

SPECIAL COVERAGE

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INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA



THURSDAY 15 AUGUST, 2019

ASPECTS OF INDIAN HERITAGE



India is a vibrant democracy, dynamic economy with a great potential as it has a population of 1.3 billion people of whom more than 65% are below the age of 35 years. It is a young country but an ancient civilization that has successfully withstood the vicissitudes of time. While the country has embraced modern science and technology beliefs that come from its civilizational thought are ingrained in the people.

navasanskriti" that is human way of life, which has been made so comprehensive that all can derive something from it. It has never tried to convert anybody but its inclusiveness, plurality, flexibility and the power of its ideas, have taken it beyond the shores of India.

The vitality of Indian culture lies in its catholicity by which mutually contradictory creeds live peacefully together. The Ultimate Reality is Shunya (nothing) for the Nihilists, Brahman for the Vedantist, Purusha for Sankhya philosophers,

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Human Way of Life

Indians call their culture "Manav Dharma" or "ma-

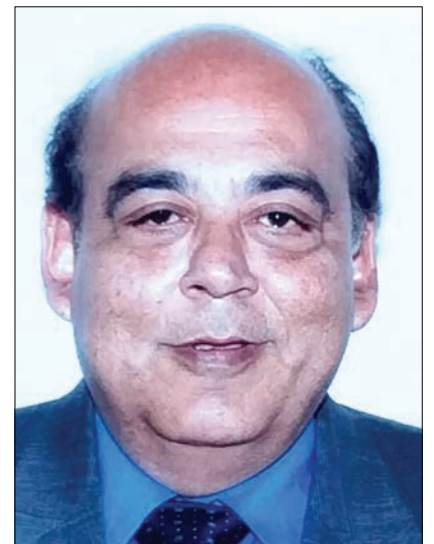
MESSAGE

On August 15, 2019, we complete 72 years as an independent nation. August 15 is a day of great pride for every Indian, whether living at home or anywhere else in the world.

It is a day to pay our respect and reiterate our deepest sense of gratitude to all those who fought for India's independence. It is also a time to reflect on what makes us so proud of our country: our democratic values, our diversity and our accomplishments in various fields. It is also an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to preserving the unity and integrity of India as well as the idea of India.

I am honoured to be part of these celebrations in Tanzania, a country that is home to a large Indian diaspora. India's relations with Tanzania have roots in history and have now been transformed into a wide ranging and forward looking engagement. India remains committed to assist the government and the people of Tanzania in fulfillment of their socio-economic objectives.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the government and the people of Tanzania for their friendship and to also convey my deep appreciations to the Indian community for their immense contribution to the bilateral relations between our two countries.



Sanjiv Kohli

sanjiv kohli
High Commissioner of India



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15th of August

INDEPENDENCE DAY



BEST WISHES ON 73rd INDEPENDENCE DAY OF

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From on page 1

Ishwara for the followers of Yoga, both Self and Not-Self, something in between for the Madhyamikas, and "All" for others. All prayer is to the Ultimate Power that pervades the universe by whatever name called Anekantaveda articulates the thought that people are bound to differ in their views and judgements about the same object. Its corollary is Syadvada or restraint in making judgements because these can only be partial and not absolute truths. Integral to its multiplicity and diversity is the readiness of Indian culture to interact with other cultures and to accept and

accommodate their aspects into itself. There has been much give and take between Greeks and Indians. India welcomed Christianity within the first century of its birth. In medieval times, it absorbed elements of Islamic culture. And soon after contact with Europeans, it began to absorb the best in the modern scientific civilization of the West.

Concept of a Human Being

In Indian thought, a person is seen as the microcosm of the whole or macrocosm. Therefore, an individual can only understand his relationship with the universe and other beings by studying and understanding his own self. Human beings share natural traits with animals motivated by instincts, or pravrittis. But unlike animals, they have Buddhi or intelligence to discriminate between

ASPECTS OF INDIAN H



proper and improper in the exercise of natural propensities, strengthen some and weaken others while delaying the satisfaction of some others.

According to Indian thought, human consciousness has three main aspects: awareness or gyana; desires and emotions or ichcha; and action or kriya. All three have to be perfected through yoga - yoga being nothing but the discipline of mind and its instincts to enable an individual to understand himself, his environment and his relation with all beings around him. Gyana yoga widens his consciousness; bhakti yoga controls his desires and emotions and karma yoga teaches him righteous and disinterested performance of his duties in action. This is the triune path explained in the Gita. Other kinds of yoga include Hatha Yoga for control and perfection of body; Kundalini Yoga, to awaken the dormant and potential powers beyond consciousness; and Raja-Yoga to experience of Samadhi through gradual concentration of the mind.

The yogas do not depend only on sensory observation but refine and perfect the processes of introspection, intuition and Samadhi or mystic experience. They make one realize that an individual is the centre of a circle whose circumference is nowhere i.e. it is infinite. Also, in his deeper nature, he is identical with the deepest spirit that sustains and pervades the universe. In his ultimate essence he is one with the essence of the world. Hence the Upanishads boldly proclaim Ayam Atman Brahman or this Self is the Absolute Reality; or Aham Brahmasmi or I am the Absolute, or Tat Tvam Asi or That thou art.

Interconnectedness

All creation being rooted in the same Brahman, is



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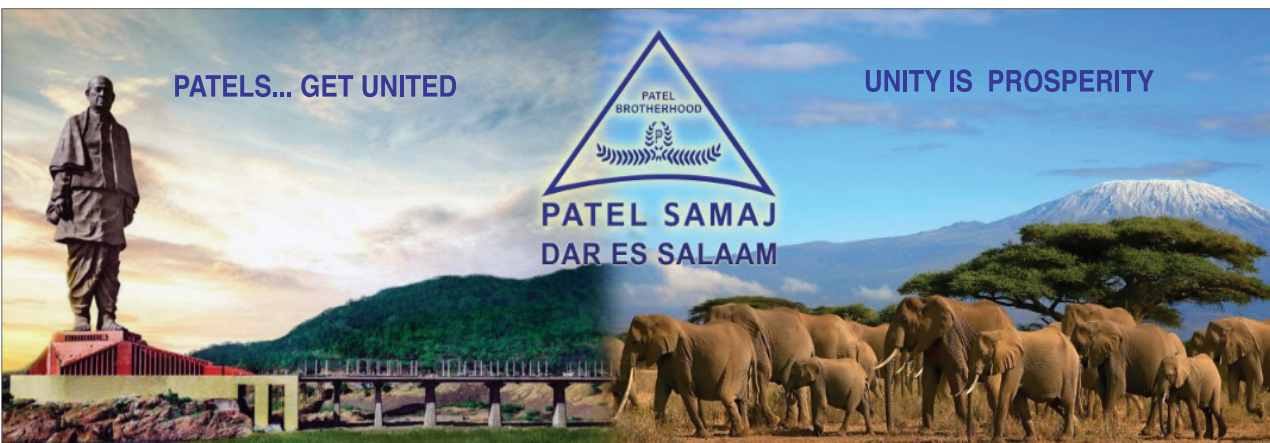


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HERITAGE



THESE EXPERIENCES CAN BE USED TO EXPLAIN THE IDEA OF KARMA AND REINCARNATION. JUST AS WE RETURN FROM DEEP SLEEP TO THE WAKING STAGE SO ALSO AFTER DEATH WE COME BACK TO THE WORLD.

necessarily interconnected although apparently isolated on the surface. That is why Isha Upanishad states that whosoever beholds all beings in the same Self and the same Self in all beings does not hate anybody. When a man knows that all beings are ultimately the Self and realizes this unity in experience, then there remains no delusion or grief for him.

However, such a realisation can only come, through an awareness of the various experiences that every individual passes through because of the structure of his being. He has three shariras or bodies. He is the physical body or the annamayasharira through which he functions in his waking state. The subtle body or the Sukshmasharira is constituted by the pranas or the vital energies, sensory and motor powers or gyananendriyas and karmendriyas and the subtle elements of mind, intelligence and ego. Through this, an individual functions both in the waking and in the dream state. Finally, the causal body or the karana-sharir which is the deep sleep state when all cognizance comes to an end but potentialities remain. All of us pass through all the three states everyday in our lives giving a variety to our experiences.

Karma and Reincarnation

These experiences can be used to explain the idea of karma and reincarnation. Just as we return from deep sleep to the waking stage so also after death we come back to the world. This is the law of karma. The belief is that all our voluntary thoughts and acts are rewarded or punished according to the law of justice called Rtat that operates in the cosmic order. The universe is not a haphazard mass of elements and events, but an ordered whole according to the inflexible laws of harmony, to which all is subordinate from the vast

galaxies down to the nucleus of an atom.. Cosmic justice being part of cosmic order creates a strict balance of action and reaction. The personality of the doer never dies. It comes back and can evolve learning its lessons or it can continue till it learns them. There would be chaos and rule of injustice in the universe if a person were to cease to exist without undergoing the consequences of his deeds both good and bad. This in essence is the law of karma and reincarnation.

Four Goals of Life

There are four purushastras or goals to guide the individual through

life. These are dharma or duty, artha or wealth, kama or desire including sexual desire, and moksha or ultimate liberation from all desire. There are many interpretations of these terms but in essence, any thought or action that supports, nurtures, consoles, and uplifts is dharmic or right conduct. Hence, it is human duty to attain wealth and fulfil desires but in a way that is dharmic, that is it must sustain and contribute to the good of all. And moksha is not some sterile cessation of desire but a state of perfect equilibrium, indifference to both pain and delight; like and dislike; without any prejudices or biases aware that

everything is rooted in the self same Brahman.

Conclusion

The final resolution to all ambiguities and contradictions is the reliance on one's own Buddhi or reason or intelligence to determine the truth or falsity of a judgement. The greatest prayer in the Vedas, the Gayatri Mantra, that asks for inspiration for right and proper dharma so that there is harmony and balance between the aspirations of the individual and that of society.

Dr. Kavita A. Sharma is the President of South Asian University, New Delhi.

Celebrating 73rd Independence Day of India





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73rd Independence Day of India

HAPPY INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY



Moon Shot is just the beginning, India harnesses space technology for the benefit of all

INDIA'S Moon Shot is well on its way to the Moon and if all goes well the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) hopes to soft land a robotic craft on the lunar surface in early September. Dr K Sivan the Chairman of ISRO has described the Chandrayaan-2 (Moon Vehicle) as the 'most complex space mission ever undertaken by India'.

India has a total of fifty operational satellites that provide navigation services, weather forecasting, help smart cities, aid satellite television and even help in banking operations, today 'touching lives and saving lives is the Hallmark of ISRO' says Sivan. India has end-to-end capabilities in space making its own satellites, rockets and launching them from India. Many foreign companies use India's rockets to launch their satellites. The South Asia satellite launched in 2017 is a unique friendly bird in the sky that helps connect India's neighbours and India provided this communications satellite at no cost to the South Asian countries.

Most recently on the hot and humid afternoon of July 22, 2019 at India's rocket port the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota exactly at 2.43 pm India's most powerful rocket the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark-3 nicknamed the 'Baahubali' lifted off into the monsoon clouds carrying India's Chandrayaan-2 satellite into space. In less than 17 minutes the 640 tonne rocket, equivalent to the weight of 1.5 Jumbo Jets, which stands as high as fifteen storey building at 44 meter in length completed its mission by putting the Chandrayaan-2 satellite in a 'better than expected orbit' said Sivan.

Possibly the rocket was compensating for the heartburn it caused when a week earlier on July 15, 2019 the launch had to be aborted less than an hour before lift-off due to a 'technical snag'. Scientists at the Indian space agency burnt the mid night oil and fixed the glitch, bouncing back with aplomb. Speaking about the rapid come back Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said 'if you ask me what the two greatest lessons I have received from Chandrayaan-2, I shall say they are faith & fearlessness.'

Modi is a known space enthusiast who knows how to deploy space technology for effective governance of the 1.3 billion Indians, he further added 'the second important lesson is - never lose hope in the face of stumbling blocks or obstacles. The way our scientists rectified technical issues in record time, burning the midnight oil, is in itself an exemplary, unparalleled task. The world watched the 'Tapasya', the awesome perseverance of our scientists. We should also feel proud of the fact that despite hindrances, there is no change in the arrival time [on the moon] ... many are amazed at that. We have to face temporary setbacks in life... but always remember- the capacity to overcome them resides within us.'

Earlier this year India also carried out another spectacular space experiment when on March 27, 2019 India shot down its own low earth orbiting satellite Microsat-R using a custom made missile launched from the Kalam Island in the Bay of Bengal. Called an Anti-satellite weapon test (A-Sat) it was dubbed 'Mission Shakti' and according to Dr G. Satheesh Reddy, Director General of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) which spearheaded this test said 'India acted responsibly by conducting the test at a low altitude so that minimum space debris was generated'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said 'through the A-Sat, we have acquired the capability of destroying a satellite three hundred kilometres away in a mere three minutes. India became the fourth country in the world, possessing this capacity' after USA, Russia and China who have demonstrated this lethal capability to knock down satellites in space. This was a demonstration by India that it will do all what it

takes to protect its vital space assets in space. Indian satellites help the country's economy and are a vital space borne infrastructure for New Delhi.

Chandrayaan-2 is India's second moon shot the first was launched in 2008 named Chandrayaan-1 and it was an orbiter where 'India was the captain and several countries like USA, UK, the European Space Agency were players as India lofted their instruments all the way to moon free of cost'. Chandrayaan-1 made global history when this under \$ 100 million mission made the startling discovery of the presence of water

molecules on the parched lunar surface. This renewed twenty first century 'back to the moon' effort in way was spurred by Chandrayaan-1 and now USA seeks to send astronauts back to the moon in the next few years.

Chandrayaan-2 according to Sivan 'is a three in one mission' where there is an orbiter that will go around the moon, a lander named Vikram that will attempt a soft landing near the South Pole of the moon and small six wheeled moon rover called Pragyaan. Modi says 'Chandrayaan-2 is Indian to the core. It is thoroughly Indian in heart & spirit. It

is completely a 'swadeshi', home grown mission. This mission has proved beyond doubt, once again, that when it comes to attempting an endeavour in new age, cutting edge areas, with innovative zeal, our scientists are second to none. They are the best... they are world class.'

Pallava Bagla

(Mr. Pallava Bagla follows India's space program very closely and is author of the book 'Reaching for the Stars: India's Journey for Mars and Beyond' published by Bloomsbury. He can be reached at pallava.bagla@gmail.com or Twitter: @pallavabagla)

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CELEBRATING 73rd INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA

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