















## FIRST COLUMN

## 'SHAD DARSHAN': BASIS OF INDIAN PHILOSOPHY

'Shad Darshan' are six philosophical systems in Vedic and post-Vedic schools of thought



SWAMI CHARANSHRIT

Shad Darshan, which translates to "Six Philosophies" in Sanskrit, refers to the six classical schools of Indian philosophy that have played a crucial role in shaping the intellectual and spiritual landscape of ancient and medieval India. These philosophical systems, each with its unique perspective and emphasis, provide diverse insights into the nature of reality, consciousness, and the purpose of human existence. Let's explore a brief introduction to each of the Shad Darshan schools.

**Nyaya Darshan: The Science of Logic and Reasoning**

Nyaya, meaning "logic" in Sanskrit, is a system that focuses on the analysis of reasoning and logic. It provides a structured approach to understanding and validating knowledge through inference, analogy, and deduction. Nyaya philosophers, known as Nyayaikas, seek to establish a systematic methodology for discerning truth and knowledge.

**Vaisheshika Darshan: The Atomic Theory of Matter**

Vaisheshika is a philosophical system that delves into the nature of the physical world. Founded by the sage Kanada, it explores the concept of atomism and classifies the various elements of the universe. Vaisheshika proposes that everything in the material world is composed of distinct, indivisible atoms. The philosophy also addresses the concept of karma and its role in shaping individual destinies.

**Samkhya Darshan: The Enumeration of Reality**

Samkhya is one of the oldest schools of Indian philosophy attributed to Sage Kapila. It focuses on enumerating the fundamental components of reality. Samkhya identifies the dualistic nature of existence, distinguishing between Purusha (consciousness) and Prakriti (matter). The philosophy aims to liberate the individual soul (purusha) from the entanglements of the material world by understanding the true nature of reality.

**Yoga Darshan: The Path to Union**

Yoga, popularized worldwide as a system of physical and mental practices, is deeply rooted in the philosophical framework of Yoga Darshan. Attributed to Sage Patanjali, this system outlines a path to self-realization and union with the divine. Yoga includes ethical guidelines (yamas and niyamas), physical postures (asanas), breath control (pranayama), and meditation. The ultimate goal of Yoga Darshan is to achieve a state of inner tranquility and spiritual enlightenment.

**Mimamsa Darshan: The Science of Rituals**

Mimamsa, also known as Purva Mimamsa, is a school that concentrates on the interpretation of Vedic rituals and sacrificial ceremonies. The Mimamsa philosophers, called Mimamsakas, meticulously analyze the Vedas to understand the correct performance of rituals and the implications of these actions. The philosophy emphasizes the importance of adhering to Vedic injunctions for individual and societal welfare.

**Vedanta Darshan: The End of Knowledge or ultimate knowledge**

Vedanta, meaning "the end of the Vedas," is a philosophical system that interprets the Upanishads, the concluding part of the Vedic scriptures. Vedanta explores the nature of ultimate reality (Brahman) and the relationship between the individual soul (Atman) and the cosmic consciousness. Advaita Vedanta, one of the most influential schools within this system, teaches the non-dualistic nature of reality, asserting that the individual soul and Brahman are ultimately one.

Shad Darshan represents a rich tapestry of philosophical thought in ancient India, offering diverse perspectives on metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and spirituality. Each school within this framework contributes unique insights, providing seekers with a comprehensive understanding of the complexities of existence and the paths to self-realization. The enduring legacy of Shad Darshan continues to inspire philosophical inquiry and spiritual exploration in contemporary times.

(The writer is a spiritual guide; views are personal)

## All talk and no action on reviving the industry



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

With hardly any investment coming to Kerala, its industries are dying a slow death and the lack of job opportunities is forcing youth to seek jobs abroad



Kerala is fast becoming a graveyard of industries, enterprises and entrepreneurs. A trip from Kasaragod in the north to Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city in the south, offers one the experience of a ghost town. Industries that have been shut down for years and units awaiting their turn to pull down the shutters are what welcome the visitors to the State. It resembles scenes straight out of Western Spaghettis. No entrepreneurs with a little bit of common sense would venture out into this landmass laden with deadly mines!

The State may be the only one of its kind in India where entrepreneurs have resorted to suicide having failed in their efforts to open shop. Sometime back, The Pioneer had reported about the suicide of Sajan Parayil, a man in his early 40s who made a fortune having worked in West Asia for years and invested his savings to construct a convention centre in Anthoor in Kannur. P K Shyamala, the then municipal chairperson, refused to allot building numbers to the Convention Centre for months citing some minor procedure issues. The real issue was the refusal of the entrepreneur to pay speed money (as a bribe is known in Kerala) to the political masters. Shyamala was not an ordinary chairperson. She is the wife of M V Govindan, who is the CPI-M State Secretary. Sajan had invested Rs 20 crore in the convention centre but no investigation was held on the factors leading to his suicide.

Close on the heels of Sajan's suicide, two more UAE returnees took extreme measures because of the high-handedness of the party's local leaders in the Kollam district. The entrepreneurs had set up motor garages and had employed nearly 20 per-



A STUDY BY THE KERALA STATE PLANNING BOARD SAYS THAT ACCORDING TO A SURVEY HELD IN 2013, THERE WERE 25 LAKH GUEST LABORERS IN THE STATE

(The writer is a special correspondent with The Pioneer; views are personal)

sons in the units. But the party apparatchiks won't allow the garages to function till their palms are greased. Despite all these developments, the CPI-M-led Kerala Government relentlessly campaigns and projects the State as the most investor-friendly destination in India! Though no major industries have been opened in Kerala during the last 20 years, the claims by the government of the day show no dearth of enterprises. Of late, news about start-ups compensates for the failure of the Government in attracting investors to the State. But if any questions are asked about the number of jobs created out of these start-ups, the chances are that the persons who ask such unpleasant questions would be labelled as reactionaries and agents of the Centre.

The Periodic Labor Force Survey (PLFS) report released recently by the Union Ministry of Statistics is startling as well as shocking. The CPI-M Government portrays the State as the role model for the country as well as economically advanced nations in Europe and East Asia. However, according to the PLFS data for 2022-2023, Kerala leads the table of States with the highest unemployment rates. The all-India unemployment rate for the period 2022-2023 stands at 6.7 per cent while in Kerala it is 10 per cent. But the State is a study in contrast. Though unemployment is rampant in Kerala, it has become an El Dorado for migrant workers (Guest Laborers as the CPI-M describes

them). A study by the Kerala State Planning Board says that according to a survey held in 2013, there were 25 lakh Guest Laborers in the State. Migrant workers, as well as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, constitute this workforce. Though there is no data about the latest figures, agencies monitoring the arrival and departure of such migrant labour forces put the figures at 40 lakhs. And many of them have disembarked in Kerala with fake Aadhar cards. Besides the labour-intensive plywood companies, these Guest Laborers work as toddy tappers, at construction sites, hotels, eateries, and hairdressing salons. They live a frugal life and save reasonably. Ali, a resident from Lucknow who runs a hairdressing saloon, makes at least Rs 10,000 per day and flies to his village twice a month. An average casual labourer saves Rs 1,200 per day by working from 8 am to 5 pm. But the Malayali comrades are reluctant to work like these migrant youths and they wile away their time gossiping and consuming liquor.

A disturbing trend that is visible in Kerala is students and youth flying away to countries like Germany, Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the US for studies and employment. Those who leave the shores of Kerala are unlikely to return as the above-mentioned countries offer vast scope in education, employment and career prospectus. Those who are left behind manage to get jobs as assis-

tants to MLAs, MPs and chairmen of government corporations which make them eligible for State Government pension if they put up 30 months of service. The Public Service Commission has become a scarecrow as only those with the right connections in the right places would get jobs through this agency.

Persons like John Milton hailing from the Idukki district were intelligent enough to see the writing on the wall and "escaped" to neighbouring Tamil Nadu where the garment manufacturing unit started him making money by the hour. "I owe it to the comrades who made life difficult for me forcing me to set up a manufacturing unit at Tirupur. Had I not decided to leave Kerala, I would have ended up as a wreck," said Milton. The same is the case with Shaji George, who returned from Britain to his hometown of Tiruvalla and opened a five-star clubhouse with all modern facilities like tennis and squash courts, a swimming pool and a convention centre meeting global standards. But the local leaders had other ideas. "Why people of Kerala require an establishment like this?" they asked and made the local body authorities deny Shaji the building numbers which alone would allow him to open the clubhouse. "They asked for a hefty sum as a bribe and I am not accustomed to paying speed money (as a bribe is known in Kerala)," said Shaji. Even God may not be able to save God's Own Country!

## Antimicrobial resistance: A result of misuse of medicines

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is a problem driven by misuse and overuse of antimicrobial medicines, including antibiotics and antivirals

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change over time and become resistant to (or no longer respond to) medicines, making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death. As a result of drug resistance, medicines become ineffective, and infections become increasingly difficult or impossible to treat. That is why AMR ranks among the top ten global health threats worldwide.

"Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is a problem driven by misuse and overuse of antimicrobial medicines, including antibiotics and antivirals, and results in critical medicines losing effec-



SHOBHA SHUKLA



BOBBY RAMAKANT

Shobha Shukla and Bobby Ramakant lead the editorial team of Citizen News Service and are on the Board of Global AMR Media Alliance (GAMA) and Asia Pacific Media Alliance for Health and Development, APCAT Media; views are personal

tiveness to treat infections," said Thomas Joseph, Head, AMR Awareness, Advocacy and Campaigns, World Health Organization (WHO), at a recent pre-conference meet of 22nd International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA). "AMR is associated with 5 million deaths a year. Besides this, there is a huge burden of morbidity and healthcare expenditure that can affect household welfare severely. The World Bank estimates that Global GDP could fall by \$1 to \$3.4 trillion annually after 2030 due to AMR," he added. The World Bank estimates that an additional 24 million people will be forced into extreme poverty by 2030 if no action is taken on AMR today.

Drawing attention to World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW) which is celebrated between 18-24 November every year, Thomas cautioned that "All stakeholders should realize that if we do not act now, we could go back to a pre-antibiotic era, when even simple infections become untreatable".

**Personal experience of surviving AMR**

Vanessa Carter, an AMR patient survivor, One Health advocate, Chairperson of the WHO Taskforce of AMR Survivors, and founder of The AMR Narrative was one of the speakers at the 3rd Annual Global Media Forum on AMR, hosted by Global AMR Media Alliance in lead up to WAAW 2023. She shared her eye-opening per-

sonal experience of her battle with AMR "In 2004, I was 25 years old. I had a severe car accident in Johannesburg, South Africa, and ended up in a hospital with a lot of massive injuries. I had been resuscitated on the side of the road, I was put on life support, I had multiple fractures in my face - a broken



jaw and a broken nose - and also lost one eye. I also had a head injury, major abdominal injury, fractured pelvis, neck, and back injury. But the most complicated injuries were to my face, and it took me 10 years to recover from them, during which time I have had 4 different facial prosthetic implants," said Vanessa. But the worst was yet to come. Six years into the accident and after her fourth implant, one day, while getting into her car, Vanessa saw moisture seeping all over her face. It was pus oozing out from her 4th implanted prosthetic. She underwent emergency surgery, and the doctors did "debridement" and reconstructive surgery to fix up the damaged tissue. Two weeks later, the infection

returned. She got more tissue reconstruction done. But the infection kept on returning and it worsened over time. This went on for the next 11 months during which she was kept under the care of several specialist surgeons. Vanessa was eventually diagnosed with a highly antibiotic-resistant form of MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus) infection. She could not undergo any more surgeries for one year, as the doctors had to wait for the tissue to recover. "I had to cover my face as I looked terrible. My face was very red, full of fluid and swollen. I could not wear my artificial eye. I could not go to fetch my child from school because the kids would get scared looking at me", she

recalls. "I lost ten valuable years of my life between 25-35 years of age, being in and out of hospital, and not being able to look in the mirror without seeing a changed face. I nearly got a bloodstream infection and sepsis and almost died. But I am also living with a severe disability now - facial disfigurement which was partially caused by the accident but exacerbated by the fact that we could not treat this infection. When I learned about antibiotic resistance, it came as a surprise why it was not a common knowledge even though it is such a widespread global threat," she shared in the forum. This is first part of two-part series on AMR. To be continued...





Markets gain in highly volatile trade

Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty eked out marginal gains to settle in the positive zone after a highly volatile trade on Wednesday, helped by buying in index majors Infosys, ITC and Reliance Industries.



However, foreign fund outflows from the equity market restricted the upmove in stocks, traders said. In a choppy session, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 92.47 points or 0.14 per cent to settle at 66,023.24.

Kotak Mahindra Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, JSW Steel, HDFC Bank and Maruti were the major laggards. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.33 per cent, while smallcap index declined 0.63 per cent.

Rupee volatility low: RBI Guv

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday said the rupee has witnessed "low volatility" and orderly movements as compared to its peers.

Speaking at the annual FIBAC event, Das said household inflation expectations are becoming more anchored, but added that headline inflation is vulnerable to recurring and overlapping food price shocks.



It can be noted that the rupee closed at an all-time low of 83.35 against the dollar on Monday, but gained some lost ground in Tuesday's trade. "On the exchange rate front, the Indian rupee (INR) has exhibited low volatility and orderly movements relative to peers despite elevated US treasury yields and a strong US dollar," Das said.

Das said, adding that it will be supporting growth as well. He said the softening in the core inflation gives the RBI the conviction that "monetary policy seems to be working". The headline inflation can come under pressure because of "overlapping and continuing shocks from food inflation", Das said.

IT refund faster now: CII survey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 89 per cent of individuals and 88 per cent of firms are of the view that there has been a greater reduction in waiting time to get an income tax refund in the last five years between 2018-2023, a CII survey has said.

The CII Income Tax Refund Survey presented to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also found that 75.5 per cent of the individuals and 22.4 per cent of the firm-level respondents did not pay TDS over and above their estimated tax liability.

"The extensive measures, which have been introduced by the government in the recent years to streamline, simplify and automate the taxation regime have borne rich dividends as is evident from the upbeat survey results on assessing speed and efficiency of income tax refunds conducted by CII, the industry body's President R Dinesh said."

NBFCs to see 16-18% assets growth in FY24: CRISIL

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's NBFC sector is expected to record a moderate growth of 16-18 per cent in the current fiscal because of relatively slower expansion on unsecured retail loans due to the recent regulatory measures issued by the RBI, CRISIL Ratings said on Wednesday.

Underlining that the banking system continues to be resilient and there is no immediate cause of worry for the system, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday advised lenders to be more cautious and spot any trend of risk building early.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.46 per cent to USD 82.07 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 455.59 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. The BSE benchmark climbed 275.62 points or 0.42 per cent to settle at 65,930.77 on Tuesday. The Nifty went up by 89.40 points or 0.45 per cent to 19,783.40.

Das stressed that the RBI is "completely focused" on getting the headline inflation down to 4 per cent. "The monetary policy will be "watchful" about the emerging trends and "actively disinflationary",

Automation and simplification in the ITR refund process have raised the trust factor among the taxpayers towards the I-Tax department, the survey said.

SBI's unsecured lending to see moderation: Chairman

PTI ■ MUMBAI

SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara on Wednesday said there will be "moderation" in the bank's unsecured lending portfolio following the Reserve Bank of India's tightening of norms.

Speaking at the annual FIBAC event here, when asked about the RBI's tightening of norms. He said the impact of higher risk weights will have a 0.02-0.03 per cent impact on its net interest margins in the December quarter, but a better picture will emerge in the next quarter.

NSE inks pact with Bengal Govt for SMEs fund raising

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Wednesday said it has collaborated with the West Bengal government to spread awareness amongst MSMEs in the state regarding fundraising through IPO mechanism using the bourse's SME platform.

shall help them raise capital to fuel their growth story. This shall provide an opportunity to showcase their business to a larger set of investors through NSE's platform, said Rajesh Pandey, Principal Secretary, MSME and Textiles Department to West Bengal government, said.

Gandhar Refinery IPO subscribed 5.52 times

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The initial public offer of Gandhar Oil Refinery (India) got fully subscribed within hours of opening for bidding on Wednesday and later ended with 5.52 times subscription.

The Rs 500.69 crore IPO received bids for 11,72,85,168 shares against 2,12,43,940 shares on offer, translating into 5.52 times subscription, as per data available with the NSE.

Faceless scrutiny assessment of GST to take time: Official

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

GST authorities may take some time to introduce faceless scrutiny assessment of tax returns filed under Goods and Services Tax (GST), a senior official said on Wednesday.

The faceless assessment — under which there is no physical interaction between the tax officer and the assessee and no physical submission of documents — was first introduced by the Income Tax department and later extended to Customs.

Flair Writing IPO fully subscribed on Day 1

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The initial share sale offering of pen maker Flair Writing Industries was fully subscribed on the first day of bidding on Wednesday, ending the trade with 2.17 times subscription.

Flair Writing's IPO has a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to Rs 292 crore and an Offer for Sale (OFS) of equity shares worth up to Rs 301 crore by promoters and promoter group entities. At present, promoters and promoter group entities own 100 per cent stake in the company.

Tuesday said it has mopped up Rs 178 crore from anchor investors. Proceeds of the fresh issue will be used for setting up a manufacturing facility for writing instruments at Valsad district in Gujarat; funding the company's capital expenditure and subsidiary Flair Writing Equipments Pvt Ltd (FWEPL).

Besides, the proceeds will be used to support the working capital requirements of the company and subsidiaries FWEPL and Flair Cyrosil Industries. Also, the money will be used for payment of the loan and general corporate purposes.

It manufactures and distributes writing instruments, including pens, stationery products, and calculators, and has also diversified into manufacturing household products and steel bottles.

Mercedes ties up with IISc for research

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mercedes-Benz Research and Development India on Wednesday said it has joined hands with the Indian Institute of Science for advanced research collaboration with focus on electric vehicles.

The partnership will focus on driving engineering transformation and pursuing long-term research-oriented projects. Both organisations will leverage each other's existing capabilities, including infrastructure and academic programmes, the company added.

BUSINESS BRIEF

BSES TRAINING CENTRE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED NEW DELHI: BSES is not just providing reliable electricity but also powering the dreams of the youth.

MOU FOR DISCOM SKILLING NOIDA: Sector Skill Council and Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd signed an MoU for facilitating and working together for Skilling & Learning Development initiatives for distribution sector.

HAVELLS STORE IN GURGAON GURGAON: Havells India Limited announced the grand opening of its flagship store in the heart of Gurgaon, located on the bustling Golf Course Road.

HEALTHCARE COLLABORATION NEW DELHI: Molnlycke Healthcare India has found 'Largest Sacrum Shaped Bandage' in collaboration with the Asia Book of Records and India Book of Records.





