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INDIAN ASTRONAUT ON THE ISS



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Fundamental Principles of PROUT

True leaders should always be vigilant and think how to work best for human society: they must be ever cautious that under their guidance the people are not led to darkness, death and immorality.

– Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar

1

No individual should be allowed to accumulate any physical wealth without the clear permission or approval of the collective body

2

There should be maximum utilization and rational distribution of all mundane, supra mundane and spiritual potentialities of the universe

3

There should be maximum utilization of the physical, metaphysical and spiritual potentialities of unit and collective body of the human society.

4

There should be a proper adjustment amongst these physical, metaphysical, mundane, supra mundane and spiritual utilizations.

5

The method of utilization should vary in accordance with the changes in time, space and person and the utilization should be of progressive nature.

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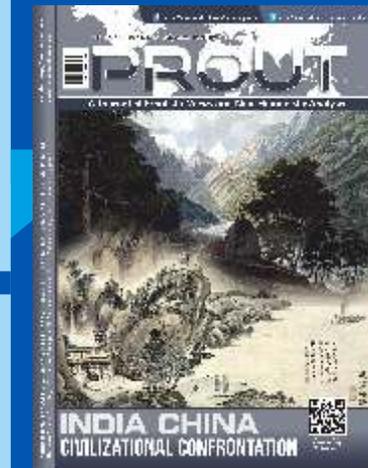
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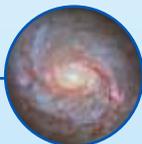
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Hidden Cost of War

Russia and Ukraine were at war in 2014 since Crimea was invaded and annexed and the world just kept quiet; and now since February 2022 when Russia invaded Ukraine. Since October 2023 the Middle East is aflame with Israel fighting Hamas and Hezbollah in Gaza and Palestine where around 60,000 killed and 137,000 injured and destruction of property and infrastructure bringing untold misery to the people living there. All these carry costs and the latest widening of the conflict in June with Israel's direct war with Iran adds to it, costs running into billions of US dollars.

Israel has spent many billions on its war on Gaza and increased its spending considerably with its largely air based attacks on Iran. Iran was already struggling with the years of sanctions and now its oil and gas facilities are being hit. Israel managed to convince it's American patron to allow Israel to hit Iran hard. The United States had provided Israel with highly valuable military and political support during the campaign and then, after more than a week of battles between Israel and Iran, the Trump administration bombed three Iranian nuclear sites.

Ukraine not a rich country spent \$ 65 billion on defence with a GDP of \$ 180 bn; contrast this with India a \$ 4 trillion economy had a defence budget of \$ 75 bn. General Eisenhower who was Allied Supreme Commander in Europe during WW II and later became US President said in 1953, "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, and the hopes of its children. The cost of one modern heavy bomber is this: a modern brick school in more than 30 cities. It is two electric power plants, each serving a town of 60,000 population. It is two fine, fully equipped hospitals. It is some 50 miles of concrete highway. We pay for a single fighter plane with a half million bushels of wheat. We pay for a single destroyer with new homes that could have housed more than 8,000 people".

Over a period of 90 years from 1872-1962 G 7 nations' military expenditure exceeded social programmes dipping below 20% of their budget only once immediately after WW I. But today these nations spend less than 10% of their budget on defence and more than 40% on social service programmes. For the Americans the Vietnam War was good for the military contractors but it hurt ordinary folk with an inflation spiral that went on till the 1980s. Post 9/11 American wars diverted money away from infrastructure and the social sector and have run up a bill of \$ 8 trillion.

All these are hidden costs of war. No matter who starts it is the people who suffer. Answer to this is



US B2 bomber each costs \$ 2 billion +

World Government as postulated by Prout's founder Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar which is essential to exercise effective control e.g. there should be only one world military force and not individual nations armed to the teeth and ever ready to maintain aggressive postures and start conflicts.. The same world government would have autonomous units (not necessarily national) to deal with education, food supply, and flood control. The boundaries of these units may be readjusted to reflect the development of more sophisticated communication techniques. Such development would bring the remote parts of the world nearer and the world would become smaller. ●



Sadvipra Boards

Sadvipras are future leaders of society, moralists who are impeccably honest following cardinal human and universal principles. If governmental organs are manned by such persons, all the corruption we see today will cease immediately and the crisis we face would also be gradually resolved.

- Tarakeshwar Nath, Ranchi

India China Civilizational Conflict

A very thought provoking article. India today is surrounded by enemy nations at the borders and enemies within the country as well. Today with Bangladesh which was liberated by Indian armed forces in 1971 going the fundamentalist way and cosyng up with its previous nemesis Pakistan, South Asian Regional Cooperation is but a dream. India must be strong and self reliant to defend itself as well as improve the lot of its people.

- Indrajit Singh Sekhon, Patiala

India Will Not Die

Yes India can never die as famously said by Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar the founder of Prout. Though India has progressed substantially in the material front, a lot more needs to

be done to improve the overall condition of the people.

- Janette D'silva, Goa

India's Debt Ridden Middle Class

It's an unfortunate state of affairs that the middle class not only in India but also in the rest of the world especially the developing countries are slowly and slowly getting into a debt trap. All this is thanks to credit facilities that give an artificial purchasing power to the people. People should be aware of this and take their own steps not to get greedy and fall into its trap. No government or bank is going to help them.

- Manu Santanam, Coimbatore

India's Olympic Future

An interesting article and the author ought to be congratulated for writing about this aspect especially of politics in sport. Olympics contribute significantly towards national pride. Though things are improving there is still a long way to go before India brings home more Olympics medals.

- Sameera Das, Kolkata

Choices We Make

An excellent fourth part in the series of seven articles on the subject. Theories are fine and may give insights to problem solving at the intellectual level, but as said by Prout's founder economic problems can only be solved if society's leaders have genuine love for the people. The picture on page 29 says it all.

- Sherry Khanna, Ujjain

Gold the Capitalist Sword Arm

An interesting and thought provoking article. For thousands of years gold because of its qualities

and value has attracted humans and has also been the standard of exchange in trade. India is one country where gold ornaments have special attraction and gold purchases are very high. But as they say money locked up in banks or safe deposit boxes have no value but does only if it's in circulation, hoarding gold in homes is a safe investment for the future.

- Bina Malik, Dehra Dun

NDA Girl Cadets

When they marched for the passing out parade after graduation they did create history in the country. These young women should feel privileged to have become torchbearers for future generations. Being a 1963 graduate of the Academy myself, I can well understand what an important moment that was in their lives. And getting kudos from their Chief Instructor must swell their chests with pride.

- Arun Prakash, New Delhi

World Revolution

The second part was a fitting end to this important topic, viz. social revolution in the world, a long awaited need for people all over the world.

- Sarvasheshram Govindarajulu,
Vellore

Power of Social Media

It's a very well written article tracing the history and growth of social media which is indeed a most powerful asset that technology has provided to the people of the world. Unfortunately there's also a dark side to it and vested interests are misusing it. People must guard against this undesirable threat that is bringing much suffering. ●

- Jarnail Singh, Nanded

Delhi's Unsung Divers

Delhi's Yamuna divers are a group of individuals who risk their lives to recover bodies and rescue people from the polluted Yamuna River and other water bodies. They work without proper gear or insurance without complain, pulling out bloated corpses from open drains, battling suffocating foaming polluted rivers, snakebites, the unbearable stench of decay, face the dangers of toxic water, and the emotional toll of retrieving the dead.

These divers enter drains filled with rotting garbage and dead animals. Said Shabir Ahmed, one of them who has been diving since he was 15, "We don't open our eyes underwater. It's too dirty, the chemicals and the dirt sting. So we shut our eyes and feel our way forward. If we touch something we just hope it's not a dead animal or a sharp object. And if it's a body we hold on tight".

They not only recover bodies but also assist in searching for weapons and other items lost in the water. They face many dangers e.g. toxic chemicals, disease-causing bacteria, and



the risk of drowning in the polluted river waters. Working often without protective gear like gloves or diving suits, they rely on their experience and familiarity with the waters.

This bare bodied group of 15 divers, also dive in the filth-clogged drains and toxic canals of Delhi, and take out the capital's dead—drowned, dumped or disappeared. They dive in suffocating foam without gear, without gloves and without complaints, pulling out bloated corpses from open drains, battling in polluted

rivers, snake bites and the unbearable stench of decay.

Up to June 2025 alone these men have pulled out 102 bodies from the capital's water bodies. In May alone they recovered 27 of them from a single canal in North West Delhi's Bawana. Every time they dive they face hazards like toxic chemicals, snake bites, and treacherous currents. Last year this team pulled out 232 dead bodies from various locations underwater in the city.

Some of these divers come from families who previously relied on the river for farming or other livelihoods, making their current profession a result of changing circumstances. They are the main emergency unit for the Delhi Boat Club, responding to drowning and other emergencies. This has been their life for generations, not something they chose but what they have always done.

The challenges that come their way are risk of contracting skin infections, drowning, and other health issues related to the polluted waters. Despite the challenges, some divers find a sense of purpose and joy in uniting people with their loved ones or saving lives.

The divers face the emotional distress of recovering deceased individuals, especially when those individuals are children or young adults. For them each body retrieved is fraught with risks, but the mission remains the same, to bring someone's son daughter, parent or sibling back to the surface as closure for final rites.

Despite their crucial role, they remain largely unsung heroes, often going without recognition or adequate support that other public service workers receive. They are an inspiration for our readers and Prout salutes these brave hearts who deserve much more than they get. ●

Beware of Dogma

Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar

*The entire expressed universe has a single nucleus,
the question of going beyond that nucleus does not arise*

So far as structural solidarity is concerned, the best shape is the oval shape. "Oval" means (in Latin ovum means egg) "similar to an egg, not exactly like an egg but to some extent like an egg; not exactly elliptical but to some extent elliptical". All celestial bodies are of that shape. That's why in Sanskrit this universe is called Brahmánda. (Ánda means "egg". And from the Sanskrit word anda it became ánda in the Urdu language.)

Now, this universe of ours is very big, but not infinite. It is an elliptical figure, an oval figure, which means it has a boundary line. Yes, it is very big, and actually so big that we cannot measure it; but in theory it can be measured.

Just now I said the most convenient figure is the oval, or elliptical, figure. Take the case of a small atom. Here what happens? In that structure there is the nucleus, the heaviest matter of the structure, and the electrons are moving round that nucleus. A similar structure is our ethereal structure: the earth is the nucleus, and the moon is moving round that nucleus. The next bigger structure is our solar system: the sun is the nucleus, and so many planets are moving round it. And the biggest structure is the Cosmological structure: Parama Puruṣa (Puruṣottama, the Supreme Nucleus, the Supreme Hub) is in



the middle, and so many animated and non-animated objects are moving round it.

Now, this movement is affected by two forces. All students of science know that they are the centrifugal force and the centripetal force. The centripetal force tries to decrease the radius, and the centrifugal force tries to drift the moving object away from

the nucleus. In Sanskrit this centripetal force is called Vidyā and the centrifugal force is called Avidyā. (In common parlance, for Avidyā we use the word Shaytān – "Satan" in English.)

Now knowingly or unknowingly, consciously or unconsciously, each and every entity, either physical or psychic, is moving round that Parama Puruṣa.

In the case of finite objects or finite structures or systems, when one moving entity goes far away from its nucleus, it is attracted by another nucleus, and in the course of this there take place so many clashes among so many nuclei. But in the case of the Cosmological order, there is a single nucleus for the entire expressed universe. The question of going beyond the jurisdiction of that nucleus does not arise. That is, when human beings are highly influenced by Avidyā, their radius from the nucleus increases, but the radius is always there. A human being, an animal, a plant, an inanimate object – everybody will have to move; and that's why I said movement is life. Stirlessness means death.

When Dogma Functions in a Structure

And when people are guided by – not guided by, controlled by – dogmas, their stir is lost, so they become lifeless. They are worse than dead bodies. So you boys and you girls, you should know that you must never allow any dogma to goad you, to drift you, away from your nucleus. Never allow your radius to increase. Always try to decrease your radius. Always try to come in closer and closer proximity to the nucleus of this universe.

Dogma Also a Structure

You may ask, “Bābā! what is dogma?” You should remember, you are all educated boys and girls: dogma is a psychic structure. All

ideas are psychic structures; but regarding their boundary lines there should be some flexibility.

I think some of you have come in contact with our Prout theory. I think you have gone through it. There is the fifth item, the fifth fundamental factor, where it is said that the style of utilization should vary in accordance with [changes in] time, space and person. Didn't I say like this? That is, there is, or there lies, scope for flexibility – no rigidity, flexibility. Because the human mind will not tolerate anything rigid. It wants movement. Not only movement, it wants accelerated movement.

But what is dogma? Dogma is also an idea, but there is rigidity of the boundary line. Dogma will not allow you to go beyond the periphery of that boundary line. That is, dogma goes against the fundamental spirit of the human mind.

(Knowingly or unknowingly, each and every object will have to move round the Supreme Nucleus. There is no alternative. But in case of dogma, what happens? While moving near the Nucleus, the unit mind is highly influenced by the Cosmic Mind as it proceeds towards the Nucleus for the purpose of coincidence. And when it actually coincides, the unit mind becomes one with the Cosmic Mind, and the Cosmic Mind knows no dogma.)

So from the very starting point you should be active, you should be vocal, in fighting against the influence of dogmas. It is due to these dogmas that human society could not progress properly. Otherwise human intellect has developed much during the last five thousand years; it has developed still more during the last two hundred years; and since the second world war – during the last few decades – it has developed still more.





many desires. But each and every aspirant, each and every artist, each and every scientist and each and every philosopher must be ensconced in this supreme veracity – that they will have to be one with the Supreme, that each will have to coincide his or her microcosmic nucleus with the Macrocosmic one. And while moving towards this Macrocosmic Nucleus, no bar should be tolerated, no obstacle should be encouraged. Let there be an unbarred movement of humanity, let there be an unbarred progress of humanity. Humanity that knows no colour, no racial or garb barrier, no historical or traditional barrier. Human beings have got the same human legacy, and they must boldly stand upon that legacy and move forward with the banner of universal humanity.

[Following the discourse, the author gave a blessing:] Let everybody in the universe be happy. Let everybody in the universe be free from all ailments. Let everybody in the universe see the bright side of everything. Let nobody be forced to undergo suffering. ●

Crisis of Civilization

Now, although there has been intellectual progress, there is a crisis of civilization. What is the breeding ground of this crisis? Why the crisis? The crisis is that human existence, which is highly [developed], has been endangered by dogmas. Its very existence on the psychic level has been endangered by dogmas. On the physical level it may or may not be endangered, but on the psychic level there is danger. If you get guarantees on the physical level regarding eating and drinking, sleeping and getting shelter, that will not suffice. You want to be danger-free in the realm of your mind, in the realm of your intellect. You want unbarred, unobstacked psychic progress – intellectual progress. But certain dogmas with their devouring mouths are trying to eat you up.

Take for example communism, Marxism. It is such a dogma. It will not allow you to think beyond its periphery. So it is the duty of all intellectuals to make people conscious of their present and future and cautious of the all-devouring influence of dogma.

Yours is a path towards Supreme Bliss, and you will have

to move forward towards the Universal Nucleus. Now, [so many plants and so many animals] have all got minds. I told you that in the case of undeveloped creatures, mind is inborn instinct, but in the case of human beings, mind remains an ever-expanding force. Everybody is moving, knowingly or unknowingly, with so many ideas, with so many feelings, with so many propensities, with so



India's Space Exploration

Hovering silently at an altitude of approx 408km, ISS is a symbol of global scientific cooperation, engineering excellence, and humanity's quest to thrive beyond Earth

— Bhupendra Singh

India once again made history as Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Air Force an ace test pilot and engineer became the first Indian to set foot on the International Space Station (ISS). He reached the ISS after a 28 hour journey around Earth in SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft. This was the second time for an Indian after Sqn Ldr Rakesh Sharma flew aboard the Soviet Soyuz T-11 rocket on April 2, 1984, as part of a joint mission with the Soviet Intercosmos program. During his eight-day mission, he conducted scientific research aboard the Salyut 7 space station.

41 years later when Shukla arrived at the ISS, he and three other astronauts were welcomed with warm hugs and handshakes. During a small welcome ceremony inside the space station, Shukla said: "With all your love and blessings, I've reached the International Space Station."

While orbiting the Earth before docking with the ISS, Shukla shared his first experiences. He said he was learning how to live in microgravity like a child, and described the feeling of floating in space as amazing. His first message was, "Thank you, Peggy. I am astronaut number 634. It's a matter of great pride for me. But

honestly, I feel even more honoured to be among those few people who have had the chance to see Earth from this incredible place."

Shukla went on to say that his journey to space was something he had long looked forward to: "This has been an amazing journey. I was excited to come to space, it's something worth waiting for. But the moment I entered the ISS, this crew (referring to the existing Expedition-73 team) made me feel so welcome. You truly opened your home to us. That was wonderful. I feel even better now."

Shukla also shared that when he first arrived at the ISS, his head



felt heavy, a common effect in microgravity, but he kept his spirits high. The Indian flag on his shoulder, he said, reminded him that the entire nation of 1.4 billion people were with him for whom it was a proud and emotional moment watching from Earth.

Shukla became the first astronaut from the country to blast off to the International Space Station (ISS) June 25, 2025, aboard the private Axiom Space Mission 4, or Ax-4, which lifted off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida in the latest mission organized by the Texas-based startup in partnership with Elon Musk's rocket venture SpaceX, which docked in the space-facing port of the station's Harmony module on the 26th. The private mission included decorated former NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson, as well as Sławosz Uznański-Wiśniewski of Poland and Tibor Kapu of Hungary – two other spaceflight novices who will become the first from their countries to visit the ISS. Shukla, who is the mission's pilot and the others, would spend about two weeks aboard the ISS, helping to carry out roughly 60 experiments before returning home. According to NASA, they and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) are collaborating on the mission.

Hovering silently above us at an altitude of approx 408km, ISS is a symbol of global scientific cooperation, engineering excellence, and humanity's quest to thrive beyond Earth. It orbits at a breakneck speed of 28000 kmph completing one full revolution every 90 minutes, about 16 orbits per day. This means Shukla and his team will view multiple sunrises and sunsets in a delicate balance of speed and gravity that keeps them perpetually falling around the planet.

Constructed over a decade with parts launched in 42 separate



ISS back dropped by Earth's horizon

missions, ISS has grown into a sprawling space complex. It stretches 73 metres long and with its solar arrays extended spans 109 metres across, larger than a football field. Weighing at around 4.2 lakh kg the ISS contains over 15 pressurised modules, contributed by four core partner agencies; NASA (USA); Roscosmos (Russia); ESA (Europe); Jaxa (Japan); and CSA (Canada). The main truss which supports the solar panel and radiators acts as the station's structural backbone.

Eight vast solar arrays generate up to 120 Kilo Watt of power in rechargeable batteries to ensure round the clock operation, her panels power everything from scientific instruments and daily crew needs including the all important oxygen generation systems and environmental controls. The station supports a core crew of six, although it can accommodate up to ten astronauts during short missions like Axiom-

4. Life aboard is carefully regulated; astronauts follow a schedule including two hours of exercise to counteract muscle and bone loss due to weightlessness. The station's facilities include private sleeping quarters, a galley, toilets, an observation cupola and even exercise equipment. Communication delays are minimal, about 1-2 seconds enabling near real time chats with mission control and loved ones.

The ISS is the most advanced research laboratory in low earth orbit (LEO). Experiments conducted aboard span microgravity physics, life sciences, biotechnology, Earth observation, and even space agriculture. Notable investigations include the Cupola module. With its seven windows, the module offers astronauts stunning panoramic views of Earth. It is used for photography, spacecraft docking, oversight and occasional quiet reflection, a favourite spot for many ISS inhabitants.



With an expected operational life through 2030, the ISS will eventually give way to commercial space stations like Axiom Station, Starlab and others. A controlled de orbit managed by NASA and Roscosmos is planned to ensure a safe end to this decades long space orbiting laboratory mission. As Shukla begins his space based scientific studies, he enters a facility that not only showcases India's growing role in human spaceflight but also serves as one of humanity's greatest international achievement. The ISS is not just a station it's a shared frontier, where science, diplomacy and exploration converge 400 km above Earth.

During a live interaction with Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the ISS, Shukla spoke about one of his key experiments i.e. studying how microalgae grow in microgravity. These algae are very nutritious and could play a role in future space food. He also shared that he was researching whether specific supplements can help prevent muscle loss in space. If successful, this study could help develop medicines to reduce muscle degeneration in elderly

people on Earth. In response, PM Modi praised Shukla's work and said: "India must move ahead with Mission Gaganyaan, build its own space station, and aim to land an Indian astronaut on the Moon." In his heartfelt message to young Indians, Shukla said: "The sky has never been the limit not for me, not for you, and not for India." He urged young people to believe in themselves and dream big.

Gaganyaan, meaning "sky craft" is India's first human spaceflight mission. It aims to launch a habitable space capsule into a 400 km (250-mile) orbit and safely return it with a splashdown in the Indian Ocean. The Gaganyaan mission will demonstrate India's capability to send astronauts into space and bring them back, a milestone achieved so far only by the U.S., Russia, and China. The nation announced its plan for a space station last year. Outlining the mission's expanded tasks, deputy minister Jitendra Singh told parliament the mission's budget had risen to 201.93 billion rupees (\$2.32 billion). It had earlier received budget approval of about \$1.1 billion, and was originally

planned as a project with one crewed and two un-crewed missions.

The ambitious mission, which was originally announced in 2019 to send Indian astronauts into space envisaged demonstration of human spaceflight capability by launching crew of 3 members to an orbit of 400 km for a 3 days mission and bring them back safely to earth. India has actually expanded its Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission to include building and operating a national space station, planning two crewed and six un-crewed missions by 2028. The project is accomplished through an optimal strategy by considering in-house expertise, experience of Indian industry, intellectual capabilities of Indian academia and research institutions along with cutting edge technologies available with international agencies.

As per ISRO R&D activities in new technology areas, such as life support systems, Human Factors Engineering, Bioastronautics, Crew training and Human rating and certification are key areas, which constitute important components for future sustained human space flight activities like rendezvous and docking, space station building and interplanetary collaborative manned missions to Moon/Mars and near-earth asteroids. Safety and reliability of all systems will be proven in unmanned missions preceding manned mission. LVM3 rocket the well proven and reliable heavy lift launcher of ISRO, is identified as the launch vehicle for Gaganyaan mission. It consists of solid stage, liquid stage and cryogenic stage. All systems in LVM3 launch vehicle are re-configured to meet human rating requirements and christened Human Rated LVM3. HLVM3 will be capable of launching the Orbital Module to an

intended Low Earth Orbit of 400 km. HLVM3 consists of Crew Escape System (CES) powered by a set of quick acting, high burn rate solid motors which ensures that Crew Module along with crew is taken to a safe distance in case of any emergency either at launch pad or during ascent phase.

Orbital Module (OM) that will be orbiting Earth comprises of Crew Module (CM) and Service Module (SM). OM is equipped with state-of-the-art avionics systems with adequate redundancy considering human safety. CM is the habitable space with Earth like environment in space for the crew. It is of double walled construction consisting of pressurized metallic Inner Structure and unpressurized External Structure with Thermal Protection System (TPS). It houses the crew interfaces, human centric products, life support system, avionics and deceleration systems. It is also designed for re-entry to ensure safety of the crew during descent till touchdown. SM will be used for providing necessary support to CM while in orbit. It is an unpressurized structure containing thermal system,

propulsion system, power systems, avionics systems and deployment mechanisms.

In order to ensure human safety various new technologies comprising of Engineering systems and Human centric systems are being developed and realised. Astronaut Training Facility established in Bengaluru caters to Classroom training, Physical Fitness training, Simulator training and Flight suit training. Training modules cover academic courses, Gaganyaan Flight Systems, Micro-gravity familiarization through Parabolic Flights, Aero-medical training, Recovery & Survival training, mastering of Flight Procedures and training on Crew Training Simulators. Aero medical training, Periodical flying practice and Yoga are also included as part of the training. The development of India's own life support system crucial for sustaining astronauts in space is also taking longer because it is a new technology and could not be sourced from abroad as planned, he added.

The country is aiming to have an operational Bharatiya Antariksh

Station by 2035 and sending an Indian crewed mission to the Moon by 2040. Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, is one of the Gaganyaan crew members.

After spending three weeks in space Shukla and three crew members returned safely back to Earth on July 15. He was welcomed by both the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Indian Air Force. But before getting back into routine life, he will go through a few weeks of medical checks and recovery. During this time, doctors and space health experts will monitor him closely to make sure his body adjusts well to Earth's gravity again. Once he is fully recovered, Shukla will work with scientists and space professionals to share what he learned in space including his experiences, research findings, and technical knowledge. He may also take part in educational and public events to inspire students and young minds across the country. This space voyage of his has not just been a personal achievement, but a source of motivation for the next generation of Indians. ●



ISS crew returns from space July 15, Shukla the pilot at top right

India's Deadliest AIR CRASH

The plane crash was perhaps among the worst in aviation history

■ Arun Prakash



On Thursday June 12, an eleven year old Air India Flight AI -171 a 787-8 Dreamliner plane that crashed killed 241 passengers and crew on board and around 30 on the ground and was India's deadliest air crash in recent history. It all unraveled in 34 seconds of horrific video footage as the flight bound from Ahmedabad to London took off what appeared normally and after having barely climbed 625 ft it started losing altitude and crashed into BJ Medical College hostel building. All on board were killed except one passenger who miraculously survived. The plane carrying 1.2 lakh litres of aviation fuel exploded on impact into a fireball, watched in shock all over the world. On the ground casualties were --- killed and --- injured.

This plane crash was perhaps among the worst in aviation history. It certainly was the deadliest in India. About the aircraft 14 years since it was introduced among 1175 planes, 2100 daily flights 1 billion passengers, this was the first Dreamliner that crashed. India had a relatively good air safety record. Previous air accidents were: Oct 12, 1976 (95 lives lost); Jan 1, 1978 (Boeing 747 -- 213 lives lost), Oct 19, 1988 (Boeing 737 -- 133 lives lost); Feb 14 1990 (Airbus 92 lives lost), Aug 16, 1991 (Boeing 737 -- 69 lives lost), Apr 26, 1993 (Boeing 737 60 lives lost) and May 22, 2010 Boeing 737 (133 lives were lost).

What caused the crash? This piece is mostly based on the detailed Preliminary Accident Investigation report by an independent aviation safety

researcher as a nongovernmental academic and technical research initiative using structured aviation investigation principles based on International Civil Aviation Organisation, Director General Civil Aviation and international standards. The official preliminary report was released on Saturday July 12 and has some disturbing findings. Those would be discussed later.

Air India's Flight AI171, a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner (registration VT-ANB) was scheduled to operate a routine international passenger flight from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad to London Gatwick Airport on March 22, 2025. The ill fated plane's Captain was Sumeet Sabharwal had 8200 hours of flying experience (6000 hours on B787) and his first officer Clive

Kundar had 1100 hours with 900+ hours on B787). The cabin crew were trained, rested, and certified for long-haul duty. Their actions prior to the crash—including cabin secure callout and adherence to SOPs—demonstrate procedural compliance. No fault or negligence is attributed to the cabin crew. Their in-flight communication serves as a valuable timeline anchor for the investigation.

The aircraft was cleared for departure from Runway 23 at Ahmedabad and commenced its takeoff roll at approximately 13:30 IST (08:00 UTC). The departure was conducted under Visual Meteorological Conditions (VMC), with no significant weather abnormalities or operational constraints reported at the time. The aircraft lifted off normally, and initial climb performance appeared nominal. However, ADS-B telemetry recorded a deviation from the expected vertical profile beginning approximately 400 feet AGL, followed by a rapid loss of altitude. Radar contact was lost approximately 80 seconds into flight.

The aircraft subsequently impacted open terrain approximately 3.6 kilometers southwest of the departure end of Runway 23. The resulting crash led to severe structural breakup and a post-impact fire that consumed large portions of the mid and rear fuselage. A sole survivor, a British national seated at 11A, was located near a breach in the fuselage adjacent to the L2 emergency exit. He was hospitalized for 5 days. All other 241 occupants onboard—including 230 passengers and 10 cabin crew and 2 cockpit crew members were killed. The aircraft's composite structural design, while meeting certification standards, contributed to the catastrophic fatality rate by failing to deform progressively and absorbing impact energy, instead shattering and transmitting higher G-forces to occupants.

As of June 2025, Air India (including Express) experienced 6 fatal events since 1970, with Air India alone accounting for 4, most recently in 2010. Air India is positioned within the middle range of regional airlines by historical

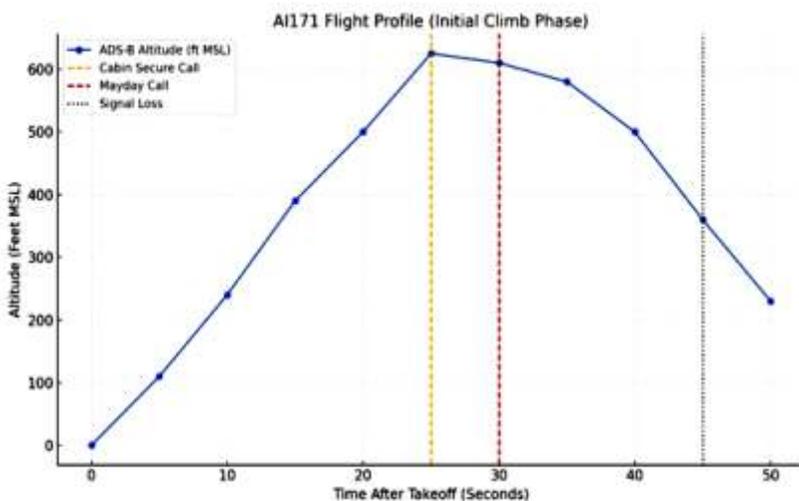
fatality count. Airlines such as PIA, China Airlines, Garuda, and Malaysia Airlines have experienced higher total events, while EVA Air, IndiGo, Jet Airways, Qantas and others have had no recorded fatal passenger events.

One aspect of the report that was submitted within 30 days of the crash is that it was conducted behind closed doors. In USA and Europe such flight accident investigation hearings are conducted in open court and proceedings are put up on the web site on daily basis for public consumption. Veteran pilots are all concerned about this lack of transparency and this report raises many questions.

At 13:37.37IST the aircraft commenced its takeoff roll on Runway 23. 13.38.39 lifts off; 13.38.47 both engines core parameters fall below minimum idling speed. RAT begins hydraulic power supply. At 13.38.52, Engine 1 fuel supply cut off; four seconds later Engine 2 fuel cut off. 3.39.05 pilots issue MAYDAY call. ATC replies, gets no response from them as plane crashes. From 13.39.11 onwards Flight Data stops recording.

Downloaded flight data contained around 49 hours of data. Recovered audio was 2 hours long and recorded the AI 171 event. A disturbing aspect revealed in the cockpit voice recording one of the pilots is heard asking the other why did he cut off fuel supply. The other pilot responded that he did not do so.

The western media has especially the American media immediately started blaming the pilot for switching off fuel supply. This which is quite laughable given the experience of the pilots was quite obviously had vested interests behind them considering the giant multinational corporations involved viz. Boeing (the aircraft manufacturers) and



The following graph shows the ADS-B derived altitude (MSL) over the first 50 seconds after take-off:

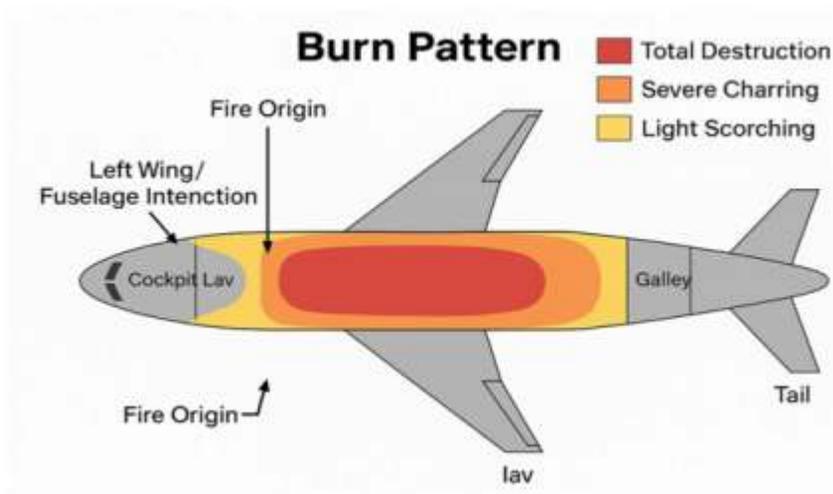
- **Blue Line:** ADS-B reported altitude (in feet MSL) over time.
- **Orange Line (@ 25s):** "Cabin Secure" call by cabin crew.
- **Red Line (@ 30s):** "Mayday" call by flight crew.
- **Black Dotted Line (@ 45s):** Final ADS-B signal loss.

General Electric (that supplied the engines).

It achieved liftoff just ten seconds later. ADS-B telemetry data indicates that the aircraft reached its peak altitude of approximately 625 feet Mean Sea Level (MSL), which translates to about 430 feet Above Ground Level (AGL), at 13:38:25 IST. Emergency Declaration and Descent: A mere five seconds after reaching its peak altitude, at 13:38:30 IST, the flight crew transmitted a Mayday call, explicitly stating "unable to maintain altitude." Immediately following this distress call, the aircraft entered a rapid and unrecoverable descent, with ADS-B data recording a descent rate of approximately 475 feet per minute.

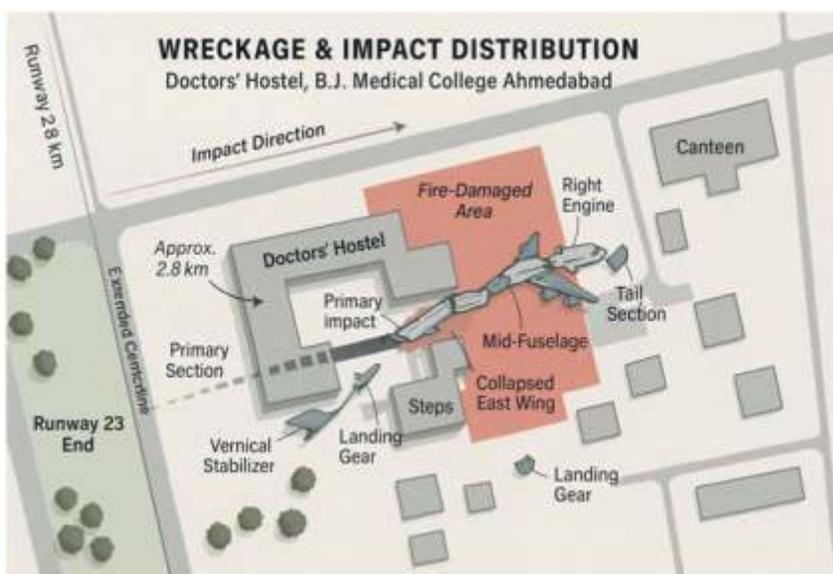
The aircraft impacted a multi-story building identified as the B.J. Medical College doctors' hostel, approximately 2.8 kilometers southwest of the departure end of Runway 23, directly in line with the extended centerline. The impact occurred at an estimated ground speed of approximately 185 knots, with a shallow nose-down and slightly right-wing-low attitude. This high-energy impact resulted in the rapid disintegration of the aircraft, with the main fuselage breaking into three major sections.

The left wing tank ruptured upon initial building strike, leading to an immediate and intense post-impact fire that consumed large portions of the fuselage and spread rapidly through the hostel structure, lasting approximately 93 minutes. The immediate and intense post-impact fire, fueled by ruptured wing tanks, rapidly consumed the cabin due to fuel system vulnerability in high-energy impact, eliminating any chance of post-crash survival or evacuation. Emergency response teams were activated immediately upon loss of



communication and reached the site within minutes.

The accident resulted in a catastrophic loss of life. All 241 onboard occupants, comprising 230 passengers and 12 crew members (2 cockpit crew, 10 cabin crew), were fatally injured. Additionally, the impact on the ground caused 33 confirmed ground fatalities and over 61 ground injuries, affecting medical staff and students within the hostel. Only one individual onboard, Vishwash Kumar Ramesh, a 28-year-old British national seated at 11A (an emergency row seat), survived. He escaped through a fractured fuselage panel near the L2 emergency exit post-crash, sustaining minor lacerations and smoke inhalation.





The accident sequence involved a rapid, cascading failure that overwhelmed the crew within a critically short timeframe (less than 35 seconds from peak altitude to impact), leading to cognitive overload and procedural paralysis. The total loss of thrust from both engines, coupled with a complete electrical bus failure, resulted in an irreversible collapse of the aircraft's energy state.

The un-retracted landing gear significantly increased aerodynamic drag, compounding the performance degradation caused by thrust loss, high density altitude, and near-maximum takeoff weight, leaving no margin for recovery. The flight crew experienced severe situational awareness degradation because the cockpit human machine interface became an "information black hole" in the degraded RAT-only power mode, failing to provide essential diagnostic information or functional access to critical backup systems like the APU. The crew's inability to execute critical emergency memory items or SOPs was a consequence of the rapid, compound system failures, not negligence, as the procedural framework was not designed for such multi-system, low-altitude catastrophic events.

The probable cause of the Air

India Flight AI171 accident was the un-commanded, simultaneous, and complete loss of thrust from both GENx-1B64 engines, coupled with a total failure of the primary electrical power generation system shortly after takeoff. This catastrophic dual system failure rendered the aircraft uncontrollable, leading to an aerodynamic stall at low altitude and subsequent impact on the ground.

While no evidence was found to support it, the possibility of fuel tampering or contamination was considered as an initial investigative hypothesis, given the sudden and complete loss of

engine thrust. The official report is yet to be released to the public but is unlikely to differ much from the above nongovernmental one.

The crash killed 241 people aboard the aircraft and 19 on the ground. At least 60 were also injured on the ground. Those killed on board include young students on their way to London on scholarships, a family returning home from a wedding in Gujarat, another that was visiting India for Eid, and those like Sahil whose families believed they had won the luck of a lifetime. Below are few pictures that reflect the great human tragedy and its effect on family members left behind.



Picture of family taken just before boarding the flight.



Family members giving DNA samples to identify victims.

The crash has had a devastating psychological impact on the aviation community especially Air India crew members. This emotional effect of feelings of sorrow and anger are real. Meanwhile what about the families of crash victims? Air India issued a statement that they stand in solidarity with them. But still it cannot be ignored that if such a crash had happened in the west and people killed were Europeans and or Americans, the public outcry would have been different. As a television commentator rightly said that then, these mega American corporations would have been taken to the cleaners!

Today after the release of the preliminary report (some say it was leaked) the common refrain is we know what happened but not why? For that it is being suggested that we wait for the final report? One senior pilot on television said that sabotage cannot be ruled out. Another disturbing fact is that the preliminary investigation report was released after the US Stock markets closed down after the end of the day's business? With India about to sign a trade deal with the US, this raises eyebrows no doubt. Meanwhile who is thinking about the families of those victims in India? They need justice and closure in full transparency. ●

Balochistan Freedom Struggle

In 1948 when Balochistan was forcefully merged into Pakistan, there was a backlash from many tribes which started an insurgency

■ ■ Nand Varma

Jn Balochistan Pakistan's largest province of 374,190 square kilometres (44% of its total), there's a geo-political saying "Without Balochistan there's no Pakistan". Without Balochistan, Pakistan has nothing; Balochistan is Pakistan's grand strategic, geographic, mineral and boundary guardian. Balochistan is Pakistan's last survival kit. Let's take a look at the historical background to the Baloch insurgency.

Balochistan was declared an independent state alongside India and Pakistan. The region comprises four former princely states - Kharan, Makaran, Las Bela, and Kalat. Ahead of Partition, the princely states were given three choices - accede to either India or Pakistan or stay independent. Khan Mir Ahmed Yar Khan - Khan of Kalat - chose the last option while the first three went with Pakistan.

According to historian Dushka H Sayyid, Kalat never held as much importance as Kashmir or Hyderabad since it was in the periphery of the Indian subcontinent, due to which it never featured largely in the contest between India and Pakistan for the accession of princely states at the time of the Partition. Jinnah too



accepted Kalat's independence initially. The Khan trusted Jinnah - that he was a friend and would ensure Kalat's independence.

On August 11, 1947, a treaty was signed between Kalat and the Muslim League. This treaty stated that Kalat is not an Indian state and Muslim League would respect the

independence of Balochistan. Khan of Kalat also gave financial support to Muslim League at the time of independence due to good relations with Muhammad Ali Jinnah. On August 15, 1947, Kalat announced its independence. Khan of Kalat also built the parliament of independent Balochistan and it

was decided that their relations with Pakistan would only be friendly. But Muhammad Ali Jinnah backstabbed the Khan of Kalat and sent the Pakistani Army to attack Kalat. On April 1, 1948, Khan of Kalat surrendered and signed an instrument of accession with Pakistan.

"Since then the Pakistani authorities not only started a campaign against the Khan to compel him to join Pakistan, but also prepared to use coercive methods for a forced merger of the state," writes Taj Mohammad Breseeg in his book 'Baloch Nationalism: Its Origin and Development up to 1980'.

On March 18, 1948, Jinnah announced the accession of Kharan, Makaran, Las Bela, which left Kalat landlocked and with less than half of its landmass. What worsened it for Kalat was fake news that the Khan wanted to join the Indian dominion, leaving Pakistan furious. With no help from other international players, the Baloch leader was left with no choice but to accede to Pakistan.

In 1948 when Balochistan was thus forcefully merged into Pakistan, there was a backlash from many tribes which started an

insurgency. This insurgency was led by Prince Abdul Karim (brother of Khan of Kalat). But this insurgency was suppressed by the Pakistani army and Prince Karim was arrested.

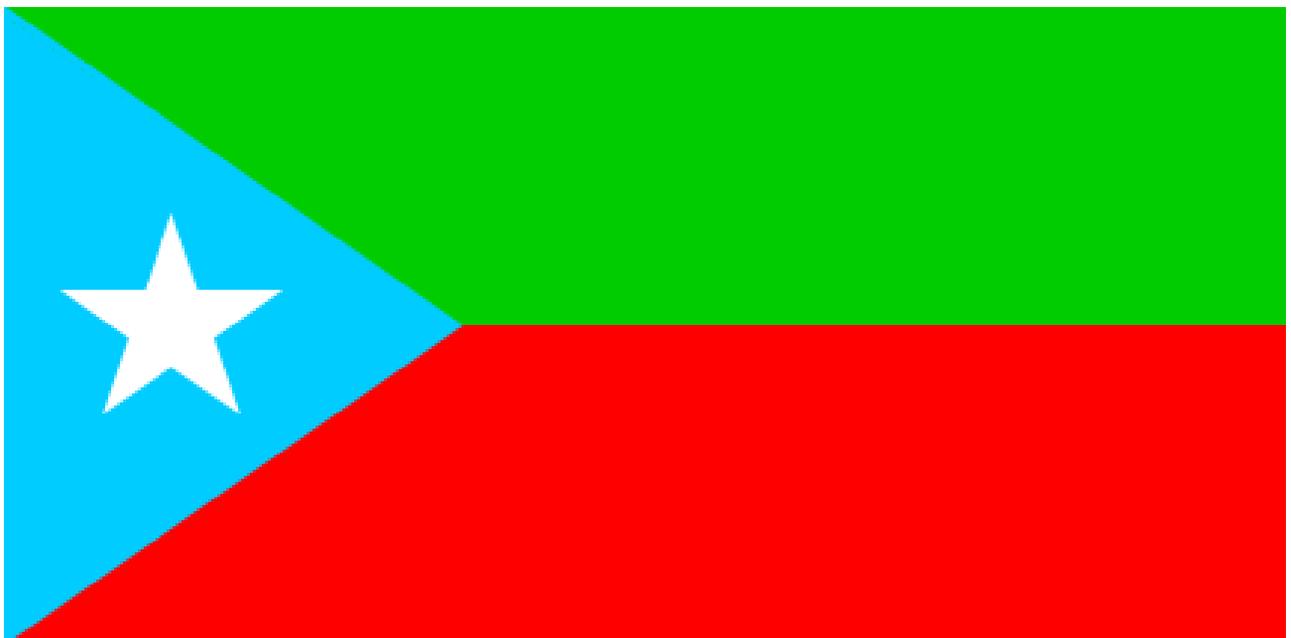
In 1955, the military dictator of Pakistan-Ayub Khan decided to create Pakistan as one unit. The present-day Pakistan was made West Pakistan and present-day Bangladesh was made East Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan took all the rights from the citizens of present-day Pakistan, including Balochistan. This was totally opposed by the Balochis.

The second rebellion came in 1954 when Pakistan launched the One Unit plan to reorganise its provinces. With the merger of Balochistan States Union with the provinces of West Pakistan in 1955, the feeling of neglect and deprivation grew deeper and became acute. In 1958, the Khan of Kalat Nawab Nauroz Khan declared independence, but he was tricked into surrendering in 1959. In his book 'Inside Baluchistan', Mir Ahmad Yar Khan Baluch quoted Khan as describing the military action: "I gave myself up to the army which paraded with me

on the roads and streets of Kalat. I witnessed several of my men falling dead on the ground by the indiscriminate firing of the army...I shut my eyes in agony, and knew nothing of what happened there till I found myself in the Lahore jail".

In October 1957, Baloch leaders met the then president of Pakistan, Iskandar Mirza, and requested him to keep Kalat out of Pakistan one unit. But Ayub Khan refused to do so and Balochis started an insurgency mainly in Kalat. On October 6, 1958, Ayub Khan sent the Pakistani army to Balochistan.

Thousands of Balochis were killed and supporters of Khan of Kalat were arrested and eventually the insurgency came to an end. In the elections of 1971, all provinces other than Balochistan and NWFP were won by the Pakistani People's Party. In Balochistan and NWFP, the National Awami Party which was dominated by Balochis won the elections. But the Pakistani government wrongly accused leaders of the National Awami Party that they joined hands with Iran and they were planning a massive revolution. Due to this accusation, the



The Balochistan flag



Balochi tribesmen

provincial government of Balochistan was dismissed.

In 1963, came the third rebellion with Sher Muhammad Bijrani Marri, also known as General Sherof, leading a group of nationalists backing their demand for the withdrawal of Pakistani troops, One Unit Plan cancellation, and the restoration of Balochistan as a unified province. It ended in 1969 when General Yahya Khan replaced Field Marshal Ayub Khan as the head of the government and signed a truce. A year later, One Unit Plan was scrapped in West Pakistan and Balochistan was made one of the provinces besides Punjab, Sindh, and Frontier.

In the 1970s, the Baloch were emboldened by the independence of Bangladesh from Pakistan and raised demands for greater autonomy. But Zulfikar Ali Bhutto refused, sparking massive protests and forcing the then prime minister to dismiss the Akbar Khan Bugti provincial government in Balochistan in 1973. Pakistan which could not stomach this loss sent Tikka Khan the Butcher of Bangladesh to Balochistan to

control the insurgency. More than 80,000 troops were deployed and airstrikes were conducted on common Balochi folk. All roads and railways to Balochistan were blocked. Due to this, Baloch leaders fled to Afghanistan. More than 16,000 Balochs were killed. General Tikka Khan again performed war crimes on innocent protesters and earned a second title – the Butcher of Balochistan. This lasted four years until Bhutto was deposed by General Zia-ul-Haq. The Baloch were granted an amnesty and the Pakistani troops were pulled from Balochistan.

The fifth conflict began in the mid-2000s provoked by the rape of a woman doctor in a Baloch town allegedly by military personnel. The conflict has worsened in the past few years with deadly attacks on security personnel and infrastructure projects. But there has been no sign of a Pakistan government agreeing to the Baloch demands.

Balochistan is one of four provinces of Pakistan, largest in area but smallest in population. It is very sparsely populated with 13

million and the population density of Balochistan is 36 people per square kilometre. The reason for this sparse population is the extremely dry desert climate along with the scarcity of water. Most of the population of Balochistan is tribal with only 27% population living in urban centres. The majority of the area of Balochistan is under Pakistan's control, but some areas of Balochistan are in Iran and Afghanistan as well.

The economy of Balochistan is largely based upon the extraction of natural gas, coal and various minerals. Balochistan has the capacity to fulfill the whole local requirement of natural gas and minerals of Pakistan. But these resources have not been utilized properly. Also, the agreements for the royalty rights and ownership of minerals are unprecedented due to natural disasters, economic, social, political and cultural unrest in Pakistan. The negotiations for this ownership are not transparent at all.

Balochistan's GDP is 8.5 billion USD which accounts for 3.7% of the total GDP of Pakistan.

The GDP per capita of Balochistan is 710 USD per annum; this very low per capita GDP leads to poverty. The poverty rate in Balochistan had grown from 48% in 2001 to 58% in 2017. Due to this, Balochistan has been called a neglected province where the majority population lacks basic amenities.

Though Balochistan remains largely underdeveloped, there are some developmental projects. The foremost of these projects is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). CPEC is a part of China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative. CPEC aims to connect the Chinese landlocked province of Xinjiang to Gwadar (a port city in Balochistan). The total net worth of this project is 62 Billion USD. But this project failed miserably due to corruption and the documents of this project were not made public which was highly suspicious. Also, the loans which were given for CPEC were very difficult to pay back for Pakistan which led Pakistan into the Chinese debt trap.

After the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan on 1989 and with the installation of a US backed civilian government Taliban fighters fled to Balochistan, creating a spillover effect of the Afghan war. It had a great impact on the insurgency as the fighters of the Taliban immigrated into Balochistan and refueled the insurgency with manpower and weapons that they brought with them.

In 2005, a Baloch leader, Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti, who was a mass leader and former governor of Balochistan and former defence minister of Pakistan, demanded 15 things from the government of Pakistan which included more control over minerals and natural gas of Balochistan and a cap on the construction of new army bases. All his demands got rejected.

He took up arms against the deep state of Pakistan. In 2006, Akbar Bugti was killed in an army operation; former President General Pervez Musharraf, was accused and stood trial but was

acquitted. Not much later after his death, his supporters executed a rocket attack on Pervez Musharraf to take revenge. Pervez Musharraf nearly got killed in this attack. Brahumdag Bugti, the grandson of Akbar Bugti, formed the Baloch Republican Party and he lives in self exile in Switzerland.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the issue of Balochistan in his Independence Day speech in 2016. He also brought to the attention of the world the human rights abuses in Balochistan. India can back Balochistan cause on international platforms frequently including UNHRC and UNSC. India can also support the Balochistan Freedom movement. Additionally, India can offer asylum to Baloch activists.

The Americans, particularly the CIA, have a huge interest in Balochistan as they use Balochistan as leverage against Pakistan. The Americans supply weapons to rebels such as the Balochistan Liberation Army. In February 2020 the Americans also



Balochi freedom fighters

withdrew from Afghanistan, but still wanted to assert influence to counter the Chinese so they demanded Air Bases in Pakistan. American National Security Advisor confirmed that Pakistan agreed to give the bases which would most likely be Balochistan. China has been increasingly pushing itself in the region to exert influence for securing its interests and investments. The game for Balochistan is long and all big power and stakeholders are invested in it.

Balochistan is rife with missing persons. Pakistani army and ISI are accused for the kidnapping of public leaders and there are no records of arrest. According to reports they were jailed, tortured and some were even killed. For these missing persons, the people of Balochistan held a march of thousands of kilometres from Quetta to Islamabad. To control the protests and conflicts Pakistani army's Frontier Core (which is posted in Balochistan) used torturing, kidnapping, fear mongering on innocent civilians. These are human rights abuses in the extreme.

There is little unity among Balochi tribes most of whom are Sunni with few Shia tribes too. Various tribes are fighting for the common goal of freedom of Balochistan, but these tribes are fighting separately; more like warlords rather than freedom fighters. The tribal leaders are corrupt to the core and Pakistan's government tries to use the age old British policy of divide and rule — they isolate some of them and bribe others other to maintain control over Balochistan. These tribal leaders maintain the status quo as they do not support freedom movements completely and take money from the deep state of Pakistan.

All these tribes have to set their grudges aside and unite and



Two Balochi girls

set up a unified command and act in one force against Pakistan. Bugti, Mengal and Marri are the main tribes working for the freedom of Balochistan. The struggle continues.

As a post script, here's a lesser known fact of history. Balochistan has a Maratha connection with 20 lakh Marathi descendents, bearing surname Maratha viz: Peshwani Maratha (relatives of Peshwas who were arrested); Bugti Maratha; Kalpar Maratha; Nothani Maratha; Shambani Maratha; Mosni Maratha and Shou Maratha. After the Marathas lost the third battle of Panipat in 1761, one of the bloodiest battles in which 50-70 thousand soldiers were killed and thousands imprisoned they were taken as slaves to then Balochistan.

Though mostly converted they still follow Maharashtrian

customs marrying their children among themselves. These Marathas don't call their mother Ammijan, they call their mother Aai like in Maharashtra. They still worship Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj keeping his photo, and Peshwas, hiding every rebel Balochi in Maratha's house. If these photos are found in their house during searches by Pak army it is treason. And even today these Balochi Marathas fight the Pakistan army using Shivaji's guerilla warfare tactics. In Bollywood movies, whenever they hear the slogan "Har Har Mahadev", they stand up hearts filled with emotion. In today's digital age of Google Maps young Balochi Marathi children can see their native village in Maharashtra. But nobody waits for them in Maharashtra — they just don't know about this connection. ●

US President Donald Trump's second term started with whirlwind changes to the US relations with the world; targeting Canada, the US's most steadfast ally, with larger tariffs than China, and floating the US occupation of Gaza, to the threat to annex Greenland and the decision to reach out to Russian President Vladimir Putin to try to end the war in Ukraine. This trade war may end up being most consequential in the long run. Like all headline-generating foreign policy moves, his plan for tariffs is meant to reshape the US economy. He says he will be imposing tariffs on Europe, China and everyone else that trades with the US to bring manufacturing back home, and "Make America Great Again".

But in this instance, Trump's boldness is unlikely to bring him closer to his long-term goals due to the inadvertent impact these tariffs will eventually have on the US dollar. Manufacturing costs in the

Capitalist Trade Wars

Ranjan Dasgupta

The US dollar system has never been entirely an American one, it was born in Europe, where banks began to issue loans in dollars in the 1950s to meet regional financing needs and demand.

US are far higher than they are even in Europe, let alone Asia, and thus the immediate effect of his tariffs and threats of tariffs would inevitably be to raise inflation expectations as well as begin a new cycle of US dollar strength, versus other leading currencies. Tariffs or its threat add additional costs to trade. And the structure of the international monetary system in which the US dollar already dominates, means that higher yield expectations for US assets will

only further strengthen the dollar.

For so long, global demand for the US currency has meant that its primary export has been its currency and related financial products. This unique exorbitant privilege is what has enabled Washington to run both trade and fiscal deficits without any major drag on the economy. The US has realised the importance of protecting this system, threatening 100 percent tariffs and other action against countries that seek to de-





Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has questioned the world's dependence on the dollar

dollarise and embrace the Russia and China-backed “BRICS” organisation. Trump is willing to weaponise this system to secure concessions and achieve its long-term goals, even when they have nothing to do with trade making even the most steadfast US allies prepare for threats that go far beyond tariffs. Such threats portend far more economic devastation than tariffs precisely because of the US dollar, its government securities, and the wider financial system’s centrality to the global economy. Trying to reorder the international monetary system to the US benefit, cannot be accepted by the international community especially the growing emerging economies.

The US dollar system has never been entirely an American one. It was in large part birthed in Europe, where banks began to issue loans in dollars in the 1950s to meet regional financing needs and demand. Since then the dollar has been the world’s principal reserve currency since the end of

World War II and is estimated to be used in more than 80 percent of international trade. But by upending the foreign policy unity between the US and Europe supposedly to “Make America Great Again”, Trump may end up inadvertently upending the dollar system that has been responsible for much of America’s power and greatness for decades.

The major difference between BRICS countries and European ones like Spain is that BRICS members are almost all massive earners of international trade surpluses, exporting more than they import, while they also almost always maintain significant capital controls. Europe’s trade strength, on the other hand, is not enough to sustain levels of government expenditure in most of the European Union or the United Kingdom. Nor is it in Japan, whose debt-to-GDP figure is well in excess of any other leading economy. In turn, after the US, these historic allies are the main borrowers on international capital

markets, while capital from the surplus earning nations, such as many BRICS members, are those who seek to invest in them. This is why China is the number one holder of US treasuries despite the Washington Beijing geopolitical rivalry.

Earlier this year, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva questioned why all countries had to base their trade on the dollar. Calls for a global shift away from dollar dominance are not new, nor are they unique to BRICS, but experts say recent geopolitical shifts and growing tensions between the West and Russia and China have brought them to the fore.

As the US weaponises the dollar there is increasing desire by other developing countries to seek alternative currencies for trade, investment, and reserves, as well as developing alternative multilateral clearance systems outside of US systems. Moreover the US Federal Reserve has raised interest rates in recent years;

developing countries have widely suffered from paying higher interests on their dollar debt and battling the exchange rate impact from a strong dollar. The interest to borrow in local currencies or other currencies is strongly motivated by economic considerations. The impetus for Global South countries trying to find an alternative is more a practical consideration than a moral one. There is inherent risk in engaging with one currency globally that may be utilised for political purposes. BRICS may consider, including using a basket of currencies from BRICS countries, using gold.

BRICS is not anti West and they are not in competition, nor are they against the dollar, but against the continued dominance of the dollar in terms of global financial interactions. In finding alternatives to the dollar BRICS is likely to push for the greater use of local currencies. It is well known that 80 percent of the trade carried

about between Russia and China is settled in either Russian rubles or Chinese yuan. Russia is also trading with India in rupees. Even outside the core BRICS group, other countries have begun trading in local currencies. The United Arab Emirates and India recently signed an agreement to settle trade payments in rupees instead of dollars.

As Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a virtual address to the recent BRICS summit in Johannesburg, the process of de-dollarisation is “irreversible” and “gaining pace”.

For South Africa’s Sooklal and other BRICS leaders, the rationale for alternatives to the dollar is similar to that for changing the global governance architecture in general. “We’d like to live in a multipolar society, a multipolar world,” he said and added “Trade is no longer dominated by those countries that dominated trade in the 70s, 80s,

90s – that era is over. We also want to see a multipolarity of choices, a multipolar financial world; we don’t want to be pegged to one or two currencies as the currencies of choice”. He also pointed to the Pan-African payment and settlement system, a cross-border infrastructure to facilitate direct payment transactions across the continent, as a model to follow. He said it will save an estimated \$5bn annually in trade transaction fees when compared with just using SWIFT.

If, however, Trump is successful in his approach, some benefits for US manufacturing may accrue. Growth from manufacturing’s current 10.2 percent of US gross domestic product would certainly appeal to his voter base but the risk is that it blows up the US dollar system, which would be devastating for the US economy, likely triggering not only major inflation but also a dramatic recession. ●





ISRAEL IRAN WAR 2025

— Pawan Kumar

Israel and Iran have been sworn enemies ever since the Iranian revolution of 1979 that deposed the Shah of Iran. Before that they were friends and had good relations. This conflict was relegated to the shadows but there have been clashes off and on till the latest full scale war that started on June 13, 2025, when Israel launched major aerial attacks on Iran's nuclear installations. Since then, Israel and Iran have carried out waves of deadly attacks, in the most intense fighting in decades between the two heavily armed countries. The war moved into a potentially more volatile phase when the United States attacked three nuclear sites in Iran, but twelve days later a fragile ceasefire took place.

Iran's rulers have pledged to

destroy Israel and have long supported regional militias who share that goal. Israel views Iran as an existential threat and has vowed to prevent it from building a nuclear bomb. Here is the recent timeline of military confrontations which give a brief background:

In 2019 Israel struck Iran's allies carrying out a series of attacks in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq to prevent Iran from equipping its allies with sophisticated weapons. Israel accused Iran of trying to establish an arms supply line through Iraq and northern Syria into Lebanon, where Iran had long backed the militant group Hezbollah. Israel also attacked ships carrying Iranian oil and weapons through the eastern Mediterranean and Red Seas.

In November the following

6

Early this year Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu proposed to US President Trump a plan to strike Iranian nuclear sites, but he decided to pursue diplomacy instead.

year Israel killed Iran's top nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrazadeh with a remote controlled machine gun. Then in 2021 followed skirmishes with Iran and Israel when they increasingly began attacking each other at sea. Israeli Prime Minister,



Smoke rises from the building of Iran's state-run television IRIB after an Israeli strike in Tehran, Iran, on the broadcaster's offices on June 16

Benjamin Netanyahu accused Iran of being behind a February explosion on an Israeli-owned ship transporting vehicles sailing off the coast of Oman. Iran accused Israel in March of targeting an Iranian cargo ship about 50 miles off the coast of Israel. In April, an Iranian military vessel stationed in the Red Sea was damaged by an apparent Israeli mine attack. Such operations continued through the year.

In May 2022, two assassins on motor cycles hit and killed Col Sayad Khodayee, an officer in Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps. Israeli officials said he helped command a covert operations unit that conducted assassinations and abductions. Israel confirmed its role in the killing to the United States. Ayoub Entezari, an aeronautical engineer at a military research facility, and Kamran Aghamolaei, a geologist, both died the same month after developing symptoms of food poisoning. Iran accused Israel of poisoning them, but Israel declined to comment.

On October 7, 2023 Palestinian militants led by Hamas, which is backed by Iran, attacked Israel, igniting a deadly war in Gaza. In solidarity with Hamas, other Iranian-backed militias in the region, including Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen, also attacked Israel. In December, Iran accused Israel of killing a high level Iranian officer in a missile strike in Syria.

In April, Israeli airstrike on an Iranian Embassy building in Damascus killed three top Iranian commanders and four officers. Weeks later, Tehran launched more than 300 drones and missile at Israel, soon after, Israel attacked an anti aircraft system in Iran protecting a nuclear facility. In July, Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas's political leader, was assassinated in an explosion in a guesthouse in Tehran run by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Israel later confirmed that it was behind the killing. In September, Iran's ambassador to Lebanon, Mojtaba Amini, lost an eye in a massive simultaneous pager attack

targeting Hezbollah members. Similar attacks on electronic devices followed in subsequent days, killing dozens of people and injuring thousands. Israel later confirmed it conducted the attacks.

In September, Israel killed Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah in airstrikes near Beirut, Lebanon's capital. Iran in October fired about 180 ballistic missiles at Israel, in retaliation for Israel's assassinations of Mr. Nasrallah, Mr. Haniyeh and an Iranian commander. Later the same month Israel launched airstrikes that destroyed air defense systems intended to protect critical infrastructure. The airstrikes in April and October took out air-defense systems that Iran purchased from Russia, Iranian and Israeli officials said, including one in central Iran that is critical to the country's nuclear program.

Early this year Israeli PM Netanyahu proposed to President Trump a plan to strike Iranian nuclear sites, which was debated for months, but Trump decided to

pursue diplomacy instead. On June 12, Trump said there was a risk Israel could strike Iran, torpedoing the talks. "I think it would blow it," he said, adding, it "might help it actually, but it could also blow it". The first wave of Israeli air attacks started the next day that set off explosions in the Iranian capital Tehran. Israel said it targeted nuclear and military facilities, killing Iran's top military and nuclear scientists. This came as tensions escalated over Israel's perception about Iran's rapidly advancing nuclear program, which is seen as a threat to its existence. Since that day Israel inflicted widespread damage on Iran's military infrastructure and Iranian missiles pierced Israel's defence systems and the US conducted strikes against Tehran's nuclear programme.

The first signs that the conflict gripping the Middle East was about to spread to the Gulf was a calmly worded warning to US citizens in Qatar. "Shelter in place" was the recommendation from the US government - with an attached reassurance that this was "out of an abundance of caution". The UK issued similar advice shortly after. It was expected that Iran would strike back at America in Qatar. The country is home to the al-Udeid military base, a sprawling

installation outside the capital, Doha, which houses thousands of troops and is where US air operations in the Middle East are orchestrated. In the early hours of June 22, three b-2 bombers successfully dropped two 30,000 pounds bunker buster bombs GBU-57 each at Fordow Iran's prized nuclear enrichment site, buried deep below a mountain and US submarines fired at least 30 Tomahawk missiles at the nuclear facilities at Natanz and Isfahan. Fordow is gone Trump announced although neither US or Israel has produced evidence that Iran was on the verge of building a bomb. However the US strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities did not destroy the Iranian nuclear programme and have probably only set it back by months, according to an intelligence evaluation

Iran accused US of a grave violation of UN Charter. NPT and international law and leaders in Tehran threatened retaliation for these unprecedented strikes. Russia immediately commented that the bombing was a proof of US recklessness and called it a serious violation of international norms. Any condemning move in the Security Council would be vetoed by the US. However in the General Assembly the Global South would side with Iran.

From the bunker where he was sheltering since Israel launched its military operation against Iran, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had issued an order: to hit back against the US at one of its most strategically important assets in the region. Iran retaliated by targeting Tel Aviv and Haifa with two waves of missile strikes.

On June 24, after 12 days of intensive bombing by Israel and missile strikes by Iran, the two sides agreed to a US brokered ceasefire. The United Nations nuclear watchdog IAEA on Monday demanded access to Iran's nuclear facilities to confirm the location and state of the country's enriched uranium. There has been speculation that Iran may have moved its stock of the nuclear material ahead of the US strikes on the Fordow, Isfahan and Natanz facilities. Mohammad Eslami, head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, said on Tuesday that Tehran is assessing damage to its nuclear industry and arrangements have been made for its restoration, the Reuters news agency reported. "The plan is to prevent interruptions in the process of production and services," he said.

With the losses it has incurred both material and human Iran will have to review its strategy. ●



Smoke and fire rise after an Iranian missile attack on Israel, at Haifa port, on June 15

Prana Dharma

The successful visit to USA had a galvanizing impact on the Indian people. It awakened their vitality of spirit

Ronald Logan

In 1888, Swami Vivekananda took up the life of a wandering monk. His only possessions were his saffron robe, a water pot, a staff and two books. For five years, he traveled the length and breadth of India, having contact with Indians of all religious traditions and all walks of life. He was profoundly moved by the impoverished and oppressed condition of the common people under British imperial rule. During his travels, he made contact with arms manufacturers and with independent rajas, assessing the possibility of initiating a mass struggle for independence. But he abandoned this idea, realizing that the Indian people didn't have the spirit of struggle that would be required.

Vivekananda eventually reached Kanyakumari, the southernmost tip of India. There, he swam out to a rock off the coast where he meditated day and night for three days. This culminated in his having the epiphany that the path to awakening the spirit of the Indian people would be for them to overcome their cultural inferiority.

If the Indian people could see people in the West respecting the profound wisdom of India's

spiritual culture this would arouse pride in their Indian identity. They would then shake off the inferiority that depleted their spirit and inhibited their ability to struggle.

The story of Vivekananda's subsequent journey to the World Parliament of Religions and his subsequent years of introducing Eastern spirituality to America is the stuff of myth. He was immensely successful, and this had a galvanizing impact on the Indian people. It awakened their



Swami Vivekananda in Chicago 1893



vitality of spirit. Their oppression of mind was broken, and from there the Indian independence struggle emerged.

Prana Dharma

It seems to me that Vivekananda's approach has an important lesson for us as we face the poly crisis. If we are to turn toward a life-centered civilization, our spirits will need vitalizing; our minds cannot remain passive, resigned, complaisant.

To fully appreciate Vivekananda's approach, it will be helpful to introduce the concept of "prana dharma" (Prana dharma is a Sanskrit term. I use it because it conveys a desired meaning more economically and accurately than can English.)

"Prana" roughly means life force, or vital energy. The term "dharma" signifies the fundamental characteristic of an entity, the essential nature of a thing. The dharma of an eagle is to soar, of an athlete to compete, of a mother to nurture their young.

So prana dharma is that which gives vitality to our mental existence. For individuals, this comes from expressing their authentic self and their calling or personal mission in life. The lack of a proper sense of identity and

purpose diminishes the force of personality individuals need to function in a healthy manner in their social life.

People lacking in prana dharma do not have a clear purpose and dare without a firm identity. They are not aligned with their inner being and are detached from authentic social purpose and so lack mental vitality.

The need for a strong prana dharma is the basis for Shakespeare's advice, "To thine own self be true." Krishna, in the Bhagavad Gita, was even more emphatic, telling Arjuna, "It is better to die following one's own dharma than live following another's dharma."

Collective Prana Dharma

Prana dharma also functions at a collective level. A society's dynamism depends upon the mental vitality of its members — on its collective expression of prana dharma.

Collective prana dharma arises from the distinguishing traits, values, and sentiments possessed by a nationality, ethnic group, or subculture.

The prana dharma of traditional Native Americans included their valuing bravery in battle, their reverence for nature,

and their tribal living. The prana dharma of the Japanese includes being industrious, refined in manners, socially disciplined, and respectful towards elders.

A social identity and outlook get imparted to a society's members through socialization and education — through myths, media, family influences, social customs, ceremonies, religion, etc. It then shapes their particular mental outlook, determines their ways of social behavior, and imbues in them values and worldview.

Deprivation of Prana Dharma

Just as the lack of individual prana dharma devitalizes individual expression, so the suppression of collective prana dharma, of cultural identity, devitalizes social expression.

Suppression of a people's culture can be even more destructive than their being militarily conquered. Where there is only the military enforcement of a people's oppression, at least their vital force remains intact and struggle for liberation remains a possibility. But a people deprived of their collective prana dharma will acquiesce to their subjugation.

Thus it is that revitalizing the collective prana dharma of an oppressed people has played an important role in many liberation struggles.

India was conquered by the Aryans from Central Asia, the Greeks under Alexander the Great, the Moghuls out of Asia Minor, and finally by the British. Of all these conquests, the imperial rule by the British was the most difficult to overcome, in large part because the British so effectively eroded the Indian prana dharma.

Among other tactics, they educated the Indian elite in the British schooling system where they imbued them with a Western outlook. This outlook was analytical, rational, and material in nature, which was incompatible

with the intuitive, subjective, and spiritual outlook of the Indian prana dharma. Many of India's brightest came to emulate the mental approach of the West, rejecting their own ways — their own prana dharma.

This was Swami Vivekananda's realization. So his mission became to revive the India prana dharma. Following Vivekananda, personalities such as Ram Mohan Roy and Rabindranath Tagore also worked to strengthen the Indian people's pride in their spiritual and cultural heritage. Once strengthened, the Indian people's struggle for independence could be taken up in earnest.

North America's indigenous peoples' prana dharma was destroyed in a manner similar to that of the British in India. Native peoples were forced off their homelands and onto reservations, and their children were forced to attend government schools, to be socialized into a foreign culture and to speak only English. It was this cultural genocide, more than the military massacres and disease, which broke their proud, energetic spirit.

But a subterranean current of their heritage survived through their ceremonies and the stories of their elders, enabling Native American prana dharma to reemerge in the 1960s as a new generation-identified with their traditional ways, empowering their struggle for sovereignty and dignity.

Has not the psychic dynamism of exploited workers been eroded by their immersion in a commercially driven culture? Their minds are not sustained by deep cultural traditions. Their mental vigor gets devitalized by commercialism, making it difficult for them to envision and struggle for an exploitation-free society.

Their position is not so different from that of the passive Indian masses under British rule that Vivekananda sought to

awaken. How can they forcefully challenge the exploitation, corruption and environmental destructiveness of corporate capitalism without a strengthened prana dharma giving them vitality of spirit?

Importance of Nurturing Prana Dharma

Those who engage in freeing humanity must recognize that a healthy collective prana dharma is essential for a people's dynamic social expression.

Communists proclaimed themselves a vanguard force for championing oppressed people's aspirations. But their approach towards ethnic identity and autonomy undermined their claim to being liberators. They may have succeeded in overthrowing oppressive regimes, but the new regimes they established suppressed people's religious, ethnic and cultural sovereignty. Their promises of a humanistic social order were drowned in the blood and tears of the countless Armenians, Lithuanians, Tibetans, Slovenians, and Jews who dared assert their cultural identities.

A principal objective of any progressive movement should be to nurture the development of well-integrated and vital human personalities. For this, the diverse expressions of human culture must be valued; indigenous cultures must have full scope for expression.

Of course, the right to cultural expression cannot be absolute. Any harmful expressions of a people's culture, such as practices that support bigotry, patriarchy, or

ecological destruction must be replaced with new ones guided by humanistic values. If this is done, their prana dharma will only be strengthened.

Spirituality and Prana Dharma

In shifting the expression of a people's collective prana dharma, forced change should be avoided. Forced change will be resisted. The better approach is to encourage people to develop spiritually. Pursuit of spiritual truth will dislodge narrow, dogmatic outlooks and replace them with magnanimous and universal views.

When a people's prana dharma is compatible with their spiritual experience, it will be natural for them to express a powerful, dynamic collective identity, one that can sustain and nurture their deepest human longings.

This was the deeper project undertaken by Swami Vivekananda. And it is one that remains a work in progress. There is so much latent potential in the human mind. We need the proper personal and collective prana dharma to bring forth this potential. Our collective survival depends on it.

It will not come from immersion in capitalism's consumerist culture; this only devitalizes the human spirit. And it will not come from Christian Nationalism or Hindu Nationalism. Identities based on these sentiments may give some people a sense of vitalizing purpose. But the true greatness of the human spirit requires accepting that humanity is one and indivisible. Nothing less can get us through these times of crisis to a bright future. ●



FAULT LINES, REGIONS, AND GAIAN EMERGENCE

FOUR EMERGENT FUTURES

■ Sohail Inayatullah

Foundational cracks in the current world system – the political-economy of power and wealth – challenge core issues of trust. Agreements reached in the last decades and century have been challenged. Four fault lines are significant.

These are:

- 1 Tariffs and trade wars against neighbors and friends that challenge the stability of the last 80 years or so. This challenges the view that more trade leads to rising ships for all. While third world nations have always challenged the unequal terms of trade, trade itself was not foundationally challenged (and when it was poverty resulted).
- 2 American threats to invade Canada and Greenland; the Russian invasion of Ukraine; Israel’s genocide against Palestinians, and the unwillingness by Western nation to abide by the rules of international law (the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice) have taken away the mantle of the West as the leaders of global civilization, as the epitome or progress.
- 3 The end of the American security promises to Europe and Asia- we keep you safe, you purchase our weapons, we vote along the same or similar lines in the UN - significantly challenge the current international relations security regime.
- 4 Challenges to truth, particularly to science, in fact questions the entire edifice of the rise of the West. The science and technology revolution have been based on agreements that while humans can disagree on philosophical issues, there are empirical laws that cannot be violated.

These cracks lead to the possibility of broken trust in the world system not just between nations but within the West as well. Since the 1980s, Globalization as a paradigm replaced Development and became the central worldview on how to see the future and conduct international economics and relations. It became code for progress and a dialogue of



civilizations. Will deglobalization result or are there other futures that could emerge. Using Inayatullah's and Milojevic's change progression scenario approach, four possible futures emerge for the medium and the long term.

In the first future titled, EACH NATION FOR HIMSELF, the global system fragments. Every nation and core civilizations return to the past, imagining a world before globalization. Patriarchy, hierarchy, and dominator systems are primary. Trust between nations and indeed civilizations become evermore difficult. The likelihood of armed conflicts within nations and between nations intensifies. Coalitions that develop are short term based, focused on making quick deals with the long-term future forfeited. De-globalizations occur generally and specifically, de-Americanization (dollarization, products with American parts, and American media as dominant).

In the second future, MANY REGIONS FOR THEMSELVES, the costs of returning to the past are

too high. In addition, to counteract fragmentation and to ensure economic and eventually military power, regions and zones rise. We can easily imagine a stronger European Union with a European army; an East Asia Union, A real ASEAN, a much stronger African Union (buttressed with the Youth Rise and New tech); a Latin American Confederation and even possibly a South Asian confederation. Energy moves to decentralized but integrated renewable grids. While there is deglobalization, safety and wealth accumulates through regionalization. The decline of the USA leads not to a fragmented system but a robust regional system. Regions over time collaborate. This future foreshadows a global PROUT system.

In the third future, GAIAN EMERGENCE, an adaptive scenario by 2070, the great fracturing and economic collapses (plus the challenge of climate change) that led to regionalization eventually give way to planetary governance. This would be the

beginning of PROUT 1.0. Climate change, Artificial Intelligence, the deadly possibility of another world war, the steep inequity from the rise of billionaires lead to dramatic changes. These include the rise of platform cooperatives – more efficient, greater flow and movement of wealth, and greater demand – which leads to rising wealth throughout the world. The UN system changes to four houses – a house of cooperatives; a house of citizens (one person, one vote); a house of nature (the rights of nature); a house of regions; and AI as the mediator of the houses. The fault lines of the past lead to a new planetary flexible structure. Trust is restored at all levels. There is a flow of ideas, capital, and people.

In the fourth future, a radical long-term future, consciousness change (not just how we see but how we experience reality) leads to the beginning of authentic PLANETARY INTELLIGENCE. AI plus anticipatory governance plus rational policymaking plus the challenge of climate change plus the shift toward gender equity plus the rise of awareness of our collective consciousness leads to a very different planet unimaginable from the politics of scarcity and ego today. Governance is planetary but also internal, the democracy of the inner selves. A truly symbiotic planet – humans, nature, and technology co-evolve. Just as the revolutions of the 15th to the 20th century made the 21st, the developments in this century create the next. This is a world of inner and outer abundance. The increased time afforded from the AI revolution and the end of the capitalist system create a breakthrough in inner exploration – a world of culture and exploration. In this world, trust becomes the core currency. This final future is similar to the vision of PROUT in the long run, PROUT 2.0, if you will. ●



THE CHOICES We Make

Michael Zimmerman

Within the study of economics, what is created by production is use value and what is used up by consumption is also use value.

This is the fourth article in a series of seven. We continue our examination of concepts within standard economic theory that draws the student into perceiving society as functioning in a particular way. Yet, the fields of ecological sciences and monetary theory present significant challenge to status quo relations. Aspects of standard economics might be internally consistent, but they fail to fully describe the physical world and

our relationship to it. Standard economics has contributed to masking certain phenomena.

Central to this discussion is the false sense of security that incessant growth in gross domestic product (GDP) provides. Alternate measures such as the genuine progress indicator (GPI) demonstrate economic growth is significantly lower than GDP for major industrialized countries. In the field of ecological sustainability, it is widely acknowledged that both

production/manufacturing and consumption are governed by the physical sciences including the first and second laws of thermodynamics. The implications of these two laws for production, consumption, and ecologically sustainable levels of real output are profound.

The first law of thermodynamics is the conservation of matter and energy. Matter and energy are one in the same. This implies that it is impossible for the quantity of matter/energy used to create real economic output, to be greater than the quantity of matter/energy incorporated in the natural resources utilized to generate it.

The second law of thermodynamics or entropy asserts when matter/energy is transformed, its orderliness or structure is irrevocably changed. Transformed matter cannot be rearranged back to its original state, nor can transformed energy be rearranged back into its original state to perform work, again, in the same way. It is due to entropy that



manufacturing always results in the generation of waste matter/energy.

Standard economic theory fails to incorporate these laws into its basic principles (author, The Prout Journal, May2023). Waste matter/energy has become problematic with respect to climate change. Our species has irrevocably changed the planet, in part, via our imprecise use of language.

As Shrii Sarkar (1959) said, we can only change the form of the rudimental factors. With respect to both renewable and non-renewable resources we can only transform them utilizing chemical and physical mixtures. Those chemical and physical mixtures are governed by the physical sciences, including the first and second laws of thermodynamics.

This reveals how imprecise it is to describe the economic process of manufacturing as “production” and use as “consumption” – nothing physical is ever produced by people and nothing physical is ever consumed. Matter and energy, which are interchangeable, are transformed in production and

further transformed when consumed.

Within the study of economics, what is created by production is use value and what is used up by consumption is also use value. The terms ‘production’ and ‘consumption’ as used in contemporary economics are imprecise. They contribute to a particular way of thinking: that we are separate from the ecosphere that supports life on earth. Such imprecise language contributes to masking the realities of what we have wrought.

Standard economic theory acknowledges the role that price plays in signaling the allocation of goods and services in a market economy. Students of economics are introduced to this in their introductory economics classes at university. What the student was traditionally not exposed to is the pricing of natural resource: the flow-effect and sock-effect. As described by Lawn (2010):

... most people believe that when a resource becomes scarcer in an absolute sense, its price automatically rises. This is a fallacy ... Many people fail to

recognize that, on the supply side, the price of a resource is not only governed by how much is flowing into the market at any one time, but by the nature and extent of the existing stock of the resource. . . when more of a resource is flowing into the market (flow-effect), downward pressure is exerted on its price. Conversely, as the stock of the resource diminishes (stock-effect), upward pressure is exerted on the marginal cost of extraction, which, in turn, exerts upward pressure on its price.1

During the initial stages of the exhaustion of a non-renewable resource, the stock is abundant and easily accessible. . . price invariably declines despite there being an increase in absolute scarcity.

As the stock of a non-renewable resource dwindles and the resource becomes increasingly costly to extract, the stock-effect intensifies until it eventually overwhelms the flow-effect. At this point, an increase in the absolute scarcity of the resource is accompanied by a price rise.

Natural resource prices as described above, and as reflected



in contemporary GDP, do not accurately present the absolute scarcity of nonrenewable resources. This lulls us into thinking that scarce resources are abundantly plentiful when in fact they are not. The application of standard economic supply and demand theory to scarce resources masks the lack of a pricing premium due to absolute scarcity. Everything appears to be fine, until it is not. At which point things can change very quickly.

The Simon–Ehrlich wager of 1980 is an extension of the above narrative. Simon, an economist, was a cornucopian critic of the Malthusian paradox and believed technology will solve scarcity in natural resources. Ehrlich was a biologist writing on population and resource depletion. They bet \$1,000 USD that the price of a basket of scarce resources would either increase or decrease by 1990. Ehrlich bet they would increase. Simon, extolling the virtues of capitalism, took the other side of the bet. Ehrlich lost the bet. Many papers have been published exploring why the price of those scarce resources did not decline: the time frame of the bet was too short.

Another economic theory that contributes to masking what we have wrought is the investment savings liquidity preference (i.e. IS/LM) model. First, a tiny bit of background regarding the IS/LM model. Sir John Hicks (Nobel prize in economics 1972), created a simple supply and demand equilibrium comprised of three markets, later expanded to four markets: the goods, money, financial assets, and labor markets. The model was built on flexible prices and the fictions of perfect competition, full-employment, and an ultra-short-time frame of one day to neutralize expectations.

These issues were acknowledged by Hicks (1980). Yet, there were more problematic



issues. To accommodate both Keynes and classical economics, Hicks made a compromise in the demand for money: between speculative demand for money and transactional demand for money. To accommodate this compromise Hicks relied on the loanable funds theory. However, it has been demonstrated that the loanable funds theory is a myth (Fullwiler, 2019).

However, there are two systemic problems. The first is the chicken and egg paradox. Macroeconomic analysis of a national economy can be reduced to savings equaling investment. $S = I$. What came first savings or investment? This simple accounting identity asserts orthodox economic theory’s historical position regarding natural resources. The institutionalization of slavery – the original capital – to climate changing fossil fuel based energy, are ignored.

The second systemic problem is Hick’s IS/LM relies on Alfred Marshall’s (1890) simple general equilibrium of supply and demand based on price and quantity. All

other relevant quantitative and qualitative factors are, in Marshall’s words “put in the pound”. They are excluded. This is a huge simplifying assumption to make analysis between an independent variable (i.e. quantity) and a dependent variable (i.e. price) possible. It’s understandable why Marshall made this simplifying assumption: too many variables make it virtually impossible to analyze a mode.

Replacing the horizontal axis of income in the traditional IS/LM model for debt results in the famous “increasing national debt causes a nation’s interest rates to rise”. It can, but not always, (Ruml, 1946). Similarly, one also hears “increasing national debt causes depression”. Yet, in the great financial crisis of 2008 – 2010 it never happened. Money did not work the way standard economic theory asserts. Does that mean there won’t be a future crisis? No. Not at all. It just means the catalyst would have to be different from simple doubts about the creditworthiness of one’s counterparty. That is, the credibility of the counterparty’s synesthetic money

“things” pledged as collateral. Global monetary authorities know how to fix such things. But, those fixes come with consequences.

What of the great depression of 1929? Volumes have been written on this topic. The expansion of the depression into a global financial conflagration lay with the mis-steps of men, including American and British bankers. The well understood economic consequences of the peace at the end of World War I foreseen by J. M. Keynes (1919) necessitated a triangularization of debt (Hudson, 1972/2003) between creditor and debtor countries that broke down when a large Austrian bank could not roll forward, could not renew, its commercial debts (Augado, 2001; Engdahl, 1992). Today, central bankers know how to prevent such depressions. Again, not without consequences.

When everything is measured simply based on price and quantity – and the resultant profit generated, it should remind us of Adam Smith’s critical error of separating the economic sphere of life – with its own internal logic,

from all other more problematic social, secular, religious, and environmental relations (Author, The Prout Journal, March 2023). Indeed, this separation of economic activity from all other spheres of life crept into public discourse in the late 19th century – at the same time the study of “political economy” was transforming into “economics” with its fetishization on mathematical modeling.

This separation is found in a famous exchange in Irish poet and playwright, Oscar Wilde’s play *Lady Windermere’s Fan*, Act III, “What is a cynic? A man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing.” The Merriam Webster online dictionary defines a cynic as, “one who believes that human conduct is motivated wholly by self-interest.”

Shrii Sarkar acknowledges these things in *Social Psychology* (1957, Jamalpur):

Unity among the members of any society or social structure is absolutely necessary, otherwise the structure will start

disintegrating. Lack of unity among the members of society because of too much self-interest in the individual members, the formation of groups for economic or social advantage, and the lack of understanding of others, act not only to bring about the downfall of society, but also can wipe it out completely from the face of the earth. Instances of many groups and empires disappearing altogether are not rare in the little-known history of this world.

In the study of civilizations there were those that succeeded and those that failed and vanished from the face of the earth. Let us individually and collectively acknowledge our global challenges and work together to make better choices.

Next month we continue our examination of how orthodox economic theory masks planetary ecological difficulties. We find that masking exposed by Shrii Sarkar’s fourth fundamental principle of Prout. In part, through the metaphors used in economics. ●

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Labour and the Metrics of CITIZENSHIP

The National Food Security Act mandates up to 75 percent of India's rural population and 50 percent of urban population should be covered under a public distribution system.

■ Akash Bhattacharya and Sagarika Rajora

The history of the labour movement is grounded in the struggle for equal and dignified citizenship. Far from being confined to the workplace, the demands of workers have long encompassed broader claims to inclusion, recognition, and democratic participation. From the Chartist movement in 19th-century England to the strikes demanding an eight-hour workday which culminated in the May Day,

working-class mobilisations have always invoked a vocabulary that transcended mere economic claims, insisting instead on a moral and political reordering of society that acknowledged the worker as a full citizen.

At the heart of the labour movement lies the fundamental struggle over citizenship, not merely as a legal status, but as a lived reality encompassing rights to dignified work, food, education, housing, and identity. In the

context of post-colonial India, one observes a persistent gap between constitutional rights and material realities. Across fields as varied as wage structuring, the exclusionary failures of the Public Distribution System ('PDS'), the neoliberal assault on education, the judicialized displacement of urban poor, and the growing regime of surveillance, culminate in the erosion of substantive citizenship rights.

Work is the primary terrain where citizenship is situated. The Constitution, under Article 43 (a Directive Principle of State Policy), envisions the right to a living wage, a standard that allows not just for bare subsistence, but



for conditions of work consistent with human dignity. However, in practice, employers, across all sectors, and more so when the employment is informal, rarely adhere to this vision. Instead, the dominant policy design is to structure wages around the statutory minimum wage, which itself is often set below the threshold of a living wage and is poorly enforced by the State.

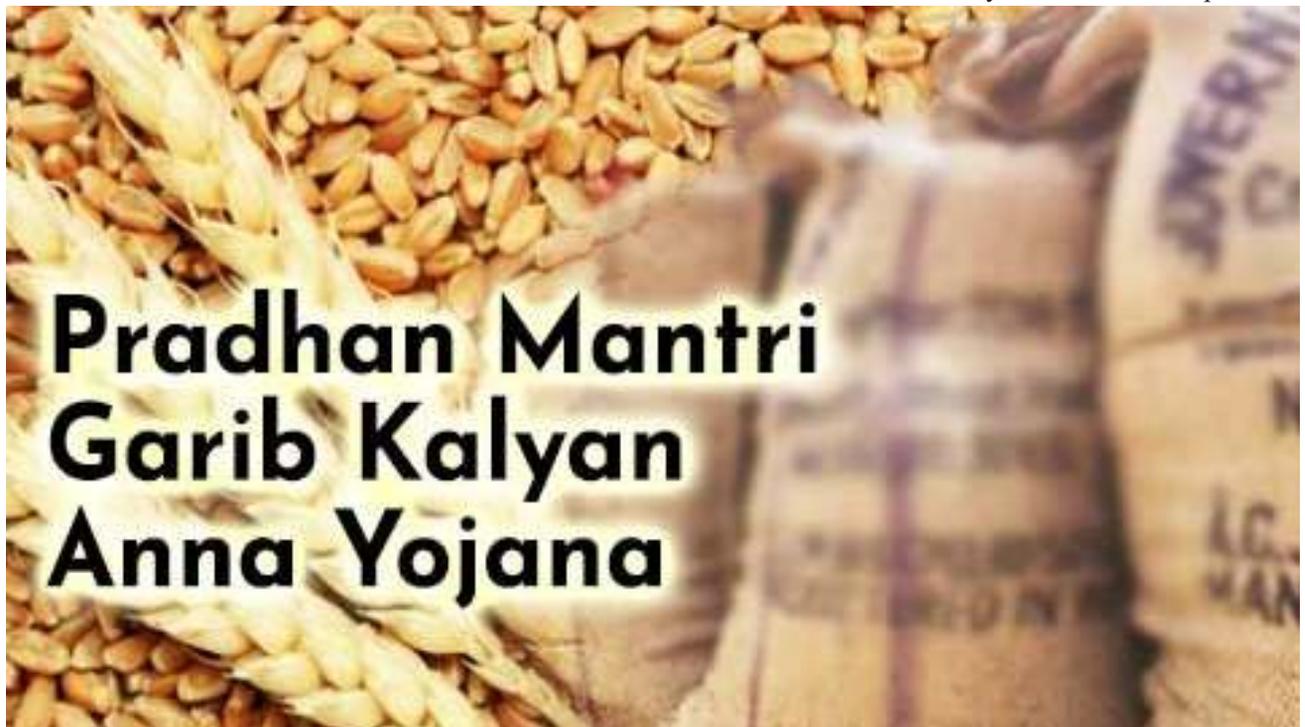
Such fragmented structuring leads to a distortion of the “wage” itself, where the fixed component of a worker’s salary barely meets survival costs, and the variable portion becomes a tool for disciplining and extracting surplus labour. This makes the worker dependent on the State for food and basic welfare. A State that does not pay well and accord dignity to the workers hardly bothers to provide for the worker’s basic needs,

making her vulnerable to chronic precarity and their political repression.

Exclusionary Public Distribution System

The National Food Security Act (‘NFSA’), 2013, mandates that up to 75 percent of India’s rural population and 50 percent of the urban population should be covered under a targeted public distribution system (PDS). This means that roughly 67 percent of the national population is entitled to subsidised food grains, which reveals the severe malnutrition among the working classes. On top of that, according to estimates by economists Jean Drèze, Reetika Khera, and Meghana Mungikar, over 100 million people were excluded from PDS access by 2020 due to the use of outdated census data.

In August 2023, the Union government admitted before the Supreme Court that nearly 80 million people in India remain without ration cards, effectively excluding them from the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (‘PMGKAY’) and broader food security benefits. Independent





researchers place this figure even higher estimating that approximately 130 million Indians in need of food security are currently excluded from the system.

Despite repeated Supreme Court directives in 2023 and 2024, the Centre has failed to act. In its August 2024 affidavit, it reiterated that rations cannot be distributed to more people until a new census is conducted. In response, the Court extended a final deadline to November 19, 2024, warning that non-compliance would compel Secretaries of Food and Civil Supplies to appear in person and face contempt proceedings.

The “One Nation One Ration Card” (‘ONORC’) scheme, launched in February 2021, was designed to enable seamless access to PDS benefits across India, irrespective of a person’s state of residence. However, on-ground implementation remains patchy. Migrant workers who travel for

work and live away from their state of registration often face obstacles such as biometric mismatches, poor connectivity, and irregular ration supply, leading to chronic food insecurity.

Hunger is a violent denial of citizenship to India’s working classes. Every exclusion from the PDS and every death due to malnutrition and starvation exposes how the State systematically refuses workers their constitutional right to live with dignity. As Jean Drèze notes, Aadhaar failures, ration card exclusions, and bureaucratic cruelty are not technical glitches; they are political acts of erasure.

Un-dignified Living

In the context of Indian urbanisation, the right to adequate housing forms a contested terrain of law, citizenship, and exclusion. The judicial and administrative treatment of slums and informal settlements illustrate how citizenship is often rendered

conditional upon legality of occupation and tenure, ignoring the deeper structures of dispossession and precarity.

In the landmark *Olga Tellis v. Bombay Municipal Corporation* (1985) judgment, while the Court acknowledged that eviction from pavements implicated the right to livelihood under Article 21, it ultimately justified the eviction, underscoring that public property cannot be occupied without authorisation.

Later judgments such as *Municipal Corporation of Delhi v. Gurnam Kaur* (1989) and *Sodan Singh v. NDMC* (1989) similarly emphasised legality over livelihood. Such judicial pronouncements reflect a structural reluctance to engage with the socio-economic compulsions that compel informal urban housing. They reinforce a bifurcated citizenship, where legal recognition is extended only to those whose presence is regularized, effectively

disenfranchising a majority of working-class urban dwellers who materially sustain the life of the city.

Forced evictions and demolitions, often carried out without due process or rehabilitation, constitute a direct violation of the right to life and dignity as enshrined under Article 21. The Constitutional framework through Articles 14, 15, 19, and 39 creates positive obligations on the state to ensure access to housing, livelihood, and basic services. Yet, in practice, eviction drives, such as the one in Haldwani where over 5,000 families were threatened with removal from railway land, continue to be justified through a language of encroachment and public interest, stripping the urban poor of both their homes and personhood.

The Supreme Court's stay in the Haldwani case marked a departure from the norm, emphasising the need for rehabilitation and proportionality, in alignment with precedents like *Chameli Singh v. State of U.P.* (1996) and *Shantistar Builders v. Narayan Khimalal Totame* (1990),

which located the right to shelter within the broader matrix of the right to life. The Delhi High Court in *Ajay Maken v. Union of India* (2019) went further to articulate housing as a "bundle of rights" inclusive of education, health, and livelihood. Education, too, is not a neutral public good. It determines whose knowledge is valued, whose future is secured, and whose histories are erased. In *Sudama Singh v. Government of Delhi* (2010), the judiciary imposed a duty on the state to conduct surveys and ensure rehabilitation prior to eviction.

Despite these advancements, policies for housing Economically Weaker Sections ('EWS') and Low-Income Groups ('LIG') remain woefully inadequate, often relegated to the margins of budgetary priorities. The legal machinery continues to function ambivalently, swinging between constitutional compassion and procedural displacement.

The Citizenship Amendment Act ('CAA') and the National Register of Citizens ('NRC') tore open the question of citizenship into the public domain, exposing

how belonging in India could be stripped and redrawn along documentary lines. For millions of workers who are migrants, Dalits, Adivasis, Muslims whose lives are already precarious, these moves transformed citizenship from a presumed right into a conditional, fragile status. Workers long marginalised by the State now faced a new threat: the burden of proving identity through an arbitrary and hostile state apparatus.

This assault on citizenship revealed a deeper project: using surveillance, databases, and documentation for more accurate records. Biometric monitoring at worksites, Aadhaar-linked rationing, exclusionary welfare systems, and digital databases all function as mechanisms of control determining various aspects of societal life. The assault on citizenship can be clearly seen in the Assam model, where the NRC process rendered millions disproportionately from marginalized working communities at risk of statelessness. This was not an isolated incident but a blueprint for a larger project of discipline and control?

In 2019, with the introduction of the National Population Register (NPR) alongside the CAA-NRC, the government's majoritarian attack on working class existence, attained a national dimension. ●

To be concluded

Dr. Akash Bhattacharya is a historian and a trade union activist. He has been involved in several labour movements over the past decade from the Maruti Suzuki movement in Manesar to the ITI workers' struggle in Bangalore. Sagrika Rajora is a lawyer, researcher, and trade union activist organising predominantly with women workers and others marginalised by caste, religion, and migration.



TO SAVE HUMANITY

- Shrii Shrii Anandamurti



Wise people say that in the past there have been so many crises in human society. Crisis is quite natural for something moving. Wherever there is movement, there is struggle – struggle against the inertia of the earth. In the past, there have been crises in the course of movement, crises in different branches of civilization, crises in the realm of education, and so on. But nowadays, the entire human society is facing the crisis of civilization as a whole, and particularly a crisis in the field of existence. Human society is now to decide whether to live or to die. If this mud-slinging and intolerance are encouraged, humanity has no future – the future is dark, the future is sealed forever. But you know, I am not a pessimist. I am always an optimist. And I want all my sons and daughters to be optimists. And I want them to struggle against this death signal of humanity, and come out successful.

And I am sure that you boys and you girls must be optimists; and it is your duty to save humanity. And I hope you will be able to save humanity, because, just like me, you are also optimistic. You should know that great, or good, people are few in number, they are not many. They do not come within the scope of millions or billions. They are always few in number. And these few, they are the torchbearers of human society, they are the pioneers, they are the vanguards of human society. So it is your duty to save humanity. And those who are unable to shoulder their own bags and baggages – their responsibilities are to be shouldered by you. You should remember that the life of a spiritual aspirant is a mission. One's entire life is a mission, one's entire existence is a mission. And your mission is – what? To save humanity from this crisis. I hope you will be successful. And I not only hope, I am sure that you will be successful. ●



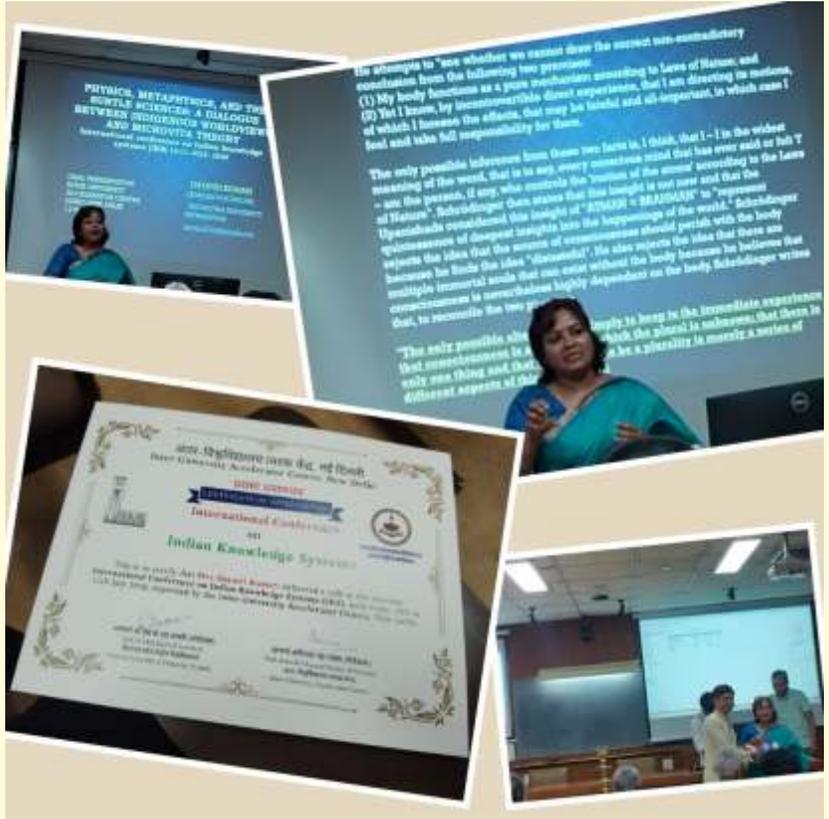
Microvita Theory Gaining Global Recognition

The Microvita theory, propounded by Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar, is garnering significant attention from the global academic community. A recent International Conference on "Indian Knowledge System" organized by the Inter-University Accelerator Centre (IUAC) at New Delhi saw a research scholar's presentation on Microvita receiving widespread acclaim.

Ms. Gayatri Kumari, a Ph.D. research scholar under the supervision of Prof. AK Bhaskar, Patliputra University, Patna, was selected for an oral presentation on Microvita. Her presentation was praised by eminent scholars and academicians, highlighting the growing interest in Microvita theory globally.

The conference provided a platform for scholars to engage with Indian knowledge systems, and Microvita's inclusion in the discussions underscores its relevance and potential impact. Ms. Gayatri Kumari's success is a testament to the theory's growing recognition and the efforts of researchers like her who are exploring its depths.

As the academic community continues to explore and discuss Microvita, it is likely to gain even more attention and recognition globally. This development is expected to encourage further research and collaboration, ultimately contributing to a deeper understanding of the theory and its applications.



PCAP Makes Zirakpur Greener



PCAP (Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Plants), Chandigarh organized a successful plantation drive at Swastik Vihar and Lohgarh Road, Zirakpur, on July 13, 2025.

The plantation drive, led by Acharya Premendrananda Avadhuta, is expected to contribute to the area's greenery and environmental sustainability. PCAP Chandigarh's efforts in organizing such events demonstrate its dedication to creating a positive impact on the community and the environment.





Bihar Elections: PBI Fields Dr. Mahendra Pratap Singh from Kumhrar

Proutist Bloc, India (PBI) has announced its candidate for the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections for Kumhrar constituency.

Prof. (Dr.) Mahendra Pratap Singh, a seasoned academic and former Head of the Department of Commerce at Patliputra University, Patna, will be representing PBI in the upcoming State Assembly Elections. Currently, he is serving as the National Spokesperson of PBI.

Dr. Singh has already kicked off his election campaign, and is engaging with voters door-to-door, sharing the party's vision and agenda, and also listening to concerns and feedback from the constituents.

Some of His Key Campaign Promises:

- ❖ **Non-discriminatory Ideology:** PBI is the only political movement that categorically rejects all forms of casteism, communalism, regionalism, and social inequality.
- ❖ **Employment Guarantee:** The party promises 100% employment with adequate purchasing power.
- ❖ **Universal Access to Essentials:** Equal and guaranteed access to education, healthcare, and justice—free of cost.
- ❖ **Economic Equity:** A strict cap on the accumulation of wealth beyond a certain limit; no individual will be allowed to hoard excess resources.
- ❖ **Support for Inter-caste Marriages:** PBI supports dowry-free, inter-caste marriages to foster social unity.
- ❖ **Ethical Leadership:** Only morally upright and honest individuals will be entrusted with leadership positions within the party and government.
- ❖ **Agricultural Empowerment:** Recognizing India's agrarian roots, the party aims to boost rural employment by promoting agriculture and reorganizing it as an industry.
- ❖ **Ending Migration:** Every individual will have guaranteed employment within their own state; no one will need to migrate for livelihood.
- ❖ **Environmental and Ecological Protection:** Full protection for all living beings and natural resources including trees, rivers, ponds, and mountains.
- ❖ **Drug-Free Society:** The party is committed to building a drug-free, alcohol-free India and envisions a nation that once again leads the world as a moral and spiritual guide.



PBI's National Convenor Speaks on 'Neo-Humanism in Action'

Leadership Lab, an organization dedicated to the development of ethically upright and enlightened leadership in society, invited Proutist Bloc, India's National Convenor Acharya Santosananda Avadhuta to speak on 'Neo-Humanism in Action' in an online seminar on 25 June.

The event brought together social workers, spiritual thinkers, academicians, and ethical reformers from across the country for a deep and solution-oriented discussion.

In his keynote speech, Acharya ji emphasized that the root of the world's major problems today lies not in ideology, but in a lack of righteous leadership. "If the leaders lack integrity," he said, "even the noblest ideas get distorted."

Referring to Shrii Shrii Anandamurtii Ji's philosophical treatise "Ananda Sutram", Acharya Ji explained that leadership forms the cornerstone of societal progress. He warned that if leadership is driven by selfishness and power hunger, it would lead to moral decay and social disintegration.

He highlighted three core obstacles to the spiritual evolution of humanity:

1. **Geo-sentiment** – Attachment to land, region, or geography that leads to conflict.
2. **Socio-sentiment** – Prejudice based on caste, religion, or ethnicity.
3. **Ordinary Humanist Sentiment** – A limited view that prioritizes only human well-being, ignoring other living beings.

He proposed rational thinking and a proto-spiritualist mentality—a mind centered on the Supreme Consciousness—as key to overcoming these sentiments. "True devotion," he explained, "is not about rituals or temples, but sincere, selfless love for the Supreme."

Agreeing with Acharya ji, Shri Baldev Raj Sood, a leading voice in the Bharat Gathbandhan (India Alliance), advocated for the restoration of ancient values where "spiritual authority guided political power." He stated that the Ram Rajya ideal—where King Rama followed the wisdom of sage Vashishtha—should inspire modern governance.

Prominent participants included Aniruddh Agrawal, Satya Prakash Bharat, Sachin Awasthi, Pradeep Kumar, and many others, who echoed the call to action:

- ❖ Unite morally upright individuals across the country.
- ❖ Establish common platforms for interfaith and interdisciplinary dialogue.
- ❖ Promote Tattva Sabhas (philosophical roundtables) with political, business, and religious leaders to infuse ethical vision into real-world leadership.

The gathering strongly endorsed the vision that society and governance must work together. Acharya Ji stressed, "We can't just blame politicians if we fail to organize ethical forces within society. The voter too has a responsibility."

He further urged that citizens commit to voting only for righteous individuals, or else press the NOTA (None of the Above) option. The larger mission, he said, is not just political reform but moral reconstruction of the nation.

The event concluded with a unifying call:

"Fight evil—not the evil person. Let moralists unite, and let the reign of corruption end."



Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar

Soil of the Earth

UCCÁTANA MANA NÁ MÁNE BÁRAÑA
SHUDHU TÁR PÁNE JETE CÁY
KENO CÁY OGO KENO CÁY

*The mind distraught
Doesn't care to be restrained,
Only wishes to go towards Him –
Why so O why so,
Why so O why so.*

DHARAÑIIRA DHÚLI VANER KÁKALI
PHELE ÁSÁ SEI MADHU DIN GULI
MANER MÁDHURI SABÁI KE NIYE
TÁRI MÁJHE MÚRACHÁY

*Soil of the earth
Sweet melodies in the forest,
Casting away those sweet days,
Together with all
The mind's sweetness
Swoons in Him why?*

JATA CHILO KATHÁ JATA CHILO MÁN
NÁBOLÁ VYATHÁR JATA ABHIMÁN
SABÁI ÁJIKE MILIYÁ MISHIÁ
TÁRI PÁNE KENO CHUTE JÁY

*All words that remained,
All respect that was there,
All pain not revealed with pride,
Everything fuses and dissolves today
And rushes towards Him why?*



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