

AMRIT

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Independence Day Celebration

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AMRIT

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Dinner hosted for volunteers of the Ganges-Danube Festival



Ambassador and Mrs. Chhabra with the volunteers

As a curtain call for the grand and prestigious celebrations of the 3rd International Day of Yoga & 2nd Ganga Danube Festival, 2017, Ambassador and Mrs. Kavita Chhabra hosted a dinner at their residence for all volunteers, artists & Embassy staff to celebrate the immense success of the event. Amongst the guests were Mr. Sunil Shastri,

Former Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, and the son of Honorable Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, the 2nd Prime Minister of India as well.

In his speech given on this joyous occasion Ambassador expressed his gratitude to all individual for their hard work and dedication to making the event a huge success in each city. Every member of

the 'Ganga-Danube Team' were presented with a personalized gift as a token of appreciation serving also as a precious memento for years and years to come.

The most pleasant summer evening was spent in the beautiful garden of the Residence with delicious food, vivacious company in joyous conversation and laughter. ■



Ambassador and Mrs. Chhabra with members of the Mission

India @70 – Independence Day celebration



Ambassador and Mrs. Chhabra in front of the Residence lit up with national colours on the eve of the 70th anniversary of Independence

Celebrations for the 70th anniversary of the Independence of India started on the eve of its declaration on 14th August when, joining Missions all over the world the residence of Ambassador was lit up with national colours and the garden decorated with ribbons and lanterns of orange, white and green.

The main event of the official programme took place on the anniversary of the dawn of Independence the next day. The morning started with the ceremonious flag hoisting and the singing of the national anthems. For this auspicious occasion, a choir formed by the children and family members of the local Indian community led the notes and melodies of Jana Gana Mana with Mr. Rajesh Gangani accompanying the group on tabla. Following the melodious opening, Ambassador read out aloud Hon'ble President's Message to the Nation.

In his personal speech Ambassador greeted all the people gathered in the garden of the Residence and expressed his great pride and happiness over seeing so many fellow countrymen and women and friends of India coming together to celebrate this joyous occasion. Furthermore, he gave an overview of the successful work achieved by the Mission over the past year. He specially highlighted the immensely popular events of the 2nd Ganga-Danube Cultural Festival and 3rd International Day of Yoga Celebrations in various cities of Hungary organised in June this year. He also mentioned the first time lighting of the historic Chain bridge with Indian flag colours and motifs on this occasion.



Singing of the national anthem during the official flag-hoisting ceremony on 15 August

With members of the local Indian community; from businessmen to students, friends and family, and also friends of India from the business associates to various ambassadors of all fields of Indian culture, over 200 people attended the ceremony. The press corps was also present to later report on the event. The programme ended with light refreshments and soft drinks.

The celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Independence of India, officially named as India @70 continues throughout the year of 2017-2018 all over the world. ■

Press Conference of SMR Hungary



LEFT: Ambassador and H.E. Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade at the press conference in Budapest.



RIGHT: Raising glasses on the occasion of the expansion of SMR Automotive Mirror Technology Hungary Bt

Ambassador attended the official press conference of SMR Automotive Mirror Technology Hungary Bt. for the announcement of the opening of its new production plant in Túrkeve, Hungary at the Office of Hungarian Investment Promotion Agency, on 25 August 2017.

As representatives of the Hungarian government, H.E. Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and H.E. Mr. Sándor Fazekas, Minister of Agriculture were

also present at the project's official launch.

In his welcome address Mr. Pál Levente Tibori, Executive Vice President of SMR stated that the new rear-view mirror and bumper manufacturing plant would see an investment of Ft 8 billion [Euro 26.31 mn approx] and create 410 new jobs in the region. SMR Hungary and the Hungarian Government signed a strategic partnership agreement in 2015. Since then SMR has strengthened its presence on the Hungarian market with acquisitions and greenfield investments. ■

Business round-table discussion

With the help of SMR Hungary a Business roundtable meeting has been held with the members of Indian Investor companies in Hungary in order to discuss problems faced by Indian companies and to discuss the necessities of creating the Indo-Hungarian Business Association.

During the session it was said that there still exists a VISA problem for small Indian companies who do not have the leverage of large multinationals and face a very difficult process of obtaining a VISA (Maharaja Restaurant). Big companies on the other hand can through their contacts solve such issues through their business connections.

In order to help new investors and in order to enhance their business connection network and to represent the existing cases of current companies in Hungary, it is necessary to create a Forum of Business Association, which has been a goal for the past two years. It has been agreed that the earlier attempt to create a Chamber of Commerce has failed because of the overly complex task of complying with strict regulations and deadlines as well as the lack of goals

once it was established.

Therefore a new, simpler setup is needed. Instead of a Chamber of Commerce, an Association would be created. A chamber cannot be created because it has to be member of an existing Chamber of Commerce or has to be sponsored by it. However the Association also has legal rules to meet. It has to have 10 members at least. The objective goals need to be defined, then the governing body has to be nominated and a draft establishment document has to be created. Once that is done, a lawyer can be hired and documents for establishment may be submitted. It has been agreed that TCS representative Ms. Gabriella Zaharia, SMR representative Mr. Gergely Opra Szabó and Mr. Amar Sinha would represent the unofficial group, with Mr. Sinha as leader. Currently the draft document of the old Indo-Hungarian Chamber of Commerce would be sent to the participating representatives, who would give their comments and Mr. Amar Sinha would include them in the new draft. The deadline for inputs would be 3rd Sept, and a revised draft meeting would be held on 8th September where the final shape of the Association and office bearers would be decided on. ■

World Judo Championship 2017

Ambassador met the Indian Team having qualified to participate in the World Judo Championships 2017 in Budapest. Following the meeting during which Ambassador congratulated the athletes on their already remarkable achievement of earning a place in the Championship and offered many words of encouragement for the upcoming match, Ambassador took a seat in the arena to cheer for Mr. Avatar Singh and Ms. Tulika Mann as they entered the scene of fight. ■



Ambassador meets the Indian Team at the World Judo Championship 2017 in Budapest

Sivananda Yoga Centre new building inauguration



LEFT: Ambassador and H.E. Mr. Mihaly Varga, Minister for National Economy with Mr. Rego Lanszki.

RIGHT: Ambassador delivering his speech at the ceremony



A year ago to the day, on 8th September 2016 Ambassador along with Dr. Zsolt Láng, Mayor of 2nd district of Budapest and Mr. Omkara (Capt. András Veres), Director of the Sivananda Yoga Centre laid the foundation stone of the new building for the yoga organisation. During the ceremony, which also marked the 20th anniversary of the Sivananda Yoga Community in Hungary a time capsule with the foundation charter was also buried for the future generation.

Now, a year later, Ambassador as chief guest of the event attended the inauguration of the beautiful building marking a milestone in the history of the yoga organisation's Hungarian chapter. In his inaugural speech presented on this auspicious occasion, Ambassador shared his thoughts on the

remarkable life and wise teachings of Swami Sivananda expressing his constant marvel at the fact that ideas and wisdom knows no distance and can travel without boundaries to the furthest corners of the world leading to also to the thriving work of a Sivananda Centre in Hungary. Following this trail of thoughts, he also talked about the strong Indo-Hungarian relations and the important role yoga enjoying immense popularity throughout the country plays in this relationship. Representing the Hungarian government which provided financial help for the erection of this new building, H.E. Mr. Mihály Varga, Minister for National Economy also attended the event. Ambassador, Minister Varga and Mr. Omkara then ceremoniously cut the ribbon of Indian national colours to open a new path to healthy life and wisdom. ■

Celebration of the Festival of Onam in Budapest

The group 'Keralites in Hungary' formed in 2009 to bring together the Keralite community of Hungary (also welcoming everyone with love for their home and culture) celebrated the Festival of Onam on 10 September. The biggest and most important Festival, a harvest festival of Kerala is marked with great joy and enthusiasm all over the state by people of all communities.

Ambassador conveyed his good wishes and felicitations on this joyous occasion to all members of the community. Director (ASCC) represented the Mission at the event.

As highlight of the day a traditional Onam lunch, a vegetarian meal served on traditional banana leaf with several dishes and rice was served to all guests. ■

Visit to GE Global Operations, Budapest

Upon the invitation of its President, Mr. Joerg Bauer, Ambassador and Mrs. Chhabra paid an informal visit to the Hungarian headquarters of GE Global Operations on 15 September. Spouses of GE Global colleagues were also invited and present at the event.

Having guided his guests through the office, Mr. Bauer introduced the company currently employing 15 Indian colleagues and talked in details about the many branches they are currently navigating in several fields. In his presentation, Ambassador gave a detailed overview of the current agenda of the Indian government regarding the economic and business sector, gave a detailed account of the related work having been done by the Mission with glimpses on the invaluable cooperations, investment and trade opportunities the two countries have to offer. Ambassador also made a special mention of the regular business meetings and forums held at the Embassy. He listed all the support and services the Embassy staff offer to NRIs and also drew attention to the local Indian groups and organisations all fellow countrymen who currently

live and work in Hungary can join. To the non-Indian colleagues, encouraging an adventure of a life time, he introduced the visa application process with special attention to the newly introduced e-visa system. Ambassador suggested the possibility of GE offering internships to Indian students.

In order to present a full and inclusive account of the services and activities the official representation of Indian government and culture in Hungary has to offer, Mrs. Chhabra spoke about the many cultural programmes, dance and music classes, Hindi courses and orientational lessons open everyone to join in the Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre of the Mission. She also introduced bigger events, such as Film Festival, Ayush Day, World Dance Day etc. to be celebrated once or twice a year in grand venues with a special attention to encouragements of joining the annual Yoga Day celebration and Ganges-Danube Festival – the main event of the Embassy's cultural calendar.

With the hope of soon welcoming new members to our audience, the event concluded with a delicious lunch spent in good company and friendly, informal conversations. ■

CULTURE

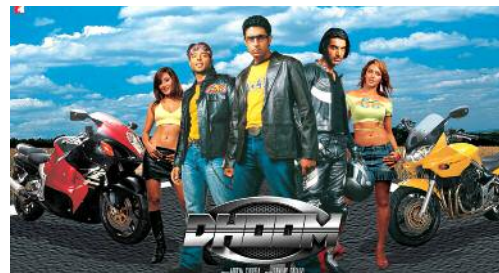
Indian Film Club



The following films were screened under the regular Film Club at the Cultural Centre in August and September, 2017:



On **18.8.2017** **Namak Halaal** was screened (1982, Hindi), on **15.9.2017** **Salaam Namaste** (Hindi) and on **22.9.2017** **Dhoom** (2004, Hindi).



The movies were subtitled in Hungarian language and were very well-received by the audience. Around 160 persons attended the screenings.

OCCASIONAL PROGRAMMES in ASCC

Magic of India Festival - Pt Rajesh Gangani performing at ISKCON Temple

13 August, 2017



Pt Rajesh Gangani performing



Pt Rajesh Gangani performing



Artists – group photo

On 13 August, 2017, ISKCON Community organized a whole-day festival in their temple in 3rd district of Budapest. The programme consisted of exotic dances, open-air kitchen, showcase of traditional musical instruments, henna painting, Indian wedding with fire ceremony, archery, art, Ayurvedic medicine and food supplies, Karma labyrinth, astrology, bazaar etc. Audience could explore all kinds of elements of Indian culture in one day, or just enjoy one segment the whole day during the programme. The organizers

tried to show the parts and the whole at the same time, bringing together the programmes based on Indian philosophy and show Indian culture to people through them.

India-based Tabla teacher of Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre was also part of the programme, performing with his students and escorted by Harmonium player Mr Jitendra Yadav.

Dil Mastana: Rajasthani dance workshop

21-23 August, 2017



Langha musicians



Dance workshop

summoned the magical atmosphere of Rajasthan with rhythmic, melodic music and dance with the mood of the musical pieces. This dance style showed to the students, how to control and match the subtle, pulsing movements of different parts of the body (the head, shoulder, hand and hip) with different rhythmic steps and spins, and how to assign the suitable emotionally charged facial expression to the particular motifs.

In the last part of the daily session the students learned about the meaning



Students making notes



Group photo

Dil Mastana band includes the music performers of the Langha tribe, the most famous and traditional musician community of Rajasthan. Their melodies keep invariably the purity of their ancient musical traditions. The members of the band are excellent artists. In India and around the world, they participated in many festivals and they are worthy representatives of the impressively rich musical traditions of India.

Teachers of the workshop

of the folk music melodies in Rajasthan, the rhythm of the songs, upto the end of learning a strophe. The session offered the opportunity to try various musical instruments as well: sarangi, harmonium, dholak, kartal, double flute (algooja), and pungi (whipping whip).

The three-day workshop was a great success and all the participants enjoyed to learn from authentic Indian artists.

Ganesh Chaturthi celebration 25 August, 2017



Mr T.P.S. Rawat, Director
of ASCC with the artists



Pt Rajesh Gangani performing



Group photo at the Celebration



Mr. T.P.S. Rawat
speaking on the occasion

Ganesh Chaturthi was celebrated by the Indian community on 25th August 2017 in Lurdy House, Budapest. Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre also participated on this event and

presented cultural programme of devotional music and songs.

Odissi dance performance by Rahul Acharya (India)

5 September, 2017



Rahul Acharya performing



Mr. T.P.S. Rawat presenting bouquet



Group photo

On 5 September, 2017 Rahul Acharya, Indian dance teacher and master of Odissi dance performed in ASCC Auditorium for full-house audience. Rahul Acharya arrived to Hungary with the support of ICCR. He arrived in the beginning of August, and participated in several summer programmes of Hungary, like the Lotus Festival in Szeged. He also held summer camp for Hungarian students of Odissi. He was escorted by her Hungarian student, teacher of ASCC, Ms Virág Túri, who also arranged a one-week workshop for him in ASCC from 4-8 September, 2017.

The performance in ASCC was a great success; both Ms Virág and the guru performed on stage, showcasing the delicate Odissi movements to audience. The fine and flexible movements and vigorous energy of the items enchanted people. In the end bouquets were given to the artists and group photos were taken on stage.

Contemporary Indian folk music performance by TAPI Project (India)

12 September, 2017



TAPI Project performing



Mr T.P.S. Rawat, Director (ASCC)
presenting bouquets to the artists



Group photo

On 12 September, 2017, an Indian contemporary folk band visited Hungary. They arrived on the invitation of Everness Festival, and ASCC also gave place to one performance in its Auditorium. The group adapts authentic Indian songs in modern jazz-cum-folk style, which is quite popular among the youngsters today. This was the second time that such kind of style was showcased in ASCC Auditorium (the latest was a Hungarian band from Pécs city titled Csőke Renáta Quartet – they adapted gipsy and Indian songs and Sanskrit mantras in modern style).

The audience was very amazed by the programme, asking for encore in the end. Bouquet ceremony and photography session was held in the end of the evening.

Fashion Show “Alluring India 2017” 21 September, 2017

To celebrate the 70th Anniversary of India's Independence, Embassy of India organized “Alluring India 2017” fashion show – a unique maiden display of Indian traditional & fusion fashion in Hungary. The event was organized in collaboration with Mr. Vinay Gupta,



Ambassador speaking on the occasion



Handing over to dignitaries an unique memento: Ambassador Mr. Rahul Chhabra, Madam Kavita Chhabra with Dr. Peter Medgyessy, Former Prime Minister, Dr. Petra Pana, Deputy State Secretary for External Economic Affairs, Dr. Sándor Sipos, Director General of Asia Pacific Department, Mr. György Habsburg, Archduke of Austria, Royal Prince of Hungary, Bohemia and Croatia and other Dignitaries



Alluring India 2017 Fashion Show. The female model is wearing a Lehenga and the men are wearing Sherwani by designer Charu Parashar

Managing Director of Gait-N-Grace. For the very first time a live Instagram & Facebook coverage took place for an event organized by the Embassy. The event took place in Bálna, Budapest (The „Whale” – commercial, cultural,



LEFT: Saree-draping by Ms Beáta Jakusovszky. **RIGHT:** Models on the Catwalk



LEFT: Models on the Catwalk. **RIGHT:** Jhansi ki Raani – Ms Kanchan Bhardwaj performing



Group photo on stage

entertaining and catering center).

The event was formally inaugurated at a glittering ceremony on the evening of 21st September by Ambassador of India, Rahul Chhabra. Dr. Peter Medgyessy, Former Prime Minister, Dr.

Petra Pana, Deputy State Secretary for External Economic Affairs, Dr. Sándor Sipos, Director General of Asia Pacific Department, Mr. György Habsburg, Ambassador at large to Hungary, member of the Royal Habsburg dynasty, Mayors of Several Cities,

Senior Government officials, Ambassadors from other Embassies, top echelons of Corporate World, representatives of Hungarian print, audio-visual media, editors of leading fashion publications and over 300 guests joined on the night of the event.

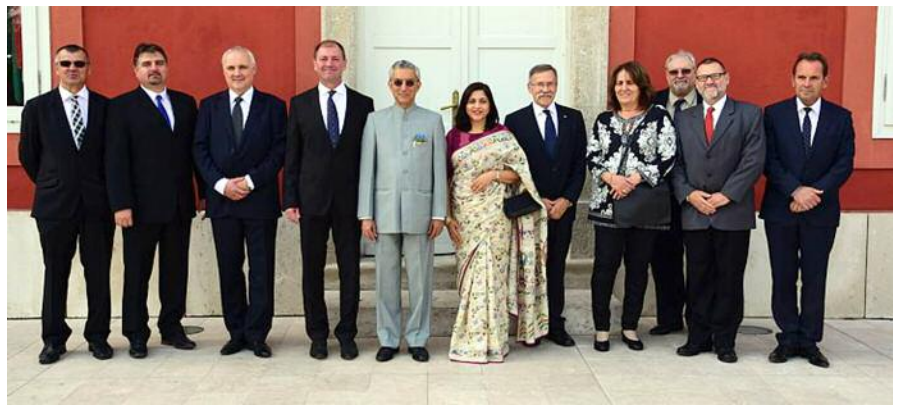
The Fashion show featured the latest finely tailored Indian garments such as Silk Saris, embroidered Lehengas and mermaid gowns with ruffles. The collection was more about Indian traditional wear with a touch of contemporary ensemble. The concept of the event was to create an environment of Indian ethos globally through a unique insight into collections of two eminent names in the bridal trousseau industry, Ms. Charu Parashar and Ms. Payal Keyal. This fashion show showcased a first-off collection namely “Regal Saree” & “Various Moods” by Ms. Charu Parashar, “The Weaves from the Ghats of Banaras” by Ms. Salma Sultan, and “Contemporary Sari” & “Contemporary Wedding Cocktail” collection by Ms. Payal Keyal.

A glimpse of Indian culture was also showcased with a live demonstration of how a nine-yard Sari plead-by-plead was draped to perfection in different styles. The draping presentation was done by Mrs. Jayshree Venkataraman and Mrs Neema Bisht and modelled on Ms. Alexandra Komáromi and Ms. Beáta Jakusovszky. The poem about Jhansi ki Raani, India’s warrior queen written by Ms Subhadra Kumari Chauhan was enacted on stage by Dr. Kanchan Bhardwaj (recitation) accompanied by Pandit Rajesh Gangani in tabla and English translation by Ms Saumya Shukla. With flowing spirits and free-wheeling conversations, the guests enjoyed the fascinating act by a Hungarian Mind Illusionist Mr. Gábor Holcz.

Everything She Wants – theatre play about Amrita Sher-Gil by Navjot Randhawa in Dunaharaszti city

28 September, 2017

A play about Amrita written by Navjot and directed by the Hungarian poet, Katalin Ladik was shown in Dunaharaszti on 28 September, 2017. Navjot Randhawa (India) played the part of Amrita who was the lover of Boris in Paris. The producer of the play was Denis Harrap (France, New Zealand), he is the founder of an



H.E. Rahul Chhabra and Madam Kavita Chhabra with local dignitaries



LEFT: Ambassador signing the Guest Book in the museum. **RIGHT:** Ambassador watching an archive photo of Amrita Sher-Gil and her family members



LEFT: Madam Kavita Chhabra speaking on the occasion. **RIGHT:** Ms. Navjot Randhawa playing

international theatre workshop, the Andretta Arts Company. The premiere of play was in February, 2016.

The play is about the relationship between Amrita Sher-Gil and Boris Taslitzky when they were fellow students at Ecole des Beaux-Arts in

Paris. It speaks of the transformation of Amrita, from a young bourgeois girl into a ‘revolutionary’ against her own roots. It is the story of two artists coming from different cultures, having different roots, but longing for the same ideals. They breathe their grief, their joy, their ecstatic and erotic desires into



LEFT: Navjot Randhwa playing. **CENTRE:** Wreath Ceremony at the statue of Ervin Baktay. **RIGHT:** Visiting Mayor's Office

each other, into their love and art. They are facing the inevitable transience, the fate of becoming immortal. The idea of this play was born from a film idea that the director Gurvinder Singh (Anhe Ghode da Daan, Chauthi Koot) shared with Navjot Randhawa. After much research on this film (in Paris), Navjot felt the need to write a play about the relationship between Amrita and Boris because despite being a fascinating story, it is not mentioned adequately in

the books dedicated to the famous painter. Navjot co-wrote this play with Jim Sarbh, a Bombay based theatre and film artiste.

As Dunaharaszti was one of the cities in Amrita's life where she lived in her young age, this was a really special occasion as students of Baktay Secondary School could get acquainted better with her life. The programme started with the speech of Madam

Kavita Chhabra, who greeted the students and spoke a few words about Amrita. After the play all the audience went to the house of Ervin Baktay, the Indologist, who was the uncle of Amrita, and attended the wreath ceremony at the house. The event concluded with Reception organized by local organizers.

Around 100 people came to see the performance. ■

Reaching for the stars, India's quest for the outer space: Aryabhata to Mangalyaan

By Pallava Bagla

India has a rich tradition of using outer space as a tool for national development. The poorest of the poor have always been the beneficiaries of India's space technologies, from farmers to fisher folk Indian satellites touch the lives of almost the entire 1.3 billion population.

As India celebrates its seventieth birthday it has already entered the golden era of space technology, sectors like satellite television, banking, smart city development, weather forecasting, smart phones, e-governance, satellite aided navigation are all catering to India's unending appetite to deploy high technology to ease the life of the common man.

India's quest for space has been pioneered by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) set up in 1969 and today has an annual budget of about \$ 1.4 billion. The country has a constellation of 44 satellites in orbit and can now on its own launch up to four tons of communication satellites into orbit. This gives India end to end capabilities

in space technology from making its own satellites to launching its own rockets and has even sent an Indian made satellite Mangalyaan or the Mars Orbiter Mission all the way to the Mars travelling a distance of over 200 million kilometres.

The journey for ISRO began from the humble fishing village of Thumba on the coast of the Arabian Sea where the scientists used the premises of a church to set up the first rocket launch facilities and the first rockets were carried on bicycles and first satellites pulled in on bullock carts. Today India's heaviest rocket the Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III (GSLV MK III) also lovingly named 'Bahubaali' weighs a whopping 640 tons or the weight of more than 200 fully grown elephants. This elegant rocket had its maiden launch on June 5, 2017 when it launched a communications satellite GSAT-19 into orbit and promises to become the mainstay for all heavy lifts.

The first satellite to be launched by India was way back in 1972 when the 360 kilogram Aryabhata satellite named after India's legendary mathematician was lifted into orbit from the erstwhile USSR. This space science satellite paved the way for ISRO to reach for the stars. In the next few months this year India hopes to launch its heaviest ever satellite GSAT-11 that will weigh about 5725 kilograms.

By launching 'Bahubali' the Indian space agency entered into a bold new world muscling its way to make its mark in the world's heavy weight multi-billion dollar launch market. ISRO chairman Dr A S Kiran Kumar a man of modest words said 'we pushed ourselves to the limits to ensure that this new fully self-reliant Indian rocket succeeds in its maiden launch'.

This heavy lift rocket is capable of placing up to 8 tons in a low Earth orbit, enough to carry India's crew module. Incidentally what may please Prime Minister on India Mr. Narendra Modi a known space buff is that this launch has 'made in India boldly written all over it'.

ISRO has already prepared plans of hoisting a 2-3 member human crew into space as soon as the government gives it a sanction of about 3-4 billion dollars. The expectation is that the ISRO friendly Modi may want to leave his own stamp on history by initiating the human space flight program before the end of his first term in 2019. India would become only the fourth country after Russia, USA and China to have a human space flight program. Incidentally ISRO asserts the first Indian to go into space could well be a woman! Kumar confirms 'in principle it will be the GSLV Mk-3 or its variant that will be human rated in future'.

India already has two operational rockets the workhorse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) that can hoist satellites of 1.5 tons into space and was the preferred vehicle for India's maiden mission to Moon and Mars. The second the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark II can hoist 2 ton class of satellites. Between them, ISRO has done fifty launches and recently even earned a world record by successfully placing 104 satellites in orbit beating an old Russian record of hoisting 39 satellites in a single mission.

This year India embarked on space diplomacy like never before. For the first time New Delhi flexed its prowess of space technology by embarking on an unprecedented and un-chartered 'stratospheric diplomacy' through a special Rs 450 crore gift for south Asians. India carved a very unique place in the universe, when New Delhi 'gifted' a heavy weight bird in the sky to its neighbours through the 'South Asia Satellite'. India opened its heart out by extending its neighbourhood first policy beyond the stratosphere. This 'gift' of a communications satellite for use by neighbours at no cost has no parallels in the space fairing world, all other

current regional consortia are commercial for-profit enterprises.

The 'South Asia Satellite' is a 2230 kilogram satellite is purely a communications satellite costing Rs 235 crores. The uniqueness of this satellite is that it has a footprint that extends all over South Asia and India gifted this heavenly messenger to its neighbours.

The South Asia Satellite has 12 Ku band transponders which India's neighbours can now utilize to increase communications. Each country will get access to at least one transponder through which they could beam their own programming and there could be common 'south Asian programing' as well. Each country is developing its own ground infra-structure though India is willing to extend assistance and know-how. According to the government the satellite will 'enable a full range of applications and services to our neighbours in the areas of telecommunication and broadcasting applications viz. television, direct-to-home (DTH), very small aperture terminals (VSATs), tele-education, telemedicine and disaster management support.' The satellite also has the capability to provide secure hot lines among the participating nations in addition since the region is highly prone to earthquakes, cyclones, floods, tsunamis it may help in providing critical communication links in times of disasters.

In this unusual message of peace, India's most hostile neighbour Pakistan has fully opted out. Rest of the seven countries part of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) namely Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are part of this mission. Experts say 'Pakistan has missed an opportunity' since its own space program is currently in a primitive stage as compared to India's. Hopefully friendly skies can result in reduced hostilities on Earth.

In 2013 India launched the Mangalyaan the country's first mission to Mars and it hit Bulls Eye when on September 24, 2014 it entered the orbit of Mars and India created global history by becoming the first country to reach the orbit of Mars on its maiden attempt a fact that eluded global giants like USA and Russia. Made for a nominal mission life of 180 days this year the Mangalyaan completed 1000 days in orbit and continues to beam back data and some its images like those of the full disc of Mars are so good that they featured on the cover of the venerated National Geographic magazine.

Early next year India plans to hoist its second mission to the Moon, Chandrayaan-2 which will include landing its flag on the lunar surface on an indigenous rover. Continuing with inter-planetary exploration missions are also planned for Venus and a re-visit to Mars.

Human space flight is also in the offing, India's latest rocket the GSLV Mk III could be India's vehicle of choice to launch 'Indians into space, from Indian soil using Indian rockets'. This is only the beginning reaching for the stars and exploring the wonders of the universe are all on the horizon but whatever it does India's common person will continue to reap the

maximum benefits of India's capabilities in space. ■

—Pallava Bagla is a globally recognised Indian science journalist and author of book 'Reaching for the Stars: India's Journey to Mars and Beyond' published by Bloomsbury. He can be reached at Pallava.bagla@gmail.com

The 70-Year-Old India

Part III



Eating is a globally shared experience. Because up to 90% of our knowledge of taste is actually about smell, much of what we learn comes via our noses. But what kind of food do we like? According to the author of First Bite: How we learn to Eat we start learning very young. Even before we are born still in our mother's womb we learn about culture and cuisine. The study states that flavour has an amazing power to imprint itself in our earliest memories. Reading this I was a bit puzzled because to my knowledge my mother had not been to India and when I was not even born there were no Indian restaurants in Hungary. Yet I am a great lover of Indian food. So while at some places in India the smell can be overpowering and not even pleasant but the variety of tastes is challenging to resist.

Indians love holidays they love to celebrate. They know when New Year's Eve, Republic, Independence Day, Holi, and Diwali are. Some also know when Valentine's, Mothers'

or Fathers' and May Days are. The Hindus know and celebrate their superior days, just like the Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Sikhs Jains, Tibetans, and Chinese living in India. Since they have equal rights to their holy days, the whole country is celebrating not only the official state holidays but regardless what is the belief of the celebrant they rejoice in it all. In fact Indians celebrate 64 Bank Holidays. If there is no official holiday they can always have puja. Puja originally is a prayer ritual performed by Hindus to host, and worship one or more deities, or celebrate an event. Puja varies according to the school of Hinduism. It may vary by region, occasion, deity honored, and steps followed. Puja can be at sunrise, at sunset at the daily thanksgiving called Aarti or at any time for the individual or for a group or because any of these occasions. So what is Christmas, a Christian holiday like in the predominantly Hindu India like? And what is it like in Kerala in the first Communist state of India?

Weeks before Christmas one can already see red stars in the streets and especially around or on Christian churches. But these red stars in India at this time of the year have nothing to do with the ideology of Marx or Lenin but of Jesus Christ. These stars are Christmas decorations. Our hotel in Kerala's capital, in Kochi is centrally placed in the area that is full of little coffee shops, restaurants and above all antique workshops. Around 10 o'clock in the evening normally it is full of life, bustling with travellers. Now when we take off to find a restaurant we hardly see anybody on the streets and it is difficult to find a place that is open where we could have our dinner. There are barely any foreigners around. When I ask why - they say it is the new law to cut corruption that introduced new bank notes and since there are not enough of them at the moment less visitors come. Finally we come upon a restaurant that is open and when we ask the waiter where the Cathedral is he assures us that it is very near. But he adds that we would have to get there early because on Christmas Eve it usually gets very crowded. He explains that nobody wants to stand through the long service. Then he adds 'you should go now'. When I ask what his religion is he says: 'Muslim, but everybody knows about Christmas in this state'.

So we miss our dinner but we are not late for the Christmas mass. We don't have to go far to find the Cathedral. There is a huge garden around the church and it is full of people. It is obvious that these people catered for the huge crowd because they brought portable chairs. When they get near to a loudspeaker they just sit down on their chairs. We are either greedy or feel that we came a very long way for this mass. We don't just want to hear it but we would like to be active participants of the mass just like at home. And we would like to see the inside of the Cathedral. Here and there are still a few empty seats so we all manage to get a place. When I sit down I realise why this seat remained empty. It is behind an enormous column with very little leg room. Still I am sitting. The songs are movingly beautiful. They are sung in the official language of Kerala state: in Malayalam but the service and the sermon is in English. When we reach communion in the mass some young Sikh men also queue up for the wafer. Nobody is certain what the intentions of these men in their colourful turbans are. But the priests handle the situation very professionally. They indicate that the Sikhs are welcome but the communion is only for the Catholics. Nobody gets upset. At the end of the mass on the big square volunteers helping with the event are distributing hot tea and mulled wine. The Sikhs are there some of them accept the wine others the tea. Everybody is jolly. The Christians are celebrating the birth of Jesus the rest are rejoicing the festival.

It is around 2 o'clock in the morning but the area around the church comes to life. India is a huge bazaar. In general people are selling: food, drinks, slices of coconuts at railway

stations, on the trains, balloons and bracelets in parks or on the roadside or in between cars jammed in the traffic. They are selling anything, everything, anywhere, at any time. Most noticeable that there are stands for the street food sellers everywhere. Freshly made snacks, tea, squeezed fruits are sold almost any time. A little 'later' meaning from about five in the morning one can get more elaborate choice of food, fresh fruit, vegetables also and newspapers especially near to railway stations. By this time the markets are getting their fresh goods also. In towns near the sea there are special markets for fish and seafood. To feed a country with over one billion people is a full time occupation of many tens of millions. They have to grow, produce, carry and sell the products. If one is near the Ganges or to any river that is connected physically or spiritually to the holy river one is offered flowers, offerings and lamps for the living and the dead. Around areas where visitors might appear souvenir sellers are presenting their cards, pictures, fake jewellery, and preparing baskets.

As one moves around the streets or on the roads in India one comes upon some professions, occupations that are unknown or already forgotten by us. In the West most things are made by machinery. Because of that we hardly ever see how things are made. Apart from the fact that so many new things are made that many old products are no longer produced and the production skills are lost also. So it is of special interest to find during our travels in India the unusual products and to see the skills. In the towns there are street sweepers and mostly women and children who in huge bags carry the rubbish away. There are tailors in cellars and on the pavements just like hairdressers. There are shoe-makers or rather repairers on the streets. Their 'shop' might only be the size of a banana box but the skill and the speed how they make something useable again out of something broken is remarkable. And of course there are everywhere the shoeshine boys even though that many of them long passed the age when they could still be called boys. In the areas around museums or sites of historical events there are the 'antique shops' where they are making antiques by making them looking old. Colourful or rather noisy lesson to learn that in India one can hire street musicians and brass bands for weddings. To play they cannot but they are proud in their used colourful uniforms torturing their instruments and the pedestrians. In Kolkata there is a whole area of the 'god makers'. They get their mud from the Ganges out of that they formulate the images of deities for the forthcoming holiday of that god. But they produce little vases and even tiny cups also. The prices of these cups are included in the tea they serve on the streets claiming that this is the most hygienic way of serving their beverages even though that the cups are not washed before usage but smashed after use.

A visible sign that one is near a river is the huge 30-50 metres high brick chimney. Around them are the brick



makers. They place the dug up mud into little forms that they set out onto the blazing sun. When they are set they take them to the furnace and burn them. Each worker has to produce 2500 bricks a day for their 1250 Rupees /5000 Hungarian Forint/. If they work overtime for 1000 more bricks they earn an extra 500 Rupees. At some of these places whole families, including the children are working.

Equally interesting site is the 'Sugar Factory'. As one is nearing the location of these places one notices women on the side of the busy roads are carrying sugar canes of 4-5 metres long on their heads. As the walk these long sticks have a rhythm of banding almost lifting the walking women. If the woman and the sticks move together it is probably a little easier as one of these bundles can be anything between 40-60 kg. But not only pedestrian women carry these long canes. Rickshaws, bull carts, and huge trucks way overloaded are delivering the sugar canes. Once the sticks arrive they are pushed through a grinder squeezing the juice out of them. This juice is led through to huge heated metal plates stirred around until they become semi solid. Then they are cut up into small dumplings. 1 kilo sugar cane is bought up by the factory for 3 Rupees. The dumplings are sold to resellers for 40 Rupees. At the market half a kilo brown sugar costs 200 Rupees. Most often the sugar cane does not reach the factory. On the streets they are squeezed to produce refreshing sugar juice.

It is an unusual experience to see how jeans are tintured. The jeans still in two parts pulled up on a metal 'leg' where somebody has to rub the color in the fabric. This person has to tincture 200 jeans for 1500 Rupees a day.

One believes that it is hot in India. That is true but not everywhere and not all the time. Apart from the mountains in the Northern part of the country and especially in the winter the evenings can be cold. Yet there is no central heating or functioning heating systems inside buildings. As it is getting darker men sit or squat around outside their shops or homes and in the middle of the circle a few pieces of twigs are smoldering.

Water is an increasing treasure in most countries. Imagine its significance at the very dry parts of India. To see the faces of people arriving with their innumerable little cans at wells and at pumps, filling them up with fresh water and carrying it home for drinking, cooking and washing. To understand their joy is a delightful, unforgettable experience. To see their joyfulness of getting water made me think of the luxury we live in where we can just turn the tap on and the water is running. For the 70th birthday of India I wish this luxury even for the smallest Indian village. ■

*Text: Adam Lazar
Pictures: Szilvia Olah*

Essay on Yoga



A 5,000-year-old practice based on Indian philosophy. It is an astounding combination of postures, rhythmic breathing and meditation all at one time. It is believed that Yoga contributes to one's physical and mental well-being. The term "Yoga" is derived from Sanskrit root "Yuj" meaning "to join" or "to yoke" or "to unite". As per Yogic scriptures the practise of Yoga leads to the union of individual's consciousness with that of the Universal Consciousness, leading towards a perfect harmony between the mind and body, man & nature. The aim of Yoga is self-realization, to try to overcome all kinds of sufferings paving way "to the state of liberation". Yoga is an ancient form of Science of achieving absolute union with the divine & "Tantra" is the way of controlling the energy that makes possible the ultimate union with the truth. This is one of the oldest sciences of the world, originated in India, which is very useful for preserving and maintaining one's physical and mental health and also "spiritual evolution". Yoga has many benefits affecting our day to day life. Yoga has gained popularity worldwide in recent years.

Benefits of Yoga in general life

- It enables the us to find relief from the physical ailments and to strengthen the body. It is particularly beneficial for muscular-skeletal disorder, arthritis, pain in various body joints, slipped disc etc.
- Form a psychological viewpoint, Yoga practise smoothens, emotions, sharpens the intellect and aids concentration.
- Yoga can be used to manage stress and lifestyle related disorders. Non-communicable diseases respond well to

Yoga therapy. The modern hospitals are gradually adopting this system of therapy.

Now we come to various key benefits of Yoga in Cancer, Antenatal Care and Depression.

Benefits of Yoga in Cancer

Yoga can help you centralise your thoughts and maintain flexibility. It also has benefits specifically for people living with cancer. Symptoms of fatigue, insomnia, and pain can all lower the quality of life with cancer. In recent years the use of yoga has been evaluated in many studies looking at cancer symptoms. Some studies have noted that yoga not only improves conditions of cancer-related sleep problems, it also greatly boosts mood and significantly decreases levels of stress. Overall, yoga improves the quality of life of people with cancer. Yoga can be beneficial to improve and alleviate cancer-related conditions.

Based on a study, some benefits of Yoga in cancer are as below

Sleep and Insomnia: Yoga may help people with cancer who have difficulty falling asleep or remaining asleep. This is more important than it may sound, as we've learned that insomnia in cancer patients can be dangerous - not only by increasing fatigue and lessening quality of life, but may even play a role in survival.

Fatigue: based on studies, yoga is associated with a significant decrease in the fatigue related to cancer and cancer treatments. This is also incredibly important, as the

majority of people with cancer suffer from cancer-related fatigue.

Anxiety: Through its centring activities and breathing practices, yoga may help reduce the anxiety associated with cancer.

Loss of Appetite: In some cases, yoga may result in an improvement, when loss of appetite accompanies a cancer diagnosis.

Pain: As a complementary treatment that is used along with conventional treatments such as pain medications yoga may help decrease pain associated with cancer.

Stress: Yoga appears to have a significant role in stress reduction for people living with cancer. Regular practise of Yoga also helps patients suffering from Breast cancer.

Emotional Distress: Individuals living with cancer reported significantly less emotional distress related to their disease when they incorporated yoga into their weekly routine.

Possible Survival Benefit:

An association based on a few studies suggests a possible survival benefit, at least for some people, associated with yoga.

Benefits of Yoga in Antenatal care

According to Mr. Maharishi Patanjali, in his Yoga Sutra, defines yoga as "pause of all changes in consciousness". The word Yoga means skill to live your life, to manage your mind, to deal with your emotion and a way to calm the wavering mind and helps to maintain the energy level and improves the tolerance power.

Antenatal care is the medical care that women receive when they are pregnant and Antenatal yoga can be a great way to help women to prepare for childbirth and speed up recovery after birth. Results showed that practicing yoga during pregnancy can help increase the self-confidence of pregnant women and reduce discomfort during pregnancy.

Antenatal yoga involves exercise that encourages stretching, mental focus and conscious breathing. It coordinates in mind-body awareness and brings peace, relaxation and also increases blood circulation, helping mothers to remain fit and flexible, also promoting the baby's health at the same time.

According to Ms. Liz Owen, a Boston-based yoga teacher and the co-author of "Yoga for a Healthy Lower Back" Antenatal yoga "tones the physical body, especially the pelvic floor, hip, and abdominal core muscles. Building and maintaining muscle tone during pregnancy, with yoga poses like lunges and gentle backbends, can help minimize the aches and pains of those nine months and are key in bringing the body back to a toned condition after delivery.

Yoga helps to Improve sleep, increase expectant mother's strength, flexibility and endurance of muscles needed for childbirth, decrease lower back pain, nausea, headaches and shortness of breath. It is important to understand which Yoga postures should be avoided or modified, and how to make balancing exercises safer for the expectant mother.

Few Routine Measure to be followed as Antenatal care

Conscious breathing in and out slowly and deeply through the nose, helps to manage shortness of breath during pregnancy. To be aware of self, relaxing the muscles and to bring inner peace, a close attention to breathing, sensations, and emotions is required.

Benefits of Yoga in Depression

Yoga is an exercise that can help reduce stress, anxiety, and depression.

Practicing yoga may help improve one's energy level, pain tolerance, and self-esteem. More studies are using randomized controlled trials to look at the relationship between yoga and depression. One study, according to Harvard Mental Health, found that people who were more stressed had a lower pain tolerance. According to the Harvard Mental Health Letter, recent studies suggest that yoga can: Reduce the impact of stress, help with anxiety and depression, be a self-soothing technique similar to meditation, relaxation and exercise improve energy levels.

Dr Mason Turner of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Group says yoga therapy "can be very powerful in the treatment of depression." Even if yoga isn't your forte, the combination of meditation and physical movement provide two important elements for relieving depression. Meditation helps bring a person into the present moment and allows them to clear their minds. Controlled, focused movements also help strengthen the body-mind connection.

Breathing exercises are effective in reducing depressive



symptoms, according to one study. You may find yoga helpful as the exercise focuses on deep, controlled breathing. Yoga helps to improve mood and relaxation. As exercise, yoga is a natural way to increase serotonin production. According to the Journal of Psychiatry and Neuroscience, serotonin production plays a role in the treatment of depression. Serotonin is believed to play a major role in happiness. One study also suggests people with depression have lower serotonin levels. Yoga is also especially helpful because of its gentle, calming, and fluid nature. Each pose is flexible, so people of all levels can practice. Yoga instructor emphasizes on breathing, concentration, and smooth movement. They'll also encourage you to focus on positive images to calm the body and mind.

Yoga increases heart rate variability (HRV), or change in time between heart beats, by increasing the relaxation response over the stress response in the body. A high HRV means that body is better at self-monitoring or adapting, particularly to stress. Yoga can also be helpful to lower blood pressure, ease breathing, increase pain tolerance / endurance.

Summary

Human beings are made up of three components—body, mind and soul. And corresponding to these there are three needs of mankind—health, knowledge and inner peace.

Health is physical need, knowledge is our psychological need and inner peace is spiritual need. And when all three are present in the body then harmony resonates inside.

As explained above, Yoga gives us relief from countless ailments. The practice of the postures; known as ASANAS; strengthens the body and creates a feeling of wellbeing. From the psychological view point, Yoga sharpens the intellect and aid in concentration; it steadies the emotions and encourages a caring for others.

The practice of breathing techniques, known as PRANAYAM calms the mind. Through meditation inner peace is experienced. It evolves a personality of the individual by development of self-discipline and self-awareness. Anyone irrespective of age, health, circumstances of life and religion can practise yoga.

Yoga helps to discipline “one’s sense of power with the power of one’s own”.

Thus, Wish you all a Very Happy Yoga Day & a healthy body with a healthy mind. ■

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SOLAR BIKE

A Case Study To Ascertain Market Potential For a Multi-purpose Solar Bike

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A group of MBA students from the NarseeMonjee Institute of Management Studies, India, got selected and an opportunity to associate with GreenContributor, a Canadian organisation which is involved in environmental and educational initiatives across the world for schools and universities and connecting communities in joint partnership with DEMOLA Budapest.

Amongst the numerous activities involved, one of them brought us to Hungary and Slovenia where we were given the responsibility to develop a pitch for the crowdfunding of a revolutionary solar bike invented by Mr Andrej Berlec. It all started with the injuries in Andrej's knee which started hindering his activities. And being an enthusiastic traveller, he came up with the idea of creating a bike that would run on renewable source of energy and what's better than the solar power which is inexhaustible.

The vehicle has 2 parts- the cycle and the solar power station itself. The basic specifications of the bike are as follows:

- ❖ Speed up to 45km/hr solely on solar energy
- ❖ Photovoltaic system power of 270W/10A
- ❖ 1 lithium battery of total capacity of 48V/20Ah
- ❖ Built in carriage space which can carry up to 30 kg of luggage
- ❖ Up to 200km in one day with no additional help
- ❖ GPS
- ❖ USB ports
- ❖ It can run uphill
- ❖ Detachable solar power station
- ❖ Remote controlled solar panels
- ❖ GoPro camera stand
- ❖ LED Laser lights light strips

Andrej has already travelled more than 5000kms on this

solar bike successfully without any problems and he is just getting started. In a span of two years he has already received orders for 30 bikes from all over the world. He has also been featured in newspapers, magazines and television shows of various countries.

Apart from its main utility of transportation, it has several other uses such as using the solar energy for charging any electronic gadgets which is attached to the cycle. Two uses that we witnessed personally were using the energy drawn from the solar panel to charge a 53Volt lithium battery.

As test examples, we got to see the various uses of the battery as follows:

1. To pump water from the lake with a gushing force: This feature can be used as an irrigation pump to water the agricultural fields by further developing the prototype.
2. To charge any electric gadget while travelling on the bike including mobile phones or tablets just like you charge in cars or having the pleasure of listening to music while riding the bike.
3. To run a juice maker to replenish the energy of the rider when he/she is exhausted from a long day's ride.
4. Another practical use of this bike is that it can be used as a food delivery vehicle where the food can be kept heated when it is delivered. Moreover, it can also be used for ice-cream stalls or for delivery by running the refrigerator using the solar panels.

This product has a multitude of applications to its credit which are yet to be explored by various market segments. The foremost opportunity that can be found is with agriculture. This product can be a farmer's best companion in the developing and pro-agriculture nations where rural areas are in dire need of energy sources for irrigation, electricity and household activities. Apart from commuting

to farms and nearby towns it can also be an alternative mode for the regular transport through bicycles and bikes inside the premises of universities and corporate parks. With increasing number of travellers and tourists around the world, this product is an attraction for exploring new places and in keeping its vicinity devoid of pollution where vehicles rented are increasing in number.

Moving on to its operations, the actual ease and convenience of the bike can only be understood when it is experienced and we were lucky enough to have actually rode the bike. It has an excellent weight balance and it is very easy to operate as it is quite similar to specifications of a normal bicycle with just a few modifications to suit the other requirements. Due to the highly rigid clamping of solar trailer on the bike (under the driver's seat) one does not feel torsion; the load on bike is half the load to the trailer. Even at high speed (60 km per hour) downhill a biker does not feel torsional load, the trailer extremely well follows to attached bicycle or scooter.

All in all, it is a great invention and is a door into the future for transportation powered by green energy. And the concept behind this solar bike offers a plethora of opportunities in various sectors of the economies which in turn can transform the whole picture as to how we currently use our appliances to suit our daily needs. It is green, renewable, inexhaustible, cheap and it has come into the picture at an apt time when during this grave environmental crisis which the world is facing and is in dire need of such products which holds the key in the coming times.

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world"

—Mahatma Gandhi

Andrej is a living example of this quote and we students have joined hands with GreenContributor in partnership with DEMOLA Budapest and have embarked upon this journey to make this change be reflected everywhere in our life and make this world a better place to live. ■

HINDI SECTION

सत्यजित रे का सिनेमा: चारुलता और विनोद दा के बहाने

यह सवाल हमेशा ही पूछा जाता रहा है कि फिल्म एक विचार है, कला है अथवा मनोरंजन?

यह सवाल जितना एक फिल्म-दर्शक के लिए जरूरी है उतना ही एक फिल्म-निर्देशक के लिए भी। हर फिल्म-निर्देशक इस सवाल से अपनी-अपनी तरह जूझता है और शायद दर्शक भी। सिनेमा का इतिहास हमें बताता है कि कोई फिल्म एक साथ

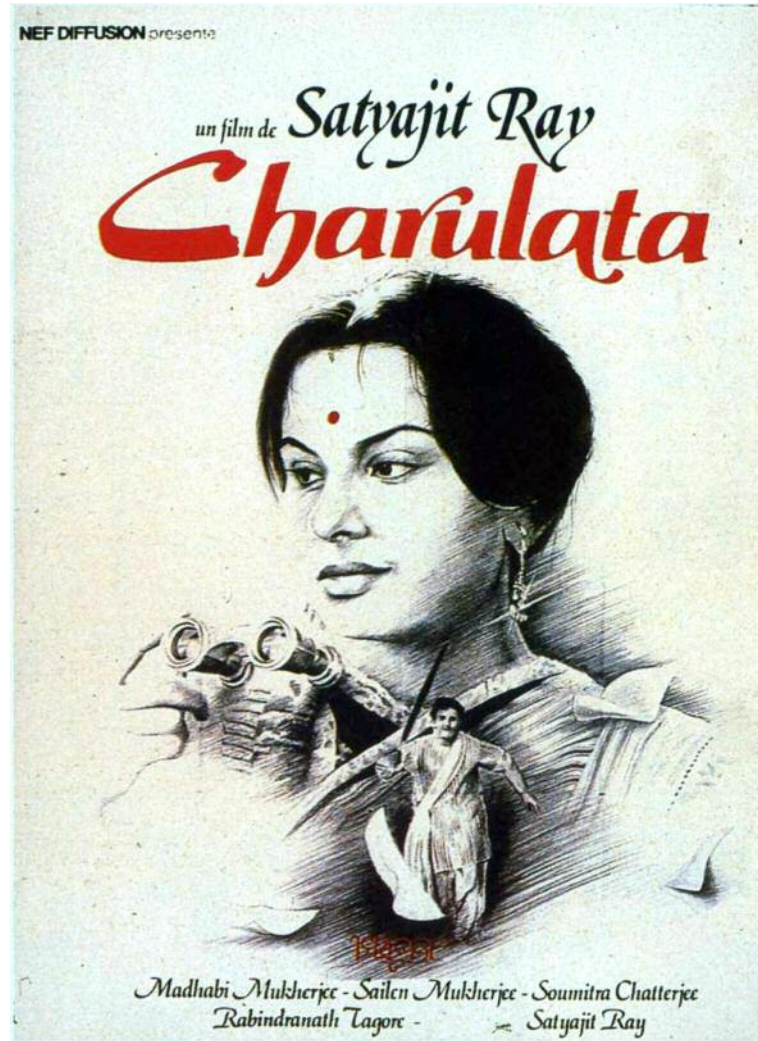
विचार, कला और मनोरंजन इन तीनों तत्वों को अपने भीतर बड़ी खूबसूरती से समाहित किए हुए निर्देशित की जा सकती है तो वहीं कोई फिल्म केवल एक विचार हो सकती है, केवल एक कलाकृति अथवा केवल मनोरंजन के रूप में प्रशंसित।

दोनों ही सूरतों में फिल्म अपने दर्शक ढूँढ़ ही लेती है। बिना दर्शक के आखिर एक फिल्म है ही क्या? लेकिन यह भी जरूरी

नहीं कि हर फिल्म को उसका दर्शक उसी देश-काल में मिल जाए जिसमें वह निर्मित की गयी हो। कुछ फिल्में भविष्य के दर्शकों के लिए भी बनायी जाती हैं। ऐसी फिल्में बड़ी ताकतवर होती हैं। कभी-कभी वे समाज की धारा को आश्चर्य जनक रूप से मोड़ देने की सामर्थ्य से भरी होती हैं। आज की फिल्मों के रूप-स्वरूप पर विचार करें तो हम आसानी से इस बात को लक्ष्य कर सकते हैं कि गए वक्तों में जिन फिल्मों को आफबीट सिनेमा मानकर केवल कुछ विचारवान दर्शकों के लिए छोड़ दिया जाता था उन फिल्मों के अनेक तत्व आज की व्यावसायिक फिल्मों में रचनात्मक रूप से समाहित मिलेंगे।

दर्शक और निर्देशक के बीच अपने अस्तित्व को तलाशती किसी फिल्म से जुड़े इन सवालों ने मेरे मन को बेचैन न किया होता अगर मैंने सत्यजित रे के आलेखों की किताब 'विषय चलचित्र' न पढ़ी होती। 'विषय चलचित्र' में सिनेमा के विभिन्न पहलुओं से सम्बन्धित आलेख हैं जो महान निर्देशक सत्यजित रे ने मशहूर बांग्ला पत्रिका देश के आग्रह पर लिखे थे। इस किताब में सोवियत रूस के सिनेमा से लेकर उनकी अपनी फिल्म 'चारूलता' तक अनेक महत्वपूर्ण आलेख हैं। हिन्दी में इसे रे माधव प्रकाशन ने छापा है और डा. रमाशंकर द्विवेदी ने बांग्ला से अनूदित किया है।

सत्यजित रे ने अधिकांश फिल्में कहानियों को केन्द्र में रखकर बनायी हैं। टैगोर की कहानी नष्ट-नीड़ पर उन्होंने चारूलता बनायी और प्रेमचन्द की कहानियों पर सद्गति और शतरंज के खिलाड़ी। यहां तक की उनकी विश्वप्रसिद्ध फिल्म 'पाथेर पांचाली' भी विभूतिभूषण बंधोपाध्याय की कहानी पर बनी है। 'बांग्ला चलचित्रों की कलात्मक दिशा' में उन्होंने इस सवाल को उठाया है कि एक अच्छी फिल्म का एक अच्छी कहानी के क्या संबंध है? वे लिखते हैं "एक अच्छी फिल्म किसे कहते हैं? अच्छी कहानी ही क्या अच्छी फिल्म का अर्थ है? कई लोगों को ऐसा कहते हुए मैंने सुना है। लेकिन अगर ऐसा होता तो बांग्ला फिल्मों के इतिहास में अच्छी फिल्मों का इतना अभाव क्यों हुआ? वाल्मीकि, वेदव्यास से लेकर आधुनिक युग के श्रेष्ठतम साहित्यकारों की कितनी ही अच्छी कहानियां फिल्म के रूप में देखने को मिलती हैं। कहानी का दैन्य तो उन फिल्मों में था नहीं तो फिर किसके दैन्य किसके अभाव ने उन्हें कलात्मक सफलता से वंचित कर दिया? दरअसल हर कहानी के दो पक्ष होते हैं। एक है-उसकी विषय-वस्तु यानी कथ्य, और दूसरा है-उसकी भाषा। इन दोनों को ही मिलाकर कहानी बनती है। कहानी की कला इस कथन-भंगिमा में ही है। अच्छी कहानी भी कहने के दोष से नष्ट हो जाती है और सामान्य कहानी भी कहने के गुण के कारण कला-मंडित हो उठती है। चलचित्र की कला भी उसकी भाषा उसके विन्यास-कौशल में है। जहां भाषा दुर्बल होती है वहां अच्छी कहानी होते हुए भी एक फिल्म कलात्मक सफलता पाने में असमर्थ होती है। चलचित्रों की यह भाषा बिम्बों की भाषा



होती है। एक निर्देशक को इस भाषा की जानकारी होनी चाहिए, इसका व्याकरण उसे सीखना पड़ता है।"

आगे रे ने इस बात पर भी जोर दिया है कि अकेले इस भाषा का ज्ञान ही पर्याप्त नहीं होता, पर्दे पर जो कहानी उतरती है उसमें उन सभी कलाकारों का योगदान होता है जिनके नाम फिल्म शुरू होने से पहले बतौर क्रेडिट दिखाए जाते हैं। एक अच्छी फिल्म इन सबके परिश्रम और सृजनशीलता का परिणाम होती है। जो निर्देशक फिल्म-मेकिंग के इस आधारभूत सिद्धांत का सम्मान नहीं करते वे शायद ही एक अच्छी फिल्म के बनने का कारण बनते हों।

'चारूलता' सत्यजित रे की एक बेहद खूबसूरत फिल्म है। यह राय की 12वीं फिल्म थी। भारतीय परिवार की पारम्परिक संरचना में प्रेम और विवाह को एक नए कोण से उठाती टैगोर की कहानी पर आधारित। पुरुष के कोण से नहीं बल्कि स्त्री के कोण से बनायी गयी फिल्म। माधवी मुकर्जी ने चारूलता के रूप में बेमिसाल अभिनय किया था। ऐसा अभिनय कभी-कभी ही संभव हो पाता है। फिल्म-तकनीक के स्तर पर भी रे ने कई अदभुत प्रयोग किए

थे। फिल्म में संगीत, सिनेमोटोग्राफी और कहन-शैली का अद्भुत मेल दिखायी देता है। सिनेमोटोग्राफी सुब्रता मित्रा की थी और संगीत स्वयं रे ने दिया था। सुब्रता मित्रा एक प्रतिभाशाली सिनेमेटोग्राफर थे। उन्हें बाउसिंग-लाइट तकनीक का आरंभिक प्रयोगकर्ता माना जाता है। फिल्म का झूला वाला दृश्य भारतीय सिनेमा के इतिहास का एक यादगार दृश्य है। इस दृश्य को विधुविनोद चोपड़ा निर्मित 2005 की परिणीता में विद्या बालन पर रे की शैली में ही फिर फिल्माया गया था।

चारूलता को अपने समय के कान्स फिल्म महोत्सव में जो जगह नहीं मिल सकी थी लेकिन बर्लिन फिल्म महोत्सव में दिखायी गयी थी और इसे 1965 का गोल्डन बीयर अवार्ड भी मिला था। फिल्म में नायिका का पति एक अखबार निकालता है और प्रायः काम में व्यस्त रहता है। पत्नी को कम्पनी देने के लिए वो दूर के रिश्ते को भाई अमल को बुलाता है। चारूलता के मन में अमल के लिए प्रेम की भावनाओं के प्रस्फुटन के बीच रिश्तों की संवेदनशीलता और जटिलता को अत्यंत आधुनिक ट्रीटमेंट के साथ प्रस्तुत किया गया है। फिल्म में टैगोर और रे की दृष्टि के बारीक अन्तर को दर्शक बहुत साफ साफ अनुभव कर सकते हैं अगर उन्होंने कहानी 'नष्ट नीड़' पढ़ी हो।

सत्यजित रे की यह खासियत रही है कि वे फिल्म के अंत को बहुत संवेदनशीलता से पकड़ते हैं और प्रायः अंत बदल देते हैं। प्रेमचन्द की कहानी शतरंज के खिलाड़ी के साथ भी उन्होंने यही किया था। इस कारण उन पर आरोप भी लगते रहे। निर्देशक को किसी लेखक की कहानी के फिल्मांतरण में कितनी छूट लेनी चाहिए, यह एक पेचीदा सवाल है। रे ने इस किताब में इस सवाल का विस्तार से जवाब दिया है। 'चारूलता के प्रसंग में' नामक आलेख में उन्होंने कहानी और फिल्म के प्लॉट के अंतःसंबंधों और उनके प्रस्तुतिकरण को बहुत विस्तार से विषलेषित किया है। इस फिल्म के हवाले से यह आलेख इस पुस्तक की एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि है।

पुस्तक में अन्य आलेख भी हैं जो रे के व्यक्तित्व के केन्द्रीय पक्षों को प्रकाशित करते हैं। मसलन विनोद बिहारी मुखोपाध्याय का साक्षात्कार। यह रे द्वारा लिया गया एक अद्भुत साक्षात्कार है। साक्षात्कार में जिस प्रकार विनोद दा के व्यक्तित्व की भीतरी रेखाओं को उभारा गया है, उससे यह विनोद दा के पोर्ट्रेट में बदल गया है। रे एक कुशल पेन्टर की तरह उनके विनोद दा की छवि को उकेरते रहते हैं। विनोद दा नेत्रहीन थे मगर उनकी ख्याति शांतिनिकेतन के एक प्रतिभाशाली चित्रकार की थी। इस साक्षात्कार में ब्लाइन्डनेस के बारे में अद्भुत जानकारियां हैं। सिनेमा और चित्रकला में ब्लाइन्डनेस के चित्रण पर चर्चा करते हुए विनोद दा ने एक अद्भुत बात कही। विनोद दा ने सवाल किया कि 'फिल्म में ब्लाइन्डनेस क्या दिखाई जा रही है?' रे ने फ्रांस में आन्द्रे जींद की उपन्यास पर बनी फिल्म 'ला सिम्फनी पास्टोरल' का जिक्र

किया तो विनोद दा ने जिज्ञासा प्रकट की कि उसमें अंधे को कैसे दिखाया गया है। रे ने जवाब दिया कि 'जैसे गूंगे को दिखाया जाता है अंधे को भी वैसे ही दिखाया जाता है... एक गूंगे द्वारा अपनी भाषा व्यक्त करने की व्यर्थ चेष्टा से जो 'गों-गों' का भाव पैदा होता है, वह किसी फिल्म में देखा हो, ऐसा तो याद आता नहीं है।'

इस पर विनोद दा ने बड़ी अद्भुत बात कही जो तमाम सृजनशील व्यक्तियों के लिए किसी टॉर्च लाइट की तरह होनी चाहिए। जवाब में उन्होंने कहा: तो फिर अंधे की बारी आने पर शायद उसे भी सहज बना लेते हैं। असल में यह मामला बेहद काम्प्लेक्स है। इसकी जानकारी पहले संभव नहीं थी। स्पेस के बारे में एक नयी चेतना पैदा हो गयी है। स्पेस होती है एक सघन वस्तु, जिसे हाथ से ठेल-ठेल कर आगे बढ़ाना पड़ता है। जिस वस्तु का मैं स्पर्श कर रहा हूँ, उसके अलावा और किसी वस्तु का अस्तित्व रहता ही नहीं है। तुम लोग कुर्सी देखते ही समझ जाते हो कि वह कुर्सी है। मैं कुर्सी पर बैठने के बाद ही समझ पाता हूँ कि वह कुर्सी है। उसमें हथ्थे हैं या नहीं, इसे भी जब तक उन पर अपने हाथ न टिकाऊं, तब तक नहीं समझ पाता हूँ। इसके बाद उसके हथ्थे लकड़ी के हैं या बेंत के, पतले हैं या मोटे, पालिशदार हैं अथवा खुरदरे, वे गोल गोल नीचे को झुके हैं अथवा राइट एंगिल में झुके हुए हैं, इन सब चीजों को हाथों से टटोल-टटोल कर ही समझना पड़ता है। कोई अप्रत्याशित वस्तु हाथों से टकराए तो चौंक जाना पड़ता है... इसके अलावा एक और भी दिशा है। यह जो चाय का गिलास मैंने हाथ में लिया... कांच नामक चीज की स्पर्शगत अनुभूति किसी भी दिन इसके पहले इस तरह से महसूस नहीं की थी। इसी तरह से सब वस्तुओं के संबंध में एक टैक्स्टाइल फीलिंग बन जाती है।'

सृजन के काम में इस टेक्स्टाइल फीलिंग को समझना किसी भी कलाकार के लिए बहुत जरूरी है। जितनी गहराई से यह फीलिंग अनुभव क्षेत्र में दाखिल होगी, उतनी अभिव्यक्ति को समृद्ध करेगी।

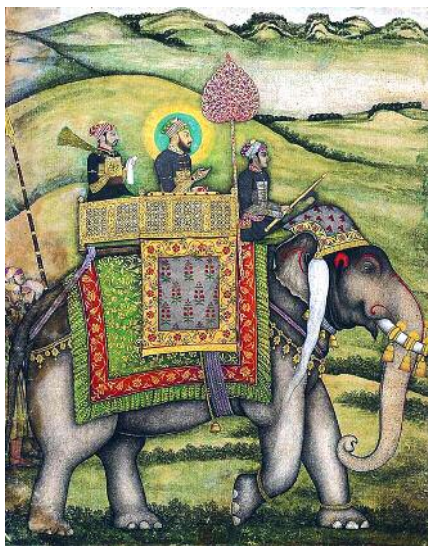
चारूलता और विनोद दा के प्रसंग का उल्लेख तो मैंने विशेष तौर से किया मगर इनके अतिरिक्त भी अनेक महत्वपूर्ण बातें इस किताब में मिलेंगी। किसी भी सिनेमाप्रिय को यह किताब अवश्य पढ़नी चाहिए। इसमें सोवियत चलचित्र के बारे में, अतीत की बांग्ला फिल्मों के बारे में, सिनेमाई ब्यौरों के बारे में, पाश्च संगीत के बारे में, फिल्म-समालोचना के बारे में, सिनेमाई चरित्रों के बारे में, और रंगीन फिल्मों के बारे में अत्यंत गहराई से विचार-विमर्श किया गया है। यह हमें किताब बताती है कि सिनेमा का एक जीनियस किस प्रकार सोचता है। ■

-डॉ. दिलीप शाक्य

विजिटिंग प्रोफेसर, आई सी सी आर हिन्दी चैयर
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A kasmíri herceg története

Élt egyszer egy herceg Kasmírban, aki igen szerette a zenét és fölöttébb becsülte a tudósokat. Csak sokára került trónra, de addig sokat olvasott, tanult, hogy minél bölcsebben irányíthassa majd alattvalói sorsát. Legbölcsőbb tanítójának szép házát ajándékozott a királyi palota mellett, és gyakran kérte ki az agg tanácsát. Ha ideje engedte, elüldögélt a bölcs házában, eleven eszmecsere folytatva mesterével. Egyik este különös dolog történt. Szokása szerint átbálgatott az öreg bölcshez, ám az könnyekben tört ki a láttára. A király döbbenten faggatta: -Mi történt veled, mi baj érte házadat? A bölcs csüggedt arccal felelt: -Édes fiam, nagy veszélyben forogsz. Udvaroncaid összeesküvést szőnek ellened, orvul akarják kioltani életedet. Vegyél magadhoz annyi pénzt és ékszert, amennyit csak el tudsz vinni, öltözz álruhát, és lovagolj a szomszéd országba segítségért. Íme, vedd ezt a levelet, aranyat érő bölcs tanácsok vannak benne. Olvasd el, véd meg agyadba, akkor győzedelmesen fogsz visszatérni. S most ne vesztegesd az időt, siess, menekülj! A király forrón megköszönte a bölcs segítségét, és visszament a palotába, ahol egyszerű köpenyt és sarut öltött. Batyuba kötötte ékszereit, gyémántjait, és hosszú köpenye alá rejtette. Azután teletömött egy bőrzacskót aranypénzzel, övéhez kötözte, majd az éj leple alatt kiosont a palotából. Miután hosszú utat tett meg gyalog, elővette a bölcs levelét, és felnyitotta. A következőket olvashatta belőle: -Drága fiam, idegen országokon fogsz áthaladni, ismeretlen emberekkel hoz össze a sorsod. Senkiben és semmiben ne bízz, ne tárd fel teljesen az ismeretleneknek a szívedet! Jusson eszedbe, hogy csak bajban-gondban kipróbált barátoknak hihetünk. Csak az igazi barát nyújt segítő kezet, ha rossz idők járnak feletted, a haszonlesők nyomtalanul eltűnnek akkor is, ha közeli rokonaid. Ez az én útavalóm, tanácsom. Véd agyadba, és győzedelmeskedni fogsz. A király alaposan szívébe véste a levél minden sorát, a levelet pedig gondosan eltette. Tovább vándorolt, és reggelre messze maga mögött hagyta a fővárost. Ahogy ment, mendegélt, csodálatos völgybe érkezett. Virágzó mandula-, barack-és almafák vették körül, daloltak a madarak. A király akkor már halálosan elfáradt. Alig tudta a szemét nyitva tartani. Egy itálárústól sós teát vásárolt – mert Kasmírban sósan szeretik a teát -, jóízűen megitta, majd keresett egy magányos helyet az illatozó mustárvirágok és mandulafák között, és mélyen elaludt. Az alvástól felfrissülve fél éjszakát gyalogolt ismét, amikor barátságosan hívogató fényt pillantott meg egy félreeső fogadó ablakában. Alaposan szemügyre vette a házat. A Kasmírban szokásos, kétemeletes faépület volt, a második

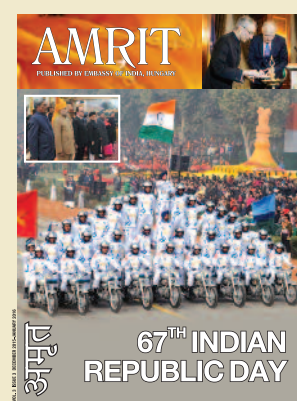
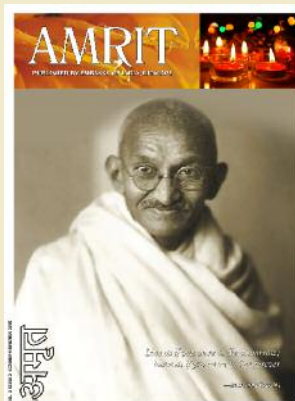
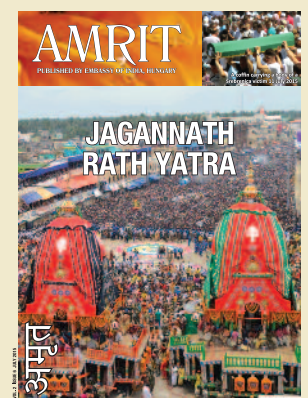
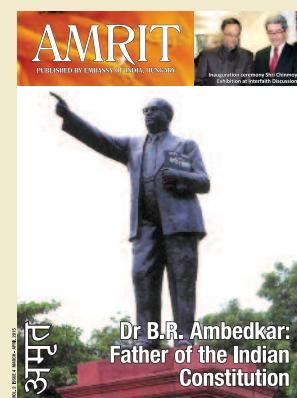
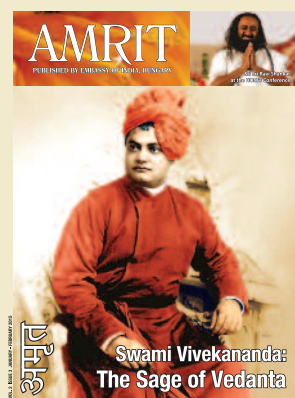
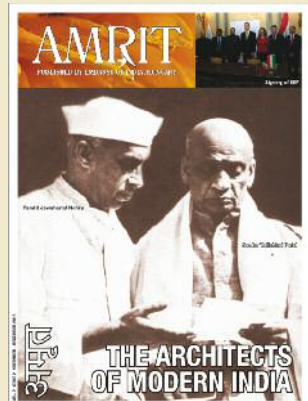
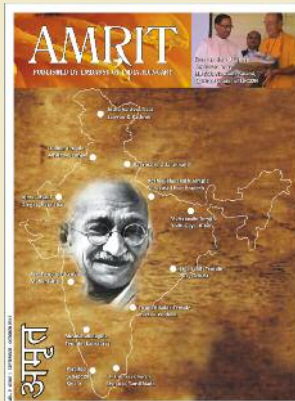
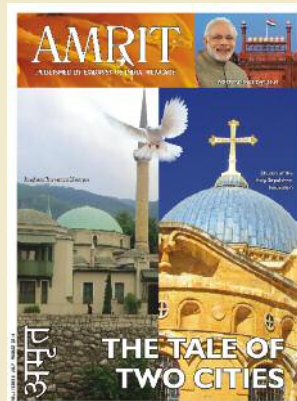
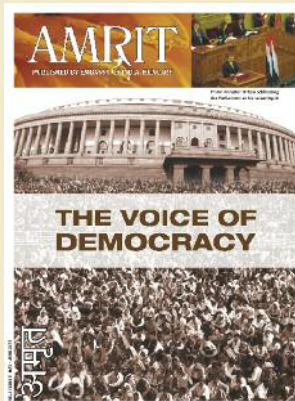
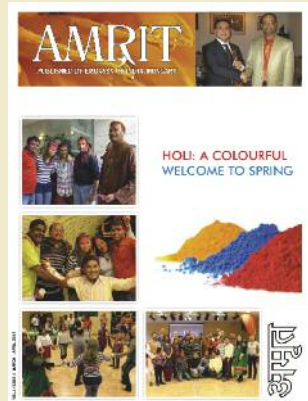
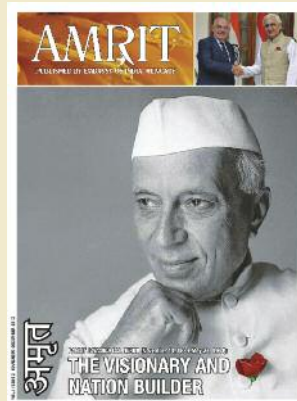


emeleti erkélyről nyolc lépcső vezetett fel a padlásra. Rengeteg tehén és bárány ropogtatta az illatos szénát a szépen gondozott istállóban. Fáradt volt már a király, gondolta, megpihen itt pár órára, mielőtt folytatja útját. Felkapaszkodott a rozoga falépcsőkön, és halkan bekopogtatott. Az ajtó azonnal kinyílt, és a király egy soha nem látott, gonosz tekintetű anyókéval találta magát szemben. Az anyóka nyájasan hívogatta beljebb, és szobát nyitott neki. A szoba kicsiny és kopott volt, de friss ágynemű csalogatta a fáradt vándort, és ragyogó tisztaság üdítette a szemet. A király emlékezett a bölcs tanácsára, és mielőtt lefeküdt volna, meleg ételt rendelt az anyókától. Mikor az anyóka kiment, a

király bezárta az ajtót, óvatosan felemelte az ágyon a takarót. Frissen mosott hófehér lepedőt és párnát talált. Ekkor az ágy alá pillantott. Mély gödör feketéllett alatta. Az ágyat úgy helyezték el, hogy ha valaki ráült, az megbillent, és a rajta ülő a mélybe zuhant. A király nagy haragra lobbant, kirántotta a törét, és végzett a gonosz boszorkánnyal. Ott hagyta a fogadót, és közel két napig megállás nélkül gyalogolt tovább. Kis városkába érkezett, ahol gyerekkori barátja lakott. A barát alig ismerte meg az álruhás, rég nem látott királyt. Annál nagyobb szeretettel vette körül, inyencfalatokkal látta el, friss fürdőt készíttetett neki, és három hónapig nem engedte tovább, míg az uralkodó erőre nem kap. A harmadik hónap végén így szólt a király: -Tovább kell mennem, hogy segítséget kérjek a szomszédos uralkodótól, trónom visszaszerzésére. A derék barát pihent lovat adatott alája, és felajánlotta, hogy elkíséri. De a király egyedül folytatta útját, nem akarta veszélybe sodorni jövevőjét. A bölcs szava ismét igaznak bizonyult, látta, hogy barátja hűséges maradt hozzá a bajban. A következő tartományban keserű csalódás érte. A hosszú, fárasztó lovaglás után nagybátyjánál kopogtatott, de az zordan elutasította a kimerült menekült. Ismét igazolódott a bölcs mondása: Rokona bezzeg elfordult tőle a bajban! A király pihenés nélkül üzte tovább lovát, és szerencsésen megérkezett a szomszédos királyságba. Ott hatalmas hadsereget kapott, és kiverte a lázadókat a maga királyságából, visszafoglalta trónusát. De nem feledte mesterének tanítását. Csodálatos márványfalat emeltetett, és aranybetűkkel vésette bele a bölcs tanácsokat, hogy mindenki okulhasson belőlük. ■

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JAGANNATH TEMPLE, PURI, ORISSA



One of the dham of the renowned Chardham Yatra, Jagannath temple is popular Lord Krishna Temple in India. The temple is sacred Hindus, Buddhist, and even Muslims. In the main sanctum of the temple, there is a finely wooden carved statue of Jagannath, which is quite unusual as in most temples there are stone murals. Flanking the statue on both the sides are idols of brother Balarama and sister Subhadra. What makes this temple look apart from other Shri Krishna temples of India is the fact that here procedures, practices, sacraments, and rituals are not like other Hindu temples, they are quite different. There are many unique things about the architecture of the temple too like the shadow of the temple is never visible. Despite its location close to the ocean, you will not able to hear the wave sounds in the movement you will step in the premises of the temple. Earlier, the temple was a part of the sun temple, however in 18th Century Marathas dismantled and reassembled the temple.

Festival celebrations like Chandana Yatra, Snana Yatra, Ratha Yatra, Sayana Ekadasi, and Dakshinayana Sankranti attracts a huge crowd. Amongst all these festivals, Ratha Yatra or Chariot Festival is primarily known. On the occasion of the Puri Rath Yatra, the three deities in their specific chariots are drawn by devotees and taken to the Gundicha Temple.

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