs. 2,200 crore.

Global Hub for Millets: To make India a global hub for 'Shree Anna', the Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad will be supported as the Centre of Excellence for sharing best practices, research and technologies at the international level.

Agriculture Credit: The agriculture credit target will be increased to Rs. 20 lakh crore with focus on animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries.

Fisheries: A new sub-scheme of PM Matsya Sampada Yojana with targeted investment of Rs. 6,000 crore would be launched to further enable activities of fishermen, fish vendors, and micro & small enterprises, improve value chain

efficiency and expand the market.

Cooperation: The government will implement a plan to set up massive de-centralised storage capacity. The government will facilitate setting up of a large number of multipurpose cooperative societies, primary fishery societies and dairy cooperative societies in uncovered panchayat and villages in the next 5 years.

Health, Education and Skilling Medical & Nursing Colleges: 157 new nursing colleges will be established in co-location with the existing 157 medical colleges established since 2014.

Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission: A Mission to eliminate Sickle Cell Anaemia by 2047 will be launched. It will entail awareness creation, universal screening of 7 crore people in the age group of 0-40 years in affected tribal areas, and counselling through collaborative efforts of central ministries and state governments.

Medical Research: Facilities in select ICMR Labs will be made available for research by public and private medical college faculty and private sector R&D teams for encouraging collaborative research and innovation.

Pharma Innovation: A new programme to promote research and innovation in pharmaceuticals will be taken up through centers of excellence. Industries would be encouraged to invest in research and development in specific priority areas.

Teachers' Training: The District Institutes of Education and Training will be developed as vibrant institutes of excellence for this purpose.

National Digital Library for Children and Adolescents: A National Digital Library for children and adolescents will be set-up for facilitating availability of quality books across geographies, languages, genres and levels, and device agnostic accessibility.

Priority 2: Reaching the Last Mile Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission: To improve socio-economic condition of the particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs), Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission will be launched. An amount of Rs. 15,000 crore will be made available to implement the Mission in the next three years under the Development Action Plan for the Scheduled Tribes.

Eklavya Model Residential Schools: In the next three years, centre will recruit 38,800 teachers and support staff for the 740 Eklavya Model Residential Schools, serving 3.5 lakh tribal students.

Water for Drought Prone Region: In the drought prone central region of Karnataka, central assistance of Rs. 5,300 crore will be given to

Upper Bhadra Project to provide sustainable micro irrigation and filling up of surface tanks for drinking water.

PM Awas Yojana: The outlay for PM Awas Yojana is being enhanced by 66 per cent to over Rs. 79,000 crore.

Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions (Bharat SHRI): 'Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions' will be set up in a digital epigraphy museum, with digitization of one lakh ancient inscriptions in the first stage.

Priority 3: Infrastructure & Investment

Capital Investment as driver of growth and jobs: Capital investment outlay is being increased by 33 per cent to Rs. 10 lakh crore, which would be 3.3 per cent of GDP.

Effective Capital Expenditure: The direct capital investment by the Centre is complemented by the provision made for creation of capital assets through Grants-in-Aid to States. The 'Effective Capital Expenditure' of the Centre is budgeted at Rs. 13.7 lakh crore, which will be 4.5 per cent of GDP.

Support to State Governments for Capital Investment: 50-year interest free loan to state governments for one more year to spur investment in infrastructure and to incentivize them for complementary policy actions, with a significantly enhanced outlay of Rs. 1.3 lakh crore.

Railways: A capital outlay of Rs. 2.40 lakh crore has been provided for the Railways. This highest ever outlay is about 9 times the outlay made in 2013-14.

Logistics: 100 critical transport infrastructure projects, for last and first mile connectivity of ports, coal, steel, fertilizer, and food grains sectors have been identified. They will be taken up on priority basis with investment of Rs. 75,000 crore, including Rs. 15,000 crore from private sources.

Regional Connectivity: 50 additional airports, heliports, water aerodromes and advance landing grounds will be revived for improving regional air connectivity.

Making Cities ready for Municipal Bonds: Through property tax governance reforms and ring-fencing user charges on urban infrastructure, cities will be incentivized to improve their credit worthiness for municipal bonds.

Urban Infrastructure Development Fund: Like the RIDF, an Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF) will be established with allocation of Rs. 10,000 crore per annum through use of priority sector lending shortfall. This will be managed by the National Housing Bank, and will be used by public agencies to create urban infrastructure in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.

Urban Sanitation: All cities and towns will be enabled for 100 per cent mechanical de-sludging of septic tanks and sewers for transition from manhole to machine-hole mode. Enhanced focus will be provided for scientific management of dry and wet waste.

Priority 4: Unleashing the Potential

Centre of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence: For realizing the vision of "Make AI in India and Make AI work for India", three centre of excellence for Artificial Intelligence will be set-up in top educational institutions.

National Data Governance Policy: To unleash innovation and research by start-ups and academia, a National Data Governance Policy will be brought out to enable access to anonymous data.

State Support Mission: The State Support Mission of NITI Aayog will be continued for three years for collective efforts towards national priorities.

E-Courts: For efficient administration of justice, Phase-3 of the E-Courts project will be launched with an outlay of Rs. 7,000 crore.

Entity DigiLocker: An Entity DigiLocker will be set up for use by MSMEs, large business and charitable trusts for storing and sharing documents online securely, whenever needed, with various authorities, regulators, banks and other business entities.

5G Services: 100 labs for developing applications using 5G services will be set up in engineering institutions to realize a new range of opportunities, business models, and employment potential.

Priority 5: Green Growth

Green Hydrogen Mission: The recently launched National Green Hydrogen Mission, with an outlay of Rs. 19,700 crores, to reach an annual production of 5 MMT by 2030.

Energy Transition: This Budget provides Rs. 35,000 crore for priority capital investments towards energy transition and net zero objectives, and energy security by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

Energy Storage Projects: To steer the economy on the sustainable development path, Battery Energy Storage Systems with capacity of 4,000 MWH will be supported with Viability Gap Funding.

Renewable Energy Evacuation: The Inter-state transmission system for evacuation and grid integration of 13 GW renewable energy from Ladakh will be constructed with investment of Rs. 20,700 crore including central support of Rs. 8,300 crore.

Green Credit Programme: For encouraging behavioral change, a Green Credit Programme will be notified under the Environment

(Protection) Act.

PM-PRANAM: "PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth" will be launched to incentivize States and Union Territories to promote alternative fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers.

GOBARdhan scheme: 500 new 'waste to wealth' plants under GOBARdhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) scheme will be established for promoting circular economy. These will include 200 compressed biogas (CBG) plants, including 75 plants in urban areas, and 300 community or cluster-based plants at total investment of Rs. 10,000 crore. In due course, a 5 per cent CBG mandate will be introduced for all organizations marketing natural and bio gas.

Bhartiya Prakritik Kheti Bio-Input Resource Centres: Over the next 3 years, 1 crore farmers would be facilitated to adopt natural farming. For this, 10,000 Bio-Input Resource Centres will be set-up, creating a national-level distributed micro-fertilizer and pesticide manufacturing network.

MISHTI: Building on India's success in afforestation, 'Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes', MISHTI, will be taken up for mangrove plantation along the coastline and on salt pan lands, wherever feasible, through convergence between MGNREGS, CAMPA Fund and other sources.

Amrit Dharohar: The government will promote their unique conservation values through Amrit Dharohar, a scheme that will be implemented over the next three years to encourage optimal use of wetlands, and enhance bio-diversity, carbon stock, eco-tourism opportunities and income generation for local communities.

Vehicle Replacement: Replacing old polluting vehicles is an important part of greening our economy. In furtherance of the vehicle scrapping policy mentioned in Budget 2021-22, adequate funds would be allocated to scrap old vehicles of the Central Government. States would also be supported in replacing old vehicles and ambulances.

Priority 6: Youth Power Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0: PMKVY 4.0 will be launched to skill many youth within the next three years. 30 Skill India International Centers would be set up across different States.

Skill India Digital Platform: The digital ecosystem for skilling will be further expanded with the launch of a unified Skill India Digital platform for enabling demand-based formal skilling, linking with employers including MSMEs, and facilitating access to entrepreneurship schemes.

Continued Page 02

UNION BUDGET
केंद्रीय बजट
2023-2024



Love is a sacred reserve of energy; it is like the blood of spiritual evolution.

NEWS & VIEWS EXPRESS

Importance of DNA Test: A Discussion in the Context of Adultery As A Ground For Divorce

(Report By – Pradipta Kumar Mohanty, Senior Advocate, Odisha High Court, Cuttack)

In 1980s court was of the strict opinion that DNA testing hampers the privacy between the parties to the marriage, and was not relied upon. The conclusive proof of legitimacy of a child born during the continuance of a valid marriage was significantly analysed under section 112 of the Evidence Act and was based on the maxim “pater est quem nuptiae demonstrant”, meaning thereby “the father is he, whom the nuptials indicate”.

Basically, this section was formulated in year 1872, nearly 140 years ago. But, in last three decades, there is an unpredictable growth of scientific temperament. And, even the Legal Community is showing the impression of the same.

The Courts readily admits the scientific evidences in case of theft, rape, murder and what not. But it is far beyond the reasonable understanding as why the issue of legitimacy is left open, to be decided by the legal interpretations and not by scientific techniques.

Here, introduction and admission of DNA technology can actually be fruitful, to meet the ends of the justice. The development in DNA based studies is vast, complex and expanding on a monthly basis. In spite of repeated legal challenges, mainly in the USA, no two persons other than identical twins, have been found to have identical DNA profiles, the possible number of presumptions far exceeding the population of the world.

In paternity testing, DNA allows positive determination of parenthood, rather than the statistical likelihood or exclusion offered by blood typing in former years.

But still even in a recent case in 2001 Supreme Court refused to rely on the result of a DNA test and held that under sec. 112 of the Evidence Act non-access between the man and woman is the only way to raise the presumption against legitimacy. The dilemma of the Court is that accepting DNA as evidence of legitimacy is likely to render many children illegitimate and many women unchaste. This is quite unfair for the husbands, and the court appears to be saying to them that: “It is your child, unless you can prove beyond reasonable doubt that it is not!” This is certainly not the solution to the problem.

The Law Commission in its 185th Report, proposed certain amendments to Section 112 which are yet to be given force. The Commission proposed that in the case of blood tests, there can be evidence by way of DNA tests to prove that a person is not the father and added three more exceptions under section 112 of the Indian Evidence Act – (a) medical tests to prove impotency (b) blood tests (c) DNA test.

As Roscoe Pound put it: “Law must be stable. But not stand still.”

Court recently from 2011 has been giving assent to such scientific evolution to ascertain paternity but that must be with the consent of both the parties to marriage.

DNA paternity testing is the use of DNA profiling (known as genetic fingerprinting) to determine whether two individuals are biologically parent and child. A paternity test establishes genetic proof whether a man is the biological father of an individual, and a maternity test establishes whether a woman is the biological mother of an individual. Tests can also determine the likelihood of someone being a biological grandparent to a grandchild. DNA-based paternity testing has been requested to support claims for child support, inheritance, immigration and for peace in the family. More recently, DNA tests had been used to dispute false paternity claims that have already been decided in favour of the child's mother prior to the submission of DNA evidence.

It involves a fraud perpetrated when a woman who knows, or who should know, or who has reasonable grounds to know the true biological father of her child, falsely identifies the wrong man as the biological father of her child.

The DNA test can be performed at any age and that a child can be safely tested at any age after birth.

However, the social implications are worrying. Social activist Neelam Gorhe, chairperson of Stree Aadhar Kendra, said, “The pinching issue is the blame on a woman's character. Paternity test is one tool using which a man can exert much pressure upon a woman. The problem is with the patriarchal system where a woman has to go on proving the purity of her mind, body and soul. Thus, the main problem lies in the mindset of men, and not in the test”.

The allegation of adultery and immorality sometimes extends to denying the paternity of the child. But if cohabitation is proved, or if the wife is able to prove that there was a likelihood of sexual contact during the time of conception, the courts generally uphold the validity of the marriage and paternity of child.

So the basic question which rises out of these is that whether DNA testing should be validated strictly by law or not.

Scientific Way of Test

The testing is performed by collecting buccal cells found on the inside of a person's cheek using a Buccal swab or cheek swab. These swabs have wooden or plastic stick handles with a cotton on synthetic tip. The collector rubs the inside of a person's cheek in order to collect as many Buccal cells as possible. The Buccal cells are then sent to a laboratory for testing. For



paternity testing, samples from the alleged father and child would be needed. For maternity testing, samples from the alleged mother and child would be needed. After collection, the sample is mailed to a testing lab.

Some laboratories, such as the Human Origins Genotyping Laboratory (HOGL) at the University of Arizona, offer to store DNA samples for ease of future testing. All United States laboratories will destroy the DNA sample upon request by the customer guaranteeing that a sample is not available for further analysis.

The steps of the test are:-



1. Collection of samples: Cheek swab samples (or drops of blood) are obtained from the child and father using the sterile swabs provided.
2. Sending to laboratory and Lab check: Samples and completed forms are sent to the DNA testing laboratory and are checked in, identified with tracking numbers and unique test codes and assigned a confidential case file.
3. DNA extractions: DNA is extracted from the cheek swab samples (or blood) for the child and parent. The phenol-chloroform is used in the DNA extraction.
4. DNA profiles: Comparison DNA profiles are obtained using the PCR or RFLP processes.
5. DNA correlations: Identification of similar and dissimilar genetic markers are done and test result is obtained.

Random Man
Alleged Father
Known Parent (Mother)

Child

Past And Present Situation

Marriage in Hindu society is considered to be a sacrament. It is believed to be a tie which bonds a male and female together for their entire life. Even when divorce suits are filed in Supreme Court, the judges try their best to prevent the breakdown of the marriage to their utmost level.

So in previous days, even if a divorce suit was filed in basis of ground of adultery or bigamy, being a ground for divorce under Section 13 of Hindu Marriage Act, DNA test was forbidden as it was considered to hamper the privacy between the couples.

In a significant shift from the age-old legal convention that prioritised a child's legitimacy in a marriage over a divorce being sought on the ground of infidelity by a partner, the Supreme Court ruled that a DNA test can be ordered by courts as a “legitimate and scientifically perfect” tool to establish adultery in divorce cases.

We all have a unique DNA pattern that is inherited from our biological parents and is similar to theirs in molecular structure and genetic code. Because of this

into force in September 2006. Section 45 of Britain states that it is an offence to possess without appropriate consent any human bodily material with the intent of analyzing its DNA. In the Britain, legally declared fathers have access to paternity testing services under the new regulations, provided the putative parental DNA being tested is their own. Tests are sometimes ordered by courts when proof of paternity is required. In the Britain, the Department for Constitutional Affairs accredits organizations which can conduct this testing. The Department of Health is also in the process of updating its voluntary code of practice on genetic paternity testing. In the United States, there is less regulation for the paternity testing and there are a lot of companies doing this service with the cost of about US\$100/testing and about three days one testing can be done. There are paternity testing service in China and it normally offer by the legal system, such as police departments of government. In the whole world, it is a big requirement for the paternity testing and it is a big market on this testing. The profit could be more than 60%.

Several US states have already passed laws that encourage honesty about paternity, which is a better public policy.

The court further noted that by allowing DNA tests in such cases, “undoubtedly the issue of legitimacy would also be incidentally involved” but it could not be lost sight of that the purpose of such a plea would be to establish the ingredients of Section 13(1)(ii) of the Hindu Marriage Act, which laid down infidelity as a ground for divorce.

Judicial Pronouncements

Moreover, there is an entry in the birth register setting out the respondent as the father of the child. Though the respondent has attempted to neutralise the entry in birth register making it appear that the entry had been made on the basis of information given by a third party, the lower courts have refused to give credence to the vague and uncorroborated testimony. It is also significant to note that the respondent had allowed eleven months to pass before effecting a divorce. By his inaction for such a long period the respondent has given room for inference that the divorce may have been effected for other reasons and not on account of the appellant giving birth to a child conceived through someone else.

Lastly, even if the child had been born after a full term pregnancy it has to be born in mind that the possibility of the respondent having had access to the appellant before marriage cannot be ruled out because they were closely related and would therefore have been moving in close terms. All these factors negate the plea of the respondent that the minor child was not lathered by him.

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THE REVOLUTION EXPRESS

Survival of Richest: The Indian Experience

(Report By – Pradeep Kumar Panda, Economist, Bhubaneswar)

Oxfam India has recently published a report titled "Survival of Richest: The India Story". The title shows alarming situation of widening inequality in India. The journey of Charles Darwin's "Survival of Fittest" to "Survival of Richest" is not fascinating at all.

Inequalities are growing in India – this has been corroborated by scholars and government bodies alike. The impact of inequality is especially stark at the margins of the Indian society, with some communities such as the Scheduled Tribes (STs) suffering from physical remoteness and systematic exclusion from the means to achieve vertical mobility. Furthermore, the concentration of wealth continues to be around primordial characteristics such as caste. On one hand, inherited wealth and caste privilege continue to shape power and influence and on the other hand, we see the persistence of marginalization among historically disadvantaged who are trapped in inter-generational poverty.

"India is among the most unequal countries in the world, with rising poverty and an 'affluent elite,'" laments the World Inequality Report, 2022, which presents comprehensive income inequality data for almost all countries in the world over a long time. The Indian poor continue to suffer with no respite as income and wealth inequality continue to rise.

Oxfam India's 2023 India Supplement reveals some astonishing findings proving that the gap between the rich and the poor is indeed widening. Following the pandemic in 2019, the bottom 50 per cent of the population have continued to see their wealth chipped away. By 2020, their income share was estimated to have fallen to only 13 per cent of the national income and have less than 3 per cent of the total wealth. Its impact has been exceptionally poor diets, increase in debt and deaths. This is in stark contrast to the top 30 per cent who own more than 90 per cent of the total wealth. Among them, the top 10 per cent own more than 80 per cent of the concentrated wealth. The wealthiest 10 per cent own more than 72 per cent of the total wealth, the top 5 per cent own nearly 62 per cent of the total wealth, and the top 1 per cent own nearly 40.6 per cent of the total wealth in India.

The country still has the world's highest number of poor at 228.9 million population. On the other hand, the total number of billionaires in India increased from 102 in 2020 to 166 billionaires in 2022. The combined wealth of India's 100 richest has touched INR 54.12 lakh crore. The wealth of the top 10 richest stands at INR 27.52 lakh crore – a 32.8 per cent rise

from 2021.

Before the pandemic, in 2019, the Union Government reduced the corporate tax slabs from 30 per cent to 22 per cent, with newly incorporated companies paying a lower percentage (15 per cent). This new taxation policy resulted in a total loss of INR 1.84 lakh crore and had a significant role in the 10 per cent downward revision of tax revenue estimates in 2019-20. To increase revenue, the Union Government adopted a policy of hiking the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and excise duties on diesel and petrol while simultaneously cutting down on exemptions. The indirect nature of both the GST and fuel taxes make them regressive, which invariably burdens the most marginalized.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India reported that the all-India inflation rates based on both CPI (Consumer Price Index) (General) and CFPI (Consumer Food Price Index) were consistently higher in rural India (7.56 per cent) than urban India (7.27 per cent) in September 2022. Though overall inflation declined in October, the gap between rural and urban inflation only widened, reaching nearly 2.5 times the gap in September 2022. Moreover, the weightage for "food products" in the inflation calculation is nearly double in rural India compared to urban India reflecting how food inflation in rural India has primarily driven the average increase in prices of commodities.

In order to reduce inflation, the Reserve Bank increases the repo rate, which is understood as the rate at which the Reserve Bank lends money to commercial banks. An increase in the repo rate would ideally reflect rising consumer lending rates and thereby suppress demand. However, the Reserve Bank's hawkish monetary policy of hiking the repo rate has little consequence in ensuring an increase in supply. Consequently, despite increasing the repo rate five times by a total of 225 basis points from 4 per cent to 6.25 per cent (between May and December 2022), the inflation has consistently breached the 6 per cent statutory limit set out in the amended Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

Imposing a tax on the wealth of the richest has been advocated over the years. The rationale behind this has been that the wealth accumulation by the creamiest layer of the country is massive and taxing it can generate huge revenue, which can then be redirected for the development of the social sectors



of the country. This has the potential to redistribute the resource accumulation by the rich to the poor as well, and can then reduce poverty and inequality in the country. The wealth tax is likely to be the most direct and powerful tool to restore tax progressivity at the very top of the distribution. A wealth tax with a high exemption threshold specifically targets the richest and could resolve this injustice.

Revenues from progressive taxation has the capacity to fund the country's health and education system. Three per cent of wealth tax on the Indian billionaires can fund the National Health Mission, the largest healthcare scheme in India with an allocation of INR 37,800 crores for 3 years. Taxing the top 10 billionaires at 5 per cent will help cover the entire cost of Tribal healthcare for five years. In FY 2021-22, at full coverage, it was estimated that INR 42,033 crore was required to fund the Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP).

Taxing all of India's billionaires at 2 per cent would support the requirement of INR 42,033 crores for the nutrition of the malnourished in the country for 3 years. To raise the expenditure on health to 3 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), a total expenditure of INR 1,06,600 crores would be required. This money can be raised by taxing the top 100 billionaires at 2 per cent.

The funds for Samagra Shiksha – the largest centrally sponsored scheme (CSS) on school education in India in 2022-23 were much lower (INR 37,383 crores) than what was asked for (58,585 crores) by the education ministry in 2021-22.

Taxing the wealthiest 10 billionaires at 1 per cent would be enough to cover this shortfall for 1.3 years. Taxing them at 4 per cent would cover the entire amount of funds required for two years. A total amount of INR 1.4 lakh crore would be required to bring back drop out children to school and provide them with quality education. Taxing the top 100 Indian billionaires at 2.5 per

cent, or taxing the top 10 Indian billionaires at 5 per cent would cover the entire amount required to bring the drop out children back into school.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020's proposal to supplement the mid-day meal scheme with a breakfast scheme was rejected by the Union Ministry of Finance stating paucity of funds. If one calculates the resources required to serve the students in government schools with breakfast, the government would require INR 31,151 crores. Taxing the wealthiest 100 Indian billionaires at 2 per cent would cover the cost of running this scheme for nearly 3.5 years.

To fill the vacancies in elementary schools, an amount of INR 2040.3 crores would be required. This can be raised by taxing the 10 richest Indian billionaires at 1 per cent, which can fund the required amount for 13 years. Taxing the 100 richest Indian billionaires at 1 per cent can fund the vacancies for 26 years.

The rising wealth inequality calls for immediate interventions to reduce the existing inequalities and enhance the access to public services for the poor.

Taxing the wealth of the richest 1 per cent: The wealthiest elites have undue influence over policy making and politics, which allow them to accrue even more wealth. We must break this vicious cycle. This means – taxing the net wealth of the top 1 per cent on a permanent basis, with higher rates for millionaires, multimillionaires and billionaires.

Let's take a look at the following important pointers-

Easing the tax burden on the poor and the marginalized: The government should reduce the GST slabs on essential commodities, which form the majority of the poor and middle classes spending habits, and hike the taxes on luxury goods. This will lead to revenue generation, which is progressive in nature

and reduce the burden on the poor.

Improve access to public services like health and education: Enhance the budgetary allocation for health to 2.5 per cent of GDP by 2025, as envisaged in the National Health Policy, to reinvigorate the public healthcare system, reduce Out-of-pocket (OOP) expenditure and strengthen health prevention and promotion. Establish medical colleges with district hospitals, particularly in hilly, tribal or rural areas where health infrastructure is poor. This would facilitate the availability of medical services and human resources as well as increase the number of medical professionals in the country. Strengthen Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and government hospitals with adequate number of doctors, nurses, paramedics, equipment and other infrastructural requirements as per Indian Public Health Standard (IPHS) norms to make quality health service available within kilometers radii of peoples' residence or workplace.

Enhance the budgetary allocation for education to global benchmark of 6 per cent of GDP, as committed in the National Education Policy. The government must frame a year wise financial roadmap to achieve the 6 per cent mark. Reduce existing inequalities in education by spending more on programmes (for example: Pre Matric and Post Matric scholarships) meant for improving the educational status of students from marginalized sections (SC/ST/Girls).

Strengthen safety nets and bargaining power of labour: Inflation and, consequently, rise in cost of living hurts the poor and middle class more. 90 per cent of India's labour force in the informal economy is without any safety net to protect them from the heavy blows to the economy. To this end, it is essential to ensure social protection for our workforce, especially those in the informal sector, and strengthen monitoring and tracking mechanisms that ensure protection of the labour class of the country.



"Education is not the amount of information that is put into your brain and runs riot there, undigested, all your life. We must have life-building, man-making, character-making assimilation of ideas. If you have assimilated five ideas and made them your life and character, you have more education than any man who has got by heart a whole library."

ENVIRONMENT & AGRICULTURE COLUMN

My Waste My Responsibility

(Report By – Rajanikanta Mohapatra)

The Urban Development Department of Odisha Government has decided to adopt Tamil Nadu's Micro Composting Centre model for management of wet waste as a part of 'Swachha Odisha Sustha Odisha' campaign. Solid waste is the unwanted or useless solid materials generated from combined residential, industrial and commercial activities in a given area. It may be categorized according to its origin (domestic, industrial, commercial, construction or institutional); according to its contents (organic material, glass, metal, plastic paper etc.); or according to hazard potential (toxic, non-toxic, flammable, radioactive, infectious etc.). Management of solid waste reduces or eliminates adverse impacts on the environment and human health and supports economic development and improved quality of life. A number of processes are involved in effectively managing waste for a municipality. These include source-segregation, door-to-door collection, and collection from community bins, transportation, processing, recycling and disposal. Solid Waste Management is one of the key functions of the ULBs. The management and disposal of MSW is not satisfactory across towns and cities in India. The HPEC Report on Indian Urban Infrastructure and Services prepared under guidance of Dr. Isher Judge Ahluwalia, Chairperson, and Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations presents the status on compliance with MSW Rules 2000 in India as given below. Government of India in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change have Notified the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 vide Notification SO 1357 (E) dt 8th April, 2016 in supersession of the Municipal Solid Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 2000. The Rule specifies the duties of various stakeholders for effective Management of solid waste. Various timelines

remained a challenge even after lapse of more than two years. Hon'ble NGT realising the gravity, vide their order dt. 16.01.2019 in the matter of status of compliance with the provisions of Solid Waste



Management Rules, 2016 in OA No 606/2018 directed vide para 28 that a State Level Committee headed by Justice P K Mohanty, Former Judge of Orissa High Court be Constituted with Secretaries of Urban Development/Local Bodies/Local Self-Government, Environment, Rural Development, Health as Members and Member Secretary of SPCB to be the Member Secretary of the Committee. The Tribunal further directed that the Committee may hold its first meeting positively before 15.02.2019 and thereafter hold meetings periodically as may be found necessary. In compliances with the said orders of Hon'ble NGT, the State Govt. in Forest & Env. Department constituted the State Level Committee vide notification No.2855/F&E Dt.08.02.2019 for a period of six months and subsequently the tenure of the said Committee was extended twice vide notification No-15681/F&E dt 17.08.2019 for further period of six months and No 2832/F&E Dt 07.02.2020 for subsequent period of three months respectively. Copies of the notifications are annexed as Annexure-A-Series. The tenure

Development, Health & Family Welfare Departments and Member Secretary of State Pollution Control Board, being the Members of the Committee attended and detailed Discussions were held on the

progress along with the timelines for compliance of the Solid Waste Management, Plastic Waste Management, and Construction & Demolition waste Management and Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules. It was decided that, since rural Areas panchayats in the state are coming under the purview of Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department, the Secretary, PR & DW Department may be co-opted as a special invitee in the State Level Committee. Accordingly, State Government in Forest and Environment Department issued Office Order No 5016 dt 08.03.2019.

The State Level Committee sittings

Regular supervision of collection and transportation of municipal garbage in the city. 2. Fitting of GPS in garbage carrying vehicles and ULBs/Municipalities to track the Movement. 3. Development of Website of the Committee and upload information relating to waste Management and to issue a public notice through vernacular dailies for information of the General public to lodge complaints/grievances if any regarding management of Solid Waste including bio-medical waste and plastic waste in their area. 4. Develop a format for monthly reporting by Collectors. 5. To ensure registration of cesspool vehicles as such and not to register as water tanker. 6. Ensuring emptying of the cesspool vehicle at identified designated locations. GPS to be fixed up in all cesspool vehicles, whether of Municipal Corporations / Municipalities/NACs etc. or private vehicle permitted to carry waste material. Appropriate Authorities to take stock of the movements while carrying the sludge. Progress in implementation of provisions of MSW Management Rules and the orders of Hon'ble Tribunal:

2.1 URBAN SECTOR:

There are 114 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in Odisha, which consists of 5 Municipal Corporations, 45 Municipalities and 61 Notified Area Councils (NACs) having total of 2,024 Wards which generate about 2100 metric tonnes of Municipal

Solid Waste (MSW) every day. The State has adopted Tamilnadu model of decentralized processing of MSW wherein the biodegradable wastes are processed in Micro Composting Centres (MCC) and non-biodegradable in Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs). The SOP contains the detail process for quantification of waste generation, assessment of human resources etc. step by step approach of composting process through MCC, disposal of dry waste, timeline etc. Model plans and estimates for 5 TPD, 4 TPD, 3 TPD, 2 TPD, and 1 TPD capacity of waste processing have been prepared and Communicated to all ULBs for immediate implementation. Some ULBs are also adopting Pit Composting for processing of biodegradable wastes. As per this changed strategy of decentralized waste processing it is generally felt that there may be hardly any large volume of disposable inert material left and hence the requirement of Landfill Sites would be minimized, as it is



targeted for zero landfill cities/towns. Women Self Help Group members have been engaged as Swachha Sathi having experience in community mobilization in the household level in the ward areas to persuade for door-to-door collection of segregated waste and to ensure decentralized composting of wet waste & collection of dry waste.

Door To Door Collection of Segregated Waste

75% of total Wards have implemented door to door collection of segregated waste; however door to door collection of waste has been initiated in 100% Wards. The Segregated wastes are transported in covered vehicles to processing or disposal Facilities. Municipalities have started using Battery Operated Vehicles driven by Women members of Self-Help Groups for door to door collection and transportation of segregated waste to MCCs and MRFs. Setting up of solid waste processing facilities by all local bodies having 1, 00,000 or more population Nine ULBs in Odisha having more than 1, 00,000

population are in the process of establishing decentralized treatment facilities.

Rural Sector

Bye-Laws on Solid Waste Management in Gram Panchayats in Odisha, 2019 have been adopted by all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the State. The State Rural Sanitation Policy with focus on Solid Waste and Plastic Waste Management has been prepared. An Advisory on taking up Solid Waste Management Intervention across the state in Convergence with various schemes has been issued. Model designs for SWM Technologies for biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes including plastic has been prepared for implementation. 3 nos. of GPs in each district (total 90) and 63 RURAL GPs have been identified and notified. GP advisory Committees have been formed in all 30 districts and Block Advisory Committee and GP Committee on Solid Waste Management have been formed in all the 153 GPs. Action Plan for all model GPs have been prepared and Incorporated in Gram Panchayat Development Plan. Door to door collection of waste is done in those identified GPs. About 1360 SHGs have

been identified with 12443 SHG members, 370 kabadiwalas and 218 waste venders who have been oriented towards taking up Solid Waste Management in these identified GPs. It is reported that 92 Secondary storage facilities for recovery of recyclable wastes have been developed in the GPs. Land has been identified for development of additional 110 Resource Recovery Centres in the GPs. Some of the Material Recovery Facilities developed in ULBs have been tagged with nearby GPs for transfer of recyclable materials from GPs. About 445 Community compost pits have been developed in the identified GPs. Further land has been identified for development of 1901 additional Community level compost pits. Vermi, NADEP composting, backyard composting as well as Pot composting methods of processing of biodegradable waste have been adopted. For disposal of inert wastes, it is reported that 198 community land fill sites have been developed and land has been identified for development of additional 330 community land fill sites in the GPs.

Continued Page 16



have been stipulated and Hon'ble Supreme Court of India had reviewed the implementation of the Rule in the country an transferred the petition to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), New Delhi for further hearing. It was observed by the Hon'ble Tribunal that enforcement of the Rules

of the Committee expires on 07.05.2020. In compliance with the order dt 16.01.2019 of Hon'ble NGT, the first meeting of the State Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice P K Mohanty was held on 14.02.2019 at Circuit House, Cuttack in which Secretaries of the Forest & Environment, Housing & Urban

Training:

70 Master Trainers on Solid Waste Management, 800 stakeholders in 30 Districts including Junior Engineers, Sarpanchs, Panchayat Extension Officers, and SHG members have been trained. More than 85000 stakeholders have been oriented On Solid Waste Management activities through more than 793 meetings and Awareness activities. It was observed that the Department is giving priority for Providing compost pit, resource recovery center, as well as garbage bins to all Identified GPs. Swachhata Hi Seva campaign on waste management has been taken up during September 11, 2019 to October 27, 2019 and during this campaign 32,990 kgs of waste plastic were collected from all over the state.

Fund:

Earmarked World Bank fund is available for Solid Waste Management in rural Area. Funds from CFC, SFC, and MNREGA, funding are also been provided to the GPs. At present more than Rupees 50.0 crores fund is available in the state budget for Solid Waste Management in rural areas.

Compliance

Polythene carries bags of any shape, thickness and size (excluding compostable); Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET/PETE) drinking water bottles of less than 200ml Capacity; Single use disposable cutleries made up of thermocol (polystyrene), polyurethane and plastic such as dish, spoon, cup, plate, glass, fork, bowl, pouch to store Liquid and container etc. of any size and shape excepting for packing and selling of Milk and other ancillary milk products; Compliance with the provisions of Biomedical Waste Management Rules: Govt. of Odisha has reconstituted the State Level Advisory Committee during March, 2019 after BMW Management Rules, 2016 came into force. The status of authorization Granted to various Health Care Facilities is as follows. Authorization under Biomedical Waste Management Rules has been granted till date to 544 numbers of bedded and 1234 Non-bedded Govt. Health Care Establishments. Further Authorization has also been granted to 835 bedded and 866 non-bedded other than State

Govt. Health Care Establishments. All Govt. Medical Colleges and Hospitals have facilities for treatment of Biomedical Wastes. At present 5 Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facilities are operational. Training of all related field functionaries of Health Care Establishments is being conducted regularly. It is also observed that sufficient funds are available in the budget for Biomedical Waste Management.

A Pilot project on improvement in operational conditions for effective management of Bio-Medical Waste, in 28 HCFs and one common Biomedical waste treatment and Disposal facility, in the State has been taken up under the Technical and Financial Assistance of UNIDO. The State Health & Family Welfare Department has submitted Action Plan on Biomedical Waste Management which was evaluated by CPCB by attributing a score for each Performance indicator for effective management of biomedical waste and the Action Plan of the State has got a score of 4.5 which is considered as satisfactory. It is also reported That 75 numbers of Health Care Facilities have implemented barcoding system for Handling biomedical wastes.

Door To Door Awareness And Sensitization

Campaigns in all 114 ULBs by 28,606 Swachh Sathis and Sanitation workers Swachha Gruha stickers to recognize houses Adopting segregation at source encouraged by adopting 3E Principles (Expose Embarrass Educate) Women driven battery operated vehicles (BOV) to transport waste to MCC / MRF Transgender SHGs also co-opted to run MCC and MRF State level Expo for all ULBs to witness live demo of



all MCC equipment and BoVs A new practice called Bada Khana (feast) Introduced where all the sanitation workers and officials would meet every month and discuss Sanitation related issues over food & recognize best performing sanitation workers & Swachh Sathis attended by senior officers.

Odisha Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (OUIDF) Initiatives

OUIDF is a dedicated fund for financing urban infrastructure projects in the State of Odisha. OUIDF extends support to ULBs in the form of loan and grant for urban infrastructure project financing besides offering project development assistance such as preparation of DPR, capacity building etc. OUIDF is extending concessional loan assistance and grant to private developers selected for implementation of SWM projects at Bhubaneswar & Cuttack and Berhampur. OUIDF shall also extend concessional loan assistance to PPP partner who will be selected for integrated SWM project for Sambalpur. OUIDF also intends to assist ULBs to undertake SWM projects in their towns.

The ULBs have been grouped into various clusters such that the distance between ULBs within a cluster does not exceed 50 Km. in most of the ULBs in the cluster, the distance is between 25 and 35 Km. It is proposed to upgrade the collection and transportation infrastructure of each of the ULBs. Further, where the waste generation is more than 10 TPD standalone processing facility will be set up in each of the ULBs. If the waste generation is less than 10 TPD, processing facility proposed to be set up in nearest neighbouring ULB shall be utilized. Landfill will be common for all the ULBs within a cluster.

For processing of bio-degradable waste mechanical composting is proposed. RDF facility will be set up wherever commercially feasible on

a standalone basis. Recyclables will be segregated and by engaging SHGs, rag pickers and Khabadiwallas. Balance waste from the composting plant, inert and other waste will be sent to landfill.

Technical Assistance -DFID

The Department for International Development (DFID), United Kingdom has agreed in-principle to provide £5 million (Rs 48.327 crore) as technical assistance for the 'Orissa Support to Urban Infrastructure Development Programme' project. The DFID assistance would enable

by either of the two processes viz. vermi-composting and mechanical composting. Mechanical composting has been found to be suitable in most of the ULBs due to the ease in handling and management of mechanical composting plant. Mechanical composting is most suitable and is proposed to be adopted across ULBs in the State with MSW generation of 5 TPD and above. Waste to Energy: It is the process of direct burning of wastes in the presence of excess air (oxygen) to produce power. These

prevents migration of leachate or gas to the surrounding soil.

Action Plan for SWM in ULBs of Odisha

1) ULB's are to prepare DPR for solid waste management of their city in consultation with state governments. Smaller cities can form clusters to become viable entities to attract private investment. 100% cost reimbursement for preparing the DPR shall be done by GoI as per unit cost and norms set up by National Advisory Review Committee (NARC).

2) State governments may handhold ULB's in quickly preparing DPR's for SWM by empanelling /shortlisting /identifying private or government agencies for the same.

3) The DPR's should be bankable, having a viable financial model. These will be prepared emanating from the needs identified in the City Sanitation Plan. DPRs should be aligned with Govt. of India's goals outlined in the NUSP 2008, SWM rules, advisories, CPHEEO manuals (including cost-recovery mechanisms), O&M practices and Service-level Benchmark advisories released by MoUD from time to time. Street Sweeping and litter control interventions will be part of DPR which is essential for a clean city.

4) The State High Powered Committee (HPC) will authorize institutes of national repute for appraisal of DPRs for the technical and economic appraisal of DPRs for projects recommended by ULBs. No appraisal will be done by MoUD. The cost of DPR appraisal by these institutes shall be an admissible component under administrative costs, subject to norms as approved by MoUD.

5) The performance and quality of appraisal by these identified and authorized institutes will be evaluated and monitored by HPEC as well as NARC and corrective actions taken wherever necessary.

6) The State Level high power committee will approve the DPR as well as the financial model of solid waste management.

7) The implementation of SWM projects will be as per directions of State Level High Power Committee.

8) Central government incentive for the SWM projects will be in the form of a maximum of 20% Grant / VGF for each project. The remaining funds have to be generated through –

- 9) Private Sector Participation
- 10) Additional Resources from State Government/ULB
- 11) Beneficiary Share
- 12) User Charges
- 13) Land Leveraging
- 14) Innovative revenue streams
- 15) Swachh Bharat Kosh
- 16) Corporate Social Responsibility
- 17) Market Borrowing
- 18) External Assistance

While considering projects under MSWM it will be ensured that there is no duplication in terms of funding under any other scheme or programme. Detailed technical and financial appraisal of the DPRs will be carried out. O&M arrangements for the project shall necessarily be an integral part of the project in the DPR. SWM projects will be sanctioned by the State level HPC which shall include a representative of the MoUD. In the entire project approval and procurement process, all provisions and procedures as prescribed by respective State Governments must be followed in their entirety.

Continued Page 17

The entire approval procedure for MSW projects except for release of Central funds will end at the State Level.

1. The States shall be free to choose the technology for SWM projects, toilets and street sweeping. The Ministry of Urban Development shall, from

the landfill, which enhances the surface drainage, prevents infiltration of water and supports surface vegetation.

- A surface water drainage system to collect and remove all surface runoff from the landfill site.
- An environmental monitoring



time to time, bring to the notice of the States, through advisories and manuals, and other consultative mechanisms, various options available in these fields.

2. States will contribute a minimum of 25% funds for SWM projects to match 75% Central Share. The State Government will initiate DPR preparation for the ULBs not covered under other initiatives of the Government and will pursue implementation of SWM projects in various ULBs in the next 3 years.

system to periodically collect and analyses air, surface water, soil gas and ground water samples around the landfill site.

- A closure and post-closure plant close and secure a landfill site once the filling operation has been completed and the activities for long term monitoring, operation and maintenance of the completed landfill.

Reclamation Of Old Dumps

The MSW is being dumped at the dump yard without any processing over many years by the ULBs. Hence, apart from setting up of processing plant and scientific landfill facility, the ULBs shall reclaim the dump yard in a time bound manner. The SWM project also includes reclamation of dump yard as a key component. Reclamation process is given below.

Compacted old waste is loosened and scraped off in layers by a tractor-harrow. Composting bio-culture is sprayed from a tanker-truck with high-pressure pump. It is formed into windrows & turned weekly by JCB. At each turning, hired rag-pickers retrieve buried recyclables, which partly cover their labour cost. After 3-4 weekly turnings, the waste is dry, volume-reduced & ready to sieve by either manual or motorized simple portable sieves.

The reclamation process shall be completed within one year from setting up of processing plant and scientific land fill facility.

Provision of safety equipment

The MSW project shall also include provision of necessary tools and tackles, adequate protective clothing and safety gears to sanitary workers. Further, ULBs to provide adequate

protection and health care facilities to its sanitation workers.

Involvement of rag pickers and Khabadiwallahs

The rag picker plays a very important part in the segregation of waste. In India, only 30-60% waste is collected by the ULBs, whereas waste collection by the rag pickers is estimated at 15-25%. About 1 million urban poor are engaged in informal waste management sector. However, MSW Rules 2000 & majority SWM initiatives in the country somehow side-line the informal sector in solid waste management. This is in spite of the fact that this sector, if integrated in to the mainstream SWM system of cities and towns can lead to a win-win situation of providing secured livelihoods to the urban poor and reducing expenditure on setting-up high cost energy intensive processing plants.

Moreover, in states like Odisha where large numbers of small sized ULBs are dispersed across the state and density of urban population is very low and, neither cluster approach nor setting-up processing plants is a viable option. It is precisely here, there is a need to go for decentralized composting of bio-degradable waste and recycling of the non-biodegradable waste through the network of rag pickers. Thus networking Rag Pickers and

adequate community involvement and constraints with respect to safe disposal. Existing Municipal laws provide for punitive action against house/building owner in case of letting out waste impacting local environment. However, punitive action recommended is not a major deterrent and seldom enforced. Also, clarity on provisions to be made in places frequented by public (eating places, shopping areas) need to be detailed in the bye-laws of the ULBs. Even with the necessary legal provisions, city managers find enforceability a problem. The successful implementation and management of MSW is dependent on community participation involving the local residents of town. Through effective IEC programs awareness need to be created regarding sanitation amongst households, industries, elected body representatives and various other stakeholders. State Government shall roll out such IEC programs across ULBs in a phased manner in the next one year. State Government shall insist on deployment of a dedicated technical staff for SWM for each ULB. Encourage sound contracting practice begins with setting operational goals, defining performance or service benchmark standards and specifications and producing a document that communicates these to private,

separation, gathering, transporting, processing, recycling, as well as disposal, all in accordance with established standards.

Women who serve as Swacha Sathis operate and handle Battery Operated Vehicles (BOVs) and Micro Composing Centres (MCCs), Micro Recovery hubs, as well as Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste Management Plants. The SHGs also manage over 150 communal and public toilets around the state, as well as running septic trucks in a few localities for the proper dumping and transfer of toilet waste. The Housing and Urban Development Department also informed that it collaborated with Mission Shakti SHGs to assist 100% house connectivity and customer management through the Sujala initiative, commonly known as the Drink from Tap Mission. The Jalasathis of the Sujala initiative educates the public about clean water and health. They even take monthly metre readings, generate online user charge bills, and collect payments electronically from consumers' houses.

Conclusion

The behaviour of generating garbage is too dangerous not only for today's generation, but also for future generations. It is critical to educate people and encourage them to practise Recycle, Reuse, and



Kabadiwalas in to the municipal solid waste management system in the states becomes imperative, especially in case of smaller ULBs of Odisha. The H & UD Department in the State Govt. will take steps to integrate the informal sector in to the mainstream SWM system of the ULBs through network building process.

Involvement of NGOs, Self Help Groups and Community Participation

Solid Waste management, after the passage of the Municipal Solid Waste Rules occupies primary focus in ULBs, but suffers from lack of

semi-private, NGO, CBO or other economic actors who would like to participate as service providers. Through NGOs and SHGs, segregation shall be strengthened. Further revenue generation through segregation of recyclables and sale of same thereby providing livelihood for rag pickers shall be encouraged.

Mission Shakti SHGs along with other transgender groups have been integrated to provide sanitation service among the decentralised solid and liquid waste management system. A total of 2,378 SHGs are presently involved in the waste

Reduce instead of producing waste. Waste disposal should be a priority for municipalities and governments.

Recycling waste saves over 30% of energy in the production of new packaging or materials. Thanks to recycling, the consumption of raw materials is reduced (which are already scarce in Spain and Europe). The ratio is greater than 1 to 1. Recycling 1,000 kg of paper saves 12 trees from being felled. The Indian government and local governments should collaborate with its partners to encourage source separation, increase recycling rates, and produce high-quality compost from organic waste. While this is being accomplished and recycling rates are rising, plans should be put in place to deal with the non-recyclable wastes that are currently being generated and will continue to be generated in the future (20). State governments should be proactive in utilising their power to maximise resource efficiency. According to the 5 R's, four actions should be taken, if possible, prior to 'recycling': refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose, and then recycle. Incorporating this methodology into your business' waste reduction and recycling efforts will minimize landfill waste and help take your recycling program to the next level.

The State Government has set up S B M Directorate for implementation of the program and appointed a Mission Director. OWSSB has been declared as the State Level Nodal Agency for the Mission. A High Powered Committee is being set up under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary. A Program Management Unit is being set up at the State Level.

Disposal through Common Sanitary Landfill Sites (SLF)

The final inert material will be disposed in the common sanitary landfill facility. Landfill sites shall be used sparingly and only as a last resort in waste management hierarchy and shall not exceed 20% of the total municipal solid waste generated. Common landfill sites shall be developed by adopting a cluster approach for ULBs within a distance of less than 50 Km between each other. Land filling of mixed waste must be avoided, unless the waste is found unsuitable for waste processing. Under unavoidable circumstances or till installation of alternate facilities, land-filling shall be done following proper norms. The major components of the MSW landfill site are- A liner system at the base and sides of the landfill, which prevents migration of leachate or gas to the surrounding soil.

Action Plan For SWM In Ulbs Of Odisha

- A leachate collection facility to collect and extract leachate from within and from the base of the landfill and then treats the leachate
- A gas collection facility to collect and extract gas from within and from the top of the landfill and then treat it and use it for energy recovery
- A final cover system at the top of



THE STUDENT AFFAIRS COLUMN

PARENTS! Know Your Pivot Roles in Education...

(Report By – Jagannath Pattnaik)

A great deal of homework and assignments were allocated every month to students as part of their Continuous Assessment in an aristocratic school of Florida. A teacher had been imparting education to children in that school for last 15 years. She won the hearts of students for her unique delightful method of teaching. Once she assigned a task to Class-VII students during their vacation for assessment. The task was to travel to a strange place and compose an article as an explorer. She threw away this challenging task to build up confidence among the learners. But their parents took it otherwise. They viewed it differently and complained that it would be too difficult for their children to complete the task. Despite their complaints, the teacher went ahead and asked the students to complete it before the school reopened after the vacation.

When the school reopened, the teacher evaluated the task given to the students. According to the grading system, she rendered Grade F to those who had not attempted the task at all. Soon after, the teacher was called to the Principal's chamber and explained the norms of the school administration. She was asked to award Grade-D to not discourage the learners. But the teacher strongly protested and opined that it would be an injustice to those who had attempted the task. The school administration sacked the teacher under the pressure of the parents. Before leaving the school, the teacher wrote a message for her students.

The teacher remarked that securing low grade should also be a part of a student's career. It sensitizes how responsible the students are. It inspires and trains students to move in the direction of success by amending their weaknesses and mistakes when they hit the rock bottom. Mere bookish knowledge cannot equip students to face the problems and challenges in life. So it is highly essential to teach the art of empowering their mind to face new challenges and solve the new problems in life.

Parents should leave their children to face the consequence of not doing their homework for the discipline of a school. In fact we weaken our children's mind and mental capabilities by bringing them up in comfort zones without giving them any pressure. Once Sam Pitroda, the father of India's communication revolution and the former Chairman of India's National Knowledge had given a beautiful message about pressure in his article "The Magic of Teamwork". "Don't be afraid of pressure. Remember that pressure is what turns a lump of coal into diamond." Hence how long shall we keep our children away from the realities of life in the pretext of mental pressure? While making journey of life, we sometimes have to be wounded but still we set our own foot to continue the journey. Real education should train a student how to tackle the problems courageously instead of avoiding them. Real education should train the students how to apply



they are money producing machines. They don't get time to live their lives as human beings. They don't get opportunities to involve themselves in social functions and festivals. For them

skills. Parents should co-operate the teachers who germinate dreams among students about profession and life both.

It is quite pertinent that parents are entertaining their children from early childhood with mobile phones and television today. But such screen viewing activities have tremendous ill-effects on the physical and mental health of their children. These activities make them fat and they suffer from amnesia (unusual forgetfulness) and loss of hearing. They are extremely and unnecessarily irritated in trifle matters and situations. Developing concentration and

visit school even once in a month to access the progress of their children. Despite that, they believe they have all the answers! They no longer teach their children regarding good manners, respect and rules for peaceful co-existence with others. We often see children coming to school with expensive shoes and mobile phones but they don't even bring a pen, pencil or text book. And you dear parents? Are you sure your children have everything they need for schools? Are you certain about their homework or school lessons? Are they listening to teachers in the class or are they engaged in mischievous activities at school? Do you attend Parent-Teacher Meetings?



life is tasteless and full of

good attention in their studies becomes a far fry for them. The online games and cartoon on smart phones pollute and poison their mind with violence. Due to spending more time on smart phones, our children are often deprived of chances to get acquainted with social norms and etiquette. As a result of which, courteous behavior are not visible in their personality.

As sports and games are essential for physical development, reading books are equally important to develop mental power. The reading habit has declined due to excessive use of electronic media, mobile phones and television. We have to make them realize that one can also derive entertainment from reading books and problems could be solved by gaining knowledge from reading. We can keep mind under our control by reading spiritual books and biographies of great persons.

Instead of blaming schools and criticizing teachers, parents should directly discuss with teachers for the holistic development of their children and give constructive suggestions for further improvement. Baring a few, most of the parents don't even try to

When you complain that schools aren't functioning properly, take a look at your families. Teachers cannot discharge the duty of a parent. And in the end, when parents don't do their job properly, things won't be any better at school. In our society, parents are often distracted by an array of work and personal commitments and they spend less time during their children's upbringing and academic progress. And the result? They lose the capacity to talk to their children and when it's needed to enforce a little discipline, they can no longer assert their authority. We often forget that respect, good manners, saying please and thank you, are learned at home. School can help to reinforce these values, but it can't be a substitute to a family. So parents need to be very careful to instil the values of discipline, tolerance, punctuality and perseverance in their children from the beginning, at home.

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"My Dear Students,
I still love you. I was dismissed from my job as I refused to render Grade-D to a few students. I wish you all a bright future ahead."
This incident evoked a lot of discussions in electronic media.

our brain accepting the challenges of life in order to progress.

Now-a-days, qualified students travel to remote areas for earning their livelihood due to globalization. But unfortunately they have been suffering a lot as if

boredom. Many young people fall prey to frustration, depression, over-thinking and suicidal tendencies. They don't know that there is life beyond their profession. So teachers should teach the students regarding professional and life

THE WOMEN EMPOWERMENT COLUMN

The Latest Grant Opportunities for Women- and Minority-Owned Small Businesses

If you're a woman or racial minority running a small business, you may benefit from several small business grant programs. These initiatives often aim to level the playing field and support groups that have traditionally faced barriers to funding. Read about several current and ongoing grant opportunities in the list below.

MBDA Capital Readiness

six months of educational support. This funding round focuses on consumer packaged goods businesses with an annual gross revenue of between \$100,000 and \$499,000. March 31 is the deadline to apply for the current program.

Fearless Strivers Grant Contest

Mastercard is partnering with Fearless Fund to support Black

currently part of the SBA Community Navigator Pilot Program, working alongside the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to help Hispanic and minority entrepreneurs navigate supply chain issues and similar challenges.

IFundWomen Universal Grant Application Database

IFundWomen offers various grant programs throughout the year for businesses owned by women and people of color. The organization offers a universal grant application that eligible businesses can use to apply for all programs at once. You can even store your information and sign up for updates, allowing you to easily apply once new programs launch.

Fast Break for Small Business

LegalZoom, the NBA, WNBA, and NBA G League join together to offer the Fast Break for Small Business grant program during each basketball season. The program has already provided more than \$3 million in grants and other support services to eligible businesses. And minority entrepreneurs receive priority during the application process to reach as many underserved groups as possible. The next funding round is scheduled to start over the summer.

Cartier Women's Initiative Award

Cartier's Women's Initiative Award is an annual grant program that has run since 2006. The program supports women-owned and women-run businesses globally, providing grants of up to \$100,000. The company is adding even more award opportunities in 2023, including several regional awards and a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award, which will be open to underserved entrepreneurs of all genders.



Program

The U.S. Commerce Department's Minority Business Development Agency is launching a nearly \$100 million grant program to support female and minority entrepreneurs. The Capital Readiness Program is directing grants of between \$2 million and \$3 million to business incubators and accelerators run by companies, nonprofits, and universities. So the funds will not go directly to small businesses from the federal government. But recipients must use the funds to provide services that can help women- and minority-owned startups overcome structural barriers. The program will focus on several

women-owned businesses. Eligible companies can now apply for \$20,000 grants, along with digital tools and mentorship opportunities. The application portal is now available online, and the program closes August 31.

The Amber Grant

The Amber Grant is a monthly grant program for women-owned businesses. Each month, WomensNet provides a grant of at least \$30,000. And the organization hosts themed grant contests throughout the year as well. The organization has one application form available online that will automatically enroll eligible women founders in every program they qualify for.



'There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish'

high-growth industries, including health care, climate technologies, and infrastructure. Applications for this round are due via Grants.gov by February 28.

Ladies Who Launch

Ladies Who Launch is an annual grant program that provides funding to women and non-binary small business owners. This year, 20 such businesses will receive a \$10,000 grant and

Then, grant recipients are notified of their awards on the 23 of each month.

Hello Alice

Hello Alice is a digital platform that connects diverse small businesses with resources, including grants. The organization works with various corporate and nonprofit partners on various programs and initiatives throughout the year. For example, Hello Alice is

Tory Burch Fellows Program

The Tory Burch Foundation offers a fellowship program to support early stage women-led startups. The program features a digital education program, peer to peer network, and \$5,000 grants for fellows. The next program officially begins in summer 2023. And the foundation will accept applications for the following year in fall.

Success Story

B. Punyabati is an exceptional example of Woman Empowerment.

B. Punyabati, D/o - B.Papa Rao is a general woman of Nandapur Block, District Koraput. She is staying with her father, mother, two brothers and one sister. When she was born the neighbours of her village restricted her family to come out because of another girl child. With that critical situation and poor financial condition of parent, she



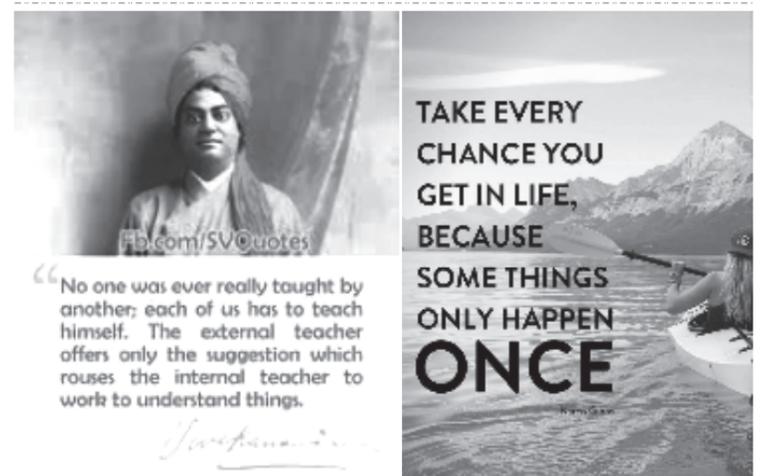
completed graduation and helped her parent in business and marketing. In the year 2011 she being inspired by the AWW on SHG movement and formed an women group named as Laxmi SHG in her leadership, under the flag of Mission Shakti. Attended different trainings and started to prepare Papad, Ladu and Badi like dry foods. Sold the products in local markets and got monthly income of Rs.10,000/- to Rs.12,000/-.

In group she continued the group savings and kept regular transaction at UGB Nandapur with

mobilizing all other group members. In her leadership the group savings amount gradually increased.

Four times they have received loans amounting to Rs.3,75,000/- and repayment has been done frequently. Under Swachha Bharat programme they have constructed 372 nos. of toilets in Muduliput, Podalput and Nandapur villages. Presently they have completed a community toilet near Nandapur Bus stand. All members are now very happy with the leadership of Punyabati.

Except these group activities, Punyabati personally attends different Exhibition on behalf of SHG through Mission Shakti, Koraput. In the year 2018 she had attended Organic Fair at New Delhi. Besides, she is participating in different fairs at State and District level. During COVID-19 in her leadership they have successfully managed free Kitchen and TMC at Nandapur. In coming year they have planned to do the Ginger cultivation in group. Now she is the President of Block Level federation and well known as a SHG leader in Nandapur.



Pani Panchayat emerged as a movement due to the partnership, sincerity and cooperation of the farmers-CM

(PP Fortnight observed in the Department of Water Resources)

Pani Panchayat Fortnight has been observed in the Department of Water Resources from 1st February to 15th February, 2023

This Pakhya was kickstarted in 117 Divisions of the State under DoWR on 1st February with launching of Pani Panchayat Rath and in the second phase, district level programmes have been held on 8th February with awareness campaign, awards to the students participated in different competitions held for the purpose, exhibitions and other field events. The third phase of the Pakhya was observed followed with State level function on 15th February held at Convention Centre, Lok Seva Bhawan, graced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha Shri Naveen Patnaik.

Addressing on the occasion, Hon'ble CM said, Pani Panchayat has today emerged as a movement and this has been

hectares. This is really a great achievement, Chief Minister Shri Patnaik stated. Expressing

agriculture. CM called upon all not to waste water and to use it properly. He stated that

Department in water sector.

Chief Secretary, Odisha

Medium, Minor and Lift Irrigation; 30 best farmers; 12 winners from various activities such as debate, essay, painting and quiz competitions; 12 best projects and 15 best officers were felicitated.

Smt Reetarani Sahu of Maa Jagulai Pani Panchayat from Brahmagiri, Puri and Sri Nalinikanta Prusty of Maa Brahmani Devi PP. of Badachana, Jajpur expressed, how they have improved their agricultural practices with successful irrigation management through PPs.

Circulation of Varta of the Hon'ble Chief Minister for Pani Panchayat members, farmers and other important stakeholders; Raths, carrying Information Education Communication, Social Behavioural Change Communication materials and audio visuals; Samabesha in presence of Pani Panchayat members, farmers and other important stakeholders;



about Pani Panchayats are being implemented in various medium,

conserve, reuse and recycle should be our goal. On the occasion, the CM launched "Sinchita"-a booklet on training on partnership in irrigation, Applications like Infra and MIS Module under e-CAD.

Shri Suresh Chandra Mahapatra also spoke on the occasion.



possible due to the partnership, sincerity and cooperation of the farmers. Speaking at the closing ceremony, Shri Patnaik informed that from 700 Pani Panchayats in the beginning, today 37,000 Pani Panchayats are functioning in the State. Similarly, from providing irrigation to 3.32 lakh hectares in the beginning, Pani Panchayats are now providing 23.46 lakh

small and lift irrigation project areas, the Chief Minister stated said that these will be also implemented in large lift irrigation project areas in the coming days.

The Chief Minister also said, water is priceless. The first adverse impact of climate change will be on water and

Hon'ble Minister, Water Resources Smt. Tukuni Sahu highlighted how observance of this Pakhya in last couple of years had to be held up due to Covid. This time, the Pakhya has been observed with much fanfare, involving the community and the stakeholders, with the purpose of acknowledging the importance of Pani Panchayats in water governance, participatory irrigation management and ensuring equity at the grass root level. She suggested the Pani Panchayats to take benefit of the completion of incomplete irrigation projects; new projects initiated and launching of new schemes or extension of old schemes.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources elaborated how the amendment to the Pani Panchayat Act including spouses of water users as members and formation of Pani Panchayats under Mega Lift Irrigation Projects will be key to ensure inclusion and cover more beneficiaries. She also stated that many reformative measures have been taken up under 5T by the



Odisha Lift Irrigation Corporation Limited Chairman Shri Amaresh Patri including EIC, DoWR and other senior

exhibitions in convergence with stakeholder Departments, including Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment; having talk



officers of DoWR also present on the occasion.

In the State level function, 40 best Pani Panchayats from different wings i.e Major &

shows in DD, AIR, Community Radio; holding debate, essay, painting, quiz competitions amongst school children and awarding them have been carried out in the Pakhya.

Anthem, oath, banners, posters, brochures, slogans, tagline, centering water governance at the cutting edge were also circulated for creation of awareness on efficient water use, participatory irrigation management etc.

Pathani Rout

Information Officer Department of Water Resources, Government of Odisha



The Gajapati district of Odisha is witnessing a remarkable transformation in the health care services for the children below 18 years of age. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of the Mobile Health Care Team, the children are being provided with access to wellness programmes, health check-ups, emergency treatment, and even surgeries at Anganwadi centers and schools. A total of 53 children have undergone heart transplant surgery, 93 children have had eye surgeries, 34 children have had deformed legs operated, and 13 children have been given artificial legs. This exemplary service has enabled the children of Gajapati to dream of better healthcare facilities and a bright future.

Chief District Medical & Public Health Officer, Health and Family Welfare Department Gajapati