

# DEW DROPS ON NEWSPAPER

REFLECTIONS ON LIFE, YOUTH, AND INNER GROWTH

***BP AGARWAL***

(PURSUING PHD)



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"This book is dedicated to my late parents  
Sri G. N Agarwal and Smt. Patasi Devi of Cuttack".

Without their sacrifice and efforts, I would not have  
reached this stage. They took all pains to educate me in a  
reputed school at Cuttack.



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# HUMAN TO MAN

Both words comprehensively appear the same but to a Historian or biologist they differ. We have to study the difference in the backdrop of a prehistoric age and the current modern age.

The prehistoric humans were insignificant animals with no more impact on their environment than gorillas, fireflies or jellyfish. The age old humans spent more time searching for food. They lived in constant fear of predators, used sharp tools to feed on carrion left over by carnivores. Scientists agree that about 70, 000 years ago, sapiens from East Africa spread into Arabian peninsula and from there they quickly entered Eurasian landmass. At that time homosapiens were the only surviving human species. The human species developed and evolved itself to settle rapidly in extreme climatic conditions. Today we find them in the hottest deserts and the coldest Arctic habitats. The most contributing factor was domestication of fire which helped to cook and keep them warm when required. Wheat, rice and potatoes became their staple food thanks to fire.

The human brain consists of 2 to 3 percent of total body weight. The most God gifted feature is that accidental genetic mutations changed the inner wiring of the brain to make them communicate in a language. Even insects, bees and ants know how to communicate.

With the cognitive growth of humans a new era of revolutions came into being. The foremost was the Agricultural Revolution which made the humans settle at one place instead

of moving like a tribe. Domestication of plants and animals was the backbone of this age. Subsequently the invention of coins and currency made them to depart from barter transactions.

The Scientific Revolution started removing ignorance and the planetary beings enveloped itself under the Knowledge Tree. It gave rise to inventions and discoveries thus they acquired unprecedented power.

The Scientific Revolution opened the gates of the Industrial Revolution. This metaphorical change gave birth to goods and services satisfying the needs of a common man. Markets evolved itself to competition. Exploitation of nature led to massive extinction of plants and animals.

Today the scenario has undergone tremendous change with space exploration, nuclear power, capitalism, territorial integrity etc. Sapiens have been able to change their behaviour quickly, transmitting new behaviours to future generations in an auto mode condition.

It took millions of years for humans to become “man”. I must say it takes a tribe to raise a human. In today's world we need the services of doctor, nurse, pharmacist, teacher, lawyer, professor, mentor, counsellor, employer, entrepreneur, trainer etc to make a human baby a “man” so that he lives independently after the parents depart.

## CHOOSE A MENTOR

We all need a teacher for our education which is covered by a school in our life. The teacher takes care of our academic content and makes us climb the ladder of academic journey.

If you go one step ahead we all need a mentor in the take off period of academic flight. A mentor is a friend, philosopher and guide in our life's journey. He is a continuous source of inspiration, guidance and advice while we are stepping ahead in life. Very few students are lucky enough to have a mentor. Teachers remain in touch till the school and college faculty are rarely in personal touch with the students due to high roll strength. It is the mentor which is on a vital role in one's life.

It is observed that the aspirants have an aim in life but lack the methodology to be adopted considering the conditions of the family and surrounding lives. A mentor is one who understands individually the circumstances and gives practical advice to the student on how to reach the destination. The aspirant or mentee as it's called is in touch with the mentor and follows his advice.

A vital point here lies on “how to choose a mentor”. Now this is a million dollar question. I should say that it is something next to choosing a life partner!

It is so very personal and critical that you just can't take the help of a third person. You have to evaluate, calculate, judge with your own intuition. A mentor is one who will shape your life not only academically but also emotionally and spiritually. In my opinion i would be at best able to present you a list of

sources you can tap to choose a mentor since it is not like a coach which you can replace whenever you like.

- 1) **Teacher-In** academic life we are all under the umbrella of teachers for a long period of say fifteen years till we cross higher secondary stage. A student who is serious can easily judge a teacher on to what extent he or she can be a guide outside the school curriculum. Continuous classes and conversation ignites the inner conscience and can give signal to the brain. It is observed in my experience that some students get magnetically attracted towards a certain teacher and seeks guidance for career, job and other issues of daily life. It is the best and most convenient source in my opinion.
- 2) **Relative**-It is often seen that relatives achieve high in life and this phenomenon is closely observed by the aspirant ever since childhood. A blood relation is a major advantage in this source. A student gets inspired by the person and can seek his advice to have his ambition fulfilled. It is often seen in doctor families where the brothers and sisters take up different medical discipline watching each other working hard. It is not possible where the student is having his cousins who have no interest in education. A relative is a very handy source of inspiration and guidance and is supposed to be a gift of god for you.
- 3) **Biography and Autobiography** -Once when I was on a train journey I saw a boy engrossed in a biography of an Indian scientist. Due to inquisitiveness I asked the reason for his high concentration. He glad to tell me that the scientist is his mentor, although he has not



met him. I was baffled by his approach! It meant that the inspiration and guidance is obtained from the content of the cream coloured pages of the book in his hand. I was just wondering “how a book can be a mentor” for this young student. Actually I realised that every sentence of biographies and autobiographies carries a meaning and they act as invisible mentors to the reader if he goes through in that angle. The serious reader follows the mentor meticulously in all the activities of his daily life.

We must have a good mentor in our life as early as possible. Life becomes smooth and meaningful earning from experience of others is vital since we live for a very limited time in this world and we cannot afford to waste in doing experiments of situations in life. A new experience is welcome but an old experiment done earlier is not desirable.

## EXPLORE AND EXPOSE

The unique vastness of our universe calls for a never ending exploration with the help of our five senses backed by current technology. Exploration is highly technical and can be done by only a handful of educated people. It is a diverse field with specialization beyond limits. Space, science, medicine, agriculture, robotics, artificial intelligence and what not. A few do it and others wait for exposure. That which is explored needs to be exposed to reap the fruits. The hidden factor needs exploratory research. Professionals like researchers, scientists, astronauts, medical teams, agriculturists, economists etc are toiling round the clock to explore new angles, solutions, remedies, preventive steps for the welfare of the mass.

Today as per media Russia has invented a vaccine for cancer and proposes free distribution to countries. It was not an effort of a single day! It might have taken years together to come up to this level. A glaring example of explore and expose. Research in medics is futile if the results are wrapped in files to gather dust. The mass needs to be made aware and the government needs to channelise it properly. Similarly polio was a dreaded disease affecting children around the world. Credit goes to Dr Albert Swadin for development of OPV ie oral polio vaccine. With the joint efforts of NGOs and the Governments of all countries it was eradicated. If the research of Dr Albert had been ignored due to some reasons we would not have reaped the benefits. A popular saying goes “Necessity is the mother of invention” The invention of penicillin by Alexander Fleming has led to a revolutionary storm in the field of broad spectrum antibiotics, a boon for

patients of this century. A mushrooming growth of universities and flooded admissions in PhD in various streams throughout the nation has laid a carpet of discoveries and inventions in multiple streams. Sadly many research theories and thesis get locked in strong rooms of universities. Who is responsible nobody knows? Unless there is a system backed code of conduct this will go unabated. A need for exposure is the need of the hour.

In my tender period of half a decade in education I had some mind boggling experiences. Here the word “hidden talent” occupies a central place. It was only a higher secondary school with students of hardly eighteen years. My intuition found a student that could write a book for me in a subject of her interest. I motivated her and she presented me a content on key points of Biology of class 10 level. A bit of guidance made her climb the ladder of becoming an author and I got the book listed in Amazon and Flipkart as well. What did it require? The simple steps of intuition, exploration, motivation and guidance made a simple student enter the arena of books. She had a hidden talent and I explored it to get it exposed online. You can imagine the amount of difference it will make in her future life.

Lakhs and lakhs of students are in schools but hardly very few are known for their hidden values. The teachers are busy in completing the curriculum and the management is busy controlling finances. Government is busy collecting taxes vis a vis developments. Who will search for the talent in these young minds and toil for its exposure? It requires a special skill to harness. Academic institutions also insert extracurricular activities in their daily routines. Somewhere in the corner of a class of thirty students a student is extraordinarily expert in

debate which could lead him towards a public speaker career. Who will make him aware? Who will talk to his parents who are already bent upon making him pursue commerce stream? These are billion dollar questions in this vast world of vast population with vast biodiversity. With proper exploration and together with exposure, even a single individual will emerge to change the condition of this world whatever the field may be. Education has to be read with Exploration and Exposure. The three E's will be the future if done consistently.

Agriculture is a segment which India cannot ignore at any cost. It took the shape of Green Revolution in the mid 1960's led by Dr. M. S. Swaminathan. The revolution resulted in metaphorical change in the agriculture map of India. Yield per acre and quality witnessed an enormous growth making once a dependent country to a self sufficient nation. Rice wheat being staple food, saw a steep growth with a straight line in graph. What was the background behind this achievement? It was research in lab and transfer of methods to farmers in farmland. Exploration followed by exposure via print, electronic and social media opened the gates for exports and aids to countries as per extant foreign policy of the state. Today fruits and vegetables are grown throughout the year with technical guidance of agriculturalist. Fairs and exhibitions are organised with public and private initiative to spread awareness among the masses in latest technologies and cost effective methods. Since Indian GDP is significantly dependent on agriculture exploration and exposure should be given top priority. The agriculture department introduces many incentives and schemes for the farmers including the famous MSP ie minimum support price. With the consistent efforts of agri scientists we have seen multiple cropping thereby enhancing revenue of farmers.

We are still very inquisitive whenever a new fact of space science is conveyed through a media. Martian water in the form of lakes, rivers etc generated much heated debate on existence of life in Mars. It was explored and it's exposure gave rise to a feedback from mass population whether exploration should continue or discontinue. The common citizens rejoiced at this discovery and space technocrats see this as a future planet after our blue planet. It will take centuries together with facts and findings handed over to successors so that repetition is avoided. Chandrayan 3 launched in July 2023 was a major milestone in space science. It exposed sulphur on lunar surface, seismic activity and plasma density assisting further research in earth. The lunar vehicle and it's components revealed the elemental composition of lunar soil and rocks. More launchings are planned in the coming years. Exposure of space data via the satellites is food for the ground research. The artificial satellites also forecast the climatic changes and help in fast communications in telecom world.

Human mind has the potential to explore what cannot be seen with naked eyes. What the eyes cannot see mind can explore with technology. To explore it may take years and even centuries but to expose it takes a fraction of a second. Before exposing the research material must be well tested and pass the crash test as done in the case of motor cars. I must also say that some minor explorations done by young minds should also be encouraged and given importance. If required further more research may be required on what has been documented by a junior scholar. Let efforts not gather dust but adorned by exposure.

## TUITION AND INTUITION

Both are quite similar. But they make a large difference. In the angle of a student he can either choose tuition for his studies or dig his own intuition for self study.

Nowadays parents are more worried about marks being secured by their sons and daughters. They think that good marks is the ultimate goal which is probably not true. In pursuit of same home tuition and coaching classes are mushrooming throughout. The student rely entirely on the above external sources to pass in academics.

In the above process they fail to realize that an internal source is embedded inside their mind which we call intuition. Coincidentally the letters “in” has been added to complete the word intuition. It aptly emphasizes that it lies within.

What is the motive behind this article?

Psychologically it so happens that the intuitive power of a student gets eroded if he depends on tuition. His self understanding, self analysis becomes weak once he finds that tuition will solve all his academic issues.

Being a school teacher having interacted many students of higher secondary classes I have come across their daily lives. They report to school at 9 am and leave for home at 2 pm. Having reached home they have their lunch and proceed to coaching classes by 3:30 pm. The coaching centres engage them till 7 pm for teaching three to four main subjects. There they again sit in classes with strength more than school.

Accordingly they reach home by 7:30 pm tired and exhausted. Where is the time to use their intuition?

Use of intuition requires a peaceful mind and body to work. One cannot imagine the power of self study! Human mind is bestowed with limitless capabilities which cannot be used by tuition.

My advice to students of today is to learn the basics of a chapter by tuition and further knowledge about the chapter by your own intuition. This can be done easily by writing your own notes on the chapter. You will never forget the content.

## **GETTING READY IN BODY MIND AND SOUL**

I was dreaming. It was on the floor of class 7. My eyes closed and myself holding the pen tightly in my fist as if some juice will trickle down. I hoped to write for human anatomy with the pen in my hand. My classmates thought that I might be feeling sleepy. It was a seed sown in my body mind and soul. The earliest professional dream usually culminates to a doctor.

It was a giant thought and none of the members in my family clan went for medical education. I gathered courage to speak to my parents who were not very financially stable. Added to that I would be a burden for at least seven years on the shoulders of members living on hand to mouth. My father heard me carefully although he was a simple high schooler of those days. He imagined me migrate to a city from the village landscape of Lakhisarai in Bihar. My mother had to be explained about the conversation as she was a primary schooler. A mother knows her son better than a father. Without losing any moment she reacted as if the newspaper declared a bumper prize of a lottery. My father sat dumbfounded.

Lakhisarai in those days had no English medium schools. I shall have to go to a nearest urban CBSE school to catch up with English Language. The screeching sound of a train heading to Patna echoed in my ears as if I was ready to board it.

Finance was a stumbling block. My mother ceremoniously offered her metallic treasures hidden in a secret place which



my father was unaware of. He was sure to spill out his savings kept in bank and some money given as loan to needy persons. I had already obtained much information of residential schools in and around Patna. Assets had to be liquidated to remit fees etc in school counter. I felt the weight of the ambitious step taken. I was confident outside but inside the outside world was taking hold. This was revolutionary for me. I came back home with all the cash which I could collect from the local jeweller and bank. I was to board the train two days ahead and I finished with all the formalities I could.

Thank you doctor for dreaming at so young a age and your parents for compromising their life savings on the spar of the moment.

## CHOOSE YOUR SPACE

Every matter whether living or non-living needs a space to accommodate itself. A table needs a space to perform its function. An animal too requires space.

The planet earth has a space in this vast universe. It has its own boundaries, resources, satellite, star and geography. The world occupies a space in this blue planet comprising of continents, countries, states and capitals. It is so natural since the very space occupied by each unit becomes a habitat undeterred by external contingencies. The space looks reserved, independent and consistent.

We as human beings should learn this phenomenon of being a part of this vast universe. Every living being possesses certain anatomical and genetic features that leads him to find a space suitable for his growth and development. Biologically it becomes his “habitat”. Likewise a human being with greater superiority and higher complexity than others in the animal kingdom should choose a space of its own.

Choosing a space is the most critical and difficult task for a person. It covers several aspects like geographical location, street, apartment, flat, room and a corner for exclusivity and solace. A space comes with its own vibes and signals. Experts in this field easily judge the quality of space by visual and olfactory impulses.

An ideal space gives you mental peace, creative ideas, the thrust for using a pen and paper. Unfortunately the digital age has snatched away many vital natural aspects of daily life. The youth is the only period of life when one has to choose his

career and subsequently a space to grow into a matured person with his better half.

If you choose your space in a non-secular country you land up exposed to limited culture and society. If you choose a secular country you are lucky enough to enjoy the variety of language and culture.

A job aspirant hunts for a good employer. In the sense the employer should provide him a good space for him in the organisation where he can mentally and financially grow towards a satisfying goal.

You must have a space in your home to express yourself to yourself so that you can express yourself to others in an acceptable manner. By progression of age we deserve a space to think, analyze, compare, conclude by aggregating all events taking place in and around us. All members of a family generally sit in the same chair of the dining table. Students sit in the same space in his or her class at school. Why is it so? The space acts like a magnet. Your personal space should attract you in a magnetic way to bring out positivity.

Space defines your character and personality. Among an audience a visitor occupying a VIP seat is more looked after than a visitor in general row. So choose your space judiciously and let the world know your worth.

## **SANGAM AN EXPERIENCE**

The three rivers Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati invoked in me the passion to touch them. It was a moment which came after about fourteen decades as mythology puts it.

I reached Prayagraj airport in afternoon hours to board a cab to tent city temporarily built over a vast expanse of the river bank. It was told by locals that the Mela authority earmarked the area of each tent cluster and the owners had to fill the ground to make it habitable. I was told that a group of about three hundred Malaysians had arrived on different dates to take a holy dip in the confluence of sacred rivers.

As per my itinerary I called up a bike to carry me to the boat house from where row boats would carry to the Sangam point. It was interesting to note that the bike riders were students of colleges as Allahabad was always an education hub of Uttar Pradesh. They were in this assignment to earn money and that would help them finance their education expenses. This was a boon opportunity for them.

I touched Sangam after an hour of boat ride with a thrilling experience of migratory birds of Siberia. They were loving the warm waters of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati. The migration is since time immemorial and ornithologists carry on their research till date.

The boat owners helped the tourists to take a dip in the cold waters. They encouraged all although some were not willing due to the cold wind. The water was full of energy and provoked me to take dip several times. It was a heavenly experience altogether. It was a custom to collect samples of

water and the sand beneath to carry it home. The sand beneath is said to contain ingredients of old saints and sages whose ashes were immersed in the holy waters since time immemorial.

I came back to the tent on bike after traversing through a heavy traffic of pilgrims which turned beyond expectations. The economists predict that the event of 45 days might be contributing towards one percent of India's GDP. An event which will be written in the pages of history to be read by our future generations in all times to come.

## GENERATION GAP

A deep study of history has already shown gaps in between various dynasties which ruled our land and of other countries. Such gaps have been exposed in socio-economic, personal lives and political scenarios. It is clearly evident from an analytical study of Mughal era and British raj. The entire sociological and political scenario underwent a metaphorical change when British gradually took over territories from the shackles of Mughal emperors.

Generation gap is a reality if we analyze the facts existing in our ancestral years and today's times. That which existed a mere fifty years back has transformed itself beyond imagination. A glaring example can be seen in the gap between print media and social media. Within a fraction of a second a news outreaches millions. You don't need to wait for the morning paper at your doorstep. The youth is already confused between the customs of the past and fashion of today. On confronting they take shelter of generation gap. The old aged parents were taken care by sons in homes. Today agencies exist to provide manpower for such needs. There has been a wide gap in the field of education. The gurukul system has given way to English missionaries for schooling to upper class. It is a status symbol to get admission in Convents and Holy Cross institutions. Parents are baffled at the habits and lifestyle of their wards. Is it the effect of generation gap?

We just can't forget our traditional customs and values on the pretext of generation gap. Due respect to the traditional culture is required but at the same time in keeping pace with

the world outside. You need to keep your feet on the ground and mind on the happenings of the world which is witnessing an accelerated growth of science and technology. We should not shatter our foundational values which took birth in the pre-historic age.

In other words an ultra modern research laboratory can be installed in a mosaic tiled floor which was in vogue since time immemorial.

## **AGE IS JUST A NUMBER**

This is a brief write up of Mr BP AGARWAL who resides in Raipur in Anupam Nagar. He was born at Cuttack a Silver City of Odisha in 1962. He belonged to a business family which had philanthropic interests also.

Was schooled in Stewart School and Postgraduated in Commerce from Ravenshaw College. He migrated to Raipur and joined as a Director in a private company handling Commercial and legal matters. During Corona pandemic he resigned and took a U turn towards educational activities. His passion was ignited which made him write notes on science subjects although from a commerce background. Today he boasts of having written about two dozens of diaries in the field of Biology, Chemistry, Social Science, Philosophy, Motivation.

One fine morning and ad in a daily drove him to a private school and he landed as a regular teacher in Raipur. Apart from teaching commerce he took classes in biology and chemistry in higher secondary level. The management of Royal Public School made him Vice Principal to look after administration also.

Nowadays he acts as a career guide for students. It was seen that some students suffering from depression were uplifted by him and now they are prepared to face competitive exams. A session on SCIENCE KO SARAL KARO is very popular in schools which he undertakes free of cost using household articles.



He acted as mentor to guide a handful of students to write books and got them listed in Amazon. The royalty is enjoyed by them. Some names are

- 1) Basic Principles of Accounting by Vijiya Ruprela.
- 2) Chemistry at a Glance by Mariyam Qureshi
- 3) Physics at a Glance by Ayesha Khan.

**As of today at the age of 63 he is engaged in the following:**

- 1) Training of Teachers
- 2) Visiting faculty in two schools
- 3) Appeared for UGC Net in June 25
- 4) Pursuing PhD in Commerce in Kalinga University
- 5) Uplifting weak students to come to average level.
- 6) Writing weekly articles for an English daily.

He is happily married to Ranjana Agarwal and blessed with two sons and three grandchildren. Many times he says that “Commerce is my compulsion and Science is my passion”.

## **CHANGING SEASONS OF INDO-US RELATIONS**

The INDO-US relationship has been a vital part of foreign relations since it defined our global strategy. US had been a super power along with Russia for centuries. India realised the need for strategic partnership with US ever since colonialism was wiped out in 1947.

An analytical approach to study the alliance brick by brick was done. An interesting feature emerged indicating non-standardised tenets of policy with USA. India was and has been always on the receiving end rather than dictating its terms. The Presidents had their own fancy on the backdrop of current affairs of the world. I would give a brief on how four Presidents of US starting from year 2000 had different priorities and signed bilateral agreements on their visits to our country.

### **BILL CLINTON**

He was the first to visit in year 2000 March on a five day trip. India had strained its relations in 1998 by nuclear tests. India agreed to international monitoring of its nuclear weapons development. The visit of Clinton led to establishment of Indo-US Science and Technology Forum. The economic and diplomatic relations grew strong thereafter. The two leaders agreed to broaden their cooperation in peace keeping and other areas of UN activities.

## **GEORGE BUSH**

He was a strong supporter of India. It was a first in history that an Indian festival of Diwali was celebrated in the precincts of White House. Although due to a pre engagement Bush could not attend but his close aide carried out the formalities of the festival along with his message as well. George Bush solidified America's strategic partnership focusing on defence collaboration, trade relations and energy cooperation. His visit to India in 2006 highlighted the signing of US- India Civil Nuclear Agreement. Our country was then came very near to Nuclear World. The tenure under George Bush is remembered as a Golden Era for the Indian diaspora in United States.

## **BARACK OBAMA**

He adorned the Republic Day celebrations in 2015 as Chief Guest. India was under the Prime minister ship of Narendra Modi. Obama was the first black president of USA. Both India and US were true global partners in strengthening economies and strong democracies. The most noted feature of his regime was US India cooperation on mutual climate and clean energy goals. The world was at that juncture serious in clean fuel rather than fossil fuels. It is because of this cooperation India is on the testing platform of hydrogen driven train. Obama agreed on cooperation on Hydrofluorocarbons to adhere to Montreal Protocol.

## **DONALD TRUMP**

His visit on Feb 24, 2020 with his better half, daughter and son in law was something as a diplomat and a tourist. Trump was more keen on bilateralism. He was instrumental in penning down a slew of agreements, memorandum of understanding, counter terrorism, Intellectual Property Rights,

Space and Medical cooperation. A rally took place along with the Indian Prime Minister, in Ahmedabad. The slogan “America loves India, respects India” was popularized in his rallies on Indian roads. His accomplices enjoyed the mouth watering delicacies of street food like Khaman and samosa. Congruently a discussion took place in a trade deal to buy 3 bn dollar worth of US military helicopters. Although this visit was not favoured by some groups in Gujarat. The Indian counterpart spent huge money from the exchequer to make the visit a memorable one.

India's foreign policy towards America has to be continuously customized for the President of the day. In the Trump vision of the world, allies have disappointed America and competitors have cheated it. India is fortunate in being neither.

## REDUCTION IS BETTER THAN REMOVAL

Reduction is always better than removal. It is just like saying Prevention is better than cure. Why to carry the burden of removal when we can reduce the generation.

We can remove greenhouse gas carbon dioxide from the environment and reintroduce it into a sustainable carbon cycle. CO<sub>2</sub> can be converted to ethanol by a recent research by means of the old chemical process of electrocatalysis. The electrode is coated with black powder containing cobalt and copper.

DAC categorically means Direct Air Capture from the air. The captured carbon can then be stored underground, converted into solid forms or used in various products. Carbon is injected into volcanic rock and slowly transformed into stone, effectively locking it away permanently. The cost of removing carbon is still high. The current efforts in carbon removal fall short of what is needed.

Blue carbon refers to the carbon captured and stored by worlds ocean and coastal ecosystems. It includes mangroves, seagrass, meadows, salt marshes and tidal swamps. Mangroves can store more than 1000 tons of carbon per hectare due to their unique ability to capture CO<sub>2</sub> both above and below the ground.

The benefits of this sequestration are as follows:

- 1) Mitigating climate change by absorbing CO<sub>2</sub>.
- 2) Acting as natural barriers against storms, tsunamis and sea level rise.

- 3) Serving as habitat for numerous marine and terrestrial species.
- 4) Fish, timber and honey for coastal communities.

We can take CO<sub>2</sub> out of the atmosphere and we store that permanently. The second thing we do is to produce green hydrogen. Marine CO<sub>2</sub> removal is simply too risky. It could alter ocean chemistry, causing changes, in nutrient levels and species abundance. The ocean already naturally absorbs at least a quarter of human caused CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Oceans absorb more than 90% of heat generated from our greenhouse gas and absorbs at least a quarter of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The ocean is so vast, natural storage is a key advantage.

## ONE NEWSPAPER IS ENOUGH

One is always better than zero. One human is sufficient to transform the minds of all. A person has to believe in the wealth in depth. We as a matter of habit believe in quantity rather than quality.

My fingers point towards newspapers printed daily and a vendor delivering to our doorstep even before sunrise. The more than ten pages contain a reservoir of knowledge. It is a mirror of the planet earth reflecting all aspects of a nation, state, community, society and locality. The reader sitting in his bed with a cup of tea goes around the world with the contents touching every corner.

Eliminating ignorance with the carpet of knowledge touching science, technology, philosophy, environment, political, social, health, economy etc. A variety of content is the essence which makes it full of fragrance making readers habituated in the morning hours.

Knowledge acquisition is expensive in today's world. A meagre amount of ten rupees is enough to educate you leave aside books, journals and institutionalised education. It makes the reader know “something of everything”. It broadens the mind, activates the body and enlightens the spirit.

Today's world is full of discoveries, inventions, and research taking place in every nook and corner. Access to these is easy for the print media. A scholar uses it as a source of secondary data for a thesis. The daily is a rich source of inputs for the enterprising minds. Commercially the activities of competitors are exposed making planning simpler and continuous. A broad

idea of consumer behaviour, legislative regulations, global and local ideas gets floating in the thin papers printed with ink!

The educational system in our country has forgotten the news paper. None can deny the fact that a student of class 10 has the capacity to go through the news content and interpret it. I believe that a single day paper is enough to improve his vocabulary, sentence building, paragraphing and comprehension. This is apart from the exposure he gets on current affairs of his country.

Lastly I would personally suggest earmarking one period every week for newspaper reading and discussions. I personally as a teacher did it in my school and was stunned to see the inquisitive approach of students. It is the best way to walk from local to global mindset.



## **LIFE IS TIME**

The universe has been in existence since billions of years ago which is beyond our imagination. No life has survived for this duration. In this vast biodiversity we as humans have a span of life compared to a dot. Some live for longer in case of certain members of the animal kingdom. What is the main factor hovering above under such circumstances?. It is “time”. All living beings have their own constitution which is cradled in the lap of time. It is a numerical concept and ends with mortal remains to be buried inside mother earth.

The value of time should be better understood by us than others. We are not gifted with immeasurable time like celestial bodies, stars of the galaxy. If we compare our life span it is like a blink of an eye in front of celestials. Life is associated with time as a bosom friend. When we use the word “life span” the latter indicates time it will survive. Since the limitation of time exists as a natural fact we are just surviving for a certain period of time.

Since time has its own boundaries with each life, it becomes its wealthiest asset although not monetarily. Supposing a farmer has two acres of land as his holding and he is the only bread earner. He will obviously put all his money, efforts, time, resources in the piece of land to get maximum productivity. He knows that space is limited. Similarly we should realise that time at our disposal is limited by the clock which is beyond our control. The clock will stop ticking without any notice and soon the body goes up in flames.

We do come across many proverbs like time is money, time is precious and so on. I should conclude that “time is life”. If there is time with life then we exist in this world. We as humans spend some twenty five years of time in getting ourselves ready to face the world to earn a living. The next span of twenty five is spent on spouse, children, earning at a time when health is at its peak. Subsequently time is used for preparing sons and daughters for their marriage and settling them for job or business. Gradually health starts showing its character on both after golden anniversary. When full maturity sets in we are physically losing energy. Ultimately we retire mentally also. Judicious utilisation of time is the only way out to fulfill our dreams.

Now it is difficult to say whether “time is life” or “life is time”. In my view life is primary and borrows time from the Almighty which is granted according to his prerogative which is unquestionable. The invisible power has full control over time. The clock is merely an instrument like a thermometer.

## **TROUBLED WATERS OF INDIAN OCEAN**

The Indian subcontinent is endowed with an archipelago at its foothills being surrounded by ocean. Some are self governed and others under Indian Union. One such island Maldives with Male its capital is nestled in the Indian Ocean. Lakshadweep and Andaman Nicobar Islands are territories of India. The islands below thrive primarily on tourist inflows from all over the world.

A macroscopic look into the history of Maldives shows it was a British protectorate before independence in July 1965. The land was inhabited by Sinhalese from Sri Lanka and South India. Subsequently Islam reached due to Arabs and Persians as traders in the Indian Ocean. Sultanate saw its dusk in 1968 paving the way of a democratic form of government. Fishing and tourism were major bread and butter earners of Maldives. China extended monetary help raising the fiscal deficit and rising debt levels. It is interesting to note that this isolated island was a holiday destination for no less than fifty years and is still the same.

During 1988 some businessmen attempted to take over the island but the same was crushed by Indian assistance under the banner of “Operation Cactus”. Thereafter security was tightened by the Indian army and financial aid was extended. Diplomacy was maintained by the successive Maldivian governments and India continued to be a friend of this exotic island without expecting anything in return. The foreign policy of our country had worked well with this island.

Mohammad Muizzu was elected as 8th President. The Indo Maldives diplomacy took a sudden beating when he proclaimed “India Out” campaign. It aimed at withdrawal of Indian military troops stationed since long as a protectorate of this tiny coral rich island. Indian corridors of external affairs were taken aback and troops were called back in a phased manner. China was a precursor to this crisis as it eyed this island as a base near the giant Indian subcontinent. Muizzu was at the epicentre of this turmoil backed by a sudden Chinese diplomacy with a hidden agenda. It sweetened its ties by deferring the debt payment by five years. President Muizzu was bold enough to communicate that “We may be small, but that doesn't give you the licence to bully us”.

The crisis took a heavy toll on tourist inflows to the extent of fifty thousand. Revenues dried up, debts rose and it led to a scuffle in the Maldivian Parliament with physical attacks. In midst of crisis Indian Prime minister could think of a Chanakyan idea of the epic age to officially visit Lakshadweep islands still unexplored. The pictures of Mr Narendra Modi resting on a cosy chair on the sandy beach with his cunning eyes looking at the blue waters as an alternative to Maldives. This visit was a multi pronged strategy and took a viral turn in social media circles. All this happened around February 2024. The footsteps also laid the foundations of overall development in sectors of health, education, tourism, infrastructure.

The scenario which got built up in the developments saw Indians boycotting Maldives as a tourist destination. Maldives had to call China for tourists to keep the wheels of economy running. The Maldivian government turned its neck towards India when Dr Muizzu took a diplomatic visit to India from 6 th October to 10 th of October 2024.

The old saying of the Indians “dairaayedurustaaye” proved true. The visit was to reset ties with India as a valued partner in a giant neighbour. String of meetings were held in New Delhi to promote SEZ, luxury private islands, eco-friendly resorts, integrated tourism etc.

The Indian Ocean is about people, culture and commerce. It must be treated as a partner, not as an arena. Closer to home, India is developing trilateral cooperation with Sri Lanka and Maldives. The waters of ocean was disturbed for a while like an unprecedented wave which rose and fell. The rich marine ecosystem could see peace and tranquility amongst the islands dotted in the Indian Ocean.

## THE WORLD IS A BOOK

The world is a book. The full form of book is “Big Ocean of Knowledge”. It is obvious and natural. A book teaches us how to live through its contents. The world teaches us through its diversity in life and matter.

The chapters of a book shall be watertight in its contents on the diverse flora and fauna, animal and human biodiversity. Each river, ocean, lake, mountain, deserts plateau has its own boundaries, history, geography and environmental science. Every living organism carries with it loads of features in metamorphology and anatomy. The plants and trees no doubt are not behind. The environmental cycles in books of science bears testimony to this fact. The green wealth of the earth is an integral part of ecosystem. This green takes care of nutritional needs of motile life on this earth.

The world is a book to be read, understood, analysed, researched and concluded. This has been going on since centuries by scientists, researchers, thinkers, critics and teachers. The contents are heavy and hidden in storerooms of Universities, laboratories and books in markets. Only some of them become a technology.

We also have a god gifted opportunity to study an aspect called “relationship”. When quantitative statistics show large numbers of race, caste, religion, nations etc an element of relationship creeps in. A multi polarised world order has immense to offer. Personal relationships, communal relationships, political and economic relations has much to offer for our study. Many of discomforts today arise from

differences on key issues like relationship between state, politics, society, business, faith and the Relationship is both a difficult and different chapter of this evolving global order.

A single book cannot shoulder the load of diversity of this world. It will consume volumes decorating the shelves of a library. The more the world evolves the more the knowledge gets generated. Every word, sentence, paragraph, chapter of books documents the ever changing world and this will continue till man and a pen survives.

## SUCCESS OF AGARWALS

Community based topics are nowadays frequently debated and discussed in a secular country like India. Communities have their own background, history, distinctive features, colour, likes and dislikes. It is like nature's biodiversity with diverse flora and fauna. Our country is proud of both, biodiversity and cultural diversity.

Among the several communities Agarwal's are seen at every nook and corner of both India and abroad. The democratic set up of this country was advantageous due to freedom of movement and work. The pre -independence era of India saw Agarwal's already engaged in trading and manufacturing activities when the infrastructure was very poor in terms of transport and communication.

Historically, they belong to the lineage of Maharaja Agrasen of Agroha near the industrial township of Hisar in Haryana. It dates back to nearly 5000 years ago. It is documented that Maharaja Agrasen had preached non- violence, equality and economic self reliance. Emphasis was laid on efforts towards independency in economic front. A nationwide campaign was launched in the banner of “one rupee one brick” to help anyone starting a new business. Gradually this idea flared in every corner wherever Agarwals resided.

It should be categorically mentioned here that the modern day concept of “start up” was already conceived earlier by this community. The youth were encouraged to do business according to the needs of the location. A father would provide his son with seed capital and nurture his idea physically,



financially and emotionally. Typically at home business was discussed amongst all male members while females were busy serving food. A father would meticulously judge the profit or loss earned by his son on that “particular day”.

The most interesting feature of Agarwal's was the system of keeping accounts. Today's Accountant was called “munim” in those days. It is prevalent even today in some parts of North India. The so called munim was an all rounder with all qualities of accountant, household works, assisting his employer in marriages and all festivals and functions. Today multinational companies provide meals in offices which was already conceived by Agarwal's much earlier. The so called “munim” had access to the kitchen of his employer for meals and tea. He would remind his boss of debts due in market and follow the routine of regular visits to the buyers for dues. An example needs to be mentioned here that if a borrower has to pay Rs 500 and the lender has to spend Rs 700 as expenses for travel, the lender will do so and recover the dues. Secondly Agarwal's propagated an old age theory of noting down the amount to be paid first and then delivering the amount. Error if any will be reflected by the accounts paper. This thought prevented mismatch of book balance with physical cash.

Business and risk are like two sides of a coin. If you are in business you have to carry the risk. If you have the capacity to bear a risk you can enter business. They have the guts to settle at any location wherever there is scope of business. To settle anywhere you need a product, a supplier and a customer. This simplicity of thought made Agarwal's do business anywhere in the country and abroad. A prudent Agarwal would easily calculate the monthly expenses of a shop considering all outgo

like rent, electricity, salary etc and side by side shall forecast sales in present and future tense.

All planning goes in the brain and there is no need for a pen, paper and calculator.

One major reason for the success is advocating joint family. Although today it's ignored but this is followed in a different manner. Suppose for example a father has three sons. He would prefer one son to migrate to a nearby better location in terms of infrastructure but would never close down the family business running since by ancestors. The migrating son would settle with his wife and children but would always be a part and parcel of mother family. The family settled in the city would provide all support to other members.

It is documented in scriptures that at least ten percent of earnings should be spent in charitable activities. This rightly coincides with the mandatory law of Corporate Social Responsibility. Agarwals never stepped backward in carrying out philanthropic activities. Today the country is dotted with many prestigious institutions like BITS PILANI, BIRLA PUBLIC SCHOOL etc. There is a long list which goes without saying. These were established by a visionary GD Birla and his successors. The principles of management were same as followed in business. Every money spent was recorded and every penny received was documented. Although long back Agarwal's were not much educated but had the skill to appoint technocrats, educators and management professionals. Many institutions have already celebrated their centenary functions long back. It is pertinent to mention here that a beggar would never return empty handed from an Agarwal's home, shop or office. They believe

in the age old principle “what goes out in charity will return multiplied”.

A mention must be made of the better halves. In those days ladies were confined to household works and rearing of children. They were not spendthrift and would try to save money from the monthly expenses provided by their husbands. This savings would find its route towards purchasing gold and silver. Just imagine their prediction and liking towards these precious metals. As a reader you will appreciate this habit in the background of today's bullion market. The gold and silver amassed was used in marriage of sons and daughters. The running business of family was not disturbed by heavy withdrawals in marriage. A worth noting point is the ladies pray for the health and prosperity of their husbands in various forms. They observe fast, perform rituals throughout the year on various occasions like “karwachauth, ekadashi, pradoshvrat “and so on. Worship of goddess Lakshmi is done in a very old customary manner in Diwali festival. Account books are worshipped which is a unique feature of this community.

As generations passed by, Agarwal families started encouraging sons and daughters for higher education. Many are abroad for management studies and the talent would certainly come back home to revolutionize. Agarwals have today earned the credit of contributing a sizeable portion of GDP. The Birlas, Anil Agarwal of Vedanta, Haldirams, Bikaji, Bikanerwala, Agarwal Packer and Movers, Ritesh Agarwal of OYO, Bansals of Flipkart and many more. The big are visible and the small set ups are numerous in every nook and corner.

It must be appreciated that Agarwal's believed in the policy of tolerance and never engaged themselves in communal activities. Business is in their blood like haemoglobin. The future generation generally learns by conduct of their parents. Success is measured not in terms of money alone. The other qualities are equally important like tolerance, dedication, peace and law abiding. Agarwals strongly believe in the proverb "EARLY TO BED AND EARLY TO RISE MAKES A MAN HEALTHY WEALTHY AND WISE".

## BEHIND THE CURTAIN OF BUSINESS

In the college days I was a half day office worker. On migrating from college I was a full time assistant now. My father engaged me in all types of assignments ranging from filing clerk, cashier, letter writing, booking phone calls, rough cash book etc. All these were behind the curtain since there was no interaction with the outside world. These activities are the reason behind being an all rounder in today's world. He was very habitual in using the unique combination of pen and paper which had already made a deep impression in my mind even till date. I seldom leave home without a pen and a mini pocket spiraled diary.

In those days our business firm was unique. Competition was negligible, era of unemployment, scarcity of foodgrains, simple clothing, monopoly of single political party. These factors contributed to the steep growth of business with the mastermind of my father. He was the only son hence he enjoyed the liberty of working in his own style without interference.

The fifties, sixties and seventies were the golden period just like the Mauryan Age in Indian history. The business grew like a tree with branch offices throughout Orissa and even in Agra, Delhi and Calcutta. Given the limitations of telecommunication postal service was the only option. Outstation calls matured after four to six hours with low voice and high charges.

The three decades passed on very smoothly and I was able to understand the basics of business with a keen sense of

curiosity coupled with a regular habit of reading newspapers. Perhaps this was the reason that I am choosing to pursue a PhD course in Commerce today.

One more feather in cap was the establishment of schools, colleges and a small hospital in the 1980s. My father used to show me the correspondence with the institutional heads to keep me abreast of all happenings. It exposed me to various aspects of accounting, general administration, management policies, taxation and human resources. The soft nature of mine is the replication of my father. I seldom saw him angry and shouting at someone.

I attended management committee meetings with him and sit as a guest. The fundamentals of how to run educational institutions were getting embedded in my mental bowl although at a slow pace as I was hardly twenty one. The art of writing agenda, notice, resolutions were new to me those days.

Apart from above, the most interesting part was the paperwork of Income tax. There were no computers, softwares which could calculate the liability of tax, penalty and interest. A copy of Ready Reckoner and a hard bound copy of Income Tax Act was always by his side on the table. Today i realized the need for such exposure. It is now a boon for me in my endeavor for PhD in Commerce.

I am able to discuss taxation matters with professionals in short without wasting time.

Behind the curtain also involved accounting in Hindi language. The pattern is quite different from the format followed in English nowadays. The work helped me a lot in understanding the basics.

Being the youngest in the family I was expected to go for errands like buying fruits and vegetables now and then. Today the same habit has worked very well with me.

Behind the curtain trained me to act in front of the curtain after 1987. It was the year of my marriage.

## **WE ARE RESPONSIBLE**

Who is responsible for the changes taking place in this universe?. Since earth is the only known planet for the existence of life, we are responsible. The words I and We are interchangeably used.

We belong to this world and are singly and collectively the cause of all that is happening whether good or bad. The credit goes to us in the ultimate.

In our case we as Indians have been inhabiting and history documents all periods chronologically till 1947. We are ourselves responsible for the historical, geographical, social, technological developments taking place till today. We are living in a democratic set up where the government is for the people, by the people and of the people. We just can't shrug our shoulders if we are behind any other country in terms of whatever parameter may be.

In matters of health the word "I" is of significance. We can't hold others responsible for our health. We enjoy complete freedom over our choice of when, what and how much to eat. In case someone possess the power to influence our freedom it is our weakness. Choose the best food and best time to have it. It is only you are responsible in case of medical issues. Exceptions to this exists in case of old age complications like prostate enlargement, heart issues etc.

We have full control over the finances flowing to our personal exchequer. We possess the power to think about how to enhance and how to spend. Budgeting lies in our hands. We cannot pass the buck to others for financial distress unless an



unavoidable fraud which took place and depleted the resource. Nowadays there are many publications to enhance your knowledge about finance. The digital age today has its own ramifications.

In case you are pointing one finger to another person, three fingers are pointing at you simultaneously. You are at a greater extent more responsible than the other. We are responsible for all that has happened in the past, all that is happening now and all that will happen in future. Responsibility should beat blaming. Review yourself before resting and ask yourself who was responsible for today's happenings. ? No one is coming to save you. Your life is 100% your responsibility.

## **GAYA- CAPITAL OF ANCESTORS**

Luckily I happen to be at Gaya this year in this auspicious ancestral fortnight coincidentally starting from lunar eclipse to a solar eclipse. It was a decision of our family lineage after more than a century.

The history is unique with this congregation taking place for more than a few thousand years. The successive generations learn from their parents and land at this place to meet their ancestors spiritually when the priest asks each of them to inhale the smell of “pind” made from dough of wheat. After the puja the wheat balls are immersed in rivers of Gaya thus dissolving their spiritual presence in this universe. The tradition is pre- designed by all priests and the worshipping goes step by step daily for fifteen days 6th of September to 21st of September every year. Gaya is geographically located on the banks of Falgu and Punpun.

We were a group of ten representing each lineage of great grandparents while speaking out their names and gotra during the puja whenever asked by the priest. Each day we were escorted to a different location as predefined in scriptures depicting old history of Gaya which is nationally and mythologically known as “Gayaji”. No any Other Indian city has a “ji” added as suffix. Such is the greatness endowed by Sanatan Dharma.

Visitors land here residing in hotels, guest houses, and tents put up by the government. The fortnight is a mixture of convenience and inconvenience. Traffic snarls, sanitation, humidity, early morning rising all taken together is a

challenge for all young and old. The elders whose parents have already taken for heavenly abode have to shave their head. The crowd at the ghats are full of clean heads if viewed from a drone camera. The wives have to wear their multicolored “odhni” typically of Rajasthan culture.

It is mythologically orated by senior priests that all heavenly ancestors search for their family members in this large congress of living generation. In case they find them they are pleased to shower their blessings on the entire family and pray for health, wealth and prosperity. In case they fail to locate they return to their abode feeling sad and isolated. It is said that once the meeting takes place the new generation can avoid Shradh formalities in the coming years.

The scriptures of Sanatan Dharma are unique. We should not forget our ancestral lineage. The Gaya experience was an ultimate with vibrations of our ancestors in our body. We recollect their love and care towards us.

“Some lived for more than eighty years. Some spent for less than sixty years. Some just survived for less than twenty years. Go Gaya and meet them in isolation to solve your life's problems. Mortal bodies and Immortal Souls. Let them rest in peace so that we live in peace.”

## PEN YOUR IMAGINATION

Only humans are bestowed with the power of imagination. The mind can travel through and beyond the universe of sun, stars, satellites and planets. Mere imagination is not sufficient. It should be followed with penning it down.

It is very commonly said that “you become what you think”. Thinking is the foundation of imagination. When we start thinking and travel deep it culminates into imagination. Scientists, researchers, hard core professionals start by a simple thought, then go towards thinking, and end up with imagination. The entire steps are documented for the benefit of society.

Suppose I tell you to imagine this scenario,” You are lost while boating on a small island and find yourself alone by the sea shore”. Your mind will picturise the landscape, weather, surrounding, time and so on within minutes. At this time you are competent enough to pen it down if required. As a student we remember our days when topics of essays start with

“Imagine you are.....” It is not very difficult to use the pen and write. If you can imagine you can express.

Actually we use only thirty percent of the capacity of our brain. The unexplored capacity is bestowed with immense potential to think, imagine, resolve and express for the benefit of all. The recurring daily routine steps hinder the use of extra potential of our mental power. Once in a school while teaching in an extra class a student happened to ask me a simple question on reflection of rays. I hesitated to answer but with the chalk between my fingers I tried to draw the mirror

and a ray with its reflection. Suddenly it came to my mind and I drew the refracted ray beneath the mirror. It clarified the doubt. That night I imagined teaching science since I was from a commerce background. That little piece of chalk and the simple diagram fuelled in me to imagine being a science teacher also and today the dream is fulfilled.

Unless you take the pain to write you will not gain. In this digital age you may not use the pen but you can certainly use the laptop, mobile or personal computer for the needful. Thoughts fly away and you have to arrest them for your benefit and for the society as well.

# **DIVINE BLESSINGS**

## **DIVINITY SHOULD BE THE FIRST CHOICE in life's JOURNEY NOT THE LAST OPTION**

### **DIVINE FORCE**

Starting the journey of life, going through its trials and tribulations, till the end of our granted hours on this planet. We encounter the presence of divinity, feel the presence and vibrations. His force is always by our side but we may not acknowledge its presence and blessings. Every soul that gets a living form, especially human, is supremely blessed by the Lord, for its existence. Along with this we have been provided by sense organs and a mind to realise how invaluable these blessings are. The mind has to direct and ensure that all these organs are in the service of the Lord. However at most times this does not happen and the mind tends to digress and detour towards worldly pleasures, misusing the conveniences provided by the almighty.

### **GURU**

All these are human traits and sense of direction, devotion, dedication can only be done by a mentor or guru, if we can find and meet one, which instance is another blessing. That we can relate and keep ourselves motivated under the guru's influence is also a blessing.

### **HOLY PLACES**

Going forward in this thought process the scriptures and religious texts outline the narrative, direct souls in human

form, to cleanse their sins of many births and attain salvation by visiting HOLY PLACES. These are shrines visited by God in any form near rivers and seashores, mountains or any other places where the almighty, or his revered messengers might have visited in some form and they carry the vibrations of such visits till date.

## **VICE**

Here we pray with our hearts and mind along with offerings. We atone and admit our hearty regrets to the Lord for VICES (paap) and wrongs committed in past and present. We promise not to do so in future, though as humans we forget promises but remember our offerings.

## **VIRTUE**

The flip side is that it is all a matter of perception and viewpoint. Is it not a blessing, kindness and benevolence of the Lord that he has given us a human body, energy and will power to visit all these HOLY PLACES. These visits and happenings in our lifetime are the results or fruits of VIRTUES (punya) of many births. By this blessing only we can take his name, pray to him, know his identity and entity, his powers. We can love him, respect him, adore him, and go into refuge. An opportunity to wash our sins and enjoy the fruits of our virtues is also a blessing.

## **PROSPERITY**

Again how blessing manifests in life often gets misconstrued in situational quagmire. We are judgemental to quantify material well being, progress and happiness as a right sign of the LORD's grace. Being judgemental is a wrong process, and before making an opinion we should factor in the context and

situation. Human minds tend to take things for granted and consider themselves deserving for what they get and have as a matter of right. We are good, intelligent and enlightened to have all these material enrichments and elevated status is the common conclusion. But we forget the bestower Lord himself. We get buried under the illusory MAYA.

## **ADVERSITY**

In a similar but opposite phenomena again we tend to apprehend that misfortune, indicating the Lord has forgotten us. There are millions of souls with trust, faith and discriminating minds to consider themselves fortunate in event of misfortune and adverse circumstances without sulking or grudging. In such situations also they remember to pray and enjoy the company of the Lord. KUNTI, mother of PANDAVAS, is a prime example who rated misfortune as a blessing, Because Lord KRISHNA would always be by her side and help her face adverse situations. In such circumstances we remember the Lord, chant his name and take refuge in his company, which is a blessing.

## **REFUGE**

Lord has his graceful eyes on all his creations, specially humans. Devotees are tested, devotion is tested because once the Lord knows a person wants to come to his refuge, Lord has his own syllabus, exams and rating order. Faith and integrity both are tested either by creating scarcity and hardship or by providing wealth and luxury. The difference lies in the fact we have one step to pass i. e. to reach him by mind, body and soul during trouble times but incase of abundance the devotee has to get through two levels. First he has to break the shield of MAYA and then get to Lord. adverse times are testing times. Good times are not results of



those tests but double testing times. We tend to be complacent in good times and always postpone our duties towards God. It is concluded our desires are fulfilled and our well being is a testimony of God's verdict.

## **HOLY TEXTS**

Instead of troubling our judgement we should take the help of scriptures and holy sermons of any religion, to form an opinion and rate ourselves on a performance barometer set by God. These prescriptions for performances have always been there but we are or tend to be unaware. People and societies make their own ratings which have aberrations, may be misleading and not conclusive.

## **BLESSINGS**

We are on this stage to act and perform and leave the rating and reward aspect to God as detailed in Srimad Bhagavad Gita. To keep the mind at peace, devoid of social turmoil we must compulsively adhere to this sermon. Having company and love for the Lord, a good praying family, a sense of honest duty towards work and profession, going to the holy places, having the mind and motivation to do so, listening and acting upon good thoughts are all blessings of the Lord. These blessings enrich our souls to be close to the almighty.

## GLOBALIZATION AND YOUTH

Globalization was ever since thought of seriously during 1991 when economic reforms were pushed forward for economic growth. Liberalization of industrial laws were introduced to promote industrial production in the country. It was felt that liberalisation would be incomplete without placing globalization in the very fabric of the economy. It should result in free movement of goods and services between the nations.

The doors had to be opened and it was done. The youth was expected to leave their comfort zone in residing in their home country. The basic step towards professional success was abandonment of comfort zone. Immense opportunities was available in all sectors of engineering, medical, research, biotechnology, sociology etc. Globalization required breaking of mental barrier.

An aspirant could avail the services of education and post-education opportunities in any foreign soil of his choice. India witnessed lakhs of students opting for studies in various streams abroad. A mushrooming growth of private and government institutions took place in almost all western and European countries. It was a business but also a boon for students and faculties. I heard in a conversation that a biotech indian student got a fat package in an American research laboratory. This was the fruit of globalisation. Recently IIT has decided to open its branch abroad.

Competition is fundamental to achieve good quality. It applies to both goods and services. Indian universities have upgraded

their infrastructure to harness the various accreditation norms available to restrict students for going abroad. Globalization has given birth to many opportunities for the Indian youth. Many CEOs of western giants are basically Indians.

Indian startups are being globally recognised. India's home country incentives are awarded and added to that markets were opened globally. Indian products are globally famous. Some old products like neemtree branches, cot made of rope and cow dung cakes are in huge demand in western world. They are heavily priced earning good foreign exchange. That which we forgot is embraced by others as a result of globalisation.

Opportunities always knocks on doors. The doors need to be opened. Globalization has successfully passed the litmus test in today's dynamic world. It is a habit of an economy and necessity for youth.

## CONSISTENCY BEATS INTENSITY

Conceptual understanding of any word is essential. If you pour water on a rock in a single splash it will only wash it. In the alternate if water is poured drop by drop on the same point in rock on a daily basis, a hole will appear. You have beaten intensity with consistency. The latter has shown results although after lapse of time.

In the field of education consistency will show remarkable results. The student has to read and write daily on a particular subject just like brushing teeth as a matter of habit in the morning. Emphasis is laid on the word “daily”. With reference to mathematics practice is required daily. Such consistency will bear fruits in long run. A consistent practice makes a student ahead of others.

All performers in a circus practice daily for an error free performance which is a risk to their lives. Under an instructor the amateurs have to put their efforts on a continuous basis till they are permitted to enter the show. Rehearsing for say two months and discontinuing thereafter will not yield any results.

Consistency is the buzz word in health and medicine. The prescription of a doctor advises medicines to be taken on a daily basis or periodically as required. A patient cannot consume tablets in one go which was prescribed for a fortnight. Similarly heart patients are supposed to adopt walking daily and not vigorously for two days in a week. Certain medications are required to be consistently taken for lifetime in disorders of hormones, heart and respiratory.

Gautam Buddha attained enlightenment by consistently meditating for 49 days under a pipal tree. Such is the power of consistency. Patience is the key factor in this attainment which is globally recognised in spirituality.

In the financial sector savings done consistently without a gap yields substantially enabling the investor to buy a property in future. In our country housewives are very matured enough to save money every month out of the money provided by their husbands. This habit makes them independent in the long run to meet any exigencies of health and climate.

Small steps in the right direction if taken consistently throughout will make you reach your desired destination. Intensity might give you joy in the short run but ultimately you will get tired much before the desired destination.

Consistency means showing up, even when nobody is cheering for you.

## THE POWER OF OBSERVATION

Our eyes are embedded just below the mind. The thoughts of mind are able to see far ahead of what eyes can see. Still then, our mind has to depend on eyes because an old saying goes “seeing is believing”.

My own experience of sixty years endorses the immense power of observation with eyes. The vastness of this universe can be perceived by our gifted optical nerves. Knowledge is gathered, the invisible potential of creator God is celebrated and documented by technocrats with their ever inquisitive eyes. Observation is followed by analysis culminating into research to end with a report. Although this para is macro in its entirety but forms the foundation of all sciences. Eyes observe through aids like telescopes, high end cameras, drones of today’s world, towers etc. These are helpless without our eyes.

There are numerous sectors like geographical, historical, social, political, medical etc which utilizes the power of observation. An apple falling from a tree was a discovery by Newton which his eyes perceived. When you observe you learn something new. If your eyelids are closed you miss the event which could have brought about a transformation in your life.

The contents of geographical books have been penned down only after observing the places, mountains, rivers, glaciers etc. Same applies to history, social sciences, politics, and medicine. What has been seen needs to be documented in a systematic manner which ultimately becomes the foundation

of education of a nation. Authors either rely on observation of others for their content or pen down their own observation. Millions of books are in shelves only because of thoughts and observations. Knowledge is dissipated thereafter.

Observation includes micro level field. Paper ads, hoardings, social media, electronic media. The research done in labs are hidden in the products used by consumers and producers. The producer has to highlight the innovative element of his product to attract the consumer. I once came across an interesting ad. It said about hydrophobic sanitary taps. I was in suspense. Hydrophobic meant fear of water. The picture of fitting displayed drops of water without staining the tap fittings. It was then I realised this new technology. This event was possible only because of my observation towards the content of the ad. I would call upon students to observe labels of products which will enhance their panorama of science.

Observation is the foundation of all knowledge. The optical nerves carry the impulses to the brain. The brain will then document it in the form of news, books, ads, thesis. Take care of your eyes and also help the blind to perceive this world as far as possible.

## HOW TO START A BUSINESS OF YOUR OWN

Today's youth must dive deep into entrepreneurship rather than the usual career oriented route. The globalization policy of most countries open doors for innovative business ideas which need to be discovered and also invented in parallel. The academics of today churn the aspirants to face competitive exams only to board the train towards public and private sector openings. Very few think of entrepreneurship as a challenge fearing loss and lack of guidance.

A simple steps in chronological order is enumerated below on how to sow the seeds of a small business of our own and gradually climb the ladder of success.

- 1) **Choose a business idea-** It is the most critical step requiring 360 degree research. Once an idea is nestled in the mind comfortably there should be no question of going back. Consultations, internet data, personal survey, business newspapers, journals etc are some tools for settling a fledgling idea in mind. Rely on your intuition is the ultimate corner of gaining confidence.
- 2) **Choose a business location -** Many business units thrive on their geographical location. A book store will not survive inside a vegetable market. Rather a shop selling organic vegetables will look like a blue ocean strategy surrounded by usual varieties grown inorganically.



- 3) **Brainstorm your plan**-It is always advisable to pen down all your thoughts, findings, data collected, calculations, failures of competitors, success of others. A simple diary is your friend, philosopher and guide. At this stage you architect the name and scale of business. An estimate of at least three years of financial forecast done. with a balanced mind of pessimistic and optimistic would be great.
- 4) **Registrations, licences, permits etc** - In our country we have already entered an era of liberalised policy with an end to licence raj. Still some sectors of business require paper formalities depending on the local laws where the business is being set up. The most common is registration under Shops And Commercial Establishments Act. A food business needs FSSAI registration.
- 5) **Banking and Insurance** - You cannot run a business without bank and insurance support. A loan or a current account along with necessary insurance policy is a must for every business entity. A bank loan comes with all its formalities of guarantee, primary and collateral security with good credit score. Insurance covers risk against fire, flood, riots, earthquake etc.
- 6) **Prepare to launch**-Once the above steps are materialised you are ready for a take off just like an aircraft in a runway. By this hour the unit is visible with signage, furniture, computers, counters, cabin, in house branding, and POS materials. A team is ready in its place to receive enquiries from customers through online and offline mode. Delegate your authority after proper training of human resources.

- 7) **Start making money**-Always remember an age old proverb “Rome was not built in a day”. Your business will grow like a plant in an invisible manner. It is only you as a leader will have to keep patience which will send vibrations to your team members.

India is a country of mixed economy where both public and private sectors compete in many sectors. A nation with a diverse population of 140 crores, largest democracy, rich cultural and spiritual history, abundant mineral resources is an ocean of opportunities. Work to give work to others should be your trump card.

## THIRST OF KNOWLEDGE

THIRST of knowledge forms the foundation of education in any society. A nation is known by its education system and the system generates from knowledge.

Basically there should be a thirst for any activity to start an action. We drink water when we feel the thirst. Likewise we should feel the thirst of knowledge so that we explore the sources of knowledge. What are the sources of knowledge? The answer to this question is very simple. Books, magazines, newspapers, observation, tourism, media etc.

The thirst of knowledge should be never ending just like water and food. We cannot survive without water and food and similarly our mind is always thirsty for knowledge. A person need not be rich to satiate his desire for knowledge. Nowadays libraries are owned by local government agencies which offer free reading. You can buy old newspapers from hawkers to go through them. Newspapers enhance your vocabulary, general knowledge, spelling ability and language proficiency. The same is with magazines.

Keep your eyes and ears open when in streets. Observe every signage, hoarding, advertisement, banner, electronic display. Apart from attracting consumers they also update us with latest technologies and inventions. Some few months back I came across an ad which stated “hydrophobic taps for washrooms”. I wondered what it meant?. I recollected that hydrophobic means repellent of water. It means the body of the tap system will not get stained with water droplets. No

maintenance. We learned a new technology in this advertisement.

The sources of knowledge know no caste, religion or creed. Every single individual has access to the sources provided there is a basic thirst. The knowledge gained is easily passed on to next generation just like wealth and properties. Knowledge cannot be plundered by any person. It will be with you always till you breathe your last breath. In case you want to pass to next generation reduce it to in books, articles and magazines. You will become immortal.

# **EDUCATION**

## **ALWAYS YEARN TO LEARN ALWAYS LEARN TO DISCERN**

The purpose of learning is complete and fruitful when we acquire the capabilities to discern fruitfully. Knowledge is the food for the mind and education provides nutrition. Nutritious food keeps our health and bodies in good shape and knowledge with education keeps our minds and thinking healthy.

Education is the most important tool to correct the imbalances in society and world at large. Education gives members of society, young or old an opportunity to acquire the knowledge and talent to use their wisdom, to be discreet and discern between the right and wrong facets of life.

A lot of money is spent on war and strife in the world to prove different points, but in the end results to be an exercise in futility. War only increases acrimony between different nations and causes hardships and inconveniences to their citizens with loss of life and destruction. Even if 50% of the amount spent on wars is made available to people for educational enlightenment, it will equip them for better and sensible living all over the world. They will acquire the abilities to sense and conclude that nothing tangible is achievable by this methodology. Armed with education people will have better minds and less dissent avoiding the need for wars.

India has always been called a GOLDEN BIRD. Amidst this prosperity exists adversity and abundance of disparity. There

is a dilemma because of diversity across human lives. The best is available, but not made available. Utilities and resources are more abused than used. Education scenario is no alien to political apathy and guided by archaic thoughts and rules. The proponents of such regulations have moved on to better systems in their country as generations turned around but we are still in the old courses for the old horses.

Surveys show statistically and graphically how low we stand on the education graph when our levels are matched with world standards and developed nations. A recent report shows that a class 5 student cannot read text of class 2 in government schools. Schools exist without teachers and teachers teach without schools, in the open. This is pathetic. A bursting young population needs to have education at least up to secondary levels and then vocational training may make them capable of earning a respectable living.

Academic toppers may have the X factor to crack jobs on the strength of physical degrees and certificates. However there are many candidates down the line who have the same levels of knowledge of their subjects and at times even better abilities. They failed to make grades on the evaluation sheets, sometimes due to lack of LUCK and are not considered for employment at initial stages. Given a chance they can perform and carve their own paths to prove themselves that they can reach pole positions. Education was the same for all academically. This says a lot about how certificates may not always be the true barometer and evidence of TALENT.

The methodology of teaching and the quality of knowledge is the first step in the education process to determine the levels of understanding their wards will acquire. A compromise here will impair the whole system. The idea to educate will be

faulty. Educating is a challenge the teacher has to take up, for creating a knowledgeable work force to uplift the means of earning and standards of livelihood to create a better social environment. Students come from all sections of the society. With an equating eye and impartial mind the first duty of the teacher is to maintain parity amongst them. A teacher teaches the rules of discrimination without discriminating between the disciples. Discrimination is not to divide on any grounds, but to be discreet and to perceive situations, to differentiate between the positive and negative impacts they may have.

Students are unpolished stones and have to be grinded by the teacher's knowledge and efforts to shine like stars when they appear on the canvas of societal sky.

It is up to the rulers, teachers, students how to sort their priorities. Everybody has the responsibility to keep this silent weapon of the country updated in shape, to meet the challenges that humanity may face in time to come.

## **VARANASI - SOUND OF CULTURE**

There is a truth about travel that feels obvious when you step into a crowded market or an old temple. People not only travel for landscapes or adventure but to touch a living past. That impulse has turned culture and cultural celebrations into big business. Today culture is one of the most valuable pillars of global travel economy. Its the business of culture with significant contribution to the GDP of a country.

My feet were on the banks of sacred Ganges, the mother of all rivers. It was only last week. A motor boat ride revealed the rich culture of Varanasi that I never learnt in history books. The weather attracts migration of birds from the cold western countries. The waves signalling the immortal richness of Ganges. On one side the banks are illuminated with LED lights decorating the ghats, lodges and historical sites. The river provides opportunities for bread earning to a large chunk in the form of selling water, clay pots, flowers for worship, boatmen and so on. A bathe in the river is supposed to wash out all toxins from body and even mind, goes the say.

Varanasi is dotted by age-old temples of Lord Shiva, Hanuman and other idols. It attracts culture tourists from all over the world. The serpentine queues on the entrance of abodes testifies this fact. In fact many are earning by sale of puja articles, picture frames, souvenirs, local cuisine etc. Temple economy has found itself a place in the study of Indian economy. Offerings, donations, sale of entry tickets generate revenue to the temple exchequer with figures beyond imagination.



The holy city is a unique blend of age old and modern culture. One can see the wide range of hotels starting from lodge to properties built by chains like Taj, Ramada, and Oberoi. The old accommodation can be located in the famous bylanes of Varanasi with affordable rates. The thumb rule is visit as per your budget and exit satisfied in all ways. Malls have sprung up in many corners in contrast to markets in footpath and streets. Traffic rules exist only in papers and defiance is the culture. In my stay of three full days I have not seen any rider or driver being challaned. This is the beauty which needs to be documented for the rest of the world. No quarrels, no disputes.

It is very easy to see but very difficult to write. The city has planned for a cable car facility, widening of roads, expansion of alternative railway station etc. The sound of culture will never fade and will be heard by our upcoming generations for centuries together. That which existed centuries ago will exist centuries here after. Varanasi is not a destination but a guiding path towards embracing cultural values under a modern umbrella.

## **YOUTH AND MODERN ERA**

We are all characterised by our ancestral genetics. The external environment also plays upon our character by exerting its influence. The modern era of today has undergone a morphological change over the decade in an exorbitant speed in all spheres. The youth of nation is supposed to be the future hence the mutations of all spheres has to be absorbed by the youth in a digestible manner. The spheres can be Globalization, Digitalization, Terrorism, Multilateral Disputes, Artificial Intelligence, Technological Inventions etc.

Globalization has made free entry and free exit of material and human resources. Today's youth has a wide menu of educational and career opportunities before him. History has told us that geographical boundaries have prevented the growth of science and technology. Today the young aspirants travel seven seas beyond their motherland to educate themselves and work for the world. The Indian diaspora in US and UK carry heavy weight during the electoral season of the host country. Almost all migrated during young age.

Digitalization is the foreword in today's world. From a simple wrist watch to war field digitalization has stolen the traditional ways. Today countries are fearing cyber wars from enemy end. The youth has to gear themselves up to face this new reality. Commercial activities like remittance, accounting, taxation, stores management have undergone conceptual transformation by the advent of digital methods. Introduction of new curriculum in higher level of education is a big challenge to the young students. The pen is being replaced by the keyboard and mouse.

Terrorism is a new agenda of both developed and developing nations. The inter-national organisations are keen to discuss

this agenda as a top priority. It must be mentioned here that the threat of terrorism is a distraction for the aspiring youth in the infested nations. The slogans of unity against terrorism has to be deeply embedded in the minds of our new generation. It is a new but unavoidable challenge for all.

Multidimensional disputes between countries have resulted in wars prolonging for years together. Russian Ukraine war, Palestinian war with recently Operation Sindoor have gone a long way in shaking the confidence of the young populace. The aggressive policies of US has disturbed the migrative thought of youth to the west. It appears that the youth which has a very little say in the key political agendas are becoming victims of unilateral policies of capitalist countries. My word of caution is “be prepared for the worst while trying for the best”.

Artificial intelligence popularly known as AI is gradually penetrating to every sector like a termite does to a furniture. It will replace many jobs as predicted by today's corporate bosses. It will take time but one fine morning the youth will see the exit doors of their office. In my view it is at a nascent stage but cannot be denied. One has to think beyond the boundaries by getting oneself updated by the penetrative power of AI. We have to catch up with the dynamic and unpredictable world around us.

The youth has to leave his comfort zone and think in parallel with both technology and politics of nations to survive the turbulent times of today's world.

## WHATS NEW TODAY

Today is a gift of God. We are ignorant of tomorrow. What have you thought of today? It should be thought either yesterday or today morning. Something new must be done, written, read, thought or done today. Remember it should be a maiden act. If we do something new daily we end up doing 30 acts per month culminating into 365 per year. You will be enjoying life to the fullest extent.

Now the million dollar question is what should be done so as to classify as “something new”? It can be anything. For example “today I shall preserve a newspaper cutting which would be useful for the next generation”. How much time is needed for this? Hardly fifteen minutes for reading, searching and cutting it with scissors. This micro act of yours will make a big difference in the coming generations.

There are numerous examples which can be cited. Today I will not criticize anyone either in my house, neighbourhood or office. This will develop a sense of loving in the circle surrounding.

Just for today, search for a new job for someone close to you from any source either be a newspaper or contacts. It will be an act of God if his livelihood gets stable. An act of helping brings back happiness to the doer.

Science exists in our homes in a very hidden way. We are highly ignorant of this fact. Today while doing something new teach your kids that a ceiling fan rotates anticlockwise while a table fan rotates clockwise. Secondly our kitchen has a cylinder of hydrocarbons which is unknown to many.

Just for today let's clean the floor and plant a soft kiss to Mother earth for sustaining all living beings. This would be an act of gratitude. Spend a morning hour in a garden and try to make a video of an insect sucking precious nectar from a blooming flower.

Go to the vegetable vendor on the street to buy instead of a departmental store or a mall. The vendor would thank you in his heart since the money would feed his family well today.

Thank God today for free air, water, food and sunshine. Thank him for your health and heart.

Realize the importance of today. Do something new. Record it in your personal diary. Wipe out isolation and enjoy the beauty of nature in this vast universe. There are hundreds of such acts which can be done to elevate your mood.

## KNOWLEDGE AND EDUCATION

Knowledge and education are two sides of a coin. They both seem to be similar but

technically a bit apart. The sources of knowledge are embedded in books, journals, newspapers, media and by observation. Education has to be imparted by a living entity.

Knowledge must be followed by education. A mere existence of knowledge is not sufficient. It has to enter every living person on earth. Mental growth depends on education as one of the prime factors.

A fundamental duty of a government is education by means of schools, colleges, libraries, research centres etc.

We can easily have access to knowledge but education requires skill. To impart education one should understand a bit of psychology so that the recipient enjoys it. It is for this reason the course is called Bachelor of Education.

Knowledge is available around us in a 360 degree angle. As a lay person he cannot gather and systematically arrange it in his mental chambers. Education is necessary to classify, interpret and impart to students.

Knowledge is a noun and education is a verb. Knowledge is something available in objects like media and paper. Education requires physical action of humans. However the introduction of robots and AI may replace but still a human element is inevitable.

A nation becomes good by its own resources, policy, constitution etc but it becomes great after achieving hundred percent literacy. Only education can help in achieving this aim. Today in India Kerala as a province is said to have achieved hundred percent literacy.

Education and knowledge must go hand in hand. It should touch the very basic fabric of the nation. Knowledge is free but education has a price tag.

## **GOOD IS THE ENEMY OF GREAT**

There is a wide gap between good and great. The history has many examples which differentiate between these two words. They can't be synonyms, although they may appear so.

If you want to understand the difference, focus on a school student. If the student secures ninety percent marks we call him a good student. If the same student tries to clear doubts of his classmates and they follow him consistently. The student acts like an upcoming leader. It means he has travelled from good to great.

Generally what does a teacher do in copies while correcting the content. He or she will write “good” in the end. In such a case the student feels happy and thinks that he has achieved enough and there is not much to achieve more. It appears he will seldom travel towards becoming great. Becoming great requires an extra step forward which very few attempt.

We behave like a good person. We talk like a goodman. We work responsibly in order to classify ourselves to be called good.

In the professional field by earning degrees you automatically become good after struggling for years. Applying the knowledge gained becomes a matter of routine. Doctors treat patients, lawyers advise clients and so on. But more important is how to elevate towards “great”. Technology doesn't end. Research goes on. Innovations continue. A practising doctor is great if he finds a solution to some medical issue through his consistency in that particular issue. Likewise it applies to lawyers, engineers, designers, tax consultants etc. The journey



of life doesn't end with being called “good”. An extra step for harnessing greatness is beneficial. Good is a journey and “great” is a destination. At many a times good can make one complacent.

He was good for so long that he became great. History is replete with ambitious, successful people. Decency, honor, kindness, we see much of these. To be good and extra good at what we do? This is more than rare. There might be many good people but very few are great. Only great find their place in history.

# **NEW AGE BUSINESS MODELS FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS**

1. Career Guidance Centre
2. Govt Schemes Guidance Centre
3. Online Recognised Schools For RuralStudents
4. Job Guidance Centre
5. E Waste Collection Centre
6. First Aid Centre
7. Retired Persons Entertainment Centre
8. Anti aging Therapy
9. The era of hybrid glasses
10. Oxygen Clinics
11. Nano coating of textiles
12. Water from Air
13. Sea water conversion into potable water for drinking.
14. Home stay facility
15. Recycling of sea water in several corners of city
16. House Maintenance on contract basis
17. Automation of residential buildings
18. Use of drone technology
19. Water filling stations for vehicles.

20. AI Scanner Machines Can Be Installed To Scan Products Which Are Considered Susceptible
21. Drone pilot training
22. Traffic control outsourcing
23. SOS training center
24. Home Schooling alternative
25. All jobs to be available on hourly basis
26. Space related business models
27. Science labs on commercial basis
28. Language Learning Centres
29. Business of carbon credits
30. Raipur will be drone city of central India
31. The Return of books and pen
32. Ready To Eat Fruit Products
33. Turning dead ev batteries into gold
34. Cryopreservation of in vitro human tissue models
35. Day Care Parents A concept for working parents

## **DIVINE EXPERIENCES**

### **FAITH & TRUST keep GOD closer to US**

#### **DIVINE INTERVENTION**

The cool river side breeze caressed my face, as I rode on my scooter. It was afternoon with satisfactory work done and mind playing with future plans, I was enjoying the drive. The pangs of hunger were active in the gastronomical system and I turned the accelerator to reach my destination as the afternoon traffic gave me the liberty to do so. My eyes could not behold any obstruction for the next three to four hundred meters. The cow jumped suddenly in front of me, barely fifteen meters ahead out of the median bushes, as a heavenly obstruction to challenge a human brain riding on an artificial mechanism.

I judged nothing can stop the inevitable clash and the brakes would not be able to stop my vehicle. The only thought was where to hit the animal. My own safety, injury to the cow were on my mind and reluctantly I served the handle into the belly with brakes screeching and a thud on impact. All three the cow, scooter and myself were in knots on hard bitumen. Both of us living entities recouped our bodies for some seconds. I was dazed and looked for major injuries to my physical body system. Finding none, my mind raced to the well being of the cow. Being a staunch hindu I must have injured the innocent animal and my sense of human duty of looking towards the animal's well being was probing my mind. I searched hard but the divine intervention seemed to have vanished in thin air. Nowhere to be seen. I was safe with a small but deep cut on my palm. The speck of abrasion

reminds me still twenty years after the incident. Was it a mere hit or an aberration in time, for which thirty three crore God's manifested in the form of a cow and intervened. Perhaps to avoid and save me from the stressed and doomed moments of life ahead. Maybe for such time to pass and myself enjoy life on God's planet. THANK YOU GOD.

## **DIVINE COMPANY**

Some unbelievable and inconceivable instances happen in our journey on earth, which may stay etched in our memories never to be erased. I had to go to Delhi for an urgent call and there were no reservations available. With a lot of effort I managed a RAC seat which allowed me to sit on a side half seat. The railways had this configuration whereby three persons could travel in space for two. Nevertheless I had to bear this physical discomfort, for twenty nine hours scheduled or maybe more hours.

My friend, knowing my plans, asked me if I could carry a small gift to his relative which would be collected at Delhi station itself. Non-reluctantly I agreed wishing it would not be something cumbersome, heavy or unmanageable. At the platform in Cuttack his driver came and handed me a 13x15 inch frame with a picture to behold. I was stunned at the depiction. The hard dark blue-black backdrop with white centred architecture of SHREEKHETRA TEMPLE, NILACHAKRA- THE FLAG IN TOP WAS mesmerising and gave me goosebumps. Immediately, my mind which was troubled for my travel comforts was smoothed and I felt privileged that I had this opportunity to hold Lord JAGANNATH'S earthly abode's picture in my hands. However, the dilemma lay ahead.

With no proper reservation how will I fulfill my duty and take care of the Lord's comfort. There was a deep sense of remorse, a question of what I can do. I could not tuck the picture under the seat for my conscience would not agree. It would amount to a cosmic dereliction of duty and sentimental sacrilege. No, I could not, will not commit such an incongruous act. I waited for my two other travel colleagues. Each minute seems like years in my mind. I had to station the Lord and no decision could be made for five minutes.

With a deep sense of faith and gratitude I coolly, softly placed the picture on the top seat flat and sat down on my rest area below again waiting. My fellow passengers both did not arrive. I apprehended they must be coming to the next two-three stations. Slowly the train started and as it eased out I eased my legs constantly praying and thanking my fortunes of having Lord JAGANNATH on my head and the confidence that he will handle everything. I slept peacefully in the lap of the Lord.

Twenty nine hours on time, no other passenger came near me, though the train was packed throughout the journey. Why would anybody, when the driver of the world had mein his repose. All through my mind was with Lord JAGANNATH calm and cool. The picture remained untouched as I had placed for once through the journey. THANK YOU GOD for this great experience.

## **DIVINE OMNIPRESENCE**

Being a hindu by birth and brought up by culturally strong families on both sides of my parental heritage, I always kept myself attached to the text of hindu scripture. As I aged the simplicity and humbleness of both Lord RAM and Lord

KRISHNA fascinated and traversed my mind to keep me engrossed in their past times and deeds on earth. Travelling from Sambalpur to Cuttack I had to cross a dense jungle for about forty kilometers and as it was my mind wavered and started thinking how could Lord RAM along with his consort Devi SITA and brother Laxman could have lived in forests for fourteen years. It was quite scary as high dense trees created darkness in the daytime. No water, no food sources seemed to exist. I started feeling guilty and sorry for the pathetic state malicious minds had put the supreme into. Why should he have lived in these oppressive conditions? It's parching hot. What would happen if it rains? To answer my query, lo it started raining heavily for the next forty five minutes giving me enough reason and proof that the Lord manifests in nature and always listens to the minds of his devotees. The conditions were distressing, the happenings convincing. THANK YOU GOD for always being with me.

## YOUTH AND POLITICS

Both words are very commonly used in today's world. Youth is the future of a nation and politics is the base of a democratic set up.

A question arises very often as to whether we should connect youth and politics. They in one angle appear to be opposite poles of a magnet. In one school of thought it is felt that youth should be kept away as it is not their cup of tea. In another arena it is opined that youth should be very much involved in politics.

Politics is often looked at as a notorious field, dominated by people with ulterior motives. In my opinion it is not so. The very fabric of the government is made by politics with rights and liberties for all. When each and every citizen enjoys the fruits of a democratic set up it gives rise to "politics". Some should lead and others should follow. The question now arises in our mind whether youth should be a mere spectator or should be a part of this political play. In today's world it is utmost necessary that youth should have proper representation at all levels and share a common dais. Today's young generation is well educated and pregnant with innovations, discoveries and inventions. It is witnessed in the mushrooming growth of startups nowadays at all corners of the nation. We just can't ignore but have to move hand in hand.

While debating on this topic the footprints of the generation gap must be in our agenda. We are astonished to see the IQ levels of students today. This treasure has to be harnessed by giving an impetus to the young generation. The complexities



of the dynamic world today demands a robust policy which can be penned down by young minds in administration and beyond.

We have to accept the fact that the political scenario of a country must include the power and strength of youth. It is the “you” in youth which will drive them forward inside the nation and beyond the nation.

## KNOWLEDGE IS LIGHT

A little bit of knowledge is necessary for human life. Those who cannot afford education inner instinct comes in hand. However there is a limitation to inner instinct. Here comes ignorance which leads to darkness.

A person was walking on a road on a sunny afternoon. There was no one to be seen on any side. He felt thirsty. A crossing came by where there were two signages. One signage pointed to one road reading H<sub>2</sub>O ten meters away. The other signage indicated as water twenty meters away. Being ignorant of the meaning the person took the path of twenty meters since the meaning of H<sub>2</sub>O was unknown to him. We can see the outcome of the ignorance.

Knowledge has many sources and it is not necessary that you need enough money to acquire it. Today in almost all developing countries education is subsidized by the Governments or made free also. In our country statistics indicate that students of Government schools fair better than private schools in the arena of competitive exams. Although there is no limit of knowledge starting from inner core of earth to the planetary system. One has to focus on an area and acquire as much possible.

In the legal world ignorance of law cannot be excused. Here knowledge of law is of utmost importance. The word knowledge comprises of four letters ie “Know.” It means you must know. In today's world of rat race a nation must have a reservoir of educated and skilled brains. Brain drain is the most deep rooted problem faced by the developing countries

specially India so to say. A government again has to make a viable fencing to prevent migration of brains which holds knowledge in its skull.

Not only knowledge is essential but also it needs to be arrested to derive the benefits. Let's celebrate Diwali this year and make a new plan for having it and also using it for the benefit of our country.

## **I CAN..... OR.....CAN I**

The earth with its solar system is ever since in auto mode and shall be for ever. We can observe, analyse and conclude for our predictions.

As humans we are not in auto mode. We think before we act. Thought is followed by action. Thought is usually in two major options. I Can or Can I. Accordingly the neural process starts biologically. An optimistic person would place reliance on “I Can” while a pessimistic “Can I”.

A man of I can has a pre- decided plan and thinks that he would be able to achieve it whatever may be the obstacles and distractions. I can is an inner derived inspiration which drives a person forward. Such inspiration sees no ifs and buts. It can emerge in his or her personal life, domestic life or professional life. In personal life one can decide to forego an age old habit which has medically become detrimental to his health condition. It is purely a self motivated decision. Professionally a person may face challenges before him due to some exclusive assignment given by an employer. Under such circumstances the employee feels a strong urge to act upon and accept the assigned job requiring some special skill. I can should be the trump card in today's changing world.

Can I ... arises generally to pessimistic like people. They think more but act less in comparison. The very thought of taking up some work does not go deep inside his conscience but lingers outside with the words “can I”. Although he or she might be sufficiently capable of doing the job but a hindrance hangs as an obstacle. Actually can I could be diluted and

transformed to I can, but the person stays static in the layer of can I ignoring his potentials and credentials. They are weak and incapable of doing anything for themselves or others.

Both types are present in the crowd of the world. We cannot avoid. The decision to jump from “can I” to “ I can “ is purely personal. Once the jump is successful then it's no going back. I can has to be consistently followed without turning back.

We have the power....

.... . to care

.... . to help others

.....to learn how to create change

.....to be generous

..... to build bonds

..... to enter new ventures

But it's not a question of power, it's a question of will.

Get ready accordingly.

## **FRIENDSHIP WITH KNOWLEDGE**

Ever since human life evolved with a developed brain, knowledge has occupied a vital space. History bears testimony to the fact that the scriptures inscribed on stones documented the facts and figures. Historians and archaeologists did extensive research and converted those inscriptions and paintings into knowledge for the future world.

Today knowledge has been classified like that done in taxonomical classification of living beings. Subject classification is already in place in a systematic manner which proved beneficial for the ever growing population of students around the world. Knowledge is a fast friend of students provided by the educational institutions.

In my opinion one should have friends in his or her society but knowledge should be one of them by placing it in the topmost rung. Mathematically it goes towards infinity with no destination. No man has complete knowledge of the universe given the vastness and depthness. If we make knowledge our fastest friend the hunger for it will last till we breathe our last. The very manifestation of hunger for knowledge will make our life a smooth sailing.

Lust for knowing the why and how of things is not only the cup of tea for scientists but also each and every person. The human mind is already equipped with all biological infrastructure to go into depth of things but due to ignorance it gathers rust. Very few come forward with some discoveries, inventions and innovations. The rest watch it with broad eyes

without knowing that there is a word “possible hidden within impossible”.

Friendship is a special bonding. If it is with knowledge it will keep you stay blessed, young, fearless, angerless and free from material bondage. In front of knowledge materialistic attachment takes a beating. In simple words using a brain with embedded intuition activates the neural network of our physical body and harnesses the spiritual power within to heal ourselves. The body, mind and soul refreshes itself without the help of external agency.

Friendship with knowledge does not require renewal since it remains consistently active. The use of pen and paper is vital although it might have got reduced in this digital environment. The personal skill gets enhanced in various disciplines. Basics get strengthened which forms the foundation of education.

It is a fact that education must be followed by knowledge. A country with the highest level of education will compete and survive. Unless there is a polarized bonding with knowledge, a nation will suffer in the long run. Knowledge is always at hand 24\*7 for those who make friendship. It is at a minimal cost and effort. The coming generations will also reap the benefits.

## THE “YOU” IN YOUTH

Life starts with “you “entering this world not others. A change in generation takes place with your birth in this multigenerational society. It is “you” who is important since the future of the family, community, society and nation lies on your strong shoulders. India should be proud. Some countries offer incentives for birth of babies. This is God gifted in our massive landscape like India.

“You” have the best gifts of nature within yourself. Explore and thank God. The ink of pen will need to get refilled if “you” start documenting.

It starts with the mind. What the eyes cannot perceive the mind can. Your mind can forecast fifty years ahead about the perception of this world. 'You' need to use the power of imagination. The past and present of this world is already taken care by the mind as it is its routine task. 'You' have to instrumentalise your mind for the future.

The eyes with the nose below are a part of this sensual world. “ You” have to use it for enhancement of knowledge. The eyes behold the beauty of nature and the nose perceive the fragrance of flora.

“You” are bestowed with the heart entwined with other bodily organs. A study of physiological systems is a must for “you”. A professional will do it for his living but “you” will do it for your knowledge. Only a basic approach is required. 'You' will start loving this world if you study a little bit of science of all concepts.



Physically your hands and legs are meant for your work. But never forget to serve others to your ability. 'You' are in this universe not alone. Youth is the backbone of a nation. All the parts of a spinal cord are neurologically connected to all organs. Likewise “you” are delicately stitched to all segments of a family, society and nation. “ You” live for yourself but ultimately “you” should die doing for someone beyond yourself.

## FOODS, PEOPLE AND HABITS

A lot of problems can be solved in one's life by avoiding some foods, people and habits.

As a human being we are exposed to all varieties of foods in the market whether veg or non veg. Similarly we come across all types of characters of human beings. Individually we have cultivated many habits big and small either from childhood or at a later stage.

We are host to all the three guests as stated food, people and habits. Many of our problems of day to day life are caused by these guests. YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT goes a famous proverb. Some foods were helpful till we were adolescent but after it becomes undesirable. Sweets are good till thirty years but not healthy henceforth. Likewise spicy dishes, carbs, deep fried etc are not recommended after a certain age. If we continue the same diet we are prone to diabetes, high blood pressure, hormonal issues. A signal to avoid such intake is already given by doctors. Nowadays professional nutritionists are working to advise us on a balanced diet according to our weight and age.

The second factor is certain people to be avoided. Each person on this earth has a different DNA acquired from his forefathers. Our fingerprints on thumbs are different. We are surrounded by a variety of people belonging to different caste, creed and religion. Besides this the nature, character, habits, likes and dislikes are distinctly different. God never used a copier machine to create us. My motto is to state that we should avoid mixing with persons who are argumentative,

who loves to criticize, negative mindedness, discourage progress, lazy etc. As a matured being we can easily judge ourselves with whom we shall keep company. The person next to you sends vibrations to our body, mind and soul.

The third aspect is habit. Our daily habits define our life's future. I remember having read a book titled "ATOMIC HABITS" which is in the category of best selling author. This book has brought a tremendous change in my life. Old habits die hard. If we are in the habit of keeping our table, room, wardrobe, drawer in an organized manner we shall be heading towards an organized way of life and living. Many students have to search for their textbooks and notebooks in the last hour before school. Some forget to carry pen and pencil. Why not make the school bag ready the night before. Adults have the habit of smoking, arguing with better half in front of their children. We have seen boys of well to do families spending money online to buy their needs instead of going to a nearby shop walking.

There are many instances. It is only the final decision to take to avoid food, people and habits for a better life and living.

## **PAST..... WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?**

Time flows consistently. Every moment tends to be a future, becomes a present and is a past. The three facets of time are parallel to the universe as a result inseparable.

Life and time are also inseparable. Life possesses time. In whatever best way you manage your time, you have the past present and future. It appears that these three are triangular pillars on which the precious time is ticking round the clock.

As human beings we link our lives with time and the three pillars stand as a guide.

Past events of life are partly forgotten and partly remembered. Some events are worth and others are less. We do learn from past and that is “experience”. Some events happened in the past are guiding us in the present day circumstances. Likewise which once happened need not be repeated due to its consequences. The past is a very cheap guide in our hands. There are some instances happening in the present which might need consultancy but if our memory is sharp our past is our best consultant.

Legacy is something fully dependent on past memories. Some great celebrities or corporate houses run on a legacy mode having a rich adorned past. Institutions have been established to keep the past glowing like a lamp. These take the form of healthcare or educational institutions with memorial names. These cultures have a rich past, glowing present and a promising future. The founders have been laid to rest in peace but the culture shall run to times immemorial.

We have already seen the helpful past in the above lines. The moon also has a dot. Some portions of our past needs to be erased as if it was written with a pencil. The mind itself writes and can also erase if desired. Incidents do happen in our daily lives but they need to be categorised. Sometimes a bad memory is beneficial to the person as he forgets some untoward incident which happened in the past. There is a popular saying “Let bygones be bygones”. It is very simple but it needs a strong mental bent of mind. If you talk to yourself alone in solitude negative events of the past might crop up. Be careful.

How to be careful? Keep a diary of all that happened in the past which has inspired you and has contributed towards your growth. Remove the weeds and paste only the flowers in the diary. If someone has added value to your life never forget to show gratitude externally and internally by jotting it in the diary.

Your past is an asset only when it is repaired, and refurbished to give you a comfortable “present”. Future can be imagined.

## **KNOWLEDGE IS UNLIMITED BUT TIME IS LIMITED**

Nothing is limited in this world except time. I have referred to the world and not the universe. The vastness of universe is still not fully documented.

Knowledge these days is mostly classified under the umbrella of various subjects like sociology, physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics, history, geography and so on. Classification makes it simple to understand to the readers and researchers. It becomes the foundation of curriculum for education to all.

An universal feature of knowledge is its vastness making it unlimited in qualitative and quantitative terms. Students nowadays face this problem as they have a basket of six or seven subjects in their school. The hard working students move forward and those who spend less time lag behind. Due to consistent research and developments new contents are added and the teachers are unable to complete their targets under pressure from school management.

There is so much to learn and understand added to that the inflow of information through the internet. Time becomes a limitation for all with twenty four hours a day. The productive hours are hardly ten due to traffic, mobile, social and family involvement. The human body also has to resist external viruses, infections, natural calamities etc. Time gets consumed at a galloping speed and grasping of knowledge becomes slower.

In order to combat this issue one has to plan, select and focus on what is required and what is to be ignored. An example can

be mentioned here is about newspapers. In some news only the headlines are to read without going inside the fine print. In others we need to go inside the print in detail. In some the cuttings are to be preserved for use in future.

The paradigm in this stage is plan, select and focus. Otherwise you get lost in this vast reservoir of knowledge like a person getting drowned and gasping for breath. There is no need to get confused. If you are studying history there is no need to study biology. May be a little bit of geography shall be required.

## RAJASTHAN -PADHARO SA

The words “Padharo-sa” cannot be separated in the tourism culture of Rajasthan. It denotes a warm welcome to guests in the hospitality of this age-old state of Indian union with Pink city Jaipur as it's capital.

Personally I was a witness to the rich heritage last month with my relatives. This North Western state is dotted with forts, monuments, lakes, sand dunes inviting all with open arms to domestic and foreign footfalls. I could travel only to Jaipur, Jodhpur, Pushkar, Jhunjhunu, Khimsar and Nawalgarh, it was so mesmerizing.

The local cuisine activates the salivary glands of visitors. The crowded road side stalls have a bee line who wait for mouth watering chats, samosas, lassi, pakoras etc of Ghanta Ghar Jodhpur. The sellers are so fast to cater hundreds within hours with their hands moving swiftly back and forth. Mostly ghee and butter finds its place in every kitchen whether roadside, restaurant or residence. This habit hails from ancestors who were Rajputs, kings and palace owners. Even today medical science endorses the use of ghee and butter instead of refined oils. We had sumptuous lunch and dinners in the restaurants of heritage properties.

Most of the forts have their own museum and shopping outlets. The use of sandstone is common with heightened walls and low height doors and windows. This architectural feature was probably meant for keeping the indoors cool in summer and warm in winters. The stones used were itself insulating against extremes of temperature, common in Rajasthan. Inside



the forts the walls are inscribed with paintings made of vegetables and flowers. It depicted the events of the epic age of Ramayana and Mahabharata. The ceilings were equally decorated to educate the coming generations of their culture, skill and life style.

The museums, paintings, and statues laid emphasis on animals who were granted equal status in almost all festivals. Elephants, horses, camels, tigers, deer, etc were revered. Elephants are usually decked with regal gold plated ornaments indicating their majestic and royal aura. Richly caparisoned horses with gold and silver ornaments are seen abundantly at all festivals and events. The spotted deer and black buck are very close to their hearts. It can be seen in an incident of hunting by a renowned celebrity few years back. Even today the eyes are red with anger.

The red carpet laid by the host with a multicoloured turban, large moustache and folded hands are essential ingredients of Padhora-sa backed by a spray of aromatic flower petals. The guest cannot forget and the host cannot abstain. In affluent hotels Rajasthani music is heard on entry of guests.

Almost a month-long itinerary is required for complete surgery in Rajasthan. Udaipur, Ajmer, Jaisalmer, Bikaner etc are still to be explored. It would be my dream come true if the remaining will be my itinerary in future.

## DETACH YOURSELF FROM RELATIONSHIP, MATERIAL, KNOWLEDGE AND EGO.

When you are attached it means you are dependent on an external source. It might be a symbiotic equation but it is not beneficial in the long run. We get attached but subsequently we end up searching for a way to detach. It can be material, relationship, knowledge and ego. These four aspects surrounds our daily lives penetrating deep inside our body, mind and soul. As social beings we cannot live without material possessions, friends and relatives, knowledge of the world we live and last of all ego which is but natural.

1. **Relationships** -Human beings cannot be the same in all times to come. It is essential to understand the dynamic nature of human mind and behaviour. A childhood friend of school days will appear transformed when you meet him suddenly after say fifty years. He may not appear in front of you as you expected. Attachment gives rise to expectation and expectation leads to discontentment. Texting a friend or relative in mobile may not be responded as early as you expected or in a way you wanted.

In both cases the problem is inside you and is called attachment.

2. **Material**-We cannot survive without food, shelter and clothes. The list in today's world is endless with the advancement of science and technology. A person falls in love with his new car but after some months it

gets a dent on its surface due to heavy traffic. A time comes when the value has depreciated to half of its cost. Attachment causes sadness. There is a saying nowadays that a richest person is not the one who has the most, but the one who needs the least. We should try for minimalism ie “less is more”. Let us not complicate our lives by amassing more and more when we need less and less.

3. **Knowledge-**When an another person argues over a subject of politics and religion and you disagree with his version you get angered. Actually it was his opinion which he stated within the four corners of his knowledge. Your expanse of knowledge might be more or less than the other. It gives rise to friction due to our rigidity. Both of you are only expressing your opinions based on the extent of knowledge which differs from person to person. Let us not get attached to our knowledge so much that we end up in a heated argument and strain relationship. Knowledge within us is just like a library to be used to speak not to argue. Affirm yourself that you know nothing till someone tells you to discuss on a topic.
4. **Ego-** It is a three letter word that has the capacity to spoil a twelve letter word of “relationship”. Ego makes us feel as though we live on a separate island of our own. It works as a fortress. We have an insatiable hunger for praise, recognition and love. Our surroundings differ from our thoughts and ideas. Jealousy gives rise to ego and consequently pain and suffering. Ramana Maharshi was questioned as to “how should we treat others”?He bluntly replied “Others do not exist”. It means that in

reality we are all one. In simpler way we should treat others in the same way you need to be treated by others.

We are all instruments of God and impermanence is our character. As a tenant in this world we cannot attach ourselves to any aspect. Play your role and get ready for a peaceful journey back to the pavilion of heaven.