



INDIAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION

# IYA NEWS

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### Chief Minister

## Lays Foundation Stone For Ekamra Prakalp

The Bhumipujan ceremony for **EKAMRA Prakalp** marked a momentous occasion today as the Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik, laid the foundation stone for this ambitious project. The ceremony, which commenced with Yagna rituals at the Shilanyas Site. Shri Naveen Patnaik, accompanied by other

Shilanyas ritual and Yagna ceremonies. Finally, the Chief Minister officially laid the foundation stone for the EKAMRA Prakalpa project and felicitated 14 people who contributed land for the project cementing the government's dedication to the preservation and revival of Bhubaneswar's ancient heritage.



ministers and dignitaries, arrived at Singhadwara to inaugurate the Bhumipujan ceremony. He then proceeded to the Shilanyas Site, where he participated in the

Representatives of Brahmana Nijog, Badu Nijog and Samartha Nijog presented a photo of Damodar Vesa of Lord Lingaraj to the Chief Minister. Among



others Minister Prafulla Kumar Mallik, Minister Ashok Chandra Panda, 5T Secretary V K Pandian were also present on stage.

The EKAMRA Prakalp, also known as the Ekamra Kshetra Amenities and Monuments Revival Action plan, is an initiative launched by the Government of Odisha in 2019. Spanning an area of 80 acres around Shri Lingaraj Temple.

During the three-day celebration, from June 26th to 28th, visitors and devotees had the opportunity to be immersed in the rich cultural heritage and traditions of Ekamra Kshetra. The Lingaraj Temple, AnantaBasudeva, Mukteswar Temple, Bindu Sagar, and other smaller temples were adorned with soft illuminations,

enhancing their ethereal beauty. The sanctity of the occasion was heightened through traditional Yajna rituals, creating a serene and sacred atmosphere.

In addition to the religious ceremonies, attendees had the opportunity to witness captivating sky projections, light and sound shows, dance performances and an exhibition featuring a project model and informative displays. These activities showcased the remarkable endeavors taking place within Ekamra Kshetra, enlightening visitors about the preservation and revival of Bhubaneswar's architectural treasures.

The Ekamra Prakalp initiative exemplified the government's

steadfast commitment to preserving and reviving Bhubaneswar's ancient heritage. With the foundation stone laid, the project would soon commence its Phase-I development, encompassing the restoration of Ekamra Kshetra's architectural and archaeological heritage, improved vehicular movement, shaded walkways, enhanced pedestrian flow, relocated parking facilities and the creation of interconnected landscaped open spaces. The project sought to provide a harmonious blend of modern amenities and the preservation of cultural heritage, ensuring a transformative experience for visitors and devotees alike.



Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow.

## THE CINE COLUMN

# Prabhas' Reported Rs 150 Cr Fees For Project K Sparks Debate After Adipurush Failure

It was earlier reported that Kamal Haasan, who was last seen in the blockbuster Vikram, will rejoin the cast of Prabhas' Project K by August of this year.

The report suggested that Kamal Haasan is being considered for a significant role in Nag Ashwin's highly anticipated sci-fi film. The South star is expected to portray a villainous character, setting the stage for an exciting clash with Prabhas, the film's lead. Now the makers have confirmed the same with an official announcement. And with that, the budget of the project has also gone up.

Reddit is abuzz that the actor is taking Rs 20 Cr for the role, while the lion's share is going to Prabhas. Reportedly, Prabhas is charging a whopping Rs 150 cr for the project, with Deepika Padukone and Amitabh Bachchan charging Rs 10 cr and Rs 20 cr respectively, taking the total remuneration cost to Rs 200 cr. Reddit claims that with the production cost being Rs 400 cr, the total budget stands at Rs 600 cr, making it the most expensive Indian film ever made.

Many, on Reddit, brought up



Adipurush's debacle to point outcharging such a mind boggling how Prabhas shouldn't beamount after a huge flop. One

user wrote, "150 crores is absolutely insane. There's no reason that Prabhas should be charging that much, especially after giving flop after flop (sic)."

Last week, Adipurush makers announced that they decided to slash ticket prices for the Prabhas starrer to Rs 150 for Thursday and Friday shows. Their move came after the box office collection of Adipurush witnessed a massive drop amid a growing backlash against the film.

Reportedly, Project K will be a two-part film. The intricate plot of the project have led the makers to divide it into two instalments. The first part will primarily focus on setting up the immersive world and introducing the central characters, while the second part will delve deeper into the unfolding drama. The first part of the Nag Ashwin directorial, which is in the pre-production stage, is scheduled for release on January 12 next year.



# Allu Arjun Shoots Huge Action Scene At Vizag Port, Said To Be The 'Highlight' Of Pushpa 2

Allu Arjun is one of the most popular actors in the South Indian film industry. The actor has a huge fan following and has also garnered a lot of love and recognition after one of his pan-India films, Pushpa: The Rise became one of the biggest hits of the last decade.

Allu Arjun's character in the film became massively popular among the masses. The film, helmed by Sukumar, also stars Rashmika Mandanna and Fahadh Faasil in prominent roles. Currently, the team is shooting for the sequel to the film, Pushpa: The Rule. The makers



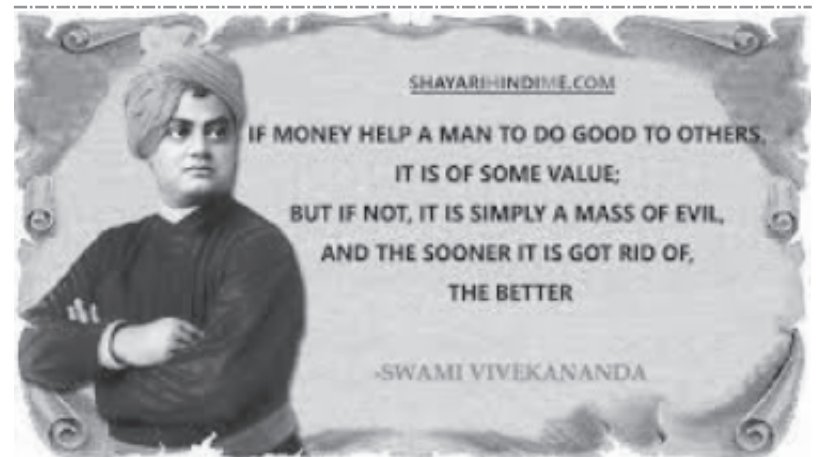
have been sharing various updates about the film, which is keeping fans excited for its release.

According to reports, the whole team is putting in a lot of effort to make the film on a grand scale. Recently, it was found that they shot a huge action sequence at the Vizag Port. Around 50 stuntmen were brought in from Germany to be a part of the fighting scene. It was also revealed that in one of the scenes, Allu Arjun had to hang upside down almost 100 feet above the ground using a crane. The crew members revealed that the scene was done by the actor himself and that he didn't opt for a body double. Reportedly, the whole scene will be the highlight of the film.

## Pushpa 2 Surpasses Jawan To Become The Most Awaited Film of 2023

In recent updates, Pushpa 2 has surpassed Shah Rukh Khan's Jawan to become 2023's most-awaited film. A new poster for the film has been revealed, which has heightened the excitement of Allu Arjun's fans. In the poster, audiences can see Pushpa in a completely different outfit, but with the same intense gaze and expression on his face. Earlier in April, the first look was released by the makers, in which Pushpa was seen on the run after escaping from jail. 'Where is Pushpa?' the teaser asked.

Pushpa: The Rule is produced by Mythri Movie Makers and is expected to hit theatres in 2024. Earlier, it was expected to release in December this year, but the release has been delayed due to multiple reasons.



## IYA LAW CHAMBER

## Public Interest Litigation (PIL) In Developing Countries

Article By : Manas Ranjan Mohapatra, Senior Advocate, Orissa High Court, Former Chairman, Orissa State Bar Council, President, All Orissa Lawyer's Association

In a developing country, the legal process tends to intimidate the litigant, who feels alienated from the system. A poor person, who enters the legal stream, whether as a claimant, a witness or a party, may well find the experience traumatic. Lawyers have not done much to alleviate this. The way the bar has developed gives issues of legal aid and legal awareness a low priority. The traditional rules of procedure in the adversarial system of law permit only a person whose rights are directly affected to approach the court.

In *Piloo Mody v Maharashtra*, Gandhi J adopted the view of *locus standi* which was later laid down by Bhagwati J in the judges' case. *Piloo Mody* complained that the government through three ministers had leased out valuable plots of land at a gross undervalue. Gandhi J rejected the respondents contention that the petitioner had no *locus standi*. He upheld the petitioner's contention that the leases were granted mala fide at a gross undervalue. Representative non political, non profit and voluntary organization who have a sufficient interest can maintain an action for judicial redress for public injury arising out of arising out of breach of public duty or violation of some provision of the constitution.

PIL has been marked with a departure from procedural rules extending to the form and manner of filing writ petition, appointment of commissions for carrying out investigation and giving a report to court and the appointment of commissions for carrying out investigation and giving a report to court and the appointment of lawyers as *amicus curiae*. The flexibility of PIL procedure can be best illustrated by what is termed as *Epistolary Jurisdiction*. Taking a cue from the American Supreme Court's decision in *Gideon v Wainwright*, where a post card from a prisoner was treated a petition. The court has accepted letters and telegrams as petitions. In 1988, the Supreme Court issued a notification on what matters could be entertained as PIL. Under this, letters falling under certain categories alone would be entertained. These included matters concerning bonded labour, neglected children, petition from prisoners, petition against the police, petitions against atrocities on women, children and schedule castes and schedule tribes. Petitions pertaining to environment, adulteration, heritage and culture and other matters could also be entertained. Matter that would not be entertained included landlord-tenant dispute, service matters, admission to educational institutes etc. The petition would be first screened in the PIL Cell and thereafter, it would be placed before a judge. A difficulty often faced by a genuine PIL petitioner is the lack of access to information. One method by which the court gathers facts is by the appointment of commissioners. The court has appointed district judges, journalists, lawyers, mental health professionals, bureaucrats and expert bodies as commissioners. Commissions have been appointed to propose remedial relief and monitor its implementation. The

court relied on the opinion of experts to dismiss a PIL challenging dairy imports from Ireland on the ground that they were radioactively contaminated by the leak of Chernobyl plant. In cases where there are rival contentions of expert bodies the court will not intervene. The question concerned the seismic potential of the Tehri dam site, the court stated that it did not have the expertise to give a final opinion on the matter. The use of commissions has enabled the court to check the facts alleged by the petitioner as well as the state after a proper scrutiny without affecting its role as adjudicator.

PIL Petitioner and *Amicus Curiae*- A PIL petitioner is perceived by the court as one who draws its attention to a grievance requiring remedial measures and having no personal stake in the matter. It expects him to be conscious of his/her obligation to the case and conduct himself accordingly. Persons bringing PILs to the court cannot of their free will seek to withdraw the petition. He court may take over the conduct of the matter irrespective of the wishes of the petitioner. E.g.: In a case concerning children in jails brought to the Supreme Court by a letter petition from Sheela Barse, a journalist, frustrated with the slow progress of the case, she sought withdrawal. However the court declined saying that the court had already started an elaborate exercise and hence, the case cannot be dismissed. The court assigns a lawyer (*Amicus Curiae*) to PIL petitioner who may be inarticulate in the presentation or may not understand the legal dimensions of the issue.

In PIL there are no winners or losers and the mindset of both lawyers and judges can be different from that in ordinary litigation. The court, the parties and their lawyers are expected to participate in resolution of a given public problem. The purpose is to make human rights more meaningful for the weaker sections of the society.

The court has issued orders relating to a very wide range of PILs covering matters such as prisons and prisoners, the police, the armed forces, child labour, bonded labour, urban space, environment, resources, consumer issues, education, politics and elections, public policy and accountability, human rights and the judiciary. Here is a detailed account of four broad areas:

**Human Rights - Judicial activism** in the area of human rights has been facilitated in considerable measure by PIL. Courts active concern with rights of detainees and under trials, police excesses, custodial violence and extra judicial killings, conditions in prisons, children's homes, women's homes, mental asylums, etc. are examples of this. The early years of PIL, the court focused on the rights of prisoners and the condition of prisons. The courts acted upon postcards, letters and articles in newspapers, press reports and petitions to open doors of the courts to the millions of under trials living under inhuman conditions in the country's prison. First, the courts would convert the facts brought before the court into petitions. It would then issue directions to the state agency



concerned to provide information. It would appoint a commission to elicit facts. The court would issue a *mandamus* to state agencies to carry out its directives within a specified time frame. The court also took the opportunity to give directions to state agencies to minimize further violations of human rights.

In the first PIL on prisoner's rights *Hussainara Khatoon v State of Bihar*, the attention of the court was to the incredible situation of Bihar under trials who had been detained pending trial for periods far excess of the maximum sentence for the offence they were charged with. In a landmark judgment, in *D.K. Basu v State of West Bengal*, the court acted upon a letter petition which drew attention to the repeated instances of custodial deaths in West Bengal. The court further mandated that a relative of the arrested must be promptly notified. It made clear that the failure to comply with this direction would be punishable as contempt of court. The early PILs had witnessed the award of compensation by the court to victims of human rights violations.

In a series of PILs, the Supreme Court has articulated a dominant role for the Judiciary in the appointment and transfer of judges, their terms and conditions of service and their removal. *S.P. Gupta v Union of India* was a PIL by a senior advocate practicing in Allahabad. It challenged the transfer of judges from one high court to another. The Supreme Court declared that the executive had the final say in the matter of appointment. Later it was declared that the word consultation occurring in the constitution should be read to mean concurrence, there by vesting the chief justice of India and his two most senior colleagues with the final say in the matter of appointments. There is considerable controversy about whether the court has not amended the language of the article by purporting to interpret it.

The vents leading up to the unique impeachment motion for the removal of Justice V. Rama swami of the Supreme Court witnessed a number of PILs. The speaker of the Lok Sabha constituted a committee of three judges to enquire into the allegations. With the dissolution of the Lok Sabha, the government did not constitute the committee on the ground that the motion for removal had lapsed. An association of lawyers questioned this in an PIL. The Supreme Court held that the motion had not lapsed. It clarified that the process of removal of a judge consisted of two stages. The

stage of investigation and proof of misbehaviour and the second stage of discussion and voting in the Parliament. After the inquiry concluded and the report was submitted to the parliament, the wife of the judge Sarojini Ramaswamy filed a petition asserting the right of the judge to be supplied with a copy of the report even before the Parliament cloud debate the motion. The judge had to be given an opportunity to defend himself.

A PIL filed by All India Judges Association provided the opportunity for the Supreme Court to give extensive directions to the state governments on various issues concerning the appointment and functioning of the judiciary, provision for residential accommodation for every judicial officer, libraries, vehicles for travel, and suggesting the setting up of an All India Judicial Services.

**Environment** - The area in which PIL's contribution has been significant in environment law. M.C Mehta, as a petitioner in person, was a pioneer in bringing a large number of issues to the court concerning environmental and ecological degradation. These include a number of issues arising out of the leak of Oleum gas from factory in Delhi, pollution in Delhi, the danger to Taj Mahal from Mathura refinery, regulation of traffic in Delhi and the degradation of the Ridge area in Delhi.

The court's engagement with these matters has resulted in activating the statutory machinery established under various environmental laws. The court's activism in his area has, however, also attracted criticism. E.G: when the court ordered the closure of industries it neither heard all the industries affected nor their workmen before passing the order. The danger of unchecked industrialization has compelled the court to come down heavily on industry and develop the polluter's pay principle. This principle has been applied in the cases concerning shrimp farms, tanneries, chemical industries each of which were found discharging untreated effluents into water bodies or the soil. Each polluting industry was asked to pay a polluting fine which was to be kept under a separate Environment Protection Fund to be utilized to compensate the affected persons. The units which were shut down by the court would be permitted to reopen only after they have set up effluent treatment plants. The court further directed that the matter must be dealt with the Madras High Court by a special bench, to be known as The Green Bench.

The other principle the court has evolved is the precautionary principle which enjoins the state to anticipate the dangers of the use of hazardous technology. A court was dealing with the problem of pollution caused by over 900 tanneries operating in the five districts of Tamil Nadu. The court noticed that the leather industry was a major foreign exchange earner and Tamil Nadu's export of finished leather accounted for 80 % of country's export of that commodity.

The court then drew on the concept of sustainable development,

balancing ecology and development, which has become part of customary international law. The precautionary principle meant that the environmental measures taken by the state authorities must anticipate, prevent and attack the causes of environmental degradation. Where there are threats of serious and irreversible damage, lack of scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation. The onus of proof was on the actor or industrialist to show that this action was environmentally sound. The court through a series of orders has also sought to ensure the supply of lead free petrol through retail outlets in four major cities or deregistering old cars and compelling car manufacturers to switch to higher international standards of manufacture.

While the courts have enforced pollution standards and sometimes even improved on them in PILs, their orders have given rise to issues involving workers rights. Whenever a polluting unit is shut down the people dependent on the industry like workmen and their families are directly affected. EG: closure of Idgah slaughter house and removal of encroachments on the Ridge area of Delhi. Similarly, in seeking to strictly implement the Forest Act and the Wildlife Protection Act, the interest of the tribal population was affected.

The Supreme Court has played a major role in not only unearthing scams but also carrying the discovery of such facts to their logical conclusion. The problem of discretionary quota vested in the minister concerned for allotment of petrol pumps and oil and gas dealerships first surfaced in a PIL. A PIL filed by a journalist, sought directions to the CBI to investigate allegations of bribe given by the Jain brothers to several high ranking politician and bureaucrats in return for favours in the award of government contracts. The seizure of dairies from the Jain brothers had led to the discovery of financial support to them by Hawala transactions. This in turn disclosed a nexus between politicians, bureaucrats and criminals.

Any citizen of India or any consumer groups or social action groups can approach the apex court of the country seeking legal remedies in all cases where the interests of general public or a section of public are at stake. Further, public interest cases could be filed without investment of heavy court fees as required in private civil litigation.

The increase in PIL in the last two decades is closely related to the growth in administrative and judicial review of governmental decisions and to an increase in the number of statutory public rights. The laws creating public rights, such as those in relation to the environment and consumer protection rely on private enforcement as an integral part of ensuring compliance, and the Courts have in this field developed rules of standing to allow persons other than those whose immediate rights or interests are at stake to bring the matter to the Court.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Puri's 'Palm Man' who Planted 50,000 Saplings with Pension Money

When the whole world is grappling with climate change-related issues mainly due to a decrease in green covers, a retired Army personnel from

by many environmentalists. He is often hailed as Puri's 'palm man' by local people. As per Biswal, it is his moral obligation to work towards restoring the greeneries

giving emphasis to plant more and more palm trees.

After another cyclone - Fani that hit Odisha in 2019, Biswal



Gundalba village under Astarang block in Puri district has inspired one and all by planting and growing more than 50,000 trees singlehandedly.

Meet Krushna Chandra Biswal, popularly known as 'Palm Man' who has dedicated his life to plantation activities after his retirement.

Biswal made up his mind to plant trees on vast stretches of barren land in his locality after witnessing the damage inflicted on the environment in the 1999 Super Cyclone as it wreaked havoc on the coastal areas. Gradually, he started planting palm, jamun and mango trees to restore greeneries on the barren lands in his area. He has so far planted more than 50,000 saplings from his pension money. His plantation now covers an area of up to five km and it acts as a green cover in protecting the village against any natural disaster.

His works have been appreciated

in his village and protecting the environment.

"I was extremely disappointed to find the damage that was inflicted on the environment in my area by the Super Cyclone in 1999. There was widespread devastation in Puri district and various other parts of the State. Then I decided to start planting trees like mango and palm trees initially in the barren areas of my village to restore greenery. Since my childhood, I have always been interested in nature and it gives me immense satisfaction to work for its cause through which I can give back to society," said Biswal.

As per several experts, the plantation of palm trees can reduce the impacts of lightning strikes as the number of deaths from the thunderbolt is much higher than any other natural disaster. Palm trees are also easy to nurture and grow as there is no need to cover the plants from cattle. This is why Biswal is

realised the gravity of working for the environment. After retiring from Army, he settled in his village and decided to work on restoring plantations in the cyclone-affected areas. He also started spreading awareness among the youths to help him in the plantation drive. He works on various plantation projects in his area for seven to eight hours on a daily basis. He has dedicated his entire time to plantation activity after his retirement in 2005. Moreover, he spends his own pension money and savings for carrying out the activities.

"These trees act as saviours, in case of any natural disasters such as cyclones or floods. In the long run, it also allows to maintain the fertility of the soil and prevents soil erosion. People should be made more aware about plantation activities to save our beloved earth from the detrimental effect of climate change due to global warming and other factors," Biswal signed off.



### How to treat wheat straw with ammonia

Injecting anhydrous ammonia into wheat straw offers an alternative feed option for farmers.

Limited grass and hay have livestock producers looking for alternative forage options. University of Missouri Extension livestock specialist, says you may want to consider ammoniated wheat straw.

Adding anhydrous ammonia to wheat straw improves nutritional value and makes it a viable forage option during drought. So, whether you are trying it for the first time or need a refresher, It breaks down the process for round bales:

**Harvest**, then treat. For the process to be successful, straw needs to be baled and treated soon after grain harvest.

**Weigh bales.** Farmers need to know an average bale weight as it is used to calculate the amount of anhydrous ammonia required for treatment.

**Stack tight.** Two bottom rows of 13 bales and one top row of 12 bales works well — 38 per stack. Place it in an area with good airflow. Gravel keeps moisture from wicking up from the ground.

**Cover bales.** Using either 6 or 8 mil black or clear UV-resistant plastic sheets to cover the stack. "A 40-foot-by-100-foot sheet of plastic will completely cover 38 round bales of straw,"

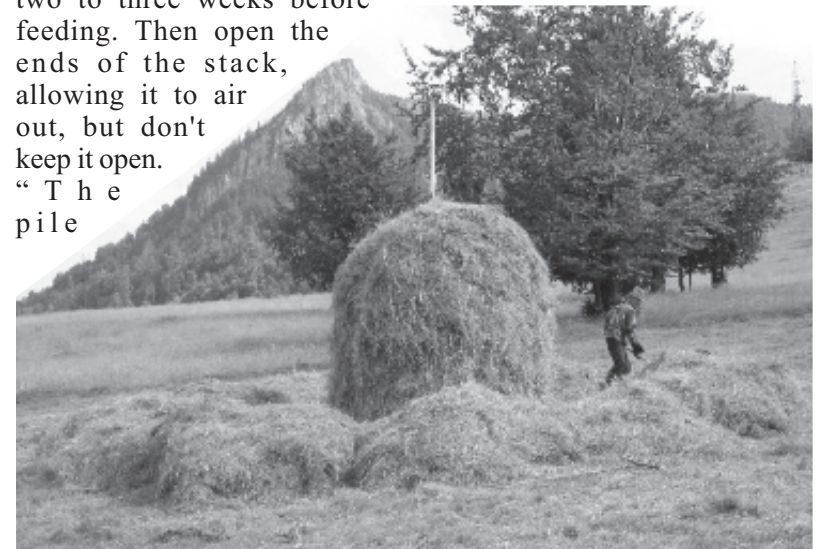
**Seal sides.** Seal the sides of the plastic against the ground with dirt, waste lime or other heavy material. "Enough fill should be placed on the plastic to keep it from being pulled loose by winds and ballooning when the ammonia gas fills the covered stack,"

**Calculate NH3 needs.** Anhydrous ammonia (NH3) is applied at a rate of 60 pounds per ton of wheat straw. Calculating the weight of 38 straw bales under cover, you can purchase the right amount of anhydrous ammonia.

**Apply anhydrous.** This is a slow process. Insert a pipe or hose under the plastic and into the stack as central as possible. Then apply the ammonia slowly — roughly three to five hours — to the center of the stack.

**Wait to feed.** Farmers should keep the wheat straw pile covered until two to three weeks before feeding. Then open the ends of the stack, allowing it to air out, but don't keep it open.

"The pile



must remain covered to maintain forage quality of the treated straw,". Consider removing several bales from the pile a few days before feeding for extra time to air out.

#### Warning

Toxicity can occur in animals when some forages are ammoniated, so only treat low-quality forages such as wheat straw or fescue stubble following seed harvest.

If toxicity issues occur, avoid working the cattle and remove ammoniated hay from the diet for several days. "A mixture of 50% ammoniated hay and 50% untreated hay should eliminate any problems."

Still, Farmers should work with a nutritional consultant to develop feeding programs that include ammoniated wheat straw.

#### Practice safety around NH3

Anhydrous ammonia poses risks for farmers.

Because NH3 contains little or no water it seeks out moisture, be it from soil or your eyes, throat, lungs or skin. So, safety when working with anhydrous ammonia is of the utmost concern.

Seven safety rules for working with anhydrous ammonia:

1. Wear goggles, rubber gloves and protective clothing.
2. Work upwind when releasing ammonia.
3. Have fresh water available to wash off any anhydrous ammonia that comes in contact with the skin.
4. Check all valves, hoses and tanks for leaks.
5. Check the plastic cover for leaks and patch with duct tape.
6. Do not smoke near anhydrous ammonia.
7. Keep children away from treatment area.

# CLIMATE CHANGE

## "Odisha's coalfields are slated to transition from fossil fuel; here's how women can hope for a just energy transition"

"Women have been historically marginalised in the coal economy; their representation must be ensured in Just Energy Transition planning so that no one is left behind"

Sabita Behera (name changed) sits on the threshold of her house, rolling tendu leaves to make beedis that stack up neatly at one end of her tray.

Every day, she has to meet her daily target of a thousand such cigarettes, for which she receives Rs 130 at the nearby village market to supplement her husband's wages as a contractual worker at a washery nearby. It is a hand-to-mouth existence.

In India, women are the most marginalised members of the communities dependent on coal mining. At first, when their homes and farms are acquired for a mine, they are deprived of rehabilitation packages offered by mining companies, as most of these are offered in lieu of land.

Entitlements of land are predominantly in the names of men. Inevitably, women also lose access to and control over natural resources and produce from common lands. The ban on women's employment in underground coal mines in the 1920s historically restricted them from formal mining work. Though the ban was lifted in 2019, their condition remains much the same.

Their livelihood opportunities are minimal and are mostly engaged in unpaid, underpaid and hazardous jobs in the coal economy. Women's participation in the workforce in the working age group of 15-59 years is a mere 5 per cent compared to 76 per cent of men in Angul district of Odisha.

In a policy brief on gender and transition, Suravee Nayak and Ashwini K Swain from the Initiative on Climate, Energy and Environment at the Centre for Policy Research said these pre-existing inequalities confine women to three categories: Social reproductive labour or 'housewifcation', formal but menial labour and casual labour engaged in coal scavenging.

"Women live very harsh lives here and struggle to make ends meet. Most are uneducated housewives and are financially dependent," said Urmila Desury, a community worker in the coal mining areas of Angul.

"If the coal mines were to go, there will be no jobs for us — we will not survive," she said.

The world is not transitioning to

clean energy fast enough to meet the targets of the 2015 Paris Agreement, according to a recent report by the US think tank Global Energy Monitor.

India's commitments at the 2021 Glasgow climate summit (COP26) to reach Net Zero emissions by 2070 entail transitioning from coal, oil and gas to renewable energy in the coming years. This transition, however, needs to be a 'just' one that considers the needs of the most vulnerable and poorest sections of those dependent on the coal economy.

Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), a subsidiary of the state-owned Coal India Limited (CIL), operates eight mines here and employs 53,802 workers formally and informally in coal mining, according to the official data for 2021-2022.

"Estimates of those directly dependent on coal and coal-based industries in Angul are far higher at 168,721. Although women constitute about half of the coal-dependent economy, they remain at the periphery, working either as unpaid care providers or as informal workers with low-paid menial jobs."

Hence, they garner less experience and have little or no skill development for employment in the long run. Their poor educational status

also inhibits them from securing good jobs.

The political economy of coal is entrenched in gender biases and injustices. Nayak and Swain explained that these are based on four structural barriers.

Women have barriers to entry into the coal labour market. They face distribution barriers with their lack of representation in skilled and secure jobs. Those who work formally are challenged by wage barriers due to a gender-biased pay structure. And they have barriers in representation — weak representation of women in unions and executive positions leaves them in a poor bargaining position.

However, despite these barriers, women are also more adversely affected by the closing of mines. They have the least resources to cope and adapt, and as caregivers, they face the brunt of the loss of family income during this time.

Phasing out coal without transition planning can mean the loss of jobs, an increase in food insecurity and a plunge into abject poverty for a majority of the coal-dependent community. For women, who have been historically dispossessed, this would worsen unequal power relations at the household level and socio-economic

backwardness.

With 52,550 million metric tonnes of coal resources, the Talcher region has the largest deposits of power-grade coal in the country. MCL is one of the most profitable units of CIL. District Vulnerability Assessments suggest that districts with higher coal production, like Angul, will be the last to transition from fossil fuels.

The government of Odisha received coal royalties of over Rs 1,855 crore in the financial year 2020-21, according to the Union Ministry of Coal.

This figure is speculated to rise exponentially as Angul steps up its production in the coming years. Production in Angul will peak in 2033 with a steep expansion of existing mines and the opening of new mines, according to a 2022 study. Following this, the district will gradually close down its mines and start phasing down until 2070. This gives scope for planning and implementing transition strategies to ensure no one is left behind.

"Given their historical marginalisation, women's voices are muted in the public sphere and are less likely to find their way to public consultations," said Nayak and Swain.

To ensure the representation of women in the just transition planning process, they suggested providing platforms through Gram panchayats in the coal-dependent villages as they are constitutionally mandated to have women representation. They also suggested using existing women's networks such as the Mission Shakti self-help groups.

Odisha's extensive network of women self-help groups with its links to schemes such as the Odisha Livelihood Mission can be harnessed to provide interim livelihood support to women and bring down their risks and vulnerabilities in this transition.

Other state government schemes such as Mukhyamantri Karma Tatapara Abhiyan (MUKTA), which aims to provide employment opportunities to the urban poor, also have the potential to give work to the urban poor, who constitute 47 per cent of Talcher's population.

"If the government provides schemes through Mission Shakti, it would boost the economic condition of women here. We need more income generation skills. Denge to kareng na [if they give us (skills) we will work]," said community worker Desury."



But man is not made for defeat. A man can be destroyed but not defeated.

# SELF KNOWLEDGE

## The wisdom of the ancients

Swami Suddhananda

1972 was the year when I left my university to expose myself to the Vedic or Upanishadic wisdom for a few days. I had finished my course for the Masters degree in English. The exams got postponed because of a cyclone in Orissa. The place I left for was Sandeepany Sadhanalaya, Bombay and the teachers were Swami Chinmayanandaji and Swami Dayanandaji. Since then, 51 years have passed and as they say much water has passed through the Ganges!

The lives have changed. Many events have taken place. The organisation has seen so many splits. Poojya Swami Chinmayanandaji has attained Manasamadhi. Poojya Swami Dayanandaji has gone on to tea

When you say 'The Total', the individual is included. The individual thus stands totally merged in the Total. There is no question of standing separate at anytime for merging back into Isvara. There is no intrinsic difference between the individual and the Total.

chi n g and every part is carrying on the same work as the parent organisation in many different ways. I too was in the mission from 1972 to 1980 and from 1981 March onwards the Foundation for Self - knowledge has started. The Foundation too has grown and has started seeing the students charting out their own plan, their own paths. The history has started repeating and shall repeat time and again.

Poojya Swami Chinmayanandaji got his initiation from Poojya Swami Shivanandaji Maharaj who established the Divine Life Society. Swami Shivanandaji was instrumental in bringing about a revival in the Hindu tradition by his living, writing, teaching and initiating a huge number of students to Sannyasa. If we look at the world today, we shall see the touch of Swami Shivanandaji everywhere. Whether you talk about the yoga, Vedanta group of late Swami Vishnudevanandaji, late Swami Satchidanandaji, late Swami Rumeateshinandaji to name a few or the Vedanta teachings of Swami Chinmayanandaji and all his disciples, the turning point had started with Swami Shivanandaji.

Poojya Swami Chinmayanandaji clearly talks about his indebtedness to Swami

Shivanandaji for the inspiration he derived to go to the plains from the heights of the Himalayas. Poojya Swami Tapovanji Maharaj was the one at whose feet Swami Chinmayanandaji learnt the scriptures.

However, the rivers of yoga and Vedanta flowed to the plains of vast India and the world around with the help of the many sanyasi disciples of Sivanandaji Maharaj. The people too had enough respect and enthusiasm to participate in the new revival.

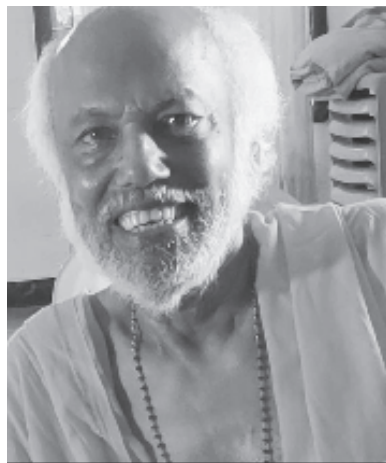
Before that Swami Vivekanandaji had brought about another revival where he had used the pattern of the monastic culture, where many sadhus live and influenced people around with regular classes and undertaking social activities.

Many of the activities of both the groups catered to the needs of the English educated public as well as to the people of many regional languages. Apart from these groups, there were many regional groups or individual sadhus who influenced the society through their messages.

Every one of them, whoever had attempted to help people to bring about better understanding and lifestyle had also faced one obstacle or other in life. As we look back in time, the main events of great changes are easily remembered, but the pangs of the changes are forgotten. Not only every little split had the accompanying pain and the trauma of adjustments, but also there were the gossips of the non-believers who worked overtime to dish out their own unsolicited expert opinions!

When the great people were literally fighting a battle against ignorance to spread the ancient wisdom, there was a Judas for every Christ, a mathai for every Mahatma! What the lives of the great men teach us is to continue to work and work to enrich the people's lives with the ultimate wisdom of the ancients, the Absolute knowledge of the Self. Every person must be interested in knowing himself. Every person must learn to safeguard himself from the distractions.

There are many people who may have their personal reasons to hate physics or a physicist, but



that does not prevent others from approaching physics as a source of knowledge and the physicist as the facilitator of the knowledge. Similarly, there shall be many who may have their personal biases or apparent or real reason to hate the Upanishadic wisdom or the great preceptors who facilitate the knowledge, but that must never deter someone from receiving the Absolute knowledge for one's own sake.

When the real Guru withdraws himself, there is no questioning or dumping such a person even before starting to learn! As a verse in Sanskrit says: When you find a diamond inside the dirt, you do not hate the diamond or leave the dirt where it belongs.

If that much is understood, the slanderer's weapon of slandering is effectively blunted. In case, somebody slanders the knowledge or the facilitator, which is possible in every branch of knowledge, it is better to be aware of the loss that the person suffers, who denies himself the

knowledge. The knowledge never loses, nor does the facilitator.

In today's world of faster communications, not only the good news can spread faster but also the gossip can travel at electronic speed. The modern man is more vulnerable to propaganda than the people of the past, when the stories of mankind spread in their own leisure time. As a result, families are falling apart, personal relationships break in no time and the whole society is in constant turmoil!

The hope, the only hope, in this turmoil, is in the individual himself, where each person can find his own stability. Name it divine or name it mundane. Name it extraordinary or absolutely ordinary.

How one feels affected is dependent upon the solidity of ego. It is like throwing a small stone at a car. A speeding car, with more power, gets shattered by a small stone. The example is not against power but the fragility of the solid ego.

Name it mysterious or total common sense. Name it holy or sensitive. No human being can afford to neglect it. Therefore, we must see to it that we receive this wisdom, share the Self-knowledge and then we decide our own lifestyle.

If we look for perfection we shall never find it outside until we find

it within ourselves. After thirty long years of honest association with this knowledge where I have also lived this knowledge with total happiness, love, affection, sensitivity and consideration, I can say with sincerity that there is nothing in life which can never be misinterpreted.

The best way to look at life is first 'To Be the Self' and then look at everything as it is! Then anyone will be stunned at all the possibilities. Where one sees the death, in the same place there is Eternity, Immortality, the Deathlessness. There where one sees the drop, there too is the touch of the ocean. Or from another standpoint, the ocean can be lost sight of in a moment, the love can be lost sight of in a motive as even a motive can be drowned in love!

How topsy-turvy? Shall you choose for yourself or somebody has to choose for you? If you wish to judge, first 'Be the Self' and never allow the roles to interfere! The lives of great men have constantly sent this message- that they never allowed the individual roles to overtake the Self, the wisdom. And the lives of the ignorant also send a message - that they never gave up the individuality, the selfish role 'to be' the Absolute Self! Therefore, when the wise see hope, fulfillment everywhere, the ignorant see hopelessness, frustrations everywhere.

The wisdom of the ancients has been flowing from Eternity. In fact, it is eternally present in all and each person has to choose to find it for himself. The greatest purpose of life is to make that choice and never to forget it! Be it!

### Our teachings are Ancient...

"We walked with the dinosaurs...leave no footprints...  
...leave everything the way you found it and better..."



"Think, say and do good things, it will come back to you, your children & your grandchildren" Elders Speak on Law of Attraction

They are finally catching up...

- Matter is energy
- Matter is pure vibrations
- Energy is information
- Information is thought
- Thought is consciousness
- Energy + Vibration = Matter
- Thought + Voice = Your reality
- Thought + Voice = What you want
- Thought + Voice = Prayers
- Thought + Voice = Healing

# ECONOMY

## India's GDP Growth Slowed Down

Pradeep Kumar Panda, Economist, Bhubaneswar

The provisional estimates of the national accounts for 2022–23, released by the National Statistical Office, threw up some surprises. The growth of gross domestic product (GDP) slowed down from 9.1% in 2021–22 to 7.2% in 2022–23, a fall of around 2 percentage points. Consequently, the growth of per capita income also fell by more than a percentage point from 7.6% to 6.3% during the period. Slump in the manufacturing sector and slack consumption demand remain major concerns.

The optimists take comfort in the fact that the slowdown was lower than anticipated. They also feel reassured by the numbers which show that the GDP growth in the two years after the pandemic averaged higher than that of the two pre-pandemic years and the medium-term growth rate. The sectoral gains were also reassuring. This is because the pickup was marked in both industry and services. However, the average growth rate in agriculture has slowed down marginally in the post-pandemic years. But it still hovered close to the medium-term trend rates.

Despite this array of gains, there are several causes for concern. One important aspect that remains a matter of great concern is the skewed growth of some core sectors. The most worrying of these is in industry. Despite

major initiatives of the government to boost industrial output, like “make in India” and the productivity-linked incentive scheme, the growth of this segment slumped by more than half and slowed down from 11.6% in 2021–22 to 4.4% in 2022–23. Thus, the services remained the lead sector with the major contribution to the overall growth of the economy. Its contribution to the overall growth soared up from half in the previous year to around three-fourths in 2022–23. In contrast, the contribution of the industry to growth declined by half to barely around one-fifth.

This dismal performance of industry was mainly on account of the slack in the manufacturing sector. The output in the manufacturing sector, the largest segment of industry, has remained almost stagnant. The growth of this segment fell sharply from 11.1% to 1.3%. This sharp fall was unsurprising. In fact, the trends over the last five years show that the 3.5% growth averaged by manufacturing was lower than that of agriculture where growth was a higher 4%. The manufacturing sectors seems to have clearly gone down in the

dumps.

The slowdown was also significant in mining and quarrying segment, where the bulk of the value addition is from the oil and gas production. Here, the growth slid from 7.1% in 2021–22 to 4.6% in 2022–23. The growth of the construction sector also fell by around one-third to 10%. However, the growth of electricity output declined only marginally and it remained buoyant at 9%.

In the services sector, only two of its three major segments did reasonably well. The best performance was in trade, hotel, transport, and communications, where growth touched 14%, the highest since the beginning of the current national account series of 2010–11. The growth of finance, real estate and professional services also picked up substantially to 7.1%. However, value added in public administration, defence and other services slowed down from around double-digits to just 7.2%, mainly on account of the fiscal consolidation efforts of the union government. Budget numbers show that while the states have continued to increase expenditure outlays to fund welfare programmes and

stimulate spending, the union government has steadily cut down the relative size of its budget.

Apart from the stagnant structure of industry, the other more important reason for worry is the continued slump in consumption. The national income estimates show that while the levels of both government and private consumption expenditure fell in 2022–23, the level of investments picked up. The government's final consumption expenditure at current prices fell by almost a percentage point to 10.3%, the lowest in six years. This fall can also be traced to the sustained fiscal consolidation efforts of the union government.

However, the aspect that is of grave concern is the shrinkage in the size of private consumption, which accounts for the bulk of the demand in the economy. The gross private consumption expenditure fell to 60.6% in 2022–23, the lowest in four years. The shrinkage in private consumption will severely affect the living conditions of the population, especially those at the lower end of the scale. One reason for the shrinkage in private consumption demand is the high increase in prices or

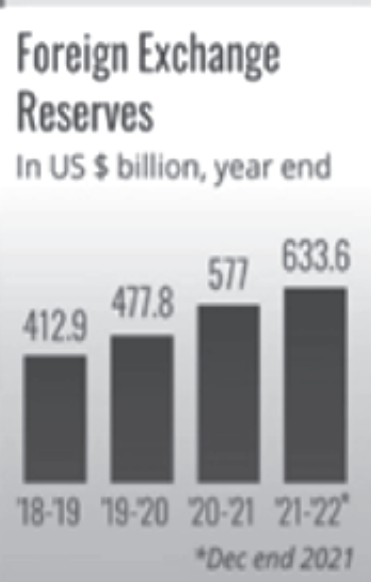
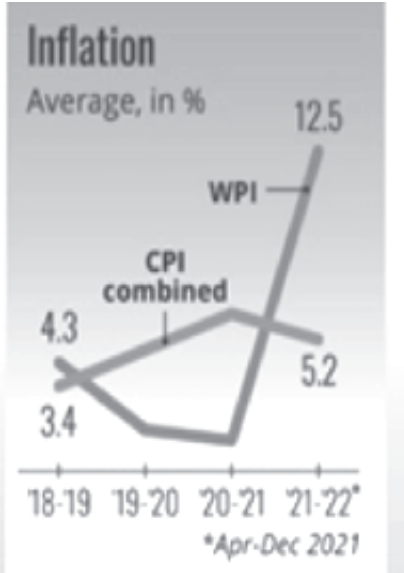
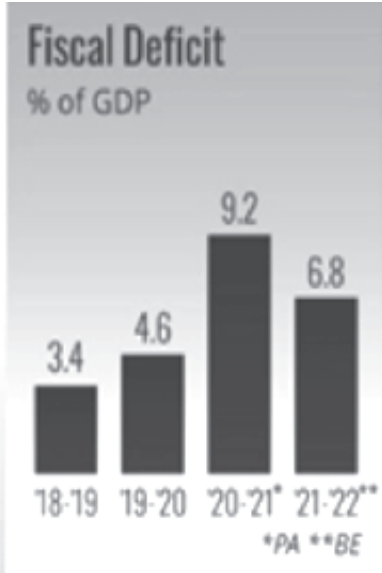
inflation. The national income deflators, which are the broadest measures of inflation that cover the prices of all the goods and services in the economy, remained at a high 8.8% in 2022–23.

The impact of such surging price levels can be severe, especially since the prices of agriculture and forestry products have also now soared up close to double-digit levels for two consecutive years. Such a sharp increase in food prices is sure to have a negative impact on consumption, especially since most of the available indicators show that the post-pandemic recovery has been K shaped. This skewed recovery has pushed up demand for the high-end products much more sharply than that at the lower end where demand remains largely muted.

However, the skewed nature of the recovery that has squeezed the real earnings of the low-income groups while boosting the high-income classes, seems to have helped increase the gross fixed capital formation. It rose to 29.6% of the GDP in 2022–23, the highest in the last four years. However, sustaining these gains is rather difficult given the slump in consumption demand. Certainly, there seems to be nothing much to cheer about, despite the oft-repeated claims that India is one the brightest spots in the global economy.



### Indian Economy A Snapshot



## CULTURE AND HERITAGE

# Yogic significance of Puri Srimandir

Srimandir is an integration of all the 'Tatwas' of human values and Dharma. The main themes of Dwaita, Adwaita, Sankhya, Yoga, Tantra, Bhakti and Karma are all found here. Many bhaktas, householders, yogis, karmis and hermits have come here and the Lord has blessed all according to the nature of their pursuits and devotion. Many Western yogis have come to Srikhetra during the course of their 'sadhana' and have taken spiritual inspiration and motivation.

Srimandir and its periphery can be explained according to a yogic interpretation. When we visit Lord Jagannath, first we bow before 'Aruna Stambha', which is in front of the main door of Srimandir. Aruna is the charioteer of the Sun God. Arun rises first and then the sun comes and lightens the whole world. Aruna is the symbol of light. When a yogi gets the first glimpse of bliss in his meditation, he sees a faint light and then many strange rays and pictures appear. If the 'Sadhaka' gets his concentration right on the light then he is energised with its power. The first sight of the light is charming, but it seems to be static. But as the concentration increases and the 'Sadhana' deepens, the inner lights become more powerful and gives divine inspiration. With this vision, the 'Sadhakas' interest to experience Godliness intensifies. He feels that his 'Sadhana' is not futile and he is filled with positive energy. But if the 'Sadhaka' is identified with his ego at this stage, all his effort is destroyed. A 'Sadhaka' should be egoless and feel that his energy is that of the God's. So, a devotee should enter the temple

egoless and full of humility.

After bowing before 'Aruna', one enters 'Singhadwara'. While practising Yoga, a 'Sadhaka' hears different sounds after the initial vision of light. When the vital energy of the 'Sadhaka' becomes silent gradually, he experiences sounds like the roar of a lion. At that time, 'Samadhi' of the 'Sadhaka' is imminent. 'Singhadwara' of Srimandir is the symbol of the lion's roar.

This is followed by the 22 steps (Baisi Pahacha). While climbing the steps, Lord Biswanath is seen on the left side.

Biswanath is the Lord of the whole universe. After getting a glimpse of the Lord, the 'Sadhaka' expands the feeling of his self love towards the broader aspect of universal love. He sees his own self amidst all the creatures of the world. Then he has to transcend 22 steps. According to Yogic science, the steps comprise the five elements (Pancha Tatwa), five senses (Pancha Indriya), six enemies (Sada Ripu), Triguna (Sattwa, Raja and Tama) and mind, intellect and ego.

All the creatures are bound by these 22 mundane 'Tatwas'. If we can overcome these 22 steps, we will get self knowledge and overcome birth and death. After transcending 22 'Tatwas', a 'Sadhaka' becomes eligible to experience true consciousness.

Inside the periphery of the temple, one gets the glimpse of Lord Satyanarayan on the left side. Satyanarayan is the symbol of vitality among all creatures. To feel the vitality and true consciousness among all creatures is the real Satyanarayan



darshan. Then the 'Sadhaka' visits Ganesha (Bighna Binasaka) and all his obstacles are removed. Then comes Mangala temple and after visiting the Goddess, well being (Mangala) is reflected in all the works, thoughts and emotions of the 'Sadhaka'. He becomes eligible for 'Jagannath Darshan'.

Jagannath darshan means experiencing Jagannath Tatwa in one's inner world. The devotee gets a glimpse of the Lord standing before the great divine bird 'Garuda'. Garuda is the symbol of our vertebra. Inside the vertebra, we have the 'Susumna' artery in which the spiritual power is hidden. The 'Sadhaka' experiences Jagannath Tatwa through a special Yogic Kriya by transcending the six Chakras (Satchakra) through the artery. Behind 'Garuda Stambha' there is 'Bhoga Mandapa' (the

symbol of indulgence), which the 'Sadhaka' has long left back. The lord is apparent in front through a narrow channel called 'Gumuta'. If the 'Sadhaka' looks back, there is every possibility that he will be again dragged into 'Bhoga' (indulgence).

Through the 'Gumuta', the 'Sadhaka' sees a black bright cube which is called 'Bhramari Guha'. If the 'Sadhaka' experiences the Lord inside the cave, the experience is called Jagannath Darshana.

After coming out of the temple, devotees bow before the 'Kalpabata' inside the inner periphery and get a glimpse of Goddess Bimala. Otherwise, the Lord's darshan is considered futile. Kalpabata is the symbol of lowly temporal desires of the Yogi. When Jagannath's Prasad is offered to Bimala, it is called 'Mahaprasad'. Bimala is the

symbol of purity. When the 'Sadhaka' reaches the highest stage of 'Sadhana', he becomes pure and he desires nothing and soon after attains the divine.

Then the 'Sadhaka' visits the Gopinath temple. At this stage the 'Sadhaka' attends Gopi Bhaba, which is a state of pure love. Then he advances in the direction of Goddess Saraswati and Lakshmi temples. It symbolises the highest stages—the secret door of knowledge and prosperity is wide open for the 'Sadhaka'. But the 'Sadhaka' becomes indifferent towards these mundane things and marches towards 'Amunha Madir', which is the symbol of liberation. Then he bows before 'Nilachakra' and the 'Patitapabana bana' in deep gratitude. At last, he moves towards 'Ananda Bazara', which is the symbol of eternal bliss.





# PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

## IDEAL – THE WAY TO RESCUE

Sri Sri Thakur Anukul Chandra is called as Purusottam, the highest manifestation of human perfection and the incarnation of God. Purusottam, fulfiller the best of the age, can touch all the aspects of life and teaches everything for the all-round development/growth of individual, conjugal, familiar, social and national life as a whole.

Fire can only boil water and evaporate it, but boiled water can never boil water to the degree of its evaporation. So Purusottam, the fire of life, can fulfill and elevates all the worldly characteristics. Because he is the embodiment of all branches of learning and thus fulfiller the best of the age. He teaches the principles of life and growth in a refined updated manner keenly observing the necessity of the present situation and demand of the age. Many Scientists, artists, philosophers, statesmen, politicians, poets, agriculturists, economists, businessmen or people from different faculties used to visit Sri Sri Thakur and had become satisfied according to their characteristics and got perfect solution of their respective problems.

The saviours of mankind have very elaborately detailed the methods of conduct to be followed and practiced without bothering much about the symbols and their connotations which have been perverted in application and amplification in subsequent periods. The piloting has to be accepted, for such self-realized beings are the only safest guide for mankind in the degenerated society.

When suffering shoots, existence crawls, intelligence weeps to unfold, surrender shouts with a rescuing urge. (M-2, P-81).

The heart that sobs with sympathy and fellow-feeling at the miseries, sorrows and difficulties through which people move on with imperilled hopes, enjoyments and activities, shivering at every step at the awful vision of the terrific grinning of the darkened devil, - that elates with hope and service, braising them with a loving embrace and responsibility towards endurance, and leads them to their welfare and success which they comprehend by being led thus – such a heart dwells in the Hero; He it is who is Nature's rescue to the call of Sufferers. (M-1 P-176).

He is Supreme Father who

descended in flesh and blood only to cure the malady of mankind by dispensation of Name and Love only. He is the love incarnate. He is the condensed form of Name and Love. The holy name (Satnam) he propagates is the source of the creation. Everything, we see in the Creation is nothing but the condensed form of sound vibration. The Vibration/recitation/repetition of holy name on the brain centre i.e. in the junction of two eyes and root of the nose stimulates hundreds and thousand of dormant and paralysed brain cells and activates them. It whips up the pineal gland and increases the secretion of Melatonin – the Miracle Hormone which helps to slow down the aging process, prevents diseases by creating antibody by enriching immune system and boosting energy level to keep up youthfulness for a long time. Recitation of the holy name purifies the mind and takes it nearer to godhead.

Pull of love for the Great creates vigour in action and rise in life though love likes propitious progress of its love it still is anxious out of fear for his suffering and calamity. (Message Vol.3), My love is enthroned on the love-throne and their lies loaf of life; hence, He is the lord of my existence.

In every age, when the principles of life and growth deteriorates and misinterpreted, he comes to establish Dharma in its right meaningful way. He with heart and soul calls the human race to follow & fulfill him. He induces everybody to be ideal-centric, which is the keynote of successful living. A heartfelt love and inclination to Purusottam, the Supreme beloved, imparts ability and growth in life.

Where an unbreakable go exists with inquisitive urge to materialize the welfare of the Love, where His interest in all respects is the interest of thy soul, where there is spontaneous service to well Him up, where there is an unshaken stay in the love with every urge whatever be the shocks or conflict – wherever you see these characteristics- there that love is not fictitious or false; rather it is a responding resonant song of one whose heart is full, whose eyes are inquisitive, whose habits are normally active, whose intelligence, words and deeds are in tune with that resonance of love; wherever he roams and

*Prabhu Prasad Gadnayak*



wherever he goes there the blossom of bliss comes down. M-3, P-104

Love for the Anointed one is ever loyal, stubborn in action with a marvelous resistance to evil and valorous admiring action for the Love-Lord. M-3, P-101. Valorous admiration for the love with an active, conscientious make-up can induct energy to cross over various difficulties with every uninterrupted go of life. M-3, P-91.

To uphold the life and growth of self as well as of others is Dharma, to bind oneself unrepellingly with the love-lord, the seer of life and growth, the adjusted personality, and to follow Him accordingly is Religion, and to be initiated is 'to be born again'.

In general man is guided by the passions. If one is attached to a spiritual guide, as his supreme beloved, loves him wholeheartedly, his passions are regulated adjusted and channelized in a positive and constructive way. His ego becomes neutral and ideal oriented. Because man is fashioned after what he loves. He can after all lead a life free from errors. When the sun rises, light penetrates into every nook and corner of the earth. All the artificial lamps of the night are automatically extinguished. Lakhs of stars can never remove the darkness while the moon can do. So, it is indispensable to be attached and initiated to Purusottam, the sun of life, the source of all energies. He can enlighten the entire life from the starting point to the end with the magnetic and magnificent touch of his boundless love. By changing his Holy Name the latent qualities within become potent and one starts evolving towards perfection. Past prophets are consummated in the divine man of the present. Dharma, as defined by Sri Sri

Thakur, is the providential flow to uphold life and growth or the law of uphold by which existence is prolonged with ability and growth and with every compatible interaction and systematic coherence, do observe and sustain.

As the lover loves, his love tends to keep the beloved awake in him. A true devotee never looks for miracles but only loves his God. Love miracle is the best miracle. Be thou conscious of all the affairs of thy Beloved the Lord with an ardent eagerness to serve Him; keep thyself awake to the necessities useful to Him; install all these affairs in your active core of intelligence to nurture, to perform and to furnish Him with everything to make His wishes and ideas materialized; thus be though awakened actively with every immediacy and with every fervent zeal to fulfil Him and make thyself worthy to serve all.

“When Ideal is awake in a man, he is active, agile, inquisitive, responsible, alert and tactful. In a word, all faculties are boom and glow”. On analysis it is learnt that, Ideal- who knows the mechanism of lives, active-the people will keep himself busy and energetic, agile – do the things very quickly and easily, responsible- he will take the responsibility suo motu, alert – he will keep himself alert all moment for all possible dangers in life, tactful – do the right things at right time, faculties – the inner ability of body and mind i.e. being and becoming, bloom – he became pleasant, healthy and confident and glow – he will have enthusiastic praise in doing everything.

Any Anointed One is Christ – the Lover – with every love-service

to provide for the existential uphold of people, the Animating Object of worship, the Man of life and light, the Relief of sufferings, the Reward of piety and Rescue for the drowning; worship Him and be blessed. (M-2, P-95).

The Present Prophet 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, P-102).

Adhere with unrepelling urge to thy Lord, be tough with every cordial effulgence, toleration and rational lore, resist evil with every holy blow, fight to well-up everyone- establishing your Beloved the Lord with His doctrines, faith and truth, make everyone flooded with love and active energetic volition; thus be a pillar of rescue to humanity; be blessed.

In such a way, different, discrete – finer and grosser blood and flesh are manifested; - blood and flesh are embodied with life as beings, as creatures – from which Man comes forth by degrees; - discrete individuals with other phenomena become the environment of every individual, and make it awaken, in life and consciousness, with the thrust of impulses from mutual affinity: while on the other hand He, the Word became Supreme Being, the Father to the manifested; and The Individual who comes forth ever-enchanted with sympathy and love for the Supreme Being, - at the crying call of panic-stricken sufferers, becomes the beloved God in flesh – the Divine, the Ideal, - The Way to rescue!

Neither physical science nor psychology can ever 'explain' human consciousness. To me then, human consciousness lies outside science, and it is here that I seek the relationship between God and man.

Nevill Francis Mott

## THE GOVERNMENT COLUMN

# Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027

*Pradeep Kumar Panda, Economist, Bhubaneswar*

Government of India's premier think tank NITI Aayog and the United Nations in India has recently signed the Government of India - United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (GoI-UNSDCF 2023-2027). The framework is the collective commitment of the UN Development System in India, in support of the India's achievement of Agenda 2030, and the principle of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas.

The GoI-UNSDCF was signed by Mr. B V R Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog, and Mr. Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator, India in the presence of the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, Mr. Suman Bery, senior representatives from NITI Aayog, central ministries and heads of UN agencies in India.

GoI-UNSDCF 2023-2027 represents the UN development system's collective offer to the Government of India, in line with the national vision for development, for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting gender equality, youth empowerment and human rights. The United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/72/279 designates the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation

Framework as the principal planning and implementation instrument for the UN Development System at country level. Programme priorities of the UN entities working at the country are derived from the GoI-UNSDCF.

The GoI-UNSDCF 2023-2027 is built on four strategic pillars derived from the 2030 Agenda – People, Prosperity, Planet and Participation. The four interlinked pillars have six outcome areas focusing on Health and Well Being; Nutrition and Food Security; Quality Education; Economic Growth and Decent Work; Environment, Climate, WASH and Resilience; and Empowering People, Communities, and Institutions.

To further deepen cooperation in critical areas, for the first time, the GoI-UNSDCF will have specific focus on SDG localisation and South-South cooperation, in line with India's leadership towards the implementation and acceleration of the SDGs; and India's championing of South-South cooperation. Showcasing Indian models of development globally will be central to the effort.

The formulation of the GoI-UNSDCF 2023-2027 was led by NITI Aayog, on behalf of the

Government of India, with robust participation of line Ministries, State Governments, and Union Territories. The UN Resident Coordinator led and coordinated inputs from the UN development system in India. Partners from civil society, think tanks, private sector, cooperatives and labour unions also contributed to the development of the document, ensuring a whole of society, whole of government and whole of UN approach. The GoI-UNSDCF was informed by a third-party evaluation of the previous Cooperation Framework (2018-2022) and a Common Country Analysis (CCA) undertaken by the UN in India.

The implementation, monitoring and reporting of GoI-UNSDCF 2023-2027 will be co-led by Government of India and the United Nations, India through a Joint Steering Committee.

“The next five years will be pivotal for an innovation driven, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable India. For India, the principle of "Leaving No One Behind" is particularly important due to its vast and diverse demography, as well as its potential due to tremendous demographic dividend. The GoI-UNSDCF, through its agreed

partnerships, outcomes and outputs will contribute towards achievement of national development priorities. The Cooperation Framework has to be a living and dynamic framework and should adapt in the light of how India changes and the world changes,” said Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Mr. Suman Bery.

Signing the Cooperation Framework, CEO of NITI Aayog, Mr. B V R Subrahmanyam, said: “India has advanced steadily in its ability to deliver development and resilience at scale. This includes transforming India's social welfare system and safety nets, underpinned by a robust ecosystem of digital public infrastructure and a range of national missions. India's leadership in climate action and resilience continues to grow. The time has come to completely address the challenges of the last century and take on the challenges of Amrit Kaal to become Viksit Bharat. The Cooperation framework will focus on and support India in its transformation where it is not just access to basic requirements such as water/ electricity/ internet that would be important,

but the quality of these issues that are more relevant for future.”

The new Framework comes at a critical juncture as the world reaches the halfway mark to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and India envisions a 'Viksit Bharat' over the next 25 years, in line with the clarion call of the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Presenting the Cooperation Framework at the launch. Mr Shombi Sharp, United Nations Resident Coordinator in India, said: “India is a key shaper of the 2030 Agenda. With the goal of 'Leave No One Behind' reflected in the Government of India's message of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, India has aligned its flagship national initiatives with the SDGs and translated Agenda 2030 into local actions at all levels, while delivering development gains at scale. Meeting the expectations and aspirations of India's youthful population ahead will require further accelerating progress in addressing remaining development challenges and investing in human capital to leverage a unique demographic dividend. As the United Nations Secretary-General has said, India is the country that can make achieving the SDGs a global reality”.



If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door.

## SPECIAL STORY

# First Opera Singer from Odisha who sings in Four Languages

When most people of her age love to be in their comfort zones, a 20-year old Economics student of Lady Shri Ram College has shown a lot of promise to carve a niche for herself in an area mostly uncharted for most of the Odias.

Meet the first opera singer from Odisha-Aastha Mohapatra who has soared above the instrumental line and adapted to the dramatic demands of theatre shows.

Aastha has so far received more than 50 awards by performing opera songs on various national and international platforms including the special mention

also a member of the Lyric Ensemble of Delhi, a classical, jazz and Broadway ensemble and she has been performing across the city in different shows and recitals.

Aastha, who is also a meritorious student, started her journey originally with Hindustani Classical Music in 2008 when she was all of six. Three years later, she was selected as a member of the prestigious Mozart Children's Choir of India, an initiative started by the Austrian Embassy and Pandit Ravi Shankar, and got exposure to Western classical music and opera. She has since been honing

like love at first sight for me. Opera includes drama and music and is just such a passionate form of artistic expression. The techniques used in opera enable a singer to become a vocal athlete, providing a voice with incredible strength, vocal flexibility and consistency, even allowing one to sing without a microphone," said Aastha.

"The music is just so intoxicating and intimate. It conducts emotions within the audiences, driving them to joy and tears. Really, it's an experience. Years back, operas would be something that the rich in Europe would enjoy primarily. But over time, it



award in the International Art Song Festival organised by KMMC Chennai and Trinity Laban London in 2021. Aastha is

her skills in this art form.

"Opera is such a beautiful art form. I fell in love with it from the very first minute and it was

has become a scene for everyone. It is definitely much more accessible with the advent of internet and online concerts," she

said.

Aastha is currently a student of Soprano Situ Singh Buehler and she has been training with her for past five years.

"She's my vocal coach and my inspiration. I look up to her so much along with vocal coaching. She has also worked with different professionals across the world from time to time as part of different workshops and master classes," said Aastha.

The Odia opera singer sings in English, French, German and Italian languages.

"I am fluent in French and have picked up a bit of German along the way. However, singing in a different language is an art in itself. I love taking it up as a challenge and am discovering

new languages and cultures through it," said Aastha, who has recently got acceptances to the University of Oxford.

Aastha avers that music is her life's purpose.

"It is my career of choice, my passion and my motivation to become a better person every single day. I would like to pursue it seriously and set higher goals to become a better musician with time," she said.

"I love singing and I wish to share this joy with the world. I believe that music is a catalyst for social change and through my singing I want to inspire new musicians, create new initiatives, raise funds, develop projects and contribute to society," she signed off.



## FACTS TO KNOW

# SATAN – THE SOURCE OF DESTRUCTION

Any 'ism' that ruins or dislocates the existential tradition and culture of any country is not the fulfiller of it, rather destructive demon of that soil. Where 'ism' with its allegiance betrays ancestral tradition, culture, hearth and home and integrated unison of the people, the signal of destruction comes with every blaze ringing the bell of defalcation and inviting devastation with a throbbing weep; hence, existentialism is the normal 'ism'.

### FEATURES:

- Intelligentsia with a blind conception, unadjusted foolish thought and look & erroneous whimsical venture destroys existential traditional trusts and culture out of a roguish retaliation. M-7, P-21.
- Irremediable Satanic obsession is unpropitious to the existence of the individual and country; when people catch it out of passionate crave, providence protest it with morose silence and heavy compassionate throb. M-7, P-175
- Separation from traditional trail, separation of heart, separation of husband and wife, separation of lands – are the danger signals of the approach of Satan. M-6, P-164
- Co-education, co-service of male and female, divorce, and marriage with divorced females pre-marriage co-habitation and conception, marriage of female of pure superior clan with male of an inferior one – are the consuls of Satan to impart evil into society, clan and country; to adopt those methods is a foolish conception that makes people furrow the evil with a vile motive hastening their downright downfall, dragging the inferior down to the dogs instead of boosting them up; curse it becomes, that turns heaven into hell; thus evil gathers in momentum heading towards an explosion inviting demoralized destruction. M-6, P-165
- Where villains' rise is supported for the sake of elusive prestige, the inner being of man is doomed and a dooming urge infects the people with egoistic vile attitude to make their villainous project road – prestige goes to the dogs with

a dooming effulgence. M-4, P-166

- When you speak ill of your brother or of a friend or instigate one against them, surely you activate the Satanic shuttle in you and molest your Father, the Lord; it is better to reconcile them with ardent enthusiasm and pray to Him; thus enjoy peace and make others appeased. M-5, P-147
- Where lure of service, money or wealth betrays kinship, surely it is a sign that family or social ties are breaking down; remember – the betrayer is an obsessed Satan. M-6, P-68
- Molest not the pious and honest, Satan will approach you with victorious claps thrashing and spurning your existence. M-5, P-64
- When Education, deluded with insults like a foolish knave, recedes and deviates from the characteristics to swell up the special features, - Satan approaches with darkened-jewelled shield to challenge him to run for Devil's egoistic ditch of contamination! (M-1, P-65)
- He who marries any divorced female – is nothing but a Satanic adulterer.
- Bereavement is the beverage of Satan – unless it walks up to God.
- Insignificant unadjusted scattered knowledge is a normal drive to evil due to fettered farsightedness.

### WARNING:

- Jekhane Bhagaban, Sekhane Saitan Many insects and flies comes to the light with attraction for life and growth, but there is a lizard, the Satan who used to eat them and destroys their life and growth. Like wise, where is God, there is Devil, the Satan.
- Be-aware! Satan is near your approach; hence, be alert and be equipped with all your equipment to resist. Know evil, the Satan with all its creek and corner to rectify and combat; thus achieve bliss, the nectar of life- to enjoy existence and to serve others as thyself. M-4, P-193
- Behold! be thou keen and careful; the servers of life and growth and humble righteousness should not be molested by evil, the Satanic whirlpool; exert thyself to rescue them – they are the

*Prabhu Prasad Gadnayak*



elixir to well up existence with every heroic approach. M-5, P-168

- Be aware! save the family from touts who stretch their hands to make thy family as prey to evil – the Satan – thus leading the people with monger manifestoes that deteriorate everyone – educated or illiterate, with luring whistle of passionate dream, thereby affecting and infecting all with a dissipated luxurious go in every hearth and home. M-5, P-167
- Be-aware! your criticism should be constructive to existence and destructive to evil, - thus make it pleasing to all. M-5, P-155
- Be though sharp and apt with conscientious consideration with apt use of everything; nature of Providence is always eager for the propitious enlightenment of your health and existence; but ignorance discards it with unintelligent whims which shelter Satan; - beware.
- Devil is always busy with his deviating attributes to snatch one away from one's existential upkeep and sanctified traditional trail with lofty passionate enticement; beware! M-6, P-36
- Beware of Satan; he can imitate with pose concealing his hellish device and is prone to magic jugglery, but can not act with every accurate conduct and characteristic that makes one holy at heart, pious in dignity, propitious in activity; nor can he enlighten himself with all his being to his Master, the Lord, nor can he offer himself to his love but pulls out of Him with many poses.
- He who begs, collects or earns in the name of his Lord and usurps it for his own sake – is ungrateful, impostrous and demoniac by nature;

beware of him. M-6, P-104

### EFFECTS:

- Really unlucky he is who adorns himself at the cost of others' interest, instead of healing sore and sorrow of deficiency of pauper environment; - So despair and despondency is the boon of Satan to him! (M-1, P-86)
- Greatness that destroys elevation but on the contrary does not replace or establish more good or elevating energy should be called Devil the Great! (M-1, P-87)
- Foolish courage generally engages one in Satanic display.
- He who ignores the cult and principle of existence i.e., Dharma, even in sentiment, is devil – the disintegrating leaven of society. M-6, P-37
- Where good etiquette and vile activity dwell hand in hand, the personality is a demoniac Satan. M-6, P-47
- A nasty villain tends to seek evil to enjoy his cliquy purpose. M-6, P-49
- Where ambition is not propitious to the existence of the people, there is satanic device. M-6, P-77
- Satan is ever foolishly skilled in intelligence; hence, it is detrimental to every propitious approach. M-6, P-81
- Instinctive passionate will of miscreants goads them to the lure of passionate enjoyment with knavish know-how under the garb of magnanimous selfish service and incoherent feelings, words and deeds, with a satanic well-mannered insolence. M-6, P-66

### ASSUMPTION:

Resistance to Satan is totally depends upon the Body & Mind - e.g. – once a Devotee accidentally met with a Demon, there was a fight to stop the

Devotee on the way to God. A fight was fought between the Devotee and Demon. At last the Demon crushed the bones of the Hand & Leg of the Devotee and said how you will go to God. In a laughing tone with love and devotion the Devotee said to the Satan, you can crush my bones, but you can not destroy my mind to reach to my Lord and the Demon could not understand how to destroy the mind of the Devotee.

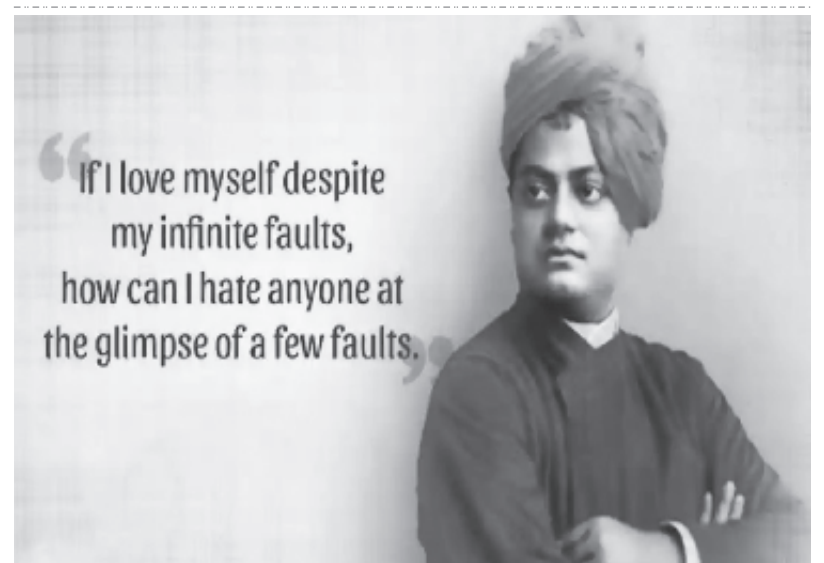
Satan is the emblem of divine injustice, while Providence is ever merciful – supplier of existential wealth and watch of bread. M-6, P-67

He who is not in favour of his Beloved the Lord with every ardent service is surely against Him; to follow him is to follow the nuisance of Satan. M-6, P-67

He that ignores the cult with principle even sentimentally is inferior and that inferiority tends to be transmitted to the progeny; and he who fulfils it is superior and admirable. M-6, P-70

Inferiority can seldom tolerate the effulgence of anything superior, especially in man; it is always girdled by a satanic ring, therefore it can not stand the blazing activity of a superior one which makes people thrive with glowing urge for glaring success; Satan, as I mean, is the diminutive urge which strikes man and dwindles his effulging glow; hence, inferiority can seldom worship or adore any superior trail which upholds existence towards becoming- whereas Christ teaches us to cross over the ingrained deficiencies – the errors of life. M-6, P-70

Love thy neighbour in the name of God, and enjoy the bliss of Godhood that dwells in you; or, love thy passion, deceive God, encourage Satan to entice you, and enjoy the groaning gnaw of hell; do either as you like. M-5, P-60



# THE SPORTS AFFAIRS

## When Master Blaster inspired Very Very Special Laxman

Former India batsman VVS Laxman has a formidable record against Australia. His epic 281 against Australia at the famous Eden Gardens Test is part of the cricketing folklore.

After that epic knock, Laxman went on to establish himself as the Fab four of Indian cricket along with



VVS Laxman with Sachin Tendulkar

Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly. He amassed a total of 2434 runs from 29 Tests at an impressive average of 49.67. Six of Laxman's 17 Test centuries came against Australia.

Laxman's real tryst with Australia was not in 2001, rather it was two years ago when India toured Australia for a three match Test series in 1999-2000. Though India were drubbed 0-3 in Tests, Laxman emerged as one of the few positives for India. He ended the Border-Gavaskar Trophy with an epic 167 at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Before the SCG Test, Laxman had scored only 626 runs from 16 Tests. He was full of promise but wasn't able to convert it into something substantial. Laxman received a pep-talk from none other than Tendulkar ahead of the final match of the series which triggered a huge turnaround in his career.

"Laxman, I'll tell you one thing. You are blessed with so much talent. You can see the ball a split second earlier than me. God has given you exceptional talent which you are not able to understand. God gave me minimum talent, which I am maximizing. I have four gears in my batting defence, push, drive and loft. I understand the conditions and use my logic and perform accordingly," Sachin said.

The Master Blaster explained to Laxman the gift of timing that he possessed. Sachin's pep talk triggered the beginning of Laxman's legendary career for India. Laxman finished as the fourth-highest run-getter for India in Tests behind Tendulkar, Dravid and Sunil Gavaskar with 8781 runs at an average of 45.97.

## Brumbrella that baffled Australia

After Bazball, Bazbait and Nighthawk, Ben Stokes-led England team has enriched the modern lexicon of cricket further during the ongoing Ashes Test

The bizarre field setting was justified in the end. Khawaja's exit precipitated a collapse and England mustered a seven-run lead in the first innings.

the track and ended up getting bowled.

Stokes set the trap for Khawaja when Robinson was bowling the



England's latest Ashes innovation Brumbrella

series against Australia. A new innovation by England was adopted in the first Test match known as Brumbrella.

Originally Brumbrella is used to signify a large pitch cover to protect the ground. The term was used as a strategy when the absurd field Stokes and Ollie Robinson set to end the 321-ball resistance of Usman Khawaja.

In reply to England's first innings score of 394, Australian were stable led by Usman Khawaja (141), against whom English bowlers' spin, fast, or swing didn't work. However, Stokes adopted an innovation. In his endeavor to rip apart the manual of setting fields in Test, the skipper chose an unconventional field setup. In the process he forced Khawaja to come down

113th over. He formed four men as human chains on the on-side from short square leg to short mid-on. The trap gave Khawaja some distraction and he judged the length of Robinson's yorker a fraction late. The development led to this dismissal. Though the field was a gimmick, it proved to be useful with the fall of the most vital wicket.

## Bazball cricket

England has stunned cricket fans and experts around the globe with their aggressive brand of cricket in Test cricket. In the ongoing Ashes Test against Australia, even conventional batsman like Joe Root



England captain Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum

smashed Nathan Lyon for two huge sixes - one over mid-wicket and other launched over long-on on Friday to complete his 30th Test Century. There was a sense of freedom clearly visible in his batting.

Moreover, when England were 393 for eight and 10 more overs scheduled for the day, captain Ben Stokes declared the innings leaving world cricket in sheer disbelief. Stokes's plan was to have a crack at Australia. However, the tactic drew mixed reactions from fans and experts.

Well, these surprising decisions were part of England's Bazball cricket strategy that has taken England cricket by storm.

### What is Bazball?

The term was first coined by a journalist named Andrew Miller. It was coined after former New Zealand cricketer Brendon McCullum's appointment as the head coach of England last year. 'Baz' is the long-standing nickname for McCullum during his playing days. Brendon



himself was known for his aggressive brand of cricket.

However, Bazball is not just about aggression or is a set strategy that England follows. It is an approach which comes with a mindset which probably describes 'freedom'.

The Bazball strategy is not confined to batting only. It is also about aggressive field setting and bowling changes and taking draw out of equation in a Test match.



**"All power is within you. You can do anything and everything. Believe in that. Do not believe that you are weak; do not believe that you are half-crazy lunatics, as most of us do nowadays. Stand up and express the divinity within you."**

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory Develops Groundbreaking AI Assistant to Support Astronauts in Space

In a breakthrough for space exploration, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) is at the forefront of developing an advanced AI assistant tailored specifically for astronauts.

The cutting-edge assistant, currently in the early stages of development, aims to revolutionize the way astronauts perform tasks and enhance their efficiency during space missions.

The AI assistant being created by JPL holds great promise in assisting astronauts with a wide range of activities. Its capabilities include accessing and processing information from diverse sources such as the International Space Station's (ISS) computer systems, NASA's extensive databases, and even the internet. This seamless integration of information sources will empower astronauts to swiftly access the data they require to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

One of the primary functions of the AI assistant is to aid in troubleshooting issues related to the ISS's complex systems and equipment. By leveraging its problem-solving abilities, the assistant will ensure that the space station operates at peak

performance, minimizing risks and optimizing efficiency.

The AI assistant will also play a pivotal role in revolutionizing communication both on the ISS and between astronauts and ground control. Its advanced communication capabilities will facilitate seamless and efficient interaction, enabling enhanced coordination and ensuring the success and safety of space missions.

To develop this groundbreaking AI assistant, the JPL team is harnessing various AI technologies, including natural language

AI assistant holds immense potential to reshape space exploration. Its implementation could significantly boost the productivity and safety of astronauts by automating tasks, providing quick access to vital information, and reducing the likelihood of human error.

The benefits of the AI assistant are multifaceted. Firstly, it will enhance efficiency by automating mundane tasks and offering real-time information retrieval. Secondly, it will substantially mitigate the risk of human error by providing astronauts with accurate and timely data. Lastly, it will greatly enhance communication channels between

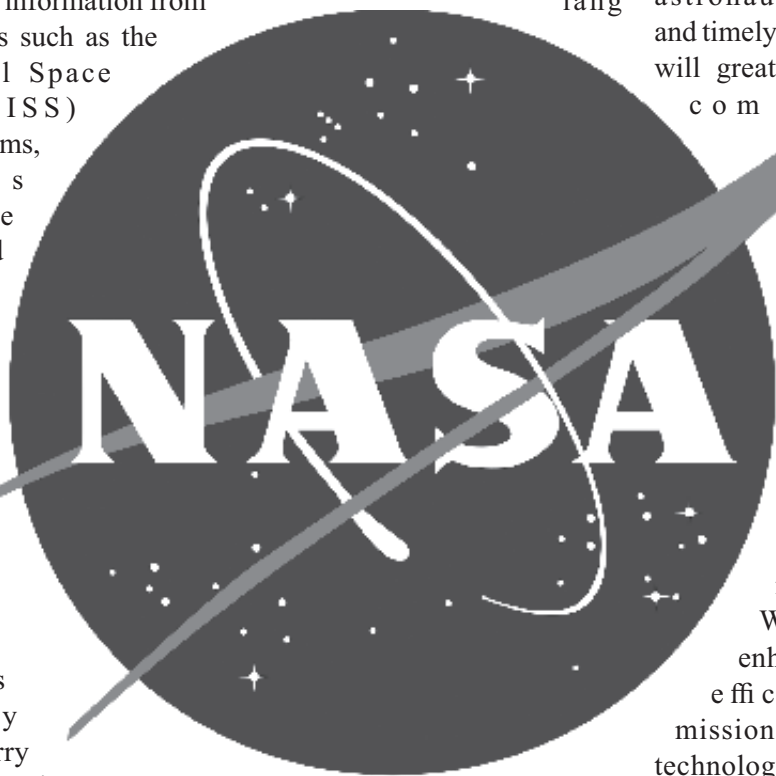
astronauts and ground control, paving the way for seamless and effective collaboration.

The development of this pioneering AI assistant marks a significant milestone in space exploration.

With its potential to enhance the safety and efficiency of space missions, this cutting-edge technology sets the stage for future endeavours, including ambitious missions to Mars and beyond. As NASA continues to push the boundaries of scientific innovation, the AI assistant stands poised to become an invaluable asset for astronauts embarking on voyages to the unknown.

While still in its early stages, the machine learning. Collaborating closely with astronauts, the team is meticulously tailoring the assistant's features to align with the unique needs and challenges faced by those living and working in space.

While still in its early stages, the



### SpaceX Falcon 9 successfully deploys Euclid space telescope to explore dark universe

ESA has successfully deployed the Euclid Space Telescope using a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. The deep space observatory will be able to produce a three dimensional map of one third of the sky, allowing astronomers to explore the large scale structures of the universe, and probe how the cosmos has evolved over time.

Euclid will be doing this with a pair of instruments on board, one in optical frequencies that can precisely measure the shapes and sizes of



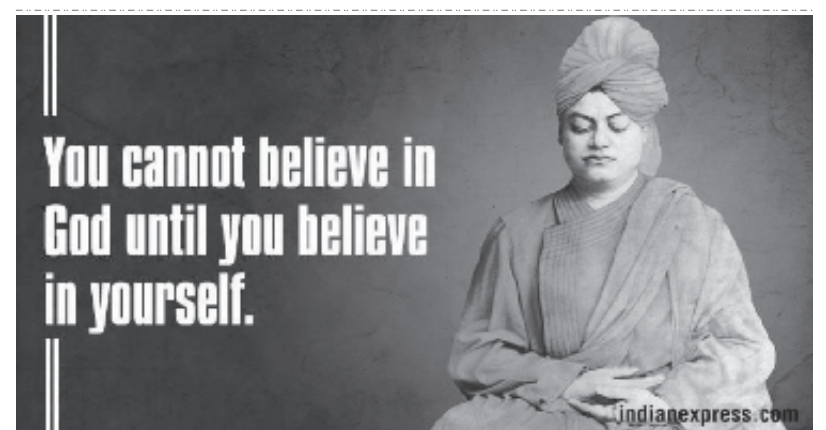
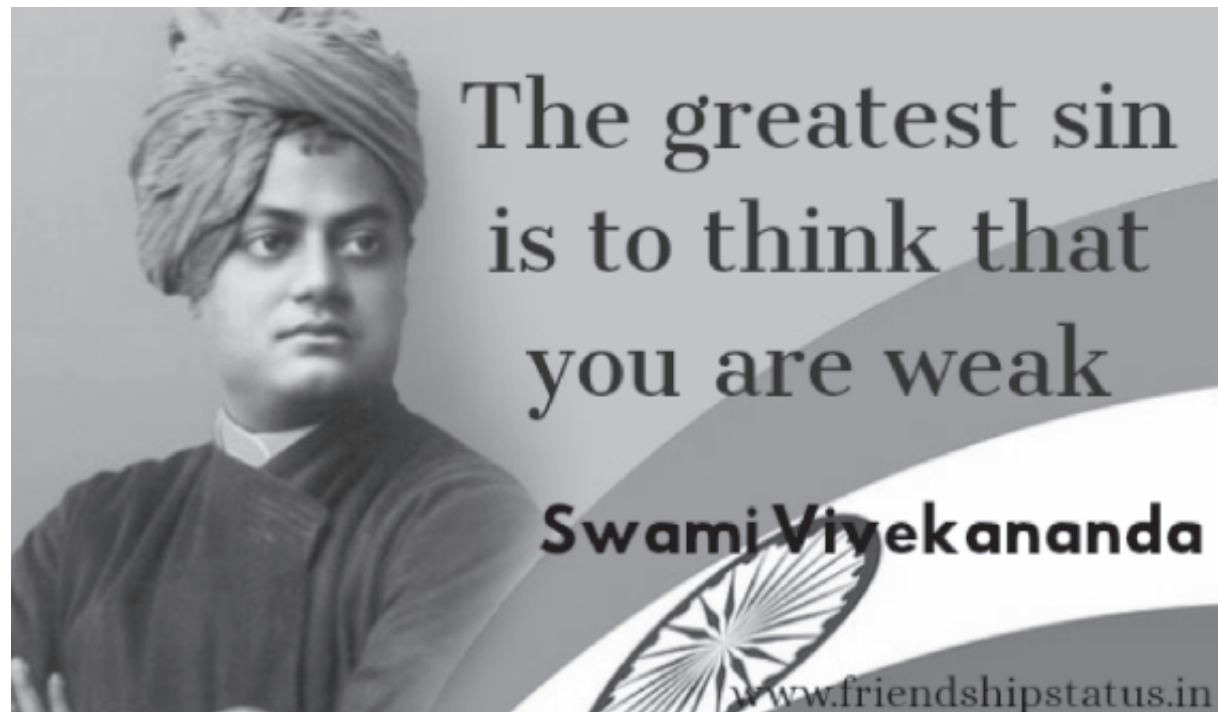
galaxies, while an infrared instrument allows astronomers to accurately measure the distances to young galaxies from the early universe. Together, the observations will help astronomers probe some of the most puzzling aspects of cosmology.

Euclid will be shedding light on the nature of dark matter, a mysterious substance that we cannot see, but is responsible for galaxies maintaining their shapes and the contained stars not scattering. Euclid will also investigate why the expansion of the universe is accelerating, a phenomenon that scientists believe is driven by dark energy. Euclid will also be testing Einstein's Theory of Relativity, and examine if there are any shortcomings in the scientific understanding of gravity.

Euclid will be complementing the observations of a number of current and future telescopes, including the Planck telescope that retired in 2013, and the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope launching in 2027. Observations by Euclid will also be used to inform the targets that Webb will be turning its deep and narrow gaze towards. Euclid has a wide field of view, that can rapidly image vast portions of the sky, covering an area within years that can take decades for other astronomical instruments.

ESA Director General Josef Aschbacher said, "The successful launch of Euclid marks the beginning of a new scientific endeavour to help us answer one of the most compelling questions of modern science. The quest to answer fundamental questions about our cosmos is what makes us human. And, often, it is what drives the progress of science and the development of powerful, far-reaching, new technologies. ESA is committed to expanding Europe's ambitions and successes in space for future generations."

Euclid will be travelling to the second Sun-Earth Lagrange point (L2) over the course of the next month. The target regime is a stable point where the gravitational influence of the Sun and the Earth are in equilibrium, and is also used by the James Webb Space Telescope. Euclid's Solar Panel will perpetually be pointed towards the Sun, shielding the sensitive images on board, which will be exploring the dark universe from the dark side of the telescope.



# HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

## How can doctors Drive the new wave of digital health missions?

**Doctors Pioneering Digital Health, Uniting Old Challenges, Harnessing AI, and Realizing India's Vision of "Make AI in India" and "Make AI Work for India"**

India proudly celebrates National Doctors Day on July 1st, honoring the remarkable contributions of healthcare heroes. This year's theme, "Celebrating Resilience and Healing Hands," acknowledges the unwavering commitment of doctors to safeguarding society's health and well-being. With the convergence of start-up culture, AI technology, and the government's vision of "Make AI in India" and "Make AI work for India," the stage is set for a transformative era in digital health and Doctors are at the centre of this, by leveraging their clinical expertise, they are poised to play a pivotal role in ensuring the successful implementation and governance of new technologies that can positively impact patient outcomes.

As suggested by data from the World Health Organisation (WHO), India's doctor-to-patient ratio has plummeted sharply to about 0.7 doctors per 1,000 patients in the year 2020, from its record high of 1.2 doctors per 1,000 patients in 1991. The uneven distribution of medical resources across the rural-urban population divide is felt all the more acutely in the field of specialized care with the shortage of surgeons, physicians, gynaecologists, and pediatricians.

AI technology has emerged as a powerful tool with the potential to enhance efficiency, accuracy, and accessibility in healthcare delivery. The need for collaboration between doctors and innovators is crucial in building an intrusive healthcare ecosystem that addresses the diverse healthcare needs of India's vast population. AI-driven solutions hold the potential to bridge the gap created by the scarcity of medical resources. By leveraging AI's capabilities, doctors can

overcome the limitations imposed by workforce constraints and optimize healthcare delivery. This can not only improve the overall quality of care but also enhance patient outcomes.

The Make in India program and the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) initiated by the government are playing a crucial role in promoting the adoption of technology within the healthcare industry. As of 2021, there were 3,548 active startups operating in the health-tech sector, as per a report from the industry. Over the past decade, startups have effectively utilized technological tools such as AI, IoT, ML, and big data to address various healthcare challenges. Dozee, India's first AI-based contactless Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) and Early Warning System (EWS) for continuous patient monitoring, is a notable example.

Dr. Lallu Joseph, Quality Manager, CMC Vellore and National Secretary General, CAHO, a leading healthcare industry body, expressed admiration for the dedication and resilience of doctors on National Doctors Day. She commended "Doctors are the key pillars who can spearhead the transformation of healthcare in India. The collaborative efforts of doctors and innovators will not only shape the future of healthcare but also address the challenges of accessibility, affordability, and quality. By leveraging AI and supporting 'Made-in-India' startups, healthcare can become more patient-centric, efficient, and equitable, ensuring that every individual receives the care they deserve."

Mr. Vikram Thaploo, CEO-Telehealth, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited, emphasized the significance of technological advancements in supporting doctors' life-saving endeavors. "Through Apollo Telehealth, we proudly stand alongside these remarkable professionals, empowering them with innovative, advanced

technologies that continue to revolutionize the way healthcare is delivered. These technologies not only improve various aspects of healthcare operations and contribute to advancements in healthcare but also enable the application of predictive analytics, enhancing efficiency for medical professionals and easing their responsibilities. In a time when non-communicable diseases are rapidly increasing across the nation, the expertise and dedication of our doctors are needed more than ever. The fusion of doctors' clinical expertise with the power of AI can lead to ground breaking advancements, ultimately benefiting patients and healthcare providers alike."

Mr. Mudit Dandwate, CEO & Co-Founder of Dozee, added "On the occasion of National Doctors Day, we express our heartfelt gratitude and admiration to the dedicated doctors who have tirelessly served and provided compassionate care to patients. Dozee stands shoulder to shoulder with these extraordinary heroes in their mission to address the best healthcare needs of our nation. We are unwavering in our commitment to driving innovation in healthcare and collaborating closely with doctors to establish a patient-centric healthcare system. Together, we aim to alleviate the burden on the healthcare system and ensure that quality healthcare is affordable, accessible, and available to all".

In its mission to revolutionize the healthcare industry, Dozee - India's first AI-based remote patient monitoring and early warning system has partnered with doctors and healthcare providers (HCPs) nationwide, delivering comprehensive training programs on leveraging AI for optimal patient care delivery. Over 2500+ doctors from 100+ hospitals across 20+ states and 40+ cities have been trained by Dozee on advanced AI-based remote patient monitoring solutions.

## National Insurance Awareness Day 2023: When should you port your health policy

National Insurance Awareness Day is celebrated on June 28 every year in India to review the country's existing insurance coverage. Insurance experts say

"An individual can choose to port when they are not content with the services or claims payment from their current insurer. Among other benefits of health



that it is essential to have adequate health insurance to deal with the escalating expenses of healthcare in the country.

While health insurance assures a person of monetary support during difficult times, at times policyholders can also have a bad

experience with regards to their policy. In such cases, health insurance portability comes to the rescue. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) introduced the concept of health insurance portability in 2011, following which if a person feels dissatisfied with his/her existing insurance policy due to high premium, claim-settlement, poor service, or any other issue, he/she can easily switch the policy to a new insurer without losing any policy tenure benefits.

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While health insurance assures a person of monetary support during difficult times, at times policyholders can also have a bad



experience with regards to their policy.

This concept of portability has been a blessing for people with substandard policies and insurance companies. There are ample health insurance policy options available in the market when an individual considers porting and moving to another policy, Ashish Lath, Business Head at InsuranceDekho told.

**When should one opt for porting?**  
According to Lath, a policyholder should, however, opt for porting only when the new policy offers attractive differential benefits and can solve health requirements that the existing policy is unable to fulfill.

insurance porting, the existing policy bonus is added to the insured value of the new policy, which increases the current value of the new policy," he said.

**The impact**  
All retail hospitalisation insurance policies come with restrictions where certain diseases or pre-existing conditions are covered after waiting periods of two to four years. Portability benefit allows the customer to change the current insurer to a new one without having to forego the waiting periods elapsed in the current policy.

However, there are certain disadvantages too. A policy can be ported only near the renewal date. There are chances that the insured might have to pay higher premiums to avail additional benefits. They may even lose certain benefits by moving from a family floater plan to an individual plan.

**How to port?**  
In order to port a policy, policyholders are required to contact the new health insurance company at least 45-60 days before the expiry of the existing health insurance policy. They are then required to fill the proposal form and provide details of previous year policy copies. The new insurance company will connect for further process.

The new insurer is required to insure the policyholder at least up to the sum insured under the old policy.

**How advisable it is?**  
While portability is a beneficial feature provided by insurance companies, experts say one should not misuse it. A person should opt for it only when he/she is not satisfied with the current insurance company because of a genuine case or coverage or when features being offered in another product are of more personal value.



## THE EDITORIAL COLUMN

### RESISTANCE TO EVIL

When life grows – resistance grows along, where resistance diminishes – growth of life diminishes too; but strong resistance can maintain even tolerably weak existential flow.

Keep your inquisitive energetic volition with every penetrating eye by which you can detect every approach of evil much before it appears in front of you, and flare up with innate conscientious run, compassionate look and every judicious, justified mentality; again I say hate evil, correct the evil doer and make him baptized with swabs of your heart regulating his condition to a regular go of life and service of the love, the Lord, the Anointed Being.

Fight out the evil, - the Satanic influence, bliss will come out automatically with every shining enthusiasm and active service to the people – one for the other; Lord, the Lead, smiles with joy; and everyone in a bloomy effulgence serves each other with every dance of peace to fight out the evil, to prolong the activity and to make the life eternal.

Do thou exert a forcible influence on them who rush forth towards death and control them with such exalting pleasure that they turn willingly, save anyhow – and be blessed through the bliss of Providence

Be ye wise, agile and apt enough to face any troublesome affair resisting and nullifying evil, with every tactful benevolent urge. Be thou obstinate when danger jumps with destruction; be thou watchful, alert and ever equipped to resist danger with every sharpness; make all peaceful and jolly nurturing their existential inquisitiveness. Do not give any soil to evil to sprout but be alert – politics peeps through it and diplomacy looks squintingly to see that evil can find no stay.

'Resist no evil' is piety no doubt, but not to help one molested by the ravages of miscreants is a sign of weak-hearted, selfish meanness. Resist and protest against the vile, make them quiet and propitious to existence with gracious lullaby and engage them in the service of piety, thus try to make them men of grace.

Non-violence is nothing but a fiction to him who can not resist violence within an without with tactful valour. Non-violence is a throne of Providence no doubt, but the satanic passionate crave reigns uninterruptedly all around and tries to resist it with utmost tenacity; so, resolve to resist evil and oust it off from your environment; stay with all the equipment to resist evil and down it; thus always approach to serve the Anointed One and serve all the people accordingly, with every loving energetic volition and voluminous perfection of



N. H. Priya Garnaik

resistance – which makes existence free and forward going – and enjoy bliss yourself, with others.

Resist evil with every rational behaviour, with every conscientious inquisitive eye of intelligence and vim and vigour, to baffle it in such a way that repentance evolves with conscientious consideration; thus demolish evil in words as well as in action to make it blessed with every devout service and have the existence blessed through the blessings of the Providence, the Provider.

Protest with a tempest-tone and temperate balance – what is not propitious to the existential go of life and squeezes the becoming of your personal achievements strangulating your being; if you do not do it, it is a sin against the propitious vim of your life. Be not unprofitable and un-nurturing to others – except to those inimical to your Lord, mother, father and superiors; but be judicious to the inimical, resist cordially, and thus resist the evil with judicious and cordial treatment.

Resisting urge runs alongwith life-urge to resist evil of life. Protest against evil – thus resist it and be an angel of bliss. Resist evil with a skilled hand, apt dealings, it will fly off. Resist the Vile- wash off villainous attitude – and nurture the man for his welfare; non-violence is love and violence is cursed and cruel, so, 'hate sin, not the sinner'.

Be cordial, have valour, protest against evil in a manly manner, chide one to repentance with enthusiastic solace, let evil bow down to thy vim, and let thy resistance be valorous purifying evil through thy embrace. Bear in mind – propentious pugnacity is the propensity that guards existence; keep that strong, resist the opposing enticement making everyone free from danger and death.

Rather, it is better to be bitter in resisting evil which makes existential propitiousness down and doomed, with every rational make-up of the affairs – unfolding cause and effect, pros and cons, but with every sweet skillful dealings to the importing agent; be thou strong and stubborn with all thy active energetic urge; be blessed and have bliss for all.

### Symmetric Arrangement – Internal Discipline

We must learn to be just as anxious for the safety and well-being of our Environment, Surroundings and Guests. It is a common observation that guests tend to check out the living conditions and furnishings at the very beginning. The instinct would kick in and what needs to be done should then follow normally. As the Sanskrit adage goes, Atithi Devo Bhavah (A guest is akin to God).

For instance, you may check

satisfaction, and others too may feel serenity in their hearts seeing your work". With Thakur's directive, Subodhda rearranges the chairs properly.

A message from Sri Sri Acharyadev of Satsang in one of His Speech, once he had gone to Chhatrapur Satsang Vihar in an Utsav. He saw, one Gurubhai arranged all the shoes of every person in a symmetric manner, which certifies his devotion towards the Ideal. A Gurubhai with Internal Discipline

But, we must keep in mind the fundamental ground rule that is placed by Sri Sri Thakur. Whatever we do, it must be done for the purpose of the Ideal, as even our survival is for His purpose. So, even when going to great lengths to please our guests, we must still keep track of whether everything we are doing is in sync with the Lord's interests, and anything that we find violating the Lord's ideology, must be terminated

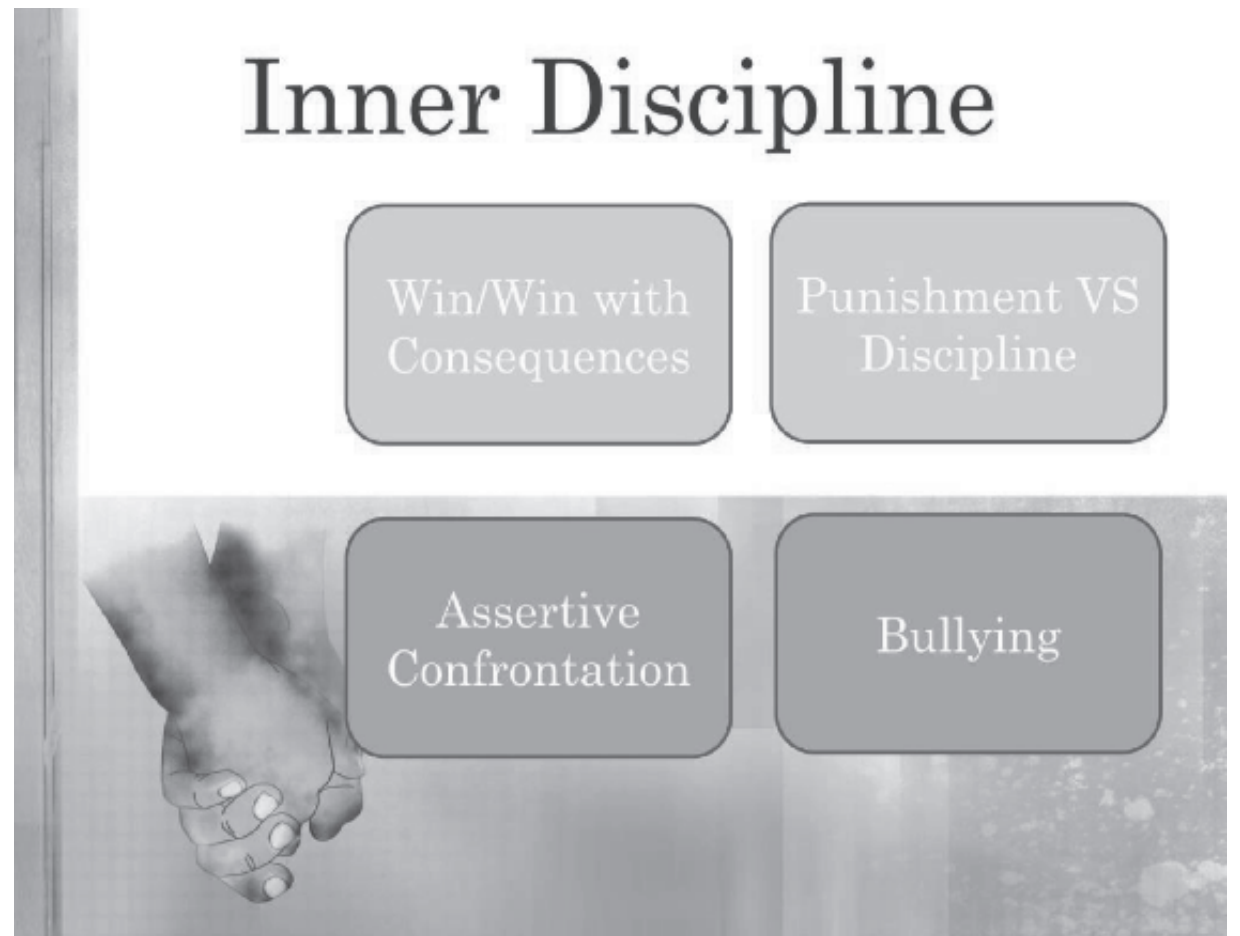
### Inner Discipline

Win/Win with Consequences

Punishment VS Discipline

Assertive Confrontation

Bullying



whether the taps are working, whether the geyser is alright, whether the bedding is comfortable, what the condition of the toilet is, etc. So, if anyone is visiting our house, we tend to clean everything as much as possible to leave a proper impression.

Sri Sri Thakur, Anukulchandra goes beyond mere cleaning. He is quite particular about the symmetric arrangement of things, as it is not just for the person arriving but also for the internal discipline of the person performing the task. This may be gleaned from the following example.

A few gentlemen are scheduled to arrive and Thakur tells Subodhda (Bandyopadhyay) to arrange a few chairs. But when Subodhda places the chairs in a haphazard manner, Thakur corrects him, saying, "Arrange them properly in a neat and orderly manner. Does it look good if arranged haphazardly? Whatever you do, do it in such a proper and beautiful manner so that it may provide you self-

resembles His Guru. His character, behaviour, activity, inquisitiveness, responsibility, alertness and tactfulness are the asset for his Ideal/Guru.

We learn from the incident that everything that we do, not only for our guests, but also for ourselves, must be done in such a systematic manner as to charm others' hearts as well as provide us with self-satisfaction, and this is not merely for a sense of accomplishment but rather for rigorous self-disciplining. Sri Sri Thakur explains during the ensuing discussion that all our activities are a part and parcel of our avowed activity, and are performed with the intention of pleasing the Lord. There can be no self-control without these activities. So, the more chaos there is within us, the more our activities become disorderly and scattered. If we become habituated to performing our external activities properly and systematically, then, through that we are helped in shaping our thoughts, conduct and character properly as well.

immediately.

The topics of hospitality is expansive, and there are so many aspects that need to be looked into. Once, my pregnant pet Genie stumble in her walk with the scattered plastic pipes and accidentally nothing happen to her, but that is not out of my vision to restore the lacking in my children. I warned and cautioned to my child to be symmetric in each and every things.

In every Satsang, I used to arrange the shoes of everybody in a symmetric manner to enable a person to feel happy and easy to find out after the end of the events. So, also in my house as well as in other places where I go, keep it in mind that my shoes with my belongings should not disturb anybody or displace anything accidentally. We are responsible for our belongings, surroundings & environments. It is verse of Sri Sri Thakur, "Do unto others, as you wish to be done by".



# NEWS & VIEWS EXPRESS

## Monsoon prediction: IMD says good monsoon likely in July despite 10% deficiency in June

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that the monsoon is likely to be normal in July across the country, barring a

Large states such as Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana also

conditions, which adversely impact the monsoon, are likely to develop by the end of July, this could be negated to a large extent



few areas, with above normal temperatures expected throughout the month.

In a virtual press conference, IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said the July rains will help wipe out rainfall deficiencies witnessed in June.

Concerns over the performance of southwest monsoon this year have eased, with rainfall deficiency falling to 10 per cent from 47 per cent a fortnight ago.

The Met Department predicted that July rains could be around 100 per cent of the benchmark long period average (LPA).

As many as 16 states and union territories received deficient rainfall in June, with Bihar and Kerala reporting large deficits at 69 per cent and 60 per cent below normal respectively.

received less rainfall than what is normal for June, the first month of the south-west monsoon season.

"The monthly rainfall averaged over the country as a whole during July 2023 is most likely to be normal (94 to 106 per cent of LPA) and most probably within the positive side of the normal," Mohapatra said.

The long period average (LPA) of rainfall over the country during July based on the data of 1971-2020 is about 280.4 mm.

However, some parts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Punjab, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu may get "below normal" rainfall in July, which is likely to impact paddy and pulses sowing in these states, IMD said.

Mohapatra added though El Nino

by the development of positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD).

Earlier, private forecaster Skymet had predicted monsoon precipitation this year could be "below normal" at 94 per cent of the LPA. Rainfall between 96-104 per cent of the LPA is considered "normal".

India, as a whole, has received "below normal" rainfall of 148.6 millimeter (mm) in June, against the LPA of 165.3 mm, a deficit of 10%. Except for the north-west region, all other regions have recorded deficient rainfall this month.

The monsoon, after a four years delayed onset over Kerala coast on June 8, has been in the "active" mode since the last one week.



## EPFO Extends Deadline For Opting Higher Pension Under EPS; Final Opportunity To Apply Until July 11, 2023

The Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) has announced an extension of the deadline for employees to opt for a higher pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS).

The deadline for submitting applications has been extended to July 11, 2023 in order to give all eligible individuals a broader window of opportunity and to allow them to do so.

must be submitted within 15 days. Additionally, the press announcement gave employers three months to publish salary information online.

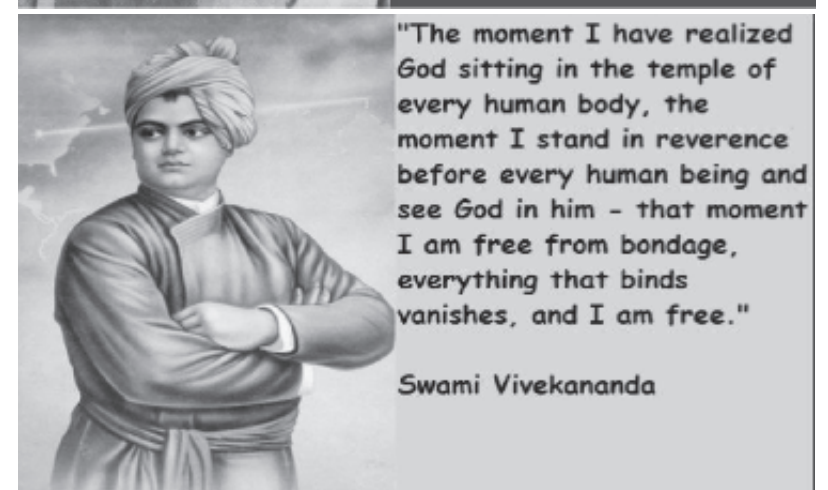
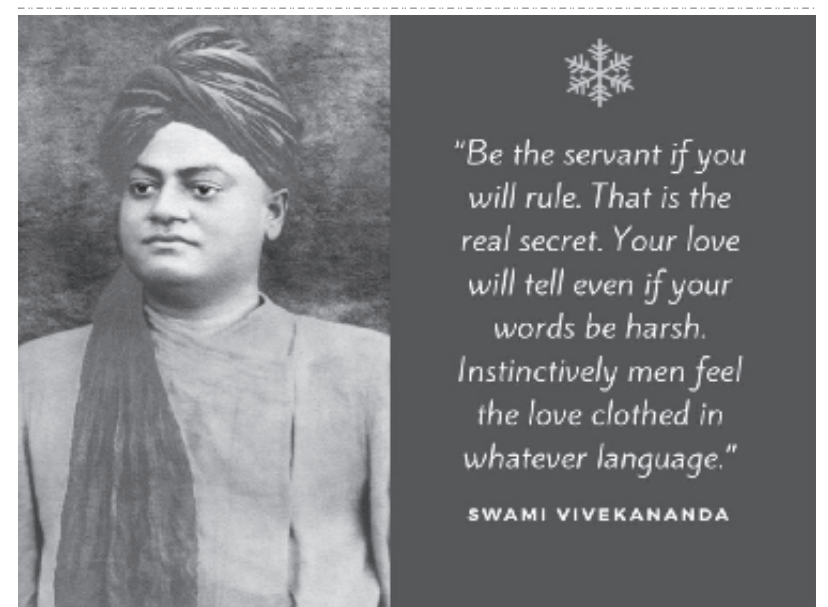
The Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) members' deadline to apply for a higher pension has now been extended by the EPFO three times.

"Last opportunity of 15 days is being given to remove any



According to an EPFO press statement from June 26, 2023, this is the final chance for employees to make a combined application for a higher pension from EPS. To get a pension based on greater wages, the application

difficulty faced by the eligible pensioners/ members. Accordingly, the last date for submission of Applications for Validation of Option / Joint Options by employees is extended to 11.07.2023"



# AGRICULTURE

## Reducing Pesticide Use: A Sustainable Approach to Agriculture

Let's talk dirt - literally! If you're looking to grow nutrient-rich food, your soil's health is the starting point. If by reducing pesticide use, you could take a more sustainable approach to agriculture, benefiting not only your soil but also your produce?

for growing nutrient-rich food. Alarm bells ringing yet?

### The Power of Organic Farming

Enter organic farming, the hero we didn't know we needed. This method involves natural processes and substances,

different types of crops can prevent the spread of pests and diseases. Variety is indeed the spice of life!

- Companion planting: Some plants naturally repel certain pests. So, why not let them do the job instead of resorting to



Sounds like a win-win, doesn't it?

### Understanding Pesticides and Their Impact

First things first, what are pesticides? They are substances used to eliminate pests and diseases that threaten the crop. But here's the catch: while they handle the bad guys, they can also harm the good guys - the beneficial organisms that contribute to soil health and fertility. Not ideal, right?

Excessive use of pesticides can lead to soil degradation, reducing its ability to retain water and nutrients. This means your soil might not be in its prime shape

avoiding synthetic chemicals like pesticides. The result? A healthy, balanced soil ecosystem teeming with life. Think earthworms, microorganisms, and the likes. Yes, they are your new best friends!

Organic farming promotes biodiversity, improves soil structure and fertility, and enhances nutrient cycling. But that's not all. It also reduces pollution and helps combat climate change. Talk about multi-tasking!

### Practical Tips for Reducing Pesticide Use

- Plant diversity: Growing

chemicals?

- Natural pesticides: If you must use pesticides, opt for natural ones. They're less harmful to the soil and non-target organisms.
- Soil testing: Regular soil testing can help detect nutrient imbalances and prevent over-fertilization. Knowledge is power!

So, there you have it. Reducing pesticide use isn't just a sustainable approach to agriculture; it's also a route to maintaining healthy soil and growing nutrient-rich food.

### Important facts on Soil

- Healthy soil contains a diverse range of microorganisms that help to break down organic matter and release nutrients.
- Crop rotation can help to maintain soil health by reducing the build-up of pests and diseases.
- Cover crops can help to prevent soil erosion and improve soil structure.
- Composting can help to add organic matter to soil and improve soil fertility.
- Sustainable agriculture practices can help to reduce soil degradation and improve long-term soil health.
- Soil pH can affect nutrient availability to plants.
- Excessive use of synthetic fertilizers can lead to soil degradation and nutrient loss.
- Soil erosion is responsible for an estimated \$37.6 billion in economic losses annually in the US.
- The world has lost a third of its arable land due to erosion or pollution in the past 40 years.
- In the US, 85% of topsoil has been lost due to human activity.
- Organic farming can increase soil organic matter by 15-20% over conventional farming methods.
- Sustainable agriculture can increase crop yields by 79%.
- Soil degradation affects 33% of the world's land, reducing the soil's ability to provide essential ecosystem services.
- The global population is expected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050, increasing the demand for food by 70%.
- In the US, 90% of cropland is managed using conventional farming methods that rely on synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.
- Sustainable agriculture practices can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 50%.
- Healthy soil can sequester up to 10% of global carbon emissions annually.

## Odisha Farmers Receive Rs 212 Crores Agricultural Loan for Kharif 2023

In an effort to prevent harassment to farmers, the cooperative sector agriculture loan disbursement has commenced in Sundargarh, even as the district level agriculture strategy committee (DLASC) is yet to finalize the schedule for the kharif program.

For the upcoming kharif season, the district aims to provide agricultural loans amounting to Rs 670 crore. As of June 5, approximately Rs 212 crore has already been disbursed to individual farmers, women self-help groups (SHGs), and joint liability groups (JLGs) of sharecroppers under the BALARM (Bhoomihina Agriculturist Loan And Resources Model) scheme.

US Das, Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies (DRCS),

The Horticulture department has come to the rescue of vegetable farmers in Ganjam district hit by the pandemic.

Apart from the cooperative sector, the commercial sector's agriculture loan target for the district is set at around Rs 240 crore, which is disbursed through nationalized and private sector banks. The cooperative sector's agriculture loan plays a vital role in supporting small and medium farmers who heavily rely on loan assistance to prepare their fields, purchase seeds, fertilizers, and other necessary resources.

The DLASC finalizes its agriculture agenda after receiving the relevant targets from the SLASC (State Level

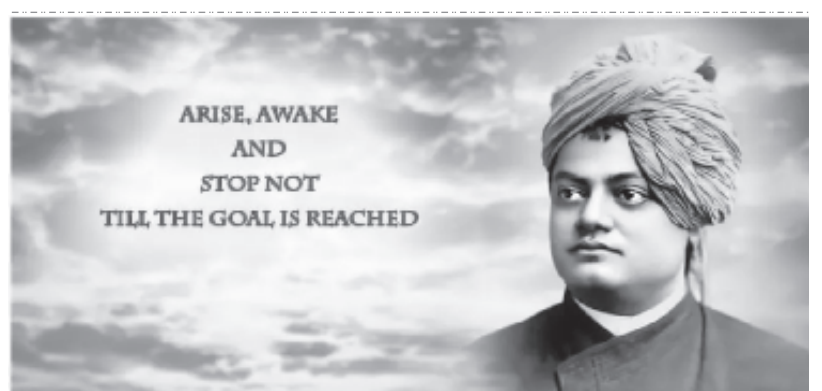


Sundargarh, stated that 21,483 small and marginal farmers have received around Rs 191.80 crore, while 759 JLGs of sharecroppers were granted Rs 2.93 crore under the scheme. Additionally, 579 women SHGs have received approximately Rs 16.27 crore in cash and kind to support their agricultural activities. The loan disbursement process will continue until September and is facilitated through the District Central Cooperative Bank and 44 large and multi-purpose cooperative societies (LAMPCS).

### Odisha Horticulture Department to Help Vegetable Farmers

Agriculture Strategy Committee). However, due to the delay in the SLASC meeting, the DLASC meeting has been postponed. Sundargarh, being a rain-fed district, heavily depends on the monsoon for a successful kharif crop.

As the monsoon season approaches, farmers are diligently preparing to make the most of the rain for cultivation. Based on the agricultural activities of the previous kharif season, the district agriculture authorities have devised a crop program for the current season, allowing room for minor adjustments.



# NEWS & VIEWS EXPRESS

## Inauguration Ceremony of Induction training programme for OAS-2020(DR) Batch

The Induction Training Programme of OAS (DR) – 2020 batch probationers has been inaugurated today by Shri Pradeep Kumar Jena, IAS, Chief

### Discipline will lead to right path: Advice to OAS Probationers

Odisha Government Conduct Rules. He maintained that in a life cycle approach, learning is a young probationers as full-fledged officers with high integrity and value system.

Odisha, attributed the young probationers as 'Karmaveer', as agents of transformative governance, and as epitome of civil services. He emphasized upon the importance of the three cornerstones of GAA – Mahatma Gandhi's Talisman, the path finding deliberation of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel to IAS probationers on 21st April 1947, and the philosophy of '5T' towards leading a successful public service career. Sharing his experiences with changing development trends of Odisha, he noted that the State has taken significant stride shifting away from relative backwardness in pre 2000 scenario to a progressive State as on today in many sectors, especially with proven credentials in disaster management, water resources and agriculture. He expected that the young probationers will contribute sincerely and significantly in Odisha's

progressive journey into future. At the outset, Shri Manish Agrawal, IAS, Additional Director General, GAA briefed about the composition of the OAS (DR) – 2020 batch, duration and the design of training programme. He informed that GAA has taken adequate measures to ensure balanced combination of indoor academic sessions and outdoor activities, all within the framework of the course structure. The course modules will be transacted by internal and external module coordinators. He also stated about the resource agencies such as XIMB, CUTM, OCAC, ROTI with whom technical collaborations have been made. He comprehended the training pedagogy as learning by doing, seeing and by being. Dr. Himanshu Bhusan Panda, IOFS, Additional Commissioner, GAA, offered vote of thanks. Dr. Mamatarani Naik, Joint Director, GAA anchored the programme.



Secretary, Odisha. Out of 129 OAS Probationers who have joined to undergo training under Gopabandhu Academy of Administration, 128 belong to the OAS (DR) - 2020 batch and 1 is from the (DR) - 2018 batch. The batch comprises of 56 women and 73 men. The 22 weeks long Induction Training Programme is scheduled from 26.06.2023 to 24.11.2023.

Sri Jena, as Chief Guest of the event, in his encouraging keynote address urged that the probationers who would be serving the government for about 30 to 35 years, will be leading Odisha from transition to transformative changes through continuous acquisition of knowledge, internalising 5T approach, innovative thinking, efficient service delivery, optimizing resources, ensuring quality and abiding strictly the

continuous process that starts with nurturing and mentoring at the early stage. It continues through self-learning, innovations and evaluations with integrity to the government system throughout the service tenure. Gopabandhu Academy of Administration provides opportunities and prepares young administrative officers inculcating these habits and disciplines. He appreciated the innovative initiatives of the current DG, GAA in enhancing the quality of teaching and learning experiences despite limitations.

He thanked GAA for extending the training period from 18 weeks to 22 weeks in modular approach, knowledge sharing by internal and external resources and exposures. He is optimistic that this phase of training will be instrumental in building the

OAS probationers are advised to follow their discipline and find out their own right path. With citation of certain remarkable milestones Odisha has achieved

over the years, across sectors, he expected that the young probationers would take leadership in bureaucracy to transform the vision into reality.

Shri Raj Kumar Sharma, IAS, the Director General of Gopabandhu Academy of Administration, and Member, Board of Revenue, Government of



# Sharadha Bali, The Celebrated Sand

Shree Jagannath Culture is a blend of opulence and loveliness virtues. He is the monarch and a lover also. The abode of Shree Jagannath is broadly divided into two parts. The area from Shree Jagannath Temple to Mausima Temple is called the land of opulence and majesty. Lord Jagannath is an administrator to rule the entire world. Hence the Grand temple is considered as Dwarika and

the temple as Gundicha Temple. Lastly Shraddha Devi the mother of king Indradyumna did not beg for any boon. She was so overwhelmed to behold Lord Jagannath that, she only continued to shed tears which were rolled down on the sandy area. Lord Jagannath was so pleased with her devotion that, He declared the entire sandy area as Sharadha Bali. Hence the area from Bada Sankha to Gundicha

Ratha Karaile.”

During the year 1610, Keshomaru a ruler caused devastation to three Chariots parked on Sharadha Bali. He set fire to all chariots. A number of pilgrims lost their lives.

Indradyumna pond is considered as one of the celebrated ponds out of five sacred water bodies of Puri. Such water bodies are, the sea



Mathura. The land beyond Badasankha to Gundicha Temple is considered as the area of loveliness, charm and graceful virtues. Hence such area is compared with Brindaban and Gopa, the epitome of love and emotion.

As far as the nomenclature of Sharadha Bali is considered, such has Puranic, historical and social facts. As per Puranic views, king Indradyumna heard about Nilamadhab, the living God from Bidyapati, the brother of the chief priest of Malaba. Indradyumna proceeded towards Neelachal kshetra to see the living God. But he was so sad to see that Nilamadhab was submerged in the huge sand heaps in a cyclone. Indradyumna was burst to tears and proclaimed to bring an end to his life. Monk Narada appeared before the king and advised him to pray Lord Nrusingha with devotion i.e., 'Shraddha'. King Indradyumna was successful in his mission and Lord Nrusingha appeared before him with blessing for construction of main temple. Since by the intense love and devotion, King Indradyumna could achieve the goal, the area was called the sandy area of love and devotion i.e., 'Shraddha' or 'Sharadha'.

Another school of Puranic thought believe in the legend that, after the completion of main temple and consecration of deities on the Grand throne, Lord Jagannath desired to grant boon to King Indradyumna. Kind did not ask for any things but prayed that, there should be no living successor to him as he may claim for the credit of construction of temple. Shree Jagannath agreed to it. Queen Gundicha requested that, every year the Lord should visit His birthplace. Shree Jagannath was very happy and agreed to it. Further he declared

Temple is named as Sharadha Bali area.

Historically it is mentioned that the area has been named after Queen Shraddha Devi, the wife of king Bhanudeva (King Narasingh Deva).

Earlier there was a river named as Malini on the way from Shree Mandira to Gundicha Mandir.

Hence three chariots which were driven from main temple were parked on the bank of the river. Deities were taken to the other bank of river by boats. Other three chariots were kept there for the journey of deities to Gundicha Temple. Guru Madhwacharya opined that, during the journey of deities, the change of vehicle on the way is not a sacred practice. It brings displeasure to deities. Considering such fact and to get rid of the construction of six chariots, Shraddha Devi filled up the river bed with sand and constructed a bridge named as Balagandi. The River was very deep, hence it was called 'Bada Ganda', i.e., deep water area. As per public parlance 'Badaganda' has become 'Balagandi'. Such bridge was constructed in the year 1270 AD. Hence it is believed that the area has been named as Sharadha Bali as queen Shraddha Devi constructed it.

It is mentioned in Rajabhoga history of Madalapanji the chronicle of ancient history of rulers (Gajapati) and Shree Jagannath Temple (At Page-36) that king Narasingha Deva of Ganga Dynasty (1278-1307 AD) reclaimed the confluence point of Banki. Earlier there were six chariots. After the reclamation of Banki river confluence, the Car Festival was managed by three chariots. As per Odia Version, "A Raja Banki Muhan Potaiile Chha Ratha Heuthila. Nadi Potei Tini

(Mahodadhi), Sweta Ganga, Rohini Kunda,

Indradyumna and Markandeswara Ponds. Indradyumna pond was created by the movement

of thousands of cows assembled near Gundicha Temple during Yajna of main temple. It is believed that, after



taking bath in Indradyumna pond, someone who visits Nilakantheswar Temple and Yajna Nrusingha Temple with devotion, gets Moksha (Salvation), the ultimate aim of the human being.

Rasa Leela held in the month of Ashadha during car festival is another symbol of offering

love and affection by Shree Krishna to Gopis in Raitota, a portion of Sharadhabali. Lord Jagannath as Shree Krishna enjoys the Raasa Leela during last three days of Car Festival, while adored in Gundicha Temple. That is the only occasion of Raas Leela in every year fostering the graceful performance in memory of Gopaleela of Dwapar Yuga. Hence Sharadha Bali is named as Nitya Brundaban by scholars of Baisnaba Culture.

Socially the area of Sharadha Bali is considered as the charm of Shreekshetra as a departure from majestic opulence of main temple, where Lord Jagannath is

a Monarch, the husband of wealth queen Lakshmi and being surrounded by all Gods and Goddesses of the Universe. Sharadha Bali is a place of peace, loveliness and beauty. Apart from majestic and administrative activities, every man requires loneliness, peace of mind and joyful thinking. Sharadhabali provides such virtues to Lord Jagannath every year during nine days visit to Gundicha Temple.

Lord Jagannath is performing graceful activities known as Leela in Kalijuga as that of a man. Hence his other name is Purushottam, i.e. A Best Person. Hence Skanda Puran has described the activities of Lord Jagannath as, "Shreesha Manusa Leelaya." Sharadha Bali is the epitome of love, affection, devotion, faith and reverence to the Almighty. Hence people have trust in the glory of it and put the sand on their heads as that of sand paste. Sharadha Bali is an oasis in the desert of modern peace less atmosphere.



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