

# VIPRANUDI

English Journal from the house of AKBMS



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## Capt M.V.Pranjal



(1995 – 22.11.2023)  
laid down his life for the  
country while fighting  
the terrorists...

Pranjal grew up in Mangaluru in Karnataka. He was the only son of Sri M. Venkatesh and Smt. Anuradha. He was married to Aditi a couple of years back. He always nurtured the idea of serving in the Armed Forces while growing up. He got selected to join the Army through TES-30 (Technical Entry Scheme), after having secured 2nd 'All India rank' in the competitive examination. He was commissioned into the Corps of Signals, an important arm that provides communication to the Indian army during war and peace.

During Nov 2023, Capt MV Pranjal's unit 63 RR was deployed in the Rajouri sector of the Kashmir valley known to have been infested with militants. As such the unit had to undertake counter-insurgency operations regularly. When one such search operation was underway, a fierce gun battle ensued with a heavy exchange of fire from both sides. The terrorists including their leader were holed up in a mud hut and were targeting the troops from there. Capt MV Pranjal, sensing the lurking danger and in a bid to save the lives of civilians, particularly women and children, came out of his cover to pin down the terrorists. However, while doing so, Capt MV Pranjal got caught in the volley of fire, sustaining bullet injuries. He soon succumbed to his injuries and was martyred.

His poem titled "A strong reply" which he wrote days after the Surgical Strike is a testimony of his courage, conviction and commitment to the "call of the nation" that he so passionately stood for all his life. He will be remembered by the young and the old, for a long long time to come...



## A STRONG REPLY

### M. V. PRANJAL

IT WASN'T A USUAL DAY...  
YEARS OF PATIENCE AND SILENCE,  
BEING TAKEN OVER BY  
AGGRESSIVENESS, IN ORDER TO AVENGE...

ATTIRED IN THE OLIVE GREENS,  
TAKING THE COVER OF THE NIGHT SKY,  
SOME OF THE NATION'S BEST MEN  
HANDLED OVER A BEFITTING REPLY...

DIPLOMATIC TALKS AND SHAKE OF HANDS,  
NOT IN THEIR PURVIEW... WITH A FINGER ON  
TRIGGER AND EYES SET ON TARGET,  
THESE ELITE MEN KNEW JUST THEIR TASK...

PRECISION, SPEED AND SKILL,  
A DEADLY COMBINATION...

HOURS LATER, THE WORLD  
WOULD WAKE UP TO A SURPRISE...

BEING THE TOPIC OF THE DAY,  
INTELLECTUALS HAD THEIR SAY...  
BUT, FOR THESE MEN, IT WAS JUST A  
MISSION, WELL ACCOMPLISHED; PERIOD.  
AND, THEY HAD NOTHING MORE TO SAY...

CONTENTED WITH WHAT THEY DID,  
THESE SILENT HEROES STEPPED BACK...  
LEAVING THE STAGE OPEN FOR MEN AND  
WOMEN TO QUESTION AND FIND ANSWERS...

NATION'S BACKBONE WAS STRONG 'N' INTACT!  
FOR THEM, IT WAS THE START OF A NEW DAY...  
TO PROTECT A BILLION LIVES,  
AS THEY DO, DAY AFTER DAY...!

Written by M. V. Pranjal, days after the Surgical Strike..

07/10/2016

PIC-COLLAGE

## CONTENTS

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Topic	Page
Presidential Message	3
From the desk of the Editor	5
AKBMS News & Events - Savithri Ramesh	7
Guest Column - Varsha Avadhany	9
Thus Spake Lord Krishna - Veena Prahlad	12
My quest for spiritual well-being - Satyesh N Bellur	15
Real Lessons in History - Paresh Nadig	17
Mind over Matter - Anitha Nadig	19
Performing Arts - Dr.S.N. Susheela	22
Spaceuse - P.G.Diwakar	24
The selfless warriors of Shivaji - Guru Prasad Bhat	26
Wit & Wisdom - Dr. A. Gayathri Devi	28
Short Story - B.R. Bhimachar	31
Whip of Humour - N. Ramanath	32
Rhyme and Rhythm - Dr. Anita R Bijoor	34







# Presidential Message

**Ashok Haranahalli**  
President - AKBMS

Dear Friends

Namaskaram to all my Vipra friends.

We just recently celebrated MahaShivaratri and I wish Lord Shiva showers his blessings on all of us.

It is a well-known fact that we at AKBMS have been celebrating many festivals at Gayathri Bhavan. This time we celebrated Maha Shivaratri by doing four Yama Pooja. On 8th March, we organized this Pooja, and the first Yama Pooja was done from 6 pm to 9 pm. All our Shiva Bhaktas participated in this Pooja and received the blessings of Lord Shiva.

As you all are aware, Mahasabha has grown from strength to strength in the past couple of years. Various activities and initiatives of the Mahasabha saw large-scale participation and reaching out to various districts and interiors of Karnataka. This has been possible only because of all of you Vipras. This also is possible only when all of us are well organized and have formed a bond that makes us all proud. But it is not enough to be strengthened just for a short while. This has to continue to grow more and more in terms of unity, building over our strong foundation. This wave has to be permanent. We as Brahmins, started as priests and agriculturists. Moving forward, we have developed and progressed according to the requirements of different

ages, spread our wings in various professions and careers, and contributed to society, while not leaving our priesthood or agriculture. This goes to show the dynamic nature of Brahmins and the flexible nature to adapt, survive, and shine in various fields.

We must continue with this legacy or otherwise, our future generations will lose out on our rich and unique traditions. There is a danger that we would be lost on what is the righteous path and the lessons that our Hindu literature has offered us. As it is we see today's so-called progressive generation is slowly weaning away from our culture and traditions. We are more into seeking materialistic pleasures. But when in difficulty, it is God we turn to for solace and solutions. We need to connect with the God Almighty through our daily ritualistic prayers. But somehow these practices seem to be losing their importance. So doesn't it become all the more important to stay connected and sustain this beautiful and meaningful tradition and culture? It is of paramount importance that the Priests who practice these valued traditions should not only be respected but need to be nurtured too. I believe that you will agree with me on this. Veda Shastra Poshane Sabha of Mysore has been doing a lot of progressive work time on time to encourage, protect, and nurture our culture and recognize the priests of our community by giving them awards and various supports which is highly appreciated and is in fact the need of the hour. Such initiatives should be spread across the country.

On the threshold of Elections, the cry of caste census is being heard again. The Mahasabha had written a letter to the Government three months ago against the caste census report and we are observing the Government's action in this regard.

Apart from this, the appointment of the Chairman of the Karnataka State Brahmin Development Board has been delayed for a few months now. It is indeed a matter of happiness that ShreAsagoduJayasimha who has served the Congress party for many decades, is a

senior member of the party has been appointed as the President of the Brahmin Development Board. In the coming days, under the leadership of Shri. AsagoduJayasimha, the Board will launch new programs for the prosperity of the Vipra Community. Looking forward to some exciting initiatives from the Board that will result in continuous progress for the Brahmin community.

*Ashok Haranahalli*  
Yours Truly

**Ashok Haranahalli**

## Quotable Quotes from Kalpana Chawla



Do something because you really want to do it. If you're doing it just for the goal and don't enjoy it, then I think you're cheating yourself

The path from dreams to success does exist. May you have the vision to find, the courage to get on to it and the perseverance to follow it

When you look at the stars and the galaxy, you feel that you are not just from any particular piece of land, but from the solar system





## From the Editor's desk.../

**Satyesh N. Bellur**  
Editor-in-chief

Dear Readers...

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



Self and Varsha Avadhany had an opportunity to meet with the parents of Capt. Pranjal, who became a martyr fighting terrorists in Kashmir recently. We discussed at length Pranjal's childhood, his passion to serve the Indian Armed Forces and how they, as his parents stood by him all through. Varsha, in this edition's Guest Column, has enumerated salient points of our interview with Pranjal's parents. One of our co-writers in the journal, Prof. Vedavyas had arranged for this meeting and we thank him for the same. Please don't miss out on reading this. We also found it appropriate to feature Capt. Pranjal on our cover page this edition. This is our way of saluting the boy and his parents for the immense sacrifice that they have made for our nation.



We have another interesting news to share. Mr. P.G. Diwakar, ISRO Chair Professor and a renowned Space Scientist of India has agreed to write a column for us, starting this edition. It is titled – "Spaceuse: Space Applications for Development". He would be writing about various applications that are developed / can be developed using space technology as a backdrop. We strongly feel that this is a big value-add for our journal and students, in particular, would derive inspiration to explore their interests in this field of leading-edge technology. Mr. Diwakar – Welcome aboard and wish you well.



Dr. M. Surya Prasad, an esteemed member

of AKBMS and a renowned art critic was recently awarded – “Sri Tyagaraj Prashasti” by Mysuru Mulakanadu Sabha. On behalf of the Editorial Board, it is my privilege to heartily congratulate Dr. Surya Prasad on this momentous occasion.

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 Bellur*  
**Satyesh N. Bellur**

### Answers to Puzzles – What am I?

1-An Echo; 2-A Candle; 3-Letter “R”; 4-All the people were married; 5-Heroine

### Significant events in March...

- 1839 – World Famous businessman Jamsetji Tata was born on 3rd March
- 1909 – International Women’s day is started to celebrate on 8th March
- 1928 – Indian scientist CV Raman ji presented his research on diffraction of light to the world on 1st March
- 1987 – Sunil Gavaskar made history. On 7th March, he scored 10,000 runs in test matches
- 1993 – 13 bomb blasts in Mumbai on 13th March led to death of 257 people and more than 800 injured

(Compiled by Sudhir S Mysore)



# AKBMS – News & Events

## Savithri Ramesh

Lead members of the AKBMS Women's wing.  
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We have great pleasure in bringing this report highlighting some recent activities of AKBMS held during February - March 2024, to your perusal.

### Events and Programs of AKBMS :

1. An unforgettable event of the Disciple initiating ceremony – Shishya Sweekara was organized by the Swarnavalli Mutt. Shri Ananda Bhodhendra Swamy was initiated to be the Uttaradhikari of the Mutt by his Guru Sri Sri Sri Gangadharendra Saraswathi Mahaswami in a five-day program that was attended by at least 60 thousand devotees and Disciples. AKBMS management took part in these ceremonies.
2. On 12/02/24 a grand ceremony was organized at Sringeri to give a heart-touching send-off to the outgoing Chief Administrator of Sri Sringeri Mutt Shri Gowri Shankar. Our Mahasabha committee honoured him and fondly remembered the services and support rendered by Shri Gowri Shankar.
3. Bharat Ratna was awarded to Shri. Choudhary Charan Singh and Shri. Dr. M. S. Swaminathan. AKBMS in their press releases lauded these proud sons of India.



4. Mr. Pramod Deshpande Adki, member of AKBMS, Kalburgi and an ardent reader of our journal, paid

his homage to the departed leader from Maharashtra, Late Sri Manohar Joshi through his writing that we have pleasure in reproducing here: QUOTE

### Profound Grief on the Passing of Shri Manohar Joshi

The Akhila Karnataka Brahmana Mahasabha, on behalf of its State President and all its esteemed Executive Members, expresses its deepest sorrow and heartfelt condolences on the passing away of Shri Manohar Joshi, a distinguished leader and an exemplary figure.

### A Legacy of Service and Dedication:

Shri Joshi's life was a testament to dedication, integrity, and unwavering commitment to public service. He served the nation with distinction, leaving an indelible mark on the political landscape of Maharashtra and India. His tenure as Chief Minister of Maharashtra witnessed significant



strides in infrastructure development, social welfare initiatives, and fostering industrial growth. As a Union Minister, he championed advancements in science and technology, education, and information dissemination, shaping the nation's future trajectory.

**Beyond Politics: A Guiding Light :**

Beyond his political accomplishments, Shri Joshi was revered for his kindness, compassion, and unwavering moral compass. He earned the respect of colleagues and the admiration of the people he served, leaving behind a legacy that transcends political affiliations.

**A Deep Loss, An Enduring Inspiration :**

The Akhila Karnataka Brahmana Mahasabha acknowledges the immense loss our nation has suffered with Shri Joshi's passing. His absence leaves a void, but his remarkable contributions and inspirational life story will continue to serve as a beacon for generations to come.

**Offering Our Sincere Condolences :**

We offer our deepest condolences to Shri Joshi's family and friends during this difficult time. May they find solace in the knowledge that his life touched countless individuals and his dedication to the nation will forever be cherished. Om Shanti. UNQUOTE

(Editor's Note: Many activities of AKBMS go unnoticed and unrecorded. It is our request for all the Heads of various AKBMS committees to share details of their activities and the impact they have had on its target audience. Please send details to saviramesh14@gmail.com )

**Quotable Quotes from Mary Kom**



Don't let anyone tell you are weak simply because you are a woman

Have faith you can do anything

Don't let others' opinions affect you



## Guest Column

**Varsha Avadhany**

Risk Culture & Security Expert

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### The Real-Life Hero who demonstrated relentless passion...



grow up to be a soldier and nothing less!

Growing up on the green campus of Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL), it was natural for him to choose the profession of engineering, like many of his classmates. However, a Microsoft Flight Simulator game, gifted by his father, strengthened his resolve to join the Armed Forces. The game was the practice-pitch for him to nurture his ambition of becoming an Air Force pilot, the resolve of which was strengthened by the movie 'Lakshya', which has given a sense of focus to thousands of youths in the country. Pranjal had an obsession with the oath taken by soldiers during their 'Passing out Parade' ceremony. Right from the 8th grade, tens of times a day, he would passionately recite -"I, MV Pranjal,

do swear in the name of God that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the constitution of India... Honestly and faithfully I will serve in the regular army of the union of India... Observe and obey all the commands of the President of the union of India and the commands of any officer set above me, **EVEN TO THE PERIL OF MY LIFE...**"He lived his passion and dreams like no one has.

He chose the Technical Entry Scheme (TES) of Indian Army and made necessary applications. The selection process spanned nearly 15 days, including medical examinations. He cleared the entire SSB selection process, including the mountainous psychological tests and physical endurance tests, in the very first attempt. He came out with flying colours, with a temporary medical rejection on account of being underweight. With dedication, he gained 7 kgs in the next 40 odd days and reappeared for medicals and finally, he emerged as one of the toppers in the merit list of TES 30 batch, with an All India Rank 2. He joined Officer Training Academy (OTA) Gaya on 4th January 2014 at the age of 18.

His first year was basic military training having drills, getting used to physical hardships of battlefields, and building team spirit through the most trying circumstances.

Some of these are exactly what one sees in movies, like Front Roll exercise, trench crawling through heavy shelling, Run-back marathon with heavy backpacks, and carrying your injured team members back to base. Post this training, Pranjal chose to get further training as a Telecommunications and IT Engineer to join the Signal Corp. What is noticeable is that Pranjal, born in an orthodox Brahmin family, is a strict Vegetarian. He didn't have to compromise on this. The vegetarian diet administered by the army during their entire period of training is well structured and is indeed quite healthy and adequate to sustain the rigours of training and army life.



Cadet MV Pranjal was commissioned in the Indian Army as Lieutenant on 9th December 2017. Subsequent to his completion of the B.Tech degree from Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Madhya Pradesh, He was posted in Ambala in Strike Core 1. He adorned with the rank of Captain on 9th Dec 2019. Subsequently he was deputed to Rastrya Rifles (RR) 63 battalion in Rajouri sector of J&K during November 2021. RR is a counter insurgency force raised by Indian Army during 1990 to effectively tackle the terrorism menace in the state of J&K.

Pranjal was known for his sharp intellect. He always stood by his team and was able to decipher complex codes. He excelled in “chaffing the grain from the weeds” and believed in collecting ground-level intelligence to substantiate the threat findings. Most of all, he was always “leading from the front”. This quality of him was depicted even when he was laying down his life to protect his men and his country. What is to be observed is the Culture of the Armed forces. They are exemplary in ensuring the well-being of the troops, and by troops, they don't look at the troops as individuals but as a part of the family. Thus, when it comes to mourning the son of the soil, the entire force comes together to be “one family”. Even in the case of Pranjal, the Army stood by his sacrifices and he was awarded The 'Shauraya Chakra' on the Republic Day this year. The same shall be conferred on him during the defence Investiture Ceremony, expected to take place during early April 2024.

### **PARENTING FOR BATTLE READINESS**

I met the parents of the slain soldier. Smt. Anuradha was holding back her tears and was telling us “My son's soul wouldn't be happy if I cry for his act of bravery”. It gave me mixed feeling of gut/heart crunching emotions. I salute her for she is one such mother, who while talking about her son is filled with pride in having raised a brave heart for the nation. Pranjal's father, Mr. M Venkatesh had a similar stance – Absolutely proud of his boy who had done his country a great service.





While talking to Pranjal's parents, we constantly asked - "Didn't you ever discourage your son from joining the forces?". They said in unison "We never wanted to impede his ambitions. We always believed that the role assigned to them by the Almighty was to nurture his ambitions, imbibe in him the right value-systems and fine-tune his thoughts to go for everything he believed in" It speaks volumes of the commitment that Pranjal's parents have demonstrated all through his life.

Pranjal was ably supported in all walks of his life by Aditi G Muddebihalkar, whom he had married two years ago.

Parents were there with him at every stage of his life. They were waiting outside all day

long when he was in the examination centre; they would anxiously wait for him to call upon his return to base from a difficult exercise or a military operation; one can only imagine the kind of pain they must be going through now, knowing that there will not be any more calls from him. They will certainly have glorious memories of him that they will carry through their lives. In their eyes and hearts, Pranjal would remain alive... He would motivate millions of Indian youth to dream and passionately follow it...

**The nation stands to Salute not only the Hero, but also his family that raised such a fine soldier...**

*(Editorial Note: The readers know Miss. Varsha Avadhany through her quite unique column "Crime Prevention" that is being featured in this journal. She enumerates the story of Capt. Pranjal who laid his life recently while fighting the terrorists. This is excerpts from our interview with Pranjal's parents. We salute both the Hero and his parents...)*

## 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](mailto:Satyesh.bellur@gmail.com); [gayathridevi2007@gmail.com](mailto:gayathridevi2007@gmail.com)
- We welcome your feedback and any constructive suggestions for improvement. Please mail them to: [editorvipranudienglish@akbms.com](mailto:editorvipranudienglish@akbms.com)
- The decision of the Editorial Board in terms of journal content will be final.



# Thus Spake Lord Krishna

**Mrs. Veena Prahlad**

Eternal student, Gitaadhyayee  
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## Navigating Anxiety Through the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita

It's exam season, and anxiety permeates the atmosphere. From parents to students, schools to faculty, even the education board feels its weight. Questions about this issue were touched upon in movies like "3 Idiots" and, to some extent, "Taare Zameen Par" (maybe other movies too) However, real life differs from reel, and merely raising questions isn't enough, though it's a start. Acknowledging the problem is crucial, yet our education system scarcely pauses to consider whether there's an issue, let alone admit it. How can we intervene in a system that never stops? There are logistical hurdles to overcome.

What's the remedy for this issue? Why does this anxiety take hold? Anxiety arises when there's a sense of fear and apprehension about making significant decisions. Doesn't this resonate with the state Arjuna found himself in at the onset of the Mahabharata war?

**कृपया परयाविष्टो विषीदन्निदमब्रवीत् ।**

अर्जुन उवाच ।

दृष्ट्वेमं स्वजनं कृष्ण युयुत्सुं समुपस्थितम् ॥

kṛpayā parayāviṣṭo viṣhīdann idam abravīt

arjuna uvācha

dṛṣṭvemaṁ sva-janaṁ kṛiṣhṇa yuyutsuṁ  
samupasthitam (Gita 1.28)

सीदन्ति मम गात्राणि मुखं च परिशुष्यति  
वेपथुश्च शरीरे मे रोमहर्षश्च जायते ॥  
गाण्डीवं संसते हस्तात्त्वक्चै व परिदह्यते ।  
न च शक्नोम्यवस्थातुं भ्रमतीव च मे मनः ॥  
निमित्तानि च पश्यामि विपरीतानि केशव ।  
न च श्रेयोऽनुपश्यामि हत्वा स्वजनमाहवे ॥

sīdanti mama gātrāṇi mukhaṁ cha pariśhuṣhyati  
vepathuśh cha śharīre me roma-harṣhaśh cha  
jāyate(Gita 1.29)

gāṇḍīvaṁ sraṁsate hastāt tvak chaiva paridahyate  
na cha śhaknomy avasthātum bhramatīva cha me  
manaḥ (Gita 1.30)

nimittāni cha paśhyāmi viparītāni keśhava  
na cha śhreyo 'nupaśhyāmi hatvā sva-janam āhave  
(Gita 1.31)

We observe Arjuna struggling with anxiety as the decisive Kurukshetra war looms ahead. Often, this war is analogized to the internal conflicts we experience. It mirrors the dilemmas we encounter when we must take decisive actions that will shape our future.

Krishna's initial response to Arjuna's condition is akin to how our parents react when we become anxious about important exams.

श्रीभगवानुवाच ।

कुतस्त्वा कश्मलमिदं विषमे समुपस्थितम् ।

अनार्यजुष्टमस्वर्ग्यमकीर्तिकरमर्जुन ॥

śhrī bhagavān uvācha  
kutastvā kaśhmalamidam viśhame samupasthitam  
anārya-juṣhṭamaswargyam akīrti-karam arjuna  
(Gita 2.2)

क्लैब्यं मा स्म गमः पार्थ नैतत्त्वय्युपपद्यते |  
क्षुद्रं हृदयदौर्बल्यं त्यक्त्वोत्तिष्ठ परन्तप ||

klaibyam mā sma gamaḥ pārtha naitat  
tvayyupapadyate  
kṣhudram hṛidaya-daurbalyam tyaktvottiṣṭha  
parantapa (Gita 2.3)

Krishna dispels Arjuna's anxiety and urges him to confront the war courageously. However, he doesn't leave it at that; instead, he provides guidance on how to approach the challenge, redirecting Arjuna's focus to what truly matters. This is where the significance of the frequently cited verse from the Gita comes into play.

कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन |  
मा कर्मफलहेतुर्भूर्मा ते सङ्गोऽस्त्वकर्मणि ||

karmaṇy-evādhikāras te mā phaleṣhu kadāchana  
mā karma-phala-hetur bhūr mā te saṅgo  
'stvakarmaṇi (Gita 2.47)

Our anxiety stems from the uncertainty of the future, as we cannot accurately predict what lies ahead. There's a misconception that some possess a magical ability to foresee it, leading to a search for shortcuts. However, it's clear that there are no easy solutions. Krishna's argument emphasizes focusing on the present, which is within our control. Instead of fixating on the unknown, why not strive to give our best in the present moment? Acting is preferable to giving up due to fear of potential failure.

It's crucial to recognize that our school experience isn't solely about the scores we achieve but rather about the knowledge we acquire and the expansion of our minds.

Maintaining a sense of calm amidst the constant inquiries about exam preparation can be challenging. If a student remains composed, they're often questioned about their lack of fear. There's a pervasive discourse about the significance of these exams, making students feel as though they are the ultimate measure of success.

In such moments, I hope students are introduced to the Bhagavad Gita. I hope they, like Arjuna (after Krishna's discourse) approach the challenges of exams with objectivity, free from anxiety and the fear of failure.

Another cause of anxiety stems from the belief that there's a particular societal standard one must strive to achieve, which seems unattainable, fostering feelings of unworthiness and leading to depression. However, each individual's path of growth is unique, and the notion of a universal "social level" is flawed, as diversity exists among beings. Just as an elephant cannot become a lion, and no two elephants are identical, there are no perfect homes or families—each is distinct. The perpetual desire to be something other than what one is leads to unhappiness, burdening life unnecessarily. Why feel inadequate when we are integral parts of the supreme soul, lacking nothing? Despite this, we often complain about lacking abundance, despite being aware that many thrive with much less. Rather than focusing on gratitude for what we possess, we fixate on our perceived deficiencies. Krishna asserts that embodying the state of sthitapragna, as discussed in a previous issue of Vipranudi (in the same column) ensures a blissful life regardless of the circumstances.

श्रीभगवानुवाच |

प्रजहाति यदा कामान्सर्वान्पार्थ मनोगतान् |  
आत्मन्येवात्मना तुष्टः स्थितप्रज्ञस्तदोच्यते ||



śhrī bhagavān uvācha  
 prajahāti yadā kāmān sarvān pārtha mano-gatān  
 ātmany-evātmanā tuṣṭaḥ sthita-prajñas tadochyate  
 (Gita 2.55)

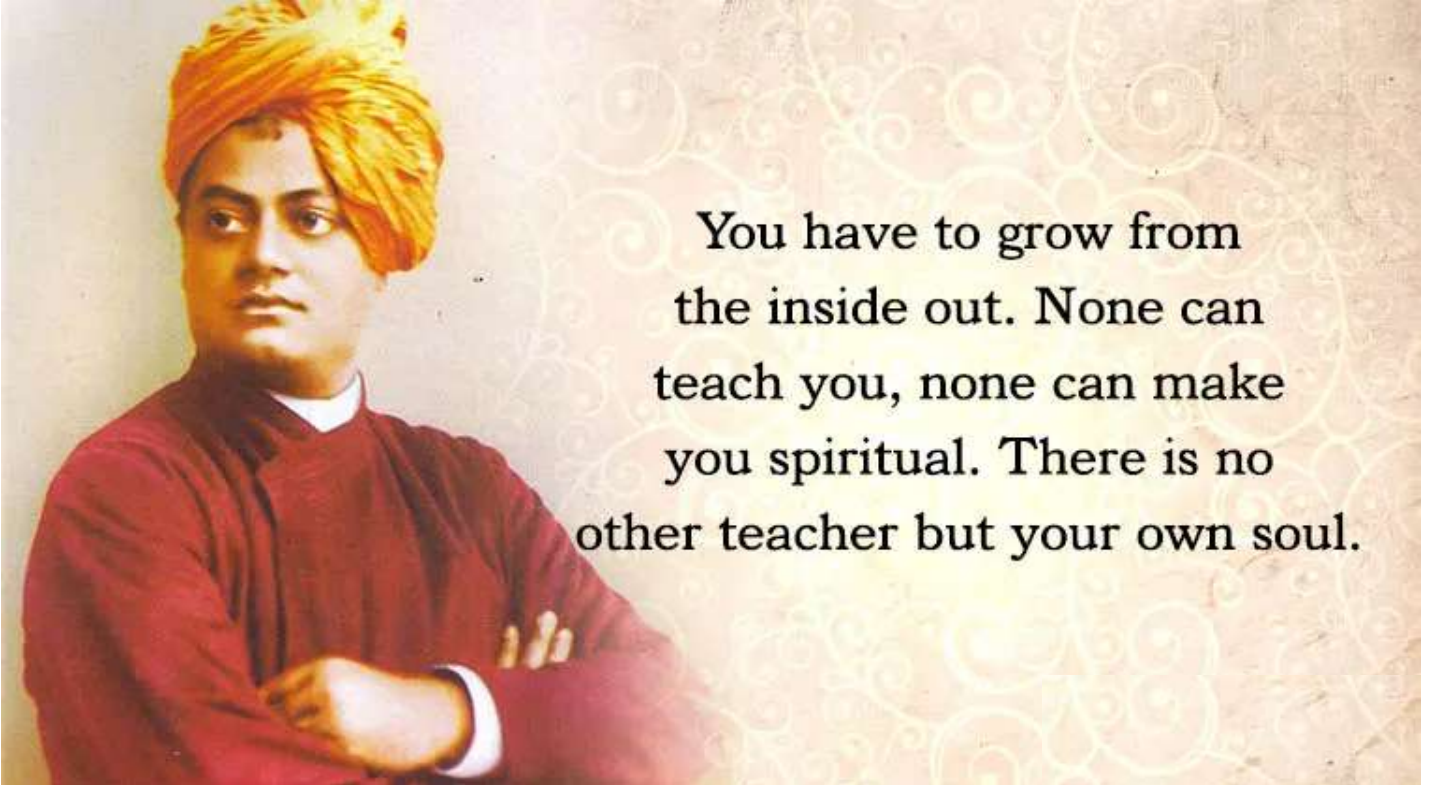
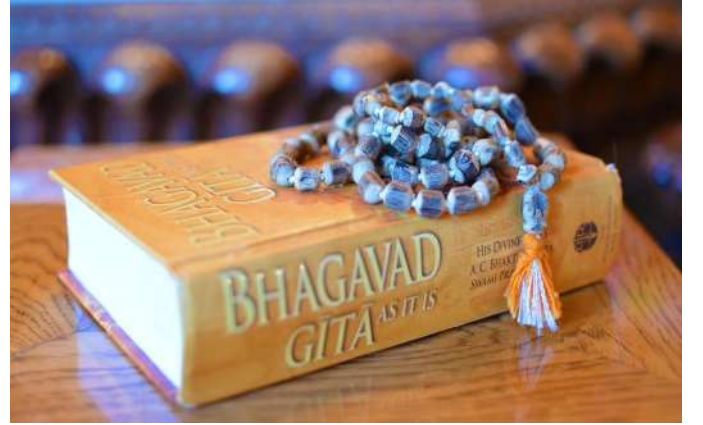
यः सर्वत्रानभिस्नेहस्तत्प्राप्य शुभाशुभम् ।  
 नाभिनन्दति न द्वेष्टि तस्य प्रजा प्रतिष्ठिता ॥

yaḥ sarvatrānabhisnehas tat tat prāpya  
 śhubhāśhubham  
 nābhinandati na dveṣṭi tasya prajñā pratiṣṭhitā  
 (Gita 2.57)

A sthitaprajna relinquishes desires, understanding that the self lacks nothing, thus finding bliss in this realization. They remain content regardless of life's circumstances, unperturbed by the fluctuations between good and bad situations. Such individuals neither disdain adversity nor excessively yearn for nor celebrate favourable conditions. This equanimity aids in confronting life's challenges with inner peace.

Krishna stands unwaveringly by our side. Trusting in His superior plans for our future can cultivate a positive outlook, which plays a pivotal role in easing anxiety.

Sending heartfelt wishes to all students for success in their exams, as well as in the many challenges they will encounter in the future. Similarly, my best wishes extend to everyone navigating through their current obstacles.



You have to grow from  
 the inside out. None can  
 teach you, none can make  
 you spiritual. There is no  
 other teacher but your own soul.



# My Quest for Spiritual Well-being

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## The Web of Maaya!

Continuing from where we left in the previous article let us now explore the realm of Maaya further. It is an illusion as long as it is bothering you. It is a fascinating learning experience as long as you understand it, tame it and make it lead you on a progressive path!

We all have gone through this experience in our lives. By our hard work that has been backed and blessed by God's grace, we would have achieved a certain quality of life. Within our limitations, we would have excelled in our job. We would have a happy family with all of them doing well for themselves. There would be lots to eat and lots to feed! In such a situation, what should be our state of mind? It should be happiness pervading everything else. It should be peace of mind circumventing everything else. It should be "absolute gratitude" to the almighty surpassing everything else. But the reality is different!

More often than not, we are always feeling "left out". Instead of the Maruti Suzuki car that I ride, I should have been riding a Benz. Instead of a small house in Electronic City, I should have had a bungalow in Indiranagar. Instead of my son working in an unknown small company, he should have been in Google and the list goes on. We are constantly entertaining the feeling of remorse within us aspiring for those that we don't have. In the bargain, we end up always perturbed and agitated for no real reason at all.

ಎಲ್ಲವಿದ್ದರೂ ಏನೂ ಇಲ್ಲವೆನಿಸುವ ಮಾಯೆ |  
ಎಲ್ಲವಿದ್ದರೂ ನಿನಗೆ ಶಾಂತಿ ನೀಡುವುದೆ ? ||  
ಬೆಲವನು ಎಲ್ಲೆಡೆಯೂ ಇರುವೆ ಅರಸುವ ಹಾಗೆ |  
ಎಲ್ಲವಿದ್ದರೂ ಹಸಿವು - ನವ್ಯಜೀವಿ ||

We are indeed living an "ant's life", always searching for those few grains of sugar that have been dropped on some corner of the floor. (This is not to demean an ant. It is only to illustrate our unending search for material wealth!). We are perpetually engrossed with an "insatiable hunger" for things we don't have. What is the reason for this? Enlightened people say "You don't have contentment. As such, you are always disturbed". That is true. We don't have contentment, a quality that can elevate us to a higher plane of living.

If we start analysing as to why we don't have contentment in our lives even after realising that it is an essential quality for a better life, we arrive at the fact that "contentment is a consequence of us being engrossed by Maaya". Ensure to stay away from Maaya and contentment becomes your external attire! Ensure to tame Maaya and use it for your betterment, contentment becomes your inner self too.

Aspiring for things that are way outside of our means is one way for entertaining Maaya to come and rule us. Another superior (or is it depressing?) way of getting entangled completely in Maaya is to start dreaming that those aspirations of us are coming our way

shortly or even worse, believing that they are already at your disposal.

ಬರದಿರುವ ಹಣವೆಲ್ಲ ಜೇಬಿನೊಳಗಿಹುದೆಂಬ |  
ಭರವಸೆಯ ಭ್ರಮೆಯೆಲ್ಲ ಮಾಯೆಯಾ ಜನನ ||  
ಇರುವುದೆಲ್ಲವ ತೊರೆದು ಇರದಿರುವುದನು ಅರಸಿ |  
ನರಳಾಟವಂದೆ ಶುರು - ನವ್ಯಜೀವಿ ||

In both these, we only end up craving for the “unreal” and thereby losing out on experiencing the “real”. We spend all our time worrying about those materialistic pleasures that are beyond our reach and thereby, lose out enjoying the benefits that are truly in our procession right now. Is it worth it?

Spirituality is all about understanding the essence of any principle and practice and imbibing that essence beyond its limits into our

daily life till the final realisation occurs. Against this backdrop, Maaya has to be understood on a much deeper plane and dealt with force and determination and a high degree of spiritual awareness. It is to be used for our well-being rather than abused for our own destruction. In articles to follow, I would make an effort to delve deeper into this subject.

Contentment is of course something that we all should strive for and for that to happen; we should not get entangled in the web of Maaya...

ॐ

सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः  
सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु मा कश्चिद्दुःखभाग्भवेत्  
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः

## Puzzles – What am I ?

(You will find the answers in the editorial section)

- I speak without a mouth and hear without ears. I have no body, but I come alive with wind. What am I?
- You measure my life in hours and I serve you by expiring. I’m quick when I’m thin and slow when I’m fat. The wind is my enemy.
- What is seen in the middle of March and April that can’t be seen at the beginning or end of either month?
- You see a boat filled with people. It has not sunk, but when you look again you don’t see a single person on the boat. Why?
- What word in the English language does the following – The first two letters signify a male, the first three letters signify a female, the first four letters signify a great, while the entire world signifies a great woman. What is the word?

(Compiled by Sudhir S Mysore)





# Real Lessons in HISTORY

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## India During the 16th, 17th, and 18th Centuries – Part 4 The Fable of 'Industrial Revolution'

There is a conviction that the 'marvel' called the 'Industrial Revolution' that took place in eighteenth-century Europe is the root of Europe's prosperity, its birthplace. Is this true?

The Western economic codes provided the inspiration for the development path chosen by post-independent India, and therefore it is necessary to understand the authenticity behind the Industrial Revolution. *England and other European nations, during the second half of the 18th century, went from stagnancy to development, overnight, and all of a sudden* – recent scholars like Eric Hobsbawm have acknowledged this argument as being self-evident.

The reality is that the word 'Industrial Revolution' is not the miracle it sounds like. Since England was extremely backward, even minute progress looked like a miracle to its eyes. Until the beginning of the 18th century, England was primarily an agricultural country. Except for a couple of industries like wool, there were no substantial factories or industries. It was against this backdrop that England got into the business of taking calico and other textiles from India and selling them in Europe. During its early days, this was the main business of the East India Company as well. Trading goods from India, maritime piracy, capturing slaves, transporting them,



and selling them to the rich in England – England's treasury swelled from these activities. As soon as wealth was thus accumulated, England's true animal instinct raised its ugly head; it became a priority for England to destroy the economic system of India, for India was an able contender in England's view. England's well-known parliamentarian William Digby has said –

“England's industrial supremacy owes its origin to the vast hordes of Bengal and Karnatik being made available for her use... Before Plassey was fought and won, and before the stream of treasure began to flow to England, the industries of our country were at a very low ebb.” 5

In addition to trading, England resorted to daylight robbery with insolence. From 1757 to 1815 (Plassey to Waterloo), the amount of money looted by England from India was a billion pounds sterling (of those days). This wealth has been called 'The Bengal Plunder' by

Brooks, Adams, and other English writers. It was in this manner that the seeds were sown for England's prosperity and India's scarcity.

Why did England's 'Industrial Revolution' that history books lionize so much occur at the end of the 18th century? Why not earlier? Here lies the secret. Even after the eruption of the Industrial Revolution, for more than a hundred years, a prominent industry was cloth-making, but England never grew cotton plants. Although this was the reality, Indian technology that was producing the world's best textiles was called a 'cottage industry' while the technology taken from India for establishing raw material-based units in Lancashire was described as the 'Industrial Revolution.' Is it not ridiculous that history books continue this version even today?

### **Crumbling Lifestyle**

The British officers, who at the time of establishing a foothold in India literally touched the feet of the Mughal rulers, completely lost their humanity once they had a grip. They began imposing eccentric and baseless taxes. In 1770, Bengal faced a severe famine, and a third of its population perished. Even in this period, Governor General Warren Hastings reported to his Company directors that the tax collection in 1771 surpassed that of 1769.

More serious than these burdens were the changes brought about by the British in the Indian lifestyle. Due to the inability of people to pay higher taxes, the business of credits and loans grew manifold. Where food grains used to be grown, heroin replaced them. Chemicals took over natural colours in textile manufacturing. Due to the import of

petroleum, local oil mills perished. The manufacture of everyday things like salt came under the government's monopoly. In 1844, producing a quintal of salt would cost one anna, while the tax levied on it was two rupees [i.e., thirty-two times!] To ensure that people do not use salt that had naturally crystallized along the coast, it was collected and burnt.

What is written above is not just in the past. Even today—in the 21st century—western countries are achieving growth by continuously exploiting the environmental, capital, and human resources of poor and underdeveloped countries. This is clear from the 'Club of Rome' and other reports. We can recall here Andre Gunder Frank's observations that the advancement of Western countries means the regression of other countries.

The foundation of England's fortune was the wealth looted from elsewhere. It is a grand absurdity that these pirates who accumulated that wealth are being glorified by British and Indian textbooks as 'peerless adventurers.' People with this mindset have been writing history and devising economic theories for the past two hundred years. For the reason that their lineage continues to this day, writing the above segment of history became necessary.

**.....To be continued**

5 Digby, William. Prosperous British India: A Revelation from Official Records. London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1901. p. 30

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



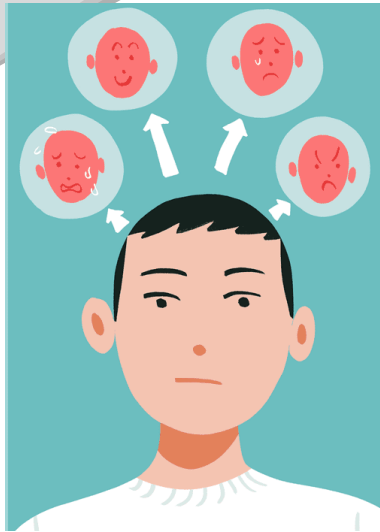
# Mind over Matter

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## EMOTIONS & FEELINGS



and so on which are so diverse.

The irony is that even with this super brain, we need to be trained to recognize our emotions. We feel different emotions day in and day out. But many of us are not skilled enough to either recognize emotions or name them. Unfortunately, this basic skill is neither taught in schools nor by our parents.

You might have come across a situation like this. Your colleague coming out of a meeting with a performance appraisal letter with a sad face. On enquiring, you hear that he has not got any hike. When you ask him, 'How are you feeling?' The reply could be something like 'I knew my manager would screw up my appraisal', 'What is the use of working day and night? I think it is high time to change the company.'

You call your friend as usual. You sense that she is upset and probe her. She says, 'It is the usual fight with my mother-in-law'. You

Humans are special among all species because they have a brain that is remarkable in cognition. They can think and feel and can solve problems, create languages, customs, cultures

hear her sob over the phone. You ask her, 'How are you feeling?'. She would pour out probably saying, 'Every time, she does the same thing. She criticises everything I do. She does not allow me to take up responsibility but complains that I don't do enough chores at home.'

In both cases, when the other person asked what they were feeling, the answer they shared was, what they were thinking.

Feelings or emotions are often confused with thoughts.

## EMOTIONS & FEELINGS

As per the Oxford dictionary, feeling means 'something that you feel through the mind or the senses'. It also mentions that 'feeling is a person's emotions rather than their thoughts or ideas'.

Merriam-Webster dictionary defines emotion as 'Emotions are conscious mental reactions (such as anger or fear) subjectively experienced as strong feelings usually directed toward a specific object and typically accompanied by physiological and behavioural changes in the body'.

Now, from the definitions, it is clear that emotions/feelings and thoughts are different. Before we deep dive, let us understand if feelings and emotions are one and the same.



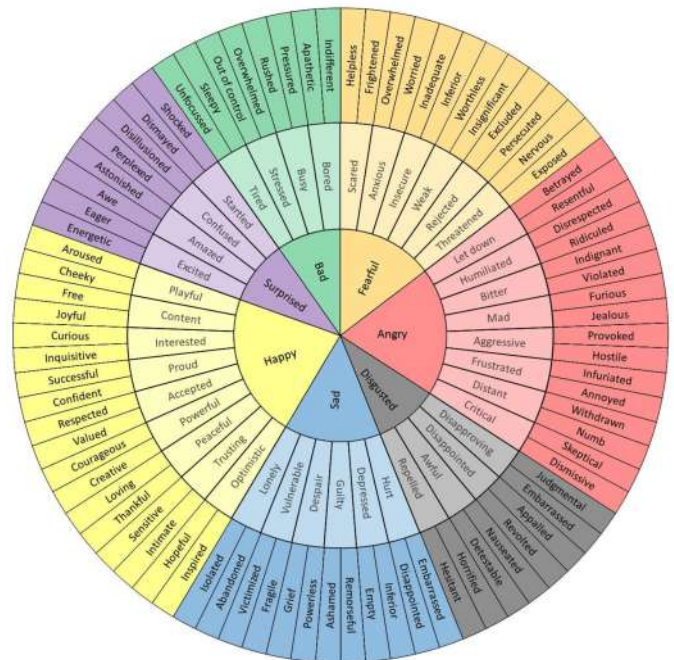
Emotions are natural to all humans, regardless of age, gender, or culture. As per the theory by Antonio Damasio, a neuroscientist, emotions are generated in the Amygdala, a part of the brain. The brain has different parts responsible for different functions. Amygdala is one of them and it is responsible for multiple functions. This is the major processing area for emotions. It also connects emotions to other brain functions like memories, learning and senses. When the Amygdala does not work properly, it generates disruptive symptoms and uncomfortable feelings. Severe disruption in amygdala functioning can lead to mental health disorders.

According to the initial theory of Paul Ekman, a psychologist from America, there are six basic emotions that the brain generates. They include Fear, Sadness, Anger, Happiness, Surprise & Disgust. These are called universal emotions because every human being experiences these emotions. Though these basic emotions seem like a single emotion by themselves, when experienced they come with a family of different emotional states making it complex.

So, when there is an external or internal trigger, the amygdala gives a psychological reaction to these triggers generating an emotion. When the Amygdala gets activated, there are some chemical processes taking place in the brain. The amygdala starts dealing with the primary emotion and in turn, can further lead to other feelings. For example, in a threatening situation, the amygdala creates fear first. Then to deal with fear, it creates other feelings like stress and anxiety. So, to make it simple, emotion is like a parent and feelings are like children.

A person who experiences intense fear also may feel his heartbeat (palpitation) or increase in heartbeat. So emotion can also generate physiological responses. So, feelings also include different physical states but are not limited to hunger, thirst, temperature and pain.

Please find below the feelings wheel from feelingwheel.com for your reference. This is an example of how the base emotions can lead to different feelings.



FEELINGS WHEEL

(Credit: <https://feelingswheel.com>)

As we understand that emotions are triggered by an external situation or an internal event (our thoughts, emotions or physical sensations), does every situation trigger the same emotion in humans?

Generally, a wedding ceremony is a happy occasion which brings happiness to the bride and groom, relatives and friends. People usually are happy and excited around wedding

time either participating in it or remembering their wedding and feeling good with the happy memories.

If the bride or the groom is being married forcefully, the wedding may trigger a different emotion like anger. A person who is not married, others' wedding news or attending others' weddings may trigger sadness in them.

Emotions are reactions to a situation or the event that humans experience. The experience is based on the type of the situation and also, how one relates the situation to oneself.

We discussed the generation of emotion. What about its end? How long will it last?

Research says that as the generation of emotion involves a chemical process, it lasts for about 90 seconds. But the emotion can be sustained with reinforcing thoughts, situations and feelings.

Emotions are like a sine wave. It has a peak and falls down. The intensity of an emotion also keeps varying.

## **ARE EMOTIONS GOOD OR BAD?**

Many of us think that anger is bad. Are emotions bad?

When you feel happy seeing your child learn to walk, is that emotion bad? When someone appreciates you for your work or gesture, you feel proud. Is that a bad feeling? You may not classify the happy feeling as bad. But, if you get angry you may call that emotion bad. Isn't it?

Why is anger labelled as bad? Why isn't happiness bad? Because anger creates

discomfort in us and when we are angry we may behave in inappropriate ways. We may shout, fight or throw things in anger. Shouting, fighting and throwing things is not an emotion. They are the behaviours we show in response to anger.

Along with your friends, you witness someone hitting a pedestrian while riding a bike. The biker loses balance but tries to escape. Some of you run behind the biker to catch him. What was that emotion generated when you saw the biker hitting a pedestrian? Was that emotion good? If you guys didn't get angry by that act, would you have tried to catch the biker?

Emotions are neither good nor bad. It is a natural process that is happening in the brain, like many other processes in our body. Anger seemed bad when you shouted at someone losing your control. Anger seemed good and justified when the biker hit a pedestrian.

Emotions can be categorised as comfortable and uncomfortable emotions. Pleasant emotions can be called as comfortable emotions, for example, Happy, Joy, Peace and Excitement. Emotions that are unpleasant in nature, anger, sadness, hurt and so on can be categorised as uncomfortable emotions.

Now we know that emotion is neither good nor bad. Even the uncomfortable emotions are not bad. But those uncomfortable emotions can lead to bad behaviours, which we have to be mindful of and take care of.

So, after reading this article, how are you feeling? Hold on! What is the emotion right now?



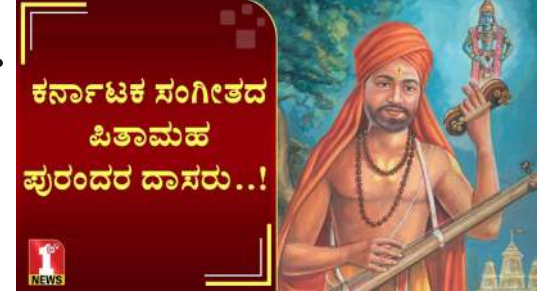
## Performing Arts...

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### SANGEETA PITAMAHA



It is a well-known fact that Sri. Purandara Dasa is aptly respected as the father of Indian music. During the 16th century, there was no clear-cut structure for the Hindustani Music System which flourished in India due to the invasion of Arabic dynasties. There is a strong belief that the most enchanting Raga Kalyani is the contribution of the Arabic Music System. There are many aspects of various factors which influenced both Karnataka and Hindustani systems of music.

Let me focus on the topic now. We have been seeing several examples of naming a person as "Pitamaha", pertaining to various branches of knowledge. Any new and valuable, everlasting innovation contributed by a particular person yields the practice of recognizing him as the Pitamaha or father in spoken language. At this point let us initially look back towards the 16th century. There was no structured composition that could be taught to the young beginners. There is a story of PurandaraDasa, who was an eminent musician and also well-versed in Sanskrit. He had four sons to whom he started imparting the knowledge of music when they were young boys. The lack of simple musical compositions to teach his young children made him adopt a new method of teaching beginners. We don't get any earlier reference to this composition in the history of Indian music. In my initial articles, I have mentioned about the most complex compositions like Prabandha. This was composed by using all the Shadangas or 6 angas of Tala. Counting beats while singing this Prabandha was not an easy task, especially for the younger generation. The first three parts of Tala i.e. Laghu, Dhruva and Anadruta were retained by PurandaraDasa and the other

three tala angas such as Guru, Pluta and Kaka Pada were omitted by him to make the content of classical music to be understood by young minds. For the first time in the history of Indian music various phrases of Swara Patterns were composed by him to make music teaching and learning very easy.

Keeping aside all the complicated musical aspects of the ancient music system, he experimented with introducing simple swara patterns to teach his sons. It is very interesting to analyze the result of this new experiment. A simple Tala consisting of 8 beats in an avarta\* was taken to modify the existing teaching pattern. To make a sound foundation he chose ChaturaShraTriputa Tala which has even portions of 4 lagus in the first half and 4 equal Akshara Kalas in the second half of the Tala. For the first time, this simplification was made possible. To suit these 8 beats of Aditala, he composed very simple Swarapatterns starting with SaptaSwaras. The 7 notes of Indian music were called Shadja, Rishabha, Gandhara, Madhyama, Panchama, Dhaivata and Nishadha. It is very interesting to go deeper into this aspect. But in this article, I would like to set a boundary and make my writing precise.

PurandaraDasa titled these small phrases of Swaras as Sarala Varase. Another interesting point is that he changed the Raga from Hari Kambhoji to Maya MalavaGowla which has lesser frequency in between the notes. It is indeed an unimaginable task to entirely replace the raga, which was used as the first raga in centuries. He demonstrated the scientific reasons for this phenomenon. For both human voice and musical instrument it is much easier for a beginner to catch the Swaras



Perfectly with a raga like Maya MalavaGowla. The Shruti interval between two Swaras in an octave in this particular raga is less in number which makes the learner understand the basics of music be it Karnatak or Hindustani music. The very first basic lesson in this new series is the scale of Maya MalavaGowla itself. Sa-Ri-Ga-Ma-Pa-dha-ni was intelligently taken as the first Sarala Varase, which proved that any raga is constituted with its very scale. It is an established fact that scale is the foundation for the unveiling of a Raga. The importance of understanding the scale is given more emphasis by PurandaraDasa.

He composed many number of these Swara Patterns which are popularly Tara SthayiVarase, MandraSthayiVarase, Datu Varase and JantiVarase. All these later came to be called BALA PATHA. All these varases were structured on a scientific basis which proves the deep insight of PurandaraDasa as far as the science of music is concerned. It is noteworthy to mention here that no other musician or composer can alter the BALA PATHA even to this day. After realizing the great advantage of learning these Swara phrases, the musicians of the Hindustani music system also adopted the Same BALA PATHA in their teaching. In this modern era of electronic media, which helps to connect both the learner and teacher of two different countries through online teaching also follows the same pattern given by PurandaraDasa.

Then comes the wonderful creativity of PurandaraDasa like a blooming flower. ALANKARAS in seven Suladi Talas were introduced by him for the first time. This stage makes it very important to understand the evolution of musical compositions. Five tala Patterns(Jaathis) such as TrishraChatusra, Khanda, Mishra and Sankeernahave 3, 4, 5, 7 and 9 beats in all the seven talas, respectively which finally yielded 35 Swarapatterns. Further, with the help of permutation and combination, he fixed 175 talas. This certainly was a great experiment by him. He started teaching his sons all these BALA PATHAS from

Saralavarase to Alankaras in three consecutive speeds which again is the greatest contribution given to Indian Music by the MAHA PURUSHA, Sri PurandaraDasa. This article is incomplete without the mention of one more ever-lasting contribution of PurandaraDasa. The Raga Maya MalavaGowla is placed as the 15thMela among the 72 Melakarta Ragas of Karnatak music. A Janya raga is said to have been derived by omitting one or two Swaras from the parent raga.

PurandaraDasa chose the Janya Raga MALAHARI which is derived from Maya MalavaGowla. This inventory inclusion was meant to make the learners understand the difference between Janaka and Janya Raga. Diluting the ancient Prabanda structure, he proves his ability to compose simple compositions called PillariGeethe. Here one can notice the respect he owed to Earlier composers who composed most in Sanskrit as a token of respect, before venturing to composing in the regional Kannada language. He followed the ancient system of using the Deva Bhasha, Sanskrit. These Geethes are popularly known as PillariGeethe. The Sanskrit word Pillari is attributed to Lord Ganesha. This is another interesting point. All the Haridasas have initially composed Devaranamas in praise of Lord Ganesha. PurandaraDasa has composed PillariGeethas with utmost devotion. He very intelligently uses BeejaAksharas here. The usage of rhetoric can be seen clearly. Adi Prasa and AnthyaPrasaare depicted here. Before singing the PancharatnaKrutis of Sri. Tyagaraja, it is customary to sing Pillari Geetas. With very limited words he shows a new path to the later Composers including Sri Tyagaraja. Based on all the above creative experiments we can loudly say that Sri. PurandaraDasais certainly the PITAMAHA of Indian Music. In my next article, I will pen the characteristics of various Musical compositions of Sri PurandaraDasa.

\* *An Avarta is the complete structure of any Tala*



# SpaceUse

- Space Applications for Development

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## Part 1: Foundation for Strong Space Applications in India

“India Lives in Villages” was one of the popular statements made by one of the well-known leaders of our country, long back, and it really holds good for all times. India is an agrarian country and it has heavy dependence on our agri-produce as the country has to feed one of the highest populations in the world. India's growing need for food production automatically puts a priority on finding ways to maintain “Sustainable Food Production” and managing the same for equitable distribution of food grains, reaching out to the last mile, across the country. It is certainly a tall ask to feed a 1.4 billion population, day after day, and the country has all its capabilities to do this across all seasons in a year.

Space technology has the capability to play a key role in addressing such requirements. Realizing this, way back in the early 1960s, a strong foundation was laid by Dr Vikram Sarabhai, father of the Indian Space Program, in the country. Even then his thinking was so well focused on the country's requirements that he proposed a very clear vision statement, “we should be second to none in the applications of advanced technologies to the real problems of man and society”. With such a unique vision in place, the Indian space program was poised for a great beginning, right from the initial stages of space technology development in our country. To convert such a unique vision into practice, three important inter-ministerial committees were formed at the highest level of the

Government system in the early stages of space technology development in the country. These were (i) INSAT1 Coordination Committee (**ICC**); (ii) Planning Committee on National Natural Resources Management System (**PC-NNRMS**); and (iii) Advisory Committee for Space Sciences (**ADCOS**). I do not know if any other Government system in the world could think along these lines and set up systems that would work for national development and also utilize the advanced technologies to reach out to the last mile of the country's quest for development, but India did this and ISRO was positioned for it.



**Manasa Sarovara**

Let us understand these systems a bit more

before we dwell deeper into space applications themselves. **ICC** was proposed as an inter-ministerial coordination system, conceptualized to help the nation in realizing two important applications from Geostationary orbit, viz., Satellite-based (a) Meteorology and (b) Communication. These are the most important applications for any developing nation as they directly make impacts at the field level to all citizens. While Satellite Meteorology helps every individual, farming community, coastal area and fisherman in their own decision-making, the space-based communication system helps in connectivity and reaches out to the last mile for information delivery. We, as countrymen, feel proud today that both these systems are operationally serving the nation, round the clock, and helping in national development. The PC-NNRMS was another important system that was formed under the then Union Planning Commission, with Member Science, Planning Commission being the Chair. Major ministries to Govt. of India were made members of the **PC-NNRMS**, such as Agriculture, Water, Ocean, Forest & Ecology, Geology, Cartography, Urban, Rural and Training & Education. Secretaries to the respective ministries were made members of the PC-NNRMS with ISRO/DOS being the member designated to operate on the committee proceedings. Also, nine standing committees were formed under each of the secretaries with inter-ministerial participation to address the core issues of the nation under each of the natural resources, dealt with by the respective ministries. This is yet another unique mechanism of its kind that helped in setting up a strong foundation to develop space-based applications, relevant to India, and help the country to build self-reliance in each of the sectors that took off in the early 1980s.

This system turned out to be a very good foundation for designing, developing and

building a strong set of space-based applications in various sectors for the past more than three decades and today India stands as a unique example in the world for effective utilization of space technology for natural resources management. Many more ministries, other than those mentioned above, also use space tech for better management of resources in the country. Under PC-NNRMS, ISRO could also build a remote sensing-based management system for about 28 States/ Union Territories in the country to help in better management of resources even at the State level. While the above points could address various developmental aspects of the country, the third committee at the national level – **The ADCOS** – was specially made to look into Space Science-related aspects for a better understanding of outer space, planetary systems and space exploration-related aspects. Due to the strong foundation, laid from the beginning, ISRO could undertake a series of space exploration missions to the moon, Mars, Sun and other deep space explorations in recent years. These missions have taken the country to a special pedestal in the world of space exploration and today India is second to none even in space exploration and space science research.

The above basic foundation helps us to understand the kind of initiatives that were taken in the past to pave the way ahead. The SPACEUSE articles shall open up a series of articles that would address different areas of space applications that have been successfully implemented in the country, helping the country to make rapid progress in national development and governance-related issues. India stands as a unique nation in the world for the effective use of space tech for national development and governance. India stands tall as a unique example for developing space applications and also showing the world how to be cost-effective in doing so.





# The Selfless Warriors of Shivaji

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## 5. Moropant Triambak Pingle, Shivaji's first Peshwa

Moropant Triambak Pingle (1620–1683), also known as Moropant Peshwa, served as the first Prime Minister (Peshwa) of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's Hindavi Swarajya. He was born into a devout Deshastha Brahmin family in the village of Nimgaon, Maharashtra. His father's name was Triambak Pingle, and Tirupati Shri Balaji was their Kuladevta (family deity). Moropant was not only an expert in Mantra-Shastra (religious texts) but also equally adept in Ratantra (war strategies) and Astra-shastra (wielding weaponry).



Moropant actively joined Shivaji Maharaj in building the Hindavi Swarajya in 1647, after the demise of Dadoji Kondadev, Shivaji's guru. At that time, Shivaji was merely a seventeen-year-old youth, while Moropant was twenty-seven,

radiating poise and resoluteness as a vibrant Brahmin, with a thick flowing Shikhe (tuft). Moropant was highly skilled in the art of warfare and was an ambidextrous adept swordsman. He was a committed karma yogi who remained determined, constantly focused on his mission, and highly disciplined, much

like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. A fearless warrior that he was, Moropant won many battles for his beloved king.

After Shivaji Maharaj and his son, Sambhaji, escaped from Aurangzeb's jail in Agra, Moropant arranged a safe house to hide Sambhaji Maharaj safely in the guise of a Brahmin Brahmachari Vatu in the house of one of his relatives in Mathura, albeit risking certain death if exposed. The search party couldn't identify Sambhaji. After a few months, Moropant made elaborate arrangements for the safe return of Sambhaji to Rajgad Fort.

Moropant was an exceptionally intelligent and efficient administrator, serving as the Peshwa or Prime Minister and leading Shivaji's Ashtapradhan, an empowered council of eight ministers. He maintained a polite yet resolute demeanor in his decision-making and guidance to his king, showing neither fear nor favor. Despite being a devout Brahmin with a peaceful disposition and ten years older than Shivaji Maharaj, Moropant was a fierce warrior and an outstanding tactician in the art of war. He played a crucial role in the annihilation of Afzal Khan, who was leading the numerically ten times stronger army of the Bijapur Sultanate in the 1659 battle of Pratapgadh.

Later, in 1670-72, he led and won many battles for Hindavi Swarajya, most notably achieving his first victory in the first open field

battles at Vani-Dindori, Salher-Mulher, Nashik, and Triambak, spanning the Baglan and Khandesh provinces. Partnering with Senapati Prataprao Gujar, his lightning-speed counter-attacks routed the vast and powerful Mughal armies in these open-field battles, a feat the Mughals had never experienced before in such situations. The shell-shocked Aurangzeb yielded the forts to Shivaji and agreed to pay tributes of Chauth (25% share of the province's revenue) and Sardeshmukhi (an additional 10% surcharge for Shivaji to refrain from waging wars against the Mughals in those provinces).

Eventually, Aurangzeb accepted Shivaji Maharaj as the Sovereign King of Hindavi Samrajya and sent his emissaries to his court with royal gifts and robes of honor as a mark of his respect for the new Chatrapati. Moropant was so decisive and played a very crucial role in this historic milestone achievement. Following Shivaji's demise, Moropant continued to serve as the Peshwa for Chatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj (1680-83) for about three years until his death at the age of sixty-three.

Being a devout Brahmin with a natural affinity for Punditry in Sanskrit, Moropant was well-versed in several languages, including Marathi, Hindi, Urdu, Persian, and Kannada. He had an eloquent way of speaking and was a master strategist. His negotiation skills were unparalleled; his choice of words would mesmerize the opposing side into yielding to whatever Moropant set his sights on. Moropant used all these soft skills very effectively in the governance of Swarajya, both during times of peace and in times of war, while serving as the Peshwa of Hindavi Swarajya.

Moropant efficiently managed the state's revenues and tax collection, eliminating wasteful expenditures and corruption within

his official machinery. The punishment for such acts was exemplary and severe. He established a fair balance between income and expenditure. Moropant was also responsible for procuring war materials, maintaining forts, safeguarding them, and efficiently managing the army's budget. He played a crucial role in constructing the impregnable Pratapgad Fort and strengthening the Salher fort walls after winning it from the Mughals. After the death of Shivaji, he fought many battles for his successor Sambhaji Maharaj, notable among them being the War of Burhanpur in 1681, which yielded enormous wealth through the sacking of this rich trade center of the Mughals. Moropant died while wielding a sword against the ambush laid by the Mughal army in 1683. The war veteran was sixty-three years old then.

In the early days of the Hindavi Swarajya when it faced severe challenges, Moropant, the master strategist, was the most dependable right-hand man for Shivaji. His wisdom, honed over many lifetimes, greatly benefited Shivaji's Swarajya during tumultuous times.

As the Rajadharma - AnushasanaParva (56.34) of our timeless epic Mahabharata states, "The valuable treasure for a ruler is not the accumulation of material wealth but the ability to gather capable individuals for appointments to critical roles within the state. The most priceless asset for a King is to assemble competent individuals for appointments in every sphere of the state machinery. By doing so, the citizens automatically respect the king, and he succeeds in his mission." Thus, in choosing MoropantPingle as his first Peshwa, Shivaji Maharaj ensured his own success. Moropant was indeed a rare gem, a truly dedicated son of Hindavi Swarajya.



## Wit & Wisdom

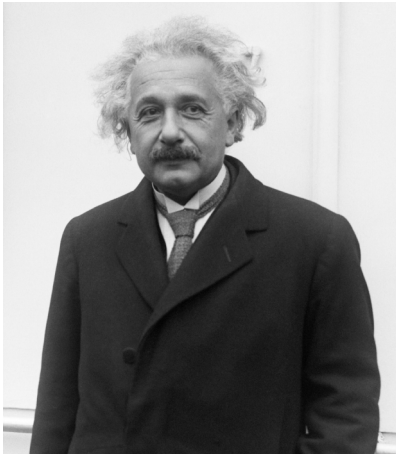
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## REALM OF SCIENTISTS - II

### ALBERT EINSTEIN



Albert Einstein caused a breakthrough in the world of Science. His name is associated with the Theory of Relativity. There are many anecdotes associated with him that give a peep into his character.

Einstein was popular even during his lifetime. He was remarkably very simple and unostentatious. In Peter Michelmores's biography of Albert Einstein, he says that "Einstein's bedroom was monkish. There were no pictures on the wall, no carpet on the floor. He shaved roughly with bar soap. He often went barefooted around the house. He did not wear socks and would say "What is the use of these socks? They only produce holes. " His wife Elsa put her foot down when she once saw him chopping the sleeves of his new shirt from his elbow down. He explained that cuffs had to be buttoned and studded and the shirt had to be washed frequently ....- all a waste of time. " Every possession," Einstein said, "is a stone around the leg."

Einstein was very uncomfortable when people praised him. He always felt and

expressed that in the eyes of God, all are the same... He would say ' In the eyes of God, we are all equally wise and equally foolish " It was again Einstein who remarked "Science without religion is lame and religion without science is blind"

When everyone praised him to the skies, he would say "Everybody talks about me and nobody understands me. "

One day, he climbed the ladder to hang a picture on the wall and accidentally fell. The incident set his mind on scientific lines. He came out with a new theory "The motion of a body is due solely to the tendency of matter to follow the path of least resistance. "

Once in 1933, when Einstein was on a visit to the USA, he came to know that Hitler had become a dictator in Germany. He decided not to return home and made the announcement to the press. Furious Nazis ransacked his house and confiscated his bank account. They also announced 1000 pounds on his head. On hearing this Einstein, without losing his cool, remarked "I did not know it was worth so much "

When Einstein arrived at the Institute of Advanced Studies at Princeton, he was already a Nobel Laureate. When he was shown his new office and asked what the items required him, Einstein replied " A desk or table, a chair, paper, pencils – O Yes, and a large waste



paper basket. I can throw away all my mistakes  
 " He was an embodiment of simplicity !!!



**Einstein and the Barber :** Music composer Leopold Godowsky in New York was a close friend of Albert Einstein and often told them about his close friendship with the great scientist

to his barber during his hair-cutting sessions in the saloon. The barber was excited and expressed his desire to meet the famous scientist at least once in his lifetime. Godowsky promised the barber that one day he would bring his scientist friend to the saloon. Subsequently, when Godowsky went to Princeton he told Einstein about the desire of the barber. He even gave the Barber's address to Einstein. Einstein promised his friend that he would meet the barber during his next visit to New York. Somehow, Einstein could not make it to New York immediately.

Meanwhile, Einstein received the news that his close friend Godowsky passed away suddenly. As soon as Einstein learnt about the sad demise of his friend, he immediately went to New York and met the Barber in the shop. It was very touching. That was his farewell tribute to his friend. And that was his keeping up the promise made to his friend.

**Theory of Relativity and a Pretty Girl -** Once a pretty girl asked him to explain the Theory of Relativity. Einstein replied "When a man sits with a pretty girl like you for an hour, it seems like a minute. But let him sit on a hot stove for a minute and it will seem like an hour. That is Relativity. "

**Women and Relativity :** When Einstein arrived in America, there was a huge crowd of

reporters and an equally big crowd of ladies surrounded him. Both started firing questions at Einstein.

" How do you like America? "

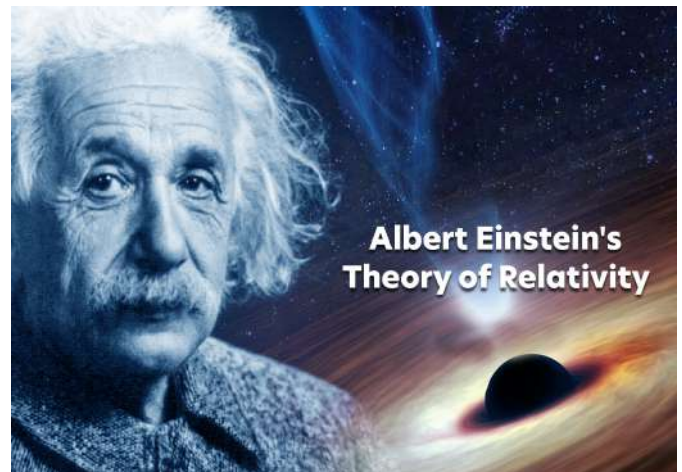
Einstein replied "I do not know as yet "

"Can you explain the theory of Relativity in one sentence? "

Einstein replied " Out of question. "

Then one lady asked "Why is it that we women are so excited about your "Theory of Relativity? "

Einstein was equally smart. He replied "Because Women like new fashion every year and this year it is the Theory of Relativity. "



**Einstein's Dress and Relativity :** During one of his lecture tours to France, Einstein's wife Elsa carefully and meticulously packed his suitcase and warned him before departure.

" The black suit is to be worn on the evening you make your speech. Don't forget. Put on a clean shirt, and a tie, please. And please the socks " He dutifully nodded.

Einstein returned after the trip. Elsa wanted to unpack and clean the suitcase. Yes,

it did come..... clean ... UNTOUCHED !!!!  
Elsa looked up at her husband. She was speechless !!

Einstein ruefully replied 'Yes, I forgot... but then .... They came to hear my Lectures and not to see whether I was fashionably dressed... Isn't that so ?"

### **Theory of Relativity and the Driver :**

Soon after Einstein 's Theory of Relativity was discovered and published he became a celebrity and his name was on everybody's lips. He was invited by many prestigious universities to deliver a talk on his specialized subject.

One day his chauffeur told him 'Mr. Einstein, I have heard your talk so far nearly thirty times and now I know it by heart. I can bet you, I can talk on the Theory of Relativity myself"

Einstein, the ever so kindhearted, agreed to the suggestion made by the chauffeur that at the next University which he was visiting for the first time, the driver would be given a chance.

When they were about to reach the University, both the driver and the Scientist exchanged their places in the car as well as their dresses. So when they reached the University, Einstein was at the wheel and the driver was in the rear seat. Mistaking the man in the rear seat to be the great scientist, Einstein, the authorities at the University welcomed the driver and led him to the dais.

After the introductory remarks, it was time for the guest speaker to speak on the subject of Relativity. Yes, he did and did exceedingly well. There was thunderous applause !!!!

Now after the talk, there was a question–answer session. One of the Professors present in the hall asked a question which was very difficult to manage and that too extempore !! But the driver was too shrewd. Without losing his cool, he remarked "Gentlemen, Your question is very simple. Even my driver who is sitting in the last row can answer this question for you.

The DRIVER came on the stage and needless to say that he satisfied the professor!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Universal Peace** was of utmost importance to Einstein. After he had moved from Nazi Germany to the USA, he had written a letter to President Roosevelt urging him to develop Nuclear Bombs before Germany did. His opinion contributed to Roosevelt going ahead with the plan. He later considered his letter as one of the greatest mistakes of his life. One of his last acts before his death was an agreement that his name should head the Manifesto urging all Nations to give up nuclear weapons on the firm conviction that the solution to Universal Peace and harmony lies not in threat but in the heart of Mankind.

Before Einstein died on 18/4/ 1955 in Princeton, when he regained consciousness during his first night in the hospital, he talked for a while. But Alas! It was in his mother tongue – German. It was one of those tragic turns of fate that there was nobody around who knew German. Nurses and doctors were more concerned about the Patient's physical condition than the parting words of the genius. They recorded that he spoke. Thus the last words of the genius were lost forever.



## Short Story

**B.R. Bhimachar**

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(At 100 years, he is the youngest writer we have...!)



## Pitiable Plight

Every Saturday, Seenappa sits outside the Shaneeshvara temple and begs. He is born blind. His legs are disfigured and his skin has turned dark with wrinkles. He appears much older than he actually is. That one day's earnings is enough for him to feed for the whole week ahead. It also supplies his daily quota of beedis! Within his limits, he enjoys a life of comfort and ease.

The devotees who offer him alms pray silently –“Oh Shanideva, bless us in such a way that we do not get into Seenappa's pitiable state. Also, please show mercy on this poor soul and rid him of all his pain and suffering”. Though Seenappa does not get to know the content of the devotees' prayers, he too silently prays for god's mercy in fulfilling the wishes of all his devotees.

One day Lord Shanideva too took pity on Seenappa's miserable life. That very night, he appeared in Seenappa's dreams and told him that he had given him a boon that would rid him of all his suffering. It would make him look young and strong. The Lord disappeared even before Seenappa could say a single word...

From that day onwards, no one recognized him on the streets. Even on Saturday, when he sat at his regular place in front of the temple begging, none even glanced at him. He is no

longer blind and looks young and strong. His skin is glowing and he looks handsome. His disfigured legs now look healthy and firm. When the devotees who regularly gave him money went past him without offering their alms, Seenappa got worried. He was crestfallen when he heard one of the devotees telling his friend –“Look at this guy. He looks young and strong. Instead of working, he is here sitting and begging. These guys are thieves...”. Seenappa that day returned empty-handed.

Another Saturday came. “My Lord... Please rid me of this pitiable situation...”- Lord Shanideva was perplexed at hearing this rather familiar voice. He came out and saw Seenappa on his knees and prayed “ Lord, I have not had anything to eat in the last week. I am dying of hunger. Please help me regain my old form and state. I will not ask you for anything else again...”

The Lord had proactively gone ahead to save Seenappa from all his miseries but Seenappa now seemed to be terribly upset with that. The Lord that day decided never to offer anything to devotees without them asking for the same. With this revelation, Lord Shanideva slowly walked back into the Sanctum Sanctorum with a big smile on his face...

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





# Whip of Humour

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## The Delightful world of Professor A.R. Mitra

Enamoured by the magnificent feats of Lord Jesus, a traveller went to visit the holy places. He crossed the Galilee Sea by boat, climbed the mountain and spent the entire day roaming the place. At dusk, when he wished to return to the mainland, the boatman said, 'The fare will be 20 dollars, sir.'

'But that's exorbitant! When I crossed here in the morning it was only 50 cents' protested the traveller.

'Return fare has always been exorbitant sir' replied the boatman.

'No wonder the Lord walked!' gushed the traveller.

\* \* \*

Arjuna threw down his bow; bowed his head in grief; refused to fight against his own people. Lord Krishna drummed eighteen chapters of Gita into Arjuna's head and in the end asked, 'Did you understand what I said or shall I start all over again?'

Arjuna picked up the bow and arrows, turned to Krishna and said, 'O Lord, I prefer war to your bore!'

\* \* \*

The great professor D.L. Narasimhachar was reading some old Kannada book and came across a passage which read thus: 'The guests were served Idli.'

'That was a thousand years ago. Idli has a history of more than a thousand years! Incredible!' thought D.L.N. He was overcome with the desire to taste this dish with such great history, went to the college canteen, ordered a

plate of Idli, took a piece of it, munched and remarked, 'Yes. This Idli is definitely of those good old days!'

\* \* \*

Na. Kasturi, a Malayalee who enriched the humour literature of Kannada, once stated that youngsters cannot be expected to do all the deeds that the elders can do.

'I beg to differ, sir. I can do anything that you do and that too more effectively' countered a student.

'Don't be so sure of yourself. There are some things beyond your capabilities.'

'I refute that statement.'

'Come to the staff room tomorrow at lunch hours to accept the challenge.'

The boy arrived. The teacher and the student sat across the table.

'Now, I challenge you to repeat what I do' declared the teacher, reached into the innards of his mouth, took out his dentures and placed them on the table!

\* \* \*



These are some of the classical anecdotes presented by Professor A.R. Mitra in his own inimitable style. A scholar par excellence, he has chosen humour as a vehicle to drive home the difficult aspects of literature.

Mitra recalls the interview he faced for the

teacher's post. 'They did not ask me any questions. They just asked me to say something, anything. As soon as I began to speak they said that I was selected.'

'But you have not asked any questions about the subject' I protested.

'There are elders and books to help you master the subject. You have the basic ingredient required for a teacher' one of them declared.

'What is that sir?'

'Loud, clear voice' he replied. The interview panel concurred.

Thus came Mitra to the teaching arena and strode the arena like a colossus. 'The way he taught us was simply mesmerising. We can still picture the beauty of Menaka as she danced around the penance-bound Vishwamitra. It was as though the scene was unravelling right before us' recall the students of those days. The font of knowledge coupled with the knack of presentation embellished with a loud and clear voice with the right measure of tuning and timing produces a heady mixture of classication that has stood the test of time.

Mitra and his contemporary, Master Hirannaiah, the great dramatist, were great friends. There was never a dull moment when these two were around. Once, in a public function, the question of who is elder between the two and who shall salute who arose.

'When were you born?' asked Mitra.

'15th February 1934' said the dramatist.

'That settles it. I am the elderly one. I was born on 25th February 1935' declared the professor.

'Wait. I was born in 1934...' protested Hirannaiah.

'Let the public decide' said Mitra and turning to the audience, said, 'I ask the knowledgeable among to decide this. Tell me; which of the two is the bigger number, 15 or

25?'

'25' rose the chorus.

'34 or 35?'

'35' roared the chorus.

Mitra beamed at the dramatist and said, 'See! I am bigger than you!'

Not to be cowed down, Hirannaiah turned to the crowd and said, 'Which is ranked higher, 15 or 25?'

'15' said the crowd.

'34 or 35?'

'34' declared the gathering.

'See! I rank higher than you' beamed the dramatist, adding, 'but I bow to the great depth of your knowledge.'

'I too bow to your overall greatness' replied the Professor.

\* \* \*

Mitra has penned many scholarly works. His knowledge of Kannada poetry is second to none. An avid reader of Telugu, Sanskrit and Kannada with a smattering of Prakrit too, Mitra is known for his immense knowledge and presentation of 'Kumaravyasa Bharata.' In fact, he is hailed as the Modern Kumaravyasa by the great musician R.K. Padmanabhan. Professor Mitra is on the cusp of being a nonagenarian. His YouTube channel 'Mitra Prapancha' boasts of hundreds of scholarly talks laced with clean humour. 'But for the people in the front row, all that the speaker can see are the heads of the audience in the other rows. A speaker, especially a humourist, must address that part of the anatomy only and nothing else. Cheap, double-meaning jokes shall be dispensed with is his uncompromising advice to all the humourists.

Mitra, the unique, the inimitable, is a boon to the Kannada Land. May he live long and lead a healthy life throughout that span of time.



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## THE SEARCH

The road seems long and dark  
The side paths cold and lonely  
The eyes - they search for another being  
The heart yearns for company  
The ears - they plead for a note  
The soul –longing for peace  
But there is silence and silence and more silence...



Faraway there seems a door waiting to be opened  
The feet - they tirelessly rush towards it  
The hands - they impatiently search for the keys  
With great excitement to open it  
With strength till now, never realised,  
With sweat relentlessly flowing and desperation to reach out...

Alas, if they only knew - the door opens inwards.







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