

VIPRANUDI

English Journal from the house of AKBMS



Edition - 22

December - 2023

Pages : 40

Internal Circulation

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman

(born 18 August 1959) is an Indian economist and a senior leader of the BJP serving as the Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs of the Government of India since 2019.

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman was born in a Tamil Iyengar Brahmin family in Madurai, Tamil Nadu to Savitri and Narayanan Sitharaman. Her father was employed in Indian Railways and hailed from Musiri, Tiruchirappalli, and her mother's family had its roots in Thiruvankadu, and in the Thanjavur and Salem districts of Tamil Nadu. She completed her schooling from Madras and Tiruchirappalli and then went on to complete her Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Seethalakshmi Ramaswami College, Tiruchirappalli. In 1984, she moved to Delhi to complete her Master of Arts and M.Phil in economics from JNU. She met her husband Parakala Prabhakar while studying at JNU. The couple married in the year 1986 and have a daughter named Parakala Vangmayi. Before taking to active politics, she worked in the corporate sector for some time. Subsequently, she moved to London with her husband and joined the British Broadcasting Corporation. She returned to India in the 1990s and became an educationist. Later, she founded the Pranava school in Hyderabad. She was nominated to the National Commission for Women during the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) regime under Atal Bihari Vajpayee. In 2006, she joined Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) and became the national spokesperson of BJP in 2010. In 2014, after BJP won the elections, she was appointed as a Junior Minister in Sri. Narendra Modi's cabinet. In June 2014, she was elected as a Rajya Sabha MP from Andhra Pradesh and in May 2016, she contested and won the Karnataka seat in the Rajya Sabha elections.



Union Finance Minister

On 31 May 2019, she was appointed as the Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister. She is India's first full-time female finance minister. She presented her maiden budget in the Indian parliament on 5 July 2019. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she was made in-charge of the COVID-19 Economic Response Task Force. Under her tenure as the finance minister in 2022, India became the fifth largest economy in the world, and the GDP of the country was said to have seen massive growth unparalleled from historic context. Her frequent quote has been – "It's one thing to get the money apportioned in the budget. The other is to utilise it completely" – Implementation is her forte!



Union Defence Minister

On 3 September 2017, she was appointed as Minister of Defense, as India's first full-time female defence minister. Under her tenure, the army conducted the Balakot airstrike in retaliation to the 2019 Pulwama attack. Her frequent quote during her tenure was – "It will be a priority for me to ensure the smooth and speedy implementation of defense deals and projects" – Focus is her forte!

FORBES : The World's Most Powerful Women 2023

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has made it to the list for the fifth year in a row, ranking at number 32 – This has been her best ranking so far. In 2022, she had ranked at #36, while she was #37 in 2021, #41 in 2020 and #34 in 2019.



Akhila Karnataka Brahmana Mahasabha ®

Gayathri Bhavana, No.3070, 14th Cross,
9th Main, Banashankari 2nd Stage,
Bengaluru-5600070

Phone: +91-80-26771695 / 26770066

E-Mail : info@akbms.com

Website : www.akbms.com

President : Ashok Haranahalli

General Secretary : S.Sridharamurthy

Treasurer : Venkatesh S.Naik

VIPRANUDI

-English Journal from the house of AKBMS

Editor-in-chief : Satyesh N Bellur

Associate Editors : Dr. A. Gayathri Devi

: Sudhir S Mysore

AKBMS News Editor : Karthik Bapat

Public Relations : Venkatesh Dwarakanath
Officer

IT & Web Design : Krishnaswamy Subbarao

Journal Design : Nagaratna Printers,
Bengaluru

Printers : Parimala Mudranalaya,
Bengaluru

Office Timings : Tuesday through Saturday

Morning : 9.30 to 13.00

Evening : 16.30 to 20.00

Sundays : 09.30 to 13.00

Weekly Holiday : Monday



CONTENTS



Topic	Page	Topic	Page
Presidential Message	3	Performing Arts	
From the desk of the Editor	5	- Dr.S.N. Susheela	22
Guest Column		Crime Prevention	
- N. Ramanath	7	- Varsha Avadhany	24
Timeless Traditions		Analytics Playground	
- Dr. Jayant Agasthya	10	- Dr. Sahana Prasad	27
Thus Spake Lord Krishna		The NRI's Kaleidoscope	
- Veena Prahlad	13	- Venki Prathivadi	29
My quest for spiritual well-being		The selfless warriors of Shivaji	
- Satyesh N Bellur	16	- Guru Prasad Bhat	32
Real Lessons in History		Wit & Wisdom	
- Paresh Nadig	18	- Dr. A. Gayathri Devi	35
Mind over Matter		Short Story	
- Anitha Nadig	20	- B.R. Bhimachar	37
		Rhyme and Rhythm	
		- Dr. Anita R Bijoor	38



Presidential Message

Ashok Haranahalli

President - AKBMS

Dear Friends

Namaskaram to all my Vipra friends.

Happy Kannada Rajyotsava to all Vipra Bandhavas of the State. The Brahmin society being a community that does not wish harm to anyone, is facing increased criticism notes – so we all should get organized at the State level and raise a loud voice with unity for the Brahmin community.

The power of social organization

For the first time in history, the meeting is being held outside Bangalore. The purpose of this is that we should all get organized and the people of North Karnataka should also understand that this is our culture and get involved in the social activities. Today, if Brahmins speak for Brahmins, it is being made an issue. Some forces are trying to portray that Brahmins are responsible for all the problems of society. Laws are being misused targeting Brahmins. There is an increasing tendency to criticize Brahmins. We should condemn this, and get organized and united.

Brahmin Development Board was made but no grant was given to it, there is no one to help the needy in our community, so we need to help those who are in dire need in our community. The Mahasabha is active in the direction of giving priority to the women of the

community. 20,000 members have been added after taking charge as Mahasabha President. District organization has been formed in Haveri. Including Belagavi, Bagalkote, and other regions -strengthening of organization has been done. More meetings have been held in North Karnataka during my tenure and all this work should go on continuously.

Many social activities by Mahasabha

An arrangement has been made to give a monthly pension of 500 INR to help the poor and the elderly in the community. A medical helpline scheme, hostel for female students, free medicine for the poor, and legal cell for helping community members in legal matters - have been arranged. Pratibha Puraskar is being conducted in four parts of the state. The students will be given incentives. The privileged should help the poor in the community. In the coming days, a women's conference will be conducted where 20-25 meritorious women will be honored, Agnihotra Vedics will be identified & a convention will be arranged, a Yathi convention is being considered as well.

Identify as Brahmins

Identify yourself as a Brahmin instead of mentioning the sub-caste name in the Census. Brahmins should proudly claim to be Brahmins instead of mentioning the Dvaita or Advaita.

Our unity and organization need to be strong. Let us move in that direction. Of late, there is an argument that facilities should be provided based on population, and this is also being discussed by a few leaders. This is detrimental to democracy. It is a strategy of the powerful to ignore the minority. The attitude of those in power to respond only to the extent of political gain is very worrying.

As women are the backbone of Sanatana Dharma –'Abhijaate 2023', a Maha Mahila

Sammelana is being organized on January 6-7 for women's unity, organization, and development, and to address the challenges faced by them today. All preparations are underway to make this convention a success. We request all the women of the State to participate in this convention and make the conference a success.

Ashok Haranahalli

Yours Truly

Ashok Haranahalli

(Editorial Note : The above text is the excerpts of the President's Address in the 42nd Plenary Session of the General Assembly)



Felicitation to President by Hubli-Dharwar AKBMS office bearers



From the Editor's desk...

Satyesh N. Bellur
Editor-in-chief

Dear Readers...

Welcome to our Twenty-Second edition of Vipranudi – the English journal from the house of AKBMS.

It has been a privilege for Indians to have had an extremely effective combo in Sri. Narendra Modi Ji as PM and Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman Ji as FM. The duo have steered the Indian economy on the path of accelerated and irreversible growth. India today is the 5th largest economy in the world and very soon will be the 3rd largest! It is by far the fastest-growing economy of the day. Their contribution towards India achieving this feat is unparalleled and we at the Journal, salute them both for their commitment and selfless service to the nation. It is my pleasure to feature our honourable Finance Minister on our cover page this time. Her focus, dedication, and 'never give up' approach in delivering her duties to the nation is best reflected in one of her quotes:



I want to assure everyone that the momentum with which we want to carry out reforms, will continue."

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

We wish her the very best and profusely thank her for being what she is – A distinguished woman of substance and high integrity...

We are already at the end of 2023. It has been a momentous year for AKBMS under the leadership of the ever-dynamic Sri. Ashok Harnahalli Ji. For those who are readers of the News and Events section in our journal and for those who have been reading the Kannada Vipranudi news bulletins every month, it will be clear that AKBMS has been active on many fronts. On behalf of all of us from the English journal team, I wish to personally congratulate the entire team at AKBMS that is managing this transformation from being an organization in deep slumber to that which is today, alive and vibrant.

One of the clubs in AKBMS which has performed extremely well with regular monthly activities has been its Healthcare division. The Executive Secretary of AKBMS Hubli office, Sri. Vijaya Nadajoshi has sent a letter, excerpts of which I share with you all here:

QUOTE: We had the AKBMS state AGM in Hubli on 19th November. There were more than 200 members from other cities and among them were many senior citizens too. The day's programme was from 7 in the morning till 4 in the evening. Sri. Venkatesh Dwarakanath from our Healthcare Division

had organized the local Narayana Hrudayalaya staff – doctors and nursing staff - to be present at the venue with an ambulance too. They did free medical checkups of the participants and also ensured that the senior citizens – old and weak were well catered to. UNQUOTE:



The reason I am sharing his letter here is to let people know how a word of appreciation and a word of encouragement can make a difference to those who are silently working hard and running that extra mile to make things happen. Kudos to Sri. Venkatesh Dwarakanath who has been tirelessly performing his role to perfection! Such intra-organizational praise and a pat on the back are needed especially in an organization like AKBMS. Because everyone works here voluntarily, without any financial considerations and probably only to fulfill their passion for what they are doing. I hope 2024 will usher in a sense of comradeship and mutual respect among all the members of AKBMS, as at the end of the day, all are working towards a common objective.



Sri N Ramanath has been our columnist right from the inception of the journal. He has

been writing his regular articles under “Whip of Humour”. In this edition, he has written about the healthy road ahead for the Indian economy – a well-articulated and well-presented fact-check on our economy and how it is poised for future glory! It is our pleasure to be presenting it under our “Guest Column” this time. Our thanks to Ram...

We are starting a new column – from this edition. “Rhyme and Rhythm – Where Poetry Blossoms...”. As the title indicates, it is our poetry section. This has been wanting in our journal now for quite some time and am happy and thankful to Dr. Anita R. Bijoor, for having contributed her poetry in this inaugural section. We hope that more and more poets will utilize this section in the future to share their poetry with our readers...

While bidding adieu to 2023, let us welcome 2024 with a resolve to make the year beautiful not just to ourselves and our loved ones, but to society at large.

I thank all my columnists and editorial colleagues for their continued patronage. Till we meet again in our next edition, I wish you all a blissful time ahead.



Satyesh N. Bellur

Answers to Puzzles – What am I?

1 - A Coconut; 2-Plant; 3- WhatsApp; 4- Six; 5- Calendar



Guest Column

N. Ramanath

Writer, Humourist, Book Publisher

Contact: 9448050463 | anakuramanath@gmail.com

Indian Economic Path – Healthy Road Ahead

A stroll across the green fields and chat with farmers would suffice to know where the country stands on the economic front. The fruits of various schemes under the aegis of NABARD (National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development) have at last reached the doors of the tiller. No more middlemen maladies. Cometh the hour and cometh the now familiar and welcome 'ping' sound indicating the transfer of government funds to the farmers' accounts.

This would have been unthinkable about a decade or so ago. The red tape and the 'leaky middle roads' used to drain the funds along the way and thereby drain the aspirations of the farmers. It was the alacrity with which the BJP government met the economic jam with a JAM of their own that ensured the safe passage of funds from point A to point B without any clogs or leakages.

The Jam inculcated by the BJP was the Jan-Dhan, Aadhar and Mobile linking. What a boon this proved to be in the Covid era! A non-UPI, hand-to-hand exchange of goods and money could have downed curtains on many more precious lives. Mobile payments via QR code, by annulling the individual proximity factor, not only saved lives but also helped the economy to thrive in the most horrendous era that the world has gone through in the last hundred years. UPI has now become the main mode of financial transactions. Of late, on average, approximately 20 billion transactions amounting to about 35 lakh crore rupees take place across the country per every financial quarter.

The introduction of RERA brought sanity to an otherwise volatile, haphazard construction industry. It created a reliable ecosystem that contributed largely to the growth of the Indian economy.

First things first. The Indian economy was in the 'Fragile five' bracket when BJP came to power in 2014. Almost a decade hence, it is rated among the biggest economies of the world. Recently it surpassed India's one-time ruler, Britain, on the economic front, thereby adorning the fifth place in the global economic rankings. Considering the ravages of the pandemic, the dishing out of freebies necessitated by the lockdowns and subsequent slowdown in the global economy, this is an achievement par excellence.



While demonetisation and GST continue to be the sources of hot debate, there are many other economic steps taken by the BJP with Finance Minister (FM) Nirmala Sitharaman and Prime Minister (PM) Modi at the helm.

- On September 20, 2019, the parliament

passed the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance 2019, reducing the effective corporate tax rate to 25.17% for domestic companies.

- This is a double-edged advantage. This will attract more companies from taxing (pun intended) countries to shift their base. The present companies would reinvest the money saved in taxes and that will in due course add more taxes to the exchequer.
- The Major Port Authorities Bill was passed in the 2021 budget session and became an Act in February 2021. Approximately 700 million metric tons pass through the ports each year. The legislation empowers the ports to perform with greater efficiency on account of increased autonomy in decision-making and by modernising their institutional framework. Free to fix tariffs based on market conditions, the ports are bound to perform more profitably in days to come.
- To ease the burden on the NCLT, the government proposed the outside restructuring of the process. Subsequently, the RBI issued an ordinance outlining a time-bound and structured process to conduct out-of-court settlement of bad loan-related disputes.
- Labour laws are an essential and integral part of the Company Act. However changing economies dictate the hiring and firing strategies of companies. The BJP government introduced a bill allowing companies to conduct layoffs without government permission on September 23, 2020. This has allowed companies with up to 300 employees the flexibility of hiring and firing as per the needs crisis of the company.
- The Hutch-Vodafone-Indian Government spat of 2007 seemed to be an unending imbroglio. The situation warranted a permanent solution. An amendment to the

Taxation Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 was the best way to counter it. The amendment, the 31st amendment of the Income Tax Rules, 2021, effectively ended the retrospective taxation of cross-border investments. This has proved to be a dangling carrot enticing the foreign direct investments rabbits to the Indian folds.

- Foreign companies had one particular grouse against India – the delay in setting up projects due to the inordinate delay in issuance of various clearances from numerous departments. The government introduced the 'One-stop Shopping for Central Government Clearances, thus opening the doors wider for interested investors.
- Agnipath is a largely misunderstood program introduced by the government. This allows youth of 16 years to either retire from the army at the age of 23 with a tidy sum handed over at the time of retirement or continue in the army. An early retirement with money on hand is beneficial in many ways to the economically weaker sector. It helps in the education of younger ones, the marriage of sisters and so on. It also gives ample time for the young retired ones to embark on some business ventures with the cushion of the retired benefits at hand. The practice to date was to go on paying a pension for thirty to forty years and more. The One Time payment scheme helps the Defence to invest the money thus saved in improving the defense standards of the country.
- The Reserve Bank of India used to insist on banks allocating 40% of their credit to priority sectors. This proved to be draconian in some cases. Now such stipulations have been removed.
- During the BJP regime, the global price of crude oil reached its nadir. The Modi government could have easily passed on the benefits to the end user. Instead, the

government chose to pay off the oil bond dues and invest in other beneficial projects. The onset of COVID-19 meant the administration of vaccines was not far away. The monies earned out of the oil price discrepancy became useful in the COVID crisis times, enabling the government to vaccinate the entire vaccine-willing population of the country free of cost.

- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) is arguably the high point of BJP's reform scorecard. GST, which came into effect on 1 July 2017, has brought 1.5 million taxpayers into a unified indirect taxation system. Though GST saw a roller-coaster ride in the initial days, it later witnessed record collections on a month-to-month basis, indicating its efficiency in plugging the revenue leakages.
- The introduction of the IBC (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code) helped banks in their loan recovery drive. The government further

strengthened the bank's hands by providing the much-needed capital periodically infusing several Lakh Crore Rupees into the bank's exchequer. As a result of the reforms, NPAs fell below 7% while the capital-to-risk-weighted asset ratio (CRAR) of banks improved significantly.

74 airports in 9 years; 54,000 kilometers of road national highways completed at a record speed, more than 100 waterways, 20 world-class trains, 390 new varsities in 9 years... All these and many more constitute just the tip of the iceberg. BJP, ably guided by PM Modi and FM Nirmala Sitharaman has paved the way for a smooth ride ahead. There sure are some roadblocks and potholes. To eradicate all impediments, the BJP needs at least one more term. Will the voter vote for a smooth road ahead?

The answer lies in the 2024 Ballot box.

(Editorial Note : Sri. N. Ramanath, as you all know, has been one of our distinguished writers from the very beginning. He has been bringing tons of laughter to our readers through his column "Whip of Humour". In this very special Guest Column, he has penned his thoughts on how The Govt at the centre has addressed the concerns one had about the economy and how the Indian economy is on the right path now. The editorial board thanks him for sharing his insights into this subject which are both, current and relevant...)

Quotable Quotes from Nirmala Sitharaman



Much to my surprise, not a moment have I been made to feel, 'Alright, a woman - probably the prime minister wanted to make a token gesture.' The ease with which people have taken this thought of a woman minister has been a great strength for me and has made my job far easier...



TIMELESS TRADITIONS...

Dr. Jayant Agasthya

Writer, Seeker & Teacher

Contact: 9739096077 / jayant_agasthya@hotmail.com

Kala (time)

Shree gurubhyo namah.

“Time is essence” – a very famous quote we are all aware of. People have been trying to understand the concept of time for thousands of years. Though no one knows what exactly defines time or kala, we see many divisions of kala/time for our easy understanding and everyday use. If Hindu systems divide kala in a particular way, the Western systems divide them in another way, and so on. Whatever may be the divisions, we have been taught from a very young age that “Lost time is never found again” (Benjamin Franklin) thus ingraining the significance of time at a very early age.

Dharma Sindhu – a comprehensive treatise on Hindu dharma gives a detailed explanation of kala/time and its divisions.

Kala is divided into 6 parts – Samvatsara (year), Ayana (half-year), Rtu (Season), Masa (month), Paksha (fortnight) & Dina (day). These are the major divisions and numerous sub-divisions are used based on the requirement.

Samvatsara : there are 5 types of Samvatsaras – based on the movement of the Chandra, based on the movement of Surya into each Rashi (also called Sankranti/Sankramana), based on sunrise to next day sunrise, based on nakshatras and based on the movement of Jupiter (Guru) from one Rashi to another.

1. **Chandra-samvatsara** : the year consisting of 354 days calculated based on Shukla Pratipada to Amavasya in a month. Many states in India follow this samvatsara and the new year starts on Ugadi (March/April).
2. **Soura-samvatsara** : year calculated based on Surya's movement from one rashi to another. This concept is also called sankramana. The total number of days in this year is 365. This is also called the calendar year all of us currently use.
3. **Savana-samvatsara** : year calculated based on today's sunrise to the next day's sunrise. Generally used for ascertaining muhurtas, this samvatsara consists of 360 days.
4. **Nakshatra-samvatsara** : the concept of calculating the year based on 27 nakshatras. This samvatsara consists of 324 days is used by only a handful and is not used widely.
5. **Brahaspatya-samvatsara** : Many states on the North India base celebrate their new year when Guru (Jupiter) moves from one Rashi to another. The famous festival “Pushkara” is based on this phenomenon. This samvatsara has 361 days.

Ayana (half-year) – the samvatsara is split into two – Uttarayana and Dakshinayana. The time frame when Surya travels from Makara Rashi to Kataka Rashi is known as Uttarayana. Dakshinayana is when Surya travels from Kataka Rashi to Makara Rashi.

Rtu (Seasons) : these are categorised into 2 – based on Surya and based on Chandra. Some people follow the concept of starting the new season considering two rashis Meena & Mesha. Yet others follow the movement of Chandra. However, it is interesting to note that the naming convention used in both cases are same viz., Rtu starting from Vasanta and so forth.

Masa (month): Masa can be ascertained based on the movements of Chandra, Surya, nakshatra and based on the sunrise today to the next day sunrise. We are aware that a masa ends on Amavasya (known as Amanta). However, many follow the end of masa on Poornima (known as Poornimanta). But, for the sake of performing shodasha-karmas, the month ending on Amavasya is ideal.

We find 9 different methods of measuring times. However, daily we use 5 different methods. In addition, we find various Puranas listing out different divisions for our easy understanding, we can consider the following as a standard:

Manushya year – time of a human on earth

Unit	Details
1 nimesha =	≈ time to open and close an eyelid
15 nimesha =	1 kaashta
30 kaashta =	1 kalaa
30 kalaa =	1 kshana
6 kshana =	1 ghati (≈ 24 minutes)
2 ghati =	1 muhurta (≈ 48 minutes)
30 muhurtas =	1 ahoratra (1 sidereal day)
30 days =	1 masa (2 paksha – Shukla and Krishna)
2 masa =	1 Rtu
3 Rtu =	1 ayana (≈ 6 months)
2 ayanas =	1 samvatsara

There is one more method listed below:

Unit	Definition	Value in SI units
paramāṇu	base unit	≈ 26.3 microseconds
aṇu	2 paramāṇu	≈ 52.67 microseconds
trasareṇu	3 aṇu	≈ 158 microseconds
truṭi	3 trasareṇu	≈ 474 microseconds
vedha	100 truṭi	≈ 47.4 milliseconds
lava	3 vedha	≈ 0.14 seconds
nimeṣa	3 lava	≈ 0.43 seconds
kṣaṇa	3 nimeṣa	≈ 1.28 seconds
kāṣṭhā	5 kṣaṇa	≈ 6.4 seconds
laghu	15 kāṣṭhā	≈ 96 seconds or 1.6 minutes
danda (nadika)	15 laghu	≈ 24 minutes
muhūrta	2 danda	≈ 48 minutes
ahorātram (Day - sideral)	30 muhūrta	≈ 24 hours
masa (month)	30 ahorātram	≈ 2,592 ks
ritu (season)	2 masa	≈ 5,184 ks
ayana	3 ritu	≈ 6 months
samvatsara (year)	2 ayana	≈ 6 Rtus or 12 masas

Sri Krishna in Bhagavad-Gita Chapter 11 shloka 32 states:

कालोऽस्मि लोकक्षयकृत्प्रवृद्धोलोकान्समार्हतामिह प्रवृत्तः ।

ऋतेऽपि त्वां न भविष्यन्ति सर्वेऽवस्थिताः प्रत्यनीकेषु योधाः ॥ 32 ॥

I am the mighty time, the source of destruction that comes forth to annihilate the world. Even without your participation, the warriors arrayed in the opposing army shall cease to exist.

No one has been able to understand time or kala as it is considered as Parabrahman itself. Only one who has realised his true nature will be able to understand and appreciate the importance of time.

Puzzles – What am I ?

(You will find the answers in the editorial section)

1. A mother gives a gift to her son and says – “If you feel hungry, eat it. If you feel thirsty, drink it. If you feel cold, burn it”. What is it?
A Coconut
2. You bury me when I’m alive, you dig me up when I die. What am I?
Plant
3. I’m a 8 letter word. The first 4 is the question. 2,3,4 protects our head, 5,6,7 is a company name, 7 & 8 are same letters. Who am I?
WHATSAPP
4. A mother has five daughters and they each have a brother. How many children does she have?
Six
5. No matter how much you use me, you change me every month. What am I?
Calendar

(Compiled by Sudhir S Mysore)

“

“Hard work never brings fatigue. It brings satisfaction.”

PM Narendra Modi





Thus Spake Lord Krishna

Mrs. Veena Prahlad

Eternal student, Gitaadhyayee
Contact: 9900100776
veena.tejaswinip@gmail.com



Death – as explained in the Gita

Each of us has faced the heart-wrenching experience of losing someone close to us. Additionally, news reports make us aware of thousands, even tens of thousands or lakhs, succumbing to natural calamities, human errors, or diseases like COVID-19. In the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, we often overlook the profound reality of death. Although it is common knowledge that everyone born will eventually die, we tend to live as if we are immortal. The surprise and shock that accompany the death of peers reveal our deep-seated aversion to acknowledging the finality of life. The fear of death reached unprecedented levels during the COVID-19 pandemic, leading individuals to lose their lives solely out of sheer terror. It is perplexing that, despite the inevitability of death being a known fact, we still approach it with surprise and intense fear. Should we, then, succumb to the fear of death? Is it rooted in our ignorance about life after death, or is it merely a fear of the vast unknown that awaits us?



Certain butterfly caterpillars experience parasitism as wasps lay eggs beneath them, eventually leading to their demise. This natural phenomenon, though brutal, is intrinsic to the insect world. Lions and other predators similarly prey on animals for survival, a cycle perceived as fair. In contrast,

human deaths, particularly of loved ones, seem unjust. The god of death, Yama, is often seen as a merciless god.

We often neglect to contemplate the implications of living indefinitely and the purpose behind our existence in this world. There exists a prevailing notion that the death of older individuals is somehow more acceptable than the premature death of the young. Many perceive themselves as mere puppets in the hands of God, believing that appeasing and fearing God is essential to avoid premature death and unpleasant situations. This worldview includes concepts of fairness, where heaven is deemed entirely fair and hell entirely bad. Virtuous deeds lead to heavenly rewards, while transgressions lead to hellish consequences.

In an idealized world, there would be no death or unpleasant situations, and we would enjoy a luxurious, extended life. Reflecting on our life journey, we recognize that it is shaped by challenging situations, hardships, and the loss of loved ones. Interestingly, many express gratitude for these experiences, acknowledging their role in providing a deeper perspective on life and fostering personal growth and wisdom.

This introspection prompts us to question the very reason for our existence in a world where eventual death is inevitable. What purpose does this creation serve, and why do

we experience death? The answer, as per Krishna's discourse, lies at the very beginning of his teachings.

न त्वेवाहं जातु नासं न त्वं नेमे जनाधिपाः ।

न चैव न भविष्यामः सर्वे वयमतः परम् ॥

na tvevāhaṁ jātu nāsaṁ na tvam neme janādhīpāḥ
na chaiva na bhaviṣhyāmaḥ sarve vayamataḥ param
(Gita 2.12)

Krishna says that there was never a time that the two of them or all the kings assembled at the battlefield did not exist nor will they not exist in the future. At this point, Krishna introduces the concept of soul.

To comprehend a moving object, our stance must be stationary. Similarly, as we witness the aging process of our body, we should recognize that the observer, the "dehina" or soul, remains untouched by the passage of time. Krishna illustrates this by comparing the progression of the body (deha) through childhood, youth, and old age, indicating a subsequent embodiment. This underscores Krishna's emphasis on distinguishing between the transient physical form and the enduring essence dwelling within. He elaborates that the soul, also referred to as the dehina or the entity residing within the body, persists eternally.

न जायते म्रियते वा कदाचि

नायं भूत्वा भविता वा न भूयः ।

अजो नित्यः शाश्वतोऽयं पुराणो

न हन्यते हन्यमाने शरीरे ॥

na jāyate mriyate vā kadāchin
nāyaṁ bhūtvā bhavitā vā na bhūyaḥ
ajo nityaḥ śāśhvato 'yaṁ purāṇo
na hanyate hanyamāne śarīre (Gita 2.20)

This dehina is neither born nor does it die. It is not anything we know as being born. It is something that has no birth, which is there always permanently and is ancient. Though the body dies, the soul lives on.

So, death is only for the body and not the soul (dehina) within it. We have discussed why we take birth in a previous article in the same column. The soul goes through body after body to purify itself and reach its destination. This means it no longer needs to take birth implying it has become what Krishna is explaining in this shloka as one which is always there and is ancient. In other words, the soul has become one with the Supreme soul.

Now that we know how the concept of Death is defined in the Gita, would we still fear death? Is going to heaven or hell worth fretting over?

ते तं भुक्त्वा स्वर्गलोकं विशालं

क्षीणे पुण्ये मर्त्यलोकं विशन्ति ।

एवं त्रयीधर्ममनुप्रपन्ना

गतागतं कामकामा लभन्ते ॥

te taṁ bhuktvā swarga-lokaṁ viśhālaṁ
kṣhīṇe puṇye martya-lokaṁ viśhanti
evaṁ trayī-dharmam anuprapannā
gatāgataṁ kāma-kāmā labhante (Gita -21)

As previously mentioned, it's widely known that engaging in virtuous deeds is believed to lead to a heavenly afterlife. Krishna, in this shloka, asserts that individuals consistently practicing virtuous deeds throughout their lives earn the privilege of entering heaven postmortem. However, their sojourn in heaven is temporary, for once the merits of their virtuous deeds are depleted, they reincarnate on Earth. Krishna underscores that while virtuous deeds are commendable, the ultimate goal transcends seeking repeated heavenly



existences. The emphasis lies on breaking free from the cycle of birth and death, a theme reiterated by Krishna throughout the Gita. The focus is on nishkaama karma, performing

duties for duty's sake without harboring personal desires.

Allow me to conclude with a narrative from the BrihadaaraNyaka Upanishad (5.2):

Prajapati, the person responsible for creating the devas (demigods, like Indra and Vayu), manavas(humans), and asuras (people prone to resort to cruelty towards other beings).

Once the devas, manavas and the asuras spent time with their father as students.

At the end of that time the devas went to Prajapati and asked for final advice, Prajapati said 'Da.' He asked the devas if they understood the devas said they did and that he had told them damyate (self-control) since the

devas are controlled by desire, they said they would observe self-control.

The manavas went to their father and asked for his final advice and he told them 'Da.' He asked the manavas if they understood. The manavas said that their father had told them to do daana (giving selflessly) Since manavas are prone to store things for themselves and their offspring, they would get rid of it by doing daana.

The asuras went to their father and asked for his final advice and he told them 'Da.' He asked the asuras if they understood. The asuras said that their father had told them to practice daya (compassion) Since the asuras were prone to be cruel to other beings they would become better by observing daya.

Though we are humans we do have all the qualities described in Prajapati's children, the takeaway for us from the above story is to observe self-control, giving or observing detachment and compassion. This will take our focus from the anxiety of dying to becoming a better being, so we do not dread death but acknowledge it as a step towards our liberation.



We live in an inter-dependent world.
An isolated India is not in our interest.

-Narendra Modi



My Quest for Spiritual Well-being

Satyesh N. Bellur

Poet, Thinker, Motivational Speaker & Management Guru

Contact: 9845187797; satyesh.bellur@gmail.com

Karma...

ನಿನ್ನೆಲ್ಲ ಕರ್ಮಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತವದೆಷ್ಟೋ |
ನಿನ್ನ ಮುಂದಿನ ಜನುಮಕದುವೆ ಸೋಪಾನ ||
ನಿನ್ನೆಯಾ ಗಳಿಕೆಯದು ನಿನ್ನ ಇಂದಿನ ಬಳಕೆ |
ಬೆನ್ನಟ್ಟುವುದು ಬಿಡದೆ - ನವ್ಯಜೀವಿ ||

The "Karma Philosophy" is unique to our Sanathana or Ancient Most Wisdom or simply put, "Vedic way of life". No other belief systems in the world ever talk about Karma, the way Sanathana perceives and advocates it. Coupled with the philosophy of "Rebirth", the overall ideology of Karma is not just a belief system that is there to scare people. It initiates a "way of life" that would enhance the "quality of life" of its people. It is a divine rule that can bring in a profound perspective of how humans living in the society can enhance their "lifestyle". It is indeed a guide to a "meaningful life". Without dwelling deep into Rebirth (Will talk about it in another article), I shall attempt to explain Karma in a simple way...

Karma simply means our actions or deeds. We express ourselves through our talk and our actions. While understanding Karma, we can say that it reflects both our "talk and the actions". It is also imperative that our Karma can be "good or bad" depending upon its impact on self and society. This could be a good starting point.

Once we say that Karma is our actions, and then the obvious question is - "Who is

responsible for it, especially for all our bad karma"? Can someone else who might have been the source that triggered our actions be responsible for it? Can some situation or event that caused our actions be responsible for it? Can the divine force or the "unknown" be made responsible for our actions"? Except for our Sanathana wisdom, most of the belief systems of the world proclaim that "the God we are asking you to believe in is fully responsible for not just your talk or actions, but for your entire life". This philosophy no doubt gives some "relief" to its people, especially those into bad karma. It makes them believe that they are just a pawn and there is someone up there controlling and playing around with their life. It indeed gives solace to the mundane. It will make its people continue to lead their life astray and "blame it on the supposedly known unknown". Such philosophies further make it clear that there are a "million ways" in which one can get "relief" for their bad Karma. They propagate a "court somewhere in the skies" that will eventually after the person dies, set right the good karma from the bad that one has done and would be suitably either rewarded or punished. It kind of gives a free license for the person living to do what he or she wants and leave the results for another day, in heaven or hell. It absolves its people from all their actions and provides ways and means to get relief and pardon for their ill actions by dwelling on rituals and rites.

Sanathana does not preach such doctrines where one can escape their actions by briefly being religious for some time. It offers a clear, unambiguous and “no non-sense” truth. It tells us that “We and only we are responsible for all our actions. We cannot blame it on others or situations around and then take refuge under some religious practices. Even God has no “say or control” in any of our actions. Philosophies like these will allow the humans to “evolve”, think of bettering themselves and work towards making their life a beautiful journey. Owning up to one's own deeds, good or bad, is the best way for any individual to walk the path of progress, peace and self-realisation.

Sanathana further rubbishes the presence of any court in the skies above. It admonishes – “You will pay for your bad karma and enjoy the fruits of good karma, while you are alive and right here on mother earth”. It further makes it clear – “If you have done bad karma that has damaged yourself and the society around, then there is no escape for you from their consequences. They will “hunt you down” and make you “pay your dues fully”. Sounds harsh, right? For the true followers of Sanathana, for those who desire to walk the path of spirituality, these words are true and

“music on ears”. It empowers them to script their own life without bothering the almighty to intervene. It will make them “complete humans” who through such evolutionary course of life can realise God within...

ನಮ್ಮ ಪಾಪದ ಫಲವು, ನಮ್ಮ ಪುಣ್ಯದ ಫಲವು |
ನಮ್ಮದೇ ತಟ್ಟೆಯಲಿ ಕಾದು ಕುಳಿತಿಹವು |
ನಮ್ಮ ಹೊರತಿನಾರೊ ಅದನು ತಿನಲುಂಟೇನು ? |
ನಮ್ಮದದು, ನಮಗೇನೆ ! - ನವ್ಯಜೀವಿ ||

Spirituality is all about understanding the essence of any practice and imbibing that essence beyond its limits into our daily life till the final realisation occurs. In this backdrop, “Karma Karma...” should not be our statement of finding solace or relief or pardon. Karma should lead us on a path of righteousness and make us “complete” in terms of realising the divine within...

ॐ

सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः

सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु मा कश्चिद्दुःखभाग्भवेत्

ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः



Quotable Quotes from Nirmala Sitharaman

It is one thing to get the money
apportioned in the budget.
The other is to utilise it completely



Real Lessons in HISTORY

Paresh Nadig

Solar Energy Professional

Contact: 9964817758; E-mail : paresh.nadig@gmail.com

India during the 16th, 17th, and 18th Centuries – Part 2 India before the British

A new era in Asian history emerged with the discovery of a new marine route to India by Vasco da Gama in 1498. Even after this, for over three hundred years, it was India and China that had the edge.

Pieces of striped clothing and coral beads presented to the King of Calicut by Vasco da Gama led to peals of laughter in the king's court. When Vasco da Gama came to meet him, the king was using a spittoon made of gold to spit out chewed betel leaves! Even his ankles were covered with expensive pearls and corals.

In 1506, Alfonso de Albuquerque, who challenged King Zamorin of Calicut, was made to bite the dust; he was shifted in an unconscious state to his boat. Even the Dutch, who came in 1739, had to capitulate to the Travancore king. The British naval officers who came to the coast a year after this sent the following report back home to England: *We do not have the capability to face him (Sambhaji Angre). He is much more powerful than what you (the English) have estimated.*

That India was a country that sold only pepper and other spices was a rumour that had spread during the Middle Ages. When the Portuguese sailors came, a surprise awaited them. They saw an assortment of goods being shipped from India to distant places. For example, rice was being exported from Gujarat to African and Arab countries.

Alexander Hamilton recorded that trading by just one merchant in India, Abdul Gafoor, was equivalent to the trading value of the whole *East India Company*.

It was not rare for just one merchant of Surat to buy in cash all the merchandise brought in by a huge ship from Europe according to reports by John Henry Grose, a British civil servant. As long back as 1625, India's trade had extended to Russia's Volga valley as reported by Holden Furber. Around twenty-three different varieties of goods from India were being sold in Russia by 1650.

Now, what was the concurrent situation in England at the same time? Before the Age of Expansion—i.e., before the Industrial Revolution—'sheep were more valuable than humans' in England, according to Briggs and Jordan's *Economic History of England*.

In his book *History of the Intellectual Development of Europe*, Draper has described the state of England as thus – “In London the crazy old bridge over the Thames was decorated with grinning and mouldering heads of criminals, under an idea that these ghastly spectacles would fortify the common peoples in their resolves to act according to law.” 2

It is possible to imagine England's state in the late eighteenth century by the following advertisement published in 1784 –

NEGROES FOR SALE

A cargo of very fine stout men and women, in good order and fit for immediate service, just imported from the Windward coast of Africa, in the ship 'Two Brothers'.

Conditions are one-half cash or produce, the other half payable the first of January next, giving Bond and Security if required.

The Sale is to be opened at 10 o'clock each Day, in Mr. Bordeaux's Yard, at No. 48, on the Bay. May 19, 1784, JOHN MITCHELL

Motivation for Maritime Piracy

Why it was necessary to curb as mentioned above, has been explained by several writers. As the scholar B A Holderness says in his work *Pre-industrial England* – “...The great statute...attempted to fix the structure at the bottom of the society... Its immediate causes were perhaps epidemic disease and short-term labour shortage, but inflation, poverty, and disorder, in general, were in the minds of the Parliament... This was to be achieved by control of labour mobility, by enforcing craft apprenticeship... by empowering the justices of the peace to fix maximum wages.”

More and more people became mariners and took to the oceans in order to escape such destitution (it is also said that beggars were stripped, whipped, and paraded) and not for trade as claimed by the textbooks. Among those who went on such voyages, some lucky pirates looted what they could, where they could; they plundered merchant ships in the seas.

Those who were once wanderers became wealthy in a very short time. After their newfound wealth, they received unprecedented recognition from the emperor of England. Francis Drake, John Hawkins, and others belonged to this tribe of thieves.

Charles Richard Nairne Routh writes that in October 1580, when Francis Drake landed in Plymouth with his loot, Queen Elizabeth was overjoyed. She brought the 'Golden Hind' ship, which was used by Drake for his expedition, to London and exhibited it. Later, Drake was knighted too.

The Queen of England funded John Hawkins to loot and bring back gold and silver from Spain's merchant ships. Later, even in the seventeenth century, Blake robbed merchant ships off the coast of Spain, brought goods worth £4,50,000 and submitted them to Secretary Cromwell. This practice continued well into the eighteenth century.

2 Draper, John William. *History of the Intellectual Development of Europe*. Vol. 2. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1905. p. 243

3 Holderness, B A. *Pre-Industrial England: Economy and Society (1500– 1750)*. London: J. M. Dent & Sons Ltd., 1976. p. 194

To be continued...

(Reference: Ramaswamy, S R. *A Passage Through India*. Trs. Vedavyas, M G and Nadig, Paresh. Bengaluru: Rashtrottana Sahitya, 2022)



Mind over Matter

Anitha Nadig

Mind Coach and Emotional Wellness Counsellor
Contact: 8277130366 | anitha@mindsakhya.com



Does the 'STRESS' stress you?

"Stress should be a powerful driving force, not an obstacle."
-Bill Phillips

Every month, it has become routine to write an article for this mental health column from the past one and a half years. I go through a similar cycle of emotions every month about meeting this deadline. I am one of the very few people who would submit the article on the very last day, i.e. end of the month. Whenever I am close to the deadline and have not submitted the article, it stresses me out. This is one of the regular stressors out of many I go through.

Stress is defined as a state of worry or mental tension caused by a difficult situation. Stress is a natural human response that leads one to address challenges and threats in life. Everyone undergoes stress to some degree. A stressor is something that causes stress.

As I mentioned, one of the stressors on a monthly basis for me is delivering this article. You may be thinking, writing stresses me out, I may not like writing. That is not true. I am very passionate about writing and I enjoy writing. Choosing a topic to write about can be stressful at times and a shortage of time or multiple things at hand leads to stress. We all experience different stressors and experience stress at different levels.

What do you think about the stress? Is it good or bad? Come, let's deep dive into stress and understand a few aspects of it.

During the first half of the month, I lack motivation to find a topic to write about. This is absolutely the 'No Stress' period for me to write

the article. I usually wait for a trigger to decide upon the topic. When time starts ticking, post 15th of the month, if I have not decided on the topic, 'Low Stress' kicks in. It nudges me away from my comfort zone to look for a topic. If I have not found any topic until the 20th of the month, I start actively thinking and looking for triggers for the topic. In case I have not decided upon any topic until the 25th, it turns out to be a 'High Stress' for me. But, once I finalise the topic, munch on it and sit to write, I go through another kind of stress, which I enjoy the most. I lose track of time and place until I finish writing. Once I finish it, the joy of writing and completing it is immense.

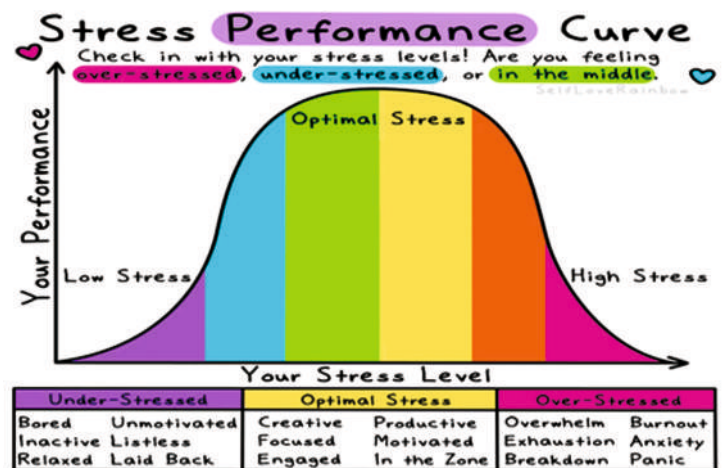


Image credit: StressLevelRainbow

According to Yerkes-Dodson law, stress is categorised into three parts.

1. Low stress
2. Eustress (Optimal stress)
3. High stress

When we are under no or low stress and there is something to finish, we usually are unmotivated, bored, or laid back. Low stress can also be caused because the task is not challenging enough for you or there is more time to accomplish.

As we enter the optimal stress zone, we become focused, motivated, productive and creative. This zone takes us to a state of FLOW. Csikszentmihalyi, a psychologist defines flow state as, "There's this focus that, once it becomes intense, leads to a sense of ecstasy, a sense of clarity: you know exactly what you want to do from one moment to the other; you get immediate feedback," This is the most enjoyed phase of the stress.

When we feel a threat or a challenge, we tend to go into high-stress mode. These challenges in our day-to-day lives are not life-threatening or dangerous most of the time. But our brain senses it as danger and creates a feeling of distress. These stressors could be an unachievable deadline, a problem that we are clueless to solve, a difficult conversation, a conflict to resolve and so on. This distress may evoke a range of emotions like anger, anxiety, fear, guilt and so on. These emotions are further fuelled by our own thoughts like, 'Why didn't I start early to meet this deadline?', 'What will my boss think of me?', 'What happens to my appraisal if I miss this deadline?', 'I could not cook what my kid asked for today. What kind of a mother am I?', 'How could I not remember my anniversary date? How do I deal with my wife's anger?' and so on. Some of these feelings and thoughts may also lead to unusual physical symptoms like palpitation, racing heartbeat, muscle tension, fatigue and sleeplessness.

Ah, yes. It is not a pleasant experience to

go through high stress. One of the things not going into high-stress mode, we all know, is to plan and prepare early, not to procrastinate, and learn problem-solving and decision-making skills.

What to do when we have entered the zone of distress? Here are some techniques to deal with high stress.

1. Pay attention to your breath. Count your breath - 5 rounds or 10 rounds. Observe the movement of your stomach as you inhale and exhale. This helps to activate the parasympathetic nervous system, which is responsible for being calm.
2. Do square/box breathing. Inhale on a count of 3, hold your breath for a count of 3, exhale on a count of 3 and hold your breath for a count of 3 and repeat this for 5 rounds. Square breathing helps to slow down the automatic thoughts generated in the mind.
3. Challenge your negative thoughts. Ask yourself, if that thought is helping you or not.

Stress can be good or bad based on how we deal with it. Be mindful about whether the stress is coming from an actual situation or your thoughts and feelings.

I have traversed through low and optimal stress this month as well and as I finish this article; my stress level has come back to zero again.

"The truth is that stress doesn't come from your boss, your kids, your spouse, traffic jams, health challenges, or other circumstances. It comes from your thoughts about your circumstances."

- Andrew Bernstein



Performing Arts...

Dr. S.N. Susheela

Prof of Music and Director of Department of Yoga, Bangalore University.
Contact: 6361223590; susheelasn1961@gmail.com

An analysis of Sri.Vyasaraya's compositions

Being a great philosopher, polemicist, commentator, and composer SriVyasaraya has occupied an important place in the Vaishnava tradition. He was born to Ballanasumathi and Akkamma at Bannur near Mysore.

There is an interesting anecdote regarding his birth. It is believed that his parents went to Kashi and his father suddenly expired. His wife, when approached SriBrahmanyaTeertha to seek permission to do SATI, the great saint blessed her to live happily with her husband. Realizing the fact, the saint becomes instrumental in giving life to the body, and the saint requests for the future child to be given to him. After their son Yatiraja was born, they with the highest respect submitted him to the lotus feet of Sri Brahmanyateertha. This incident was written by SomanathaKavi, a contemporary poet in his book "SreeVyasarayaCharitram".

An astonishing reference to Sri Vyasaraya is the fact that Portuguesetravellers Fernaonunes and Domingos have given wonderful observations regarding Sri Vyasaraya. Coming back to Sri Vyasaraya's life history, it is said that he was given Gayathri mantropadesha at the age of five. SriBrahmanyateertha, his guru sent him to Mulabaagilu, a small village at Kolar near Bengaluru. Sripadaraja who was the peetadhipathi accepted him as his student and for 12 years Sri Vyasaraja learnt many shastras and became a great scholar with immense enthusiasm to spread Dwaita philosophy. In his compositions, he has depicted his total respect towards his guru who made him an

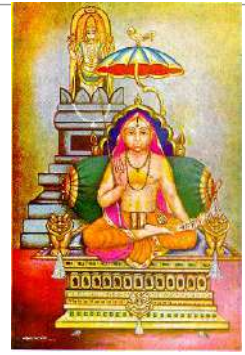
extraordinary scholar. It is believed that he spent the next 12 years at Tirumala and became the kulaguru for Narasimha Nayaka and his son, Tammaraya.

His travel history never ends here.

At the request of Narasanayaka, he then moved toward the Vijayanagara Empire when the Dynasty was at its peak. Due to his fame, he was very aptly called the Guardian Angel of the Vijayanagara Empire. Being an ardent believer of Vaishnavism he installed 732 Hanuman idols at various locations. Among them, Yantroddaraka Hanumantha sloka is considered the most powerful. Not only an intellect, he also proved to be the great guru of Karnataka Sangita Pitamaha, Sri Purandaradasa, SriKanakadasa, SriVadiraja, and SriVijayindrateertha, who have contributed immensely to the field of philosophy and music.

The King donated a few provinces to Sri Vyasaraya. SriVyasaraya built many tanks keeping social welfare in mind. This proves that he was a strong follower of Sanatana Dharma. It is also noteworthy that Srikrishna Devaraya built VishwasavanaUniversity and made Sri Vyasaraja the chancellor who imparted the knowledge of ancient Hindu traditions. Further, Srikrishnadevaraya describes this great saint as Nigamagamaniroti....

Several later musicologists have discussed Sri Vyasaraya. Great texts like Abhinaya



Bharata Muni's Sangeeta Agama, and Tulajarajendrabhupala's Sangeeta Saaramruta throw much light on Sri Vyasaraya's contribution to shastra and music too. Sri Vyasaraya is said to have written great works which include Nyayamruta, Tatparyachandrika, and Tatvaparakashika which consists of sutras and meemamse, which he penned at Sree Rangam city. He is the author of the commentary, Khandanatraya i.e., Upadikhandana, Mayavadakhandana, and Prapanchamity at Anukhandana upholding the essence and importance of Dwaita philosophy. As far as his contribution to Karnataka music is concerned he is believed to have composed many devaranamas. Unfortunately, only three of his compositions are available in "Krishna nee beganebaro" a universally acclaimed composition is one among them. His Ankita was "Sree Krishna".

Before ending this article, it is just to mention the various slokas he composed which can be sung as a musical composition. Sree Krishna Mangalashtaka, Sreenivasa sloka, Shivastuti, Prameyaragamalika, Granthamalika sloka, Pancharatna slokain which he has given importance to Adwaita and Vishistadwaita philosophy too as he had thoroughly studied about all the three prominent philosophical schools. Through his magnetic personality, he spread the Dwaita philosophy throughout the country. He attained mukthi after ordaining Sree Sreenivasa Theertha as his successor. Sree Vyasarayas Vrindavana is situated at Navavrindevana, a holy place which is attracting thousands of devotees.

In my next article, I shall try to elaborate on Sri Vyasaraya's contribution to the South Indian music system.

||Shri Shankaralinga Vijayatelli



ಆನಂದಾಸ್ ಸೇವಾ ಸದನ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ್ (ರಿ) Ananda's Seva Sadana Trust ®

Reg No: BK-IV 152/19-20

'Senior Citizen Home Geriatric Home & Rehabilitation Centre'

Facilities Available :

- Geriatric/Oldage Care
- Emergency Oxygen Facility
- BIPAP/CPAP Care
- Blood Investigation
- Doctor/Nurses/Physiotherapists
- Television, WiFi, CCTV Surveillance
- Daily activities: Yoga, Bhajans, Meditation
- 24/7 Nursing Care
- Ambulance Facility
- Wheel Chair, walkmate
- RT/PEG Feed

OLD AGE HOME EXCLUSIVE FOR BRAHMINS

Dressing | injections | catheterization | IV Cannulation | RT/PEG Feeding



☎ 76762 89023

☎ 63625 43616

☎ 70906 95002

📧 Anandas Brahmin ✉ anandassevasadana@gmail.com

www.anandassevasadana.com

We believe if you want Happiness in Life, Never be a Owner of Love, Always be Donor of Love !!

UNIT - 1 : # 40, 4th Main Road, 3rd Stage, BEML layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 098.

Ph : 080 - 4211 5788

UNIT - 2 : # 4-15, Survey No: 56, Muragappa Layout, Jawaragowda Nagar, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 098.

Ph : 080 - 4149 6133



Crime Prevention - A Criminologist's Perspective

Varsha Avadhany

Risk Culture & Security Expert

Contact : varsha.avadhany@gmail.com



West Vs East Variance in Workplace Violence

A young lady fell in love... Out of her community... A community known for honor killing! In a relationship disapproved by her family; she decides to elope. The scene changes to her workplace... Her entire extended family arrives at the office demanding to see the lady employee. An entire tribe at the workplace with weapons and aggressive body language... Imagine a security nightmare!!

It has been well established by Threat Assessment professionals that; personal life turmoil does affect workspaces. Thus, the cultural context of an employee's family and community background, are core to our assessment process to de-escalate a situation. This article examines the variance of cases in the West to that in the East in this very context.

1. Extrinsic vs Intrinsic-

Asians are known to be 'Drama Queen'. An employee holding a knife or sharp tool or bottle of poison in their hand and threatening to end their life is a common occurrence. This concerning behavior is often seen in 'Difficult Termination' cases. Many times, this has led to medico-legal battles for the company keeping all teams from Security, Legal, HR, Communication, and leadership busy.

Given this context workplaces in the East often witness cases of self-harm rather than harm to others. The recruitment of

Suicide Martyrs / Jihadists is predominantly in this part of the globe.

2. Perceived threat vs Visible threat-

Many countries are witnessing urbanization with a surge of disposable income in the current generation leading to miscommunication and perceived threats reporting at the workplace. Young men from Tier 2 & 3 cities in their eagerness to build relationships at the workplace tend to use the lingo of urban community often leading to discomfort of young women. While there might not be explicit innuendo of courting women, however, they do tend to have a patriarchal approach. They tend to look at women from the traditional lens of marriage and those who need men to protect them, etc.

Given this context, while conducting a fact-finding interview one needs to establish the intent of the conversation and then counsel the aggrieved party to lessen the impact of threat. A good communication strategy can defuse and de-escalate the threat in the system.

3. Individual vs Group manifestations-

As stated in the story that I began my write-up, Asians live as a tribe/ community. Their identity is highly defined by the sect, caste, and community they

belong to. How this co-relates to the Threat situation is how their community defines a particular behavior as 'Good, bad or ugly'. There are plenty of grey shades that need to be understood. However, one thing that is common across is 'Homicide or Suicide is not acceptable practice'... but the threats that ensued regarding that could be a matter of interpretation.

Extrapolating this, to the sense of justice... If your employee is engaged in an act of violence and is residing in a remote tribal area and belongs to the local community, the case rarely reaches law enforcement, it is resolved by the tribal / community leaders.

4. Digital penetration-

While one might say it is a digital world and everybody is hooked to a device, digital addiction in Asia is far higher. The market share of Social Media companies in Asia is seen as the highest including gaming companies maximizing their revenues through customization to Asian local cultures.

This penetration is the bedrock for hackers, cyber-crimes, and technical support teams for terror groups. As threat assessors, it is essential to observe behaviors that lean towards covert harmful acts.

While the above substantiates the majority of the scenarios one cannot ignore the trends of 'East is aping the West'. The behavior and cultural shake-ups that can be observed are

1. **Individualism** : Pandemic and post-pandemic brought in the syndrome 'My need, My space, My freedom'. Usually witnessed in Urban settings, where living in closed spaces during lockdown, led to

more aggression and differences rather than the resolution of conflicts. This phase also was witness to an 'identity crisis' which meant loose definitions of marital constructs leading to a rise in Domestic violence and divorce rates.

2. **Breakdown of family structures** : As discussed earlier Asian societies had family structures that were seen as a guardrail to the moral value system. Over time joint families are broken down into nuclear families and post-pandemic it is individual living. As such one's own survival takes predominance over doing good to others. Thus, one can see the rise in lone-wolf attackers in the Asian community, not necessarily with terror ideology, but just to seek attention through an act of violence.

3. **Violence with weapons** : Asians lately have discovered the power of physical weapons like knives, guns, and bombs as well the cyber tools like ransomware, identity thefts, phishing, etc to commit their crimes. The surge in individuals resorting to such crimes is due to two reasons... One seeking attention, and the second is the ability of radical / terror groups to attract talent in high-yielding projects both remuneratively and intellectually.

While there are variances there are commonalities too. Recounting the areas of intersection;

1. **Mental health failure**– The rise in anxiety disorders and depression is a worldwide phenomenon. This is seen as one of the major factors taken into account during a fact-finding interview of Human Threat Cases.
2. **Access to weapons** – Digital access has ensured that access to weapons either

handmade or procurement far easier for the bad guys. This knowledge has 'Eased the Act of violence'.

- 3. Threat of radicalization–** Geopolitical scenarios today are one the biggest inducers of violent thought processes... Whether it is the Pandemic virus, Wars in Ukraine or Israel, Insurgency attacks Election campaigns, all have brought strong expressions on various platforms whether in inter-personal conversations or social media rhetoric. These become the foundation of hate crimes leading to

recruitment to terror groups manifesting into terror attacks.

A few days I was reading a note on how to bring up our children... It was so focused on their 'sense of self' that there was no mention of their peer group... Sense of adaptability, Sense of inter-being, or Value of agreeing to disagree.

The bad guys have gone to basics as their Modus Operandi (MO)... Time for society to look beyond machines and understand the constructs of the Human mind!!

Significant events in December...

- 1887 – Famous mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujam was born on 22nd Dec. This day is known as National Mathematics day.
- 1941 – Pearl Harbor was bombed in surprise Japanese attack. It marked US entry to WW-2
- 1991 – USSR ceased to exist creating Commonwealth of Independent states on 8th Dec
- 2019 – A 55 year old man in Wuhan China, the first person know to have COVID-19 coronavirus on Dec 1. Corona virus was identified in China
- 1971 – Dec 16 marks decisive victory of India over Pakistan in the war which resulted in creation of Bangladesh.

(Compiled by Sudhir S Mysore)



Analytics Playground

Dr. Sahana Prasad

Data Scientist, Author

Contact: 9448854135; sahanaprasadp@gmail.com



Unveiling the Magic of Data Science - Discovering Insights to Make Better Decisions!

Part 7: Unveiling the Unusual: A Guide to Spotting Outliers and Anomalies

(Sharanya and Rihaan continue on their journey of understanding Data Science...)

Till now, Rihaan has learnt the importance, meaning, and usage of data. He has understood how to sort, filter, and find patterns in the data. In addition, the importance of numbers and qualitative information has also been explained by his mother Sharanya, and father Vineeth, who are playing an important role in shaping the future data scientist.



Vineeth : Isn't today a warm day? A bit surprising, isn't it? Having a warm day in the cold winter months?

Rihaan : Yes, just like an elderly lady was sitting in my class yesterday. Was funny to see her, amongst all the kids. Actually, it was a surprise and a bit weird too.

Vineeth : Oh, why was she there?

Rihaan : It seems she was visiting to learn a few teaching techniques and to observe my teacher.

Vineeth : Then it isn't weird, she was not a part of your class. She was an

external person; we can't call that surprise or special.

Rihaan : What would you call her if she joined my class?

Vineeth : well, she would be an outlier!

Rihaan : Oh, a new term! What does it mean, someone who doesn't fit in?

Vineeth : Yes, all the kids in your class are of a particular age group, and she is not in that range. But on a warm day, during the cold season is. Let's look at it from the data science view. In the vast landscape of data analysis, identifying outliers and anomalies is a crucial step toward understanding patterns, trends, and potential issues within a dataset.

Sharanya joins in. "Outliers, data points that deviate significantly from the norm, can carry valuable insights, or indicate errors that need correction. Let's explore the importance of spotting outliers and offer guidance on effective outlier detection".

Vineeth : Outliers can manifest in various forms, from extreme values in numerical data to unexpected patterns in categorical information.

Rihaan : How do these creep in?

Vineeth : Anomalies or outliers can arise

due to measurement errors, data entry mistakes, or even genuine but rare occurrences that can significantly impact the analysis if not appropriately addressed.

Sharanya : There are many techniques to find out if a value is an outlier, just like how we concluded that the elderly lady isn't an outlier, but a warm day in a cold winter month is.

Rihaan: How do we spot an outlier?

Sharanya: Machine learning algorithms are also powerful tools for outlier detection. These models learn the underlying patterns in the data and can flag instances that deviate significantly from these patterns.

Vineeth: Spotting outliers is not a one-size-fits-all process; it requires a combination of statistical rigor, domain knowledge, and creativity.

Sharanya: Recognizing outliers and anomalies is a fundamental aspect of data analysis. Whether you're exploring financial transactions, monitoring system performance, or studying population health, the ability to spot unusual patterns empowers you to make informed decisions and uncover hidden insights within your data.

(To be continued...)

Editor's Note

- AKBMS members and their families can submit their articles under any of the sections for publication: Poetry of the Month; Essay of the Month; Guest-Column. Please e-mail your articles to: Satyesh.bellur@gmail.com; gayathridevi2007@gmail.com
- We welcome your feedback and any constructive suggestions for improvement. Please mail them to: editorvipranudienglish@akbms.com
- The decision of the Editorial Board in terms of journal content will be final.



Nirmala Sitharaman on economy

“So, as we look at India, given the pandemic and the recovery from it, and also where we stand today, we see the decade before us... 2030 as a very robust decade where India would definitely be one of the fastest growing economies.”





The NRIs Kaliedoscope

Venki Prathivadi

Owens and operates an IT Consulting company in Melbourne, Australia

Contact: vprathivadi@gmail.com

LinkedIn Profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/venkiprathivadi/>



"Gold versus New Krishna Bhavan"

In this twelfth article of our series, let us take a nostalgic trip to NKB (New Krishna Bhavan) on Sampige Road, Malleswaram. Last week the famed and beloved hotel announced its closure after being in business for seventy years. Did our unquenchable greed for gold jewellery, cause it to close? What has gold jewellery got to do with the humble Jowar dosas and masala idlis served at NKB? Please read on and I will explain the connection.

A personal connection to NKB

NKB and CTR are iconic restaurants for people living in North Bangalore, just as MTR and Vidyarthi Bhavan are for people living in South Bangalore. I am writing from the viewpoint of a generation that was raised in the 1960's to 1970's. This generation is conservative, orthodox and driven by value for money. This is the generation that would feel emotional and saddened by the closure of iconic restaurants that middle-aged and middle-class people go to. This is not the younger generation that orders food through an App and gets it delivered from a stranger on a motorcycle, not knowing nor caring where or how that food was made. This is also not the generation that would go to eat idli, vada, and dosa in five-star hotels. This was a generation that did not even have dining tables at home.

This was a generation for which a humble dosa at NKB was something to look forward to as a big treat.

I left India three decades ago and I may have visited NKB less than three times during my visits to Bangalore. When I lived there, it was customary for my wife and me to dine at NKB at least once every month. Two of our favourite restaurants were NKB and Samrat. So, when we heard the news of Samrat's closure a few months ago followed by news of NKB's closure earlier this week, we experienced a nostalgic sadness. It seemed like someone was tearing out the history pages of our lives. It seems irrational to feel this way about a restaurant to which we had hardly been in the last 30 years. The connection between people and places, formed during their young and formative years cannot be explained by rationality and logic. Such is the connection we had with NKB and the nostalgia we experienced when we first heard about the news of its closure this week. Our first reaction was bewilderment followed by an aching desire to know why it was closing and whether they were moving somewhere else. Then came the realisation that we would not be able to relive a day of our younger lives by sitting at NKB and ordering our traditional favourites of Mangalore Bajji and Rava Idli followed by

Gulab Jamun and Coffee, during our next visit. We remembered our visits to NKB and our interactions. We never had to wait for a seat no matter when we went. Two seats always seemed to be magically free for us and everyone. There were no menus on the table those days. If we were not seated in direct sight of the menu board on the wall, then we would ask the waiter what was being served. The waiter rapidly called out the never-ending list of akki idli, rava idli, uddina vada, masala vada, bonda, mangaluru bajji, plain dosa, masala dosa, rava dosa, onion uttappam, khara bath, kesari bath, etc.

We would patiently and attentively listen, having already made up our minds even before we had sat down, and we would order mangaluru bajji and rava dosa. I wonder if the waiter ever suspected that we knew what we wanted but simply wanted to hear him say out the long list. Sadly, we will have to relive those experiences in our memory...

I later came to know that the site where NKB is located had been sold to a major Gold Jewellery chain. My instant and emotional reaction was that of disappointment and anger. How could such an iconic restaurant be sold to make way for a jewellery shop? Is Jewellery more important in life than an NKB Rava Dosa? Laughable reaction that explains our generation and the way we think. Our minds are used to certain patterns of life. If we wanted to buy gold jewellery, we would go to Avenue Road and if we wanted to eat Masala Dosa or Rava Idli we would go to NKB. Why would a Gold Jewellery business replace our favourite restaurant in that location? Does it make sense?

Replacing an iconic restaurant in a prime location with a gold jewellery store makes a lot of economic sense in present-day Bangalore, although it seems like emotional nonsense to our generation. As hard as it is to accept, let us try to make sense of this development even though we might never come to terms with it. At the end of the day, money is everything and it runs the world. Rava Dosas doesn't define Bengaluru anymore, sadly.

Gold versus NKB – Economic reasoning

- Let us assume that the site in Sampige Road, Malleswaram is worth Rs. 100 crores (This is just an assumption and I have no real way to assess the worth of that block of land)
- Let us assume the NKB serves 2000 people a day at that restaurant, earning approximately Rs.250 per person, on average. That's a turnover of Rs 5 Lakh rupees per day.
- That is a turnover (sales)to asset/day of 0.05%. In simplistic terms, this food business is producing sales of 5 paise every day for an asset of Rs.100.
- Let's demolish the restaurant and build a grand multi-storey jewellery store at that site. It would not be an exaggeration to assume that this store would sell Rs. 50 lakhs/day worth of jewellery, on average. That would be a turnover that is 10 times that of the food business.
- From an economic sense, it would make perfect sense to replace NKB with a swank

jewellery store. Clearly, the demand for jewellery is higher than the demand for food and the returns are significantly higher.

This brings us to a few philosophical questions to consider.

- Who do we blame for the closure of NKB? The owners of NKB or the Jewellery chain or ourselves, the public? If we did not have this unquenchable demand for more jewellery would there be a need for more jewellery stores?
- Does this mean more such iconic restaurants and other buildings will make way for mega stores that sell jewellery and high-value fashion goods? Will our beloved CTR close one day?
- Most importantly, does this bother the present generation Bengalurean or is this the rant of an older generation person of Indian origin whose memory of Bengaluru is stuck in the 1970's while the city itself has moved on and is unrecognisable?



Free Heart Check-up for members during AGM in Hubli



The Selfless Warriors of Shivaji

Guru Prasad Bhat

Telecom Industry Veteran, Author
Contact: 9819324363;
gurubhat@hotmail.com



The Selfless Warriors of Shivaji

2. Shivaji's Parents

In this article, we shall delve into Shivaji's parents, who played a significant role in molding him into a great leader and statesman. He eventually succeeded in establishing an independent Hindavi Swarajya based on the foundations of justice and the welfare of his subjects.

Shahaji Bhosle, Shivaji's father :



In the previous article, we learned about how Shahaji was banished from Maharashtra and how the Mughals and Adil Shahi empires combined forces to succeed in thwarting Shahaji's dream of establishing a sovereign Hindu state.

When Shahaji was exiled to Bengaluru, he relocated there with his first son, Shambhuji. He also took a second wife named Tukabai, and from this union, Ekoji (also known as Vyankoji of Tanjore) was born in 1632. Before his departure to Bengaluru, Shahaji appointed the nine-year-old Shivaji as the acting ruler of the Supe and Junnar jagir.

While he was confined to Bengaluru and in service of Bijapur Sultan Adhil Shahi, Shahaji

sent many highly respected Maratha noblemen who were extremely loyal to him, along with several capable military generals, to help train Shivaji in the administration of this small state. The Supe and Junnar jagir had a meager annual income of approximately one lakh twenty-five thousand rupees, and Shivaji had no option but to maximize its utilization for his people. Some of these individuals included:

1. Dadoji Kondadev (his teacher and overall in charge of the Supe fief).
2. Shamrao, also known as Shyamraj Neelkanta Ranzekar (Prime Minister).
3. Balakrishna Hanumante (Finance Minister and Auditor General).
4. Sonaji, also known as Sonopant (Dabir or Chief Secretary).
5. RaghunathaBallalKorde (Sabnis or Treasurer and Cashier).

In addition, Gomaji Nayak Pansambal taught him horse riding, swordsmanship, artillery, and the practice of war, with a particular focus on the use of the lance and the art of planning and executing guerrilla warfare. Despite being compelled to live far away in Bengaluru, Shahaji ensured Shivaji

received comprehensive training. These Maratha noblemen provided instruction in the administration of his jagir, Dharma-centered jurisprudence, all facets of warfare, guerrilla warfare tactics, and strategies, and more.

The most important secret of the Brahmastra was revealed by Shahaji himself to Shivaji. He explained that a thorough knowledge of the hilly terrain and forests, along with the strategic use of these natural resources in actual battlefields, could help in defeating a larger enemy with limited means. What we now call guerrilla warfare, Shivaji learned the secrets of from his father and perfected with teachings from Gomaji Nayak Pansambal.

All of them keenly observed the daily conduct of Shivaji and his progress in the political aspects of his training. They guided, mentored, and, over time, successfully nurtured a mature leader before he transitioned from adolescence to youthful exuberance into an unparalleled warrior and extraordinary military tactician. Credit for this achievement must be attributed to Shahaji.

The task of building the Swarajya was indeed carried out by Shivaji, but its core concept and initial plan belonged to Shahaji. While the glory of establishing historical Hindavi Swarajya rightfully goes to Shivaji, a significant portion of the credit must be attributed to Shahaji. It was Shahaji who laid the groundwork, which Shivaji later completed, to establish the Swarajya.

Jijabai, Shivaji's mother:

From the day Shivaji was born, his mother Jijabai influenced him. Throughout his

childhood and into adulthood, she shared moral stories from epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata, as well as lessons learned from historical tragedies such as those of Prithviraj Chauhan and Rani Padmini. Jijabai instilled a strong sense of morality and ethics in Shivaji, and she succeeded in shaping the great personality that he became. Her teachings helped Shivaji develop the ability to clearly distinguish between good and bad, and she instilled in him high standards of moral and ethical values, which were exemplified in countless ways throughout the life of Shivaji Maharaj.



Jijabai served as Shivaji's most trusted advisor during wartime. She consistently encouraged him to maintain hope and never abandon his dream of Hindavi Swarajya, even during the most challenging moments of his life. This determination was evident when he had to sign the Purandhara Treaty, mortgage his only son, SambhajiRaje, to the Moghuls, hand over most of his forts to Mirza RajeJaising, and reluctantly agree to fight on behalf of the Mughals, cringed Shivaji's heart. Jijabai helped him overcome despair and reignited his focus on Swarajya. It was a time when most ordinary kings would have given up and surrendered, but Jijabai's counsel was invaluable to Shivaji.

Jijabai was an excellent stateswoman. From Shivaji's childhood, later during Shivaji's continuous military campaigns, she managed the affairs of the state efficiently, justly, and following Dharma principles. Her fame as

Rajmata Jijabai was a result of her unwavering determination, faith, integrity, courage, patience, humility, sense of duty, and unwavering devotion to Dharma. She held firm beliefs in selfless service, immense resolve, and self-sacrifice for the cause of Swarajya.

Jijabai embodied an inexhaustible treasure trove of diverse virtues. She was not just an extraordinary Hindu woman but fulfilled many roles - as a daughter, sister, wife, daughter-in-law, mother, grandmother, and finally, as a great-grandmother. Her vision, foresight, and unyielding perseverance came to fruition when, about 500 years later, India saw its first majestic Hindu king's coronation.

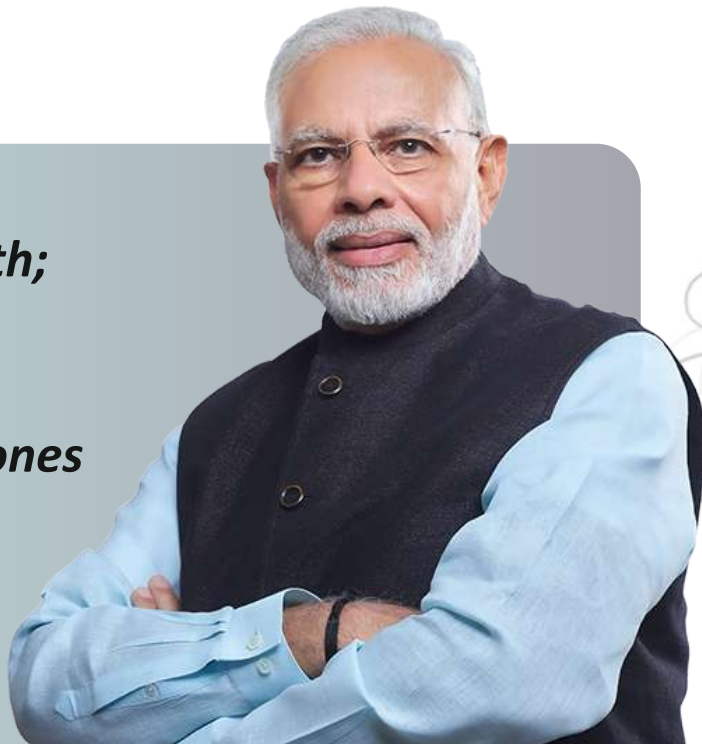
Shahaji Maharaj died in a horse riding accident in Hodigere, near Davanagere, in 1664. Jijabai passed away in 1674, just within twelve days of Shivaji's grand coronation as the Chatrapati. Perhaps she lived only to witness

her son fulfill her lifelong aspiration of establishing an independent Hindavi Swarajya.

Even after three and a half centuries have passed, the value of the name 'Shivaji' remains extremely relevant even into the twenty-first century. Just as Sri Samarth Ramadas Swami advised Shivaji Maharaj with the counsel of 'Rule with selflessness,' his conduct as a ruler, the way he lived, and his supreme adherence to Dharma principles ultimately won the admiration of Swami Samarth Ramadas. This admiration led to the composition of 'Shiv Kalyan Raja,' a poem in praise of him. We can still learn from Shivaji Maharaj's life even today.

In the next few articles, we shall review the other great personalities who influenced Shivaji into the great leader that he was.

***“Each one of us has both;
good and evil virtues.
Those who decide
to focus on the good ones
succeed in life”.***





Wit & Wisdom

Dr.A. Gayathri Devi

(Retired) Professor of English
Contact: 9886428812;
gayathridevi2007@gmail.com

ANECDOTES OF WRITERS OF REPUTE

DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON:

Dr Johnson ruled the literary world in the mid-18th Century. He led an enviable life with respect and rewards pouring from all walks of life. He was known for his wit & wisdom and was a conversationalist par excellence. He was a Jack of all and master too. A monumental biography of the versatile genius is written by James Boswell.



Once Mr. Robertson said " Dr. Johnson allow me to say that in one respect I have the advantage over you. When you were in Scotland you would not come to hear any of our preachers, whereas, when I am here, I attend your public worship without scruple, and indeed, with great satisfaction. "

Johnson replied "Why sir, that is so extraordinary? The King of Siam sent ambassadors to Louis XVI: But Louis the XIV sent none to the King "

Johnson was greatly admired by everyone including Oliver Goldsmith. He remarked "There is no arguing with Johnson. If his pistol misses fire, he knocks you with the butt. "

OSCAR WILDE.

Oscar Wilde, an Irish



playwright is known as a repository of wit and wisdom.

Wilde was hugely popular. It is said that during his tour of America, he was much sought after. He said that he had to have two secretaries.. one to write his AUTOGRAPH !! and reply to hundreds of emails that came to him begging for a reply and asking for a lock of his hair to all the lady fans !!!

Wilde is known for his sense of repartee. Once someone said "Sir, The Queen... Talk about the Queen " They were challenging his ability to speak on any subject spontaneously loaded with wit. Wilde was not the one to lose. He instantly replied "The Queen is not a subject "

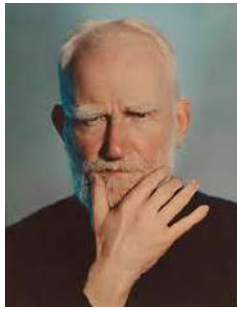
Oscar Wilde often quipped that a Honeymoon in Niagara is the first disappointment of the American marriage. Once as he was watching the roaring Niagara, he heard someone exclaiming " Oh! What a wonderful Fall! "

Wilde turned quickly and quipped " The wonder would be if the water didn't fall!!! "

Oscar Wilde was famous for his lectures on aesthetics. Once some people from Griggsville requested him to lecture on aesthetics. Oscar Wilde sent his reply "Begin by changing the name of your town "

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

Bernard Shaw needs no introduction. Shaw's place is unique as a Playwright, novelist, and essayist. His gift for outwitting people is outstanding.



Once Bernard remarked that there were only two notable events in the 20th century. One was his birth on 26th July 1856 and the other was Tennyson's writing of the famous line "God fulfils himself in many ways" What a royal way to announce oneself to the World.

The play Androcles and the Lion was a roaring success. Once Shaw was also amongst the spectators and watching the play. At the end of the play, there were shouts from the audience "Author! Author!" Shaw got up from his seat and looked at the audience. He said "This play already has one Lion"

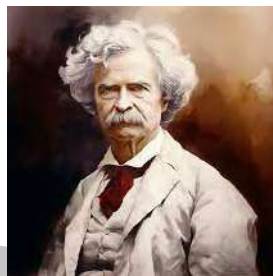
Once Bernard Shaw wished to watch an opera with his wife. Tickets were sent. The Manager of the Opera House reserved one seat in the front row and another in the third row, as it was a full house. Shaw immediately sent him a telegram "Whom God hath joined, let no man put asunder"

The Manager showed the Telegram to the person in the adjoining seat in the front row. The man-made way for Shaw. Thus Shaw and his wife were able to watch the play together.

Once Shaw remarked regarding Books "Books are always the better for not being read. Look at our Classics!" Shaw's light-hearted witticisms are ever so popular.

MARK TWAIN.

Mark Twain is one of



the most adored American Humourists. He loved the countryside and that was the basis of his humour.

Mark Twain was known for his lethargic habits. Once when his secretary, a lady was asked to take notes from Twain, his wife told him that she had arrived. Mark was his cool self and asked his wife to send the secretary in. His wife protested "She is a lady. It is not proper to ask her to come to the bedroom, sit and take notes. You are still in bed!!" "True" Twain thought for a minute to solve the problem and gleefully with a twinkle in his eyes he said, "Ask someone to bring in another bed"!!!!

When someone asked Twain about his belief in heaven and hell, he said "I don't want to express an opinion. You see, I have friends in both places"

At a tea party in honour of Mark Twain, a lady wanted to impress him with her knowledge of English. She asked him whether he knew that sugar was the only word in the English Language spelt with 'SU' but pronounced "SHU" Mark Twain turned to her and smiling at her he asked, "Are you sure?"

On April 1st, he remarked, "This is the day upon which we are reminded of what we are on the other 364 days."

The sober, uncanny skill of our authors of yesteryears to outwit the ordinary people brings out their brilliance in humour. It's a powerful weapon in their hands to satirise the individual and society at large. Their aim is not to criticize and be vengeful but one of reformers. They uplift the psyche of the individual and bring healthy reforms to society.



Short Story

B.R. Bhimachar

Author, (Retired) Professor of English.

Contact: 9741419764

(At 98 years, he is the youngest writer we have...!)



A Day Will COME...

"Hey man... I am talking to you. This place is not your father's property. Remove your luggage from here. Had I not placed by bed and bag here before you came in?"

"So, does this place then become your father's property? How can you occupy so much space to put your bed and bag? Do you think that we have come here without paying for the tickets?"

"Hey... give some respect while talking to me. Do you expect me to give way to you as soon as you come in? If that was the case, you should come at least an hour before the gates opened"

"Hey, misters... will you both be fighting like this or will you guys move forward? We are not standing here to watch your stupid fight? Move on... Move on... We want to reach our cities as soon as we can..."

"Who is that vagabond? He came as

though he was curious to witness your fight. In the melee, he silently slipped ahead of all of us in the queue "

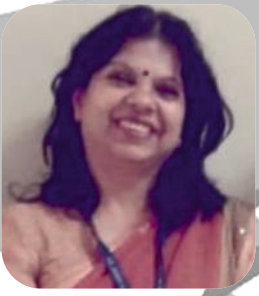
"Pull that rascal out of the queue first. Looks decently dressed, but ends up doing sneaky and horrible stuff of overstepping the queue"

"Who is that scoundrel calling me a rascal? I am standing in the queue right from the morning. I had just gone out to the restroom..."

"How dare you call me a scoundrel? Pull him out of the queue... We are standing here for so long and this guy gets in ahead of us..."

As people were shouting, fighting, and pushing one another, the loudspeakers came alive – "The Jet Airways plane is now ready to depart from Bengaluru to Mumbai. Request all the passengers to..."

(The story is a translation of the original in Kannada from the book "Putapaaka" written by Satyesh N. Bellur)



Dr. Anita R Bijoor

Professor and Head – Department of Biochemistry,
St. John's Medical College
Contact: 9880302622; anita.bijoor@gmail.com

Soul to Soul

The climatic change, the pandemic,
The French opens, the T20 matches
The hate speeches, the parliamentary discussions
The bullish trends in the stock markets
Will surely take up long hours of conversation!

But between you and me, the fleeting seconds of us
Smiling and watching together, the stubborn butterfly
Who refuses to settle on a flower !
The laughter together as I narrate the act of spilling my coffee this morning
Your amused look as you listen to my constant grumbling
Leave everlasting prints on my soul.

For the soul - no newspaper headlines matter !
For the soul- no television trailings impact
The warmth of a momentary holding of hands
The startle of an unexpected hug
These are the soul conversations which matter
These are little discussions of the soul !

Between you and me
The big little things in life are important
For it is the little things that create waves of excitement
Which rise to unimaginable heights
And cause ripples of true happiness !

Between you and me
Let's not allow these big little excitements
To crumble and be crushed
Into the trough of silence
For these are the conversations
For these are the discussions
Soul to soul !





Photo Gallery for December 2023

VIPRANUDI

December - 2023

AKBMS

Historic AGM held in Hubli



**Blessings by
Sri Ramachandrapura Seer for our
forthcoming Women's Convention**



**Blessings by
Sri Mantralaya Seer to our
Mysuru committee members**



**President extending an invitation to
Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman who has
consented to be the Chief Guest at our
forthcoming Women's Convention**



**Felicitation to President during
Tulu Circle's 50th annual function**

To,

Note from AKBMS

- ♦ **The tariff for publishing your advertisements in this journal is provided hereby. We eagerly look forward to your kind contributions...**

o **Advertisement Tariff**

○ Back Cover– Outside - Colour:	INR 15,000
○ Back Cover – Inside – Colour:	INR 10,000
○ Front Cover – Inside – Colour	INR 10,000
○ Inside – Full Page – Black & White	INR 8,000
○ Inside – Half Page – Black & White	INR 4,000
○ Inside – Quarter Page – Black & White	INR 2,500
○ Sponsorship for any one article	INR 1,000

* The above rates are for (single) monthly insertion

** For those opting for annual – 12 insertions, there will be a special 15% discount offered on the total amount.

*** For further details, please get in touch with AKBMS office or call 9845038669

o **Bank Details:**

- Name: Akhila Karnataka Brahmana Mahasabha
- Bank: Karnataka Bank Limited, 2nd stage, Banashankari
- Account No: 1072500102058301
- IFSC Code: KARB0000107

- ♦ **The subscription fee for getting the print copy of the journal is Rs. 1000 for 2 years (Includes 24 editions)**

You can subscribe to the journal using the links that can be found on the AKBMS website. Various payment options are available. It is so simple...

<https://akbms.com/Home/vipranudiJournal>